

Furbearer Management News



Winter 2000

The Fur Market in 1998-99

by Robert F. Gotie
Bureau of Wildlife, Cortland

The fur market continued its slide during the 1998-99 season just as the market forecasters had predicted following the collapse of the Russian economy. This new and expanding market had buoyed New York pelt values during the trying times of the European import ban of the early 1990s. With the European Union (EU) issue finally resolved and the emerging Russian market going strong, fur values had risen steadily until 1997. Since then, economies have changed and the fur market is in retreat once again, taking with it the incentive to effectively manage some furbearer populations.

Every species except marten and weasel declined in value during the 1998-99 fur season. The largest year to year drop in relative value was recorded for muskrats (\$3.33 to \$1.59 or 52%) and gray fox (\$10.42 to \$5.56 or 47%). The other top four species (raccoon, beaver, mink and red fox) declined in value between 19% for mink to 42% for raccoon. Weasel pelts, which increased 10% in value, exceeded the value of muskrat pelts for only the second time in 20 years of record keeping. Pelt values for the past three seasons are given below.

| Species | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | Difference '97-'98 to '98-'99 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Muskrat | \$ 5.48 | \$ 3.33 | \$ 1.59 | 52% decrease |
| Mink | \$18.63 | \$11.17 | \$ 9.02 | 19% decrease |
| Beaver | \$24.13 | \$20.20 | \$12.82 | 37% decrease |
| Otter | \$40.42 | \$42.36 | \$30.95 | 27% decrease |
| Raccoon | \$15.39 | \$11.33 | \$ 6.58 | 42% decrease |
| Bobcat | \$25.50 | \$41.87 | \$31.33 | 25% decrease |
| Coyote | \$20.59 | \$13.08 | \$ 9.12 | 30% decrease |
| Red Fox | \$18.62 | \$13.44 | \$ 9.27 | 31% decrease |
| Gray Fox | \$12.88 | \$10.42 | \$ 5.56 | 47% decrease |
| Opossum | \$ 2.01 | \$ 1.17 | \$.71 | 47% decrease |
| Skunk | \$ 3.67 | \$ 2.54 | \$ 2.47 | 3% decrease |
| Marten | | \$20.50 | \$25.33 | 24% increase |
| Weasel | \$ 2.60 | \$ 1.98 | \$ 2.17 | 10% increase |
| Fisher | \$38.70 | \$30.42 | \$21.90 | 28% decrease |

The value of beaver pelts, an economically important potential pest species, declined 37% to near record lows last recorded in the early 1990s. At these low values, it is extremely difficult to manage beaver in areas of New York where population densities exceed one active colony per three square miles. In some parts of New York where population densities are above one active colony per square mile management is impossible at these values. The clamor for liberalizing the killing of beaver in the St. Lawrence

Valley during the early 1990s was the direct result of too few beaver being taken by fur trappers as a result of the depressed fur market following the stock market crash of 1987. The fewer beaver taken each year, the greater number of active colonies the following year and subsequently a greater number of beaver human conflicts. Now as we enter the early part of the 21st Century, it appears that we will see a return of the problems experienced in the early 1990s. What this will mean to landowners and highway departments is clearly documented - more problems with beaver activity and a lower respect for the intrinsic ecological value of this species.

Since I began record keeping in 1979-80, we have had two down turns and two upturns in pelt values for beaver. This suggests that there is an 8-10 year cycle of demand for pelts of this species. Although records of pelt values at local auctions are not easily found for earlier years, I can remember trappers talking of a dollar per inch for beaver in the 1960s and 70s. If this was true (the anecdotal evidence suggests it is so), it appears that the peak in beaver pelt values has declined about a third in the decades of the 1980s and 90s. Weak world demand for beaver fur products and a significantly larger potential supply of beaver pelts due to the more widespread distribution of beaver have all contributed to this decline in peak value during this time period. I am reminded of a common sense truism that was clearly articulated long ago by Thomas Paine that goes something like this: "What we obtain too cheaply we esteem lightly, it is dearness only that gives everything its value."

Best Management Practices for Traps: Research and Development on Track

by Gordon R. Batcheller
Bureau of Wildlife, Delmar

New York State will once again be testing traps to support the national effort to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs). This is the third year of a multi-year effort. Ultimately, state wildlife management agencies, working together with trappers, will use this information to identify the best traps for harvesting furbearers throughout the United States. This program requires at least a five-year commitment of trap testing. Simultaneously, the leaders of this effort are holding meetings and getting the word out to trappers and others interested in the continuing improvement of traps.

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Funding for the research comes through an appropriation to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A committee of wildlife biologists from state agencies is working together with representatives of the National Trappers Association and FurTakers of America to not only guide the research, but to also evaluate the data and make recommendations.

The research is split up between different parts of the country. The northeast region includes New York, Maine, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. This year, like the previous two, we are concentrating our efforts on evaluating traps used for catching coyotes. For the 1999 field season, four trapper/technician teams will be working in New York. They will be setting two types of traps—one is the #2 Bridger coil-spring (modified). This trap is 4-coiled, has a 3/16" laminated jaw, and a 3/16" offset. The other trap is a #3 Victor SoftCatch (4-coiled) with a welded double base plate.

Our cooperating trappers will be working in the eastern part of the State trying to catch at least five coyotes per trap type. (They will have 18 of each trap type.) The trapping will be done during the regular trapping season.

During the 1997 and 1998 trapping seasons, the BMP program was active in 19 states and tested 32 different trap types. So far, over 2,500 animal carcasses have been necropsied, collected from over 80 individual trap lines.

Besides the work done in New York, other studies have included evaluations of cage traps for raccoons; double-jawed traps for raccoons, mink, nutria and muskrat; Duffer traps for raccoons; Belisle foot snares for bobcats; padded traps for coyotes, bobcats, foxes, and nutria; and offset and laminated jaw traps for coyotes, foxes and bobcats. Collectively, these studies are the largest and most comprehensive evaluation of traps ever done in the United States.

The schedule for the development of BMPs calls for the completion of the first draft for raccoons and coyotes during 2000. Other species will follow after that. To keep you informed about this project, a national newsletter has been developed. To get on the mailing list, contact:

Ms. Samara Trusso
International Assoc. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
c/o Missouri Department of Conservation
1110 South College Avenue, Columbia, MO 65201
e-mail: truss@mail.conservation.state.mo.us

You also can get updates and answers to frequently asked questions by checking out the BMP Project web site: www.furbearermgmt.org

If you want specific information about New York's participation in the development of BMPs, feel free to write or e-mail me. My addresses are:

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Finding a Better Mouse Trap

by Robert Gotie, Bureau of Wildlife, Cortland
and Marie Kautz, Bureau of Wildlife, Delmar

Selectivity and humaneness are always concerns for responsible trappers. It makes sense for trappers to target the species whose fur they are seeking or the one which is causing the nuisance problem. Trappers must also be able to avoid catching a species when trapping season for that species is closed. When possible, trapping seasons are set to be concurrent for all aquatic furbearer species. However, population management needs do not always allow this to occur.

The Bureau of Wildlife has historically managed the river otter as a secondary species in association with the harvest management needs of beaver. This situation evolved over the years because both species occur in the same environment and are trapped in the same style of traps. A recent survey of beaver/otter trappers in 1997 revealed that the #330 rotating jaw beaver trap is currently used by 93% of beaver/otter trappers to take at least 72% of the beaver and 57% of the otter harvested in New York. Trappers also take at least 76% of the otter catch in the same set locations they use to trap beaver. Clearly, river otter populations are contingent on beaver harvest management.

In the 1990s the Bureau of Wildlife began a more intensive effort to manage populations of these species throughout the eco-regions of the state. Harvest management plans for both species were implemented and a translocation project for otter in central & western New York was begun. In the 1997-98 season, the Bureau of Wildlife implemented two regulatory changes that were designed to reduce the secondary catch of otter by beaver trappers in areas and during seasons closed to otter trapping. Both regulations involved prohibitions on certain set locations. While these regulatory measures have likely helped to reduce somewhat the secondary catch of otter, they have also meant compromising beaver management in some units and lessening our credibility with trappers and others interested in the return of otters.

A recent advancement in triggers for the #330 rotating jaw beaver trap suggests that a simple modification of the trigger may make this device selective for beaver. To test this idea, we designed a study to examine whether the #330 trap can be made more selective for trapping beaver through commonly employed modifications of the trigger. If simple modifications of this device can increase its selectivity for beaver, we will be able to separate the management of beaver from otter where they both occur and reduce otter mortality in areas closed to otter trapping.

Two phases of study are planned. The first, which is already underway, involves controlled trials with live beaver, otter and muskrats in a modified fish raceway. The test facility is equipped with 12 trap stations where #330

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traps can be set in an operable condition that allows the triggers to fire without making an actual capture. Observers (some of them trappers) are stationed at each trap location to record trigger firing rates and location of the animal in the trap at each pass through. Firing rates of 11 commonly made modifications to the trigger, including an adjustable tensioned trigger, will be determined from repeated swim through trials with various size beaver, otter and muskrats.

The range in weight of 10 beaver already tested is 12 to 42 pounds. Two otters weighting 17 and 19 pounds. were also tested with these same trigger configurations. Five large muskrats will be tested, because many of the trigger modifications trappers suggested to test are also useful for avoiding muskrats in beaver sets. Preliminary results document what most beaver trappers already know. Firing rates for the most part are higher for triggers placed on the bottom than triggers placed at the top. In addition, for every modification employed, the firing rate increased with the weight of the animal. A more detailed analysis awaits conclusion of these controlled trials with muskrats and a few more beaver.

The second phase of this study will involve a field test of traps equipped with the most selective trigger configuration for catching beaver and avoiding otter and muskrats. Ten trapper volunteers from five upstate DEC regions will be equipped with a dozen modified #330 traps and asked each to use them alongside a dozen of their own #330 traps on their favorite trap line. To facilitate record keeping, a Bureau of Wildlife staff person will be partnered with these trappers to assist with running their line for nine days of the beaver trapping season. Information on capture rate, set location, strike location of captured animals, weights of captured animals and other pertinent variables will be recorded each day. The purpose of this second phase is to evaluate capture data for both modified traps and standard traps under actual field conditions, where other environmental variables could play a role in selectivity.

By combining controlled trials with a field test, our ultimate goal is to define a way of economically making the single most important beaver trap ever invented reasonably selective for beaver. If the results of this study succeed at accomplishing this goal, it will be a giant step towards improving the management of beaver and river otter throughout New York.

Bureau of Wildlife Completes Outreach Effort on Trapping and Hunting Regulations

by Gordon R. Batcheller
Bureau of Wildlife, Delmar

For more than two years, the Bureau of Wildlife has been evaluating hunting and trapping regulations with an eye towards making meaningful improvements. Ultimately, the decisions made will affect many hunters and trappers. Throughout our discussions, our aim has been to recommend changes that will either simplify or improve the regulations. Our philosophy is that hunting and trapping regulations should not be an obstacle to enjoying the outdoors, but a means of helping you get the most of your limited time to go afield. At the same time, hunting and trapping regulations must continue to do what they always have done—conserve our wildlife heritage for future generations.

For furbearers, our task was not easy. This is because several furbearers may be either hunted or trapped. Also, certain furbearers may be in the same habitat as others. For example, a muskrat trapper may have a high chance of also catching a mink, and vice versa. Similarly, a fox hunter has a high chance of encountering a coyote while afield with calls. Many traps and trapping seasons, as well as hunting seasons, are designed to take advantage of the overlap between different species.

Last spring, the Bureau of Wildlife mailed a survey to a sample of hunters and trappers to get input on some ideas we had for improving our hunting and trapping seasons. We analyzed the input, did a follow up survey, and made some decisions that will soon be proposed during an official “Rule-making.” (See the next page for an explanation of “rule-making.”)

Among the proposals planned are to convert the opening and closing dates for most furbearer hunting and trapping to a “fixed date.” An example of what I mean by this is the bowhunting season in the Southern Zone—it is always October 15th. We are proposing the same for many furbearer seasons. Except, the opening date for trapping and hunting most furbearers on land would be October 25th. Again, this is a proposal and if finally adopted, would not be in place until 2000.

Another area of proposed change is in mink and muskrat seasons. Right now, the mink and muskrat season dates are very complex. The Bureau of Wildlife has worked hard to try to reduce this unnecessary complexity. A special public meeting was held in the northern part of the State last summer to get trapper input on this. The result is simple: always keep mink and muskrat trapping together, and reduce the number of different dates that people have to remember. Additionally, we will be proposing to keep the mink and muskrat season open as long as the beaver trapping season is open.

The Rule-Making Process: Putting Ideas into Practice

by Gordon R. Batcheller
Bureau of Wildlife, Delmar

All New York State agencies must use the "rule-making process" to convert an idea to a regulation that can be enforced. We have to follow a law when rule-making. This is called the State Administrative Procedures Law. DEC is tightly governed by the requirements of this law for all of its rule-making.

It takes a long time. At a minimum, we need one year to change a regulation. If we decide to change a certain hunting season date, we have to start one year before the regulation must be in place. This means that none of the ideas mentioned in the accompanying article will be put into place until the fall of 2000, at the earliest.

All proposals must be published in the *New York State Register*, a bulletin of rule-making printed every two weeks and produced by the Department of State. Subscriptions to the *Register* are expensive (\$80 per year), but most public libraries have the *Register*—it is usually kept with the current periodicals. All state agencies are required by law to publish all rule-making proposals in the *Register*.

In addition to containing up-to-date proposals and status reports of rule-making activities, the *Register* also includes information on how to be a part of the rule-making process. Briefly, the public has 45 days to comment on any proposed regulation.

DEC, like all other agencies, must explain exactly what the proposal is in great detail, including the reasons why it is being proposed, as well as who it will effect. (In our case, hunters and trappers.) During the 45 day comment period, the Department receives written comments, and we must respond to each one. A record of our response is published in a later issue of the *Register*.

Finally, once we have demonstrated that we have considered public comments, we can change our proposal in reaction to them, or adopt it as originally proposed. In both cases, we have to explain our reasons.

The rule-making process is intended to give you a say in the regulations that ultimately you have to follow. DEC strongly encourages all citizens to comment on proposed rules that you are interested in.

State of the River Otter Restoration Project

by Bruce Penrod
Bureau of Wildlife, Bath

Through August of 1999, 156 otters have been released at six release sites. Five sites have a complete complement of animals. Several planned release sites have not yet received their full quota of otter. We are planning to

complete the acquisition phase of the project in 2000, only one year behind schedule, assuming we acquire 56-60 animals each of the next two years.

A summary of our efforts is shown below. Eight otters that were not captured and moved as part of the River Otter Project also have been recovered in the release areas. None of these were likely offspring of the original releases.

| Release site | Otters released | Otters killed | Released from Traps |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Montezuma | 29 | 3 | 1 |
| Bone Run # | 15 | 2 | 1 |
| Frewsburg # | 21 | 5 | 1 |
| Whitney Point | 28 | 4 | 3 |
| Letchworth | 28 | 2 | 0 |
| Black Creek | 31 | 2* | 0 |
| French Creek | 3 | 0 | 0 |

considered one release site

*One additional animal reported road killed but not verified

During 1998-99 only two project animals were reported killed by beaver trappers. Unfortunately both were females from the Black Creek release. One animal was turned in immediately upon its capture by the trapper as requested by the Department and no legal action was taken. The second was not turned in and the trapper was ticketed. Trappers in western New York are reminded to use otter avoidance techniques whenever trapping near otter habitat. Released otters have traveled considerable distances and can be expected to be found just about anywhere in suitable habitat.

Last year, the Legislature appropriated \$40,000 to assist in funding the New York River Otter Project. This was the single largest donation to the Project since its start in 1995. These funds will pay for one release site with 30 otters.

Some of the more successful trappers licensed to participate in catching live otter met with project staff from Cornell University, the New York River Otter Project, Inc., and DEC's Wildlife and Law Enforcement staff to focus on ways to improve live trapping, handling and transport techniques associated with the Project. While the condition of animals received is comparable or slightly better than other otter restoration efforts, there is room for improvement.

One of the products of this meeting was the start of a trap evaluation study. The study will evaluate one trap type with specific modifications to reduce injuries. This study will complement other trap research being done to evaluate the performance of body-gripping traps used in water, but on a reduced scale. (See the article called "Building a Better Mouse Trap" in this issue.) The results will be available after two more years of live trapping effort.

Bowhunters Log Over 300,000 Hours of Wildlife Observation Time in 1998

by Marie Kautz
Bureau of Wildlife, Delmar

A past issue of the Furbearer Newsletter contained an article about New York's bowhunter sighting log. At that time the Bureau of Wildlife was testing the log as a possible index to long-term population trends for a variety of species. A number of other states use similar devices to monitor population trends in wildlife. These devices all focus on bowhunters because of their tendency to use hunting techniques that give them a good chance to identify any animals they observe.

Between 1995 and 1997 a bowhunter sighting log was tested in four small areas of New York. The 1998 season was the first in which bowhunters from all parts of the state participated. Participants were asked to log both their hunting hours and wildlife observations throughout the archery season.

Upstate participants were asked to record observations for raccoon, coyote, deer, turkey, red fox, gray fox, bobcat, river otter, fisher, moose, and black bear. Participants hunting in Suffolk and Westchester county recorded the first six species listed above plus striped skunk, ruffed grouse and bobwhite quail.

Over 6,000 bowhunters participated in 1998, logging totals of over 74,000 days and 300,000 hours. For deer, turkey, grouse, bobwhite, and most of the furbearers, we develop a "sighting index" of the number of sightings for each species per thousand hours of field time. We can then map these sighting indices to help us understand population processes in different parts of the state.

In interpreting the maps, it is important to recognize that bowhunters in different parts of the state seek different

types of habitat for their hunting activities. Regional preferences in the types of habitat hunted strongly influence which species are observed. This selectivity in hunting habitat means that the sighting rates for a species may not always reflect the population level for the whole area and that different sighting rates between areas may be partly due to the type of habitat that the local hunters use.

However, the sighting indices will be useful for monitoring population trends over time within any specified area. The chart below shows sighting indices over time in the parts of the state where the pilot studies provided information from earlier years.

Do these numbers indicate that populations of these species changed over the four years? Not necessarily, because other factors could affect visibility of these species during the autumn. Population size, annual changes in food supplies, prey distribution, weather patterns, and too few log participants in an area can all contribute to changes in the sighting index for a species between years. Because of this, even large differences in sighting index over a few years may not mean that population levels have changed. Over the short term, the indices can only suggest that populations may have changed and by how much. Over the next five to ten years, however, the indices will help us to understand the significance of the short-term fluctuations and to identify any long-term population trends for these species as they occur.

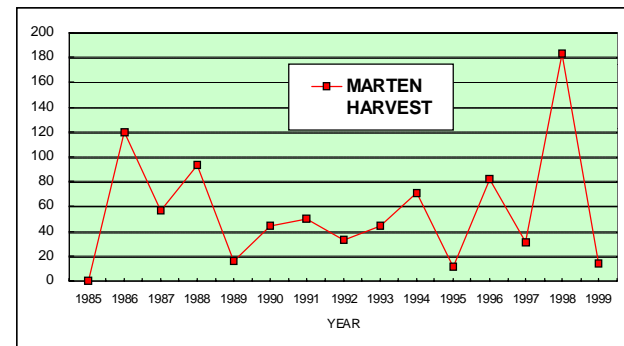
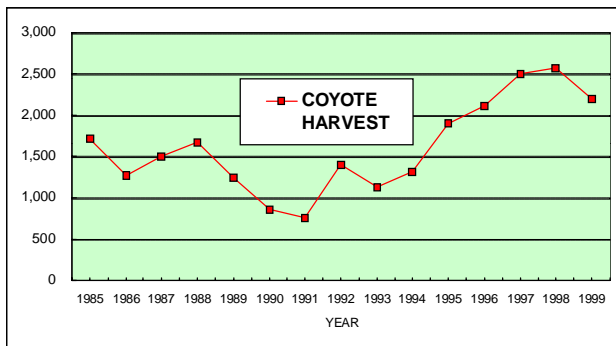
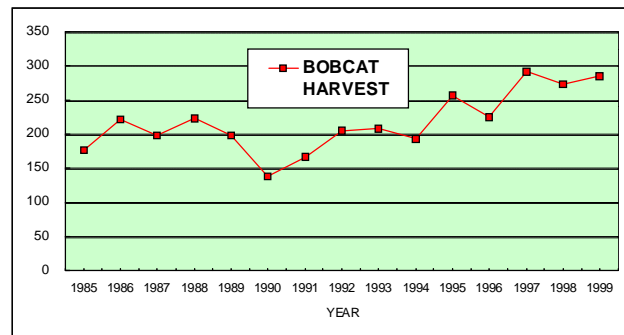
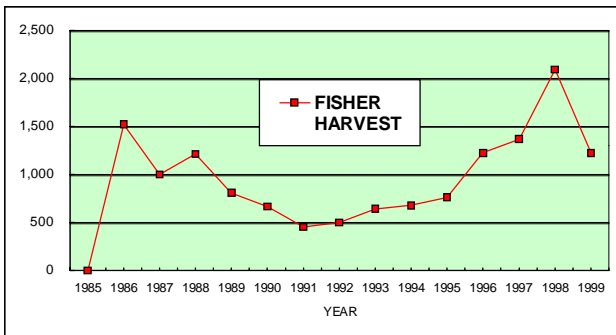
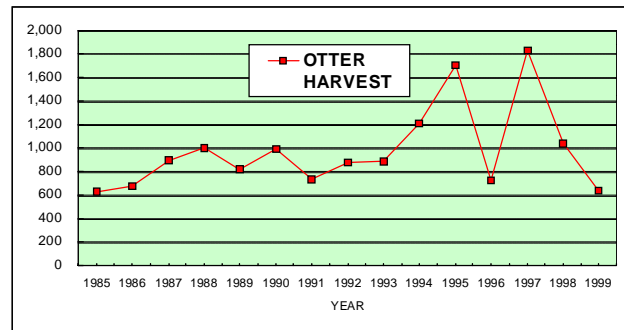
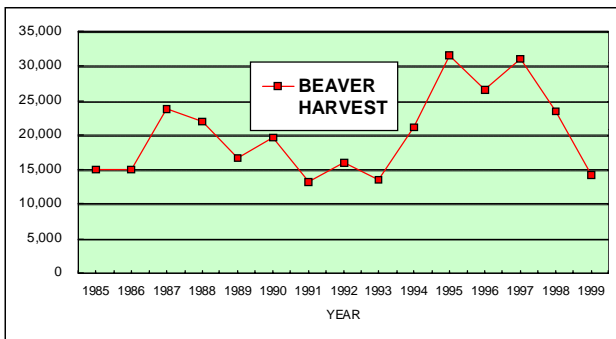
Bowhunter sighting log forms and instructions are available each year in September and October. Northern zone and downstate participants are especially needed. Log materials can be obtained by calling the Wildlife Resource Center at (518) 478-3024. We expect that the sighting log will help us be more attentive to changes in wildlife populations levels in all parts of the state. This will give us better information to share and will help us to respond to public needs.

Bowhunter Sighting Indices Over Time for Six Species and Four Areas

| Area | Western Adirondacks | | | Southeastern New York | | | Southwestern New York | | | | Long Island | | | |
|----------|---|------|------|---|------|------|--|------|------|------|--------------------------|------|------|------|
| Counties | Parts of Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Lewis, and Oneida | | | Otsego, parts of Schoharie and Delaware | | | Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, Wyoming, part of Erie | | | | Suffolk | | | |
| Species | (Sightings per 1000 hrs) | | | (Sightings per 1000 hrs) | | | (Sightings per 1000 hrs) | | | | (Sightings per 1000 hrs) | | | |
| Red fox | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
| Gray fox | 16 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 37 | 19 | 24 | 21 |
| Raccoon | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Coyote | 19 | 18 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 8 |
| Turkey | 29 | 31 | 11 | 13 | 16 | 19 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | Not asked | | | <1 |
| Deer | 372 | 525 | 454 | 444 | 750 | 451 | 553 | 278 | 278 | 335 | 32 | 23 | 51 | 18 |
| | 589 | 721 | 676 | 493 | 563 | 631 | 551 | 596 | 566 | 686 | 542 | 584 | 503 | 516 |

New York State DEC Harvest of Pelt Sealed Species

| Years | Beaver | Fisher | Otter | Bobcat | Coyote | Marten |
|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1985 | 15,080 | CLOSED | 629 | 176 | 1,712 | CLOSED |
| 1986 | 14,958 | 1,524 | 674 | 221 | 1,270 | 120 |
| 1987 | 23,754 | 1,003 | 895 | 199 | 1,503 | 57 |
| 1988 | 21,892 | 1,217 | 1,003 | 224 | 1,678 | 93 |
| 1989 | 16,645 | 807 | 818 | 199 | 1,248 | 16 |
| 1990 | 19,645 | 666 | 991 | 139 | 856 | 44 |
| 1991 | 13,223 | 452 | 736 | 167 | 753 | 50 |
| 1992 | 15,982 | 498 | 873 | 205 | 1,403 | 33 |
| 1993 | 13,544 | 639 | 889 | 209 | 1,133 | 44 |
| 1994 | 21,107 | 673 | 1,214 | 193 | 1,315 | 71 |
| 1995 | 31,611 | 758 | 1,707 | 256 | 1,899 | 11 |
| 1996 | 26,556 | 1,228 | 722 | 225 | 2,114 | 82 |
| 1997 | 31,075 | 1,368 | 1,826 | 292 | 2,500 | 31 |
| 1998 | 23,382 | 2,099 | 1,035 | 274 | 2,571 | 183 |
| 1999 | 14,266 | 1,230 | 640 | 285 | 2,203 | 14 |



New York State DEC 1998 - 99 Furbearer Harvest By County and Region

| | Beaver | | Fisher | | Otter | | Bobcat | | Coyote | | Marten | |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| REGION 3 | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Dutchess | 153 | 1.1 | 2 | 0.2 | 17 | 2.7 | 6 | 2.1 | 48 | 2.2 | | |
| Orange | 107 | 0.8 | | | 8 | 1.3 | 4 | 1.4 | 37 | 1.7 | | |
| Putnam | 9 | 0.1 | 1 | 0.1 | 3 | 0.5 | 2 | 0.7 | 1 | 0.0 | | |
| Rockland | 11 | 0.1 | | | 4 | 0.6 | | | 1 | 0.0 | | |
| Sullivan | 172 | 1.2 | 2 | 0.2 | 7 | 1.1 | 13 | 4.6 | 49 | 2.2 | | |
| Ulster | 73 | 0.5 | 3 | 0.2 | 3 | 0.5 | 14 | 4.9 | 69 | 3.1 | | |
| Westchester | | | | | 7 | 1.1 | | | 1 | 0.0 | | |
| Sub-total | 525 | 3.7 | 8 | 0.7 | 49 | 7.7 | 39 | 13.7 | 206 | 9.4 | 0 | 0.0 |
| REGION 4 | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Albany | 107 | 0.8 | | | 3 | 0.5 | 4 | 1.4 | 15 | 0.7 | | |
| Columbia | 114 | 0.8 | 6 | 0.5 | 4 | 0.6 | 17 | 6.0 | 41 | 1.9 | | |
| Delaware | 200 | 1.4 | | | 6 | 0.9 | 54 | 18.9 | 79 | 3.6 | | |
| Greene | 95 | 0.7 | | | 2 | 0.3 | 17 | 6.0 | 41 | 1.9 | | |
| Montgomery | 25 | 0.2 | | | 1 | 0.2 | | | 27 | 1.2 | | |
| Otsego | 206 | 1.4 | | | | | | | 98 | 4.4 | | |
| Rensselaer | 135 | 0.9 | 36 | 2.9 | 3 | 0.5 | 9 | 3.2 | 49 | 2.2 | | |
| Schenectady | 35 | 0.2 | | | 1 | 0.2 | | | 19 | 0.9 | | |
| Schoharie | 198 | 1.4 | | | 4 | 0.6 | 11 | 3.9 | 26 | 1.2 | | |
| Sub-total | 1,115 | 7.8 | 42 | 3.4 | 24 | 3.8 | 112 | 39.3 | 395 | 17.9 | 0 | 0.0 |
| REGION 5 | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Clinton | 364 | 2.6 | 80 | 6.5 | 16 | 2.5 | 13 | 4.6 | 44 | 2.0 | | |
| Essex | 683 | 4.8 | 134 | 10.9 | 60 | 9.4 | 9 | 3.2 | 43 | 2.0 | 8 | 57.1 |
| Franklin | 681 | 4.8 | 136 | 11.1 | 48 | 7.5 | 19 | 6.7 | 136 | 6.2 | | |
| Fulton | 238 | 1.7 | 46 | 3.7 | 14 | 2.2 | 2 | 0.7 | 31 | 1.4 | | |
| Hamilton | 347 | 2.4 | 63 | 5.1 | 33 | 5.2 | 7 | 2.5 | 6 | 0.3 | 5 | 35.7 |
| Saratoga | 284 | 2.0 | 79 | 6.4 | 19 | 3.0 | 2 | 0.7 | 58 | 2.6 | | |
| Warren | 209 | 1.5 | 39 | 3.2 | 17 | 2.7 | 2 | 0.7 | 13 | 0.6 | | |
| Washington | 285 | 2.0 | 29 | 2.4 | 8 | 1.3 | 23 | 8.1 | 42 | 1.9 | | |
| Sub-total | 3,091 | 21.7 | 606 | 49.3 | 215 | 33.6 | 77 | 27.0 | 373 | 16.9 | 13 | 92.9 |
| REGION 6 | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Herkimer | 472 | 3.3 | 57 | 4.6 | 27 | 4.2 | 7 | 2.5 | 60 | 2.7 | 1 | 7.1 |
| Jefferson | 1,133 | 7.9 | 40 | 3.3 | 42 | 6.6 | | | 23 | 1.0 | | |
| Lewis | 823 | 5.8 | 115 | 9.3 | 72 | 11.2 | 26 | 9.1 | 115 | 5.2 | | |
| Oneida | 596 | 4.2 | 46 | 3.7 | 26 | 4.1 | 3 | 1.1 | 104 | 4.7 | | |
| St. Lawrence | 2,579 | 18.1 | 234 | 19.0 | 170 | 26.6 | 21 | 7.4 | 85 | 3.9 | | |
| Sub-total | 5,603 | 39.3 | 492 | 40.0 | 337 | 52.7 | 57 | 20.0 | 387 | 17.6 | 1 | 7.1 |
| REGION 7 | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Broome | 116 | 0.8 | | | | | | | 49 | 2.2 | | |
| Cayuga | 117 | 0.8 | | | | | | | 49 | 2.2 | | |
| Chenango | 433 | 3.0 | | | | | | | 51 | 2.3 | | |
| Cortland | 143 | 1.0 | | | | | | | 45 | 2.0 | | |
| Madison | 248 | 1.7 | | | | | | | 37 | 1.7 | | |
| Onondaga | 177 | 1.2 | | | | | | | 32 | 1.5 | | |
| Oswego | 817 | 5.7 | 82 | 6.7 | 15 | 2.3 | | | 14 | 0.6 | | |
| Tioga | 190 | 1.3 | | | | | | | 25 | 1.1 | | |
| Tompkins | 84 | 0.6 | | | | | | | 14 | 0.6 | | |
| Sub-total | 2,325 | 16.3 | 82 | 6.7 | 15 | 2.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 316 | 14.3 | 0 | 0.0 |
| REGION 8 | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Chemung | 58 | 0.4 | | | | | | | 6 | 0.3 | | |
| Genesee | 69 | 0.5 | | | | | | | 10 | 0.5 | | |
| Livingston | 61 | 0.4 | | | | | | | 30 | 1.4 | | |
| Monroe | 27 | 0.2 | | | | | | | 19 | 0.9 | | |
| Ontario | 53 | 0.4 | | | | | | | 70 | 3.2 | | |
| Orleans | 4 | 0.0 | | | | | | | 10 | 0.5 | | |
| Schuyler | 28 | 0.2 | | | | | | | 13 | 0.6 | | |
| Seneca | 26 | 0.2 | | | | | | | 32 | 1.5 | | |
| Steuben | 219 | 1.5 | | | | | | | 23 | 1.0 | | |
| Wayne | 40 | 0.3 | | | | | | | 82 | 3.7 | | |
| Yates | 18 | 0.1 | | | | | | | 17 | 0.8 | | |
| Sub-total | 603 | 4.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 312 | 14.2 | 0 | 0.0 |
| REGION 9 | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Allegany | 242 | 1.7 | | | | | | | 22 | 1.0 | | |
| Cattaraugus | 312 | 2.2 | | | | | | | 58 | 2.6 | | |
| Chautauqua | 291 | 2.0 | | | | | | | 21 | 1.0 | | |
| Erie | 43 | 0.3 | | | | | | | 57 | 2.6 | | |
| Niagara | 14 | 0.1 | | | | | | | 26 | 1.2 | | |
| Wyoming | 102 | 0.7 | | | | | | | 30 | 1.4 | | |
| Sub-total | 1,004 | 7.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 214 | 9.7 | 0 | 0.0 |
| NYS TOTAL | 14,266 | 100. | 1,230 | 100. | 640 | 100. | 285 | 100. | 2,203 | 100. | 14 | 100. |

Websites of Interest to Trappers

DEC

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us> Main Index Page
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wortrap.html> Trapping Section
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/classlist.htm> Sportsman Education Course Listings
 Statewide listing of Trapping, Hunter, Bowhunter, and Waterfowl ID courses

Other Government

<http://www.furbearermgmt.org/index.htm> I.A.F.W.A - Fur Resources Technical Subcommittee - BMP information
<http://www.wadsworth.org/rabies/index.htm> New York State Department of Health Rabies Lab
<http://www.fws.gov/> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<http://www.wcmc.org.uk:80/CITES/english/index.html> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Trapping Organizations

<http://www.nationaltrappers.com/> National Trappers Association
<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/4075/> Fur Takers of America
<http://www.furbearers.org/> Furbearers Unlimited
<http://www.wlfa.org/> Wildlife Legislative Fund of America

Fur Auction Houses

<http://www.seattlefur.com/> Seattle Fur Exchange
<http://www.furharvesters.com/> Fur Harvesters Auction, Inc.
<http://nafa.ca/nafa/index.htm> North American Fur Auction

Fur Industry

<http://www.fur.ca/index.html> Fur Institute of Canada
<http://www.fur.org/> Fur Information Council of America
<http://www.furcommission.com/> Fur Commission USA
<http://www.iftf.com/> International Fur Trade Federation
<http://www.furs.com/> Furs.com

Nuisance Wildlife

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/index.html> U.S. Dept of Agriculture - Wildlife Services
 Excellent source for information on nuisance and destructive wildlife
<http://texnat.tamu.edu/ranchref/predator/pred.htm> Predation- Procedures for Evaluating Predation on Livestock and Wildlife

Furbearer Conservation

<http://www.nyotter.org/> New York River Otter Project
<http://www.net-link.net/~vaneselk/muskrat/trapping.htm> Everything Muskrat
<http://www.xmission.com/~drudy/amm.html> Mountain Men and the Fur Trade

NYS DEC

Wildlife Resources Center
 Game Farm Road
 Delmar, NY 12054