

Highlights of Changes for 2020–2021

Changes to Regulations to Prevent the Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

To prevent the introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) to New York, hunters are prohibited from returning to the state with whole carcasses or intact heads of deer, elk, moose, or caribou that they harvest anywhere outside of New York. For more information read the CWD information on page 22 and visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8325.html>.

Deer and Moose Feeding Prohibited

DEC adopted regulations to strengthen and clarify the existing prohibition on feeding deer and moose. Intentional feeding, including placing mineral blocks, is prohibited at all times of year. Products packaged to be sold as a food or attractant for deer or moose are required to carry a label stating that such use is illegal in New York. For more information visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7197.html>.

New Early Bear Hunting Opportunity in Wildlife Management Unit 4W

Regulations were adopted to offer an early bear season in Wildlife Management Unit 4W (portions of Delaware and Sullivan counties) to address a growing bear population and associated human-bear conflicts in this area. WMU 4W joins 10 other WMUs in southeastern New York with September bear hunting opportunity. For details see the Bear Hunting Seasons map on page 43.

Additional Waterfowl Hunting Opportunity for Active-Duty Military and Veterans

As of 2020, states can offer two additional dates that allow active-duty military and veterans to hunt waterfowl. DEC worked with the Waterfowl Task Forces in each zone to select two days for this purpose. When this guide was printed regulations to provide additional hunting days for active duty military personnel and veterans were still pending. If approved, dates for each zone will be posted on the DEC website. Visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28888.html>.

Changes to Trapping Season Dates for Mink, Muskrat, and Beaver

Based on input from trappers and management needs for species like beaver, DEC proposed regulations modifying season dates for mink, muskrat, and beaver. When this guide was printed the proposed regulations were still pending. If approved, revised season dates for these species will be posted on the DEC website. Visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/45551.html>.

New Hunting Season Summary

New in this year's Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide is a four-page summary of hunting season maps and dates that you can pull out of the guide and take with you into the field.

DEC HAS A NEW HUNTING, TRAPPING & FISHING LICENSING SYSTEM!

You can purchase new licenses and privileges, apply for deer management permits, track online orders, register for HIP, view an events calendar, report your game harvest & view your harvest history and much more!

Here's how to access your account and get started today:

- STEP ONE:** Go to DEC's website www.dec.ny.gov and follow the links to purchase a sporting license online, then click 'Sign Up.'
- STEP TWO:** Locate your existing file by entering your current Customer ID # from your sporting license or your driver's license # and date of birth, OR create an account if you have never purchased a NYS sporting license.
- STEP THREE:** Create a user name (email address) and password.
- STEP FOUR:** Review your personal information and verify all the information is up to date.
- STEP FIVE:** Add qualifying education & eligibilities; view your order history, license holdings, game harvest reports and deer management permit history.
- STEP SIX:** Select the 'Buy a License' link at the top of the page to purchase a license!

For more information on the new system, including details on how to locate your profile, create a new one, add education and eligibilities and how to purchase licenses, privileges and products, visit our YouTube channel for tutorials or the DEC website.



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

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This guide is also available online at

eRegulations.com

General License Information

Purchasing a License

Hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses can be purchased at over 1,200 agent locations throughout NYS, over the phone via the DEC call center (1-866-933-2257/M-F, 8:30-4:30) and online through the DEC's Automated Licensing System, DECALS (www.dec.ny.gov/permits/365.html). To find an agent near you, visit www.dec.ny.gov/permits/95448.html. Visa & Mastercard are accepted online and over the phone.

Mandatory Hunter Education

A hunter education course is required for persons who cannot provide proof that they have ever possessed a hunting license. You must be at least 11 years of age to take this class. The general course is an in-person or on-line course offered by DEC and is a minimum of seven hours in length. Once the course is complete, the individual must have the DEC hunter education certificate added to their DEC licensing profile. This can be done anywhere licenses are sold or by calling 1-866-933-2257. DEC honors hunter education certificates and sporting licenses from all other states and countries.

Mandatory Bowhunter Education

Hunters wishing to bowhunt for big game must present either:

1. Proof that he or she successfully completed an approved bowhunter education course. (Note: Approved courses are International Bowhunter Education Program courses or an equivalent course conducted in 1974 or later. If in doubt, call toll free — 1-888-HUNT-ED2) OR
2. Proof that he or she previously held a NYS bowhunting license or stamp issued in 1980 or later; if proof is from prior to 1980, he/she must take an additional 7-hour minimum bowhunter education course.

Mandatory Crossbow Requirement

Hunters wishing to use a crossbow must complete qualifications in the safe use of hunting with a crossbow and responsible crossbow hunting practices. See page 23 for details.

Residency

To qualify for an annual resident license, a person must live in New York State for more than 30 days immediately preceding the date of application. To qualify for a Lifetime License, a person must live in New York State for at least one year immediately preceding the date of purchase. Land ownership in New York does not make you a resident. Residency is that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent

Continued on page 12

Licenses, Privileges and Permits

Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
Hunting (Ages 16+) Privileges: Hunt small game species with gun, bow or crossbow (see page 23). Hunt deer or bear with gun, muzzleloader, bow (with proof of bow education or a bow privilege), or crossbow (see page 23) during the regular season, or hunt with shotgun or muzzleloader during the January firearms season (permit required — see page 18) in Suffolk County (WMU 1C). You may hunt frogs with a valid hunting or fishing license. Qualifications: Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license. Certificates to possess firearms do not qualify. Note: Those less than 18 years of age who are hunting big game for the first time as a holder of a hunting license must be accompanied for the entire season by a parent or legal guardian, or a person 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37) with at least one year's experience hunting bear or deer. Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.	16–69 (NYS Resident)	\$22
	70+ (NYS Resident)	\$5
	Military Disabled ¹	\$5
	Patriot ²	FREE
	Native American ³	FREE
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$100
	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$5
Junior Hunting (Ages 12–15)	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$5
	Privileges:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 12–13: Hunt small game species with gun or bow during appropriate seasons when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian, or person 21 years of age or older with written permission from parent or guardian (see permission form on page 37). • Ages 14–15: Hunt small game with gun, bow or crossbow (see page 23) when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian or person 18 years of age or older with written permission from parent/guardian. Hunt deer or bear with a gun, bow (with proof of bow education or a bow privilege) or crossbow (see page 23) during the regular season, or hunt with shotgun or muzzleloader during the January firearms season (permit required — see page 18) in Suffolk County, when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or "youth mentor" 21 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). <p>* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.</p> <p>Qualifications: Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license (certificates to possess firearms do not qualify). Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase. First-time applicants must show proof of age (birth certificate or passport). Junior hunters do not need a Federal Duck Stamp but are required to register in NYS's Harvest Information Program (https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html) to hunt migratory game birds.</p>		
Bowhunting Privilege (Ages 16+) Privileges: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during bowhunting seasons. Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education Certificate, OR NYS Bowhunting Stamp issued in 1980 or later, OR NYS Junior Bowhunting License issued 1980 or later. Note: To hunt deer or bear with a bow during the regular season, hunter must possess both a valid hunting license and either a current bowhunting privilege or a valid Bowhunter Education Certificate. This includes Westchester and Suffolk counties.	16–69 (NYS Resident)	\$15
	70+ (NYS Resident)	FREE
	Military Disabled ¹	FREE
	Patriot ²	\$15
	Native American ³	FREE
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$30
Junior Bowhunting (Ages 12–15)	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$4
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$4
Privileges:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 12–13: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season or the regular season or bear during the early bear season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian, or a "youth mentor" 21 years or older and designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). Youth hunter will receive a deer of either sex carcass tag for use in the regular season, instead of a regular season buck tag. • Ages 14–15: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season and the regular season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian or "youth mentor" 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). <p>* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.</p> <p>Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education OR previous Junior Bowhunting License. Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase.</p>		
Muzzleloader Privilege (Ages 14+) Privileges: Hunt deer and bear with a muzzleloading firearm during muzzleloading season, and the January special firearms season in Suffolk County (WMU 1C). Hunt deer and bear with a crossbow (see page 23). Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license.	14–69 (NYS Resident)	\$15
	70+ (NYS Resident)	FREE
	Military Disabled ¹	FREE
	Patriot ²	\$15
	Native American ³	FREE
	14+ (Non-Resident)	\$30

Licenses, Privileges and Permits

Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
Deer Management Permit Application (Ages 12+) Privileges: Application for up to two antlerless deer tags issued through a random computer selection process. Tags are valid for hunting antlerless deer only (both antlers less than 3" long) in a specified Wildlife Management Unit. See DMP information on pages 28–29. Application deadline is October 1 annually. Qualifications: Must hold a current year NYS hunting license to apply and pay a non-refundable \$10 application fee. Fee is waived for hunters 12–15 years of age and holders of Lifetime (Sportsman) Licenses purchased prior to October 1, 2009.	12–15 (NYS Resident)	FREE
	16+ (NYS Resident)	\$10
	Military Disabled ¹	\$10
	Patriot ²	\$10
	Native American ³	\$10
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	FREE
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$10
Turkey Permit (Ages 12+) Privileges: Hunt turkey during fall and spring turkey seasons (see page 45). To hunt turkey, all hunters must possess a turkey permit. There are no exceptions. Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license. Turkey tags are included with a Lifetime License (formerly Lifetime Sportsman).	12+ (NYS Resident)	\$10
	Military Disabled ¹	\$10
	Patriot ²	\$10
	Native American ³	\$10
	12+ (Non-Resident)	\$20
Trapping Privileges: Set traps for species during their appropriate seasons (see page 55 for detailed information). Qualifications: Trapper Education Certificate or previous trapping license. See page 37 for additional information on the mentoring program for trappers under 12 years of age.	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$5
	16–69 (NYS Resident)	\$20
	70+ (NYS Resident)	\$5
	Military Disabled ¹	\$5
	Patriot ²	FREE
	Native American ³	FREE
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$5
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$275

Lifetime Sporting Licenses

The following Lifetime Licenses are available to New York State residents only and may be purchased at all license-issuing outlets throughout New York State. Applicants must prove NYS residency for one year prior to application (proofs are the same as annual licenses with the exception of the one-year requirement). For additional information and clarification on Lifetime License sales, contact our License Sales Unit, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4790, call 518-402-8843, or visit our website www.dec.ny.gov. Lifetime License Holders should expect to receive their annual carcass tags in the mail by no later than Sept. 1 annually. License Issuing Agents will replace licenses and tags free of charge between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1. After Nov. 1, there will be a charge up to \$15. If you have a lifetime license card, you will only have to replace carcass tags at a fee of \$10.

Lifetime License (Sportsman) (combined hunting and fishing licenses, includes turkey permits):

For a person age 0–4	\$380
For a person age 5–11	\$535
For a person age 12–69	\$765
For a person age 70 or older	\$65

Other Lifetime Licenses/Privileges

Hunting License	\$535
Fishing License (age 0–69)	\$460
Fishing License (age 70 and older)	\$65
Trapping License	\$395
Bowhunting	\$235
Muzzleloading	\$235

¹**Military Disabled:** Permanent status — must be a NYS resident and provide a letter from the Department of Veterans' Affairs stating the disability is "permanent" and rated at a 40% or greater service-connected disability. Once permanent eligibility is determined, it will stay in your customer profile. Annual Status — must be a NYS resident and provide a letter ANNUALLY from the Department of Veterans' Affairs stating the disability is service connected and rated at 40% or more. The letter must be dated in the current year. **Note:** The first purchase of either a hunting, fishing or trapping license within a calendar year will cost \$5. Subsequent purchases of these license types within the same calendar year will be free for qualifying customers.

²**Patriot:** Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to NYS residents who have the appropriate hunting or trapping education and are active members of the NYS National Guard, US Reserve Forces or certain members of the US Armed Forces. For more detailed information, visit our website or call (518) 402-8843.

³**Native American:** Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to members of the Shinnecock and Poospatuck tribes and members of the Six Nations residing on reservations wholly or partially in New York State. Licenses must be obtained from participating tribal councils or DEC headquarters in Albany (518) 402-8843.

Deer Hunting Privileges and Tags

Resident and non-resident hunter licenses

- **Hunting or Junior Hunting (ages 14-15 only):** You will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag and a Regular Season Bear Tag.
- **Muzzleloading privilege:** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag.
- **Junior bowhunting or bowhunting privilege:** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag. Junior bowhunters may also use this tag during the regular season, with bowhunting equipment.

Residents and non-residents must purchase a hunting license to be eligible for bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges. **If you purchase both bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges, you will receive one Bow/Mz Either Sex Deer Tag and one Bow/Mz Antlerless Deer Tag.** Both tags may be used in either season, with the appropriate implement.

Lifetime Licenses and Tags for Young Hunters

Young hunters who hold a lifetime hunting privilege and wish to receive their tags must first take the appropriate hunter safety training course and have it entered in their DECALS profile. To have the course added, please call the DEC call center at 1-866-933-2257 (M-F, 8:30-4:30). Young hunters should take the appropriate training course well in advance of the season to allow adequate time for their tags to be mailed. Tags cannot be obtained from a license-issuing agent.

When purchasing a lifetime license for a child, the purchaser must bring proof of the child's age (e.g., birth certificate or passport) and a copy of the parent's proof of residency.

Remember to Report Your Game Harvest

Visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html for details. It's the law!

See page 13.

General License Information

Residency continued from page 10

and principal home (regardless of where temporarily located), such as where a person is registered to vote. If under 18, the residence of parents or legal guardian shall be deemed such person's residence. For a complete list of valid residency proof documents please see www.dec.ny.gov/permits/95452.html#Res.

Active members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in New York and full-time college students in residence in the state during the school year (proof required) qualify for annual resident licenses.

Minimum Hunting Age

Minors under the age of 12 may not obtain a hunting license or hunt wildlife.

License Year

Licenses and permits are valid from September 1 through August 31.

License Responsibilities

- A license or tag is not transferable and may be used only by the person to whom it was issued (except for Deer Management Permits—see pages 28–29).
- It is illegal to possess another person's license while hunting.
- A license to hunt, trap or fish does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.
- You can legally purchase and possess only one hunting license per year.
- Your license must be carried on your person when hunting or trapping.
- It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner, lessee or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.
- Make sure that your license has all the correct information. Carefully check it immediately after receipt. If you discover an error, have it corrected as soon as possible.



Lauren Nowak in Monroe County with her first deer.

Stamps / Donations		
Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
Habitat & Access Stamp Donations are used to create or improve fish and wildlife habitat and improve access to those resources for recreational or educational activities.	Any	\$5
Venison Donation Help feed the hungry by supporting NY's venison donation program.	Any	\$1 or more
Federal Duck Stamp Available at most post offices and some sporting goods stores.	16+	\$25

Privileges: Hunt migratory waterfowl. It is not needed for gallinules, coot, crows, rails, woodcock or snipe. All migratory game bird hunters, including junior hunters, must register with the Harvest Information Program by calling toll free 1-888-427-5447 or registering online at: www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html

Qualifications: Validated by holder's signature on the face of the stamp. Hunter must also possess a current year NYS hunting license.

- Do NOT heat laminate your license. High temperatures will destroy the license and tags and turn them black. If destroyed, there is a fee for replacement.
- Sign the back of your license/privilege panel.

Back Tags

Must be visibly displayed on the middle of your back while hunting, except in the Northern Zone and Catskill Park.

Hunting License Exceptions

All residents must have a valid hunting license in their possession except:

- Resident owners primarily engaged in farming, lessees and members of their immediate families do not need a hunting license when hunting small game on farmlands they are occupying and cultivating.
- Native Americans living on a reservation do not need a hunting license while hunting on reservation lands.

Free Licenses/ Patriot Licenses

Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to members of the Shinnecock and Poospatuck tribes and members of the Six Nations residing on reservations in the state. They must be obtained from some tribal councils or DEC headquarters in Albany (518) 402-8843.

Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are also available to NYS residents who have the appropriate Hunter Education and are active service members of the NYS Guard, US Reserve Forces or certain members of the US Armed Forces. For more detailed information, visit our website or call (518) 402-8843.

Lost Licenses

A lost current year license may be replaced at any license-issuing outlet at a cost of \$5 for a license panel. Big game carcass tag sets or turkey carcass tag sets may be replaced at a cost of \$10. There is no charge to replace a lost backtag.

Special Licenses for Hunters with Disabilities

Non-ambulatory hunter permit

This permit allows qualified hunters to shoot a firearm from a motorized vehicle (including an off-road vehicle) that has the motor turned off and that is completely off the highway right-of-way.

To qualify for a Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit, a person must be physically unable to move about except with the use of a mechanized aid such as a wheelchair.

Modified longbow authorization

This authorization allows qualified people to hunt big or small game with a legal bow that is equipped with a device to hold it in a drawn and cocked position. It does not allow for the use of a crossbow.

To qualify for a Modified Longbow Authorization, a person must be permanently physically unable to draw and hold a legal bow.

Modified crossbow permit

This permit allows qualified people to hunt big or small game during bowhunting season with a crossbow that has been specifically modified with a device that only allows it to be discharged (fired) by means of a breath tube. This permit does not allow the use of an unmodified crossbow.

To qualify for a Modified Crossbow Permit, a person must be permanently physically unable to hold or draw a legal bow or to fire a legal bow that has been modified to hold and release the string.

If a person can pull the trigger on a gun, he or she will not qualify for a Modified Crossbow Permit.

For more information on these permits, write the NYS DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752, email speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov or call (518) 402-8985. The application process takes time; write or call well before you intend to hunt.

How To Properly Fill Out Your Carcass Tag and Report Your Harvest

Carcass Tag

It is against the law to improperly or incompletely fill out your carcass tag.



It's as Easy as 1 - 2 - 3!!

- 1 Fill in the date, location, biological and season information on the front of your tag.
- 2 Mark or cut out month and day of kill AND sign the back of your tag.
- 3 Report your harvest! See details below.

Use pen or permanent marker.

Hole for attaching to your game

Remember: Take It • Tag It • Report It

3 Reporting Your Game Harvest

- Deer, Bear and Turkey harvests must be reported within 7 days of take.
- You can report your harvest by phone, online or through our new mobile app (see page 8 for details).
- Reporting online and through the new mobile app is simple, fast and convenient!

Remember to save the bear's skull so DEC can collect a tooth to age the bear.



Information You Will Need When Reporting

CUSTOMER ID #

12 DIGIT DOC #

CORRECT TAG TYPE

- For Spring Turkey:
 - » Spur length (none, less than 1/2", 1/2" or longer)
 - » Beard length (less than 3", 3" or greater but less than 7 1/2", or 7 1/2" or longer.
 - » Estimated weight
- For Fall Turkey:
 - » Remember to save a leg. We will request it to determine age and sex.

General Hunting Regulations

The following are general hunting regulations. Specific regulations for various game species are in the Small Game, Big Game and Trapping sections of this booklet.

Definitions

Air gun—a firearm that uses spring or compressed air (not gunpowder) to propel a single projectile that is .17 caliber or larger and produces a muzzle velocity of at least 600 feet per second. You may use a smooth or rifled bore.

Bow—includes long (stick), compound, or recurve bow.

Crossbow—consists of a bow, a string, and either compound or recurve limbs with a minimum width of 17 inches (tip of limbs, uncocked), mounted on a stock. The stock shall have a trigger with a working safety that holds the string and limbs under tension until released. It shall have a minimum overall length from the butt of the stock to the front of the limbs of 24 inches and be able to launch a minimum 14-inch arrow/bolt, not including the legal arrowhead. It shall have a draw weight of 100 to 200 pounds. Optical sights are allowed on crossbows.

Firearm—all guns, including handguns, rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, BB and pellet guns.

Handgun—is any pistol or revolver intended to be aimed and fired with one hand and having a barrel length not exceeding 16 inches. Possession of handguns in New York State requires a NYS Pistol Permit. New York does not recognize permits issued by other states.

To hunt—means to pursue, shoot, kill or capture (other than trap) wildlife and includes all lesser acts that disturb or worry wildlife, whether or not they result in taking. Hunting also includes all acts to assist another person in taking wildlife.

Motor vehicle—means every vehicle or device operated by any power other than muscle power including but not limited to automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, tractors, trailers, motorboats, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, whether operated on or off public highways.

Muzzleloading firearm—is a firearm loaded through the muzzle, shooting a single projectile and having a minimum bore of .44 inch. Scopes or fiber-optic sights may be used at any time. You must possess a New York State Pistol Permit to hunt with a muzzleloading pistol.

Public highway—means any road maintained by a state, county or town. A private road is one maintained by a person or corporation.

Rifle—is a firearm with a barrel length of 16 inches or more with rifling in the barrel that uses metallic cartridges.

Shotgun—is a firearm with a barrel length of 18 inches or more that uses shells that are non-metallic except for the base.

Hunt Safe — Hunt Smart

- Assume every gun to be loaded.
- Control the muzzle, point in a safe direction.
- Keep finger off the trigger until firing.
- Be sure of your target and beyond.
- Wear hunter orange.

To take—means to pursue, shoot, hunt, kill, capture, trap, snare or net wildlife and game—and all lesser acts that disturb or worry wildlife—or to place or use any net or other device commonly used to take wildlife.

To trap—means to take, kill or capture wildlife with traps, deadfalls and other devices commonly used to take wildlife, including the shooting or killing of lawfully trapped animals. It also includes all related activities such as placing, setting, staking or checking traps or assisting another person with these activities.

Manner of Taking

It is illegal to take or hunt wildlife:

- While in or on a motor vehicle (except by special permit—see page 2)
- With the aid of a vehicle's lights
- On or from any public road
- With any firearm equipped with a silencer
- With any firearm which continues to fire as long as the trigger is held back (an automatic firearm)
- With any semi-automatic firearm with a capacity to hold more than 6 rounds, except:
 1. Firearms using .22 or .17 caliber rimfire ammunition, or
 2. Firearms altered to reduce their capacity to no more than 6 shells at one time in the magazine and chamber combined, or
 3. Autoloading pistols with a barrel length of less than 8 inches
- With a spear
- With a bow equipped with any mechanical device which is attached to the bow (other than the bowstring) for drawing, holding or releasing the bowstring except for a person with a physical disability in possession of a Modified Longbow Authorization (compound bows are legal)
- With a spear gun or modified crossbow except for a person with a physical disability in possession of a Modified Crossbow Permit
- With an arrow with an explosive head or shaft.
- With any device designed or intended to deliver drugs to an animal
- With a crossbow if you are under 14 years old

Baiting—It is illegal to hunt with the aid of bait or over any baited area when hunting big game, upland game birds, turkey or waterfowl.

Fish—Crossbows may not be used to take carp or any other fish.

Spotlighting

You may use lights to observe wildlife under the following conditions:

- You are not within 500 feet of a home or farm

building, unless you have permission from the owner or lessee (when looking for deer or bear)

- While in or on a motor vehicle and operating a light and no person has a firearm, bow, or crossbow, or if:

- » the implement is taken down, or
- » the implement is securely fastened in a case, or
- » the implement is locked in the trunk of the vehicle, or
- » the implement is a handgun

For information on hunting furbearers at night, see page 55.

Possession of Firearms and Crossbows

During the open season for deer, it is illegal to:

- Possess shotgun shells loaded with slug or ball, unless holding a valid license (including carcass tags) or permit to take deer or bear, or
- Possess a rifle larger than a .22-caliber rimfire in areas where rifles are banned for taking deer (**Centerfire rifles less than .22-caliber and muzzleloading rifles are legal**)

In Westchester County and on Long Island, it is illegal to use any rifle for hunting or to carry one afield. In Suffolk, Nassau and Westchester counties, it is illegal to use a crossbow to hunt wildlife.

In the Northern Zone, it is illegal to carry a rifle larger than .22 rimfire or a shotgun loaded with slug, ball or buckshot afield if accompanied by a dog, except when coyote hunting.

Possession of handguns in New York requires a NYS Pistol Permit. New York does not recognize permits issued by other states.

Transportation of Firearms

A person may not transport or possess a shotgun, rifle or crossbow in or on a **motor vehicle** unless the firearm is unloaded in both chamber and magazine or the crossbow is unloaded or taken down. While legally hunting migratory game birds, a loaded firearm may be possessed in a motorboat not under power OR in a motorboat under power only while retrieving dead/crippled birds.

A muzzleloader is considered unloaded when the cap is off the nipple, the primer is removed, the primer powder is removed from the flintlock pan, or the battery is removed from an electric-fired muzzleloader.

A crossbow is considered unloaded when the arrow/bolt is removed and the crossbow is uncocked.

Discharge of Firearms, Crossbows and Bows

It is illegal to discharge a firearm, crossbow or bow:

- So that the load or arrow/bolt passes over any part of a public highway
- Within 500 feet for a firearm, 250 feet for a crossbow or 150 feet for a bow of any school, playground, or an occupied factory or church
- Within 500 feet for a firearm, 250 feet for a crossbow or 150 feet for a bow of a dwelling, farm building or structure in occupation or use unless you own it, lease it, are an immediate member of the family, an employee, or have the owner's consent

You may hunt waterfowl over water within 500 feet of a dwelling or public structure as long as neither are within 500 feet in the direction you are shooting.

Protected and Unprotected Wildlife

In New York State, nearly all species of wildlife are protected. Most species, including endangered species, songbirds, hawks and owls are fully protected and may not be taken. The few unprotected species include porcupine, red squirrel, woodchuck, chipmunk, English sparrow, starling, rock pigeon and monk parakeet.

Hunter Education

Hunter Education Requirements
All first-time hunters, bowhunters, and trappers must pass one or more courses before they can purchase a license. Traditionally, hunter and trapper education have been in-person courses taught by trained volunteer instructors certified by DEC. In April 2020, DEC began offering an on-line hunter education course in response to COVID-19. Be sure to check the DEC website about the availability of both in-person and on-line courses before registering.

In-Person Hunter Education Course
In-person courses have a field day where new hunters can get hands-on experience. All courses are free of charge, but space may be limited. As hunting seasons approach, classes fill quickly. **SIGN UP EARLY!**
All in-person hunter and trapper education courses require the completion of homework prior to attending the course. Proof of completed homework must be brought to the course. Homework may take several hours to complete, so start it well in advance.
To obtain study materials to complete the homework requirement, download the free manual and worksheet from the DEC website. Visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7860.html for more information on materials, including a list of courses and course registration.

On-line Hunter Education Course
All the requirements to earn a New York State hunter education certificate can be met by completing DEC's on-line course and passing the exam. Upon passing, you will receive your hunter education certificate so you can purchase a hunting license.
You must be a New York State resident. The cost of the course is \$19.95 and can be accessed at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/92267.html>.

Unprotected species may be taken at any time without limit. However, a hunting license is required to hunt unprotected wildlife with a bow, crossbow or firearm.

Game species may be taken only during their open seasons and as summarized in this guide. Persons taking wildlife on licensed shooting preserves must comply with regulations governing those shooting preserves.



Junior Big Game Hunting

12- and 13-year-old junior bowhunters can hunt deer and bear with a bow if they meet the following requirements:

- Have completed a course in both Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education.
- Purchase a Junior Bowhunting License.
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a "youth mentor" who is 21 years or older and designated in writing by the junior hunter's parent or legal guardian (use the form below).
- The accompanying adult needs to have at least 3 years of experience in hunting deer or bear by longbow AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.

14- and 15-year-old junior hunting license holders can hunt deer and bear with a gun if they meet the following requirements:

- Have completed a course in Hunter Education.
- Purchase a Junior Hunting License.
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a "youth mentor" who is 21 years or older designated in writing (use the form below).
- The accompanying adult needs to have at least 3 years of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.
- The Junior Hunter must stay on the ground and cannot use an elevated (tree) stand.

- Both junior hunter and accompanying adult must wear fluorescent orange or pink: a shirt or jacket with 250 sq inches of solid/patterned fluorescent orange or pink (the pattern must be no less than 50% fluorescent orange or pink) OR a hat with no less than 50% of the exterior consisting of solid fluorescent orange or pink AND visible from all directions.

14 and 15-year-old junior bowhunters and first-time 16 and 17-year-old big game hunters must:

- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or person 18 years or older designated in writing (use form below).
- The accompanying adult needs to have at least 1 year of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.

Junior Trapping

Trappers under 12 years of age:

- May accompany and assist a licensed trapper in all aspects of trapping without possessing a trapping license themselves.
- The licensed trapper must have at least 3 years of trapping experience and may be a parent, legal guardian, or someone 18 years or older designated in writing (use the form below).

Junior Trappers 12 years or older:

- Must complete NY's Trapper Education Program whether they will be trapping alone or with an adult licensed trapper.

Share Your Hunting and Trapping Photos With Us!

Help us celebrate the successes of young and first-time hunters and trappers by submitting photographs to DEC's Hunting and Trapping Photo Gallery. Instructions for submitting photographs are included on the photo gallery webpage.

www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/54055.html

Hunters Lucas, Nick, and Merganzer the lab after a successful youth hunt at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Mentored Youth Hunter and Trapper Permission Form

Use this form to designate a licensed adult hunter or trapper to accompany young hunters or trappers.

I, _____ am the parent/legal guardian
(Print name of parent or legal guardian above.) (Please circle one.)

of _____, and I hereby give permission for him or her
(Print name of young hunter/trapper above.)

to be accompanied by _____ whom I acknowledge meets
(Print name of adult hunter/trapper above.)

the legal age, experience, and licensing requirements to function as a mentor during hunting and trapping seasons.

Signature: _____
(Parent or legal guardian sign above.)

Date _____ Telephone Number _____
(Print today's date above.) (Print phone number above.)

Attention Young Hunter or Trapper: carry this form with you while afield.

Furbearer Hunting



Precious Smith, after a successful fox hunt.

General Regulations

To hunt furbearers, you must possess a resident or non-resident hunting license. A trapping license does not allow you to hunt furbearers. Furbearers may be hunted with a bow, crossbow or firearm as described below.

- You may hunt red and gray fox, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, skunk, weasel and opossum anywhere in the State.
- If you take a bobcat, it must be tagged and sealed.

- You may use a call, including an electronic call.
 - Mink may only be hunted in the Southern Zone with a firearm not larger than .22 caliber during their open trapping season. Mink may not be hunted with a firearm in the Northern Zone.
 - Muskrat may only be hunted on Lake Champlain during the open trapping season with a firearm not larger than .22 caliber.
 - You may not hunt from any motor vehicle, including an ATV or snowmobile.
 - Except as noted above, you may hunt furbearers using any handgun, shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, bow, crossbow or air gun.
- If **YES**, you may use any caliber rimfire or centerfire rifle for hunting furbearers during any open deer season.
 - If **NO**, you may only possess afield rimfire rifles .22-caliber or smaller, or centerfire rifles **LESS THAN** .22 caliber (.204, .17, etc.) during any open deer season. Once all deer seasons are closed, the restriction ends, except:
 - You may **NEVER** possess a rifle afield in Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk counties.
 - In the Northern Zone, it is illegal to carry a rifle larger than .22 caliber rimfire (or .22-caliber or larger centerfire rifles) at any time if accompanied by a dog, except when coyote hunting.

Possession and Use of Rifles for Hunting Furbearers

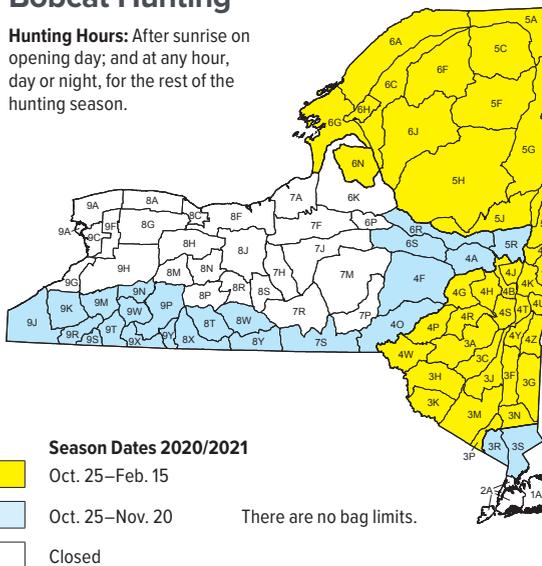
- Is **any deer season open** in the location you wish to hunt (including archery, muzzleloading, regular, late and Focus Area)? (pg. 25)
 - If **NO**, you may use any caliber rimfire or centerfire rifle for hunting furbearers.
 - If **YES**, can deer be hunted with rifles in that location during the regular season? (pg. 24)

Hunting Furbearers at Night

- Spotlights, night vision, thermal and laser devices are permitted for furbearer hunting. They may be attached to the firearm. All laws pertaining to the use of a spotlight apply.
- Hunters should consult with local government officials for any laws that may prohibit the discharge of firearms at night.

Bobcat Hunting

Hunting Hours: After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the hunting season.



If you take a bobcat, you must:

- Complete a Furbearer Possession Tag **AND**
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.



Weasel, Opossum, Skunk, Raccoon and Fox Hunting

Long Island: Nov. 1–Feb. 25
All other areas of New York: Oct. 25–Feb. 15

There are no bag limits for these species. Hunting Hours: After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the hunting season.



Coyote Hunting

Statewide except Long Island and New York City: Oct. 1–Mar. 28

There are no bag limits for coyotes. They may be hunted during the day or night.



Definition of Trapping

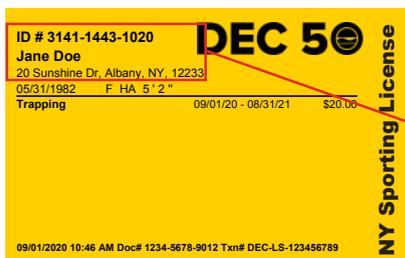
To trap means to take, kill or capture wildlife with traps, deadfalls and other devices commonly used to take wildlife, including the shooting or killing of lawfully trapped animals. It also includes all related activities such as placing, setting, staking or checking traps or assisting another person with these activities. You do not need a hunting license to shoot a trapped animal.

Other Definitions

- **Public Highway:** The traveled portion of a public highway. Culverts, drainage ditches, and the area under bridges are not considered the traveled portion of a public highway.
- **Carcass:** The body or parts thereof, meat, organs or viscera of an animal, including fish. Feathers (including feathers with attached skin or entire bird wings), hair (with or without skin or hide), and bones that include no attached meat, organs or viscera, are excluded from this definition.
- **Suspension:** This term applies to animals fully suspended in the air by means of the trap anchoring system (typically a chain, cable or wire). It does not apply to traps set in water or to traps that are directly and firmly attached to an elevated structure, such as a tree.
- **Restraining trap:** A device used to capture and restrain a mammal. These traps include leg-gripping traps ("foothold traps"), foot encapsulating traps, and cage or box traps.
- **Foot encapsulating trap:** A trap with the following mechanical attributes: The triggering and restraining mechanisms are enclosed within a housing; the triggering and restraining mechanisms are only accessible through a single opening when set; the opening does not exceed 2 inches in diameter; and the trap has a swivel-mounted anchoring system.
- **Cage or box trap:** A type of restraining trap that fully encloses a captured animal within wood, wire, plastic, or metal.

Legal Traps

- You must put your name and address or your DEC customer identification number (see your hunting or trapping license) on all your traps.
- Foothold traps larger than 4" set on land must have a pan tension device and be covered when set.
- Teeth are not allowed on foothold traps.
- On land, foothold traps must be 5¾" or smaller (inside jaw spread). For information on how to correctly measure traps, see page 62.
- During beaver or otter season, foothold traps up to 7¼" are allowed if set under water.



Trappers, furbearer hunters, and members of the public who assist with DEC furbearer management activities are eligible to receive a special patch! You can receive a patch if you: voluntarily turn in an incidentally trapped animal; turn in a road-killed fisher, bobcat, marten, otter, or weasel; report a violation involving a furbearer species that results in a conviction; provide data in response to a DEC request or to assist with a DEC study; or promote trapping or furbearer hunting in NY. Carcasses are used for staff training, biological data, trapper education, and outreach programs. Contact your regional furbearer biologist (see page 64) for more information about getting a patch.



- When the beaver or otter season is closed, foothold traps set in water may not be larger than 5¾".
- A foothold trap larger than 7¼" is never legal to use.
- Body-gripping traps more than 7½" may never be used on land.
- Body-gripping traps more than 7½" may only be used in water during an open beaver or otter season.
- Snares may not be used for trapping.
- Box or cage traps are legal for all species.
- You may not use a cage trap that is designed to take more than one muskrat at a setting.

and must completely cover the carcass so that it is not visible from directly above.

Land trapping

- You may not set a trap in such a manner that it causes a captured animal to be fully suspended in the air.
- In the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure when the fisher and /or marten seasons are closed.

Water trapping

- You may set a trap in a permanent body of water only when the mink, muskrat, otter, or beaver season is open.
- You may not disturb a muskrat house or den.
- You may not set a trap on or within 5 feet of a muskrat house.

Trapping Methods

Checking traps

- In the Southern Zone: You must check traps once in each 24-hour period.
- In the Northern Zone, follow these rules:
 - » **WMU 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J and 6N:** Visit once in each 48-hour period
 - » **WMU 5A, 6A, 6C, 6G, 6H and 6K:**
 - **Traps set in water during the open season for beaver, otter, mink and muskrat:** Visit once in each 48-hour period
 - **Body-gripping traps set on land:** Visit once in each 48-hour period
 - **Restraining traps:** Visit once in each 24-hour period

Use of carcasses as bait

Any carcass, as defined above, used as bait and placed or used in conjunction with a foothold trap shall be completely covered at the time the trap is set or visited. Coverings shall include but not be limited to brush, branches, leaves, soil, snow, water, or enclosures constructed of wood, metal, wire, plastic or natural materials,

Place your name & address or Customer ID # on all your traps.



Furbearer Trapping

Land or water trapping

- You may use any legal method to kill a trapped animal. You do not need a hunting license to use a firearm to kill a legally trapped animal.
- You may not set or stake a trap prior to 7:00 AM on opening day.
- You are not allowed to set a trap within 100 feet of a house, school, playground or church unless you have permission from the owner of the land where the trap is set.
- You may not set a trap on a public road. You are allowed to set a trap in a culvert or ditch unless the property is posted or the landowner does not allow trapping.

Trapping near beaver dams and lodges

- You may not disturb a beaver lodge or beaver dam.
- You may not set a trap on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, den or house, measured at ice or water level, except under the following conditions:
 - » during an open otter season, traps of any legal size may be set on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, but not on or within 15 feet of a beaver den or house;
 - » during an open or closed otter season, any of the following traps may be set on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, den, or house:
 - body-gripping trap that measures less than 5.5 inches;
 - foot-encapsulating trap
 - foothold trap that measures 4¾ inches or less;
 - cage or box trap.

By limiting the trap sizes that are usable on beaver dams, this regulation provides opportunities for trappers while minimizing the accidental capture of otter.

Pelt Sealing

Otter, bobcat, fisher and marten must have a plastic seal attached to the pelt or unskinned animal before:

- It is sold or ownership is transferred to another person, or
- It is mounted or tanned, or
- It leaves New York State, or
- Ten days have passed since the close of the season where the fur was taken

The plastic pelt seals can be removed when the pelt is processed for taxidermy, tanning or manufacturing.

How to get your pelts sealed: a two-step process

- **Step 1:** Fill out your furbearer possession tag.
 - » A possession tag must be filled out for each animal you take.
 - » Possession tags must be filled out immediately after you reach your motor vehicle, camp or home, whichever comes first.
 - » Possession tags must stay with the animal or pelt at all times, but they do not need to be attached to the pelt.

- » Furbearer possession tags can be obtained from your Regional Wildlife Office (see page 64) or at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/29046.html
- **Step 2:** Get your pelt sealed (see below).
 - » A completed furbearer possession tag must be submitted to obtain a plastic pelt seal.
 - » You can give your pelts to another person (other than a taxidermist) so he or she can get the pelts sealed or get them skinned. You must give that person your trapping license or a copy of your license and your completed possession tags while he or she has your pelts.
 - » Only authorized DEC representatives can attach the plastic pelt seals to otter, bobcat, fisher or marten.
 - » Call a Regional Wildlife Office (see page 6) to make arrangements to get your otter, bobcat, fisher, or marten sealed. Seals for these species cannot be sent through the mail.
 - » Special arrangements for no-contact sealing of pelts related to COVID-19 concerns can be made by contacting a regional wildlife office.
 - » Prior to having a marten sealed, you must submit the entire carcass. Prior to having a fisher sealed, you must submit the skull or lower jaw.
 - » If the plastic pelt seal is broken or damaged, contact your Regional Wildlife Office for a replacement seal.

Buying and Selling Fur

- Species requiring a pelt seal cannot be bought or sold or given to another person unless they have the plastic pelt seal attached to the animal. All other species may be bought, sold, and transported without restriction.
- Furbearers may be bought or sold either skinned or unskinned.
- People who buy fur do not need a fur buyer's license in New York.

Rights of Trappers

- No one may disturb a trap lawfully set by another person.
- No one may remove a lawfully trapped animal from another person's trap.
- No one may harass a trapper while he or she is trapping.

License Responsibilities

- A license is not transferable and can be used only by the person to whom it was issued.
- A license to trap does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.
- It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner, lessee or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.

Trapping License Exceptions

All residents must have a valid trapping license in their possession except:

- Resident owners primarily engaged in farming, lessees, and members of their immediate families do not need a trapping license, when trapping on farm lands they are occupying and cultivating, for bobcat, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, raccoon, opossum, weasel, skunk and unprotected wildlife that may be lawfully taken by trapping. (**Note: beaver, otter, fisher and marten are not included.**)
- Native Americans living on a reservation do not need a trapping license while trapping on reservation lands.

Incidental and Accidental Captures of Trapped Animals

There are no provisions in the Environmental Conservation Law allowing trappers to possess animals that are taken outside of the open trapping season.

You must attempt to release any animals that are accidentally captured when the season is closed or if the area is not open for trapping that species.

If the animal is injured to the extent you believe it will not survive, humanely dispatch it. If you are not sure, contact a DEC Regional Wildlife Office or ECO for assistance.

When you find an unintentionally captured animal dead in the trap, or when you must dispatch an unintentionally captured animal due to a serious injury, you may remove it and lay it in the vicinity of the trap. There are no legal provisions for you to keep it, and you may not possess it even to take it back to your vehicle without permission from DEC.

DEC seeks information on all accidentally taken bobcat, otter, fisher and marten as well as other species of unusual nature. If the animal is dead, a DEC biologist will want to collect the carcass. Using the location and carcass data, biologists will be able to track the status of these species and study the age and reproductive data from the individual. The pelts from these carcasses will also be utilized in our trapper education classes.

Remember, you must contact the Regional Wildlife Office or an ECO as soon as possible to report the catch. You will receive instructions on what to do and information to provide.

Possession of Road-Killed Furbearers

If the trapping or hunting season is open for the species in a WMU, you may keep a dead furbearer found on roads within that WMU. The requirements for possessing road-killed furbearers are the same as for trapping and hunting. For example, if you find a road-killed bobcat in an area with an open bobcat season, you can possess it if you have a hunting or trapping license, but you must fill out a furbearer possession tag and have the pelt sealed.

Fisher & Marten Trapping

To trap fisher or marten you must obtain a free annual trapping permit from a Regional Bureau of Wildlife Office (see page 64).



If you take a fisher or marten you must:

- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

Season Dates 2020	Species & Bag Limits
Nov. 1 - Nov. 30	Fisher and Marten. Season limit of 6 marten. There are no bag limits for fisher.
Oct. 25 - Oct. 30	Fisher only. There are no bag limits.
Oct. 25 - Dec. 10	Fisher only. There are no bag limits.
Closed	Fisher and Marten



Raccoon, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Skunk, Coyote, Opossum & Weasel Trapping



Season Dates 2020/2021

- Oct. 25 - Feb. 15*
- Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
- Nov. 1 - Feb. 25, except closed for coyote

There are no bag limits for these species.



* In the Northern Zone (see page 24) body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure if the fisher and marten season is closed.

Mink & Muskrat Trapping



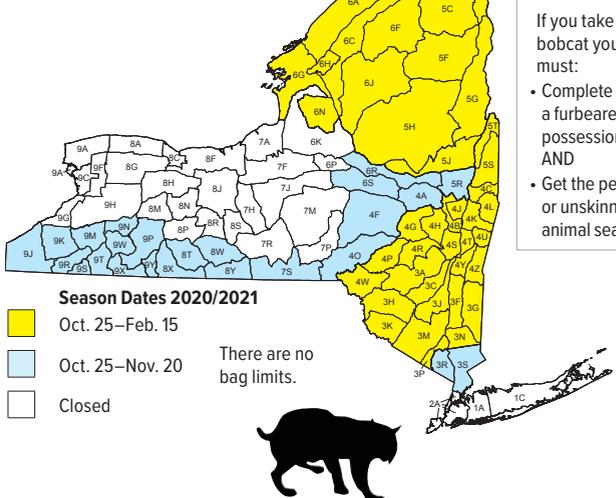
Season Dates 2020/2021

- Oct. 25 - Apr. 15
- Nov. 25 - Feb. 15
- Nov. 10 - Apr. 7
- Dec. 15 - Feb. 25

There are no bag limits for these species.



Bobcat Trapping



Season Dates 2020/2021

- Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
- Oct. 25 - Nov. 20
- Closed

There are no bag limits.

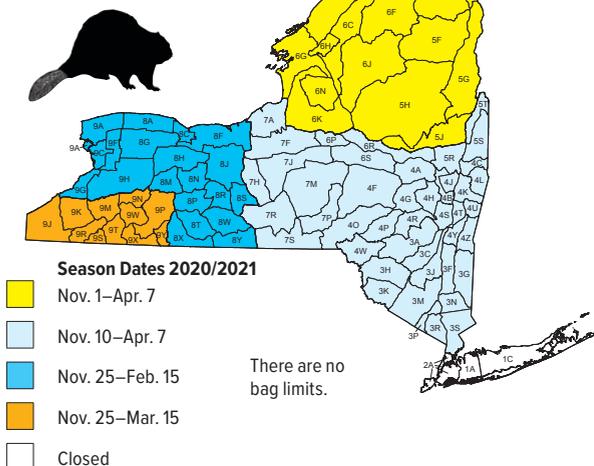


If you take a bobcat you must:

- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

There are pending regulations to revise mink, muskrat, & beaver season dates. Check the DEC website for final season dates before going afield.

Beaver Trapping



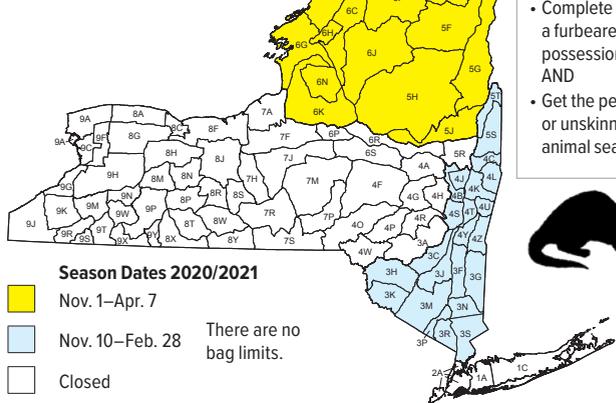
Season Dates 2020/2021

- Nov. 1 - Apr. 7
- Nov. 10 - Apr. 7
- Nov. 25 - Feb. 15
- Nov. 25 - Mar. 15
- Closed

There are no bag limits.



River Otter Trapping



Season Dates 2020/2021

- Nov. 1 - Apr. 7
- Nov. 10 - Feb. 28
- Closed

There are no bag limits.



If you take an otter you must:

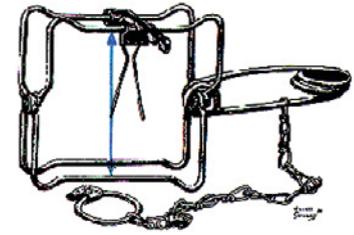
- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

Furbearer Trapping

How to Measure a Trap

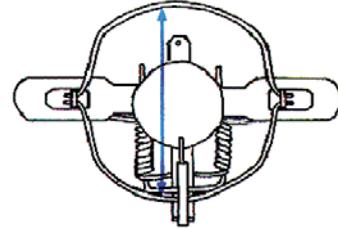
How to measure a body-gripping trap:

Measure the inside distance between the outer frames of the trap. The addition of one or more bars to the inside of the frame does not change the way these traps are measured. The measurement is still the MAXIMUM distance as shown in the top picture.



How to measure a foothold trap:

Measure the inside distance between the jaws excluding the gripping surface as shown. If the jaws have inside laminations, the measurement is the inside distance between the laminations. If the trap has double jaws, measure the inside distance between the outer jaws.



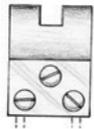
5¾" or less on land, 7¼" or less under water

Trigger Regulations for Beaver Trappers

This regulation applies if you:

- Trap in a WMU in the Southern Zone during a closed otter season
- Use a body-gripping trap larger than 8½ inches (these are "330" size traps)

1. **Body-gripping trap with off-set parallel trigger:**
2. **Example of non-legal vs. legal trigger brackets:**



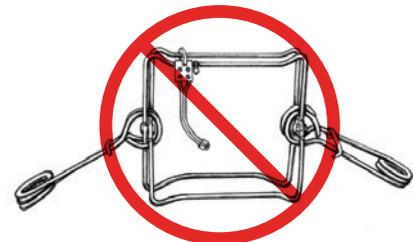
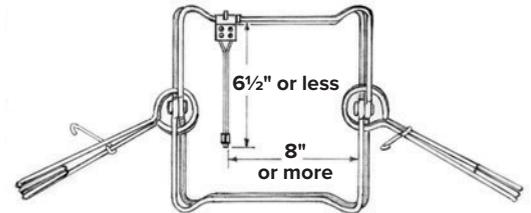
Two-way tension adjustable (legal)



Two-way non-tension adjustable (legal)

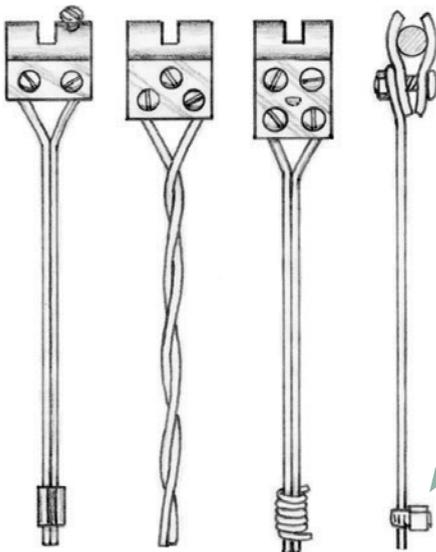


Four-way trigger (not legal)



Legal: square-notch, two-way trigger

3. **Examples of acceptable parallel triggers:**



4. **Tension-adjustable triggers and trigger stops are no longer required.**

The trigger must be 6½" or less.

Recommended tension: 8 to 12 oz.

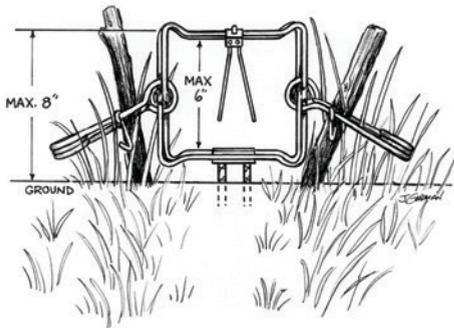
Trigger wires must be joined together.

NOTE:

1. You can bait these traps in any manner. However, the trap must have all of the features noted above.
2. There is no exception for traps set under ice; traps set under ice, whether baited or not, must have all of the design features noted above.
3. There is no tension requirement. However, DEC research showed that 8 to 12 oz. of tension works best for protecting otter and catching beaver.

Regulations for Body-Gripping Traps Set on Land

Body-gripping traps set on land shall not be within 100 feet of a public trail except on Wildlife Management Areas.



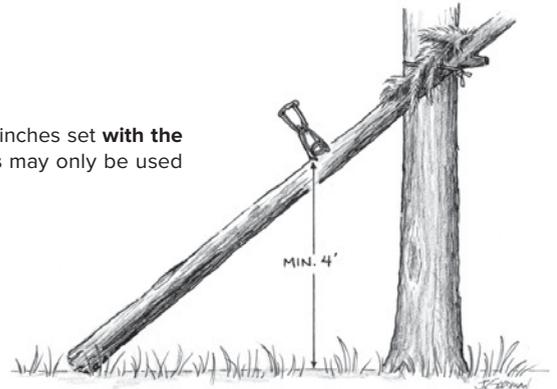
A body-gripping trap measuring less than 5½ inches may be set in any manner **with or without the use of bait**. Body-gripping traps measuring 5½ inches to 6 inches, set without the use of bait, must be set so that no part of the trap is 8 inches or more above the ground. Body-gripping traps measuring more than 6 inches to 7 1/2 inches may never be set in this manner.

NOTE: During a closed season for fisher and/or marten in the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure.

Body-gripping traps 5½ inches to 7½ inches set **with the use of bait, lure, or other attractants** may only be used as follows:

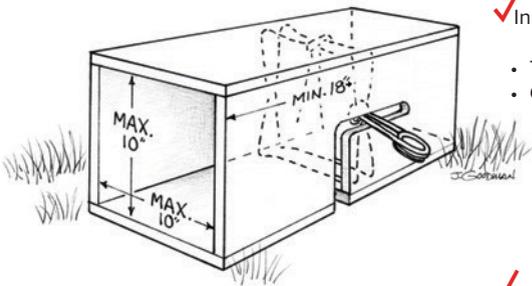
- ✓ Four or more feet off the ground

OR



- ✓ In a container of the following design:

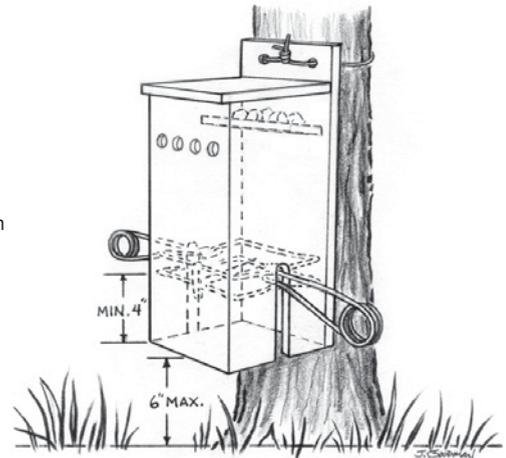
- Trap recessed minimum of 18 inches
- Opening height and width 10 inches or less



OR

- ✓ In a container of the following design:

- Only one entrance, facing the ground
- Container set so entrance is no more than 6 inches from ground
- Trap recessed minimum of 4 inches



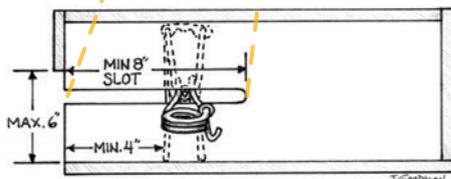
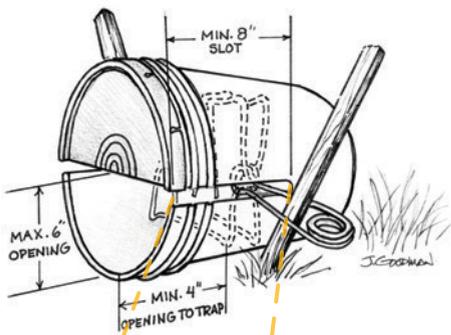
OR

- ✓ In a container of the following design:

- Opening height 6 inches or less
- Eight-inch minimum spring notches
- Trap recessed minimum of 4 inches

You may also build an enclosure of natural materials (e.g., logs or rocks)

- Opening height 6 inches or less
- Trap recessed minimum of 8 inches



Permit Requirements for Fisher and Marten

Following completion of the New York State Fisher Management Plan, regulations were adopted to:

- Reduce the fisher (and marten) trapping season from 46 days to 30 days in select Adirondack Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in the Northern Zone (yellow area on the map).
- Establish a 6-day fisher trapping season in selected WMUs in Central/Western New York (blue area on the map).
- Require a free special annual permit for all fisher trapping. The special permit will enable DEC to collect important data for managing fisher harvests.

Permit Conditions:

- To trap fisher anywhere in the state or marten in Adirondack WMUs, obtain a Special Free Annual Fisher Permit or combination Fisher/Marten Permit (yellow area on map) from DEC Regional Bureau of Wildlife offices as outlined in the table below.
- Submit the skull or lower jaw of all harvested fishers and the entire carcass of all harvested martens at the time of pelt sealing.
- Complete and submit a trapping activity log, even if you did not trap, within 10 days after the close of the season.

To Obtain a Free Annual Fisher or Fisher/Marten Permit:

Only one fisher or fisher/marten permit is needed to trap these species anywhere in New York where the season is open.

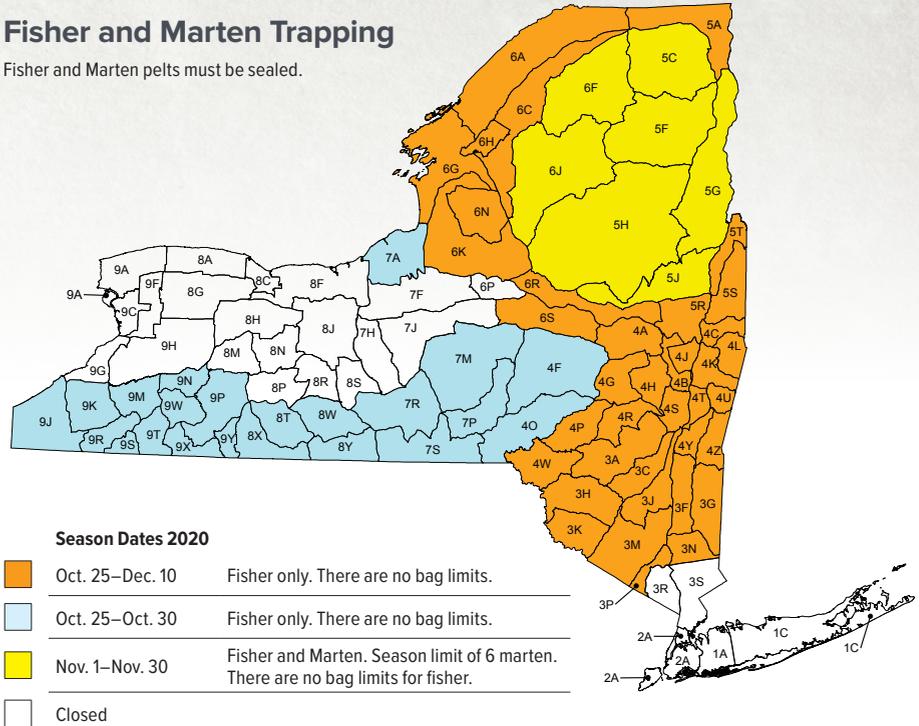
Contact your Regional Wildlife Office (see table below), or apply by e-mail. You must provide the following information:

- Name
- Species (fisher or fisher/marten)
- Mailing address
- DEC ID # (from your trapping license or backtag)
- Phone number and/or e-mail address

Apply by e-mail to: wildlife@dec.ny.gov, type "Fisher/Marten Permit" in the subject line. Please be sure to include the information listed above and the primary county where you plan to trap.

Fisher and Marten Trapping

Fisher and Marten pelts must be sealed.



Apply in person or by phone to any office listed below:

DEC Region	Fisher/Marten	Fisher	Address	Phone
3	N/A		21 S Putt Corners Rd, New Paltz, NY 12561	845-256-3088
4			65561 State Hwy 10, Stamford, NY 12167	607-652-2302
5	5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J	Contact any Regional Wildlife Office to obtain a free annual permit to trap fisher in any WMU with an open season (other than those listed for fisher/marten).	232 Golf Course Rd, Warrensburg, NY 12885	518-623-1240
6			317 Washington St, Watertown, NY 13601	315-785-2534
7			1285 Fisher Ave, Cortland, NY 13045	607-753-3095, x. 247
8	N/A		7291 Coon Rd, Bath, NY 14810	607-622-8271
9			182 E Union St, Suite 3, Allegany, NY 14706	716-372-0645

Or apply by email to: wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type "Fisher/Marten Permit" in the subject line.

Keeping the Trapping Tradition Alive

Adopt “Best Practices” when Trapping on Private Lands

While many of New York’s trappers stick to setting traps on public land, trapping on private lands can be a win-win for all involved. With roughly 80% of New York’s land privately owned, getting permission to trap on private property helps open up additional opportunity for trappers while helping landowners manage local wildlife populations and reduce potential nuisance issues on their land. Trappers are likely familiar with “Best Management Practices” or “BMPs” which evaluate the efficacy and humaneness of many different trap systems. Below are a different kind of BMPs - recommendations for trapping private lands that reduce the chance that conflicts between trappers and landowners will occur, protecting the legacy of trapping for future generations.

- Communication is key when talking to landowners! A report done in 2019 found that a majority of Americans support regulated trapping. Take the time to explain the reasons why you trap, and keep the following in mind.
 - » Approval is highest for trapping if it is for subsistence, population control, or to reduce damage to property, crops, or gardens.
 - » Approval is lowest if trapping is for recreation, fur clothing, or money.
- Be sure to talk to landowners well before the season begins and identify any concerns that they may have or special rules they would like you to follow.
- Ask the landowner who else might be using their property during trapping season. Be sure to communicate with them regarding when others may be on the property and what they may be doing.

- Work with the landowner to clearly define where on their property you are allowed to set traps and when you will be there.
- Follow the regulations associated with setting body-gripping traps on land including specifications for cubby sets (see page 63).
- Know and use selective trap sets. For example, use foot-encapsulating traps for raccoons whenever possible.
- Avoid areas that have a high risk of trapping domestic animals. Keep traps covered and do not bait traps with pet food or meat-based baits.
- Check traps regularly and as early in the day as possible.
- Fully use trapped animals to the greatest extent possible, and dispose of carcasses properly.
- Offer to help out landowners with nuisance wildlife problems.
- Be respectful. Don’t damage vegetation when making sets, do not drive in areas where you don’t have permission, and make sure to close gates behind you.
- Give the landowner your contact information so they may call you with questions or concerns while you are trapping on their property.

Most importantly, remember that you are the future of trapping. One negative incident can have a substantial impact on New Yorkers’ support for this activity. Be an advocate for the respectful, sustainable use of wildlife, wildlife management, and the benefits of trapping.

For more information read “Bodygrip Traps on Dryland: A Guide to Responsible Use” (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/81564.html>). For guidance on how to effectively talk about trapping with the public, check out the “Communication Strategy for Trapping and Furbearer Management” (<https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-inspires/furbearer-management>).



Devon Morris in Washington County (top).

Khalei Holbert and Mike Williams in Madison County (bottom left).

Maria Smith in Steuben County (bottom right).



Report Your Furbearer Sightings!

DEC wants to learn more about the occurrence of various furbearers throughout New York such as bobcat, otter, fisher, weasel, and snowshoe hare. Your observations help biologists understand the distribution and abundance of these elusive or inconspicuous mammals.

You can report your observations online, and you can even include photos!

Go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html or e-mail us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov!

Thanks for your help!

Photo courtesy of Natalie Werner, sighting in Allegany County

TRAPPING IS OUR HISTORY.
WILL TRAPPING BE IN OUR FUTURE?

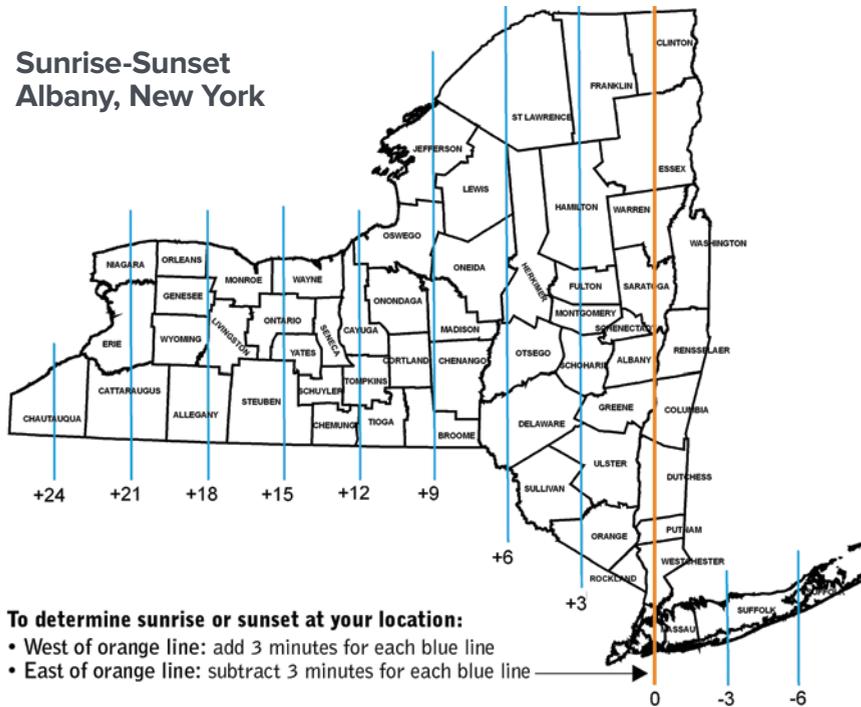


BECOME A TRAPPER
EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR!

APPLY TODAY!

- 1-888-HUNT-ED2 (1-888-486-8332)
- www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9189.html

Sunrise-Sunset Albany, New York



When Hunting for Wildlife, All Shooting Hours are Sunrise to Sunset, Except:

- Unprotected wildlife—any hour.
- Furbearers - after sunrise on the opening day of each respective season, bobcat, raccoon, skunk, red fox, gray fox, opossum and coyote may be taken at any time of day or night.
- For most migratory game bird species, including ducks, geese, snipe, rails— $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Spring turkey— $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunrise to noon,

Day	SEPT		OCT		NOV		DEC		JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY	
	Rise AM	Set PM																
1	6:20	7:28	6:52	6:35	6:29	4:47	7:05	4:22	7:25	4:32	7:08	5:08	6:30	5:44	6:36	7:21	5:49	7:55
2	6:21	7:26	6:53	6:33	6:30	4:45	7:07	4:22	7:25	4:33	7:07	5:10	6:28	5:46	6:35	7:22	5:47	7:56
3	6:22	7:24	6:54	6:31	6:32	4:44	7:08	4:21	7:25	4:34	7:06	5:11	6:26	5:47	6:33	7:23	5:46	7:57
4	6:23	7:23	6:56	6:30	6:33	4:43	7:09	4:21	7:25	4:35	7:05	5:12	6:25	5:48	6:31	7:24	5:45	7:58
5	6:24	7:21	6:57	6:28	6:34	4:42	7:10	4:21	7:25	4:36	7:04	5:14	6:23	5:49	6:29	7:25	5:44	8:00
6	6:25	7:19	6:58	6:26	6:35	4:40	7:11	4:21	7:25	4:37	7:03	5:15	6:21	5:51	6:28	7:27	5:42	8:01
7	6:26	7:18	6:59	6:25	6:37	4:39	7:11	4:21	7:24	4:38	7:02	5:16	6:20	5:52	6:26	7:28	5:41	8:02
8	6:27	7:16	7:00	6:23	6:38	4:38	7:12	4:21	7:24	4:39	7:00	5:18	6:18	5:53	6:24	7:29	5:40	8:03
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