

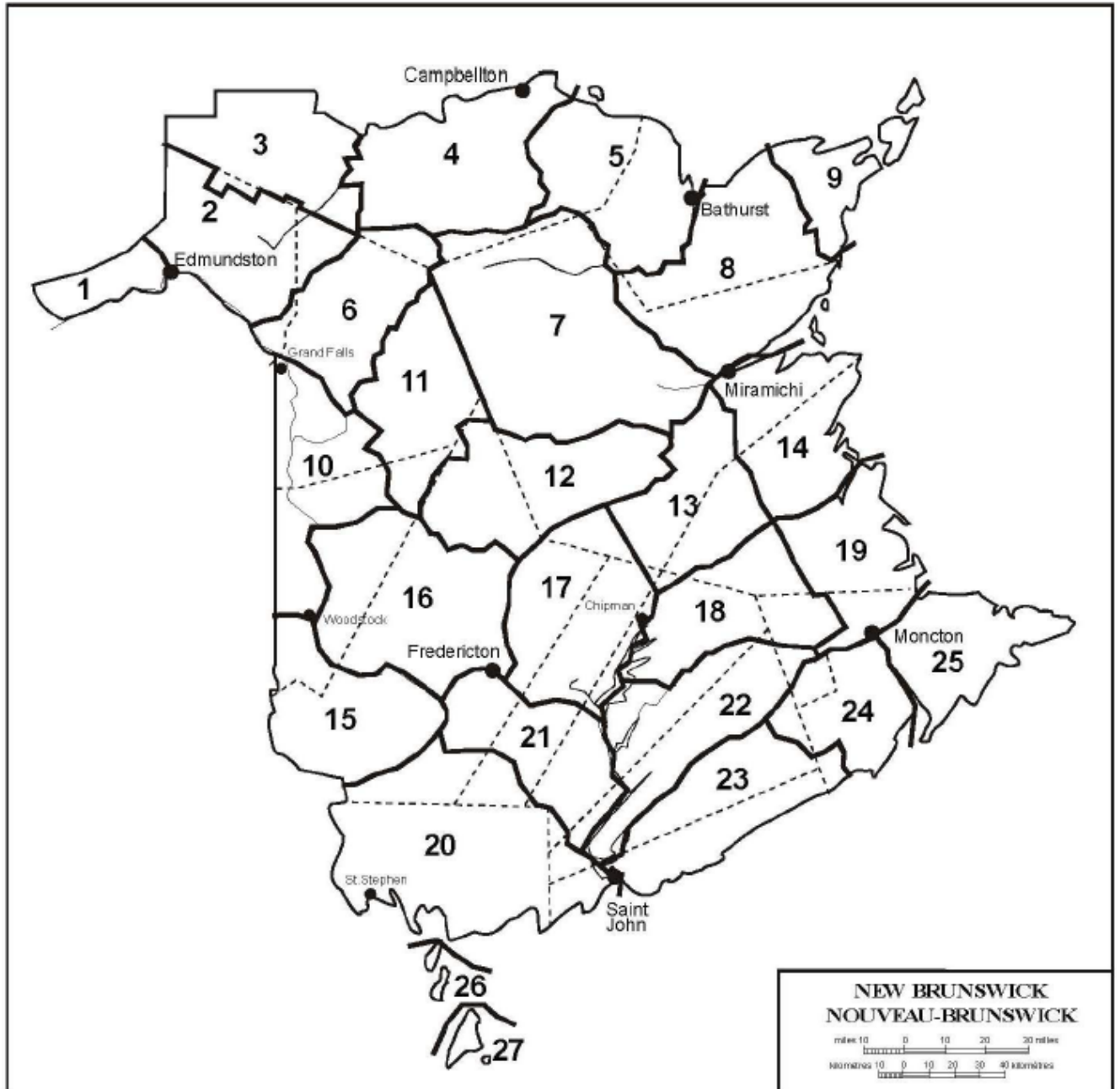
**NEW BRUNSWICK
FURBEARER HARVEST
REPORT 2019-2020**



**FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY
DEVELOPMENT**

www.gnb.ca/naturalresources

Wildlife Management Zones Zones d'Aménagement de la Faune



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2019/2020 New Brunswick Furbearer Harvest Summary

In 2019-2020, there was a decrease (-190) in the number of fur harvester's license sold compared to last season, for a total of **1,171 licenses (1,150)** fur harvester licenses and **21** minor fur harvester's). In 2019, **193** individuals successfully completed the Trapper Education course, which is a 11% decrease from the 218 students who completed the course in 2018.

The total number of pelts exported from New Brunswick (NB) increased by 25% from the previous season from 14,977 pelts to 18,674 pelts for the 2019/2020 season. The total estimated value of pelts exported from NB decreased by 4% from \$382,565 in the 2018/2019 season to \$365,440 for the 2019/2020 season.

Furbearers of Special Management Concern

The Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development has required trappers to submit the carcasses of bobcat, marten, fisher and otter for the past several years to receive a wildlife storage permit and a carcass receipt which allows the trapper to export the pelt. Data collected from these carcasses include sex, weight, reproductive success and age. This information is used in the management of the species to ensure the populations within NB are sustainably harvested. The Department appreciates the effort involved in submitting the carcasses and reminds trappers to ensure they indicate on the carcass tag in which Wildlife Management Zone (WMZ) the animal was harvested.

For information on the age of the animals submitted to the Department please call Jonathan Cormier, Furbearer Management Biologist at 506-457-6938.

Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards Update

In 1997, Canada and the European Union (EU) committed to the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) to use only certified traps to harvest certain furbearing animals. To comply with the AIHTS, Fur Harvesting Regulations in New Brunswick have been changing periodically since the 2007 fur harvesting season so that only certified traps are now allowed for the harvesting of beaver, fisher, marten, raccoon, and muskrat. In keeping with AIHTS, starting in the 2020/2021 season only cage traps certified for live-trapping beaver will be allowed when live-trapping beavers. For a list of certified trap models legal for use in NB for each furbearer species included under the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards, please refer to the certified trap list in the

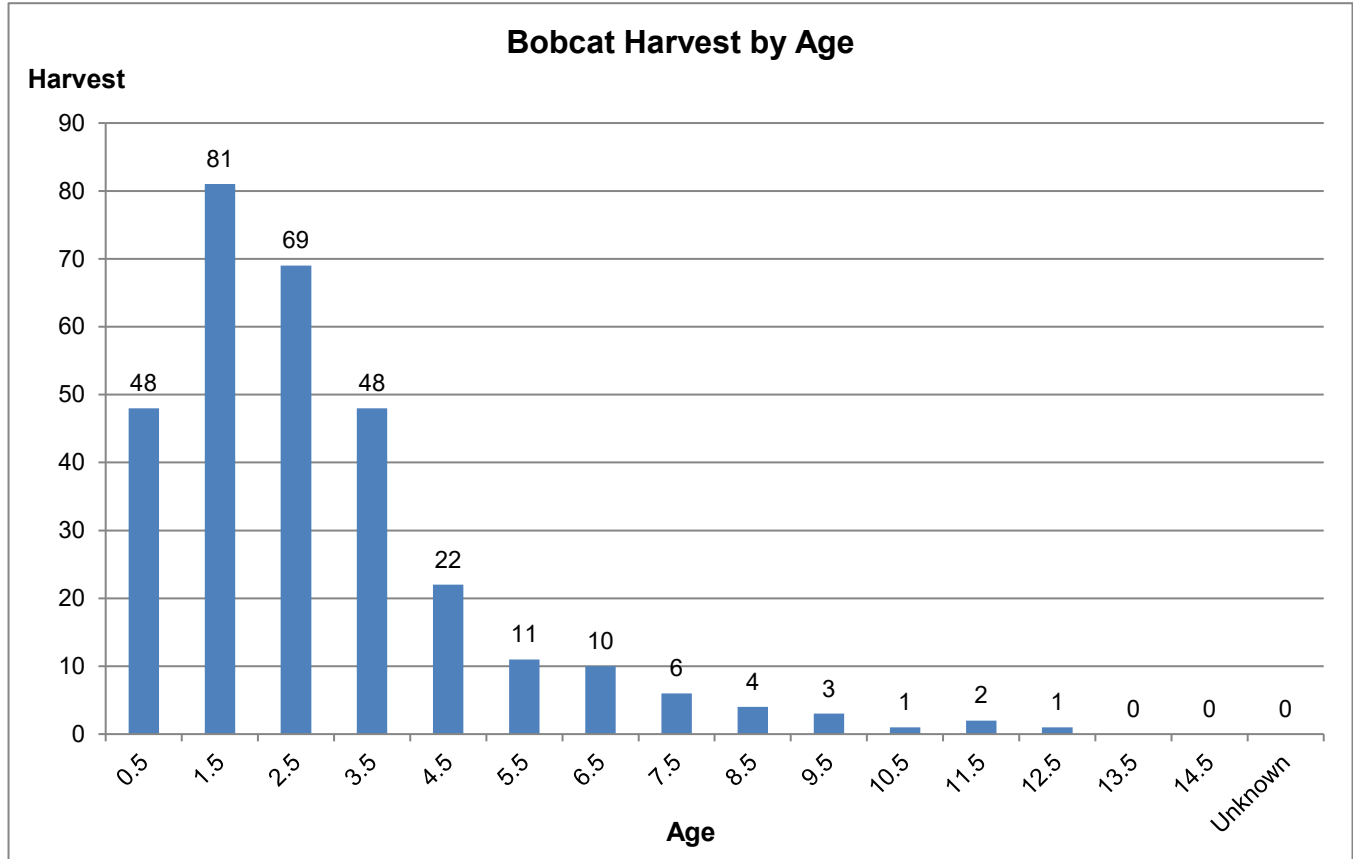
2019 New Brunswick Hunt & Trap Summary -

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/nr-rn/pdf/en/Wildlife/HuntTrap.pdf>.

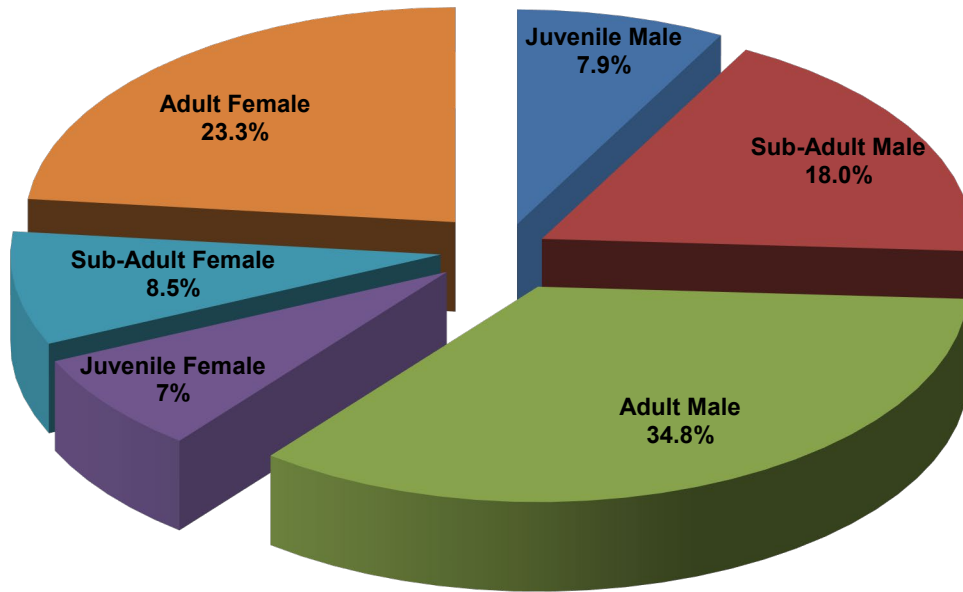
Bobcat

During the 15-week bobcat harvest season, there were 306 bobcats harvested (120 females, 185 males and 1 unknown sex) with a success rate of 28%. This year's harvest is an increase of 40% (+87 bobcats) compared to last year's harvest; however, it is a 65% decrease from the 865 bobcats harvested in the 2008/2009 season (the most recent peak harvest since 1970's). The number of applicants applying for the bobcat harvest tag draw decreased slightly from 515 applicants in 2018 to 505 applicants in 2019. There were 1,075 bobcat harvest tags issued for the 2019/2020 season which was a 4% decrease from the previous season (1,117). In the 2019/2020 harvest, adult female bobcats weighed an average of 16.3 lbs. and adult males weighed an average of 23.9 lbs. Harvested bobcats averaged 2.5 years of age. The oldest bobcat harvested was a 12.5-year-old female weighing 15.4lbs. The heaviest bobcat was a male that weighted just over 37lbs. Unfortunately, there was no information provided with this animal. Overall, 16% of bobcats harvested were juveniles (less than 1.5 years old); 49% of females and 51% of males. Placental scaring indicated approximately 69% of females 1.5 years-old and older were pregnant the previous spring with an average litter size of 2.24 kittens per pregnant female.

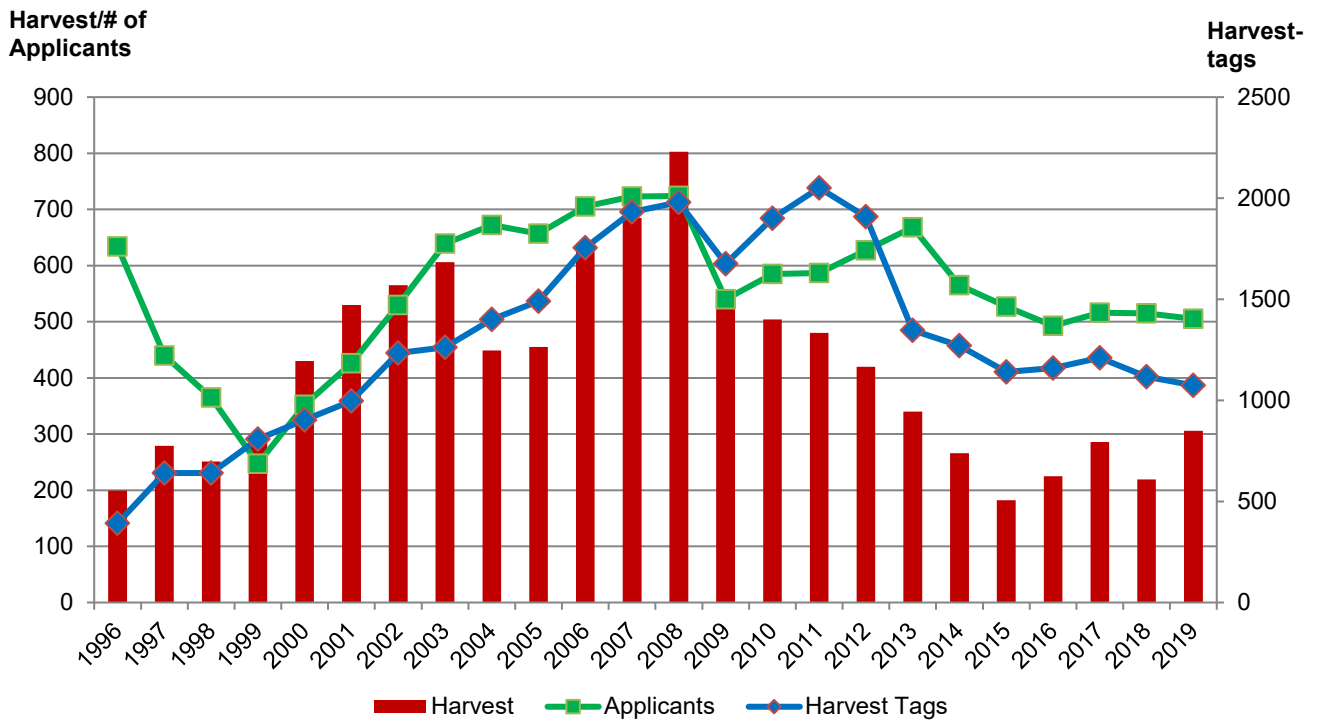
Bobcat	Weight - lbs			
	Males		Females	
	Average	Range	Average	Range
Juvenile	10.7	5.8 – 18.1	9.2	6.7 – 13.4
Sub-Adult	20.5	10.9 – 28.5	14.9	11.1 – 18.6
Adult	23.9	15.1 – 37.1	16.3	10.5 – 22.0



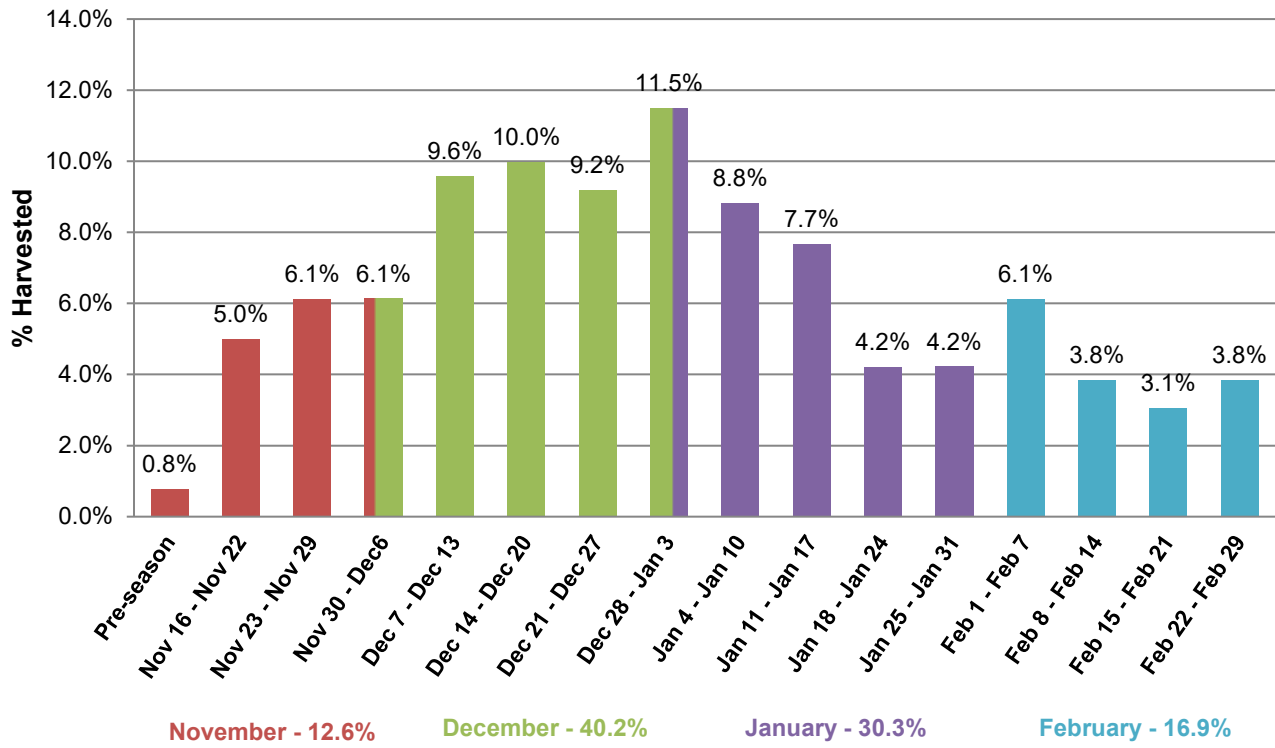
Age and Sex Structure of 2019/20 Bobcat Harvest



Bobcat Harvest, # of applicants to the bobcat harvest-tag draw and the # of bobcat harvest-tags issued from 1996 to 2019



Weekly Bobcat Harvest (%) for the 2019/20 Season

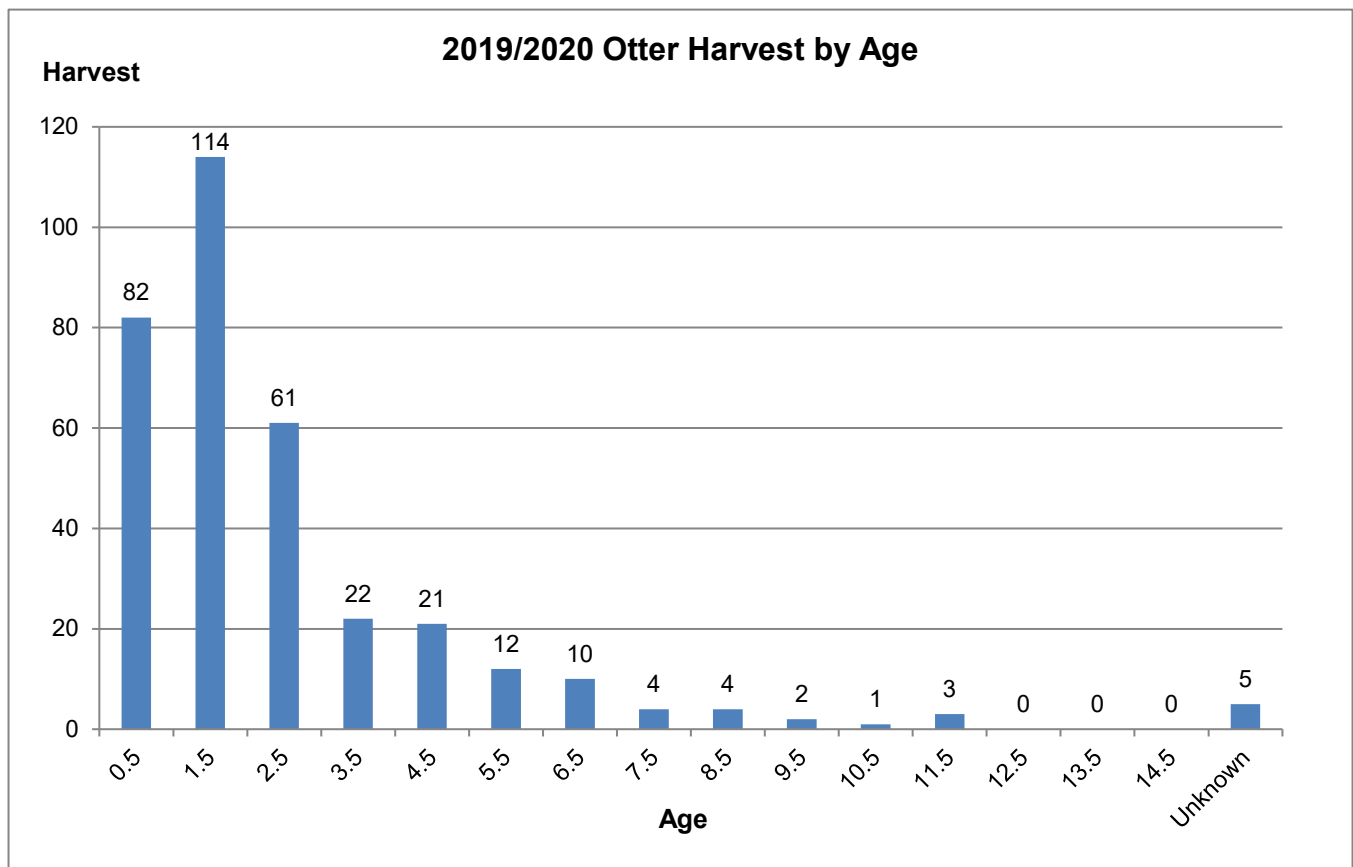


represents bobcat in which harvest date was included on the carcass tag (261/306)

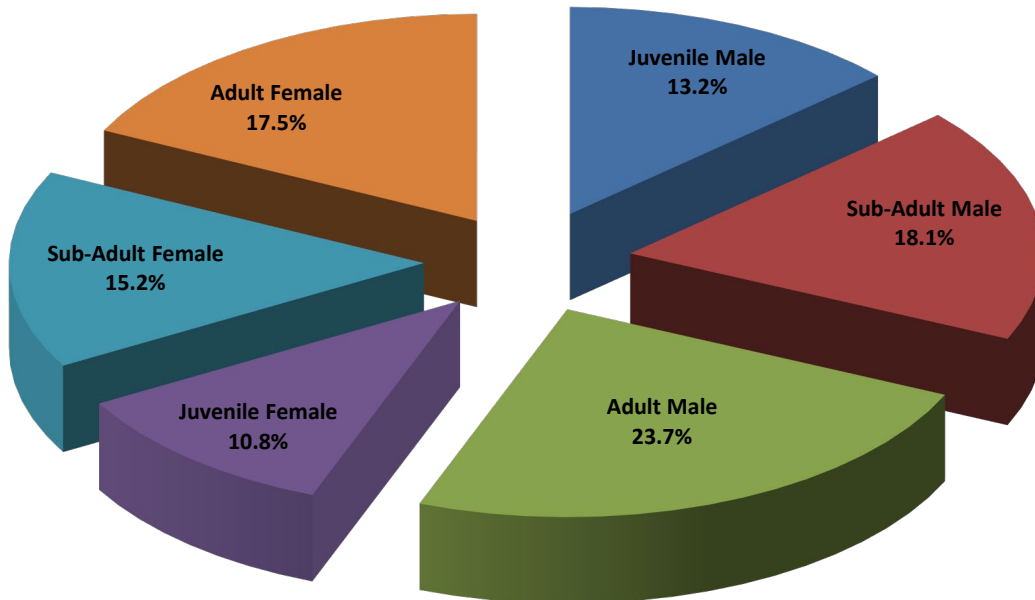
Otter

During the 15-week otter harvest season, there were 342 otters harvested (190 male, 152 female), which is a 36% increase (+91 otter) compared to the 2018/2019 fur harvesting season. Adult female otter weighed an average of 12.2 lbs. while adult males weighed an average of 15 lbs. The heaviest otter harvested was a 10.5-year-old, 20lbs male. The heaviest female otter weighed 17.5lbs and was 1.5 years-old. The oldest male otters harvested during the season were 11.5 years old and were from WMZ's 13, 16, 21 and weighed 13.3lbs, 13.9lbs and 14.9lbs respectively. The oldest females were 8.5 years-old from WMZ's 8, 11, 12 and weighed 11.4lbs, 9.1lbs and 10.7lbs respectively. Approximately 24% of the otter harvested were juveniles and 32% of females >0.5 years of age were pregnant with an expected average litter size of 1.75 pups.

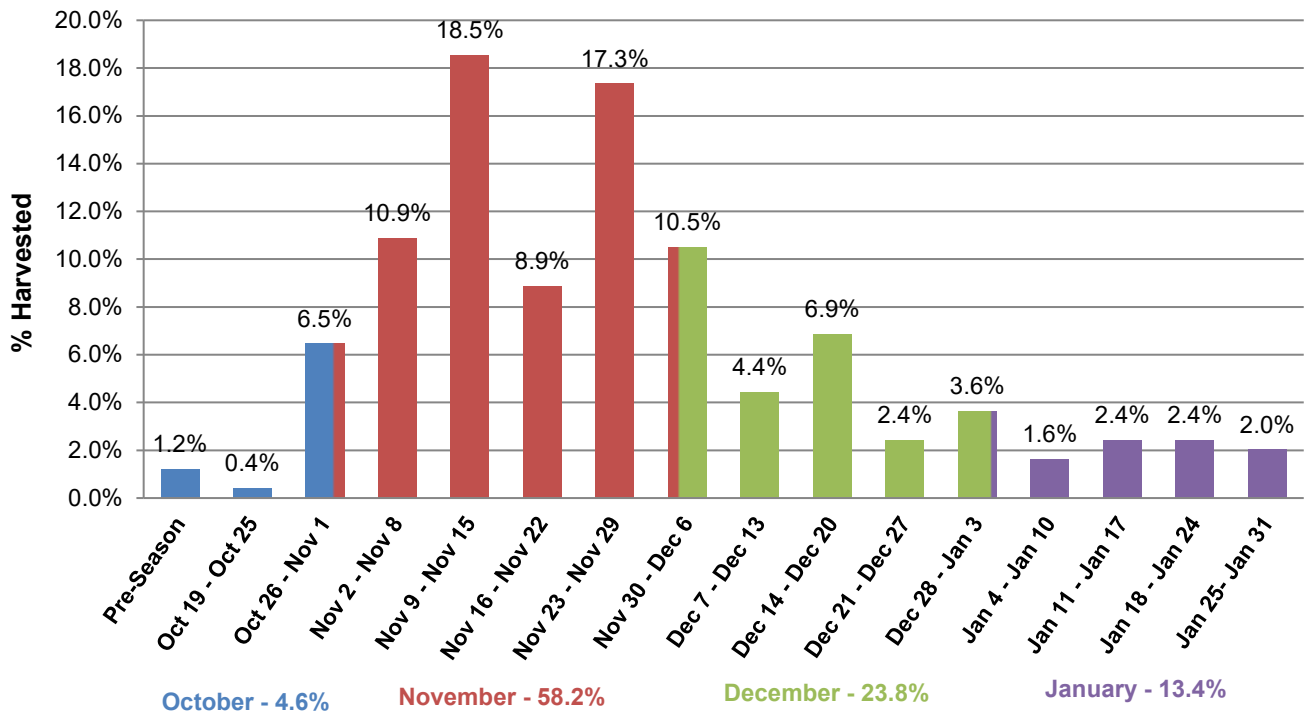
Otter	Weight - lbs			
	Males		Females	
	Average	Range	Average	Range
Juvenile	9.4	5.6 – 14.9	8.2	4.1 – 12.8
Sub-Adult	13.3	9.6 – 19.8	11.8	8.3 – 17.5
Adult	14.0	9.5 – 20.0	12.2	9.1 – 16.4



Age and Sex Structure of 2019/20 Otter Harvest



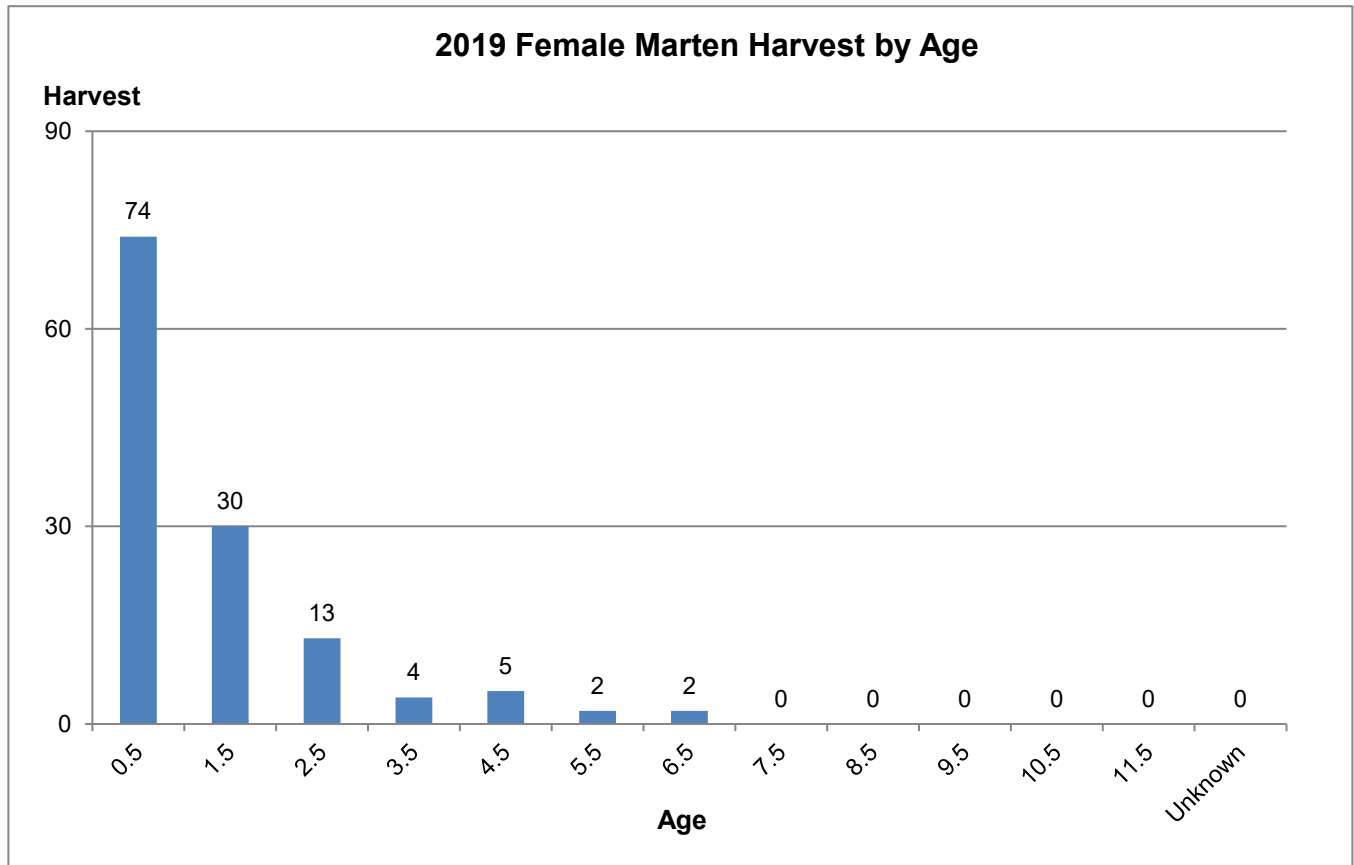
Weekly Otter Harvest (%) for the 2019/20 Season



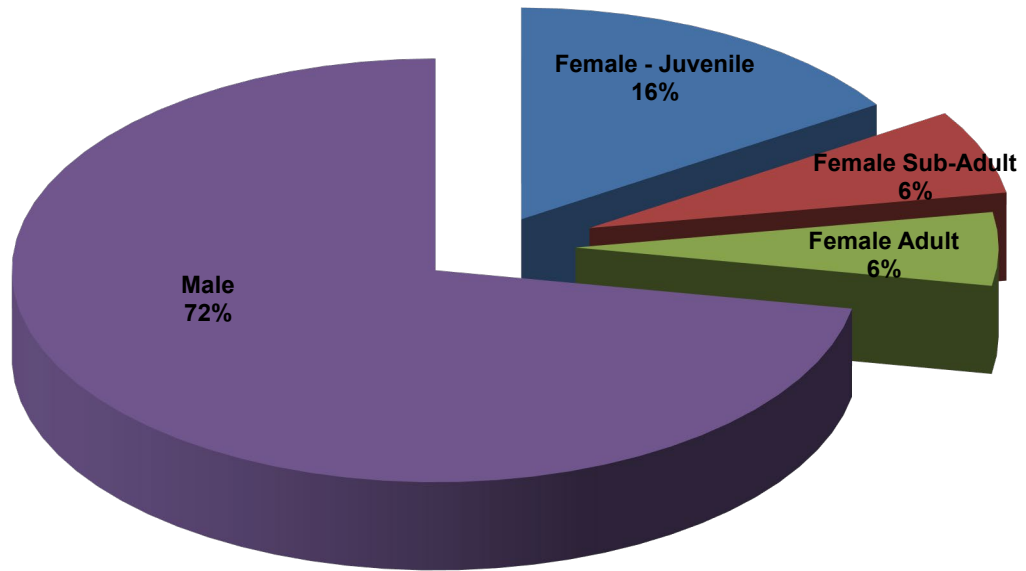
represents otter in which harvest date was included on the carcass tag (261/342)

Marten

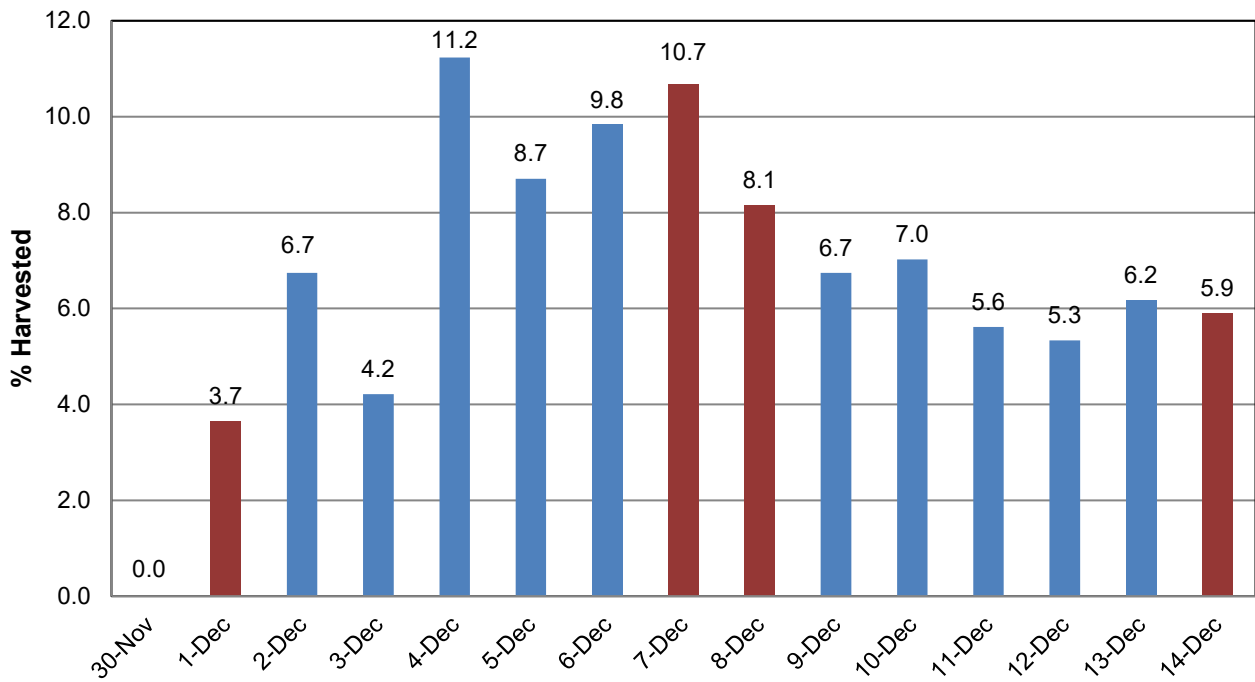
The two-week harvest season for marten saw a 46% decrease (-401 marten) in harvest compared to the 2018/2019 season, with 466 individuals harvested (336 males and 130 females). Approximately 33% of the marten harvested were juveniles. The oldest female marten harvested were 6.5 years old, both from WMZ 8. The oldest male marten was 9.5 years old from WMZ 3. Of the 56 adult females harvested, 61% were pregnant with an average litter size of 2.06 kits based on blastocyst counts.



Age and Sex Structure of the 2019 Marten Harvest



2019 Daily Marten Harvest (%)



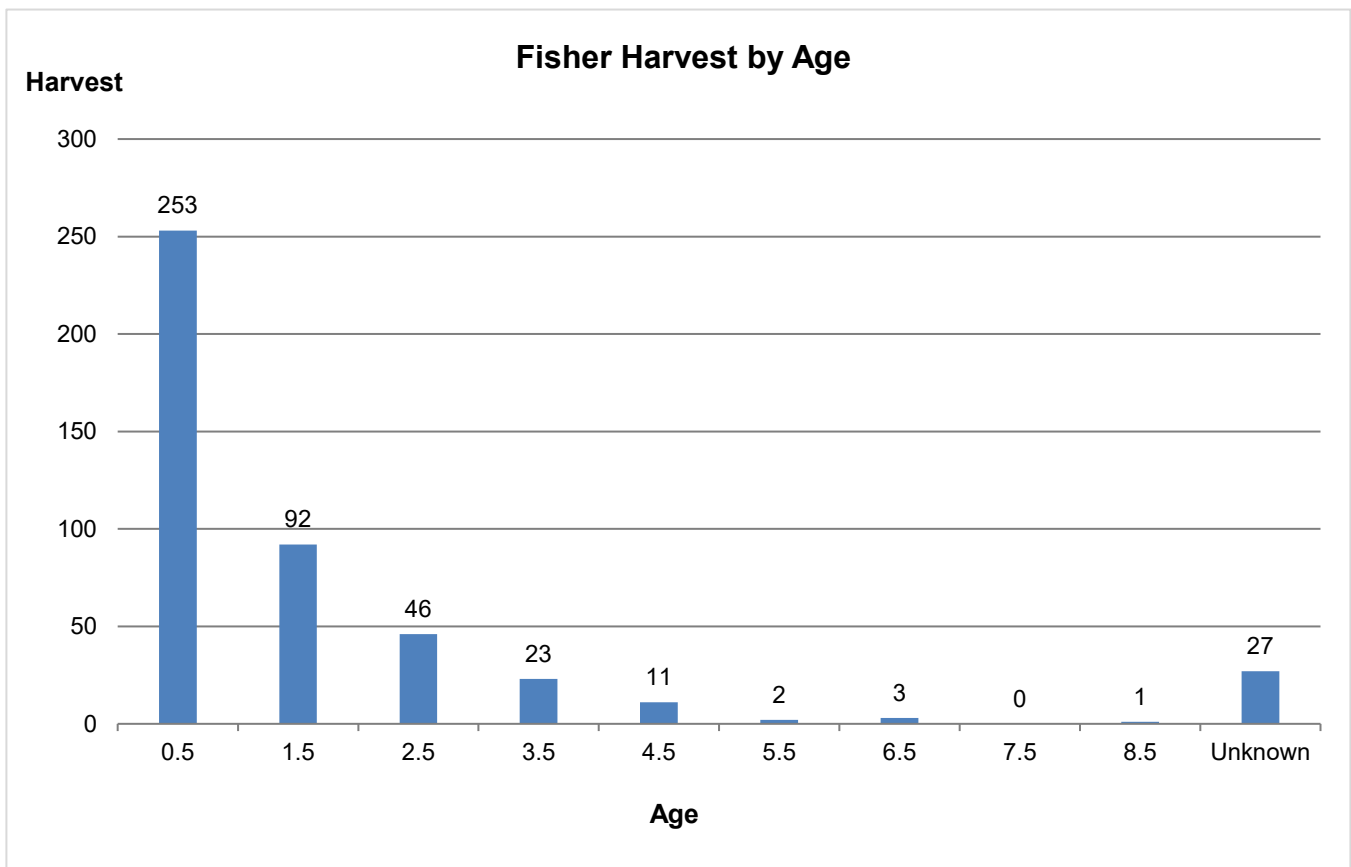
- represents marten in which harvest date was included on the carcass tag (356/466)
 - red columns indicate weekends

Fisher

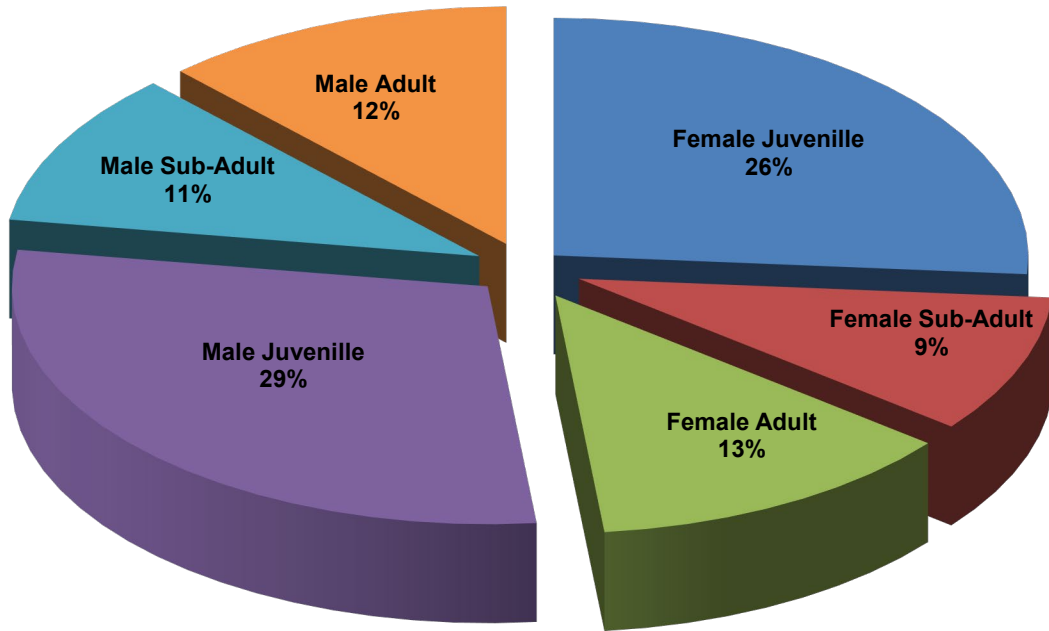
2017 marked the first year since 1999 that New Brunswick fur harvesters were required to submit fisher carcasses to the Department for biological data collection. Fisher were last collected by the Department from 1996 to 1999.

In 2019, 434 fisher were harvested during the fisher season and an additional 24 were incidentally harvested prior to or after the season for a total of 458 individuals; 236 males, 221 females and 1 unknown sex. This is a slight decrease from the 2018 season (439 regular season, 23 incidental). Juvenile fisher (<0.5 years) accounted for 55% of the total harvest. The oldest fisher harvested was an 8.5-year old female from WMZ 17. The oldest males harvested were 6.5-years old; One from zone 24 and the other zone was not specified. On average, males weighed 8lbs and females weighed an average of 4.5lbs. The heaviest male weighed 12.4lbs from an unspecified WMZ. The heaviest female weighed 5.75lbs WMZ 21. Of the 101 adult females harvested, 67% were pregnant with an average litter size of 2.34 kits per female.

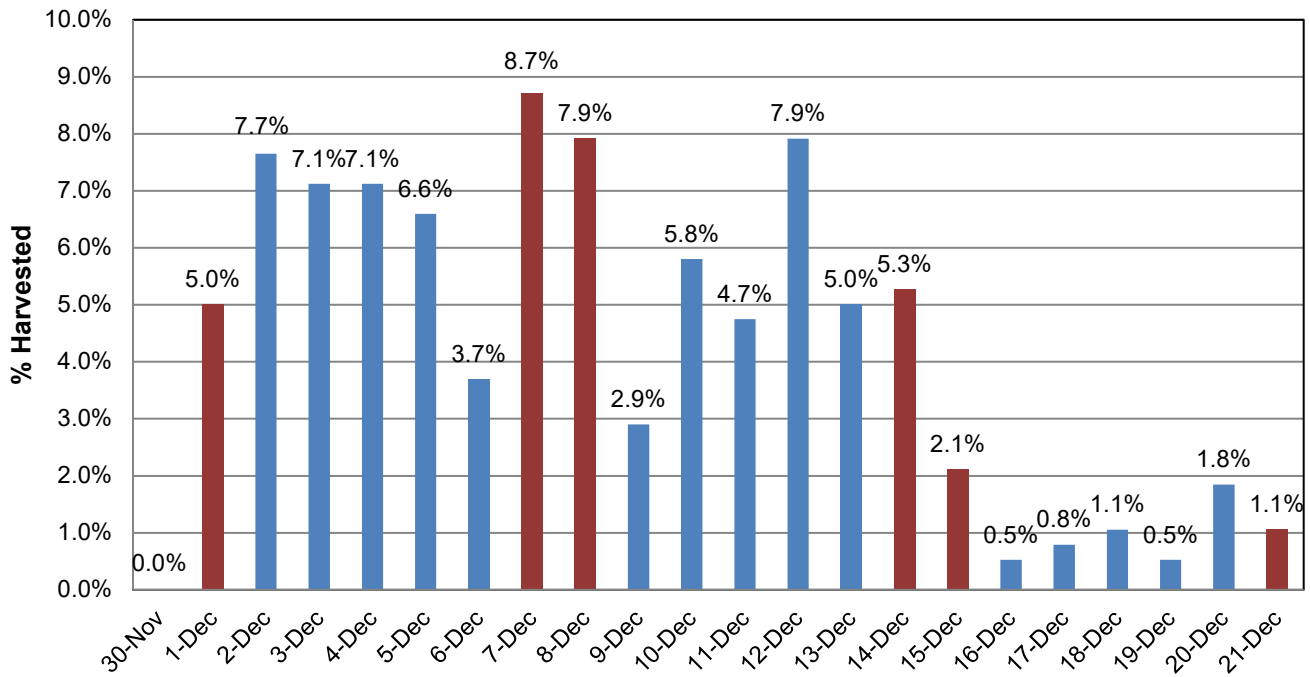
Fisher	Weight - lbs			
	Males		Females	
	Average	Range	Average	Range
Juvenile	7.2	3.9 – 10.1	4.4	3.1 – 5.6
Sub-adult	8.4	5.1 – 10.9	4.6	3.1 – 5.7
Adult	9.4	7.3 – 12.4	4.6	3.4 – 5.8



Age and Sex Structure of the 2019 Fisher Harvest



2019 Daily Fisher Harvest (%)



- represents fisher in which harvest date was included on the carcass tag (379/458)
 - red columns indicate weekends

Licenses Sold, Pelts Exported, and Estimated Value of Pelt Exports* for New Brunswick, 1976/77 – 2019/2020

*Pelt value for 2019/2020 was determined from Fur Harvester's Auction and includes castoreum.

YEAR	LICENCES SOLD	TOTAL NO. OF PELTS EXPORTED	ESTIMATED VALUE* TO FUR HARVESTERS
76-77	2,638	42,069	\$700,318
77-78	3,647	55,813	\$1,121,799
78-79	2,877	60,503	\$1,860,530
79-80	3,440	78,142	\$2,271,336
80-81	4,365	77,073	\$1,551,312
81-82	4,054	58,882	\$1,077,850
82-83	3,813	59,846	\$802,178
83-84	3,399	57,643	\$959,905
84-85	3,253	48,718	\$1,281,632
85-86	3,256	45,047	\$1,443,365
86-87	2,870	50,404	\$1,688,665
87-88	3,139	48,365	\$1,370,178
88-89	1,561	45,047	\$668,940
89-90	1,335	24,277	\$300,360
90-91	914	21,846	\$195,313
91-92	751	31,091	\$342,282
92-93	860	32,467	\$303,745
93-94	873	36,698	\$589,693
94-95	1,797	51,016	\$806,549
95-96	1,253	46,485	\$886,452
96-97	1,370	57,449	\$1,013,032
97-98	1,300	65,635	\$907,357
98-99	1,154	51,275	\$548,569
99-2000	922	40,957	\$577,299
2000-2001	877	37,123	\$676,534
2001-2002	1,010	51,509	\$975,288
2002-2003	1,042	44,288	\$899,152
2003-2004	1,093	47,269	\$910,367
2004-2005	1,155	45,023	\$728,223
2005-2006	1,067	47,145	\$1,122,543
2006-2007	1,191	53,226	\$1,064,581
2007-2008	1,140	36,601	\$696,535
2008-2009	1,164	41,056	\$536,014
2009-2010	977	38,877	\$532,042
2010-2011	1,037	42,791	\$690,044
2011-2012	1,068	48,609	\$1,149,005
2012-2013	1,170	55,326	\$1,691,625
2013-2014	1,278	55,445	\$1,163,360
2014-2015	1,171	42,163	\$595,300
2015-2016	1,168	30,844	\$375,930
2016-2017	1,143	24,953	\$384,784
2017-2018	1,148	22,563	\$485,600
2018-2019	1,361	14,977	\$382,565
2019-2020	1,171	18,674	\$365,440

**Number of furbearer pelts exported from New Brunswick, change from the 2018/2019 exports,
and auction center destination for 2019/2020**

(sorted by total pelts exported for 2019/20)

SPECIES	TOTAL PELT EXPORTS		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2018-2019	FUR HARVESTER'S AUCTION INC. 2019-2020	Other Exporters 2019-2020
	2018-2019	2019/2020 *			
MUSKRAT	5,512	7,022	27%	6,438	584
BEAVER	3,288	4,205	28%	3,472	733
COYOTE	1,958	3,130	60%	2,395	735
RACCOON	759	1,043	37%	906	137
RED FOX	859	988	15%	829	159
MARTEN	831	451	-46%	435	16
FISHER	474	401	-15%	349	52
WEASEL	515	332	-36%	298	34
OTTER	231	317	37%	270	47
SQUIRREL	103	315	206%	311	4
BOBCAT	195	265	36%	245	20
MINK	236	173	-27%	159	14
SKUNK	16	32	100%	29	3
TOTAL PELTS	14,977	18,674	25%	16,136	2,538

- The auction centers shown here account for most but not all New Brunswick's fur exports.

Approximate Value of Fur Exported from New Brunswick, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020
(sorted by average value per pelt for 2019/20)

Species (last years rank by individual pelt \$ value)	No. exported		Value per pelt ^a		Total Estimated Value 2019-2020 (ranked by collective \$ value)
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2018-2019	2019-2020	
COYOTE (2)	1,958	3,130	\$93.70	\$62.00	\$194,060.00 (1)
BOBCAT (1)	195	265	\$95.51	\$60.31	\$15,982.15 (5)
FISHER (3)	474	401	\$44.26	\$21.75	\$8,721.75 (6)
MARTEN (5)	831	451	\$29.55	\$17.23	\$7,770.73 (7)
OTTER (6)	231	317	\$27.86	\$24.15	\$7,655.55 (8)
RED FOX (4)	859	988	\$37.72	\$17.87	\$17,655.56 (4)
BEAVER (7)	3,288	4,205	\$18.36	\$19.23	\$80,862.15 (2)
MINK (9)	236	173	\$7.26	\$4.24	\$733.52 (11)
RACCOON (8)	759	1,043	\$9.24	\$6.11	\$6,372.73 (9)
SKUNK (10)	16	32	\$6.23	\$8.60	\$275.20 (12)
MUSKRAT (11)	5,512	7,022	\$4.52	\$3.46	\$24,296.12 (3)
WEASEL (12)	515	332	\$3.75	\$2.57	\$853.24 (10)
SQUIRREL (13)	103	315	\$0.60	\$0.64	\$201.60 (13)
TOTAL	14,977	18,674	Total fur harvest value 2019-2020➔		\$365,440.30

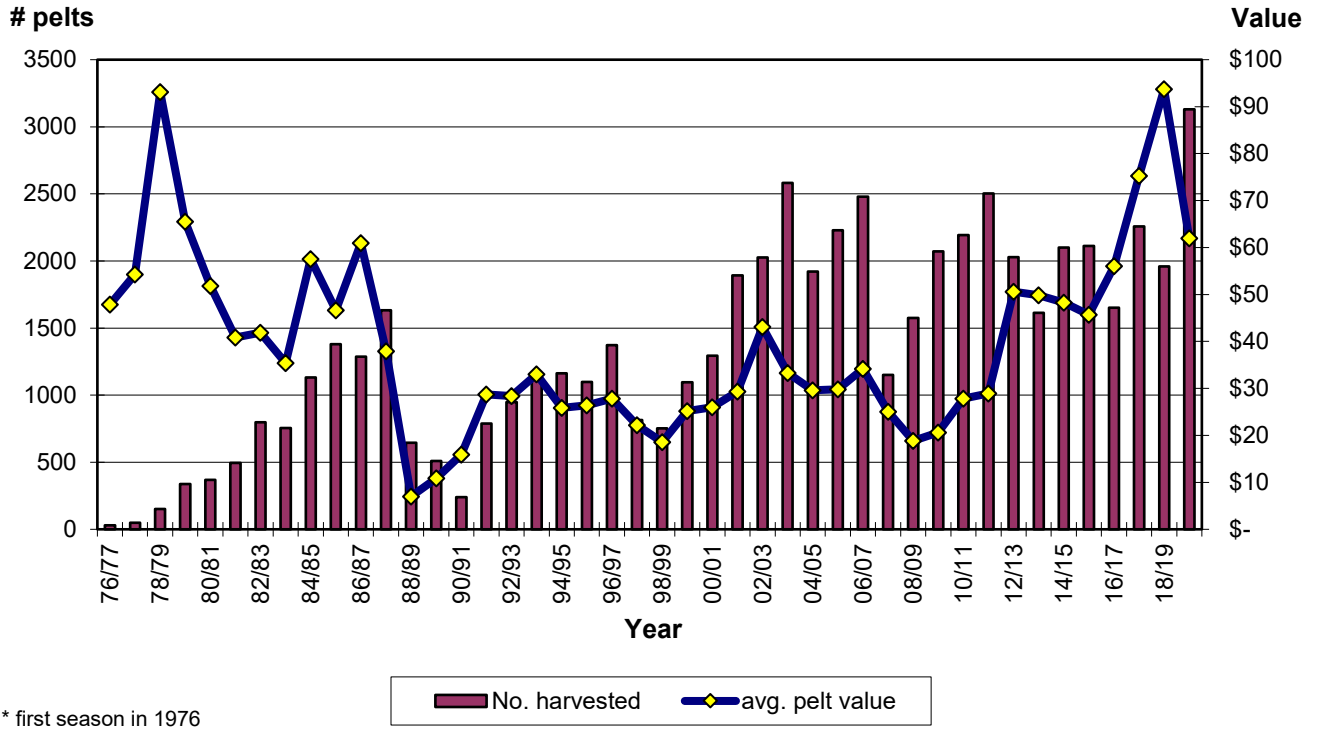
Castoreum sold for an average \$6.03 per ounce x 3948 ounces = \$23,806.44

Although black bears are not classified as furbearers, 22 black bear hides were exported from New Brunswick

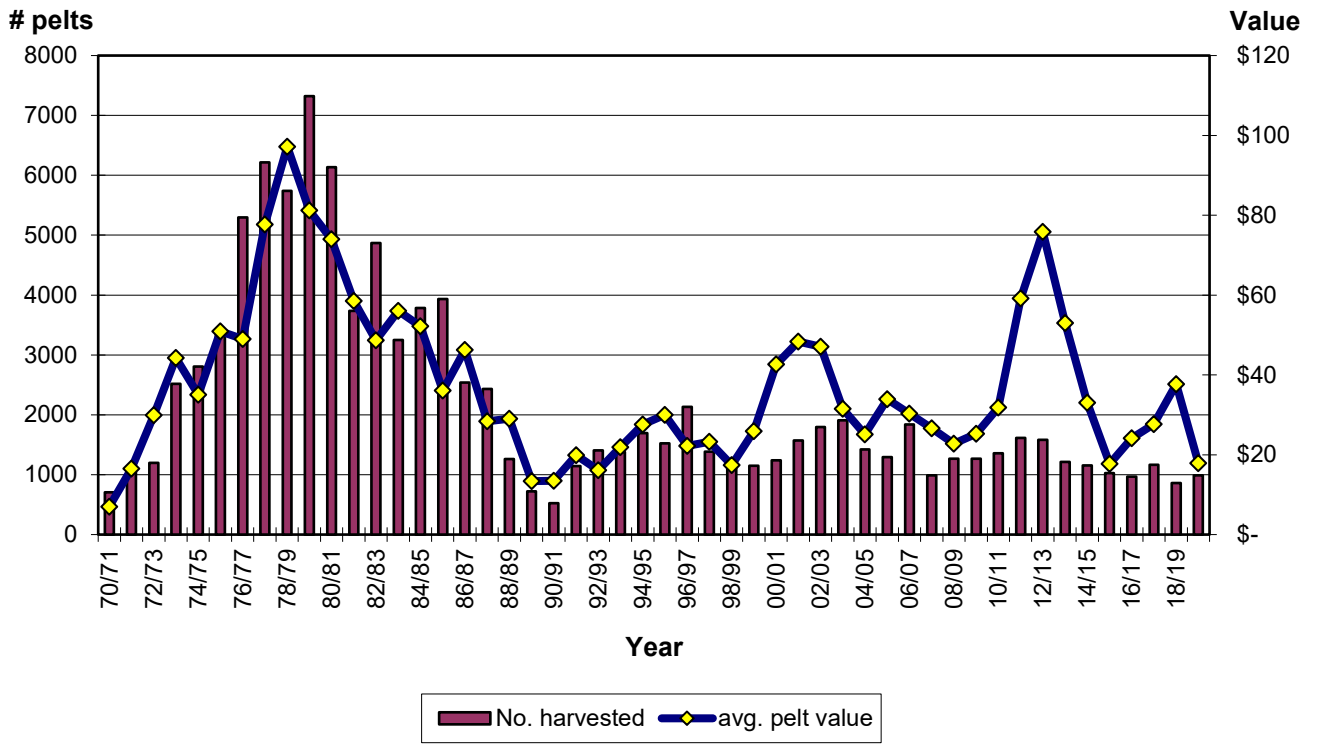
Sales of black bear hides at the auction houses averaged \$118.88 in 2019/20

^a Pelt value was determined from Fur Harvester's Auction Inc. only.

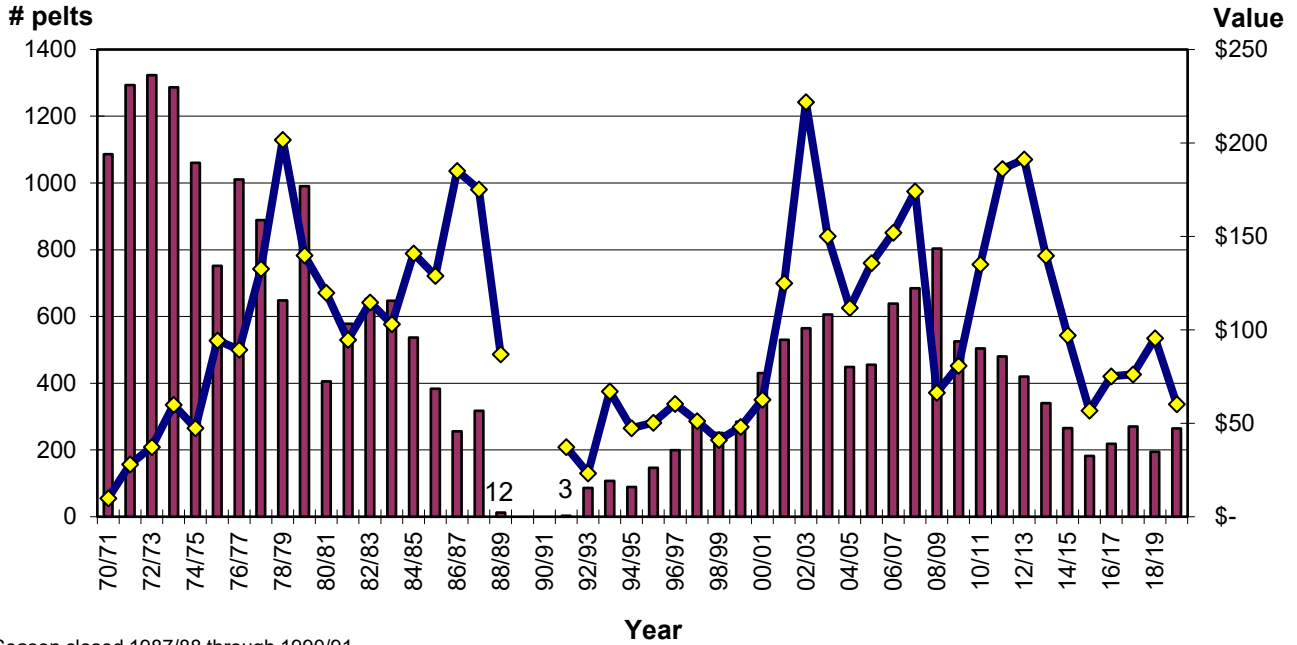
COYOTE PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2019/20



RED FOX PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2019/20



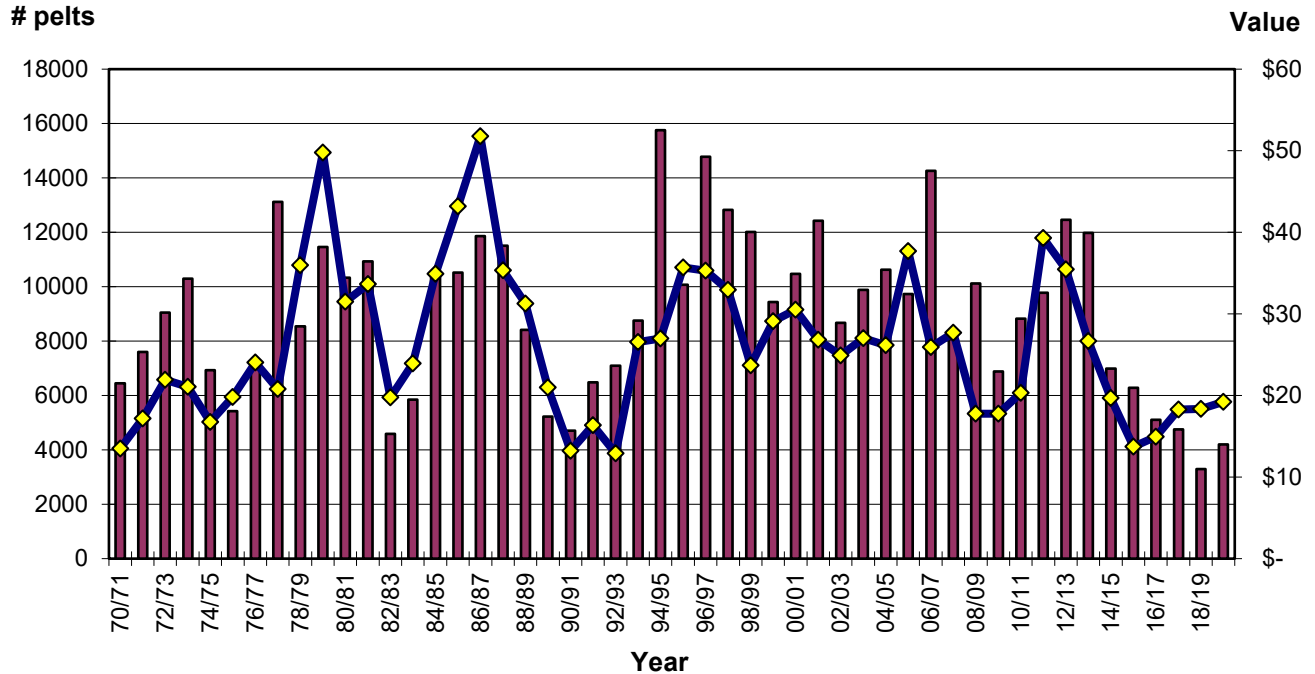
BOBCAT PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2019/20



Season closed 1987/88 through 1990/91
 1987/88 closed season but incidental catch could be sold
 1988/89 season 12 animals turned in
 1991/92 season 3 animals exported
 Quota implemented in 1996/97

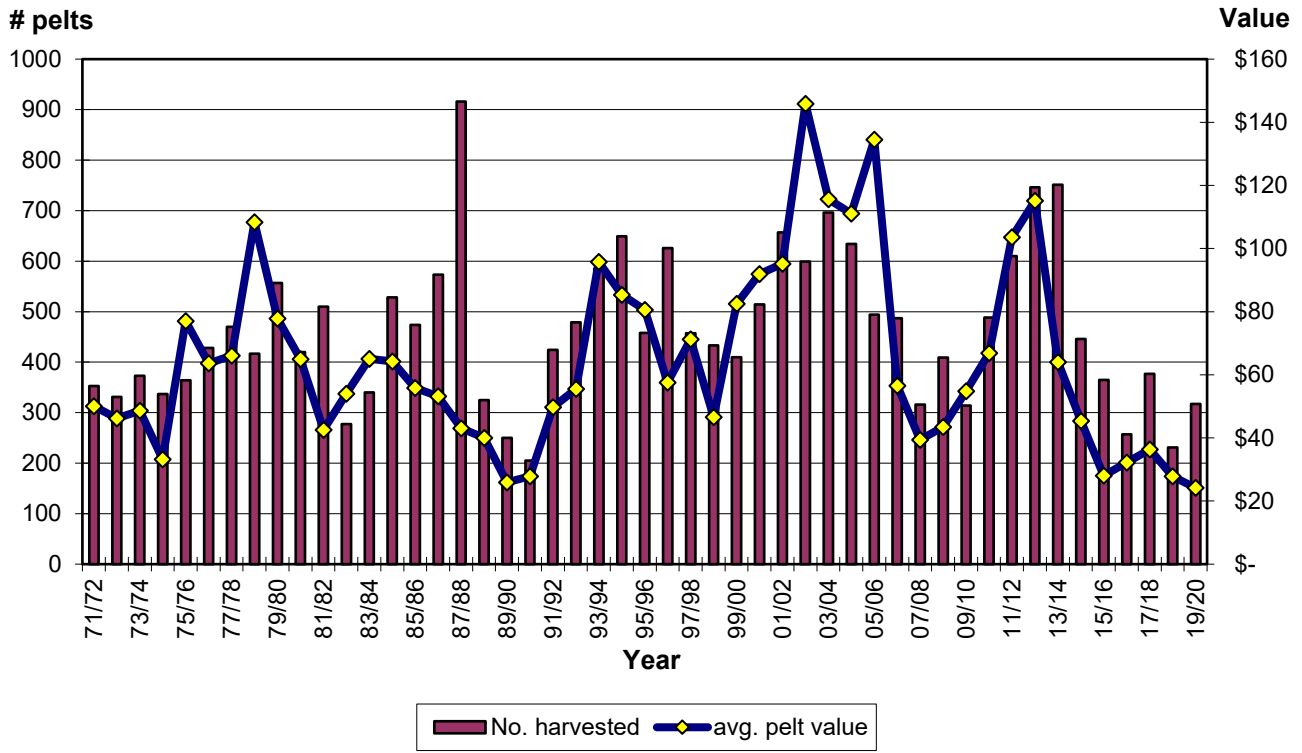
■ No. harvested ◆ avg. pelt value

BEAVER PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2019/20

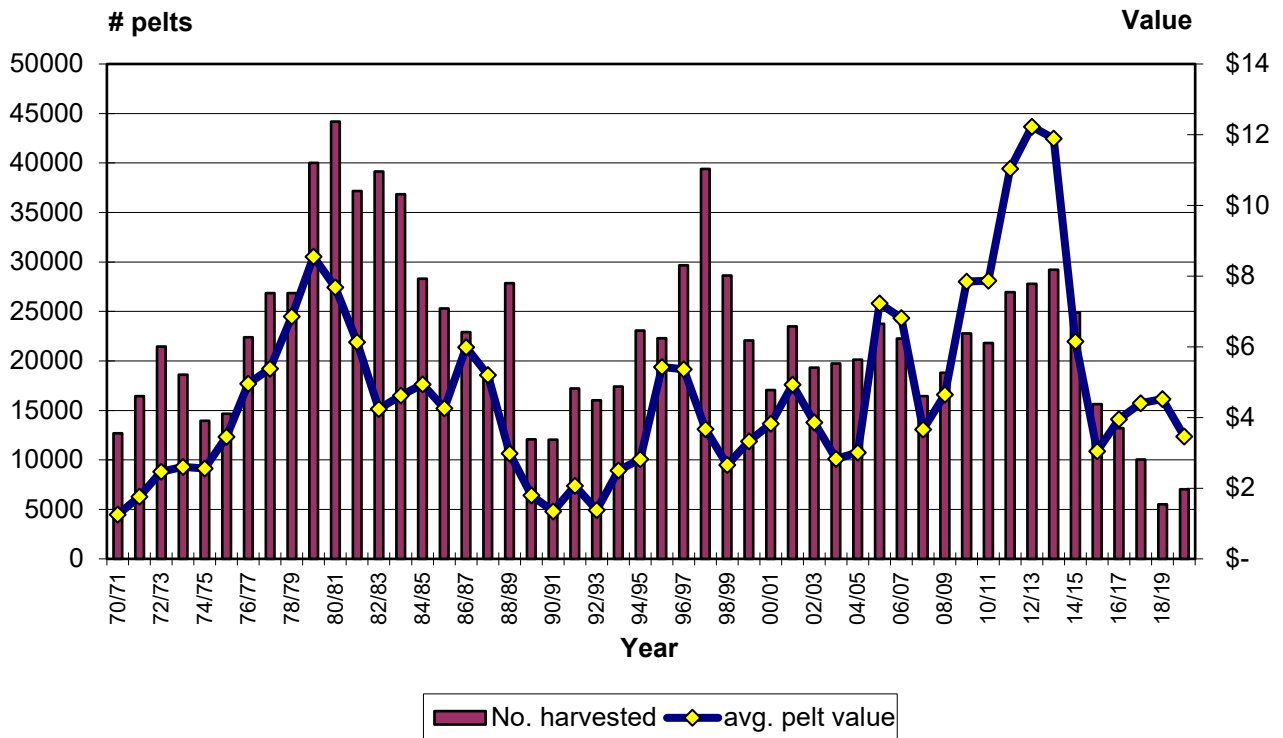


■ No. harvested ◆ avg. pelt value

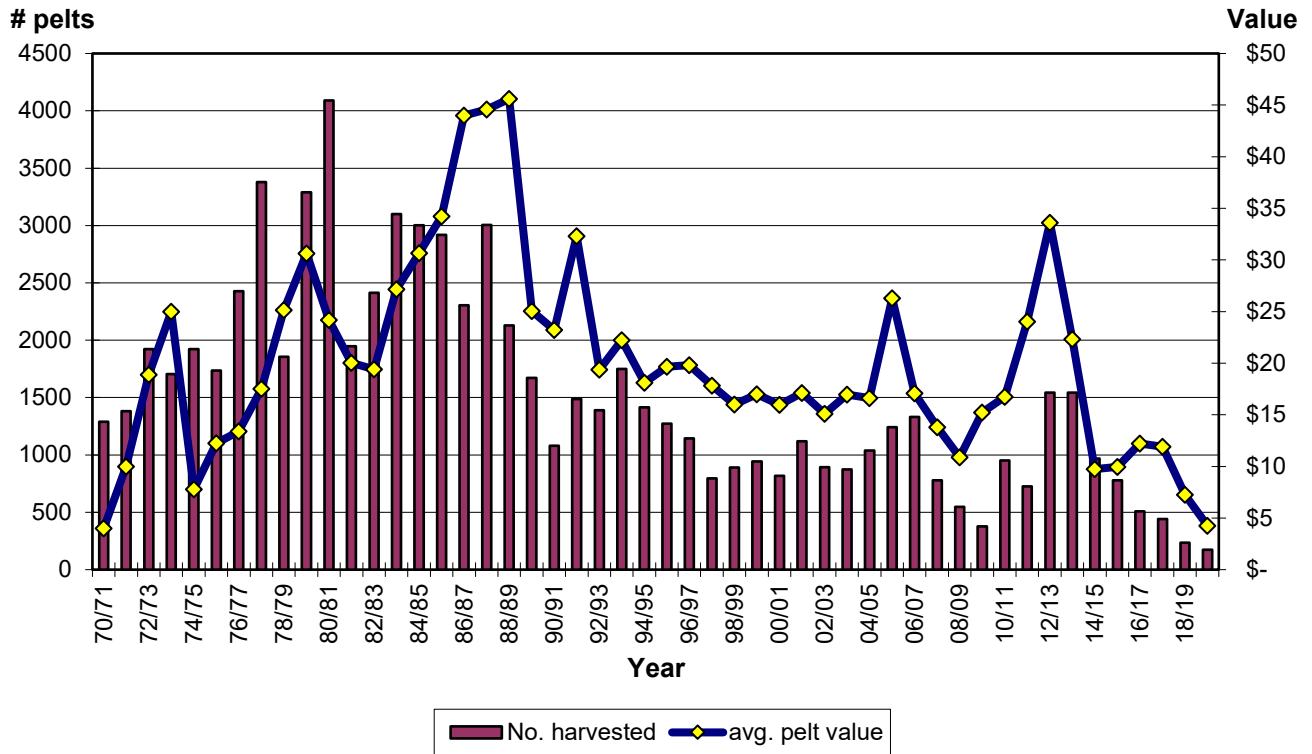
OTTER PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2019/20



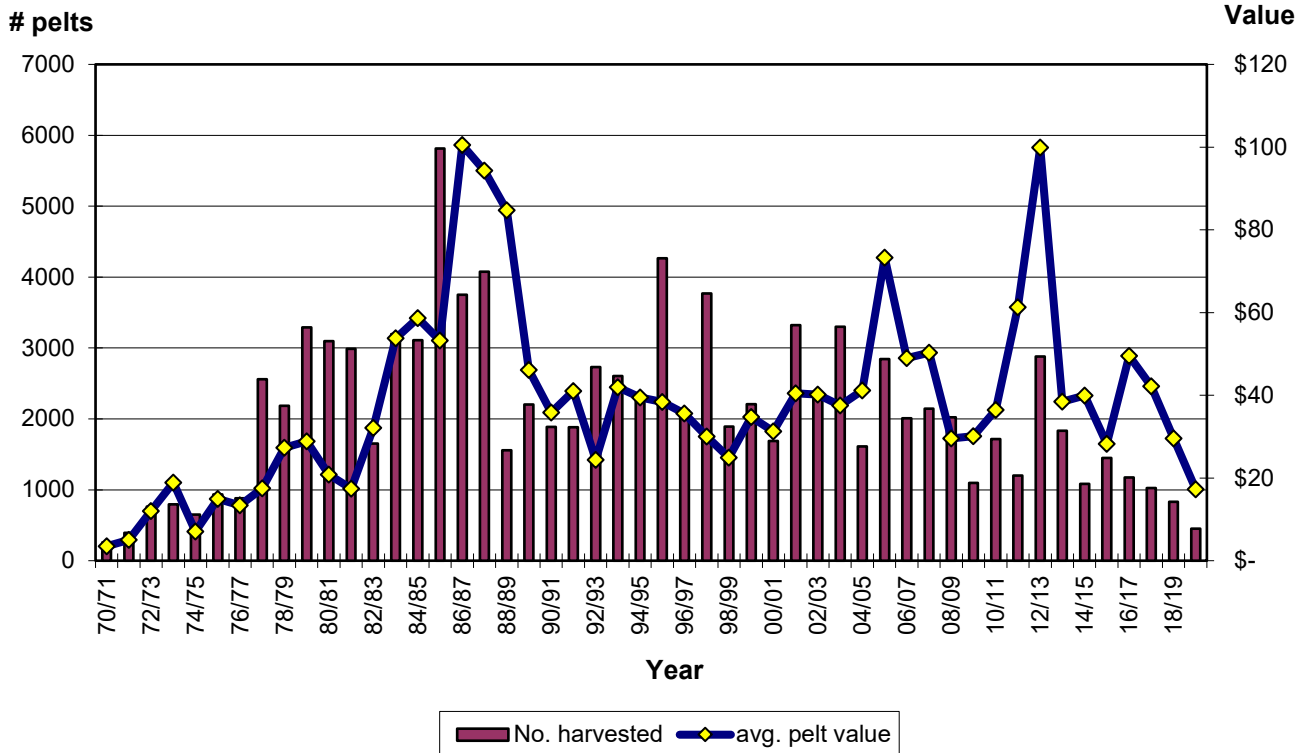
MUSKRAT PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2019/20



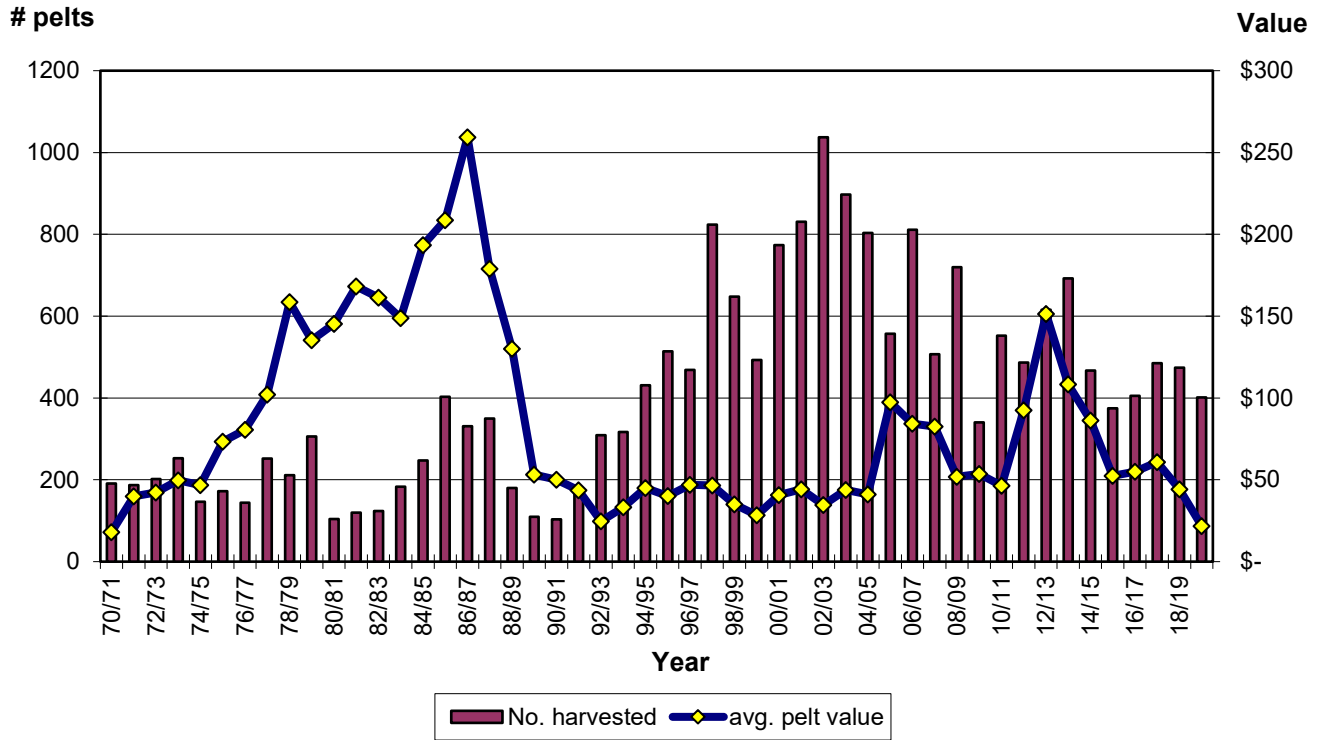
MINK PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2019/20



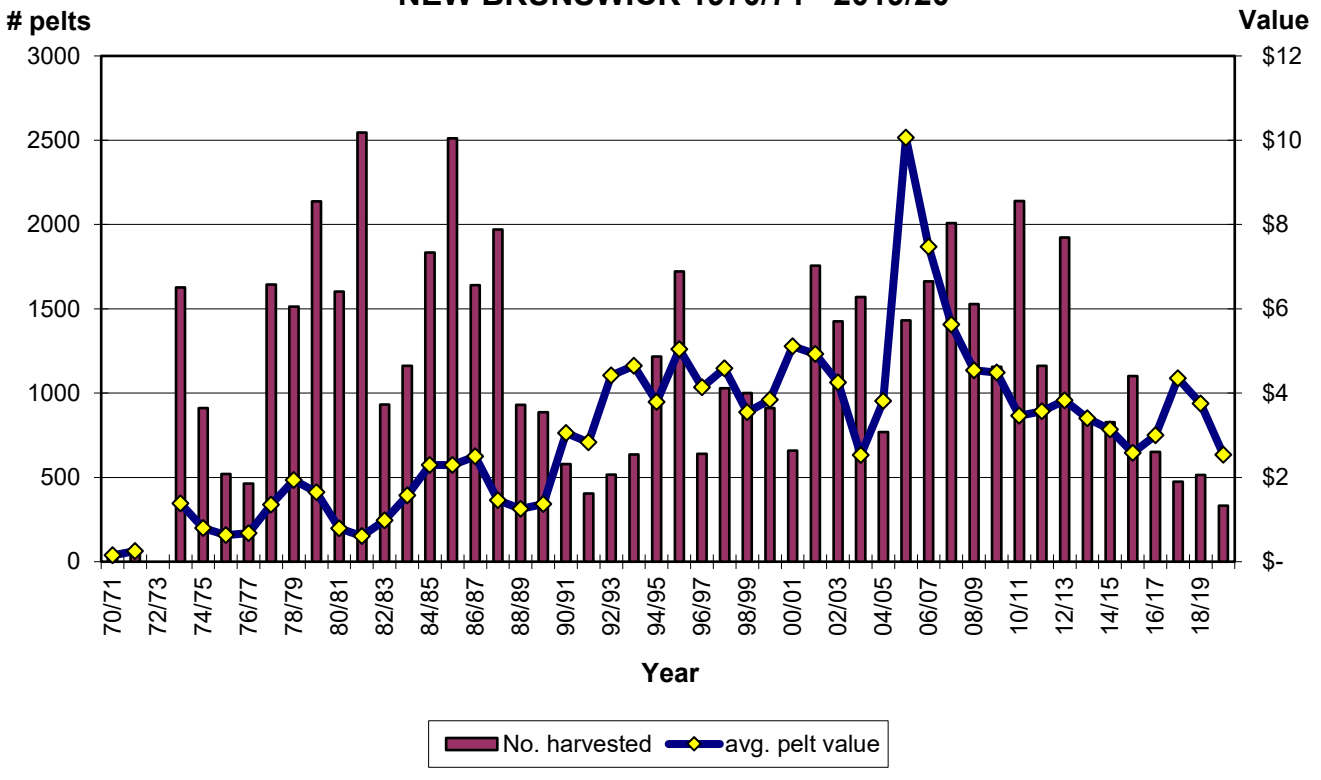
MARTEN PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2019/20



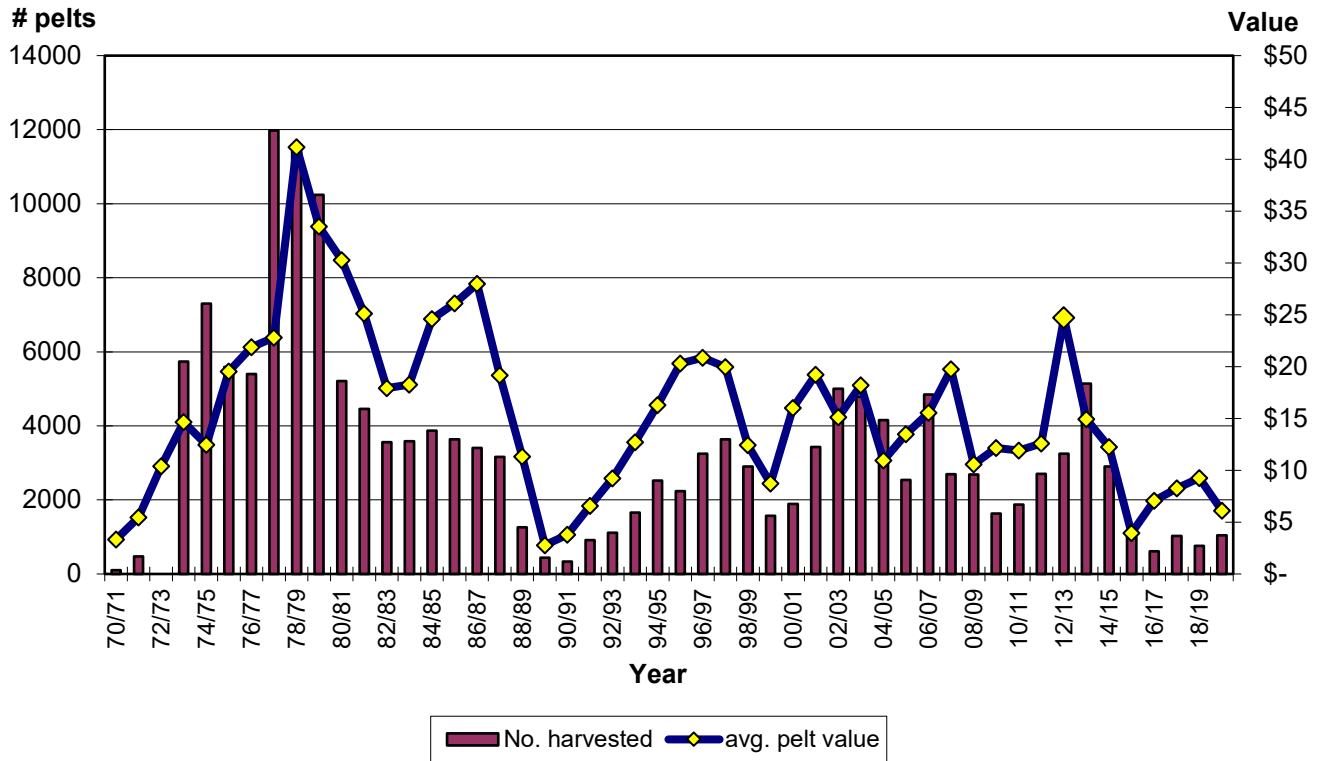
FISHER PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2019/20



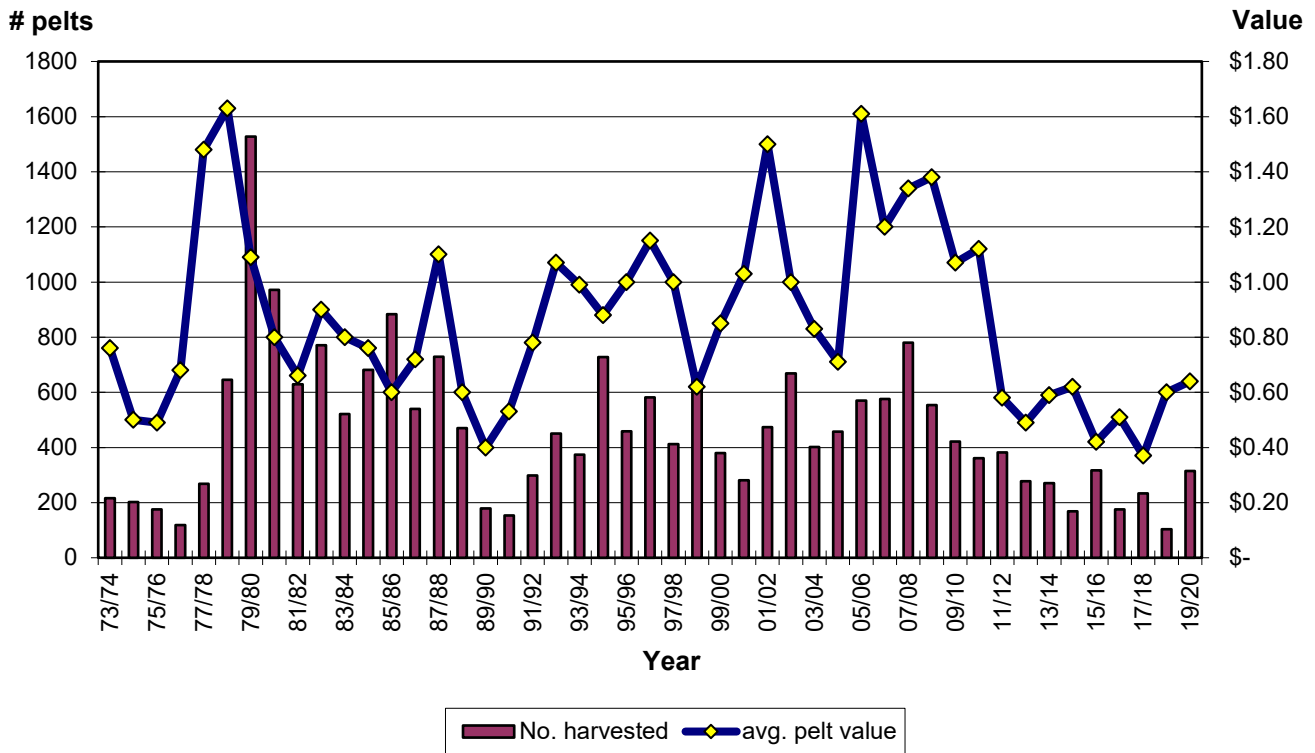
WEASEL PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2019/20



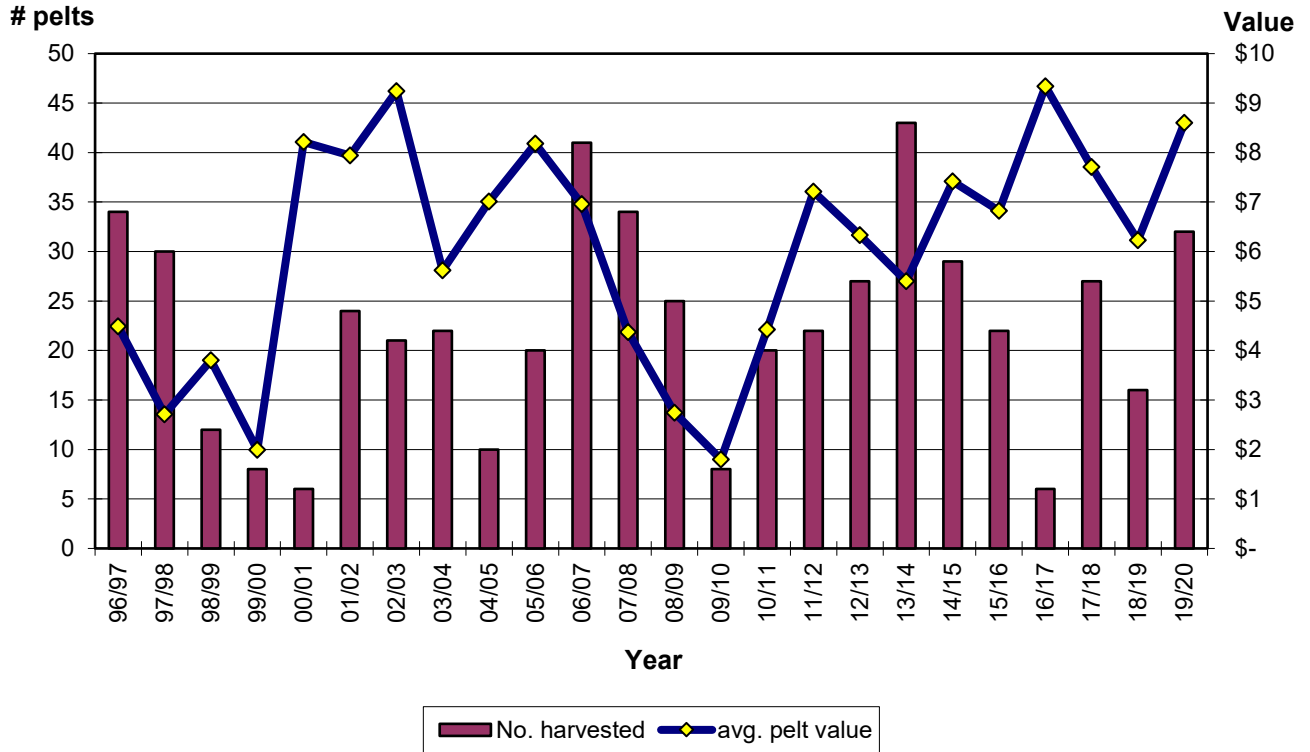
RACCOON PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2019/20



SQUIRREL PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2019/20



SKUNK PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1996/97 - 2019/20



Otter, Marten, Fisher, and Bobcat Harvest by Wildlife Management Zone - 2018/19 and 2019/20

WMZ	OTTER		MARTEN		FISHER		BOBCAT	
	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20
1	2	1	19	4	35	23	0	0
2	20	2	31	9	38	34	0	0
3	9	13	63	21	7	20	0	0
4	3	7	49	16	30	30	0	0
5	7	13	59	46	15	27	1	0
6	9	6	64	21	32	38	0	0
7	10	14	40	24	9	20	0	0
8	24	25	94	91	21	28	0	0
9	6	9	23	8	0	0	0	0
10	8	5	37	24	46	42	8	2
11	8	6	11	6	11	14	4	1
12	13	7	54	13	16	11	3	7
13	7	8	115	52	17	6	6	8
14	10	9	0	0	10	3	1	10
15	5	5	63	17	13	21	10	17
16	10	24	37	34	40	50	15	20
17	8	4	2	5	9	17	11	21
18	4	19	0	0	12	9	15	23
19	9	13	0	0	5	0	5	15
20	22	37	62	34	36	13	44	42
21	15	37	0	0	8	5	8	20
22	9	20	0	0	1	2	20	30
23	5	7	0	0	1	4	22	26
24	2	5	0	0	9	5	20	21
25	5	9	0	0	0	1	17	15
27	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unk	20	37	41	41	64	35	9	28
Total	251	342	864	466	485	458	219	306

2020-2021 FUR HARVESTING SEASONS

Zones	Species	Season	Open	Close
1 to 27	Rabbit ¹	Hunting	Oct. 1	Feb. 28
		Snaring	Oct. 1	Feb. 28
	Squirrel	Hunting	Oct. 1	Feb. 28
		Snaring	Oct. 1	Feb. 28
	Raccoon	Trapping	Oct. 31	Dec. 31
		Hunting with hounds	Aug. 3	Dec. 31
		Hunting, Trapping (Restraint only) ²	Oct. 1	Dec. 31
	Weasel	Trapping	Oct. 31	Feb. 28
	Skunk	Hunting	Oct. 1	Dec. 31
Spring Muskrat	Trapping	Mar. 27	15-May	
1 to 26 ³	Coyote, Fox	Hunting	Oct. 1	Feb. 28
		Trapping (restraint only)	Oct. 1	Feb. 28
		Snaring	Nov. 14	Feb. 28
1 to 25 ⁴	Bobcat ⁵	Hunting	Nov. 14	Feb. 28
		Trapping, Snaring	Nov. 14	Feb. 28
1 to 13, 15 to 17, 20	Marten, Fisher, Skunk	Trapping	Nov. 28	Dec. 12
14, 18, 19, 21 to 27	Fisher, Skunk	Trapping	Nov. 28	Dec. 19
1 to 12	Otter	Trapping, Snaring	Oct. 24	Jan. 31
1 to 12	Beaver	Trapping	Oct. 24	Jan. 31
		Snaring	Oct. 24	Feb. 28
1 to 12	Muskrat (fall), Mink	Trapping	Oct. 24	Jan. 31
13 to 27	Otter	Trapping, Snaring	Oct. 31	Jan. 31
13 to 27	Beaver	Trapping	Oct. 31	Jan. 31
13 to 27	Beaver	Snaring	Oct. 31	Feb. 28
13 to 27	Muskrat (fall), Mink	Trapping	Oct. 31	Jan. 31

1 When hunting snowshoe hare (rabbit) under a Fur Harvester's License, the bag limit is 10 daily, 20 in possession (there is no limit when trapping or snaring)

2 It is illegal to use killing traps for raccoons prior to October 26th

3 Coyote and fox hunting, trapping and snaring are closed in Zone 27.

4 No quota issued for bobcat harvest in Zones 1-6, 9, 26 and 27

5 It is illegal to use killing traps (i.e. body-gripping traps) for bobcat after December 31st