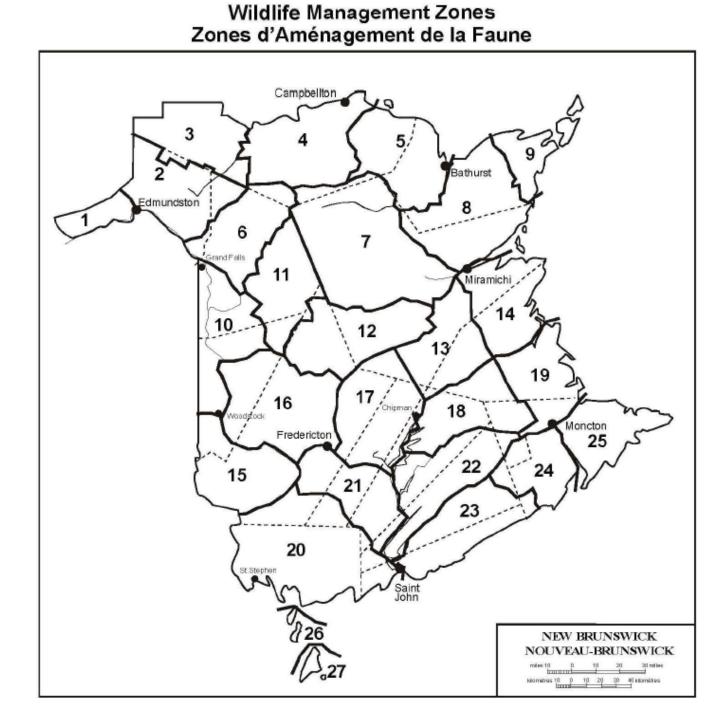


## NEW BRUNSWICK FURBEARER HARVEST REPORT 2017-2018



FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH ENERGY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

www.gnb.ca/erd/naturalresources



© Cover Photo by Arielle DeMerchant

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### 2017-2018 New Brunswick Furbearer Harvest Summary

In 2017-2018, there was a slight increase **(+5)** in the number of fur harvester's license sold compared to last season, for a total of **1,148 licenses** (**1,131** fur harvester licenses and **17** minor fur harvester's). In 2018, **174** individuals successfully completed the Trapper Education course, which is a 13% decrease from the 201 students who completed the course in 2017.

The total number of pelts exported from New Brunswick (NB) decreased by 10% from the previous season from 24,953 pelts to 22,563 pelts for the 2017/2018 season. The total estimated value of pelts exported from NB increased by 26% from \$362,500 in the 2016/2017 season to \$458,000 for the 2017/2018 season.

#### **Furbearers of Special Management Concern**

The Department of Energy and Resource 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 not over 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

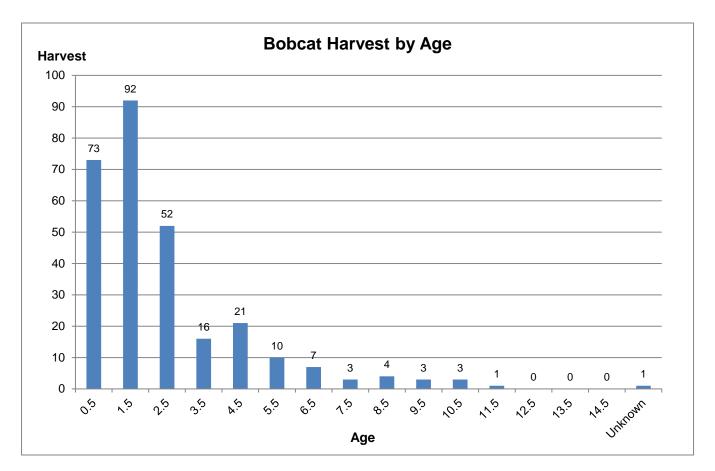
2019 New Brunswick Hunt & Trap Summary -

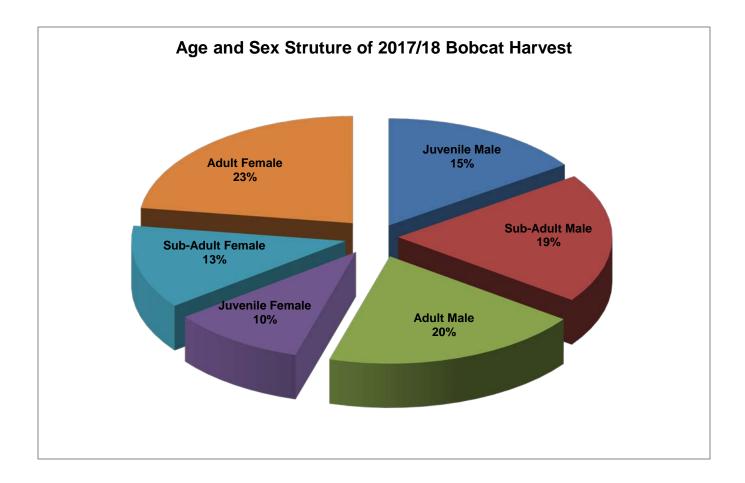
http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/nr-rn/pdf/en/Wildlife/HuntTrap.pdf.

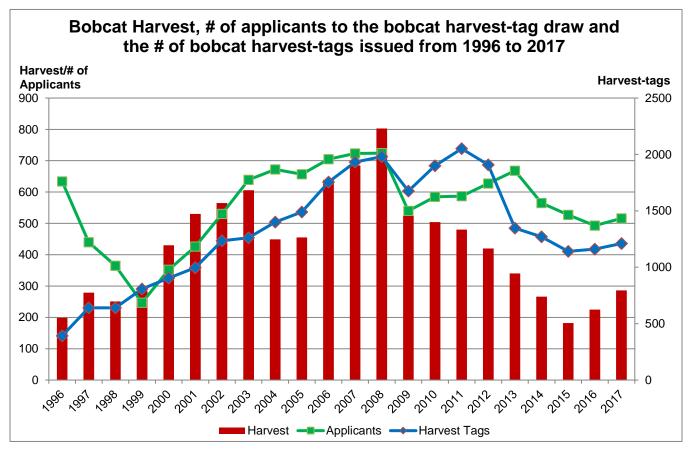
#### <u>Bobcat</u>

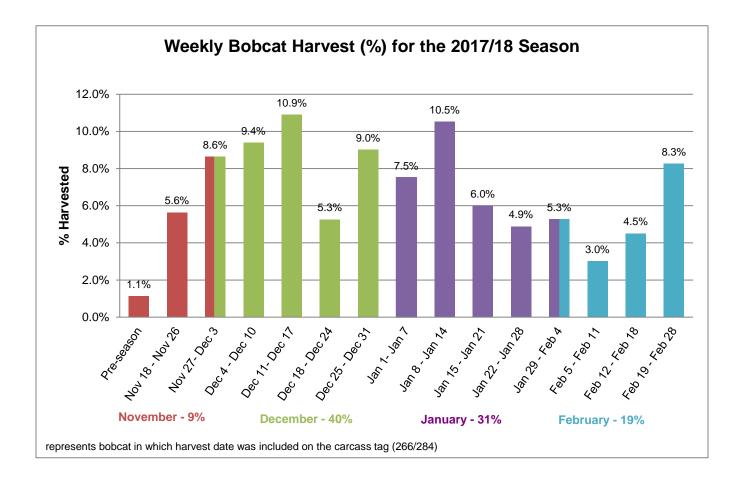
During the 15-week bobcat harvest season, there were 284 bobcats harvested (129 females and 155 males) with a success rate of 24%. This year's harvest is an increase of 27% (+59 bobcats) compared to last year's harvest; however, it is a 67% decrease of 865 bobcats harvested in the 2008/2009 season (the most recent peak harvest since 1970's). The number of applicants applying for the bobcat harvest tag draw increased by 4% from 496 applicants in 2016 to 516 applicants in 2017. There were 1,211 bobcat harvest tags issued for the 2017/2018 season which was a 4.4% increase from the previous season (1,160). In the 2017/2018 harvest, adult female bobcats weighed an average of 16 lbs. and adult males weighed an average of 23 lbs. Harvested bobcats averaged 2.5 years of age. The heaviest bobcat harvested was a 3.5 year-old, 33lb male from WMZ 16. The oldest bobcat harvested was a 11.5-year-old female from WMZ 10 weighing 16lbs. Overall, 26% of bobcats harvested were juveniles (less than 1.5 years old); 22% of females and 28% of males. Placental scaring indicated approximately 81% of females 1.5 years-old and older were pregnant the previous spring with an average litter size of 2.4 kittens per pregnant female.

	Weight - Ibs					
Bobcat	Males		Females			
	Average	Range	Average	Range		
Juvenile	11.7	7.0 – 19.0	9.1	6.0 - 13.0		
Sub-Adult	21.8	6.0 - 30.0	15.6	12.0 – 21.0		
Adult	24.9	13.0 – 34.0	16.2	11.0 – 21.0		





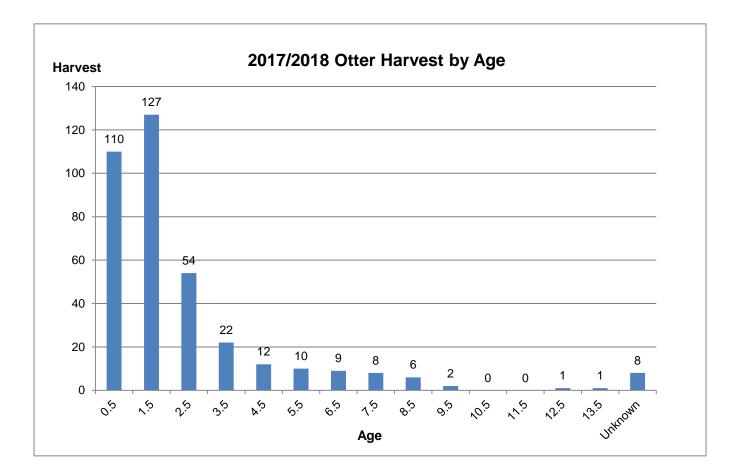


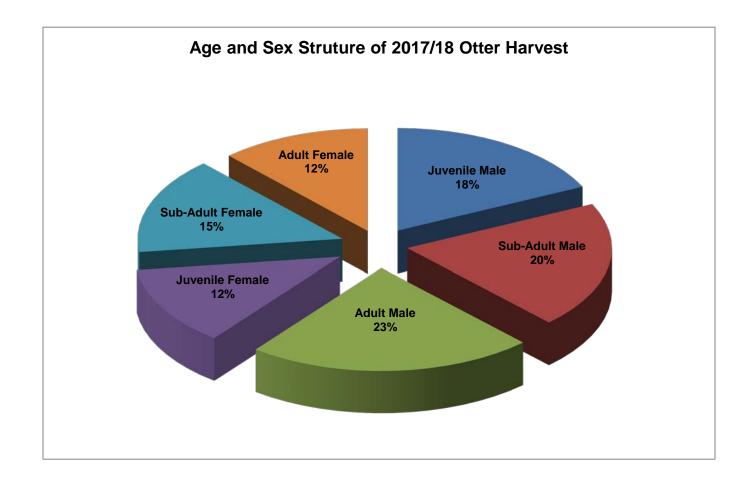


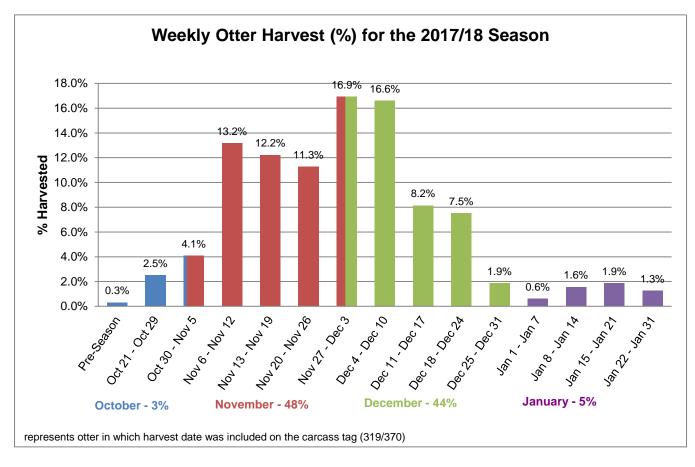
#### <u>Otter</u>

During the 15-week otter harvest season, there were 368 otters harvested (222 male, 146 female), which is a 40% increase (+105 otter) compared to the 2016/2017 fur harvesting season. Adult female otter weighed an average of 12.5 lbs. while adult males weighed an average of 15 lbs. The heaviest otter harvested was a 2.5-year-old, 22lb male from WMZ 22. The heaviest female otter weighed 19lbs, harvested in WMZs 21 and was 1.5 years-old. The oldest male otter harvested during the season was 9.5 years old from WMZ 2 and weighed 15.5lbs. The oldest female was 12.5 years-old from WMZ 21 and weighed 15lbs. Approximately 30% of the otter harvested were juveniles and 32% of females >0.5 years of age were pregnant with an expected average litter size of 1.9 pups.

	Weight - Ibs					
Otter	Males		Females			
	Average	Range Average		Range		
Juvenile	10.6	6.0 – 17.8	10.0	5.0 – 15.5		
Sub-Adult	14.7	6.6 – 20.1	12.2	7.0 – 19.0		
Adult	15.1	10.0 - 22.0	12.7	9.0 – 17.6		

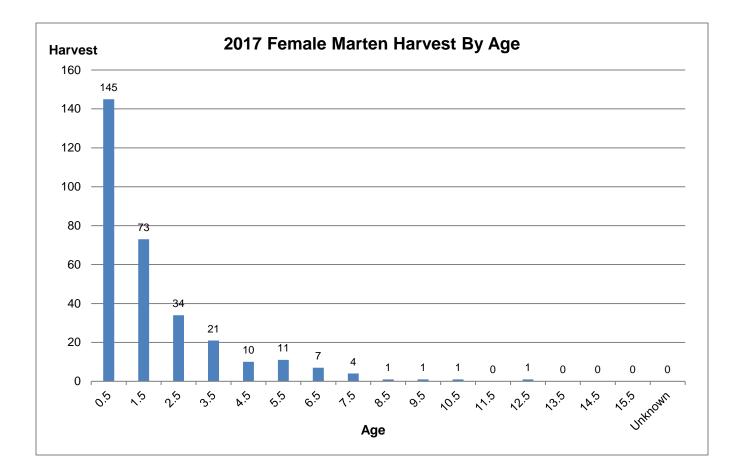


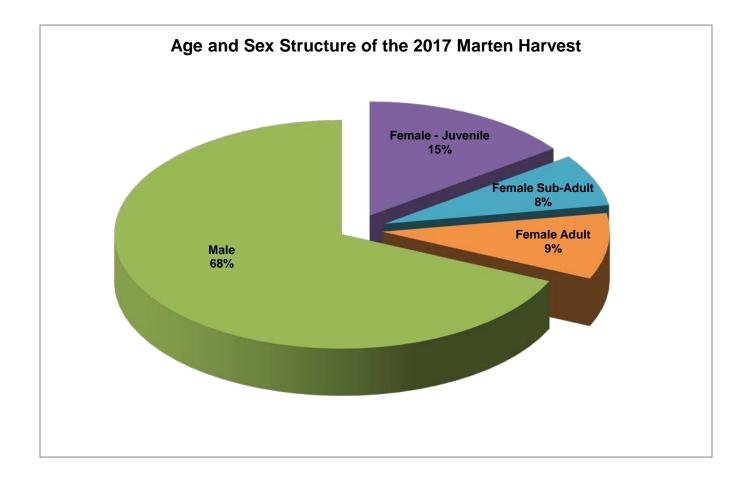


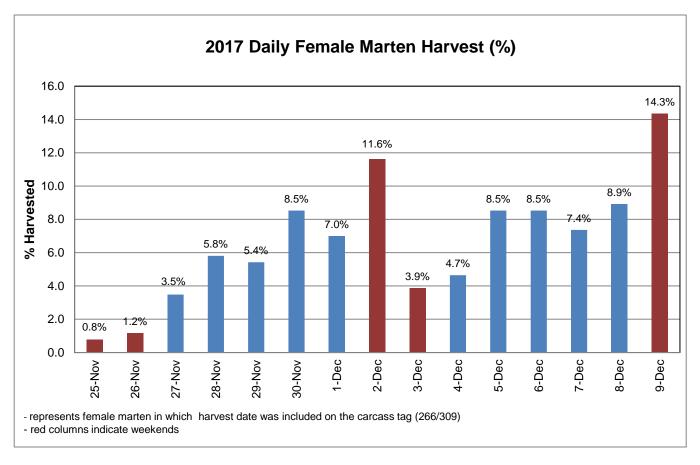


#### <u>Marten</u>

The two-week harvest season for marten saw a 23% decrease (-298 marten) in harvest compared to the 2016/2017 season, with 974 individuals harvested (665 males and 309 females). Approximately 47% of the female marten harvested were juveniles. The oldest female marten harvested was 12.5 years old from WMZ 4. Of the 164 adult females harvested, 62% were pregnant with an average litter size of 2.4 kits based on blastocyst counts.





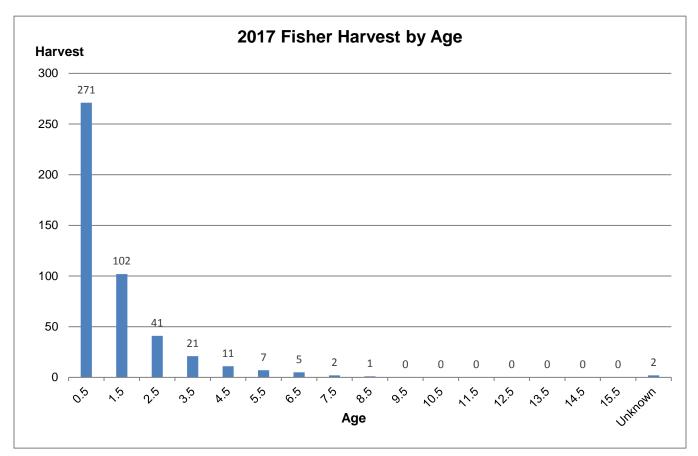


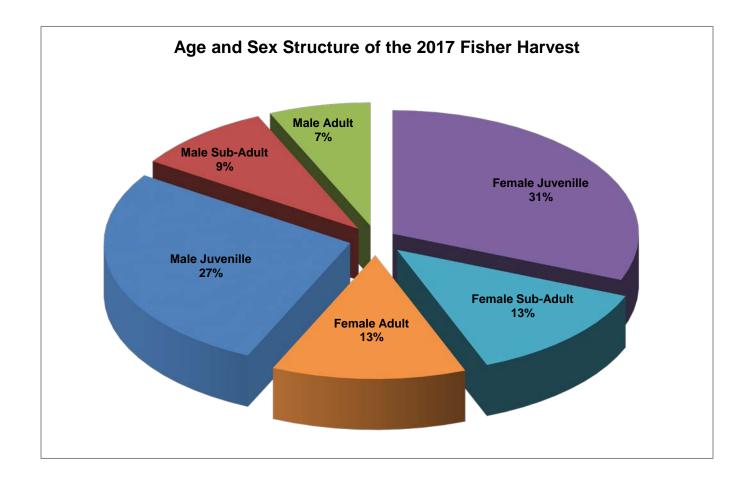
#### <u>Fisher</u>

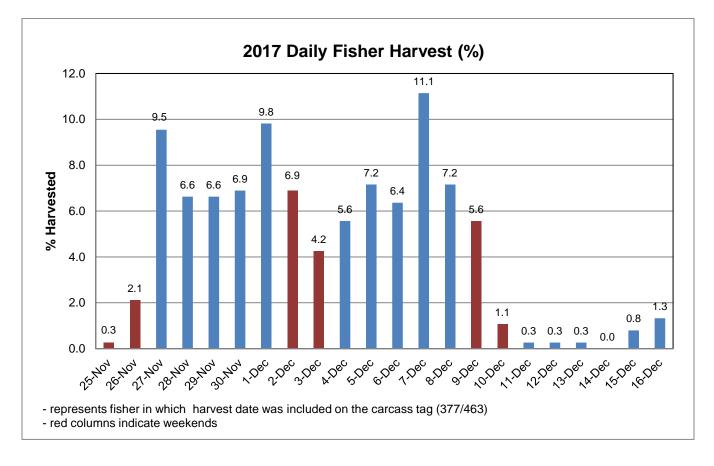
2017 marked the first year since 1999 that New Brunswick fur harvesters were required to submit fisher carcasses to the Department for biological data collection. Fisher were last collected by the Department from 1996 to 1999.

In 2017, 443 fisher were harvested during the fisher season and an additional 19 were incidentally harvested prior to or after the season for a total of 463 individuals; 200 males and 263 females. Juvenile fisher (<0.5 years) accounted for 58% of the total harvest. The oldest fisher harvested was an 8.5-year old male from WMZ 7. The oldest females harvested were 7.5-years old from zones 8 and 4. On average, males weighed 8lbs and females weighed an average of just over 4lbs. The heaviest males weighed 12lbs and were from zones 12 and 17. The heaviest female weighed 6lbs 1oz from WMZ 4. Of the 119 adult females harvested, 74% were pregnant with an average litter size of 2.8 kits per female.

	Weight - Ibs					
Fisher	Males		Females			
	Average	Range	Average	Range		
Juvenile	7.4	4.7 – 10.0	4.3	1.0 - 6.0		
Sub-adult	8.7	5.4 – 12.0	4.5	3.0 – 5.6		
Adult	9.5	7.0 – 12.0	4.7	3.0 - 6.1		







# Licenses Sold, Pelts Exported, and Estimated Value of Pelt Exports\* for New Brunswick, 1976/77 – 2017/18

\*Pelt value was determined from the combined, weighted averages of pelts sold by North American Fur Auctions and 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	30,845	\$375,930
2016-2017	1,143	24,953	\$381,520
2017-2018	1,148	22,563	\$485,600

#### Number of furbearer pelts exported from New Brunswick, change from the 2016-2017 exports, and auction center destination for 2017-2018 (sorted by total pelts exported for 2017/18)

SPECIES	TOTAL PELT	EXPORTS	PERCENT CHANGE FROM	NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTION 2017-	FUR HARVESTER'S AUCTION INC.	Other Exporters	
	2016-2017*	2017-2018*	2016-2017	2018	2017-2018	2017-2018	
MUSKRAT	13,218	10,031	-24%	6,283	3,466	282	
BEAVER	5,108	4,752	-7%	2,320	2,011	421	
СОҮОТЕ	1,652	2,258	37%	1,217	806	235	
RED FOX	967	1,163	20%	645	444	74	
MARTEN	1,176	1,026	-13%	523	457	46	
RACCOON	609	1,024	68%	564	434	26	
FISHER	405	485	20%	251	170	64	
WEASEL	651	475	-27%	221	216	38	
MINK	508	442	-13%	226	199	17	
OTTER	257	377	47%	198	156	23	
BOBCAT	219	270	23%	159	111	0	
SQUIRREL	176	233	32%	150	76	7	
SKUNK	7	27	286%	11	16	0	
TOTAL PELTS	24,953	22,563	-10%	12,768	8,562	1,233	

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

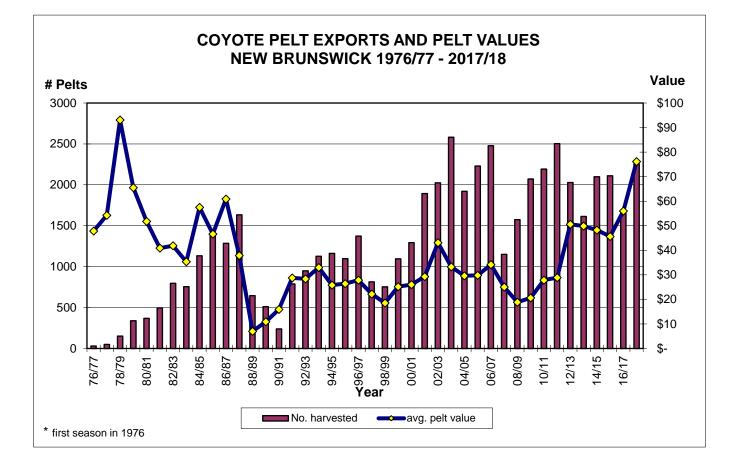
## Approximate Value of Fur Exported from New Brunswick, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 (sorted by average value per pelt for 2017/18)

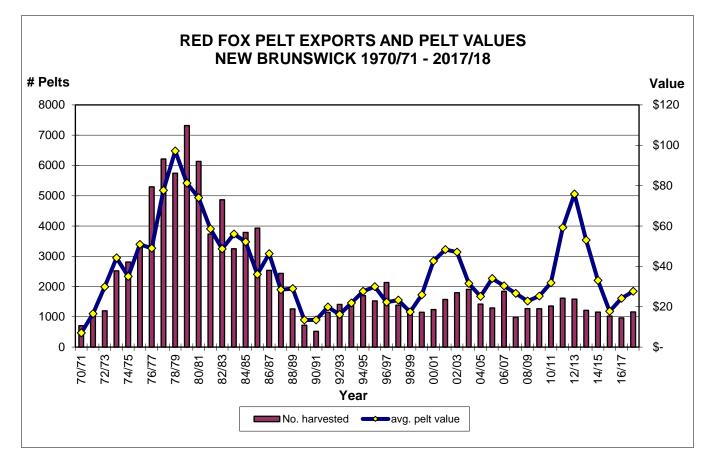
SPECIES (last year's rank by individual pelt \$	No. EXF	PORTED			TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUE 2017-2018	
value)	2016-2017	2017-2018	2016-2017	2017-2018	(ranked by collective \$	value)
COYOTE (2)	1,652	2,258	\$56.02	\$76.15	\$171,953.87	(1)
BOBCAT (1)	219	270	\$75.23	\$75.29	\$20,327.00	(7)
FISHER (3)	405	485	\$55.07	\$60.75	\$29,463.71	(6)
MARTEN (4)	1,176	1,026	\$49.56	\$42.14	\$43,239.85	(4)
OTTER (5)	257	377	\$32.25	\$36.32	\$13,693.75	(8)
RED FOX (6)	967	1,163	\$24.15	\$27.64	\$32,364.68	(5)
BEAVER (7)	5,108	4,752	\$14.96	\$18.26	\$86,758.84	(2)
MINK (8)	508	442	\$12.22	\$11.90	\$5,260.59	(10)
RACCOON (10)	609	1,024	\$7.06	\$8.27	\$8,470.41	(9)
SKUNK (9)	7	27	\$9.34	\$7.71	\$208.04	(12)
MUSKRAT (11)	13,218	10,031	\$3.95	\$4.40	\$44,164.78	(3)
WEASEL (12)	651	475	\$3.00	\$4.35	\$2,066.58	(11)
SQUIRREL (13)	176	233	\$0.51	\$0.37	\$86.36	(13)
TOTAL	24,953	22,563	Total fur harves	t value 2017-2018	➡ \$458,058.46	

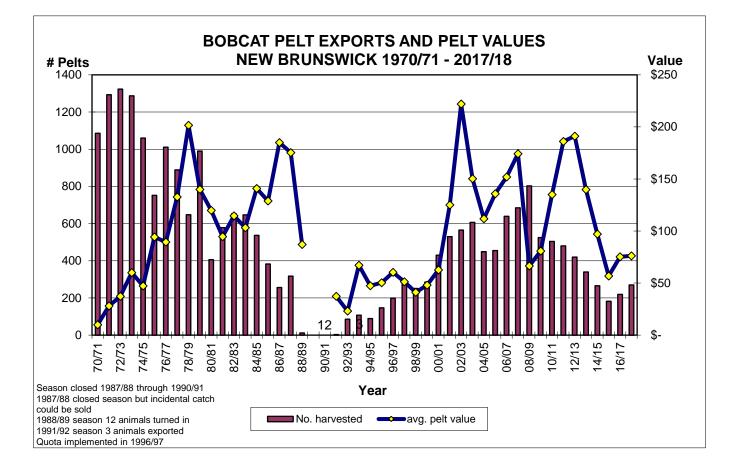
Castoreum sold for an average \$4.60 per ounce x 5991 ounces = \$27,542.00 Although black bears are not classified as furbearers, 31 black bear hides were exported from New Brunswick

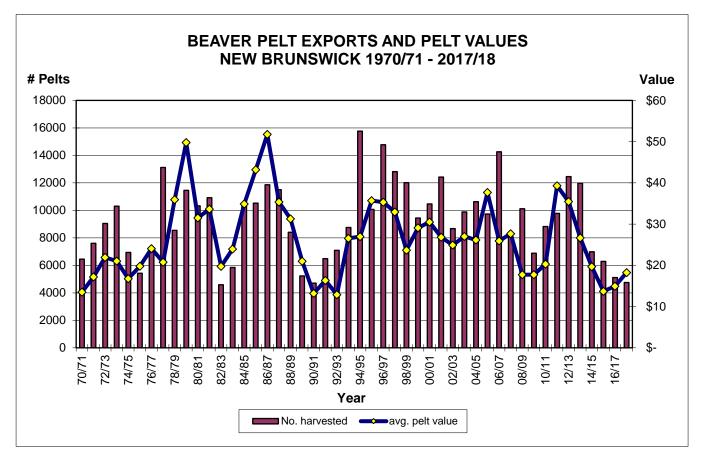
Sales of black bear hides at the auction houses averaged \$150.03 in 2017/2018

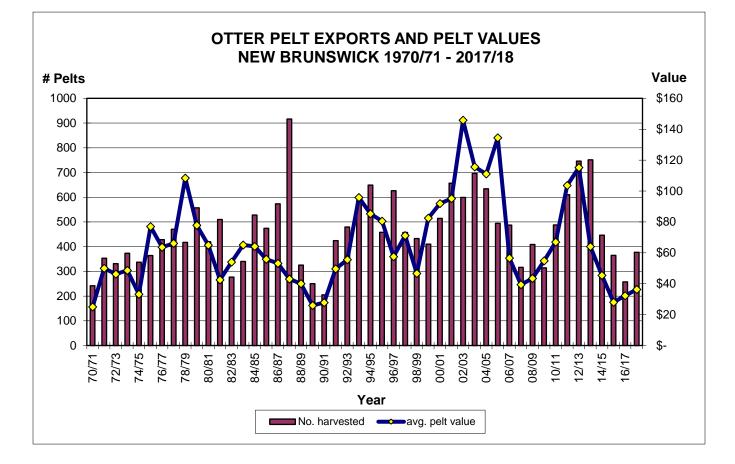
<sup>a</sup> Pelt value was determined from the combined, weighted average prices of North American Fur Auctions (NAFA) and Fur Harvester's Auction Inc.

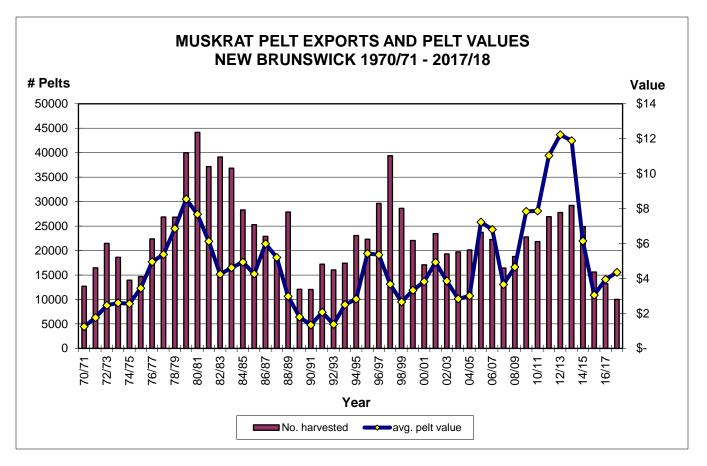


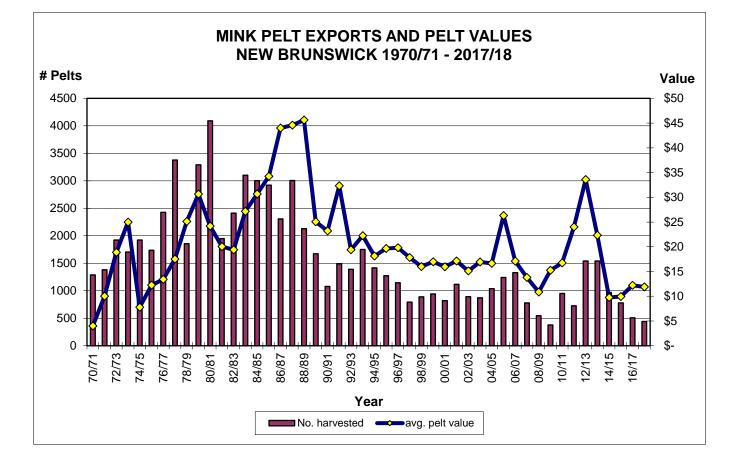


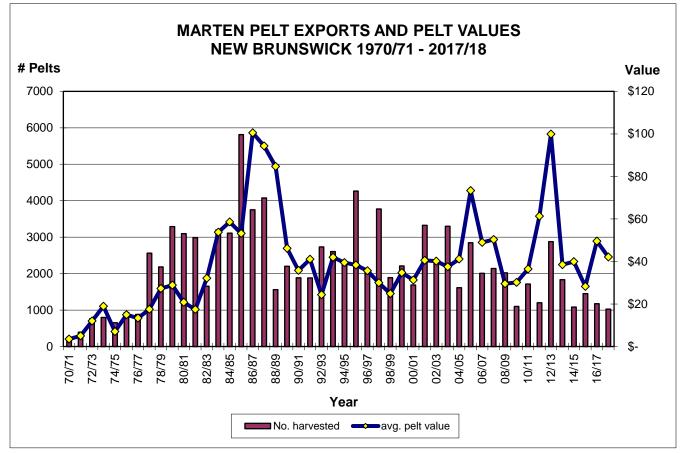


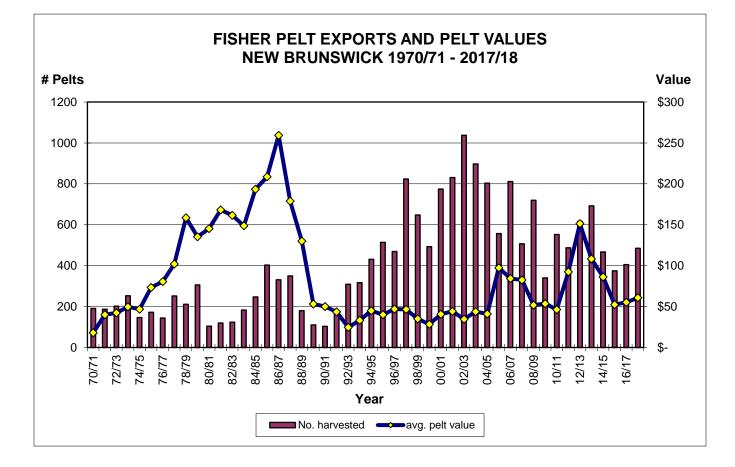


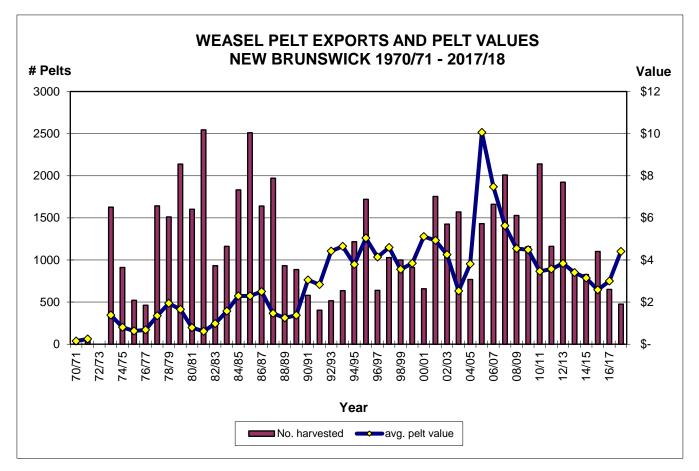


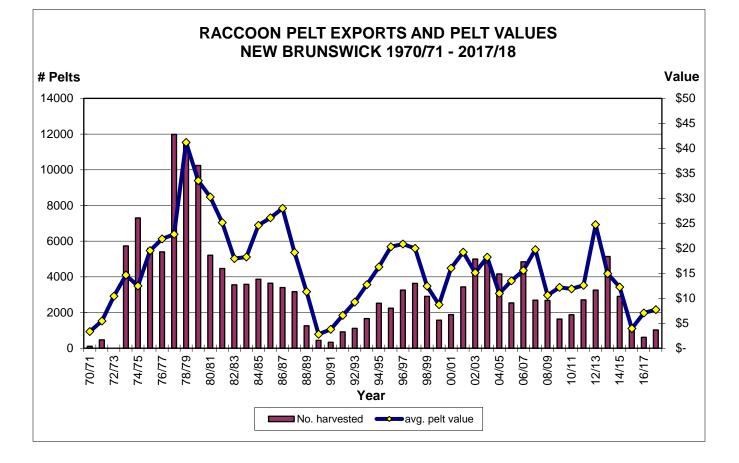


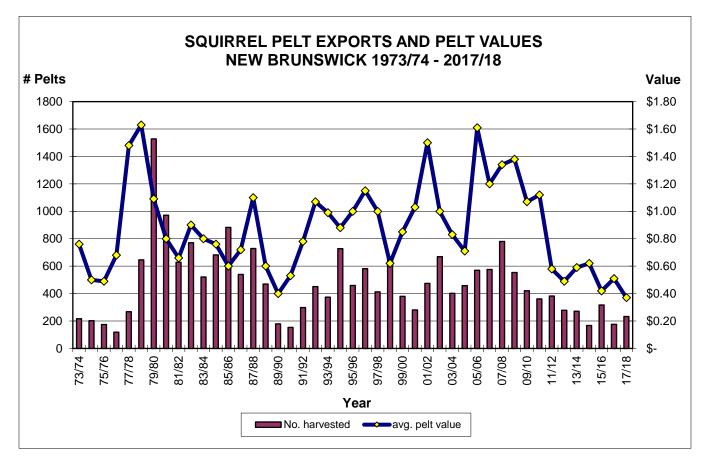


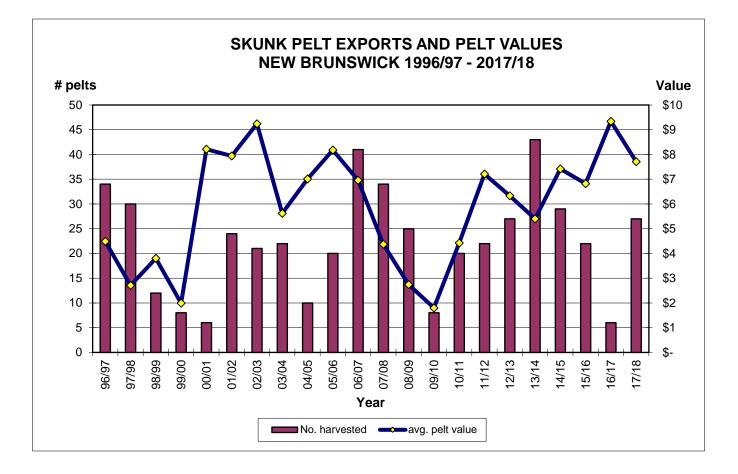












	ОТ	ΓER	MAR	TEN	BOB	CAT	FISH	IER
WMZ	2016/2017	2017/2018	2016/2017	2017/2018	2016/2017	2017/2018	2016/2017	2017/2018
1	0	1	6	5	0	0	n/a	23
2	5	12	52	31	0	0	n/a	34
3	7	2	85	56	0	0	n/a	20
4	11	12	139	85	0	0	n/a	30
5	14	20	180	81	0	0	n/a	26
6	7	4	74	57	0	0	n/a	39
7	18	11	92	42	0	0	n/a	20
8	21	21	139	138	0	1	n/a	28
9	3	3	29	21	0	0	n/a	0
10	7	20	22	15	1	5	n/a	42
11	6	15	31	25	5	1	n/a	14
12	4	17	97	69	5	1	n/a	11
13	4	8	60	56	16	19	n/a	6
14	12	3	5	1	9	7	n/a	3
15	10	9	39	69	19	12	n/a	21
16	7	29	65	87	15	28	n/a	50
17	5	12	20	12	5	7	n/a	17
18	23	7	0	0	20	12	n/a	9
19	17	4	0	0	6	12	n/a	0
20	22	45	51	58	31	44	n/a	13
21	10	38	0	0	6	26	n/a	5
22	11	12	0	0	18	30	n/a	2
23	9	13	0	0	25	36	n/a	4
24	1	11	0	0	11	11	n/a	5
25	6	21	0	0	14	20	n/a	1
27	0	1	0	0	0	0	n/a	0
Unk	23	19	86	66	19	14	n/a	39
Total	263	370	1272	974	225	286	405*	462

#### Bobcat, Otter, Marten and Fisher Harvest by Wildlife Management Zone 2016/17 and 2017/18

\*there were 405 fisher pelts exported from New Brunswick during the 2016/17 fur harvesting season

	TENTATIVE 2018-201	9 FUR HARVESTING SEASONS		
Zones	Species	Season	Open	Close
	Rabbit <sup>1</sup>	Hunting, Snaring	Oct. 1	Feb. 28
	Squirrol	Hunting	Oct. 1	Feb. 28
	Squirrel	Trapping	Oct. 27	Feb. 28
		Hunting with hounds	Aug. 6	Dec. 31
1 to 27	Raccoon	Hunting, Trapping (Restraint only) <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 1	Dec. 31
		Trapping	Oct. 27	Dec. 31
	Weasel	Trapping	Oct. 27	Feb. 28
	Skunk	Hunting	Oct. 1	Dec. 31
	Spring Muskrat	Trapping	Mar. 23	May 15
1 to 26	Covoto Fox	Hunting, Trapping	Oct. 1	Feb. 28
1 10 26	Coyote, Fox	Snaring	Nov. 17	Feb. 28
1 to 25 <sup>3</sup>	Bobcat <sup>4</sup>	Trapping, Snaring, Hunting	Nov. 17	Feb. 28
1 to 13, 15 to 17, 20	Marten, Fisher, Skunk	Trapping	Nov. 24	Dec. 8
14, 18, 19, 21 to 27	Fisher, Skunk	Trapping	Nov. 24	Dec. 15
	Otter	Trapping, Snaring	Oct. 20	Jan. 31
1 to 12	Beaver	Trapping	Oct. 20	Jan. 31
1 10 12	Beaver	Snaring	Oct. 20	Feb. 28
	Muskrat (fall), Mink	Trapping	Oct. 20	Feb. 28
	Otter	Trapping, Snaring	Nov. 3	Jan. 31
13 to 27	Beaver	Trapping	Nov. 3	Jan. 31
131027	Deaver	Snaring	Nov. 3	Feb. 28
	Muskrat (fall), Mink	Trapping	Nov. 3	Feb. 28

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) It is illegal to use killing traps for raccoons prior to October 27<sup>th</sup> 

No quota issued for bobcat harvest in Zones 1-6, 9, 26 and 27 It is illegal to use killing traps (i.e. body-gripping traps) for bobcat after December 31<sup>st</sup> 

#### **TENATIVE 2019-2020 FUR HARVESTING SEASONS**

Zones	Species	Season	Open	Close
	Rabbit <sup>1</sup>	Hunting, Snaring	Oct. 1	Feb. 29
	Cavitral	Hunting	Oct. 1	Feb. 2
	Squirrel	Trapping	Oct. 26	Feb. 2
		Hunting with hounds	Aug. 5	Dec. 3
1 to 27	Raccoon	Hunting, Trapping (Restraint only) <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 1   Oct. 26   Aug. 5   Oct. 1   Oct. 26   Oct. 26   Oct. 1   Oct. 26   Oct. 1   Nov. 16   Nov. 16   Nov. 30   Oct. 19   Oct. 19   Nov. 21   Nov. 2   Nov. 2	Dec. 3
		Trapping	Oct. 26	Dec. 3
	Weasel	Trapping	Oct. 26	Feb. 2
	Skunk	Hunting	Oct. 1	Dec. 3
	Spring Muskrat	Trapping	Mar. 21	May 1
1 to 26 <sup>3</sup>	Coyote, Fox	Hunting, Trapping	Oct. 1	Feb. 2
1 10 26 °		Snaring	Oct. 1   Oct. 26   Aug. 5   Oct. 1   Oct. 26   Oct. 26   Oct. 26   Oct. 1   Mar. 21   Oct. 1   Nov. 16   Nov. 30   Oct. 19   Oct. 21   Oct. 22   Nov. 30	Feb. 2
1 to 25 <sup>4</sup>	Bobcat <sup>5</sup>	Trapping, Snaring, Hunting	Nov. 16	Feb. 2
1 to 13, 15 to 17, 20	Marten, Fisher, Skunk	Trapping	Nov. 30	Dec. 1
14, 18, 19, 21 to 27	Fisher, Skunk	Trapping	Nov. 30	Dec. 2
	Otter	Trapping, Snaring	Oct. 19	Jan. 3
1 to 12	Beaver	Trapping	Oct. 19	Jan. 3
1 to 12	Deaver	Snaring	Oct. 21	Feb. 2
	Muskrat (fall), Mink	Trapping	Oct.19	Jan. 3
	Otter	Trapping, Snaring	Nov. 2	Jan. 3
13 to 27	Beaver	Trapping	Nov. 2	Jan. 3
13 10 27	Deavei	Snaring	Nov. 2	Feb. 2
	Muskrat (fall), Mink	Trapping	Nov. 2	Jan. 3

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) 1

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

Coyote and fox hunting, trapping and snaring are closed in Zone 27. No quota issued for bobcat harvest in Zones 1-6, 9, 26 and 27 3

4

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