

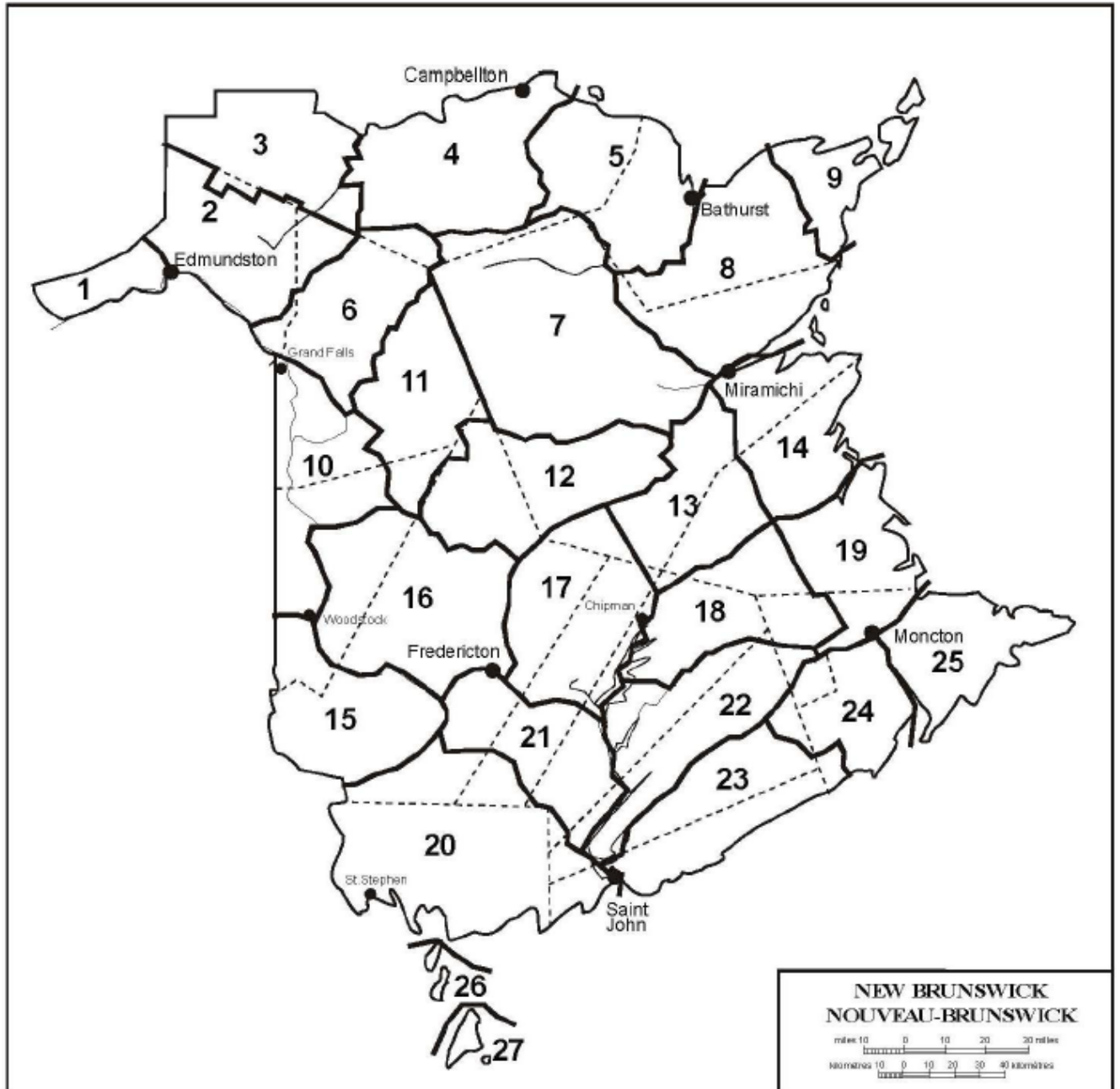
**NEW BRUNSWICK  
FURBEARER HARVEST  
REPORT 2018-2019**



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

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# Wildlife Management Zones Zones d'Aménagement de la Faune



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## **2018-2019 New Brunswick Furbearer Harvest Summary**

In 2018-2019, there was a decrease **(-229)** in the number of fur harvester's license sold compared to last season, for a total of **1,132 licenses** (**1,114** fur harvester licenses and **18** minor fur harvester's). In 2018, **218** individuals successfully completed the Trapper Education course, which is a 25% increase from the 174 students who completed the course in 2017.

The total number of pelts exported from New Brunswick (NB) decreased by 51% from the previous season from 22,563 pelts to 14,977 pelts for the 2018/2019 season. The total estimated value of pelts exported from NB decreased by 16% from \$458,000 in the 2017/2018 season to \$382,562 for the 2018/2019 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 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

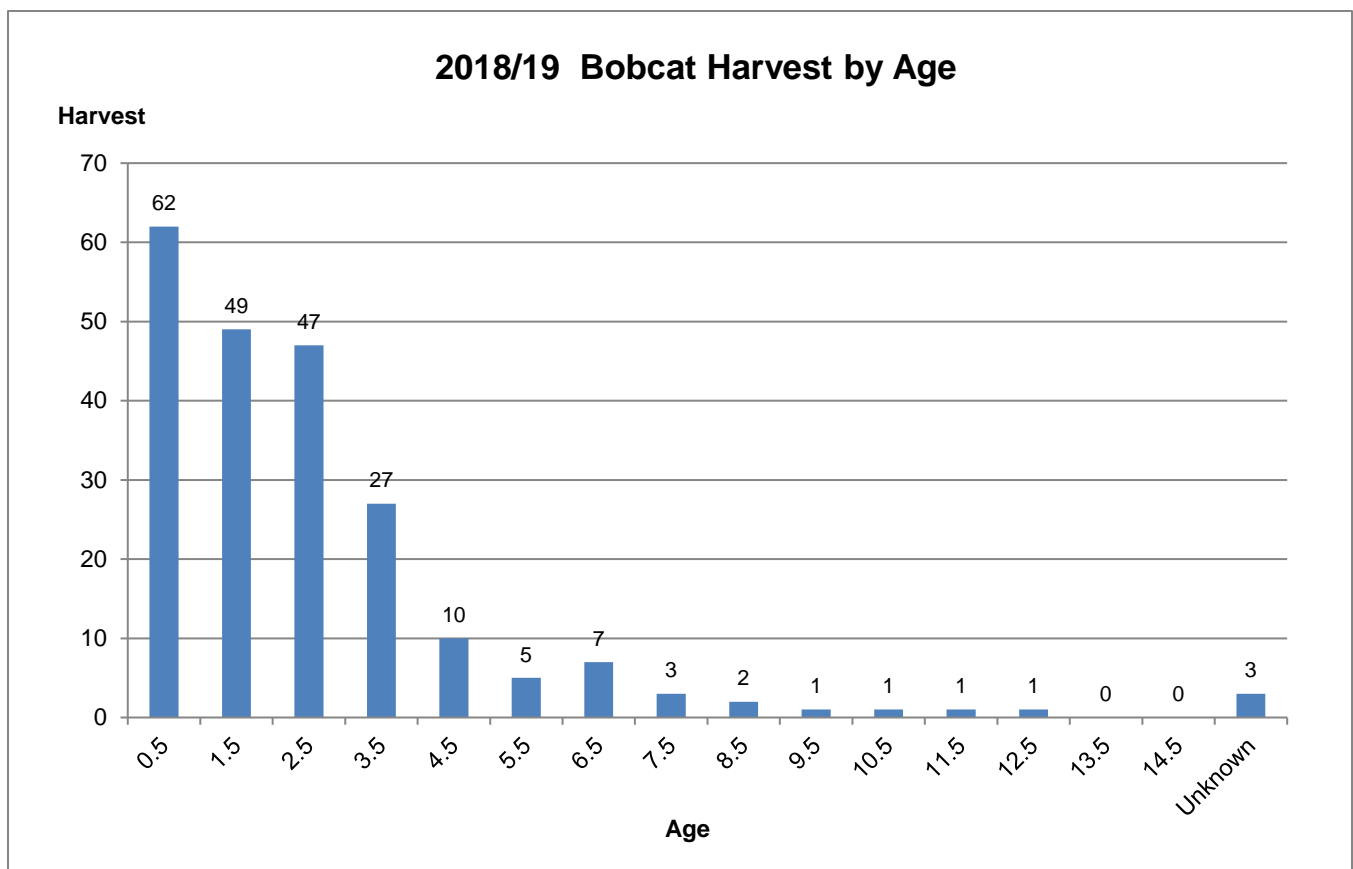
*2019 New Brunswick Hunt & Trap Summary* -

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

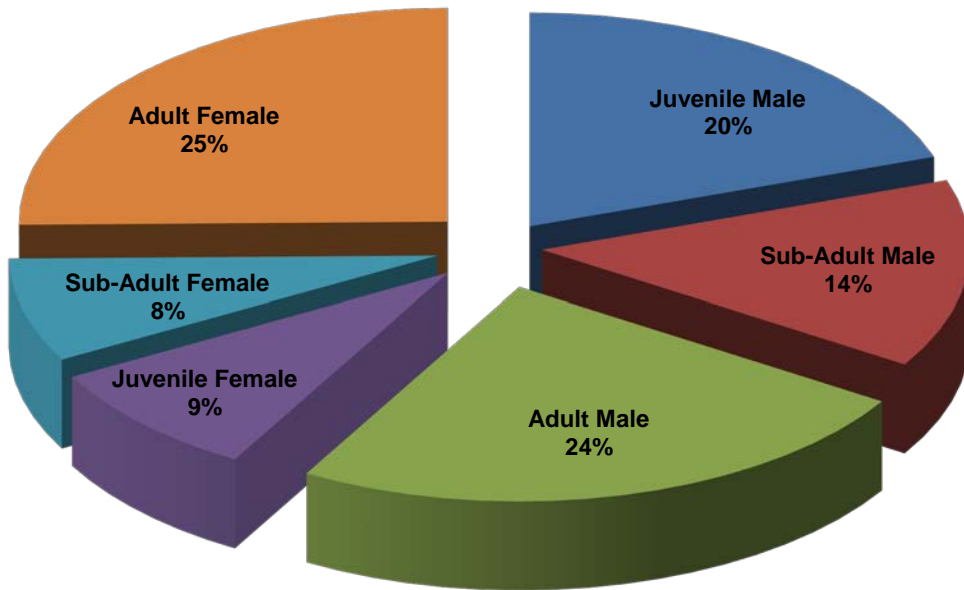
## **Bobcat**

During the 15-week bobcat harvest season, there were 219 bobcats harvested (91 females, 127 males and 1 unknown sex) with a success rate of 20%. This year's harvest is a decrease of 23% (-66 bobcats) compared to last year's harvest; however, it is a 75% 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 516 applicants in 2017 to 515 applicants in 2018. There were 1,117 bobcat harvest tags issued for the 2018/2019 season which was a 7.6% decrease from the previous season (1,211). In the 2018/2019 harvest, adult female bobcats weighed an average of 15 lbs. and adult males weighed an average of 20 lbs. Harvested bobcats averaged 2.5 years of age. The oldest bobcat harvested was a 12.5-year-old male weighing 36.4lbs. This same bobcat was also the heaviest harvested in the 2018/19 season. Overall, 28% of bobcats harvested were juveniles (less than 1.5 years old); 42% of females and 58% of males. Placental scaring indicated approximately 68% of females 1.5 years-old and older were pregnant the previous spring with an average litter size of 2.06 kittens per pregnant female.

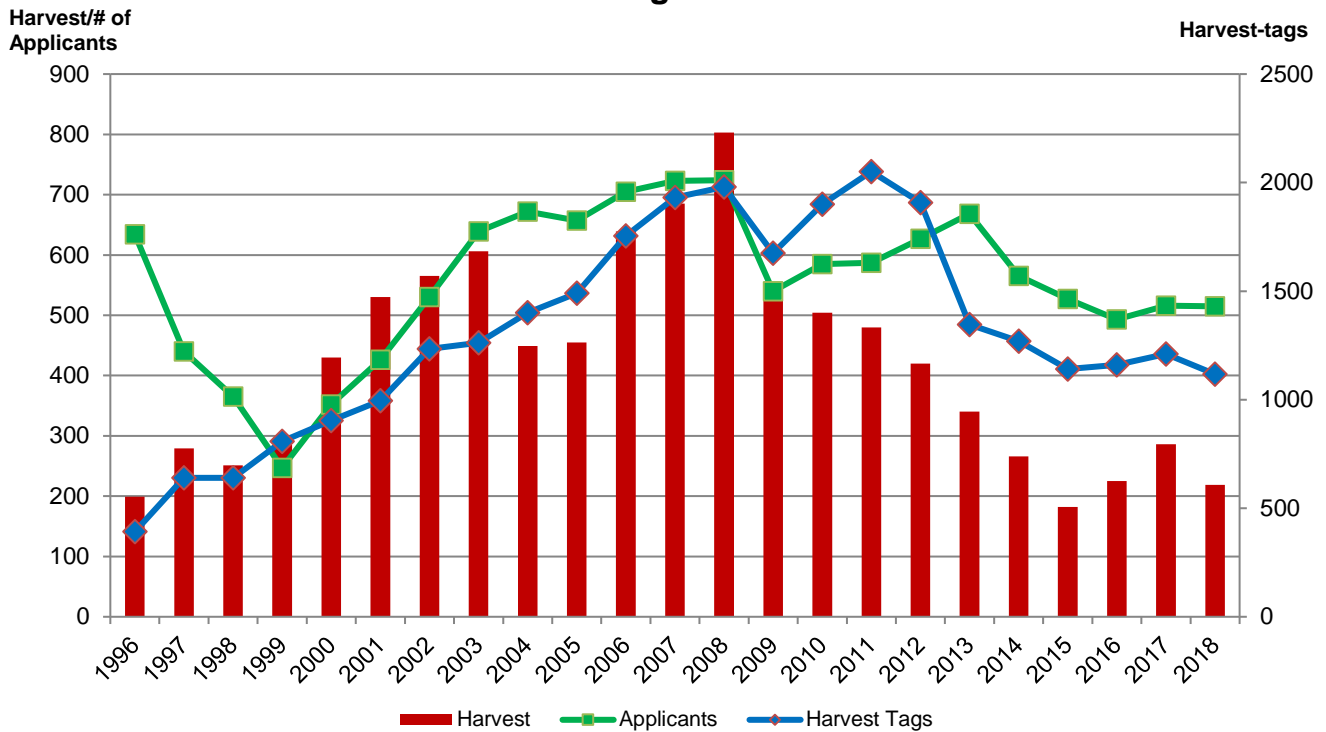
Bobcat	Weight - lbs			
	Males		Females	
	Average	Range	Average	Range
Juvenile	11.9	6.4 – 17.8	8.7	6.4 – 12.3
Sub-Adult	22.8	16.9 – 33.4	15.6	12.9 – 19.4
Adult	25.2	13.0 – 36.5	17.2	12.8 - 21.9



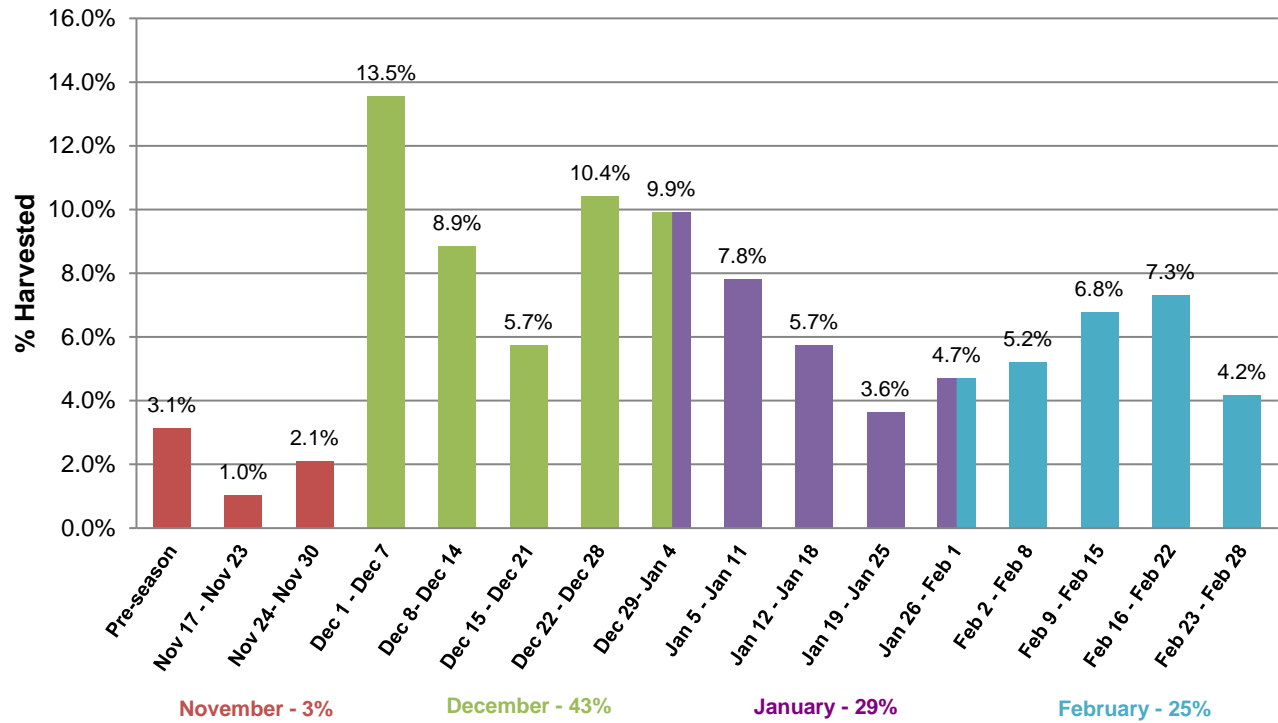
### Age and Sex Structure of 2018/19 Bobcat Harvest



### Bobcat Harvest, # of applicants to the bobcat harvest-tag draw and the # of bobcat harvest-tags issued from 1996 to 2018



## Weekly Bobcat Harvest (%) for the 2018/19 Season



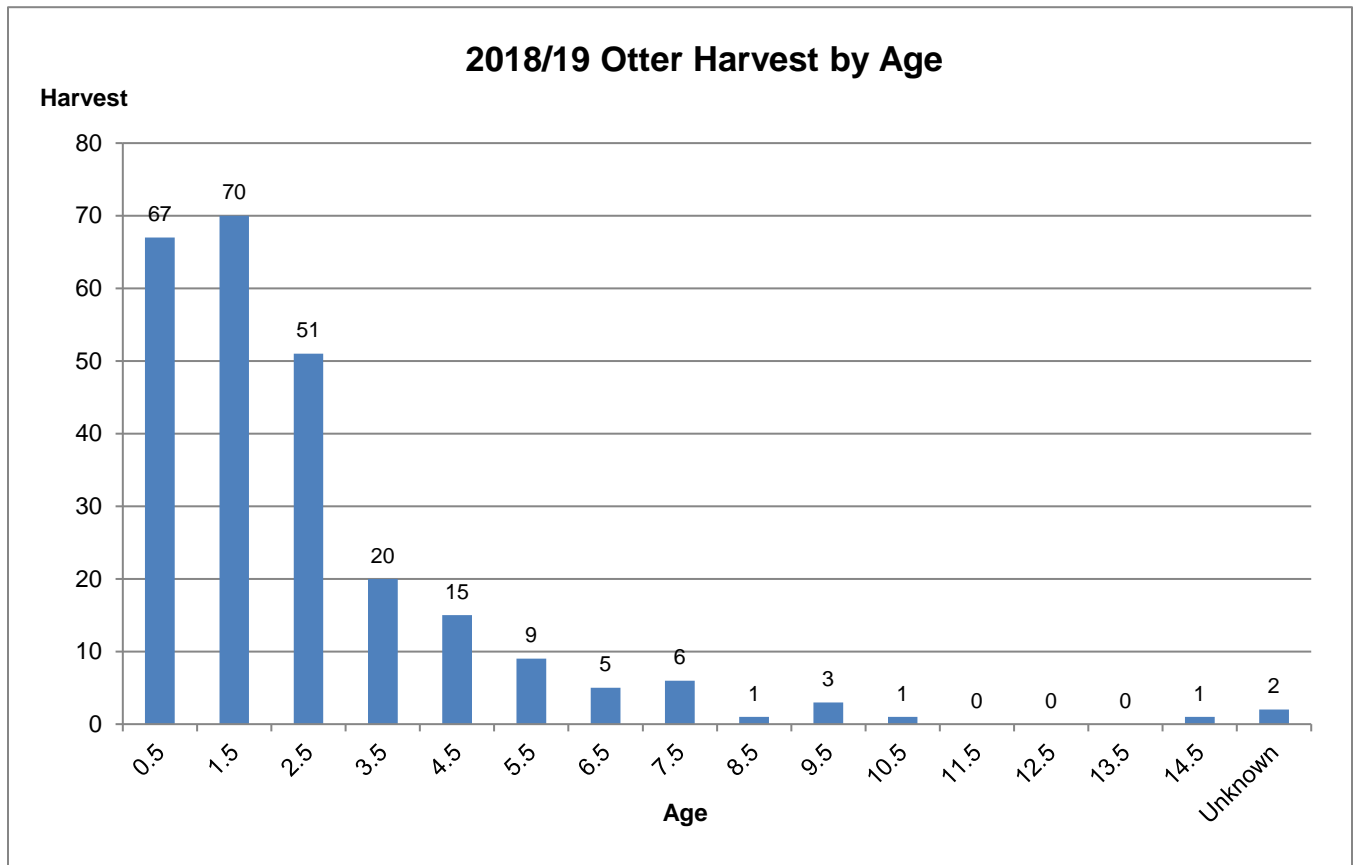
represents bobcat in which harvest date was included on the carcass tag (192/219)



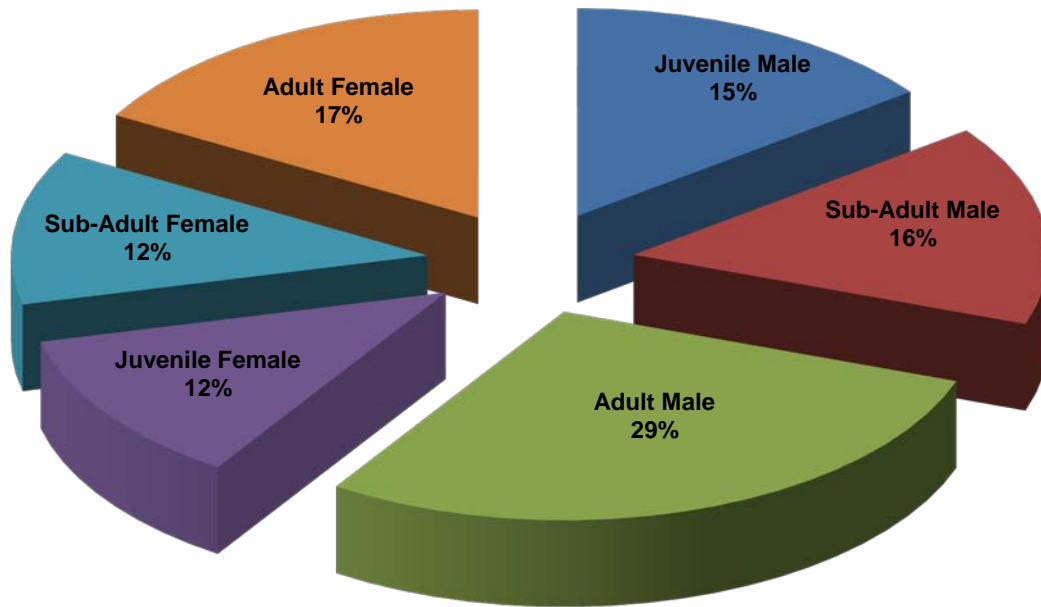
**Otter**

During the 15-week otter harvest season, there were 251 otters harvested (148 male, 102 female and 1 unknown sex), which is a 32% decrease (-117 otter) compared to the 2017/2018 fur harvesting season. Adult female otter weighed an average of 12.8 lbs. while adult males weighed an average of 14.4 lbs. The heaviest otter harvested was a 5.5-year-old, 20.5lbs male from WMZ 21. The heaviest female otter weighed 17.1lbs and was 1.5 years-old. The oldest male otter harvested during the season was 14.5 years old from WMZ 2 and weighed 11.4lbs. The oldest female was 9.5 years-old from WMZ 9 and weighed 12.8lbs. Approximately 27% of the otter harvested were juveniles and 67% of females >0.5 years of age were pregnant with an expected average litter size of 1.7 pups.

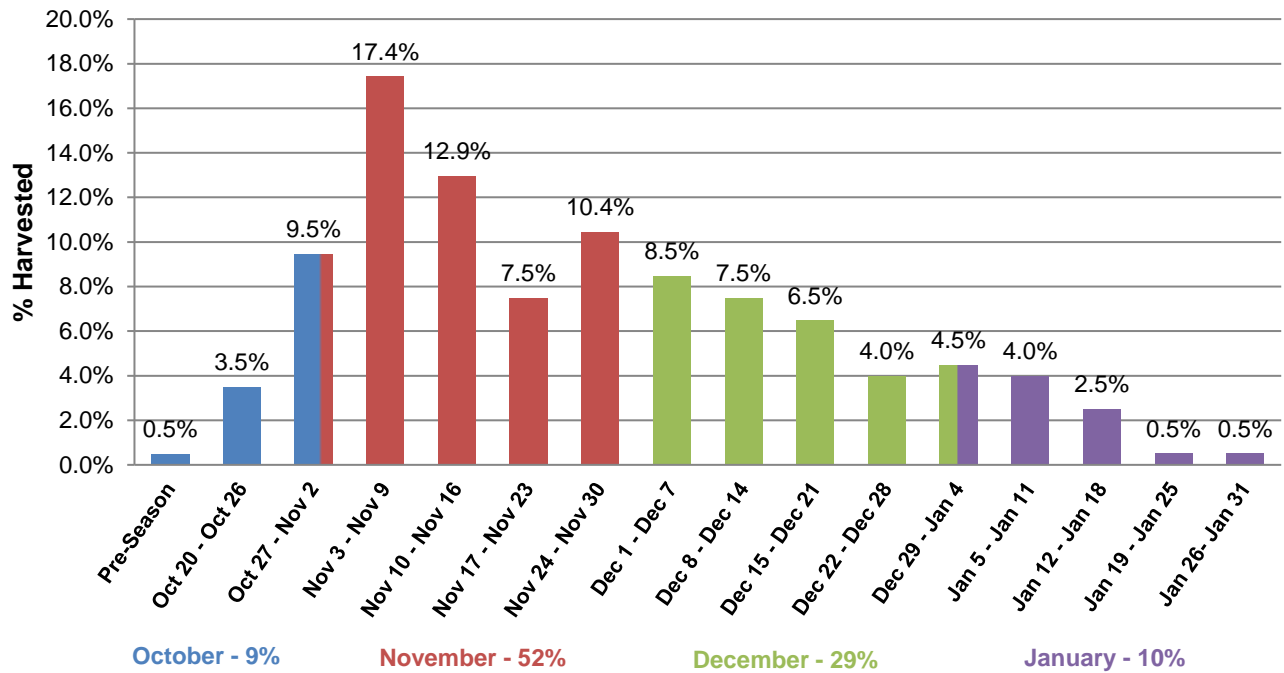
Otter	Weight - lbs			
	Males		Females	
	Average	Range	Average	Range
Juvenile	10.1	4.8 – 15.0	10.3	6.8 – 14.8
Sub-Adult	14.2	9.4 – 20.1	12.6	9.8 – 17.2
Adult	14.4	10.1 – 20.8	12.8	9.1 – 16.7



## Age and Sex Structure of 2018/19 Otter Harvest



## Weekly Otter Harvest (%) for the 2018/19 Season

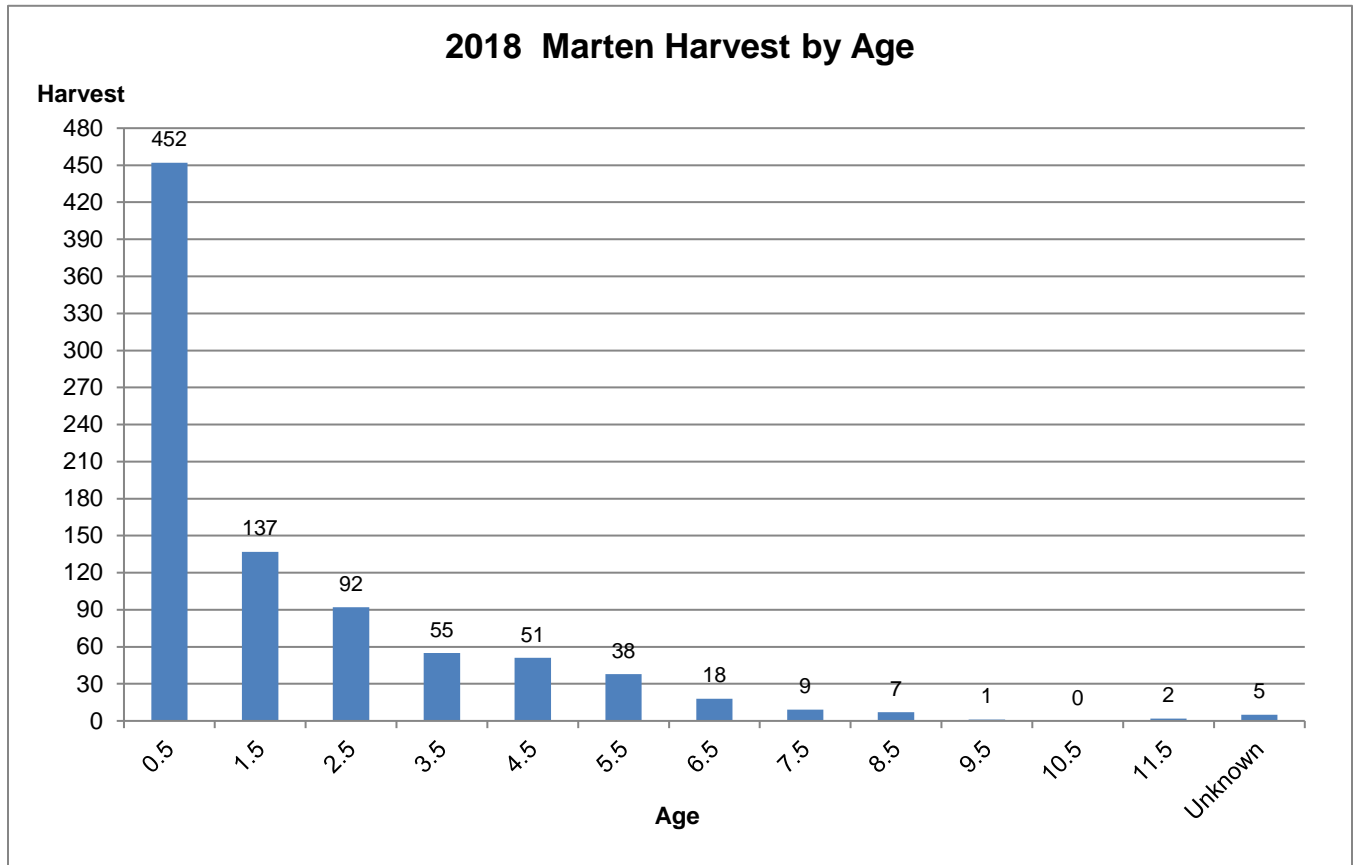


represents otter in which harvest date was included on the carcass tag (201/251)

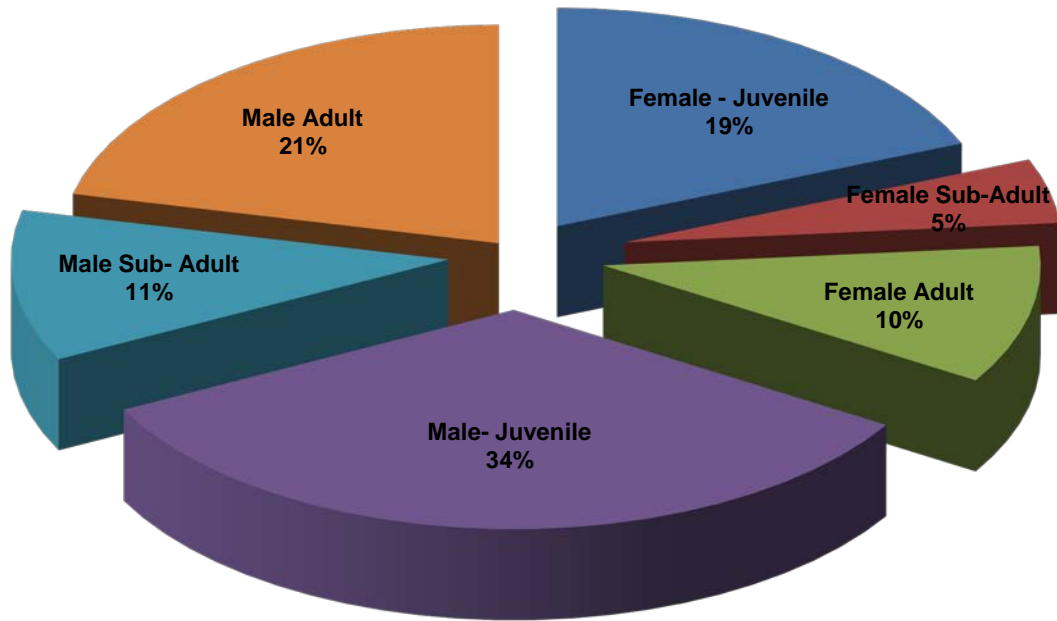


## Marten

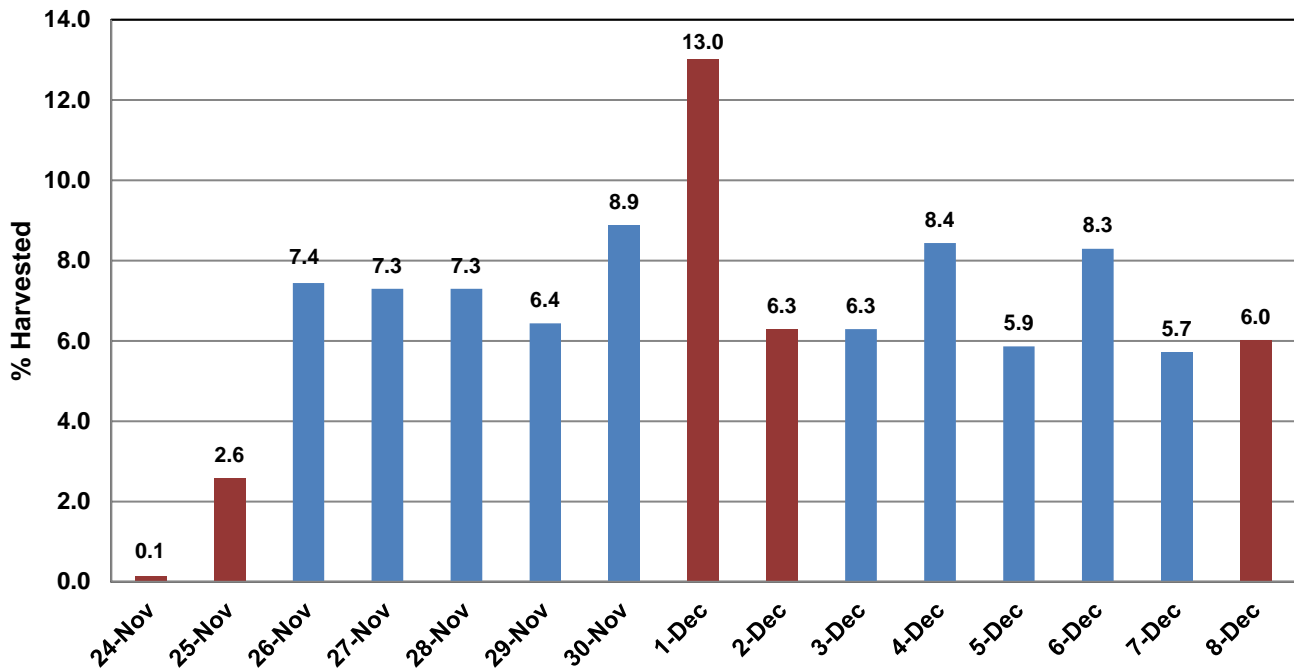
The two-week harvest season for marten saw a 11% decrease (-107 marten) in harvest compared to the 2017/2018 season, with 867 individuals harvested (573 males and 293 females). Approximately 52% of the marten harvested were juveniles. The oldest female marten harvested was 11.5 years old from WMZ 15. The oldest male marten was 11.5 years old from WMZ 11. Of the 127 adult females harvested, 58% were pregnant with an average litter size of 2.4 kits based on blastocyst counts.



### Age and Sex Structure of the 2018 Marten Harvest



### 2018 Daily Marten Harvest (%)



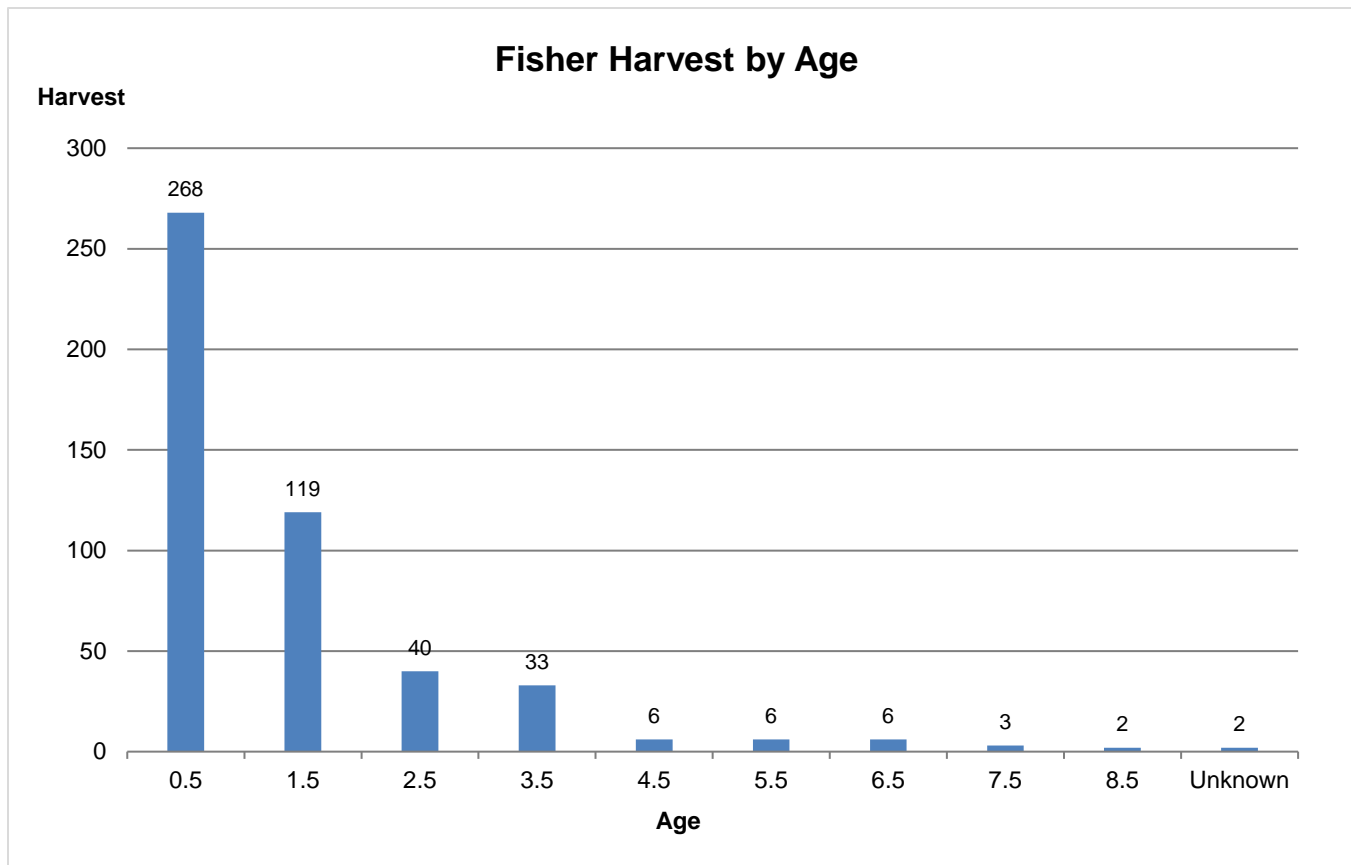
- represents marten in which harvest date was included on the carcass tag (722/867)  
 - red columns indicate weekends

## Fisher

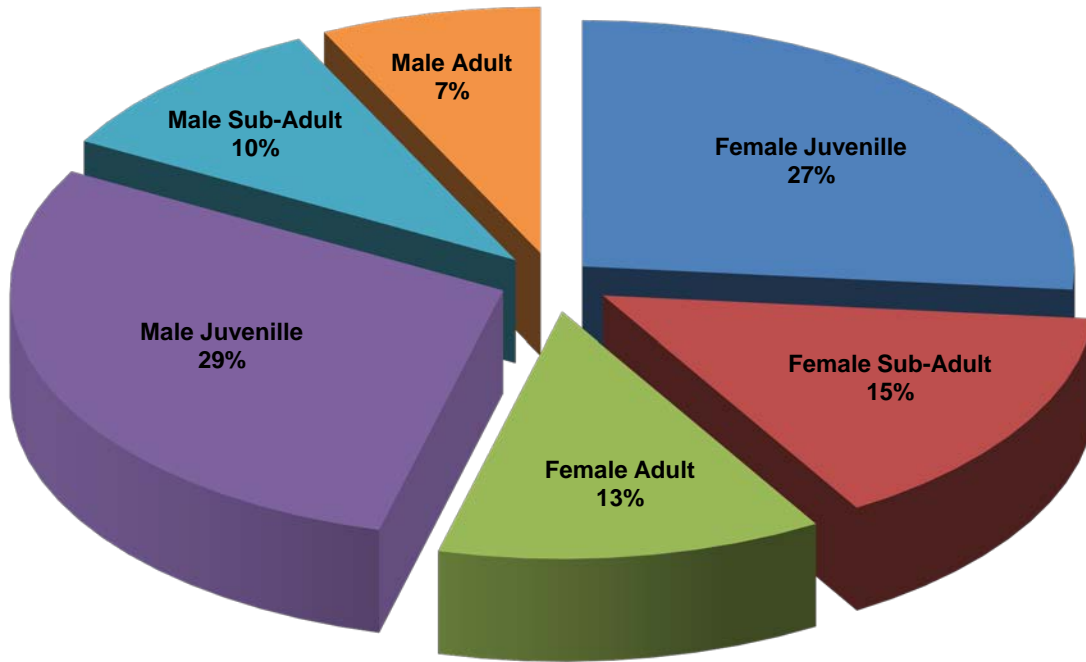
2017 marked the first year since 1999 that New Brunswick fur harvesters were required to submit fisher carcasses to the Department for biological data collection. Fisher were last collected by the Department from 1996 to 1999.

In 2018, 462 fisher were harvested during the 2018 season and an additional 23 were incidentally harvested prior to or after the season for a total of 485 individuals; 223 males and 262 females. This is an increase of 8% from the 2017 season (443 regular season, 19 incidental). Juvenile fisher (<0.5 years) accounted for 56% 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.

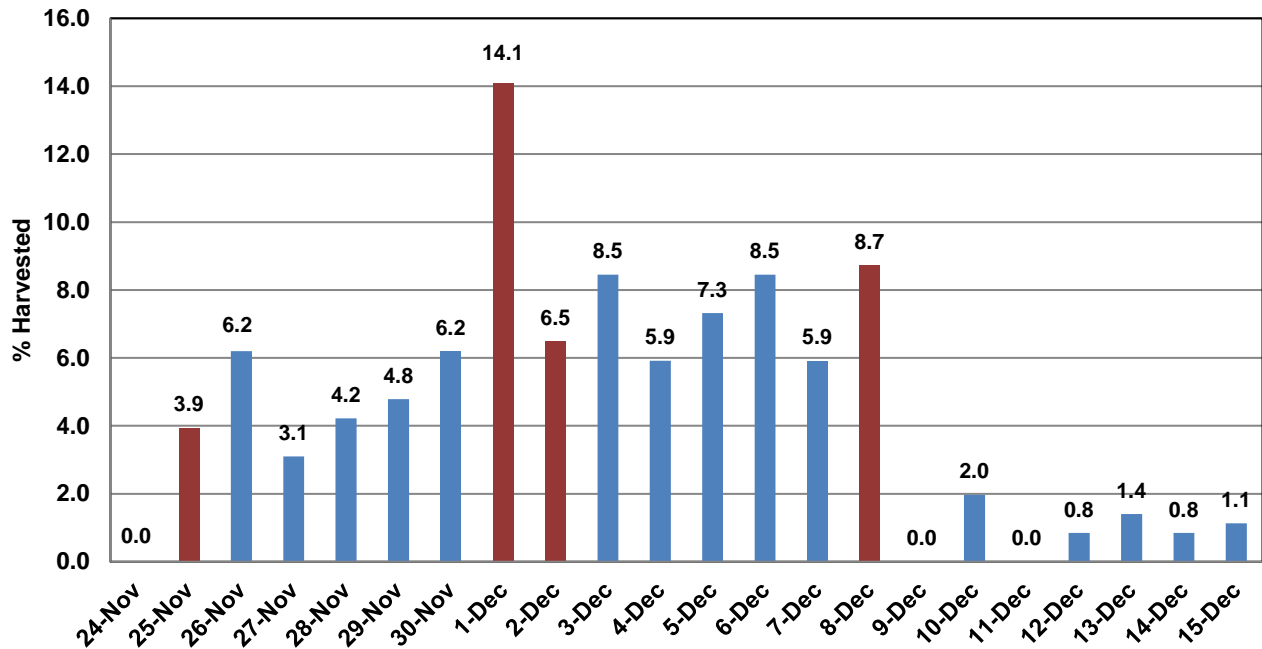
Fisher	Weight - lbs			
	Males		Females	
	Average	Range	Average	Range
Juvenile	7.3	4.6 – 9.5	4.4	3.1 – 5.7
Sub-adult	8.6	5.7 – 11.8	4.8	3.8 – 6.0
Adult	9.8	7.4 – 12.3	4.8	3.7 – 6.0



### Age and Sex Structure of the 2018 Fisher Harvest



### 2018 Daily Fisher Harvest (%)



- represents fisher in which harvest date was included on the carcass tag (384/485)  
 - red columns indicate weekends

## Licenses Sold, Pelts Exported, and Estimated Value of Pelt Exports\* for New Brunswick, 1976/77 – 2018/19

\*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	30,844	\$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

**Number of furbearer pelts exported from New Brunswick, change from the 2017-2018 exports,  
and auction center destination for 2018-2019**

(sorted by total pelts exported for 2017/18)

SPECIES	TOTAL PELT EXPORTS		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2017-2018	NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTION 2018- 2019	FUR HARVESTER'S AUCTION INC. 2018-2019	OTHER 2018-2019
	2017-2018	2018-2019*				
MUSKRAT	10,031	5,512	-82%	2,566	2,731	215
BEAVER	4,752	3,288	-45%	1,542	1,365	381
COYOTE	2,258	1,958	-15%	1,133	656	169
RED FOX	1,163	859	-35%	481	315	63
MARTEN	1,026	831	-23%	453	339	39
RACCOON	1,024	759	-35%	378	346	35
FISHER	485	474	-2%	292	130	52
WEASEL	475	515	-7.8%	247	242	26
MINK	442	236	-87%	121	111	4
OTTER	377	231	-63%	125	87	19
BOBCAT	270	195	-38%	106	87	2
SQUIRREL	233	103	-126%	78	23	2
SKUNK	27	16	-69%	14	2	0
<b>TOTAL PELTS</b>	<b>22,563</b>	<b>14,977</b>	<b>-51%</b>	<b>7,536</b>	<b>6,434</b>	<b>1,007</b>

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

**Approximate Value of Fur Exported from New Brunswick, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019**  
(sorted by average value per pelt for 2017/18)

Species (last years rank by individual pelt \$ value)	No. exported		Value per pelt <sup>a</sup>		Total Estimated Value 2018-2019 (ranked by collective \$ value)
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2017-2018	2018-2019	
COYOTE (1)	2,258	1,958	\$76.15	\$93.70	\$183,464.60 (1)
BOBCAT (2)	270	195	\$75.29	\$95.51	\$18,624.45 (7)
FISHER (3)	485	474	\$60.75	\$44.26	\$20,979.24 (6)
MARTEN (4)	1,026	831	\$42.14	\$29.55	\$24,556.05 (5)
OTTER (5)	377	231	\$36.32	\$27.86	\$6,435.66 (9)
RED FOX (6)	1,163	859	\$27.64	\$37.72	\$32,401.48 (3)
BEAVER (7)	4,752	3,288	\$18.26	\$18.36	\$60,367.68 (2)
MINK (8)	442	236	\$11.90	\$7.26	\$1,713.36 (11)
RACCOON (9)	1,024	759	\$8.27	\$9.24	\$7,013.16 (8)
SKUNK (10)	27	16	\$7.71	\$6.23	\$99.68 (12)
MUSKRAT (11)	10,031	5,512	\$4.40	\$4.52	\$24,914.24 (4)
WEASEL (12)	475	515	\$4.35	\$3.75	\$1,931.25 (10)
SQUIRREL (13)	233	103	\$0.37	\$0.60	\$61.80 (13)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,563</b>	<b>14,977</b>	<b>Total fur harvest value 2018-2019→</b>		<b>\$382,562.65</b>

Castoreum sold for an average \$6.02 per ounce x 3801 ounces = \$22,918.14

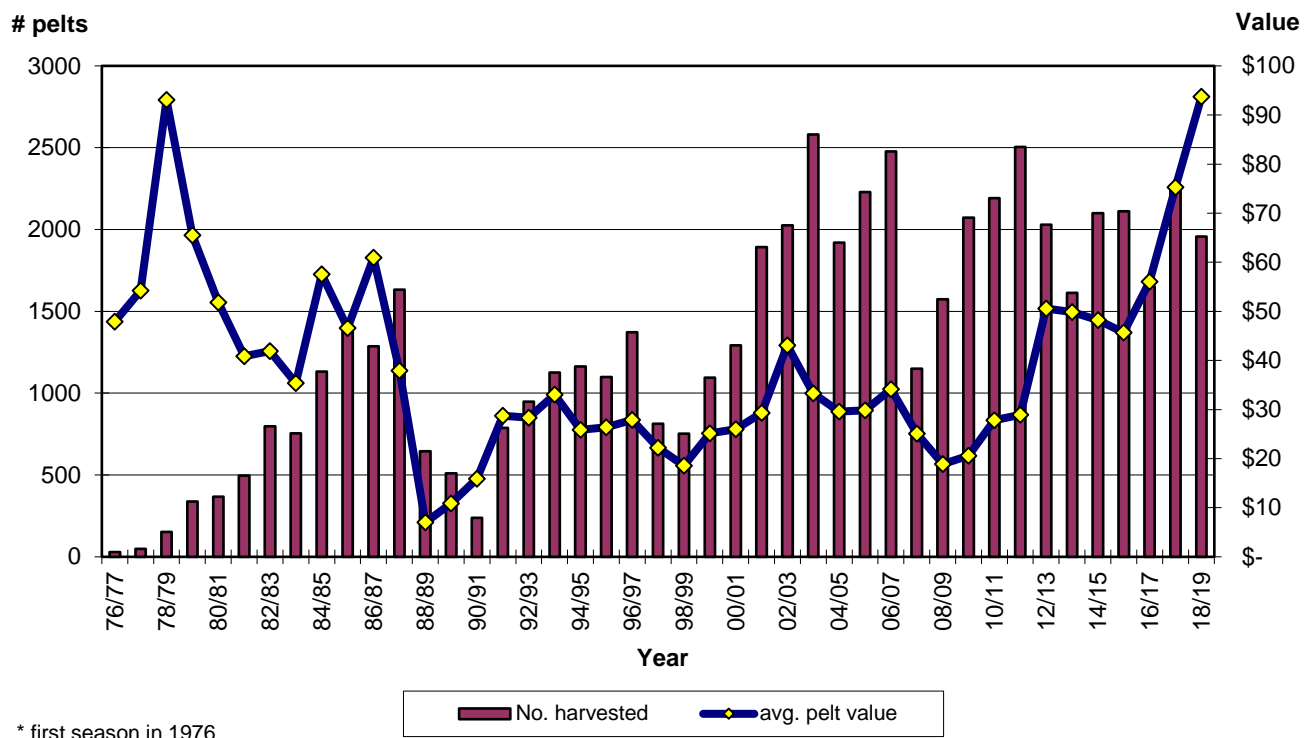
Although black bears are not classified as furbearers, 35 black bear hides were exported from New Brunswick

Sales of black bear hides at the auction houses averaged \$173.33 in 2018/19

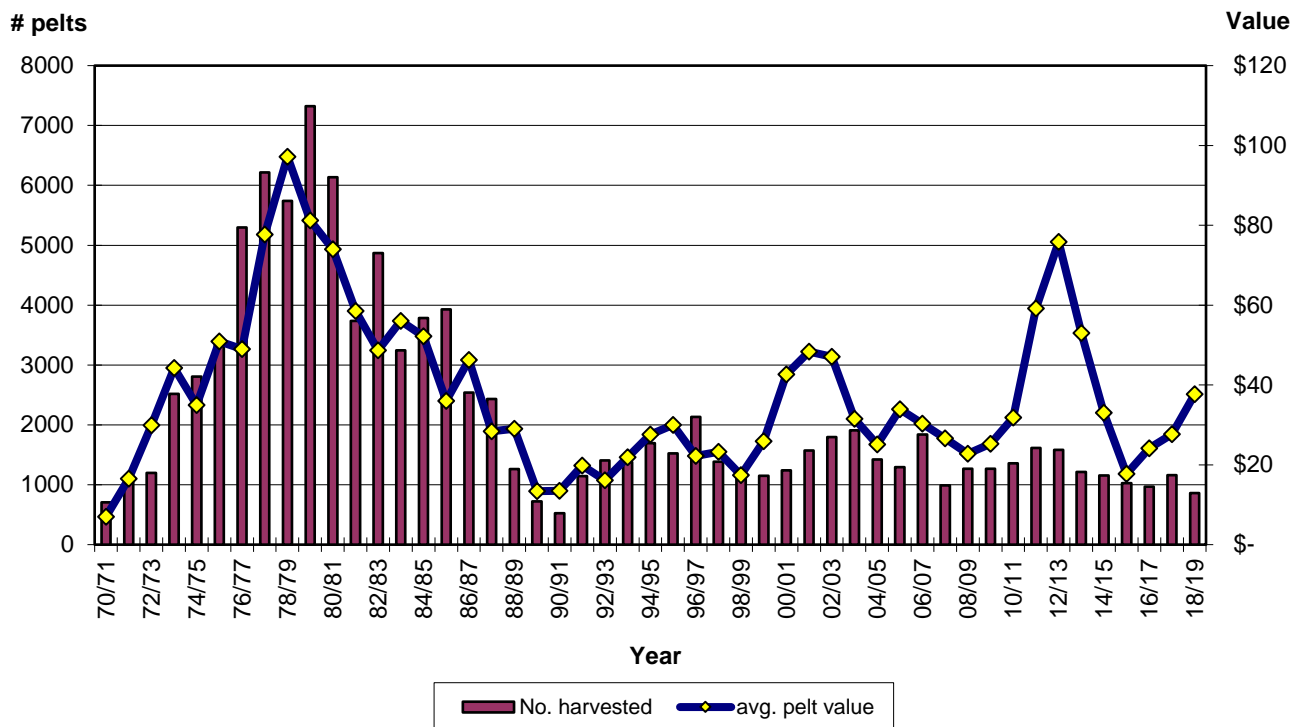
<sup>a</sup> Pelt value was determined from the combined, weighted average prices of North American Fur Auctions (NAFA) and Fur Harvester's Auction Inc.



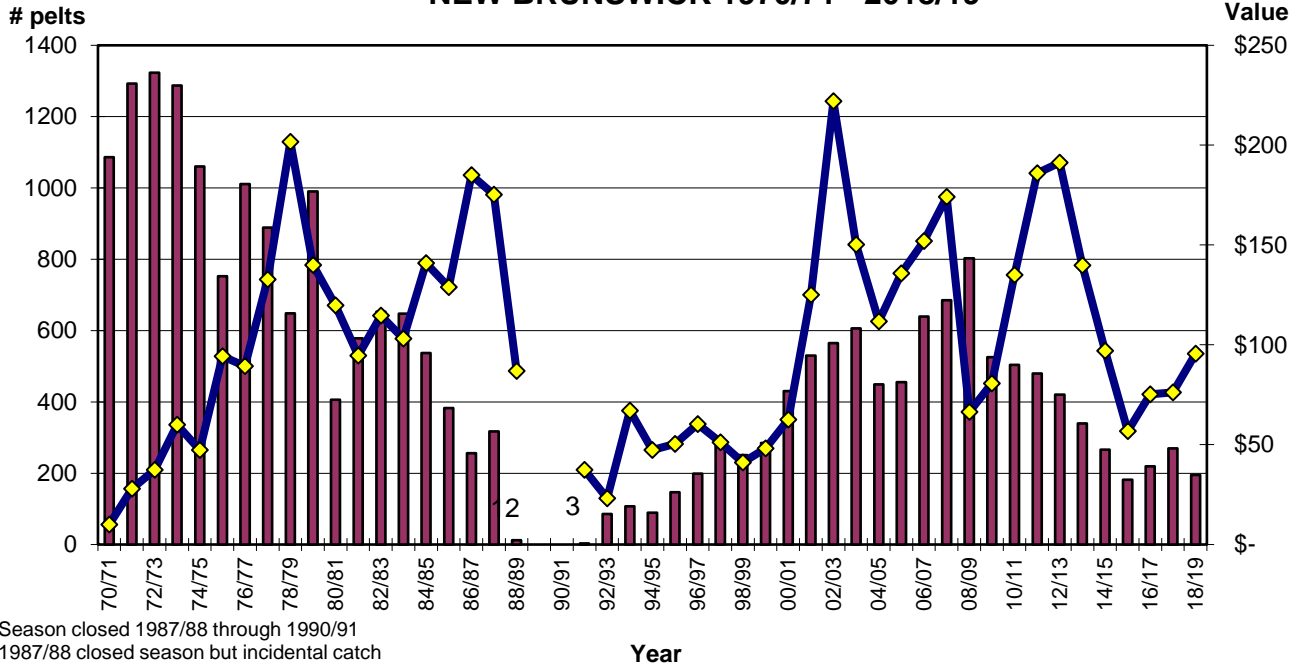
### COYOTE PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2018/19



### RED FOX PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2018/19



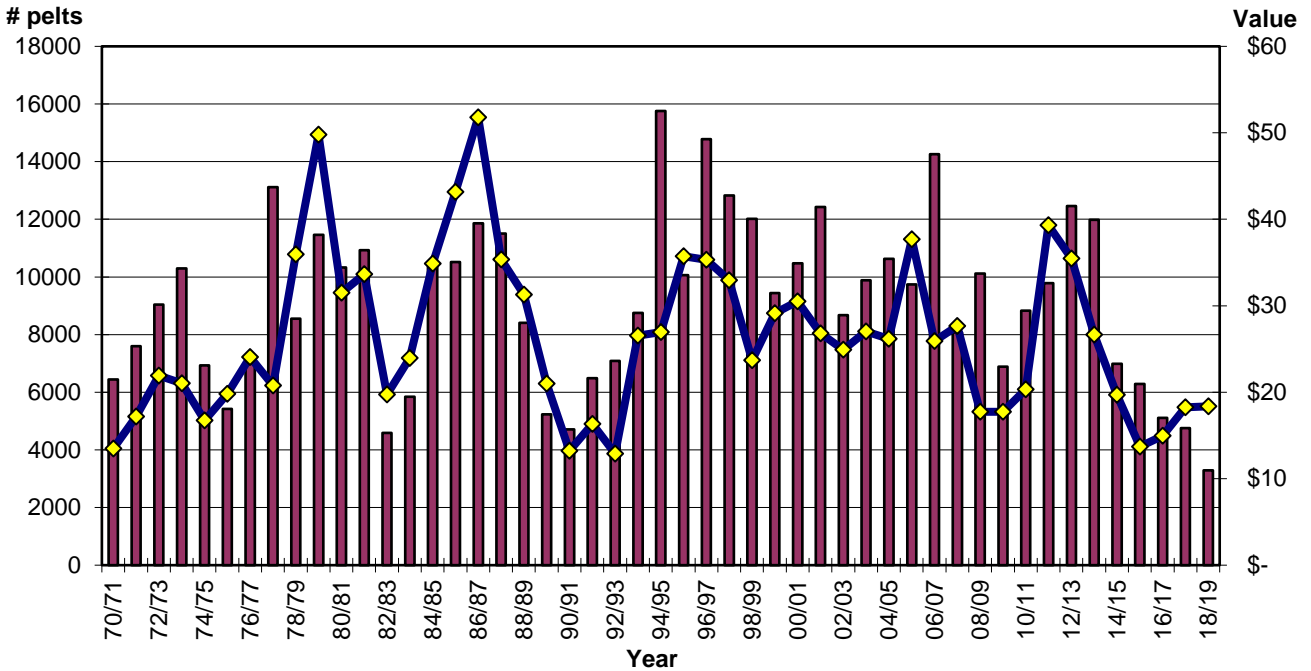
### BOBCAT PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2018/19



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

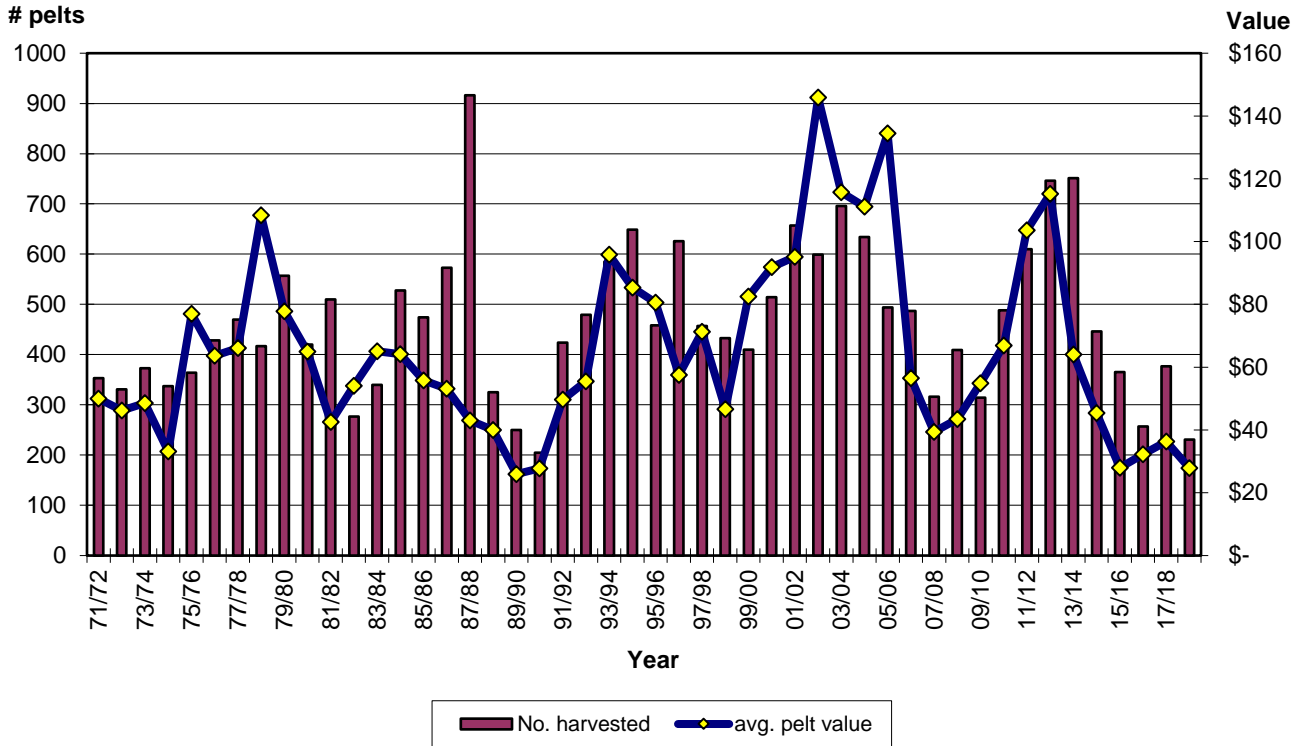
No. harvested
  avg. pelt value

### BEAVER PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2018/19

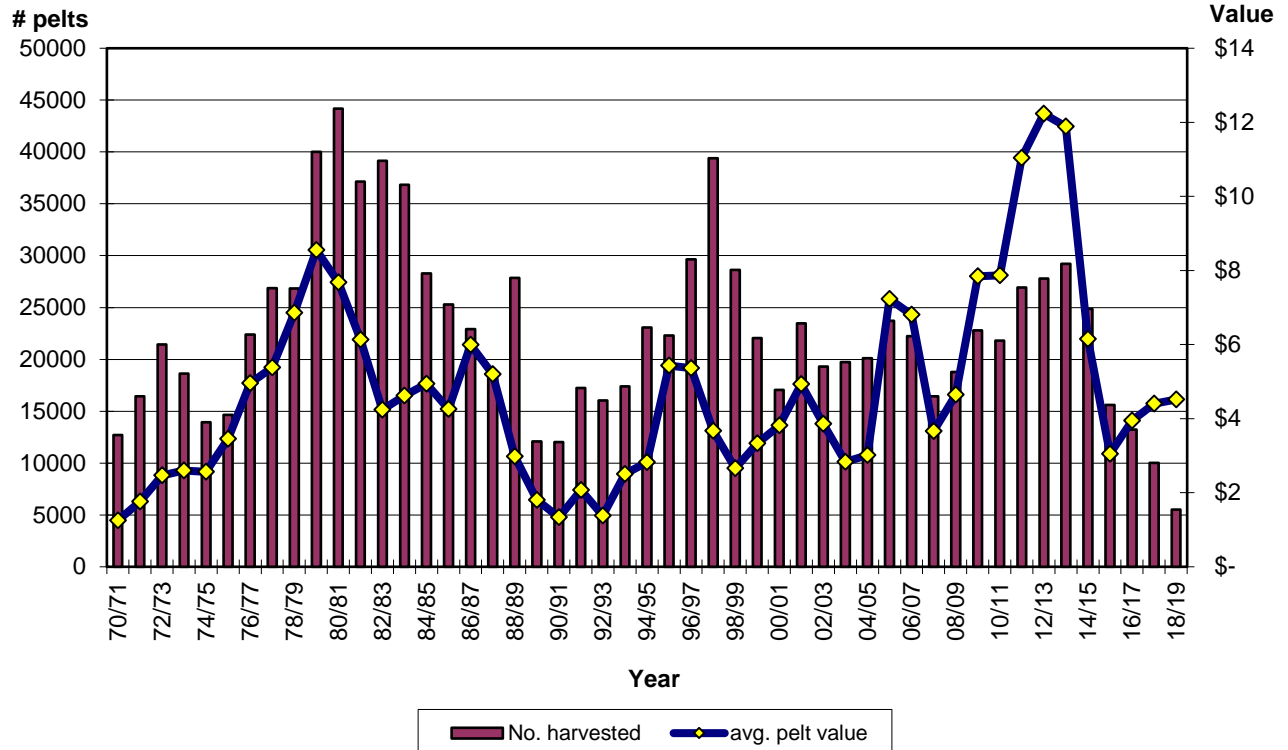


No. harvested
  avg. pelt value

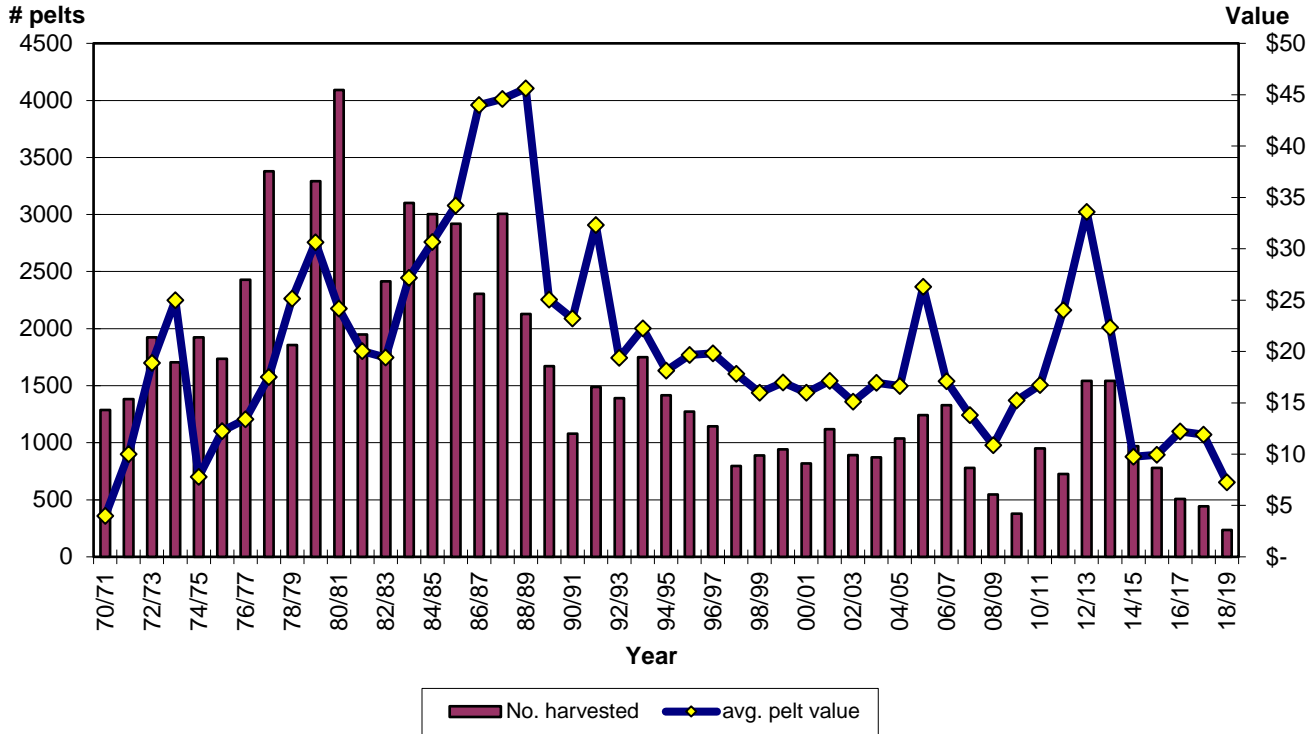
### OTTER PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2018/19



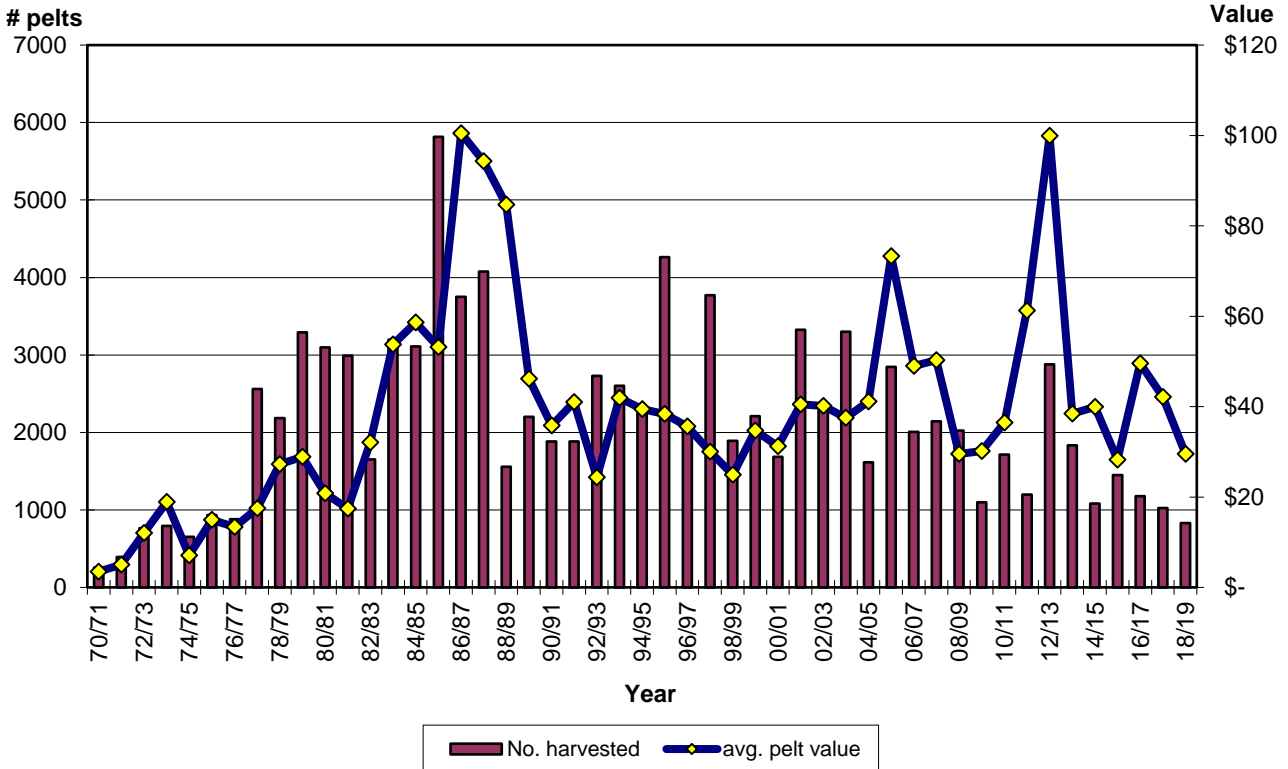
### MUSKRAT PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2018/19



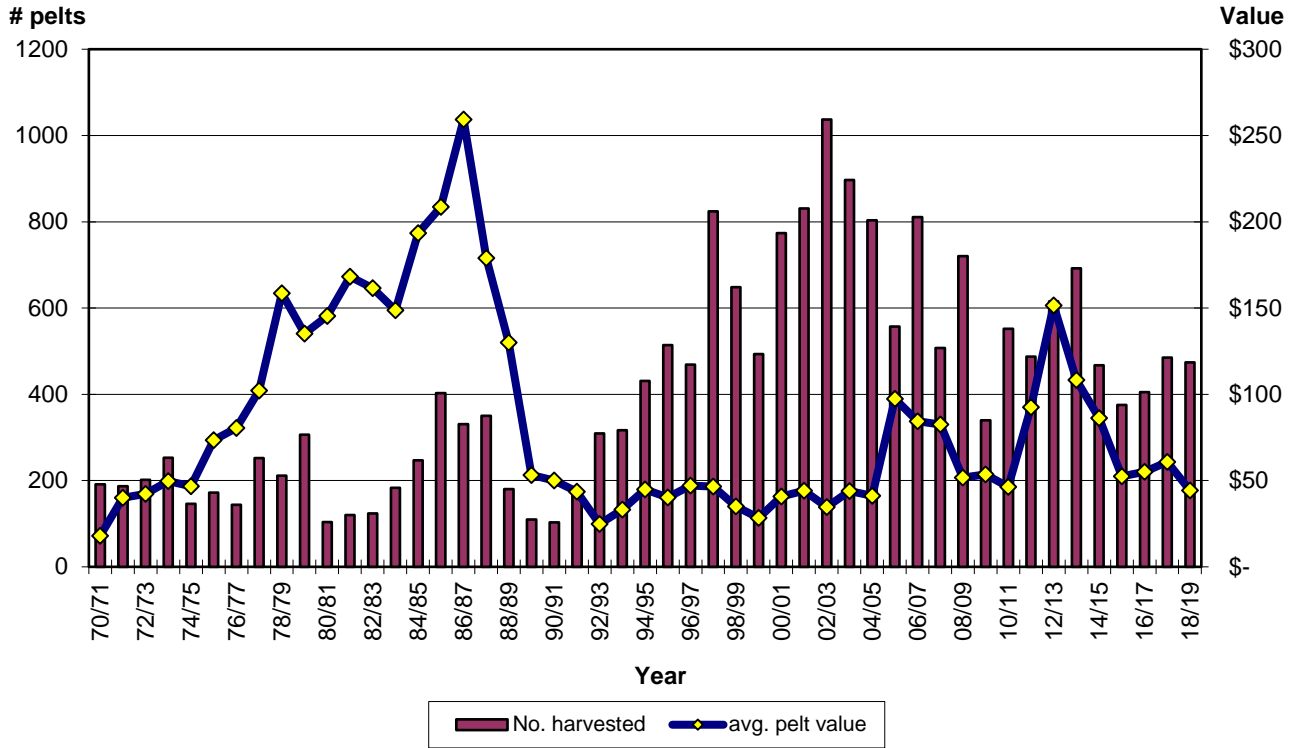
### MINK PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2018/19



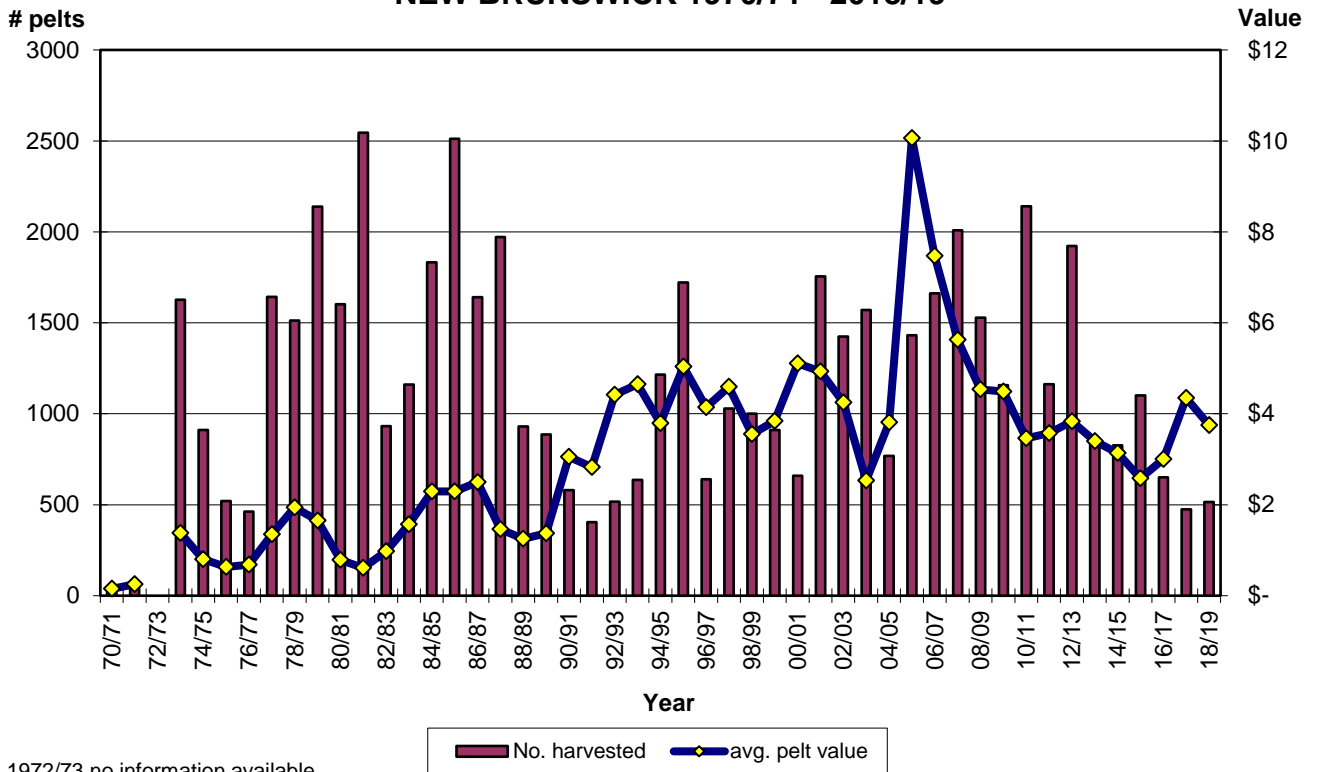
### MARTEN PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2018/19



### FISHER PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2018/19

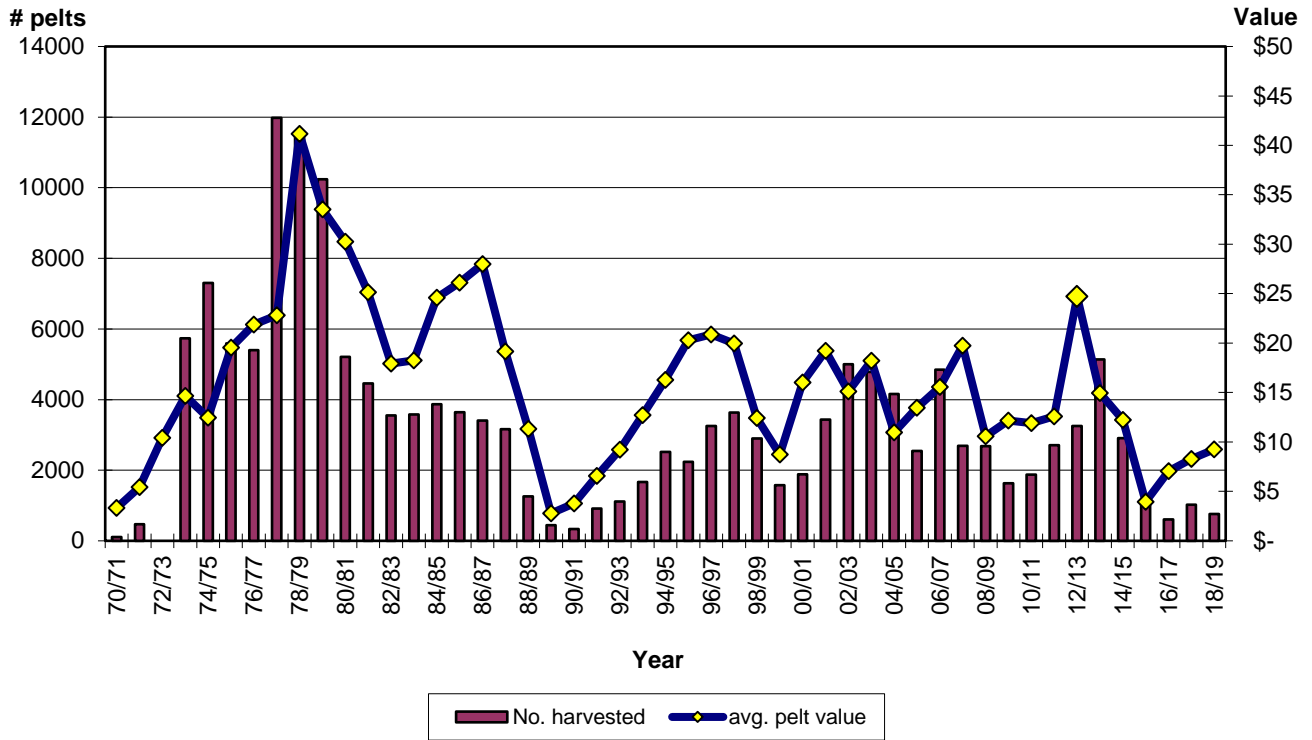


### WEASEL PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2018/19

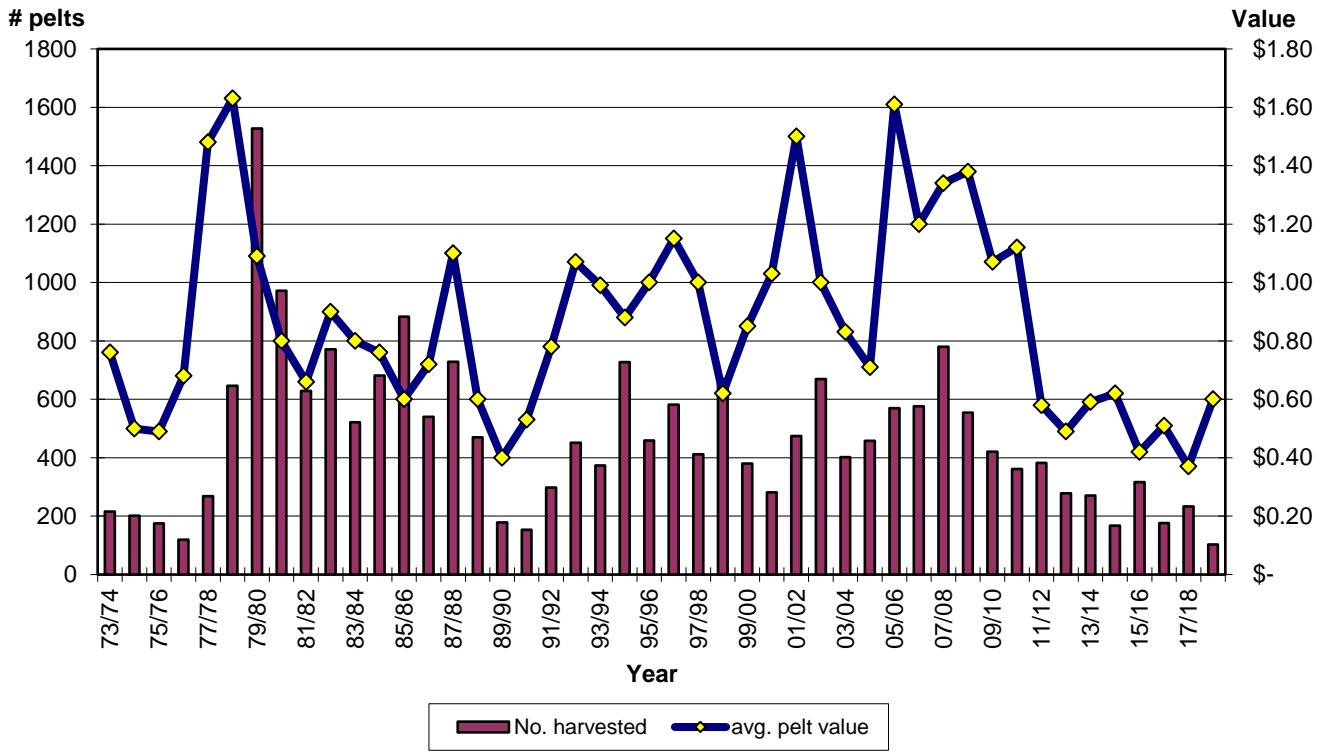


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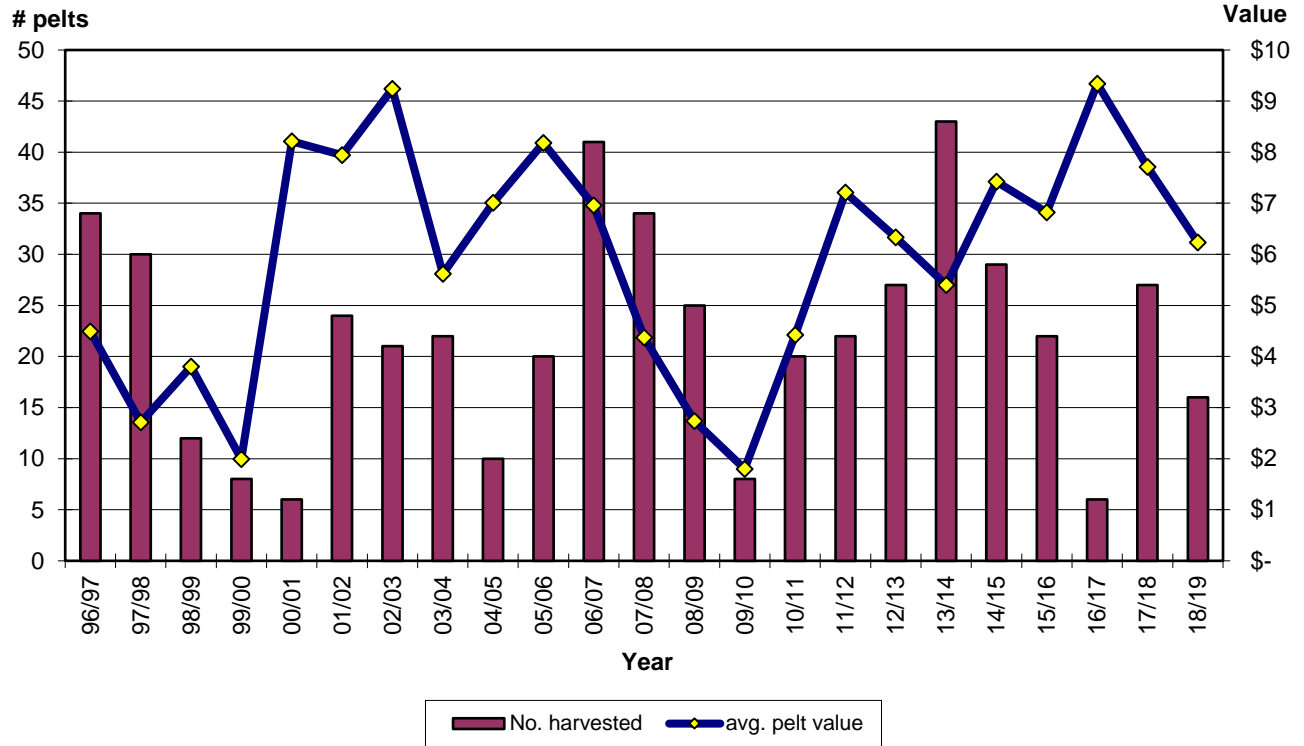
### RACCOON PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2018/19



### SQUIRREL PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2018/19



## SKUNK PELT EXPORTS AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1996/97 - 2018/19





**Bobcat, Otter, Marten and Fisher Harvest by Wildlife Management Zone 2017/18  
and 2018/19**

WMZ	OTTER		MARTEN		BOBCAT		FISHER	
	2017/2018	2018/19	2017/2018	2018/19	2017/2018	2018/19	2017/2018	2018/19
1	1	2	5	19	0	0	23	35
2	12	20	31	31	0	0	34	38
3	2	9	56	63	0	0	20	7
4	12	3	85	49	0	0	30	30
5	20	7	81	59	0	1	26	15
6	4	9	57	64	0	0	39	32
7	11	10	42	40	0	0	20	9
8	21	24	138	94	1	0	28	21
9	3	6	21	23	0	0	0	0
10	20	8	15	37	5	8	42	46
11	15	8	25	11	1	4	14	11
12	17	13	69	54	1	3	11	16
13	8	7	56	115	19	6	6	17
14	3	10	1	0	7	1	3	10
15	9	5	69	63	12	10	21	13
16	29	10	87	37	28	15	50	40
17	12	8	12	2	7	11	17	9
18	7	4	0	0	12	15	9	12
19	4	9	0	0	12	5	0	5
20	45	22	58	62	44	44	13	36
21	38	15	0	0	26	8	5	8
22	12	9	0	0	30	20	2	1
23	13	5	0	0	36	22	4	1
24	11	2	0	0	11	20	5	9
25	21	5	0	0	20	17	1	0
27	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unk	19	20	66	41	14	9	39	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>485</b>

## TENATIVE 2019-2020 FUR HARVESTING SEASONS

Zones	Species	Season	Open	Close
1 to 27	Rabbit <sup>1</sup>	Hunting, Snaring	Oct. 1	Feb. 29
	Squirrel	Hunting	Oct. 1	Feb. 29
		Trapping	Oct. 26	Feb. 29
	Raccoon	Hunting with hounds	Aug. 5	Dec. 31
		Hunting, Trapping (Restraint only) <sup>2</sup>	Oct. 1	Dec. 31
		Trapping	Oct. 26	Dec. 31
	Weasel	Trapping	Oct. 26	Feb. 29
Skunk	Hunting	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	
Spring Muskrat	Trapping	Mar. 21	May 15	
1 to 26 <sup>3</sup>	Coyote, Fox	Hunting, Trapping	Oct. 1	Feb. 29
		Snaring	Nov. 16	Feb. 29
1 to 25 <sup>4</sup>	Bobcat <sup>5</sup>	Trapping, Snaring, Hunting	Nov. 16	Feb. 29
1 to 13, 15 to 17, 20	Marten, Fisher, Skunk	Trapping	Nov. 30	Dec. 14
14, 18, 19, 21 to 27	Fisher, Skunk	Trapping	Nov. 30	Dec. 21
1 to 12	Otter	Trapping, Snaring	Oct. 19	Jan. 31
	Beaver	Trapping	Oct. 19	Jan. 31
		Snaring	Oct. 21	Feb. 29
	Muskrat (fall), Mink	Trapping	Oct. 19	Jan. 31
13 to 27	Otter	Trapping, Snaring	Nov. 2	Jan. 31
	Beaver	Trapping	Nov. 2	Jan. 31
		Snaring	Nov. 2	Feb. 29
	Muskrat (fall), Mink	Trapping	Nov. 2	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 26<sup>th</sup>

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 31<sup>st</sup>