

## **2012-13 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey**

### **Summary**

A **2012-13 New Jersey Trapper Harvest Survey** was mailed to 1195 licensed trappers requesting harvest, recreational and socio-economic information for the 2012-13 trapping season. The mean age of licensed trappers as of November 15, 2012 was 47.0 years. Resident trappers are predominantly male (99.7 percent), and live in every county of the state with a tendency to reside in rural areas. Seventeen surveys were returned as undeliverable (all were correctly addressed) and 450 responses were received by May 15, 2013 (37.6 percent response). The majority of survey respondents are affiliated with a statewide (58.7 percent) or national (16.8 percent) trapping organization. Trapping is a lifelong activity and respondents had between 5.9-23.7 years of prior trapping experience depending on the target species, and a mean 22.2 years of overall experience. Annual expenditures on trapping equipment and supplies during 2012-13 were estimated at \$247,162 (mean \$326 per trapper) and overall investment was estimated at \$2.67 million (mean \$3,519 per trapper). The number of active trappers was estimated at 759, with most trappers targeting raccoon (66.1 percent), red fox (56.6 percent), muskrat (54.5 percent), and mink (32.9 percent). Survey results estimated that 21,229 muskrats, 6,231 raccoons, 5,967 red fox, 1,086 mink, 1,121 opossum, 164 gray fox, 295 skunks, and 5 weasels were harvested during the 2012-13 season. According to mandatory coyote and beaver-otter check station reports, trappers also harvested 708 beaver, 52 river otter and 243 coyotes. The total estimated raw pelt value of the 2012-13 harvest was \$576,263 based on reported fur sales.

This survey was conducted as part of **Job III-B. Hunter and Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey**. This job is included within **Grant Number W-68-R-16, New Jersey Wildlife Research and Management: Project III. Upland Wildlife and Furbearers**.

### **Methods**

New Jersey instituted an electronic licensing system in June 2006. A listing of 2012 trapping license purchasers was obtained from the system vendor, Automated License Systems, Inc. (ALS). The 2012 file contained 1161 unique records plus 34 qualified Youth trappers licensed in previous years were added to the database. Age and demographic analyses were completed on all 1195 individuals.

A survey packet was mailed to 1195 trappers by April 1, 2013 (including prior Youth Trappers and Farmers). Seventeen questionnaires (1.4 percent) were returned by the postal authorities as undeliverable, all of which were forwarded to corrected address, and 1178 were presumed delivered. One survey was returned with responses unusable. Trapper group affiliation, prior experience and activity were based on the 450 (38.2 percent) responses that were correctly completed and returned by May 15, 2013.

Harvest and economic data analyses were based on the 286 survey respondents (23.9 percent) that actively participated in the 2012-13 trapping season.

### **Results**

#### **Age**

The age class of licensed trappers (as of 15 November 2012) is presented in Table 1. Ages ranged from 12 to 87 years, with a mean age of  $47.1 \pm 0.0$  SE years, and the simple majority (14.9 percent) of licensed trappers were those greater than 65 years of age. Age class of trappers for 2011-12, 2010-11, 2009-10 and 2008-09 are presented for comparison purposes.

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Table 1. Age class of trappers licensed in New Jersey during the 2012-13 trapping season.

Age Class	Licensed trappers (2012-13)	Percent of licensed trappers (2012-13)	Licensed trappers (2011-12)	Licensed trappers (2010-11)	Licensed trappers (2009-10)	Licensed trappers (2008-09)
<16	58	4.85%	42	90	76	57
16 to 19	42	3.51%	35	50	39	37
20 to 24	35	2.93%	39	28	33	23
25 to 29	60	5.02%	57	58	46	36
30 to 34	68	5.69%	62	55	52	52
35 to 39	85	7.11%	69	75	88	76
40 to 44	123	10.29%	124	111	98	101
45 to 49	165	13.81%	152	128	134	140
50 to 54	146	12.22%	137	123	117	112
55 to 59	123	10.29%	103	87	88	88
60 to 64	112	9.37%	105	61	105	99
65+	178	14.90%	145	91	111	95
Unknown	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1195</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1070</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>916</b>

### Gender

Information on trapper gender was obtained from the database provided by ALS. Nearly all (1164 or 97.4 percent) of 2012 license holders were male and 31 (2.6 percent) were female, compared to 1043 male and 27 female trappers licensed in 2011.

### Occupation

Information on trapper occupation was not solicited during the current survey. Occupations for 77.1 percent of 2004-05 respondents could be categorized into three of the nine groupings: Trade (33.7 percent), Professional (22.9 percent) and Retired (20.5 percent). These three groups constituted 68.2 percent of the 2003-04 responses.

### Residency

The estimated number of resident trappers by county (2013 v. 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009) is presented in Table 2. Nearly all (98.7 percent) of licensed trappers are New Jersey residents, while non-resident trappers resided in neighboring Maine (1), New York (2) and Pennsylvania (12) and Wisconsin (1). Resident trappers live in every county of the state and have a tendency to reside in predominantly rural areas. The majority (61.9 percent) of New Jersey's resident trappers live in the western half of the State either in Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties (34.4 percent) or in Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex and Warren counties (27.5 percent).

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Table 2. The number of licensed resident trappers in New Jersey, by county

County	Number of trappers (2012-13)	Percent of licensed trappers (2012-13)	Number of trappers (2011-12)	Number of trappers (2010-11)	Number of trappers (2009-10)	Number of trappers (2008-09)
Atlantic	70	5.94%	54	42	42	41
Bergen	29	2.46%	25	28	27	27
Burlington	83	7.04%	75	65	77	77
Camden	44	3.73%	38	30	31	32
Cape May	37	3.14%	29	37	37	36
Cumberland	128	10.86%	139	122	117	105
Essex	10	0.85%	5	7	5	7
Gloucester	81	6.87%	73	66	76	59
Hudson	1	0.08%	2	4	3	3
Hunterdon	64	5.43%	52	40	41	40
Mercer	29	2.46%	26	18	21	22
Middlesex	46	3.90%	39	34	46	24
Monmouth	40	3.39%	33	37	31	33
Morris	54	4.58%	56	46	41	34
Ocean	75	6.36%	61	47	64	54
Passaic	38	3.22%	26	34	38	33
Salem	113	9.58%	100	87	90	94
Somerset	24	2.04%	24	20	20	17
Sussex	134	11.37%	108	102	101	89
Union	7	0.59%	10	10	4	8
Warren	72	6.11%	66	60	55	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>1179</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>1041</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>897</b>

### Affiliation

New Jersey has two statewide trapping organizations, the New Jersey Fur Harvesters (NJFH) and the New Jersey Trappers Association (NJTA). Affiliation of respondents in either organization is presented in Table 3. Nearly one half (49.3 percent) of survey respondents is affiliated with one (23.1 percent NJFH, 26.2 percent NJTA) or both (9.4 percent) of these organizations. A small percent of respondents (15.9) belong to a national trapping organization (e.g., Fur Takers of America, National Trappers Association). A large portion of (38.8 percent) respondents were unaffiliated with any trapping organization. Based on survey results, an estimated 276 trappers were NJFH members, 313 trappers were NJTA members and 29 trappers were unaffiliated in 2012. The current reported membership of the NJFH is 448 (R. Diehl, personal communication on 10 June 2013) and 348 for the NJTA (J. DeStephano, personal communication on 04 Apr 2013). It should be noted that each organization lists members who may not be licensed to trap in New Jersey or family memberships that include more than one licensed trapper.

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Table 3. Affiliation in New Jersey trapping organizations

Affiliation	Estimated affiliation (2012)	Estimated affiliation (2011)	Estimated affiliation (2010)	Estimated affiliation (2009)	Estimated affiliation (2008)
NJ Fur Harvesters	276	283	154	188	171
NJ Trappers Assoc.	313	280	187	177	171
Both NJFH and NJTA	113	93	81	80	91
Unknown			46		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>433</b>
Unaffiliated in NJ	29	348	29	33	37
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>470</b>
No response	464	45	460	509	445
<b>Total</b>	<b>1195 licenses</b>	<b>1049 licensees</b>	<b>1061 licensees</b>	<b>987 licensees</b>	<b>916 licensees</b>

### Prior Experience

Prior to the 1972-73 season, it was unlawful to trap any fur-bearing animal without possessing a Trapping and Firearm Hunting License. This requirement did not apply to occupant farmers and their immediate family members and to bona fide residents of the State under 14 years that required no license to trap according to state law. A separate Trapping License was provided for residents (age 12 and older) and non-residents (age 14 and older) in 1972. A previous year's license or a certificate showing successful completion in a trapper education course has been required since 1978. Junior Trapping Licenses were required for residents between the ages of 12 and 15, inclusive, from 1980 through 1999. Since 2000, trapping licenses are required for all persons age 16 year or older. Survey respondents indicated years of trapping experience prior to the 2012-13 season for each target species ranging from 0 to 70 years (Table 4).

Table 4. Years of experience of licensed trappers prior to the 2012-13 trapping season

Years of experience prior to 2012	Estimated number of active trappers										
	Total	Beaver	Coyote	Gray fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Raccoon	Red fox	River otter	Skunk
0 years	12	0	4	1	1	1	0	3	2	0	0
1-5 years	248	82	94	31	89	108	61	167	163	21	42
6-10 years	71	13	37	13	21	19	19	37	35	8	5
11-15 years	34	5	3	3	13	13	5	13	13	0	0
16-20 years	30	11	5	3	5	24	5	19	11	5	3
21-25 years	12	5	0	3	5	8	0	8	3	0	0
26-30 years	20	3	5	8	8	21	11	24	21	0	3
31-35 years	35	3	3	3	0	13	8	19	11	0	5
36-40 years	52	8	0	3	8	5	5	16	21	0	0
41-45 years	34	3	0	3	0	19	8	16	11	0	3
46-50 years	61	0	0	3	8	27	5	16	3	0	3
>50 years	91	0	0	0	13	42	8	21	8	0	8
Unknown	57	37	51	29	77	114	56	143	130	29	19
<b>Mean experience</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>15.9</b>
<b>Est. active trappers</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>90</b>

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### License Buyers

The Division's electronic licensing system, administered by Automated Licensing Systems (ALS), was fully functional since calendar year 2007. According to ALS, 1160 trapping licenses were issued for calendar year 2012 compared to 1050 licenses in 2011, 1061 licenses in 2010 and 932 trapping licenses in 2009. A breakdown of license sales is presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Summary of trapping license sales, 2012

License type	2012 Issuance	Percent of 2012 Total	2011 Issuance	2010 Issuance	2009 Issuance
Non-resident	9	0.78%	7	5	6
Resident	946	81.55%	859	815	759
Resident (Disable Veteran)	162	13.97%	138	132	128
Youth (< 16 years of age)	43	3.71%	46	109	37
Unknown	0	0.00%	0	0	2
Total	1160	100.00%	1050	1061	932

### Active Trappers

Two hundred eighty-six respondents (63.6 percent) participated in trapping activities during the 121-day, 2012-13 season that began 15 November 2012 and concluded 15 March 2013. An estimated 759 trappers were active during the season.

### Trap Types

Steel-jawed leghold type traps, such as coil springs and long springs, have been prohibited in New Jersey since 1985. Box traps, Conibear™ traps, diver traps and body-gripping cable restraints are currently legal for use, and active trappers seldom utilize one trap type to the exclusion of all others. Conibear™ traps were used by the majority of active respondents (73.9 percent), followed by cable restraints (62.8 percent), box traps (46.4 percent) and diver traps (19.3 percent). Based on survey responses, there were an estimated 1,530 box, 9,446 Conibear™, 638 diver and 8,420 cable restraints in operation during 2007-08. Trap type usage information was not solicited in the 2012-13 survey instrument.

### Expenditures and Investment

Active survey respondents spent an average \$326 on items such as gasoline, food, clothing, trapping equipment and supplies (but excluding license and permit fees) during 2012-13, and had an average total investment of \$3,519. Inactive survey respondents spent an average \$158 during 2012-13, and had an average total investment of \$1,728. Total investment of all trappers is estimated at \$2.67 million. The NJDFW received \$37,419 in revenue from license sales and \$3,677 in permit sales and application fees during calendar year 2012 (total revenue \$41,096).

### 2012-11 Fur Harvest

A summary of the 2012-13 fur harvest is presented in Table 6 and Table 7. An estimated 37,043 animals from eleven game species open for trapping were harvested. No harvest of nutria was reported by survey respondents. Nearly all (90.4 percent) of the animals harvested consisted of muskrat (57.3.7 percent), raccoon (16.6 percent) and red fox (16.1 percent). The raw fur value of

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these three species represents 89.1 percent of the total raw fur value, estimated at \$494,805 at the local level. Information by species is also presented.

Table 6. New Jersey fur harvest by species, 2012-13

Species	Number of 2012-13 active respondents	Estimated number of active trappers (2012-13)	Mean experience (years)	Mean days trapped (2012-13)	Estimated total trap-nights	Estimated harvest	Estimated value (US\$)
Beaver	64	170	8.60	15.35	14,098	708 <sup>1</sup>	17,294
Coyote	76	202	5.91	40.80	189,292	243 <sup>2</sup>	6,338
Gray fox	38	101	14.74	38.06	108,054	164	4,811
Mink	94	250	14.82	36.00	231,864	1,086	23,582
Muskrat	156	414	23.72	29.56	485,808	21,229	205,292
Nutria	0	Unknown				0	
Opossum	72	191	17.25	43.69	106,565	1,121	2,820
Raccoon	189	502	17.17	34.28	295,382	6,231	96,675
Red fox	162	430	14.65	42.93	641,318	5,967	213,676
River otter	24	64	13.00	24.00	1,466	52 <sup>1</sup>	3,358
Skunk	34	90	15.85	39.85	44,140	295	2,417
Weasel	1	3	43.00	0.00	0.00	5	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>22.2</b>			<b>37,115</b>	<b>576,263</b>

<sup>1</sup> Harvest as reported at mandatory beaver and otter check stations

<sup>2</sup> Harvest as reported by mandatory call-in to regional Division Law Enforcement offices

Table 7. Estimated New Jersey fur harvest by county and species, 2012-13.

County	Beaver <sup>1</sup>	Coyote <sup>2</sup>	Gray fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Raccoon	Red fox	River otter <sup>1</sup>	Skunk
Atlantic	22	54	49	19	850	32	127	189	7	32
Bergen	7	1	0	5	786	5	92	40	1	8
Burlington	126	9	16	27	826	11	708	528	3	50
Camden	31	1	3	3	101	0	137	16	1	0
Cape May	2	9	0	11	592	0	86	0	8	0
Cumberland	0	15	35	21	3030	88	481	279	11	16
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucester	30	1	3	5	868	48	164	117	0	8
Hudson	0	0	0	0	430	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	18	6	0	122	146	104	764	1221	1	24
Mercer	27	0	0	5	29	0	75	42	0	0
Middlesex	28	1	0	0	382	13	148	93	1	5
Monmouth	14	1	0	8	117	56	253	226	0	0
Morris	83	9	0	77	1219	3	81	396	5	4
Ocean	30	18	11	3	80	5	134	42	5	5
Passaic	27	1	0	35	271	61	156	35	0	3
Salem	16	19	8	48	4807	24	336	42	3	8
Somerset	7	11	0	211	210	29	280	850	0	29
Sussex	218	31	0	112	568	226	461	428	6	5
Union	0	0	16	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	22	56	14	270	579	98	628	897	0	13
Unknown	0	0	8	104	5335	318	1119	526	0	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>21,229</b>	<b>1121</b>	<b>6,231</b>	<b>5,967</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>295</b>

<sup>1</sup> Harvest as reported at mandatory beaver and otter check stations

<sup>2</sup> Harvest as reported by mandatory call-in to regional Division Law Enforcement offices

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### Changes in Trapping Season Lengths and Regulations

No changes were enacted regarding season lengths or other regulations for the 2012-13 season.

#### **Beaver** (*Castor canadensis*)

The standard beaver trapping season (26 Dec. 2012 to 9 Feb. 2013, 46 days) except on the 23 State Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where beaver trapping was permitted from 01 January – 09 February 2013 (40 days). A special, beaver trapping permit was required in addition to a trapping license. Three hundred sixty-two applications were received for the 186 available permits. All permits were awarded via lottery (186), but only 165 permits were actually claimed and 23 permits were sold over-the-counter bringing the total issuance to 188. One hundred and eleven trappers (59.0 percent) were successful in harvesting at least one beaver and 44 trappers (23.4 percent) were successful in harvesting the permit bag limit of eight beavers. Successful trappers were required to present their beaver pelts for examination at regional check stations on Saturday, 23 February 2013. Permit holders harvested 627 beavers. Fourteen site-specific permits and 1 Beaver Damage Control Permit were issued and resulted in the harvest of 81 beavers, bringing the total 2012-13 harvest to 708. Additional information on the 2012-13 beaver harvest may be found in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Performance Report W-68-R-16 Job III-C entitled Beaver Distribution and Population Trends and River Otter Harvest.

Based on active survey respondents (n = 64), there are 170 active beaver trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 8.6 years of experience trapping beaver. Active respondents trapped a mean 15.3 days using a mean 5.3 traps per day and 73.4 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. The majority of the harvest (86.0 percent) was taken by a 330 Conibear™ type trap. Snares accounted for 12.1 percent of the harvest. Total trap-nights were estimated at 14,098 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 5.02/100 trap-nights (19.9 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single beaver). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$24.43 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2012-13 beaver harvest was \$17,294 based on reported fur sales.

#### **Coyote** (*Canis latrans*)

The eastern coyote trapping season was 15 November 2012 – 15 March 2013 (121 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2013 (74 days). State regulations require successful trappers to report their harvest to a regional, Division Law Enforcement office within 24 hours. Two hundred forty-three coyotes were reported by trappers in 2012-13.

Based on active survey respondents (n = 76), there are 202 active coyote trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 5.9 years of experience trapping coyote. Active respondents trapped a mean 40.8 days using a mean 18.8 traps per day and 84.5 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 189,292 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.13/100 trap-nights (779.0 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single coyote). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$26.08 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2012-13 coyote harvest was \$6,338 based on reported fur sales.

#### **Gray fox** (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

The gray fox trapping season was 15 November 2012 – 15 March 2013 (121 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2013 (74 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 38), there

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are 101 active gray fox trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 14.7 years of experience trapping gray fox. Active respondents trapped a mean 38.1 days using a mean 24.8 traps per day and 94.3 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 108,054 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.15/100 trap-nights (660.3 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single gray fox). An estimated 164 gray fox were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$29.40 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2012-13 gray fox harvest was \$4,811 based on reported fur sales.

### **Mink (*Mustela vison*)**

The mink trapping season was 15 November 2012 – 15 March 2013 (121 days) in the Northern Zone, 01 December 2012 – 15 March 2013 (105 days) in the Southern Zone, and 01 January – 15 March 2013 (74 days) on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases. Based on active survey respondents (n = 94), there are 250 active mink trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 14.8 years of experience trapping mink. Active respondents trapped a mean 36.0 days using a mean 20.9 traps per day and 84.1 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 231,864 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.47/100 trap-nights (213.5 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single mink). An estimated 1,086 mink were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$21.71 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2012-13 mink harvest was \$23,582 based on reported fur sales.

### **Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)**

The muskrat trapping season was 15 November 2012 – 15 March 2013 (121 days) in the Northern Zone, 01 December 2012 – 15 March 2013 (105 days) in the Southern Zone, and 01 January – 15 March 2013 (74 days) on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases. Based on active survey respondents (n = 156), there are 414 active muskrat trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 23.7 years of experience trapping muskrat. Active respondents trapped a mean 29.6 days using a mean 33.7 traps per day and 82.9 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 485,808 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 4.37/100 trap-nights (22.9 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single muskrat). An estimated 21,229 muskrats were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$9.67 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2012-13 muskrat harvest was \$205,292 based on reported fur sales.

### **Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginianus*)**

The Virginia opossum trapping season was 15 November 2012 – 15 March 2013 (121 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2013 (74 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 72), there are 191 active opossum trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 17.2 years of experience trapping opossum. Active respondents trapped a mean 43.7 days using a mean 9.5 traps per day and 80.0 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 106,565 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 1.05/100 trap-nights (95.1 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single opossum). An estimated 1,121 opossum were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$2.52 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2012-13 opossum harvest was \$2,820 based on reported fur sales.



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### **Raccoon** (*Procyon lotor*)

The raccoon trapping season was 15 November 2012 – 15 March 2013 (121 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2013 (74 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 189), there are 502 active raccoon trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 17.2 years of experience trapping raccoon. Active respondents trapped a mean 35.8 days using a mean 14.4 traps per day and 88.3 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 295,382 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 2.11/100 trap-nights (47.4 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single raccoon). An estimated 6,231 raccoons were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$15.51 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2012-13 raccoon harvest was \$96,675 based on reported fur sales.

### **Red fox** (*Vulpes vulpes*)

The red fox trapping season was 15 November 2012 – 15 March 2013 (121 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2013 (74 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 162), there are 430 active red fox trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 14.6 years of experience trapping red fox. Active respondents trapped a mean 42.9 days using a mean 26.1 traps per day and 81.9 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 641,318 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.93/100 trap-nights (107.5 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single red fox). An estimated 5,967 red fox were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$35.81 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2012-13 red fox harvest was \$213,676 based on reported fur sales.

### **River otter** (*Lontra canadensis*)

The standard otter trapping season (26 Dec. 2012 to 9 Feb. 2013, 46 days), except on the 23 State Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where beaver trapping was permitted from 01 January – 23 February 2011 (40 days). A special, river otter trapping permit was required in addition to a trapping license. Two hundred ninety-eight applications were received but only 99 permits were claimed and 7 were sold over-the-counter bringing the total permit issuance to 106. Fifty-two trappers (49.1 percent) were successful in harvesting the season bag limit of one otter. Successful trappers were required to present their otter pelts for examination at regional check stations on Saturday, 23 February 2013. Additional information on the 2012-13 river otter harvest may be found in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Performance Report W-68-R-16 Job III-C entitled Beaver Distribution and Population Trends and River Otter Harvest.

Based on active survey respondents (n = 24), there are 64 active otter trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 13.0 years of experience trapping river otter. Active respondents trapped a mean 7.9 days using a mean 2.3 traps per day and 77.3 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. The majority of the harvest (90.4 percent) was taken by a Conibear™ type trap (330 – 59.6%; 280 – 17.3%; 220 – 11.5%; 160 – 1.9%) while snares accounted for 9.6 percent. Total trap-nights were estimated at 1,466 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 3.55/100 trap-nights (28.2 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single otter). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$64.57 and the estimated value of the 2012-13 otter harvest was \$3,358 based on reported fur sales.

## 2012-13 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

### **Striped skunk** (*Mephitis mephitis*)

The striped skunk trapping season was 15 November 2012 – 15 March 2013 (121 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2011 (74 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 34), there are 90 active skunk trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 15.8 years of experience trapping skunk. Active respondents trapped a mean 39.8 days using a mean 14.9 traps per day and 92.3 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 44,140 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.67/100 trap-nights (149.7 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single skunk). An estimated 295 skunks were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$8.20 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2012-13 skunk harvest was \$2,417 based on reported fur sales.

## 2012-13 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

### ANNUAL NEW JERSEY TRAPPER SURVEY, 2012-13

Reports are **DUE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30**. Please submit your report **WHETHER OR NOT ANY TRAPPING WAS DONE OR ANY FURS WERE TAKEN**. This report is for animals taken **BY YOU ONLY** during the legal trapping season. If you have any questions, please call (908) 735-7040 or (609) 306-4545.

NJ County of Residence		<b>Did you trap:</b>	Yes	No	(Circle one)	<b>Please check if a member of:</b>
	(If non-resident, please provide State)					NJFH
Age as of 15 Nov 2012:	_____ years	<b>Did you take fur:</b>	Yes	No	(Circle one)	NJTA
						Natl Trapping Org
How long have you been trapping?	_____ years					

In the table below, please indicate each **COUNTY** you trapped, **and**:

- 1) the number of each species taken; 2) the number of traps actually set for the species you caught; 3) the number of nights the traps were set

For **each species** trapped for, please indicate the number of years you have trapped for species and the total amount received for raw pelts, if known.

SPECIES:	PRIMARY COUNTY TRAPPED:			SECONDARY COUNTY TRAPPED:			HOW MANY YEARS TRAPPING THIS SPECIES?	TOTAL \$ AMOUNT REC'D
	HARVEST	# TRAPS SET	HOW MANY NIGHTS	HARVEST	# TRAPS SET	HOW MANY NIGHTS		
BEAVER								\$
BOBCAT								\$
COYOTE								\$
FISHER								\$
GRAY FOX								\$
MINK								\$
MUSKRAT								\$
NUTRIA								\$
OPPOSUM								\$
OTTER								\$
RACCOON								\$
RED FOX								\$
SKUNK								\$
WEASEL								\$

Excluding license & permit fees, how much did you estimate spending on trapping related activities this past season? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How much would you estimate you have invested in trapping equipment and supplies since you began trapping? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you, the survey is now complete.** Please return the survey using the pre-paid envelope provided. The Division values your input and the information you provide. If you would like a copy of the survey results, email a request to the Wildlife Biologist at [Andrew.Burnett@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Andrew.Burnett@dep.state.nj.us) and type "Trapper Survey Results" in the Subject bar.