

## **2011-12 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey**

### **Summary**

A **2011-12 New Jersey Trapper Harvest Survey** was mailed to 1071 licensed trappers requesting harvest, recreational and socio-economic information for the 2011-12 trapping season. The mean age of licensed trappers as of November 15, 2011 was 46.9 years. Resident trappers are predominantly male (97.8 percent), and live in every county of the state with a tendency to reside in rural areas. Seventeen surveys were returned as undeliverable and 460 responses were received by May 15, 2011 (43.7 percent response). The majority of survey respondents are affiliated with a statewide (53.7 percent) or national (15.2 percent) trapping organization. Trapping is a lifelong activity and respondents had between 3.0-24.2 years of prior trapping experience depending on the target species, and a mean 23.0 years of overall experience. Annual expenditures on trapping equipment and supplies during 2011-12 were estimated at \$375,028 (mean \$357 per trapper) and overall investment was estimated at \$2.76 million (mean \$2,630 per trapper). The number of active trappers was estimated at 680, with most trappers targeting raccoon (70.5 percent), muskrat (56.4 percent), red fox (53.4 percent) and mink (28.9 percent). Survey results estimated that 44,749 muskrats, 7,970 raccoons, 5,311 red fox, 1,496 mink, 935 opossum, 296 skunks, 105 gray fox and 7 weasels were harvested during the 2011-12 season. According to mandatory coyote and beaver-otter check station reports, trappers also harvested 711 beaver, 37 river otter and 162 coyote. The total estimated raw pelt value of the 2011-12 harvest was \$585,954 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-15, 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 2011 trapping license purchasers was obtained from the system vendor, Automated License Systems, Inc. (ALS). The 2011 file contained 1050 unique records, and 21 qualified Youth trappers licensed in previous years were added to the database. Age and demographic analyses were completed on all 1071 individuals.

A survey packet was mailed to 1071 trappers by April 1, 2011 (including prior Youth Trappers and Farmers). Seventeen questionnaires (1.6 percent) were returned by the postal authorities as undeliverable and 1054 were presumed delivered. Trapper group affiliation, prior experience and activity were based on the 460 (43.7 percent) responses that were correctly completed and returned by May 15, 2011.

Harvest and economic data analyses were based on the 298 survey respondents (28.3 percent) that actively participated in the 2011-12 trapping season.

### **Results**

#### **Age**

The age class of licensed trappers (as of 15 November 2011) is presented in Table 1. Ages ranged from 12 to 90 years, with a mean age of  $46.9 \pm 0.5$  SE years, and the median age was 48 years. Estimates of trapper numbers by age class for 2010-11, 2009-10, 2008-09 and 2007-08 are presented for comparison purposes.

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Table 1. Age class of trappers licensed in New Jersey during the 2011-12 trapping season.

Age Class	Licensed trappers (2011-12)	Percent of licensed trappers (2011-12)	Licensed trappers (2010-11)	Licensed trappers (2009-10)	Licensed trappers (2008-09)	Licensed trappers (2007-08)
<16	42	3.9	90	76	57	22
16 to 19	35	3.3	50	39	37	21
20 to 24	39	3.6	28	33	23	23
25 to 29	57	5.3	58	46	36	33
30 to 34	62	5.8	55	52	52	47
35 to 39	69	6.4	75	88	76	57
40 to 44	124	11.6	111	98	101	119
45 to 49	152	14.2	128	134	140	126
50 to 54	137	12.8	123	117	112	89
55 to 59	103	9.6	87	88	88	92
60 to 64	105	9.8	61	105	99	80
≥65	145	13.5	91	111	95	90
Unknown	0	0.00	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1070</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>791</b>
<b>Mean</b>	<b>46.9</b>		<b>42.8</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>47.4</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>48</b>		<b>45</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>

### Gender

Information on trapper gender was obtained from the database provided by ALS. Nearly all (1031 or 98.3 percent) of 2011 license holders were male and 18 (1.7 percent) were female, compared to 930 male and 27 female trappers licensed in 2010. Prior survey results estimated 963 males and 24 females were licensed trappers in 2009.

### 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 (2011 v. 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007) is presented in Table 2. Nearly all (99.2 percent) of licensed trappers are New Jersey residents, while non-resident trappers resided in neighboring Pennsylvania (21). Resident trappers live in every county of the state and have a tendency to reside in predominantly rural areas. The majority (63.8 percent) of New Jersey's resident trappers live in the western half of the State either in Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties (36.9 percent) or in Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex and Warren counties (26.9 percent).

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

County	Number of trappers (2011-12)	Percent of licensed trappers (2011-12)	Number of trappers (2010-11)	Number of trappers (2009-10)	Number of trappers (2008-09)	Number of trappers (2007-08)
Atlantic	54	5.1%	42	42	41	44
Bergen	25	2.4%	28	27	27	27
Burlington	75	7.1%	65	77	77	43
Camden	38	3.6%	30	31	32	26
Cape May	29	2.8%	37	37	36	39
Cumberland	139	13.3%	122	117	105	106
Essex	5	0.5%	7	5	7	3
Gloucester	73	7.0%	66	76	59	61
Hudson	2	0.2%	4	3	3	1
Hunterdon	52	5.0%	40	41	40	32
Mercer	26	2.5%	18	21	22	16
Middlesex	39	3.7%	34	46	24	29
Monmouth	33	3.1%	37	31	33	30
Morris	56	5.3%	46	41	34	44
Ocean	61	5.8%	47	64	54	40
Passaic	26	2.5%	34	38	33	26
Salem	100	9.5%	87	90	94	81
Somerset	24	2.3%	20	20	17	13
Sussex	108	10.3%	102	101	89	76
Union	10	1.0%	10	4	8	6
Warren	66	6.3%	60	55	62	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>1049</b>	<b>99.2%</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>790</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. Over one half (53.7 percent) of survey respondents is affiliated with one (27.0 percent NJFH, 26.7 percent NJTA) or both (8.9 percent) of these organizations. A small percent of respondents (15.2) belong to a national trapping organization (e.g., Fur Takers of America, National Trappers Association). An estimated 33.2 percent of respondents were unaffiliated with any trapping organization. Based on survey results, an estimated 283 trappers were NJFH members, 280 trappers were NJTA members and 348 trappers were unaffiliated in 2011. The current reported membership of the NJFH is in excess of 400 (NJFH Newsletter, summer 2012) and 312 for the NJTA (J. DeStephano, personal communication on 05 Aug 2012). 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 (2011)	Estimated affiliation (2010)	Estimated affiliation (2009)	Estimated affiliation (2008)	Estimated affiliation (2007)
NJ Fur Harvesters	283	154	188	171	157
NJ Trappers Association	280	187	177	171	187
Both NJFH and NJTA	93	81	80	91	57
Unknown		46			5
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>406</b>
Unaffiliated in NJ	348	29	33	37	372
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>777</b>
No response	45	460	509	445	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1049 licensees</b>	<b>1061 licensees</b>	<b>987 licensees</b>	<b>916 licensees</b>	<b>791 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 2011-12 season for each target species ranging from 0 to 80 years (Table 4).

Table 4. Years of experience of licensed trappers prior to the 2011-12 trapping season

Years of experience prior to 2011	Estimated number of active trappers										
	Total	Beaver	Coyote	Gray fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Raccoon	Red fox	River otter	Skunk
0 years	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5 years	262	35	30	10	20	39	24	68	61	8	4
6-10 years	52	9	5	2	5	7	0	9	8	3	0
11-15 years	27	4	2	3	2	3	2	6	3	2	1
16-20 years	34	5	1	3	5	8	3	12	8	1	1
21-25 years	27	1	1	2	1	1	0	6	3	0	0
26-30 years	37	0	1	2	6	5	2	6	9	1	0
31-35 years	37	3	1	2	3	7	3	7	5	0	1
36-40 years	62	2	0	0	1	14	6	13	9	0	2
41-45 years	23	0	0	0	0	7	2	4	1	0	1
46-50 years	32	1	0	0	0	7	1	4	2	0	0
>50 years	73	0	0	0	1	13	0	4	2	0	1
Unknown	0	17	20	6	42	57	34	69	47	13	23
<b>Mean experience</b>	21.6	9.3	7.2	12.9	14.8	24.2	15.6	16.0	13.8	8.1	17.6
<b>Est. active trappers</b>	680	77	61	30	86	168	78	210	159	28	41

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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, 1050 trapping licenses were issued for calendar year 2011 compared to 1061 licenses in 2010, 932 licenses in 2009 and 894 trapping licenses in 2008. A breakdown of license sales is presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Summary of trapping license sales, 2011

License type	2011 Issuance	Percent of 2011	2010 Issuance	2009 Issuance	2008 Issuance
Non-resident	7	0.7%	5	6	7
Resident	859	81.9%	815	759	735
Resident (Disable Veteran)	138	13.2%	132	128	104
Youth (< 16 years of age)	46	4.3%	109	37	48
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	2	0
Total	1050	100.0%	1061	932	894

### Active Trappers

Two hundred ninety-eight respondents (64.8 percent) participated in trapping activities during the 122-day, 2011-12 season that began 15 November 2011 and concluded 15 March 2012. An estimated 680 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 2011-12 survey instrument.

### Expenditures and Investment

Active survey respondents spent an average \$383 on items such as gasoline, food, clothing, trapping equipment and supplies (but excluding license and permit fees) during 2011-12, and had an average total investment of \$2,568. Inactive survey respondents spent an average \$24 during 2011-12, and had an average total investment of \$1,106. Total investment of all trappers is estimated at \$2.76 million. The NJDFW received \$33,806 in revenue from license sales and \$2,989 in permit sales and \$1,248 in application fees during calendar year 2011 (total revenue \$38,043).

### 2011-12 Fur Harvest

A summary of the 2011-12 fur harvest is presented in Table 6 and Table 7. An estimated 61,840 animals from eleven game species open for trapping were harvested. No harvest of nutria was reported by survey respondents. Nearly all (93.9 percent) of the animals harvested consisted of muskrat (72.4 percent), raccoon (12.9 percent) and red fox (8.6 percent). The raw fur value of these three species represents 90.4 percent of the total raw fur value, estimated at \$586,491 at the local level. Information by species is also presented.

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Table 6. New Jersey fur harvest by species, 2011-12

Species	Number of 2011-12 active respondents	Estimated number of active trappers (2011-12)	Mean experience (years)	Mean days trapped (2011-12)	Estimated total trap- nights	Estimated harvest	Estimated value (US\$)
Beaver	77	176	9.3	15.3	13,902	711 <sup>1</sup>	17,856
Coyote	61	139	7.2	43.3	109,445	162 <sup>2</sup>	2,633
Gray fox	30	68	12.9	43.7	89,452	105	2,181
Mink	86	196	14.8	36.3	303,403	1,497	27,907
Muskrat	168	383	24.2	28.6	566,627	44,792	326,928
Nutria	0	Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Opossum	78	178	15.6	26.9	62,677	936	2,126
Raccoon	210	479	16.0	33.3	306,316	7,978	79,790
Red fox	159	363	13.8	35.9	466,940	5,316	123,811
River otter	28	64	8.1	10.2	1,867	37 <sup>1</sup>	2,220
Skunk	41	94	17.6	40.2	40,008	297	1,039
Weasel	3	7	3.0	21.0	9,327	7	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>680</b>				<b>61,840</b>	<b>586,491</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, 2011-12.

County	Beaver <sup>1</sup>	Bobcat	Coyote <sup>2</sup>	Gray fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Raccoon	Red fox	River otter <sup>1</sup>	Skunk	Weasel
Atlantic	35	-	12	11	28	17,775	85	324	62	5	41	0
Bergen	0	-	7	0	0	904	25	226	277	0	34	0
Burlington	111	-	12	9	2	565	9	518	1,718	3	2	0
Camden	5	-	0	0	0	9	14	64	2	0	2	0
Cape May	7	-	4	0	2	1,656	9	119	9	12	16	0
Cumberland	0	-	14	27	39	4,657	90	317	122	7	18	0
Essex	0	-	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucester	15	-	0	2	7	3,341	126	566	56	0	7	0
Hudson	0	-	0	0	0	1,253	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hunterdon	26	-	6	2	164	180	71	894	1,270	1	16	0
Mercer	0	-	0	0	2	61	9	84	15	0	0	0
Middlesex	46	-	0	0	0	36	51	214	61	0	14	0
Monmouth	17	-	0	0	9	278	41	260	70	0	5	5
Morris	63	-	12	0	317	576	21	1,040	146	0	11	0
Ocean	71	-	11	9	7	141	14	162	94	4	0	0
Passaic	38	-	4	2	134	929	28	354	18	0	30	0
Salem	5	-	6	11	46	7,506	44	374	68	0	14	0
Somerset	0	-	6	0	97	319	34	383	532	0	34	0
Sussex	213	-	16	11	398	1,362	159	1,116	149	5	25	0
Union	0	-	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	60	3	22	16	213	597	64	520	407	0	11	0
Unknown	0	-	27	2	28	2,546	41	434	234	0	16	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1,496</b>	<b>2,546</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>7,970</b>	<b>5,311</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>7</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 2011-12 season.

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

The beaver trapping season was 26 December 2011 – 09 February 2012 (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 2012 (40 days). A special, beaver trapping permit was required in addition to a trapping license. Three hundred forty applications were received for the 186 available permits. Most permits were awarded via lottery, but only 150 permits were actually claimed and 35 permits were sold over-the-counter bringing the total issuance to 185. One hundred eleven trappers (60.0 percent) were successful in harvesting at least one beaver and 55 trappers (29.7 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, 28 February 2012. Permit holders harvested 667 beavers. Ten site-specific permits were issued and resulted in the harvest of 44 beavers, bringing the total 2011-12 harvest to 711. Additional information on the 2011-12 beaver harvest may be found in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Performance Report W-68-R-15 Job III-C entitled Beaver Distribution and Population Trends and River Otter Harvest.

Based on active survey respondents (n = 77), there are 176 active beaver trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 9.3 years of experience trapping beaver. Active respondents trapped a mean 15.3 days using a mean 4.7 traps per day and 81 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 13,902 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 5.11/100 trap-nights (19.6 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single beaver). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$25.11 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2011-12 beaver harvest was \$17,856 based on reported fur sales.

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

The eastern coyote trapping season was 15 November 2011 – 15 March 2012 (123 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2012 (76 days). State regulations require successful trappers to report their harvest to a regional, Division Law Enforcement office within 24 hours. One hundred sixty-two coyotes were reported by trappers in 2011-12. Additional information on coyotes may be found in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Final Report W-68-R-10 Job III-D entitled Occurrence and Distribution of the Eastern Coyote in New Jersey.

Based on active survey respondents (n = 61), there are 139 active coyote trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 7.2 years of experience trapping coyote. Active respondents trapped a mean 43.3 days using a mean 14.4 traps per day and 84 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 109,445 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.15/100 trap-nights (675.6 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single coyote). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$16.25 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2011-12 coyote harvest was \$2,633 based on reported fur sales.

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

The gray fox trapping season was 15 November 2011 – 15 March 2012 (123 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was

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permitted 01 January – 15 March 2012 (76 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 30), there are 68 active gray fox trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 12.9 years of experience trapping gray fox. Active respondents trapped a mean 43.7 days using a mean 19.3 traps per day and 77 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 89,452 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.12/100 trap-nights (851.9 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single gray fox). An estimated 105 gray fox were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$20.77 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2011-12 gray fox harvest was \$2,181 based on reported fur sales.

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

The mink trapping season was 15 November 2011 – 15 March 2012 (123 days) in the Northern Zone, 01 December 2011 – 15 March 2012 (107 days) in the Southern Zone, and 01 January – 15 March 2012 (76 days) on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases. Based on active survey respondents (n = 86), there are 196 active mink trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 14.8 years of experience trapping mink. Active respondents trapped a mean 36.3 days using a mean 25.5 traps per day and 81 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 303,114 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.49/100 trap-nights (202.6 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single mink). An estimated 1,497 mink were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$18.64 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2011-12 mink harvest was \$27,907 based on reported fur sales.

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

The muskrat trapping season was 15 November 2011 – 15 March 2012 (123 days) in the Northern Zone, 01 December 2011 – 15 March 2012 (107 days) in the Southern Zone, and 01 January – 15 March 2012 (76 days) on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases. Based on active survey respondents (n = 168), there are 383 active muskrat trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 24.2 years of experience trapping muskrat. Active respondents trapped a mean 28.6 days using a mean 36.7 traps per day and 85 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 566,627 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 7.9/100 trap-nights (12.7 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single muskrat). An estimated 44,792 muskrat were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$7.30 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2011-12 muskrat harvest was \$326,928 based on reported fur sales.

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

The Virginia opossum trapping season was 15 November 2011 – 15 March 2012 (123 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2012 (76 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 78), there are 178 active opossum trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 15.6 years of experience trapping opossum. Active respondents trapped a mean 26.9 days using a mean 11.8 traps per day and 93 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 62,677 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 1.49/100 trap-nights (67.0 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single opossum). An estimated 936 opossum were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$2.27 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2011-12 opossum harvest was \$2,126 based on reported fur sales.



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

The raccoon trapping season was 15 November 2011 – 15 March 2012 (123 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2012 (76 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 210), there are 479 active raccoon trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 16.0 years of experience trapping raccoon. Active respondents trapped a mean 33.3 days using a mean 13.8 traps per day and 90 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 306,316 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 2.6/100 trap-nights (38.4 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single raccoon). An estimated 7,978 raccoons were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$10.00 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2011-12 raccoon harvest was \$79,790 based on reported fur sales.

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

The red fox trapping season was 15 November 2011 – 15 March 2012 (123 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2012 (76 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 159), there are 363 active red fox trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 13.8 years of experience trapping red fox. Active respondents trapped a mean 35.9 days using a mean 24.6 traps per day and 88 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 466,940 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 1.14/100 trap-nights (87.8 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single red fox). An estimated 5,316 red fox were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$23.29 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2011-12 red fox harvest was \$123,811 based on reported fur sales.

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

The river otter trapping season was 26 December 2011 – 09 February 2012 (46 days), except on the 23 State Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where otter trapping was permitted from 01 January – 09 February 2012 (40 days). A special, river otter trapping permit was required in addition to a trapping license. Two hundred eighty-four applications were received for the 106 available permits, but only 87 permits awarded were claimed and 20 permit were sold over-the-counter (total 107). Thirty-seven trappers (34.6 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, 28 February 2012. Additional information on the 2011-12 river otter harvest may be found in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Performance Report W-68-R-15 Job III-C entitled Beaver Distribution and Population Trends and River Otter Harvest.

Based on active survey respondents (n = 28), there are 64 active otter trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 8.1 years of experience trapping river otter. Active respondents trapped a mean 10.2 days using a mean 2.5 traps per day and 71 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. The majority of the harvest (86.5 percent) was taken by a Conibear™ type trap (330 – 64.9%; 280 – 13.5%; 220 – 8.1%), while snares accounted for 13.5 percent. Total trap-nights were estimated at 1,867 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 1.98/100 trap-nights (50.5 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single otter). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$60.00 and the estimated value of the 2011-12 otter harvest was \$2,220 based on reported fur sales.

## 2011-12 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

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

The striped skunk trapping season was 15 November 2011 – 15 March 2012 (123 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2012 (76 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 41), there are 94 active skunk trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 17.6 years of experience trapping skunk. Active respondents trapped a mean 40.2 days using a mean 7.8 traps per day and 79 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 40,008 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.74/100 trap-nights (134.8 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single skunk). An estimated 297 skunks were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$3.50 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2011-12 skunk harvest was \$1,039 based on reported fur sales.

### **Long-tailed Weasel** (*Mustela frenata*)

The striped skunk trapping season was 15 November 2011 – 15 March 2012 (123 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2012 (76 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 3), there are 7 active weasel trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 3.0 years of experience trapping weasel. Active respondents trapped a mean 21.0 days using a mean 30.7 traps per day and 67 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 9,327 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.07/100 trap-nights (1,362 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single weasel). An estimated 7 weasels were taken by trappers.

## 2011-12 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

### ANNUAL NEW JERSEY TRAPPER SURVEY, 2011-12

Reports are **DUE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30**. Please submit your report **WHETHER OR NOT ANY TRAPPING WAS DONE OR ANY FUR WAS TAKEN**. This report is for animals taken **BY YOU ONLY** during the legal trapping season. If you have any questions, please call (609) 748-2058 or (908) 735-7040.

NJ County of Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
(If non-resident, provide State)

Did you trap: Yes No (Circle one)

Please check if a member of:

NJFH \_\_\_\_\_

Did you take fur: Yes No (Circle one)

NJTA \_\_\_\_\_

Age as of 15 Nov 2011: \_\_\_\_\_ years

Nat'l Org \_\_\_\_\_

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:			COUNTY TRAPPED:			# YEARS	TOTAL \$
	HARVEST	# TRAPS	# NIGHTS	HARVEST	# TRAPS	# NIGHTS	HARVEST	# TRAPS	# NIGHTS		
BEAVER											\$
BOBCAT											\$
COYOTE											\$
FISHER											\$
GRAY FOX											\$
MINK											\$
MUSKRAT											\$
NUTRIA											\$
OPOSSUM											\$
RACCOON											\$
SKUNK											\$
WEASEL											\$

Excluding license & permit feed, how much would 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 to: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Trapper Survey, 26 Rt. 173 West, Hampton, NJ 08827. 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.