

2009-10 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

Summary

A **2009-10 New Jersey Trapper Harvest Survey** was mailed to 987 licensed trappers requesting harvest, recreational and socio-economic information for the 2009-10 trapping season. The mean age of licensed trappers as of November 15, 2009 was 45.1 years. Resident trappers are predominantly male (97.6 percent), and live in every county of the state with a tendency to reside in rural areas. Twenty-eight surveys were returned as undeliverable and 446 responses were received by May 15, 2010 (46.5 percent response). The majority of survey respondents are affiliated with a statewide (44.0 percent) or national (13.3 percent) trapping organization. Trapping is a lifelong activity and respondents had between 5.3-24.7 years of prior trapping experience depending on the target species, and a mean 23.5 years of overall experience. Annual expenditures on trapping equipment and supplies during 2009-10 were estimated at \$284,898 (mean \$289 per trapper) and overall investment was estimated at \$2.91 million (mean \$2,945 per trapper). The number of active trappers was estimated at 566, with most trappers targeting raccoon (33.4 percent), muskrat (32.3 percent), red fox (22.0 percent) and beaver (16.8 percent). Survey results estimated that 36,933 muskrats, 4,902 raccoons, 2,461 red fox, 1,092 mink, 722 opossum, 168 skunks, and 102 gray fox were harvested during the 2009-10 season. According to mandatory coyote and beaver-otter check station reports, trappers also harvested 607 beaver, 46 river otter and 69 coyote. The total estimated raw pelt value of the 2009-10 harvest was \$309,023 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-14, 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 2009 trapping license purchasers was obtained from the system vendor, Automated License Systems, Inc. (ALS). The 2009 file contained 932 unique records, and 57 qualified Youth trappers licensed in previous years were added to the database. Age and demographic analyses were completed on all 987 individuals.

A survey packet was mailed to 987 trappers by April 1, 2010 (including prior Youth Trappers and Farmers). Twenty-eight questionnaires (2.8 percent) were returned by the postal authorities as undeliverable and 959 were presumed delivered. Trapper group affiliation, prior experience and activity were based on the 446 (46.5 percent) responses that were correctly completed and returned by May 15, 2010.

Harvest and economic data analyses were based on the 263 survey respondents (27.4 percent) that actively participated in the 209-10 trapping season.

Results

Age

The age class of licensed trappers (as of 15 November 2009) is presented in Table 1. Ages ranged from 12 to 89 years, with a mean age of 45.1 ± 0.5 SE years, and the simple majority (13.6 percent) of licensed trappers was between 45 and 49 years of age. Estimates of trapper numbers by age class for 2008-09, 2007-08, 2006-07 and 2005-06 are presented for comparison purposes.

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Table 1. Age class of trappers licensed in New Jersey during the 2009-10 trapping season.

Age Class	Licensed trappers (2009-10)	Percent of licensed trappers (2009-10)	Licensed trappers (2008-09)	Licensed trappers (2007-08)	Licensed trappers (2006-07)	Estimated number of trappers (2005-06)
<16	76	7.7%	57	22	15	21
16 to 19	39	4.0%	37	21	14	7
20 to 24	33	3.3%	23	23	21	16
25 to 29	46	4.7%	36	33	29	30
30 to 34	52	5.3%	52	47	37	33
35 to 39	88	8.9%	76	57	58	68
40 to 44	98	9.9%	101	119	101	92
45 to 49	134	13.6%	140	126	105	100
50 to 54	117	11.9%	112	89	81	71
55 to 59	88	8.9%	88	92	77	57
60 to 64	105	10.6%	99	80	71	40
65+	111	11.2%	95	90	69	59
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0	0	1
Total	987	100%	916	791	678	596

Gender

Information on trapper gender was obtained from the database provided by ALS. Nearly all (963 or 97.6 percent) of 2009 license holders were male and 24 (2.4 percent) were female, compared to 883 male and 26 female trappers licensed in 2008. Prior survey results estimated 586 males and 24 females were licensed trappers in 2004, compared to 593 males and 17 females licensed in 2003.

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 (2009 v. 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005) is presented in Table 2. Nearly all (98.0 percent) of licensed trappers are New Jersey residents, while non-resident trappers resided in neighboring Delaware (1), New York (1) and Pennsylvania (18). Resident trappers live in every county of the state and have a tendency to reside in predominantly rural areas. The majority (61.7 percent) of New Jersey's resident trappers live in the western half of the State either in Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties (37.6 percent) or in Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex and Warren counties (24.1 percent).

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

County	Number of trappers (2009-10)	Percent of licensed trappers (2009-10)	Number of trappers (2008-09)	Number of trappers (2007-08)	Number of trappers (2006-07)	Estimated number of trappers (2005-06)
Atlantic	42	4.3%	41	44	29	25
Bergen	27	2.7%	27	27	23	26
Burlington	77	7.8%	77	43	42	33
Camden	31	3.1%	32	26	20	20
Cape May	37	3.7%	36	39	30	26
Cumberland	117	11.9%	105	106	88	42
Essex	5	0.5%	7	3	5	5
Gloucester	76	7.7%	59	61	58	44
Hudson	3	0.3%	3	1	2	2
Hunterdon	41	4.2%	40	32	22	29
Mercer	21	2.1%	22	16	14	16
Middlesex	46	4.7%	24	29	23	23
Monmouth	31	3.1%	33	30	29	16
Morris	41	3.8%	34	44	29	38
Ocean	64	6.5%	54	40	24	20
Passaic	38	3.9%	33	26	28	17
Salem	90	9.1%	94	81	77	75
Somerset	20	2.0%	17	13	10	10
Sussex	101	10.2%	89	76	71	85
Union	4	0.4%	8	6	6	1
Warren	55	5.6%	62	47	43	34
Total	967	98.0%	897	790	672	587

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 (45.1 percent) of survey respondents is affiliated with one (19.1 percent NJFH, 17.9 percent NJTA) or both (8.1 percent) of these organizations. A small percent of respondents (16.1) belong to a national trapping organization (e.g., Fur Takers of America, National Trappers Association). The majority (51.6 percent) respondents were unaffiliated with any trapping organization. Based on survey results, an estimated 222 trappers were NJFH members, 212 trappers were NJTA members and 509 trappers were unaffiliated in 2009. The current reported membership of the NJFH is 230 (J. Mounier, personal communication on 24 July 2010) and 245 for the NJTA (J. DeStephano, personal communication on 01 Aug 2010). 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 (2009)	Estimated affiliation (2008)	Estimated affiliation (2007)	Estimated affiliation (2006)	Estimated affiliation (2005)
NJ Fur Harvesters	188	171	157	142	98
NJ Trappers Association	177	171	187	170	210
Both NJFH and NJTA	80	91	57	52	82
Unknown			5		
Subtotal	445	433	406	364	390
Unaffiliated in NJ	33	37	372	321	206
Subtotal	478	470	777	695	596
No response	509	445	14	2	0
Total	987 licensees	916 licensees	791 licensees	697 licensees	596 licensees

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 2009-10 season for each target species ranging from 0 to 75 years (Table 4).

Table 4. Years of experience of licensed trappers prior to the 2009-10 trapping season

Years of experience prior to 2009	Estimated number of active trappers										
	Total	Beaver	Coyote	Gray fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Raccoon	Red fox	River otter	Skunk
0 years	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
1-5 years	210	31	25	14	10	20	20	48	38	11	4
6-10 years	48	16	3	3	10	10	0	11	7	4	0
11-15 years	31	4	3	0	1	7	0	3	3	0	1
16-20 years	38	4	0	0	1	8	1	4	0	1	0
21-25 years	29	1	1	0	1	3	1	4	1	0	0
26-30 years	36	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	3	0	1
31-35 years	29	4	6	0	3	6	1	3	1	0	0
36-40 years	60	1	0	1	0	11	1	8	1	0	1
41-45 years	24	0	0	1	1	4	1	6	1	0	1
46-50 years	33	0	0	0	1	10	1	1	0	0	1
>50 years	69	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	0
Unknown	19	42	42	35	38	113	37	116	82	23	24
Mean experience	23.5	9.4	4.7	8.3	14.0	24.7	12.0	13.8	8.0	4.3	22.0
Est. active trappers	629	106	75	55	68	202	68	210	138	39	35

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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, 932 trapping licenses were issued for calendar year 2009 compared to 894 licenses in 2008 and 799 trapping licenses in 2007. A breakdown of license sales is presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Summary of trapping license sales, 2009

License type	2009 Issuance	Percent of 2009 Total	2008 Issuance	2007 Issuance
Non-resident	6	0.6%	7	5
Resident	759	81.4%	735	689
Resident (Disable Veteran)	128	13.7%	104	79
Youth (< 16 years of age)	37	4.0%	48	26
Unknown	2	0.2%	0	0
Total	932	100.0%	894	799

Active Trappers

Two hundred sixty-three respondents (58.9 percent) participated in trapping activities during the 122-day, 2009-10 season that began 15 November 2009 and concluded 15 March 2010. An estimated 629 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 2009-10 survey instrument.

Expenditures and Investment

Active survey respondents spent an average \$308 on items such as gasoline, food, clothing, trapping equipment and supplies (but excluding license and permit fees) during 2009-10, and had an average total investment of \$3,287. Inactive survey respondents spent an average \$173 during 2009-10, and had an average total investment of \$2,010. Total investment of all trappers is estimated at \$2.91 million. The NJDFW received \$30,031 in revenue from license sales and \$2,987 in permit sales and \$1,123 in application fees during calendar year 2009 (total revenue \$34,142).

2009-10 Fur Harvest

A summary of the 2009-10 fur harvest is presented in Table 6 and Table 7. An estimated 47,113 animals from eleven game species open for trapping were harvested. No harvest of nutria or weasel were reported by survey respondents. Nearly all (94.0 percent) of the animals harvested consisted of muskrat (78.4 percent), raccoon (10.4 percent) and red fox (5.2 percent). The raw fur value of these three species represents 90.7 percent of the total raw fur value, estimated at \$309,023 at the local level. Information by species is also presented.

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Table 6. New Jersey fur harvest by species, 2009-10

Species	Number of 2009-10 active respondents	Estimated number of active trappers (2009-10)	Mean experience (years)	Mean days trapped (2009-10)	Estimated total trap- nights	Estimated harvest	Estimated value (US\$)
Beaver	75	161	9.4	16.1	13,331	607 ¹	9,872
Coyote	53	114	4.7	34.2	154,802	69 ²	1,187
Gray fox	39	84	8.4	11.7	3,330	102	2,001
Mink	48	103	14.0	29.3	161,854	1,092	12,175
Muskrat	143	307	24.7	30.5	957,467	36,933	213,330
Nutria	0	Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Opossum	48	103	12.0	27.7	48,741	722	1,370
Raccoon	149	320	13.8	30.8	265,123	4,902	39,103
Red fox	98	211	8.0	31.0	202,845	2,461	27,811
River otter	28	60	5.3	11.6	1,958	46 ¹	1,418
Skunk	25	54	22.0	28.8	39,242	168	755
Weasel	0	Unknown	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Total	263	566				47,113	309,023

¹ Harvest as reported at mandatory beaver and otter check stations

² Harvest as reported by mandatory call-in to regional Division Law Enforcement offices

Table 7. Estimated New Jersey fur harvest by county and species, 2009-10.

County	Beaver ¹	Coyote ²	Gray fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Raccoon	Red fox	River otter ¹	Skunk
Atlantic	24	6	7	2	3,826		24	18	5	
Bergen	7	1	11	292	4,935	105	2,091	191		11
Burlington	80	7	7	4	231	4	170	57	8	9
Camden	11	1	2		127	22	11		3	
Cape May		13			1,803	13	78	22	3	
Cumberland		11	15	13	7,039	15	140	61	9	4
Essex					7	4	20	2		
Gloucester	19	2			2,339	77	314	79	2	43
Hudson					167			9		
Hunterdon	20	3	2	49	103	22	279	593	1	
Mercer	13			2	35		26	26		
Middlesex	5				114	11	35	29	1	
Monmouth	30				257	18	157	9		2
Morris	77	2		140	602	53	46	44	4	13
Ocean	51	11	2	2	213	11	61	26	1	
Passaic	29	1	2	4	138	103	283	86	2	22
Salem	10	4	2	6	10,419	53	253	50	4	32
Somerset	8		2	19	235	13	196	452		
Sussex	189	6	31	224	1,309	152	338	149	3	15
Union										
Warren	34	1	18	305	918	20	201	544		9
Unknown				28	2,115	26	179	13		9
Total	607	69	102	1,092	36,933	722	4,902	2,461	46	168

¹ Harvest as reported at mandatory beaver and otter check stations

² 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 2009-10 season.

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Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

The beaver trapping season was 26 December 2009 – 09 February 2010 (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 2010 (40 days). A special, beaver trapping permit was required in addition to a trapping license. Three hundred five applications were received for the 186 available permits. Most permits were awarded via lottery (183), but only 167 permits were actually claimed and 18 permits were sold over-the-counter bringing the total issuance to 185. One hundred sixteen trappers (62.7 percent) were successful in harvesting at least one beaver and 31 trappers (16.7 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, 20 February 2010. Permit holders harvested 584 beavers. Fourteen site-specific permits were issued and resulted in the harvest of 23 beavers, bringing the total 2009-10 harvest to 607. Additional information on the 2009-10 beaver harvest may be found in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Performance Report W-68-R-14 Job III-C entitled Beaver Distribution and Population Trends and River Otter Harvest.

Based on active survey respondents (n = 75), there are 161 active beaver trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 9.4 years of experience trapping beaver. Active respondents trapped a mean 16.1 days using a mean 5.1 traps per day and 69 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. The majority of the harvest (89.5 percent) was taken by the 330 Conibear™ trap. Snares accounted for 7.7 percent of the harvest. Total trap-nights were estimated at 13,331 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 4.55/100 trap-nights (22.0 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single beaver). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$16.26 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2009-10 beaver harvest was \$9,872 based on reported fur sales.

Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

The eastern coyote trapping season was 15 November 2009 – 15 March 2010 (122 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2010 (75 days). State regulations require successful trappers to report their harvest to a regional, Division Law Enforcement office within 24 hours. Sixty-nine coyotes were reported by trappers in 2009-10. 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 = 53), there are 114 active coyote trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 4.7 years experience trapping coyote. Active respondents trapped a mean 34.2 days using a mean 23.3 traps per day and 75 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 154,802 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.04/100 trap-nights (2,243.5 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single coyote). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$17.20 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2009-10 coyote harvest was \$1,187 based on reported fur sales.

Gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

The gray fox trapping season was 15 November 2009 – 15 March 2010 (122 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2010 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 39), there

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are 84 active gray fox trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 8.4 years experience trapping gray fox. Active respondents trapped a mean 29.2 days using a mean 11.7 traps per day and 87 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 25,975 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.39/100 trap-nights (256 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single gray fox). An estimated 102 gray fox were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$19.71 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2009-10 gray fox harvest was \$2,001 based on reported fur sales.

Mink (*Mustela vison*)

The mink trapping season was 15 November 2009 – 15 March 2010 (122 days) in the Northern Zone, 01 December 2009 – 15 March 2010 (106 days) in the Southern Zone, and 01 January – 15 March 2010 (75 days) on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases. Based on active survey respondents (n = 48), there are 103 active mink trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 14.0 years experience trapping mink. Active respondents trapped a mean 29.3 days using a mean 24.8 traps per day and 88 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 161,854 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.67/100 trap-nights (148 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single mink). An estimated 1,092 mink were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$11.15 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2009-10 mink harvest was \$12,175 based on reported fur sales.

Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

The muskrat trapping season was 15 November 2009 – 15 March 2010 (122 days) in the Northern Zone, 01 December 2009 – 15 March 2010 (106 days) in the Southern Zone, and 01 January – 15 March 2010 (75 days) on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases. Based on active survey respondents (n = 143), there are 307 active muskrat trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 24.7 years experience trapping muskrat. Active respondents trapped a mean 30.5 days using a mean 71.8 traps per day and 87 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 957,467 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 3.86/100 trap-nights (25.9 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single muskrat). An estimated 36,933 muskrat were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$5.78 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2009-10 muskrat harvest was \$213,330 based on reported fur sales.

Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginianus*)

The Virginia opossum trapping season was 15 November 2009 – 15 March 2010 (122 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2010 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 48), there are 103 active opossum trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 12.0 years experience trapping opossum. Active respondents trapped a mean 27.7 days using a mean 8.8 traps per day and 91 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 48,741 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 1.48/100 trap-nights (67 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single opossum). An estimated 722 opossum were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$1.90 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2009-10 opossum harvest was \$1,370 based on reported fur sales.

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Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

The raccoon trapping season was 15 November 2009 – 15 March 2010 (122 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2010 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 149), there are 320 active raccoon trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 13.8 years experience trapping raccoon. Active respondents trapped a mean 30.8 days using a mean 14.5 traps per day and 80 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 265,123 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 1.85/100 trap-nights (54 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single raccoon). An estimated 4,902 raccoons were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$7.98 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2009-10 raccoon harvest was \$39,103 based on reported fur sales.

Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

The red fox trapping season was 15 November 2009 – 15 March 2010 (122 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2010 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 98), there are 211 active red fox trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 8.0 years experience trapping red fox. Active respondents trapped a mean 31.0 days using a mean 18.9 traps per day and 86 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 202,845 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 1.21/100 trap-nights (82 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single red fox). An estimated 2,461 red fox were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$11.30 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2009-10 red fox harvest was \$27,811 based on reported fur sales.

River otter (*Lontra canadensis*)

The river otter trapping season was 26 December 2009 – 09 February 2010 (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 2010 (40 days). A special, river otter trapping permit was required in addition to a trapping license. Two hundred fifty-two applications were received and all 106 available permits were issued via the lottery. Forty-six trappers (43.4 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, 20 February 2010. Additional information on the 2009-10 river otter harvest may be found in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Performance Report W-68-R-14 Job III-C entitled Beaver Distribution and Population Trends and River Otter Harvest.

Based on active survey respondents (n = 28), there are 60 active otter trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 5.3 years experience trapping river otter. Active respondents trapped a mean 11.6 days using a mean 2.4 traps per day and 73 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. The majority of the harvest (89.1 percent) was taken by a Conibear™ type trap (330 – 69.1%; 280 – 14.3%; 220 – 4.8%; 160 – 2.4%). Snares accounted for 7.1 percent and box traps accounted for 2.4 percent. One vehicle was salvaged by a trapper (2.4%). Total trap-nights were estimated at 1,958 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 2.35/100 trap-nights (42.6 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single otter). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$30.83 and the estimated value of the 2009-10 otter harvest was \$1,418 based on reported fur sales.

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Striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)

The striped skunk trapping season was 15 November 2009 – 15 March 2010 (122 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2010 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 25), there are 54 active skunk trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 22.0 years experience trapping skunk. Active respondents trapped a mean 28.8 days using a mean 8.7 traps per day and 94 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 39,242 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.43/100 trap-nights (234 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single skunk). An estimated 168 skunks were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$4.50 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2009-10 skunk harvest was \$755 based on reported fur sales.

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ANNUAL NEW JERSEY TRAPPER SURVEY, 2008-09

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:

Age as of 15 Nov 2008: _____ years

Did you take fur: Yes No (Circle one)

NJFH _____
NJTA _____
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	COUNTY TRAPPED:			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 and type "Trapper Survey Results" in the Subject bar.

2009-10 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey