

2010-11 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

Summary

A **2010-11 New Jersey Trapper Harvest Survey** was mailed to 959 licensed trappers requesting harvest, recreational and socio-economic information for the 2010-11 trapping season. The mean age of licensed trappers as of November 15, 2010 was 42.8 years. Resident trappers are predominantly male (97.2 percent), and live in every county of the state with a tendency to reside in rural areas. Twenty-two surveys were returned as undeliverable (10 of which were mailed to corrected addresses) and 435 responses were received by May 15, 2011 (46.0 percent response). The majority of survey respondents are affiliated with a statewide (52.6 percent) or national (15.9 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 22.7 years of overall experience. Annual expenditures on trapping equipment and supplies during 2010-11 were estimated at \$172,263 (mean \$250 per trapper) and overall investment was estimated at \$1.97 million (mean \$2,869 per trapper). The number of active trappers was estimated at 688, with most trappers targeting raccoon (61.0 percent), muskrat (59.6 percent), red fox (46.5 percent) and mink (24.8 percent). Survey results estimated that 37,842 muskrats, 5,593 raccoons, 3,534 red fox, 1,224 mink, 849 opossum, 134 gray fox, 123 skunks, and 5 weasels were harvested during the 2010-11 season. According to mandatory coyote and beaver-otter check station reports, trappers also harvested 426 beaver, 51 river otter and 171 coyote. The total estimated raw pelt value of the 2010-11 harvest was \$362,226 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 2010 trapping license purchasers was obtained from the system vendor, Automated License Systems, Inc. (ALS). The 2010 file contained 859 unique records plus 30 individuals issued a beaver or otter permit, and 70 qualified Youth trappers licensed in previous years were added to the database. Age and demographic analyses were completed on all 959 individuals.

A survey packet was mailed to 959 trappers by April 1, 2011 (including prior Youth Trappers and Farmers). Twenty-two questionnaires (2.3 percent) were returned by the postal authorities as undeliverable, ten of which were forwarded to corrected address, and 947 were presumed delivered. One trapper deceased during the season. Trapper group affiliation, prior experience and activity were based on the 435 (46.0 percent) responses that were correctly completed and returned by May 15, 2011.

Harvest and economic data analyses were based on the 282 survey respondents (29.8 percent) that actively participated in the 2010-11 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 82 years, with a mean age of 42.8 ± 0.0 SE years, and the simple majority (13.4 percent)

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of licensed trappers was between 45 and 49 years of age. Age class of trappers for 2009-10, 2008-09, 2007-08 and 2006-07 are presented for comparison purposes.

Table 1. Age class of trappers licensed in New Jersey during the 2010-11 trapping season.

Age Class	Licensed trappers (2010-11)	Percent of licensed trappers (2010-11)	Licensed trappers (2009-10)	Licensed trappers (2008-09)	Licensed trappers (2007-08)	Licensed trappers (2006-07)
<16	90	9.4%	76	57	22	15
16 to 19	50	5.2%	39	37	21	14
20 to 24	28	2.9%	33	23	23	21
25 to 29	58	6.1%	46	36	33	29
30 to 34	55	5.7%	52	52	47	37
35 to 39	75	7.8%	88	76	57	58
40 to 44	111	11.6%	98	101	119	101
45 to 49	128	13.4%	134	140	126	105
50 to 54	123	12.9%	117	112	89	81
55 to 59	87	9.1%	88	88	92	77
60 to 64	61	6.4%	105	99	80	71
65+	91	9.5%	111	95	90	69
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	957	100%	987	916	791	678

Gender

Information on trapper gender was obtained from the database provided by ALS. Nearly all (930 or 97.2 percent) of 2010 license holders were male and 27 (2.4 percent) were female, compared to 963 male and 24 female trappers licensed 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 (2010 v. 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006) is presented in Table 2. Nearly all (97.6 percent) of licensed trappers are New Jersey residents, while non-resident trappers resided in neighboring Delaware (1), New York (2) and Pennsylvania (16) and Connecticut (1), Maryland (1), Oklahoma (1) and Wisconsin (1). Resident trappers live in every county of the state and have a tendency to reside in predominantly rural areas. The majority (62.8 percent) of New Jersey's resident trappers live in the western half of the State either in Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties (36.3 percent) or in Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex and Warren counties (26.5 percent).

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

County	Number of trappers (2010-11)	Percent of licensed trappers (2010-11)	Number of trappers (2009-10)	Number of trappers (2008-09)	Number of trappers (2007-08)	Number of trappers (2006-07)
Atlantic	42	4.5%	42	41	44	29
Bergen	28	3.0%	27	27	27	23
Burlington	65	6.9%	77	77	43	42
Camden	30	3.2%	31	32	26	20
Cape May	37	3.9%	37	36	39	30
Cumberland	122	13.0%	117	105	106	88
Essex	7	0.7%	5	7	3	5
Gloucester	66	7.1%	76	59	61	58
Hudson	4	0.4%	3	3	1	2
Hunterdon	40	4.3%	41	40	32	22
Mercer	18	1.9%	21	22	16	14
Middlesex	34	3.6%	46	24	29	23
Monmouth	37	3.9%	31	33	30	29
Morris	46	4.9%	41	34	44	29
Ocean	47	5.0%	64	54	40	24
Passaic	34	3.6%	38	33	26	28
Salem	87	9.3%	90	94	81	77
Somerset	20	2.1%	20	17	13	10
Sussex	102	10.9%	101	89	76	71
Union	10	1.1%	4	8	6	6
Warren	60	6.4%	55	62	47	43
Total	936	97.6%	967	897	790	672

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 (44.1 percent) of survey respondents is affiliated with one (16.1 percent NJFH, 19.5 percent NJTA) or both (8.5 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). The majority (48.0 percent) respondents were unaffiliated with any trapping organization. Based on survey results, an estimated 261 trappers were NJFH members, 298 trappers were NJTA members and 510 trappers were unaffiliated in 2010. The current reported membership of the NJFH just over 400 (NJFH newsletter, July 2012) and 261 for the NJTA (J. DeStephano, personal communication on 06 Mar 2011). 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 (2010)	Estimated affiliation (2009)	Estimated affiliation (2008)	Estimated affiliation (2007)	Estimated affiliation (2006)
NJ Fur Harvesters	154	188	171	157	142
NJ Trappers Assoc.	187	177	171	187	170
Both NJFH and NJTA	81	80	91	57	52
Unknown	46			5	
Subtotal	468	445	433	406	364
Unaffiliated in NJ	29	33	37	372	321
Subtotal	477	478	470	777	695
No response	460	509	445	14	2
Total	1061 licensees	987 licensees	916 licensees	791 licensees	697 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 2010-11 season for each target species ranging from 0 to 67 years (Table 4).

Table 4. Years of experience of licensed trappers prior to the 2010-11 trapping season

Years of experience prior to 2010	Estimated number of active trappers										
	Total	Beaver	Coyote	Gray fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Raccoon	Red fox	River otter	Skunk
0 years	17	2	5	2	2	7	7	10	7	0	5
1-5 years	241	24	61	17	20	68	44	117	100	7	20
6-10 years	51	17	7	10	10	10	5	22	22	2	0
11-15 years	22	5	5	2	2	7	2	12	12	2	2
16-20 years	29	10	2	0	2	12	0	7	2	7	0
21-25 years	12	0	0	0	2	5	2	5	0	2	0
26-30 years	41	5	0	2	5	10	2	10	7	0	0
31-35 years	37	5	2	2	5	12	0	5	5	2	0
36-40 years	68	2	0	0	2	20	0	7	12	0	0
41-45 years	32	0	0	0	2	12	2	10	0	0	0
46-50 years	39	0	0	2	5	10	5	10	10	0	2
>50 years	80	0	0	0	7	27	0	15	0	0	2
Unknown	17	83	63	34	105	210	83	190	142	44	51
Mean experience	22.7	12.0	4.5	10.9	21.3	23.3	9.0	14.2	10.7	14.1	9.8
Est. active trappers	688	154	146	73	171	410	154	420	320	68	83

License Buyers

The Division's electronic licensing system, administered by Automated Licensing Systems (ALS), was fully functional since calendar year 2007. According to ALS, 1061 trapping licenses were

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issued for calendar year 2010 compared to 932 licenses in 2009, 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, 2010

License type	2010 Issuance	Percent of 2010 Total	2009 Issuance	2008 Issuance	2007 Issuance
Non-resident	5	0.5%	6	7	5
Resident	815	76.8%	759	735	689
Resident (Disable Veteran)	132	12.4%	128	104	79
Youth (< 16 years of age)	109	10.3%	37	48	26
Unknown	0	0.0%	2	0	0
Total	1061	100.0%	932	894	799

Active Trappers

Two hundred eighty-two respondents (64.8 percent) participated in trapping activities during the 122-day, 2010-11 season that began 15 November 2010 and concluded 15 March 2011. An estimated 688 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 2010-11 survey instrument.

Expenditures and Investment

Active survey respondents spent an average \$250 on items such as gasoline, food, clothing, trapping equipment and supplies (but excluding license and permit fees) during 2010-11, and had an average total investment of \$2,869. Inactive survey respondents spent an average \$82 during 2010-11, and had an average total investment of \$1,962. Total investment of all trappers is estimated at \$2.81 million. The NJDFW received \$33,806 in revenue from license sales, \$3,002 in permit sales and \$1,120 in application fees during calendar year 2010 (total revenue \$37,928).

2010-11 Fur Harvest

A summary of the 2010-11 fur harvest is presented in Table 6 and Table 7. An estimated 49,959 animals from eleven game species open for trapping were harvested. No harvest of nutria was reported by survey respondents. Nearly all (94.0 percent) of the animals harvested consisted of muskrat (75.7 percent), raccoon (11.2 percent) and red fox (7.1 percent). The raw fur value of these three species represents 90.6 percent of the total raw fur value, estimated at \$365,261 at the local level. Information by species is also presented.

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Table 6. New Jersey fur harvest by species, 2010-11

Species	Number of 2010-11 active respondents	Estimated number of active trappers (2010-11)	Mean experience (years)	Mean days trapped (2010-11)	Estimated total trap- nights	Estimated harvest	Estimated value (US\$)
Beaver	63	154	12.0	18.9	15,935	426 ¹	8,128
Coyote	60	146	4.5	41.4	122,215	171 ²	3,302
Gray fox	30	73	10.9	37.0	68,642	134	3,041
Mink	70	171	21.3	28.9	208,155	1,224	15,169
Muskrat	168	410	23.3	21.4	700,766	37,842	212,981
Nutria	0	Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Opossum	63	154	9.0	26.9	65,335	849	1,388
Raccoon	172	420	14.2	26.2	228,049	5,593	69,814
Red fox	131	320	10.7	31.0	317,283	3,534	48,009
River otter	28	68	14.1	7.9	1,350	51 ¹	2,693
Skunk	34	83	10.0	20.0	16,538	127	711
Weasel	2	5	27.0	19.5	95.1	5	24
Total	282	688	22.7	26.5		49,959	365,261

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, 2010-11.

County	Beaver ¹	Coyote ²	Gray fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Raccoon	Red fox	River otter ¹	Skunk
Atlantic	20	17	15	34	4929	24	168	51	6	0
Bergen	8	1	32	61	768	12	254	66	0	12
Burlington	77	6	5	29	1398	15	183	161	6	0
Camden	15	0	0	0	793	2	37	2	3	0
Cape May	0	35	0	7	1812	5	168	22	6	0
Cumberland	8	28	10	24	12812	139	427	166	12	15
Essex	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucester	0	0	19	2	2295	210	663	63	3	12
Hudson	0	0	0	0	1341	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	23	12	2	222	263	29	822	861	0	7
Mercer	13	0	0	5	2	10	71	41	0	2
Middlesex	8	0	0	2	66	61	151	105	0	0
Monmouth	9	2	0	2	166	7	102	46	0	7
Morris	40	1	0	171	251	15	434	54	1	5
Ocean	19	9	22	0	198	20	234	163	4	7
Passaic	18	0	0	27	249	2	188	68	1	12
Salem	11	10	0	17	9356	32	359	17	3	7
Somerset	0	1	0	32	20	34	151	741	0	2
Sussex	130	12	5	288	690	117	761	110	5	24
Union	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	27	37	22	300	200	95	339	749	1	10
Unknown	0	0	2	0	207	20	80	46	0	2
Total	426	171	134	1,224	37,842	849	5,593	3,534	51	127

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 2010-11 season.

Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

The standard beaver trapping season (26 Dec. 2010 to 9 Feb. 2011) was extended by 14 days to 23 Feb. 2011 due to severe winter weather (60 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 (54 days). A special, beaver trapping permit was required in addition to a trapping license. Three hundred seventeen applications were received for the 186 available permits. Most permits were awarded via lottery (183), but only 165 permits were actually claimed and 23 permits were sold over-the-counter bringing the total issuance to 188. Eighty-three trappers (44.1 percent) were successful in harvesting at least one beaver and 29 trappers (15.4 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, 26 February 2011. Permit holders harvested 424 beavers. Two site-specific permits were issued and resulted in the harvest of 2 beavers, bringing the total 2010-11 harvest to 426. Additional information on the 2010-11 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 = 63), there are 154 active beaver trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 12.0 years of experience trapping beaver. Active respondents trapped a mean 18.9 days using a mean 4.7 traps per day and 82.5 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. The majority of the harvest (87.1 percent) was taken by a 330 Conibear™ type trap. Snares accounted for 7.3 percent of the harvest. Total trap-nights were estimated at 15,935 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 2.67/100 trap-nights (37.4 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single beaver). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$19.08 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2010-11 beaver harvest was \$8,128 based on reported fur sales.

Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

The eastern coyote trapping season was 15 November 2010 – 15 March 2011 (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 2011 (75 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 2010-11. 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 = 60), there are 146 active coyote trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 4.5 years of experience trapping coyote. Active respondents trapped a mean 41.4 days using a mean 14.4 traps per day and 95 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 122,215 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.14/100 trap-nights (714.7 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single coyote). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$19.31 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2010-11 coyote harvest was \$3,302 based on reported fur sales.

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Gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

The gray fox trapping season was 15 November 2010 – 15 March 2011 (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 2011 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 30), there are 73 active gray fox trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 10.9 years of experience trapping gray fox. Active respondents trapped a mean 37.0 days using a mean 20.0 traps per day and 86.2 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 68,642 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.20/100 trap-nights (511.7 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single gray fox). An estimated 134 gray fox were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$22.67 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2010-11 gray fox harvest was \$3,041 based on reported fur sales.

Mink (*Mustela vison*)

The mink trapping season was 15 November 2010 – 15 March 2011 (122 days) in the Northern Zone, 01 December 2010 – 15 March 2011 (106 days) in the Southern Zone, and 01 January – 15 March 2011 (75 days) on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases. Based on active survey respondents (n = 70), there are 171 active mink trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 21.3 years of experience trapping mink. Active respondents trapped a mean 28.9 days using a mean 21.0 traps per day and 84.3 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 208,155 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.59/100 trap-nights (170 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single mink). An estimated 1,224 mink were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$12.39 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2010-11 mink harvest was \$15,169 based on reported fur sales.

Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

The muskrat trapping season was 15 November 2010 – 15 March 2011 (122 days) in the Northern Zone, 01 December 2010 – 15 March 2011 (106 days) in the Southern Zone, and 01 January – 15 March 2011 (75 days) on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases. Based on active survey respondents (n = 168), there are 410 active muskrat trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 23.3 years of experience trapping muskrat. Active respondents trapped a mean 21.4 days using a mean 51.0 traps per day and 81.5 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 700,766 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 5.40/100 trap-nights (18.5 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single muskrat). An estimated 37,842 muskrat were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$5.63 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2010-11 muskrat harvest was \$212,981 based on reported fur sales.

Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginianus*)

The Virginia opossum trapping season was 15 November 2010 – 15 March 2011 (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 2011 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 63), there are 154 active opossum trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 9.0 years of experience trapping opossum. Active respondents trapped a mean 26.9 days using a mean 9.0 traps per day and 81.0 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 65,335 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 1.30/100 trap-nights (77 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single opossum). An estimated 849 opossum were taken by trappers, the

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reported mean price per pelt received was \$1.64 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2010-11 opossum harvest was \$1,388 based on reported fur sales.

Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

The raccoon trapping season was 15 November 2010 – 15 March 2011 (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 2011 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 172), there are 420 active raccoon trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 14.2 years of experience trapping raccoon. Active respondents trapped a mean 26.2 days using a mean 12.5 traps per day and 82.6 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 228,049 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 2.45/100 trap-nights (40.8 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single raccoon). An estimated 5,593 raccoons were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$12.48 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2010-11 raccoon harvest was \$69,814 based on reported fur sales.

Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

The red fox trapping season was 15 November 2010 – 15 March 2011 (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 2011 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 131), there are 320 active red fox trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 10.7 years of experience trapping red fox. Active respondents trapped a mean 31.0 days using a mean 18.9 traps per day and 86.3 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 317,283 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 1.11/100 trap-nights (89.8 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single red fox). An estimated 3,534 red fox were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$13.58 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2010-11 red fox harvest was \$48,009 based on reported fur sales.

River otter (*Lontra canadensis*)

The standard otter trapping season (26 Dec. 2010 to 9 Feb. 2011) was extended by 14 days to 23 Feb. 2011 due to severe winter weather (60 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 (54 days). A special, river otter trapping permit was required in addition to a trapping license. Two hundred fifty-three applications were received but only 87 permits were claimed and 21 were sold over-the-counter bringing the total permit issuance to 108. Fifty-one trappers (47.2 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, 26 February 2011. Additional information on the 2010-11 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 68 active otter trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 14.1 years of experience trapping river otter. Active respondents trapped a mean 7.9 days using a mean 2.3 traps per day and 88.2 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. The majority of the harvest (89.1 percent) was taken by a Conibear™ type trap (330 – 68.6%; 280 – 9.8%; 220 – 9.8%) while snares accounted for 11.8 percent. Total trap-nights were estimated at 1,350 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 3.78/100 trap-nights (26.5 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single otter). The reported mean price per pelt received by active

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respondents was \$52.80 and the estimated value of the 2010-11 otter harvest was \$2,693 based on reported fur sales.

Striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)

The striped skunk trapping season was 15 November 2010 – 15 March 2011 (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 2011 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 34), there are 83 active skunk trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 10.0 years of experience trapping skunk. Active respondents trapped a mean 20.0 days using a mean 6.5 traps per day and 75.0 percent of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 16,538 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.77/100 trap-nights (130.4 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single skunk). An estimated 127 skunks were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$5.61 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2010-11 skunk harvest was \$711 based on reported fur sales.

2010-11 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

ANNUAL NEW JERSEY TRAPPER SURVEY, 2010-11

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 2010: _____ 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.