

Vermont Furbearer Management Newsletter



Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

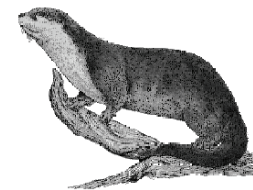


The MISSION OF THE Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont. In order to accomplish this mission, the integrity, diversity, and vitality of all natural systems must be protected.

Trapping Regulation Changes to take effect January 2007

In January 2007 the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's Furbearer Management Team and the Vermont Trappers Association will have completed a 12- to 16-month long process designed to consolidate, simplify, and modify Vermont's trapping regulations. One of the goals of this rule change is to consolidate 11 existing furbearer regulations under one heading entitled **Furbearer Species**. We hope this will make it easier for the public to access and understand the regulations as well as minimize the expense of changing future regulations. In addition, the team has tried to clarify existing ambiguities and clean up potential discrepancies in the language. The most significant changes, which will go into effect in January 2007, are listed below:

- Measure trap jaw spread inside the jaws.
- Add opossum, wolf, lynx, and weasel to the list of furbearers.
- Close otter season on the last day of February.
- Extend beaver season to November 15 through March 31.
- Implement a new trap trigger regulation during the late beaver season (March 1 through March 31) to minimize incidental take of otter.
- Shorten the muskrat trapping season to March 31st so it closes with the beaver season.



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- Change the 24-hour and 72-hour trap check to **daily** and **every three days**.
- Add otter and mink to the following: **A person may take beaver, otter [added], and mink [added] during the open season by means of traps only.**
- Remove the 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. requirement for the start and end of beaver season.

Current and previous editions of the *Vermont Furbearer Management Newsletter* are now on the Fish & Wildlife Department website:

http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/library.cfm?libbase_=Newsletters

Planning for the Future of Wildlife

Vermont recently updated a Wildlife Action Plan, the product of a two-year planning effort to conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat.

A blueprint for the conservation of all of Vermont's wildlife, the Action Plan is the largest planning effort of its kind in Vermont's history. Development was led by the Fish & Wildlife Department who worked with representatives of more than 60 local, state and national agencies, sportsmen and conservation groups, academics, land managers, and other wildlife experts.

The Action Plan emphasizes acting before wildlife become threatened or endangered. It's chock full of

conservation strategies that all Vermonters can help implement—from state and federal agencies to local communities and non-profit groups to individual landowners.

The State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program (an offshoot of the Action Plan) is a vital new addition to the traditional, and overstretched programs, that fund state wildlife management. Most importantly SWG provides additional monies for the conservation and restoration of the wildlife that our Nongame & Natural Heritage Program specializes in.

A thoughtful gift is now a bargain too: Your tax-deductible donations to the Nongame Wildlife Fund have always been important to the

conservation of Vermont's wildlife. Now, thanks to the SWG program, those donations can be effectively doubled—and even tripled! Why? Because federal funds come with a state match requirement, so your \$100 donation leverages between \$200 and \$300 of SWG Funds.

To learn more about the Wildlife Action Plan and the SWG and how you can help implement, go to http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/swg_cwcs_report.cfm. To learn more about tax-deductible donation to the Nongame Wildlife Fund, go to http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/support_nongame.cfm or call 802-241-1454.

By Ron Regan, Director of Wildlife



An estimated 43 percent of State Wildlife Grants have gone to conservation partners to help conserve Vermont's wildlife (e.g., VINS, Audubon, UVM, NWF, Coverts, TNC)

Season Results 2005-06

Seventy-nine bobcat, 419 fisher, and 178 otter were reported and tagged by Vermont's Wardens during the 2005-06 season. Wildlife biologists and volunteers examined each carcass to determine their sex, age, and physical condition. These data are used to monitor changes in health, status, and population levels.

Bobcat and fisher are well distributed throughout much of the state (Figures 1 and 2). Otter are managed by Watershed Management Units, as this species is closely tied to waterways. They too are well distributed throughout the state (Figure 3). We also monitor the harvest of furbearer species through the annual trapper mail survey (Figure 4), which

allows us to track trapper effort (# traps x # nights) and pelt price. Historically, trapping effort has been closely related to harvest levels. This strong relationship is a reassuring indicator that we are not overharvesting furbearers in Vermont.

Thanks to all of you who collect and/or contribute this essential information to

the furbearer program. As pelt prices increase, monitoring harvest and effort data will become even more critical to understanding furbearer population dynamics and management.



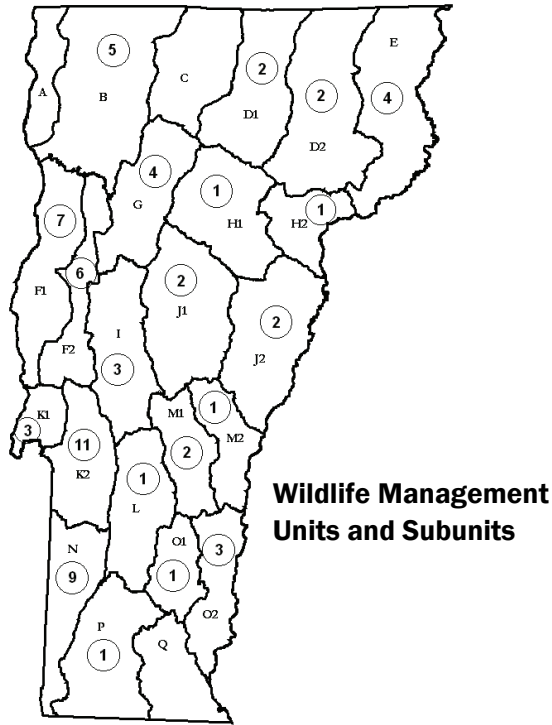


Figure 1. Distribution of 65 bobcat taken during the 2005-2006 season. (The remaining 14 bobcat are unknown).

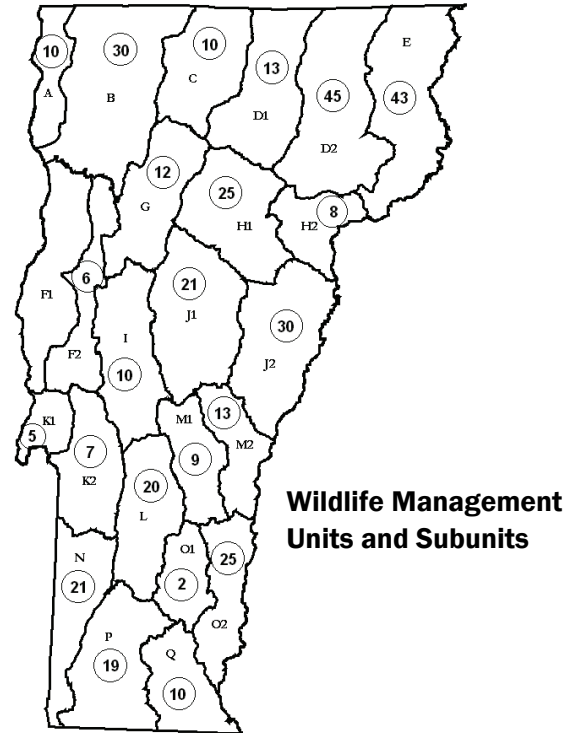


Figure 2. Distribution of 394 fisher taken during the 2005-2006 season. (The remaining 25 fisher are unknown).

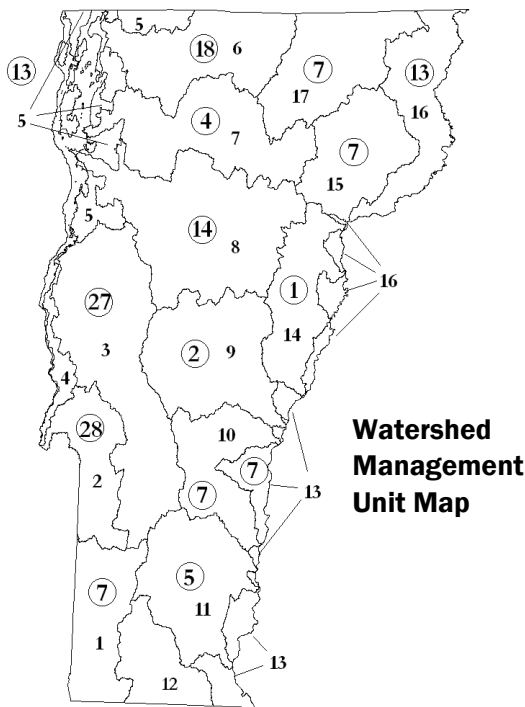
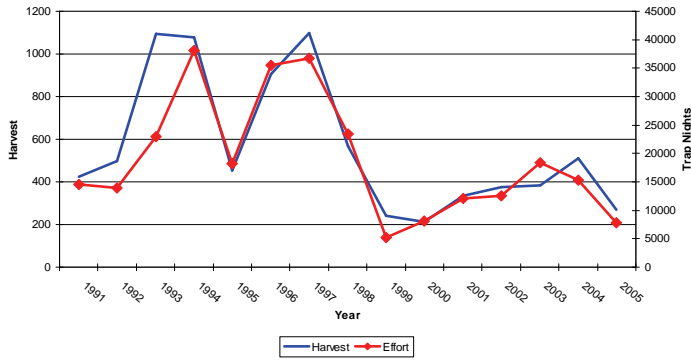


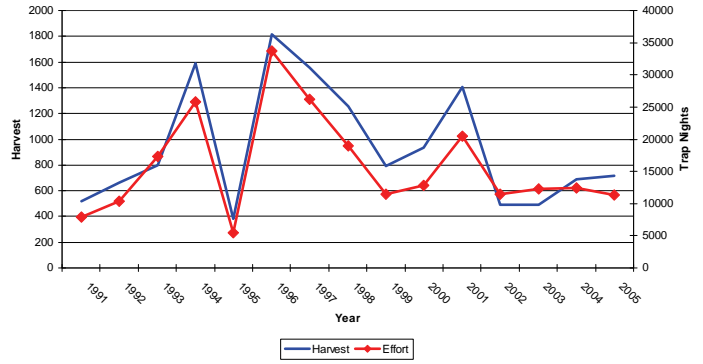
Figure 3. Distribution of 160 otter taken during the 2005-2006 season. (The remaining 18 otter are unknown).

- Watershed Management Units**
1. Batten Kill, Walloomsuc, Hoosic
 2. Poultney, Mettawee
 3. Otter Creek, Little Otter Creek, Lewis Creek
 4. Lower Lake Champlain
 5. Upper Lake Champlain, LaPlatte, Malletts Bay, St. Albans Bay, Rock, Pike
 6. Missisquoi
 7. Lamoille
 8. Winooski
 9. White
 10. Ottauquechee, Black
 11. West, Williams, Saxtons
 12. Deerfield
 13. Lower Connecticut, Mill Brook
 14. Stevens, Wells, Waits, Ompompanoosuc
 15. Passumpsic
 16. Upper Connecticut, Nulhegan, Willard Stream, Paul Stream
 17. Lake Memphremagog, Black, Barton, Clyde

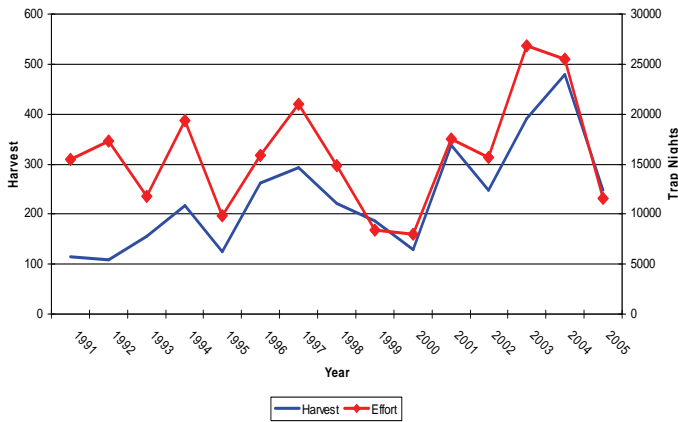
Raccoon



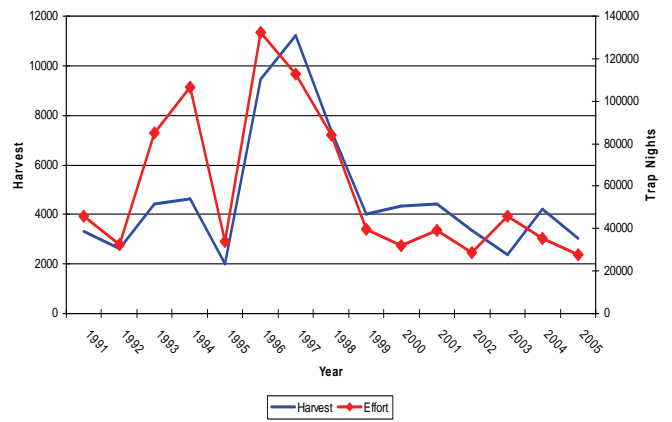
Beaver



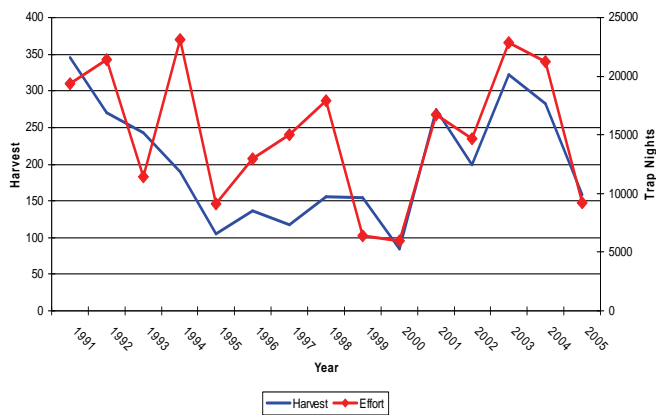
Coyote



Muskrat



Red Fox



Mink

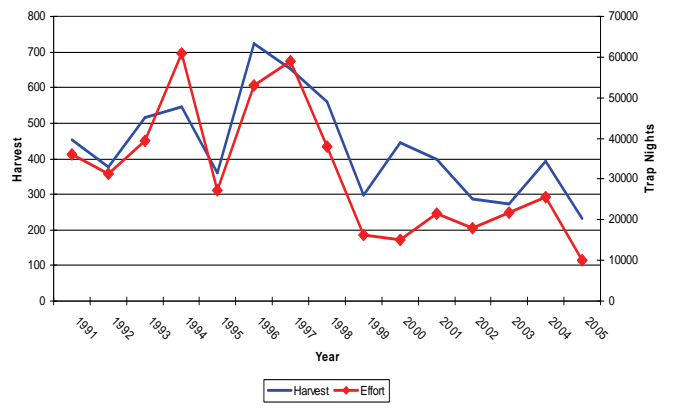


Figure 4. Harvest vs. Trapper Effort in Vermont (data from annual Trapper Mail Survey returned by trappers — thank you!).

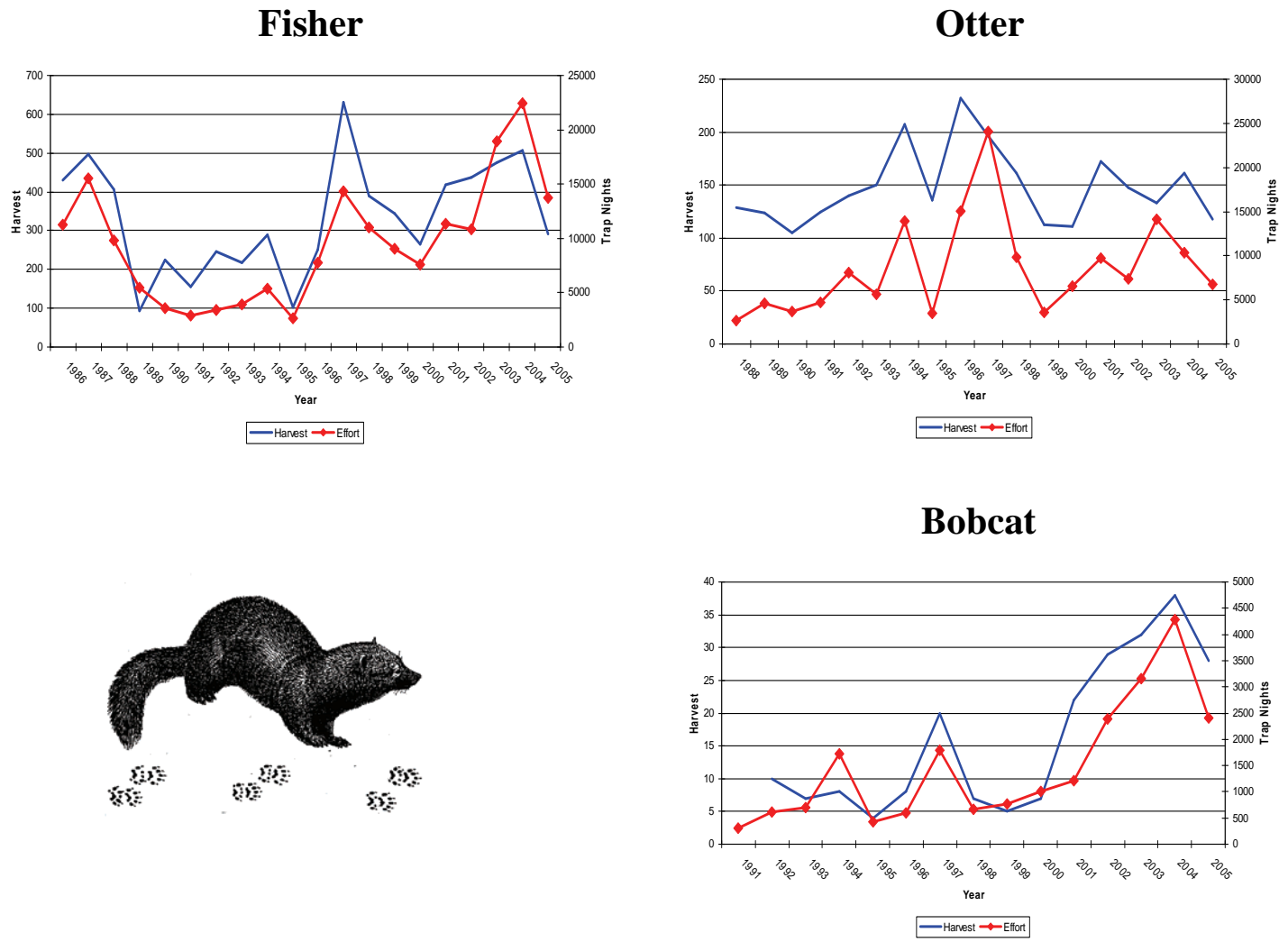


Figure 4. Harvest vs. Trapper Effort in Vermont (cont. from page 4).

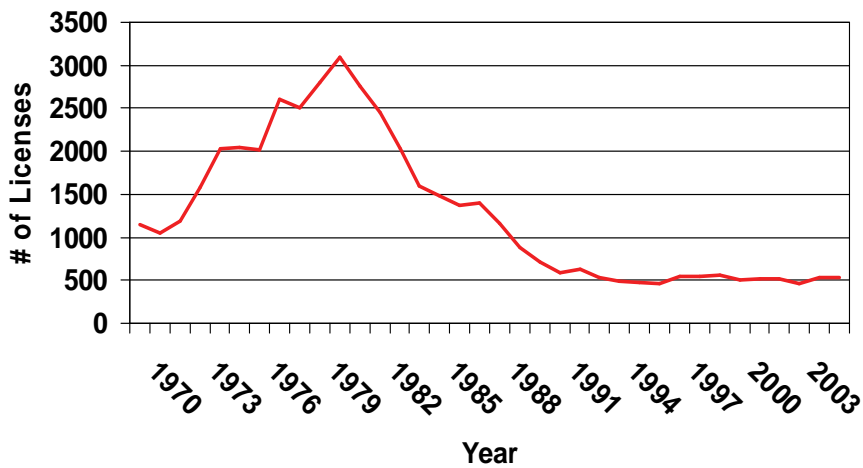
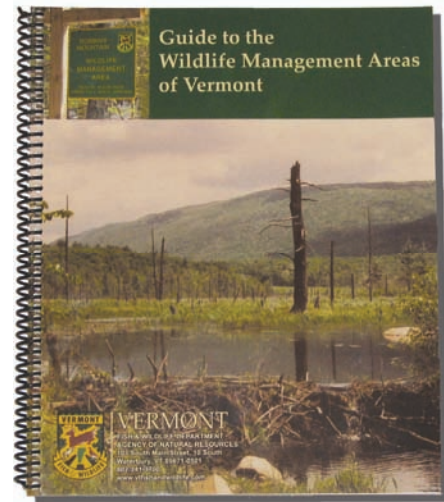


Figure 5. Total number of resident trapping license sales in Vermont by calendar year.

Guide to Wildlife Management Areas of Vermont

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department manages 81 Wildlife Management Areas totaling over 118,000 acres. A new guide to these areas is designed to help Vermonters and visitors experience the richness of the wildlife resources of our beautiful landscape. It features detailed colored maps of

each Wildlife Management Area with UTM coordinates, plus a general description, a brief history of the land and its acquisition, habitat features, and what common fish and wildlife you may see while visiting the area. For more information, see box below.



Fishes of Vermont

For the first time, Vermont has its own book of fishes. The *Fishes of Vermont* was recently released by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Written by three experienced Agency of Natural Resources biologists (Richard W. Langdon, Mark T. Ferguson, and Kenneth M. Cox), this volume provides a much needed account of the natural history of Vermont's 92 fish species. *Fishes of Vermont* is written for biologists and naturalists as well as for anglers and people who are just interested in fish and Vermont's natural resources.

Included in its 316 pages is the biology of each species accompanied by a

state distribution map based on over 9,000 collection records. A valuable identification key, designed just for Vermont species, eliminates species choices that don't occur in Vermont.

The paper and soft cover are ruggedly constructed to hold up to the effects of field use. Proceeds from sales will support Fish & Wildlife Department's Nongame and Natural Heritage Program activities.



Ordering Information:

Fishes of Vermont

Price is \$26.45 (\$24.95 plus tax) plus shipping

Guide to WMAs of Vermont

Price is \$17.25 plus shipping

Toll free number:

(800) 515-2475

Address:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife
P.O. Box 2248
Williston, VT 05495

Muskrat Facts

The Abenaki Indians called it the moskwas. Looking much like an overgrown rat or vole, *Ondatra zibethicus* is the largest and only semiaquatic member of the Muridae (rat) family. Named for the musk glands located near its anus, the muskrat's body is covered in rich, brown, waterproof fur made up of silky, dense underfur and coarse guard hairs. Its body size varies with its environment, but averages 1.7 to 3 pounds. It is a short-legged, paunchy creature and has the well-developed incisors common to all rodents. The musk is the main form of communication and is deposited near dens and along trails to mark territories and signal when a muskrat is ready to breed.

A muskrat can stay underwater for up to 17 minutes due to its ability to conserve oxygen by reducing its heart rate and limiting blood flow to essential organs. It can also scavenge oxygen from previously expelled air bubbles trapped under ice through uniquely shaped nostrils. Specially adapted features such as valves that close off the nostrils, ears, and mouth, and short, stiff hairs on the hind feet make swimming easier. The characteristically long, vertically flattened tail distinguishes it from other North American species of rats and functions as a paddle to push it through the water. A muskrat is able to chew on submerged stems and roots without taking in water thanks to front teeth that protrude ahead of its cheeks and lips.

Musk rats can be found in a variety of wetland habitats where the water level is relatively constant and deep enough to keep from freezing. In open water settings, a lodge is built of cattails, rotted plant material, and mud extending above the surface. A living chamber is excavated above the water level and underwater tunnels serve as entrances. Along flowing streams or



rivers, muskrats will create underground dens in the banks. They consist of a series of tunnels, chambers, and ventilation holes.

Predominantly herbivores, muskrats feed on an assortment of water plants, especially cattails and bulrushes. Occasionally they will feed on clams, mussels, or fish. They construct feeding platforms or rafts made of grasses and other plants where they can forage and stay concealed from predators. During the winter, muskrats will push vegetation up through a hole in the ice. These "push-ups" extend their foraging distances and provide a place to breathe while traveling underwater. When the muskrat population in an area becomes high, an eat-out may occur, leaving only open water. Eat-outs are of great benefit to waterfowl and wading birds but force the muskrats to leave and find another food supply.

The average lifespan of a muskrat is three to four years. A mature female muskrat can produce two or three litters of five or six kits in a year. The first litter of young are born in late April or early May and are ready to leave the den in about eight weeks.

The mink is the main natural predator of the muskrat. Foxes, coyotes, otters, skunks, snapping turtles, large owls, and hawks also prey on muskrats.

Musk rats can be an indicator of environmental quality since heavy metals will collect in their tissue and warn of contamination.

In 1853 Zadock Thompson wrote in Natural History of Vermont, "*Musk Rats were very numerous in Vermont when the country was new, and their skins afforded to the early settlers an important article of export.*" Though not considered as important as beaver in the development of the North American fur trade, the musquash, as Native Americans called it, became a staple of the European fur market. This was in large part due to its sheer numbers. Thompson reported that "*four to five thousand skins were exported to Great Britain annually*" to help satisfy the demand for fur. This trend continued in Vermont into the 1980s with as many as 20,000 to 30,000 pelts sold in a year.

In the last decade however, muskrat trappers across the Northeast have been seeing and harvesting fewer and fewer muskrats. Data taken from Vermont Trapper Mail Surveys indicate a steady decline in muskrat harvest since 1997 (see graph on page 4), decreasing as much as 34% from 1997 to 1998. Studies have shown that muskrat populations undergo regular fluctuations over a period of 10-14 years, and harvest numbers can also be related to pelt price. This most recent dramatic decline, however, appears to have other yet-to-be-discovered causes.

Nathan M. Roberts, of Cornell's Department of Natural Resources and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, spent the past year reviewing muskrat harvest and effort data from 12 states and provinces. The following is a summary of his findings:

- In almost all jurisdictions, the muskrat harvest has declined dramatically. Normally, fur harvests typically vary according to market price, however, in this

(Continued on page 11)

A Tale of Two Trappers

Scott Mayer is 70 years old. He has been trapping and earning a living off the land since he was 10. Joseph Epler III, on the other hand, turned 10 in March and after two years of being helped by his dad, will start making his own sets when the season opens this fall. Though not related and two generations apart, they have in common a love for the timeless tradition of trapping. We interviewed them recently to compare the experiences of a seasoned veteran with a relative newcomer starting out in the 21st century. We asked questions such as how did you get started trapping and why do you keep at it, who has influenced you the most, and how has trapping influenced your life. The following are the responses they gave.

Scott

“We lived in Vermont, but there wasn’t much for a young boy to do back on the hill where we lived. Then we moved to New York down in the Catskills, and it seemed like every young boy trapped. It was a way for young boys to have money. That’s the basic reason I did it, for spending money. The first muskrat I sold was a \$4 muskrat which was big money by today’s standards.

It was a way to earn money in the wintertime. I could work for farmers in the summertime and make it that way but when it got to be fall, there wasn’t anything going on on the farms. While I was going to high school, I could get up in the morning early and run my traps and make a little money. I always did it that way. I bought my own clothes, my own shoes, anything I needed for school. We were poor and didn’t have much money and so I used it to provide anything I wanted. If I wanted a new fish pole,

I just tried harder to catch more fur.

I have lived off the land and out of the woods all my life. I never worked for anybody else; I never worked in a factory or anything like that. I was a logger all my life and always trapped to supplement that income, the trapping being just a little supplement for Christmas money and stuff like that. I got so I really liked it and then it became a thing of brotherhood. There’s a lot of camaraderie. I like it for that reason. It has brought in money that was absolutely necessary. One winter we had a lot of snow and I couldn’t log. I’d sell my furs every week in order to have groceries and stuff like that.

“Today you’ve got all the opportunity in the world to learn how to do it and do it right.” — S. Mayer

I didn’t (have a mentor). In the old days everything was a big secret. Nobody would tell you anything because it was very, very competitive. Today you’ve got all the opportunity in the world to learn how to do it and do it right. Over the years there has been a lot of trapping that was done that wasn’t really ethical because people didn’t realize that there was a right way to do it. Now, the kids that are learning today are learning the right way to do it. They’re taking animal welfare into consideration as well as other trappers and landowners.

I came here (to Vermont) as a little boy, and I lived on a dirt road. I laid down on the dirt road on a



bridge and peered down over the edge of the bridge into a crystal clear stream over there in Pikes Falls in Jamaica. After my eyes got used to the water a little bit, there was the bottom of the stream. It looked alive. There was just a lot of little trout sitting there in the bottom of that stream wiggling their tails and that fascinated me so that I went home and got fish worms and tried to catch ‘em. Being in the woods and being a part of the woods, it just grew on me. Just walking up the stream and seeing a mother bear and her cub run away just as quick as they could get out of there...all those things intrigued me and they stayed right in my heart and they’re still there and I could never lose them.

Everything I did here in Vermont contributed to my love for the woods. My dad worked as a logger, and I used to go with him and I liked that. I liked the smell of the balsam pitch and the pine pitch. I hung around sawmills because I loved the smell of the sawdust. It just grew on me, and I could never shake it off. Since I quit logging, I really miss it. I miss it dearly. You have to give up something though. Your body just doesn’t work anymore. You just have to hang up the axe, but I haven’t hung the traps up yet.

(Continued on page 9)

A Tale of Two Trappers — *continued from page 8*

In 1965 I moved back to Vermont because it was getting crowded down there (in the Catskills) just like it is here right now. I couldn't get into the woods the way I liked. People were coming up posting their land. So I said, I'm gonna go back to Vermont—go back there where I love it, and log and trap, and that was the main reason I came back. I found a much greater variety and abundance of fur. I was really at home here. I probably feel about Vermont as deep in my heart and as caring as any native who lives here. That doesn't bother me one way or another, whether I was born here or not. It's what you do with your life that counts."

The changes he's seen... "There are more, definitely way more, furbearers now than there were in '65. There are different species than there were at that time, and there's also more mink. I think it's because we're growing back up to woods and the mink like the small streams and the clear water.

There's a lot less available land right now than there was. That's one of the major changes. To find a youth today who's interested in the outdoors and doesn't mind doing the extra work that goes with it, is a rare find. Trapping has become a dying art and kids today got their computer games. They'd rather sit in the house where it's warm and play games on the television than get out in the woods and wander around. I think that's a big difference right there.

I believe in conserving anything I can possibly conserve. If it has to do with nature and the outdoors or animals, or when I worked in the woods, I always thought about conservation. I never wantonly

went out and indiscriminately trapped, smashed beaver lodges, or punched holes in dams. I've been a law-abiding citizen always. I'm 70 and haven't gotten a traffic ticket in my life...not one. That's how I think about laws. I've never had a conservation infraction, of course; I never saw the advantage in doing it. If you're a good trapper, you can take your share. If you're a good logger, you'll always have trees to cut and if you're not, you soon get found out and you're done. I think all trappers are pretty much aware now that they've got to be very conscientious about their trapping activities or they're gonna lose their rights.

Trapping is a big part of my life. Just being in the woods to me is a big part of my life. I feel comfortable there. I'd miss it tremendously if I didn't have it. I feel it's an honest, clean, healthy way of life. It puts you in context with what is really going on with the earth and the soil and the seasons. It's how the American Indian and the Eskimo were able to survive because they lived so purely and so simply. I would recommend it as a beautiful way of life. Like I said, I made my entire living from the woods, and it wasn't just trapping and logging. I burn wood. I've been a ginseng hunter as long as I've been a trapper. I also pick up beer cans along the side of the road. You kill two birds with one stone; you make it look a little nicer and neater and you get a nickel!

I would recommend to anybody to get into the woods, even if it's just to walk in the woods for a few minutes. Do it every opportunity you have the chance. There's always something new, always

something beautiful to see. There's always something very rewarding about it, and if you let yourself absorb some of what's out there, you'll get some great rewards in life. There are so many lessons to be learned. The way the animals raise their young, we could learn a lot from them. The way they put up their food, how they prepare for winter...it seems so insignificant but it's the basics. If anybody ever has the opportunity, go into the woods. Even if you don't know a lot about what you're doing, get your feet off the blacktop and get them onto the leaves and the soft soil."



Joseph

Though Joseph uses less words to express his passion for trapping than Scott, the enthusiasm and sparkle in his eye is just as obvious. Joseph's mom and dad, Joe II and Deb, helped fill in the details.

"I started going out with my dad when I was 3½ or 4, but I've really been looking at spots and learning it really good for the past three years. I got my license when I was eight. My dad would bring me with him everyday, every morning before school.

(Continued on page 10)

A Tale of Two Trappers — *continued from page 9*

It's fun and I like being out in the woods and being outside a lot. I just like to be outside and do stuff...the scenery you get in the morning and seeing other places and how different animals have gone through. I like following their tracks to see where they've been and where they're going. If I didn't trap, I don't know what I'd do. There's nothing else I can do in the winter and fall except play hockey. It gives me something to do.

I like getting up early and going out with my dad. Sometimes I go to the logyard with him, and I help him do firewood. We fish and hunt together. Once a year we go to the family camp in Pennsylvania to hunt." Joe adds, "He loves to fish. He takes the fish and uses them for bait. It's part of the cycle." These activities are an important part of the family heritage, and he hopes to pass them on to his own kids someday.

"I like the water sets the most...mink and muskrat. This year we're going to try a little bit more with coyote and fox." Joe explained, "When he was little, we started with the water trapping because it's pretty much the easiest way to learn how to trap, then we'll go on to something else. We feel after this year, he'll be pretty comfortable with the water sets. Last year we did some fisher and we got two, so this year we'll put a few more out."

His most exciting moment...
"When I first caught an otter in sets that I made. A male, pretty big. It was two years ago, and it was up to my chest! First we thought we had a coon and then maybe a mink, but then we saw that it was an otter. Pretty cool!"

Sometimes Joseph is late to school because he is checking his lines and occasionally smells like the lure he's been using. "My 1st and 2nd grade teacher was fine with it because her dad was a trapper. My 3rd grade teacher liked it and was ok with it. This year I don't know yet. Sometimes they ask me about what I catch." His class just recently used the Furbearer Fundamentals education kit prepared by the Northeast Fur Resources Technical Committee. "I thought it was really good. The fur was the best part. [The class] all liked it. It's been through three classes already."

"...I like following their tracks to see where they're going. If I didn't trap, I don't know what I'd do." — J. Epler III

Joseph is a member of the Vermont Trappers Association. "I go to the Rendezvous every year. I get to buy new stuff there." Trapping is a profitable venture for him. "I averaged \$26 to \$30 for the mink. I buy my trapping supplies and go to the Rendezvous with it. Two years ago I bought my kayak. This year I bought a really nice knife that I wanted."

This young trapper is not yet concerned about the future of trapping. "I let my dad worry about that." As of yet, he has not been challenged by those who would condemn the tradition. His dad expresses a little more concern. "I'm sure he'll run into it as he gets older. No one bothered me when I was 10 or 11 but as I got into my teens, it was different. You have to handle each question as it comes to you and 9 times out of 10 you can educate the person. I use the philosophy of having a garden. If you don't tend to it, what are you

going to have? It's just like the forest. It's just like the animals. It's common sense. And, of course, the trapping regulations we are up against today...there are more regulations for trappers than there are for hunters so we have a lot to abide by."

Education has been a high priority in becoming a trapper. Both Joseph's parents stress the importance of doing it right. Joe added, "He tagged along with me until he was old enough to understand it and take interest in it. He took the trapper ed course when he was 8 and since then can set his own traps. Every year he gets stronger, and he's getting to know the ins and outs of it. We didn't have the education that they provide today for trapping, especially things like the use of the traps, the size of the traps. It's great. I always encourage everybody, even if they have a trapper's license, to take another course. Education is the key. We learned a lot taking the different courses. Next year he'll probably take the advanced trapper course up at Buck Lake."

Sometimes the education takes the form of reporting an incidental beaver catch. It started with a call to the warden. Deb explains, "Joseph went right out to him when he came and told him the whole story. It was a good experience for Joseph to know that that was the right thing to do. Wayne (Dengler) came out and tagged it for him, and they had a super conversation about it. Wayne is a great guy...all the wardens are and they love to see the youth."

And in keeping with their conservation ethic, the beaver was used as bait for other sets.

By Mary Beth Adler

Coyote Tissue Samples Still Needed

Dr. Roland Kays from the New York State Museum in Albany, is conducting a regional coyote genetics study. Through DNA analysis of coyote tissue from animals originating in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, we will try to establish the taxonomic and evolutionary history of the Eastern coyote. In addition, we hope to investigate the existence of hybridization with other canids. Last season a trapper in the Northeast Kingdom contributed more than 40 animals! Dr. Kays is

now interested in the same number of samples from the Champlain Valley and southern Vermont. If you trap or shoot a coyote and would like to donate the head or full carcass to this research effort, call Dr. Kays at (518) 486-3205 or email him at **rkays@MAIL.NYSED.GOV** or call me at 802-885-8831.

The carcass/head should be marked with the date the animal was taken, the town it was taken in, and the pre-dressed weight on a piece of

duct tape (around the leg or taped to a bag). Keep the animal frozen until someone from Dr. Kays' staff comes to pick it up. Although there is nothing to report to date, preliminary results should be available next summer. This important research effort may provide insights into the wily animal that currently inhabits our state.



Bobcat Study Continues

The bobcat study is beginning its second, and last, field season. Twenty bobcats were trapped last fall and winter by graduate student Mark Freeman and two participating trappers. Fifteen of the 20 were radio collared. We are hoping to capture and collar another 15 animals this year. If you trap within the study area (see figure) and you catch a healthy bobcat, we may be interested in paying you for the opportunity to collar the animal. Call Mark Freeman at home 802-888-9353; cell 802-324-2426; pager 802-240-0454. Mark could also use beaver carcasses for bait. If you have more beaver than you can use, please call Mark and he will come pick them up.

Figure 1: Study Area

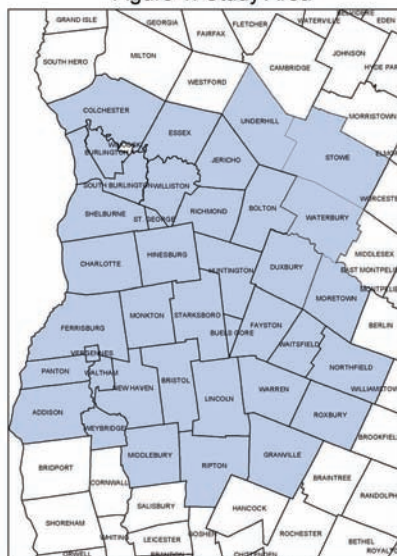


Photo by Cory Blodgett

Muskrat Facts — *continued from page 7*

case the harvest decline does not appear to be a function of pelt price to the degree that it is with other furbearers.

- There appears to be a pattern to the timing of the decline. According to the data, the declines began in the mid Atlantic states (West Virginia, Virginia, New Jersey, etc.) in the late 1970s and

early 1980s and progressed northward into Ontario and Quebec in the late 1980s.

- No one is sure what is causing this decline, but there are many theories including contaminants, disease, predators, exotic plants, forest succession, changes in trapping methods, etc.

As a result, we are opting to shorten the muskrat trapping season (see page 1). We will continue to study this problem and hope to have new information in the next year or two. We welcome any insights you might have to offer.

By Mary Beth Adler

Check Out These Websites

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
<http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/>

Conserve Wildlife
<http://www.conservewildlife.org/>

Vermont Trappers Association
<http://www.vermonttrappers.com/>

National Trappers Association
<http://www.nationaltrappers.com/>

IAFWA Furbearer Resources Technical Work Group
<http://www.furbearermgmt.org/>

Furbearers Unlimited
<http://www.furbearers.org/>

Fur Takers of America
<http://www.furtakersofamerica.com/>

The Wildlife Society
<http://www.wildlife.org/>

Keeping Track
<http://www.keepingtrack.org/>

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Trappers, hunters, game wardens, furbearer team members, and trap standards committee members for your help in the management and conservation of Vermont's furbearers



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