

2008 NOVA SCOTIA
**HUNTING &
FUR HARVESTING**
LICENCE & SUMMARY
OF REGULATIONS

This is a valid export permit for wildlife
legally taken under this licence
(excluding furbearing animals)

Place
Wildlife Habitat
Stamp Here



Signature of parent or guardian

This signature is required for all persons under
the age of 18, if using a firearm or bow

Deer

SEPT

OCT

NOV

DEC

Deer

Place
Small Game
Stamp Here

Place
Bow Hunting
Stamp Here

Place
Muzzleloader
Stamp Here

Place Furharvester
Stamp Here

Supervising Wildlife
Resources Card Number

if you are an apprentice to a
furharvester licence holder.

Place
Deer Registration
Seal Here

Reg. Station # _____

Date _____

Agent _____

Place
Moose Hunting
Stamp Here

OR

On-line
Deer Registration
(see page 81)

Record your Deer
Registration Confirmation
Number Here

Place
Antlerless Deer
Stamp Here

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Report illegal hunting and trapping to your local Natural Resources Office or call 1-800-565-2224

Please Note:

This is a summary prepared for the information and convenience of anyone who plans to hunt or trap in Nova Scotia. The original Wildlife Act and Regulations should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law.

These laws are subject to change at any time.

For a full copy of the Wildlife Act and Regulations, please check our website at www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/web/actregs.htm

For detailed information on Wildlife please see our wildlife website at www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife




NOVA SCOTIA

Natural Resources

Honourable David M. Morse
Minister

Peter Underwood
Deputy Minister

A Message from the Minister of Natural Resources

This booklet contains important information about fees, bag limits, season dates, recent regulation changes and other useful material that we hope will ensure a safe and enjoyable season. Information on First Nations hunting rights, prepared by representatives of the Mi'kmaq community, is also presented.

Young Nova Scotians will have more opportunity again this year, with ages for companion moose hunters set at 16 years, as is the age to take a guide training course. Also, in deer zone 2A Lunenburg/Queens County, there are significantly increased hunting opportunities with the chance to harvest a second deer.

After careful consideration, regulation changes approved this year will allow qualified hunters to use crossbows to hunt for deer during the General Open Season for deer.

Again this year several new traps, which have been certified as meeting the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards, have been added to the list of traps approved for harvesting furbearer species in Nova Scotia. In doing this Nova Scotia continues to strongly support national efforts to ensure that Canadian trappers are using the most effective and humane tools to capture furbearing species.

Waterfowler Heritage Day will take place on Saturday, September 20 this year. Qualified hunters between ages 12 and 17, accompanied by a mentor, will be permitted to hunt waterfowl. They will not require a small game licence or migratory game bird hunting permit.

I am pleased to report that fees hunters paid for their 2007 Wildlife Habitat Stamp have funded 17 projects this year. The projects are focused on the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats throughout the province.

I encourage all hunters to carefully read through this summary of regulations. If you require clarification or have any questions, please contact any Department of Natural Resources office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

As you embark upon another season, please respect the rights of private landowners who permit access to their property, as well as those who don't. Practice safe hunting techniques and have an enjoyable and successful 2008 season.



David M. Morse
Minister of Natural Resources

Significant Changes for 2008

Hunting

1. Use of crossbow by certified hunters is now legal for hunting **deer only**, during the General Open Season for Hunting Deer. See page 66, number 2.
2. Beginning this year, companion moose licence holders may be 16 and 17 years of age provided that while hunting they are under the immediate supervision of a responsible adult of 18 years of age or older who is certified to hunt wildlife in Nova Scotia with a firearm or bow. See page 21, number 4.
3. Bear snaring season for licenced furharvesters has been extended to the first Saturday of December. See page 11.
4. Persons hunting in zone 2A during the Special Open Season for Bowhunting Deer and the Youth Season for Hunting Deer do not require an Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamp to hunt antlerless deer.
5. Persons who have legally harvested an antlerless deer within Deer Management Zone 2A, during the Special Open Season for Bowhunting Deer or during the Youth Season for Hunting Deer, or as holders of a zone 2A Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamp may apply for a Zone 2A Bonus Deer Hunting Stamp, authorizing that person to take a second deer from within Zone 2A. See pages 57 and 58.
6. The minimum age a person can take the Nova Scotia Guide Training has been lowered to 16.

Furharvesting

1. Beaver bag limits have been increased in all zones. See page 26.
2. The use of snares under ice for capturing beaver and other aquatic furbearers is now permitted within 300 yards of dwellings. See page 34, number 10.
3. Licensed Furharvesters and bear snarers can appoint partners to check traps and snares. See page 29.
4. The list of approved body gripping traps for certain species has been updated. See page 35.

This Licence and Regulations Booklet is made of light cardboard and paper. It is recommended that you keep it in a waterproof container, such as a Zip Lock bag, to keep it clean and dry. (See page 69 for details on use and care of Deer and Bear Tags.)

Habitat Conservation Fund and Wildlife Habitat Stamp

The Habitat Conservation Fund is authorized by the Wildlife Act for the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat. The \$3 Wildlife Habitat Stamp is the primary funding mechanism for the fund. Project funding recommendations are made by a Board of Directors, with three representatives from the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, one from Nature Nova Scotia and one from the Atlantic Cooperative Wildlife Ecology Research Network.

Projects approved for funding for 2008 are as follows:

Amphibians as Indicators of Road Disturbance in Forests

St. Mary's University - Awarded: \$4,000.00

This project will develop amphibians as indicators of road disturbance in forest habitats. The extent of disturbance into adjacent forest will be quantified by analytical chemistry of pond water and by changes in amphibian community structure along disturbance gradients. This project will have application to future projects involving road construction through forested areas, placement of logging roads, and width of buffer zones along roadways.

An Individual Based Model of the American Marten (*Martes Americana*) in Cape Breton, N.S.

Acadia University - Awarded: \$5,000.00

To compliment the efforts of the Nova Scotia Marten Recovery Team (NSMRT) towards achieving a viable self-sustaining marten population in Cape Breton Island. We aim to accomplish this by recommending augmentation and management strategies based on the results of simulated empirical testing within the framework of an individual based model (IBM) of the CBI population.

**Canopy preferences of Carrion Beetles
(*Coleoptera: Silphidae*) in different forest types.**

Randy Lauff - Awarded: \$3,700.00

To provide information on the life history of *Nicrophorus pustulatus*, with particular emphasis on microhabitat use and potentially that of nutrient source for its brood.

Coastlines Natural History Column

Ecology Action Centre - Awarded: \$4,500.00

For the general public, private landowners, resource users and young Nova Scotians to develop an appreciation and understanding of freshwater habitat conservation issues, ecology, and biodiversity in order to encourage their participation in protecting, conserving, and managing wildlife habitat.

Conserving the Scotian South Shore

Nature Conservancy Canada - Awarded \$25,000.00

To secure critical habitat and species in this natural area for the benefit of future generations.

**Determining the size and extent of the marten
(*Martes Americana*) population in western Nova Scotia**

Trappers' Association of Nova Scotia - Awarded: \$10,500.00

To provide better information to landowners and the forest industry to ensure that marten habitat can be identified (and protected if deemed necessary), allowing the population to grow and expand on the mainland. By increasing the efficacy of detection units, methods and procedures, marten presence/absence in the landscape can be more easily determined, and will be valuable in evaluating the success of augmenting the endangered Cape Breton marten population.

Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas: A community effort to map bird distribution and abundance in NS

Bird Studies Canada -Amount Awarded: \$10,000.00

Our immediate goals for 2008 are to provide NS volunteers with the support and training they need to maximize the value of their contribution to the Atlas project and to hire staff to help achieve survey coverage targets in less-populated areas.

Monitoring flying squirrel survivorship and fecundity

Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute - Amount Awarded: \$5,000.00

To determine survivorship of flying squirrels. To determine fecundity (ability to produce young) of flying squirrels.

To develop population viability models tied to models of forest harvesting to understand long-term connectivity requirements for flying squirrels in southwestern Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia Landowners' Beach Stewardship Guide

Bird Studies Canada - Amount Awarded: \$4,000.00

To educate private landowners, property managers and developers of beaches in Nova Scotia and promote best practices for habitat protection for endangered Piping Plovers on privately-owned beaches

Outdoor Learning Centre, Year 2

Atlantic Coastal Action Program Cape Breton - Amount Awarded: \$3,000.00

The creation of an Outdoor Learning Centre will broadly focus on surrounding natural habitat, environmental issues, and our role of stewardship. We hope to act as a catalyst to create a shift in the teaching protocol by offering teachers a sense of security and comfort with the Outdoor Learning Stations.

Project Webfoot Wetland Education Program 2008/2009

Ducks Unlimited -Amount Awarded: \$10,000.00

To engage community environmental organizations and other groups to be involved in wetland conservation and education.

Replacement of two dilapidated flow control structures on Meadow Pond Watershed

Queens County Fish and Game Association - Amount Awarded: \$6,975.00

To remove existing dilapidated flow control structures and replace with more environmentally friendly flow structures to maximize waterfowl and wildlife production, by stabilizing water levels and enhancing habitat. The project will also provide a user friendly area for residents, visitors, and science students in local area schools to interact with wildlife and related habitat.

Roosting and social ecology of the eastern pipistrelle, *Perimyotis subflavus*, in south western Nova Scotia

St. Mary's University - Amount Awarded: \$4,000.00

To assess the social structure and roosting ecology of maternity colonies of the eastern pipistrelle bat in southwestern Nova Scotia in and around Kejimkujik National Park.

St. Mary's River Conservation Legacy Project

Nova Scotia Nature Trust - Funding: \$7,500.00

To permanently secure ecologically significant habitat along the St. Mary's River, helping to ensure the ecological integrity of the river and the survival of associated imperiled species, including wood turtles and Atlantic salmon.

Weeding Out: Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Through Community-Based Invasive Plant Management

Clean Annapolis River Project - Amount Awarded: \$5,000.00

To develop a community-based approach to the control and management of invasive alien plants, leading to improved quality of habitat for native wildlife species.

Young Naturalists Club of Nova Scotia

Young Naturalists Club - Amount Awarded: \$5,000.00

To provide positive experiences and learning opportunities related to natural history, primarily of Nova Scotia. Positive experiences in nature, and excitement regarding natural history knowledge, lead to the development of an environmental and conservation ethic in children.

Youth Hunter Education Scholarship

Big Game Society of Nova Scotia - Amount Awarded: \$2,565.00

To reach 10 youth between the ages of 12 to 17 yrs. and put them through the NS Hunter Safety Course(s) and the Canadian Firearms Safety Course.

For more information on the Fund and project activity, please visit <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/habfund>.


NOVA SCOTIA HABITAT
Natural Resources CONSERVATION
FUND

Contributions from Hunters and Trappers

Report Waterfowl Bands

Each year thousands of waterfowl are banded in North America. It is now easier to report your bands.

3 Ways to Report Bird Bands

Online www.reportband.gov

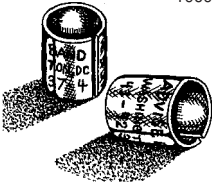
Call toll free 1-800-327-BAND (2263)

Write Bird Banding Laboratory
12100 Beech Forest Road
Laurel, MD 20708

By reporting North American Bird Banding Program bands, you will help in the management of our continental migratory birds. When you report your band number, you will be asked for information on when and where you encountered the bird or band.

You can keep the band. You also will receive a Certificate of Appreciation for all reported bands.

If you report on-line, you will immediately receive feedback on the band number reported.



By online, phone or mail your information is wanted and needed.

Thank-you!

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Seasons and Bag Limits

NOTE: ALL WILDLIFE NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN THIS SECTION, INCLUDING EAGLES, HAWKS, FALCONS, OWLS, AND OSPREY ARE PROTECTED AT ALL TIMES.

Big Game

Bear Hunting Season

**SEPTEMBER 8 TO DECEMBER 6, EXCLUDING SUNDAYS
BAG LIMIT — ONE (1) BEAR**

During the period September 8 to October 30, hunters are permitted to hunt only at bait sites that have been registered with the local DNR office.

Bear Snaring Season

**OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 6, INCLUDING SUNDAYS
BAG LIMIT — ONE (1) BEAR**

To obtain a Bear Snaring Stamp, you must be a resident of Nova Scotia and certified as a qualified (FQ) or trained (FT) Furharvester. See page 28 and 24.

Deer Hunting

BAG LIMIT IS ONE (1) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR FOR ALL HUNTERS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HUNTERS WHO HAVE ACQUIRED A BONUS DEER HUNTING STAMP FOR ZONE 2A. See page 58.

DEER HUNTING IS LIMITED TO ANTLERED DEER, EXCEPT:

- **FOR THOSE HUNTERS HAVING A VALID ANTLERLESS DEER HUNTING STAMP AFFIXED TO THEIR DEER HUNTING LICENCE,**
- **IN ZONE 2A DURING THE SPECIAL OPEN SEASON FOR BOWHUNTING DEER,**
- **IN ZONE 2A DURING THE YOUTH SEASON FOR HUNTING DEER, AND**
- **IN ZONE 2A FOR HUNTERS HOLDING A BONUS DEER HUNTING STAMP.**

NOTE: FOR DEFINITIONS OF ANTLERED AND ANTLERLESS DEER SEE PAGE 38. ALSO SEE PAGES 56–57 FOR A MAP OF DEER MANAGEMENT ZONES AND INFORMATION ON HUNTING ANTLERLESS DEER.

Special Open Season for Bowhunting Deer

SEPTEMBER 27 TO OCTOBER 30, AND DECEMBER 8 TO DECEMBER 13, EXCLUDING SUNDAYS

To hunt deer with a bow and arrow, a hunter must be certified as a qualified Bowhunter (B), have a Bow Stamp and a valid Deer Hunting Stamp or Bonus Deer Hunting Stamp.

Special Youth Season for Hunting Deer

OCTOBER 17 TO OCTOBER 25, EXCLUDING SUNDAY

During this special youth season, persons 16 and 17 years of age may hunt deer with a firearm or bow, provided they hold the appropriate certification (HT or B) and hold a valid deer hunting licence or a Bonus Deer Hunting Stamp **and** are under the **immediate supervision** of a person over the age of 18 who is certified to hold a deer hunting licence. See definition of “immediate supervision” on page 41.

General Open Season for Hunting Deer

OCTOBER 31 TO DECEMBER 6, EXCLUDING SUNDAYS

Moose Hunting Seasons

SEASON 1 - SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 4,

SEASON 2 - OCTOBER 6 TO OCTOBER 11,

SEASON 3 - DECEMBER 9 TO DECEMBER 11

BAG LIMIT — ONE (1) MOOSE

Moose Draw Entry Fee: \$6.00 + HST.

Note: To hold a moose hunting licence, a person must be a resident of Nova Scotia and 18 years of age or older. There are a limited number of licences available which are allocated through an application/draw process. Hunting is only in Inverness and Victoria Counties. Each licence holder may designate up to two companions who can fully participate in the hunt. See Big Game, page 21 or:

www.gov.ns.ca/natr/draws/moosedraw

Muzzleloader Hunting Season

OCTOBER 20 TO OCTOBER 25, (LISCOMB GAME SANCTUARY AND TOBEATIC WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS ONLY)

BAG LIMIT—AS PER SPECIES FOR WHICH THE PERSON POSSESSES A VALID LICENCE. SEE PAGE 79 FOR DETAILS.

SEE PAGE 73 FOR REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO USE OF BAIT IN THE TOBEATIC WILDERNESS AREA.

Small Game

Pheasant Preserve Hunting Season

AUGUST 1 TO MARCH 31, EXCLUDING SUNDAYS; NO BAG LIMIT

A base licence is required to shoot pheasants or quail on a licenced pheasant shooting preserve. A Small Game Hunting Licence is required to shoot other small game on a preserve. No person is to remove a pheasant from a preserve unless the game bird(s) are identified with a band or tag bearing the licence number of the pheasant shooting preserve operator.

Ruffed Grouse Hunting Season

OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, EXCLUDING SUNDAYS

BAG LIMIT — FIVE (5) PER DAY, WITH POSSESSION LIMIT AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF TEN (10) AT ANY TIME.

A Small Game Hunting Stamp is required.

Ring-necked Pheasant (Male) Hunting Season

(A) IN THE COUNTIES OF ANNAPOLIS, KINGS AND HANTS, NOVEMBER 1 TO DECEMBER 15, EXCLUDING SUNDAYS

**(B) IN ALL OTHER COUNTIES OF THE PROVINCE, OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 15, EXCLUDING SUNDAYS
BAG LIMIT — TWO (2) MALE RING-NECKED PHEASANTS PER DAY, WITH A POSSESSION LIMIT AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF FOUR (4) BIRDS AT ANY TIME.**

Persons transporting a ring-necked pheasant must leave at least one fully feathered wing and the tail attached to the bird. This does not apply to legally tagged pheasants taken from a licenced pheasant shooting preserve. A Small Game Hunting Stamp is required.

Rabbit (Snowshoe Hare)

NO BAG LIMIT. HUNTING SEASON; NOVEMBER 1 TO THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY, EXCLUDING SUNDAYS. SNARING SEASON; NOVEMBER 1 TO THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY, INCLUDING SUNDAYS

A Small Game Licence is not required except by non-residents. However, a Wildlife Habitat Stamp is required by all persons hunting and/or snaring rabbits (see page 16). The use of dogs to hunt snowshoe hare is prohibited from November 1 to November 15 inclusive.

Hungarian Partridge

No open hunting season.

Migratory Game Birds

Only the following migratory game birds may be taken or hunted: ducks, geese, woodcock, and Wilson or common snipe. Seasons and bag limits are established by the federal government. You must obtain a Small Game Hunting Stamp and a Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt migratory birds. The federal permit and Regulations summary can be obtained at your local post office.

See Legal Firearms/Bows and Ammunition — regarding Non-Toxic Shot requirement (page 68).

Waterfowler Heritage Day

A Waterfowler Heritage Day is scheduled province-wide for September 20, 2008. Only qualified young hunters from 12 to 17 years (inclusive) of age will be permitted to hunt in the company and guidance of a mentor who is a licenced adult hunter.

Qualified young hunters must meet all mandatory federal and provincial safety requirements, including hunter and firearm training courses. During Waterfowler Heritage Days, participating young hunters will not need to purchase the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit (MGBHP) or Small Game Hunting Stamp. They must however obtain a provincial Wildlife Habitat Stamp and comply with all other provisions of the Nova Scotia Wildlife Act, its Regulations and the Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations (e.g. bag and possession limits, season dates, hunting methods, etc.).

Mentors must be at least 18 years of age and hold a valid MGBHP and Small Game Hunting Stamp. Each mentor may accompany up to two qualified young hunters. Mentors will not be permitted to have in their possession or use a firearm. Mentors are expected to focus their attention on providing guidance, advice on firearm safety and hunting etiquette, such as site selection, decoy setup and removal, dog handling, and bird retrieval.

If young hunters elect to hunt at other times during the hunting season, they will be required to purchase the MGBHP and Small Game Hunting Stamp.

Belleisle Marsh

A special draw will be held for waterfowl hunting on constructed wetlands of Belleisle Marsh, Annapolis County. Hunting on constructed wetlands during the first three days of the migratory bird hunting season is permitted at registered blind sites only.

Applications for use of blind sites will be available at all district offices of the Department of Natural Resources on August 1, 2008. Application deadline is August 29, 2008. The draw will be held on September 2, 2008 at the DNR district office in Lawrencetown.

Furbearers

OCTOBER 15 TO MARCH 31 (FOR SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR VARIOUS SPECIES SEE PAGES 26 TO 27)

A Resident Furharvester Stamp is required to trap, shoot, or possess beaver, otter, mink, muskrat, fisher, raccoon, fox, bobcat, and weasel. Marten, lynx, and cougar are completely

protected. Coyote, red squirrel, and skunk may be hunted as described in Other Harvestable Wildlife (see below).

Note: A Wildlife Habitat Stamp is required as part of a licence to take furbearing animals (page 16).

Other Harvestable Wildlife

NO BAG LIMITS.

“Other harvestable wildlife” may be hunted at the following times of year:

Species	Open Season
Coyote*	January 1 to December 31
Red Squirrel	November 1 to the last day of March
Crow	September 1 to March 31
Bullfrog	July 15 to September 30

Note: For the purpose of preventing damage to property, the following wildlife species have been designated as “Other Harvestable Wildlife”:

Mice and rats	Voles, moles and shrews
Porcupine	Woodchuck (Groundhog)
Red squirrel and chipmunk	Coyote
Rock dove (Common pigeon)	Crow
English sparrow	Starling
Skunk	

“Other harvestable wildlife” may be taken or killed without a licence or permit at any time of the year by the owner/occupier of a property, or an agent of the owner/occupier for the purpose of preventing damage to property. However, a Wildlife Habitat Stamp is required to hunt these species for any other reason (see page 16).

*Coyote

Coyotes are classed as “other harvestable wildlife” and can be hunted year round with **NO** bag limit. Coyotes may only be trapped by licenced furharvesters during the regular season when traps and snares may be used. Consult section **Licence, Stamp and Permit Regulations — Other Harvestable Wildlife** (page 23) to see who may hunt them. See section on **Legal Firearms/Bows and Ammunition — Other Harvestable Wildlife** (Page 68) for permitted weapons and ammunition.

Persons hunting coyotes are not required to wear hunter orange except from October 1 to the end of the general open season for hunting deer.

Licence and Permit Fees

All fees include HST.

Vendor Retailed Licences

These licences can be obtained from vendors throughout the province as well as local offices of the Department of Natural Resources.

Wildlife Habitat Stamp (constitutes the base hunting licence which is required to hunt or trap/snare all wildlife species, including snowshoe hare (rabbits) and other harvestable wildlife).....\$3.00

Deer Hunting Stamp

Resident\$27.50

Non-Resident\$135.27

Resident Senior Citizenno fee

Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamps and Moose Hunting Licence

Application fee (Residents only, including Senior Citizens) *\$6.90

Bonus Deer Hunting Stamp (see pages 56–57) no fee

* For draw information, see page 56 (Deer) and pages 21 and 59 (Moose)

Small Game Hunting Stamp

Resident\$17.03

Non-Resident\$61.48

Resident Senior Citizenno fee

Licences/Stamps/Certificates issued only from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations,

1505 Barrington St., 9 North, Maritime Ctr., P.O. Box 1529
Halifax, N.S. B3J 2Y4

Fur Buyer Licence\$27.21

Hide Dealer Licence (for buying green hides of deer and moose)\$10.88

Taxidermist Licence (for engaging in the business of taxidermy)\$10.88

Moose Hunting Stamp (345 by draw; for draw information see page 21)\$65.48

Companion Moose Hunting Stamp (see page 21)\$24.60

Guides Licence (3 years)	\$32.65
Pheasant Preserve Operator Licence	\$54.41

Licences/Stamps/Permits issued only from local offices of the Department of Natural Resources

(see address list on page 91)

Stamp for Hunting Deer during the Special Open Season for Bowhunting Deer*

Resident	\$6.15
Resident Senior Citizen	no fee
Non-Resident	\$12.29

Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamp (by draw, see page 56) ..no fee

Stamp for Muzzleloader Hunt (see page 79)

Resident	\$6.15
Non-Resident	\$12.29

Special Permit to Guide (Resident Only) (see Guides page 80)

Resident	\$6.15
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Bear Hunting Stamp* (after September 15)

Resident	\$26.19
Non-Resident	\$122.98
Resident Senior Citizen	no fee

Bear Snaring Stamp

Resident Only	\$26.19
Resident Senior Citizen	no fee
Black Bear Gallbladder Seal	\$6.15

Nuisance Wildlife Operator

Raccoon Dog Night Training/Hunting Permit

Furharvester Stamp (for trapping, snaring, hunting, and possessing furbearers).....

Please contact the nearest Natural Resources office for replacement of any licence/stamp issued by Department of Natural resources' office.

**Also available from selected vendors. Contact your local office of the Department of Natural Resources for the location of the nearest vendor.*

Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit (at any post office) ..T.B.A

Education Courses

For those persons interested in taking the bow course, please refer to page 107 for the application form. For those persons interested in taking the furharvester course please see page 109 contact the nearest Natural Resources office for an application or visit www.trappersassociationofnovascotia.ca/course.

Applications received prior to the **deadline of August 1** for bowhunters and **August 15** for furharvesters will be offered a course before this year's fall hunting and trapping season.

For information regarding the Canadian Firearms Safety Course or the Nova Scotia Hunter Education Course, see below.

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) is an education program designed primarily for adult women, but is an opportunity for anyone 18 years of age or older to learn outdoor skills. A weekend workshop offers choices of classes in three areas: shooting and hunting, fishing, and non-harvest activities such as camping or canoeing. The teaching is focused on the needs of novice/adult learners, with lots of hands-on activities.

Contact: Becoming an Outdoors-Woman
PO Box 698, Halifax, NS, B3J 2T9
424-4983, e-mail: bowns@gov.ns.ca

All first time hunters living in Nova Scotia are required to take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course through the Nova Scotia Community College AND the Nova Scotia Hunter Education Course through the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters. If you are under the age of 18, you also require a Minors Firearms Licence in order to hunt with a firearm.

You will find applications for both the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and the Nova Scotia Hunter Education Course at the back of this book.

For more information on a Minors Firearms Licence call 1-800-731-4000 (Ext. 6505).

Mature students (18 years of age or older) also have the option of participating in the Nova Scotia Hunter Education Course by either a home study program or an online program. Please visit www.atlantichuntered.ca and select the link to hunter education for additional information on these options.

Youth Exchange Program

Last fall, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick participated in the 5th annual Youth Exchange Program. This program was designed to encourage youth to take part in hunting and fishing activities. All persons between the ages of 12 and 17 who successfully complete the Hunter Education Course during the year are automatically entered for an opportunity to win. The winner receives an all expenses paid hunting or fishing trip for themselves and a parent/guardian to one of the other Atlantic Provinces.

The Big Game Society of Nova Scotia is the lead organization on this exchange program and works closely with the Department of Natural Resources to ensure that the winners have a safe, successful and enjoyable trip.

Nova Scotia's 2007 winner was Neil Lewis of Halifax. Neil received his hunting education from the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters, who presented him with a hunter orange jacket. Neil and his dad were hosted by Paul Leahey, owner of White Pines Hunting Lodge in Cloverdale, N.B (1-888-392-7297). Neil was hunting grouse and ducks and showed his hunting skills by returning home with the proof.

New Brunswick's winner was Andrew Cowper. Andrew and his dad Gary, spent 2 successful days hunting rabbits and birds. Andrew was able to show off his newly acquired hunting skills by returning home with his game. Special thanks goes out to both Darren Miller of Firefly Kennels & Outfitting (902-671-1956) who supplied the guiding services and Debbie Deyarmond of Deer Country Hideaway (902-671-2749) who hosted Andrew and Gary by donating their accommodations and meals.

Due to the generosity of additional sponsors, both boys received a backpack filled with hunting supplies including a Knight rifle, Suunto compass, Grohman knife, Leatherman knife, gift card to Canadian Tire and numerous ball caps and t-shirts.

This is a non profit program which relies completely on donations. Acknowledgement and thanks to the Hunter Education Instructors who support this program by annually donating \$1.75 for each student that is taught during the year. Anyone wishing to donate to the Youth Exchange Program, can contact Darlene Caldwell, P.O. Box 305, Windsor, Hants Co., N.S. B0N 2T0. Please ensure that donations are clearly marked "Youth Exchange Program".

Both boys had a great trip, but more importantly they made memories that will last a lifetime. Again this fall Nova Scotia will participate in the Youth Exchange Program by exchanging a student with the province of Newfoundland. Let's keep the hunting and fishing tradition alive and well.

Licence, Stamp and Permit Regulations

General Licence Stipulations

1. All **resident** applicants for a hunting licence must be certified to obtain the licence or stamp for which they are applying and must present their Wildlife Resources Card to the licence vendor in order to obtain a licence. Resident hunters must carry their Wildlife Resources Card at all times when in wildlife habitat and in possession of a firearm or bow. See page 42.
2. All **non-resident** applicants for a hunting licence must provide proof that they have been certified to hunt with a firearm or bow in Nova Scotia or another jurisdiction.
3. Any licence obtained by means of false or misleading statements made in respect to any information required for the issuance of said licence shall be deemed to be void and of no effect.
4. No licence shall be valid unless the date is plainly and legibly written on the licence by the vendor, together with the name, address and signature of the person to whom it is issued. **Remember:** If your licence does not contain your signature while you are hunting, you are in violation of the Wildlife Act and liable to a fine.
5. No person shall purchase more than one of the same type of licence, stamp or permit.
6. If a licence, stamp and/or tag is lost or destroyed or needs to be replaced for any other reason, a replacement may be issued upon proof that is deemed to be satisfactory to the Department and supported by an affidavit. Replacements are only obtainable from local offices of the Department of Natural Resources. There is a replacement fee.

Big Game

1. You must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Deer Hunting Licence or a Bear Hunting Licence, or,
2. If you have attained the age of 16 but not 18 years, you may obtain a Deer hunting, Bear Hunting, or Bear Snaring Licence if it is secured for you by your parent or guardian. You may hunt deer or bear, or snare bear only under the immediate supervision of your parent, guardian or responsible adult of 18 years of age or older who is certified to hunt wildlife in Nova Scotia with a firearm or bow. See **Definitions — Immediate Supervision** (page 41)
3. Non-resident hunters require the services of a guide. See **Guides** (page 80).
4. Applications for the annual moose draw are accepted by calling 1-900-565-3337 from April 1st to May 31st. To be eligible for the draw, applicants must:
 - be certified to hunt with a firearm or bow
 - be 18 years of age or older by date of application
 - be a resident of Nova Scotia
 - not have held a Nova Scotia moose hunting licence within the past 5 years (2003–2007)
 - not have any hunting suspensions

Names will be picked from all eligible entries, at a public draw, which is normally held in Cape Breton the end of June. Winners will be notified by mail. Applicants can also check their individual draw results, shortly after the draw, online at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/draws/moosedraw>

- Moose hunters are permitted to designate up to two companions who may fully participate in the hunt (i.e. carry a firearm) provided that, while hunting, the designated companion licensee is within hailing distance of the moose licence holder at all times and possesses a Companion Moose Hunting Stamp. Companion Moose Hunters may now be 16 and 17 years of age provided they are under the immediate supervision of a person over the age of 18 who is certified to hunt big game in Nova Scotia. For additional information see page 59 or our website at: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/draws/moosedraw.
5. See rules specific to hunting in the Tobeatic Wilderness Area. See page 73.

6. No person shall, while in a wildlife habitat, possess or use a product that contains or purports to contain any body part of a member of the deer family, including urine, blood or other fluids. This regulation has been put in place in an effort to prevent the devastating Chronic Wasting Disease, recently found to occur in western North America, being introduced to our deer population in Nova Scotia.
7. A person who has legally taken an antlerless deer **within Deer Management Zone 2A**, during the Special Open Season for Bowhunting Deer or the Youth Season for Hunting Deer or under the authority of a Zone 2A Antlerless Deer Stamp, and has registered the deer as required by regulation, may apply for a Bonus Deer Hunting Stamp at his/her local vendor or DNR office. The Bonus Deer Hunting Stamp authorizes the holder to take a second deer, antlered or antlerless from within zone 2A during the remainder of deer hunting seasons for which they are qualified to hunt.
8. **TO HUNT DEER WITH A CROSSBOW**

Until October 1, 2012, a person may be certified as qualified to hunt with a crossbow during the General Open Season For Hunting Deer if they:

- **hold a Nova Scotia Wildlife Resources Card with both a firearm (HT or HQ) AND bow certification (B); or**
- **have been certified to hunt with a crossbow in another jurisdiction; or**
- **produce proof satisfactory to the Department that they have hunted with a crossbow in another jurisdiction within the preceding 5 years.**

NOTE:

- **To hunt deer with a crossbow, the crossbow must have a draw weight of 150 pounds or 68 kilograms or greater and bolts with heads measuring more than 2.2 centimeters in diameter.**

Small Game

1. A valid Small Game Hunting Licence authorizes the licensee to hunt during the open season for: ring-necked pheasants (male), ruffed grouse, woodcock, snipe, and waterfowl, (ducks and geese). To hunt woodcock, snipe, and waterfowl, you also require a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit.
2. You must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Small Game Hunting Licence, or,
3. If you have attained the age of 12 but not 18 years, you may obtain a Small Game Hunting Licence if it is secured for you by your parent or guardian. You may hunt small game provided you are under the immediate supervision of a parent or guardian or any other responsible adult of 18 years of age or over who is certified as qualified to hunt with a firearm or a bow.
4. Non-resident hunters require a Non-Resident Small Game Hunting Licence and either a licenced guide or a resident over the age of 18 who has received a special permit to guide.
5. A person may hunt small game with a raptor during the appropriate open season provided they are in possession of their Wildlife Resources Card, all required licences for the species being hunted, and a valid falconry permit.

Other Harvestable Wildlife and Snowshoe Hare

1. A person who is 18 years of age or over may hunt "Snowshoe Hare" or "Other Harvestable Wildlife", provided they possess both a Wildlife Habitat Stamp and a Wildlife Resources Card and appropriate certification for any bow or firearm use.
2. Any person who is not less than 12 years of age or more than 17 years of age may hunt "Other Harvestable Wildlife" or snowshoe hare provided:
 - the person holds both a valid Wildlife Habitat Stamp and a Wildlife Resources Card and is certified as qualified to hunt with a firearm or bow.;
 - the person is under the immediate supervision of a parent or guardian or any other responsible person 18 years of age or over who is certified as qualified to hunt with a firearm or bow.
3. A resident of any age may snare snowshoe hare (rabbits) provided they possess a valid Wildlife Habitat Stamp and a Wildlife Resources Card.

Bear Harvesting Regulations

Anyone exporting bears or bear parts out of Canada may require a CITES (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species) Export Permit. Contact your nearest Department of Natural Resources office for further information.

All persons with a Bear Hunting or Bear Snaring licence are **required by law** to submit their completed Bear Hunting and/or Bear Snaring Report Form to a local Department of Natural Resources office within 15 days of the season's closure.

Hunters and trappers who harvest a bear **must submit the lower jaw or full skull** of the bear, along with their Report Form, for extraction of a small pre-molar tooth for age determination. If requested, the jaw or skull will be returned to the hunter.

Bear Gallbladder Seal

Black bear gall bladders must be sealed with a permanently attached locking seal prior to sale or export. This seal can be obtained at any Department of Natural Resources office. The gall bladder must be present in order to be sealed.

Note: In order to ensure efficient service, hunters are encouraged to phone their local DNR office prior to submitting a bear gall bladder or jaw to ensure that appropriate staff will be available.

ATTENTION BEAR HUNTERS!

To prevent possible exposure to disease organisms, wildlife meat should be thoroughly cooked before it is consumed by humans or pets.

Snaring

(Summary Only)

1. Only a cabled foot snare is to be used for snaring bear.
2. No snares are to be set within 100 feet of the boundaries of any common or public highway.
3. No person shall set or place a trap or snare within 274 m of a dwelling, school, playground, athletic field, or place of business unless that person is the owner or occupier of the dwelling or has the permission of the owner or occupier or is authorized in writing by a Conservation Officer for the purpose of trapping nuisance wildlife.

4. Stipulations regarding the use of firearms may be found under Legal Firearms/Bows and Ammunition (page 66).
5. It is an offence for a non-resident to snare bear in Nova Scotia.
6. Only a person with valid furharvester certification (FQ or FT) may purchase a Bear Snaring Licence.
7. Setting out bait for the purpose of snaring bear is restricted to the period from September 1 to December 6.

Hunting and Registered Bait Sites

(Summary Only)

1. No person who holds a Bear Hunting Licence shall take, hunt or kill or attempt to take, hunt or kill a female bear which is accompanied by one or more cubs.
2. From August 1st until the General Open Season for Hunting Deer, no person shall set out bait for the purpose of hunting bear unless the baiting is done at a site that has been registered with and approved by the local office of the Department of Natural Resources responsible for the site area. (See Seasons and Bag Limits Page 11)
3. Prior to setting out bait for the purpose of hunting bear, the person involved must be in possession of a valid Bear Hunting Licence.
4. All bear hunting bait sites registered with the Department must be:
 - (a) authorized in writing by the owner or occupier of the lands, and
 - (b) outside the distances stipulated under the Firearm and Bow Regulations for discharging a firearm or bow near a school, dwelling, or other places listed. (See Some General Regulations, page 69)
5. Setting out bait for the purpose of hunting bear is restricted to the period August 1 to the first Saturday of December.
6. From September 8th to October 30th, a person may hunt bear at a bait site registered with the Department only if the person is the registrant of the bait site or if the person carries written approval of the registrant on their person while using the bait site.

7. There is no requirement to hunt bear at a registered bait site during the period when Bear Hunting Season overlaps with the General Open Season for Hunting Deer. However, if you establish a bait site during this period, you still require the land owners permission.
8. **Setting out bait for the purpose of bear hunting or viewing is not consistent with the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*, and as a result will not be permitted in designated wilderness areas.**

Harvesting bear with archery tackle is exciting, effective, and becoming more popular. However, making a clean kill and recovering the animal in a timely manner requires special consideration even before you go hunting. The Bowhunters Association of Nova Scotia offers information on how to increase your skill and achieve success when bear hunting as an archer.

See www.bans.ca

Furharvesting

Seasons and Bag Limits

Beaver

NOVEMBER 1 TO THE LAST DAY OF MARCH, BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE; BAG LIMIT, PER LICENCE, OF NOT MORE THAN THE NUMBER OF BEAVER PRESCRIBED IN THE LIMITS FOR THE ZONE IN WHICH THE TRAPPER IS A PERMANENT RESIDENT.

The holder of a furharvester licence may set and maintain an aquatic furbearer trap in any zone. Licenced furharvesters cannot take more than the number of beaver prescribed in the bag limit for the zone in which they are a permanent resident. Also, furharvesters may not take in any one zone more beaver than the bag limit for that zone.

Beaver zones and bag limits are as follows:

Zone 1 (Cape Breton, Richmond, Inverness, and Victoria counties)	30
Zone 2 (Halifax, Guysborough, Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, and Hants counties)	20
Zone 3 (Lunenburg, Kings, and Annapolis counties)	20
Zone 4 (Yarmouth, Shelburne, Digby, and Queens counties)	20

Mink, Muskrat, Red Squirrel, Skunk and Weasel

**NOVEMBER 1 TO THE LAST DAY OF MARCH
NO BAG LIMIT.**

Otter

NOVEMBER 1 TO THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY
NO BAG LIMIT.

Bobcat

NOVEMBER 1 TO THE LAST DAY FEBRUARY
BAG LIMIT—FIVE (5) BOBCAT

Bobcat carcasses must be turned in and pelts stamped at the appropriate DNR office. (See Biological Specimens To Be Turned In, page 37).

Fox and Coyote

OCTOBER 15 TO THE LAST DAY OF MARCH
NO BAG LIMITS.

Coyote, Red Squirrel and Skunk

These animals are classed as “other harvestable wildlife” and their pelts can be legally possessed throughout the year without a permit.

- (a) cannot be trapped or snared without a furharvester licence or a nuisance wildlife permit, except that a box trap may be used where they are a nuisance;
- (b) cannot be poisoned;
- (c) require a permit in order to export the pelt (or other parts) from the province. The original harvester of the pelt can have it tanned or mounted without a permit.

Raccoons

TRAINING OF RACCOON DOGS AT NIGHT.
JULY 1 TO MARCH 31

Killing of raccoons is not permitted until October 15. No permit is required for training, unless a light of greater than 4.5 volts will be used. To use a light greater than 4.5 volts a Raccoon Dog Night Training/Hunting Permit is required. The permit holder must hold a Nova Scotia Wildlife Resources Card and be eligible to purchase a Furharvester Licence. The consent of the owner or occupier of privately owned lands must be obtained when training raccoon dogs at night.

Night Hunting of Raccoons

OCTOBER 15 TO LAST DAY OF MARCH
NO BAG LIMIT.

Requires a Raccoon Dog Night Training/Hunting Permit and a Furharvester Licence. The consent of the owner or occupier of privately owned lands must be obtained when hunting raccoons at night.

Raccoon Trapping

NOVEMBER 1 TO THE LAST DAY OF MARCH
NO BAG LIMIT.

Requires a Furharvester Licence. Raccoons taken accidentally in a trap lawfully set for fox or coyote prior to the raccoon season may be kept.

Lynx, Marten, Cougar and Fisher

CLOSED SEASON.

Accidentally caught animals must be released or reported immediately to a DNR office, except one (1) fisher may be kept if taken accidentally in a trap lawfully set for another species.

Fisher carcasses must be turned in and pelts stamped at the appropriate DNR office. (See Biological Specimens To Be Turned In, page 37).

Black Bear

SNARING — SEE THE SECTION ON BEAR HARVESTING PAGE 11.
BAG LIMIT — ONE (1).

Rabbits (Snowshoe Hare)

Not defined as a furbearer — it is illegal to use a body-gripping or leghold trap to take rabbits.

Furharvester Licence

In the past anyone purchasing a Furharvester Licence was assigned a permanent Furharvester Code Number which was used to identify that person for licencing, mandatory harvest reporting, specimen submission, and pelt sales transactions. As of June 1, 2006, the **Wildlife Resources Card** replaced all previously issued certification cards and code numbers and is the only accepted identification for Nova Scotia furharvesters and hunters. (Note: please also refer to page 31, Traps and Snares, item 1: marking of traps and snares).

A furharvester licence is required before trapping, snaring, hunting, shooting, or possessing any furbearer including the following: beaver, otter, muskrat, wild mink, raccoon, bobcat, fox, or weasel.

A valid furharvester licence is also required before you can legally possess traps and snares (except rabbit snares or traps to catch mice or house rats) in wildlife habitat.

The furharvester licence may be obtained from any local office of the Department of Natural Resources.

If you are under the age of 19, you may register as an apprentice with a person 19 years of age or older. Between 16 and 19 years of age you can, if you wish, purchase your own furharvester licence.

If under the age of 16, you cannot purchase a furharvester licence, but you can take furbearers as an apprentice of a person 19 years of age or over who holds a valid furharvester licence.

You must possess a valid Wildlife Habitat Stamp and the Wildlife Resources Card number of the supervising Furharvester Licence holder must be entered in the space provided in the Furharvester Stamp block of the base licence. While trapping, any apprentice must at all times be under the immediate supervision of the person holding the furharvester licence.

Trappers, may trap together in a partnership provided they notify the Department of Natural Resources in writing prior to the beginning of the season that they plan to be in partnership for the season. Both partners must have valid Furharvester Licences.

A person may set and tend traps marked with a partner's trappers identification number or TIN.

Furharvester Licence Stipulations

1. Your Furharvester Report Form and your pink receipt slips received from the fur buyer must be returned at the end of the furharvesting season, not later than April 15, showing the total number of furbearers of each species taken under authority of the licence. You may also submit your Furharvester Report Form via the internet on the form which can be found at www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/doc/FHform3 . You are not required to submit your pink furbuyer slips if you file your report via the internet. You should include **all** furbearers harvested by county (including animals turned in to DNR). The total number of furbearers which will be retained in your possession after April 15 should be recorded in the 'Retained' column of the Report Form. No other permit is required to retain furs (see also page 36, Possession and Export of Pelts). The total number of furbearers turned in to the Department of Natural Resources (e.g. animals accidentally captured in excess of your bag limits or for which there is no open season) should be recorded in the column labelled 'Turned in to DNR'. The total number of furbearers accidentally captured and released alive should be recorded in the column labelled 'Released Alive'. This year we are continuing to ask for your help in advising us on the population levels of certain animals.

2. "Apprentice" refers to persons under 19 years of age covered under a furharvester licence that has been purchased by a person 19 years of age or older. All fur taken by apprentice trappers must be included on this licence and is part of the bag limit of the licencee.
3. Many licenced furharvesters trap together and often sell or ship their fur as a single unit.
To avoid duplication, please be sure you report such combinations when selling, shipping, or declaring your fur at a local office of the Department of Natural Resources.
4. The minister may cancel or refuse to issue at any time any furharvester licence or furharvester certification issued by or under the authority of the minister upon such terms and conditions as the minister considers just.
5. The minister may direct any person to take or retake a furharvester course before that person is issued a furharvester licence.

Compulsory Furharvester Course (see also page 18)

A Furharvester Licence will not be issued to a person unless the person is a resident of Nova Scotia and has held a Furharvester Licence prior to August 1, 1986 or has successfully completed a furharvester course approved by the minister. Contact a local office of the Department of Natural Resources for details.

A Furharvester Licence will not be issued to anyone who has not taken a Furharvester Course or who has not purchased a Furharvester Licence during the previous four years.

Traps and Snares

No trap shall be placed in a wildlife habitat except during the period from October 15 through the last day in March in the year following, both dates inclusive.

No snares shall be set for any furbearer except during the period **November 24 through the last day in February** in the year following, both dates inclusive, unless the snare is set underwater or is a squirrel snare made of 20 gauge or smaller copper, brass or stainless steel wire.

Traps or snares are not to be placed on privately owned forest land, where the owner or occupier has posted a written notice prohibiting trapping or snaring. This does not apply to snares set for snowshoe hare.

Only the following types of traps or snares may be set within 15 m of the traveled surface of a publicly managed trail (trail means a hiking or walking trail that is (i) managed by a registered public body authorized to manage the trail, and (ii) marked with signs that indicate that trapping is not permitted on or within 15m of the travelled surface of the trail) or highway

- (a) a body-gripping trap with a jaw spread of 12 cm or less that is completely submerged in water;
- (b) a box trap;
- (c) a snare set completely underwater;
- (d) a snare made of copper, brass or stainless steel set for snowshoe hare or red squirrel;
- (e) a submarine trap;
- (f) a rat trap.

Despite the restrictions above on traps and snares which may be set within 15 m of highways and designated trails, a person may set a trap on or within 15m of the traveled surface of a trail or highway if that person has a Conservation Officer's written permission to set that particular type of trap in that location for the purpose of trapping nuisance wildlife.

(see also page 37, Trespassing)

1. No person shall set a trap or snare for a fur-bearing animal unless it is clearly and permanently marked with that person's Wildlife Resources Card number, except traps or snares set for red squirrels or fur-bearing animals that are trapped as nuisance wildlife in accordance with the General Wildlife Regulations made under the Wildlife Act.

Note: Persons who have held a Furharvester Licence in 2005 or earlier years may, after notification of their local Department of Natural Resources office of their intention to do so, use their old Furharvester Code Number as an alternate number for marking traps and snares.

Acceptable means of marking traps and snares include permanently stamping the identification number into some part of the trap or snare or securely attaching a permanently marked tag to the trap or snare. Please consult your local Department of Natural Resources office for further advice on appropriate marking of traps and snares.

2. No body-gripping trap having a jaw spread greater than 4.7 inches (12 cm) (e.g. conibear 160, 220, 330) can be set for any furbearer except (a) in or over water or (b) five feet (1.5 m) above the ground or (c) in a dog proof enclosure. (see Definitions, page 40).

3. No person while in a wildlife habitat shall possess or use a trapping device or a set trap unless it is one of the following:
 - (a) a box trap,
 - (b) a body-gripping trap which kills quickly,
 - (c) a submarine trap,
 - (d) a non powered neck and body snare,
 - (e) a leg or foot snare,
 - (f) a steel-jawed trap with jaw spread of less than 7.5 inches (19 cm) or
 - (g) an egg trap.
4. A person who sets snares or traps designed to catch animals alive must examine each trap or snare set at least **once every day**.
5. No person shall use any trap equipped with a spearing device, teeth, serrations, or hooks.
6. No person shall set spring poles or running poles unless they are equipped with a killing trap or killing snare.
7. No person shall set a suspended snare for the purpose of taking a furbearing animal, except squirrels, unless the snare has a locking mechanism which prevents the snare from expanding or the snare is set entirely underwater.
8. No person shall set a leg or foot hold trap to take a fur-bearing animal unless:
 - (a) the trap is set for beaver, otter, mink or muskrat and is attached to a device that is designed to submerge the animal and prevent it from resurfacing;
 - (b) the trap is set for muskrat or mink and is sufficiently heavy to submerge the mink or muskrat and prevent the animal from resurfacing;
 - (c) the trap is set for weasel, red squirrel or mink and is set in such a manner as to kill the animal immediately upon springing the trap;
 - (d) the trap is set for a raccoon and has jaws which are padded with rubber compound specifically designed to reduce injury to the animal or is an egg trap;
 - (e) the trap is set for fox; or
 - (f) the trap is set for bobcat, lynx or coyote and has been modified to improve humaneness by such means as laminating the jaws, off-setting the jaws, padding the jaws, using a trap that incorporates a snare, or other similarly effective means of improving humaneness.

9. No person shall set a snare for coyote, fox, or bobcat within 50 metres of a bait unless the bait is camouflaged or concealed in a manner sufficient to render the bait undetectable from the air.
10. No person shall set or maintain a trap or snare for squirrels or weasels during the month of March in any year, except a snare of 20 gauge or smaller wire, a rat trap or a box trap.
11. No person shall set or maintain a trap for mink during the month of March in any year, unless the trap is at least fifty percent submerged in water or is a box trap.

Use of Lights

Licensed furharvesters may use lights of up to 12 volts while they are checking traps, or dispatching trapped animals at night. Licensed furharvesters hunting raccoons, or training raccoon dogs, when in possession of a valid Raccoon Dog Night Training/Hunting Permit, may use lights of any voltage. Lights greater than 4.5 volts used at night for the above purposes must not be connected to the electrical system of a vehicle.

Accidental Catches

Any furbearer accidentally trapped in excess of the bag limit or out of season, and which could not be released, must be reported immediately to a local office of the Department of Natural Resources **or by calling 1 800-565-2224**, or by completing the required form (found at the back of this booklet) before being removed from the trap site.

General Furharvesting Regulations

1. No person may damage, disturb, or destroy the den or usual place of habitation of a furbearer or a beaver dam.
2. No person shall take any furbearing animal by means of poison or deposit or set out poison in any place frequented by furbearing animals.
3. No person shall kill or take any muskrat, beaver, mink, or otter by means of any firearm or bow unless the animal is restrained by a trap.
4. Only properly licensed furbuyers can legally deal in or buy furbearer pelts for the purpose of resale. All such furbuyers must provide an official receipt at the time any fur is

purchased. In the cases of bobcat and fisher, the dried pelt must be stamped by the department before it can be legally sold to a furbuyer (See section **Biological Specimens To Be Turned In**, page 37).

5. All furharvesters and those accompanying them shall wear a hunter orange cap or hat and hunter orange shirt, vest or coat that is plainly visible from all sides unless they are not on forested land and provided that they only possess a .22 calibre rim fire rifle or smaller.
6. Furharvesters do not require hunter orange after the close of the general open season for hunting deer.
7. All furharvesters who enter the woods must carry a compass in working order, a hand axe or hunting knife or jackknife, and a supply of waterproof matches or matches in a waterproof container or a source that is capable of producing a flame. You must be able to demonstrate to a conservation officer the ability to operate your compass.
8. Except as otherwise provided in part XXI of the Agriculture and Marketing Act, no person shall keep live furbearing animals whether bred in captivity or not, for the purpose of sale, barter, exchange, preservation, consumption, or propagation, without first obtaining a permit from the minister.
9. In order for Nova Scotia to be in compliance with commitments made by Canada under the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS), body-gripping traps used for beaver, raccoon, fisher and muskrat must meet the requirements of the AIHTS. Traps used for these species must be chosen from those listed as approved for that species in the table below, or for muskrat traps used underwater, must prevent the animal from re-surfacing.
10. Except for box traps, submarine traps, snares completely under ice or rat traps equipped with a hood or other device to prevent animals larger than weasels from activating the trigger, no person shall set or place a trap or snare within 274 m of a dwelling, school, playground, athletic field, or place of business unless that person is the owner or occupier of the dwelling or has the permission of the owner or occupier or is authorized in writing by a conservation officer for the purpose of trapping nuisance wildlife.
11. See page 24–26 for regulations pertaining to bear harvesting.

List of Approved Body-Gripping Traps

Beaver

TRAPS APPROVED FOR USE UNDERWATER AND ON LAND:

Bélisle Classic 330	Sauvageau 2001-11
Bélisle Super X 280	Species-Specific 330 Dislocator
Bélisle Super X 330	Half Magnum
B.M.I. 330 Body Gripper	Species-Specific 440 Dislocator
Bridger 330	Half Magnum
LDL C280	Woodstream Oneida Victor
LDL C330	Conibear 280
Rudy 330	Woodstream Oneida Victor
Rudy 280	Conibear 330

TRAPS APPROVED FOR USE ON LAND ONLY:

Sauvageau 1000-11F LDL C330 Magnum

TRAPS APPROVED FOR USE UNDERWATER ONLY:

B.M.I. 280 Body Gripper	Sauvageau 2001-8
Duke 330	LDL C 280 Magnum

Fisher

TRAPS APPROVED FOR USE ON LAND:

Bélisle Super X 120	Rudy 120 Magnum
Bélisle Super X 160	Rudy 160 Plus
Bélisle Super X 220	Sauvageau 2001-5
Koro #2	Sauvageau 2001-6
LDL C160 Magnum	Sauvageau 2001-7
LDL C220 Magnum	Sauvageau 2001-8

Raccoon

TRAPS APPROVED FOR USE ON LAND:

Bélisle Classic 220	Rudy 160
Bélisle Super X 120	Rudy 160 Plus
Bélisle Super X 160	Rudy 220
Bélisle Super X 220	Sauvageau 2001-6
B.M.I. 160 Body Gripper	Sauvageau 2001-7
B.M.I. 220 Body Gripper	Sauvageau 2001-8
B.M.I. 280 Magnum	Species-Specific 220 Dislocator
Body Gripper	Half Magnum

Bridger 160	Woodstream Oneida Victor
Bridger 220	Conibear 160
Duke 160	Woodstream Oneida Victor
Duke 220	Conibear 220
LDL C 160	
LDL C 220	
LDL C 220 Magnum	

Muskrat

TRAPS APPROVED FOR USE ON LAND:

Bélisle Super X 120	Sauvageau C120 Magnum
B.M.I. 120	Sauvageau C120 "Reverse Bend"
B.M.I. 120 Magnum	Triple M
B.M.I. 126 Magnum	Woodstream Oneida Victor
Bridger 120	Conibear 110
LDL B120 Magnum	Woodstream Oneida Victor
Rudy 120 Magnum	Conibear 120
Sauvageau 2001-5	

Possession and Export of Pelts

Holders of a valid Furharvester Licence can legally possess pelts of beaver, otter, mink, muskrat, weasel, fisher, and bobcat from November 1 to April 15, and fox and raccoon from October 15 to April 15.

Furharvesters who fail to declare their furs by the end of the possession period (April 15th) are in violation of the Wildlife Act and regulations made pursuant to that act, and are subject to prosecution. Furharvesters who wish to retain their legally-taken raw pelts, carcasses, or parts thereof beyond these dates must register these in the appropriate '**Retained**' column of the Furharvester Report Form which must be returned to the local DNR office where the licence was issued by April 15.

An export permit is required from the Department of Natural Resources if you wish to ship your furs directly out of the province. It is not required if the furs are sold or consigned to a licenced furbuyer in the province.

A valid Furbuyers Licence authorizes the possession of legally taken raw furs year round provided they can be accounted for through the furbuyer book receipts.

Coyote, skunk, and squirrel pelts may be possessed year round without a permit; however, an export permit is required before they can be shipped out of the province.

Biological Specimens To Be Turned In

The whole skinned carcasses of bobcat and fisher must be turned in to the local office of the Department of Natural Resources and the pelts must be exhibited and stamped.

Information that must be declared includes the Wildlife Resources Card number, date of capture, location of capture, and method of kill.

A person other than the furharvester may bring in the carcass and pelt provided they can supply all of the above information.

A bobcat or fisher can be sold in the round provided the furbearer is first exhibited at the local office of the Department of Natural Resources, all of the required information collected, and a Round Permit is obtained.

Trappers are requested to turn in weasel carcasses to their local office of the Department of Natural Resources.

Trespassing

No person shall set or place a trap or snare on cultivated land without permission of the owner or occupier. In addition no person may set or place a trap (except a box trap,

a snare set completely under ice, a rat trap equipped with a hood or other device to prevent animals larger than a weasel from activating the trigger, or submarine trap) within 300 yards (274 m) of a dwelling, school, playground, athletic field, or place of business unless that person is the owner or occupier or has the permission of the owner or occupier, or is authorized in writing by a conservation officer for the purpose of trapping nuisance wildlife.

Traps or snares are not to be placed on privately owned forest land where the owner or occupier has posted a written notice prohibiting trapping or snaring. This does not apply to snares set for snowshoe hare.



Possession of Firearms and Ammunition Under the Age of 18 Years

The Criminal Code of Canada requires any person age 12 through 17, to secure a licence from the Provincial Firearms Office in order to possess, carry, or handle a firearm or ammunition.

Borrowing a Rifle or Shotgun

1. You must have a valid Firearms Licence (Possession Only, Possession and Acquisition or valid FAC) or a Non-resident 60 day Possession Licence. A minor must also have a Minor's Licence. If you do not have one of the above you may still borrow a firearm but must be under direct and immediate supervision of the licenced owner. (One firearm between two people who keep approximately arms length apart)
2. You must also borrow the registration certificate for the firearm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING GUN CONTROL LAWS, INCLUDING PURCHASE, BORROWING OR IMPORTING FOR THE PURPOSE OF HUNTING, CONTACT THE CHIEF PROVINCIAL FIREARMS OFFICER (1-902-424-6689), OR CALL 1-800-731-4000

Definitions

Act means the Wildlife Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, Chapter 504.

Antlered Deer means a deer having an antler extending not less than 3 inches (7.6 cm) in length from the head of the deer.

Antlerless Deer means a deer having no antlers or antlers extending less than 3 inches (7.6 cm) in length from the head of the deer.

Antlerless Deer Hunting Stamp means a stamp issued by the department which when affixed to a deer hunting licence confers on the holder the privilege of hunting an antlerless deer in the Deer Management Zone prescribed thereon.

Big Game means bear, moose, deer, and any wildlife that may be designated as big game by the Governor in Council and includes any part of such wildlife.

Black Bear Gallbladder Seal is an individually identifiable permanent locking device issued by the Department of Natural Resources with respect to the export or sale of black bear gallbladders.

Bonus Deer Hunting Stamp means a stamp issued by the Department that when affixed to a Deer Hunting Licence, confers on the holder the privilege of hunting an additional antlered or antlerless deer in the specified Deer Management Zone.

Box Trap means any box shaped trap designed to capture an animal alive being constrained only by the confines of the walls of the trap which may be made in any shape or size and of any material such as wood, metal, wire, netting or other material.

Crossbow means a tool for projecting arrows or bolts that consists of a bow fixed across a stock with a groove for an arrow or bolt and a mechanism for holding and releasing the bowstring.

Deer Management Zones are areas of the province described in Schedule A, (page 93), and established to effectively manage Nova Scotia's white-tailed deer (see map, pages 56).

Disabled Person means a person whose mobility is limited as a result of external factors and severe physical disability caused by paralysis, lower limb amputation, heart or lung disease, or other disability impairment to the extent that:

- (a) the person is unable to propel themselves without the aid of a wheelchair or walker, or a combination of two of the following: a crutch, cane, leg brace, or leg prosthesis; or
- (b) the person has significant cardio-pulmonary condition which results in severe shortness of breath with minimal physical activity; or
- (c) the person has a severe neuro-muscular or skeletal condition, and because of any of the conditions described in (a) or (b) is limited in mobility to 50 metres or less in outdoor weather conditions.

A person may apply to the Department of Natural Resources for a Weapon Discharge Permit to allow the discharge of a firearm from within a vehicle.

A person who furnishes proof of possession of a Mobility Disabled Permit or a Temporary Mobility Disabled Permit issued by Department of Transportation will be considered to meet the above criteria for a disabled person.

Dogs at large in wildlife habitat: Under the Wildlife Act “at large” means unaccompanied by the owner or handler. Unaccompanied is further defined as “not under the immediate control of the owner or handler; and not within sight of the owner or handler”. A dog is not considered to be illegally at large in wildlife habitat when the dog is being trained or used to hunt wildlife as permitted by the Act and the regulations made under the Act.

Dog Proof Enclosure means a special trap-holding enclosure designed to keep a dog away from a trap by creating a barrier to the trap allowing entry only through designated openings and:

- for any body-gripping (e.g. conibear type 160, 220 or 330) may be an enclosure placed so that no part of the opening of the enclosure is more than 12.7 cm (5 in.) off the ground.
- or for body-gripping traps of not more than 17.78 cm x 17.78 cm (7 in. x 7 in.) dimensions (e.g. conibear 220 type or smaller), may be:
- for baited/scented traps sets an enclosure that provides openings no higher than 17.78 cm above the ground or having a total area of no greater than 322.6 cm² (50 in.²) with the trap trigger set at least 17.78 cm (7 in.) from any enclosure opening or an enclosure with a 20.32 cm (8 in.) height by 25.4 cm (10 in.) width opening with the trap trigger set back at least 25.4 cm (10 in.) from any enclosure opening.

Encased means a firearm or bow that is:

- in a case which is properly fastened;
- completely wrapped in a material which is securely tied around the firearm or bow; or
- in the locked compartment of a vehicle and the contents of the compartment are not accessible to the occupant of the vehicle from inside the vehicle, or
- rendered inoperable by the attachment of a trigger lock to the firearm, or
- a bow rendered inoperable through disassembly or attachment of a lock to the bow.

Hunting means chasing, driving, flushing, attracting, pursuing, worrying, following after or on the trail of, searching for, trapping, attempting to trap, snaring or attempting to snare, shooting at, stalking, or lying in wait for any wildlife whether or

not the wildlife is then or subsequently captured, killed, taken, or wounded. It does not mean stalking, attracting, searching for, or lying in wait for any wildlife by an unarmed person solely for the purpose of watching or taking pictures of it.

Immediate Supervision means that if you are hunting and are under the age of 18 years you must be under the supervision and within sight of the supervising adult 18 years or older.

Non-Resident means any person who is not a resident of Nova Scotia.

Protected, as applied to wildlife, means protected through the year or for any open or closed season, pursuant to the Wildlife Act or the regulations.

Rat Trap means a trap originally designed to kill house rats (*Rattus norvegicus*).

Resident at any time means a person permanently or ordinarily a resident in the province for the two (2) months immediately preceding that time and includes:

- an officer of the diplomatic or consular service of a foreign country stationed within the province;
- a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Canadian Armed Forces stationed or born in the province;
- a person born in the province and the owner of real property in the province.

Senior Citizen means a resident who has reached the age of 65.

Vendor means a person who has been appointed a vendor of licences or permits by the Minister of Natural Resources.

Wildlife means vertebrates that, in their natural habitat, are usually wild by nature and includes

- domestic organisms that are physically similar to their wild counterparts,
- exotic wildlife,
- hybrid descendants of wildlife or of wildlife and a domestic organism,
- the eggs, sperm or embryos of wildlife, and
- any other organism designated as wildlife by the Governor in Council in accordance with this Act and the regulations;

Wildlife Habitat means any water or land where wildlife may be found and the roads and highways thereon.