

Nova Scotia TRAPPERS

Newsletter

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2009




NOVA SCOTIA
Natural Resources

Collections required this year: Fisher, bobcat and incidental catches of marten and lynx. Submission of accidental catches of weasel is voluntary.

Regulation changes for 2008/2009
The major regulation changes affecting furharvesters for the 2008/2009 season are:
1. There are no changes for this season.

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Anyone seeking further information on furbearer management or wishing to provide input to the Department of Natural Resources should contact their local office, a Regional Biologist, or the Furbearer and Upland Game section of DNR, Attn.: Mike O'Brien, 136 Exhibition Street, Kentville, B4N 1E5.

By E-mail: obrienms@gov.ns.ca Phone: (902) 679-6091 Fax: (902) 679-6167

The Furbearers Section, including previous Trappers Newsletters, is available online at:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/furbearers>

Accidental catches or sightings of rare species may be reported by calling **1 (800) 565-2224**.

Cover page photo credit: Scott Wallis

Mandatory Fur Harvester's Course

A total of 93 Fur Harvester Education courses have been held since 1986 with a total of 1,973 students trained . Application forms are available at your local DNR office, in the Hunting and Furhunting Licence & Summary booklet, or online at:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/furbearers/pdf/FurHarvestersCourseApplicationForm.pdf>

Registration and payment must be recieved by August 15th in order to guarantee a seat in the fall course. Applications recieved after August 15th will be procedded the next year. Participants are required to confirm their attendance by notifying Judy Clattenburg at DNR Halifax, email: CLATTEJI@gov.ns.ca by September 15th. Failure to respond will result in the applicant's name being removed from the list, at which time the applicant must reapply, including payment of the appropriate fee for any future courses.

Furbearer Report

By Peter Austin-Smith and Mike Boudreau

Detailed information on the 2008/09 furbearer season is available from the Department of Natural Resources website located at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/sumindex.asp>. For those individuals who do not have access to the Internet, a printed copy of stats can be obtained from any Department of Natural Resources Area office.

The number of licensed trappers has been in the range of 1400-1600 in recent years (1,442 licenses were issued in 2008/09). The current level of interest in furbearer licenses probably reflects uncertain markets and negative effects of regulation changes in recent years, together with limited recruitment of new, young furharvesters to replace declining participation of aging harvesters.

The Furharvesters Report Form is available in two formats. A hard copy is still provided with the licence/summary booklet and an electronic copy is available on the NSDNR Wildlife Division website <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/harvests/> This gives furharvesters the option to submit their year end report electronically. The open season for some furbearer species extends to March 31st. The deadline for submission of the furharvester report is the 15th of April. Compliance with the requirement to submit the mandatory Furharvesters Report is nearly 100% every year.

The Wildlife Resources Card number has replaced the old Furharvester Code Number for Furharvester licensing and identification (the old code number may be used to mark traps). We have completed the furharvester on line reporting database, which is related to the WRS client database.

Average fur prices appeared to take a significant decrease at the fur auctions in all but a few species, during the winter of 2009 and we expect this to result in decreased interest in furharvesting activity and as a result lower quantities of furbearers harvested during the current 2009/10 season.

Snowshoe Hare

From the data available, based on an admittedly very low hunter response, calculated snowshoe hare kill in 2008/09 was down, with an estimated provincial harvest of 118,333. The western mainland counties showed marginal increases in harvest, however the overall harvest dropped by 11.7% from the previous year.

Hare pellet plots are done each spring (April to June, between snow melt and vegetation green-up) in conjunction with the deer pellet surveys. Data are collected from as many as 4,500 locations throughout the province.

Each year NSDNR requests licensed small game hunters to rank the abundance of upland game species. The rankings are based on the following rank codes where 0= none, 1= low, 2= medium,

3= high, and 4= very high. The average rankings recorded from small game hunters for the past three years are presented in the following table and indicate a decreasing trend in abundance. Nova Scotia furharvesters are also asked to rate the abundance of snowshoe hare on their license return and although the results have shown a steady increase, over the years the rankings dropped by 11.9% for the 2008/09 season. This drop in abundance is very similar to the drop show in the table below.

Coyote

A total of 1908 coyotes were harvested this past season. Although a marginal decrease from last year, it is still well above the 10 year average. Overall abundance rankings dropped by 4.1 %, but continue to remain in the moderate to high range. The average price paid for coyotes pelts decreased by 20 % last year, but the price still remains around the \$18.73 mark.

Bobcat

The bobcat harvest was up by 19.3% putting the total harvest to 1,196 animals. Along with a 60% decrease in the average price, trappers will likely reevaluate whether or not they target this species in the upcoming season. Bobcat abundance rankings rose again across the province in all counties with the exception of the bulk of the western counties. Antigonish, Guysborough Hants and Victoria also recorded lower abundance rankings. This overall increase in abundance may reflect the fact that trappers are targeting bobcat.

Beaver

The provincial beaver harvest increased by 38% to 4,842 animals, similar to harvest levels taken in 2004/05. This increase in harvest may be explained in part by increased trapper effort. Although harvest was up, the average price actually decreased by (34.3%), these lower prices will have an affect on next year's harvest. The abundance rankings continue to show increases in many counties and an overall increase on the provincial scale. After discussions with Department field staff, the beaver bag limits will remain the same in all four zones.

Fisher

Fisher abundance rankings, provided by licensed furharvesters increased again this year. Although the abundance rankings over the last nine seasons have continued to increase, they remain relatively unchanged around the “low” range. While the harvest over the past decade is encouraging, we need to continue to monitor this species. The harvest has remained fairly stable with little change over the last eight years, leaving the recorded harvest at 171 animals. As with bobcat, the pelt must be presented to a DNR office. Again this year, furharvesters are permitted to retain one accidentally caught fisher, if caught in a trap set for another species. Any additional incidental fisher catches are to be turned in-to the Department of Natural Resource office nearest the trapper’s residence. These animals, as well as any other furbearers which are turned into the department are used to illustrate proper skinning techniques during the trapper education workshop held in March, and proceeds from the sale of these pelts are used to support trapper education.

Otter

The otter harvest increased dramatically (57%) over last season from 272 to 428. This is similar to harvest numbers 2006-2007. It is doubtful that this increase in harvest is a reflection of increased pelt prices as they rose approximately \$5.00 over the previous year from \$41.15 to \$46.12, nor does it reflect the slight increase in abundance across the province.

Muskrat

Muskrat catches have continued to decrease by 4% from 11,172 in 2007-08 to 10,704 in 2008-09. This level of harvest is similar to that of 1991-92. The average price stayed the same over last season at \$4.29. The harvest and the provincial abundance ranking reflect a continued decline in the muskrat population across the province.

Raccoon

The raccoon harvest increased slightly over last year by 2% for a total harvest of 3,625 pelts for 2008-09. Abundance ranking for raccoons decreased slightly across the province, though several counties (Colchester, Cumberland, Guysborough, Halifax and Cape Breton) showed an increase in abundance rankings. The Average price per pelt dropped from \$20.22 to \$11.70, a whopping 43% decrease over last year. This drop in pelt price may dissuade trappers from targeting raccoons in the upcoming season.

Fox

Fox harvest was up slightly from 547 to 550 animals. Provincial abundance rankings for fox also rose slightly across the province, with only Antigonish, Colchester and Richmond counties showing a decrease in abundance.

Other Species

Squirrel harvest continued to decrease 33% to the lowest harvest levels since the 1987-88 season, with only 1,289 animals harvested. Squirrel prices dropped to \$1.05 per pelt from last year's \$1.17. Weasel harvest also dropped to 945 animals for a 18% decrease in harvest. Weasel prices dropped from \$4.20 per pelt to \$3.18 per pelt. Skunk harvest was up by 87% for a total of 43 animals trapped. Skunk prices stayed the same as last year at \$1.82.

Lynx and marten continue to be trapped accidentally every year. Trappers need to make every effort to avoid accidental capture of these species. In some cases the only option to avoid trapping marten and lynx is avoid trapping in certain areas altogether. For more information see: <http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/martenandlynx/> .

Accidental Captures

Furharvesters who accidentally catch a protected species or an animal in excess of their bag limit should try to release them alive if practical. If this is not practical, you must report your catch to an office of the Department of Natural Resources before the animal is removed from the trap site. This may be done by calling any DNR office, during normal working hours or calling the toll free number 1-800-565-2224, after hours. During the fall of 2002 trappers were given the option to take possession and transport an animal immediately, provided the **Accidental Harvest Form** is completed at the trap site. These forms are now available in the Hunting and Furharvesting Summary Regulation booklet. Upon arriving at their place of residence the furharvester is required to notify a DNR office, and report their accidental catch. Your local DNR office will advise you on how to handle the situation. Furharvesters found in the position of an animal to which they are not entitled without first notifying the Department or having the appropriate form filled out, may be charged. Most animals turned into DNR are used for student demonstration and pelt handling training at the TANS annual workshop, which is usually held in early March. These pelts along with other pelts which are turned over to the Department are then given to the Trappers Association of Nova Scotia. Proceeds from the sale of pelts are used to help support trapper education.

Fur Harvester License Sales

| YEAR | 00/01 | 01/02 | 02/03 | 03/04 | 04/05 | 05/06 | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Annapolis | 66 | 60 | 65 | 75 | 67 | 67 | 65 | 59 | 51 |
| Digby | 88 | 78 | 97 | 95 | 68 | 69 | 74 | 70 | 79 |
| Kings | 82 | 87 | 74 | 83 | 74 | 75 | 80 | 63 | 69 |
| Lunenburg | 87 | 84 | 94 | 94 | 85 | 85 | 90 | 89 | 88 |
| Queens | 40 | 50 | 48 | 59 | 54 | 56 | 55 | 41 | 47 |
| Shelburne | 69 | 60 | 69 | 81 | 63 | 73 | 76 | 71 | 76 |
| Yarmouth | 117 | 100 | 111 | 128 | 113 | 116 | 103 | 101 | 107 |
| Western | 549 | 519 | 558 | 615 | 524 | 541 | 543 | 494 | 517 |
| Antigonish | 67 | 57 | 66 | 68 | 63 | 65 | 64 | 55 | 57 |
| Colchester | 113 | 115 | 118 | 110 | 112 | 116 | 116 | 104 | 110 |
| Cumberland | 159 | 158 | 158 | 171 | 150 | 156 | 154 | 142 | 137 |
| Guysborough | 56 | 70 | 77 | 68 | 47 | 49 | 74 | 78 | 69 |
| Halifax | 90 | 153 | 152 | 139 | 142 | 146 | 145 | 136 | 143 |
| Hants | 79 | 69 | 80 | 82 | 73 | 73 | 71 | 75 | 77 |
| Pictou | 109 | 144 | 128 | 140 | 116 | 118 | 121 | 110 | 117 |
| Eastern | 673 | 766 | 779 | 778 | 703 | 723 | 745 | 700 | 710 |
| Cape Breton | 73 | 70 | 82 | 78 | 73 | 75 | 76 | 85 | 77 |
| Inverness | 71 | 70 | 68 | 67 | 40 | 66 | 67 | 52 | 62 |
| Richmond | 64 | 60 | 55 | 64 | 45 | 59 | 66 | 53 | 58 |
| Victoria | 19 | 22 | 24 | 28 | 10 | 24 | 23 | 21 | 18 |
| CB Region | 227 | 222 | 229 | 237 | 168 | 224 | 232 | 211 | 215 |
| Total | 1,449 | 1,507 | 1,566 | 1,630 | 1,395 | 1,488 | 1,520 | 1,405 | 1,442 |

Fur Marketing Information

North American Fur Producers Marketing Inc.

65 Skyway Ave., Rexdale, ON M9W 6C7

Phone: 416-675-9320

Nova Scotia Representative,

Furafee Trading Inc.

115 Brunswick St., Truro, NS B2N 4P6

Phone: 902-895-2511

Furharvesters Auction Inc.

Furharvesters Auction Sales Inc.

1971 Bond St., North Bay, ON P1B 4V7

Phone: 705-495-4688

Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

Representative

John Richard,

South Tetagouche, NB E2A 7C1

Phone: 506-548-3018 Cell: 506-544-6883

Average Value of Wild Fur for Nova Scotia (Per Pelt)

| Species | 99/00 | 00/01 | 01/02 | 02/03 | 03/04 | 04/05 | 05/06 | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Beaver | \$ 31.06 | \$32.16 | \$27.28 | \$ 26.46 | \$29.14 | \$26.90 | \$34.57 | \$25.50 | \$29.32 | \$19.26 |
| Muskrat | \$ 4.22 | \$4.36 | \$5.58 | \$ 4.39 | \$3.32 | \$3.50 | \$8.50 | \$6.64 | \$4.29 | \$4.26 |
| Otter | \$ 92.19 | \$90.57 | \$111.58 | \$139.34 | \$128.82 | \$112.37 | \$118.73 | \$66.80 | \$41.15 | \$46.12 |
| Mink | \$ 17.85 | \$14.83 | \$17.00 | \$ 14.52 | \$18.17 | \$16.92 | \$23.82 | \$15.77 | \$13.51 | \$11.23 |
| Bobcat | \$ 54.37 | \$61.86 | \$128.40 | \$204.66 | \$125.47 | \$112.80 | \$145.70 | \$144.23 | \$199.83 | \$79.68 |
| Fox | \$ 29.16 | \$30.89 | \$37.83 | \$ 48.06 | \$30.84 | \$21.53 | \$31.48 | \$28.30 | \$29.04 | \$24.45 |
| Raccoon | \$ 8.15 | \$16.66 | \$19.38 | \$ 17.91 | \$19.78 | \$12.14 | \$12.78 | \$13.14 | \$20.22 | \$11.70 |
| Weasel | \$ 3.26 | \$4.94 | \$3.83 | \$ 3.53 | \$2.40 | \$3.20 | \$5.57 | \$5.57 | \$4.20 | \$3.18 |
| Squirrel | \$ 0.99 | \$1.73 | \$1.98 | \$ 0.79 | \$1.22 | \$1.05 | \$1.48 | \$1.26 | \$1.17 | \$1.05 |
| Skunk | \$ 1.76 | \$8.85 | \$8.41 | \$ 5.83 | \$5.34 | \$4.27 | \$10.11 | \$6.25 | \$1.82 | \$1.82 |
| Fisher | \$ 22.31 | \$32.87 | \$44.09 | \$ 31.42 | \$43.47 | \$36.47 | \$83.60 | \$77.68 | \$70.85 | \$38.53 |
| Bear | \$113.21 | \$149.43 | \$117.28 | \$112.37 | \$80.18 | \$74.70 | \$89.91 | \$71.59 | \$65.09 | \$94.35 |
| Coyote | \$ 25.83 | \$25.02 | \$31.33 | \$ 43.75 | \$32.66 | \$30.23 | \$26.49 | \$28.84 | \$23.43 | \$18.73 |

Fur Harvest as Calculated from License Returns
and Fur Buyer Slips 2008-2009

| County | Beaver | Muskrat | Otter | Mink | Bobcat | Fox | Raccoon | Skunk | Squirrel | Weasel | Coyote | Lynx | Marten | Fisher |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Anna. | 284 | 893 | 19 | 59 | 44 | 14 | 153 | 0 | 118 | 146 | 96 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| Digby | 218 | 314 | 12 | 755 | 26 | 22 | 204 | 4 | 496 | 91 | 70 | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| Kings | 151 | 952 | 17 | 77 | 23 | 13 | 339 | 0 | 41 | 23 | 88 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Lunen. | 537 | 136 | 63 | 104 | 90 | 29 | 238 | 1 | 61 | 59 | 121 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Queens | 202 | 59 | 13 | 44 | 42 | 4 | 86 | 1 | 11 | 30 | 61 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Shel. | 204 | 1,001 | 18 | 93 | 85 | 1 | 65 | 0 | 27 | 36 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Yar. | 210 | 1581 | 16 | 311 | 76 | 11 | 223 | 4 | 117 | 174 | 81 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Ant. | 200 | 194 | 24 | 10 | 56 | 20 | 251 | 0 | 32 | 29 | 123 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Col. | 412 | 1334 | 11 | 62 | 124 | 99 | 428 | 5 | 25 | 25 | 191 | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| Cumb. | 713 | 2118 | 38 | 58 | 93 | 128 | 734 | 13 | 46 | 56 | 190 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Guys. | 163 | 72 | 70 | 25 | 92 | 7 | 17 | 0 | 19 | 25 | 109 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Hfx. | 413 | 166 | 40 | 94 | 158 | 28 | 249 | 0 | 42 | 33 | 107 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Hants | 193 | 284 | 9 | 32 | 64 | 18 | 181 | 3 | 38 | 88 | 106 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Pictou | 477 | 470 | 22 | 17 | 123 | 40 | 352 | 12 | 3 | 15 | 87 | 0 | 0 | 25 |
| CB | 184 | 633 | 17 | 88 | 29 | 60 | 72 | 0 | 74 | 58 | 85 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Inv. | 148 | 259 | 15 | 51 | 17 | 25 | 15 | 0 | 70 | 25 | 92 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rich. | 65 | 179 | 18 | 29 | 28 | 19 | 9 | 0 | 41 | 29 | 111 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vic. | 68 | 59 | 6 | 21 | 26 | 12 | 9 | 0 | 28 | 3 | 135 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 4,842 | 10,704 | 428 | 1,930 | 1,196 | 550 | 3,625 | 43 | 1,289 | 945 | 1,908 | 2 | 7 | 171 |

**Fur Bearing Animals Taken by Furharvesters
from 2000-2009**

| Species | 00/01 | 01/02 | 02/03 | 03/04 | 04/05 | 05/06 | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Beaver | 3,828 | 5,792 | 4,166 | 5,281 | 4,973 | 5,251 | 5,651 | 3,491 | 4,842 |
| Muskrat | 13,391 | 18,779 | 15,274 | 19,340 | 17,980 | 18,559 | 25,761 | 11,172 | 10,704 |
| Otter | 447 | 625 | 591 | 696 | 619 | 551 | 446 | 272 | 428 |
| Mink | 1,267 | 1,889 | 1,811 | 2,049 | 1,708 | 2,175 | 2,146 | 1,533 | 1,930 |
| Bobcat | 1,163 | 1,394 | 1,193 | 1,205 | 750 | 742 | 900 | 964 | 1,196 |
| Fox | 491 | 797 | 677 | 805 | 595 | 660 | 735 | 547 | 550 |
| Raccoon | 1,409 | 2,725 | 3,019 | 3,551 | 4,916 | 2,996 | 3,575 | 3,541 | 3,625 |
| Skunk | 108 | 96 | 183 | 150 | 132 | 125 | 66 | 23 | 43 |
| Squirrel | 2,554 | 4,251 | 5,152 | 3,161 | 8,050 | 3,941 | 7,223 | 1,920 | 1,289 |
| Weasel | 561 | 96 | 1,179 | 1,477 | 1,001 | 1,691 | 1,400 | 1,160 | 945 |
| Coyote | 835 | 1,587 | 1,809 | 2,422 | 1,838 | 2,619 | 2,532 | 1,928 | 1,908 |
| Fisher | 84 | 128 | 138 | 138 | 117 | 138 | 221 | 170 | 171 |

Bag Limit Changes

Bobcat

- bag limit increased to two province wide in 1990/91
- bag limit reduced to one province wide in 1991/92
- bag limit increased to two province wide in 1993/94
- bag limit reduced to one in Cumberland and Colchester Counties in 1994/95
- bag limit increased to three province wide (except Cumb/Col) in 1995/96
- bag limit increased to four province wide (except Cumb/Col) in 1996/97
- bag limit increased from one to four in Colchester County in 1997/98
- bag limit increased from four to five province wide except for Cumberland County in 1998/99
- bag limit increased to five province wide in 1999/00 - 2009/10

Fisher

- season closed in 1988/89 to 1994/95
- one mistake fisher allowed in 1995/96, 1996/97 and in 1997/98
- one mistake fisher allowed in Cumberland, Colchester and Pictou Counties in 1998/99 to 2004/05.
- one mistake fisher allowed 2006/07 to 2009/10

Marten

- season closed

Lynx

- season closed

Species Abundance as Recorded by Fur Harvesters

By Mike O'Brien and Mike Boudreau

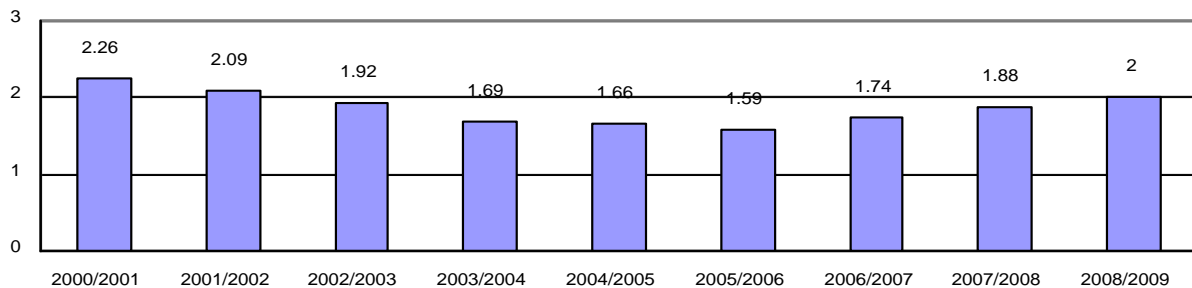
Fur harvesters were asked again last year to record their perception of population levels for 16 animal species. Population levels for five of those species have been reported for nineteen years, while population levels for the other nine have been added more recently. This has been a very successful program as it gives us the ability to draw on hundreds of skilled observers, who tell us how abundant each species is in their area. We encourage all fur harvesters to fill in this section of their report form, as higher numbers of participants increases the accuracy of the data.

Rankings for individual counties may not provide a reliable picture of annual trends because of low response numbers from some areas. The summaries for each of the three regions, as well as the provincial totals, are considered very reliable. The table shows results for the 2007/08 season. The numbers are averages calculated by assigning values to the ranks selected by each fur harvester. The values given to the ranks are shown under the table.

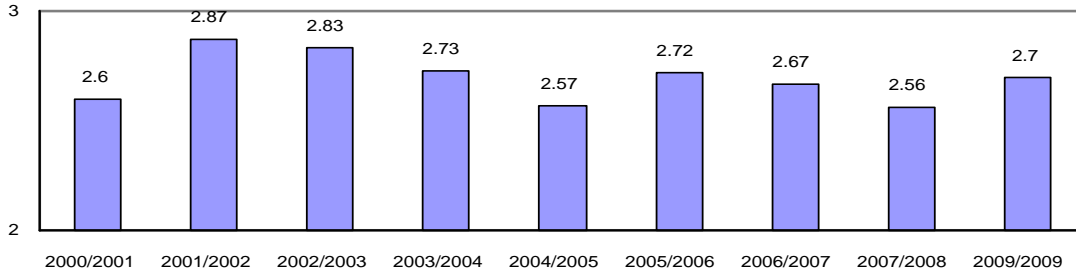
The lowest possible value for a County is "0", which means that all respondents in that County felt that none of that particular species was present in their area. The highest possible value is "4", which means that all respondents from that County felt that numbers for that species were "very high".

This type of information is most valuable when looking at population changes from year to year. Graphs are presented to show the rankings for five species over a nine year period for all of Nova Scotia.

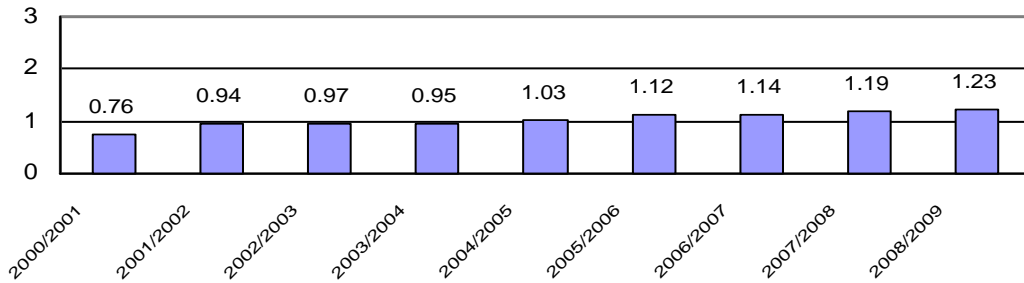
Bobcat
Furharvester Abundance Ranking



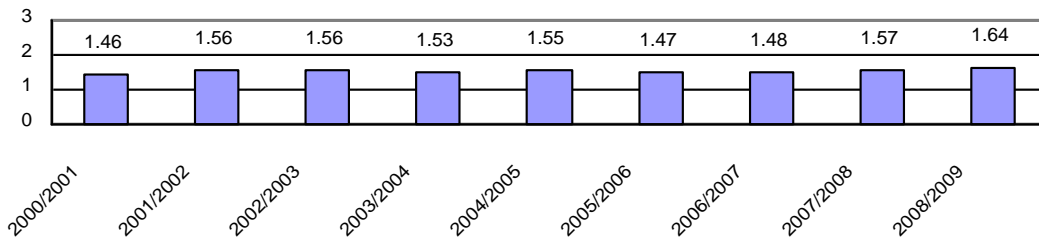
**Coyote
Furharvester Abundance Ranking**



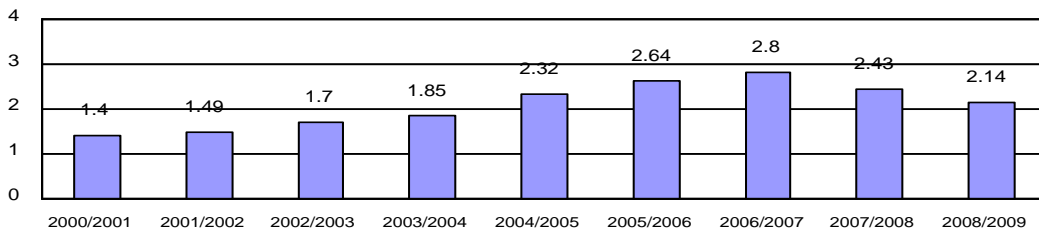
**Fisher
Furharvester Abundance Ranking**



**Otter
Furharvester Abundance Ranking**



**Snowshoe Hare
Furharvester Abundance Ranking**



Fur Harvest Abundance Estimates for 2009

| County | B'ver | Mskrt | Otter | Mink | Bobcat | Fox | Rac'on | Skunk | Sq'rel | Weasel | Coyote | Lynx | Marten | Fisher | Bear | Hare |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Anna. | 3.03 | 1.84 | 1.73 | 1.42 | 1.81 | 1.41 | 2.54 | 2.64 | 2.44 | 2.00 | 2.74 | 0.06 | 0.33 | 1.27 | 2.54 | 1.87 |
| Digby | 2.05 | 1.68 | 0.92 | 1.03 | 1.15 | 0.97 | 2.33 | 1.13 | 2.13 | 1.37 | 2.53 | 0.11 | 1.11 | 0.891 | 1.60 | 2.50 |
| Kings | 2.71 | 2.08 | 1.70 | 1.81 | 1.94 | 1.36 | 2.86 | 2.21 | 2.42 | 2.00 | 2.63 | 1.00 | 1.17 | 1.61 | 2.50 | 1.82 |
| Lunen. | 2.55 | 1.91 | 1.84 | 1.69 | 1.82 | 1.33 | 2.66 | 1.82 | 2.90 | 2.25 | 2.50 | 0.25 | 0.29 | 1.78 | 2.12 | 2.26 |
| Queens | 2.54 | 1.89 | 1.85 | 2.00 | 2.17 | 1.46 | 2.90 | 1.38 | 2.78 | 2.00 | 2.90 | 0.00 | 0.44 | 0.59 | 2.43 | 2.83 |
| Shel. | 2.22 | 2.03 | 1.42 | 1.70 | 1.77 | 1.29 | 2.53 | 0.88 | 2.48 | 1.67 | 2.92 | 0.64 | 0.25 | 0.76 | 2.27 | 2.23 |
| Yar. | 2.20 | 1.98 | 1.41 | 1.94 | 1.95 | 1.08 | 2.43 | 1.06 | 2.51 | 1.97 | 2.43 | 0.14 | 0.67 | 1.15 | 1.79 | 2.60 |
| Western | 2.45 | 1.92 | 1.53 | 1.65 | 1.79 | 1.26 | 2.60 | 1.62 | 2.53 | 1.89 | 2.64 | 0.20 | 0.66 | 1.16 | 2.15 | 2.30 |
| Anti. | 2.81 | 1.87 | 1.65 | 1.58 | 2.09 | 1.97 | 2.70 | 2.34 | 2.06 | 1.68 | 2.79 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 0.81 | 2.10 | 1.68 |
| Col. | 2.59 | 1.73 | 1.72 | 1.80 | 2.20 | 1.91 | 2.75 | 2.44 | 2.04 | 1.83 | 2.52 | 0.63 | 0.33 | 1.77 | 2.61 | 1.93 |
| Cum. | 2.69 | 1.64 | 1.42 | 1.52 | 1.81 | 2.33 | 2.91 | 2.32 | 2.40 | 1.95 | 2.52 | 0.11 | 0.33 | 1.81 | 2.95 | 1.79 |
| Guys. | 2.58 | 1.43 | 2.12 | 1.48 | 2.20 | 1.08 | 2.03 | 1.78 | 2.13 | 1.47 | 2.88 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.55 | 2.18 | 1.19 |
| Halifax | 2.65 | 1.88 | 1.92 | 1.89 | 2.68 | 1.62 | 2.71 | 1.86 | 2.24 | 1.97 | 2.83 | 0.12 | 0.09 | 0.59 | 2.57 | 2.10 |
| Hants | 2.54 | 1.97 | 1.72 | 1.89 | 2.05 | 1.42 | 2.21 | 2.27 | 2.13 | 2.14 | 2.70 | 0.04 | 0.14 | 1.09 | 2.03 | 1.90 |
| Pictou | 2.65 | 1.84 | 1.56 | 1.52 | 2.35 | 2.04 | 2.76 | 2.66 | 2.69 | 1.96 | 2.95 | 0.63 | 0.73 | 1.97 | 2.65 | 2.00 |
| Eastern | 2.64 | 1.76 | 1.71 | 1.66 | 2.20 | 1.84 | 2.64 | 2.30 | 2.29 | 1.88 | 2.74 | 0.13 | 0.17 | 1.41 | 2.52 | 1.82 |
| C.B. | 2.69 | 1.85 | 1.67 | 1.97 | 1.94 | 2.40 | 2.64 | 0.00 | 2.56 | 2.00 | 2.61 | 1.56 | 1.00 | 1.50 | 2.54 | 2.49 |
| Inv. | 2.52 | 2.00 | 1.76 | 1.95 | 1.84 | 2.19 | 1.47 | 0.15 | 2.76 | 2.00 | 3.06 | 1.30 | 0.50 | 0.45 | 2.28 | 3.06 |
| Rich. | 2.31 | 1.93 | 1.71 | 1.81 | 1.81 | 1.63 | 1.64 | 0.09 | 2.50 | 1.79 | 2.45 | 0.60 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 1.00 | 2.94 |
| Vic. | 1.13 | 1.13 | 1.00 | 1.75 | 1.38 | 1.50 | 0.88 | 0.00 | 2.25 | 1.50 | 2.50 | 0.14 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.50 | 2.75 |
| Cape B | 2.42 | 1.86 | 1.65 | 1.90 | 1.83 | 2.07 | 1.88 | 0.10 | 2.58 | 1.90 | 2.69 | 1.04 | 0.32 | 0.34 | 1.88 | 2.79 |
| Province | 2.54 | 1.83 | 1.64 | 1.69 | 2.00 | 1.68 | 2.52 | 1.82 | 2.42 | 1.88 | 2.70 | 0.36 | 0.40 | 1.23 | 2.31 | 2.14 |



Certified Traps - AIHTS Implementation July 27, 2009

The Canadian Wildlife Directors, Competent Authorities for implementation of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS), have approved a 3-phase process for implementing the AIHTS in Canada. The following lists show the three phases for regulating species-specific traps: (1) the **certified** traps regulated for specific species in 2007; (2) **certified** traps that are not affected at this time, pending development of testing technologies; and, (3) the future addition of cage and box traps. The traps listed by name have all been certified as meeting the requirements of the AIHTS for specific species, through the Canadian trap-testing program administered by the Fur Institute of Canada.



Phase 1. STARTED IN FALL 2007 - Certified Traps are regulated for trapping the following species:

KILLING TRAPS

SPECIES

CERTIFIED TRAPS REGULATED FOR USE AS OF FALL 2007

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| BEAVER Underwater and On Land | Bélisle Classic 330 Bélisle Super X 280 Bélisle Super X 330 B.M.I. 280 Body Gripper B.M.I. 330 Body Gripper Bridger 330 Duke 330 | LDL C280 LDL C280 Magnum LDL C330 LDL C330 Magnum Rudy 280 Rudy 330 Sauvageau 1000-11F | Sauvageau 2001-8 Sauvageau 2001-11 Sauvageau 2001-12 Species-Specific 330 Dislocator Half Magnum Species-Specific 440 Dislocator Half Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 280 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330 |
| FISHER | Bélisle Super X 120 Bélisle Super X 160 Bélisle Super X 220 Koro #2 LDL C160 Magnum | LDL C220 Magnum Rudy 120 Magnum Rudy 160 Plus Rudy 220 Plus | Sauvageau 2001-5 Sauvageau 2001-6 Sauvageau 2001-7 Sauvageau 2001-8 |
| MARTEN | Bélisle Super X 120 Bélisle Super X 160 B.M.I. 126 Magnum Body Gripper LDL B120 Magnum | Koro #1 Northwoods 155 Rudy 120 Magnum Rudy 160 Plus | Sauvageau C120 Magnum Sauvageau 2001-5 Sauvageau 2001-6 |
| RACCOON | Bélisle Classic 220 Bélisle Super X 160 Bélisle Super X 220 Bélisle Super X 280 B.M.I. 160 Body Gripper B.M.I. 220 Body Gripper B.M.I. 280 Body Gripper B.M.I. 280 Magnum Body Gripper Bridger 160 | Bridger 220 Duke 160 Duke 220 LDL C 160 LDL C 220 LDL C 220 Magnum LDL C 280 Magnum Northwoods 155 Rudy 160 | Rudy 160 Plus Rudy 220 Rudy 220 Plus Sauvageau 2001-6 Sauvageau 2001-7 Sauvageau 2001-8 Species-Specific 220 Dislocator Half Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 160 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 220 |
| MUSKRAT On Land | Bélisle Super X 120 B.M.I. 120 B.M.I. 120 Magnum B.M.I. 126 Magnum Bridger 120 Duke 120 | Koro Muskrat LDL B120 Magnum Quell 4-11-180(NEW) Rudy 110(NEW) Rudy 120(NEW) Rudy 120 Magnum | Sauvageau 2001-5 Sauvageau C120 Magnum Sauvageau C120 "Reverse Bend" Triple M Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 110 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 120 |
| MUSKRAT Underwater | Any jaw type trap (body gripping or leghold) set as a submersion set that exerts clamping force on a muskrat and that maintains a muskrat underwater. | | |

LEGHOLD RESTRAINING TRAPS

SPECIES

CERTIFIED TRAPS REGULATED FOR USE AS OF FALL 2007

CERTIFIED trap models are given exclusive identification letters that manufacturers must mark on traps they manufacture as of the fall 2007. Trappers may still legally use these same trap models after the implementation of the AIHTS (2007), regardless of whether they bear this mark.

Phase 2. YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION TO BE DETERMINED Certified Traps to be regulated in the future for trapping the following species:

Although the traps listed in Phase 2 are certified for the following species and trap categories, the year of entry into force of the obligation to use only AIHTS Certified traps **has not yet been determined**. This date, which could vary from one species to another, will be known at least 3 years in advance.

Until then, traps that are currently legally permitted can still be used.

Check with your provincial or territorial government for regulations related to trap uses applicable in your trapping area.

KILLING TRAPS

SPECIES

TRAPS CERTIFIED BUT NOT YET MANDATORY

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| OTTER Underwater | Bélisle Super X 220(NEW) Bélisle Super X 280 LDL C280 Magnum Sauvageau 2001-8 | Sauvageau 2001-11(NEW) Rudy 280 Rudy 220 Plus(NEW) Rudy 330 | Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 220 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330 |
| WEASEL | Victor Rat Trap | | |
| LYNX | Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330 | | |
| BOBCAT, BADGER | No killing trap certified to date | | |

LEGHOLD RESTRAINING TRAPS

SPECIES

TRAPS CERTIFIED BUT NOT YET MANDATORY

| | |
|---------------|---|
| COYOTE | Bélisle Footsnare #6 Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 2 coil springs Bridger #3 equipped with 5/16-inch offset, doubled rounded steel jaw laminations (3/16-inch on topside of jaw and ¼-inch on underside of jaws), with 4 coil springs and an anchoring swivel centre mounted on a base plate. |
| WOLF | Bélisle Footsnare #8 |
| BOBCAT | Bélisle Footsnare #6 |

Phase 3. YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION TO BE DETERMINED - Cage and Box Traps to be Regulated in the future for live-trapping the following species:

LIVE CAPTURE CAGES OR BOXES

SPECIES

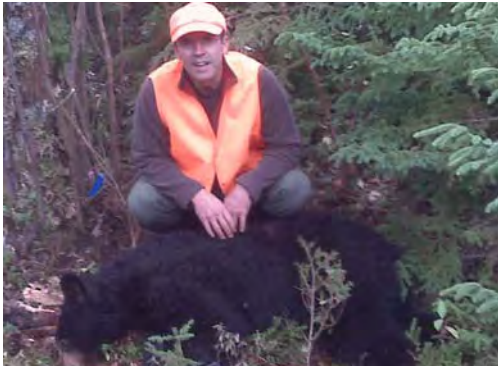
| | |
|---|---|
| BEAVER, RACCOON, FISHER, MARTEN, MUSKRAT, OTTER, WEASEL, CANADA LYNX, BOBCAT, BADGER | No live capture cage or box certified to date |
|---|---|

THIS LIST WILL BE UPDATED AS ADDITIONAL TRAPS ARE CERTIFIED

Nova Scotia's 2008 Black Bear Harvest

By Jennifer Madden

Photo Credit: Mike Boudreau and Glen Parsons. Oct 2009 bear harvest.



Black bear harvest numbers are determined annually based on the total number of reported bears harvested, report forms returned and bear licences sold. That means that one of the factors affecting harvest numbers is whether or not you, the hunters and furharvesters of Nova Scotia, submit your annual hunting/snaring report forms. For example, in 2008, 2,972 bear hunting licences were sold. Only 50% of these licence holders, however, returned their bear hunting report cards to the Department of Natural Resources. Of those returned, a total of 314 harvested bears was reported. When you take into consideration the remaining 50% of hunting report cards that were not submitted, however, the calculated bear hunting harvest is almost double (624 bears).

You can see, therefore, the importance of submitting those report cards! For bear hunting and snaring, submission of harvest reports is **mandatory, regardless of whether or not you harvest a bear**. The more information that is submitted, the more information wildlife managers have to derive key indicators on bear age/sex ratios, number of bears harvested by county, confidence in harvest numbers, and whether or not the annual harvest is within acceptable/sustainable limits. I am pleased to report that hunter reporting compliance is improving; it increased from 41% in 2007 to 50% in the 2008 season.

In addition to report cards, those successful in harvesting a bear are also required to submit a minimum of one bear premolar tooth. You can submit either the complete bear skull or lower jaw to your local DNR office. DNR staff will remove a premolar tooth and then send to the Wildlife Division for processing and eventual shipment to a laboratory in Montana for age analysis. A total of 327 premolars were submitted and used for age analysis in 2008. Bear age results are generally available by October of the following year by calling your local DNR office. The age distribution of bears harvested within the last three years in Nova Scotia is provided in Figure 1.

Table 1 below provides a summary of the black bear harvest since 1994. This year, bear *snaring* licence sales continued to decrease while the calculated harvest was only marginally higher than last year. Bear snaring reporting compliance remained the same at 83%; of the 154 licences sold, 128 bear snaring report forms were submitted.

Bear *hunting* statistics slightly improved from last year despite the decrease in both resident and non-resident licence sales; the overall calculated harvest and hunter success rates increased to 624 and 20.9%, respectively. Combining bear hunting and snaring reports, a total of 242 male and 120 female bears were reported harvested. An additional 14 bears were also reported but the corresponding sex was not submitted.

NOTE: Bear *Hunting* and *Snaring* Report Forms can be completed and submitted online at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/obserharvt.asp>. A new and improved online bear reporting system is underway and will also be available later this season! Report forms can also be hand delivered or mailed to your local DNR office. Paper copies of the Bear Hunting report forms are available in the Licence & Summary of Regulations booklet. Bear *Snaring* Report Forms are available at any DNR office.

Thank you for being an integral part of Black Bear management in Nova Scotia. Your cooperation is valued and will help to ensure the sustainable use of this species.

Table 1. Bear Harvest Summary 1994-2008

| Year | Bear Hunting Licenses (Resident) | Bear Hunting Licences (Non-resident) | Calculated Hunter Harvest | Calculated Hunter Success | Bear Snaring Licences | Calculated Snaring Harvest |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1994 | 481 | 37 | 248 | 47.9% | 181 | 110 |
| 1995 | 708 | 81 | 286 | 36.2% | 227 | 91 |
| 1996 | 656 | 102 | 247 | 32.6% | 184 | 67 |
| 1997 | 540 | 116 | 191 | 29.2% | 162 | 65 |
| 1998 | 505 | 109 | 243 | 39.6% | 142 | 65 |
| 1999 | 522 | 123 | 208 | 32.2% | 101 | 33 |
| 2000 | 498 | 153 | 264 | 40.6% | 127 | 54 |
| 2001 | 544 | 101 | 226 | 35.0% | 155 | 54 |
| 2002 | 584 | 84 | 284 | 42.6% | 197 | 96 |
| 2003 | 1322 | 87 | 393 | 27.9% | 156 | 39 |
| 2004 | 1510 | 82 | 741 | 46.6% | 195 | 101 |
| 2005 | 2015 | 86 | 573 | 27.3% | 182 | 81 |
| 2006 | 2697 | 59 | 932 | 33.8% | 199 | 128 |
| 2007 | 3046 | 75 | 650 | 20.8% | 185 | 62 |
| 2008 * | 2921 | 51 | 624 | 20.9% | 154 | 66 |

**2008 data current as of March 23, 2009*

$$\text{Calculated Harvest} = \frac{\text{\#Bears Reported Harvested}}{\text{\#Reports Received}} \times \text{\# of Licenses Issued}$$

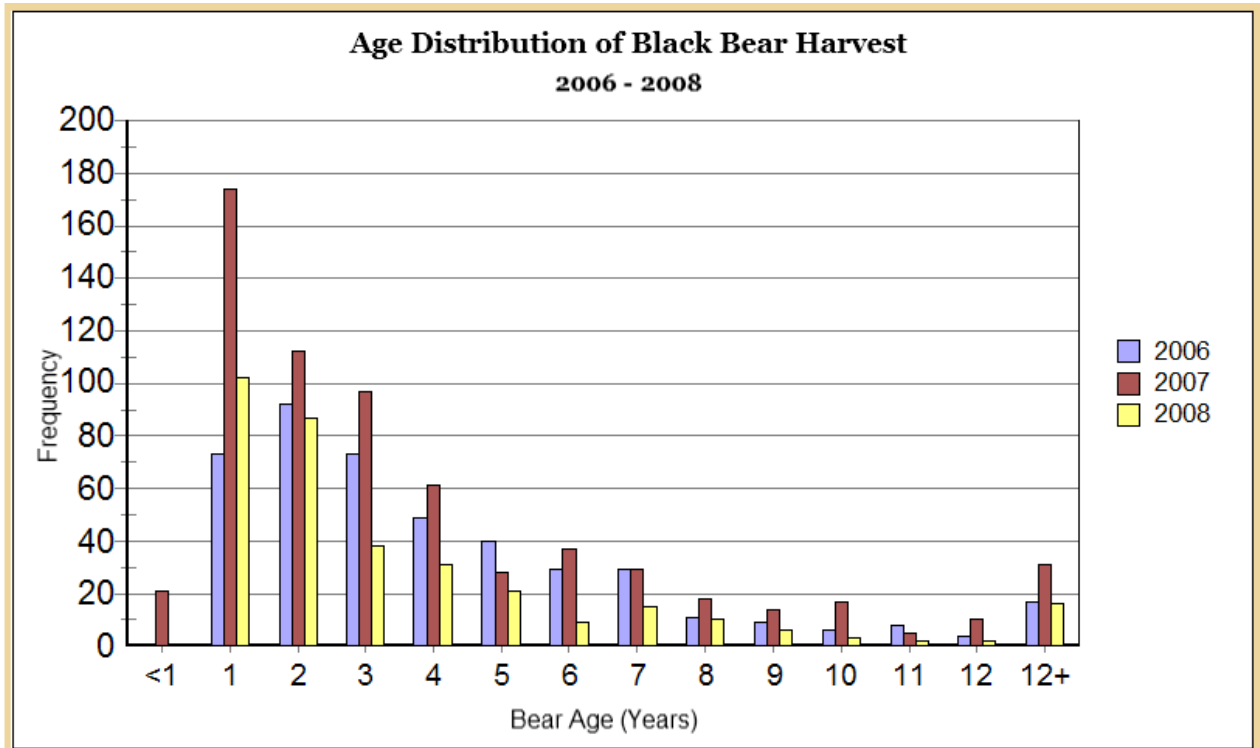


Figure 1. Age distribution of black bears harvested in Nova Scotia during 2006, 2007 and 2008 seasons

Cape Breton Marten Project: Augmentation of the Cape Breton Island Marten Population

By Peter Austin-Smith

The Cape Breton population of marten was provincially listed as Endangered in Nova Scotia in 2001 and is currently persisting at very low numbers. Two major factors likely contributed to the decline of marten on Cape Breton Island: over-exploitation via unregulated trapping through the late 1800s and early 1900s, and then more recently, the loss, degradation and fragmentation of suitable habitat.

Since the early 1900s marten have been close to extirpation in the province, but a few have persisted around the Cape Breton Highlands National Park and the greater Cape Breton Highlands area. Individual sightings, track reports, and more recently a photo (winter 1994) of a marten, have confirmed the existence of marten on the highland plateau and associated valleys.

Translocation of wild marten or the release of captive bred animals is considered the best way to recover marten in Cape Breton because of the small number of individuals within the current population, and the absence of nearby populations. Recent analysis suggests that the marten in Cape Breton are genetically similar to other northeastern North American populations, but suffer from low genetic variation.

Recently, the Nova Scotia Marten Recovery Team endorsed a study that determined the translocation of wild, live-trapped marten, and/or releasing captive-bred marten in Cape Breton was feasible.

Objectives of the study were to: 1. Determine if there was an adequate amount and configuration of suitable marten habitat and prey in Cape Breton; 2. Determine if there was a genetically compatible source population available for reintroduction; 3. Determine the usefulness of a captive marten colony at Shubenacadie; 4. Assess potential interspecific impacts; 5. Determine implementation and legal requirements; 6. Develop a communications plan; 7. Determine monitoring techniques to be used; and, 8. Determine by what criteria the project will be evaluated criteria.

Eight potential reintroduction areas were identified based on the habitat assessment, the marten habitat management zone, and level of habitat protection (Federal Park or Provincial Wilderness Area). Genetic analyses and logistical considerations suggest that New Brunswick has the most suitable source population of marten for translocation to Cape Breton. This population is capable of sustaining the removal of thirty to fifty marten a year over three years, starting in the fall of 2006. These numbers can be added to by releasing captive-bred marten currently being held at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park. The overall goal would be to release 90 – 150 animals over three to five years. Ideally the sex ratio of those animals released would be a 1:1 ratio (1 male for every female).

During the late fall of 2008 two trappers (one from Nova Scotia and one from New Brunswick) were hired to live trap marten in northern New Brunswick. In total 46 marten were trapped and relocated successfully to Cape Breton by DNR staff with support from Parks Canada, for a total

of 76 martens released to date.

The animals were released at several sites within Cape Breton Highlands National Park and on provincial crown land that had been identified as having suitable marten habitat. All marten were PIT tagged, weighed and had DNA (hair) samples collected for future analysis if required. Nine male marten were radio collared in 2008 to provide some information on movement and habitat use. These animals continue to be monitored when air support (helicopter) is available.

Live trapping is scheduled to continue in the fall of 2009 with a goal of 30-50 marten being transported to CBI.

Western NS Marten Project: Examining the size and extent of the marten (*Martes Americana*) population in western Nova Scotia.

By Peter Austin-Smith

The mainland marten population, with a “hotspot” being centered near Ohio, is classified as ‘data deficient’. This population is believed to be, at least partially, the result of a reintroduction program that released 116 marten from New Brunswick into 11 park sites at Kejimikujik National Park between 1987 and 1994. In 1979, the last reported marten trapped on the mainland was from this area, which suggests a remnant population may have existed prior to the Kejimikujik National Park releases. The objective of the Kejimikujik program was to re-establish a viable self-sustaining population within the Park, from which the species could eventually re-establish itself elsewhere.

During and subsequent to the release, several studies were conducted to assess the success of the program. As of 1996, sightings had occurred as far as 65 km from the release sites, though most were in the release area. Since 1998 marten sightings, tracks and accidentally trapped animals have been reported from the area bounded by Digby, Weymouth and Yarmouth, with most reports from Weymouth to the Clare District. In the last four years, approximately 40 incidentally trapped marten have been reported from this area (Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources 2006). Other than these reports, there has been little or no effort to determine the success of the relocation project.

TANS, in partnership with NS DNR, has been successful in obtaining funds from the NS Habitat Conservation Fund to conduct a project to determine the extent of this mainland population using remote detection devices, records of past sightings and sign (tracks and scat). Habitat data collected at confirmed marten locations will feed into the current habitat model to improve its reliability. An improved marten habitat model may alter or change the forest management practices currently being carried out on Crown land known to support marten in Nova Scotia.

Through the course of the project, the area to be surveyed will radiate out from the Weymouth and Kejimikujik National Park areas, to include areas suggested to have suitable habitat (based on the current model) in the five western counties of Nova Scotia. Western NS is a predominately rural region characterized by a heavy reliance on natural resource

industries. Sustainability of these industries and the resources on which they rely is very important. By determining the extent and the habitat needs of the SW NS marten population, TANS will be able to work closely with landowners and the forest industry to ensure that marten habitat can be identified (and protected if deemed necessary) based on an enhanced marten habitat model. By increasing the efficacy of detection units, methods and procedures, marten presence/absence from the landscape can be more easily determined.

Various types of snares have been developed to collect animal hairs including PVC piping lined with adhesive tape and coils of barbed wire, or double sided tape, Velcro or rodent glue traps attached to wooden or ‘coroplast’ board ‘cubbies’ placed in tree or on the ground, to snag hairs as the animal passes to a bait. The snag found to be most effective was the one that used three intact wooden boards that were 15 cm wide. The rodent glue boards were also determined to be the most effective snagging medium.

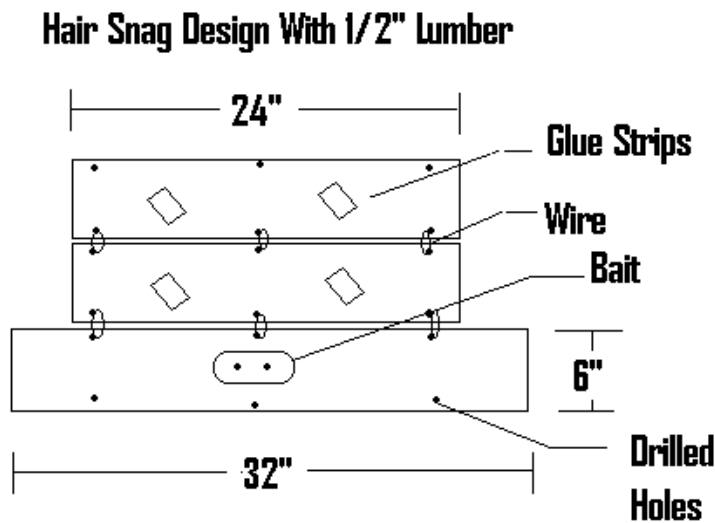


Figure 1. Hair snag design with the 3 boards of the hair snag wired together.

The current NS DNR marten habitat model was run using the 2002 forest inventory data for Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens counties to determine the quality of marten habitat (very good, good, fair, poor and very poor) (Fig 1). This stratifies the survey by expectation of success based on modeled habitat quality. Priority areas for surveys are those containing very good, good or fair habitat.

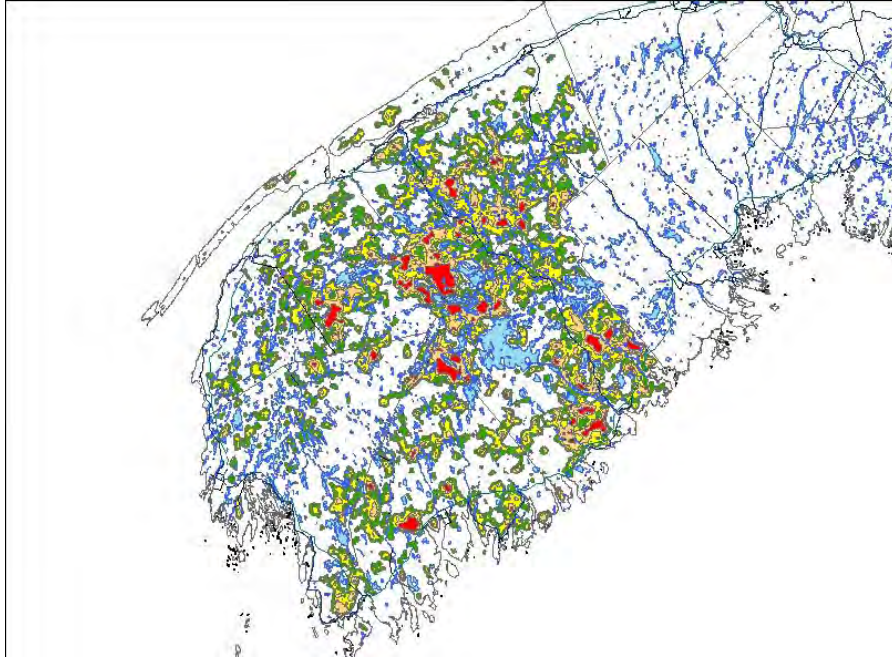


Figure 2. Map of SW Nova Scotia marten suitability based on the NS DNR model.

A 5km² grid was then placed over the map to provide systematic sample units in which to look for marten. A minimum of four hair snag stations was placed in each sample unit with 0.5-km intervals, in the area of the sample unit with the most appropriate habitat or where unconfirmed sightings have occurred. Snags were left for 12 days or until a marten has been detected. The traps were checked, re-baited and scented every four days.

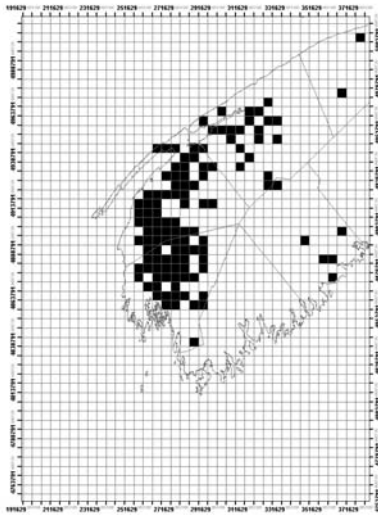


Figure 2. 5km² blocks sampled to 2008.

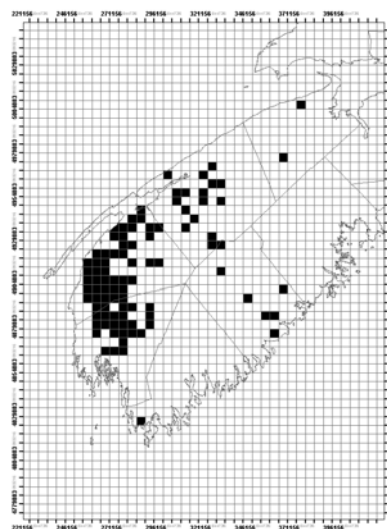


Figure 3. Current distribution of marten in SW Nova Scotia

Confirmation of marten presence or absence is based on hair samples captured on hair snag units, tracks or scat. Should marten be detected prior to the 12 days, the units are picked up and moved to another 5km² grid having suitable habitat. Survey crews are to GPS and describe the cover type near each hair snag location. Habitat descriptors include: tree size, canopy closure, dominate tree species at each site and estimate percentage cover of the dominant tree and shrub species as well as distance to water. It is possible to identify some species in the field by hair colour, length and texture. All hair samples were handled with tweezers and placed in labeled plastic bags for additional verification.

Weaselling Their Way Into Cape Breton: Regional Quality and Quantity of American Marten Habitat

Rebecca Jeppesen, MSc Candidate
Acadia University

The American marten (*Martes americana*) is a mink-sized arboreal member of the weasel family (Banfield, 1974). Marten have long been the target of trapping for its value as a furbearer (Banfield, 1974), and as such, over-trapping combined with habitat fragmentation have been identified as the main causes of species decline in Nova Scotia (Austin-Smith, 2006). Marten presently occupy only two areas of the province in low numbers; one population is in the south western portion of the province in and around Kejimikujik National Park and another has persisted in the Cape Breton Highlands region (Scott 2001).

In Cape Breton Island (CBI) the remnant American marten population was estimated to be no more than 50 individuals in 2001; a population which is further subdivided into two isolated non-interbreeding subpopulations (Scott 2001). The CBI marten was provincially listed as endangered in 2001 and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR), Parks Canada, Wildlife Conservation Society, Uni'maki Institute of Natural Resources, Mersey Tobetic Research Institute, among others formed the Nova Scotia Marten Recovery Team (NSMRT) and began efforts to augment the population in 2007.

Marten are typical denizens of late-seral coniferous forests with an abundance of coarse woody debris (CWD), which has been found to play a vital role in determining habitat quality in other areas of their range. The species has frequently been suggested to associate with CWD for gaining subniveal access to obtain prey and for thermoregulation as well as using downed logs, stumps, and snags for rearing young and for use as rest sites (Bateman 1986, Bissonette and Sherburne 1994, Clarke *et al.* 1987). As such, the first portion of my research quantifies the relationships between the quantity of CWD and other forest stand attributes using a statistical analyses in conjunction with a geographic information systems (GIS) based map of the Cape Breton Highlands region. CWD was found to be the most strongly associated with land classification (natural, managed, or dead/depleted forest), cover type (softwood, hardwood, or mixed wood), stand height, and age. Dead and depleted stands were found to have the most CWD with an average of 89.12 m³/ha followed by managed stands, while the least CWD was found to be in natural forests at an average of 53.34 m³/ha. Surprisingly, mixed wood stands were found to have more CWD than stands dominated by either softwood or hardwood. The least CWD was found to be in stands 40-49 years old which had an average of 51.39 m³/ha, while the most CWD was determined to be in stands less than 20 years of age and those over 80 years old (average 81.09 m³/ha and 83.51 m³/ha respectively). The estimated quantities of CWD in the population were used with the GIS data to apply habitat suitability models based on the results of literature review. These models are often used as an alternative to more common methods of assessing habitat suitability based presence and absence data, such is the case with the Cape Breton marten because of the small remnant population size. Two existing marten habitat suitability models developed for use in the western United States and Canada were applied to the Cape Breton highlands region, and two new models were developed based on data contained in the literature. Output of the four models was evaluated at 125 randomly selected forested locations across the study area. A total of 3300 forest stands comprising 1766 separate areas totalling 37,292 ha (average size 21.1 ha) were determined to provide contiguous high quality marten habitat by all models.

The habitat suitability maps are currently being used in developing a model to assess

potential outcomes of different augmentation strategies (i.e. how many marten should be released where over what time frame to ensure success).

Any information concerning marten sightings or sign can be reported to your local DNR Office.

Funding and support for this research has been provided by:

Acadia University
MITACS Accelerate Internships
Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund
Nova Scotia Species at Risk Fund
Parks Canada, Cape Breton Highlands National Park

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Species at Risk in Nova Scotia

Wildlife species protected under the Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act

Every fall the Minister of Natural Resources releases the names of new species to be added to the growing list of species protected under the province's Endangered Species Act. Endangered means they could become extinct in Nova Scotia if steps to remove the threats to these species are not taken.

Currently, two fur-bearing species, the Cape Breton populations of marten and lynx, are listed under the Act. Both populations are centered in the highlands of Cape Breton. However, the mainland population of marten is still "red listed" (At Risk, Maybe at Risk). Red listed species covers those species for which a formal detailed risk assessment has been completed (COSEWIC assessment or a provincial equivalent) and that have been determined to be at risk of extirpation or extinction. Species that maybe at risk of immediate extirpation or extinction and are therefore candidates for interim conservation action and detailed risk assessment by COSEWIC or the Province.

For more information on the status of wildlife in Nova Scotia visit the general status web page <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/genstatus/>

For up-dates on provincially listed species under the Endangered Species Act visit endangered species list web page <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiversity/species-list.asp>

As a trapper, you can help in several ways:

- Carefully release any live marten or lynx accidentally captured in a trap.
- Report and submit any lynx or marten accidentally killed in a trap to your local DNR office.
- Keep a written record of where and when you see a lynx or marten, or any sign of these species during the trapping season. Return it along with your Fur Harvester report at the end of the trapping season.

For more information on how to avoid incidental take of these animals <http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/martenandlynx/>

For more information contact your local DNR office or the Wildlife Division office in Kentville at 1-902-679-6091.