

N.H. Trapper Take 2005-2006*

County	Beaver	Coyote	Fisher	Gray Fox	Mink	Muskrat
BELKNAP	131	13	37	4	2	46
CARROLL	201	16	19	4	28	34
CHESHIRE	218	43	54	6	19	96
COOS	190	126	56	4	37	189
GRAFTON	255	113	46	4	33	249
HILLSBORO	428	50	68	12	60	285
MERRIMACK	657	33	60	9	51	412
ROCKINGHAM	556	13	123	8	17	323
STRAFFORD	152	12	21	5	11	144
SULLIVAN	149	25	35	4	21	118
TOTAL	2937	444	519	60	279	1896

County	Opossum	Otter	Raccoon	Red Fox	Skunk	Weasel
BELKNAP	0	20	6	2	1	3
CARROLL	0	17	12	4	0	4
CHESHIRE	1	28	18	16	4	0
COOS	0	25	23	47	24	10
GRAFTON	0	25	51	82	37	6
HILLSBORO	2	48	61	20	21	9
MERRIMACK	1	85	34	24	23	1
ROCKINGHAM	13	53	66	16	36	1
STRAFFORD	4	27	30	7	14	0
SULLIVAN	0	12	25	8	30	5
TOTAL	21	340	326	226	190	39

*preliminary figures

IMPORTANT DATES

April 30:

Trapper Report (form F&G 83) deadline.

After July 15:

Applications and lists of state lands open for trapping can be obtained from Fish and Game.

2nd Monday of September:

Applications for state land lottery trapping permits are due at Fish and Game.

September 20:

The lottery for state land trapping permits occurs by this date. Remaining areas are awarded on a first-come first-served basis.

NOTE: State land lottery permits are issued for two years. The lottery is held in even years only.

A Trapper's Code of Ethics

1. Know and obey all trapping regulations and support their enforcement.
2. Work to increase your knowledge of furbearers and proper trapping methods.
3. Respect landowner wishes and set traps only in appropriate locations.
4. Avoid setting traps where there is a high risk of catching free-ranging domestic animals.
5. Use selective and humane trapping sets with appropriate trap types and sizes.
6. Make drowning water sets if possible.
7. Don't set more traps than you can effectively handle.
8. Record your trap locations accurately.
9. Anchor traps securely enough to hold the largest potential catch.
10. Faithfully check all traps as required by law, preferably early in the morning.
11. Dispose of animal carcasses properly to avoid offending other people.
12. Support trapping, trapper education and sound furbearer management practices.
13. Report the presence of diseased animals.
14. Make an effort to trap in areas where furbearers are abundant or are creating a nuisance.
15. Know and use proper killing and releasing methods.

TRAPPER EDUCATION

The focus of New Hampshire Fish and Game's Trapper Education Program is responsible trapping. An 8-12 hour course, required for first-time trappers, provides training in: basic trapping techniques, wildlife management principles, ethics and responsibility, furbearer identification and outdoor safety.

It is in the trapper's best interest to make selective sets for target species. They must learn the habits of furbearers, and use lures and bait that will attract only the animal being sought. Any risk of catching non-target animals is minimized by using traps of the appropriate size and type, and by paying close attention to: set location, trap placement, pan or trap adjustment and choice of lures or bait.

Furbearers are a renewable public resource. Through laws and regulations, the public allows the use of this resource. However, this harvest is a privilege that can be taken away. Public acceptance of trapping can be greatly influenced by the conduct of individual trappers.

For more information on trapper education courses, call the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department at (603) 271-3214.

F&W06007- REV. 12-04-06

2006-2007 New Hampshire Trapping Information and Regulations



• Season Information

• Regulations

• Safety and Ethics



**New Hampshire
Fish and Game Department**
11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301
www.wildlife.state.nh.us

General Information About Trapping in New Hampshire

LICENSES

Any person (regardless of age), except resident landowners while upon their own land or the owner's children under 16 years of age when accompanied by a licensee 18 years of age or over, must have a license to trap fur bearing animals. This license can only be purchased at Fish and Game headquarters in Concord.

No person shall be issued a license to trap unless he or she presents proof that he or she has completed a trapper education course or has previously held a license to trap.

Persons engaged in the practice of trapping nuisance animals are required to possess a Wildlife Control Operator's License, available from Fish and Game headquarters in Concord.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- Snares may be used for taking beaver and otter. Snares shall only be set in water or under ice.
- All traps/snares must have the name of the person setting them, either stamped or engraved in a legible and permanent manner on the trap or on a durable tag securely affixed to the trap or snare or chain holding the trap.
- Only New Hampshire residents may trap beaver and otter during established open seasons.
- No person may set, arrange or tend any trap/snare upon any land or from the shores of any waters of which he is not the owner or occupant unless he has signed, written permission, and until a copy is filed with the conservation officer in whose district said person is going to trap, together with a description of the land on which trapping is to be done. The only exceptions are traps/snares placed in public bodies of water as defined in RSA 271:20 and on the following named rivers: Androscoggin, Ammonoosuc, Ashuelot, Bearcamp, Contoocook, Connecticut, Cochecho, Exeter, Lamprey, Mascoma, Merrimack, Merrymeeting, Isinglass, Pemigewasset, Pine, Saco, Soucook, Suncook and Winnepesaukee and their navigable tributaries. Navigable tributaries are those waters from the tributary's mouth to a point upstream where a person can row a boat or paddle a canoe when the water in the stream is in its ordinary condition.
- No person may set or arrange any trap in a public way, cart road or path commonly used as a passageway by human beings or domestic animals.
- No person may set or arrange any trap/snare in or under any bridge, ditch or drainage system, whether artificial or natural, within the limits of the right-of-way of any public highway except by special permission of the executive director.
- A trapper must visit traps set at least once each calendar day. A person trapping beaver through the ice must visit his traps at least once each 72 hours.

- Trappers may use artificial lights to facilitate checking traps; no person shall have in possession, while checking traps at night, a rifle, revolver or pistol larger than a .22 caliber long rifle, or a shotgun with shells larger than number 4 birdshot; checking traps by the use of lights from a motor vehicle is prohibited.
- All persons licensed to trap furbearing animals, whether they trapped or not, are required to submit an Annual Trapper's Report (Form F&G83) by April 30 of each year.
- Fur Dealers must submit a completed "Fur Dealers' Record Book" (Furs Purchased-Form F&G 152, Furs Sold-Form F&G 152A) to the Department on or before July 30 of each year. All licensees must carry on their persons a Form F&G 152 when buying the skins of furbearing animals. All forms are available from Fish and Game's Concord headquarters.

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO:

- disturb or interfere with the dams or houses of beaver without obtaining a special permit from the executive director or his designee, except as provided in RSA 210:9, which allows landowners to protect property;
- set or arrange any trap prior to the first day of the open season for trapping a species;
- disturb the trap of another person or take a furbearing animal from the trap of another person, unless specifically authorized in writing by the owner of the trap;
- take game or furbearing animals by the use of a spring gun or set gun;
- set any "conibear" trap or similar trap of a size equal to or larger than number 220, except when the trap is:
 1. five feet or more above the ground or surface of the snow (with the exception of a snowstorm during the previous 24 hours);
 2. in water for trapping beaver or otter;
- at any time destroy or injure a muskrat house, den or burrow or place a trap within 15 feet thereof.

TRAPPING ON STATE MANAGED LANDS

Permits to trap on state-managed lands are issued by the Wildlife Division of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Permit forms, applications and lists of available lands may be obtained from the Wildlife Division at Headquarters in Concord. Property maps are available at: www.wildlife.state.nh.us.

HABITAT FEE

Each trapper will be required to pay a \$2.50 habitat fee. This will be a check-off on the license. Proceeds will be used to manage for early successional habitat, maintain grasslands, plant and release fruiting trees and shrubs, protect habitat through purchase of land and conservation easements, and many other tasks.

2006-2007 Trapping Seasons

BEAVER AND OTTER

The season for taking otter and beaver by trapping shall be November 1 through April 10. The season limit for otter shall be 10 otters. Otter sealing is required within 10 days of the close of the otter season. Beaver and otter may be taken by snares set in water or under ice.

COYOTE

The season for taking coyote by trapping shall be October 15 through March 31 in WMUs A, B, C, D, E, F, G and J1 and November 1 through March 31 in WMUs H, I, J2, K, L and M.

FISHER

The season for taking fisher by trapping shall be December 1 through December 31, statewide. The season bag limit is a total of 15 fisher statewide, but of this total, no more than 10 fisher may be taken from the combined area of WMUs A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I1, J2 and K; and no more than 5 fisher from the combined area of WMUs E, J1, L and M. Fisher sealing is required within 10 days of the close of the fisher season.

RED AND GRAY FOX

The season for taking fox by use of traps shall be October 15 through December 31 in WMUs A, B, C, D, E, F, G and J1 and November 1 through January 15 in WMUs H, I, J2, K, L and M.

MINK AND MUSKRAT

The open season for trapping of mink and muskrat shall be as follows:

- WMUs A, B and C shall open October 20 and close on December 31 and shall reopen on March 1 and close again on March 31;
- WMUs E and J1 shall open October 20 and close on March 20;
- WMUs D, F and G shall open October 20 and close on April 10; and
- WMUs H, I, J2, K, L and M shall open November 1 and close on April 10.

RACCOON, OPOSSUM, AND SKUNK

The season for taking raccoon, opossum and skunk by use of traps shall be October 15 through December 31 in WMUs A, B, C, D, E, F, G and J1, and November 1 through January 15 in WMUs H, I, J2, K, L and M.

WEASEL

The open season for taking weasel by traps is October 15 through March 31 in WMUs A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and J1; and November 1 through March 31 in WMUs H, I, J2, K, L and M.

BOBCAT, MARTEN, LYNX AND WOLVES

There is no open season for the taking of these species.

PLEASE NOTE

This publication is a summary of trapping regulations. It is not the full law or rules. It is intended only as a guide to inform the trapper of seasons, bag limits and other necessary information.

For more information concerning regulations, consult the New Hampshire Fish and Game Law Book, which may be viewed at any Fish and Game office, the Secretary of State's office, and Legislative Services in Concord, N.H. A compendium of Fish and Game laws may also be purchased at Department headquarters in Concord for \$35.00.