

Survival and Cause-specific Mortality of Fishers in New Hampshire



Research Objectives

1. To estimate survival and identify cause-specific mortality
2. To measure the health
3. To identify and measure home range size, habitat use, and patterns of dispersal and movement
4. To quantify space use, habitat associations, and dispersal

Current furbearer camera trapping study will provide data on fisher distribution and abundance. This project will provide estimates of survival, mortality sources, and individual health of fishers.

Research Approach

- Live capture fisher Jan-Mar and affix satellite-linked GPS collars
- Three initial study areas - SE, SW, northern WMTS
- Maintain a study population of 100 fisher over 4 years
- Collection of mortalities, necropsy, histopathology and toxicology will be used to meet survival and health objectives
- Analysis of location, activity and movement data will be used to meet objectives related to HR, dispersal, habitat use

Current Status

- Research proposal developed by UNH and Wildlife Division
- Grant application submitted to USFWS to secure federal PR dollars
- Grant awarded to NHFG by USFWS
- Finalizing CPA between NHFG and UNH
- Seek approval from fiscal and G&C

Funded entirely through Federal PR dollars (75%) and the University of New Hampshire (25%) via cost share. There are no costs to the NH Fish and Game Department.