

2003-04 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

Summary

Mail questionnaires were sent to 509 trappers requesting harvest, recreational and socio-economic information for the 2003-04 trapping season. Survey results indicate that resident trappers are aging and that recruitment of younger trappers is low. The mean age of licensed trappers is 48.8 years. Resident trappers live in every county of the state and have a tendency to reside in rural areas. Trapping in New Jersey is a male dominated activity. The majority of respondents are affiliated with one or both statewide trapping organizations, although a substantial percentage is unaffiliated. Trapping is a lifelong activity and respondents had a mean 27.6 years of overall experience. Most respondents (36.8 percent) are blue-collar workers earning an annual, trapping-independent income exceeding \$40,000 (56.1 percent). Conibear traps, cable restraints and box traps are used by at least half of active trappers. A small number of trappers (12.1 percent) reported making modifications to their equipment to improve their success in capturing their target species. Annual expenditures on trapping equipment and supplies are usually low, however overall investment is likely to be substantial. The number of active trappers was estimated at 498, with most trappers targeting muskrat (76.3 percent), raccoon (63.1 percent), red fox (50.8 percent) and beaver (43.4 percent). Active trappers are involved in nuisance animal control work to some degree, most involving beaver (50.7 percent), skunk (40.0 percent) and raccoon (26.6 percent). Based on the survey results, mandatory coyote reports and beaver-otter check station reports, trappers harvested 56,413 muskrat, 3,994 raccoons, 2,477 red fox, 348 gray fox, 544 opossum, 219 skunk, 639 mink, 496 beaver, 46 river otter, 59 coyote and 4 weasels. Active trappers each expended an average of 45.0 days a-field representing an estimated 22,282 recreation-days. The total estimated value of the 2003-04 fur harvest was \$282,033 at the local level. There is broad support for changes in cable restraint regulations.

This survey was conducted as part of **Job III-B. Hunter and Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey**. This job is included within **Grant Number W-68-R-8, New Jersey Wildlife Research and Management: Project III. Upland Wildlife and Furbearers**.

Methods

A total of 566 resident and 3 non-resident, trapping licenses were sold during calendar year 2002, however all licenses sold for that year were not available for use in constructing the survey database. Therefore an address corrected and edited 2002 Trapper Licenses database along with additions from the 2003-04 Beaver and Otter winner/losers list was used to generate the 2003-04 mailing list. A survey packet was mailed to 509 trappers by April 5, 2004 (Appendix 1). Twenty-nine questionnaires (5.7 percent) were returned by the postal authorities as undeliverable and 480 were delivered. Demographic and economic analyses are based on the 212 (44.2 percent) responses that were correctly completed and returned within the acceptable period.

Two hundred and three respondents (42.3 percent) purchased a 2003 license, a 2004 license or both. Harvest data analysis is based on the one hundred seventy-three respondents (36.0 percent) that participated in the 2003-04 trapping season.

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Results

Age

The age class of licensed trappers is presented in Table 1. Respondent age ranged from 16 to 90 years, with a mean age of 48.8 years. The majority of respondents (16.5 percent) were between 45 and 49 years of age. Based on the 2004 survey, the state's trappers are aging and recruitment of young trappers is low. Only 25.5 percent of 2004 survey respondents were under 40 years of age, compared to 42.8 percent of 1994 survey respondents.

Table 1. Age class of respondents to the 2003-04 New Jersey Trapper Harvest Survey

Age Class	Response percent (2003-04)	Response percent (1993-94)
< 16	Not sampled	7.7%
16 to 19	0.9%	4.3%
20 to 24	2.8%	2.6%
25 to 29	1.9%	10.3%
30 to 34	5.7%	9.4%
35 to 39	14.2%	8.5%
40 to 44	13.2%	7.7%
45 to 49	16.5%	9.4%
50 to 54	10.4%	9.4%
55 to 59	13.2%	7.7%
60 to 64	8.0%	7.7%
65+	12.7%	15.3%
Unknown	0.5%	
Respondents	212	117

Residency

The estimated number of resident trappers by county (2003 v. 1993) is presented in Table 2. Resident trappers live in every county of the state and have a tendency to reside in predominantly rural areas. The majority (37.8 percent) of trappers resides in Hunterdon, Salem, Sussex and Warren Counties, a 36.3 percent increase in 2003 compared to 1993. A minor (4.6 percent) increase was observed in the combined number of trappers residing in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Morris Counties for 2003 compared to 1993. No change was observed in the combined number of trappers residing in Bergen, Camden, Essex, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset and Union Counties for 2003 compared to 1993.

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Table 2. Estimated number of resident trappers in New Jersey, by county

County	Estimated number of trappers (2003)	Estimated number of trappers (1993)	Percent change in 2003
Atlantic	23	16	45.9%
Bergen	21	17	24.3%
Burlington	31	22	41.5%
Camden	22	24	-7.3%
Cape May	26	15	70.5%
Cumberland	53	60	-11.0%
Essex	7	7	-4.7%
Gloucester	39	47	-17.2%
Hudson	3	5	-33.3%
Hunterdon	28	16	73.7%
Mercer	19	8	136.3%
Middlesex	14	22	-34.3%
Monmouth	10	18	-44.4%
Morris	33	36	-7.3%
Ocean	20	18	11.2%
Passaic	18	16	11.2%
Salem	68	82	-17.3%
Somerset	8	7	11.2%
Sussex	69	36	91.5%
Union	3	5	-33.3%
Warren	49	23	112.7%
Total	566	500	13.2%

Gender

Survey respondents are overwhelmingly male (97.2 percent), regardless of state residency in 2003. All female respondents (2.8 percent) reside in New Jersey. Based on survey results, an estimated 593 males and 17 females were licensed trappers in 2003.

Affiliation

New Jersey has two statewide trapping organizations, the New Jersey Fur Harvesters (NJFH) and the New Jersey Trappers Association (NJTA). Affiliation of respondents in either organization is presented in Table 3. The majority (59.4 percent) of survey respondents is affiliated with one (38.2 percent NJTA, 12.7 percent NJFH) or both (8.5 percent) of these organizations. Affiliation is more prevalent among female respondents (83.3 percent) than male respondents (59.9 percent). A large percentage (38.7) of respondents are unaffiliated. Based on survey results, an estimated 285 trappers were NJTA members, 129 trappers were NJFH members and 236 trappers were unaffiliated in 2003. The reported membership of the NJTA and NJFH is 269 and 114, respectively in 2004 (New Jersey Trappers Association 2004 and Mounier 2004). It should be noted that each organization lists members who may not be licensed to trap in New Jersey.

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Table 3. Affiliation in New Jersey trapping organizations

Affiliation	Total response	Male response	Female response
NJ Fur Harvesters	12.7%	21.5%	20.0%
NJ Trappers Association	38.2%	63.6%	80.0%
Both NJFH and NJTA	8.5%	14.9%	0.0%
Subtotal	59.4%	59.9%	83.3%
Unaffiliated	38.7%	40.1%	16.7%
Subtotal		98.1%	100.0%
No response	1.9%	1.9%	0.0%
Respondents	212	206	6

Prior Experience

Prior to the 1972-73 season, it was unlawful to trap any fur-bearing animal without possessing a Trapping and Firearm Hunting License. This requirement did not apply to occupant farmers and their immediate family members and to bona fide residents of the State under 14 years, who required no license to trap according to state law. A separate Trapping License was provided for residents (age 12 and older) and non-residents (age 14 and older) in 1972. A previous year's license or a certificate showing successful completion in a trapper education course has been required since 1978. Junior Trapping Licenses were required for residents between the ages of 12 and 15, inclusive, from 1980 through 1999. Since 2000, trapping licenses are required for all persons age 16 years or older. Survey respondents indicated years of trapping experience prior to the 2003-04 season ranging from 0 to 75 years, with a mean 27.6 years of experience.

Occupation and Income

Survey recipients were asked to provide which occupational category (n=9) best described them. Occupations for 86.3 percent of respondents could be categorized into four of the choices provided on the survey: blue collar/tradesman (36.8 percent); retired (20.3 percent); professional/office (16.0 percent); and, self-employed (13.2 percent). Only 3.8 percent of respondents were self-employed in the animal control field. Other occupations included farming (5.2 percent) and student (1.9 percent). Only 1.9 percent of respondents was unemployed and no respondents were active in the military.

The majority of respondents (56.1 percent) had a yearly, trapping-independent income exceeding \$60,000 (28.3 percent) or from \$40-60,000 (27.8 percent). The remainder had yearly, trapping-independent incomes from \$20-40,000 (23.6 percent) or less than \$20,000 (14.2 percent).

License Buyers

Survey recipients, who were licensed to trap in 2002, were asked whether they purchased a trapping license for the current season. The overwhelming majority of 2004 survey respondents purchased trapping licenses for 2003 (95.8 percent) and 2004 (84.9 percent). Nine of the 212 respondents (4.2 percent) indicated not purchasing either a 2003 or 2004 trapping license. Reasons given for non-purchase included no time, no fur value or farmer-exempt (22.2 percent each) and no access or cost of license (11.1 percent each).

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Active Trappers

Thirty (14.8 percent) of the licensed respondents did not participate in trapping activities during the 122-day, 2003-04 season that began November 15, 2003 and concluded March 15, 2004. Active 2004 respondents are slightly younger (mean 48.5 years) with slightly more experienced (mean 27.9 years) compared to all respondents (mean age 48.8 years and mean experience 27.6 years). Active respondents resided in all New Jersey counties, except Union County, and pursued fur-bearing species throughout the state, including the urban counties of Essex, Hudson and Union.

Participation by active respondents (85.2 percent) increased with time. Nearly seventy percent (68.8) of active respondents trapped from November 15 through December 31, 2003 (47 days) whereas 83.2 percent trapped from January 1 through March 15, 2004 (75 days). The majority (57.2 percent) of respondents was active over the entire period, while 11.6 percent and 26.6 percent were active in only in 2003 or 2004, respectively. The majority of respondents listed their resident county as their primary trapping area for both 2003 and 2004 (58.7 and 64.5 percent, respectively). Based on active respondents (173), 498 trappers expended 22,282 recreation-days with a mean expenditure of 45.0 days afield during 2003-04.

Trap Types

Box traps, conibear traps, diver traps and body-gripping cable restraints are currently legal for use in New Jersey. Steel-jawed leghold, or coil spring, traps have been prohibited since 1985. With the exception of conibear traps, survey respondents active during the 2003-04 trapping season seldom utilize one trap type to the exclusion of all others (Table 4). Conibear traps were used by the majority of respondents (82.7 percent), followed by cable restraints (66.5 percent) and box traps (54.9 percent). Diver traps were used by only 10.4 percent of active respondents. A small percent (12.1) of 2004 respondents reported modifying their traps to improve capture rates.

Table 4. Trap types utilized by active respondents in New Jersey during 2003-04

Trap type by respondent	Responses	Percent
Box only	4	2.3%
Box and conibear	18	10.4%
Box, conibear and diver	1	0.6%
Box, conibear, diver and cable restraint	29	16.8%
Box, conibear and cable restraint	31	17.9%
Box and cable restraint	12	6.9%
Conibear only	27	15.6%
Conibear and diver	5	2.9%
Conibear, diver and cable restraint	10	5.8%
Conibear and cable restraint	22	12.7%
Diver only	1	0.6%
Diver and cable restraint	1	0.6%
Cable restraint only	10	5.8%
No response	2	1.2%
	173	100.0%

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Expenditures and Investment

Information on expenditures (excluding license and permit fees) by active 2004 respondents is presented in Tables 5 and 6. Although not solicited from non-participants, most respondents provided information on their overall investment and this is included in Table 6. The majority of active respondents (58.4 percent) spent less than \$200 on trapping equipment and supplies during 2003-04. Most (24.3 percent) have an overall investment not exceeding \$500.

Table 5. Expenditures on trapping equipment and supplies by active respondents, 2003-04

2003-04 Expenditures (US\$)	Responses	Percent
\$1-100	61	35.3%
\$101-200	40	23.1%
\$201-300	33	19.1%
\$301-400	14	8.1%
\$401-500	7	4.0%
Over \$500	15	8.7%
No response	3	1.7%
Total	173	100.0%

Table 6. Total investment in trapping equipment and supplies (all respondents).

Investment (US\$)	Percent of active (2003-04) respondents	Percent of all respondents
\$1-500	24.3%	21.7%
\$501-1,000	17.9%	16.0%
\$1,001-1,500	16.2%	14.2%
\$1,501-2,000	11.0%	10.4%
\$2,001-2,500	5.2%	4.7%
Over \$2,500	23.1%	19.8%
No response	2.3%	13.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

2003-04 Fur Harvest

A summary of the 2003-04 fur harvest is presented in Table 7. A total 65,239 animals from all twelve game species open for trapping were harvested. Nearly all (96.4 percent) of the animals harvested consisted of muskrat (86.5 percent), raccoon (6.1 percent) and red fox (3.8 percent). The fur value of these three species represents 90.1 percent of the total fur value, estimated at \$282,033 at the local level. Information by species is also presented.

Table 7. New Jersey fur harvest results for 2003-04

Species	Estimated active trappers	Mean experience (years)	Mean days trapped	Percent involved in nuisance control	Mean effort (days)	Estimated harvest ¹	Estimated value (US\$)
Beaver	216	12.5	19.4	50.7	4.1	496	8,412

¹ Harvests figures for beaver, coyote and river otter represent reported, rather than estimated, harvests.

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Coyote	106	11.7	39.5	18.9	10.7	59	1,370
Gray fox	132	25.4	41.2	6.5	19.1	348	4,936
Mink	138	19.5	39.8	2.1	13.3	639	6,746
Muskrat	380	27.1	31.5	17.4	42.6	56,413	166,373
Nutria	0	Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Opossum	69	18.2	62.2	8.3	10.3	544	1,174
Raccoon	314	23.3	36.4	26.6	12.4	3,994	44,644
Red fox	253	23.0	39.1	12.5	22.0	2,477	43,164
River otter	104	15.3	14.7	2.8	2.5	46	4,333
Skunk	43	25.0	54.7	40.0	6.7	219	875
Weasel	20	30.0	16.0	0.0	4.6	4	6
Total	498		45.0			65,239	282,033

Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

The beaver trapping season was January 1 – February 9, 2004 (40 days) and was open only for holders of a special trapping permit. Two hundred applications were received for the 175 available permits and 173 permits were issued. Sixty-nine permit holders (39.9 percent) did not participate during the 2004 beaver season due mainly to inclement weather and time constraints. Ninety-four trappers (54.3 percent) were successful in harvesting at least one beaver and 25 trappers (14.5 percent) were successful in harvesting the permit bag limit of eight beavers. Successful trappers were required to present their beaver pelts for examination at regional check stations on Saturday, February 14, 2004. Permit holders harvested 489 beavers. Two site-specific permits were issued and resulted in the harvest of 7 beavers, bringing the total 2004 harvest to 496. Additional information on the 2004 beaver harvest may be found in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Report W-68-R-8 Job III-C entitled Beaver Distribution and Population Trends and River Otter Harvest.

Based on active survey respondents, there are 216 beaver trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents are predominantly male (94.7 percent), ranging in age from 23 to 76 years of age with a mean age of 45.2 years, and having a mean 12.5 years experience in beaver trapping. Active respondents trapped a mean 19.4 days using a mean 4.1 traps per day. Trapping efforts involving the removal of nuisance beaver was reported by 50.7 percent of active respondents. The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$16.96 and the estimated value of the 2004 beaver harvest was \$8,412 at the local level.

Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

The eastern coyote trapping season was November 15, 2003 – March 15, 2004 (122 days), except on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas where trapping was permitted January 1 – March 15, 2004 (75 days). State regulations require successful trappers to report their harvest to a regional Division law enforcement office within 24 hours. A harvest of 59 coyotes were reported by trappers in 2003-04. Additional information on coyotes may be found in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Report W-68-R-8 Job III-D entitled Occurrence and Distribution of the Eastern Coyote in New Jersey.

Based on active survey respondents, there are 106 coyote trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents are predominantly male (97.3 percent), ranging in age from 27 to 65 years of age with a mean age of 45.5 years, and having a mean 11.7 years experience in coyote trapping. Active respondents trapped a mean 39.5 days using a mean 10.7 traps per day. Trapping

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efforts involving the removal of nuisance coyote was reported by 18.9 percent of active respondents. The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$23.22 and the estimated value of the 2003-04 coyote harvest was \$1,370 at the local level.

Gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

The gray fox trapping season was November 15, 2003 – March 15, 2004 (122 days), except on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas where trapping was permitted January 1 – March 15, 2004 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents, there are 132 gray fox trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents are exclusively male, ranging in age from 23 to 74 years of age with a mean age of 46.8 years, and having a mean 25.4 years experience trapping gray fox. Active respondents trapped a mean 41.2 days using a mean 19.1 traps per day. Trapping efforts involving the removal of nuisance gray fox was reported by 6.5 percent of active respondents. An estimated 348 gray fox were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$14.18 and the estimated value of the 2003-04 gray fox harvest was \$4,936 at the local level.

Mink (*Mustela vison*)

The mink trapping season was November 15, 2003 – March 15, 2004 (122 days) in the Northern Zone, December 1, 2003 – March 15, 2004 (106 days) in the Southern Zone, and January 1 – March 15, 2004 (75 days) on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas. Based on active survey respondents, there are 138 mink trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents were exclusively male, ranging in age from 27 to 76 years of age with a mean age of 47.9 years, and having a mean 19.5 years experience trapping mink. Active respondents trapped a mean 39.7 days using a mean 13.3 traps per day. Trapping efforts involving the removal of nuisance mink was reported by 2.1 percent of active respondents. An estimated 639 mink were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$10.56 and the estimated value of the 2003-04 mink harvest was \$6,746 at the local level.

Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

The muskrat trapping season was November 15, 2003 – March 15, 2004 (122 days) in the Northern Zone, December 1, 2003 – March 15, 2004 (106 days) in the Southern Zone, and January 1 – March 15, 2004 (75 days) on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas. Based on active survey respondents, there are 380 muskrat trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents were predominantly male (98.5 percent), ranging in age from 21 to 90 years of age with a mean age of 48.2 years, and having a mean 27.1 years experience trapping muskrat. Active respondents trapped a mean 31.5 days using a mean 42.6 traps per day. Trapping efforts involving the removal of nuisance muskrat was reported by 17.4 percent of active respondents. An estimated 56,413 muskrat were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$2.95 and the estimated value of the 2003-04 muskrat harvest was \$166,373 at the local level.

Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginianus*)

The Virginia opossum trapping season was November 15, 2003 – March 15, 2004 (122 days), except on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas where trapping was permitted January 1 – March 15, 2004 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents, there are 69

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opossum trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents are exclusively male, ranging in age from 28 to 65 years of age with a mean age of 44.6 years, and having a mean 18.2 years experience trapping opossum. Active respondents trapped a mean 62.2 days using a mean 10.3 traps per day. Trapping efforts involving the removal of nuisance opossum was reported by 8.3 percent of active respondents. An estimated 544 opossum were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$2.16 and the estimated value of the 2003-04 opossum harvest was \$1,174 at the local level.

Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

The raccoon trapping season was November 15, 2003 – March 15, 2004 (122 days), except on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas where trapping was permitted January 1 – March 15, 2004 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents, there are 314 raccoon trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents are predominantly male (99.1 percent), ranging in age from 23 to 76 years of age with a mean age of 47.5 years, and having a mean 23.3 years experience trapping raccoon. Active respondents trapped a mean 36.4 days using a mean 12.4 traps per day. Trapping efforts involving the removal of nuisance raccoon was reported by 26.6 percent of active respondents. An estimated 3,994 raccoons were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$11.18 and the estimated value of the 2003-04 raccoon harvest was \$44,644 at the local level.

Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

The red fox trapping season was November 15, 2003 – March 15, 2004 (122 days), except on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas where trapping was permitted January 1 – March 15, 2004 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents, there are 253 red fox trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents are predominantly male (97.7 percent), ranging in age from 23 to 79 years of age with a mean age of 47.4 years, and having a mean 23.0 years experience trapping gray fox. Active respondents trapped a mean 39.1 days using a mean 22.0 traps per day. Trapping efforts involving the removal of nuisance red fox was reported by 12.5 percent of active respondents. An estimated 2,477 red fox were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$17.42 and the estimated value of the 2003-04 red fox harvest was \$43,164 at the local level.

River otter (*Lutra canadensis*)

The river otter trapping season was January 1 – February 9, 2004 (40 days) and was open only for holders of a special trapping permit. One hundred eighty applications were received for the 106 available permits and all permits were issued. Forty-six trappers (43.4 percent) were successful in harvesting the season bag limit of one otter. Successful trappers were required to present their otter pelts for examination at regional check stations on Saturday, February 14, 2004. Additional information on the 2004 river otter harvest may be found in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Report W-68-R-8 Job III-C entitled Beaver Distribution and Population Trends and River Otter Harvest.

Based on active survey respondents, there are 104 otter trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents are predominantly male (97.2 percent), ranging in age from 23 to 73 years of age with a mean age of 47.4 years, and having a mean 15.3 years experience in beaver trapping. Active respondents trapped a mean 14.7 days using a mean 2.5 traps per day. Trapping

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efforts involving the removal of nuisance otter was reported by 2.8 percent of active respondents. The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$94.20 and the estimated value of the 2004 otter harvest was \$4,333 at the local level.

Striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)

The striped skunk trapping season was November 15, 2003 – March 15, 2004 (122 days), except on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas where trapping was permitted January 1 – March 15, 2004 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents, there are 43 skunk trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents are exclusively male, ranging in age from 28 to 65 years of age with a mean age of 48.9 years, and having a mean 25.0 years experience trapping skunk. Active respondents trapped a mean 54.7 days using a mean 6.7 traps per day. Trapping efforts involving the removal of nuisance skunk was reported by 40.0 percent of active respondents. An estimated 219 skunks were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$4.00 and the estimated value of the 2003-04 skunk harvest was \$44,644 at the local level.

Long-tail (*Mustela frenata*) and Short-tail (*M. erminea*) weasel

The weasel trapping season was November 15, 2003 – March 15, 2004 (122 days), except on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas where trapping was permitted January 1 – March 15, 2004 (75 days). Based on active survey respondents, there are 20 weasel trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents are exclusively male, ranging in age from 46 to 73 years of age with a mean age of 55.4 years, and having a mean 30.0 years experience trapping weasel. Active respondents trapped a mean 16.0 days using a mean 4.6 traps per day. No trapping effort involving the removal of nuisance weasel was reported by active respondents. An estimated 4 weasels were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$1.50 and the estimated value of the 2003-04 weasel harvest was \$6 at the local level.

Proposals

Current state regulations (adopted for the 1986-87 season) regarding body-gripping cable restraints restrict loop diameters from exceeding eight (8) inches in diameter and a height from the walking surface to the top of the loop from exceeding eighteen (18) inches. At the time of adoption, eastern coyotes were relatively scarce and the regulations were sufficient to permit the harvest of all other fur bearing species. Coyote populations have increased substantially since 1986. As of the June 30, 2004, the Upland Game and Furbearer Project's coyote database contain 3,807 entries of sightings, mortalities and other evidence of the presence of eastern coyotes from 293 New Jersey municipalities (52%) in all 21 counties. Coyotes are larger and more wary than the red fox, and changes in cable restraint regulations may be desired in order to enhance management efforts.

Active respondents were asked their opinion on: (1) increasing the maximum loop of cable restraints from 8 to 12 inches in diameter; and, (2) increasing the maximum height (walking surface to loop top) from 18 to 24 inches. Although an opinion was not solicited from non-participants, the majority of survey respondents (92.5 percent) provided an opinion to both proposals. The combined responses are presented in Tables 8 and 9. Broad support for both proposal 1 and proposal 2 by all respondents (66.0 percent and 64.2 percent, respectively), as well as active respondents (71.7 percent and 69.4 percent, respectively).

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Table 8. Response to proposal to increase cable restraint loop diameter from 8" to 12"

Response	Percent of active respondents	Percent of all respondents
Strongly agree	47.4%	42.9%
Agree	24.3%	23.1%
No Opinion	20.2%	20.3%
Disagree	4.0%	3.8%
Strongly disagree	2.3%	2.4%
No response	1.7%	7.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%
Strongly agree + agree	71.7%	66.0%
No opinion	20.2%	20.3%
Disagree + strongly disagree	6.4%	6.1%
	98.3%	92.5%

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Table 9. Response to proposal to increase cable restraint height from 18" to 24"

Response	Percent of active respondents	Percent of all respondents
Strongly agree	45.7%	41.0%
Agree	23.7%	23.1%
No Opinion	20.2%	20.3%
Disagree	5.2%	4.2%
Strongly disagree	2.9%	3.3%
No response	2.3%	8.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%
Strongly agree + agree	69.4%	64.2%
No opinion	20.2%	20.3%
Disagree + strongly disagree	8.1%	7.5%
	97.7%	92.0%

Remarks

Occupant, qualified farmers are exempt from licensing requirements on their own property and consequently are not included in the mailing database. Licenses are otherwise required. Six licensed farmers were included in this year's survey. The presence of farmers in the survey underscores the need to acquire information from the predominantly non-licensed, farming community.