

2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

Summary

A **2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest Survey** was mailed to 1327 licensed trappers requesting harvest, recreational and socio-economic information for the 2013-14 trapping season. The mean age of licensed trappers as of November 15, 2013 was 47.0 years. Resident trappers are predominantly male (96.9%), and live in every county of the state with a tendency to reside in rural areas. Nineteen surveys were returned as undeliverable (all were correctly addressed) and 436 responses were received by May 15, 2014 (33.4% response). The majority of survey respondents are affiliated with a statewide (53.8%) or national (19.0%) trapping organization. Trapping is a lifelong activity and respondents had between 5.7-27.3 years of prior trapping experience depending on the target species, and a mean 23.2 years of overall experience. Annual expenditures on trapping equipment and supplies during 2013-14 were estimated at \$350,232, (mean \$417 per trapper) and overall investment was estimated at \$4.3 million (mean \$5,163 per trapper). The number of active trappers was estimated at 839, with most trappers targeting raccoon (66.1%), red fox (55.4%), muskrat (52.1%), and mink (28.2%). Survey results estimated that 26,071 muskrats, 9,647 raccoons, 6,871 red fox, 1,460 mink, 1,124 opossum, 234 gray fox, 270 skunks, and 0 weasels were harvested during the 2013-14 season. According to mandatory coyote and beaver-otter check station reports, trappers also harvested 594 beaver, 43 river otter and 194 coyotes. The total estimated raw pelt value of the 2013-14 harvest was \$545,589 based on reported fur sales.

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-16, New Jersey Wildlife Research and Management: Project III. Upland Wildlife and Furbearers**.

Methods

New Jersey instituted an electronic licensing system in June 2006. A listing of 2013 trapping license purchasers was obtained from the system vendor, Automated License Systems, Inc. (ALS). The 2013 file contained 1,270 unique records plus 57 qualified Youth trappers licensed in previous years were added to the database. Age and demographic analyses were completed on all 1,327 individuals.

A survey packet was mailed to 1,327 trappers by April 1, 2014 (including prior Youth Trappers and Farmers). Nineteen questionnaires (1.4 percent) were returned by the postal authorities as undeliverable, all of which were forwarded to corrected address, and 1,308 were presumed delivered. One survey was returned with responses unusable. Trapper group affiliation, prior experience and activity were based on the 436 (33.4%) responses that were correctly completed and returned by May 15, 2014.

Harvest and economic data analyses were based on the 280 survey respondents (21.4%) that actively participated in the 2013-14 trapping season.

Discussion

Age

The age class of licensed trappers (as of 15 November 2013) is presented in Table 1. Ages ranged from 12 to 91 years, with a mean age of 49.7 ± 0.0 SE years, and the simple majority (15.0 percent) of licensed trappers were those greater than 65 years of age. Age class of trappers for 2012-13, 2011-12, 2010-11 and 2009-10 are presented for comparison purposes.

2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

Table 1. Age class of trappers licensed in New Jersey during the 2013-14 trapping season.

Age Class	Licensed trappers (2013-14)	Percent of licensed trappers (2013-14)	Licensed trappers (2012-13)	Licensed trappers (2011-12)	Licensed trappers (2010-11)	Licensed trappers (2009-10)
<16	46	3.5%	58	42	90	76
16 to 19	46	3.5%	42	35	50	39
20 to 24	39	2.9%	35	39	28	33
25 to 29	76	5.7%	60	57	58	46
30 to 34	95	7.2%	68	62	55	52
35 to 39	91	6.9%	85	69	75	88
40 to 44	146	11.0%	123	124	111	98
45 to 49	170	12.8%	165	152	128	134
50 to 54	171	12.9%	146	137	123	117
55 to 59	135	10.2%	123	103	87	88
60 to 64	113	8.5%	112	105	61	105
65+	199	15.0%	178	145	91	111
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0
Total	1327	100.0%	1195	1070	957	987

Gender

Information on trapper gender was obtained from the database provided by ALS. Nearly all (1286 or 96.9%) of 2013 license holders were male and 41 (3.1%) were female, compared to 1164 male (97.4%) and 31 female (2.6%) trappers licensed in 2012.

Occupation

Information on trapper occupation was not solicited during the current survey. Occupations for 77.1% of 2004-05 respondents could be categorized into three of the nine groupings: Trade (33.7%), Professional (22.9%) and Retired (20.5%). These three groups constituted 68.2% of the 2004-05 responses.

Residency

The number of resident trappers by county (2013-14 v. 2012-13, 2011-12 and 2010-11) is presented in Table 2. Nearly all (99.1%) of licensed trappers are New Jersey residents, while non-resident trappers resided in neighboring New York (3) and Pennsylvania (9). Resident trappers live in every county of the state and have a tendency to reside in predominantly rural areas. The majority (61.1%) of New Jersey's resident trappers live in the western half of the State either in Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties (34.4%) or in Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex and Warren counties (26.8%).

2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

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

County	Number of trappers (2013-14)	Percent of licensed trappers (2013-14)	Number of trappers (2012-13)	Number of trappers (2011-12)	Number of trappers (2010-11)	Number of trappers (2009-10)
Atlantic	75	5.7%	70	54	42	42
Bergen	27	2.0%	29	25	28	27
Burlington	90	6.8%	83	75	65	77
Camden	45	3.4%	44	38	30	31
Cape May	52	3.9%	37	29	37	37
Cumberland	155	11.7%	128	139	122	117
Essex	10	0.8%	10	5	7	5
Gloucester	90	6.8%	81	73	66	76
Hudson	1	0.1%	1	2	4	3
Hunterdon	60	4.5%	64	52	40	41
Mercer	29	2.2%	29	26	18	21
Middlesex	52	3.9%	46	39	34	46
Monmouth	48	3.6%	40	33	37	31
Morris	56	4.2%	54	56	46	41
Ocean	86	6.5%	75	61	47	64
Passaic	49	3.7%	38	26	34	38
Salem	117	8.8%	113	100	87	90
Somerset	29	2.2%	24	24	20	20
Sussex	141	10.6%	134	108	102	101
Union	8	0.6%	7	10	10	4
Warren	95	7.2%	72	66	60	55
Total	1,315	100.00%	1,179	1,041	936	967

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. Over one half (53.8%) of survey respondents is affiliated with one (18.3% NJFH, 25.3% NJTA) or both (10.3%) of these organizations. A smaller percentage of respondents (19.0) belong to a national trapping organization (e.g., Fur Takers of America, National Trappers Association). A large portion of (42.9%) respondents were unaffiliated with any trapping organization. Based on survey results, an estimated 243 trappers were NJFH members, 335 trappers were NJTA members, 136 trappers belonged to both NJFH and NJTA and 29 trappers were unaffiliated with either state trappers organization in 2013. The current reported paid membership of the NJFH and NJTA is 356 and 350, respectively (personal communication, June 2014). It should be noted that each organization lists members who may not be licensed to trap in New Jersey or family memberships that include more than one licensed trapper.

2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

Table 3. Affiliation in New Jersey trapping organizations

Affiliation	Estimated affiliation (2013)	Estimated affiliation (2012)	Estimated affiliation (2011)	Estimated affiliation (2010)	Estimated affiliation (2009)
NJ Fur Harvesters	243	276	283	154	188
NJ Trappers Assoc.	335	313	280	187	177
Both NJFH and NJTA	136	113	93	81	80
Unknown				46	
Subtotal	714	702	656	468	445
Unaffiliated in NJ	44	29	348	29	33
Subtotal	758	731	1,004	477	478
No response	569	464	46	584	509
Total	1,327 licenses	1,195 licenses	1,050 licensees	1,061 licensees	987 licensees

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 that 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 year or older. Survey respondents indicated years of trapping experience prior to the 2012-13 season for each target species ranging from 0 to 69 years (Table 4).

Table 4. Years of experience of licensed trappers prior to the 2013-14 trapping season

Years of experience prior to 2013	Estimated number of active trappers										
	Total	Beaver	Coyote	Gray fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Raccoon	Red fox	River otter	Skunk
0 years	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
1-5 years	298	79	91	24	67	100	76	167	158	21	43
6-10 years	103	21	33	3	12	27	6	52	43	15	0
11-15 years	27	18	6	3	9	9	3	9	15	0	6
16-20 years	24	15	3	3	6	12	9	12	18	6	3
21-25 years	9	0	0	3	3	6	0	9	15	3	0
26-30 years	40	9	3	3	21	15	6	27	30	0	3
31-35 years	43	3	0	3	9	21	6	27	18	3	3
36-40 years	61	0	0	6	6	33	6	33	18	3	3
41-45 years	70	6	0	3	6	40	3	18	0	0	0
46-50 years	52	0	0	3	9	24	6	21	12	0	3
>50 years	103	0	0	3	9	49	9	27	12	0	6
Unknown	18	21	70	39	79	106	70	158	131	6	40
Mean experience	23.1	10.4	5.7	19.9	18.6	27.3	15.1	19.3	15.3	11.7	14.6
Est. active trappers	852	173	210	97	240	444	204	563	472	58	110

2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

License Buyers

The Division's electronic licensing system, administered by Automated Licensing Systems (ALS), was fully functional since calendar year 2007. According to ALS, 1327 trapping licenses were issued for calendar year 2013 compared to 1160 licenses in 2012, 1050 licenses in 2011 and 1061 licenses in 2010. A breakdown of license sales is presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Summary of trapping license sales, 2013

License type	2013 Issuance	Percent of 2013 Total	2012 Issuance	2011 Issuance	2010 Issuance
Non-resident	7	0.5%	9	7	5
Resident	1,094	82.4%	946	859	815
Resident (Disable Veteran)	169	12.7%	162	138	132
Youth (< 16 years of age)	57	4.3%	43	46	109
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0	0
Total	1,327	100.0%	1,160	1,050	1,061

Active Trappers

Two hundred eighty respondents (64.2%) participated in trapping activities during the 121-day, 2013-14 season that began 15 November 2013 and concluded 15 March 2014. An estimated 839 trappers were active during the season.

Trap Types

Steel-jawed leghold type traps, such as coil springs and long springs, have been prohibited in New Jersey since 1985. Box traps, body-gripping traps, diver traps and cable restraints are currently legal for use, and active trappers seldom utilize one trap type to the exclusion of all others. Body-gripping traps were used by the majority of active respondents (73.9%), followed by cable restraints (62.8%), box traps (46.4%) and diver traps (19.3%). Based on survey responses, there were an estimated 1,530 box, 9,446 body-gripping, 638 diver and 8,420 cable restraints in operation during 2007-08. Trap type usage information was not solicited in the 2013-14 survey.

Expenditures and Investment

Active survey respondents spent an average \$417 on items such as gasoline, food, clothing, trapping equipment and supplies (but excluding license and permit fees) during 2013-14, and had an average total investment of \$5,163. Inactive survey respondents spent an average \$155 during 2013-14, and had an average total investment of \$2,384. Total investment of all trappers is estimated at \$4.3 million. The NJDFW received \$36,959 in revenue from license sales and \$5,073 in permit sales and application fees during calendar year 2013 (total revenue \$42,147).

2013-14 Fur Harvest

A summary of the 2013-14 fur harvest is presented in Table 6 and Table 7. An estimated 46,511 animals from eleven game species open for trapping were harvested. No harvest of nutria was reported by survey respondents. Nearly all (91.6%) of the animals harvested consisted of muskrat (56.1%), raccoon (20.7%) and red fox (14.8%). The raw fur value of these three species represents 90.2% of the total raw fur value, estimated at \$545,589 at the local level. Information by species is also presented.

2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

Table 6. New Jersey fur harvest by species, 2013-14

Species	Number of 2013-14 active respondents	Estimated number of active trappers (2013-14)	Mean experience (years)	Mean days trapped (2013-14)	Estimated total trap-nights	Estimated harvest	Estimated value (US\$)
Beaver	57	171	10.4	16.4	12,641	594 ¹	\$ 12,034
Coyote	69	207	5.7	40.9	234,718	194 ²	\$ 3,633
Gray fox	32	96	19.9	28.2	80,907	234	\$ 5,368
Mink	79	237	18.6	28.7	163,529	1,460	\$ 25,264
Muskrat	146	438	27.3	23.6	317,795	26,071	\$ 218,061
Nutria	0	Unknown				0	
Opossum	67	201	15.1	37.6	94,590	1,124	\$ 2,991
Raccoon	185	555	19.3	34.2	333,827	9,647	\$ 106,464
Red fox	155	465	15.3	43.2	726,777	6,871	\$ 167,612
River otter	19	57	11.7	10.6	1,799	43 ¹	\$ 2,723
Skunk	36	108	14.6	24.5	43,819	270	\$ 1,439
Weasel	2	6	1.00	25.0	330	0	\$ --
Total	280	839	23.2			46,511	\$ 545,589

¹ Harvest as reported at mandatory beaver and otter check stations

² Harvest as reported by mandatory call-in to regional Division Law Enforcement offices

Table 7. Estimated New Jersey fur harvest by county and species, 2013-14.

County	Beaver ¹	Coyote ²	Gray fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Raccoon	Red fox	River otter ¹	Skunk
Atlantic	16	42	9	6	3,001	3	90	282	4	0
Bergen	0	0	0	36	273	30	141	21	1	18
Burlington	104	3	6	48	767	3	579	348	4	0
Camden	13	1	0	0	9	6	12	3	1	3
Cape May	1	31	18	15	1,277	60	576	132	2	6
Cumberland	0	26	60	54	6,124	258	866	303	9	69
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucester	22	2	3	3	378	0	147	153	4	3
Hudson	0	0	0	0	510	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	13	6	0	33	51	39	372	1,127	1	3
Mercer	32	0	0	6	15	12	87	195	2	3
Middlesex	21	0	0	30	1,361	60	746	237	1	30
Monmouth	17	3	0	9	12	36	183	225	0	6
Morris	87	9	12	306	887	39	737	606	3	3
Ocean	21	16	15	33	228	57	480	153	1	30
Passaic	15	0	0	3	96	63	246	39	2	45
Salem	27	18	0	33	6,106	45	396	105	3	3
Somerset	6	4	0	186	105	9	1,514	1,295	0	3
Sussex	181	4	9	273	950	126	764	764	5	24
Union	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Warren	18	28	15	240	516	189	678	797	0	9
Unknown	0	1	87	147	3,405	90	1,031	633	0	12
Total	594	194	234	1,460	26,071	1,124	9,647	6,871	43	270

¹ Harvest as reported at mandatory beaver and otter check stations

² Harvest as reported by mandatory call-in to regional Division Law Enforcement offices

2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

Changes in Trapping Season Lengths and Regulations

No changes were enacted regarding season lengths or other regulations for the 2013-14 season.

Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

The standard beaver trapping season (26 Dec. 2013 to 9 Feb. 2014, 46 days) except on the 23 State Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where beaver trapping was permitted from 01 January – 09 February 2014 (40 days). A special, beaver trapping permit was required in addition to a trapping license. Four hundred twenty three applications were received for the 200 available permits. All permits were awarded via lottery (200), but only 168 permits were actually claimed and 32 permits were sold over-the-counter bringing the total issuance to 200. One hundred and five trappers (52.5%) were successful in harvesting at least one beaver and 40 trappers (20.0%) 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, 22 February 2014. Permit holders harvested 544 beavers. Nineteen beaver damage control permits were issued and resulted in the harvest of 50 beavers, bringing the total 2013-14 harvest to 594. Additional information on the 2013-14 beaver harvest may be found in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Performance Report W-68-R-17 Job III-C entitled Beaver Distribution and Population Trends and River Otter Harvest.

Based on active survey respondents (n = 57), there are 171 active beaver trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 10.4 years of experience trapping beaver. Active respondents trapped a mean 16.4 days using a mean 4.8 traps per day and 67.9% of respondents trapped within their resident county. The majority of the harvest (88.7%) was taken by a 330 body-gripping trap. Cable restraints accounted for 7.2% of the harvest. Total trap-nights were estimated at 12,641 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 4.7/100 trap-nights (21 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single beaver). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$20.26 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2013-14 beaver harvest was \$12,034 based on reported fur sales.

Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

The eastern coyote trapping season was 15 November 2013 – 15 March 2014 (121 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2014 (74 days). State regulations require successful trappers to report their harvest to a regional, Division Law Enforcement office within 24 hours. One hundred ninety-four coyotes were reported by trappers in 2013-14.

Based on active survey respondents (n = 69), there are 207 active coyote trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 5.7 years of experience trapping coyote. Active respondents trapped a mean 39.1 days using a mean 20.2 traps per day and 79.7% of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 234,718 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.1/100 trap-nights (1,210 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single coyote). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$18.73 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2013-14 coyote harvest was \$3,633 based on reported fur sales.

Gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

The gray fox trapping season was 15 November 2013 – 15 March 2014 (121 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2014 (74 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 32), there

2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

are 96 active gray fox trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 19.9 years of experience trapping gray fox. Active respondents trapped a mean 23.2 days using a mean 19.1 traps per day and 84.6% of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 80,907 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.3/100 trap-nights (346 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single gray fox). An estimated 234 gray fox were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$22.96 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2013-14 gray fox harvest was \$5,368 based on reported fur sales.

Mink (*Mustela vison*)

The mink trapping season was 15 November 2013 – 15 March 2014 (121 days) in the Northern Zone, 01 December 2013 – 15 March 2014 (105 days) in the Southern Zone, and 01 January – 15 March 2014 (74 days) on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases. Based on active survey respondents (n = 79), there are 237 active mink trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 18.6 years of experience trapping mink. Active respondents trapped a mean 28.7 days using a mean 19.9 traps per day and 81.2% of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 163,529 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.9/100 trap-nights (112 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single mink). An estimated 1,482 mink were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$17.31 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2013-14 mink harvest was \$25,264 based on reported fur sales.

Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

The muskrat trapping season was 15 November 2013 – 15 March 2014 (121 days) in the Northern Zone, 01 December 2013 – 15 March 2014 (105 days) in the Southern Zone, and 01 January – 15 March 2014 (74 days) on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases. Based on active survey respondents (n = 146), there are 438 active muskrat trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 27.3 years of experience trapping muskrat. Active respondents trapped a mean 23.6 days using a mean 36.2 traps per day and 81.7% of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 317,795 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 8.2/100 trap-nights (12 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single muskrat). An estimated 26,071 muskrats were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$8.36 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2013-14 muskrat harvest was \$218,061 based on reported fur sales.

Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginianus*)

The Virginia opossum trapping season was 15 November 2013 – 15 March 2014 (121 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2014 (74 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 67), there are 201 active opossum trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 15.1 years of experience trapping opossum. Active respondents trapped a mean 34.6 days using a mean 10.3 traps per day and 80.0% of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 94,590 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 1.2/100 trap-nights (84 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single opossum). An estimated 1,124 opossum were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$2.66 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2013-14 opossum harvest was \$2,991 based on reported fur sales.

Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

The raccoon trapping season was 15 November 2013 – 15 March 2014 (121 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was

2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

permitted 01 January – 15 March 2014 (74 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 185), there are 555 active raccoon trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 19.3 years of experience trapping raccoon. Active respondents trapped a mean 34.2 days using a mean 14.5 traps per day and 85.8% of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 333,827 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 2.9/100 trap-nights (35 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single raccoon). An estimated 9,647 raccoons were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$11.04 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2013-14 raccoon harvest was \$106,464 based on reported fur sales.

Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

The red fox trapping season was 15 November 2013 – 15 March 2014 (121 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2014 (74 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 155), there are 465 active red fox trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 15.3 years of experience trapping red fox. Active respondents trapped a mean 43.2 days using a mean 28.6 traps per day and 84.1% of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 726,777 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.9/100 trap-nights (106 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single red fox). An estimated 6,871 red fox were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$24.40 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2013-14 red fox harvest was \$167,612 based on reported fur sales.

River otter (*Lontra canadensis*)

The standard otter trapping season (26 Dec. 2013 to 9 Feb. 2014, 46 days), except on the 23 State Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where beaver trapping was permitted from 01 January – 09 February 2014 (40 days). A special, river otter trapping permit was required in addition to a trapping license. Three hundred fifty six applications were received but only 100 permits were claimed and 15 were sold over-the-counter bringing the total permit issuance to 115. Forty three trappers (37.4 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, 22 February 2014. Additional information on the 2013-14 river otter harvest may be found in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Performance Report W-68-R-17 Job III-C entitled Beaver Distribution and Population Trends and River Otter Harvest.

Based on active survey respondents (n = 19), there are 57 active otter trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 11.7 years of experience trapping river otter. Active respondents trapped a mean 10.6 days using a mean 2.5 traps per day and 66.7% of respondents trapped within their resident county. The majority of the harvest (88.4%) was taken by a body-gripping type trap (330 – 65.1.0%; 280 – 11.6%; 220 – 11.6%) while cable restraints accounted for 5 otter (11.6%). Total trap-nights were estimated at 1,799 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 2.4/100 trap-nights (42 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single otter). The reported mean price per pelt received by active respondents was \$63.33 and the estimated value of the 2013-14 otter harvest was \$2,723 based on reported fur sales.

Striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)

The striped skunk trapping season was 15 November 2013 – 15 March 2014 (121 days), except on the 23 State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas that received game bird releases where trapping was permitted 01 January – 15 March 2014 (74 days). Based on active survey respondents (n = 36), there are 108 active skunk trappers in New Jersey. Active respondents had 14.6 years of experience

2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

trapping skunk. Active respondents trapped a mean 17.0 days using a mean 7.7 traps per day and 81.8% of respondents trapped within their resident county. Total trap-nights were estimated at 43,819 and the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.6/100 trap-nights (161 trap-nights were needed to harvest a single skunk). An estimated 270 skunks were taken by trappers, the reported mean price per pelt received was \$5.33 and the estimated raw pelt value of the 2013-14 skunk harvest was \$1,439 based on reported fur sales.

2013-14 New Jersey Trapper Harvest, Recreational and Economic Survey

ANNUAL NEW JERSEY TRAPPER SURVEY, 2013-14

CID #: _____

Reports are **DUE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30**. Please submit your report **WHETHER OR NOT ANY TRAPPING WAS DONE OR ANY FURS WERE TAKEN**. This report is for animals taken **BY YOU ONLY** during the legal trapping season. If you have any questions, please call (908) 735-7040 or (609) 306-4545.

NJ County of Residence _____ (If non-resident, please provide State) Did you trap: Yes No (Circle one) Please check if a member of:
 Age as of 15 Nov 2013: _____ years Did you take fur: Yes No (Circle one) NJFH _____
 How long have you been trapping? _____ years Natl Trapping Org _____

In the table below, please indicate each **COUNTY** you trapped, and:

1) the number of each species taken; 2) the number of traps actually set for the species you caught; 3) the number of nights the traps were set
 For **each species** trapped for, please indicate the number of years you have trapped for species and the total amount received for raw pelts, if known.

SPECIES:	PRIMARY COUNTY TRAPPED:			SECONDARY COUNTY TRAPPED:			HOW MANY YEARS TRAPPING THIS SPECIES?	TOTAL \$ AMOUNT REC'D
	HARVEST	# TRAPS SET	HOW MANY NIGHTS	HARVEST	# TRAPS SET	HOW MANY NIGHTS		
BEAVER								\$
BOBCAT								\$
COYOTE								\$
FISHER								\$
GRAY FOX								\$
MINK								\$
MUSKRAT								\$
NUTRIA								\$
OPPOSUM								\$
OTTER								\$
RACCOON								\$
RED FOX								\$
SKUNK								\$
WEASEL								\$

Excluding license & permit fees, how much did you estimate spending on trapping related activities this past season? \$ _____

How much would you estimate you have invested in trapping equipment and supplies since you began trapping? \$ _____

Thank you, the survey is now complete. Please return the survey using the pre-paid envelope provided. The Division values your input and the information you provide. Survey results will be posted on the Division website (www.njfishandwildlife.com) during Summer 2014.