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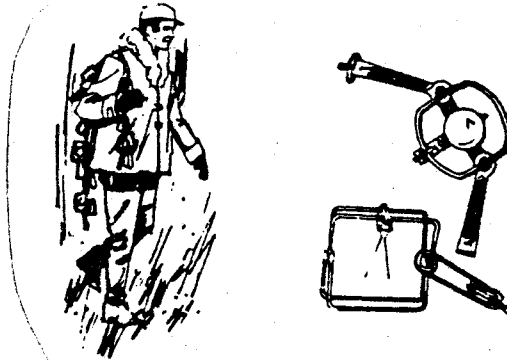
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Study XV: Wildlife Harvests

Job No. 3: Trapper harvest survey, 1989-90

By

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JOB COMPLETION REPORT

SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO. W-99-R-2

STUDY XV: Wildlife Harvests

JOB NO. 3: Trapper harvest survey, 1989-90

ABSTRACT: A stratified random sample of 1,200 persons who purchased 1989 series trapping licenses in Illinois was surveyed after the trapping season. The licensees were contacted by first class mail in three mailings. Questionnaires were deliverable to 1,180 (98.33%) recipients from which 1,005 useable replies were received (85.17% return). Of these, 78.21% were active, i.e. set one or more traps during the season. Only 3.44% of the active trappers were ineffective, i.e. caught nothing.

The 1989-90 survey covered 10 furbearer species. Findings are presented: 1) on a statewide basis, 2) for each of the 10 wildlife management units in the state, and 3) for the two furbearer management zones currently in use. Data include estimated number and density of effective trappers, estimated total trapper harvest and trapper harvest per unit area, and average season catch. Statewide projections for the number of effective trappers and total trapper harvest (in parentheses) are: muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus) 2,649 (76,016), mink (Mustela vison) 1,433 (4,087), raccoon (Procyon lotor) 2,950 (41,350), opossum (Didelphis marsupialis) 1,475 (9,050), red fox (Vulpes vulpes) 881 (2,983), gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus) 371 (640), beaver (Castor canadensis) 1,308 (8,085), striped skunk (Mephitis mephitis) 529 (1,591), weasel (Mustela frenata, M. nivalis) 9 (9), and coyote (Canis latrans) 798 (4,370).

The average trapper was 38.2 years of age and had traps set for 20.0 days (or nights) during the 1989-90 season; 28.6% were members of a trapping club or organization such as Fur-Taker's, N.T.A., or Illinois Trappers' Association. Almost two-thirds (63.8%) of the effective muskrat trappers caught 20 or fewer muskrats during the season. Most effective raccoon trappers (72.8%) harvested from 1 to 15 raccoons for the entire season and 85.4% trapped 25 or less. Of the 759 effective trappers who provided information, 2.90% stated they had taken one or more animals in Woodstream "Soft-Catch" padded traps. Furbearers, primarily raccoons, were also hunted by 25.4% of the licensed trappers. The harvest of furbearers by hunting trappers amounted to 8.6% of the total trapped catch in the sample.

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO.: W-99-R-2

STUDY XV: Wildlife Harvests

JOB NO. 3: Trapper harvest survey, 1989-90

OBJECTIVE: To collect information on the annual trapper harvest of furbearers in Illinois and associated trapper characteristics.

PROCEDURES: A stratified random mail survey of individuals who purchased trapping licenses was the basic technique employed. Mail survey address cards were filled out by license vendors for the first license sold in each book of five resident and non-resident trapping licenses in the 1989 series (total sales estimate 4,662 - 1 July 1990) (Fig. 1). At the same time, the person purchasing the license was provided with an information card which requested him to keep a record of his activities since he might be contacted after the close of the season (Fig. 2). The survey address cards were returned to the Division of Wildlife Resources via business reply mail and were filed according to the licensee's county of residence.

Prior to the close of the muskrat trapping season, a random sub-sample based on the distribution of the 1978-82 trapping license sales was drawn. The size of the sub-sample was set at 1,200 since this quantity would result in 900 to 1,050 useable replies for adequate reliability at the statewide level. Address cards in the drawn sample were manually marked with serial numbers to enable removal of respondents and undeliverables from the initial and first follow-up mailings.

An initial and two follow-up mailings to non-respondents were made with a different letter of transmittal for each mailing (Figs. 3, 4, 5). Questionnaire cards were numbered to correspond with appropriate address cards and included with each transmittal letter (Fig. 6). First class postage was used for all mailings.

Questionnaires were returned via business reply permit printed on the back of the form. Those received were checked for useableness, and the respondents were initially placed into one of two categories: inactive - those who did not set traps for furbearers during the 1989-90 seasons or active - those who did set one or more traps for furbearers during the 1989-90 seasons. Active trappers were further classified as: effective - those who caught one or more furbearers of the species in question, or ineffective - those who did not catch any furbearers. Next, the county trapped in most, species trapped, and species hunted were numerically coded. Reply data were transferred directly to computer files at the Investigations and Surveys Program offices, Division of Wildlife Resources, Illinois

Department of Conservation, Champaign, Illinois, and stored for subsequent analysis. Mr. Scott Bennett, a consultant at the University of Illinois-Champaign, prepared the data entry and analysis programs.

Reply data for each species surveyed were compiled for the 10 wildlife management units in Illinois (Fig. 7). In addition, confidence limits at the 95% level were calculated by species for the number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total trapper harvest on a statewide basis. The formulas used were described by Cochran (1953) and Snedecor and Cochran (1967). These are as follows:

- a. Number of effective trappers for species:

where N = total license sales

n = number of licensees
in sample

$$\pm 2N \sqrt{\frac{pq}{n}}$$

p = portion of licensees in
sample who effectively
trapped species in question

$q = 1-p$

- b. Average season catch per effective trapper for species in question:

where n_1 = number of licensees in
sample who effectively
trapped species in
question

$$\pm 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n_1 - 1}} \frac{1}{n_1}$$

x_i = reported season catch
for species in question

- c. Total trapper harvest:

where x = reported season catch for
all licensees responding
to survey

$$\pm 2N \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}} \frac{1}{n}$$

All calculations assumed there were no differences between the activities of the licensees who returned the questionnaire and those who did not.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:

1989-90 Trapping Seasons

The 1989-90 fur-bearing mammal trapping seasons varied from 35 to 120 days in length (Table 1). The seasons for all species except beaver, red fox, gray fox, and coyote lasted 45 days in both the northern and southern management zones (Fig. 8). Opening dates were 15 November 1989 and 25 November 1989, respectively. Red fox, gray fox, and coyote could be legally trapped for 35 days in the northern zone and for 45 days in the southern zone starting 25 November 1989. Beaver trapping season was 110 or 120 days in length, depending on zone, and opened concurrently with all other species except fox and coyote. No bag limits were in effect for any furbearer. Special regulations reduced the length of the beaver season to 45 days along the Mississippi River from Interstate 80 north to the JoDaviess County line as a protective measure for river otter (Lutra canadensis).

1989-90 Trapper Mail Survey

The initial mailing of 1,200 questionnaires was made on 24 January 1990. The two follow-up mailings to non-respondents were made on 23 February and 22 March, respectively, and closed out on 23 May 1990. Approximately two days preparation was required for each mailing.

A total of 1,180 (98.33%) licensees in the 1989-90 survey sample was reached by the Postal Service via first class mail. The 20 remaining questionnaires were returned as undeliverable. There were 1,005 useable replies received from the licensees contacted, representing an 85.17% response on the number delivered. Of these respondents, 786 (78.21%) reported that they set one or more traps for furbearers during the season and were classified as active. A total of 759 (96.56%) active trappers were effective, i.e. caught one or more furbearers, and the remaining 27 (3.44%) were ineffective, i.e. caught nothing. Based on these data, there were an estimated 3,646 active trappers and 3,521 effective trappers in Illinois in 1989-90.

a. Number of days trapped

Active trappers had traps set an average of 20.0 days (or nights) during the 1989-90 season (Fig. 9). The maximum number of days a trapper could have legally trapped was 120. However, only 0.64% of the respondents stated they had traps set for over 45 days, and just 19.44% trapped over 30 days. The vast majority of trapping activity is concentrated during the initial 15 to 30 days of the muskrat, mink, and raccoon seasons. In comparison, Illinois trappers had traps set an average of 23.00 days in 1985-86 (108-day season), 26.6 days in 1986-87 (106-day season), 25.2 days in 1987-88 (106-day season), and 22.0 days in 1988-89 (106-day season) (Hubert 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990).

b. Age of Trappers

The average age of active trappers during the 1989-90 season was 38.2 years (Fig. 10). The breakdown by age groups was as follows: 15.20% were ≤ 20 years of age, 24.08% were 21-30 years, 23.31% were 31-40 years, 14.64% were 41-50 years, 8.90% were 51-60 years, 8.4% were 61-70 years, and 5.58% were > 70 years.

c. Membership in Clubs and Organizations

Of the 785 respondents who answered question #5, 287 indicated they were members of a trapping club or organization such as Fur-Taker's, N.T.A., or Illinois Trappers Association. This finding suggests that 28.56% of the active trappers in Illinois were members of 1 or more clubs or organizations in 1989.

d. Trapper harvest summary

A statewide summary for the 10 species of furbearers surveyed in 1989-90 is presented in Table 2. The data for each species include the estimated number of effective trappers and their percent of all licensees, average season catch per effective trapper, estimated total trapper harvest, and estimated percent and total sold. Similar information for each of the 10 species plus estimated density of effective trappers and furbearers harvested in each of the 10 wildlife management units is provided in Tables 3 through 12. The original sample sizes from which these data were derived are presented in Table 13 which also provides the percent of effective trappers for each species (season catch of one or more).

Statewide confidence intervals at the 95% level for number of effective trappers, average season catch per effective trapper, and total harvest for each furbearer are given in Table 14. In most instances, those species with the greater number of effective trappers in the sample have smaller limits of variability which result in greater confidence in the projections. In 1989-90, effective raccoon trappers were the most numerous and their projected number varied by only $\pm 4.81\%$. The 95% confidence interval projections for less numerous red fox trappers varied by $\pm 13.05\%$ and for uncommon weasel trappers by $\pm 144.44\%$.

e. Distribution of harvest among effective trappers

The muskrat and raccoon were the two most important furbearers trapped during the 1989-90 season in terms of number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total harvest (Table 2). The reported number of muskrats harvested by 571 effective muskrat trappers ranged from 1 to 500 and averaged 28.70 (Fig. 11). During the season, 63.8% of these trappers harvested 20 or fewer muskrats and 95.0% caught 100 or less. All values are similar to those obtained in the nine previous seasons (Hubert 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989). Of the effective trappers who responded, 102 (17.86%) stated their catch averaged one or more muskrats per day for the entire season.

The distribution of harvest among effective raccoon trappers was similar to that for muskrat. The number of raccoons caught by the 636 effective raccoon trappers from whom data were available averaged 14.02 and ranged from 1 to 274 (Fig. 12). Less than the average season catch was taken by 68.4% of these trappers. For the entire season, 72.8% harvested 15 or fewer raccoons and 85.4% trapped 25 or less. Only 40 (6.3%) of the effective raccoon trappers reported making an average daily catch of one or more raccoons throughout the season.

The harvest of the other eight open season furbearers was distributed among effective trappers much like the muskrat and raccoon harvests (Table 15). For four of these species, less than 15% of the effective trappers made season catches exceeding five pelts. The exceptions were: effective opossum trappers - 33.63% of these individuals trapped more than five opossums, effective red fox

trappers - 15.26% caught more than five red foxes, effective beaver trappers - 31.55% caught more than five beavers, and effective coyote trappers - 25.00% captured over five coyotes.

The above data emphasize the inapplicability of bag limits (both daily and seasonal) to furbearer trapping in Illinois. Few trappers are successful in making large seasonal catches. The ones who do are active throughout the season over extensive areas. Reductions in season length offer the most potential for reducing the furbearer harvest by highly successful trappers. Bag limits could potentially increase harvest because of their goal-setting effect.

f. Use of Woodstream "Soft-Catch" traps

Woodstream "Soft-Catch" traps were not commonly used to harvest furbearers in Illinois during the 1989-90 season. Of the 759 effective trappers who provided information, 22 (2.90%) stated they had taken one or more animals in "Soft-Catch" devices. These 22 trappers reported catching a total of 228 furbearers with "Soft-Catch" traps (128 raccoons, 67 muskrats, 4 opossums, 5 mink, 3 coyotes, 5 red foxes, 3 striped skunks, 1 gray fox, and 12 beaver). Statewide, an estimated 102 trappers used "Soft-Catch" traps to capture an estimated 1,059 furbearers (Table 16). Woodstream Corporation began marketing "Soft-Catch" traps in 1986. By mid-1988 approximately 200,000 such traps had been sold (pers. comm., Pete Askins, Woodstream Corp.).

g. Fur hunting by trappers

A total of 255 trappers (25.91% of licensees) reported hunting furbearers with gun and/or dogs in 1989-90 (Table 17). Their total hunting harvest was 2,678 pelts or an average of 10.50 per hunting trapper. This is equivalent to 8.38% of the total trapped catch in the sample. The raccoon was hunted by more trappers than any other species. Next in popularity was the coyote. In 1986-87, 1987-88, and 1988-89, 29.14%, 28.98%, and 26.54%, respectively, of the trappers in Illinois also hunted furbearers (Hubert 1987, 1988, 1989). Sampson (1973) reported 33.6% of the trappers in Missouri were fur hunters. Obviously, there is much overlap between the user groups designated as fur trappers and fur hunters.

h. Management zone data summary

Management zone and statewide data summaries for each of the 10 species of furbearers surveyed in 1979-80 (Hubert 1980), 1980-81 (Hubert 1981), 1981-82 (Hubert 1982), 1982-83 (Hubert 1983), 1983-84 (Hubert 1984), 1984-85 (Hubert 1985), 1985-86 (Hubert 1986), 1986-87 (Hubert 1987), 1987-88 (Hubert 1988), 1988-89 (Hubert 1989), and 1989-90 are presented in Tables 18 through 27. The data for each species include estimated number and density of effective trappers, average season catch, estimated total trapper harvest, and trapper harvest per unit area. The northern and southern zones listed (Fig. 13) are nearly identical to the zones employed for regulatory management from 1979-80 through 1989-90 (Fig. 8).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

A mail survey of this type probably realizes its best use and reliability for furbearer management as an indicator of trends in trapping pressure, trapper success, trapper harvest, and trapping recreation. In addition, this particular

survey provides the only regional harvest data available for the trapped portion of the annual furbearer catch. It is recommended that the survey be continued in essentially the same form through at least the 1990-91 season.

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DATA AND REPORTS:

Original data and reports in this investigation are on file in the Division of Wildlife Resources office, Illinois Department of Conservation, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

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DATE: 21 December 1990

Table 1. Illinois fur-bearing mammal trapping seasons for 1989-90.

Species	Trapping Season	
	Northern zone	Southern zone
Muskrat, Mink, Raccoon, Opossum, Striped skunk, Weasel	15 Nov - 29 Dec (45) ^a	25 Nov - 8 Jan (45)
Beaver	15 Nov - 15 Mar (120) ^b	25 Nov - 15 Mar (110)
Red Fox, Gray Fox, Coyote	25 Nov - 29 Dec (35)	25 Nov - 8 Jan (45)

^a Numbers in parentheses are season lengths in days.

^b Those portions of Carroll, Whiteside, and Rock Island counties lying west of Illinois Rt. 84 from Interstate 80 north to the JoDaviess County line were open to beaver trapping from 15 Nov.-29 Dec. 1989 only.

Table 2. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of Illinois resident trappers, 1989-90 season (n = 1005).

Species	Estimated number of effective trappers	Percent of total licensees	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated percent ^a sold	Estimated total sold
Muskrat	2,649	56.82	28.70	76,016	93.84	71,333
Mink	1,433	30.74	2.85	4,087	97.05	3,966
Raccoon	2,950	63.28	14.02	41,350	94.05	38,890
Opossum	1,475	31.63	6.14	9,050	62.69	5,673
Red fox	881	18.90	3.38	2,983	87.25	2,603
Gray fox	371	7.96	1.73	640	86.23	552
Beaver	1,308	28.05	6.18	8,085	85.71	6,930
Striped skunk	529	11.35	3.01	1,591	21.57	343
Weasel	9	0.19	1.00	9	0.00	0
Coyote	798	17.12	5.48	4,370	70.81	3,094

^a Based on data from the current (1989-90) report.

Table 3. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 571).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km ²
Northwest Hills	366 (13.82) ^b	3.89	45.49	16,672 (21.93) ^b	177.38
Northeast Moraine	162 (6.12)	1.96	30.14	4,894 (6.44)	59.16
Mississippi Border-North	144 (5.44)	1.83	54.74	7,872 (10.36)	100.30
Mississippi Border-South	302 (11.40)	2.20	23.82	7,181 (9.45)	52.51
Western Prairie/Forest	311 (11.74)	2.16	18.27	5,678 (7.47)	39.37
Central Sand Prairie	84 (3.17)	2.00	21.94	1,832 (2.41)	44.18
Grand Prairie	733 (27.67)	1.39	27.01	19,794 (26.04)	37.61
Southern Plain	394 (14.87)	1.66	25.05	9,876 (12.99)	41.62
Wabash Border	93 (3.51)	1.38	13.30	1,234 (1.62)	16.30
Shawnee Hills	46 (1.74)	.88	15.40	714 (0.94)	13.69
Unknown	14 (.52)	—	19.33	269 (0.35)	—
Statewide	2,649 (100.00)	1.81	28.70	76,016 (100.00)	52.04

^a Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^b Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 4. Summary of mink trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 309).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
Northwest Hills	139 (9.70) ^b	1.48	2.57	357 (8.74) ^b	3.80
Northeast Moraine	121 (8.44)	1.46	3.77	455 (11.13)	5.50
Mississippi Border-North	93 (6.50)	1.19	2.70	250 (6.12)	3.19
Mississippi Border-South	181 (12.63)	1.32	2.85	515 (12.60)	3.77
Western Prairie/Forest	116 (8.10)	0.80	3.16	367 (8.98)	2.54
Central Sand Prairie	37 (2.58)	0.89	1.75	65 (1.59)	1.57
Grand Prairie	399 (27.84)	0.76	3.20	1,276 (31.22)	2.42
Southern Plain	250 (17.45)	1.05	2.30	575 (14.07)	2.42
Wabash Border	56 (3.90)	0.83	2.25	125 (3.06)	1.85
Shawnee Hills	32 (2.23)	0.61	2.71	88 (2.15)	1.69
Unknown	9 (0.63)	—	1.50	14 (0.34)	—
Statewide	1,433 (100.00)	0.98	2.85	4,087 (100.00)	2.80

^a Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^b Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 5. Summary of raccoon trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 636).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
Northwest Hills	325 (11.02) ^b	3.46	14.43	4,685 (11.33) ^b	49.85
Northeast Moraine	172 (5.83)	2.08	14.76	2,533 (6.13)	30.62
Mississippi Border-North	232 (7.86)	2.96	15.88	3,683 (8.91)	46.93
Mississippi Border-South	348 (11.80)	2.54	14.55	5,061 (12.24)	37.01
Western Prairie/Forest	413 (14.00)	2.86	18.53	7,649 (18.50)	53.04
Central Sand Prairie	69 (2.35)	1.66	14.00	974 (2.36)	23.49
Grand Prairie	798 (27.05)	1.52	13.21	10,539 (25.49)	20.02
Southern Plain	408 (13.83)	1.72	11.26	4,597 (11.11)	19.37
Wabash Border	111 (3.76)	1.65	8.50	946 (2.29)	14.03
Shawnee Hills	60 (2.03)	1.15	10.08	608 (1.47)	11.66
Unknown	14 (0.47)	—	5.33	74 (0.17)	—
Statewide	2,950 (100.00)	2.02	14.02	41,350 (100.00)	28.31

^a Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^b Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 6. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 318).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
Northwest Hills	176 (11.93) ^b	1.87	6.00	1,058 (11.69) ^b	11.25
Northeast Moraine	83 (5.63)	1.00	6.61	552 (6.09)	6.67
Mississippi Border-North	135 (9.15)	1.72	7.55	1,016 (11.23)	12.95
Mississippi Border-South	176 (11.93)	1.29	5.26	928 (10.25)	6.79
Western Prairie/Forest	227 (15.39)	1.57	7.29	1,656 (18.30)	11.48
Central Sand Prairie	23 (1.56)	.55	7.60	176 (1.94)	4.24
Grand Prairie	366 (24.81)	.70	5.19	1,902 (21.02)	3.61
Southern Plain	223 (15.12)	.94	6.08	1,354 (14.97)	5.71
Webash Border	42 (2.85)	.62	4.33	181 (2.00)	2.68
Shawnee Hills	24 (1.63)	.46	9.80	227 (2.50)	4.35
Unknown	0 (0.00)	—	0.00	0 (0.00)	—
Statewide	1,475 (100.00)	1.00	6.14	9,050 (100.00)	6.19

^a Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^b Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 7. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 190).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest ^a	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
Northwest Hills	88 (9.99) ^b	0.94	4.11	362 (12.14) ^b	3.85
Northeast Moraine	74 (8.41)	0.89	4.56	339 (11.36)	4.10
Mississippi Border-North	70 (7.95)	0.89	2.80	195 (6.54)	2.48
Mississippi Border-South	83 (9.42)	0.61	3.67	306 (10.26)	2.24
Western Prairie/Forest	144 (16.35)	1.00	3.84	552 (18.50)	3.83
Central Sand Prairie	23 (2.61)	0.55	2.20	51 (1.71)	1.23
Grand Prairie	246 (27.90)	0.47	2.83	696 (23.33)	1.32
Southern Plain	111 (12.60)	0.47	2.79	311 (10.43)	1.31
Wabash Border	23 (2.61)	0.34	1.60	37 (1.24)	0.55
Shawnee Hills	14 (1.59)	0.27	9.33	130 (4.36)	2.49
Unknown	5 (0.57)	—	1.00	4 (0.13)	—
Statewide	881 (100.00)	0.60	3.38	2,983 (100.00)	2.04

^a Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^b Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 8. Summary of gray fox trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 80).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km ²
Northwest Hills	18 (4.85) ^b	0.19	1.00	19 (2.98) ^b	0.20
Northeast Moraine	42 (11.32)	0.51	1.44	60 (9.38)	0.73
Mississippi Border-North	9 (2.43)	0.11	1.00	9 (1.41)	0.11
Mississippi Border-South	56 (15.09)	0.41	1.50	83 (12.97)	0.61
Western Prairie/Forest	5 (1.35)	0.03	2.00	9 (1.41)	0.06
Central Sand Prairie	9 (2.43)	0.22	2.00	19 (2.97)	0.46
Grand Prairie	107 (28.84)	0.20	1.35	144 (22.50)	0.27
Southern Plain	79 (21.29)	0.33	1.76	139 (21.70)	0.59
Wabash Border	23 (6.20)	0.34	1.80	42 (6.56)	0.62
Shawnee Hills	23 (6.20)	0.44	5.00	116 (18.12)	2.22
Unknown	0 (0.00)	—	0.00	0 (0.00)	—
Statewide	371 (100.00)	0.25	1.73	640 (100.00)	0.44

^a Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^b Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 9. Summary of beaver trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 282).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapped harvest ^a	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
Northwest Hills	148 (11.31) ^b	1.57	6.38	946 (11.70) ^b	10.06
Northeast Moraine	102 (7.80)	1.23	7.64	779 (9.64)	9.42
Mississippi Border-North	70 (5.35)	0.89	11.07	770 (9.52)	9.81
Mississippi Border-South	116 (8.87)	0.84	4.36	506 (6.26)	3.70
Western Prairie/Forest	190 (14.52)	1.32	6.66	1,266 (15.66)	8.78
Central Sand Prairie	56 (4.28)	1.35	4.92	274 (3.39)	6.60
Grand Prairie	427 (32.65)	0.81	5.23	2,231 (27.59)	4.24
Southern Plain	139 (10.63)	0.59	6.17	858 (10.61)	3.62
Wabash Border	32 (2.45)	0.47	3.71	121 (1.50)	1.79
Shawnee Hills	23 (1.76)	0.44	13.40	311 (3.85)	5.96
Unknown	5 (0.38)	—	5.00	23 (0.28)	—
Statewide	1,308 (100.00)	0.90	6.18	8,085 (100.00)	5.53

^a Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^b Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 10. Summary of striped skunk trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1989-1990, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n=114).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper ^g harvest ^b	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
Northwest Hills	88 (16.64) ^b	0.94	2.79	246 (15.46) ^b	2.62
Northeast Moraine	42 (7.94)	0.51	4.00	167 (10.50)	2.02
Mississippi Border-North	37 (6.99)	0.47	2.88	107 (6.73)	1.36
Mississippi Border-South	46 (8.69)	0.34	2.00	93 (5.85)	0.68
Western Prairie/Forest	93 (17.58)	0.64	4.05	376 (23.63)	2.61
Central Sand Prairie	9 (1.70)	0.22	4.00	37 (2.32)	0.89
Grand Prairie	121 (22.87)	0.23	2.73	329 (20.68)	0.63
Southern Plain	69 (13.04)	0.29	2.67	185 (11.63)	0.78
Wabash Border	5 (0.95)	0.07	1.00	5 (0.31)	0.07
Shawnee Hills	14 (2.65)	0.27	3.00	42 (2.64)	0.81
Unknown	5 (0.95)	—	1.00	4 (0.25)	—
Statewide	529 (100.00)	0.36	3.01	1,591 (100.00)	1.09

^a Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^b Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 11. Summary of weasel trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 2).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest ^a	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
Northwest Hills	0 (0.00)	0.00	0.00	0 (0.00)	0.00
Northeast Moraine	5 (50.00) ^b	0.06	1.00	5 (50.00) ^b	0.06
Mississippi Border-North	5 (50.00)	0.06	1.00	5 (50.00)	0.06
Mississippi Border-South	0 (0.00)	0.00	0.00	0 (0.00)	0.00
Western Prairie/Forest	0 (0.00)	0.00	0.00	0 (0.00)	0.00
Central Sand Prairie	0 (0.00)	0.00	0.00	0 (0.00)	0.00
Grand Prairie	0 (0.00)	0.00	0.00	0 (0.00)	0.00
Southern Plain	0 (0.00)	0.00	0.00	0 (0.00)	0.00
Wabash Border	0 (0.00)	0.00	0.00	0 (0.00)	0.00
Shawnee Hills	0 (0.00)	0.00	0.00	0 (0.00)	0.00
Unknown	0 (0.00)	—	0.00	0 (0.00)	—
Statewide	10 (100.00)	0.01	1.00	10 (100.00)	0.01

^a Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^b Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 12. Summary of coyote trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 172).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest ^a	Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km ²
Northwest Hills	60 (7.52) ^b	0.64	4.23	255 (5.83) ^b	2.71
Northeast Moraine	37 (4.64)	0.45	3.50	130 (2.97)	1.57
Mississippi Border-North	42 (5.26)	0.54	3.33	139 (3.18)	1.77
Mississippi Border-South	93 (11.65)	0.68	3.60	335 (7.67)	2.45
Western Prairie/Forest	135 (16.92)	0.94	14.31	1,925 (44.05)	13.35
Central Sand Prairie	19 (2.38)	0.46	5.25	97 (2.22)	2.34
Grand Prairie	246 (30.83)	0.47	3.26	803 (18.38)	1.53
Southern Plain	111 (13.91)	0.47	3.67	408 (9.34)	1.72
Wabash Border	32 (4.01)	0.47	1.86	60 (1.37)	0.89
Shawnee Hills	14 (1.75)	0.27	13.33	186 (4.26)	3.57
Unknown	9 (1.13)	—	3.50	32 (0.73)	—
Statewide	798 (100.00)	0.55	5.48	4,370 (100.00)	2.99

^a Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

^b Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 13. Statewide sample sizes for 1989-90 post-season mail survey of Illinois resident trappers (n = 1005).

Species	Total effective trappers	Percent effective trappers	Total season catch
Muskrat	571	56.82	16,387
Mink	309	30.75	881
Raccoon	636	63.28	8,914
Opossum	318	31.64	1,951
Red fox	190	18.90	643
Gray fox	80	7.96	138
Beaver	282	28.06	1,743
Striped skunk	114	11.34	343
Weasel	2	0.20	2
Coyote	172	17.11	942

Table 14. Estimated number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total trapper harvest by species in Illinois for 1989-90 season based on post-season trapper mail survey (n = 1005).

Species	Estimated number of effective trappers		Estimated average season catch		Estimated total harvest	
Muskrat	2,649±	146*	28.70±	3.91*	76,016±	12,306*
Mink	1,433±	136	2.85±	0.35	4,087±	854
Raccoon	2,950±	142	14.02±	1.60	41,350±	5,230
Opossum	1,475±	137	6.14±	0.79	9,050±	1,979
Red fox	881±	115	3.38±	0.64	2,983±	1,267
Gray fox	371±	78	1.73±	0.39	640±	509
Beaver	1,308±	83	6.18±	1.12	8,085±	2,644
Striped skunk	529±	93	3.01±	0.61	1,591±	947
Weasel	9±	13	1.00±	0.00	9±	0
Coyote	798±	50	5.48±	2.26	4,370±	4,294

* 95% confidence interval.

Table 15. Distribution of harvest among effective trappers for 8 species of furbearers in Illinois, 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey.

Total season catch	Mink (309) ^a	Percentage of effective trappers for species							
		Opossum (318)	Red fox (190)	Gray fox (80)	Beaver (282)	Striped skunk (114)	Weasel (2)	Coyote (172)	
1	45.95	16.67	43.16	62.50	23.05	41.23	100.00	41.28	
2	20.71	18.24	20.53	27.50	17.38	16.67	..	13.95	
3	11.33	11.64	13.16	5.00	12.77	14.04	..	11.05	
4	5.50	11.01	5.26	..	10.64	7.02	..	5.23	
5	4.21	8.81	2.63	2.50	4.61	9.65	..	3.49	
6	2.27	6.60	2.63	..	5.32	5.26	..	5.23	
7	2.27	3.77	1.58	..	2.48	0.88	..	3.49	
8	1.62	2.83	1.05	1.25	3.55	..	..	2.33
9	0.97	1.57	0.53	..	1.77	..	..	2.91
10	1.29	3.46	2.11	..	3.55	3.51	..	2.33	
11	0.32	1.26	0.53	..	1.77	..	..	0.58
12	0.65	3.14	0.53	..	1.06	0.88	..	1.74	
13	..	0.31	2.11	..	0.71	..	..	..
14	1.29	0.63	..	1.25	1.06	..	..	1.16
15	0.65	1.89	2.11	..	1.06	..	..	..
16-20	0.64	4.39	1.59	..	4.96	..	..	0.58
21-25	0.32	0.94	..	..	3.54	..	..	2.90
>25	..	2.81	0.53	..	2.10	0.88	..	1.74	

^a Numbers in parentheses indicate sample size for species.

Table 16. The number of trappers who used Woodstream "Softcatch" padded leghold traps, and their catch of 10 species of furbearers in Illinois, 1989-90 season, from post season resident trapper mail survey (n = 759 effective trappers).

Species	Estimated Number of Trappers	Estimated Number of Furbearers Caught
Muskrat	32 (1.21) ^a	311 (0.41) ^a
Mink	9 (0.63)	23 (0.56)
Raccoon	74 (2.51)	594 (1.44)
Opossum	9 (0.61)	19 (0.21)
Red Fox	14 (1.59)	23 (0.77)
Gray Fox	5 (1.35)	5 (0.78)
Beaver	14 (1.07)	56 (0.69)
Skunk	5 (0.95)	14 (0.88)
Weasel	0	0
Coyote	14 (1.75)	14 (0.32)
Total	102 ^b (2.90)	1,059 (0.71)

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals for effective trappers (each species), and furbearers caught. There was an estimated 3,521 effective trappers in Illinois in 1989-90.

^b Total is less than the sum of the above values because most of the trappers caught more than one species.

Table 17. Summary of fur hunting activities of trappers in Illinois, 1989-90 season, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 984).

Species	Number of trappers hunting species	Total number harvested by hunting	Average number harvested by hunting	Estimated percent of all trappers effectively hunting species	Estimated total harvest by all trappers effectively hunting species
Raccoon	174	2,008	11.54	17.68	9,514
Opossum	27	107	3.96	2.74	507
Red fox	27	70	2.59	2.74	332
Gray fox	8	14	1.75	0.81	66
Striped skunk	4	5	1.25	0.41	24
Coyote	86	474	5.51	8.74	2,246
All species	255*	2,678	8.21	25.91	12,688

* Total for all species is less than the sum of the above values because many trappers hunted more than one species.

Table 18. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 730; 747; 696; 691; 646; 641; 555; 671; 676; 542; 571).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	9,224 (62.19) ^a	11.27	39.63 (+6.48) ^b	365,592 (77.10) ^a	446.73
1980-81	8,745 (61.71)	10.69	40.86 (+5.19)	357,305 (75.31)	436.61
1981-82	7,590 (63.79)	9.27	27.69 (+3.05)	210,246 (78.01)	256.90
1982-83	6,316 (61.36)	7.72	35.33 (+4.91)	223,160 (75.86)	272.69
1983-84	4,922 (65.79)	6.01	35.59 (+4.33)	175,148 (82.66)	214.02
1984-85	5,221 (64.27)	6.38	30.43 (+3.67)	158,837 (72.99)	194.09
1985-86	3,319 (59.82)	4.06	31.41 (+5.17)	104,240 (69.37)	127.38
1986-87	4,695 (56.78)	5.74	46.54 (+6.14)	218,464 (65.66)	266.95
1987-88	5,537 (63.17)	6.77	41.61 (+4.85)	230,416 (76.79)	281.55
1988-89	2,653 (61.07)	3.24	32.58 (+8.44)	86,411 (69.31)	105.59
1989-90	1,642 (62.00)	2.01	32.77 (+5.78)	53,819 (70.80)	65.76
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	5,608 (37.81)	8.73	19.37 (+3.07)	108,587 (22.90)	169.04
1980-81	5,426 (38.29)	8.45	21.59 (+4.32)	117,140 (24.69)	182.35
1981-82	4,309 (36.21)	6.71	13.75 (+2.25)	59,266 (21.99)	92.26
1982-83	3,977 (38.64)	6.19	17.85 (+3.29)	71,014 (24.14)	110.55
1983-84	2,560 (34.21)	3.99	14.36 (+2.91)	36,742 (17.34)	57.20
1984-85	2,902 (35.73)	4.52	20.26 (+2.97)	58,778 (27.01)	91.50
1985-86	2,230 (40.18)	3.47	20.65 (+4.08)	46,027 (30.63)	71.65
1986-87	3,573 (43.22)	5.56	31.97 (+5.25)	114,240 (34.34)	177.84
1987-88	3,229 (36.83)	5.03	21.57 (+3.16)	69,644 (23.21)	108.41
1988-89	1,691 (38.93)	2.63	22.63 (+4.30)	38,262 (30.69)	59.56
1989-90	993 (37.49)	1.55	22.09 (+4.03)	21,928 (28.85)	34.14
UNKNOWN					
1989-90	14 (0.53)	..	19.33 (+33.00)	269 (0.35)	..
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	14,832	10.15	31.97 (+4.25)	474,179	324.61
1980-81	14,171	9.70	33.48 (+3.66)	474,445	324.79
1981-82	11,899	8.15	22.65 (+2.17)	269,512	184.50
1982-83	10,293	7.05	28.58 (+3.33)	294,174	201.38
1983-84	7,482	5.12	28.32 (+3.11)	211,890	145.05
1984-85	8,123	5.56	26.79 (+2.61)	217,615	148.97
1985-86	5,549	3.80	27.08 (+3.52)	150,267	102.87
1986-87	8,268	5.66	40.24 (+4.19)	332,704	227.76
1987-88	8,766	6.00	34.23 (+3.36)	300,060	205.41
1988-89	4,344	2.97	28.70 (+5.43)	124,673	85.35
1989-90	2,649	1.81	28.70 (+3.91)	76,016	52.04

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 19. Summary of mink trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 419; 501; 471; 445; 439; 410; 324; 418; 410; 310; 309).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	5,040 (59.19) ^a	6.16	2.86 (+0.43)	14,428 (61.17) ^a	17.63
1980-81	5,559 (58.48)	6.79	3.13 (+0.45)	17,403 (58.49)	21.27
1981-82	5,146 (63.91)	6.29	3.12 (+0.36)	16,029 (64.01)	19.59
1982-83	3,814 (57.53)	4.66	2.92 (+0.39)	11,144 (60.47)	13.62
1983-84	2,942 (57.86)	3.59	2.94 (+0.40)	8,651 (58.67)	10.57
1984-85	3,092 (59.51)	3.78	3.08 (+0.48)	9,521 (60.08)	11.63
1985-86	1,780 (54.94)	2.18	2.37 (+0.41)	4,215 (48.56)	5.15
1986-87	2,784 (54.07)	3.40	2.92 (+0.41)	8,133 (42.23)	9.94
1987-88	3,048 (57.32)	3.72	2.74 (+0.35)	8,338 (52.10)	10.19
1988-89	1,354 (54.52)	1.65	2.47 (+0.39)	3,336 (54.16)	4.08
1989-90	830 (57.92)	1.01	3.16 (+0.52)	2,626 (64.25)	3.21
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	3,475 (40.81)	5.41	2.63 (+0.41)	9,159 (38.83)	14.26
1980-81	3,947 (41.52)	6.14	3.13 (+0.47)	12,351 (41.51)	19.23
1981-82	2,906 (36.09)	4.52	3.11 (+0.55)	9,013 (35.99)	14.03
1982-83	2,815 (42.47)	4.38	2.59 (+0.36)	7,285 (39.53)	11.34
1983-84	2,143 (42.14)	3.36	2.85 (+0.41)	6,095 (41.33)	9.49
1984-85	2,104 (40.49)	3.28	3.01 (+0.44)	6,327 (39.92)	9.85
1985-86	1,459 (45.06)	2.27	3.06 (+0.54)	4,466 (51.44)	6.95
1986-87	2,366 (45.93)	3.68	4.70 (+1.11)	11,128 (57.77)	17.32
1987-88	2,269 (42.68)	3.53	3.38 (+0.63)	7,666 (47.90)	11.93
1988-89	1,130 (45.48)	1.76	2.50 (+0.40)	2,824 (45.84)	4.40
1989-90	594 (41.45)	0.92	2.44 (+0.41)	1,447 (35.40)	2.25
UNKNOWN					
1989-90	9 (0.63)	..	1.50 (+0.98)	14 (0.34)	..
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	8,515	5.83	2.77 (+0.31)	23,587	16.15
1980-81	9,506	6.51	3.13 (+0.33)	29,754	20.37
1981-82	8,052	5.51	3.11 (+0.30)	25,042	17.14
1982-83	6,629	4.54	2.78 (+0.27)	18,429	12.62
1983-84	5,085	3.48	2.90 (+0.29)	14,746	10.09
1984-85	5,196	3.56	3.05 (+0.33)	15,848	10.85
1985-86	3,239	2.22	2.68 (+0.33)	8,681	5.94
1986-87	5,150	3.53	3.74 (+0.56)	19,261	13.19
1987-88	5,317	3.64	3.01 (+0.34)	16,004	10.96
1988-89	2,484	1.70	2.48 (+0.28)	6,160	4.22
1989-90	1,433	0.98	2.85 (+0.35)	4,087	2.80

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.
^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 20. Summary of raccoon trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 755; 756; 815; 816; 753; 727; 653; 715; 738; 665; 636).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	9,265 (60.40) ^a	11.32	9.86 (+1.36) ^b	91,338 (64.51) ^a	111.61
1980-81	8,576 (59.79)	10.78	10.44 (+1.70)	89,481 (65.39)	109.34
1981-82	8,411 (60.37)	10.28	9.96 (+1.12)	83,766 (64.30)	102.36
1982-83	7,150 (58.82)	8.74	11.51 (+1.54)	82,316 (65.18)	100.59
1983-84	5,247 (60.16)	6.41	9.55 (+1.26)	50,123 (63.29)	61.25
1984-85	5,564 (60.39)	6.80	13.36 (+1.76)	74,326 (61.82)	90.82
1985-86	3,899 (59.72)	4.76	11.48 (+1.94)	44,787 (63.00)	54.73
1986-87	5,175 (58.74)	6.32	13.79 (+1.60)	71,369 (57.62)	87.21
1987-88	5,771 (60.30)	7.05	14.20 (+1.64)	81,984 (60.93)	100.18
1988-89	3,173 (59.55)	3.88	12.20 (+1.48)	38,708 (57.06)	47.30
1989-90	1,791 (60.71)	2.19	14.82 (+2.26)	26,543 (64.19)	32.43
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	6,075 (39.60)	9.46	8.27 (+1.17)	50,250 (35.49)	78.22
1980-81	5,768 (40.21)	8.98	8.21 (+1.05)	47,361 (34.61)	73.73
1981-82	5,522 (39.63)	8.60	8.42 (+0.98)	46,508 (35.70)	72.40
1982-83	5,005 (41.18)	7.79	8.79 (+1.16)	43,974 (34.82)	68.45
1983-84	3,475 (39.84)	5.41	8.37 (+1.08)	29,073 (36.71)	45.26
1984-85	3,649 (39.61)	5.68	12.58 (+1.77)	45,904 (38.18)	71.46
1985-86	2,629 (40.28)	4.09	10.00 (+1.22)	26,303 (37.00)	40.95
1986-87	3,635 (41.26)	5.66	14.44 (+1.90)	52,500 (42.38)	81.73
1987-88	3,799 (39.70)	5.91	13.83 (+1.75)	52,570 (39.07)	81.84
1988-89	2,156 (40.45)	3.36	13.52 (+1.79)	29,130 (42.94)	45.35
1989-90	1,146 (38.85)	1.78	12.86 (+2.10)	14,733 (35.63)	22.94
UNKNOWN					
1989-90	14 (0.47)	..	5.33 (+4.57)	74 (0.18)	..
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	15,340	10.50	9.23 (+0.94)	141,588	96.93
1980-81	14,344	9.82	9.54 (+1.10)	136,842	93.68
1981-82	13,933	9.54	9.35 (+0.78)	130,274	89.18
1982-83	12,155	8.32	10.39 (+1.03)	126,290	86.45
1983-84	8,722	5.97	9.08 (+0.87)	79,196	54.22
1984-85	9,213	6.31	13.05 (+1.27)	120,230	82.31
1985-86	6,528	4.47	10.89 (+1.26)	71,090	48.67
1986-87	8,810	6.03	14.06 (+1.23)	123,869	84.80
1987-88	9,570	6.55	14.06 (+1.21)	134,554	92.11
1988-89	5,329	3.65	12.73 (+1.14)	67,838	46.44
1989-90	2,950	2.02	14.02 (+1.60)	41,350	28.31

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 21. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 374; 446; 549; 542; 484; 522; 431; 505; 588; 437; 318).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	3,413 (44.92) ^a	4.17	2.68 (+0.38) ^b	9,151 (33.36) ^a	11.18
1980-81	3,832 (45.29)	4.68	3.60 (+1.12)	13,806 (36.58)	16.87
1981-82	5,266 (56.10)	6.43	4.34 (+0.53)	22,841 (42.03)	27.91
1982-83	4,543 (56.27)	5.55	6.13 (+1.03)	27,892 (51.56)	34.08
1983-84	3,139 (55.99)	3.84	6.32 (+0.98)	19,846 (54.97)	24.25
1984-85	4,056 (61.30)	4.96	6.84 (+0.94)	27,775 (61.02)	33.94
1985-86	2,389 (55.45)	2.92	6.04 (+0.99)	14,426 (49.38)	17.63
1986-87	3,401 (54.65)	4.16	7.53 (+1.00)	25,609 (53.94)	31.29
1987-88	4,487 (58.84)	5.48	9.15 (+1.09)	41,046 (58.07)	50.16
1988-89	2,140 (61.10)	2.61	6.33 (+0.85)	13,544 (61.88)	16.55
1989-90	891 (60.41)	1.09	6.23 (+1.10)	5,553 (61.36)	6.78
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	4,186 (55.08)	6.52	4.37 (+0.62)	18,281 (66.64)	28.46
1980-81	4,630 (54.71)	7.21	5.17 (+0.66)	23,935 (63.42)	37.26
1981-82	4,120 (43.90)	6.41	7.65 (+1.11)	31,504 (57.97)	49.04
1982-83	3,531 (43.73)	5.50	7.42 (+1.02)	26,204 (48.44)	40.79
1983-84	2,467 (44.01)	3.84	6.59 (+0.94)	16,257 (45.03)	25.31
1984-85	2,560 (38.70)	3.99	6.93 (+1.05)	17,743 (38.98)	27.62
1985-86	1,920 (44.55)	2.99	7.70 (+1.47)	14,789 (50.62)	23.02
1986-87	2,821 (45.35)	4.39	7.75 (+1.12)	21,865 (46.06)	34.04
1987-88	3,138 (41.16)	4.88	9.45 (+1.42)	29,638 (41.93)	46.14
1988-89	1,362 (38.90)	2.12	6.12 (+1.11)	8,344 (38.12)	12.99
1989-90	584 (39.59)	0.91	5.98 (+1.10)	3,498 (38.65)	5.45
UNKNOWN					
1989-90	0 (0.00)	..	0.00 (+0.00)	0 (0.00)	..
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	7,599	5.20	3.61 (+0.39)	27,432	18.78
1980-81	8,462	5.79	4.46 (+0.63)	37,741	25.84
1981-82	9,386	6.43	5.79 (+0.59)	54,345	37.20
1982-83	8,074	5.53	6.70 (+0.74)	54,096	37.03
1983-84	5,606	3.84	6.44 (+0.69)	36,103	24.72
1984-85	6,616	4.53	6.88 (+0.70)	45,518	31.16
1985-86	4,309	2.95	6.78 (+0.86)	29,215	20.00
1986-87	6,222	4.26	7.63 (+0.75)	47,474	32.50
1987-88	7,625	5.22	9.27 (+0.87)	70,684	48.39
1988-89	3,502	2.40	6.25 (+0.68)	21,888	14.98
1989-90	1,475	1.01	6.14 (+0.79)	9,050	6.20

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 22. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 175; 180; 187; 190; 173; 210; 171; 167; 173; 198; 190).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	2,052	2.51	4.20 (+1.92) ^a	8,616 (68.06) ^a	10.53
1980-81	2,220	2.71	3.02 (+1.64)	6,694 (68.54)	8.18
1981-82	1,932	2.36	2.95 (+0.58)	5,694 (64.53)	6.96
1982-83	1,757	2.15	3.27 (+0.78)	5,742 (66.55)	7.02
1983-84	1,158	1.42	3.05 (+0.81)	3,538 (63.28)	4.32
1984-85	1,635	2.00	3.93 (+1.07)	6,419 (76.82)	7.84
1985-86	910	1.11	4.79 (+1.80)	4,364 (69.54)	5.33
1986-87	1,195	1.46	3.94 (+1.23)	4,714 (67.97)	5.76
1987-88	1,245	1.52	2.43 (+0.53)	3,020 (53.20)	3.69
1988-89	858	1.05	3.50 (+0.87)	3,005 (62.29)	3.67
1989-90	584	0.71	3.57 (+0.84)	2,087 (69.96)	2.55
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	1,504	2.34	2.69 (+0.82)	4,043 (31.94)	6.29
1980-81	1,195	1.86	2.57 (+1.05)	3,073 (31.46)	4.78
1981-82	1,265	1.97	2.47 (+0.61)	3,130 (35.47)	4.87
1982-83	1,072	1.67	2.69 (+0.66)	2,886 (33.45)	4.49
1983-84	846	1.32	2.42 (+0.63)	2,053 (36.72)	3.20
1984-85	1,026	1.60	1.89 (+0.34)	1,937 (23.18)	3.02
1985-86	800	1.25	2.39 (+0.53)	1,912 (30.46)	2.98
1986-87	863	1.34	2.57 (+0.88)	2,221 (32.03)	3.46
1987-88	999	1.56	2.66 (+0.52)	2,657 (46.80)	4.14
1988-89	729	1.13	2.49 (+0.49)	1,819 (37.71)	2.83
1989-90	292	0.45	3.05 (+0.93)	891 (29.87)	1.39
UNKNOWN					
1989-90	5	..	1.00 (+0.00)	5 (0.17)	..
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	3,556	2.43	3.56 (+1.17)	12,659	8.67
1980-81	3,415	2.34	2.86 (+1.12)	9,767	6.69
1981-82	3,197	2.19	2.76 (+0.43)	8,824	6.04
1982-83	2,829	1.94	3.05 (+0.54)	8,628	5.91
1983-84	2,004	1.37	2.79 (+0.54)	5,591	3.83
1984-85	2,661	1.82	3.14 (+0.68)	8,356	5.72
1985-86	1,710	1.17	3.67 (+1.00)	6,276	4.30
1986-87	2,058	1.41	3.37 (+0.81)	6,935	4.75
1987-88	2,244	1.54	2.53 (+0.38)	5,677	3.89
1988-89	1,587	1.09	3.04 (+0.52)	4,824	3.30
1989-90	881	0.60	3.38 (+0.64)	2,983	2.04

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 23. Summary of gray fox trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 146; 139; 145; 130; 111; 102; 103; 78; 92; 89; 80).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	1,301 (43.84) ^a	1.59	1.48 (+0.20) ^b	1,931 (32.87) ^a	2.36
1980-81	1,271 (48.20)	1.55	2.03 (+0.60)	2,584 (45.79)	3.16
1981-82	1,163 (46.90)	1.42	1.44 (+0.24)	1,675 (37.55)	2.05
1982-83	745 (38.46)	0.91	2.00 (+0.61)	1,488 (39.22)	1.82
1983-84	510 (39.64)	0.62	1.98 (+0.78)	1,009 (40.65)	1.23
1984-85	659 (50.98)	0.81	1.69 (+0.36)	1,114 (45.13)	1.36
1985-86	460 (44.66)	0.56	1.98 (+0.54)	909 (39.39)	1.11
1986-87	382 (39.74)	0.47	1.71 (+0.40)	652 (37.06)	0.80
1987-88	402 (33.70)	0.49	2.19 (+0.84)	883 (33.33)	1.08
1988-89	280 (39.33)	0.34	2.03 (+0.43)	568 (37.37)	0.69
1989-90	144 (38.81)	0.18	1.32 (+0.21)	190 (29.69)	0.23
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	1,666 (56.16)	2.59	2.37 (+0.71)	3,944 (67.13)	6.14
1980-81	1,366 (51.80)	2.13	2.24 (+0.73)	3,059 (54.21)	4.76
1981-82	1,316 (53.10)	2.05	2.12 (+0.31)	2,787 (62.45)	4.34
1982-83	1,191 (61.54)	1.85	1.94 (+0.31)	2,307 (60.78)	3.59
1983-84	776 (60.36)	1.21	1.90 (+0.30)	1,473 (59.35)	2.29
1984-85	633 (49.02)	0.99	2.14 (+0.51)	1,354 (54.87)	2.11
1985-86	570 (55.34)	0.89	2.46 (+0.71)	1,398 (60.61)	2.18
1986-87	579 (60.26)	0.90	1.91 (+0.40)	1,107 (62.94)	1.72
1987-88	791 (66.30)	1.23	2.23 (+0.50)	1,765 (66.67)	2.75
1988-89	433 (60.67)	0.67	2.20 (+0.96)	951 (62.63)	1.48
1989-90	227 (61.19)	0.35	1.98 (+0.61)	450 (70.31)	0.70
UNKNOWN					
1989-90	0 (0.00)	..	0.00 (+0.00)	0 (0.00)	..
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	2,967	2.03	1.98 (+0.41)	5,875	4.02
1980-81	2,637	1.81	2.14 (+0.47)	5,643	3.86
1981-82	2,479	1.70	1.80 (+0.21)	4,462	3.05
1982-83	1,936	1.33	1.96 (+0.30)	3,795	2.60
1983-84	1,286	0.88	1.93 (+0.36)	2,482	1.70
1984-85	1,292	0.88	1.91 (+0.31)	2,468	1.69
1985-86	1,030	0.71	2.24 (+0.46)	2,307	1.58
1986-87	961	0.66	1.83 (+0.29)	1,759	1.20
1987-88	1,193	0.82	2.22 (+0.43)	2,648	1.81
1988-89	713	0.49	2.13 (+0.60)	1,519	1.04
1989-90	371	0.25	1.73 (+0.39)	640	0.44

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 24. Summary of beaver trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 131; 158; 142; 129; 117; 166; 158; 224; 248; 248; 282).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	1,849	(69.47) ^a	3.52 (+0.88) ^b	6,500	(72.89) ^a
1980-81	2,031	(67.72)	3.41 (+0.78)	6,934	(61.66)
1981-82	1,693	(69.72)	2.92 (+0.59)	4,938	(71.36)
1982-83	1,415	(73.64)	3.94 (+0.97)	5,575	(83.11)
1983-84	1,042	(76.92)	4.06 (+0.90)	4,223	(82.02)
1984-85	1,521	(72.29)	3.93 (+0.82)	5,981	(79.19)
1985-86	1,109	(70.25)	3.60 (+0.71)	4,000	(62.40)
1986-87	1,824	(66.07)	4.45 (+0.93)	8,125	(67.52)
1987-88	2,140	(66.53)	3.64 (+0.74)	7,801	(57.62)
1988-89	1,291	(64.92)	6.17 (+1.68)	7,973	(66.40)
1989-90	942	(72.02)	6.30 (+1.45)	5,928	(73.32)
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	813	(30.53)	2.97 (+1.19)	2,418	(27.11)
1980-81	968	(32.28)	4.45 (+1.53)	4,312	(38.34)
1981-82	735	(30.28)	2.70 (+0.83)	1,982	(28.64)
1982-83	507	(26.36)	2.24 (+0.67)	1,133	(16.89)
1983-84	313	(23.08)	2.96 (+1.11)	926	(17.98)
1984-85	583	(27.71)	2.70 (+0.72)	1,572	(20.81)
1985-86	470	(29.75)	5.13 (+1.46)	2,411	(37.60)
1986-87	936	(33.93)	4.17 (+1.31)	3,909	(32.48)
1987-88	1,076	(33.47)	5.33 (+1.48)	5,738	(42.38)
1988-89	697	(35.08)	5.78 (+2.03)	4,035	(33.60)
1989-90	362	(27.68)	5.90 (+1.46)	2,134	(26.39)
UNKNOWN					
1989-90	5	(0.38)	5.00 (+0.00)	23	(0.28)
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	2,662		3.35 (+0.71)	8,918	
1980-81	2,999	1.82	3.75 (+0.73)	11,246	6.11
1981-82	2,428	2.05	2.85 (+0.48)	6,920	7.70
1982-83	1,922	1.32	3.49 (+0.74)	6,708	4.74
1983-84	1,355	0.93	3.80 (+0.74)	5,149	4.59
1984-85	2,104	1.44	3.59 (+0.63)	7,553	3.52
1985-86	1,579	1.08	4.06 (+0.67)	6,411	5.17
1986-87	2,760	1.89	4.36 (+0.76)	12,034	4.39
1987-88	3,216	2.20	4.21 (+0.71)	13,539	8.24
1988-89	1,988	1.36	6.04 (+1.30)	12,008	9.27
1989-90	1,308	0.90	6.18 (+1.12)	8,085	8.22
					5.53

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 25. Summary of striped skunk trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 258; 240; 179; 215; 128; 147; 154; 142; 186; 150; 114).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	3,392	(64.73) ^a	2.85	9,664	(61.26) ^a
1980-81	2,940	(64.58)	3.10	9,118	(63.79)
1981-82	2,000	(65.36)	2.93	5,871	(60.71)
1982-83	2,220	(69.30)	3.28	7,278	(71.91)
1983-84	985	(66.41)	3.48	3,432	(78.72)
1984-85	1,305	(70.07)	3.00	3,914	(76.11)
1985-86	970	(62.99)	3.39	3,296	(72.79)
1986-87	1,134	(64.79)	2.95	3,337	(69.85)
1987-88	1,673	(69.35)	2.73	4,563	(73.33)
1988-89	833	(69.33)	2.33	1,936	(72.89)
1989-90	329	(62.19)	3.39	1,118	(70.27)
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	1,849	(35.27)	3.31	6,111	(38.74)
1980-81	1,612	(35.42)	3.21	5,175	(36.21)
1981-82	1,060	(34.64)	3.58	3,799	(39.29)
1982-83	983	(30.70)	2.89	2,843	(28.09)
1983-84	498	(33.59)	1.86	928	(21.28)
1984-85	558	(29.93)	2.20	1,228	(23.89)
1985-86	570	(37.01)	2.16	1,232	(27.21)
1986-87	616	(35.21)	2.34	1,441	(30.15)
1987-88	739	(30.65)	2.25	1,660	(26.67)
1988-89	369	(30.67)	1.96	720	(27.11)
1989-90	195	(36.86)	2.40	468	(29.42)
UNKNOWN					
1989-90	5	(0.95)	1.00	5	(0.31)
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	5,241		3.01	15,775	
1980-81	4,552		3.14	14,293	
1981-82	3,060		3.16	9,670	
1982-83	3,203		3.16	10,121	
1983-84	1,483		2.94	4,360	
1984-85	1,863		2.76	5,142	
1985-86	1,540		2.94	4,528	
1986-87	1,750		2.73	4,778	
1987-88	2,412		2.58	6,223	
1988-89	1,202		2.21	2,656	
1989-90	529		3.01	1,591	

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 26. Summary of weasel trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 16; 17; 11; 16; 16; 18; 13; 16; 13; 7; 2).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	163 (50.00) ^a	0.20	1.00(+0.00) ^b	163 (47.06) ^a	0.20
1980-81	171 (52.94)	0.21	1.00(+0.00)	171 (47.37)	0.21
1981-82	171 (90.91)	0.21	1.40(+0.43)	239 (93.33)	0.29
1982-83	105 (43.75)	0.13	1.14(+0.28)	119 (47.06)	0.15
1983-84	92 (50.00)	0.11	1.13(+0.24)	104 (47.37)	0.13
1984-85	139 (61.11)	0.17	1.18(+0.36)	164 (59.09)	0.20
1985-86	70 (53.85)	0.09	1.29(+0.36)	90 (56.25)	0.11
1986-87	86 (43.75)	0.11	1.29(+0.36)	111 (50.00)	0.14
1987-88	65 (38.46)	0.08	1.00(+0.00)	65 (35.71)	0.08
1988-89	32 (57.14)	0.04	1.50(+0.98)	48 (66.67)	0.06
1989-90	9 (100.00)	0.01	1.00(+0.00)	9 (100.00)	0.01
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	163 (50.00)	0.25	1.13(+0.24)	183 (52.94)	0.28
1980-81	152 (47.06)	0.24	1.25(+0.32)	191 (52.63)	0.30
1981-82	17 (9.09)	0.03	1.00(+0.00)	17 (6.67)	0.03
1982-83	134 (56.25)	0.21	1.00(+0.00)	134 (52.94)	0.21
1983-84	93 (50.00)	0.14	1.25(+0.32)	116 (52.63)	0.18
1984-85	89 (38.89)	0.14	1.29(+0.56)	114 (40.91)	0.18
1985-86	60 (46.15)	0.09	1.17(+0.33)	70 (43.75)	0.11
1986-87	111 (56.25)	0.17	1.00(+0.00)	112 (50.00)	0.17
1987-88	104 (61.54)	0.16	1.13(+0.25)	118 (64.29)	0.18
1988-89	24 (42.86)	0.04	1.00(+0.00)	24 (33.33)	0.04
1989-90	0 (0.00)	0.00	0.00(+0.00)	0 (0.00)	0.00
UNKNOWN					
1989-90	0 (0.00)	..	0.00(+0.00)	0 (0.00)	0.00
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	326	0.22	1.06(+0.12)	346	0.24
1980-81	323	0.22	1.12(+0.16)	362	0.25
1981-82	188	0.13	1.36(+0.40)	256	0.18
1982-83	239	0.16	1.06(+0.12)	253	0.17
1983-84	185	0.13	1.19(+0.20)	220	0.15
1984-85	228	0.16	1.22(+0.30)	278	0.19
1985-86	130	0.09	1.23(+0.24)	160	0.11
1986-87	197	0.13	1.13(+0.17)	223	0.15
1987-88	169	0.12	1.08(+0.15)	183	0.13
1988-89	56	0.04	1.29(+0.56)	72	0.05
1989-90	9	0.01	1.00(+0.00)	9	0.01

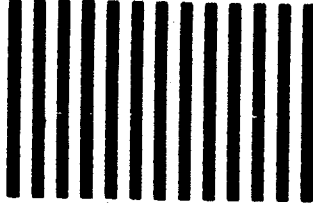
^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.
^b 95% confidence interval.

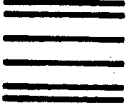
Table 27. Summary of coyote trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1989-90, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 102; 101; 129; 116; 147; 143; 125; 122; 154; 149; 172).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km ²	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km ²
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	894 (43.14) ^a	1.09	4.86 (+4.84) ^b	4,350 (59.44) ^a	5.32
1980-81	797 (41.58)	0.97	4.10 (+4.06)	3,264 (57.14)	3.99
1981-82	855 (38.76)	1.04	1.92 (+0.55)	1,644 (31.07)	2.01
1982-83	551 (31.90)	0.67	1.92 (+0.55)	1,059 (26.30)	1.29
1983-84	741 (43.54)	0.91	2.77 (+0.85)	2,050 (47.20)	2.50
1984-85	925 (51.05)	1.13	2.23 (+0.51)	2,064 (44.66)	2.52
1985-86	640 (51.20)	0.78	2.98 (+1.58)	1,911 (47.04)	2.34
1986-87	678 (45.08)	0.83	3.38 (+1.47)	2,293 (52.25)	2.80
1987-88	960 (48.05)	1.17	4.07 (+1.86)	3,903 (51.02)	4.77
1988-89	577 (48.32)	0.71	3.64 (+1.42)	2,100 (46.05)	2.57
1989-90	450 (56.39)	0.55	6.26 (+3.88)	2,816 (64.44)	3.44
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	1,179 (56.86)	1.84	2.52 (+1.12)	2,968 (60.56)	4.62
1980-81	1,120 (58.42)	1.74	2.19 (+0.44)	2,449 (62.86)	3.81
1981-82	1,350 (61.24)	2.10	2.70 (+0.65)	3,648 (68.93)	5.68
1982-83	1,177 (68.10)	1.83	2.52 (+0.63)	2,967 (73.70)	4.62
1983-84	962 (56.46)	1.50	2.39 (+0.40)	2,293 (52.80)	3.57
1984-85	887 (48.95)	1.38	2.89 (+0.88)	2,557 (55.34)	3.98
1985-86	610 (48.80)	0.95	3.52 (+0.89)	2,151 (52.96)	3.35
1986-87	825 (54.92)	1.28	2.54 (+0.63)	2,096 (47.75)	3.26
1987-88	1,037 (51.95)	1.61	3.61 (+1.18)	3,746 (68.98)	5.83
1988-89	617 (51.68)	0.96	3.99 (+0.95)	2,461 (53.95)	3.83
1989-90	339 (42.48)	0.53	4.49 (+1.39)	1,522 (34.83)	2.37
UNKNOWN					
1989-90	9 (1.13)	..	3.50 (+0.98)	32 (0.75)	..
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	2,073	1.42	3.53 (+2.18)	7,318	5.01
1980-81	1,917	1.31	2.98 (+1.71)	5,713	3.91
1981-82	2,205	1.51	2.40 (+0.45)	5,292	3.62
1982-83	1,728	1.18	2.33 (+0.46)	4,026	2.76
1983-84	1,703	1.17	2.55 (+0.43)	4,343	2.97
1984-85	1,812	1.24	2.55 (+0.51)	4,621	3.16
1985-86	1,250	0.86	3.25 (+0.92)	4,062	2.78
1986-87	1,503	1.03	2.92 (+0.75)	4,389	3.00
1987-88	1,997	1.37	3.83 (+1.08)	7,649	5.24
1988-89	1,194	0.82	3.82 (+0.84)	4,561	3.12
1989-90	798	0.55	5.48 (+2.27)	4,370	2.99

^a Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.
^b 95% confidence interval.

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Wildlife Resources Division
Furbearer Section
 LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA
 624 SOUTH SECOND STREET
 SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62704-9000



TO ISSUING AGENT:

**COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL
IMMEDIATELY UPON SALE OF
FIRST LICENSE IN BOOK**

The Department of Conservation is conducting a survey to estimate the fur harvest in Illinois. To effect this, we need the names and addresses of part of our licensed trappers. Please print at the bottom of this page, in space provided, name, mailing address including zip code, and county of residence of the person who purchases the first license in this book. Please detach the next page and give to license purchaser.

Thank you for your cooperation. **Please note** reverse side is Business Reply postal card, perforated at binding for removing.

**MAIL IMMEDIATELY UPON SALE OF LICENSE
TRAPPING (1988 SERIES)**
Please Print Plainly

Name	TRAPPER JOHN
Rural Route or Street Address	RR 1, Box 23
Post Office	HOMETOWN
Zip Code	61234
County of Residence	SANGAMON

Figure 1. Mail survey address card issued to license vendors in 1988-89 post-season trapper mail survey.

**DETACH THIS PAGE AND GIVE TO
PERSON WHO PURCHASES FIRST
LICENSE IN BOOK**

Dear Trapper:

Please keep an accurate record of the number of days you had traps set, the average number and kinds of traps you used during the season, the number of furbearers you caught in traps, what county you trapped in most, and the number and kinds of pelts you sold in Illinois and Out of State.

You may be one of the selected trappers contacted at the close of the trapping season and provided a form to return to the Illinois Department of Conservation.

Thanks for your cooperation.

THE BACK SIDE OF THIS CARD MAY BE USED FOR RECORD KEEPING.

Number of TRAPS I had set: _____

Number of DAYS I had traps set: _____

FURBEARERS CAUGHT IN TRAPS: _____

Species	Total Number Caught	Number Sold	
		In Illinois	Out-of-State
Muskrat			
Mink			
Raccoon			
Opossum			
Beaver			
Red Fox			
Gray Fox			
Coyote			
Striped Skunk			
Weasel			

Other Animals Caught: _____

Figure 2. Information and activity record card issued to trappers in 1989-90 post-season trapper mail survey.



LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787
 CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH 60601
 MARK FRECH, DIRECTOR

1

1989-90

Dear Illinois Trapper:

The harvest of fur-bearing animals is one of the few field and stream sports that is tied to our economy through a return from the crop. In the 1988-89 season, there were 282,420 pelts sold by Illinois fur-takers for a value to them of \$1,435,611. We need information on the trapped portion of the catch for the 1989-90 season.

You can make an important contribution to the future management of Illinois' fur harvests and trapping activity by completing the enclosed questionnaire. The questionnaire is self-explanatory. If you did not trap, simply answer questions #1 and #8 and return the questionnaire. If you did trap, please fill out the questionnaire completely.

The information requested from you and other trappers is used in determining catch, trapping success, trapping pressure, and trapper characteristics on a statewide basis. These facts are necessary for a better understanding of how regulations affect your trapping and the welfare of the furbearer populations. Also, with your help, the future of sport trapping will be assured.

Please take a few minutes and fill out the questionnaire. If you do not remember exact figures, please give your best estimate. Also, if you trapped in partnership with another person, list only your half of the catch. Drop the completed questionnaire in the mail; no postage is required. Please reply even if you did not trap this season or were not successful.

Yours for better trapping.

Sincerely,

George Hubert, Jr.
 Furbearer Biologist

1989-90

Figure 3. Letter of transmittal sent with initial mailing in 1989-90 post-season trapper mail survey.



LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787
 CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH 60601
 MARK FRECH, DIRECTOR

2

Dear Illinois Trapper:

Recently we mailed to you a Trapping Survey Questionnaire and requested that you fill out and return the completed form. We have not received your form at this time - perhaps because you have misplaced the questionnaire card or haven't found time to complete it and return it to us.

We are enclosing another questionnaire card which we hope you will complete and return as soon as possible. If you have already returned a questionnaire, please destroy this one. The information supplied by you and other trappers being sampled will be of great value to the Conservation Department in better directing the management of the Illinois furbearer resources.

Please fill out the form completely and return it even if you did not trap or were not successful. If you trapped in partnership with another person, please list only your half of the catch. No postage is required to return the completed questionnaire. Simply fill it out and drop it in the mail.

Your prompt attention will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

George Hubert, Jr.
 Furbearer Biologist
 Div. of Wildlife Resources

Figure 4. Letter of transmittal sent with first follow-up mailing in 1989-90 post-season trapper mail survey.



LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

3-Trap

Dear Illinois Trapper:

This is to remind you that we would still like to receive an answer to the questionnaire concerning your trapping activity this past season. We don't like to keep bothering you, but this is very important information which only you can supply.

Another copy of the questionnaire card is enclosed. We hope you will complete and return it as soon as possible. If you have already returned a questionnaire, simply destroy this one. We are making a final effort to obtain a complete response so that we may compile the information received from all co-operating trappers and prepare a report of our findings. Remember, your response is needed - even though you did not trap or had an unsuccessful season. Also, if you trapped in partnership with another person, kindly list only your half of the catch.


No postage is required to return the completed questionnaire card. Just fill it out and drop it in the mail. Please help us complete this survey by sending it in now!

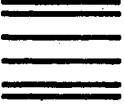
Sincerely,

George Hubert, Jr.
Furbearer Biologist
Div. of Wildlife Res.

Figure 5. Letter of transmittal sent with second follow-up mailing in 1989-90 post-season trapper mail survey.

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
WILDLIFE RESOURCES — FURBEARER

P.O. BOX 19225
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62794-9961

ATTN: GEORGE HUBERT



FURBEARER TRAPPING SURVEY 1989-1990 SEASON

1. Did you trap for furbearers in Illinois during the 1989-90 season? Yes No
2. In what COUNTY did you do MOST of your trapping?

3. How many days (or nights) did you have traps set?

4. How old were you on your last birthday?
_____ years old.
5. Are you a member of a trapping club or organization like Fur-taker's, N.T.A., or Illinois Trappers' Association? Yes No
6. Please fill in all three blanks for each kind of furbearer you trapped in Illinois during the 1989-1990 season:

	Number Caught In Traps	Number SOLD In Illinois	Number SOLD Out of State
Muskrat	_____	_____	_____
Mink	_____	_____	_____
Raccoon	_____	_____	_____
Opossum	_____	_____	_____
Red Fox	_____	_____	_____
Gray Fox	_____	_____	_____
Beaver	_____	_____	_____
Skunk	_____	_____	_____
Weasel	_____	_____	_____
Coyote	_____	_____	_____

7. Did you catch any furbearers in Woodstream "Soft Catch" padded leghold traps during the 1989-90 season? Yes No If yes, please list what kind and how many: _____
8. Did you also HUNT furbearers with gun and/or dogs during the 1989-90 season? Yes No If yes, please give the number of each kind taken:
 Raccoon _____ Red Fox _____ Skunk _____
 Opossum _____ Gray Fox _____ Coyote _____

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The Department of Conservation is an equal opportunity employer. The Dept. of Conservation is requesting this information as outlined under the Wildlife Code, Chapter 61. Providing this information is mandatory. This form has been approved by the State Farms Management Center.

IL 422-0387

Figure 6. Questionnaire for post-season mail survey of Illinois trappers, 1989-90 season.

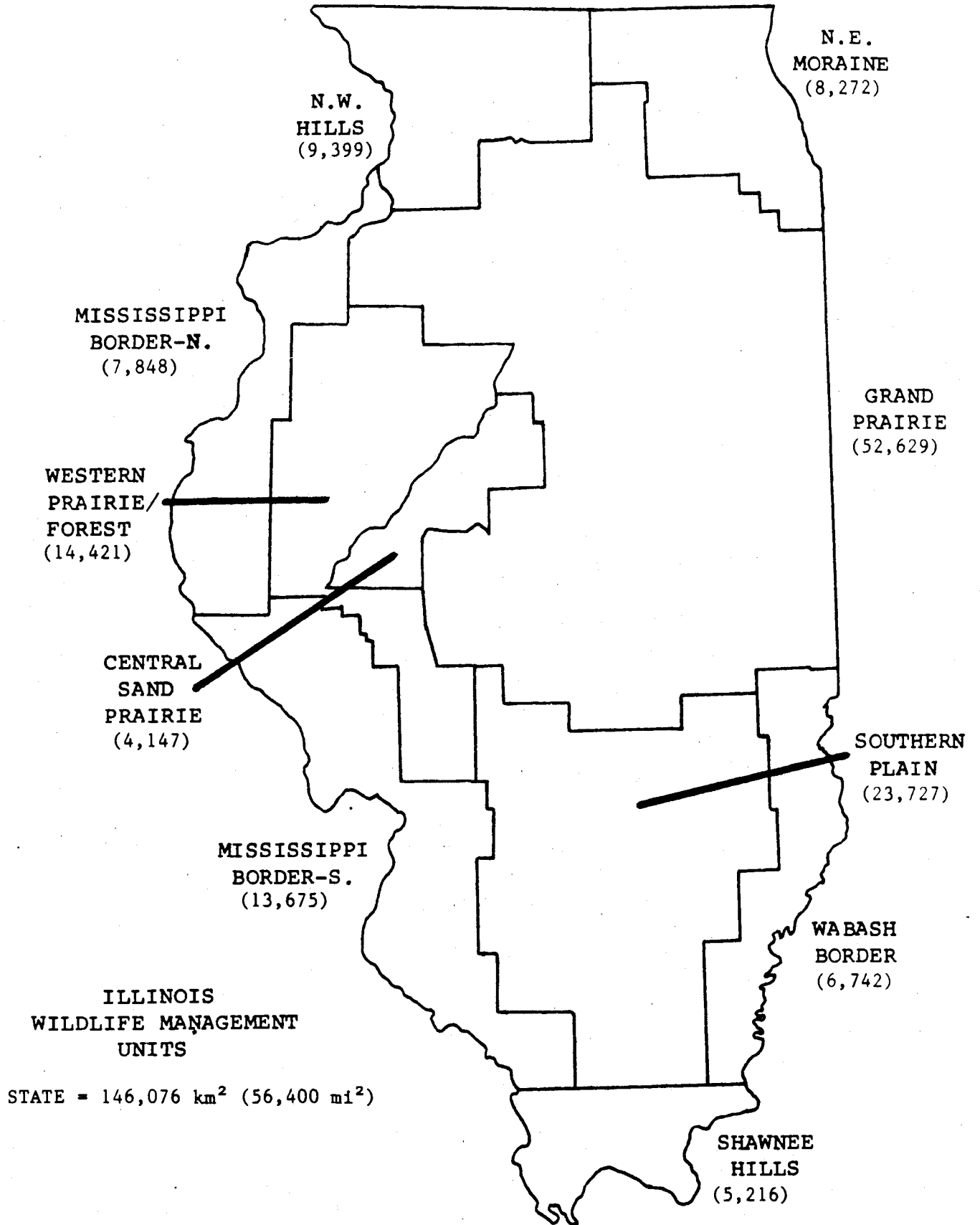


Figure 7. Area (km²) of wildlife management units in Illinois.



Figure 8. Furbearer management zones for the 1989-90 season.

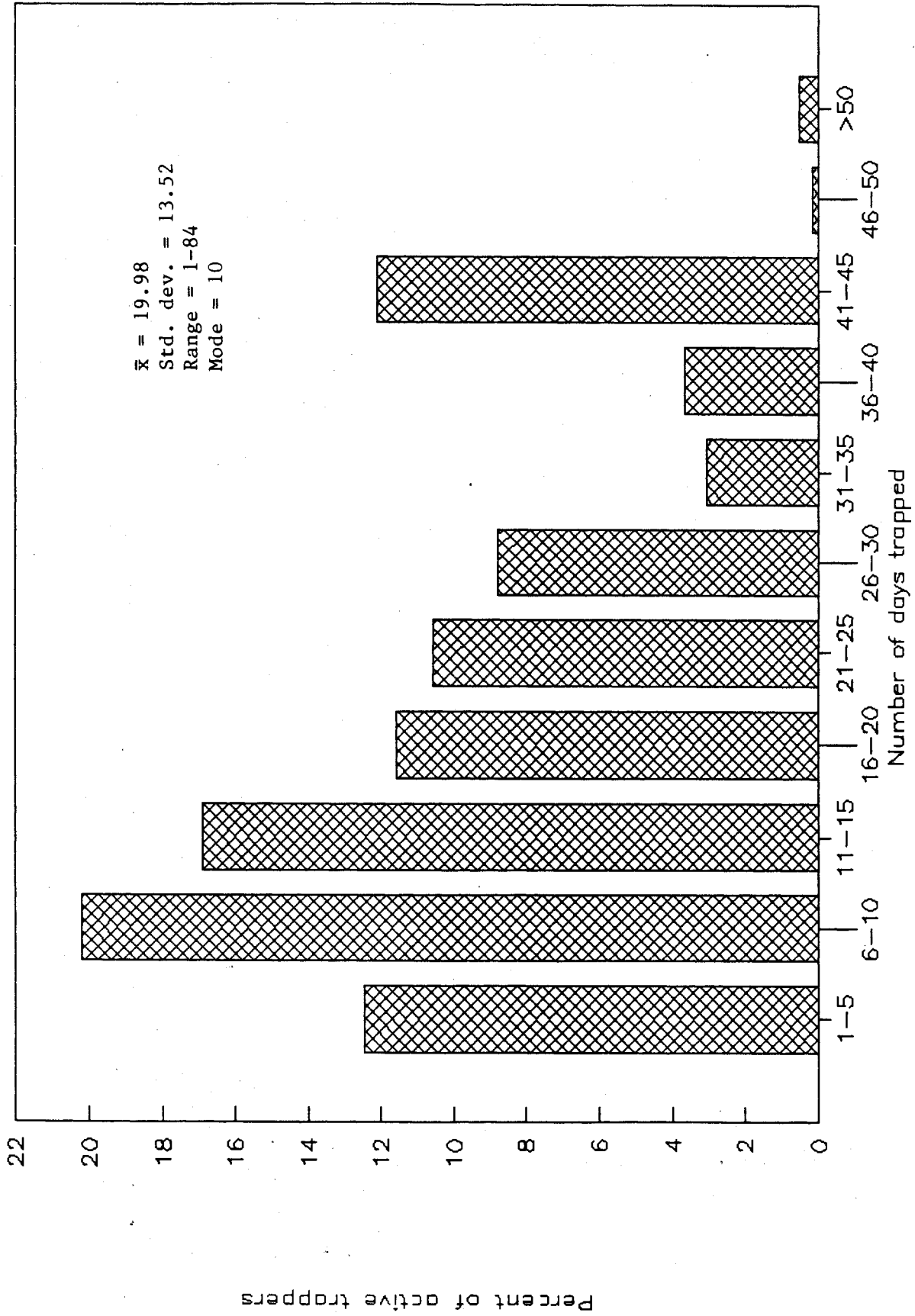


Figure 9. Distribution of days trapped per active trapper in Illinois, 1989-90 season (n = 786).

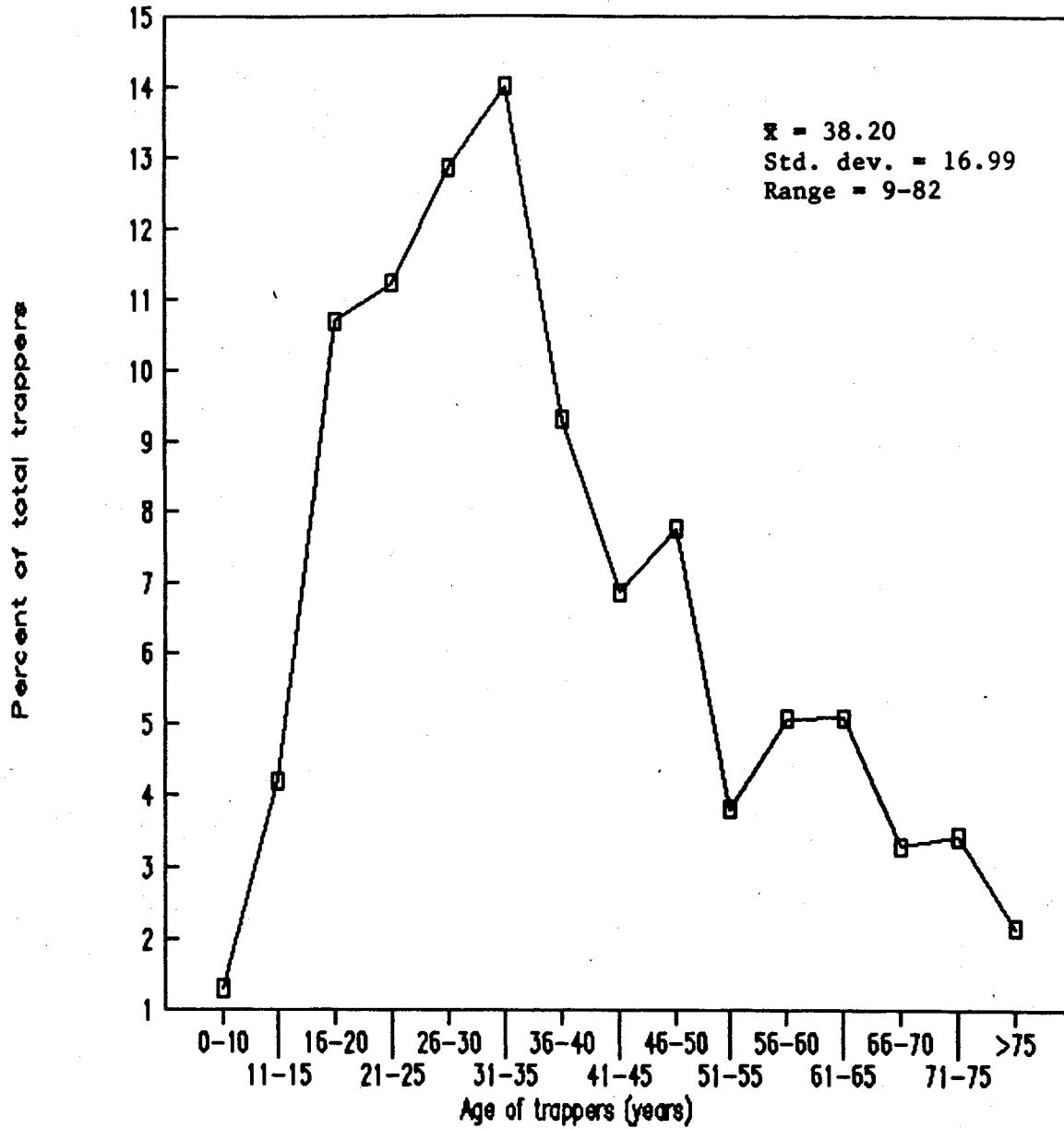


Figure 10. Distribution of ages of effective trappers in Illinois, 1989-90 season (n=785).

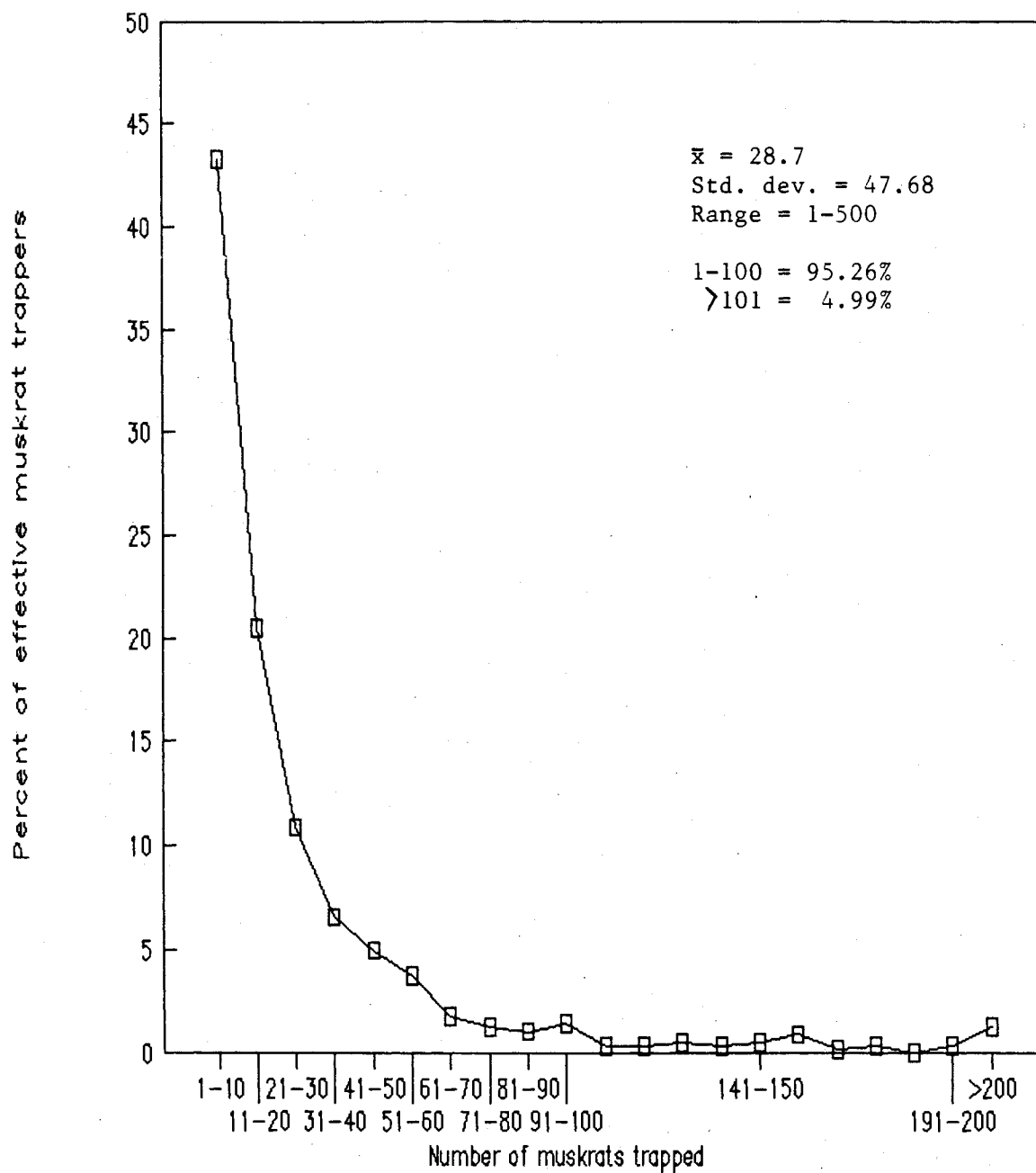


Figure 11. Distribution of muskrats trapped per effective muskrat trapper in Illinois, 1989-90 season (n = 571).

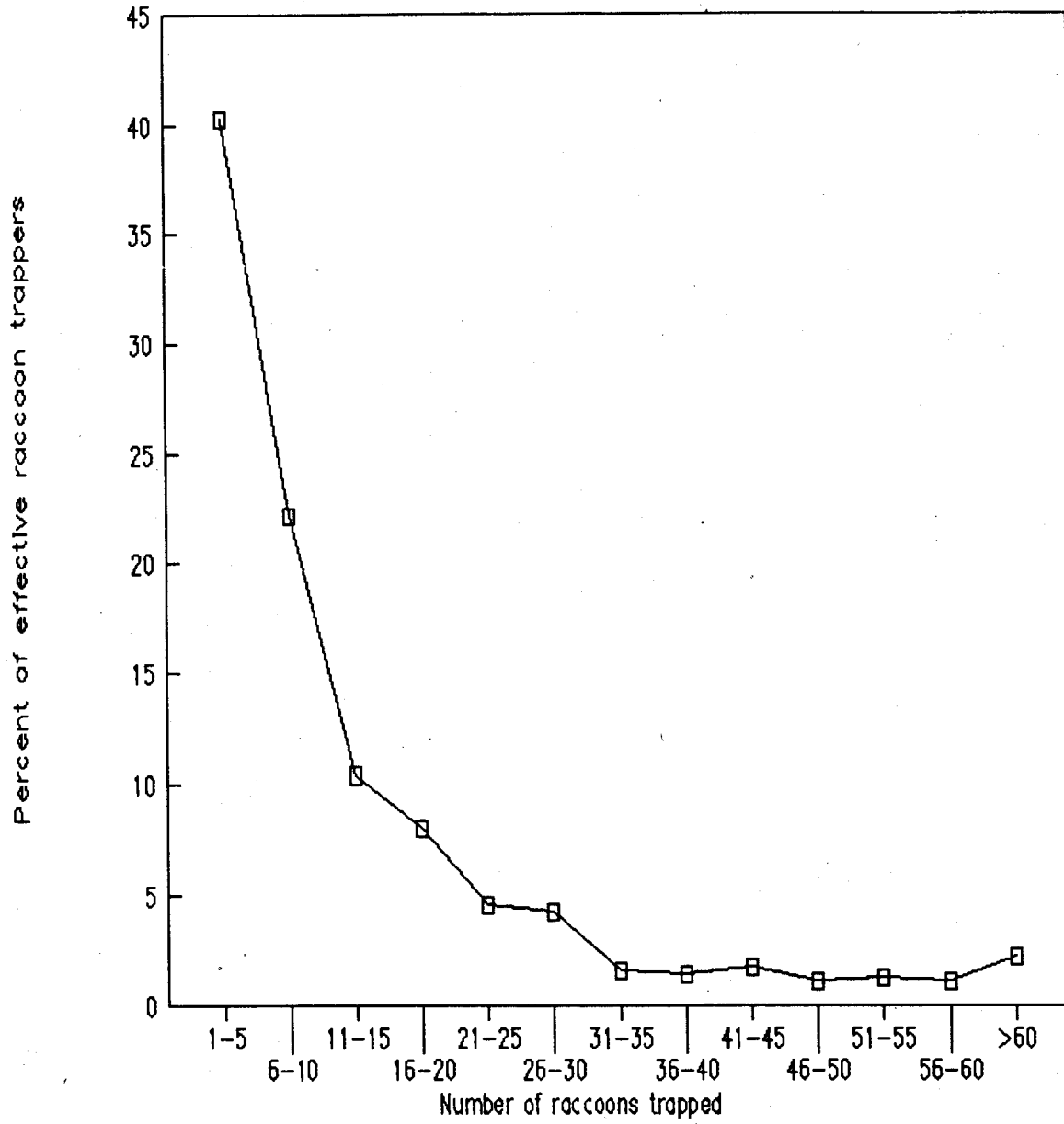


Figure 12. Distribution of number of raccoons trapped per effective raccoon trapper in Illinois, 1989-90 season (n = 636).



Figure 13. Existing furbeaver management zones (based on county boundaries) used to prepare 1979-80 through 1989-90 season data summaries.

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1989/90



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