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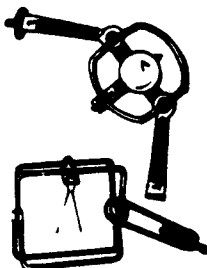
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Study XV: Wildlife Harvests

Job No. 3: Trapper harvest survey, 1986-87

By

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

28 August 1987

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JOB COMPLETION REPORT

SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO. W-49-R-34

STUDY XV: Wildlife Harvests

JOB NO. 3: Trapper harvest survey, 1986-87

ABSTRACT: A stratified random sample of 1,200 persons who purchased 1986 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 1,188 (99.00%) recipients from which 917 useable replies were received (77.19% return). Of these, 90.29% were active, i.e. set one or more traps during the season. Only 1.69% of the active trappers were ineffective, i.e. caught nothing.

The 1986-87 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 number of effective trappers and total trapper harvest (in parentheses) are: muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus) 8,268 (332,704), mink (Mustela vison) 5,150 (19,261), raccoon (Procyon lotor) 8,810 (123,869), opossum (Didelphis marsupialis) 6,222 (47,474), red fox (Vulpes vulpes) 2,058 (6,935), gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus) 961 (1,759), beaver (Castor canadensis) 2,760 (12,034), striped skunk (Mephitis mephitis) 1,750 (4,778), weasel (Mustela frenata, M. nivalis) 197 (223), and coyote (Canis latrans) 1,503 (4,389).

The average trapper had traps set for 26.6 days (or nights). Active trappers spent an average of \$147 on trapping-related expenses. Only 27.9% of the trappers indicated they favored mandatory trapper education for all trappers regardless of age. Almost half of the effective muskrat trappers (49.2%) caught 20 or fewer muskrats during the season. Most effective raccoon trappers (72.6%) harvested from 1 to 15 raccoons for the entire season and 84.4% trapped 25 or less. Trappers sold 97.78% of their 1986-87 catch of which 5.91% was sold out-of-state. Accidental catches were reported by 30.79% of the trappers who responded to the survey. The accidental catch rate was 1.74% or one accidental catch for every 57 furbearers trapped. 20.14% of the licensed trappers also hunted furbearers, primarily raccoons. The harvest of pelts by hunting trappers amounted to 5.96% of the total trapped catch in the sample.

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## JOB COMPLETION REPORT

### SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO.: W-49-R-34

STUDY XV: Wildlife Harvests

JOB NO. 3: Trapper harvest survey, 1986-87

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 1986 series (total sales estimate 11,299 - 1 July 1987) (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 1,000 useable replies for adequate reliability at the statewide level. Address cards in the drawn sample were manually marked with serial numbers to provide for the 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 (22.0 cents) 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 1986-87 seasons, or active - those who did set one or more traps for furbearers during the 1986-87 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 Division of Wildlife Resources office, Illinois Department of Conservation, Springfield, Illinois, and stored for subsequent analysis. Mr. Scott Bennett, a consultant from Champaign, Illinois, 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

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

$q = 1-p$

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

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

$x_i$  = reported season catch  
for species in question

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

c. Total trapper harvest:

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

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

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:

1985-86 Trapping Seasons

The 1986-87 fur-bearing mammal trapping seasons varied from 35 to 106 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 1986 and 25 November 1986, respectively. Red fox, gray fox, and coyote could be legally trapped for 35 days in the northern zone and 45 days in the southern zone starting 25 November 1986. Beaver trapping season was 96 or 106 days in length depending on zone and opened simultaneously 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).

1986-87 Trapper Mail Survey

The initial mailing of 1,200 questionnaires was made on 29 January 1987. The two follow-up mailings to non-respondents were made on 25 February and 17 March and closed out on 20 April 1987. Approximately two days preparation was required for each mailing.

A total of 1,188 (99.00%) licensees in the 1986-87 survey sample was reached by the Postal Service via first class mail. The 12 remaining questionnaires were returned as undeliverable. There were 917 useable replies received from the licensees contacted, representing a 77.19% response on the number delivered. Of these respondents, 828 (90.29%) reported that they set one or more traps for furbearers during the season and were classified as active. A total of 814 (98.31%) active trappers were effective, i.e. caught one or more furbearers, and the remaining 14 (1.69%) were ineffective, i.e. caught nothing.

## a. Number of days trapped

Active trappers had traps set an average of 26.6 days (or nights) during the 1986-87 season (Fig. 9). The maximum number of days a trapper could have legally trapped was 106. However, only 3.6% of the respondents stated they had traps set for over 45 days, and just 32.2% 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 1985-86, Illinois trappers had traps set an average of 23 days during a 108-day season (Hubert 1986). The mean number of days trapped in 1984-85 was 26 days (Hubert 1985).

## b. Trapping expenses

Active trappers in 1986-87 spent an average of \$147 on trapping expenses (Fig. 10). Slightly over one-third (39.7%) spent more than \$100 on traps, lures, license, gasoline, and other trapping-related supplies. Hubert (1985) estimated the annual expenses for Illinois trappers averaged \$142. The average trapper in Illinois harvested \$344.10 worth of pelts during the 1986-87 season (Hubert 1987). Therefore, in light of the costs involved, the term "sport trapping" appears well justified.

c. Attitude toward trapper education training

During the 1986-87 season, 72.1% of the active trappers who responded to the survey (n = 810) indicated they did not favor mandatory trapper education for all trappers regardless of age. This is somewhat surprising since the major trapping-related organizations in the state strongly supported the legislation which mandated an 8-hour training course for first-time trappers under 18 years of age. Evidently trappers with one or more years of experience believe they should not be forced to attend any sort of formalized trapper education course. Hubert (1983, 1985) reported 83.5% to 88.3% of all Illinois trappers are over 18 years old.

d. Trapper harvest summary

A statewide summary for the 10 species of furbearers surveyed in 1986-87 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 pelts 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 1986-87, effective raccoon trappers were the most numerous and their projected number varied by only  $\pm 3.51\%$ . The 95% confidence interval projections for less numerous red fox trappers varied by  $\pm 13.99\%$  and for uncommon weasel trappers by  $\pm 49.24\%$ .

e. Distribution of harvest among effective trappers

The muskrat and raccoon were the two most important furbearers trapped during the 1986-87 season in terms of number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total harvest (Table 2). The reported number of muskrats harvested by 671 effective muskrat trappers ranged from 1 to 432 and averaged 40.24 (Tables 2, 13, 14, Fig. 11). During the season, 49.2% of these trappers harvested 20 or fewer muskrats and 91.4% caught 100 or less. All values are similar to those obtained in the six previous seasons (Hubert 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986). Of the effective trappers who responded, 186 (27.7%) 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 715 effective raccoon trappers who reported averaged 14.06 and ranged from 1 to 160 (Tables 2, 13, 14, Fig. 12). Less than the average season catch was taken by 68.3% of these trappers. For the entire season, 72.6% harvested 15 or fewer raccoons and 84.4% trapped 25 or less. Only 32 (4.5%) 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 six of these species, less than 17% of the effective trappers made season catches exceeding five pelts. The exceptions were: effective opossum trappers - 43.17% of these individuals trapped more than five opossums during the season, and effective beaver trappers - 23.22% caught more than five beavers during the season.

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. Pelt sales

Trappers sold an estimated 97.78% of their catch during 1986-87 (Table 2). The previous season (1985-86), 94.74% of all trapped pelts were sold (Hubert 1986). The portion of each species sold ranged from a low of 39.89% for striped skunk to a high of 99.66% for muskrat. The fraction of pelts sold in Illinois and out-of-state also varied among species (Table 16). Overall, 94.09% of the marketed portion of the trapped catch was sold in Illinois and 5.91% out-of-state. Hubert (1986) found that Illinois trappers sold 4.03% of their pelts outside the state in 1985-86. Resident trappers sold an average of 4.86% of their pelts out-of-state during the last five seasons (Hubert 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, this study).

#### g. Non-target catches

Accidental catches were reported by 282 (30.79%) of the trappers who responded to the 1986-87 survey (Table 17). In comparison, 34.10% of the active trappers made non-target catches. Trappers making accidental catches averaged 2.77 for the year. The estimated total number of non-target animals caught by trappers during the season was 9,622. As stated earlier, the estimated total furbearer catch by trappers was 553,426 (Table 2). Therefore, the accidental catch rate was 1.74% or one accidental catch for every 57 furbearers trapped. If rats and mice are excluded from the accidental catch list, the non-target catch rate would be 1.71%. Many respondents indicated that some or all of the animals they accidentally captured were released. During the 1985-86 season, resident trappers had an accidental catch rate of 2.51% (Hubert 1986).

#### h. Fur hunting by trappers

A total of 250 (29.14%) trappers reported hunting furbearers with gun and/or dogs in 1986-87 (Table 18). Their total hunting harvest was 2,676 pelts or an average of 10.70 per hunting trapper. This is equivalent to 5.96% 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 1985-86, 30.03% of the

trappers in Illinois also hunted furbearers (Hubert 1986). 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.

i. 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), and 1986-87 are presented in Tables 19 through 28. 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 1986-87 (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 fur catch. It is recommended that the survey be continued in essentially the same form.

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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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Table 1. Illinois fur-bearing mammal trapping season for 1986-87.

Species	Trapping season	
	Northern zone	Southern zone
Muskrat, Mink, Raccoon, Opossum, Striped skunk, Weasel	15 Nov - 29 Dec (45) <sup>a</sup>	25 Nov - 8 Jan (45)
Beaver	15 Nov - 28 Feb (106) <sup>b</sup>	25 Nov - 28 Feb (96)
Red Fox, Gray Fox, Coyote	25 Nov - 29 Dec (35)	25 Nov - 8 Jan (45)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are season lengths in days.

<sup>b</sup> 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. 1986 only.

Table 2. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of Illinois resident trappers, 1986-87 season (n = 917).

Species	Estimated number of effective trappers	Percent of total licensees	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated percent sold <sup>a</sup>	Estimated total sold
Muskrat	8,268	73.17	40.24	332,704	99.66	331,573
Mink	5,150	45.58	3.74	19,261	99.59	19,182
Raccoon	8,810	77.97	14.06	123,869	99.42	123,151
Opossum	6,222	55.07	7.63	47,474	86.64	41,131
Red fox	2,058	18.21	3.37	6,935	95.45	6,619
Gray fox	961	8.51	1.83	1,759	96.24	1,693
Beaver	2,760	24.43	4.36	12,034	95.98	11,550
Striped skunk	1,750	15.49	2.73	4,778	39.89	1,906
Weasel	197	1.74	1.13	223	61.11	136
Coyote	1,503	13.30	2.92	4,389	95.24	4,180

<sup>a</sup> n = 858

Table 3. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 671).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper <sup>a</sup> harvest-	Estimated trapper <sup>2</sup> harvest/100 km
Northwest Hills	900 (10.88) <sup>b</sup>	9.58	62.52	56,227 (16.90) <sup>b</sup>	598.22
Northeast Moraine	407 (4.92)	4.92	44.48	18,099 (5.44)	218.80
Mississippi Border-North	530 (6.41)	6.75	30.60	16,203 (4.87)	206.46
Mississippi Border-South	1,048 (12.67)	7.66	31.58	33,071 (9.94)	241.84
Western Prairie/Forest	887 (10.73)	6.15	24.46	21,692 (6.52)	150.42
Central Sand Prairie	197 (2.38)	4.75	55.81	11,013 (3.31)	265.57
Grand Prairie	2,452 (29.66)	4.66	49.04	120,239 (36.14)	228.47
Southern Plain	1,269 (15.35)	5.35	35.59	45,181 (13.58)	190.42
Wabash Border	369 (4.47)	5.47	21.17	7,818 (2.35)	115.96
Shawnee Hills	209 (2.53)	4.01	15.18	3,161 (0.95)	60.60
Statewide	8,268 (100.00)	5.66	40.24	332,704 (100.00)	227.76

<sup>a</sup> Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

<sup>b</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.



Table 4. Summary of mink trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 418).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest <sup>a</sup>	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	468 (9.09) <sup>b</sup>	4.98	1.95	911 (4.73) <sup>b</sup>	9.69
Northeast Moraine	247 (4.79)	2.99	3.25	801 (4.16)	9.68
Mississippi Border-North	271 (5.26)	3.45	2.18	591 (3.07)	7.53
Mississippi Border-South	641 (12.44)	4.69	3.38	2,169 (11.26)	15.86
Western Prairie/Forest	493 (9.57)	3.42	2.70	1,331 (6.91)	9.23
Central Sand Prairie	123 (2.39)	2.97	2.60	320 (1.66)	7.72
Grand Prairie	1,712 (33.25)	3.25	4.01	6,865 (35.64)	13.04
Southern Plain	850 (16.51)	3.58	5.65	4,805 (24.95)	20.25
Wabash Border	222 (4.31)	3.29	4.11	913 (4.74)	13.54
Shawnee Hills	123 (2.39)	2.36	4.50	555 (2.88)	10.64
Statewide	5,150 (100.00)	3.53	3.74	19,261 (100.00)	13.19

<sup>a</sup> Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

<sup>b</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 5. Summary of raccoon trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 715).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest <sup>a</sup>	Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	912 (10.35) <sup>b</sup>	9.70	12.50	11,396 (9.20) <sup>b</sup>	121.25
Northeast Moraine	517 (5.87)	6.25	11.64	6,032 (4.87)	72.92
Mississippi Border-North	603 (6.85)	7.68	19.08	11,520 (9.30)	146.79
Mississippi Border-South	1,085 (12.31)	7.93	12.85	13,935 (11.25)	101.90
Western Prairie/Forest	1,035 (11.75)	7.18	15.32	15,868 (12.81)	110.03
Central Sand Prairie	259 (2.94)	6.25	8.76	2,267 (1.83)	54.67
Grand Prairie	2,575 (29.23)	4.89	14.97	38,561 (31.13)	73.27
Southern Plain	1,233 (13.99)	5.20	11.96	14,740 (11.90)	62.12
Wabash Border	406 (4.61)	6.02	16.21	6,590 (5.32)	97.75
Shawnee Hills	185 (2.10)	3.55	16.00	2,960 (2.39)	56.75
Statewide	8,810 (100.00)	6.03	14.06	123,869 (100.00)	84.80

<sup>a</sup> Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

<sup>b</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 6. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1986-87. from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 505).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper <sup>a</sup> harvest	Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	518 (8.32) <sup>b</sup>	5.51	7.31	3,779 (7.96) <sup>b</sup>	40.21
Northeast Moraine	431 (6.93)	5.21	4.66	2,008 (4.23)	24.27
Mississippi Border-North	419 (6.73)	5.34	11.79	4,942 (10.41)	62.97
Mississippi Border-South	887 (14.26)	6.49	8.22	7,292 (15.36)	53.32
Western Prairie/Forest	727 (11.68)	5.04	6.80	4,942 (10.41)	34.27
Central Sand Prairie	210 (3.37)	5.06	8.88	1,861 (3.92)	44.88
Grand Prairie	1,663 (26.73)	3.16	7.60	12,638 (26.62)	24.01
Southern Plain	911 (14.65)	3.84	6.27	5,716 (12.04)	24.09
Wabash Border	308 (4.95)	4.57	7.08	2,179 (4.59)	32.32
Shawnee Hills	148 (2.38)	2.84	14.33	2,117 (4.46)	40.59
Statewide	6,222 (100.00)	4.26	7.63	47,474 (100.00)	32.50

<sup>a</sup> Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

<sup>b</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 7. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 167).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest <sup>a</sup>	Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	111 (5.39) <sup>b</sup>	1.18	3.11	345 (4.98) <sup>b</sup>	3.67
Northeast Moraine	197 (9.58)	2.38	5.44	1,074 (15.48)	12.98
Mississippi Border-North	185 (8.98)	2.36	4.20	777 (11.21)	9.90
Mississippi Border-South	160 (7.78)	1.17	2.00	321 (4.63)	2.35
Western Prairie/Forest	197 (9.58)	1.37	2.38	469 (6.76)	3.25
Central Sand Prairie	49 (2.40)	1.18	1.50	74 (1.07)	1.78
Grand Prairie	580 (28.14)	1.10	3.94	2,283 (32.92)	4.34
Southern Plain	419 (20.36)	1.77	3.00	1,259 (18.15)	5.31
Wabash Border	111 (5.39)	1.65	1.33	148 (2.13)	2.20
Shawnee Hills	49 (2.40)	0.94	3.75	185 (2.67)	3.55
Statewide	2,058 (100.00)	1.41	3.37	6,935 (100.00)	4.75

<sup>a</sup> Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

<sup>b</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 8. Summary of gray fox trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 78).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest <sup>a</sup>	Estimated total trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	37 (3.85) <sup>b</sup>	0.39	2.00	74 (4.20) <sup>b</sup>	0.79
Northeast Moraine	111 (11.54)	1.34	1.56	172 (9.79)	2.08
Mississippi Border-North	12 (1.28)	0.15	1.00	12 (0.70)	0.15
Mississippi Border-South	111 (11.54)	0.81	1.22	135 (7.69)	0.99
Western Prairie/Forest	37 (3.85)	0.26	1.00	37 (2.10)	0.26
Central Sand Prairie	--	--	--	--	--
Grand Prairie	284 (29.48)	0.54	1.74	492 (27.97)	0.93
Southern Plain	234 (24.36)	0.99	2.37	554 (31.47)	2.33
Wabash Border	86 (8.97)	1.28	2.14	185 (10.49)	2.74
Shawnee Hills	49 (5.13)	0.94	2.00	98 (5.59)	1.88
Statewide	961 (100.00)	0.66	1.83	1,759 (100.00)	1.20

<sup>a</sup> Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

<sup>b</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 9. Summary of beaver trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 224).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest <sup>a</sup>	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	259 (9.37) <sup>b</sup>	2.76	4.52	1,171 (9.73) <sup>b</sup>	12.46
Northeast Moraine	99 (3.57)	1.20	6.25	616 (5.12)	7.45
Mississippi Border-North	222 (8.04)	2.83	4.56	1,011 (8.40)	12.88
Mississippi Border-South	222 (8.04)	1.62	5.28	1,171 (9.73)	8.56
Western Prairie/Forest	259 (9.37)	1.80	5.62	1,455 (12.09)	10.09
Central Sand Prairie	135 (4.91)	3.26	2.27	308 (2.56)	7.43
Grand Prairie	998 (36.16)	1.90	3.90	3,897 (32.38)	7.40
Southern Plain	369 (13.39)	1.56	3.97	1,467 (12.19)	6.18
Wabash Border	86 (3.13)	1.28	2.00	173 (1.44)	2.57
Shawnee Hills	111 (4.02)	2.13	6.89	765 (6.36)	14.67
Statewide	2,760 (100.00)	1.89	4.36	12,034 (100.00)	8.24

<sup>a</sup> Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

<sup>b</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 10. Summary of striped skunk trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 142).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest <sup>a</sup>	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	259 (14.79) <sup>b</sup>	2.76	2.48	640 (13.40) <sup>b</sup>	6.81
Northeast Moraine	234 (13.38)	2.83	2.37	554 (11.60)	6.70
Mississippi Border-North	111 (6.34)	1.41	2.56	283 (5.93)	3.61
Mississippi Border-South	222 (12.67)	1.62	1.61	357 (7.48)	2.61
Western Prairie/Forest	111 (6.34)	0.77	3.00	333 (6.96)	2.31
Central Sand Prairie	74 (4.22)	1.78	4.67	345 (7.22)	8.32
Grand Prairie	456 (26.06)	0.87	3.19	1,453 (30.41)	2.76
Southern Plain	185 (10.56)	0.78	3.40	628 (13.14)	2.65
Wabash Border	49 (2.82)	0.73	2.00	99 (2.06)	1.47
Shawnee Hills	49 (2.82)	0.94	1.75	86 (1.80)	1.65
Statewide	1,750 (100.00)	1.20	2.73	4,778 (100.00)	3.27

<sup>a</sup> - Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

<sup>b</sup> - Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 11. Summary of weasel trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 16).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest <sup>a</sup>	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	25 (12.50) <sup>b</sup>	0.27	1.50	38 (16.67) <sup>b</sup>	0.40
Northeast Moraine	--	--	--	--	--
Mississippi Border-North	--	--	--	--	--
Mississippi Border-South	--	--	--	--	--
Western Prairie/Forest	--	--	--	--	--
Central Sand Prairie	--	--	--	--	--
Grand Prairie	86 (43.75)	0.16	1.14	99 (44.44)	0.19
Southern Plain	62 (31.25)	0.26	1.00	62 (27.77)	0.26
Wabash Border	12 (6.25)	0.18	1.00	12 (5.56)	0.18
Shawnee Hills	12 (6.25)	0.23	1.00	12 (5.56)	0.23
Statewide	197 (100.00)	0.13	1.13	223 (100.00)	0.15

<sup>a</sup> - Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

<sup>b</sup> - Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.



Table 12. Summary of coyote trapper and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 122).

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest <sup>a</sup>	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
Northwest Hills	37 (2.46) <sup>b</sup>	0.39	2.67	99 (2.25) <sup>b</sup>	1.05
Northeast Moraine	37 (2.46)	0.45	1.33	49 (1.12)	0.59
Mississippi Border-North	123 (8.20)	1.57	6.20	764 (17.42)	9.73
Mississippi Border-South	197 (13.11)	1.44	1.69	333 (7.58)	2.44
Western Prairie/Forest	271 (18.03)	1.88	3.91	1,060 (24.16)	7.35
Central Sand Prairie	12 (0.82)	0.29	2.00	25 (0.56)	0.60
Grand Prairie	357 (23.77)	0.68	2.17	777 (17.70)	1.48
Southern Plain	284 (18.85)	1.20	2.43	690 (15.73)	2.91
Wabash Border	123 (8.20)	1.82	2.40	296 (6.74)	4.39
Shawnee Hills	62 (4.10)	1.19	4.80	296 (6.74)	5.67
Statewide	1,503 (100.00)	1.03	2.92	4,389 (100.00)	3.00

<sup>a</sup> - Sum of wildlife management unit totals may not equal statewide total due to rounding error.

<sup>b</sup> - Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 13. Statewide sample sizes for 1986-87 post-season mail survey of Illinois resident trappers (n = 917).

Species	Total effective trappers	Percent effective trappers	Total season catch
Muskrat	671	73.17	27,003
Mink	418	45.58	1,563
Raccoon	715	77.97	10,051
Opossum	505	55.07	3,854
Red fox	167	18.21	562
Gray fox	78	8.51	143
Beaver	224	24.43	976
Striped skunk	142	15.49	388
Weasel	16	1.74	18
Coyote	122	13.30	356

Table 14. Estimated number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total trapper harvest by species in Illinois for 1986-87 season based on post-season trapper mail survey (n = 917).

Species	Estimated number of effective trappers		Estimated average season catch		Estimated total harvest	
Muskrat	8,268 <sub>±</sub>	331 <sup>a</sup> <sub>-</sub>	40.24 <sub>±</sub>	4.19 <sup>a</sup> <sub>-</sub>	332,704 <sub>±</sub>	37,760 <sup>a</sup> <sub>-</sub>
Mink	5,150 <sub>±</sub>	372	3.74 <sub>±</sub>	0.56	19,261 <sub>±</sub>	3,269
Raccoon	8,810 <sub>±</sub>	309	14.06 <sub>±</sub>	1.23	123,869 <sub>±</sub>	11,851
Opossum	6,222 <sub>±</sub>	371	7.63 <sub>±</sub>	0.75	47,474 <sub>±</sub>	5,515
Red fox	2,058 <sub>±</sub>	288	3.37 <sub>±</sub>	0.81	6,935 <sub>±</sub>	1,955
Gray fox	961 <sub>±</sub>	208	1.83 <sub>±</sub>	0.29	1,759 <sub>±</sub>	478
Beaver	2,760 <sub>±</sub>	321	4.36 <sub>±</sub>	0.76	12,034 <sub>±</sub>	2,552
Striped skunk	1,750 <sub>±</sub>	270	2.73 <sub>±</sub>	0.44	4,778 <sub>±</sub>	1,075
Weasel	197 <sub>±</sub>	97	1.13 <sub>±</sub>	0.17	223 <sub>±</sub>	115
Coyote	1,503 <sub>±</sub>	253	2.92 <sub>±</sub>	0.75	4,389 <sub>±</sub>	1,361

<sup>a</sup>  
- 95% confidence interval.

Table 15. Distribution of harvest among effective trappers for 8 species of furbearers in Illinois, 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey.

Total season catch	Percentage of effective trappers for species							
	Mink (418) <sup>a</sup>	Opossum (505)	Red fox (167)	Gray fox (78)	Beaver (224)	Striped skunk (142)	Weasel (16)	Coyote (122)
1	38.76	13.66	50.89	57.69	31.70	45.07	87.50	54.10
2	21.29	14.46	19.76	23.08	16.96	21.13	12.50	18.03
3	11.48	9.70	7.18	8.98	16.07	12.68	..	5.73
4	7.66	10.50	3.59	1.28	7.14	4.23	..	9.84
5	4.07	8.51	4.19	6.41	4.91	5.64	..	3.28
6	3.11	7.13	1.20	2.56	4.46	2.11	..	..
7	1.67	4.36	1.80	..	4.02	..	..	..
8	1.91	3.56	2.99	..	2.68	3.52	..	1.64
9	2.39	1.98	2.40	..	0.89	1.41	..	0.82
10	1.91	5.74	0.60	..	3.57	0.70	..	0.82
11	0.48	1.19	..	..	0.45	0.70	..	..
12	0.72	3.37	0.60	..	0.89	2.11	..	2.46
13	..	0.59	..	..	1.34	0.70	..	..
14	0.96	1.39	1.20	..	0.45	..	..	..
15	0.72	2.57	0.60	..	1.34	..	..	..
16-20	0.96	4.16	0.60	..	1.79	..	..	1.64
21-25	1.19	2.38	0.60	..	..	..	..	0.82
>25	0.72	4.75	1.80	..	1.34	..	..	0.82

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses indicate sample size for species.

Table 16. Distribution of pelt sales by trappers for 10 species of furbearers in Illinois, 1986-87 season, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 858).

Species	Total number of pelts sold	Total number of pelts sold in Illinois	Percent sold in Illinois	Total number of pelts sold outside Illinois	Percent sold outside Illinois
Muskrat	25,154	24,118	95.88	1,036	4.12
Mink	1,456	1,352	92.86	104	7.14
Raccoon	9,382	8,650	92.20	732	7.80
Opossum	3,133	2,888	92.18	245	7.82
Red fox	504	428	84.92	76	15.08
Gray fox	128	111	86.72	17	13.28
Beaver	883	734	83.13	149	16.87
Striped skunk	148	134	90.54	14	9.46
Weasel	11	11	100.00	0	0.00
Coyote	320	262	81.88	58	18.12
Total or Average	41,119	38,688	94.09	2,431	5.91

Table 17. Summary for non-target catches by trappers in Illinois, 1986-87 season, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 916).

Species	Number of trappers catching species	Total number caught	Average number caught	Estimated percent of all trappers catching species	Estimated total caught by all trappers
Cat	151	363	2.40	16.48	4,469
Dog	76	126	1.66	8.30	1,557
Squirrel	32	66	2.06	3.49	812
Rabbit	22	41	1.86	2.40	504
Rat	5	8	1.60	0.55	99
Mouse	3	3	1.00	0.33	37
Crow	21	37	1.76	2.29	455
Blue jay	9	12	1.33	0.98	147
Hawk	5	7	1.40	0.55	87
Owl	6	6	1.00	0.66	75
Bird - Unspecified	57	105	1.84	6.22	1,293
Other (e.g. turtle, fish)	4	7	1.75	0.44	87
Total	282	781	2.77	30.79	9,622

Table 18. Summary of fur hunting activities of trappers in Illinois, 1986-87 season, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 858).

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	186	2,093	11.25	21.68	27,558
Opossum	56	272	4.86	6.53	3,586
Red fox	34	76	2.24	3.96	1,002
Gray fox	7	10	1.43	0.82	132
Striped skunk	5	19	3.80	0.58	249
Coyote	62	206	3.32	7.23	2,712
All species	250	2,676	10.70	29.14	35,239

Table 19. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 730; 747; 696; 691; 646; 641; 555; 671).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>NORTHERN ZONE</b>					
1979-80	9,224 (62.19) <sup>a</sup> -	11.27	39.63 (+6.48) <sup>b</sup> -	365,592 (77.10) <sup>a</sup> -	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
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE</b>					
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
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
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

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

<sup>b</sup> 95% confidence interval.



Table 20. Summary of mink trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 419; 501; 471; 445; 439; 410; 324; 418).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>NORTHERN ZONE</b>					
1979-80	5,040 (59.19) <sup>a</sup> -	6.16	2.86 (+0.43) <sup>b</sup> -	14,428 (61.17) <sup>a</sup> -	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
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE</b>					
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
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
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

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

<sup>b</sup> 95% confidence interval.

Table 21. Summary of raccoon trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 755; 756; 815; 816; 753; 727; 653; 715).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>NORTHERN ZONE</b>					
1979-80	9,265 (60.40) <sup>a</sup> -	11.32	9.86 (+1.36) <sup>b</sup> -	91,338 (64.51) <sup>a</sup> -	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
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE</b>					
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
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
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

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

<sup>b</sup> 95% confidence interval.

Table 22. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 374; 446; 549; 542; 484; 522; 431; 505).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>NORTHERN ZONE</b>					
1979-80	3,413 (44.92) <sup>a</sup> -	4.17	2.68 (+0.38) <sup>b</sup> -	9,151 (33.36) <sup>a</sup> -	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
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE</b>					
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
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
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

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

<sup>b</sup> 95% confidence interval.

Table 23. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 175; 180; 187; 190; 173; 210; 171; 167).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>NORTHERN ZONE</b>					
1979-80	2,052	(57.71) <sup>a</sup> -	4.20	8,616	(68.06) <sup>a</sup> -
1980-81	2,220	(65.00)	3.02	6,694	(68.54)
1981-82	1,932	(60.43)	2.95	5,694	(64.53)
1982-83	1,757	(62.11)	3.27	5,742	(66.55)
1983-84	1,158	(57.80)	3.05	3,538	(63.28)
1984-85	1,635	(61.43)	3.93	6,419	(76.82)
1985-86	910	(53.22)	4.79	4,364	(69.54)
1986-87	1,195	(58.08)	3.94	4,714	(67.97)
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE</b>					
1979-80	1,504	(42.29)	2.69	4,043	(31.94)
1980-81	1,195	(35.00)	2.57	3,073	(31.46)
1981-82	1,265	(39.57)	2.47	3,130	(35.47)
1982-83	1,072	(37.89)	2.69	2,886	(33.45)
1983-84	846	(42.20)	2.42	2,053	(36.72)
1984-85	1,026	(38.57)	1.89	1,937	(23.18)
1985-86	800	(46.78)	2.39	1,912	(30.46)
1986-87	863	(41.92)	2.57	2,221	(32.03)
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
1979-80	3,556	2.43	3.56	12,659	8.67
1980-81	3,415	2.34	2.86	9,767	6.69
1981-82	3,197	2.19	2.76	8,824	6.04
1982-83	2,829	1.94	3.05	8,628	5.91
1983-84	2,004	1.37	2.79	5,591	3.83
1984-85	2,661	1.82	3.14	8,356	5.72
1985-86	1,710	1.17	3.67	6,276	4.30
1986-87	2,058	1.41	3.37	6,935	4.75

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

<sup>b</sup> 95% confidence interval.

Table 24. Summary of gray fox trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 146; 139; 145; 130; 111; 102; 103; 78).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>NORTHERN ZONE</b>					
1979-80	1,301 (43.84) <sup>a</sup> -	1.59	1.48 (+0.20) <sup>b</sup> -	1,931 (32.87) <sup>a</sup> -	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
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE</b>					
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
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
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

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

<sup>b</sup> 95% confidence interval.

Table 25. Summary of beaver trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 131; 158; 142; 129; 117; 166; 158; 224).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>NORTHERN ZONE</b>					
1979-80	1,849 (69.47) <sup>a</sup> -	2.26	3.52 (+0.88) <sup>b</sup> -	6,500 (72.89) <sup>a</sup> -	7.94
1980-81	2,031 (67.72)	2.48	3.41 (+0.78)	6,934 (61.66)	8.47
1981-82	1,693 (69.72)	2.07	2.92 (+0.59)	4,938 (71.36)	6.03
1982-83	1,415 (73.64)	1.73	3.94 (+0.97)	5,575 (83.11)	6.81
1983-84	1,042 (76.92)	1.27	4.06 (+0.90)	4,223 (82.02)	5.16
1984-85	1,521 (72.29)	1.86	3.93 (+0.82)	5,981 (79.19)	7.31
1985-86	1,109 (70.25)	1.36	3.60 (+0.71)	4,000 (62.40)	4.89
1986-87	1,824 (66.07)	2.23	4.45 (+0.93)	8,125 (67.52)	9.93
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE</b>					
1979-80	813 (30.53)	1.27	2.97 (+1.19)	2,418 (27.11)	3.76
1980-81	968 (32.28)	1.51	4.45 (+1.53)	4,312 (38.34)	6.71
1981-82	735 (30.28)	1.14	2.70 (+0.83)	1,982 (28.64)	3.09
1982-83	507 (26.36)	0.79	2.24 (+0.67)	1,133 (16.89)	1.76
1983-84	313 (23.08)	0.49	2.96 (+1.11)	926 (17.98)	1.44
1984-85	583 (27.71)	0.91	2.70 (+0.72)	1,572 (20.81)	2.45
1985-86	470 (29.75)	0.73	5.13 (+1.46)	2,411 (37.60)	3.75
1986-87	936 (33.93)	1.46	4.17 (+1.31)	3,909 (32.48)	6.09
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
1979-80	2,662	1.82	3.35 (+0.71)	8,918	6.11
1980-81	2,999	2.05	3.75 (+0.73)	11,246	7.70
1981-82	2,428	1.66	2.85 (+0.48)	6,920	4.74
1982-83	1,922	1.32	3.49 (+0.74)	6,708	4.59
1983-84	1,355	0.93	3.80 (+0.74)	5,149	3.52
1984-85	2,104	1.44	3.59 (+0.63)	7,553	5.17
1985-86	1,579	1.08	4.06 (+0.67)	6,411	4.39
1986-87	2,760	1.89	4.36 (+0.76)	12,034	8.24

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

<sup>b</sup> 95% confidence interval.

Table 26. Summary of striped skunk trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 258; 240; 179; 215; 128; 147; 154; 142).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>NORTHERN ZONE</b>					
1979-80	3,392 (64.73) <sup>a</sup> -	4.14	2.85 (+0.35) <sup>b</sup> -	9,664 (61.26) <sup>a</sup> -	11.81
1980-81	2,940 (64.58)	3.59	3.10 (+0.58)	9,118 (63.79)	11.14
1981-82	2,000 (65.36)	2.44	2.93 (+0.55)	5,871 (60.71)	7.17
1982-83	2,220 (69.30)	2.71	3.28 (+0.71)	7,278 (71.91)	8.89
1983-84	985 (66.41)	1.20	3.48 (+0.81)	3,432 (78.72)	4.19
1984-85	1,305 (70.07)	1.59	3.00 (+0.71)	3,914 (76.11)	4.78
1985-86	970 (62.99)	1.19	3.39 (+0.78)	3,296 (72.79)	4.03
1986-87	1,134 (64.79)	1.39	2.95 (+0.59)	3,337 (69.85)	4.08
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE</b>					
1979-80	1,849 (35.27)	2.88	3.31 (+0.65)	6,111 (38.74)	9.51
1980-81	1,612 (35.42)	2.51	3.21 (+0.92)	5,175 (36.21)	8.06
1981-82	1,060 (34.64)	1.65	3.58 (+0.92)	3,799 (39.29)	5.91
1982-83	983 (30.70)	1.53	2.89 (+0.74)	2,843 (28.09)	4.43
1983-84	498 (33.59)	0.78	1.86 (+0.36)	928 (21.28)	1.44
1984-85	558 (29.93)	0.87	2.20 (+0.65)	1,228 (23.89)	1.91
1985-86	570 (37.01)	0.89	2.16 (+0.39)	1,232 (27.21)	1.92
1986-87	616 (35.21)	0.96	2.34 (+0.60)	1,441 (30.15)	2.24
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
1979-80	5,241	3.59	3.01 (+0.32)	15,775	10.80
1980-81	4,552	3.12	3.14 (+0.49)	14,293	9.78
1981-82	3,060	2.09	3.16 (+0.48)	9,670	6.62
1982-83	3,203	2.19	3.16 (+0.54)	10,121	6.93
1983-84	1,483	1.02	2.94 (+0.57)	4,360	2.98
1984-85	1,863	1.28	2.76 (+0.53)	5,142	3.52
1985-86	1,540	1.05	2.94 (+0.52)	4,528	3.10
1986-87	1,750	1.20	2.73 (+0.44)	4,778	3.27

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

<sup>b</sup> 95% confidence interval.

Table 27. Summary of weasel trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 16; 17; 11; 16; 16; 18; 13; 16).

Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>NORTHERN ZONE</b>					
1979-80	163 (50.00) <sup>a</sup> -	0.20	1.00 (+0.00) <sup>b</sup> -	163 (47.06) <sup>a</sup> -	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
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE</b>					
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
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
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

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

<sup>b</sup> 95% confidence interval.



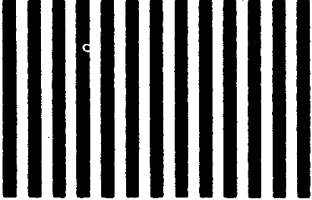
Table 28. Summary of coyote trapper and harvest data for furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1979-80 through 1986-87, from post-season resident trapper mail survey (n = 102; 101; 129; 116; 147; 143; 125; 122).


Area/Season	Estimated number of effective trappers	Estimated number of effective trappers/100 km <sup>2</sup>	Average season catch	Estimated total trapper harvest	Estimated trapper harvest/100 km <sup>2</sup>
NORTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	894	1.09	4.86	4,350	5.32
1980-81	797	0.97	4.10	3,264	3.99
1981-82	855	1.04	1.92	1,644	2.01
1982-83	551	0.67	1.92	1,059	1.29
1983-84	741	0.91	2.77	2,050	2.50
1984-85	925	1.13	2.23	2,064	2.52
1985-86	640	0.78	2.98	1,911	2.34
1986-87	678	0.83	3.38	2,293	2.80
SOUTHERN ZONE					
1979-80	1,179	1.84	2.52	2,968	4.62
1980-81	1,120	1.74	2.19	2,449	3.81
1981-82	1,350	2.10	2.70	3,648	5.68
1982-83	1,177	1.83	2.52	2,967	4.62
1983-84	962	1.50	2.39	2,293	3.57
1984-85	887	1.38	2.89	2,557	3.98
1985-86	610	0.95	3.52	2,151	3.35
1986-87	825	1.28	2.54	2,096	3.26
STATEWIDE					
1979-80	2,073	1.42	3.53	7,318	5.01
1980-81	1,917	1.31	2.98	5,713	3.91
1981-82	2,205	1.51	2.40	5,292	3.62
1982-83	1,728	1.18	2.33	4,026	2.76
1983-84	1,703	1.17	2.55	4,343	2.97
1984-85	1,812	1.24	2.55	4,621	3.16
1985-86	1,250	0.86	3.25	4,062	2.78
1986-87	1,503	1.03	2.92	4,389	3.00

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide totals.

<sup>b</sup> 95% confidence interval.

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Figure 1. Mail survey address card issued to license vendors in 1986-87 post-season trapper mail survey.

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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 1986-87 post-season trapper mail survey.



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

1

1986-87

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 1985-86 season, there were 423,538 pelts sold by Illinois fur-takers for a value to them of \$3,685,860. We need information on the trapped portion of the catch for the 1986-87 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.

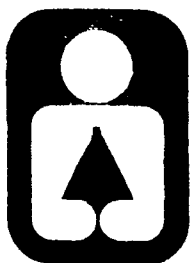
Please take a few minutes and fill out the questionnaire. If you do not remember exact figures, please give your best estimate. Also, if you trapped in partnership with another person, list only your half of the catch. Drop the completed questionnaire in the mail; no postage is required. Please reply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

Yours for better trapping.

Sincerely,

George Hubert, Jr.  
Furbearer Biologist

Illinois



Department of Conservation

life and land together

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

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 resource.

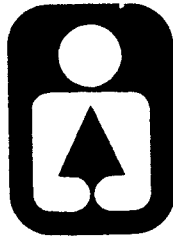
Please fill out the form completely and return it even if you did not trap or were not successful. If you trapped in partnership with another person, please list only your half of the catch. No postage is required to return the completed questionnaire. Simply fill it out and drop it in the mail.

Your prompt attention will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

George Hubert, Jr.  
Furbearer Biologist

Figure 4. Letter of transmittal sent with first follow-up mailing in 1986-87 post-season trapper mail survey.



Illinois  
Department of  
Conservation  
life and land together

605 STATE OFFICE BUILDING • 400 SOUTH SPRING STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706

CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

3

Dear Illinois Trapper:

This is to remind you that we still would 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  
Division of Wildlife Resources

Figure 5. Letter of transmittal sent with second follow-up mailing in 1986-87 post-season trapper mail survey.

**NO**  
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 United States



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POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

**Illinois Department of Conservation**  
**Division of Wildlife Resources — Furbearer**  
**Lincoln Tower Plaza**  
**524 South 2nd Street**  
**Springfield, Illinois 62794-9990**  
**Attn: George Hubert, Jr.**

### FURBEARER TRAPPING SURVEY 1986-1987 SEASON

1. Did you trap for furbearers in Illinois during the 1986-87 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. Estimate your total trapping expenses for the 1986-87 season (Traps, lures, gas, license, etc.):  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you think that trapper education training should be mandatory for all trappers, regardless of age? Yes  No
6. Please fill in **all three blanks** for each kind of furbearer you trapped in Illinois during the 1986-1987 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 have any accidental catches during the 1986-87 season (birds, dogs, cats, etc.)? Yes  No  If yes, please list what kind and how many: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Did you also HUNT furbearers with gun and/or dogs during the 1986-87? Yes  No  If yes, please give the number of each kind taken:  
 Raccoon \_\_\_\_\_ Red Fox \_\_\_\_\_ Skunk \_\_\_\_\_  
 Opossum \_\_\_\_\_ Gray Fox \_\_\_\_\_ Coyote \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!!!  
NO POSTAGE REQUIRED**

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois  
2800-11-86  
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 voluntary. This form has been approved by the State Forms Management Center.

IL422-0387

Figure 6. Questionnaire form for post-season mail survey of Illinois trappers, 1986-87 season.

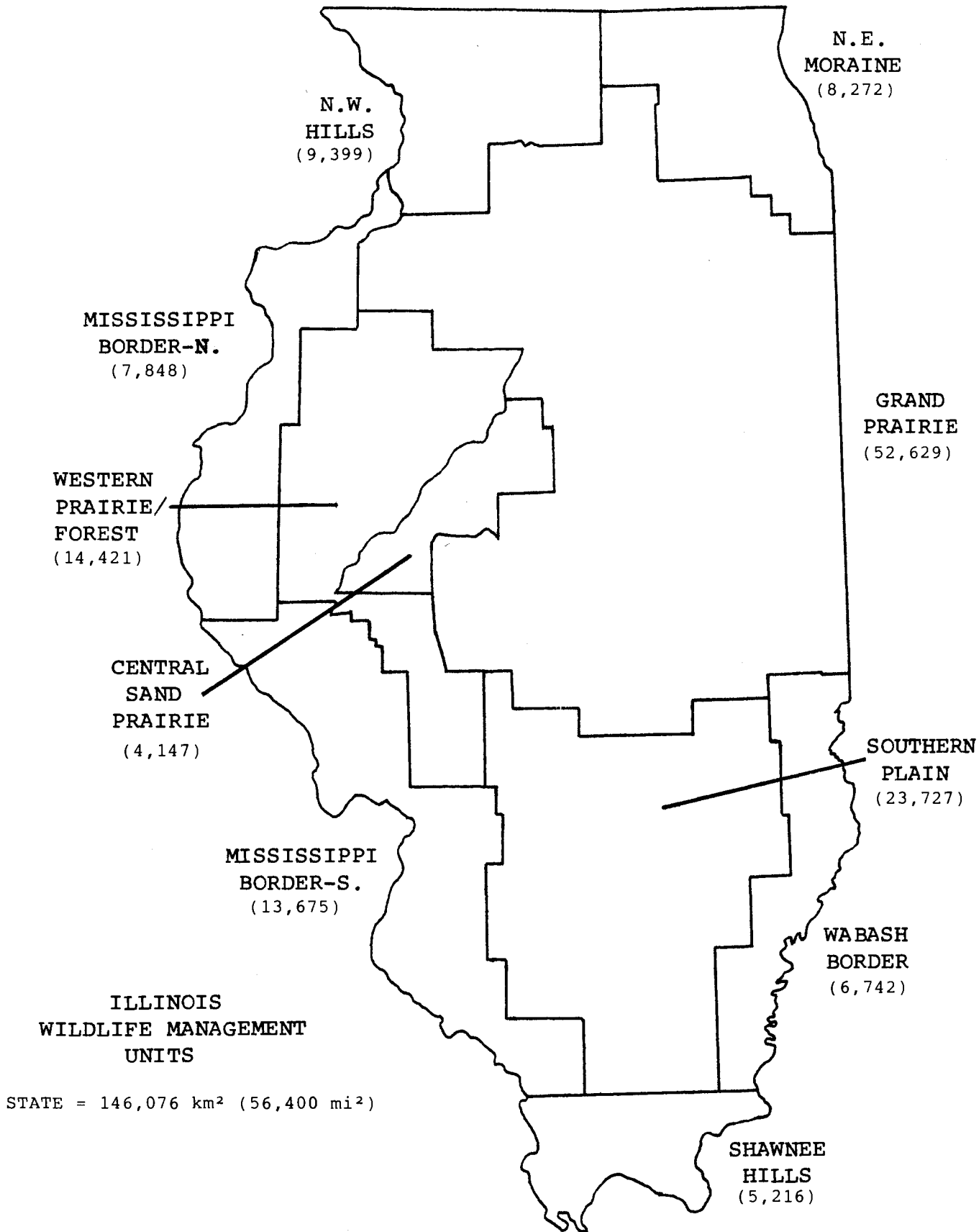


Figure 7. Area (km<sup>2</sup>) of wildlife management units in Illinois.





Figure 3. Furbearer management zones for the 1986-87 season.

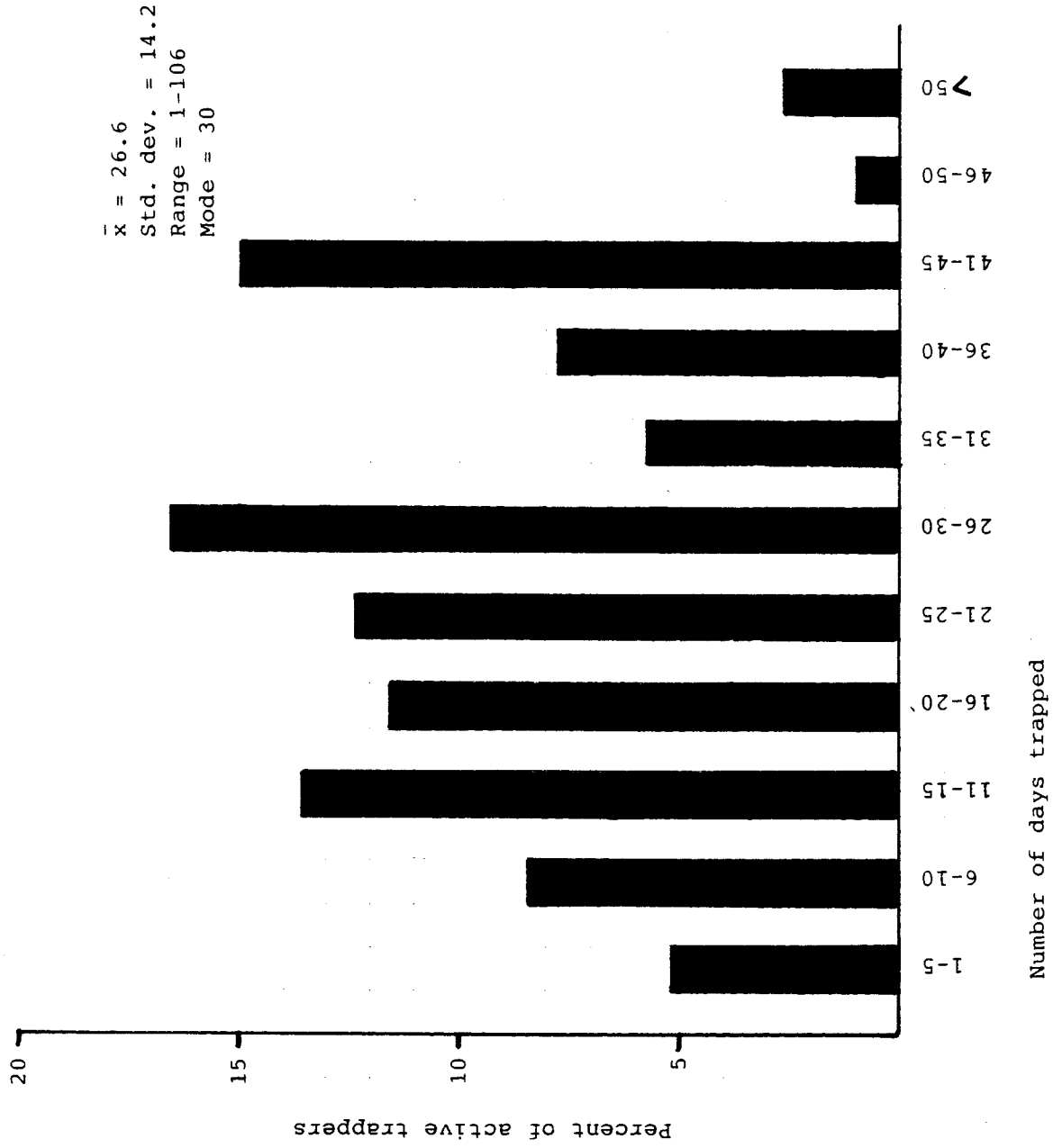


Figure 9. Distribution of days trapped per active trapper in Illinois, 1986-87 season (n = 822).

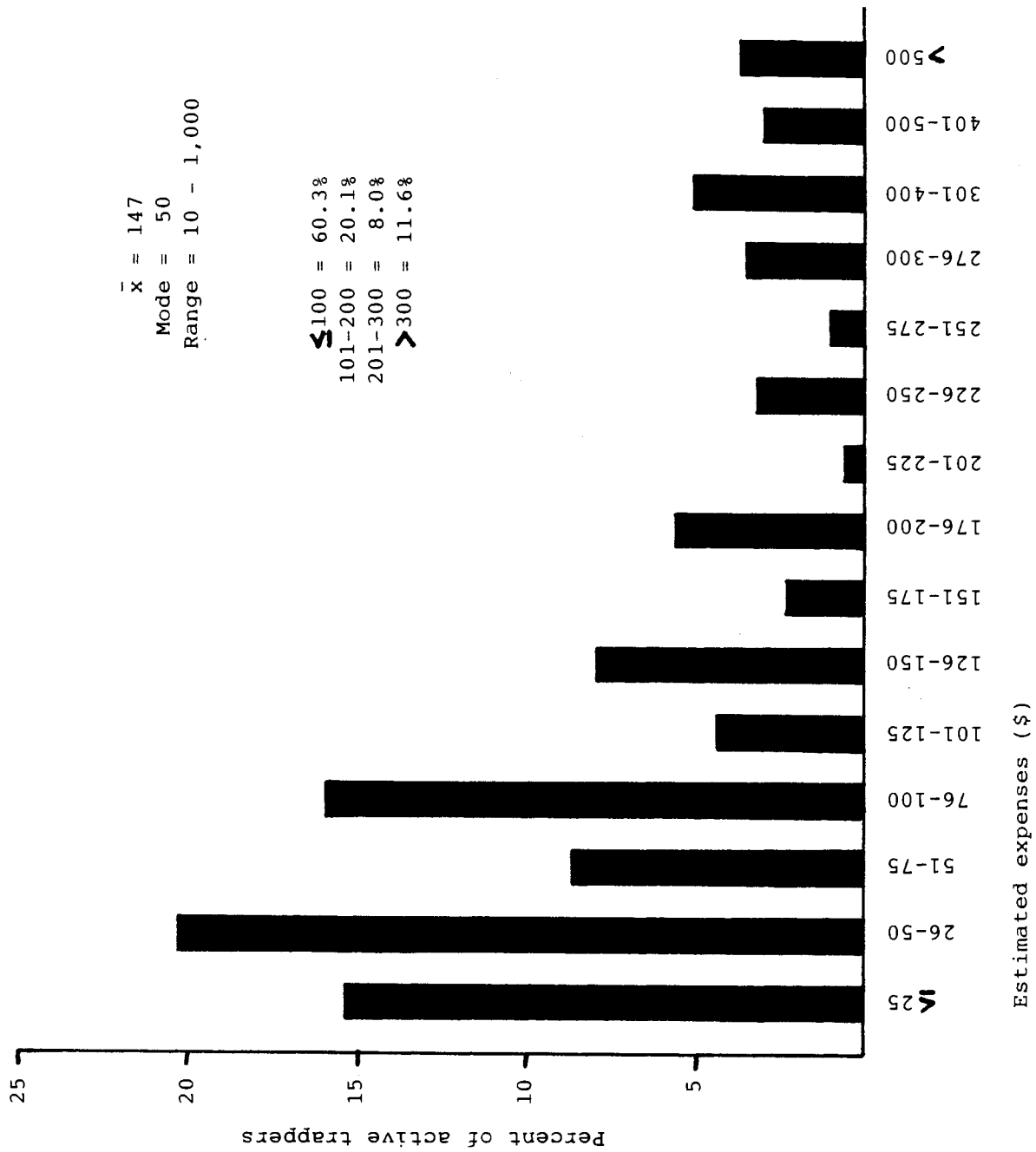


Figure 10. Estimated expenses (\$) of active trappers in Illinois, 1986-87 season (n = 818).

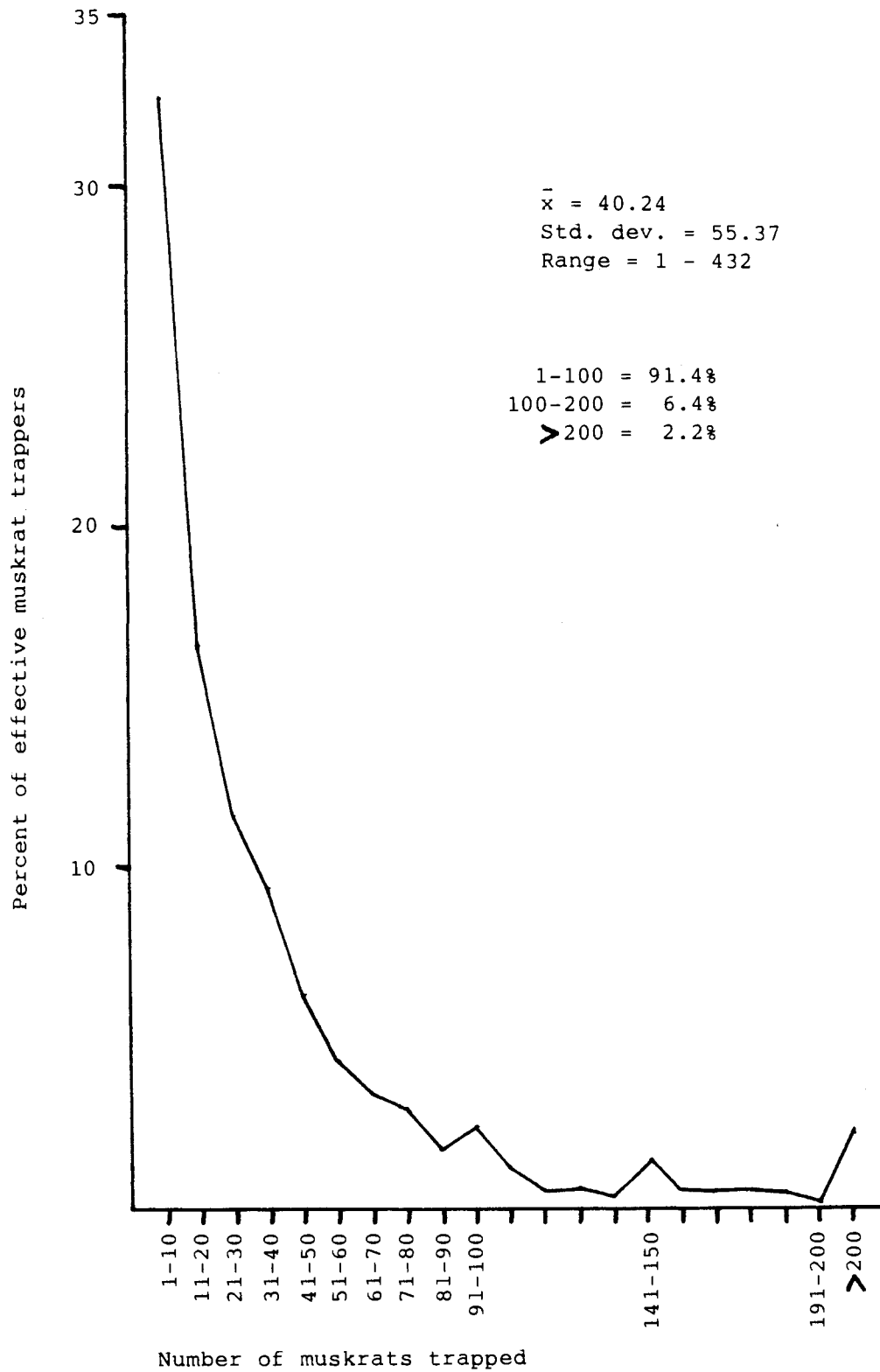


Figure 11. Distribution of muskrats trapped per effective muskrat trapper in Illinois, 1986-87 season (n = 671).

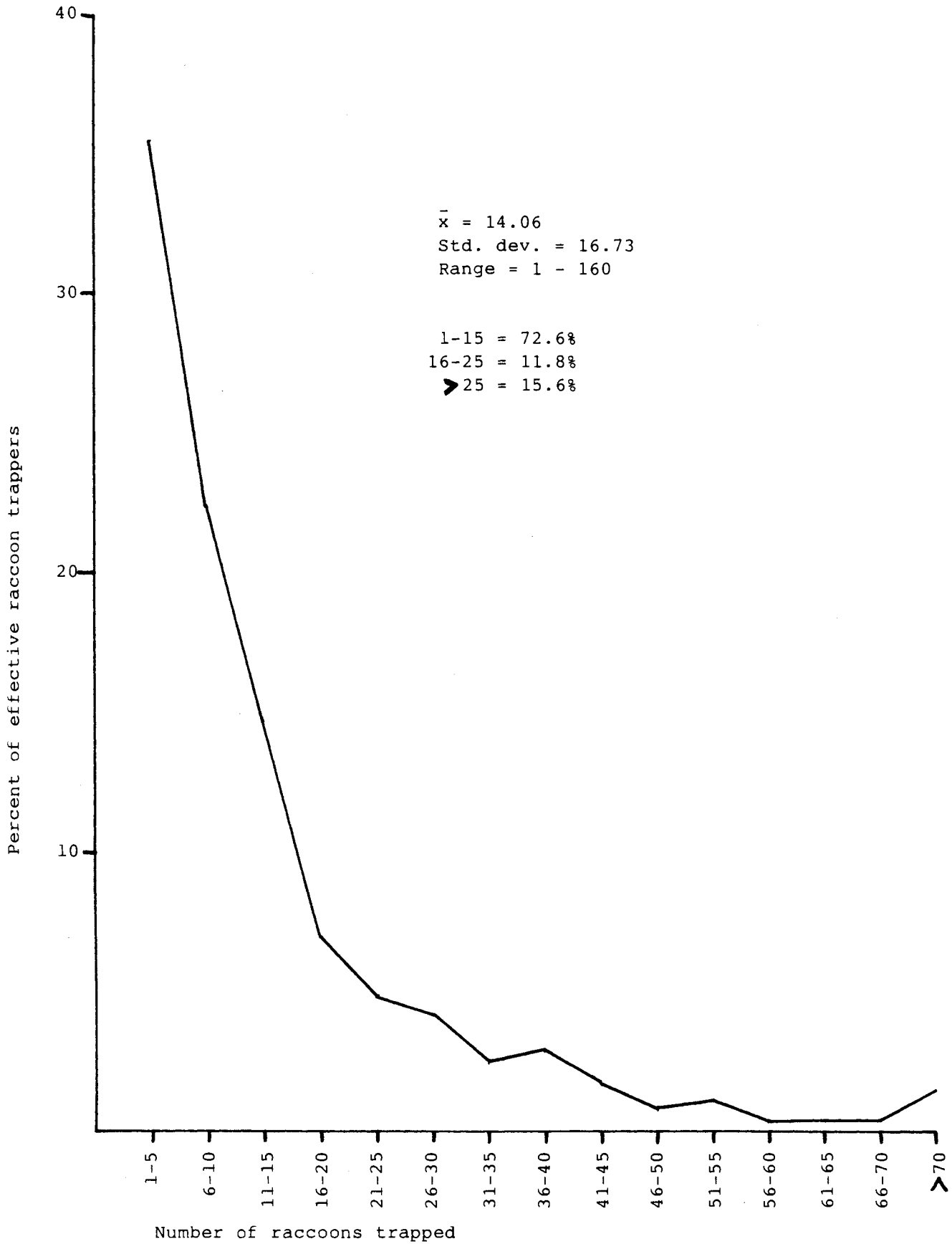


Figure 12. Distribution of number of raccoons trapped per effective raccoon trapper in Illinois, 1986-87 season (n = 715).



Figure 13. Existing furbearer management zones (based on county boundaries) used to prepare 1979-80 through 1986-87 season data summaries.



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TRAPPER HARVEST SURVEY SPRINGFIELD, ILL  
1986/87



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