

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
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MICHIGAN FURBEARER CATCH BY TRAPPERS, 1982-83\*  
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This report presents estimates of trapper catch and estimates of pelt values of some of Michigan's important furbearers for the 1982-83 trapping seasons. The estimates are computed from data given in response to mail survey questionnaires sent to a randomly selected sample of holders of trapping licenses and senior hunting licenses, both of which have authority to trap.

A total of 1,541 trapping license buyers were sent questionnaires (Appendix A). A total of 1,153 were returned and of these 7% stated they did not trap. Questionnaires were also sent to a sample of 853 senior hunting license buyers. A total of 794 responses were received of which 7% did not trap.

Furbearer catch data for the last three trapping seasons is presented in Table 1. Also listed is the number of trappers and average take per trapper for 12 species. This information is tabulated by Region and State total. Furbearer catch for the 1970-71, 1980-81 and 1981-82 seasons is presented in Table 2.

Furbearer harvest values by species are listed in Table 3. The number of animals trapped, average pelt price, and estimated total harvest values are presented for 12 species of furbearers. For the 1980-81 and 1981-82 seasons the values were taken from fur auction records. Fur values for the 1982-83 season were obtained from a special fur value survey.

The species included in this report are the muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*), mink (*Mustela vison*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), weasels (*Mustela* sp.), red fox (*Vulpes fulva*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), and river otter (*Lutra canadensis*).

Michigan trappers reported an average of 31 days of trapping and an average of \$158 for expenses associated with trapping during the 1982-83 trapping seasons. This amounts to totals of \$2,105,694 for expenses, and 410,382 days of trapping effort for 13,350 trappers.

The estimated value of the catch in the 1982-83 seasons was \$4,355,583. This compares with an estimated value of \$8,627,416 for the 1981-82 seasons and \$9,851,365 for 1980-81.

\*A contribution of Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration, Michigan Project W-124-R.



TABLE 1.

1982-83 FURBEARER CATCH BY TRAPPERS  
WITH COMPARISONS TO 1980-81 AND 1981-82 SEASONS

	Number of Trappers			Number of Animals Trapped			Average Take Per Trapper		
	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Muskrat									
U.P.	2,830	2,670	1,576	144,610	118,050	54,274	51.1	44.2	34.4
N.L.P.	3,150	3,640	2,589	136,780	210,280	124,713	43.4	57.8	48.2
S.L.P.	8,070	6,970	6,443	414,750	428,490	372,060	51.4	61.5	57.8
TOTAL	14,050	13,280	10,608	696,140	756,820	551,047	49.5	57.0	51.2
Mink									
U.P.	2,360	2,150	1,347	6,070	15,120	5,707	2.6	7.0	4.2
N.L.P.	2,150	2,620	1,754	10,180	13,730	7,571	4.7	5.2	4.3
S.L.P.	3,640	3,510	3,502	6,730	11,920	10,843	1.8	3.4	3.1
TOTAL	8,150	8,280	6,603	22,980	40,770	24,121	2.8	4.9	3.7
Raccoon									
U.P.	1,480	1,610	1,210	7,390	7,910	5,544	5.0	4.9	4.6
N.L.P.	2,590	3,020	2,688	20,240	27,240	24,623	7.8	9.0	9.2
S.L.P.	5,360	5,240	5,454	32,770	34,760	42,686	6.1	6.6	8.0
TOTAL	9,430	9,870	9,352	60,400	69,910	72,853	6.4	7.1	7.8
Opossum									
U.P.	*	120	22	*	50	0	*	0.4	0.0
N.L.P.	480	1,280	1,081	3,030	7,300	6,113	6.3	5.7	5.7
S.L.P.	2,780	3,730	3,577	20,230	37,720	33,484	7.2	10.1	9.4
TOTAL	3,300	5,130	4,680	23,440	45,070	39,597	7.1	8.8	8.5
Skunk									
U.P.	420	500	510	1,750	4,150	2,693	4.2	8.3	5.3
N.L.P.	1,170	1,870	1,266	13,450	20,580	10,777	11.5	11.0	8.5
S.L.P.	1,850	2,270	2,458	10,020	12,010	10,862	5.4	5.3	4.4
TOTAL	3,440	4,640	4,234	25,220	36,740	24,332	7.3	7.9	5.7
Weasels									
U.P.	230	250	188	720	570	399	3.1	2.3	2.1
N.L.P.	210	340	211	300	960	476	1.4	2.8	2.2
S.L.P.	260	480	377	460	1,360	632	1.8	2.8	1.7
TOTAL	700	1,070	776	1,480	2,890	1,507	2.1	2.7	1.9
Red Fox									
U.P.	760	790	709	1,550	2,200	2,328	2.0	2.8	3.3
N.L.P.	1,580	2,030	1,466	7,220	10,880	5,420	4.6	5.4	3.7
S.L.P.	3,600	3,750	3,885	16,160	20,650	18,847	4.5	5.5	4.8
TOTAL	5,940	6,570	6,060	24,930	33,690	26,595	4.2	5.1	4.4
Gray Fox									
U.P.		80	33		40	11		0.5	0.3
N.L.P.	†	130	78	†	320	100	†	2.5	1.3
S.L.P.		1,070	915		3,190	1,086		3.0	1.2
TOTAL		1,280	1,026		3,550	1,197		2.8	1.2

\*Indicates a Region where too few of a species are trapped for reliable estimates.

Estimates are included in statewide totals.

†No survey for this species in this year.

TABLE 1 Cont'd.

1982-83 FURBEARER CATCH BY TRAPPERS  
WITH COMPARISONS TO 1980-81 AND 1981-82 SEASONS

	Number of Trappers			Number of Animals Trapped			Average Take Per Trapper		
	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Coyote									
U.P.	990	1,170	676	2,340	4,380	2,694	2.4	3.7	4.0
N.L.P.	480	700	443	510	3,220	776	1.1	4.6	1.8
S.L.P.	20	40	89	20	70	22	1.0	1.8	0.2
TOTAL	1,490	1,910	1,208	2,870	7,670	3,492	1.9	4.0	3.0
Bobcat									
U.P.	470	360	357	420	340	485	0.9	0.9	1.4
N.L.P.	0	0	22	0	0	55	0.0	0.0	2.5
S.L.P.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	470	360	379	420	340	540	0.9	0.9	1.4
Beaver									
U.P.		880	802		6,980	9,535		7.9	11.9
N.L.P.	+	1,050	934	+	7,060	8,643	+	6.7	9.2
S.L.P.		130	210		110	709		0.9	3.4
TOTAL		2,060	1,946		14,150	18,887		6.9	9.7
Otter									
U.P.	600	450	388	510	350	1,064	0.9	0.8	2.7
N.L.P.	380	380	390	210	200	357	0.6	0.5	0.9
S.L.P.	0	0	11	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	980	830	789	720	550	1,421	0.7	0.7	1.8

\*Indicates a Region where too few of a species are trapped for reliable estimates.  
Estimates are included in statewide totals.

+No survey for this species in this year.



TABLE 2.

1982-83 FURBEARER CATCH BY TRAPPERS  
WITH COMPARISONS TO 1970-71 AND 1980-81 SEASONS

	Number of Trappers			Number of Animals Trapped			Average Take Per Trapper		
	1970-71	1980-81	1981-82	1970-71	1980-81	1981-82	1970-71	1980-81	1981-82
Muskrat									
U.P.	1,050	2,830	2,670	49,860	144,610	118,050	47.5	51.1	44.2
N.L.P.	1,190	3,150	3,640	66,260	136,780	210,280	55.7	43.4	57.8
S.L.P.	4,000	8,070	6,970	232,280	414,750	428,490	58.1	51.4	61.5
TOTAL	6,240	14,050	13,280	348,400	696,140	756,820	55.8	49.5	57.0
Mink									
U.P.	690	2,360	2,150	3,490	6,070	15,120	5.1	2.6	7.0
N.L.P.	560	2,150	2,620	3,450	10,180	13,730	6.2	4.7	5.2
S.L.P.	1,330	3,640	3,510	3,110	6,730	11,920	2.3	1.8	3.4
TOTAL	2,580	8,150	8,280	10,050	22,980	40,770	3.9	2.8	4.9
Raccoon									
U.P.	450	1,480	1,610	1,470	7,390	7,910	3.3	5.0	4.9
N.L.P.	570	2,590	3,020	3,420	20,240	27,240	6.0	7.8	9.0
S.L.P.	1,820	5,360	5,240	8,460	32,770	34,760	4.6	6.1	6.6
TOTAL	2,840	9,430	9,870	13,350	60,400	69,910	4.7	6.4	7.1
Opossum									
U.P.	*	*	120	*	*	50	*	*	0.4
N.L.P.	190	480	1,280	1,110	3,030	7,300	5.8	6.3	5.7
S.L.P.	1,440	2,780	3,730	7,580	20,230	37,720	5.3	7.2	10.1
TOTAL	1,630	3,300	5,130	8,690	23,440	45,070	5.3	7.1	8.8
Skunk									
U.P.	180	420	500	2,040	1,750	4,150	11.3	4.2	8.3
N.L.P.	220	1,170	1,870	2,220	13,450	20,580	10.1	11.5	11.0
S.L.P.	700	1,850	2,270	2,090	10,020	12,010	3.0	5.4	5.3
TOTAL	1,100	3,440	4,640	6,350	25,220	36,740	5.8	7.3	7.9
Weasels									
U.P.	150	230	250	470	720	570	3.1	3.1	2.3
N.L.P.	110	210	340	160	300	960	1.5	1.4	2.8
S.L.P.	220	260	480	350	460	1,360	1.6	1.8	2.8
TOTAL	480	700	1,070	980	1,480	2,890	2.0	2.1	2.7
Red Fox									
U.P.		760	790		1,550	2,220		2.0	2.8
N.L.P.	†	1,580	2,030	†	7,220	10,880	†	4.6	5.4
S.L.P.		3,600	3,750		16,160	20,650		4.5	5.5
TOTAL		5,940	6,570		24,930	33,690		4.2	5.1
Gray Fox									
U.P.			80			40			0.5
N.L.P.	†	†	130	†	†	320	†	†	2.5
S.L.P.			1,070			3,190			3.0
TOTAL			1,280			3,550			2.8

\*Indicates a Region where too few of a species are trapped for reliable estimates.

Estimates are included in statewide totals.

†No survey for this species in this year.

TABLE 3.

1982-83 FURBEARER HARVEST VALUE OF CATCH  
BY TRAPPERS WITH COMPARISONS TO 1980-81 AND 1981-82 SEASONS

	Number of Animals Trapped		Est. Avg. Pelt Value			Est. Total Harvest Value			
	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1980-81*	1981-82*	1982-83**
Muskrat	694,140	756,820	551,047	8.00	4.87	2.65	5,553,120	3,685,713	1,460,275
Mink	22,980	40,770	24,121	24.00	19.91	14.53	551,520	811,731	350,478
Raccoon	60,400	69,910	72,853	32.00	21.67	15.66	1,932,800	1,514,950	1,140,878
Opossum	23,440	45,070	39,597	2.00	1.70	2.00	46,880	76,619	79,194
Skunk	25,220	36,740	24,332	2.00	2.34	2.20	50,440	85,972	53,530
Weasels	1,480	2,890	1,507	0.75	0.70	1.60	1,110	2,023	2,411
Red Fox	24,930	33,690	26,595	57.00	54.00	31.65	1,421,010	1,819,260	841,732
Gray Fox		3,550	1,197		23.00	26.78		81,650	32,056
Coyote	2,870	7,670	3,492	40.00	39.00	23.18	114,800	299,130	80,945
Bobcat	420	340	540	55.00	72.00	66.50	23,100	24,480	35,910
Beaver	12,170	14,150	18,887	10.50	14.72	12.70	127,785	208,288	239,864
Otter	720	550	1,421	40.00	32.00	26.96	28,800	17,600	38,310
TOTAL	868,770	1,012,150	765,589	---	---	---	9,851,365	8,627,416	4,355,583

\*Michigan fur auction records.

\*\*Based upon mail survey data.



APPENDIX A  
MAIL SURVEY DATA

Survey of Trapping License Buyers

	<u>1980-81</u>	<u>1981-82</u>	<u>1982-83</u>
Questionnaires sent	1,086	1,086	1,541
Questionnaires returned	865	849	1,153
Non-deliverable	42	36	67
Non-response	179	201	321
Percent of delivered questionnaire returned	83%	81%	78%
Trapping licenses sold	15,208	15,129	12,780
Percent of licensees not trapping for included species	7%	8%	7%
Estimated trappers	14,120	13,860	11,583

Survey of Senior Hunting License Buyers  
(1980-81, 1981-82, and 1982-83)

Questionnaires sent	664	690	853
Questionnaires returned	591	649	794
Non-deliverable	14	12	19
Non-response	59	29	40
Percent of delivered questionnaires returned	91%	96%	95%
Senior Hunting licenses sold	56,199	62,302	63,769
Percent of licensees not trapping for included species	97%	97%	91%
Estimated trappers	1,520	1,730	1,767