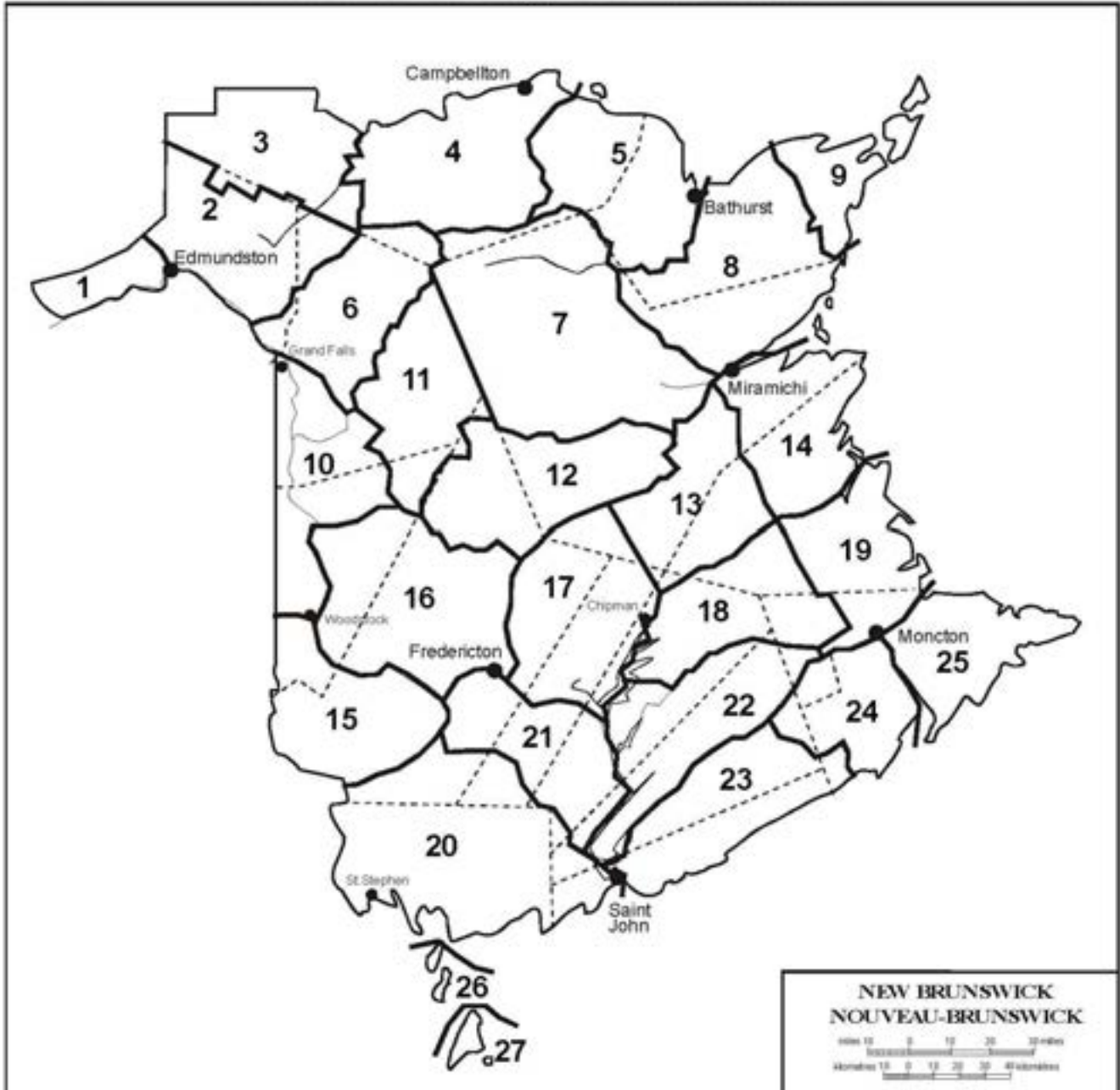


# **NEW BRUNSWICK FURBEARER HARVEST REPORT 2013-2014**



# Wildlife Management Zones Zones d'Aménagement de la Faune



## 2013-2014 New Brunswick Furbearer Harvest Summary

In 2013-2014, there was a 9% increase (+108) in the number of fur harvester's license sold compared to last season, for a total of 1,283 licenses (1,209 fur harvester licenses and 74 minor fur harvester's).

The Trapper Education course also has seen an increase in enrolment over the past few years. In 2013, 194 individuals completed the trapper education course, and as of July this year 242 individuals have completed the course.

The total number of pelts exported from New Brunswick (NB) increased slightly from the previous season, from 55,326 to 55,445 pelts. However, the total value of pelts decreased by 30% from \$1,669,000 to \$1,163,000 for the 2013-2014 season. The decrease in total value was due to a decrease in the overall average pelt value for all species.

### Furbearers of Special Management Concern

The Department of Natural Resources has required trappers to submit the carcasses of bobcat, marten, and otter for the past several years in order to receive a wildlife storage permit and a carcass receipt which allows the trapper to export the pelt. Data collected from these carcasses include sex, weight, reproductive success and age and is used in the management of the species to ensure the populations within NB are not over harvested. The Department appreciates the effort involved in submitting the carcasses and reminds trappers to ensure they indicate on the carcass tag in which Wildlife Management Zone (WMZ) the animal was harvested.

#### **Bobcat**

During the 15 week bobcat harvest season, there were 340 bobcats harvested (149 females and 188 males) with a success rate of 25%. This year's harvest is a decrease of 19% (-82 bobcats) compared to last year's harvest, is a 61% decrease from the 865 bobcats harvested in the 2008/2009 season, and is the lowest harvest since the 1999/00 season (285 bobcats). Since 2009 the number of applicants applying for bobcat tags has increased by 24% from 540 in 2009 to 668 in 2013. In the 2013/2014 harvest, adult female bobcats weighed an average of 16 lbs., while adult males weighed an average of 23 lbs. Harvested female bobcats averaged 3.5 years of age and harvested male bobcats averaged 2.5 years of age. The heaviest bobcat harvested was a 37lb, 9.5 year old male from WMZ 18 and the oldest bobcat harvested was a 12.5 year old, 27lb male from WMZ 12. 30% of female bobcats and 37% of male bobcats were juveniles (less than 1 year old). An examination of the females uteri indicated approximately 81% of adult females were pregnant the previous spring with an average litter size of 2.49 kittens per pregnant female.

#### **Otter**

During the 15 week otter harvest season, there were 745 otter harvested (397 male, 345 female, 3 unknown sex), which is a slight decrease (-6 otter) compared to the 2012/2013 fur harvesting season. Adult female otter weighed an average of 12.6 lbs. while adult males weighed an average of 14.3 lbs. The heaviest otter harvested was a 23lb, 3.5 year-old male from WMZ 25. Harvested female otter averaged 2.1 years old and males averaged 2.3 years old. The oldest male otter was a 14.5 year old that weighed 11 lbs from WMZ 2 and the oldest female was a 12.5 year old that weighed 14lbs from WMZ 25. Approximately 36% of the otter harvested were juveniles and 48% of adult females were previously pregnant with an average litter size of 1.8 pups.

## **Marten**

The two week harvest season for marten saw a 37% decrease (-1061 marten) in harvest compared to the 2012/2013 season, with 1,827 individuals harvested (1,232 males and 595 females). Approximately 50% of the female marten were juveniles, while the oldest female marten harvested was 12.5 years old from wmz 6 and 8. Of the 298 adult females harvested, 71% were previously pregnant with an average litter size of 2.5 kits.

## **Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards Update**

In 1997, Canada and the European Union (EU) committed to the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) to use only certified traps to harvest certain furbearing animals. To comply with the AIHTS, the Fur Harvesting Regulations in New Brunswick have been changing periodically since the 2007 fur harvesting season so that only certified traps are now allowed for the harvesting of beaver, fisher, marten, raccoon, and muskrat. In keeping with AIHTS, starting for the 2015/16 season only traps certified for weasel can be used to harvest weasel; and for the 2016/17 season only traps certified for otter will be allowed for use to harvest otter. For a list of certified trap models for each furbearer species included under the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards and legal for use in New Brunswick, please refer to the certified trap list in the 2014 New Brunswick Hunt & Trap Summary -

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/nr-rn/pdf/en/Wildlife/HuntTrap.pdf>.

## **New for the 2014/2015 Fur Harvesting Season**

- **A 2 week marten harvest season is now permitted in WMZ 15**
- **The fisher squirrel and skunk trapping season in WMZ 15 has been reduced to 2 weeks from 3 weeks to coincide with the new marten harvest season**
- **The start date for hunting skunks under a Fur Harvesting license now begins October 1<sup>st</sup>**
- **The start date for trapping raccoons using certified body-gripping traps now starts the last Saturday in October**
- **The list of certified traps by species regulated for use in New Brunswick has been updated – please see the 2014 Hunt and Trap Summary for the complete list**

## Licences Sold, Pelts Exported, and Total Harvest Value\* for New Brunswick, 1976/77 – 2013/14

YEAR	LICENCES SOLD	TOTAL NO. OF PELTS EXPORTED	TOTAL VALUE* TO FUR HARVESTERS
76-77	2,638	42,069	\$700,318
77-78	3,647	55,813	\$1,121,799
78-79	2,877	60,503	\$1,860,530
79-80	3,440	78,142	\$2,271,336
80-81	4,365	77,073	\$1,551,312
81-82	4,054	58,882	\$1,077,850
82-83	3,813	59,846	\$802,178
83-84	3,399	57,643	\$959,905
84-85	3,253	48,718	\$1,281,632
85-86	3,256	45,047	\$1,443,365
86-87	2,870	50,404	\$1,688,665
87-88	3,139	48,365	\$1,370,178
88-89	1,561	45,047	\$668,940
89-90	1,335	24,277	\$300,360
90-91	914	21,846	\$195,313
91-92	751	31,091	\$342,282
92-93	860	32,467	\$303,745
93-94	873	36,698	\$589,693
94-95	1,797	51,016	\$806,549
95-96	1,253	46,485	\$886,452
96-97	1,370	57,449	\$1,013,032
97-98	1,300	65,635	\$907,357
98-99	1,154	51,275	\$548,569
99-2000	922	40,957	\$577,299
2000-2001	877	37,123	\$676,534
2001-2002	1,010	51,509	\$975,288
2002-2003	1,042	44,288	\$899,152
2003-2004	1,093	47,269	\$910,367
2004-2005	1,155	45,023	\$728,223
2005-2006	1,067	47,145	\$1,122,543
2006-2007	1,191	53,226	\$1,064,581
2007-2008	1,140	36,601	\$696,535
2008-2009	1,164	41,056	\$536,014
2009-2010	977	38,877	\$532,042
2010-2011	1,037	42,791	\$690,044
2011-2012	1,068	48,609	\$1,149,005
2012-2013	1,170	55,326	\$1,691,625
2013-2014	1,283	55,445	\$1,163,360

\* Pelt value was determined from the combined, weighted averages of North American Fur Auctions and Fur Harvester's Auction

**Number of furbearer pelts exported from New Brunswick, change from  
the 2012-2013 exports, and auction center destination for 2013-2014**

(sorted by total pelts exported for 2013/14)

SPECIES	TOTAL PELT EXPORTS		PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2012-2013	NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTION 2013-2014	FUR HARVESTER'S AUCTION INC. 2013-2014	Other Exporters 2013-2014
	2012-2013	2013-2014				
MUSKRAT	27,785	29,203	5%	20,999	7,916	288
BEAVER	12,457	11,983	-4%	8,917	3,062	4
RACCOON	3,252	5,141	58%	4,220	921	0
MARTEN	2,687	1,835	-32%	1,508	327	0
COYOTE	2,029	1,613	-21%	1,244	367	2
MINK	1,542	1,543	0%	1,080	459	4
RED FOX	1,581	1,213	-23%	1,018	193	2
WEASEL	1,923	844	-56%	691	152	1
OTTER	743	751	1%	556	194	1
FISHER	616	692	12%	577	115	0
BOBCAT	406	313	-23%	218	91	4
SQUIRREL	278	271	-3%	199	72	0
SKUNK	27	43	59%	34	8	1
<b>TOTAL PELTS</b>	<b>55,326</b>	<b>55,445</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>41,261</b>	<b>13,877</b>	<b>307</b>

## Approximate Value of Fur Exported from New Brunswick, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014

(sorted by average value per pelt for 2013/14)

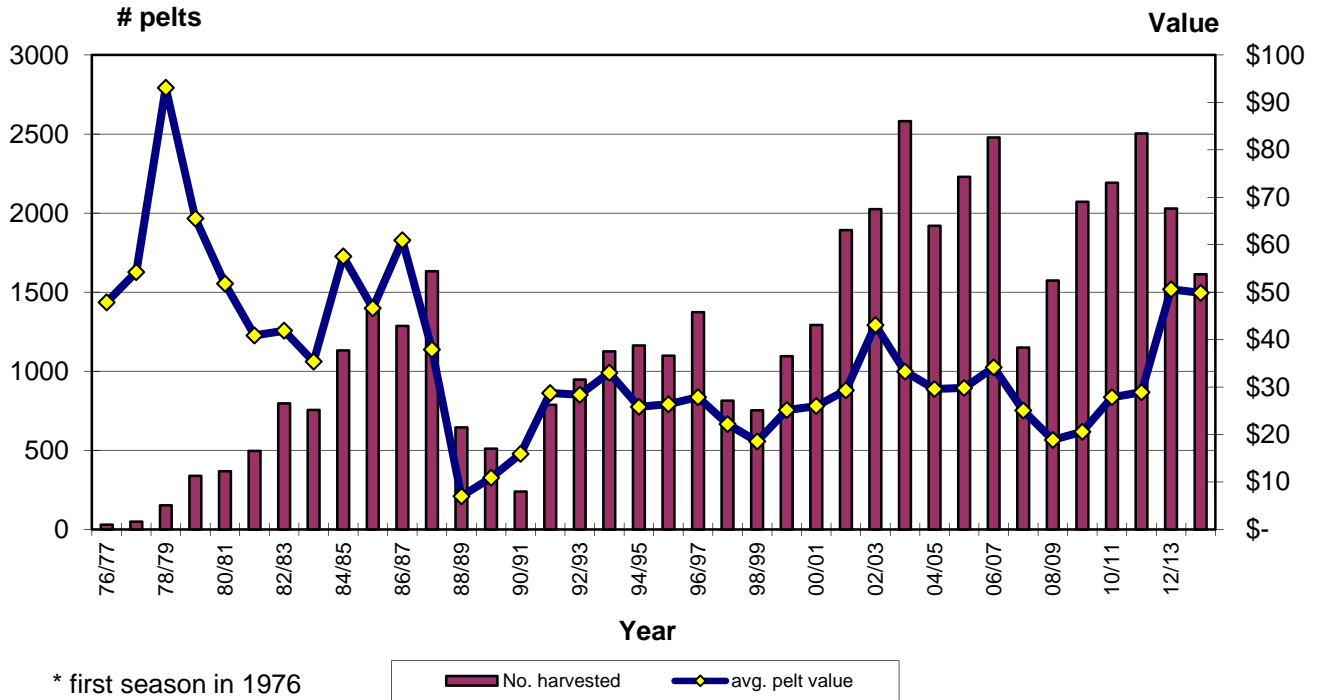
Species (last year's rank by individual pelt \$ value)	No. exported		Value per pelt*		Total Value 2013-2014 (ranked by total \$ value)
	2012-2013	2013-2014	2012-2013	2013-2014	
<b>BOBCAT (1)</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>\$191.19</b>	<b>\$139.74</b>	<b>\$43,737.98 (9)</b>
<b>FISHER (2)</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>\$151.44</b>	<b>\$108.30</b>	<b>\$74,942.42 (5)</b>
<b>OTTER (3)</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>\$115.17</b>	<b>\$64.05</b>	<b>\$48,100.48 (8)</b>
<b>RED FOX (5)</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>\$75.82</b>	<b>\$52.98</b>	<b>\$64,268.02 (7)</b>
<b>COYOTE (6)</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>1,613</b>	<b>\$50.59</b>	<b>\$49.85</b>	<b>\$80,404.83 (3)</b>
<b>MARTEN (4)</b>	<b>2,687</b>	<b>1,835</b>	<b>\$99.88</b>	<b>\$38.48</b>	<b>\$70,604.92 (6)</b>
<b>BEAVER (7)</b>	<b>12,457</b>	<b>11,983</b>	<b>\$35.46</b>	<b>\$26.66</b>	<b>\$319,462.51 (2)</b>
<b>MINK (8)</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>1,543</b>	<b>\$33.60</b>	<b>\$22.33</b>	<b>\$34,454.42 (10)</b>
<b>RACCOON (9)</b>	<b>3,252</b>	<b>5,141</b>	<b>\$24.70</b>	<b>\$14.94</b>	<b>\$76,808.59 (4)</b>
<b>MUSKRAT (10)</b>	<b>27,785</b>	<b>29,203</b>	<b>\$12.23</b>	<b>\$11.89</b>	<b>\$347,317.45 (1)</b>
<b>SKUNK (11)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>\$6.33</b>	<b>\$5.40</b>	<b>\$232.07 (12)</b>
<b>WEASEL (12)</b>	<b>1,923</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>\$3.83</b>	<b>\$3.40</b>	<b>\$2,866.78 (11)</b>
<b>SQUIRREL (13)</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>\$0.49</b>	<b>\$0.59</b>	<b>\$159.94 (13)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55,326</b>	<b>55,445</b>	<b>Total fur harvest value 2013-2014→</b>		<b>\$1,163,360.40</b>

Castoreum sold for \$2.16 per ounce x 10,145 ounces = \$21,951.68

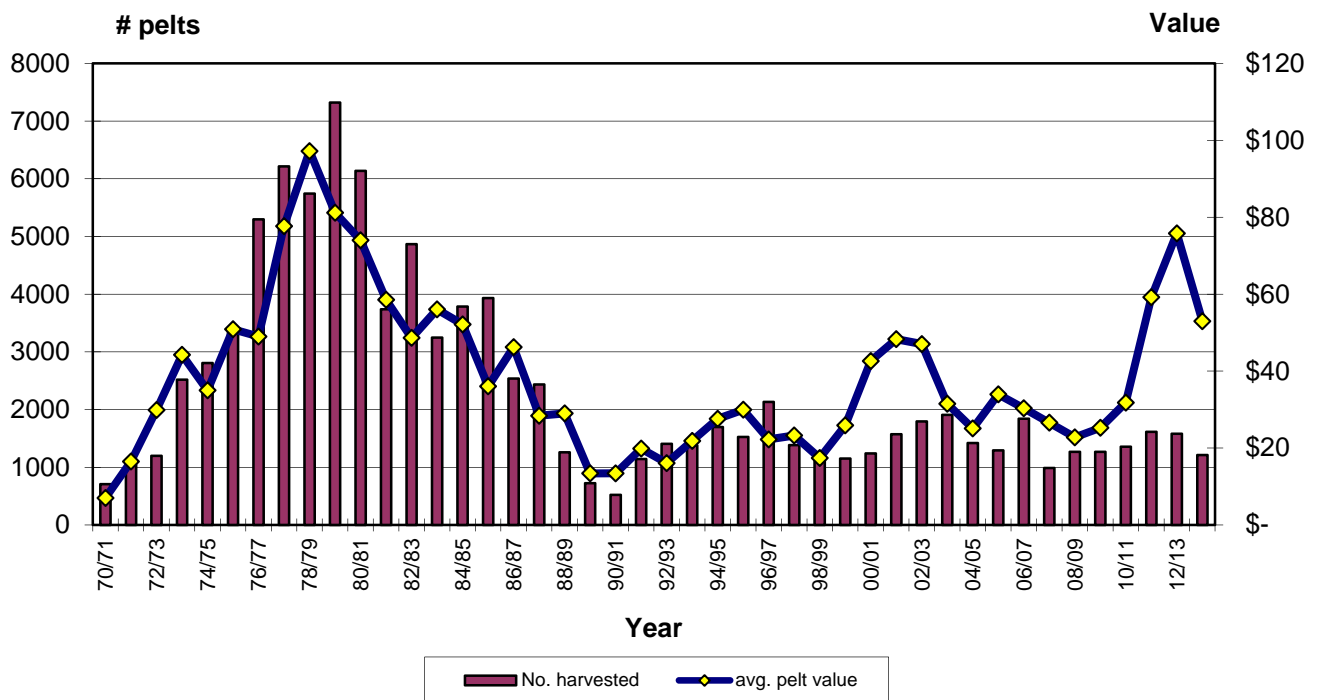
Although black bears are not classified as furbearers, 17 black bear hides sold for an average of \$133.19

\*Pelt value was determined from the combined, weighted average prices of North American Fur Auctions and Fur Harvester's Auction Inc.

### COYOTE HARVEST AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1976/77 - 2013/14

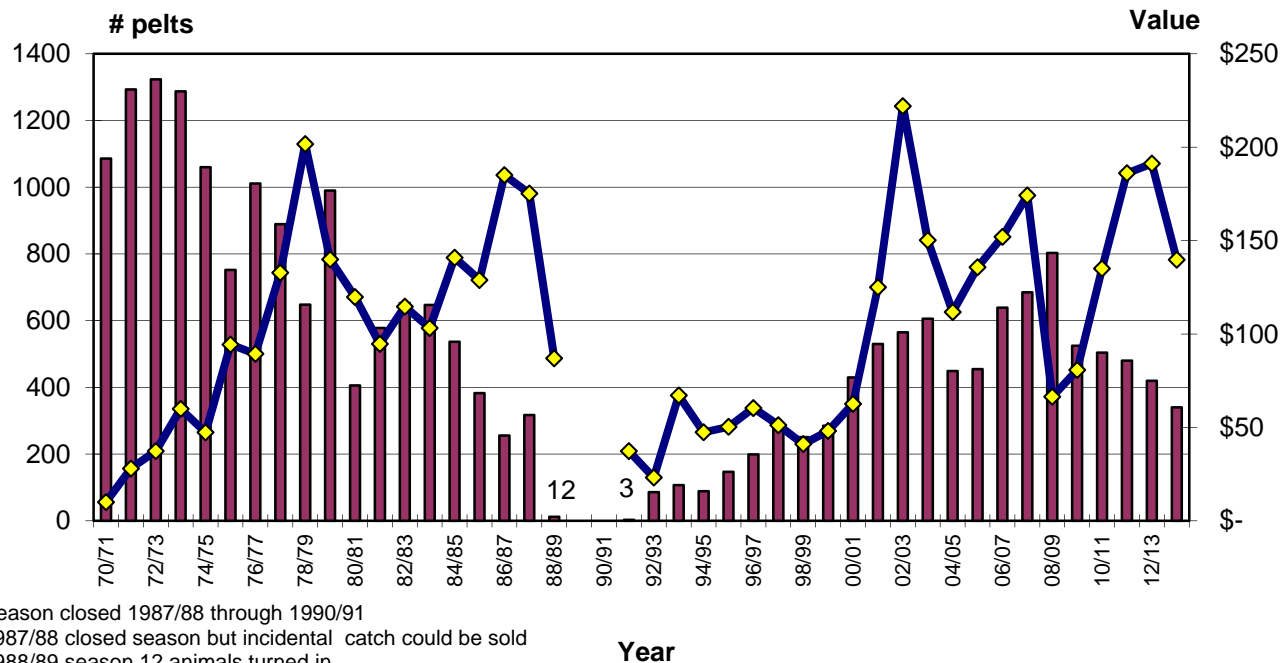


### RED FOX HARVEST AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2013/14

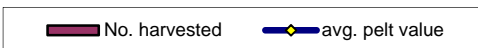




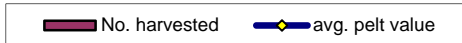
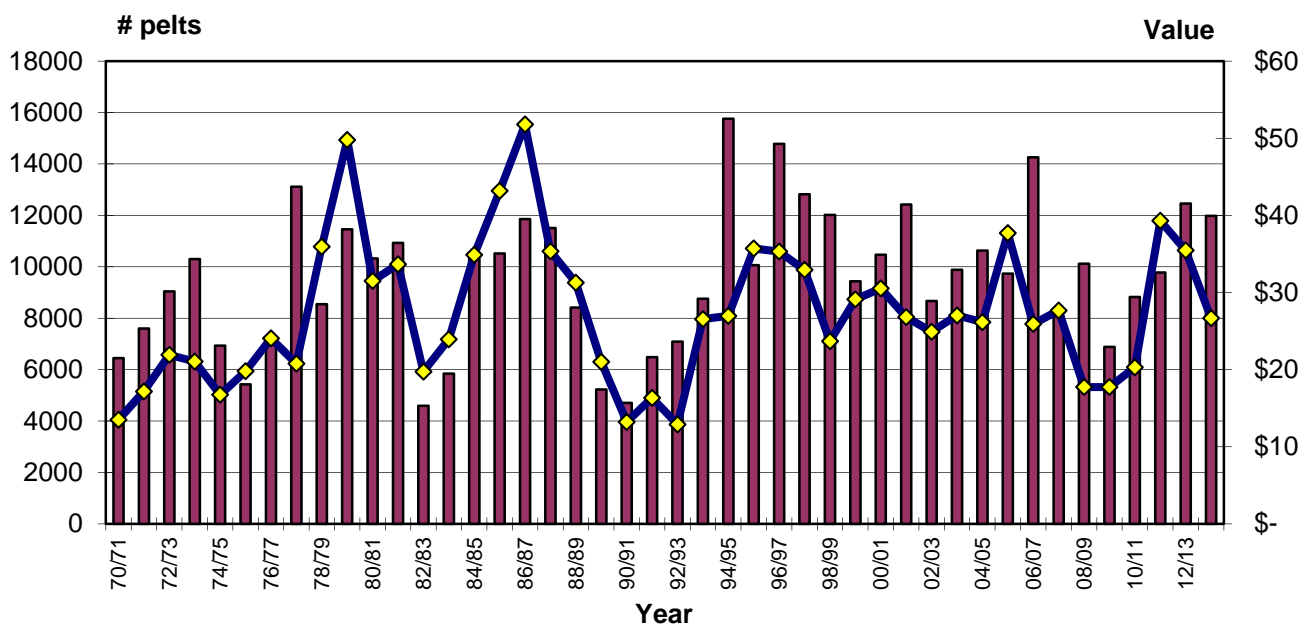
### BOBCAT HARVEST AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2013/14



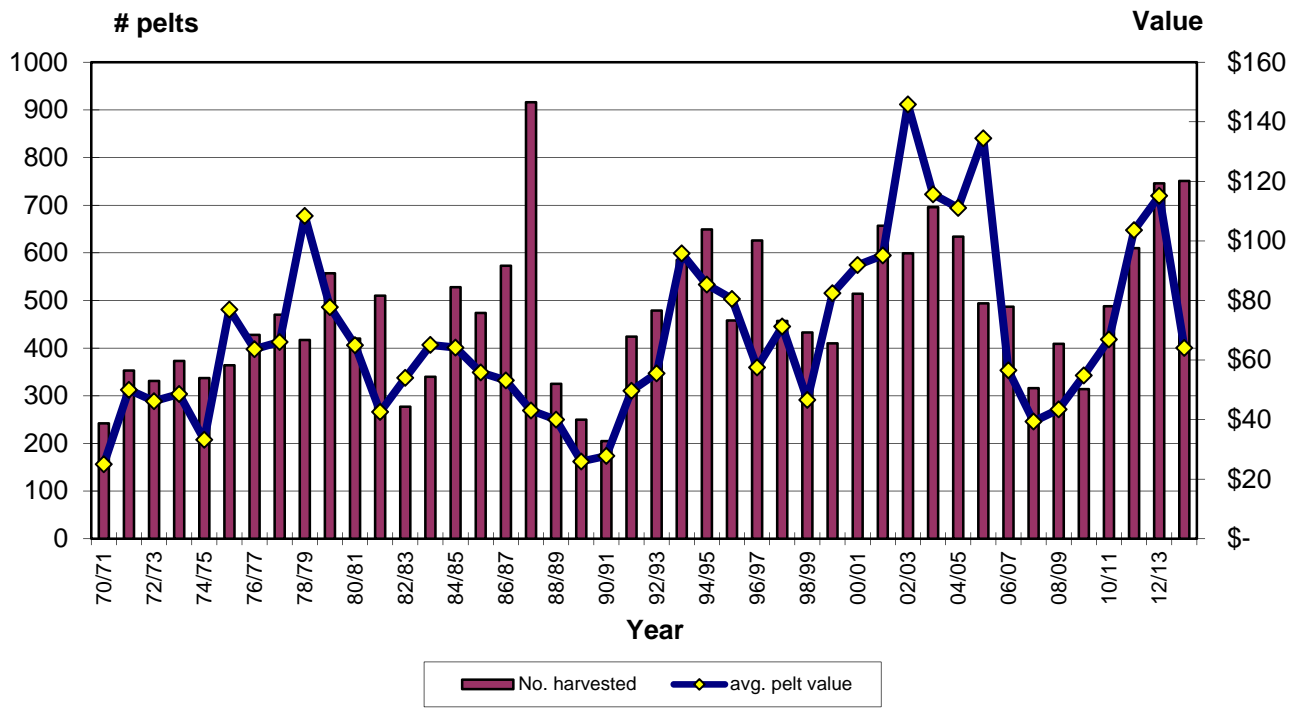
Season closed 1987/88 through 1990/91  
 1987/88 closed season but incidental catch could be sold  
 1988/89 season 12 animals turned in  
 1991/92 season 3 animals exported  
 Quota implemented in 1996/97



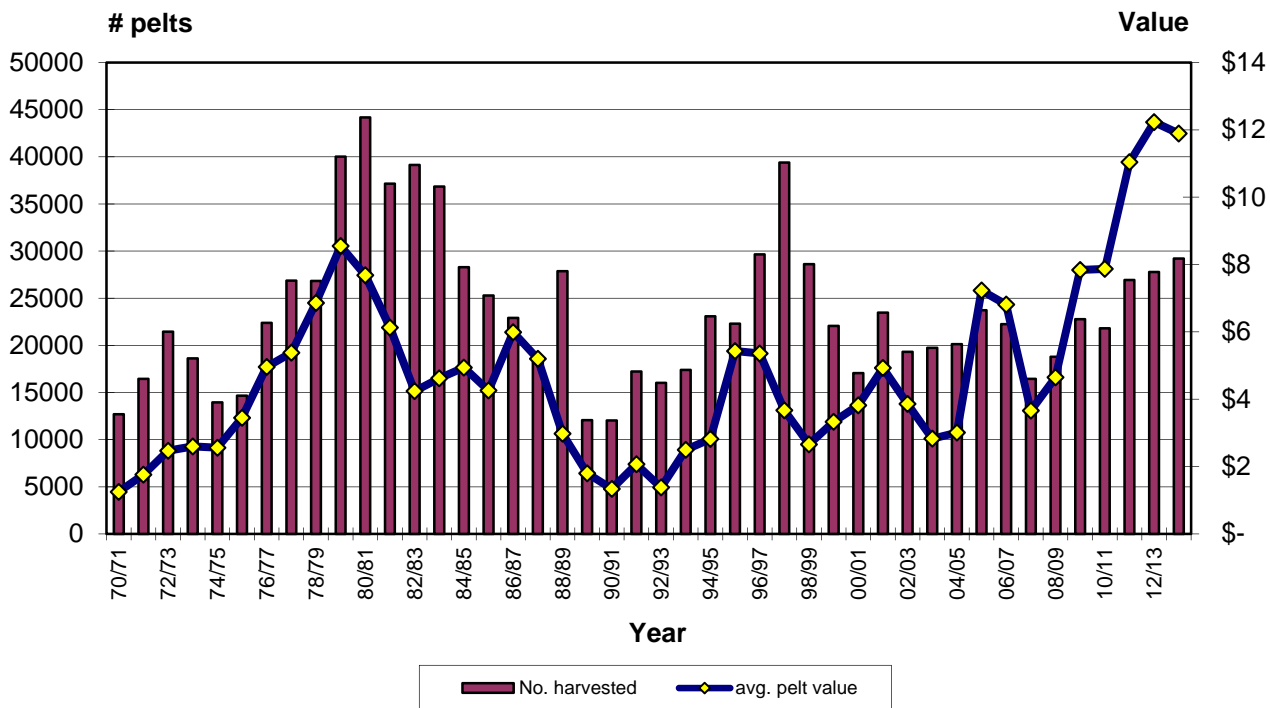
### BEAVER HARVEST AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2013/14



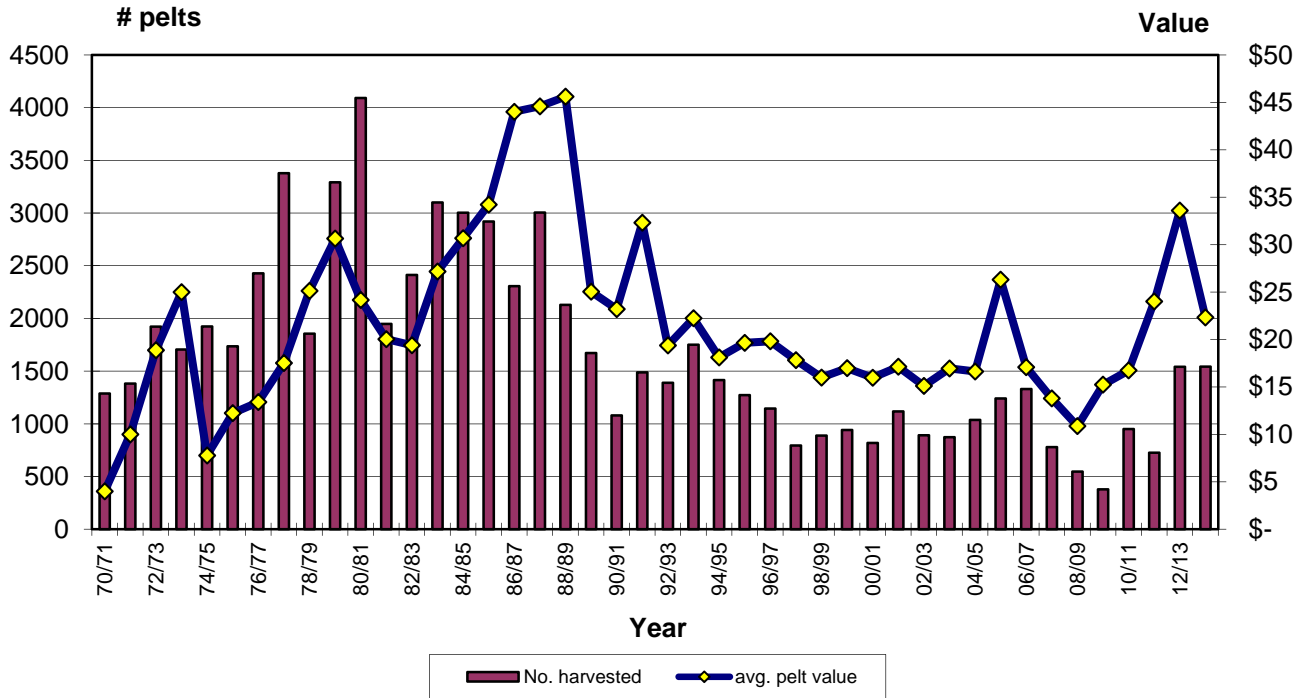
### OTTER HARVEST AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2013/14



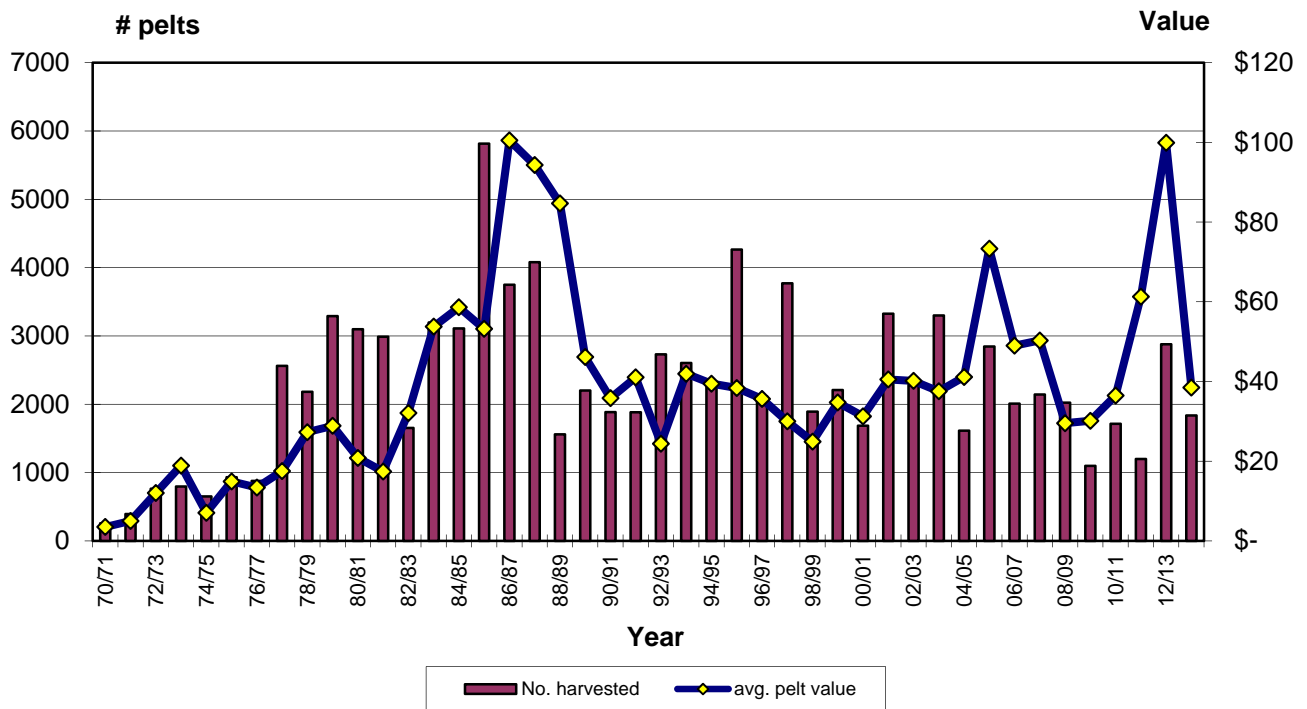
### MUSKRAT HARVEST AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2013/14



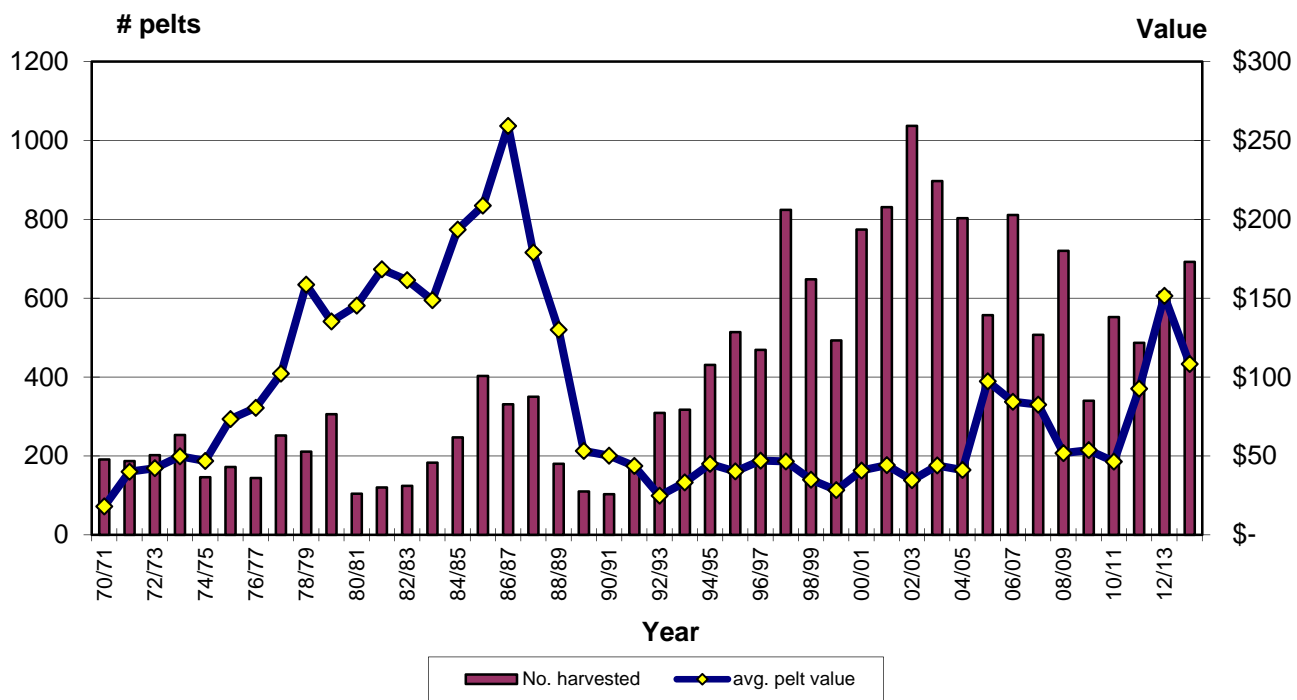
### MINK HARVEST AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2013/14



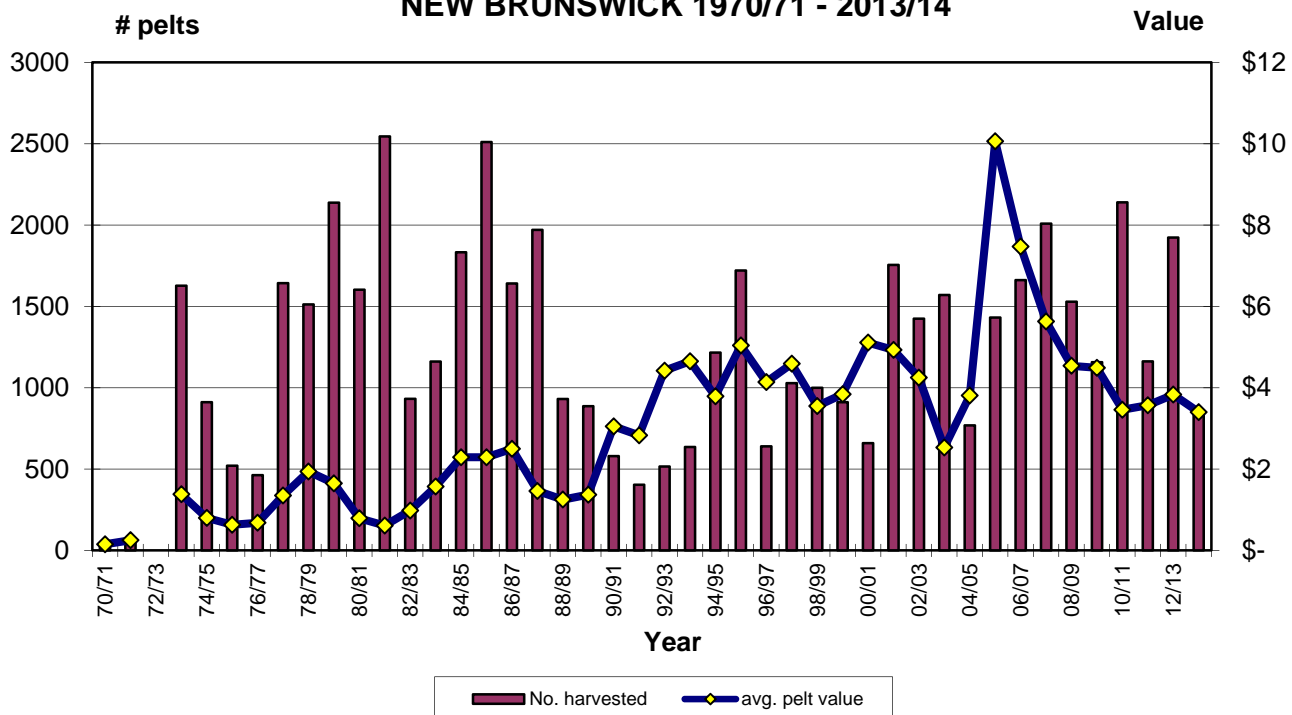
### MARTEN HARVEST AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2013/14



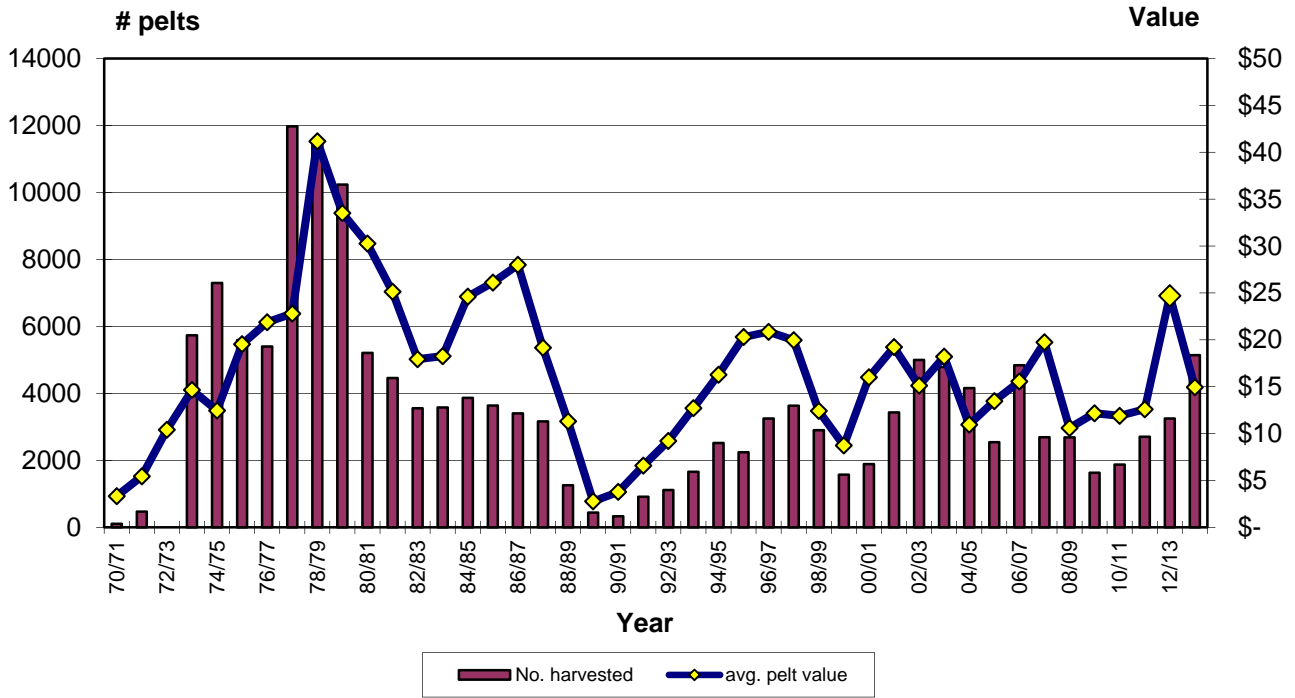
### FISHER HARVEST AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2013/14



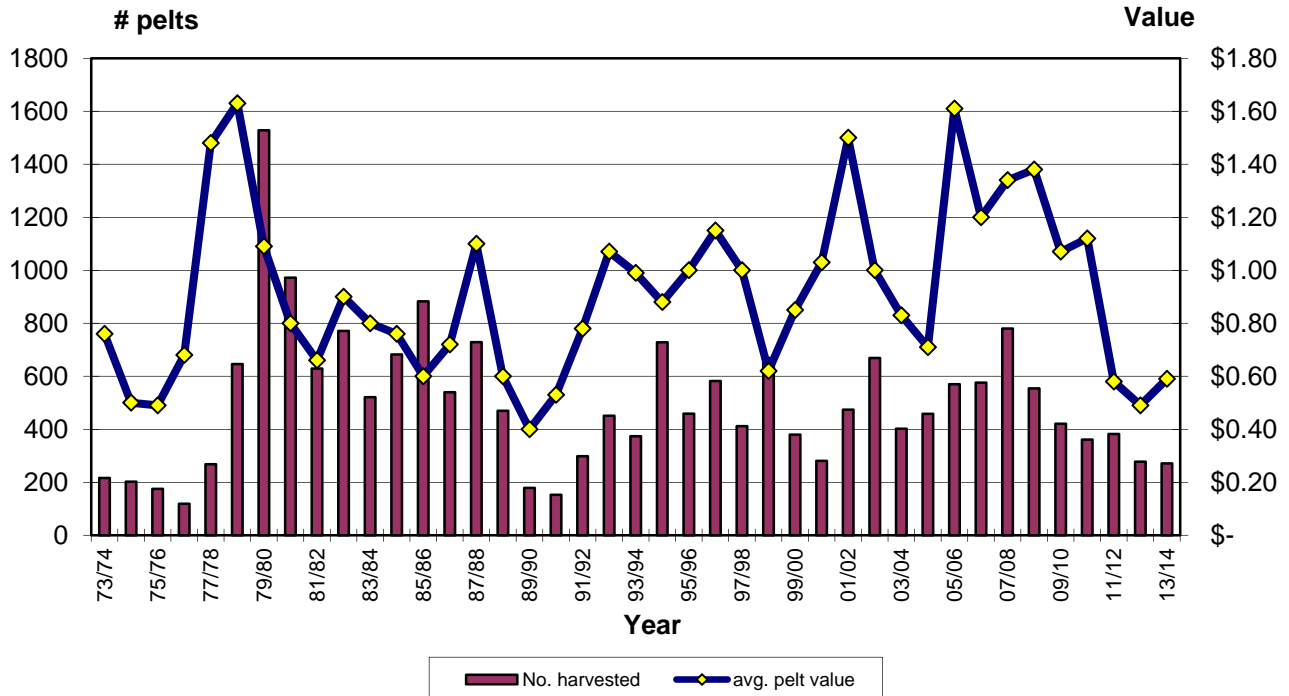
### WEASEL HARVEST AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2013/14



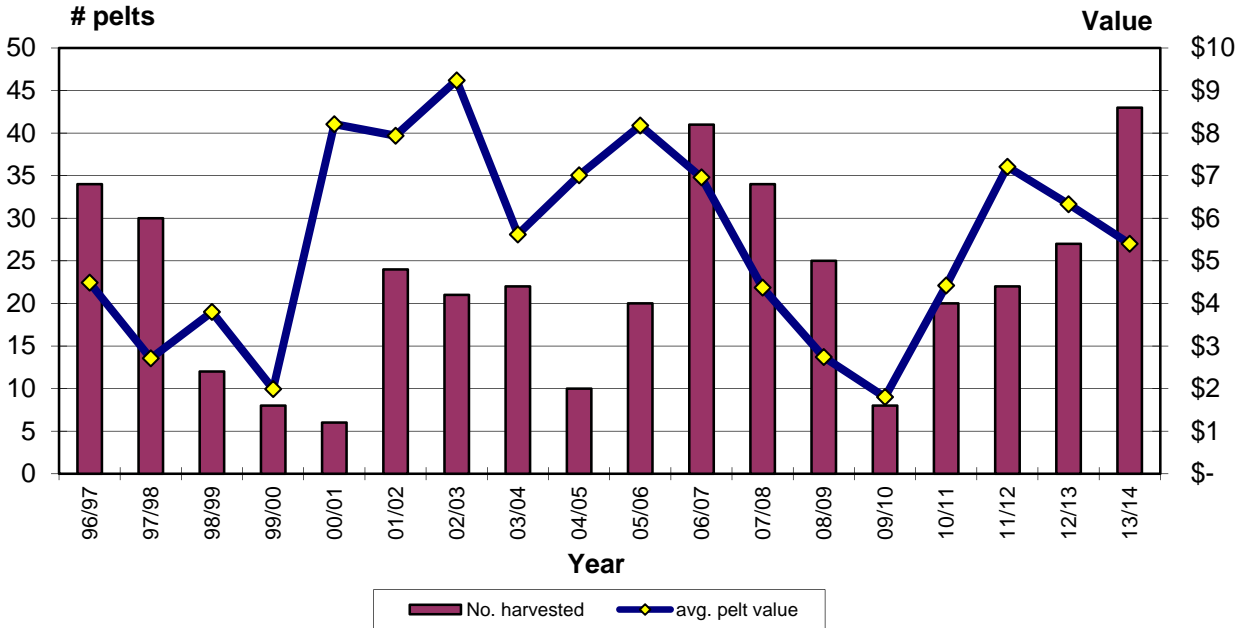
### RACCOON HARVEST AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2013/14



### SQUIRREL HARVEST AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1970/71 - 2013/14



### SKUNK HARVEST AND PELT VALUES NEW BRUNSWICK 1996/97 - 2013/14



### Bobcat, Otter, and Marten Harvest by Wildlife Management Zone 2012/13 and 2013/14

WMZ	OTTER		MARTEN		BOBCAT	
	2013/2014	2012/2013	2013/2014	2012/2013	2013/2014	2012/2013
1	4	7	11	23	X	X
2	14	19	71	157	X	X
3	18	14	82	206	X	X
4	30	17	120	403	X	X
5	47	40	107	143	X	X
6	11	15	74	248	X	X
7	40	80	198	305	X	X
8	41	48	267	289	X	X
9	2	4	12	15	X	X
10	7	22	64	117	13	8
11	13	17	44	124	8	6
12	38	18	163	201	10	13
13	23	23	107	107	18	11
14	17	29	0	0	10	12
15	52	65	5	25	19	15
16	64	69	239	274	33	36
17	32	23	89	77	14	13
18	13	8	1	X	14	24
19	12	6	0	X	12	17
20	99	68	2	X	56	70
21	21	35	1	X	16	26
22	9	11	0	X	28	53
23	22	12	0	X	20	34
24	7	7	0	X	20	24
25	14	9	0	X	17	17
Unk	95	85	175	174	32	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>1832</b>	<b>2888</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>421</b>

X indicates a closed WMZ for that species

## 2013/2014 Trappers Survey Results

The Department would like to thank all of those individuals who took time out of their busy schedules to fill out the 2013/2014 Trappers Survey & Report Form. This information will be used to help better manage the Province's furbearer populations in a sustainable manner. Below is a summary of the responses of the 2013/14 Trappers Survey Form.

In total 142 Trappers Survey & Report Forms were returned, of which 138 surveys forms were completed.

### **Question #2: In which wildlife management zones do you trap?**

From the survey form, 49% of respondents indicated they usually trap in 1 WMZ, 28% in 2 WMZs, 15% in 3 WMZs, and 4% in 4 WMZs; 5% provided no response. However, from the trapping report form 65% reported trapping in 1WMZ, 26% in 2 WMZs, and 9% in 3 WMZs.

### **Question #3: How many years have you been trapping, snaring, or hunting furbearers?**

#### **Question #4: What is your age?**

The average age of the respondents was 60 years old, and on average the respondents have been trapping for 26-30 years.

### **Question #5: Do you have access to the Department of Natural Resources' website.**

63% of trappers have access to the Department of Natural Resources' website.

### **Question #6: Did you trap, hunt or snare furbearers in the 2013/14 season.**

#### **Question #8: Did you trap, hunt or snare furbearers in the 2012/13 season.**

85% of trappers indicated they trapped in 2013/14 and 85% indicated they trapped in 2012/13. 5% indicated they trapped in 2013/14 but not in 2012/13 and 5% trapped in 2012/13 but not in 2013/14.

### **Question #10: How much did you spend on trapping related activities during the 2013/14 season?**

During the 2013/14 fur harvesting season respondents spent an average of \$1066 on trapping related activities (equipment, gas, food ect.). 72% reported having spent \$1000 or less and 3% reported having spent more than \$4000.

### **Question #11: Have you had traps stolen over the past 2 years?**

#### **Question #12: If so, how many in 2012/13 and 2013/14?**

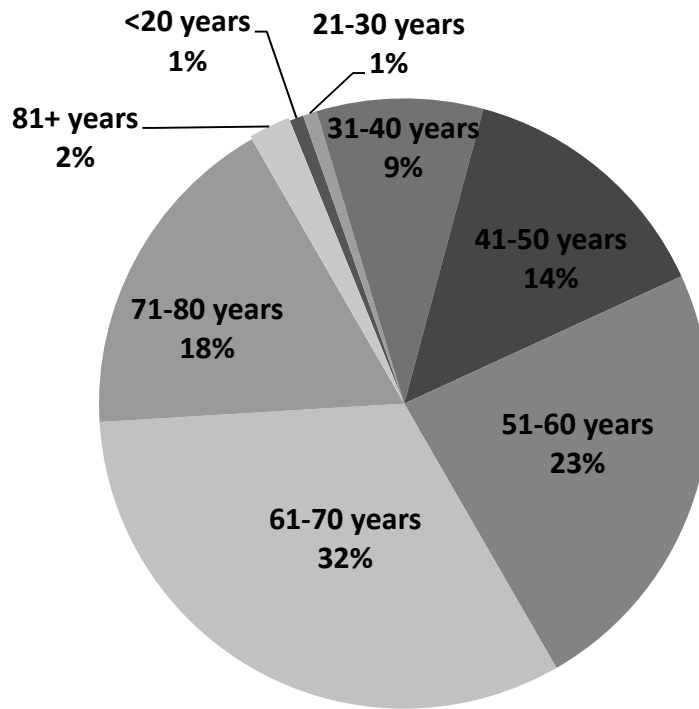
46% indicated they had traps stolen over the past two fur harvesting seasons; 38% in 2012/13 with an average of 4 traps stolen per trapper and 37% in 2013/14 with an average of 3 traps stolen per trapper. In 2012/13 53 trappers reported having a total of 231 traps stolen. In 2013/14, 51 trappers reported having a total of 158 traps stolen.

### **Question #13: Do you have any comments or concerns regarding fur harvesting or furbearer management in New Brunswick?**

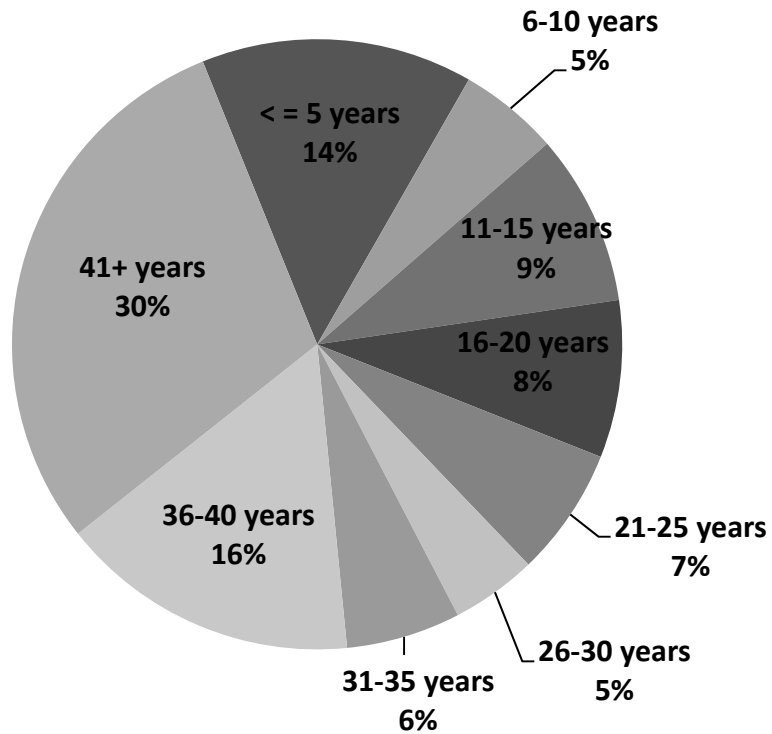
62% of respondents provided a comment regarding fur harvesting or furbearer management in New Brunswick. Of the comments received, 38% were regarding lynx with one-third about lynx sightings and the remaining two-thirds expressing interest in a lynx harvest in the province.

The second most common comment, 28%, was regarding marten and fisher. Comments varied and were of concern with the current population levels and habitat, closing fisher and marten harvesting, the seasons starts too late or too early, the season should be extended, and a tagging system should be introduced.

### What is your age?



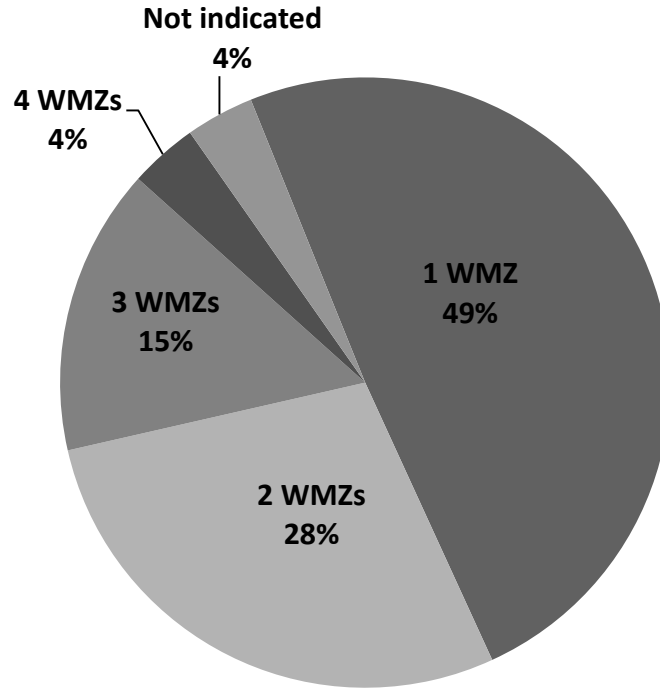
### How many years have you been trapping, snaring, or hunting furbearers?





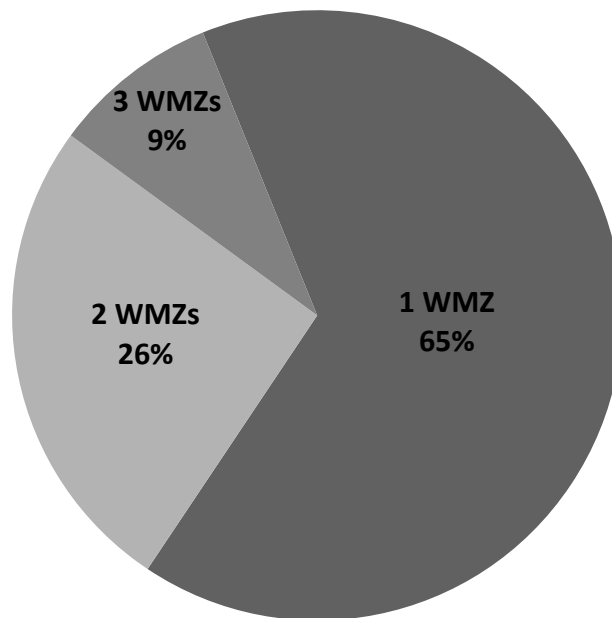
## How Many Wildlife Management Zones do you trap?

As indicated on the survey form

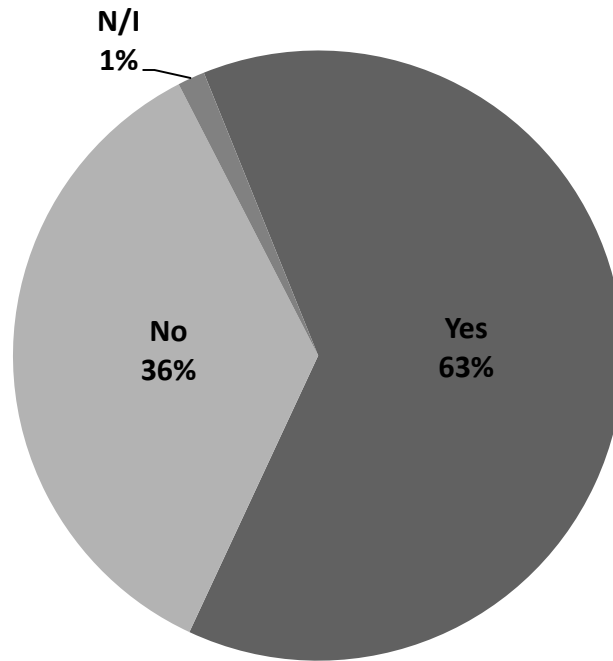


## How Many Wildlife Management Zones did you trap?

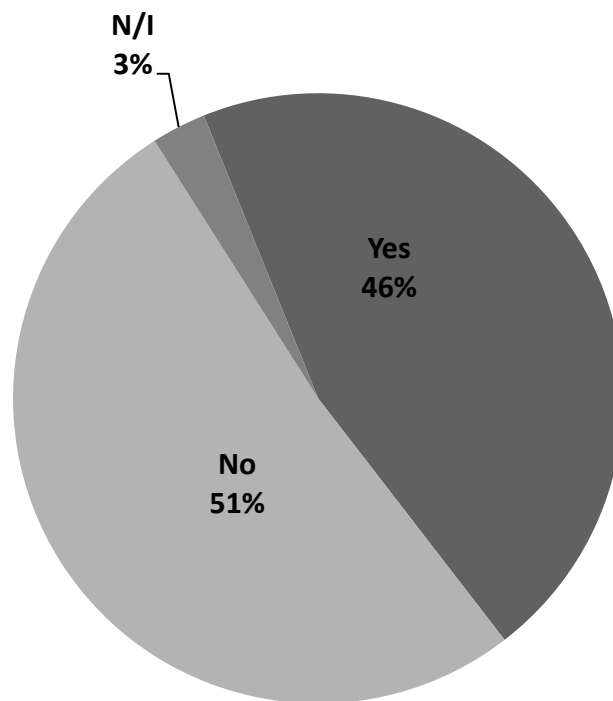
As indicated on the report form



**Do you have access to the Department of Natural Resources website?**



**Have you had traps stolen over the past 2 years?**



**How much did you spend on trapping related activities during the 2013/14 season?**

