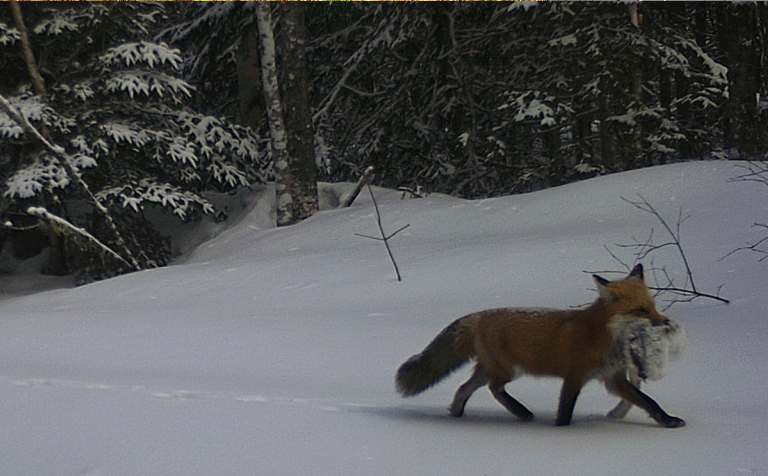




2023 Trapping Summary



Beaver Lodge and Food Cache in Forest Hill



Red Fox with Snowshoe Hare

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Reminders, What's New, and Proposed Changes

Reminders from Recent Years:

- Trappers can now use means other than the provided metal dies to mark their traps; trapper ID numbers still need to be clearly legible.
- When live trapping, use of approved beaver box traps is required. Raccoon foot encapsulating traps must also be approved.

What's New for 2023-2024:

- A restricted beaver trapping zone is in place for the Malpeque-Darnley-Fox River area (see map on pg. 29)

Potential Changes for 2024-2025:

- Failure to receive permission to set traps on private land will result in a suspension of trapping privileges.

Wildlife Conservation Act and Regulations

This summary is prepared for the information and convenience of those who plan to hunt in Prince Edward Island. The original act and regulations should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law. These laws are subject to change at any time. For the complete regulations please refer to the Wildlife Conservation Act and Regulations; available on request from the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division or online at:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/legislation/environment-energy-and-climate-action/528>

General Trapping Regulations

Trapping has been restricted on certain public lands, including the Demonstration Woodlots and some Natural Areas. Please contact the Fish and Wildlife Section for more information.

No person shall:

- 1) while in wildlife habitat, possess or set a trapping device unless the trapping device is:
 - a. a box trap;

- b. a body-gripping trap that is designed to kill quickly;
 - c. a submarine trap;
 - d. a non-powered snare; or
 - e. a steel-jawed trap that has a jaw spread of less than 19 cm (7.5 inches).
- 2) set a trap designed to hold animals alive without examining each trap at least once a day.
 - 3) set a snare designed to kill a fox or coyote without examining each snare at least once every 48 hours.
 - 4) set any trapping device without checking it at least every 72 hours
 - 5) set a toothed trap, a deadfall or a hook.
 - 6) use a running pole set or a spring pole set in combination with a foothold trap.
 - 7) place a trap or snare in wildlife habitat, either set or unset, before the opening of the trapping season for each species.
 - 8) leave a trap or snare in wildlife habitat, either set or unset, after the close of the season for each species.
 - 9) be in possession of a green hide, pelt, carcass or any portion thereof of any beaver, muskrat, raccoon, fox, coyote, mink, weasel, skunk or squirrel between the 5th day after the close of

- the open season and the first day of the next open season without a permit
- 10) cut, spear, break, destroy or interfere with any beaver
 - 11) break, interfere with, destroy, remove or otherwise disturb any trap not registered to that person. This section shall not apply to enforcement officers responsible for the enforcement of trapping regulations in the discharge of their duty.
 - 12) during the closed season for mink, set traps for or attempt to trap raccoon in places frequented by mink, or at any time during the closed season for mink, attempt to trap raccoon by use of traps set in water.
 - 13) set a trap within the highway-right-of-way in any location other than in or over water
 - 14) take or attempt to take any beaver, mink or muskrat by any means other than trapping.
 - 15) set a trap inside an active muskrat house.
 - 16) ship raw furs from the province (PEI) without first obtaining an Export Permit.
 - 17) trap on private property without asking permission of the landowner.
 - 18) buy the pelts or hides, either skinned or unskinned, of wild furbearing animals in PEI

without being the holder of a valid Fur Dealer's Licence.

- 19) everyone is guilty of an offence who sells furs to a resident or non-resident who is not the holder of a Fur Dealer's Licence.

Trapping in High Use Areas

Given the limited amount of wilderness on PEI, trappers and other outdoor recreationists often make use of the same areas. While trapping and other activities such as hiking, birdwatching, and nature photography can absolutely coexist, the potential for conflict is increased in these areas.

Trappers are asked to exercise discretion when trapping in areas of high public use; set away from trails, avoid using baits and lures, and check all traps as frequently as possible. In some cases, avoiding trapping in specific areas altogether may be advised.

Trapping has been restricted on certain public lands, including the Demonstration Woodlots and some Natural Areas. Please contact the Fish and Wildlife Section for more information.

Being proactive and working together to recognize conflict situations before they occur will help to ensure that trapping continues to play an important role in the lives of hundreds of Islanders every fall and winter.

Trapping Seasons

Furbearer	Open Season
Beaver, Mink, Muskrat, and Weasel	8:00 a.m. Nov 1 – March 31
Raccoon**	October 15 – March 31
Fox (modified foothold only)*	November 1 – November 14
Fox (snare and modified foothold)	November 15 – January 31
Coyote (modified foothold only)*	October 15 – November 14 February 1 – February 28
Coyote (snare and modified foothold)	November 15 – January 31
Red Squirrel	No closed season
Skunk	No closed season

*A “modified foothold trap” is a foothold trap that has been altered to improve the humaneness of the trap by laminating the jaws, off-setting the jaws or padding the jaws.

** From October 15-31 traps set for raccoon are restricted to locations at least 3 meters away from a wetland or watercourse.

Trapping Licences and Fees*

Resident Trapping (18 and older)	\$10
Junior Trapping	\$5
Resident Fur Dealer.....	\$25
Non-resident Fur Dealer.....	\$175

*(+ HST)

Trapping licences may be obtained from the Fish and Wildlife office, 183 Upton Road, Charlottetown, or from the Access PEI Centre in your area.

A suspended trapper will be required to take a trapper education course after the date of conviction before purchasing another trapping licence.

Trapping Licences

- 1) Any person who traps furbearing animals must be the holder of a Trapping Licence or a Junior Trapping Licence.
- 2) The Minister may issue a Trapping Licence to an applicant who is 16 years of age or older and has successfully completed a trapper education course. A Junior Trapping Licence may be issued to an applicant who is under 16 years of age and has successfully completed a trapper education program.

- 3) A trapper who has not held a valid trapping licence within the previous five years must successfully complete a trapper education program prior to being issued a trapping licence, unless they have completed a course approved by the Minister
- 4) All licensed trappers are issued a permanent trapper registration number (a combination of letters and/or numbers. No person shall set a trap or snare for furbearing animals unless the trap or snare is clearly stamped or tagged with their trapper registration number.

Foothold Traps

- 1) No person shall set a foothold trap for taking furbearing animals unless:
 - a. the trap is set for beaver, mink or muskrat and is attached to a device that is designed to submerge the animal and prevent it from resurfacing;
 - b. the trap is set for muskrat or mink and is sufficiently heavy to submerge the mink or muskrat and prevent the animal from resurfacing;
 - c. the trap is set for a raccoon and it is an approved foot encapsulating trap listed in Schedule D;
 - d. the trap is set for coyote or red fox and has been modified to improve humaneness by such means as laminating the jaws, off-setting the jaws, padding the jaws, or other similarly effective means of improving the humaneness of the trap.

Body-gripping Traps

- 1) No person shall set a body-gripping (Conibear type) trap having a jaw spread greater than 16 cm (6.3 inches) but not greater than 19.6 cm (7.75 inches) except:
 - a. in or over water
 - b. in a dog-proof enclosure or
 - c. where the trap is set at least five feet off the ground.
- 2) A dog-proof enclosure set using a body-gripping trap with a jaw spread 17.8 cm by 17.8 cm (7 inches by 7 inches) or larger shall have
 - a. an opening no greater than 17.8 cm by 17.8 cm
 - b. an opening no greater than 20.3 cm (8 inches) in height and no greater than 25.4 cm (10 inches) in width with the trap trigger set back at least 25.4 cm (10 inches) from the opening.
- 3) A dog-proof enclosure with an opening larger than 20.3 cm (8 inches) in height and greater than 25.4 cm (10 inches) in width shall be placed so that no part of the opening is more than 17.8 cm (7 inches) off the ground.
- 4) No person shall set a body-gripping trap having a jaw spread larger than 19.6 cm (7.75 inches) unless partially submerged in water or in a dog-

proof enclosure in accordance with sections 2 and 3.

- 5) A person may only use a body-gripping trap that is listed in Schedule C as approved as a killing trap for use on land for that species to take a, raccoon, weasel or muskrat on land.
- 6) A person may only use a body-gripping trap to take a beaver or muskrat underwater if one of the following applies:
 - 7) the trap is listed in Schedule C as an approved killing trap for that species;
 - 8) the trap is set for muskrat and prevents the muskrat from resurfacing.

Snares

- 1) No person shall place in wildlife habitat any snare larger than single strand brass wire of 20 gauge except during the open season for snaring red fox or coyote.
- 2) All snares larger than 20 gauge single strand brass wire must be equipped with a self-locking device. This section does not apply to snares set under water during the open season for beaver.
- 3) No person shall set a snare for coyote or fox within 50 metres of a bait unless the bait is camouflaged or concealed in a manner that

renders the bait undetectable from the air. This does not apply to bait placed in open fields.

- 4) No person shall have in possession untagged snares while in wildlife habitat.
- 5) No person shall set a snare within 200 metres of an occupied dwelling without the permission of the homeowner or occupier.
- 6) No person shall set a baited snare within 300 metres of an occupied dwelling without the permission of the homeowner or occupier.
- 7) No person shall set a snare for coyote or red fox unless the snare is constructed of wire cable having a minimum size of 1.98 millimetres or 5/64 inches.
- 8) No person shall set a snare for coyote or red fox within the highway right-of-way.

SCHEDULE C

The following pages provide lists of approved body-gripping traps for beaver, muskrat, weasel and raccoon in Prince Edward Island (certified under the Canadian Trap Certification Program and approved for use in killing raccoon in Prince Edward Island).

Raccoon

Traps approved for use on land:

Bélisle Classic 220	LDL C 220
Bélisle Super X 160	LDL C 220 Magnum
Bélisle Super X 220	LDL C 280 Magnum
Bélisle Super X 280	Northwoods 155
B.M.I. 160 Body Gripper	Rudy 160
B.M.I. 220 Body Gripper	Rudy 160 Plus
B.M.I. 280 Body Gripper	Rudy 220
B.M.I 280 Magnum Body	Rudy 220 Plus
Gripper Bridger 160	Sauvageau 2001-6
Bridger 220	Sauvageau 2001-7
Bridger 280 Mag	Sauvageau 2001-8
Bodygripper Duke 160	Species-Specific 220
Duke 220	Dislocator Half
Koro #2	Magnum Woodstream
LDL C 160 Magnum	Oneida Victor
LDL C 160	Conibear 160
	Woodstream Oneida
	Victor Conibear 220

Beaver

Traps approved for use underwater or partially submerged:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• B.M.I. BT 300• Bélisle Classic 330• Bélisle Super X 280• Bélisle Super X 330• B.M.I. 280 Body Gripper• B.M.I. 330 Body Gripper• Bridger 330• Duke 280• Duke 330• LDL C280• LDL C280 Magnum• LDL C330• LDL C330 Magnum• Rudy 280• Rudy 330	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sauvageau 1000-11F• Sauvageau 2001-8• Sauvageau 2001-11• Sauvageau 2001-12• Species-Specific 330 Dislocator Half Magnum• Species-Specific 440 Dislocator Half Magnum• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 280• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330
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No person shall set a body-gripping trap having a jaw spread larger than 19.6 cm (7.75 inches) unless partially submerged in water or in a dog-proof enclosure.

Muskrat

Traps approved for use on land:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bélisle Super X 110• Bélisle Super X 120• B.M.I. Body Gripper 120• B.M.I. Body Gripper 120 Magnum• B.M.I. 126 Magnum• Bridger 120• Bridger 120 Magnum• Bodygripper• Bridger 155 Magnum• Bodygripper• Duke 120• Koro Muskrat• Koro Large Rodent• Double Spring• LDL B120• LDL B120 Magnum• Oneida Victor Conibear 110-3• Oneida Victor 120• Stainless Steel• WCS Shorty Tube• Trap	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oneida Victor 120• Stainless Steel• Oneida Victor• Conibear• 110-3 Magnum• Stainless Steel• Ouell 4-11-180• Ouell RM• Rudy 110• Rudy 120• Rudy 120 Magnum• Sauvageau 2001-5• Sauvageau C120• Magnum• Sauvageau C120• "Reverse Bend"• Triple M• Woodstream Oneida• Victor Conibear 110• Woodstream Oneida• Victor Conibear 120• Oneida Victor• Conibear• 120-3 Magnum
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Weasel

Traps approved for use on land:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bélisle Super X 110• Bélisle Super X 120• B.M.I. #60• B.M.I. 120 Body Gripper Magnum• B.M.I. 126 Body Gripper Magnum• Bridger 120• Bridger 120 Magnum Bodygripper• Bridger 155 Magnum Bodygripper• Koro Muskrat Trap• Koro Rodent Trap• Koro Large Rodent Double Spring• LDL B120 Magnum• Bélisle Classic 220• Bélisle Super X 160• Bélisle Super X 220• Bélisle Super X 280• B.M.I. 160 Body Gripper• B.M.I. 220 Body Gripper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ouell 411-180• Ouell 3-10• Ouell RM• Rudy 120 Magnum• Sauvageau C120 Magnum• Sauvageau C120 "Reverse Bend"• Sauvageau 2001-5• Triple M• Victor Rat Trap• WCS Tube Trap Int'l• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 110• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 120• WCS Shorty Tube Trap• LDL C 280 Magnum• Northwoods 155• Rudy 160• Rudy 160 Plus• Rudy 220• Rudy 220 Plus• Sauvageau 2001-6
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• B.M.I. 280 Body Gripper• B.M.I 280 Magnum Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sauvageau 2001-7• Sauvageau 2001-8 → <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Species-Specific 220 Dislocator Half Magnum• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 160• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 220
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SCHEDULE D

List of Approved Foot-Hold traps for raccoon:

Bridger T3 Duffer Duke DP Coon Trap	Egg Trap Lil' Grizz Get'rz
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SCHEDULE E

List of approved box Traps for Beaver:

Breathe Easy Live Beaver Trap Comstock 12 x 18 x 39 Swim Through Beaver Cage Dam Beaver Live Beaver Trap EZEE Set Live Beaver Trap Hancock Live Beaver Trap Koro "Klam" Live Beaver Trap

Sarcoptic Mange

Trappers are encouraged to be mindful of mange during this trapping season, and to contact Fish and Wildlife at 902-368-4683 if you notice any signs of the disease in your harvest.

Sarcoptic mange is a disease that affects wild mammals, such as foxes, coyotes, and raccoons and can lead to pronounced hair loss, emaciation, and eventual death of affected individuals. Caused by an infection with the mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*, mange can spread quickly through a local population, particularly when there is a high density of animals in an area. In some cases, local mortality can be quite high.

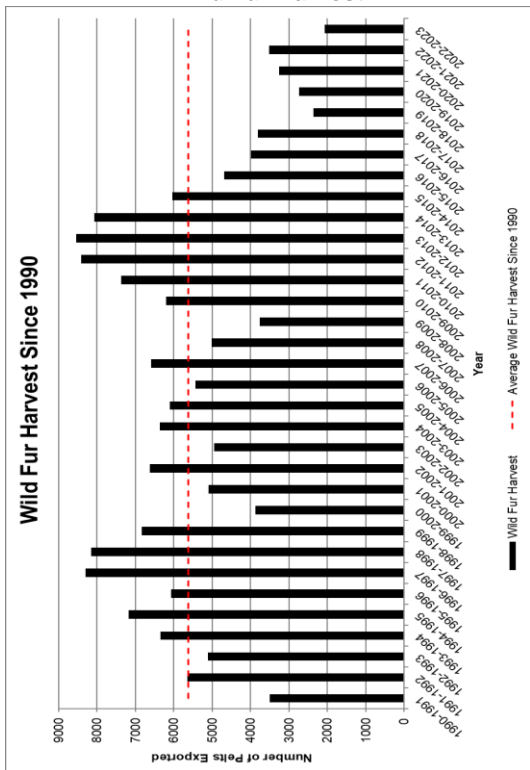
Signs to look for include hairless patches of skin and crusty skin growths in around the tail, hock, neck, and face. Tracking the distribution of the disease will help inform management decisions. Hunters and trappers are at risk of contracting the infection as well, which may result in an itchy rash. You are encouraged to always wear gloves when handling your harvest, regardless of if the animal shows obvious signs of disease.

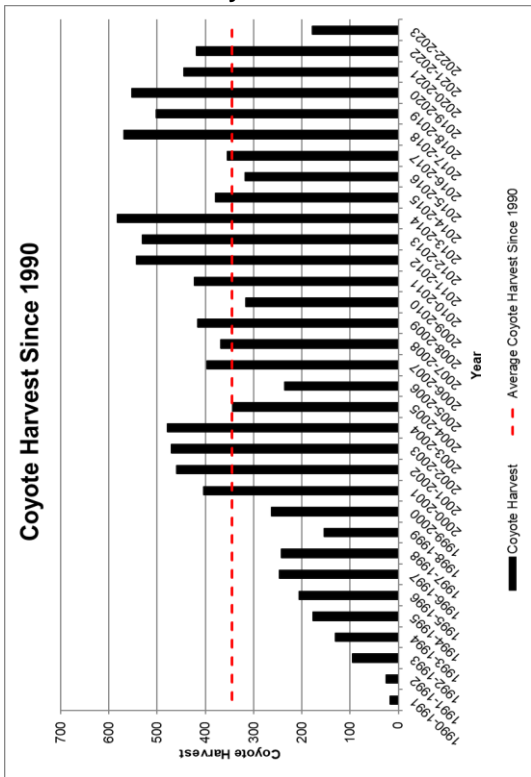
Trapping Statistics

The trend of very low harvest for most furbearers continued last season. In fact, the 2079 pelts shipped from the province last year were the lowest total on record. For the first time since records were kept, fewer than 100 red foxes were harvested, while raccoon harvest was 94% lower than the long term average. The most dramatic year over year decline was seen in the coyote harvest, which fell by 57% to its lowest level since 1995.

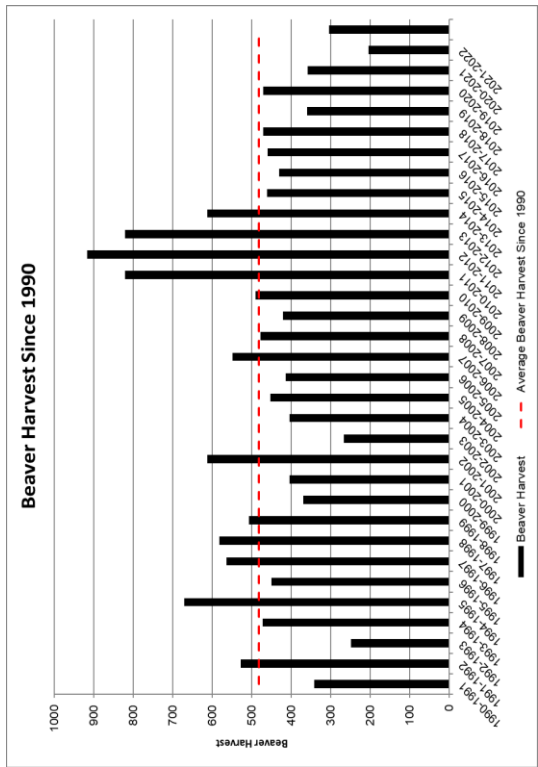
Low harvest reflects low trapping effort, due primarily to ongoing depressed fur prices. The lone bright spot is beavers, whose price has rebounded to its highest level in 25 years. This will likely motivate increased effort this season and allow harvests to more closely align with management objectives.

Wild Fur Harvest

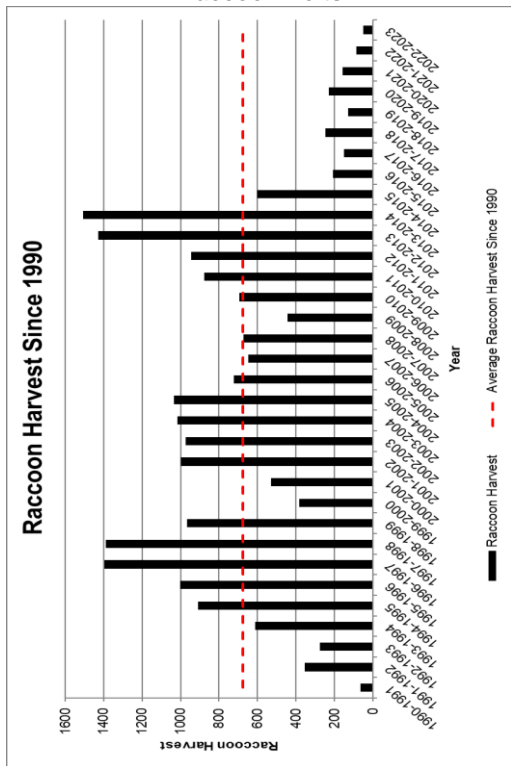




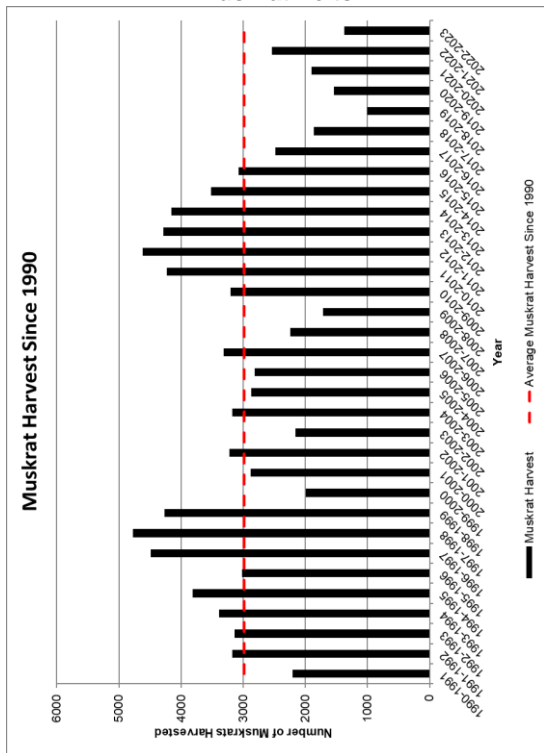
Beaver Pelts



Raccoon Pelts

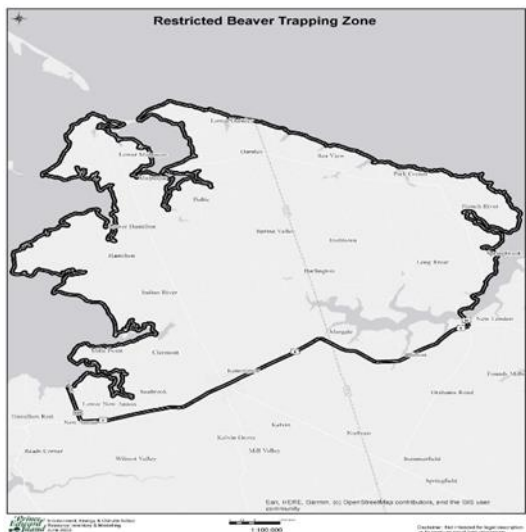


Muskrat Pelts



Beaver Trapping Restrictions for 2023-24

To minimize accidental take of otters during the trapping season, a restricted beaver trapping zone is in effect for the Kensington – Malpeque – Darnley - Fox River – Long River areas (see below). No person shall set a beaver trap within this zone without the direct authorization of Fish and Wildlife.



C65422)

Avoiding River Otters When Beaver Trapping

Since 2016, multiple river otters have been trapped or found dead in PEI. Targeted monitoring for river otter has produced dozens of images, including images of young of the year, and several anecdotal observations from the public have also been received. Based on this evidence it is reasonable to believe that at least a small, resident population of river otters has re-established in the province.

To minimize the risk of capturing otters, beaver trappers on PEI are encouraged to consider the following when making their sets:

- Avoid the use of 280 conibears, as river otters cannot swim through them without firing the trap;
- Move trigger wires on 330 conibears as far as possible to one side to allow otters to swim through without firing the trap;
- When trapping beaver runs with conibears, place traps on the bottom of the run with a dive stick at the surface;
- Avoid placing traps close to the crossover of beaver dams, as river otters frequently use these features as travel routes;
- Set foothold traps for beaver at least 8" below the water's surface.

Restraining Traps for Canines

Fish and Wildlife recognizes that canine trappers play an important role in predator management. While the killing neck snare remains the most popular tool for harvesting coyotes and red foxes, other options are available that may offer advantages in certain situations. Specifically, restraining foothold traps and restraining neck snares are permitted for use and can be effective tools for harvesting canines. Both options allow for bycatch to be released, which is particularly helpful when assisting with coyote removal in developed areas. To afford trappers additional opportunity when conditions are ideal, the start of the coyote foothold season has been advanced to October 15th, a full month before the killing neck snare season opens. Similar season changes are being considered for restraining neck snares as well.

Trappers are encouraged to contact Fish and Wildlife to discuss training opportunities and equipment needs.

PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund

Putting your money to work!

When you pay a PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund fee, you are helping to improve habitat for fish and many other species of Island Wildlife. Applications for funding are made by many stream and river management groups annually.

In 2022, approximately \$315,000 was awarded to watershed, wildlife and environmental groups across PEI to restore, protect and improve Island waterways. Research and education projects were also funded. Groups awarded WCF funds in 2022 are listed below. PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund C/O Community Foundation of PEI 53 Water Street Charlottetown, PE C1A 1A3 Phone (902) 892-3440 Email: info@peiwcf.ca Website: www.peiwcf.ca.

**PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund
C/O Community Foundation of PEI
53 Water Street Charlottetown, PE C1A 1A3
(902) 892-3440; info@peiwcf.ca; www.peiwcf.ca**

Investigation and Enforcement

For enforcement of any of the environment acts or regulations during regular working hours, telephone a Conservation Officer at any of the following locations:

- Wellington - 902 854-7250
- Summerside - 902 888-8000
- Charlottetown - 902 368-4884
- Queens County - 902 368-4884
- Montague - 902 838-0600
- Souris - 902 687-7000

For environmental emergencies after normal office hours telephone 1-800-565-1633. For wildlife related enforcement after normal office hours telephone: 902 368-4884

Equipment Seizure and Forfeiture

Hunters and trappers are advised that seized equipment shall be automatically forfeited to the crown for the following offences:

- 1) all second offences,
- 2) taking game or wildlife out of season,
- 3) hunting while under suspension, and
- 4) possession of a loaded firearm in a vehicle or boat

- 5) possess or be under the influence of an intoxicant.

An automatic one-year suspension of hunting privileges can result from a conviction under the Wildlife Conservation Act or Regulations or the Migratory Birds Convention Act or Regulations



Report a Poacher



Report poachers and polluters!

Call Crime Stoppers toll free

1-800-222-8477

Report Litterers!

Call the hot line toll free

1-866-368-5024

Access PEI Centres

Queens County

Charlottetown.....902 368-5200

Kings County

Montague..... 902 838-0600

Souris.....902 687-7000

Prince County

Alberton 902 853-8622

O'Leary 902 859-8800

Summerside 902 888-8000

Tignish 902 882-7351

Wellington 902 854-7250

Courses and Workshops

Each year, the Forests, Fish, and Wildlife Division offers a variety of courses and workshops. If you are interested in any of the following training opportunities, please contact our office at 902-368-4683.

- Trapper Education
- Hunting (Hunter Safety, Bow hunting, Hunting Guide)
- Becoming an Outdoors Woman workshop
- Youth Waterfowl Hunting Workshop
- Chainsaw (Weekend Woodsman, Chainsaw Filing, Cutting Firewood Safely, Basic Silviculture Lesson Plan)



Kevin Arsenault and Carl Balsor teaching trapping techniques.

Accessing Public Lands



While most of Prince Edward Island is privately owned, there are areas of forest and wetland which are available for public use - the Island's 33,000 hectares of public land. In general terms, these properties are classified as Natural Areas, Ponds and Wetlands, Provincial Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas. They are managed for a variety of public values and benefits such as recreation, wildlife habitat, protection of unique or rare species, high-value timber and non-timber forest products, forest/wildlife research, and outdoor education.

The signs listed above identify public lands which are open to the public for uses such as hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, bird watching, tours and outdoor education. However, some uses such as off-road vehicle (ATVs, snowmobiles, etc.) and trapping are only permitted on certain properties and open fires are not permitted at all. Prohibited uses are listed on the signs. Please do not litter or smoke on these properties.

Many of these properties are working forests, so as conditions dictate, forest harvest and management operations may occur. In all cases, harvest sites on public land are quickly renewed to forest cover.

You can access more information on the location of public lands on-line at:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/gis/index.php3?number=1017147&lang=E>

or, by purchasing a Public Land Atlas at any Forests, Fish and Wildlife office.

Trapper Harvest Log

Harvest reporting is one of the best and most important sources of information used to guide the management of game species. Trappers are encouraged to use the tables below to keep track of their harvest and effort (no. of animals harvested, no. of traps set, no. of trapping nights, etc.) throughout their trapping season and to share the information with the Fish and Wildlife Section after the season has ended.

Trapper Harvest Log			
Date	# of Traps Set	Species	# Harvested

Online Hunter Education

 **HUNTERcourse.com**
Educating Hunters Online



Take your Hunter Education Course Online!



www.HUNTERcourse.com

| 1-866-495-4868



Muskrat at Larkin's Pond



Trapping Instructor Carl Balsor Demonstrating Trap Setting Technique

