

TRAPPING REGULATIONS

MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2002-2003

- 1. Killing traps and killing snares must be examined every 14 days.**
- 2. There is no open season on long-tailed weasel in M.U.'s 2-3, 2-4, 2-16 and 2-19. If a long-tailed weasel is accidentally taken in these M.U.'s it must be compulsory inspected.**
- 3. Some open season dates for trapping have been adjusted for 2002-2003. Please see the open seasons schedule on page 96.**
- 4. Trappers should note the 2002-2003 Schedule of Royalties on page 95.**

TRAPPING RESTRICTIONS

- 1.** It is an offence to trap unless you have completed, since July 1, 1982, a trapper education course approved by the Director of the FWRA Branch.
- 2.** It is an offence to:
 - a)** use a leghold trap designed to trap wolves which is fastened solidly, if there is more than 60 cm of chain between the trap and the point to which it is fastened,
 - b)** trap beaver, otter, mink or muskrat on land by means of a leghold trap, unless the trap is equipped with a submerging device,
 - c)** not use the minimum weight of 150 grams required to be securely attached to all muskrat submerging sets smaller than size #1 1/2,
 - d)** use a leghold trap which has teeth or other projections on the jaws of the trap,
 - e)** use a killing snare on land unless the snare is
 - (i)** equipped with a locking device, or
 - (ii)** designed to catch squirrels, or hares
 - (iii)** a mechanically powered killing snare
 - f)** trap a wolverine, marten, fisher, weasel, skunk or squirrel except by means of a killing trap, a live box trap or a killing snare,
 - g)** set spring poles or running poles unless they are equipped with a killing trap,
 - h)** use a trap equipped with a spearing device,
 - i)** trap a black bear (i) except by the use of a rifle, shotgun or bow, (ii) with a crossbow (except a compound crossbow) having a pull of less than 68 kg, (iii) with a compound crossbow having a pull of less than 45kg at full draw, (iv) with a crossbow having a bolt weighting less than 16.2 g, (v) with a bow having a pull of less than 18kg within the archer's draw length, or (vi) with a bow using an arrow with a broadhead less than 2.2 cm at the widest point,
 - j)** trap a wolf, fox, coyote, lynx or bobcat, except by means of a killing trap, a modified leghold trap, a live box trap, foot snare or a killing snare,
 - k)** use a snare made of wire heavier than 20 gauge unless licenced or authorized to trap, or
 - l)** use a snare made of braided wire unless licenced or authorized to trap, or
 - m)** use any Conibear trap larger than, but not including #220 for land sets within any municipality in Region 2,
 - n)** trap a furbearing animal, and if the animal is alive when you check the trap, fail to immediately release or kill the animal,
 - o)** trap a raccoon except by means of a killing trap, killing snare, live box trap or egg trap.
 - p)** use a rat trap unless the bait and trigger are completely covered, with an opening not larger than 4.5 cm wide and 5 cm high.
 - q)** trap with a rifle using a full metal jacketed non-expanding bullet, or a tracer, incendiary, or explosive bullet, or with a shotgun using a tracer or incendiary shot shell.
 - r)** trap a black bear by placing bait, or by using a dead animal or a part of it as bait.
 - s)** trap a black bear, or a wolf not caught in a trap or snare, with a rifle using a rimfire cartridge, or with a shot gun less than 20 gauge, or using a shot shell loaded with shot smaller than the shot size 1 Buck.
- 3. a)** A holder of a licence, permit or other authorization to trap commits an offence unless that person examines the holding or non-killing traps he or she has set on the trapline at least once every 72 hours, the egg trap(s) he or she has set for raccoons at least once every 24 hours, and killing traps or killing snares that he or she has set on the trapline at least once every 14 days.
 - b)** A holder of a licence, permit or other authorization to trap on private property commits an offence unless that person examines the holding or non-killing traps he or she has set on private property at least once every 24 hours.
- 4.** It is an offence to trap within 200 m of a dwelling, unless you use:
 - a)** if trapping on land, a live box trap or egg trap, or
 - b)** if trapping on or in water,
 - (i)** a Conibear trap not larger than size #330, or equivalent
 - (ii)** leghold traps not larger than size #2, or
 - (iii)** submarine traps.
- 5.** It is an offence to trap on private property without a trapping licence and the written permission of the property owner.
- 6. a)** It is an offence to trap wildlife using a firearm from one hour after sunset on any day until one hour before sunrise on the day following.
 - b)** A person who holds a trapping licence, or a person exempted from holding a trapping licence, while trapping on a registered trapline, who uses a firearm to kill a fur bearing animal caught in a trap, is exempt from section 6a).

COMPULSORY REPORTING AND INSPECTION OF FUR BEARING ANIMALS

► In order to better record the harvest of fur bearing animals, the FWRA Branch requires that certain species be reported or submitted to a MWLAP office. The information gathered is critical to the management of these populations and trapper compliance is needed to ensure that seasons are properly set. Please review the following requirements and keep accurate records pertaining to them.

COMPULSORY REPORTING

► Trappers must report, within 15 days following the end of the trapping season, the capture of:

- (i) a fisher in regions 3, 5, 6, and 7
- (ii) a wolverine in regions 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7

NOTE:

Gloves should be worn while handling wolf carcasses as a precaution against contracting hydatid disease.

- (iii) a lynx in region 4 and 8
 - (iv) a bobcat in M.U.'s 1-14 and 1-15, and region 2, 4, and 8, or
 - (v) a wolf from region 1 and 4
- Compulsory reporting forms are available from any MWLAP, Regional office and reporting may be done by mail, phone or in person. The information required is:

- (a) name, address and Assigned Trapper Number (top right corner of license),
- (b) the location and date of kill,
- (c) the type of trap and set used,
- (d) the number of days the trap was set before the animal was killed, and
- (e) the sex and age class of the animal.

COMPULSORY INSPECTION

► Fur Bearing Animals that are killed incidentally in areas with no open season must be compulsory inspected. Trappers must submit, within 15 days following the end of

the trapping season, the carcass of:

- (i) a wolverine in regions 1, 2, and 8
- (ii) a fisher in regions 1, 2, 4, and 8
- (iii) a weasel in region 1, and M.U.'s 6-12 and 6-13, and a long-tailed weasel in M.U.'s 2-3, 2-4, 2-6, 2-18 and 2-19, or
- (iv) a lynx in M.U.'s 1-14 and 1-15, and region 2

Trappers must submit the entire carcass and pelt and provide the following information to an officer:

- (a) name, address and Assigned Trapper Number (top right corner of license),
- (b) the location and date of kill,
- (c) the type of trap and set used, and
- (d) the number of days the trap was set before the animal was killed

► Animals submitted may not be reclaimed by the trapper but may be donated by the FWRA Branch to the Trapper Education Program.

DEFINITIONS

egg trap - means a holding device set in a manner to capture a raccoon by a front paw.

foot snare - means a snare that is designed to capture the animal for which it is set by the foot or leg.

fur bearing animal - means any fox, badger, beaver, marten, fisher, Canada lynx, bobcat, mink, muskrat, land otter, sea otter, raccoon, skunk, squirrel*, weasel, wolverine, wolf, coyote and black bear.

* does not include ground squirrels.

killing snare - means any trap that is designed to capture the animal for which it is set by the neck.

killing trap - means a trap or trapset that is designed to kill an animal.

leghold trap - means a trap or device, other than a snare, which is set in such a way as to capture the animal for which it is set by the leg or foot.

modified leghold trap - means a trap which has a minimum space of 5 mm between the jaws of the trap when in the closed position, or has manufactured pads of a rubber-like substance fastened to the trap jaws, or has lamination of the trap jaws to increase the surface area of the jaw face.

B.C. FUR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

► In British Columbia, some 3,500 trappers actively manage 16 fur bearing animal species, following standards, legislation and regulations developed by MWLAP. About half of the province's trappers are Aboriginal.

► The Fur Management Program includes:

► Continuing Trapper Education Program courses for novice and experienced trappers

► "Management Guidelines For Trappers" are available for mink, marten, fisher, lynx, wolverine, beaver and muskrat. Other species guidelines are planned for the future.

► Continued monitoring of fur bearing animal populations and prey/food items through the annual "Trapper Survey" questionnaire.

Regulating Harvest

► In general, appropriate trapping seasons have been developed by considering a variety of criteria including pelt primness, relative vulnerability of age and sex classes to harvesting, abundance and capture technology.

► The registered trapline system continues to be the primary system for setting harvest guidelines and managing fur bearing animals. Harvest levels are guided by species management strategies, with furbearers being divided into three classes.

► Class 1 Species - can be managed on individual traplines. This class includes beaver, fox, marten, mink, muskrat, raccoon, skunk, squirrel and weasel.

► Class 2 Species - move between and among traplines, and thus are not manageable on individual traplines. Harvests will be regulated regionally, in consultation with local trappers. This class includes lynx, bobcat, wolverine, fisher and otter.

► Class 3 Species - also move between and among traplines, but generally are not vulnerable to over trapping. This class includes the wolf and coyote. Trappers will be encouraged to trap these species, especially in areas of chronic animal damage control problems.

Trapper Survey Questionnaire

► Over each of the past 13 trapping seasons about 700 - 1000 trappers received a "Trapper Survey" questionnaire. Each year the random survey of licenced trappers includes all major habitat areas (ecoprovinces) in the province and is representative of trappers and trapping throughout British Columbia. The results of the questionnaires are confidential. The survey provides information on various fur bearing animal population trends, prey and other food items, habitat changes and relative trapping effort.

▶ The survey information becomes more useful each year and this information, coupled with the provincial annual fur trading information, helps in making current wildlife management decisions.

TRAPPER EDUCATION PROGRAM

▶ In cooperation with the BC Trappers Association (BCTA), MWLAP delivers the Trapper Education Program (TEP). This program includes beginner courses and advanced courses for experienced trappers. In addition, BCTA-TEP instructors, along with MWLAP, BC Aboriginal Affairs, and the Federal Dept. of Indian & Northern Affairs have conducted Native Trapper Education courses.

▶ British Columbia is committed to regulating humane traps as they become available and to ensure that trappers are educated in the use of humane traps. All trappers have a responsibility to ensure they are trained and use the most humane traps available, that furbearing animals on their trapping areas are managed wisely and pelts are handled professionally. Approved TEP courses include those obtained in British Columbia (since July 1, 1982), from Quebec since July 1, 1988, and from the Yukon, Alberta and Ontario, since July 1, 1989.

▶ Basic TEP courses are 3 days in length.

The "British Columbia Trapper Education Manual" is available from the BC Trappers Assn. (who produced and published it) and at TEP courses for \$35.00.

▶ The cost of the advanced TEP course is the same as that of the beginners TEP course, currently \$275.00.

▶ The demand for TEP courses continues to be high and the delivery of a course is subject to instructor availability. Plan in advance!

▶ Requests for TEP courses may be directed to MWLAP regional offices, Conservation Officer Service district offices or the Provincial Trapper Education Coordinator: Marlene Sharpe, 5- 595 Ongman Road Prince George, B.C. V2K 4L1 Phone: 250-561-1602

trapping - means the act of setting or placing a trap in an operative condition, or killing by the use of a firearm.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

▶ These regulations apply to all ungranted Crown Land in the Province.

1. It is an offence to set a trap for, hunt, kill, take or capture a furbearing animal in any area of the province unless you are:
 - (a) the registered holder of the trapline for that area, or
 - (b) authorized by regulation or permit.
2. Registration of a trapline on Crown land may only be granted to a person 19 years of age or older who is a citizen of Canada or has the status of a permanent resident of Canada. No more than one trapline shall be registered to a person. Registration of a trapline does not:
 - (a) give the holder of a trapline any proprietary rights in wildlife, or
 - (b) restrict the rights of another person
 - (i) to hunt, or
 - (ii) capture wildlife where authorized by regulation or a permit.
3. The boundaries of a trapline are defined by the Regional Manager. The relinquishment or transfer of a trapline must be approved by the Regional Manager.
4. No person shall continue to hold a registered trapline unless he or she:
 - (a) carries on active trapping on his or her registered trapline to the satisfaction of the Regional Manager; or
 - (b) obtains permission from the Regional Manager to temporarily discontinue the use of his or her registered trapline for a period not exceeding two years, or
 - (c) uses or causes the use of his or her trapline by a licenced trapper or a person exempted from holding a licence.

A person fails to use a trap-line, where within a year that person fails to take from the trap-line furbearing animals of a value of \$200, or 50 pelts, except where it is unreasonable to expect that value of animals or pelts to be harvest-

ed from the trapline.

5. A person who knowingly damages or interferes with a lawfully set trap commits an offence.
6. A person who leaves a trap set after the last day of the season for the trapping of furbearing animals commits an offence.
7. It is an offence to have live wildlife in your personal possession except under a licence or permit or as provided by regulation. Note: a trapping licence does not authorize the possession of live wildlife.
8. The use of electronic or recorded calls is banned for hunting furbearing animals or trapping

LICENCE AND REGISTRATION FEES

▶ The fees payable for the issuance of the following licences are:

1. For a trapping licence issued to a resident in the Province to trap furbearing animals \$17.00
(includes Habitat Conservation Trust Fund surcharge)
2. For a duplicate licence to a person who, upon satisfactory proof, shows that his/her licence has been lost or destroyed (an affidavit is required) \$4.00
3. To transfer registered trapline rights to a person or group of persons . . . \$25.00
4. For a fur trader's licence \$50.00
5. For a fur trader to trade from a place of business in another province . . \$400.00

Note: Trapping licences shall be valid from the date of issuance to June 30, 2003 .

FUR ROYALTY REGULATIONS AND SCHEDULE

1. When a person is in possession of a pelt or skin of a furbearing animal not raised in captivity on which a royalty has not already been paid under this section, and fails to pay to the Minister of Finance a royalty on each pelt or skin in his or her possession, as prescribed by regulation, that person commits an offence.
2. Section (1) above does not apply to

the holder of a trapping or hunting licence, or a person exempted from holding a trapping or hunting licence when selling pelts, lawfully taken by him or her to the holder of a fur trader's licence.

3. (a) A person who kills a furbearing animal under the authority of a licence to hunt wildlife is exempt from paying a royalty in relation to the pelt or skin of that animal, unless he or she intends to offer the pelt or skin for sale.
- (b) A person who kills a furbearing animal under the authority of a licence to hunt wildlife is exempt from paying a royalty in relation to the pelt or skin if he or she sells the pelt or skin to a licensed fur trader.

Note: Any raw fur or skin of a furbearing animal shipped out of the Province for commercial purposes must be accompanied by a Royalty Fur Export Permit.

SCHEDULE OF ROYALTIES:

▶ Royalty per pelt or skin

Beaver	\$0.72	Muskrat	\$0.07
Black Bear	\$4.15	Otter	\$2.88
Bobcat	\$1.82	Raccoon	\$0.32
Coyote	\$0.79	Skunk	\$0.09
Fisher	\$1.15	Squirrel	\$0.05
Fox	\$0.83	Weasel	\$0.16
Lynx	\$2.69	Wolf	\$3.05
Marten	\$1.22	Wolverine	\$7.75
Mink	\$0.49		

INFORMATION

Trapline Cabins

▶ Trappers should register their trapline cabins on Crown Land. Cabin applications may take six months or more to process. Contact the MWLAP Regional Office in the area of the trapline for more information.

Provincial Parks & Recreation Areas

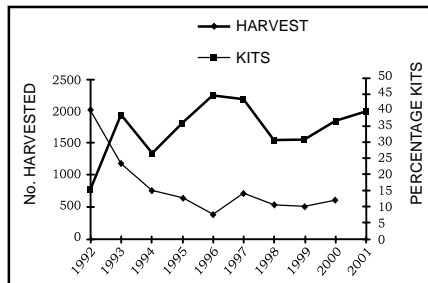
▶ Registered trapline tenure within Provincial Parks is subject to the provisions of the Park Act and Park regulations. Trappers are required to obtain a Park or Resource Use Permit to trap that part of their trapline occurring within a Provincial Park or Recreation Area. The permit can be obtained by contacting the nearest provincial parks office. The permit fee is \$100.

▶ Trapline cabins in Parks and Recreation Areas require authorization by a Park or Resource Use Permit. This permit can also be obtained by contacting the nearest BC

Parks District office. The permit fee is the greater of \$25 or \$10 per cabin.

Lynx Management Information

▶ Lynx populations are cyclical, following the approximate 10 year population cycles of the snowshoe hare, its principal food source. Lynx harvest records, the "Trapper Survey" questionnaire and lynx pelt measurements allow the lynx population cycles to be "tracked" or followed. Knowing the phase of the population cycle can help the trapper to adjust trapping effort (ie. reducing, stopping or increasing) accordingly. More information for the trapper concerning lynx management is contained in the brochure "Lynx - Management Guidelines For British Columbia".



▶ Annual lynx harvest and percentage of lynx kittens in the harvest is illustrated in the following graph.

▶ The proportion of kits in the harvest is an indication of the recruitment rate. Harvest should be restricted when this proportion is low.

Fisher Management by the Trapper

▶ Since 1991, a cooperative effort between trappers and the FWRA Branch has helped to ensure viable fisher populations in British Columbia. The effort continues to both reduce unplanned harvest of fisher and enhance populations.

Harvest Reduction Efforts

- ▶ Modify marten boxes by making them longer and the entry hole smaller (2.5 - 3" in diameter)
- ▶ avoid trapping around fisher den sites near large cottonwoods and fir snags
- ▶ avoid trapping marten or mink where fisher sign is evident

Population Enhancement

▶ establish food sites for fisher (helps marten and weasel also). Hang carcasses in

trees to reduce competition by other land predators

- ▶ complete fisher and marten trapping as early in the season as possible to help reduce the number of adult female fisher captured
- ▶ establish fisher non-trapping or refuge sites on your trapline.

COLLARED, IMPLANTED OR EAR-TAGGED FURBEARING ANIMALS

▶ Several fur bearing animal research projects are under way within the province. Please report the harvest of any collared, implanted or ear-tagged animal and return collars or implants to the nearest MWLAP regional office. Radio collars and implants are property of the Crown and cannot be retained.

Other Information for the Trapper

1. The Assigned Trapper Number (ATN) is required by the Fur Trader when accepting, exporting and selling fur. It is also required when paying fur royalties. Please remember to write your ATN on a slip of paper or letter when shipping your fur to a fur trader. This will prevent delays in getting your furs to market and cash returns to you. Fur traders cannot ship or sell fur without recording your ATN.
2. The FWRA Branch reserves the right to remove nuisance animals from Crown land, whether or not the Crown land in question is under a trapline registration.
3. Trapping within ecological reserves is prohibited.
4. You are reminded that under Sections 247 and 446 of the Criminal Code of Canada it is an offence for anyone to wilfully cause or permit to be caused unnecessary pain, suffering, or injury to an animal or injury to a person.
5. As approved humane traps become available, trapping regulations restricting or prohibiting the use of certain other traps in the capture of various animals will be brought into effect.
6. Any trapper accidentally capturing a weasel on Vancouver Island or on the Queen Charlotte Islands must forward the pelt and the carcass to the nearest MWLAP regional office.

7. Any trapper accidentally capturing a fisher in regions 1, 2, 4, or 8 must forward the pelt and carcass to the nearest regional MWLAP office.

2002/2003 Open Trapping Seasons for Fur Bearing Animals

Note: The following open seasons apply to the entire region unless specific management units are stated ie. 1, 2, 4, 5, means all of the regions 1, 2, 4, and 5; or 3(12-15, 18, 20, 26) means only the MUs in the () and should be read as: for region 3(3-12 to 3-15, 3-18, 3-20, and 3-26).

NOTICE
Grizzly Bear
or
Black Bear

There is no open season on any bear (grizzly bear or black bear) less than two years old or any bear in its company. Do not shoot any grizzly bear or black bear when observed in a family unit. There is no open season on white (Kermode) or blue (Glacier) colour phases of the black bear.

If you shoot an ear-tagged or radio collared bear, contact a MWLAP Office immediately for important information.

All Grizzly bear hunting is on LEH See LEH Synopsis for information

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SPECIES	REGIONS (MUs)	TRAPPING SEASON	SPECIES	REGIONS (MUs)	TRAPPING SEASON
BEAVER	1,2,3,4,5,8	Oct 15 - Apr 30	SKUNK	1(14,15), 2,	
	6,7	Oct 1 - May 31		3,4,5,6,7,8	Oct 15 - Feb 28
MUSKRAT	1,3,4,5,8	Oct 15 - Apr 30	WOLF	1	Nov 1 - Jun 30
	2	Nov 15 - Feb 15		2(2-4,7-10,17-19),	
	6,7	Oct 1 - May 31		3(45,46), 8	No Season
RIVER OTTER				2(5,6,11-16),	
	1,2,(2-5, 12-16)	Nov 15 - Feb 28		3(12-20,26-44)	Oct 15 - Feb 28
	2(6-11,17-19),3,4,5	Oct 15 - Apr 30		4*, 5, 6	Oct 15 - Mar 31
	6,7	Oct 1 - May 31		7	Oct 15 - May 31
	8	Nov 1 - Apr 15	BOBCAT		
MARTEN				1,6,7	No Season
	1,2,3,4,5,8	Nov 1 - Feb 15		2,3,4**,5,8	Nov 15 - Feb 15
	6,7(1-48,55-58)	Nov 1 - Feb 28	LYNX		
	7(49-54)	Nov 1 - Mar 15		1,2	No Season
MINK				3,5,6,7,8	Nov 15 - Feb 15
	1, 3, 4, 5,			4	Nov 15 - Dec 31
	7(1-48,55-58),8	Nov 1 - Feb 15	RACCOON		
	2,6(3,11,14)	Nov 15 - Feb 15		1,2,3,4,5	
	6 (except 3,11,14)	Nov 1 - Feb 28		6(except 12,13),7,8	Oct 1 - Mar 31
	7(49-54)	Oct 15 - Feb 15		6(12,13)	Jan 1 - Dec 31
WEASEL			SQUIRREL		
	1,6(12,13)	No Season		1,2,3,4,5,8	Nov 1 - Mar 15
	2***,3,4,5,8	Nov 1 - Feb 15		6,7	Nov 1 - Mar 31
	6(except 12,13), 7	Nov 1 - Feb 28	FISHER		
WOLVERINE				1,2,4, 8	No Season
	1,2,8	No Season		3,5,6,7	Nov 1 - Feb 15
	3,4,5	Nov 1 - Jan 31	BLACK BEAR**		
	6, (except 3,11,14),7	Nov 1 - Feb 28		1,2,3,4, 8	No Season
	6(3,11,14)	Nov 1 - Feb 15		5,6(3,11-14)	Oct 15 - May 15
COYOTE				6(except 3,11-14),7	Oct 1 - May 31
	1(14,15), 2,				
	3,4,5,6,7,8	Oct 15 - Mar 31			
FOX					
	1(14,15), 2,				
	3,4,6,7	Oct 15 - Feb 28			
	5	Oct. 15 - Mar 31			
	8	No Season			

* There is no closed season on wolf in the East Kootenay Trench below 3300' elevation.

** Quota: Bobcat - 2 in one year

Black Bear - 2 in one year

(NOTE: Please see page 7, item 46 and page 8 for regulations concerning bear parts.)

*** There is no open season on long-tailed weasel in M.U.'s 2-3, 2-4, 2-6, 2-18 and 2-19.