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	Title 2005-06 Annual Statewide Fur Harvest and Value Survey	

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INTRODUCTION:

The Annual Statewide Fur Harvest and Value Survey is conducted annually by the Indiana Division Fish & Wildlife (IDF&W) to monitor the number and value of furbearing animals harvested through hunting and trapping activities. Individuals interested in purchasing pelts of furbearing animals from Indiana hunters and trappers must apply for a fur buyer’s permit from the IDF&W. Following the furbearer hunting/trapping season, each licensed fur buyer is required to submit an annual report listing the number and value of pelts they purchased during the given year. From these reports, the total number and value of pelts purchased are tabulated for each species on a statewide and regional basis. This report summarizes data collected for Indiana’s 2005-06 regulated trapping and hunting season.

RESULTS/SUMMARY:

Fifty-seven fur buyer applications were distributed to applicants prior to the 2005-06 furbearer trapping and hunting season. Furbearer pelts were purchased in all six fur-harvest regions (Figure 1). Pelt purchases were greatest in the northeast fur harvest region. Similarly, the northeastern fur harvest region had the highest number of fur buyers (18), whereas the south central region had the fewest (2). Three fur buyers were nonresidents.

Statewide, fur buyers purchased a combined total of 194,084 beaver, coyote, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, red fox and skunk pelts during the 2005-06 furbearer trapping and hunting season (Table 1). Comparisons between the 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons indicate that the combined number of pelts purchased and average pelt price decreased by 2% and 23%, respectively. Total pelt value was \$1,094,179.50, a decrease of 15% from the previous season. Very few long-tailed weasel pelts were purchased during the 2005-06 season. Muskrat, mink and gray fox pelts exhibited the greatest advances in average pelt price, respectively, whereas raccoon pelts exhibited the greatest decline in average pelt price. Species composition of pelt purchases remained relatively similar to the 2004-05 fur harvest season (Figure 2). Raccoon and muskrat pelts accounted for 92% of the total number of pelts purchased.

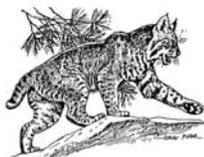


Table 1. Number, average price and total value of furbearer pelts purchased by Indiana fur buyers during 2005-06.

Species	No. Pelts Purchased	% Change	Avg. Pelt Price	% Change	Total Value	% Change
Muskrat	45,432	-9%	\$3.57	42%	\$162,095.62	30%
Raccoon	133,439	3%	\$5.90	-25%	\$786,808.50	-22%
Red Fox	1,186	-40%	\$15.11	20%	\$17,924.65	-28%
Gray Fox	285	-47%	\$17.28	24%	\$4,926.20	-33%
Mink	2,562	-10%	\$14.73	37%	\$37,735.05	23%
Opossum	4,095	-35%	\$1.16	-9%	\$4,751.97	-41%
Skunk	297	-10%	\$2.62	-7%	\$777.18	-17%
Beaver	2,804	-10%	\$13.48	20%	\$37,808.51	7%
Coyote	3,981	-12%	\$10.38	-2%	\$41,340.82	-14%
Long-tailed Weasel	3	-77%	\$3.67	290%	\$11.00	-10%
Total	194,084	-2%	\$5.64	-23%	\$1,094,179.50	-15%

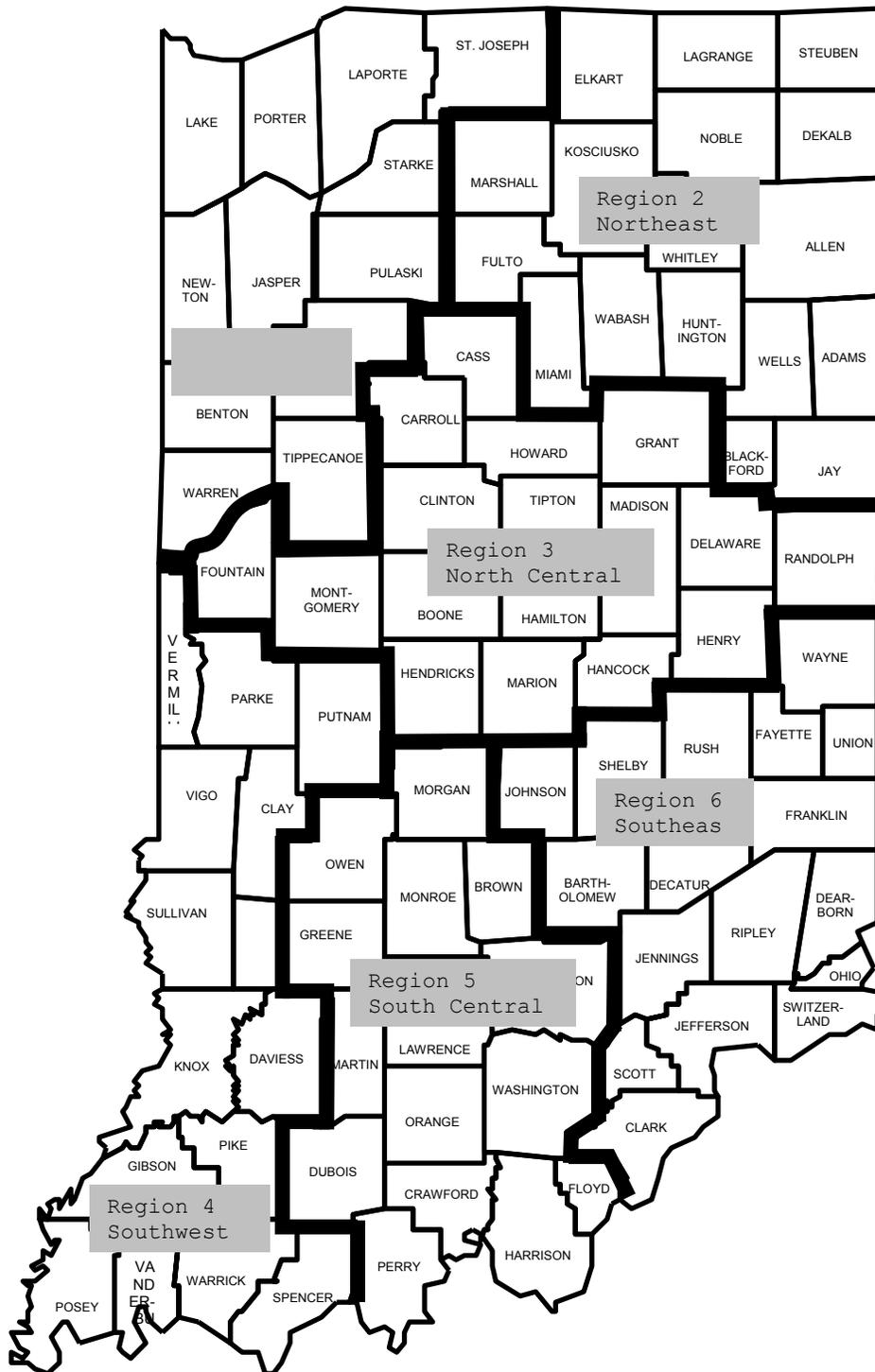


Figure 1. Indiana fur harvest regions.

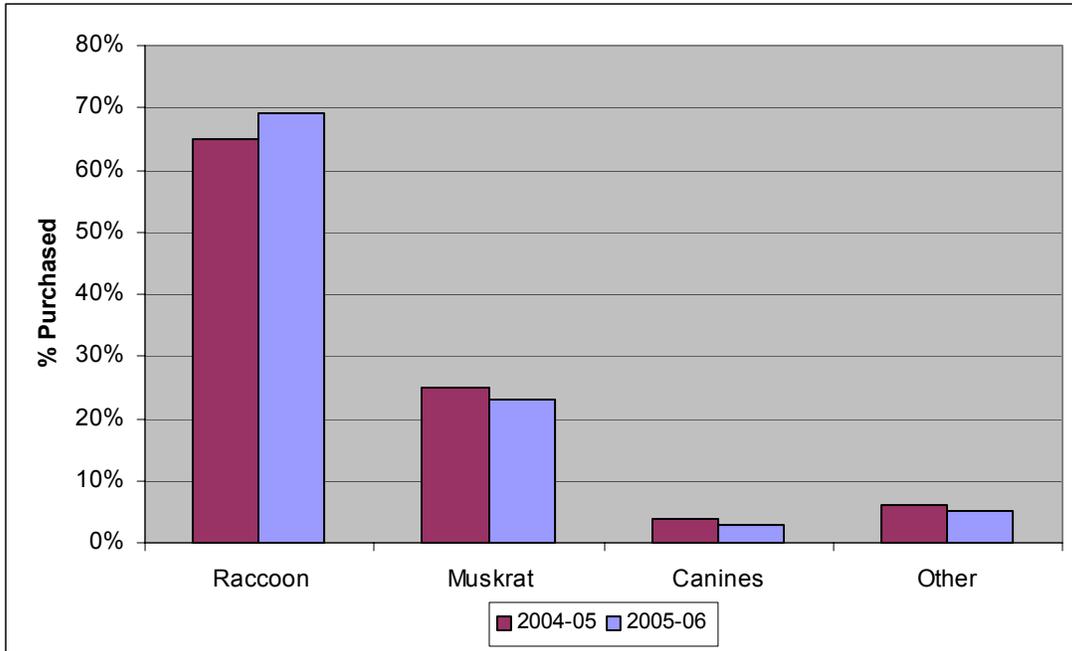


Figure 2. Percent of furbearer pelts purchased by licensed fur buyers in Indiana during the 2004-05 and 2005-06 regulated hunting and trapping seasons.