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	Title 2006-07 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 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 2006-07 hunting and trapping seasons.

RESULTS/SUMMARY:

Sixty-two fur buyer applications were distributed to applicants prior to the furbearer trapping and hunting seasons. 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 (19), whereas the south central region had the fewest (2). Two fur buyers were nonresidents.

Statewide, fur buyers purchased a combined total of 221,464 beaver, coyote, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, red fox and skunk pelts (Table 1). Total pelt value was \$1,653,204.56, an increase of 51% from the previous year. Comparisons between the 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons indicate that the combined number of pelts purchased and average pelt price increased by 14% and 32%, respectively. Muskrat and gray fox pelts exhibited the greatest advances in average pelt price, while purchases of long-tailed weasel pelts remained low. Raccoon and muskrat pelts accounted for 91% of the total number of pelts purchased (Figure 2).



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Table 1. Number, average price and total value of furbearer pelts purchased by Indiana fur buyers during 2006-07.

Species	No. Pelts Purchased	% Change	Avg. Pelt Price	% Change	Total Value	% Change
Muskrat	73,051	61%	\$6.35	78%	\$463,557.22	186%
Raccoon	127,293	-5%	\$7.89	33%	\$1,000,052.73	27%
Red Fox	1,566	32%	\$15.98	6%	\$25,020.48	40%
Gray Fox	229	-20%	\$23.67	37%	\$5,419.77	10%
Mink	3,283	28%	\$12.78	-13%	\$41,947.82	11%
Opossum	7,420	81%	\$1.48	28%	\$11,001.88	132%
Skunk	477	61%	\$3.51	34%	\$1,675.11	116%
Beaver	3,779	35%	\$14.30	6%	\$54,033.72	43%
Coyote	4,349	9%	\$11.60	12%	\$50,460.83	22%
Long-tailed Weasel	17	467%	\$2.06	-44%	\$35.00	218%
Total	221,464	14%	\$7.46	32%	\$1,653,204.56	51%

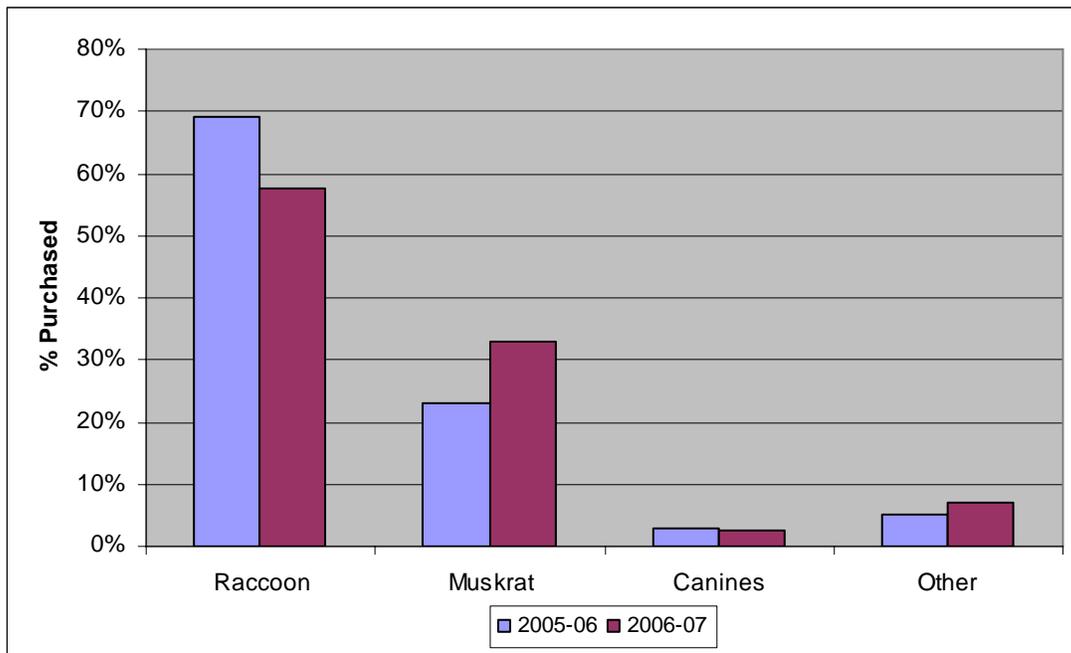


Figure 2. Percent of furbearer pelts purchased by licensed fur buyers in Indiana during the 2005-06 and 2006-07 regulated hunting and trapping seasons.