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FUR CATCH IN THE UNITED STATES, 1955

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The annual report of the fur catch is a cooperative undertaking with the State game and conservation commissions. This report gives the number and species of wild fur animals, by States, taken in the season 1954-55 or in 1955. Some States report the furs taken on a season basis, while others record the take for the calendar year.

It is quite impossible for the States to obtain a complete and accurate count of every fur animal taken. Furthermore, many States do not compile the final statistics of the fur catch for the current season until 6 months or even a year have passed. The figures given are the best available data and are presented to illustrate the trend of fur-animal production in the wild.

During recent years the prevailing low prices for raw furs, not the scarcity of animals, have been largely responsible for the decline in the take. Beaver is perhaps the outstanding exception, because the population has been steadily increasing and the prices received for the fur have been sufficiently high to encourage trapping. The same might be claimed for nutria, already abundant and increasing in the marsh areas of Louisiana and Texas, but prices paid for the raw nutria fur have been declining, and trappers have found it unprofitable to take these animals. By and large, however, the take of the staple furs--muskrat, skunk, raccoon, opossum, fox, and weasel--has been decreasing steadily.

For some years the outlook offered little to encourage trapping activities, and there is still much to be desired as an inducement for the trapper to expect a profit from running a trap line.

WILD FUR ANIMAL CATCH BY STATES, 1954-55

(The States marked by asterisk have reported for the calendar year 1955)

STATE	Badger	Bassarisk	Beaver	Bobcat	Fisher	FOX					Fur Seal	Lynx (Canadian)
						Blue	Grey, Red and Cross	Silver	Swift or Kit	White		
Alabama.....	.....	.....	1,193	.....	...	..	649	..	..	...	.....	.....
Alaska.....	.....	.....	17,455	.....	...	10	1,200	40	..	800	.....	3,100
*Pribilof Is. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	25	.....	..	..	...	65,638	.....
*Arizona 1/.....	.....	.....	137	.....	...	..	.....	..	..	...	.....	.....
Arkansas.....	.....	.....	.....	22	...	..	756	..	..	...	.....	.....
California....	31	230	1,006	223	Closed	..	284	..	19	...	.....	.....
Colorado.....	8	No report	.....	64	...	..	5	..	..	...	.....	.....
Connecticut 2/ .....	.....	.....	.....	33	...	..	3,340	..	..	...	.....	.....
Delaware.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	..	.....	..	..	...	.....	.....
Florida.....	.....	.....	.....	400	...	..	1,200	..	..	...	.....	.....
Georgia.....	.....	.....	450	1,200	...	..	14,500	..	..	...	.....	.....
Idaho 2/.....	.....	.....	9,397	.....	...	..	3	..	..	...	.....	.....
Illinois 3/.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	..	.....	..	..	...	.....	.....
*Indiana.....	8	.....	92	.....	...	..	235	..	..	...	.....	.....
Iowa.....	63	.....	3,635	.....	...	..	1,875	..	..	...	.....	.....
Kansas.....	126	.....	4,460	.....	...	..	386	..	..	...	.....	.....
Kentucky.....	.....	.....	.....	2	...	..	484	..	..	...	.....	.....
Louisiana.....	.....	.....	.....	542	...	..	31	..	..	...	.....	.....
*Maine.....	.....	.....	8,883	667	102	..	8,825	..	..	...	.....	.....
Maryland.....	.....	.....	.....	1	...	..	203	..	..	...	.....	.....
Massachusetts. ....	.....	.....	181	.....	...	..	38	..	..	...	.....	.....
Michigan.....	824	.....	8,493	696	...	..	35,635	..	..	...	.....	.....
*Minnesota.....	696	.....	24,157	1,080	...	4/	19,039	..	..	...	.....	135
Mississippi.....	.....	.....	1,272	101	...	..	260	..	..	...	.....	.....
Missouri.....	.....	.....	2,333	.....	...	..	1,930	..	..	...	.....	.....
Montana.....	248	.....	25,309	1,320	...	..	86	..	..	...	.....	16
Nebraska.....	389	.....	9,458	84	...	..	230	..	..	...	.....	.....
Nevada.....	.....	.....	2,289	.....	...	..	.....	..	..	...	.....	.....
New Hampshire. ....	.....	.....	1,910	3	...	..	45	..	..	...	.....	.....
New Jersey 5/.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	..	748	..	..	...	.....	.....
New Mexico....	753	33	1,000	1,379	...	..	1,113	..	..	...	.....	.....
*New York 6/....	.....	.....	7,649	.....	230	..	.....	..	..	...	.....	.....
North Carolina .....	.....	.....	143	19	...	..	382	..	..	...	.....	.....
North Dakota..	2,179	.....	3,126	238	...	..	9,116	..	..	...	.....	.....
Ohio.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	..	821	..	..	...	.....	.....
Oklahoma.....	8	.....	.....	15	...	..	146	..	..	...	.....	.....
Oregon.....	13	.....	13,393	492	...	..	93	..	..	...	.....	.....
Pennsylvania .....	.....	.....	3,176	11	...	..	4,197	..	..	...	.....	.....
Rhode Island..	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	..	824	..	..	...	.....	.....
South Carolina .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	..	504	..	..	...	.....	.....
South Dakota 7/ .....	.....	.....	5,570	.....	...	..	.....	..	..	...	.....	.....
Tennessee.....	.....	.....	.....	6	...	..	292	..	..	...	.....	.....
*Texas.....	7	15,066	96	.....	...	..	1,356	..	..	...	.....	.....
Utah.....	.....	.....	3,925	.....	...	..	.....	..	..	...	.....	.....
Vermont 8/.....	.....	.....	2,687	.....	...	..	.....	..	..	...	.....	.....
Virginia.....	.....	.....	6	39	...	..	1,518	..	..	...	.....	.....
Washington..	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	..	77	..	..	...	.....	.....
*West Virginia .....	.....	.....	442	7	...	..	200	..	..	...	.....	.....
Wisconsin.....	128	.....	6,083	524	...	..	38,597	..	..	...	.....	.....
*Wyoming.....	.....	.....	13,696	.....	...	..	.....	..	..	...	.....	.....
TOTAL	5,481	15,329	183,102	9,168	332	35	151,223	40	19	800	65,638	3,251

WILD FUR ANIMAL CATCH BY STATES, 1954-55

(The States marked by asterisk have reported for the calendar year 1955)

STATE	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Nutria	Opossum	Otter	Raccoon	Skunk	Squirrel	Weasel	Wolf	Wolverine
Alabama.....		7,570	12,130	.....	956	451	7,081	1,098	.....	309	.....	...
Alaska.....	7,000	27,700	110,000	.....	.....	3,100	.....	.....	.....	3,300	1,560	300
*Pribilof Is..												...
*Arizona 1/.....												...
Arkansas.....		16,746	7,812	.....	26,331	.....	52,318	4,655	.....	53	2	...
California.....	Closed	2,240	105,007	.....	207	107	1,448	867	.....	31	276	...
Colorado.....	176	154	43,509	.....	.....	.....	331	241	.....	252	26	...
Connecticut 2/.....		770	32,844	.....	.....	90	9,694	1,269	73,377	322	.....	...
Delaware.....			21,701	.....	.....	.....	616	.....	15,404	.....	.....	...
Florida.....		125	.....	.....	1,500	600	4,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Georgia.....		3,500	32,000	.....	45,000	200	58,000	1,500	.....	300	.....	...
Idaho 2/.....	348	5,254	107,204	.....	.....	102	274	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Illinois 3/.....												...
*Indiana.....		7,171	157,947	.....	5,156	.....	91,845	1,059	.....	664	.....	...
Iowa.....		20,051	143,886	.....	1,758	.....	49,592	3,400	.....	229	45	...
Kansas.....		7,382	37,654	.....	7,554	.....	36,546	10,651	.....	18	75	...
Kentucky.....		8,540	58,968	.....	4,815	.....	8,657	1,002	.....	193	.....	...
Louisiana.....		65,170	1,383,114	374,199	7,497	5,407	84,223	120	.....	.....	.....	...
*Maine.....		3,138	35,039	.....	.....	350	31,290	267	.....	1,033	.....	...
Maryland.....		640	183,370	.....	997	96	7,595	845	.....	269	.....	...
Massachusetts..		1,225	92,358	.....	.....	167	3,587	160	.....	178	.....	...
Michigan.....		20,950	310,648	.....	53,818	434	105,336	9,111	.....	15,699	3,766	...
*Minnesota.....		56,151	81,335	.....	107	.....	9,385	7,353	384,701	59,987	2,990	...
Mississippi.....		11,474	4,509	.....	2,486	130	16,257	708	.....	No rept.	.....	...
Missouri.....		11,060	43,116	.....	25,288	.....	104,828	6,096	.....	51	.....	...
Montana.....	Closed	10,217	41,805	.....	.....	Closed	763	2,465	.....	1,109	139	4
Nebraska.....		12,415	133,286	.....	3,418	.....	19,676	4,090	.....	254	957	...
Nevada.....						2/ 13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
New Hampshire.....		1,240	12,641	.....	.....	133	2,044	13	.....	98	.....	...
New Jersey 5/.....							505	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
New Mexico.....		Closed	3,650	.....	.....	.....	247	1,100	.....	10	1,478	...
*New York 6/.....						301	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
North Carolina.....		9,653	76,711	51	2,687	1,508	23,812	418	.....	299	.....	...
North Dakota.....		15,977	123,438	.....	.....	.....	6,945	12,219	.....	3,927	246	...
Ohio.....		3,668	215,239	.....	5,675	.....	103,756	1,319	.....	1,151	.....	...
Oklahoma.....		4,700	6,781	.....	18,436	.....	13,882	15,022	.....	9	43	...
Oregon.....	30	3,625	47,758	15	16	269	1,270	272	.....	199	334	...
Pennsylvania.....		9,026	525,521	.....	12,256	.....	45,677	15,509	.....	8,477	.....	...
Rhode Island.....		156	7,868	.....	.....	13	179	502	.....	42	.....	...
South Carolina.....		2,891	1,680	.....	3,642	102	2,911	193	.....	.....	.....	...
South Dakota 7/.....												...
Tennessee.....		7,111	67,652	.....	10,513	.....	7,813	10,313	.....	69	.....	...
*Texas.....		8,761	35,692	9,896	5,296	.....	29,526	752	.....	.....	.....	...
Utah.....		507	125,328	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Vermont 8/.....												...
Virginia.....		3,805	107,084	.....	6,880	476	11,015	9,680	511	377	.....	...
Washington.....	438	6,385	81,819	.....	.....	853	1,837	134	.....	277	.....	...
*West Virginia.....		847	21,549	.....	2,352	.....	6,164	1,152	.....	169	.....	...
Wisconsin.....		28,491	388,218	.....	3,090	Closed	20,005	3,341	.....	14,596	2,579	...
*Wyoming.....												...
TOTAL.....	7,992	406,486	5,027,871	384,161	257,731	14,902	980,930	129,296	473,993	113,951	14,516	304

1/ Arizona: Major fur-bearing species are the muskrat and bassarisk, but unable to supply information except that of beaver.

6/ New York: Census figures not available for species other than beaver, fisher, and otter.

2/ Connecticut and Idaho: The last year reported is 1954.

7/ South Dakota: Does not require trappers to make report on furs taken; estimate made for beaver.

3/ Illinois: No information available.

8/ Vermont: Fur-bearer research project closed. Data for beaver are actual tagging figures.

4/ Minnesota: Fox figures include silver.

5/ New Jersey: The takes of fox and raccoon are by State employees only. The State no longer has a census record of licenses

9/ Nevada: 13 otter were State trapped.

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