

From: [Grizzle, Betty](#)
To: harrower@shaw.ca
Subject: Re: Question re trapping trends
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:17:23 AM

Thanks Bill for your insights!

My question really is about demand for the pelts, not so much about changes in the trapping season per se (which is also interesting).

That is, if climate is becoming warmer (globally, but especially in Holarctic region), is there less demand for wolverine pelts for (human) products such as coats, coat trim, etc., as well as fur from other trapped species? If there is less demand, then I would expect there would be less trapping, though from what you provided this is difficult information to come by and I am not at all sure how this economic market works.

Hope that helps explain my questions.

On Tue, Mar 28, 2017 at 10:06 AM, William Harrower <harrower@shaw.ca> wrote:

Betty,

That's a great idea!

There are also some data you might get at that with; however, it's been really hard to collect. The Province of BC used to run a trapper survey program to solicit local knowledge from trappers directly. However, it was always difficult to get trappers to estimate the effort they put in. We wanted to estimate how it changed over time. There was a real hesitancy on the part of the trappers to give up those data.

That said, there is a push from some trappers to extend the season on some species now because of climate and possibly habitat (we've seen huge changes). That could be the signal you are trying to tease out. The problem with wolverine is that very few trappers actually target them. They usually get them as incidental catch in lynx sets or some other way. Thus, most trappers don't change their regular behaviour in response to wolverine – there are two few of them.

One place you might try is the Yukon. They still have a trapper survey and have seen more dramatic changes in winter temperature than nearly anywhere else on the globe. Also, trapping is more serious than here in BC where really it is a hobby. However, trappers there are fiercely independent. Piia Kukka works for the Yukon Territorial government and just finished (or is just about to finish) her MSc. on wolverine. Here is her email: Piia.Kukka@gov.yk.ca, tell her I sent ya.

I'll ask around at the trappers conference in April to see what people think of this timing issue. It's

really interesting, especially since there is a push to change the trapping season for lynx. I have a connection with the fur traders house in the north also, I'll ask there when I can.

What is the goal/task you've been given here?

Bill

From: Grizzle, Betty [mailto:betty_grizzle@fws.gov]

Sent: 27-Mar-17 2:29 PM

To: harrower@shaw.ca

Subject: Question re trapping trends

Hi Bill - I'm not sure how to tease out this answer, but is it possible that trapping for wolverine, for pelts not for taxidermy, is declining given the warmer winters that have been occurring? (certainly in Alaska, not sure about climate trends in Canada). Are the fur traders seeing a decline in demand? Just a thought...

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Betty J. Grizzle, D.Env.

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