A Long-term Dataset from a Furbearer Harvest Program on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

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Introduction

- Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge (Refuge)
  - 420 km of the Mississippi River
  - 97,125 ha
  - 4 States (MN, WI, IA, and IL)

- Furbearer Trapping on Refuge
  - Traditional activity
  - Manage furbearer populations and habitat
  - Safeguard Refuge infrastructure
  - Regulated since 1929 through Special Use Permits
  - Mandatory fur catch reports provide data on trapping effort and furbearer harvest

Datasets

- Trapping Effort
  - Refuge permits issued = 1992-2012
  - # of days trapped = 1992-2012
  - # of traps used = 1998-2012
- Harvest
  - Muskrat = 1939-2012
  - Mink = 1939-2012
  - Beaver = 1948-2012
  - Raccoon = 1953-2012

Trapping Effort

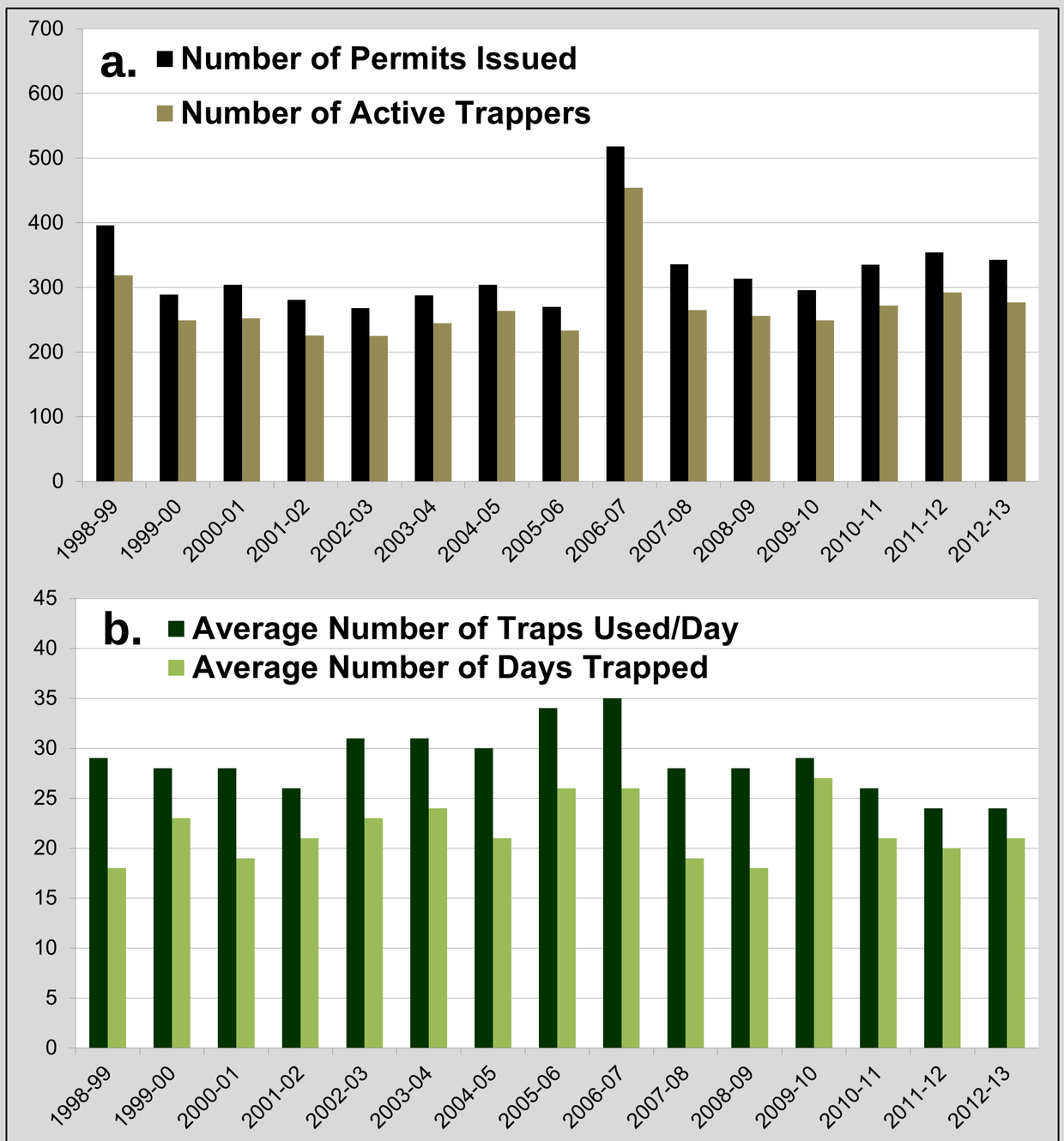

Figure 1. Trapping effort data from 1998-2012, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge: a) permits issued per season and number of active trappers per season (trapped at least 1 day); and b) number of traps used per day and average number of days trapped.

Harvest

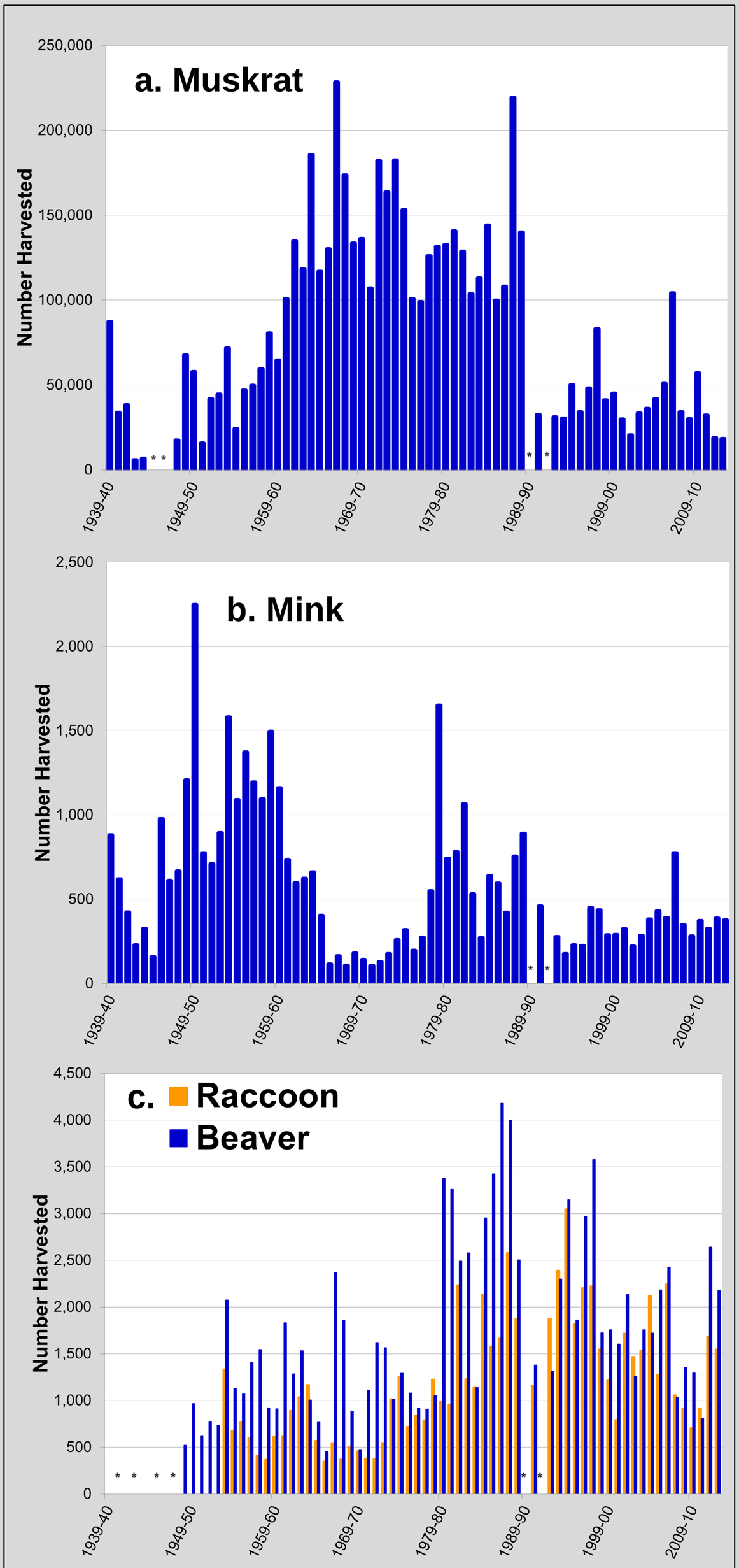

Figure 2. Furbearer harvest data from 1939-2012, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge: a) muskrats; b) mink; and c) beaver and raccoon (* = no data).