



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
284 STATE STREET
41 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041

CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK
COMMISSIONER

October 7, 2011

Dear Trapper:

Another trapping season is fast approaching; the Department continues to work diligently to provide trappers opportunity while ensuring healthy furbearer populations for the future. Through these efforts, I want to call your attention to several rule and season changes that will provide more opportunity to trap furbearers in Maine. Changes, in brief, include; wooden-based rat traps for weasels may be set on land if recessed in a wooden box in Wildlife Management Districts (WMDs) 7, and 12 – 29; # 220 or smaller body-gripping traps will be allowed on the ground with a lynx exclusion device in WMDs 7, 14, 18, and 19; there is no size restriction for foothold traps in WMDs 14, 18, and 19; restrictions for type of trap that can be used to trap muskrats in the spring begin March 1; and finally, we now offer a Trapper Apprentice License. Also, the body-gripper trap restrictions to avoid lynx captures now include WMDs 14, 18, and 19 with WMDs 1-11. Please see the Trapper Information Booklet or the 2011-12 Hunting & Trapping Laws and Rules summary for specific details on these rule changes. Last, I want to make you aware of an **error** in the *Maine Hunting and Trapping 2011-2012 Laws & Rules* book. On page 35 in the section for “killer-type (body-gripping) traps”, the second bullet should include WMDs 14, 18, and 19. The correct rule is:

- In Wildlife Management District 1 through 11, **14, 18, and 19** all killer-type traps must be set completely under water or at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and 4 feet away from any bank, in an area that is free of objects greater than 4 inches in diameter within 4 feet of the trap, and is free of trees or slanted poles between the height of the trap and the ground, except that killer-type traps with an inside jaw spread of 5 inches or less can also be set:

- »» partially covered by water at all times, or
- »» under overhanging stream banks, or
- »» in blind sets that use no bait, lure, or visible attractors (animal droppings or urine are allowed)

You will notice a trapper effort reporting form for the fall trapping season was included with your trapping license and a form for spring trapping is included with this letter. Please take the time to read and complete at the end of your trapping season. Information obtained from these reports will improve furbearer management in Maine. We appreciate your participation in this effort.

Remember that if you catch a lynx you must report to a game warden or biologist of the Department as soon as possible and prior to removing the animal from the trap, unless a Department official cannot be reached in time to prevent injury to the lynx. Any lynx released under this provision must be reported to the Department within 24 hours from the time it was discovered. If you catch a lynx you can call the lynx hotline (207) 592-4734, or contact your local game warden.

Once again, the Department will be distributing the Trapper Information Booklet, also known as the Beaver Mailing, over the internet rather than mailing copies to every trapper. We are asking trappers who have access to the Internet, either at their local library or at home, to obtain their copy of the Trapper Information Booklet from the Department's webpage at



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[http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/trapping/index.htm]. If you do not have access to the Internet, please telephone the Wildlife Division at 287-5252 to request a printed copy of the Trapper Information Booklet and a copy will be mailed to you.

Rules and season changes for the 2011-2012 trapping season are underlined.

WMDs	2010-2011 Beaver Trapping Seasons	Season Dates
1, 2, 4, 5		October <u>16</u> – April 30
3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11		November 1 – April 30
18, 19, 28.....		November 1 – April 15
<u>7, 12, 13, 14, 17, 27</u>		<u>November 1 – March 31</u>
15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29.....		December 1 – March 31

The general trapping season begins October 30 and ends December 31.

The early muskrat season in WMDs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 11 only, starts Sunday, October 23 and lasts until Saturday, October 29.

The early fox and coyote trapping season runs from Sunday, October 16 through Saturday, October 29 and is open statewide.

Also, remember that all skins must be tagged within 10 days of the end of the season for that species and all bobcats taken by hunting must be tagged within 72 hours. Only Department personnel can tag otter and bobcat, telephone numbers for Departmental offices, are on page 2 of the 2011-2012 Hunting & Trapping Laws and Rules summary booklet.

If you have questions regarding any of these regulations or the furbearer program in general, please feel free to contact your Regional Wildlife Biologist, or John DePue our Furbearer Biologist at our Bangor Office (941-4473). I wish you a good trapping season.

Sincerely,

Chandler E. Woodcock
Commissioner