2022-2023 Wild Furbearer Program Report

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LEADING IOWANS IN CARING FOR OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

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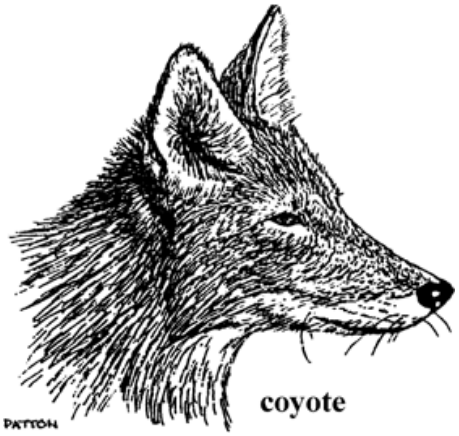
Table of Contents



Introduction

Iowa supports a wide diversity of native furbearer species including badger (Taxidea taxus), beaver (Castor canadensis), bobcat (Lynx rufus), coyote (Canis latrans), mink (Mustela vison), muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus), opossum (Didelphis virginiana), river otter (Lutra canadensis), raccoon (Procyon lotor), striped (Mephitis mephitis) and spotted (Spilogale putorius) skunk, red (Vulpes vulpes) and gray (Urocyon cinereoargenteus) fox, and weasel (Mustela spp.). Data regarding population trends for these species is important for effectively evaluating management efforts and the status of furbearer species, statewide. Long-term population data for many furbearer species is difficult to obtain and often lacking at a landscape-scale. However, data such as harvest, road-kills, the bowhunter survey, and spring spotlight survey indices have shown positive correlations with changes in population abundance for many of these species. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) monitors population trends of Iowa furbearer species through the use of 1) Annual Furharvest Reports, 2) the Spring Spotlight Survey, and 3) the Iowa Bowhunter Observation Survey.

Each year since 1930, the Iowa DNR has collected harvest data for furbearer species from licensed fur dealers in Iowa (Table 3.1). According to Iowa Code 109.97, every licensed fur dealer is required to report the total number of furs purchased per species from Iowa trappers and hunters by 15 May, annually. Although harvest data may only indicate a trend in population abundance, long-term harvest information provides a retrospective view of the status of various furbearer populations over time. Furthermore, in 1975, in response to debates regarding trapper versus hunter access to furbearer resources in the state, the Iowa DNR required licensed fur dealers to report the percent of raccoon, fox, and coyote pelts purchased from trappers and hunters, respectively. These data are useful in determining the impact of each harvest method on furbearer populations and the impact of weather on total harvest per species.

In 1978, the Iowa DNR began annual, statewide Spring Spotlight Surveys for raccoons, other furbearer species, and white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus). Since 1978, the average raccoon harvest in Iowa has equaled or exceeded the average total harvest of all other furbearer species combined. In recent years, raccoon pelt values have declined significantly, but still contribute to a significant portion of the total harvest value in Iowa each year. Thus, the Spring Spotlight Survey provides additional and useful data for managing important furbearer species in the state. The full report is available on the DNR's website.

Population trend data for furbearer species have also been gathered annually since 2004 from the Iowa Bowhunter Observation Survey. Avid archers were identified a priori for survey and provide statewide observation data for Iowa furbearers during which more than 100,000 observation hours occur annually. Avid archers were considered ideal for collecting observation data because most are 1) experts at stand placement and concealment from wildlife, 2) knowledgeable regarding species identification, 3) in the field many hours each year, and 4) use methods for observing white-tailed deer that lend well to observation of many furbearer species. This dataset provides a repeatable and potentially long-term survey method for supplementing annual furharvest data.

Historic Furbearer Harvest

Prior to the 20th century, beaver furs were one of the most desired pelts on the market due to their thickness, durability, and warmth. However, because of high demand, beavers were overharvested around much of the world, even to extinction in Europe. In Iowa, beavers were extirpated by the turn of the century so the harvest season had to be closed, statewide.

At the turn of the century, skunk furs were in high demand, worldwide. The fur trade was thriving as a result of increased visibility of actresses wearing furs and the high social status associated with fur products. However, in the 1930s, the market for skunk furs declined in response to demand for fox furs by the European fashion industry. During the 1930s, muskrat, mink, skunk, and opossum composed the largest proportion of total furbearer harvest in Iowa. By the end of the 1930s, the total skunk harvest in Iowa began to decline whereas the red and gray fox harvests were growing.

During the 1930s and 1940s, the Iowa Conservation Commission (currently the Iowa DNR) initiated a beaver reintroduction program in Iowa. Beavers were live captured and transplanted throughout the state and by 1943, the harvest season for beaver was reopened. During the 1943-44 season, 235 beavers were harvested (Table 3.1).

By the mid to late 1940s in Iowa, muskrat, mink, red and gray fox, striped and spotted skunk, opossum, coyote, and weasel harvests all faced dramatic declines in response to World War II (WWII). Within 5 years, total harvest collapsed from an all-time high of 418,484 to an all-time low of 135,108. Twelve species composed the total harvests in the early 1940s but during the 1947-48 season, only muskrat, mink, striped and spotted skunk, red and gray fox, and raccoon were reported.

Following WWII, the fur market continued to depreciate as the production cost for labor-intensive fur products exceeded fur values and the need for fur products was replaced by the development of central heating. Society began viewing fur products as a trend characteristic of the previous generation and the demand for fox furs on the European market declined. Mink products, however, were viewed more favorably by the high class resulting in increased demand compared with previous decades.

Although demand was high, mink harvests in Iowa declined sharply in the early 1950s and remained low as a result of extended drought in the region and overall low mink prices, worldwide. Muskrat, striped and spotted skunk, red and gray fox, coyote, opossum, badger, and weasel also faced dramatic harvest crashes; composing less than 5% of the total harvest during that decade. Ultimately, raccoon and muskrat harvests became more stabilized and composed the greatest proportion of the total harvest in the 1950s.

During the 1960s, total harvest increased and was relatively stable in Iowa. Beaver populations had continued to recover with steady harvests averaging 6,800. Beginning in the early 1970s, raccoon, mink, red and gray fox, coyote, opossum, and badger all saw increased harvests. Striped skunk harvest had remained well below the 1930 average during the previous two decades but also showed a stable, yet small recovery. By the 1979-80 season, record total harvests topped 1 million (1,146,311) in Iowa for the first time in recorded history.

Although record furbearer harvests were achieved in the 1970s, spotted skunk populations struggled. Reports from the 1940s indicated that spotted skunk were common in portions of Iowa but by the 1970s, they were considered rare in the state. In 1976 the spotted skunk harvest season was closed statewide, and the species was ultimately classified as an endangered species in Iowa. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the Iowa DNR received only 1 or 2 spotted skunk reports per year.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, anti-furharvest groups formed and began protesting the development of fur products in the United States. Advertisements and celebrity endorsements were used to build public support against the fur trade. Demand for furs in North America subsequently declined, although the fur market in Europe remained less affected.

Throughout the early and mid-1980s, total furharvest in Iowa remained relatively strong. However, by the late 1980s, Iowa experienced extreme drought conditions. When combined with a weak global fur market, statewide harvests for all species crashed. Total reported harvest decreased by 450% in a 4-year period; reaching a low of 216,874 by 1990-91 (Table 3.1).

Total reported furharvest in Iowa remained low, stabilizing around 275,000 through the 1990s and early 2000s. Total harvest was primarily composed of raccoon and muskrat, as well as beaver, coyote, opossum, red fox, and mink in lower proportions.

For the past five years (2018-22), the total fur harvest in Iowa has continued to decline. The total reported harvest of all furbearer species in Iowa for the 2022-23 season was 65,658 (Table 3.1).

Licensed Furharvesters and Fur Dealers

The average number of licensed furharvesters in Iowa fluctuates with current fur markets (Figure 3.1). Generally, as fur prices increase, the number of furharvesters in the state increases in subsequent years, and vice versa in years when fur prices are lower. In 2022-23, the number of licensed furharvesters in Iowa remained similar (15,286) from the previous year 15,217. But remains down from the 10-year high of 20,818 in 2013-14 (Table 3.2). The total number of licensed fur harvesters has remained quite stable since 2020 which may be attributed to momentum from 2019 and 2020 in which

more folks sought outdoor pursuits due to Covid 19.

Over the past 10 years, the number of licensed fur dealers in Iowa has fluctuated from 31 to 49 and is also dependent upon the fur market trends (Figure 3.2). In 2022-23, there were 24 registered fur dealers (resident); which is a decline of 7 from the previous year (31) in 2021-22 (Table 3.2).

Current Fur Market in Iowa

For the upcoming 2023-24 season, the overall wild fur market outlook again looks fairly weak, but may trend upward slightly from the previous year in some categories of fur such as beaver, river otter, and badger. Yet, still a stark contrast to when the market was relatively strong from 2010-13. Demand is still primarily from China and Russia, with several other smaller countries buying fur. Continued instability both politically and economically with China and Russia, plus several countries of Europe and the Middle East - have created a general decline for demand in the global fur market. High quality furs are still prized in the fashion/style industry. Demand for ranch mink, oil prices, current fur inventories, and other factors can give some indication how the wild fur markets will trend for the upcoming year. The trim trade for longer haired pelts such as coyotes trended down sharply again last year, and may remain that way this upcoming year. The market for raccoon pelts remains weak which is unfortunate because an increased effort to harvest raccoons in Iowa is needed. Prices for beaver, bobcat, badger and otter are expected to remain somewhat decent for 2023-24. Demand for muskrat, striped skunk, opossum, red fox, and weasel may remain similar to recent years for this upcoming season.

For 2022-23, furbearer prices and number of pelts sold in Iowa followed current, national furbearer market trends. Average pelt prices did increase slightly from the previous year for all species except muskrats, mink, bobcats and coyotes. For coyotes, the average pelt price isn't even half of their value from just three years ago (Table 3.3). The total dollar value for all species of pelts sold in Iowa increased slightly from the previous year from $228,594 to $292,282 (Table 3.4). However, it is still lower in comparison to when the market was stronger 7 years ago in 2013. That year the total harvest value in Iowa was $6,034,386. Mink, muskrat, and raccoon were below the 5-year and long term pelt price averages in 2022-23. While red fox prices in 2022-23 were slightly above the 5-year average of $8.41 at $10.12, but slightly below the long term average of $11.98 (Table 3.4).

2022-23 Furharvest Season in Iowa

Annual and long-term weather events, habitat, and disease significantly impact furbearer populations and harvest success in Iowa. Precipitation, water levels, and the timing of freeze-up especially affect aquatic furbearer harvests throughout the state. Species like muskrat and beaver populations can be cyclic and historically fluctuate following wet/dry periods; which can also result in fluctuating annual harvests.

Terrestrial furbearer (coyotes, fox, badger, etc.) harvests are impacted by the severity of winters, level of snow cover, and the duration of extreme temperatures because it affects daily animal movement. The severity of harsh winter weather has also been shown to limit hunter and trapper effort in some years. Typically, trapping and raccoon hunting success is greater during mild winters in which snow cover is minimal. Inversely, hunter success harvesting coyote and fox increases during years of extended snow cover. Ultimately, consideration of annual weather variables is important for analyzing harvest trends and developing sound management strategies for furbearers in Iowa.

In 2022, weather conditions were generally mild to normal during the first 7-10 days of the furharvest season. Rain greeted many furharvesters across the state on opening day. However cold weather moved into much of the state by mid to late November, causing ice up to occur during this time across the north half of the state. Moisture levels varied throughout Iowa, with many parts in the north half drier than normal, while parts of southern Iowa were variable. By late-November, many waterbodies throughout the state were frozen over already which can reduce water trapping efforts. Snow occurred in some parts of the state during the second or third week of November, with more widespread snow by early December. Trapping on dry land was extremely variable due to the fluctuating temperatures and precipitation events. With low fur market prices on average, overall furharvest effort was down in 2022-23 with a lower overall harvest than the previous year (Table 3.1). The harvest effort for dry land trapping and predator hunting, especially for coyotes, was considerably low most likely due to the drop in coyote pelt values beginning two years ago.

The proportion of pelts purchased by Iowa fur dealers from trappers was higher than those harvested by hunters for raccoon (82% and 18%), and fox (70% and 30%). For the first time in 40 years, trappers harvested more coyotes (53%) than did hunters (47%) in 2022-23 (Table 3.5). Bobcat harvest by hunter versus trapper is recorded but is not 100% complete because several animals are kept for taxidermy purposes. Bobcat trappers harvested 51% of the total harvest reported, whereas hunters harvested 48% (Table 3.5). The total number of coyotes harvested in 2022-23 decreased drastically to 3,325 from two years ago (15,087). An all-time high coyote harvest occurred in 2018 (18,676) since records began in 1930, and was three times above the long term average. Decent fur market prices, a rise in popularity in pursuing coyotes, and a good population were likely reasons for the high coyote harvest from 2017-2020 (Table 3.1).

The reported gray fox harvest (4) in Iowa for 2022-23 remained very low again (Table 3.3). The continued downward trend in the gray fox harvest is a concern. This low harvest trend indicates severe declines in their population throughout the state. It should also be noted that more gray fox are taken in for taxidermy or tanning than sold in the fur market. Those numbers are not reported to the Iowa DNR. We will continue to monitor the gray fox harvest and population. Similar trends (declining populations) of gray fox are occurring in other Midwest states (IL, OH, IN, etc.). Further regional (Midwest) research is needed to help answer questions about the cause of their decline over that past 10-20 years.

The following sections cover 2022 -23 harvest and population trends for each specific furbearer species.

Raccoon

Raccoon harvest in the 1930s was relatively low and comprised only 3% of the total harvest. By the mid to late 1940s, raccoon harvests had tripled; comprising a significant portion of the total harvest (14%) for the first time. Harvests steadily increased throughout the next two decades but remained relatively low until the early 1970s (Figure 3.3). During the 1970-71 season, raccoon harvest totaled 94,174. By 1975, raccoon harvests had boomed, experiencing a 300% increase to 292,064 (Table 3.1). Although harvests had climbed to nearly 100,000 during the previous 2 decades, populations still increased steadily. Corn was being planted on more and more acres creating an abundant food source. High harvest rates likely minimized disease outbreaks such as distemper, helping to maintain healthy populations as well. By the 1986-87 season, harvests reached a current, all-time high of 390,773. However, within 4 years, harvests crashed to 103,468 (a 378% decline) as a result of poor market prices and severe regional drought. Average harvest throughout the 1990s and mid-2000s remained around 129,000. In 2011-12, harvests again peaked to 326,368 when the fur market trended upward (Table 3.1 and Figure 3.3).

In 2022-23 the statewide harvest for raccoons was 42,067 which was a slight increase from 2021 (34,529) (Table 3.1). Annual raccoon harvests this low haven't been recorded since 1958 in Iowa. The raccoon trapping and hunting season was open from Nov 5, 2022 - Jan. 31, 2023, with no daily bag limits nor possession limit (Table 3.6). The average raccoon pelt price in Iowa was $4.15, which was up from the 2021-22 average price ($2.99; Figure 3.4; Table 3.3), but still remains very low in comparison to previous decades. Trapping accounted for 82% of the total harvest, similar from the previous season, while hunting accounted for the remaining harvest (18%), (Table 3.5).

The 2022 Iowa Bowhunter Observation Survey indicated regional populations trended up from the previous year throughout all regions of Iowa (Figure 3.5). The overall statewide trend for the fall bowhunter observation survey for raccoons trended upward in 2022. The raccoon population remains high on average throughout the entire state (Figure 3.6). Results from the 2023 Spring Spotlight Survey indicated the overall statewide raccoon population decreased a bit from the previous year, however there is still a long-term upward trend (Figure 3.7). The relative distribution averaged over the past five years shows a similar trend with the southwest and east central Iowa regions holding the highest number of raccoons (Figure 3.8). Field reports of raccoon litters this spring and summer were less than in 2022, and may indicate the population may remain similar for 2023-24. Litter sizes and abundance vary drastically by region, but overall the statewide raccoon population remains high. Increased harvest efforts by furharvesters would help keep the population in check and also reduce outbreaks of distemper. In recent years, distemper outbreaks continue to occur throughout the year on a more frequent basis than in the past.

Muskrat

Since the 1930s, muskrat consistently composed the greatest proportion of the total annual harvest in Iowa (Table 3.1). Average pelt prices have always remained consistently low compared with species such as otter, bobcat, and coyote

(Table 3.4). However, because of the historically high muskrat population in the state, and high rate of harvest over time, muskrat furs averaged 25% of the total harvest value in recorded history.

Fluctuations in the total annual furbearer harvest have primarily been due to the cyclic behavior of muskrat populations more consistently observed from the 1930s - 1990s. Historical muskrat populations in Iowa fluctuated greatly following wet and dry periods during those decades consistent with other prairie/plains states. Droughts in the 1930s, 1950s, and late 1980s suppressed muskrat populations in the state. However, in subsequent wet years, populations quickly rebounded due to the prolific reproductive capacity of the species.

In 1979-80, muskrat harvest in Iowa reached a current, all-time high of 741,403 (Table 3.1). Harvests varied throughout the early and mid-1980s but by the 1987-88 season, extreme drought, poor wetland conditions, and a suppressed fur market resulted in significantly depressed populations and a 30-year-low harvest (Figure 3.9). Excessive precipitation in the early 1990s improved habitat and by the mid-1990s, populations had rebounded some. In the late 1990s, wetland conditions began to deteriorate as increasing/stable, high water levels degraded marsh vegetation and habitat. Harvests again declined to pre-1993 levels and remained low; averaging 68,500 through the 2000s. In 2010-11, the muskrat harvest reached a decade high of 98,079, yet still remained well below the long-term average. It should be noted that the muskrat harvest, and population has been on a downward trend since the late 1980s. Even when the average price increased for muskrats during the 2000s, the harvest didn't track upward with it, which indicates a declining population that no longer boomed with the water cycle as it once did (Figure 3.10).

In 2022-23, the muskrat harvest was 6,993 which was a significant decrease from an already low harvest the previous season (11,344, Table 3.1). In 2022-23, the average muskrat pelt price in Iowa was $2.01, which was down slightly from the previous year ($2.60; Figure 3.10; Table 3.3). The average muskrat pelt price over the past 10 years is $3.39, however the long-term average is $2.20 (Figure 3.10, Table 3.4).

Trapping season length (5 Nov-31 Jan), daily bag limits (no limit), and possession limits (no limit) remained similar to those in previous years (Table 3.6). Variable habitat and dry conditions were experienced across much of the state in the spring and fall of 2022. This may have resulted in poor food availability in wetlands across Iowa. Figure 3.10 shows that muskrat harvest used to mirror the average pelt price (fur market) until the late 1990s. After that, the average pelt price went up especially by 2013, yet harvest no longer rose with the average pelt price. This indicates the population is trending downward. There is also concern whether other environmental or anthropogenic factors are suppressing the muskrat population besides extremely dynamic water levels annually. Muskrat populations seem to increase whenever favorable weather conditions do occur, especially in our renovated shallow lakes in north Iowa. But at the statewide level, the population has not increased in several years as seen in the past. This concern is not unique to Iowa. Further studies of muskrats will likely be underway in the Midwest over the next few years.

Coyote

Coyote harvest in the 1930s was nearly non-existent in Iowa and totaled only 517 animals throughout that entire decade. Harvests increased in the 1940s and averaged 374 per year, but by the 1950s, had once again dropped off. Through the 1950s and 1960s, harvests averaged fewer than 75 animals per year with annual harvests as low as 10 per year. Beginning in the 1968-69 season, coyote harvests increased noticeably and by 1976-77, reached a current, all-time high of 12,226 (Table 3.1). Since the late 1970s, harvests varied annually, and gradually decreased in the state but remained high in comparison to previous decades. Except for a dramatic decline in the late 1980s, harvests through the late 2000s averaged 6,800, well above the long-term average (5,263) (Figure 3.11). Then from 2009 to 2020, the annual harvest increased significantly overall.

In 2018-19, the coyote harvest was the highest on record at 18,676 which was an increase from the previous season's harvest (15,185) and well above the long-term average (Table 3.1). The harvest for 2018-19 was nearly twice as high as the harvest in 2016-17 (9,283). In 2021, changes to the coyote fur market drastically lowered their demand in the fur trade. Subsequently, coyote harvest has been much lower in 2021 and 2022 in Iowa.

For 2022-23, the harvest declined again from the previous year to 3,724. The trapping and hunting season length (trapping: 5 Nov-31 Jan, hunting: year round), daily bag limits (no limit), and possession limits (no limit) remained the

same to previous years (Table 3.6). The average coyote pelt price in Iowa for 2022-23 was $8.70, which was not even half of the average in 2020-21 ($20.53; Table 3.3). Coyote pelts had held their value during the recent fur market decline, however it may continue to decrease in the next few years due to market demand changes. Trapping accounted for a higher proportion of the harvest (53%) than hunting (47%) for the first time since 1975 when this began being tracked (Table 3.5). Ideal hunting conditions mainly occurred in January and February with significant snowfall to portions of the state. However, harvest effort was much lower in 2022-23. Prior to 2021, good pelt prices, advancements in the technology of the equipment used for coyote hunting, tv shows, videos, etc. had all contributed to an overall popularity surge in coyote trapping and hunting efforts.

The Iowa Bowhunter Observation Survey conducted during last Fall (2022) indicated that regional increases occurred in the western half of Iowa, and slightly downward in the eastern third (Figure 3.12). The overall statewide population trend increased slightly for coyotes from the previous year (Figure 3.13). Overall, statewide coyote population trends from 2005 to 2022 appear to cycle up and down slightly, but appear to be fairly stable in all regions and remain quite high, especially the southwest. The 2023 Spring Spotlight Survey results trended down slightly overall for the number of coyotes seen from the previous year statewide (Figure 3.14). The 5-year average relative distribution among counties shows the highest abundance in the western half of the state and the east central region of the state, but coyotes are present throughout the state (Figure 3.15). In 2022, there were more reports than 2021 from towns and cities in Iowa that coyotes were living within urban areas - especially the greater Des Moines area. We have worked with many of those towns to provide guidance and urban coyote management plans.

Red Fox

Red fox harvests through the mid-1940s averaged approximately 6,900 in Iowa. Steady declines throughout the late 1940s and 1950s resulted in an all-time low harvest of 1,147 during the 1958-59 season. Harvest numbers rebounded in the 1960s and in the 1968-69 season, reached a current, all-time high of 27,661. Harvests fluctuated sharply throughout the next two decades but remained high, averaging 19,000 through the mid-1980s. In the late 1980s, red fox harvests began a steady decline and since the 2004-05 season, they've remained well below the current long-term average harvest of 9,603 (Table 3.1; Figure 3.16).

In addition to depressed fur markets in the late 1980s, recent red fox population declines in Iowa have been attributed to three factors. Since the early 1980s, mange has remained persistent in red fox populations and suppressed population recovery in the state. Secondly, habitat loss especially grasslands hurt fox populations. Furthermore, high coyote populations have resulted in encroachment on areas historically considered red fox habitat, increased competition for food and den sites, and increased predation by coyotes.

In 2022-23, the red fox harvest was 1,113, up from the previous season (650), near the 5-year average, and only 12% of the long-term average (Table 3.1). Trapping and hunting season length (5 Nov-31 Jan), daily bag limits (no limit), and possession limits (no limit) remained the same to previous years (Table 3.6). For 2022-23, the average red fox pelt price in Iowa was $10.12, which was up from the 2021-22 price ($8.59; Table 3.3). The average pelt price has remained higher than the harvest since 2005 which also indicates the fox population statewide is still relatively low but stable (Figure 3.17). Trapping accounted for 70% of the total harvest (red and gray fox), which was up from the previous season (Table 3.5). Hunting accounted for 30% of the total harvest (red and gray fox).

The 2022 Iowa Bowhunter Observation Survey conducted in the Fall indicated that the overall statewide population trend for red fox decreased from the previous year (Figure 3.18). While the 2023 Spring Spotlight Survey showed a slight increase from the previous year (Figure 3.19). The Spring Spotlight Survey also shows the highest distribution of red fox relative to other counties occurs in Butler, Bremer, Black hawk, and Grundy counties of Iowa, plus counties in east central Iowa, and remains lowest in northwestern Iowa (Figure 3.20). Field reports during the spring and summer of 2023 indicate an increase in red fox litters localized areas of central and east-central Iowa, but remain quite variable in other regions of the state. In recent years, there is an increasing number of red fox litters being reported in urban areas throughout central Iowa. This urban trend continued in 2022.

Gray Fox

Gray fox harvests in Iowa have followed similar trends to those of red fox, although historically, populations have always

existed at significantly lower numbers. During the 1930s and 1940s, harvests averaged around 1,300. Gray fox harvests dropped below 1,000 in the late 1940s and remained low until the early 1970s. Harvests steadily increased and during the 1979-80 season, reached a current, all-time high of 3,093. Whereas red fox harvests remained high throughout the 1980s, gray fox harvests have since dramatically declined (Figure 3.21). Since 1996-97, gray fox harvests have remained well below their current long-term average harvest of 765.

In 2022-23, the reported gray fox harvest was again low with just 4 in Iowa (Table 3.1). In 2021-22, the gray fox harvest was only 1, well below the recent and long-term averages (Table 3.1). Trapping and hunting season length (5 Nov-31 Jan), daily bag limits (no limit), and possession limits (no limit) remained the same as previous years (Table 3.6). The average gray fox pelt price in Iowa was $14.88, which was similar to the 2021-22 average price ($15.03; Table 3.3). Trapping accounted for 70% of the total harvest (red and gray fox), which was lower than the previous season (Table 3.5). Hunting accounted for 30% of the total harvest (red and gray fox).

The 2022 Iowa Bowhunter Observation Survey conducted during the Fall indicated a low number of observations across most regions of the state (Figure 3.22). The overall statewide population trended nearly similar (low) from the previous year (Figure 3.23). Recent efforts to conduct research on the cause(s) of the gray fox population decline has been initiated in the Midwest. It is a concern.

Beaver

By the early 20th century, beaver were extirpated from Iowa. Harvest seasons remained closed throughout the 1930s and early 1940s while a statewide translocation and reintroduction program occurred. In 1943, the beaver harvest season was reopened and 235 were harvested. Beaver harvests averaged 450 through the late 1940s and by the early 1950s, began a steady upward trend. Harvests reached a current, all-time high of 18,459 during the 1988-89 season (Table 3.1). Harvests declined in the early 1990s although quickly stabilized, averaging 10,800 through the early 2000s. Harvests progressively declined in the 2000s and dropped below the long-term average (6,946) from 2014 to 2021 (Figure 3.24).

In 2012-13, the beaver harvest reached a 19-year high of 15,457; a number similar to the harvests recorded during the 1990s (Table 3.1). The harvest in 2022-23 was 7,079, up from 2021-22 (4,223). Trapping season length (5 Nov-15 April), daily bag (no limit), and possession (no limit) limits have remained the same since the season was extended from April 1-April 15 in the spring of 2012 (Table 3.6).

The 2022-23 average beaver pelt price in Iowa was $14.83, which was up considerably from a low average price in 2021-22 ($5.73; Table 3.3), likely providing incentive for a stronger trapping effort from March to mid-April 2023. Field reports, observations, and nuisance complaints actually indicate the beaver population is stable to trending upward. The beaver castor market remains good, but did decline some during the 2022-23 harvest season.

Mink

The proportion of mink in the total Iowa fur harvest has remained relatively constant since the 1930s. Mink harvests reached a current, all-time high of 60,397 during the 1946-47 season as a result of a sudden increase in value from the previous season ($6.75 to $28.16 per pelt). During World War II, European demand for furs collapsed and within 2 seasons, Iowa mink harvests dramatically fell to 16,571. Mink harvests stabilized in the early 1950s and averaged around 16,000 through the next 4 decades. Since the late-1990s, mink harvests have remained below the long-term average. (Figure 3.25). Mink harvest has mirrored the average pelt value in Iowa for the most part since 1930, meaning the amount of harvest trends upward or downward with pelt values (Figure 3.26).

The 2022-23 mink harvest was 700 which is the lowest harvest ever recorded for Iowa since 1930 (Table 3.1). The 2022-23 harvest was also below the 5-year and 10-year averages, and well below long- term average (18,425) (Table 3.1). Again, fur prices, rather than the population level, has reduced the trapper effort for mink. Disease threats to wild mink are another factor that may impact the mink population negatively, but the extent of that impact is unknown at this time. The trapping season length (5 Nov-31 Jan), daily bag (no limit), and possession (no limit) limits remained the same as in previous years (Table 3.6). The average mink pelt price in Iowa was $3.84 in 2022-23 - very low, similar to the 2021-22 price ($3.93; Table 3.3).

Opossum

During the 1933-34 harvest season, the opossum harvest reached a current, all-time high of 83,625 (Figure 3.27). In the preceding and following years, harvests more typically averaged around 30,000. In the late 1940s, harvests significantly declined, reaching an all-time low of 953 in 1958-59. Opossum harvests remained below 10,000 until the early 1970s, when harvests again reached numbers comparable to those seen in the mid-1940s. In the late 1980s, harvests decreased again and have remained below the long-term average (13,030) from the 1990s to present.

The 2022-23 opossum harvest was 1,371, which increased from the previous season (623) above the 5-year, and below the 10-year and long-term averages (Table 3.1). Trapping season length (5 Nov-31 Jan), daily bag (no limit), and possession limits (no limit) remained the same as previous years (Table 3.6). The average opossum pelt price in Iowa was $1.13 which was slightly higher than the 2021-22 price ($0.93; Table 3.3).

The 2022 Iowa Bowhunter Observation Survey conducted in the Fall indicated the overall statewide population trended upward in Iowa (Figure 3.28). The opossum population tends to cycle up and down, primarily based on winter severity. The increase in harvest of opossum in 2022-23 is likely reflective of the population increase. The 2023 Spring Spotlight Survey showed overall statewide observations remained similar from the previous spring's survey (Figure 3.29). The five year average distribution of opossum is highest in southwest Iowa and lower in northwest and southeast regions of the state (Figure 3.30).

Badger

Although an all-time low badger harvest occurred in 1932-33 (17), stable harvests averaging 450 per year were recorded from the mid-1930s until the mid-1940s. Harvests declined in subsequent years and averaged below 100 throughout the 1950s. By the late 1960s, badger harvests reached levels comparable to those recorded in the early 1940s. In the 1970s, harvest rates boomed in Iowa, reaching an all-time high of 3,274 during the 1979-80 season. Harvests remained high throughout the 1980s but ultimately dropped to below 500 by the early 1990s. Harvests fluctuated around the long-term average (660) throughout the 1990s and 2000s. The long-term trend in the badger harvest is slightly increasing but fluctuates up and down annually (Figure 3.31, Table 3.1).

In 2022-23, the badger harvest was 377 which was an increase from the previous year (174, Table 3.1), below the 5-year harvest average (432) and below the long-term average (660) for Iowa. Trapping season length (5 Nov-31 Jan), daily bag (no limit), and possession limits (no limit) remained the same as previous years (Table 3.6). For 2022-23, the average badger pelt price in Iowa was $22.80, which was higher than the 2021-22 price ($13.39; Table 3.3).

The 2022 Iowa Bowhunter Observation Survey, conducted in the Fall, indicated an upward trend was observed in the overall population. Overall, this survey shows the statewide population trend for badgers in Iowa is mainly stable with fluctuations up and down since this survey started for badgers in 2005 (Figure 3.32). The 2023 Spring Spotlight Survey showed the overall population was down slightly from the previous year (Figure 3.33). Populations in western Iowa have typically remained higher than the remainder of the state in most years. This is especially evident looking at the five year average distribution of relative abundance among counties (Figure 3.34). This is likely due to the open terrain, less precipitation, and lighter soils which badgers prefer.

Spotted Skunk

Spotted skunk (also called civet cat) was proportionally one of the top 4 most harvested furbearer species throughout the 1930s in Iowa. In 1933-34, an all-time record 88,532 were harvested (Table 3.1). In 1946-47, the spotted skunk harvest crashed, although similar trends were recorded for most furbearer species in the state at that time (Figure 3.35). Harvests stabilized around 1,700 in the 1950s and remained low throughout the decade. Many furbearer species began to show improvements in harvest numbers by the mid-1960s, but spotted skunk populations began a further decline. In 1976, the spotted skunk harvest season was closed and the species was classified as an endangered species in Iowa. During the 1970s and 1980s, 1-2 spotted skunk sightings were reported to the Iowa DNR per year. Since 1992, the only reported sighting in the state was a road kill individual in Ringgold County in southwest Iowa. We do get an occasional report of one in southern Iowa, but have not been able to verify any of them to this point. In 2014; two to three spotted skunks were reported/documented in the Camp Dodge area on 7/20/14. This was the first documented case of spotted

skunks in Iowa in the past 20 years. In 2016, a roadkill spotted skunk was confirmed in Sac County. This animal was retained and kept for genetic study. For 2022, no new documented spotted skunk reports occurred. Spotted skunk numbers are nearly non-existent in Iowa. This is likely due to habitat changes and changes in farming practices. Time will tell if more ever show up in Iowa, but the outlook for that to occur is probably unlikely.

Striped Skunk

Striped skunk was proportionally the second most harvested furbearer species during the 1930s in Iowa. In 1936-37, an all-time record harvest of 153,497 was reported, although over the subsequent decade, harvest numbers for striped skunk steadily declined. By the early 1950s, harvests dropped below 10,000 and have generally averaged below 1,000 since 2008-09 (Figure 3.36).

In 2022-23, the striped skunk harvest was 1,123, which was up slightly from the previous season (906), above the 5-year average (875) and 20-year average (810, Table 3.1). Trapping season length (5 Nov-31 Jan), daily bag limits (no limit), and possession limits (no limit) remained similar to previous years (Table 3.6). The average striped skunk pelt price in 2022-23 for Iowa was $5.69, which was up slightly from the 2021-22 price ($4.77; Table 3.3).

The 2022 Iowa Bowhunter Observation Survey, conducted in the Fall, indicated the overall statewide population did trend upward from the previous year (Figure 3.37). The Spring Spotlight Survey has shown relatively stable upward and downward cycles in the overall population trend of striped skunks (Figure 3.38). Populations of striped skunks have typically been highest in western and south-central portions of the state and relatively lower in central and eastern portions since the mid-2000s when this survey started. The 2023 Spring Spotlight Survey showed total striped skunk observations for the entire state decreased slightly from the previous spring 2022 (Figure 3.38). The 5-year average of relative distribution compared among counties is highest in the southwest region of Iowa, but also fairly evenly distributed across the rest of the state except in southeast Iowa where distribution was lower (Figure 3.39).

Although both surveys (bowhunter and spotlight) indicate that decent numbers exist throughout Iowa, low market prices for skunk furs have likely kept the effort to harvest relatively low in comparison to other species (e.g., badger) which remain at low population numbers yet produce relatively higher harvests due to good fur prices. The overall population trends indicated from these surveys will continue to be monitored.

Weasel

Weasel harvests during the 1930s and 1940s were characterized by dramatic fluctuations (Figure 3.40). In 1936-37, just 4 years following a decade low harvest of 256, the weasel harvest reached a current, all-time high of 7,190. Harvests averaged 4,400 in the early and mid-1940s but by the mid-1950s, had dropped below 500 per year. Weasel harvests steadily decreased during the next 3 decades and in 1976, the harvest season was closed in Iowa. In 1987, the weasel harvest season was once again reopened, although the first reported harvested weasels did not occur until 2009-10. For example, harvests in 2009-10 and 2010-11 were 56 and 7, respectively, characteristic of the low harvest numbers reported throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Few trappers target weasels.

In 2022-23, the reported weasel harvest was 5 (Table 3.1). Although it should be noted that most trappers that target weasels keep most of their weasel pelts for tanning and don't sell them as pelts in the regular fur market. Trapping season length (5 Nov-31 Jan), daily bag (no limit), and possession (no limit) limits remained similar to previous years (Table 3.6). The average weasel pelt price in 2022-23 for Iowa was $11.86, which was higher than the 2021-22 price, ($3.33; Table 3.3).

Low harvest numbers may indicate that statewide populations have not recovered that much since the 1970s. However, it is more likely that trappers haven't targeted the weasel species to any great extent since the harvest season was reopened in 1987 due to the low value of weasel pelts in past years. Weasels are extremely hard to survey for population size estimates. Right now, little is known about their population size and distribution throughout the state.

River Otter

Except for small remnant populations along the Upper Mississippi River, the river otter was extirpated from Iowa by the early 20th century. In 1985, the Iowa DNR and key partners initiated a reintroduction program in which 16 otters were

released at Red Rock Reservoir in Marion County. Due to state regulations, the Iowa DNR was not able to directly purchase otters from Louisiana. A compromise was reached between Iowa, Kentucky, and Louisiana in which Kentucky purchased the otters from Louisiana ($400/otter) and Iowa traded wild turkeys to Kentucky (2 turkeys/otter) in exchange for the otters.

Between 1985 and 2003, a total of 345 otters were released throughout the state. By 2006, otter populations had expanded statewide. The Iowa DNR created the first regulated otter trapping season in 2006. The harvest quota was set at 400 animals (limit of 2 per licensed furharvester) and a 72-hour reporting grace period was established until the quota was met (Table 3.7). The 2006 harvest exceeded the quota by 66 otters so in 2007, the reporting grace period was shortened to 24 hours. The shortened grace period proved effective as the 2007 harvest exceeded the quota by only 16 animals. Harvest quotas were increased to 500 for the 2008, 2009, and 2010 seasons with harvests totaling 495, 519, and 515 per year, respectively. The otter harvest quota was increased in subsequent years as the population increased. The otter harvest quota was lifted for the first time during the 2013-14 trapping season. The general furharvest season timing and length was used for this otter trapping season; however the bag limit was reduced from 3 otters down to 2 otters per trapper. The 2013-14 otter harvest was 1,165.

Otter harvest for the 2022-23 season was 712 animals, down slightly from the previous year (822). County by county harvest is documented through CITES tag harvest reports which shows the highest otter harvests again occurred in eastern Iowa (Figure 3.41).

The average otter pelt price in 2022-23 was $21.09, which was higher than the 2021-22 average price ($17.63; Table 3.3).

Since the trapping season was established in 2006, the sex ratio of harvested otters has remained relatively even. For 2022-23, the proportion of males to females harvested was 49% and 43% (Figure 3.42). Foothold traps, conibear traps, and snares were the most common harvest method in the state (Figure 3.43; Table 3.8). The number of furharvesters intentionally targeting otters (44%) is slowly increasing, but incidental captures appear to be the most common cause for capture in Iowa at this time (51%) (Figure 3.44 and Figure 3.45).

The Iowa Bowhunter Observation Survey is somewhat useful for otters, but not as much (correlated) as it is for other upland furbearer species that are more readily viewed by bowhunters. It is still a useful survey to gauge regional population trends. The 2022 bowhunter survey indicated the population trended downward slightly in several regions of Iowa for the second straight year. The exception is the north-central region, observations of river otters increased from the previous year.

Localized river otter populations appear to be quite variable from region to region throughout Iowa, but generally doing very well. Habitat quality is probably the most limiting factor. With the pelt value still fair to poor during the 2022-23 season, the harvest was similar to recent previous years - still below the 1,000 mark. This is likely due to lower trapper effort in November, not a decline in the population. We will continue to gauge population trends however. At this time, the trapping regulations in place for the otter harvest are reasonable for managing the population for balance. However, if data indicates the otter population is trending steadily downward or upward; then more restrictive or liberal harvest will be implemented. For otters, trapping is an especially effective population management tool because otters do not have many natural predators in Iowa, but can be successfully trapped. The otter population must be managed to also fit social acceptance especially with pond owners and fishermen.

Bobcat

Three felid species including bobcat, Canada lynx, and mountain lion were native to Iowa, although historically, bobcats were most common. By the 1930s, only small remnant populations of bobcat remained scattered throughout the state, particularly in northeast Iowa. Between the 1940s and 1980s, bobcat sightings were exceedingly rare and the species was likely nearly extirpated for extended periods of time.

Since the early 1990s, bobcat sightings, road kills, and incidental captures by trappers had progressively increased in Iowa. By the early 2000s, confirmed bobcat sightings were recorded in 44 counties, primarily in southern Iowa and along

the Mississippi and Missouri River. Populations were naturally expanding in Iowa, which was similarly being documented in Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas. In 2003, the Iowa DNR concluded that populations had steadily increased and stabilized; therefore, bobcats were delisted as a threatened species in the state. Over the next 2 years, bobcat sightings continued to increase. By 2005, confirmed sightings had been recorded in 78 counties.

In 2007, the Iowa DNR created the first regulated bobcat harvest season in the state. The harvest quota was set at 150 animals (limit of 1 per licensed furharvester) and a 24-hour reporting grace period was established until the quota was met (Table 3.9). Bobcat harvest was limited to the bottom two tiers of counties in Iowa (21 counties). The 2007 harvest included 149 bobcats plus an additional 5 roadkill individuals.

Harvest quotas were increased to 200 bobcats during the 2008 and 2009 seasons with harvests totaling 232 and 231, respectively. Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, and Pottawattamie counties along the Missouri river were added to the open zone. In 2010, harvest quotas were further increased to 250 and a total of 263 bobcats were reported. The 2010 open zone was expanded to include the bottom 3 tiers of counties in Iowa plus Guthrie County in south-central Iowa.

In 2011, the harvest quota was set at 350 (limit of 1 per licensed furharvester) and the open harvest zone remained similar to the 2010 zone. In 2012, the harvest quota was set at 450. The bobcat harvest in 2012 was 528 (Table 3.9). The bobcat harvest quota was lifted for the first time in the 2013-14 fur season and the general trapping season length and timing were used; as it was for otters also. Bobcats can be trapped or hunted. The 2013-14 harvest for bobcats was 978 (Table 3.9).

Since then, the fur market declined and the bobcat harvest decreased to 706 and 535 in 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively. The bag limit was increased to 3 bobcat/furharvester in the southern three tiers of counties for 2019-20. The bobcat harvest for the 2019-20 season increased to 1160. The harvest during the 2022-23 season was 789 bobcats. The average bobcat pelt price in Iowa for 2022-23 was $41.66, which was lower than the 2021-22 price ($69.44) which still makes bobcats the most valuable species for the fur market (average pelt value) of all Iowa furbearer species (Table 3.3). Harvest was highest in the south central region of Iowa (Figure 3.47).

In 2022-23, the timing of when bobcat harvest occurred was more evenly spread throughout the entire season. More so than previous years when bobcat harvest was mainly in November and decreased in December and January. This is likely because it coincides with pelt primeness in which December and January pelts are fully prime. The most harvest occurred on weekends and holidays (Figure 3.48). There were 48 bobcats harvested by gun deer hunters in 2022, which is similar to the previous year (51). Archers harvested 54 bobcats in 2022, more than the previous year (40) (Table 3.10).

Since the bobcat harvest season was established in 2007, the sex ratio of harvested bobcats has remained relatively even, with a slightly higher proportion of females harvested (50%), than males (45%), and 5% unknown (Figure 3.49). Foothold traps were the most common trapping method utilized for bobcats, with snares and body gripping traps used as well. Calling bobcats was the most common hunting method in the state (Figure 3.50; Table 3.10). The number of bobcats intentionally harvested (52%) has been slowly increasing but remained similar to incidental harvest (39%) in 2022-23 (Figure 3.51 and Figure 3.52).

The 2022 Iowa Bowhunter Observation Survey indicated that since regulated bobcat trapping began in 2007, populations have remained fairly stable to increasing throughout the state. For 2022, bobcat observations remained fairly similar to the previous year in most regions with increases observed in southwest regions, east central, and the northeast region (Figure 3.53). Regional population trends also show the highest number of observations occurred in the western and southern regions of Iowa in 2022. This is fairly consistent with data documented from research, harvest, road kills, incidental trapping captures, and field reports of sightings. Bobcat population expansion rates in northeast Iowa have finally started to increase as well. Bobcat population expansion into central and northern Iowa has been slow but fairly consistent. Lower numbers of bobcats in the central region of Iowa is mainly due to a lack of ideal habitat when compared with southern and western Iowa. The bobcat population in Iowa is still expanding in numbers and distribution in a south to north direction generally. Bobcat populations have remained good throughout the state where ideal habitat exists especially in southern and western Iowa. For 2019-20, bobcat harvest season changes were made. The bag limit was increased from 1 to 3 for the southern 3 tiers of counties in Iowa. The season dates and season length

remained the same (5 Nov - 31 Jan). For the 2021-22 season, two more eastern Iowa counties were added into the bobcat harvest zone (Delaware and Jones). For the upcoming 2023-24 bobcat harvest season, no changes were made.

Figures

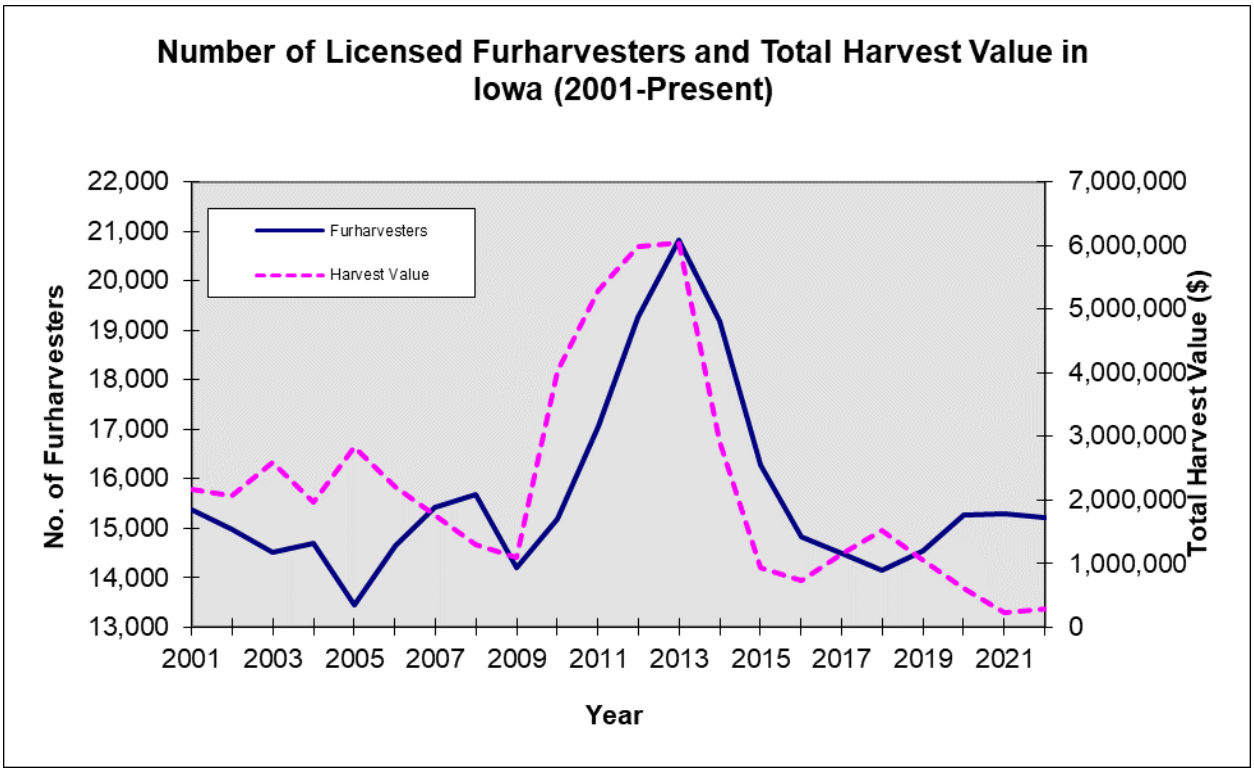


Figure 3.1 Number of licensed Iowa furharvesters and total harvest value in Iowa (2001-present).

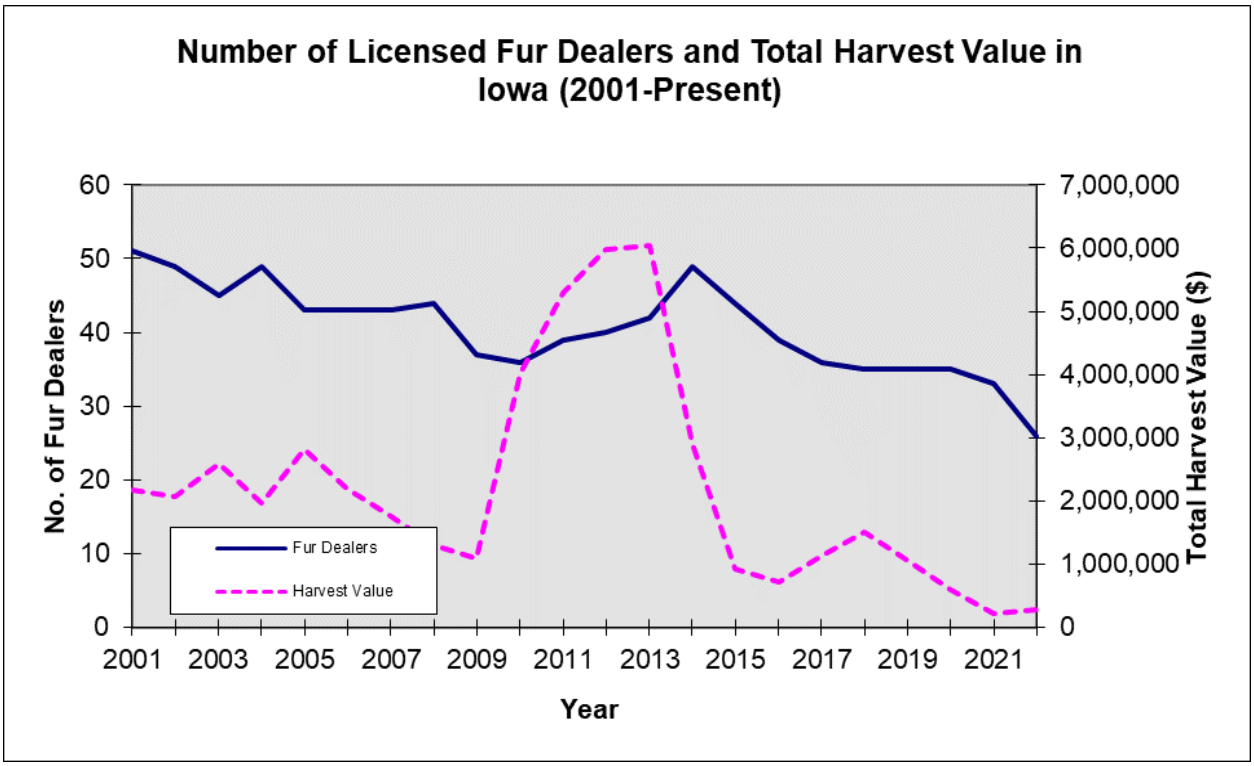


Figure 3.2 Number of licensed Iowa fur dealers and total harvest value in Iowa (2001-present).

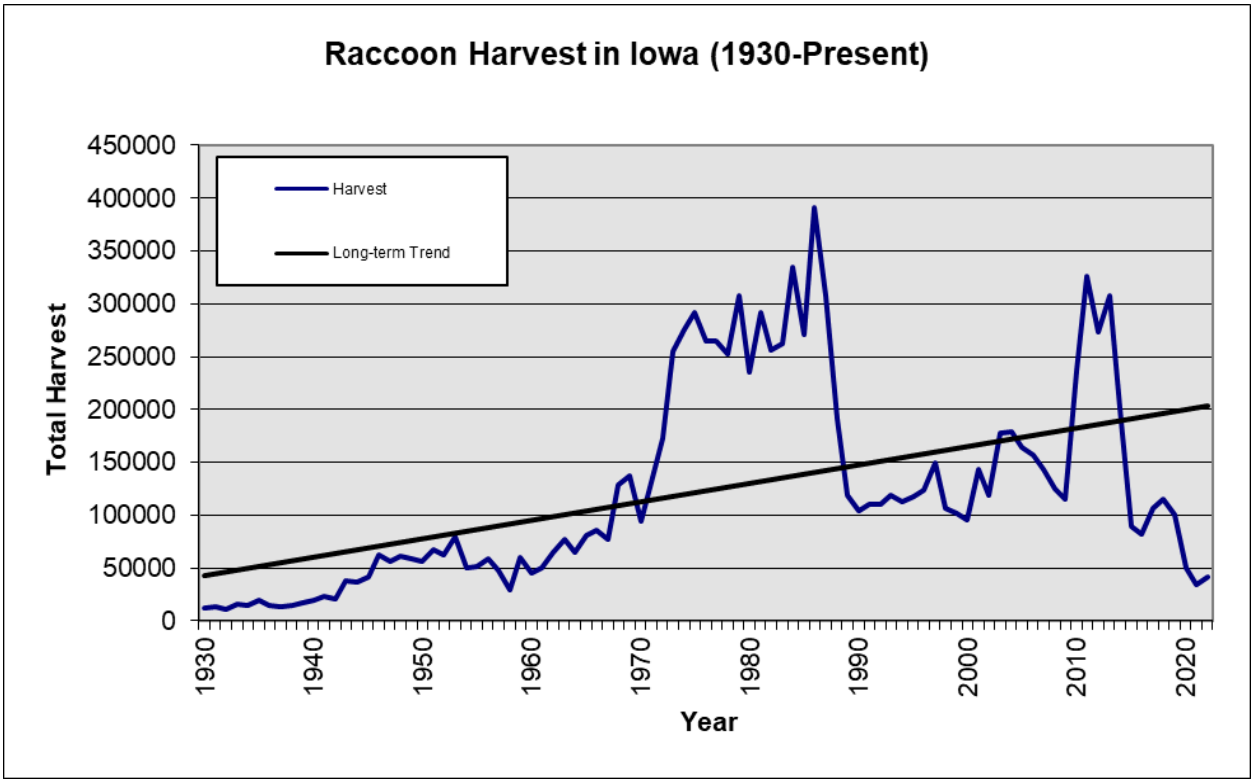


Figure 3.3 Annual raccoon harvests reported by licensed fur dealers in Iowa (1930-present).

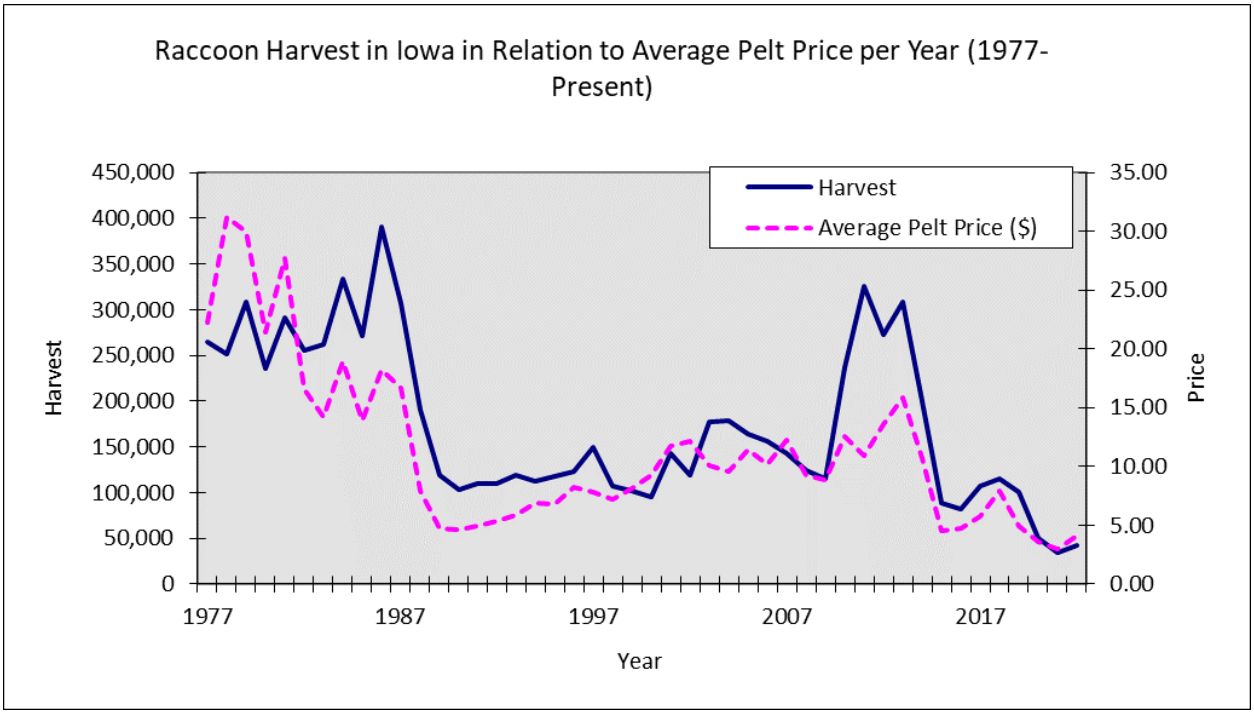


Figure 3.4 Raccoon harvest in Iowa and average pelt price paid by fur dealers (1977-present).

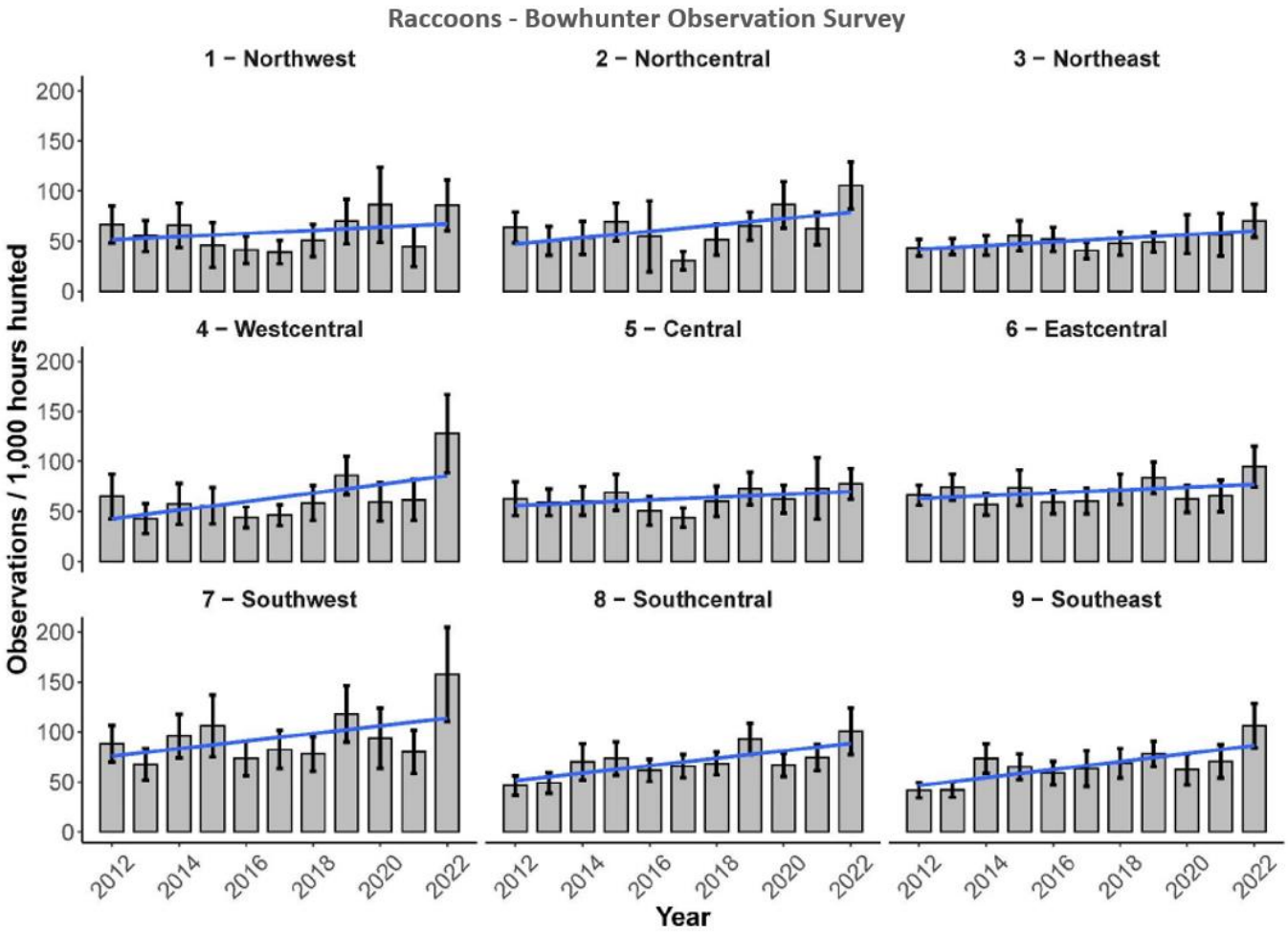


Figure 3.5 Bowhunter Observation Survey regional results for raccoons in Iowa (2012-present).

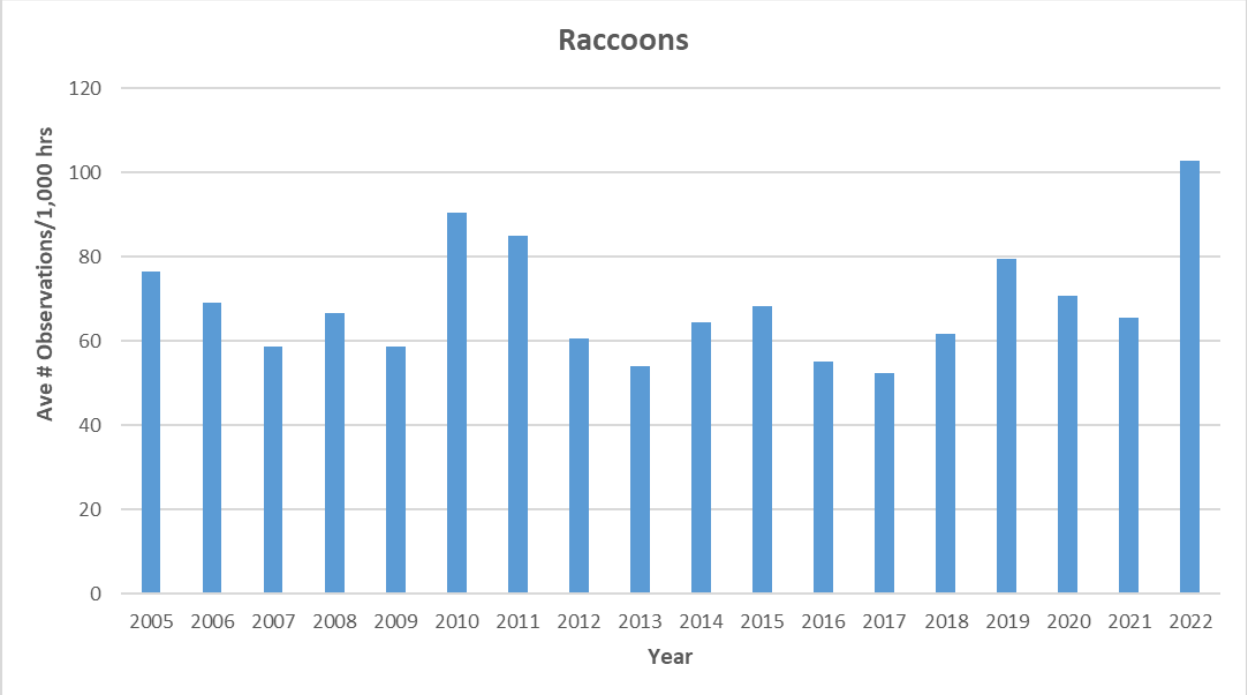


Figure 3.6 Bowhunter Observation Survey overall statewide trend of average observations for raccoons in Iowa (2005-present).

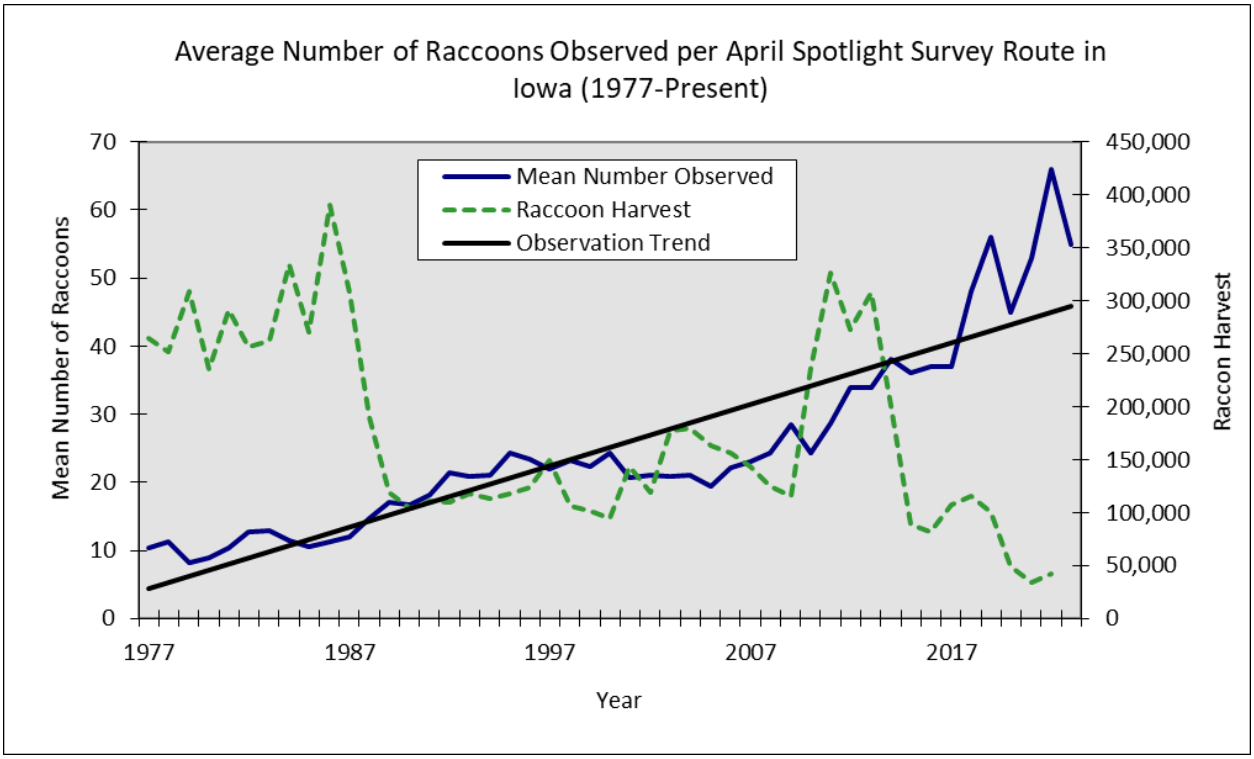


Figure 3.7 Results of April raccoon spotlight surveys in Iowa (1977-present)

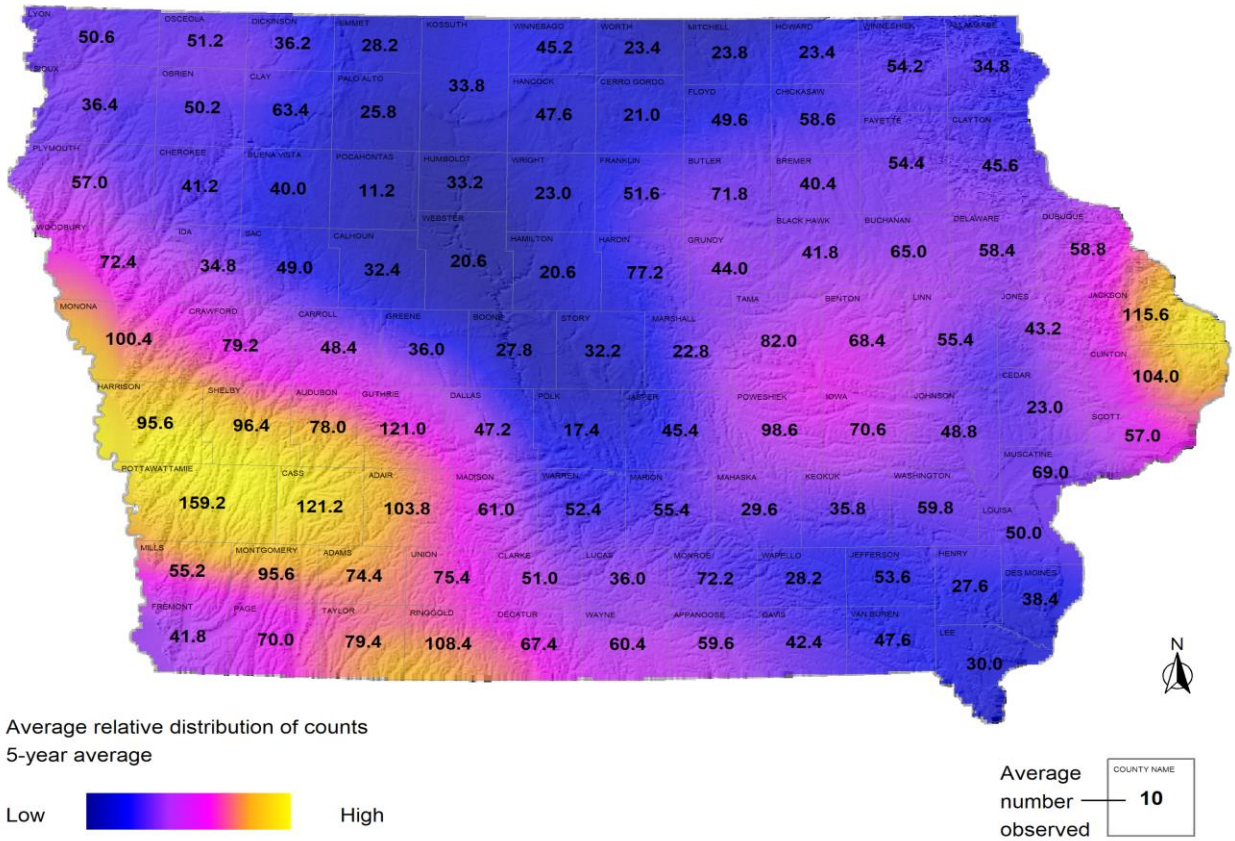


Figure 3.8 Relative distribution of average spring spotlight observations for raccoons during the past 5 years. The number of observations per county is relative to the highest and lowest number of observations across all counties during the survey and may not represent an over- or under-abundance of the species (i.e., high counts are considered high relative to those observed in all other counties).

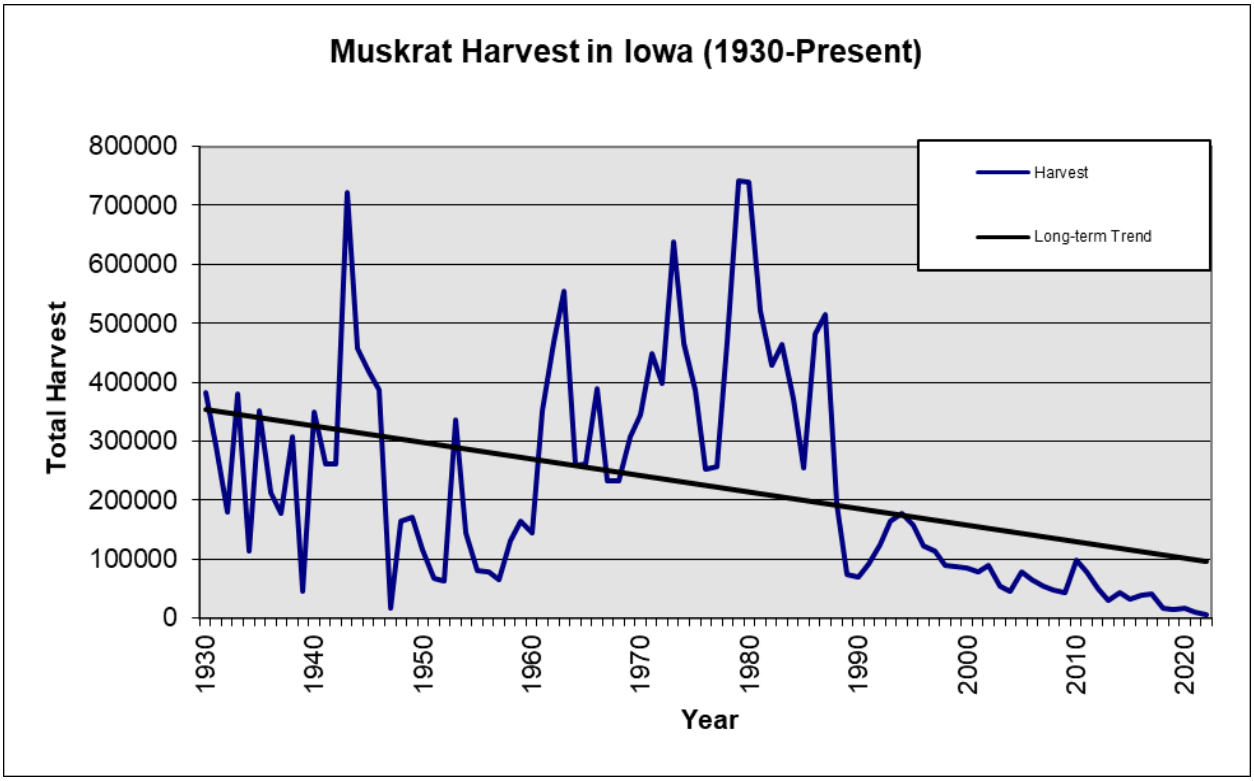


Figure 3.9 Annual muskrat harvests reported by licensed fur dealers in Iowa (1930-present).

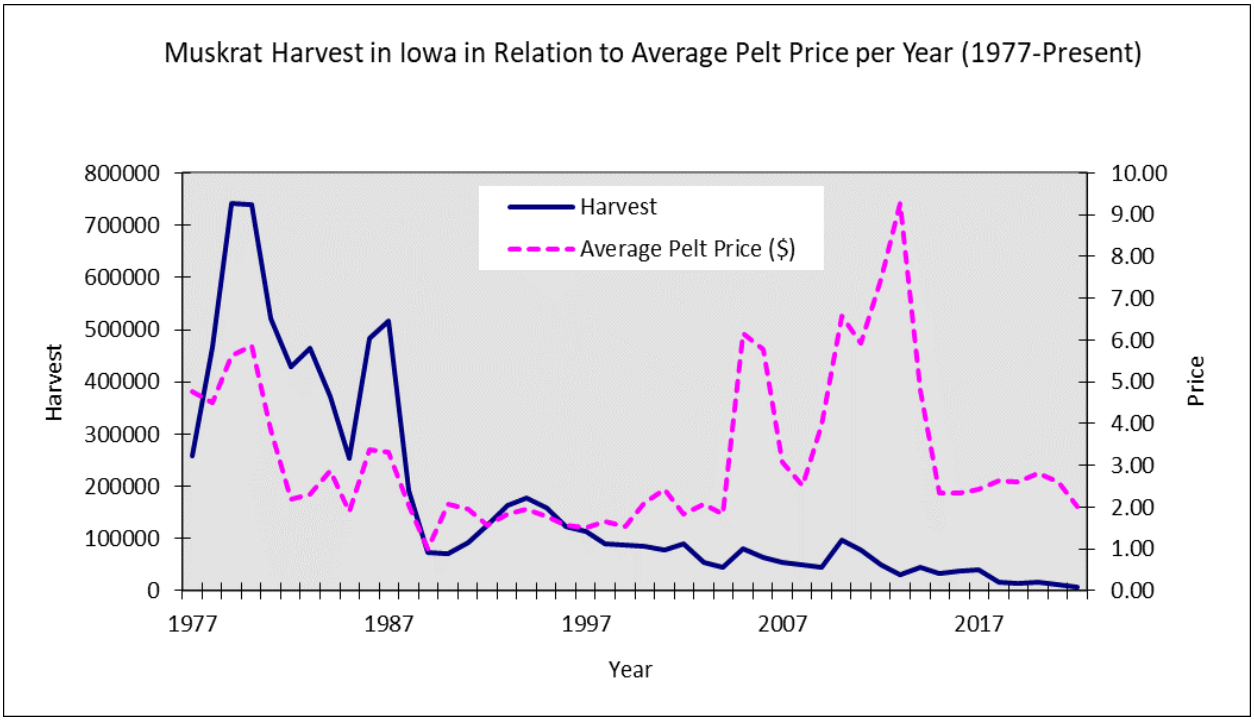


Figure 3.10 Muskrat harvest in Iowa and average pelt price paid by fur dealers (1977-present).

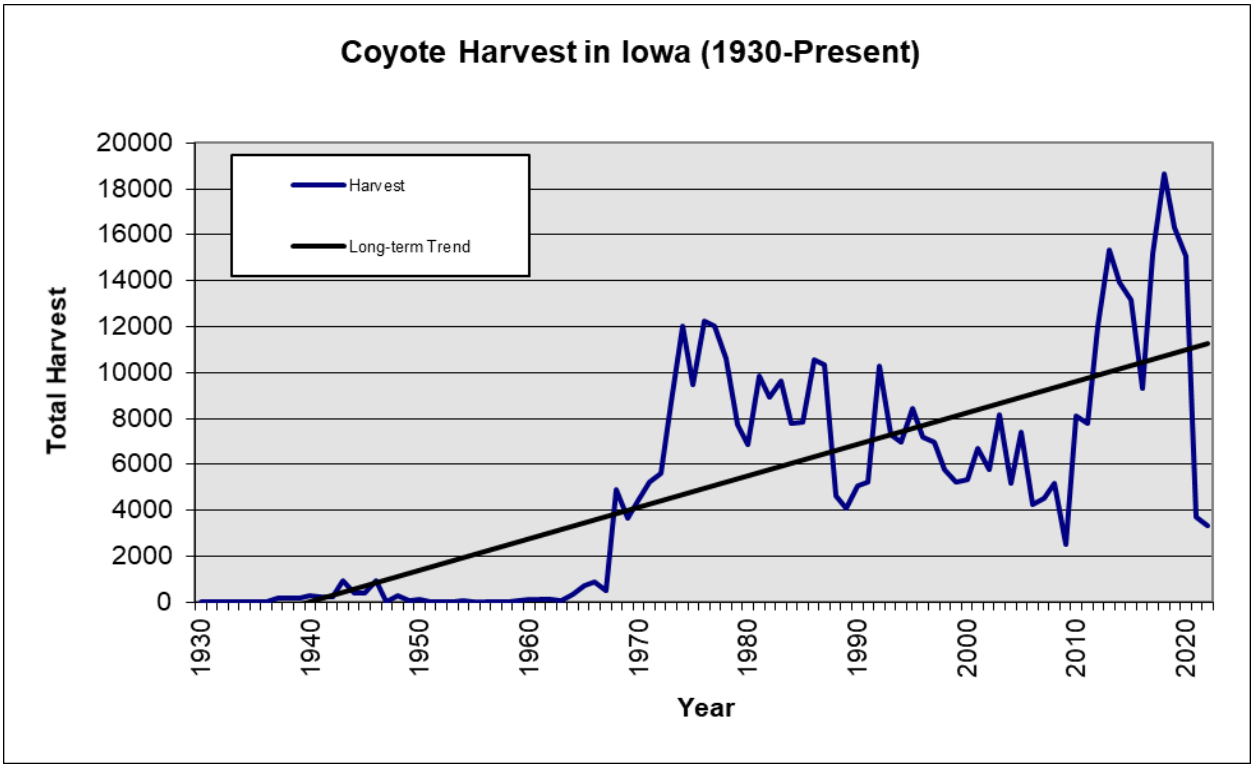


Figure 3.11 Annual coyote harvests reported by licensed fur dealers in Iowa (1930-present).

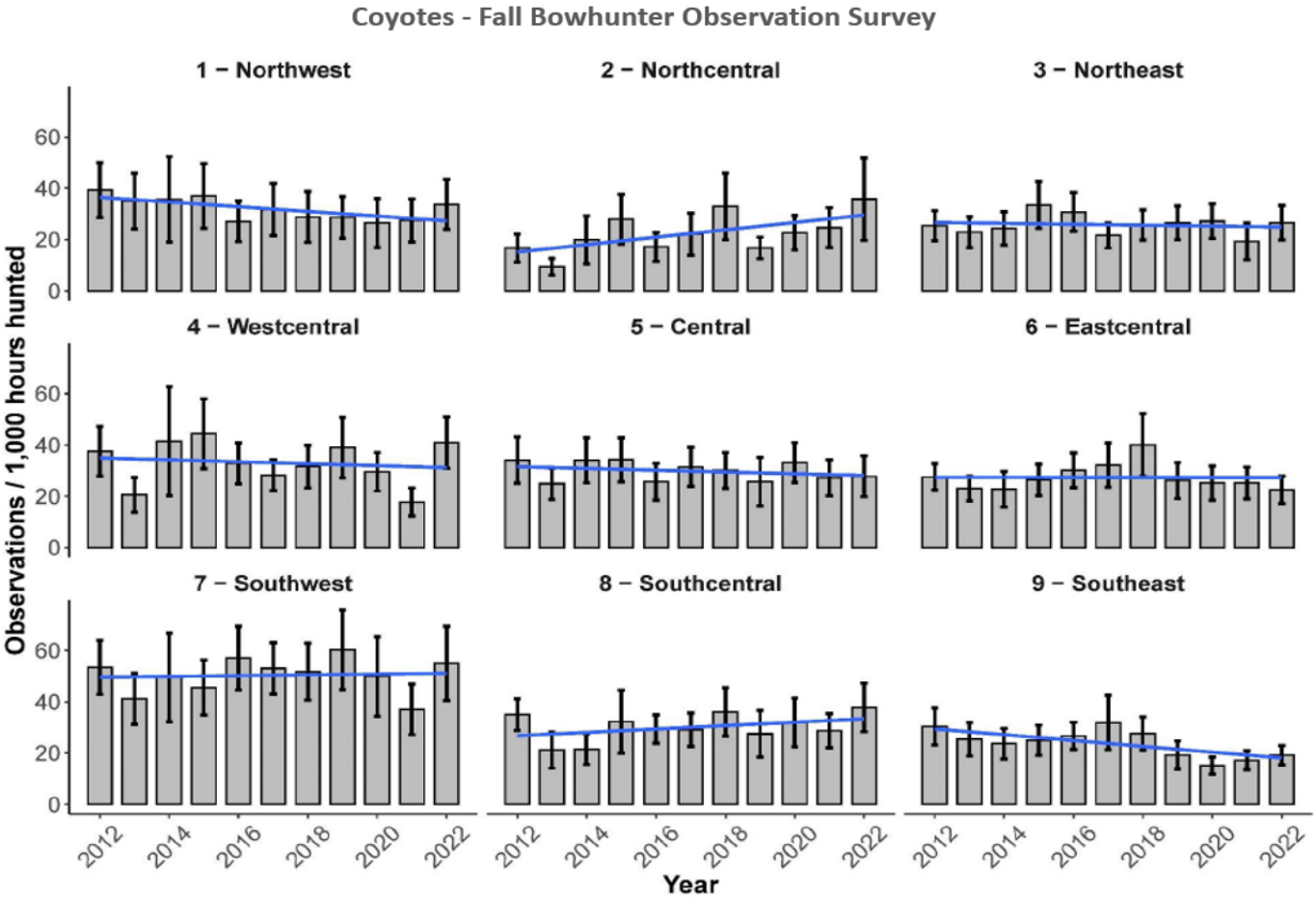


Figure 3.12 Results of coyote Bowhunter Observation Survey in Iowa (2012-present).

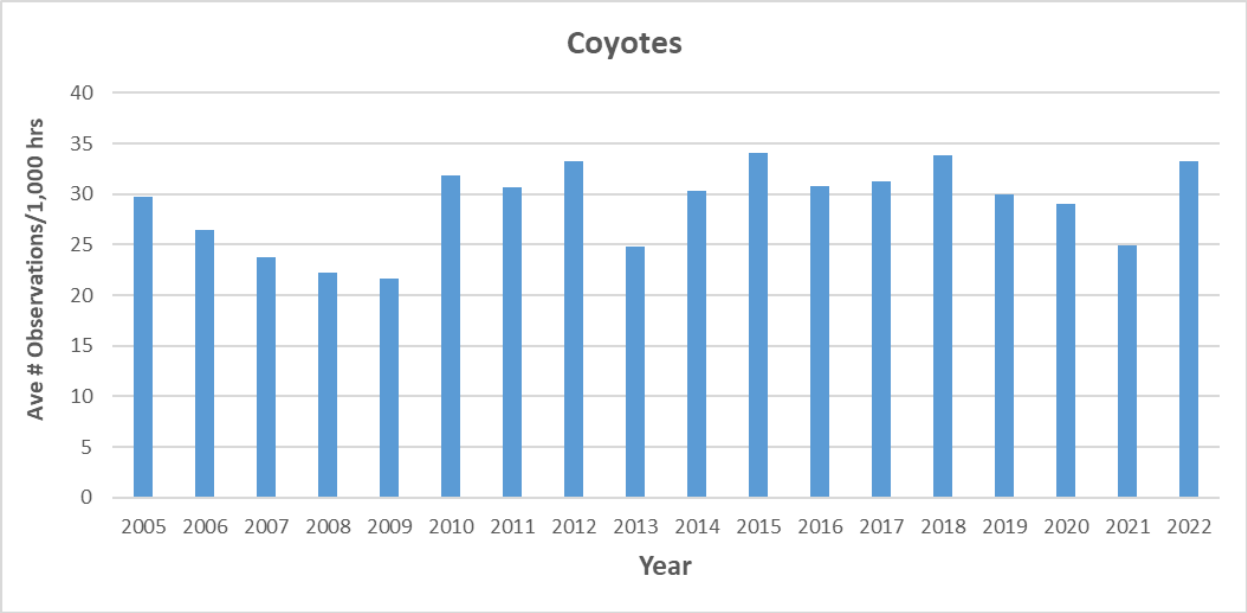


Figure 3.13 Bowhunter Observation Survey overall statewide trend of average observations for coyotes in Iowa (2005-present).

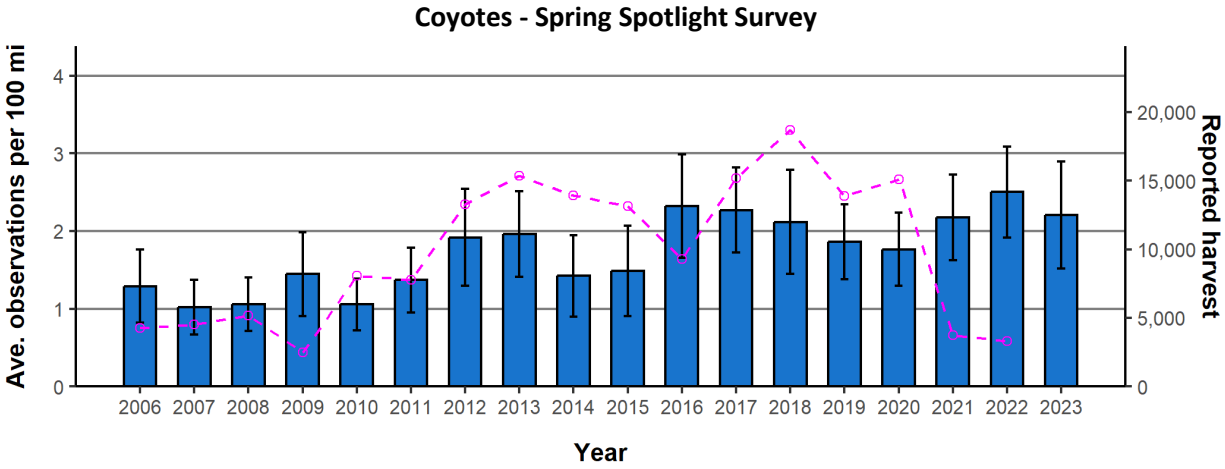


Figure 3.14 Total coyote observations by year during the Iowa Spring Spotlight Survey, 2006-present.

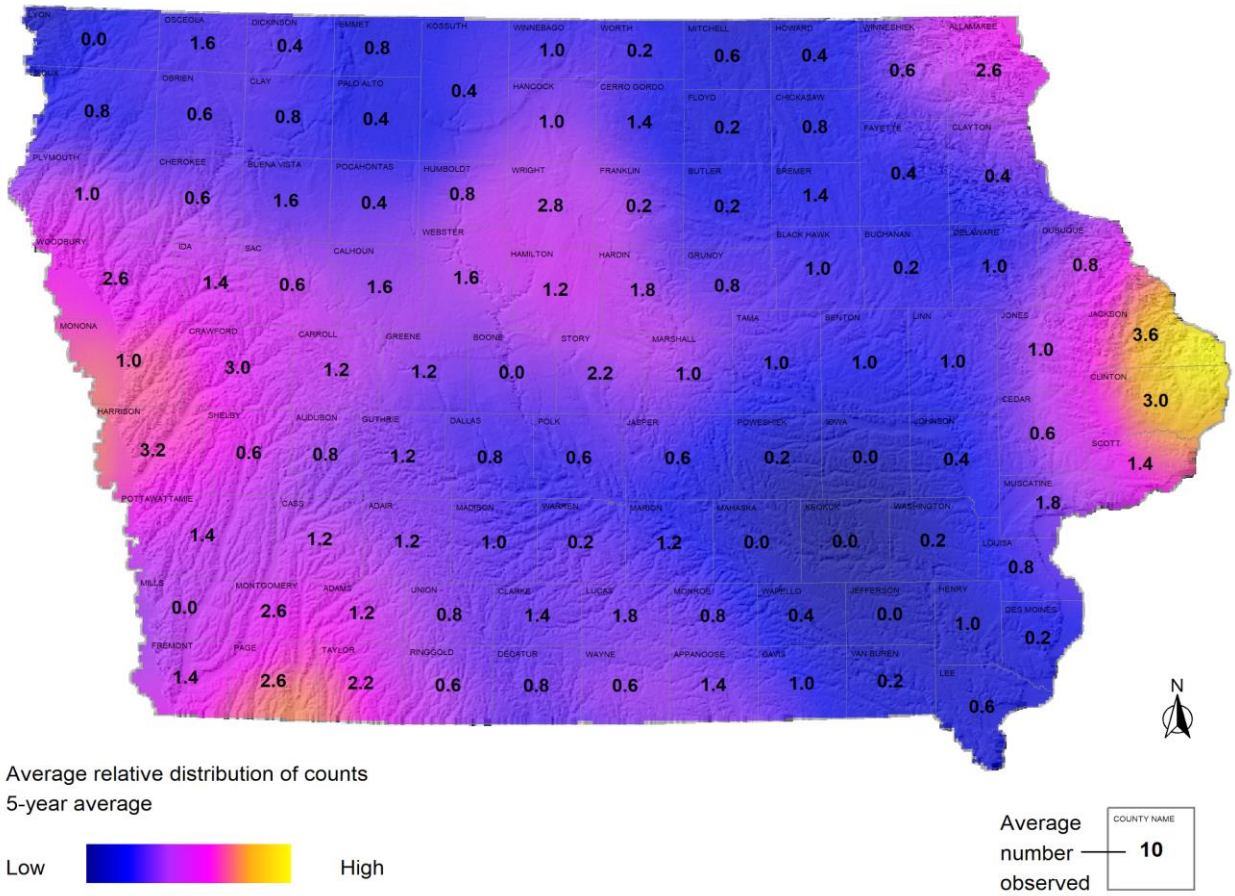


Figure 3.15 Relative distribution of average spring spotlight observations for coyote during the past 5 years. The number of observations per county is relative to the highest and lowest number of observations across all counties during the survey and may not represent an over- or under-abundance of the species (i.e., high counts are considered high relative to those observed in all other counties).

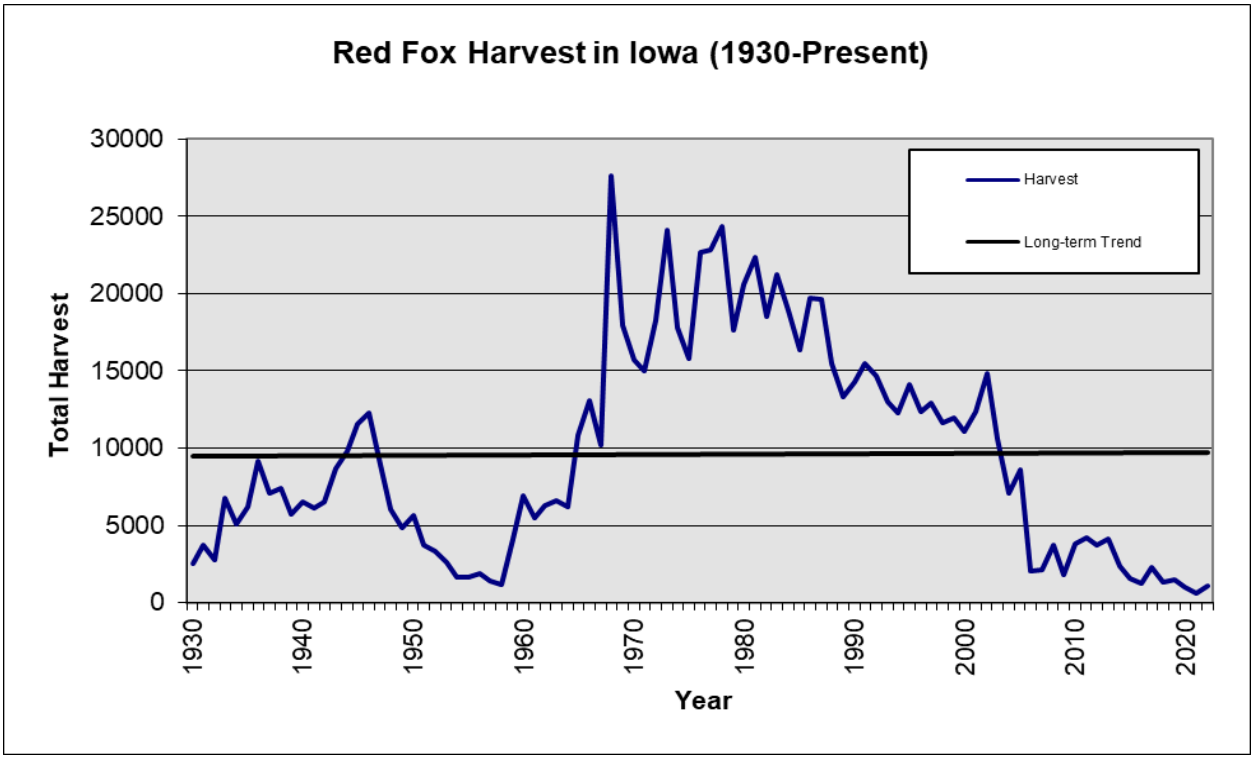


Figure 3.16 Annual red fox harvests reported by licensed fur dealers in Iowa (1930-present).

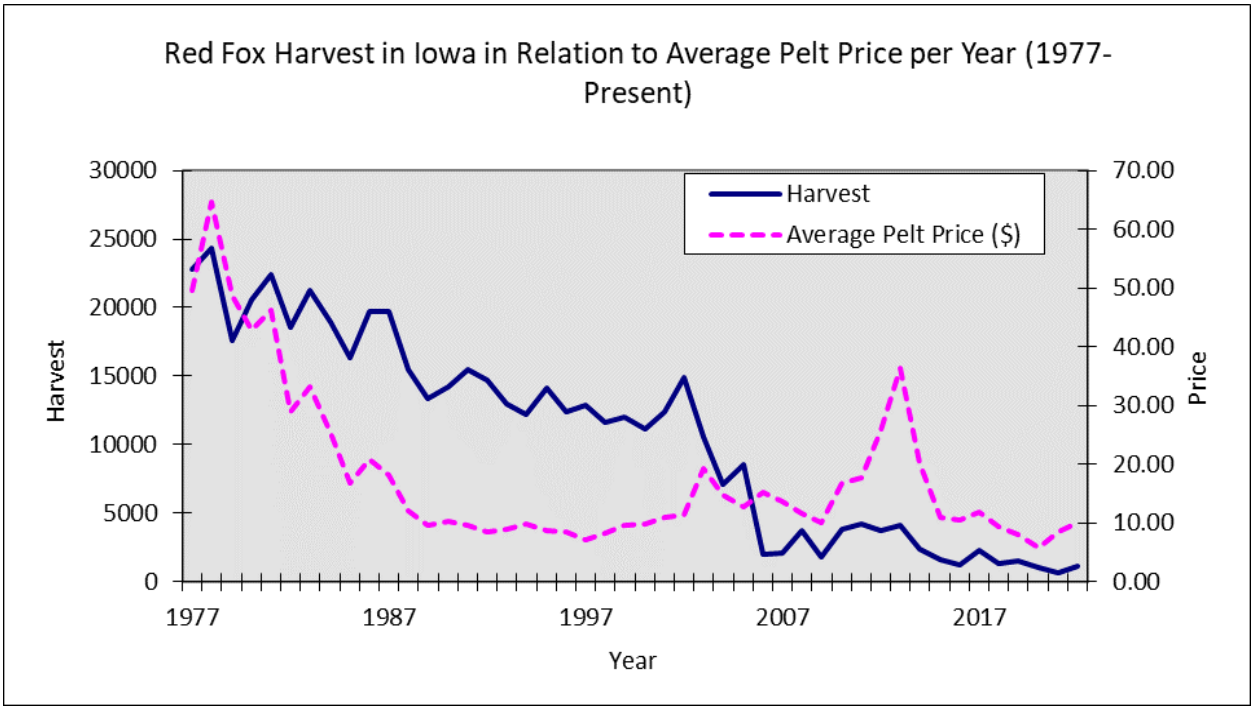


Figure 3.17 Red fox harvest in Iowa and average pelt price paid by fur dealers (1977-present).

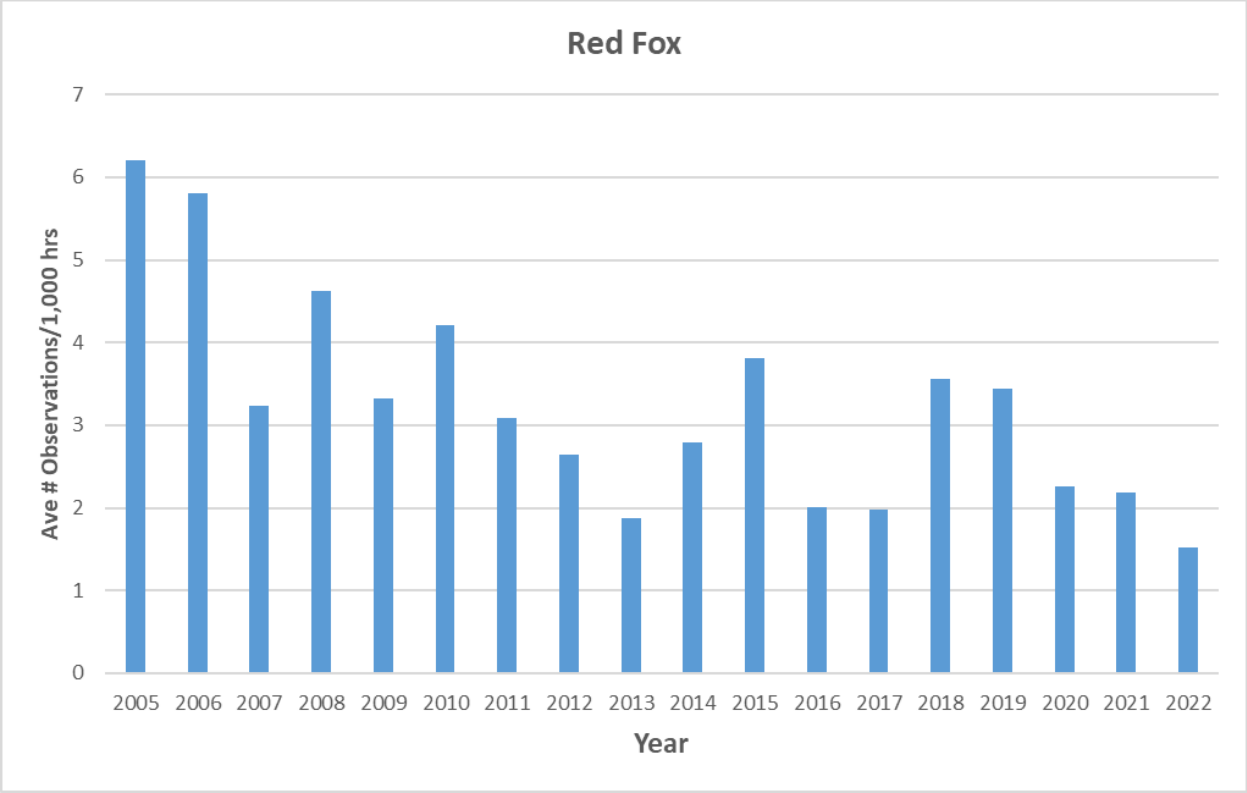


Figure 3.18 Bowhunter Observation Survey overall statewide trend of average observations for red fox in Iowa (2005-present).

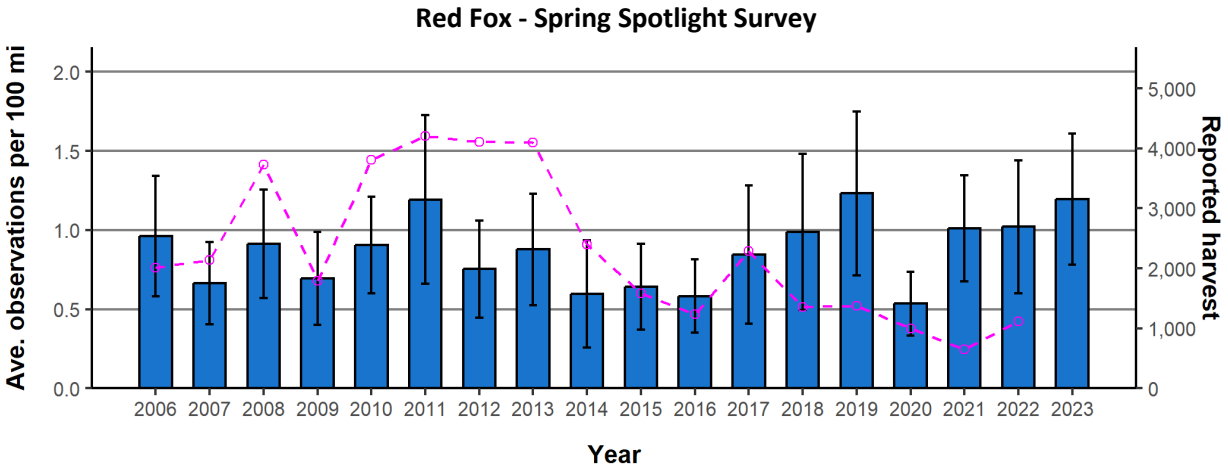


Figure 3.19 Average red fox observations by year during the Iowa Spring Spotlight Survey, 2006-present.

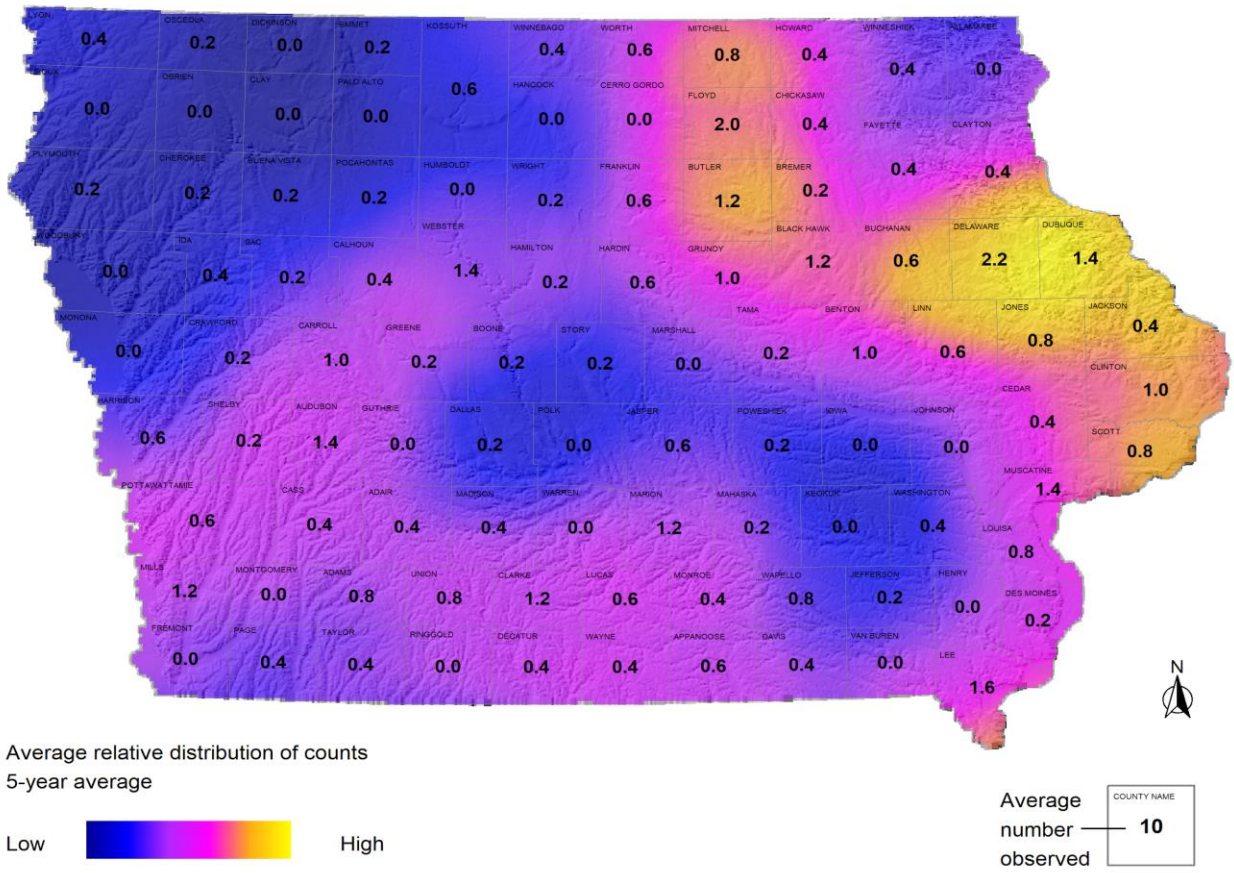


Figure 3.20 Relative distribution of average spring spotlight observations for red fox during the past 5 years. The number of observations per county is relative to the highest and lowest number of observations across all counties during the survey and may not represent an over- or under-abundance of the species (i.e., high counts are considered high relative to those observed in all other counties).

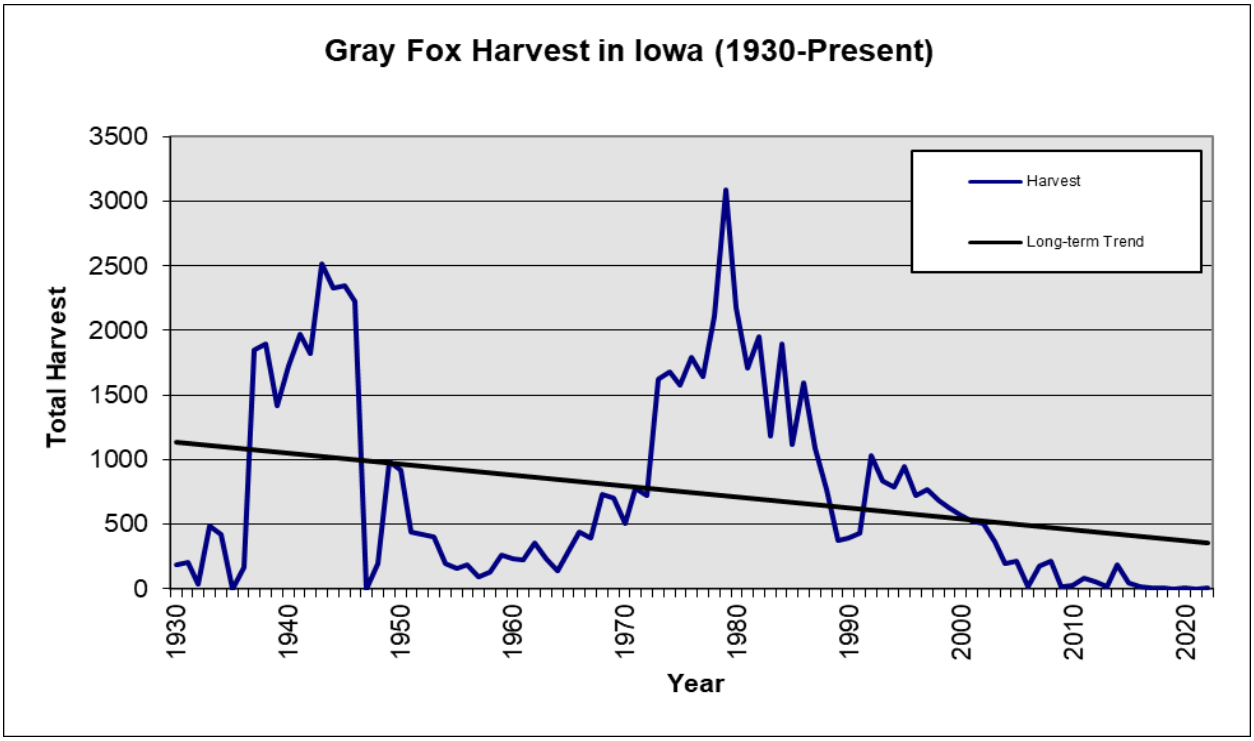


Figure 3.21 Annual gray fox harvests reported by licensed fur dealers in Iowa (1930-present).

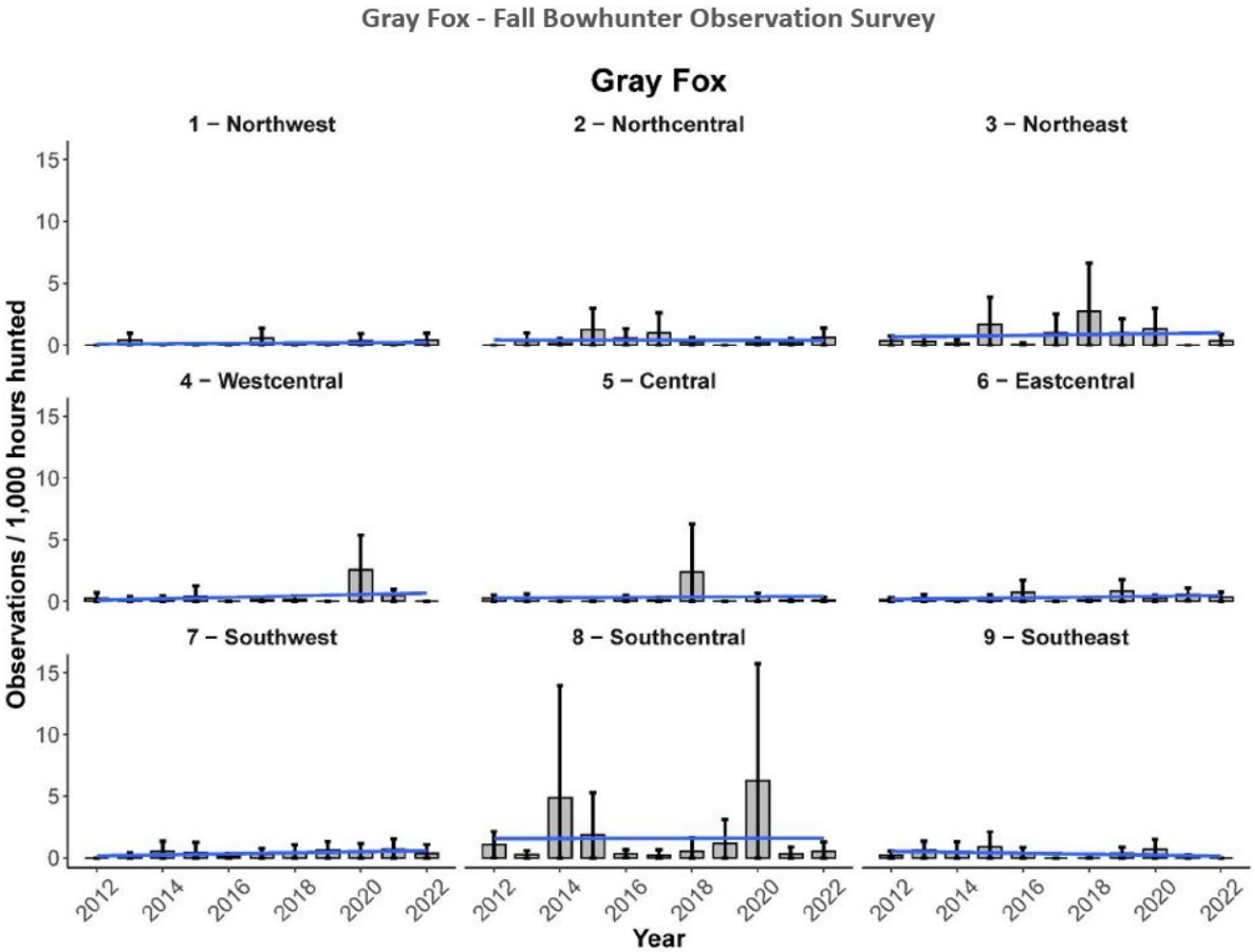


Figure 3.22 Regional results of gray fox Bowhunter Observation Survey in Iowa (2012-present).

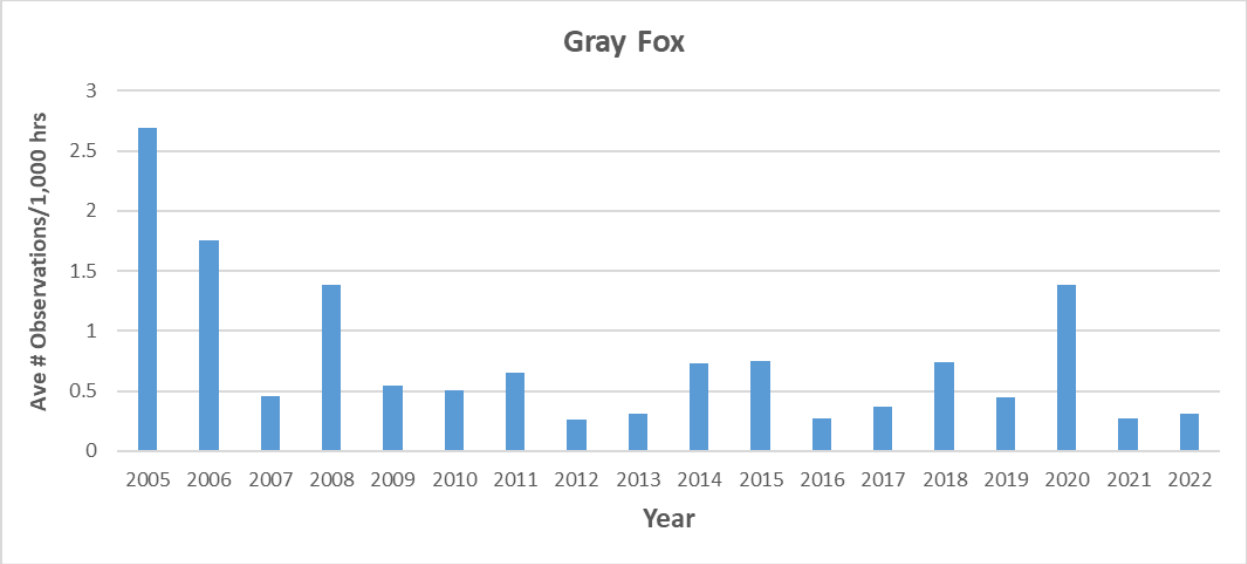


Figure 3.23 Bowhunter Observation Survey overall statewide trend of average observations for gray fox in Iowa (2005-present).

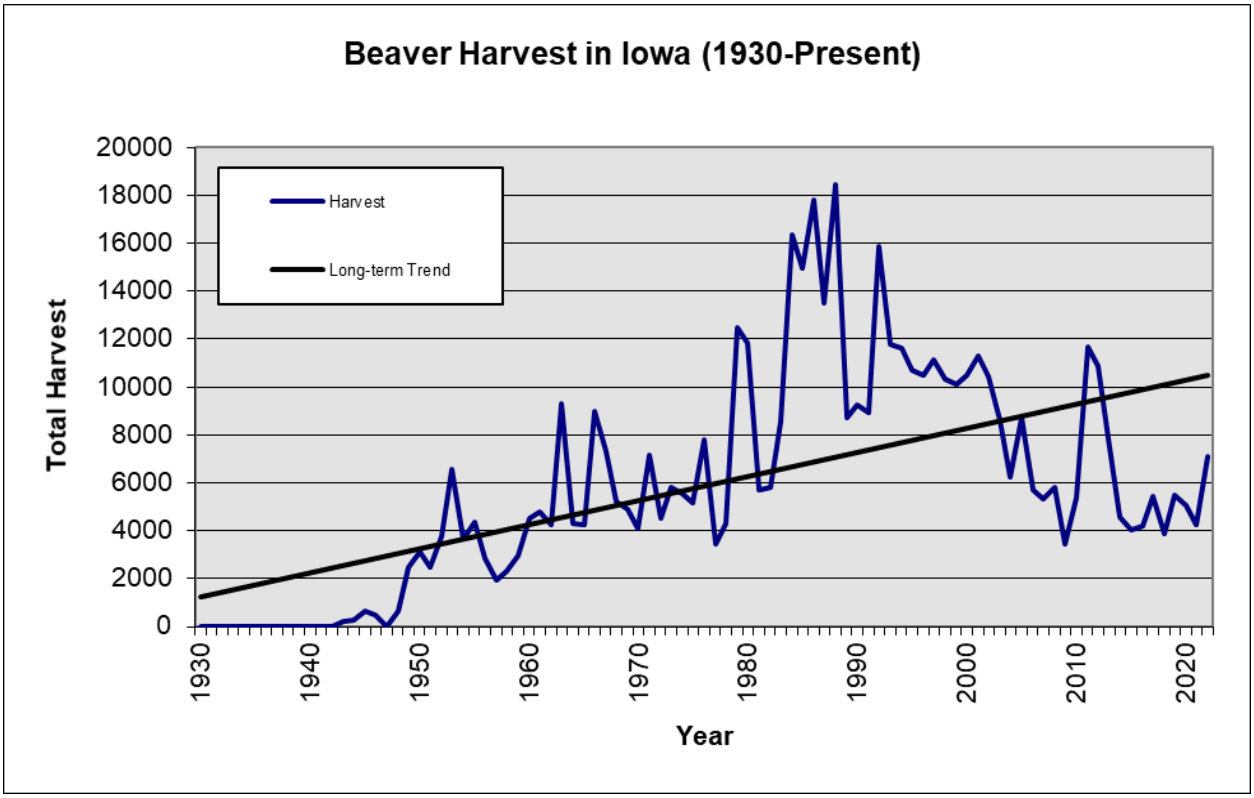


Figure 3.24 Annual beaver harvests reported by licensed fur dealers in Iowa (1930-present).

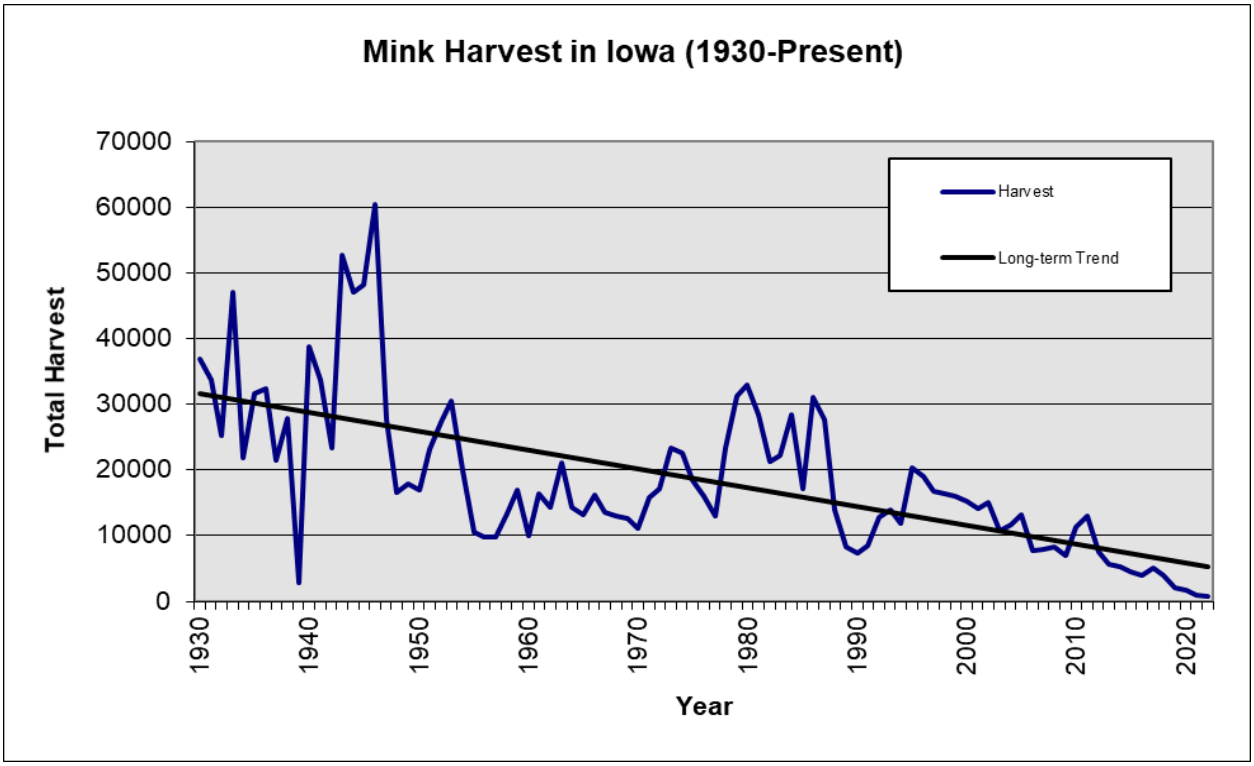


Figure 3.25 Annual mink harvests reported by licensed fur dealers in Iowa (1930-present).

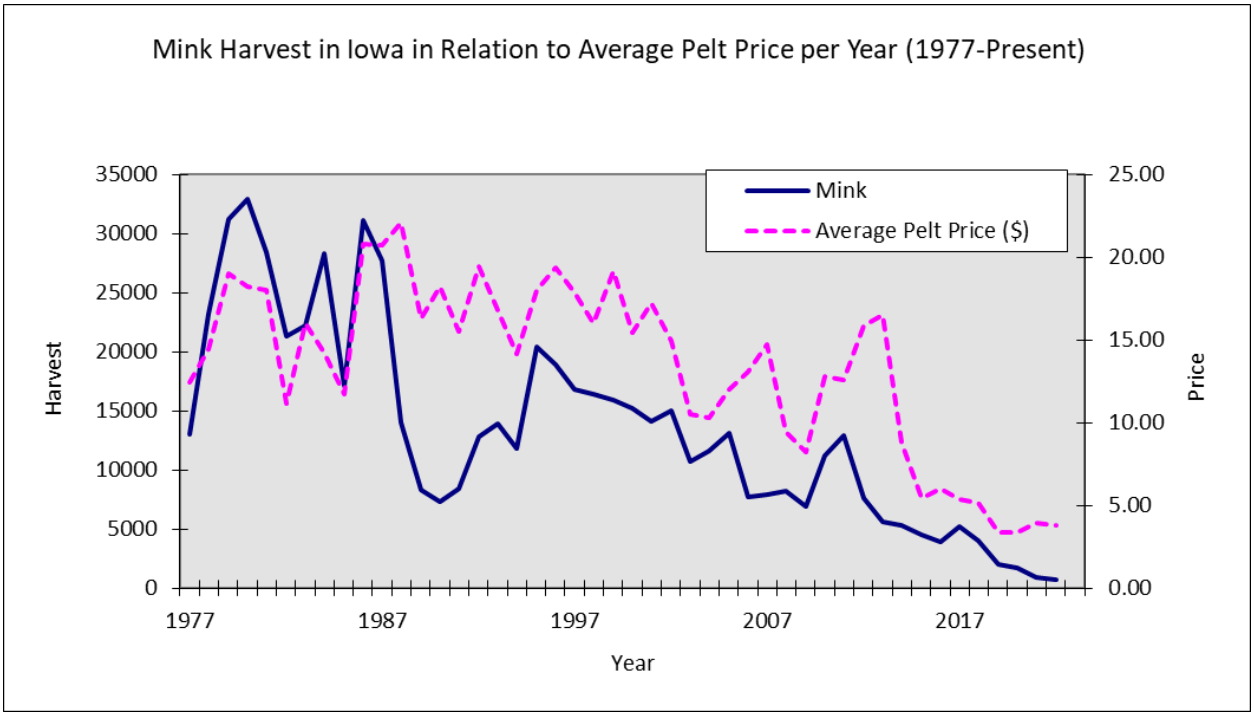


Figure 3.26 Mink harvest in Iowa and average pelt price paid by fur dealers (1977-present).

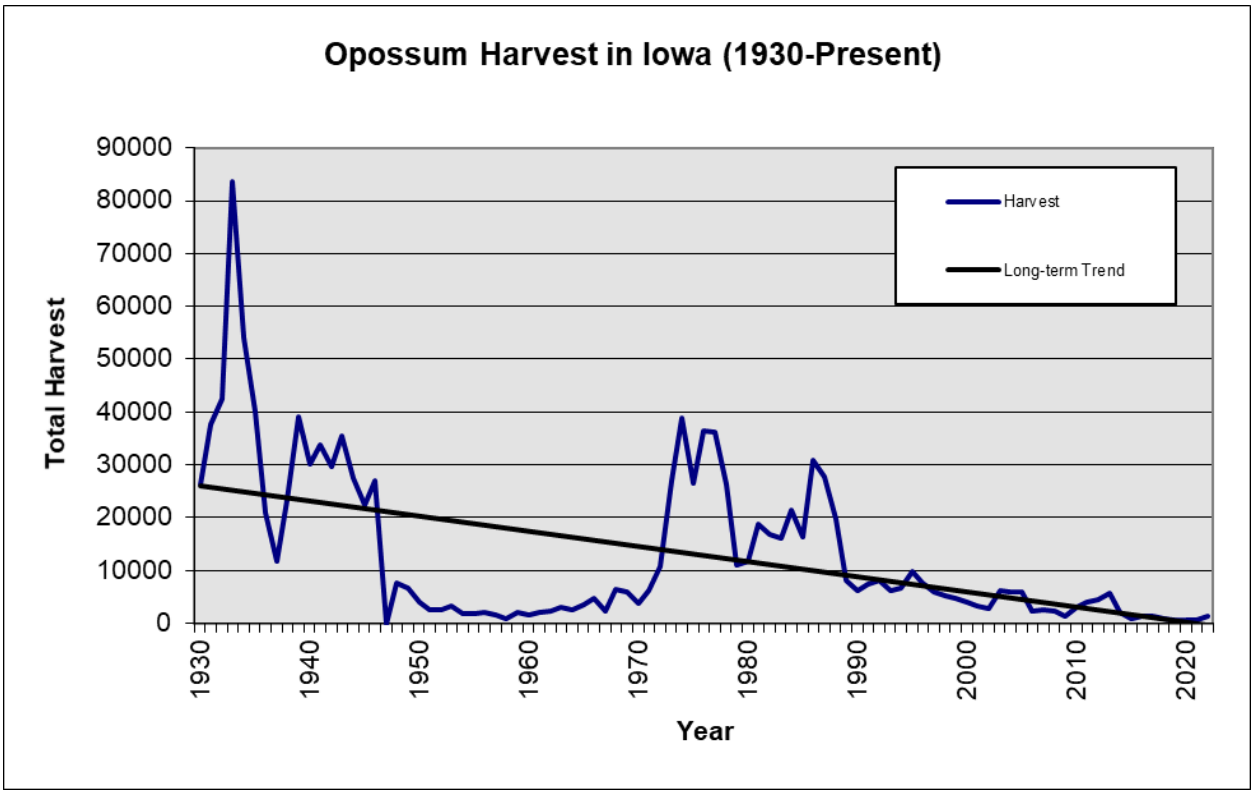


Figure 3.27 Annual opossum harvests reported by licensed fur dealers in Iowa (1930-present).

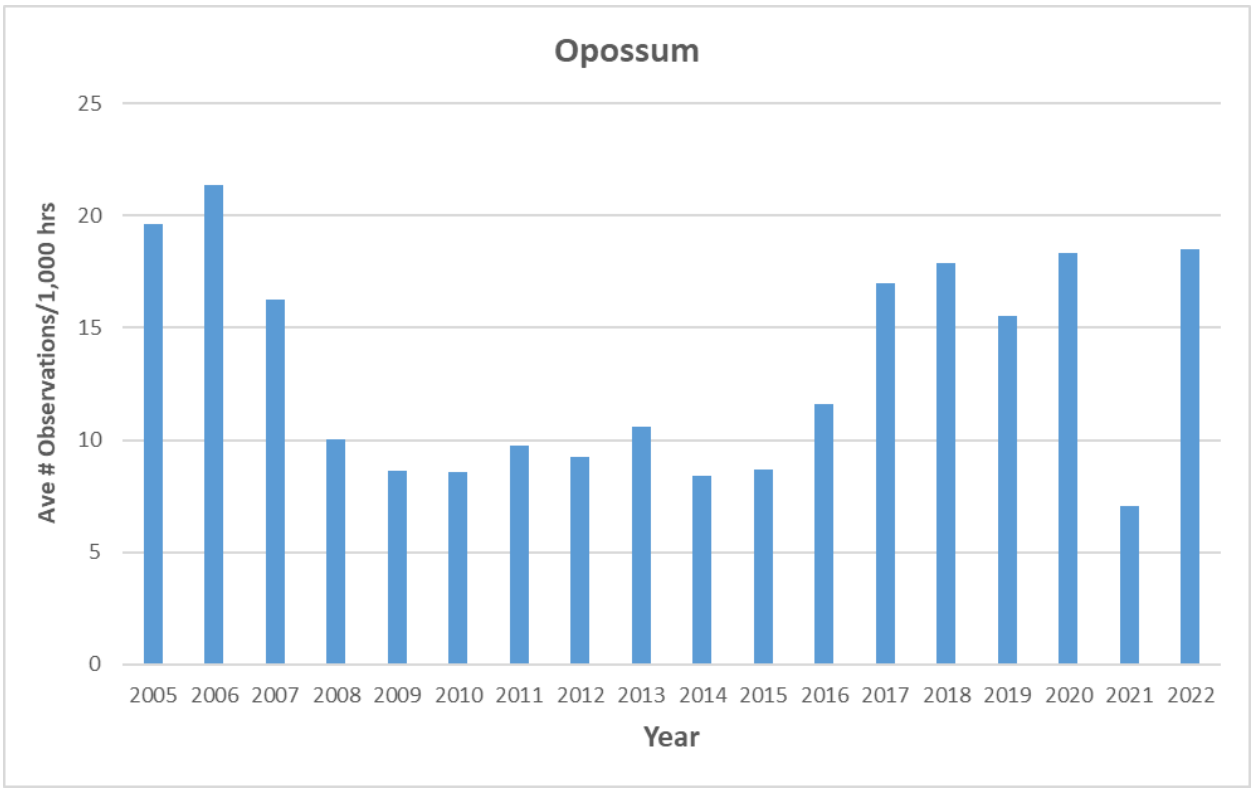


Figure 3.28 Bowhunter Observation Survey overall statewide trend of average observations for opossum in Iowa (2005-present).

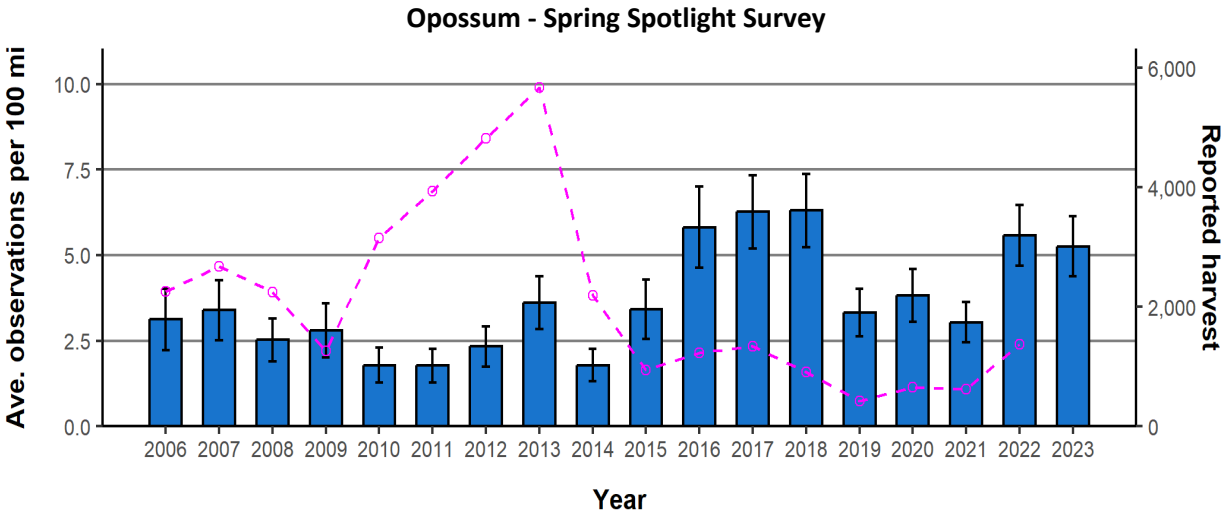


Figure 3.29 Total opossum observations by year during the Iowa Spring Spotlight Survey, 2006-present.

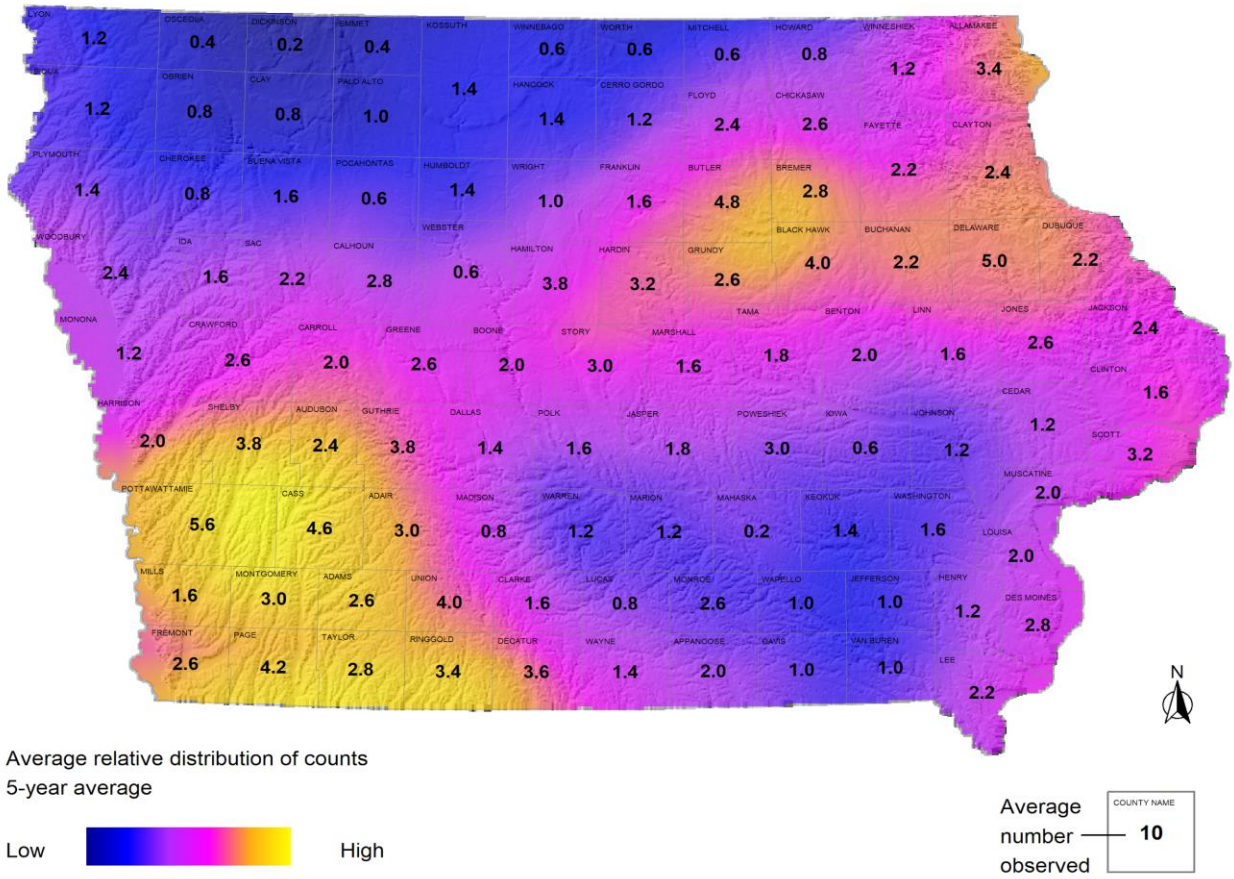


Figure 3.30 Relative distribution of average spring spotlight observations for opossum during the past 5 years. The number of observations per county is relative to the highest and lowest number of observations across all counties during the survey and may not represent an over- or under-abundance of the species (i.e., high counts are considered high relative to those observed in all other counties).

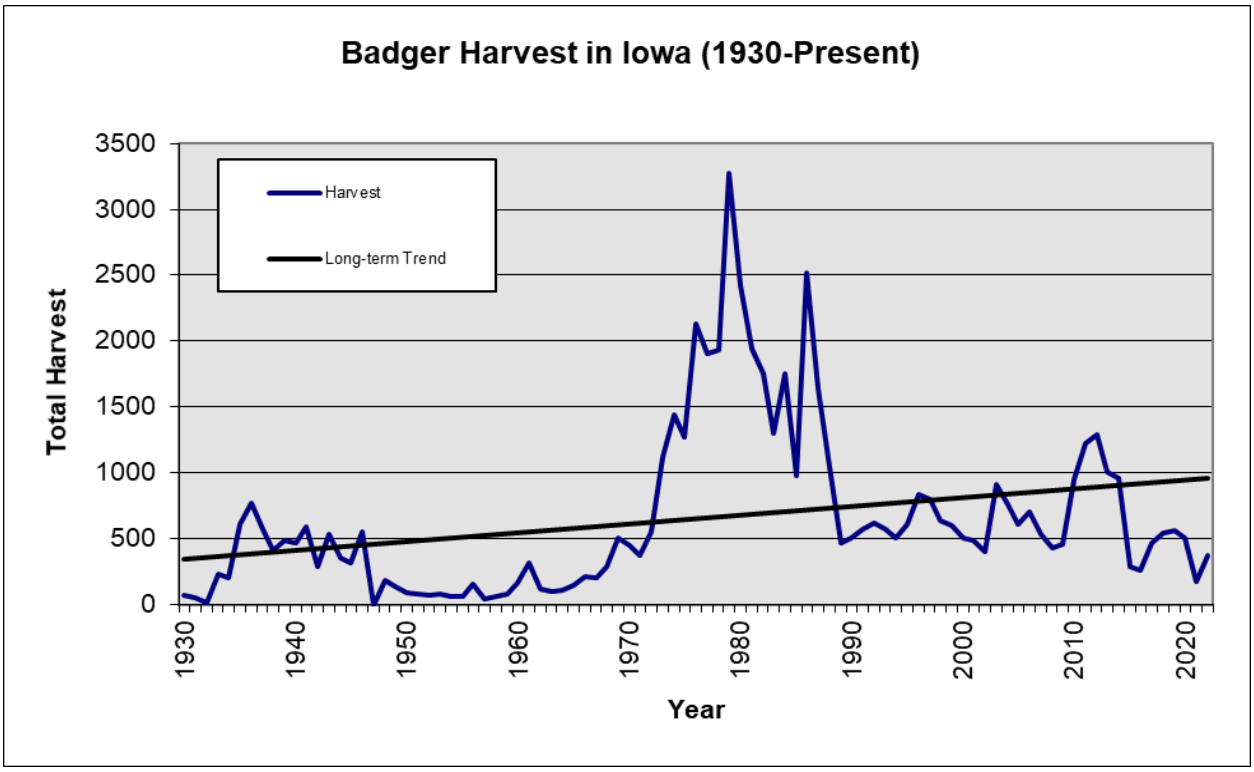


Figure 3.31 Annual badger harvests reported by licensed fur dealers in Iowa (1930-present).

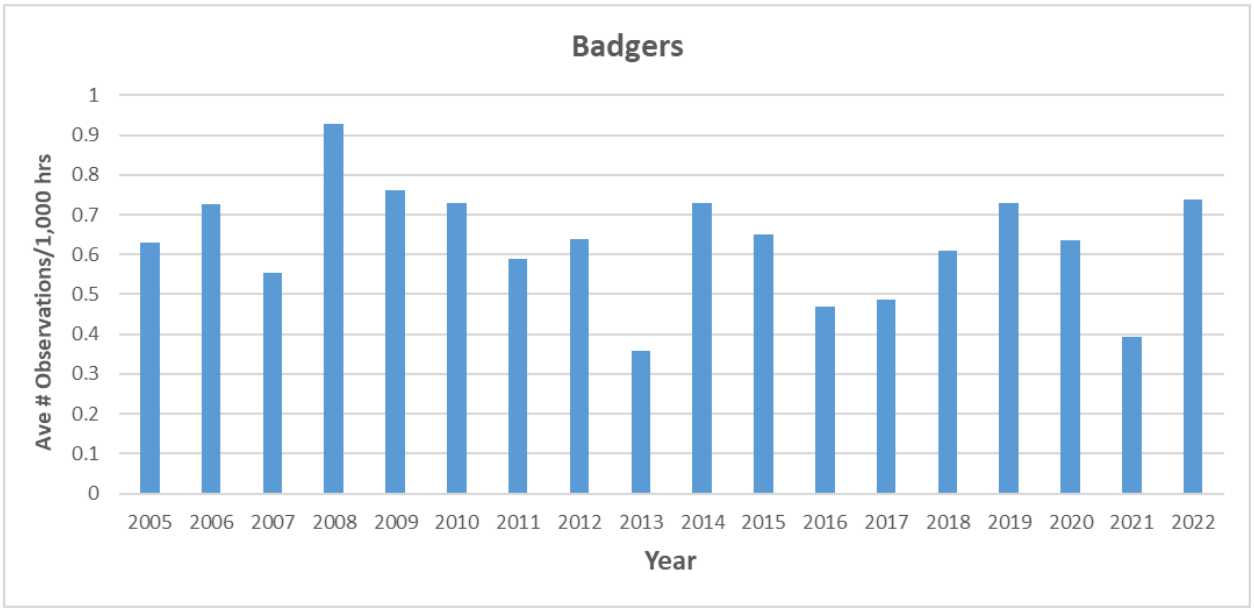


Figure 3.32 Bowhunter Observation Survey overall statewide trend of average observations for badgers in Iowa (2005-present).

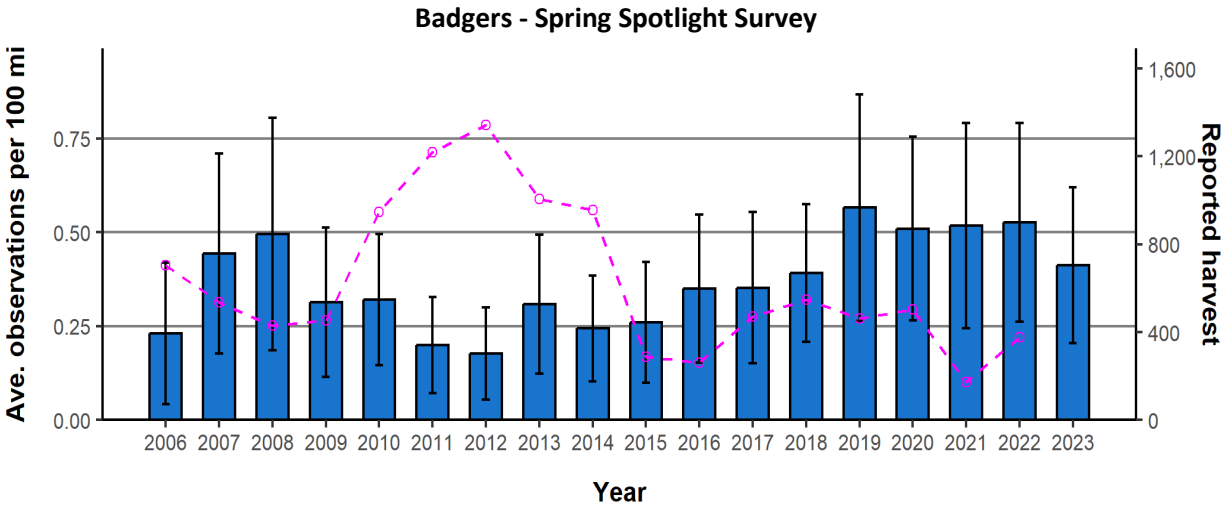


Figure 3.33 Total badger observations by year during the Iowa Spring Spotlight Survey, 2006-present.

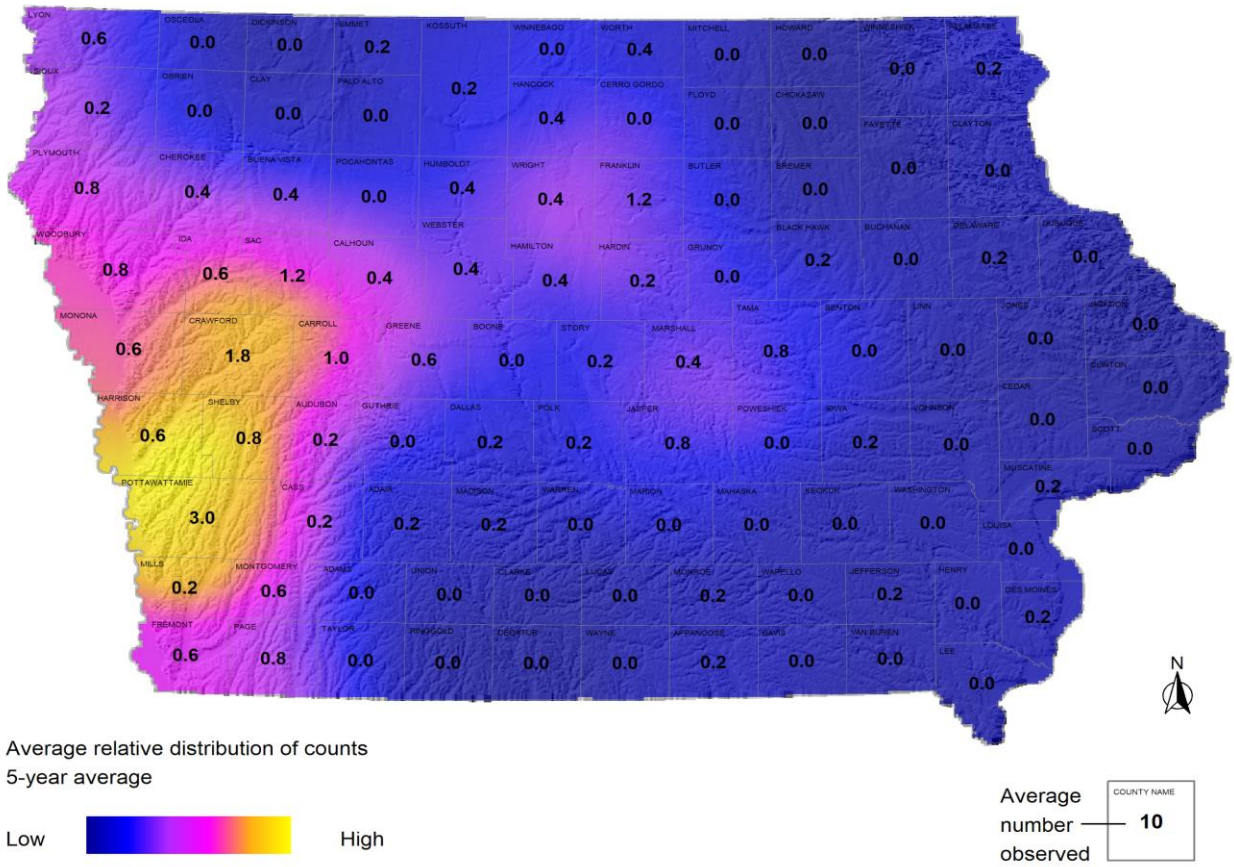


Figure 3.34 Relative distribution of average spring spotlight observations for badger during the past 5 years. The number of observations per county is relative to the highest and lowest number of observations across all counties during the survey and may not represent an over- or under-abundance of the species (i.e., high counts are considered high relative to those observed in all other counties).

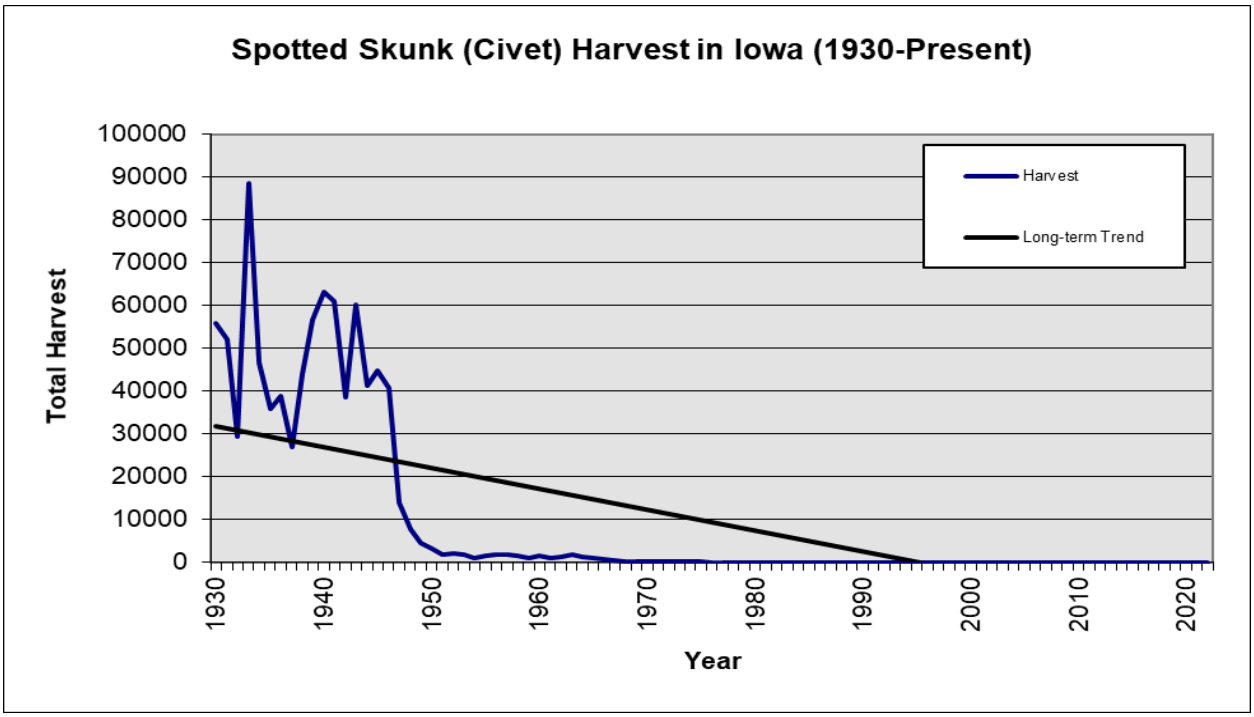


Figure 3.35 Annual spotted skunk harvests reported by licensed fur dealers in Iowa (1930-present)

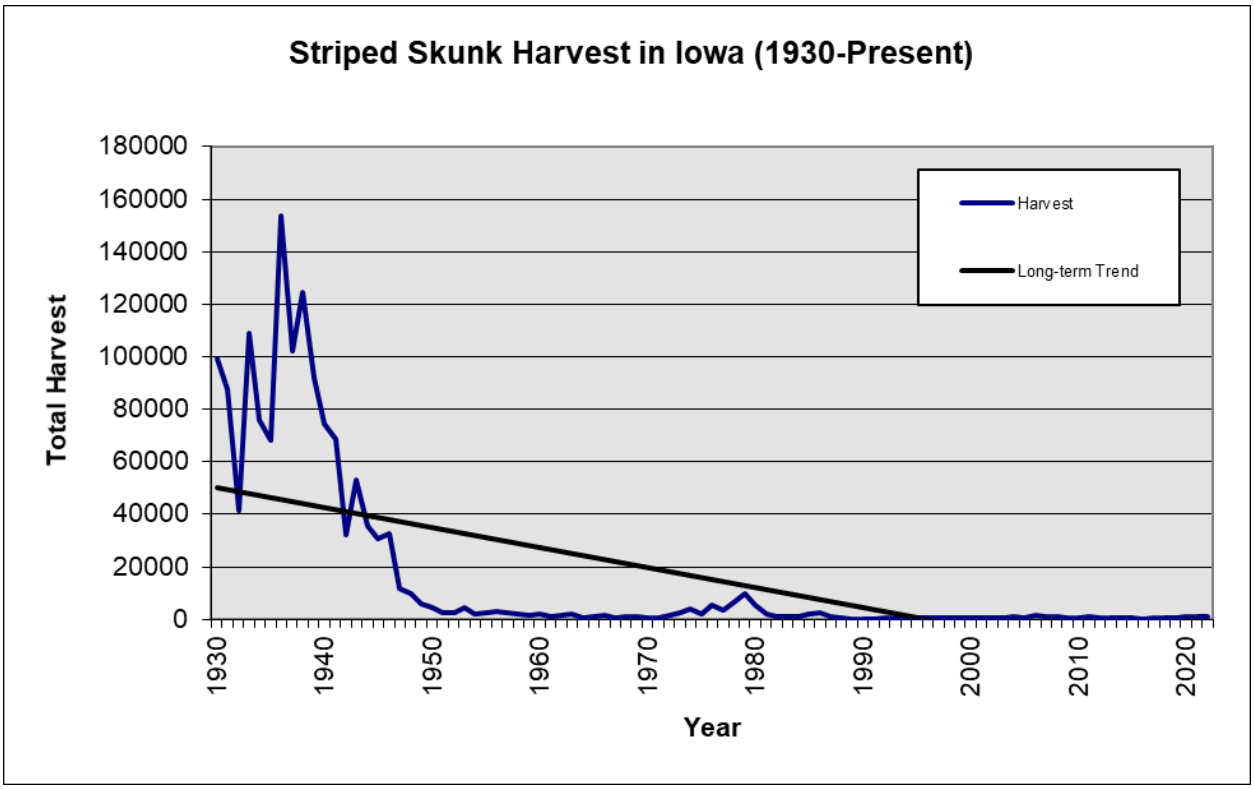


Figure 3.36 Annual striped skunk harvests reported by licensed fur dealers in Iowa (1930-present).

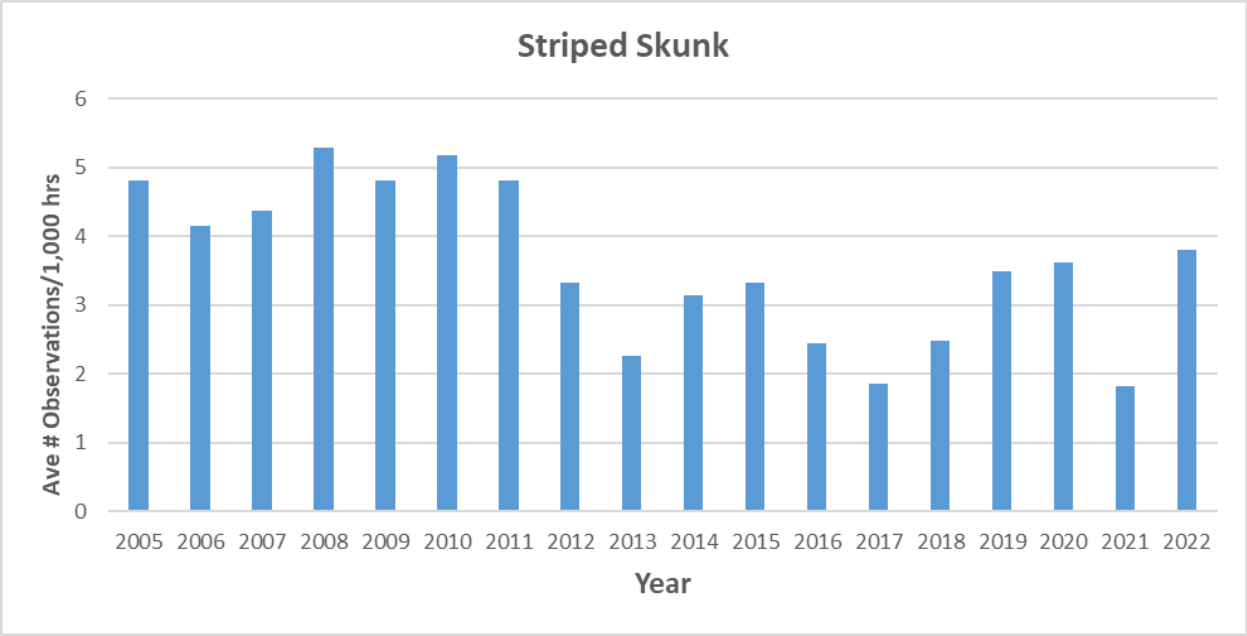


Figure 3.37 Bowhunter Observation Survey overall statewide trend of average observations for striped skunk in Iowa (2005-present).

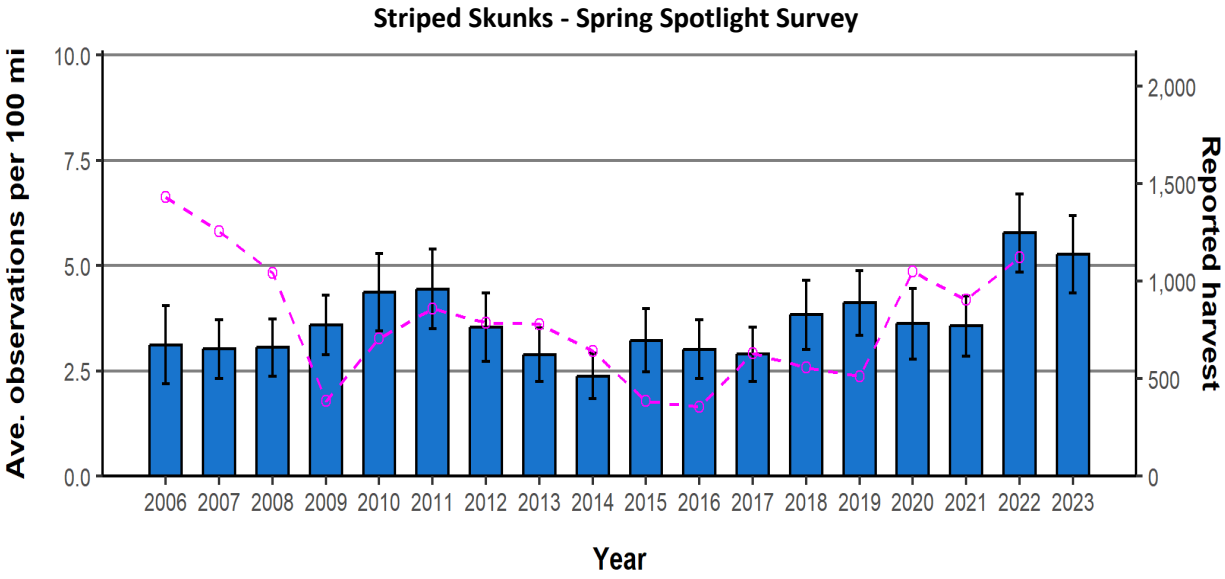


Figure 3.38 Total striped skunk observations by year during the Iowa Spring Spotlight Survey, 2006-present.

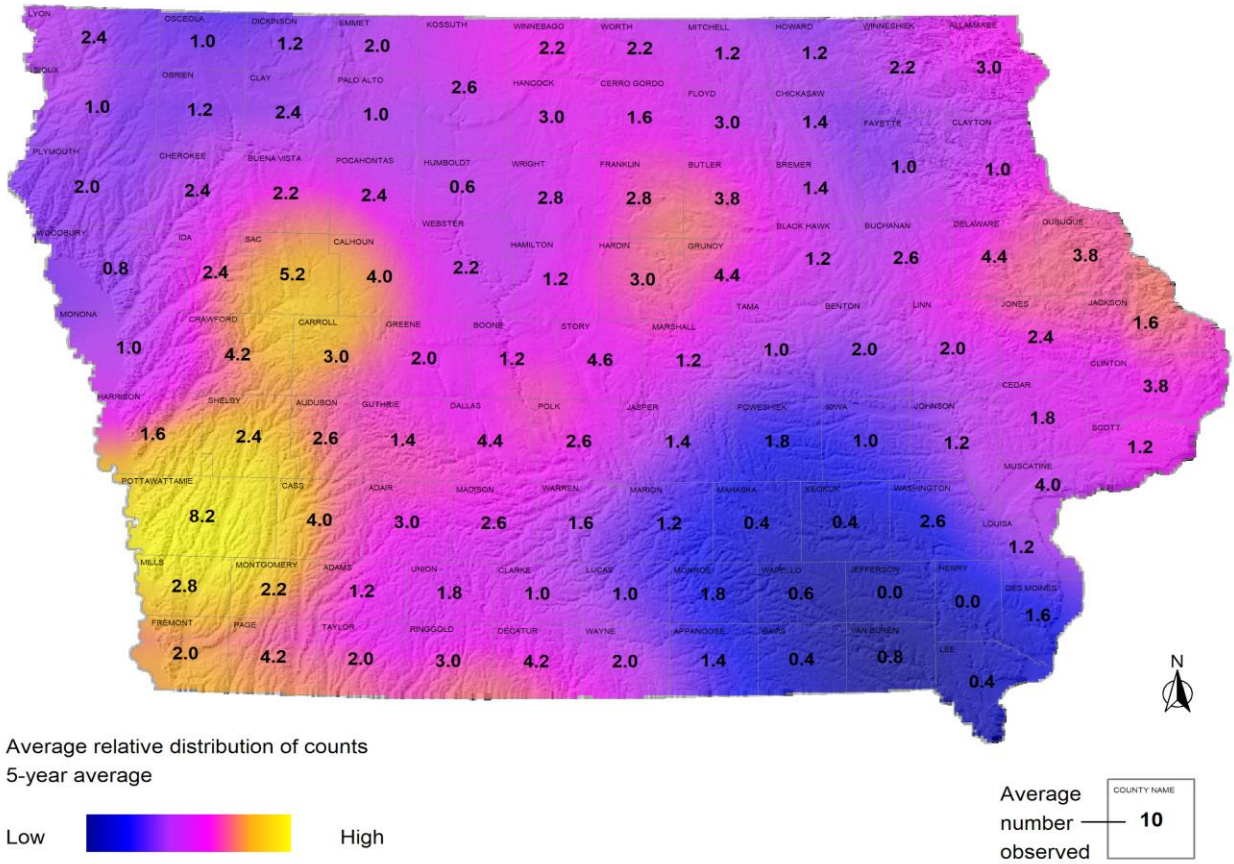


Figure 3.39 Relative distribution of average spring spotlight observations for striped skunk during the past 5 years. The number of observations per county is relative to the highest and lowest number of observations across all counties during the survey and may not represent an over- or under-abundance of the species (i.e., high counts are considered high relative to those observed in all other counties). Skunk includes all observations recorded as "striped skunk" and "skunk" and likely includes none or few spotted skunk observations due to the rarity of the species in the state.

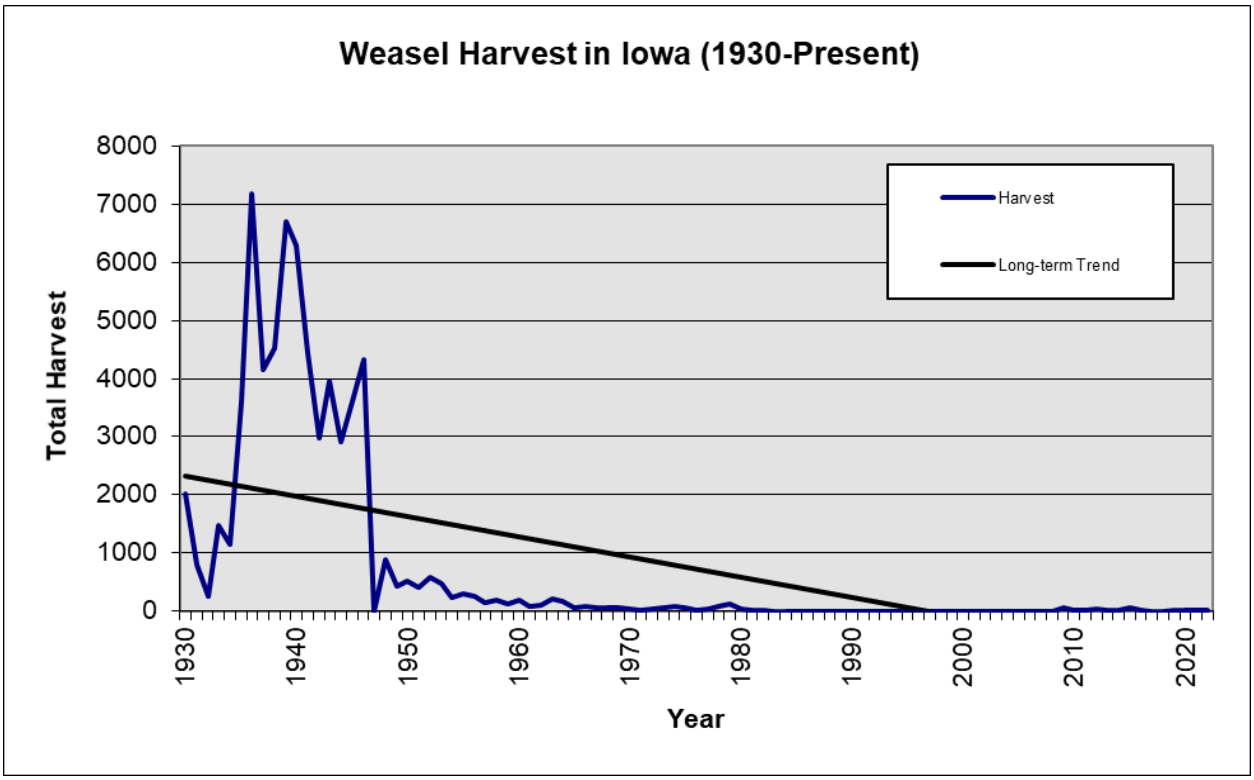


Figure 3.40 Annual weasel harvests reported by licensed fur dealers in Iowa (1930-present).

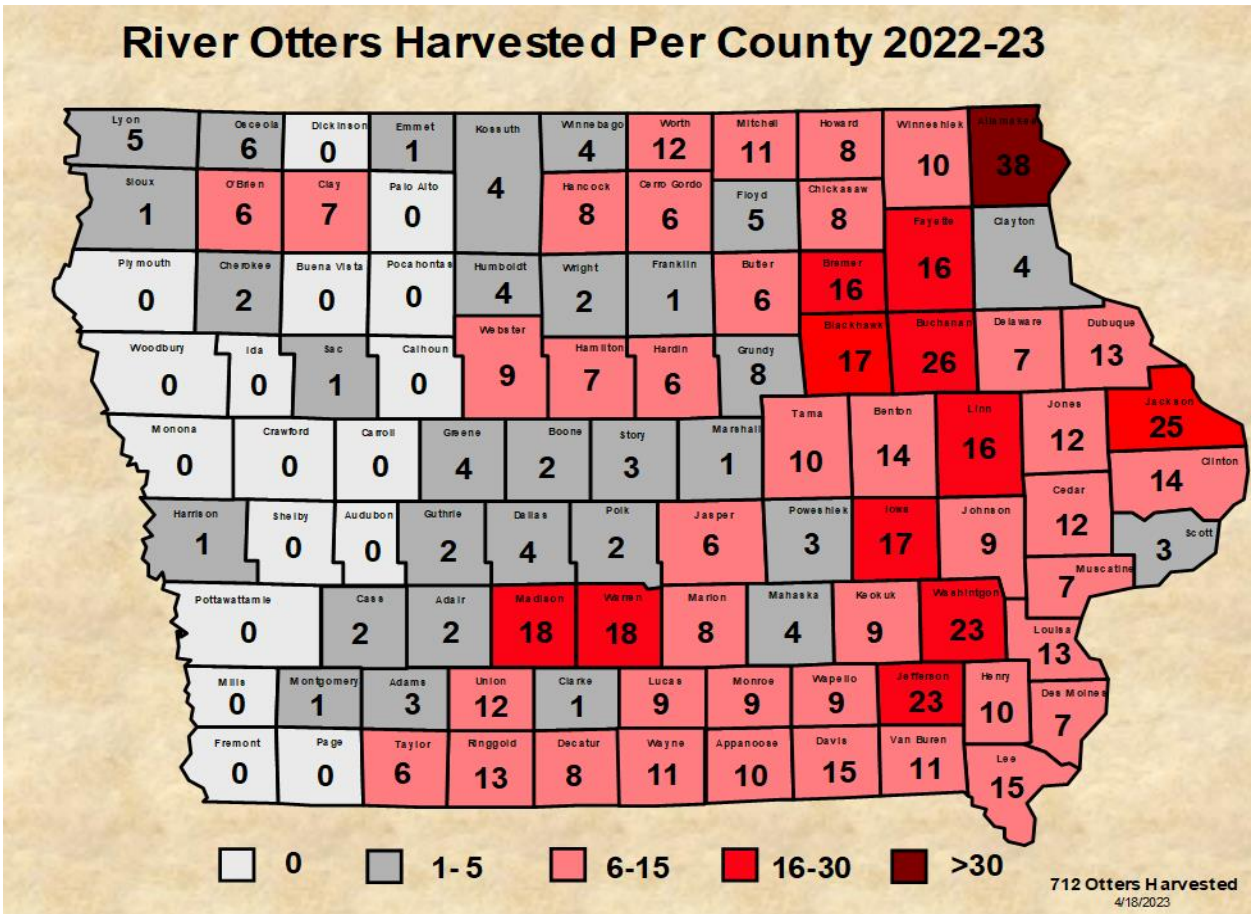


Figure 3.41 River otter harvest per county in Iowa, 2022-2023.

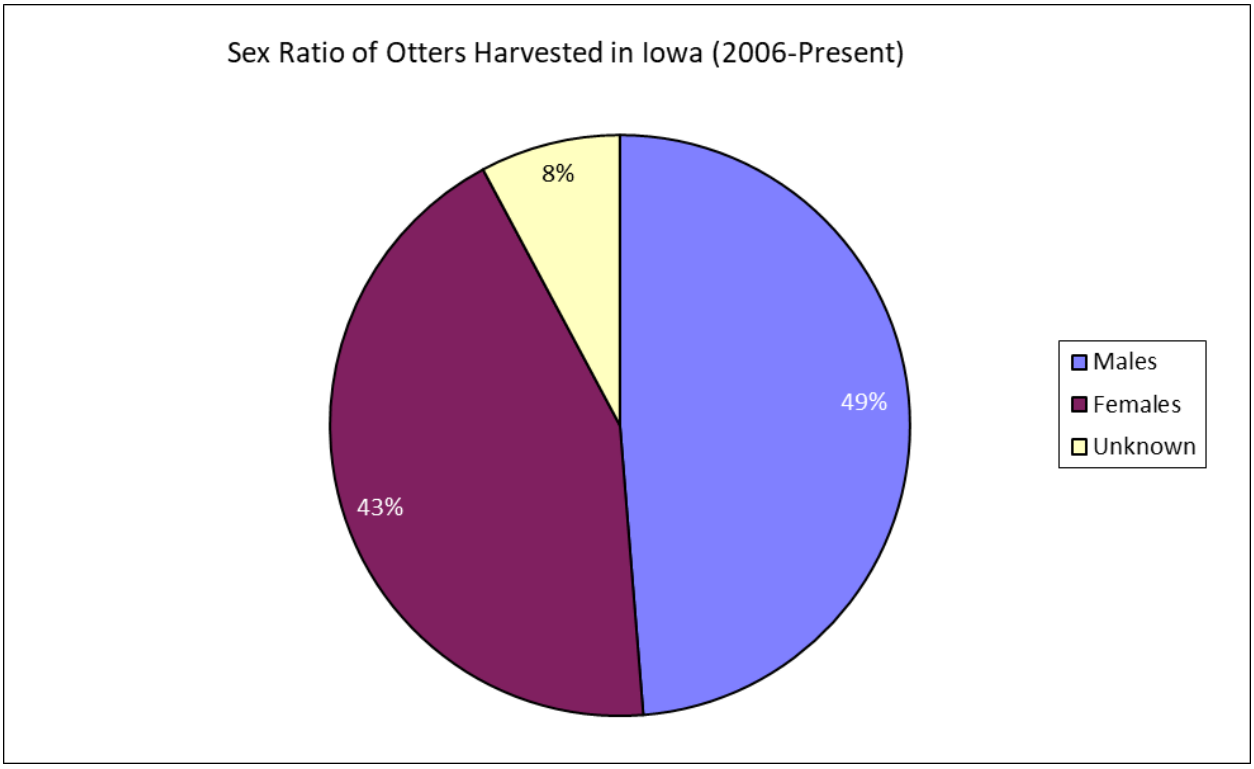


Figure 3.42 Sex ratio of harvested river otters in Iowa (2006-present).

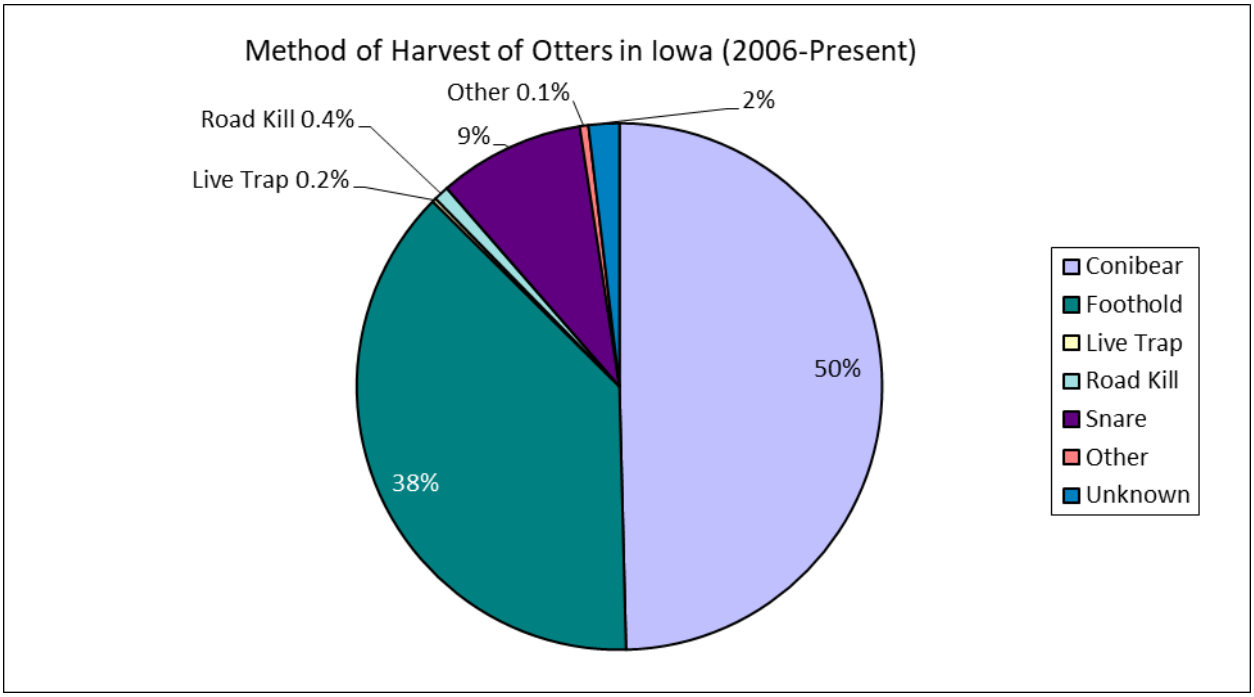


Figure 3.43 Harvest method of river otters in Iowa (2006-present).

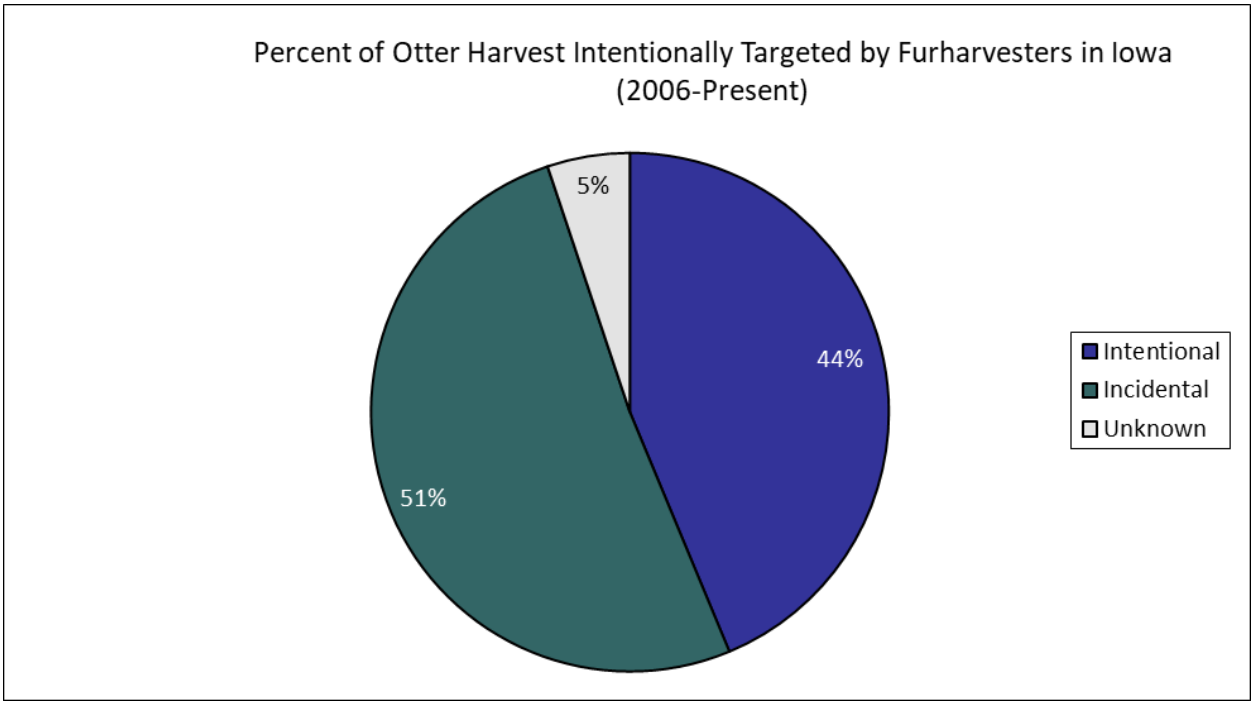


Figure 3.44 Percent of river otters intentionally and incidentally harvested in Iowa (2006-present).

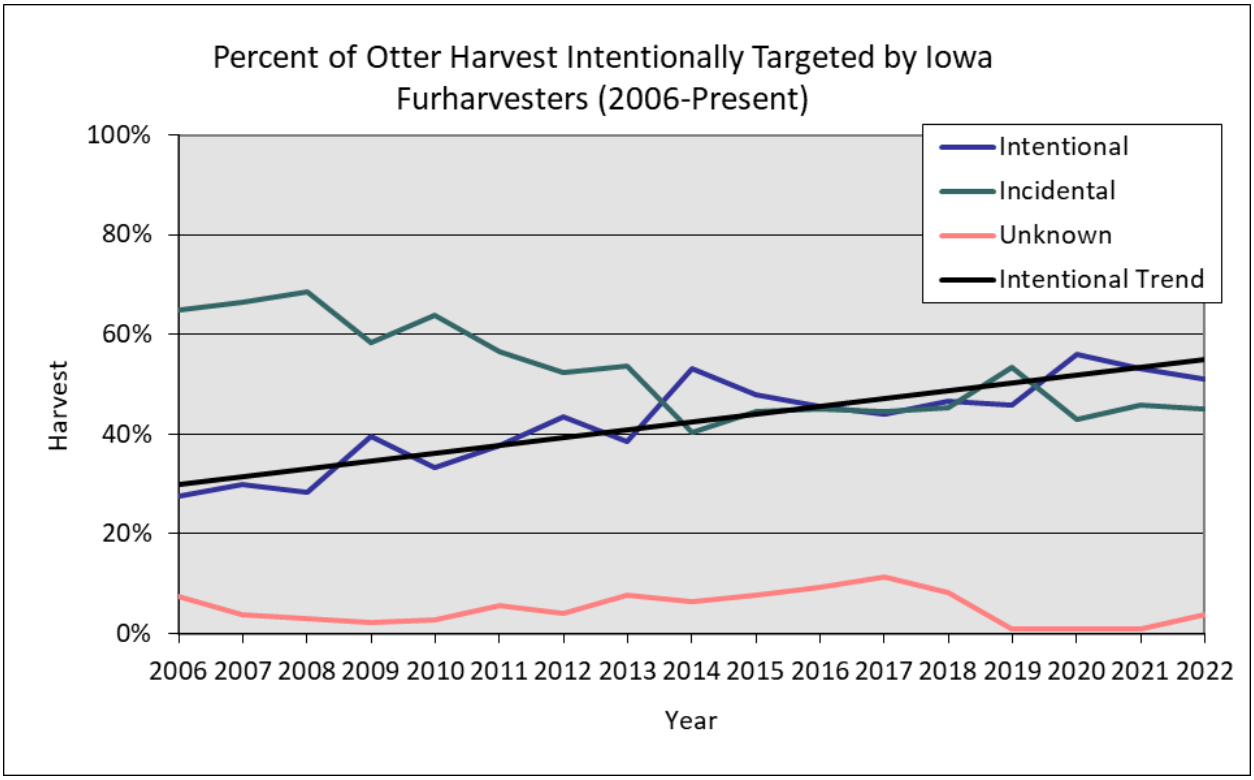


Figure 3.45 Trend for furharvesters intentionally targeting river otters in Iowa (2006-present).

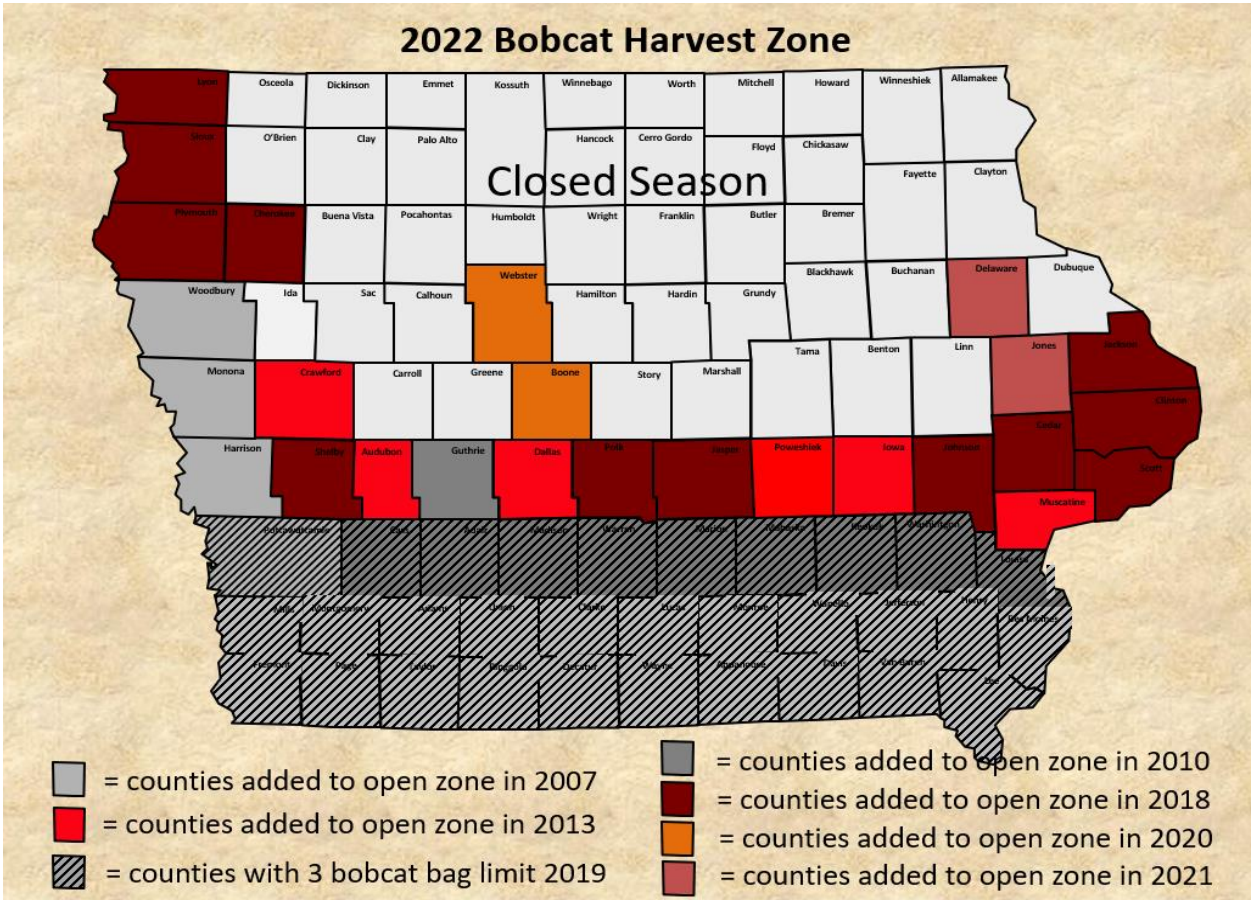


Figure 3.46 Open harvest zone for bobcat hunting/trapping season in Iowa, 2022-2023.

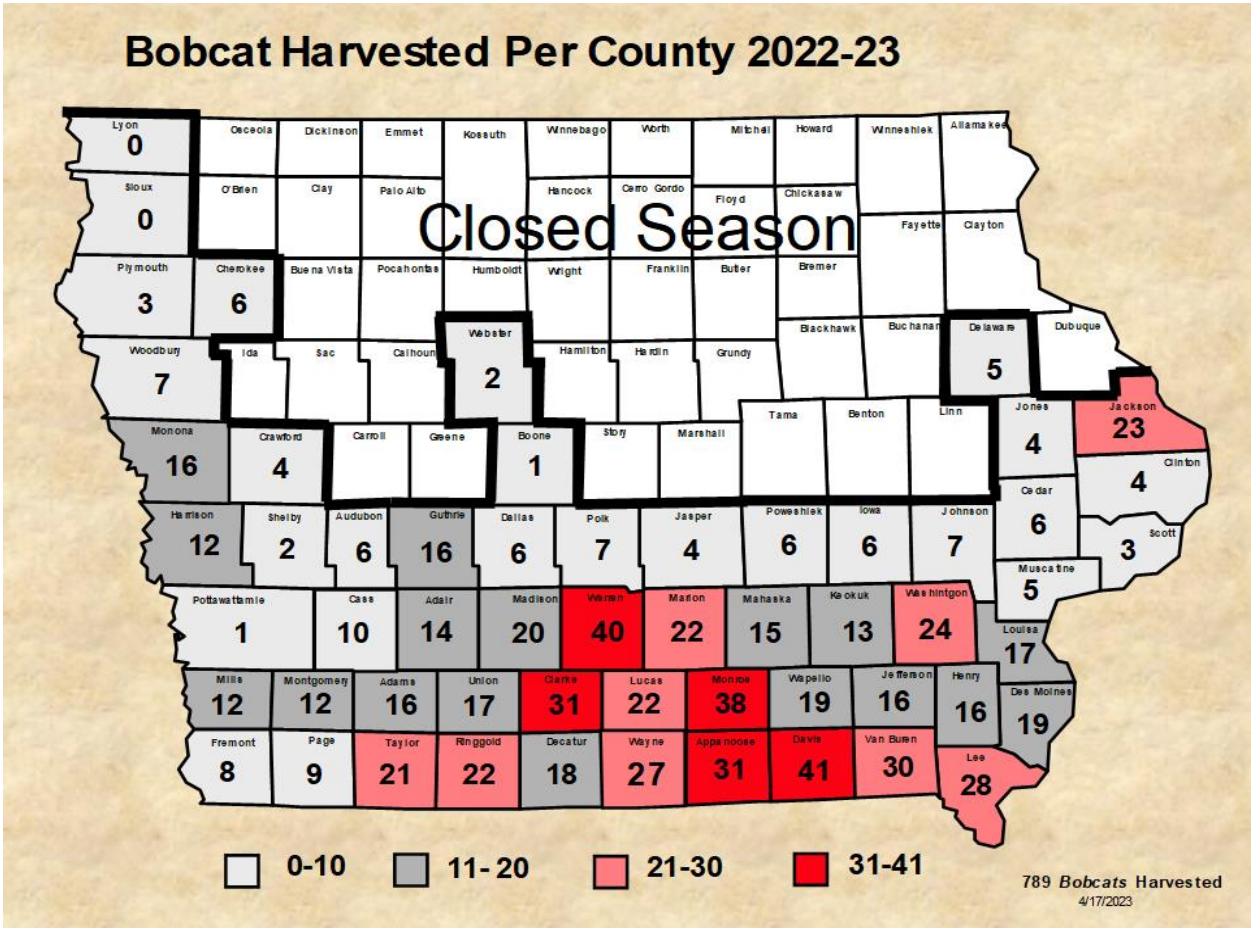


Figure 3.47 Bobcat harvest per county in Iowa, 2022-2023.

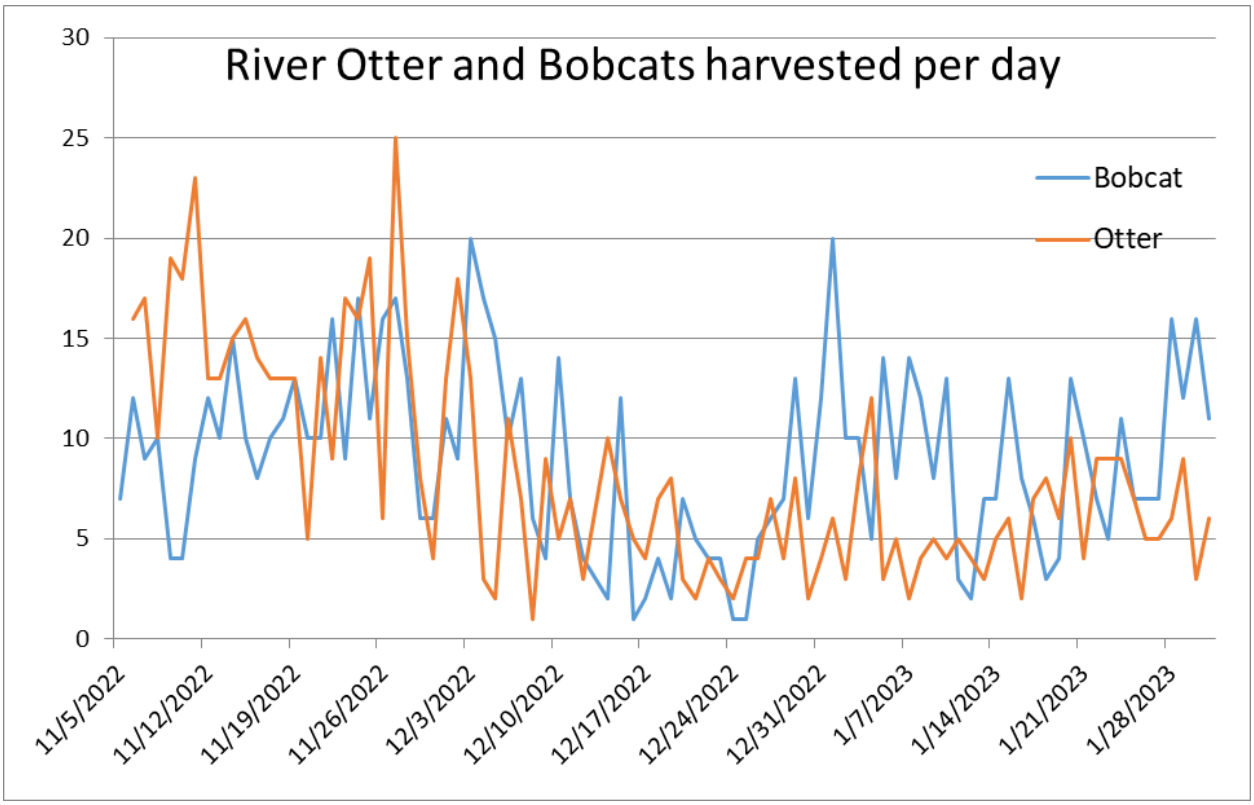


Figure 3.48 River Otter and bobcats harvested per day in Iowa (2022-2023).

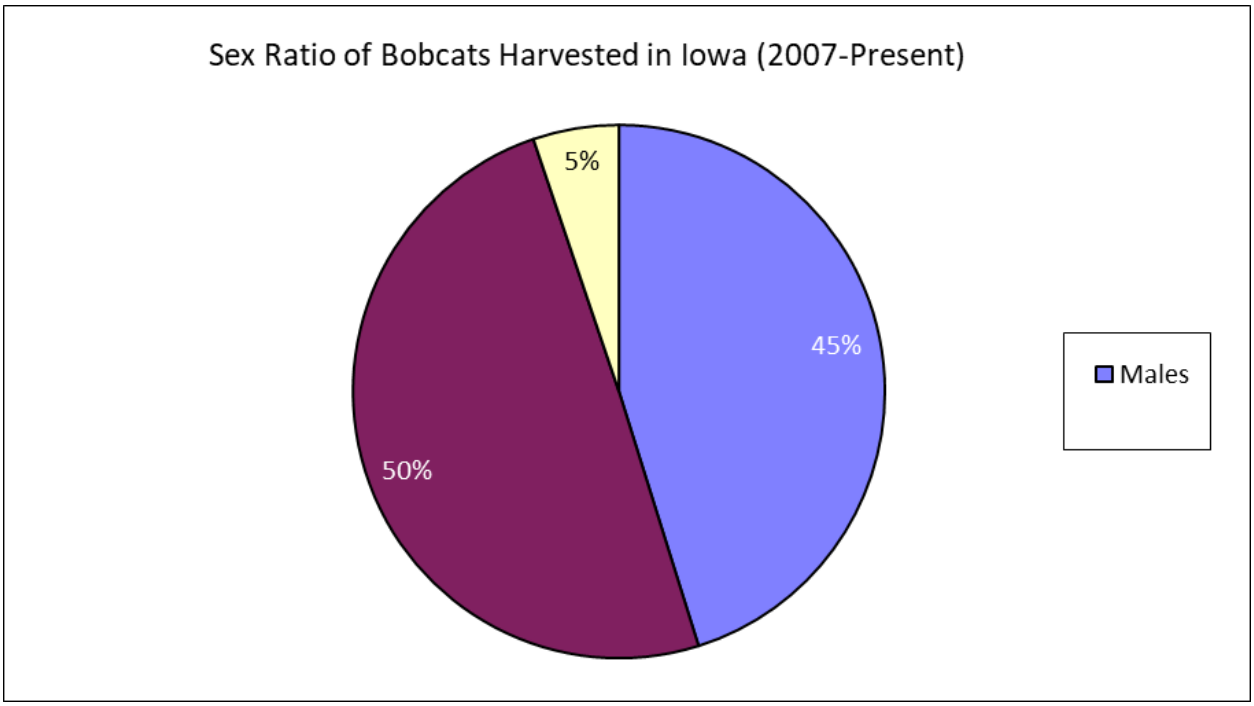


Figure 3.49 Sex ratio of harvested bobcats in Iowa (2007-present).

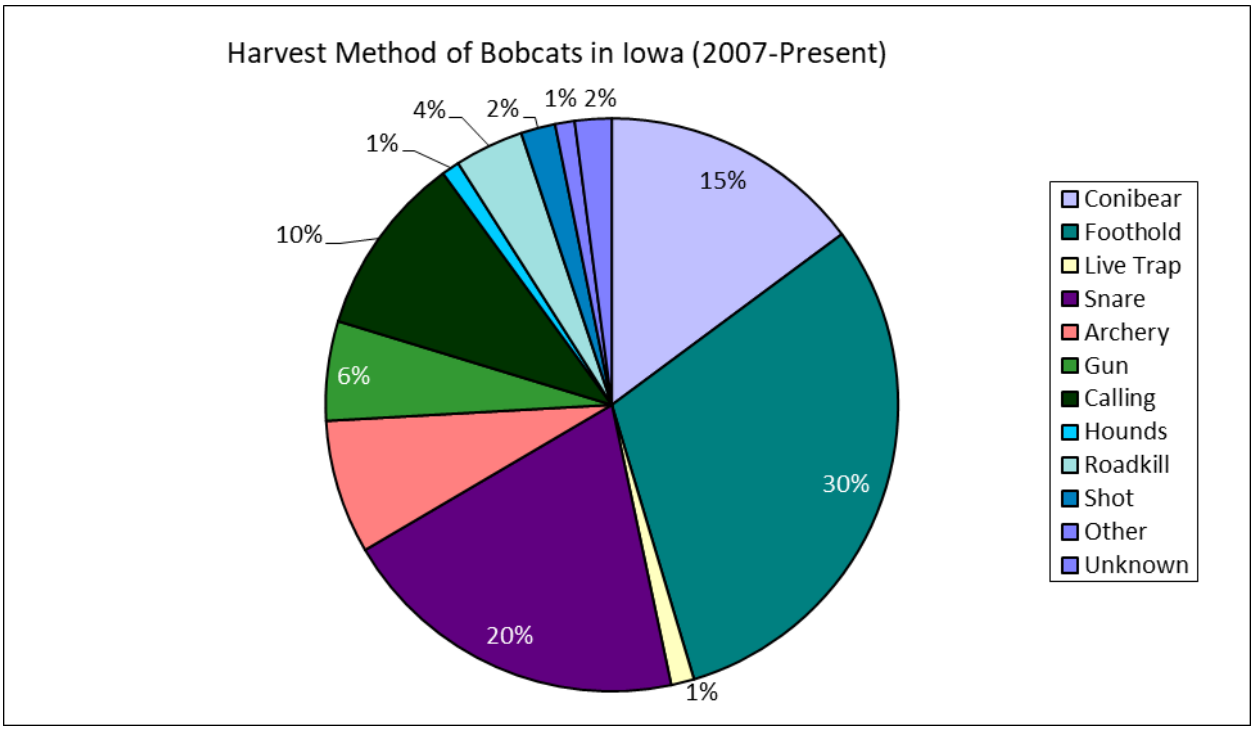


Figure 3.50 Harvest method of bobcats in Iowa (2007-present).

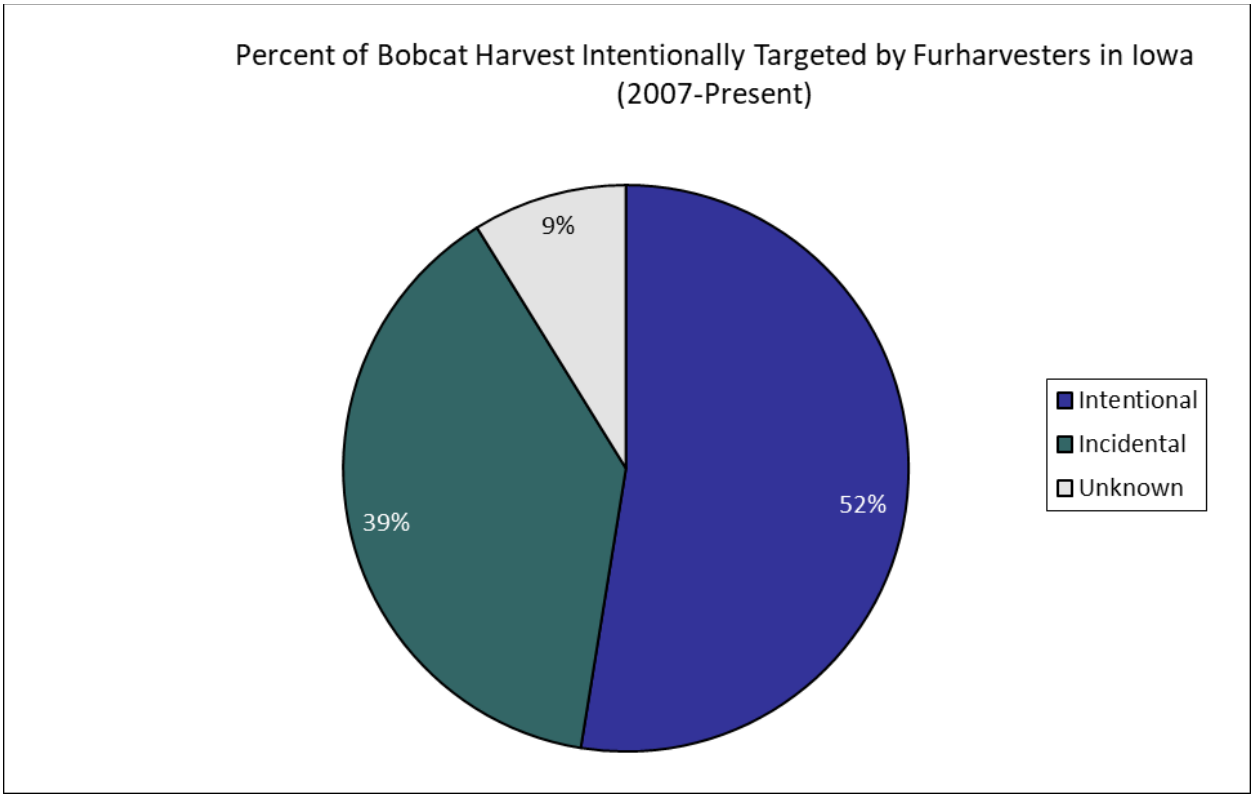


Figure 3.51 Percent of bobcats intentionally and incidentally harvested in Iowa (2007-present).

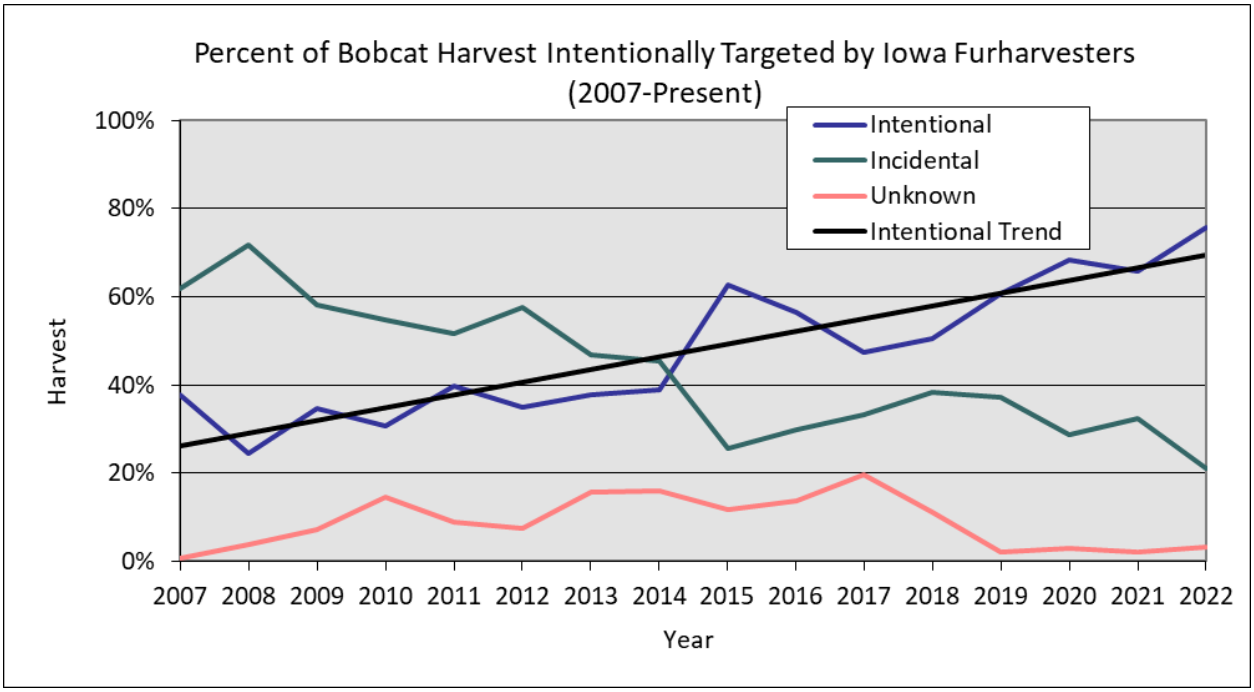


Figure 3.52 Trend for furharvesters intentionally targeting bobcats in Iowa (2007-present).

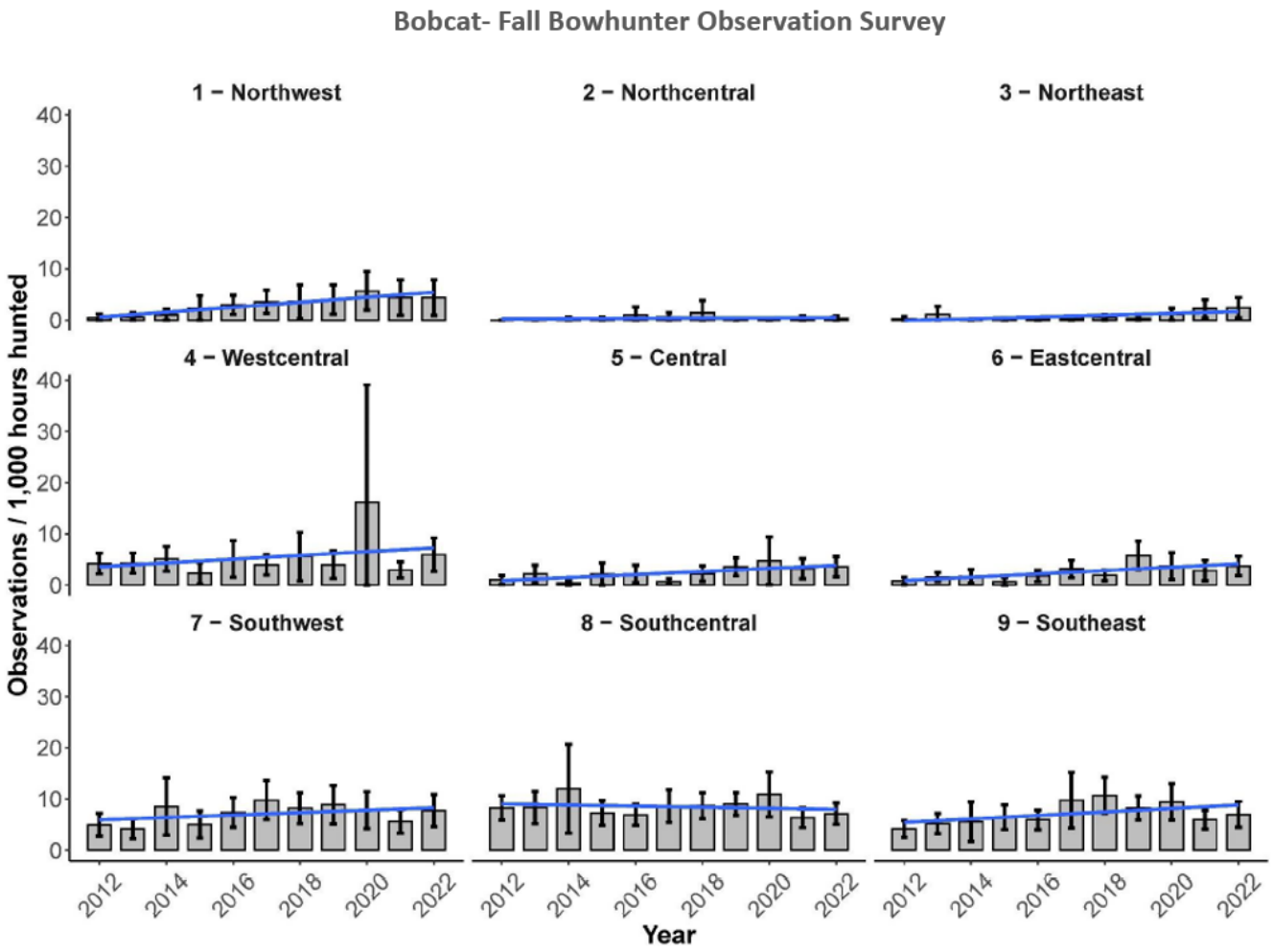


Figure 3.53 Results of bobcat Bowhunter Observation Survey in Iowa (2012-present).

Tables

Table 3.1 Statewide furbearer harvest in Iowa listed by species as reported in licensed fur dealer reports, 1930-Present
Data for each year includes harvest for the winter of the succeeding year, e.g., 1930=1930+1931 (winter).

Season	Muskrat	Mink	Striped Skunk	Raccoon	Spotted Skunk	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Opossum	Weasel	Coyote	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat[a]	Otter[a]
1930-31	381,651	36,842	99,321	11,740	55,938	2,550	182	26,230	2,018		75			
1931-32	293,294	33,780	87,701	12,951	52,022	3,723	208	37,558	801	3	56			
1932-33	181,038	25,303	41,511	10,468	29,505	2,755	35	42,415	256	1	17			
1933-34	380,275	47,119	108,776	15,447	88,532	6,807	486	83,625	1,468		227			
1934-35	113,889	21,755	75,900	14,719	46,676	5,065	417	54,025	1,149		207			
1935-36	351,968	31,613	68,231	19,353	35,767	6,218		39,961	3,602		611			
1936-37	212,332	32,337	153,497	15,037	38,724	9,133	170	20,985	7,190	22	768			
1937-38	176,759	21,438	102,212	13,287	26,928	7,111	1,846	11,755	4,159	146	569			
1938-39	308,015	27,783	124,322	15,014	43,971	7,403	1,900	23,303	4,529	162	412			
1939-40	46,003	2,877	91,838	16,465	56,708	5,706	1,413	39,050	6,692	183	486			
1940-41	350,700	38,817	74,251	19,756	63,256	6,505	1,730	30,131	6,290	259	470			
1941-42	262,007	33,650	68,840	22,512	60,944	6,137	1,967	33,839	4,440	202	586			
1942-43	262,562	23,297	32,437	20,128	38,508	6,560	1,823	29,691	2,982	209	287			
1943-44	722,360	52,760	53,199	38,303	60,238	8,695	2,516	35,579	3,966	926	538	235		
1944-45	457,573	47,040	35,737	36,803	41,235	9,785	2,332	27,513	2,905	388	354	259		
1945-46	418,417	48,145	30,755	41,084	44,827	11,554	2,350	22,501	3,607	388	314	623		
1946-47	387,614	60,397	32,458	61,880	40,661	12,259	2,223	26,960	4,334	915	553	494		
1947-48	17,059	27,638	11,903	55,601	13,944	8,963								
1948-49	164,736	16,571	9,712	61,419	7,815	6,015	192	7,563	881	265	182	670		
1949-50	171,820	17,973	6,136	58,527	4,532	4,826	983	6,681	433	57	136	2,489		
1950-51	117,051	17,007	4,270	56,075	3,321	5,618	917	4,090	509	131	90	3,103		
1951-52	67,211	23,257	2,558	67,211	1,842	3,703	443	2,600	412	34	81	2,465		
1952-53	62,356	27,222	2,730	62,356	2,143	3,313	420	2,632	584	34	67	3,790		
1953-54	335,451	30,459	4,511	79,939	1,892	2,573	399	3,203	470	17	82	6,565		
1954-55	143,886	20,051	2,278	49,592	1,122	1,679	196	1,758	229	45	63	3,635		
1955-56	80,414	10,548	2,677	50,849	1,480	1,678	156	1,774	304	6	57	4,336		
1956-57	79,109	9,706	3,219	58,944	1,888	1,892	183	2,062	263	24	153	2,874		
1957-58	65,969	9,838	2,690	48,134	1,778	1,389	90	1,494	149	9	47	1,938		
1958-59	130,668	13,308	1,988	29,361	1,710	1,147	132	953	181	6	58	2,289		
1959-60	164,485	16,942	1,789	59,814	1,171	4,162	262	2,065	113	61	77	2,980		

Season	Muskrat	Mink	Striped Skunk	Raccoon	Spotted Skunk	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Opossum	Weasel	Coyote	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat[a]	Otter[a]
1960-61	144,119	10,033	2,044	45,279	1,475	6,952	232	1,701	183	97	162	4,519		
1961-62	351,822	16,365	1,307	49,659	918	5,486	223	1,979	89	113	317	4,790		
1962-63	467,985	14,312	1,817	64,250	1,182	6,261	356	2,339	93	92	121	4,269		
1963-64	555,055	21,032	1,940	77,428	1,835	6,610	232	3,052	203	61	99	9,294		
1964-65	259,908	14,394	443	64,936	1,446	6,194	143	2,600	172	340	106	4,326		
1965-66	261,459	13,105	1,097	80,801	1,121	10,853	303	3,559	52	732	147	4,273		
1966-67	389,242	16,269	1,349	85,563	764	13,072	441	4,654	85	864	212	8,991		
1967-68	231,811	13,509	830	77,435	376	10,195	393	2,331	66	512	201	7,334		
1968-69	232,133	12,974	1,290	128,228	308	27,661	729	6,413	47	4,922	287	5,221		
1969-70	306,967	12,616	1,146	137,453	197	17,993	702	5,891	48	3,678	502	4,905		
1970-71	345,538	11,110	700	94,174	113	15,725	503	3,721	41	4,430	446	4,073		
1971-72	449,442	15,855	756	131,247	109	14,978	780	6,157	22	5,240	373	7,138		
1972-73	399,021	17,093	1,579	173,162	131	18,281	722	10,849	40	5,616	551	4,527		
1973-74	638,317	23,269	2,779	255,212	188	24,145	1,624	26,947	52	8,713	1,121	5,834		
1974-75	465,488	22,517	3,935	275,518	280	17,829	1,682	38,844	71	12,020	1,438	5,556		
1975-76	386,679	18,406	1,937	292,064	106	15,838	1,574	26,485	50	9,444	1,267	5,154		
1976-77	252,754	15,956	5,441	264,819	46	22,699	1,795	36,493	4	12,226	2,136	7,773		
1977-78	257,237	13,037	3,588	264,367	7	22,831	1,640	36,186	36	12,011	1,900	3,432		
1978-79	467,721	23,277	6,545	251,985		24,348	2,115	26,160	82	10,627	1,936	4,327		
1979-80	741,403	31,270	10,022	308,277		17,629	3,093	10,978	122	7,745	3,274	12,498		
1980-81	739,419	32,950	5,616	235,717		20,602	2,175	11,664	32	6,847	2,427	11,831		
1981-82	521,945	28,455	1,913	291,227		22,385	1,710	18,730	16	9,860	1,946	5,705		
1982-83	428,252	21,307	1,194	255,926		18,527	1,953	16,761	16	8,930	1,754	5,809		
1983-84	464,793	22,245	1,152	261,875		21,257	1,185	16,179		9,636	1,298	8,563		
1984-85	372,466	28,346	1,032	334,179		18,916	1,896	21,455		7,809	1,754	16,323		
1985-86	254,412	17,116	1,861	270,805		16,346	1,114	16,296		7,858	975	14,931		
1986-87	482,811	31,139	2,540	390,773		19,740	1,593	30,760		10,582	2,520	17,778		
1987-88	515,611	27,712	1,198	307,587		19,666	1,091	27,623		10,348	1,642	13,509		
1988-89	192,214	13,996	712	190,556		15,445	769	19,824		4,650	1,043	18,459		
1989-90	73,415	8,293	245	118,653		13,359	374	8,114		4,073	468	8,706		
1990-91	70,133	7,363	189	103,468		14,268	393	6,243		5,068	503	9,246		
1991-92	91,206	8,469	211	110,342		15,463	429	7,411		5,213	572	8,943		

Season	Muskrat	Mink	Striped Skunk	Raccoon	Spotted Skunk	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Opossum	Weasel	Coyote	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat[a]	Otter[a]
1992-93	124,638	12,839	791	110,203		14,660	1,036	8,192		10,286	621	15,839		
1993-94	163,842	13,946	643	118,463		12,986	836	6,243		7,313	571	11,788		
1994-95	178,683	11,819	510	112,686		12,243	789	6,782		6,986	502	11,643		
1995-96	158,241	20,392	786	118,136		14,136	948	9,781		8,462	614	10,678		
1996-97	123,460	18,946	693	123,698		12,402	721	7,643		7,159	832	10,481		
1997-98	113,621	16,832	649	149,492		12,896	768	6,012		6,992	796	11,122		
1998-99	90,126	16,461	536	106,641		11,646	681	5,123		5,786	642	10,336		
1999-00	86,998	15,931	528	101,233		11,968	631	4,649		5,231	597	10,108		
2000-01	84,972	15,235	469	94,989		11,103	576	3,922		5,348	506	10,478		
2001-02	78,867	14,162	398	143,206		12,349	529	3,361		6,702	487	11,287		
2002-03	89,421	14,986	417	118,531		14,869	507	2,905		5,746	402	10,431		
2003-04	54,919	10,711	842	177,315		10,608	365	6,184		8,178	912	8,591		
2004-05	45,516	11,662	930	179,185		7,122	198	5,858		5,197	761	6,221		
2005-06	79,328	13,162	793	163,746		8,587	219	5,916		7,381	606	8,698		
2006-07	64,799	7,706	1,434	156,379		2,013	20	2,254		4,258	704	5,675		468
2007-08	55,476	7,967	1,256	143,271		2,143	178	2,673		4,513	536	5,303	154	419
2008-09	48,794	8,236	1,042	124,789		3,729	217	2,251		5,176	431	5,829	234	480
2009-10	44,436	6,905	388	115,349		1,792	13	1,261	56	2,501	454	3,431	235	514
2010-11	98,079	11,262	708	236,943		3,810	26	3,156	7	8,089	946	5,382	274	457
2011-12	78,422	12,977	858	326,368		4,209	85	3,932	3	7,765	1,220	11,652	398	770
2012-13	54,382	8,060	788	303,496		4,104	63	4,820	31	13,261	1,343	15,457	528	973
2013-14	30,584	5,582	779	308,025		4,099	16	5,668	9	15,347	1,006	7,496	978	1,165
2014-15	44,175	5,332	642	200,509		2,397	182	2,187	3	13,911	957	4,591	706	835
2015-16	33,327	4,545	386	89,061		1,581	44	940	50	13,158	289	4,021	535	692
2016-17	38,944	3,957	355	82,126		1,239	19	1,231	10	9,283	261	4,214	591	556
2017-18	40,913	5,182	630	106,842		2,284	4	1,341	2	15,185	470	5,438	819	822
2018-19	16,6320	4,021	557	115,132		1,357	7	914	1	18,676	547	3,893	687	576
2019-20	14,851	2,026	738	100,857		1,487	2	532	5	16,326	559	5,505	1,160	771
2020-21	16,865	1,776	1,051	49,622		999	5	658	9	15,087	504	5,031	980	853
2021-22	11,344	973	906	34,529		650	1	623	1	3,724	174	4,223	970	822
2022-23	6,993	700	1,123	42,067		1,113	4	1,371	5	3,325	377	7,079	789	712
Average														

Season	Muskrat	Mink	Striped Skunk	Raccoon	Spotted Skunk	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Opossum	Weasel	Coyote	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat[a]	Otter[a]
5-Year	13,275	1,899	875	68,441		1,121	4	820	5	11,428	432	5,146	917	747
10-Year	25,432	3,409	717	112,877		1,721	28	1,547	10	12,402	514	5,149	822	780
20-Year	43,923	6,637	810	152,781		3,266	83	2,689	14	9,517	653	6,387	627	699
50-Year	191,752	13,988	1,495	182,725	125	11,357	758	10,431	28	8,600	992	8,726	627	699
Long term[1]	224,611	18,425	15,360	123,319	18,327	9,603	765	13,030	1,011	5,241	660	6,946	627	699

Table 3.2 Number of licensed fur harvesters and fur dealers in Iowa, 2003-present

Year	Resident Furharvesters	Lifetime Furharvesters	Non-Resident Furharvesters	Total	Resident Fur Dealers	Non-Resident Fur Dealers	Total
2003	14,404	-	99	14,503	43	2	45
2004	14,607	-	91	14,698	46	3	49
2005	13,376	-	83	13,459	41	2	43
2006	14,542	-	100	14,642	38	5	43
2007	15,279	-	134	15,413	39	4	43
2008	15,523	-	168	15,691	40	4	44
2009	14,098	-	99	14,197	34	3	37
2010	15,033	-	144	15,177	34	2	36
2011	16,928	-	121	17,049	34	5	39
2012	19,197	-	171	19,268	36	4	40
2013	20,148	455	248	20,818	36	6	42
2014	18,482	560	144	19,186	44	5	49
2015	14,659	955	670	16,284	40	4	44
2016	14,539	248	29	14,816	34	5	39
2017	14,100	296	97	14,493	31	5	36
2018	13,656	300	185	14,141	32	3	35
2019	14,112	295	129	14,536	31	4	35
2020	14,851	273	135	15,259	31	4	35
2021	14,799	350	137	15,286	31	2	33
2022	14,749	354	114	15,217	24	2	26

Table 3.3 Total number of pelts sold in Iowa and average, minimum, and maximum prices paid per species by fur dealers, 2019 - present.

	No. of Pelts Sold in Iowa	Average Iowa Price/Pelt
Raccoon		
2020-21	49222	3.58
2021-22	34529	2.99
2022-23	42,067	4.15
Muskrat		
2020-21	16865	2.80
2021-22	11344	2.6
2022-23	6,993	2.01
Mink		
2020-21	1776	3.37
2021-22	973	3.93
2022-23	700	3.84
Beaver		
2020-21	5031	5.04
2021-22	4223	5.73
2022-23	7,079	14.83
Coyote		
2020-21	15087	20.53

	No. of Pelts Sold in Iowa	Average Iowa Price/Pelt
2021-22	3724	10.35
2022-23	3,325	8.70
Red Fox		
2020-21	999	5.82
2021-22	650	8.59
2022-23	1,113	10.12
Opossum		
2020-21	658	0.73
2021-22	623	0.93
2022-23	1,371	1.13
Badger		
2020-21	504	8.38
2021-22	174	13.39
2022-23	377	22.80
Striped Skunk		
2020-21	1051	5.32
2021-22	906	4.77
2022-23	1,123	5.69
River Otter		
2020-21	853	14.64
2021-22	822	17.63
2022-23	712	21.09
Bobcat		
2020-21	980	23.50
2021-22	970	69.44
2022-23	789	41.66
Gray Fox		
2020-21	5	14.83
2021-22	1	15.03
2022-23	4	14.88
Weasel		
2020-21	9	4.00
2021-22	3	3.33
2022-23	5	11.86

Table 3.4 Value ($) of pelts from important furbearer species harvested in Iowa, 1930-present

Data for each year includes harvest from the winter of the succeeding year, e.g., 1930 = 1930+1931 (winter).

Season	Mink		Muskrat		Raccoon		Red Fox		All Species
	Mean Price	Total Value	Mean Price	Total Value	Mean Price	Total Value	Mean Price	Total Value	Total Value
1930-31	3.50	128,947	0.42	160,293	4.50	52,830	6.85	17,467	534,409
1931-32	3.60	121,608	0.52	152,512	4.40	56,984	4.50	16,753	497,260
1932-33	3.00	75,909	0.30	54,311	2.60	27,216	3.25	8,953	213,186
1933-34	4.40	207,323	0.52	197,743	3.45	53,292	4.50	30,631	615,688
1934-35	4.40	95,810	0.70	79,722	3.50	51,516	4.00	20,260	348,843
1935-36	5.93	187,465	0.98	344,928	3.95	76,444	2.95	18,343	723,451
1936-37	9.00	291,033	1.25	265,440	4.00	60,148	3.00	27,399	842,666
1937-38	5.60	120,052	0.60	106,055	3.65	48,497	3.00	21,333	412,361
1938-39	7.25	201,426	0.75	231,011	2.80	42,039	3.50	25,910	723,099
1939-40	6.25	17,981	1.05	48,303	2.45	40,339	2.50	14,265	277,519
1940-41	7.30	283,364	1.21	424,347	3.71	73,294	2.70	17,563	979,482
1941-42	6.75	227,137	1.32	345,849	4.90	110,308	4.50	27,616	903,874
1942-43	6.15	143,276	1.47	385,966	3.65	73,467	5.40	35,424	741,621
1943-44	12.50	659,500	2.25	1,625,310	3.25	277,696	10.00	86,950	2,961,462
1944-45	6.75	317,520	1.32	603,966	4.90	180,334	4.50	44,032	1,267,151
1945-46	28.16	1,355,763	2.18	912,149	2.89	118,732	3.95	45,638	2,630,655
1946-47	18.14	1,095,601	1.71	622,819	1.97	121,903	2.03	24,885	2,003,965
1947-48	29.73	821,677	2.40	40,941	2.61	145,118	1.26	11,293	1,018,093
1948-49	18.30	303,249	1.62	266,872	2.23	136,964	0.88	5,293	737,577
1949-50	12.15	218,371	1.38	237,371	1.95	114,127	0.60	2,895	611,352
1950-51	23.50	399,664	1.81	211,862	2.95	165,421	0.75	4,213	828,250
1951-52	17.48	406,532	1.37	361,081	2.67	179,453	0.39	1,444	972,134
1952-53	16.40	446,440	1.13	444,587	1.72	107,252	0.42	1,391	1,026,952
1953-54	13.49	380,891	0.69	231,461	1.57	125,504	0.36	926	773,398
1954-55	17.59	352,697	0.93	133,813	1.71	84,802	0.36	604	594,635
1955-56	18.03	190,180	1.11	98,259	2.81	142,885	0.24	402	458,230
1956-57	15.09	146,463	0.83	65,657	1.81	106,688	0.20	378	339,464
1957-58	12.50	122,975	0.75	49,476	1.15	55,354	0.25	347	251,660
1958-59	14.31	190,437	0.77	100,614	1.78	52,262	0.51	584	363,240
1959-60	16.63	281,745	0.83	136,500	2.82	168,675	1.43	5,951	621,201
1960-61	10.38	104,142	0.61	87,912	1.96	88,746	1.24	8,620	327,976
1961-62	10.20	166,923	0.58	204,056	2.31	114,712	1.36	7,460	527,389
1962-63	11.08	158,576	0.83	388,427	2.42	155,485	1.81	11,332	743,506
1963-64	10.90	229,248	1.17	649,414	1.44	111,496	1.86	12,294	1,069,812
1964-65	8.73	125,659	1.02	265,106	1.51	98,053	1.84	11,396	536,544
1965-66	7.83	102,612	1.32	345,244	2.47	199,578	5.80	62,947	753,832
1966-67	7.84	127,548	0.98	381,457	2.17	185,671	3.02	39,477	815,957
1967-68	8.08	109,152	0.70	162,267	2.63	203,654	4.12	42,003	600,422
1968-69	11.44	148,422	0.92	213,562	4.62	592,413	10.39	287,397	1,355,639
1969-70	7.06	89,068	1.15	353,012	3.43	471,463	5.86	105,448	1,090,212
1970-71	4.93	54,772	0.88	311,993	2.35	211,308	6.05	95,136	736,023

Season	Mink		Muskrat		Raccoon		Red Fox		All Species
	Mean Price	Total Value	Mean Price	Total Value	Mean Price	Total Value	Mean Price	Total Value	Total Value
1971-72	7.86	124,620	1.37	615,735	5.20	682,484	10.59	158,617	1,700,782
1972-73	13.50	230,755	2.05	817,993	8.50	1,471,877	21.87	399,805	3,061,442
1973-74	11.35	264,103	2.25	1,436,213	9.80	2,501,077	26.95	650,707	5,083,978
1974-75	8.67	195,222	2.40	1,117,171	10.60	2,920,490	19.56	348,735	4,818,166
1975-76	9.65	177,617	2.85	1,102,035	17.85	5,213,342	39.88	631,619	7,390,136
1976-77	14.06	224,341	4.31	1,089,369	22.51	5,961,075	46.33	1,051,644	8,976,168
1977-78	12.44	162,180	4.77	1,227,020	22.27	5,887,453	49.53	1,130,819	8,871,156
1978-79	14.48	337,050	4.49	2,100,067	31.18	7,856,892	64.65	1,574,098	12,516,946
1979-80	19.04	595,380	5.64	4,181,512	29.97	9,239,061	48.71	858,708	15,499,322
1980-81	18.20	599,690	5.88	4,347,783	21.47	5,060,843	42.88	883,413	11,269,768
1981-82	17.99	511,905	3.84	2,004,268	27.69	8,064,075	46.29	1,036,201	12,021,854
1982-83	11.18	238,212	2.18	933,589	16.54	4,233,016	28.85	534,503	6,235,053
1983-84	16.03	356,481	2.30	1,152,686	14.23	3,726,481	33.16	704,882	6,180,169
1984-85	14.22	403,080	2.88	1,072,702	18.94	6,329,350	25.24	477,439	8,574,748
1985-86	11.76	201,274	1.89	480,838	14.34	3,883,343	16.70	272,978	5,163,651
1986-87	20.79	647,379	3.39	1,636,729	18.22	7,119,884	20.73	409,210	10,335,629
1987-88	20.76	575,301	3.32	1,711,828	16.65	5,121,323	18.07	355,365	8,097,250
1988-89	22.06	308,751	2.05	394,038	7.96	1,516,825	12.15	187,656	2,602,695
1989-90	16.34	138,890	1.02	76,500	4.74	568,800	9.70	135,800	1,018,622
1990-91	18.26	134,448	2.08	145,876	4.96	513,201	10.22	145,898	1,074,761
1991-92	15.49	131,184	1.96	178,764	5.36	591,433	9.63	148,909	1,198,863
1992-93	19.46	249,846	1.58	196,928	6.36	700,891	8.43	123,078	1,579,821
1993-94	16.78	234,014	1.83	299,831	5.81	688,270	8.98	116,614	1,388,729
1994-95	14.13	167,003	1.95	348,432	6.89	706,686	9.86	120,716	1,409,848
1995-96	18.01	367,259	1.78	281,670	6.83	808,371	8.76	123,831	1,745,504
1996-97	19.36	336,795	1.56	182,598	8.92	1,103,386	8.43	104,549	1,661,687
1997-98	17.86	302,303	1.51	171,568	7.79	1,169,643	7.04	90,788	1,729,199
1998-99	16.05	264,199	1.66	149,609	7.21	768,882	8.21	95,637	1,203,362
1999-00	19.16	255,583	1.55	134,847	8.13	823,024	9.68	115,850	1,329,304
2000-01	15.46	235,533	2.09	177,591	9.26	879,598	9.86	109,476	1,378,689
2001-02	17.23	244,011	2.43	191,647	11.69	1,674,078	10.86	134,110	2,168,918
2002-03	14.96	244,191	1.85	165,429	12.16	1,441,370	11.36	168,912	2,069,869
2003-04	10.51	112,573	2.06	113,133	10.11	1,792,655	19.16	203,441	2,589,802
2004-05	10.27	119,769	1.85	85,115	9.62	1,723,760	14.68	104,551	1,965,131
2005-06	12.03	158,339	6.15	487,867	11.43	1,871,612	12.81	109,999	2,827,822
2006-07	13.07	100,703	5.79	375,339	10.18	1,591,138	15.13	36,503	2,204,483
2007-08	14.76	116,876	3.08	170,886	12.34	1,442,250	13.55	29,038	1,757,223
2008-09	9.48	78,077	2.51	122,473	9.23	1,151,822	11.57	43,145	1,293,846
2009-10	8.22	56,760	3.97	176,411	8.80	1,015,071	10.04	17,992	1,095,999
2010-11	12.83	144,542	5.31	645,472	12.52	2,965,833	16.81	64,030	4,020,719
2011-12a	12.62	193,285	5.93	511,780	10.86	4,098,994	17.74	106,182	5,288,094
2012-13	15.91	305,842	7.48	423,249	13.60	4,664,032	25.85	128,958	5,983,493

Season	Mink		Muskrat		Raccoon		Red Fox		All Species
	Mean Price	Total Value	Mean Price	Total Value	Mean Price	Total Value	Mean Price	Total Value	Total Value
2013-14a	16.50	92,077	9.28	283,731	15.85	4,882,917	36.27	148,689	6,034,386
2014-15a	8.77	46,781	4.79	211,583	10.66	2,137,468	20.14	48,281	2,905,703
2015-16a	5.42	24,641	2.35	78,280	4.53	403,850	10.85	17,155	926,640
2016-17	6.01	23,782	2.35	97,699	4.76	390,605	10.47	12,966	728,652
2017-18	5.38	27,897	2.43	99,249	5.71	610,135	11.81	26,971	1,146,285
2018-19	5.17	20,795	2.64	43,149	7.90	909,346	9.39	12,741	1,512,178
2019-20	3.36	6,817	2.61	38,800	4.96	500,632	8.14	12,109	1,053,056
2020-21	3.37	5,984	2.80	47,250	3.58	177,561	5.82	5,813	601,327
2021-22	3.93	3820	2.60	29,481	2.99	103,078	8.59	5,580	228,594
2022-23	3.84	3,397	2.01	14,062	4.14	135,009	10.12	2,706	292,282
Average									
5-Year	3.93	7,962	2.53	34,548	4.71	365,125	8.41	7,789	737,487
10-Year	6.18	25,499	3.39	93,728	6.51	1,025,060	13.16	29,301	1,542,910
20-Year	9.07	82,087	3.90	202,450	8.69	1,628,388	14.45	56,842	2,222,785
50-Year	13.25	214,899	3.15	654,762	11.60	2,592,798	19.19	279,579	3,980,991
Long-term[1]	12.33	239,865	2.20	499,715	7.63	1,476,090	11.98	169,248	2,555,290

[1]Long-term data dates back to 1930.

[a]For years when there furharvesters which reported number of pelts purchased without average price paid per pelt, total values for those furharvesters were estimated using the overall average price paid per pelt calculated from all furharvesters.

Table 3.5 Percent of fox, raccoon, and coyote furs purchased from hunters and trappers statewide in Iowa; determined from fur dealer reports 1975-present

Data for each year includes harvest from the succeeding year, e.g., 1975=1975+1976 (winter). (Unk: Unknown)

Season	Raccoon			Red and Gray Fox			Coyote			Bobcat		
	Trapper	Hunter	Unk	Trapper	Hunter	Unk	Trapper	Hunter	Unk	Trapper	Hunter	Unk
1975-76	28	60	12	45	48	7	18	72	10			
1976-77	28	66	6	55	41	4	28	68	4			
1977-78	24	68	8	36	55	9	18	72	10			
1978-79	31	61	8	37	58	5	17	74	9			
1979-80	30	58	12	53	32	15	30	59	11			
1980-81	33	60	7	66	29	5	33	60	7			
1981-82	42	46	12	38	46	16	20	74	6			
1982-83	35	53	12	47	45	8	25	69	6			
1983-84	37	50	13	33	59	8	17	67	16			
1984-85	33	41	26	49	31	20	26	60	14			
1985-86	37	52	11	39	54	7	23	65	12			
1986-87	46	49	5	59	35	6	34	62	4			
1987-88	49	47	4	53	43	4	32	62	6			
1988-89	49	46	5	58	34	8	30	67	3			
1989-90	35	45	20	48	28	24	24	61	15			
1990-91	38	55	7	43	46	11	28	66	6			
1991-92	41	51	8	44	49	7	25	67	8			
1992-93	45	50	5	40	52	8	36	54	6			
1993-94	43	52	5	43	50	7	34	57	9			

Season	Raccoon			Red and Gray Fox			Coyote			Bobcat		
	Trapper	Hunter	Unk	Trapper	Hunter	Unk	Trapper	Hunter	Unk	Trapper	Hunter	Unk
1994-95	44	46	10	39	55	6	33	59	8			
1995-96	47	45	8	41	52	7	30	65	5			
1996-97	48	48	4	44	48	8	32	58	10			
1997-98	48	46	5	40	47	13	29	62	9			
1998-99	46	47	5	46	48	6	33	63	4			
1999-00	42	53	5	45	46	9	34	61	5			
2000-01	38	46	16	34	58	8	31	58	11			
2001-02	43	47	10	52	43	5	36	56	8			
2002-03	48	42	10	56	38	6	32	59	9			
2003-04	49	43	8	52	44	4	35	58	7			
2004-05	43	49	8	49	45	6	32	60	8			
2005-06	39	52	9	53	38	9	30	64	6			
2006-07	49	47	4	51	45	4	34	58	8			
2007-08	48	49	6	44	51	6	37	57	6			
2008-09	44	48	8	40	55	5	35	59	6			
2009-10	45	46	9	36	48	6	36	58	6			
2010-11	63	14	23	46	24	30	18	53	29			
2011-12a	63	28	9	73	15	12	41	43	16			
2012-13	69	31	0	80	20	0	47	53	0	70	15	15
2013-14a	73	27	0	82	18	0	47	53	0	96	4	0
2014-15a	78	22	0	84	16	0	49	51	0	62	38	0
2015-16a	68	32	0	73	27	0	40	60	0	92	8	0
2016-17	67	34	0	72	28	0	40	60	0	90	5	0
2017-18	72	28	0	76	24	0	42	58	0	97	3	0
2018-19	70	30	0	64	26	12	36	64	0	95	5	0
2019-20	64	36	0	55	45	0	29	71	0	83	17	0
2020-21	60	39	1	77	23	0	45	54	1	64	34	2
2021-22	78	22	0	82	18	0	44	56	0	69	30	1
2022-23	82	18	0	70	30	0	53	47	0	51	48	1
Average												
5-Year Avg.	71	29	0	70	28	2	41	58	0	70	29	1
10-Year Avg.	71	29	0	74	26	1	43	57	0	79	20	1
20-Year Avg.	61	35	4	63	32	5	39	57	5	78	20	2
Total Avg.	49	44	7	53	40	7	32	61	7	78	20	2

Table 3.6 Trapping and hunting furbearer harvest seasons in Iowa, 2016-Present

Season	Species*	Trapping Season Dates		Hunting Season Dates		Bag Limit	
		Open	Close	Open	Close	Daily	Possession
2016-17	ra, stsk, ba, op, rf, gf	Nov 5	Jan 31	Nov 5	Jan 31	No Limit	No Limit
	mi, mu, we	Nov 5	Jan 31			No Limit	No Limit
	be	Nov 5	Apr 15			No Limit	No Limit
	co	Nov 5	Jan 31	Continuous open season		No Limit	No Limit
	ot[9]	Nov 5	Jan 31			2	2
	bc[9]	Nov 5	Jan 31	Nov 5	Jan 31	1	1
	spsk, gw	Continuous closed season		Continuous closed season			
2017-18	ra, stsk, ba, op, rf, gf	Nov 4	Jan 31	Nov 4	Jan 31	No Limit	No Limit
	mi, mu, we	Nov 4	Jan 31			No Limit	No Limit
	be	Nov 4	Apr 15			No Limit	No Limit
	co	Nov 4	Jan 31	Continuous open season		No Limit	No Limit
	ot[9]	Nov 4	Jan 31			2	2
	bc[9]	Nov 4	Jan 31	Nov 4	Jan 31	1	1
	spsk, gw	Continuous closed season		Continuous closed season			
2018-19	ra, stsk, ba, op, rf, gf	Nov 3	Jan 31	Nov 3	Jan 31	No Limit	No Limit
	mi, mu, we	Nov 3	Jan 31			No Limit	No Limit
	be	Nov 3	Apr 15			No Limit	No Limit
	co	Nov 3	Jan 31	Continuous open season		No Limit	No Limit
	ot[9]	Nov 3	Jan 31			2	2
	bc[9, 10]	Nov 3	Jan 31	Nov 3	Jan 31	1	1
	spsk, gw	Continuous closed season		Continuous closed season			
2019-20	ra, stsk, ba, op, rf, gf	Nov 2	Jan 31	Nov 2	Jan 31	No Limit	No Limit
	mi, mu, we	Nov 2	Jan 31			No Limit	No Limit
	be	Nov 2	Apr 15			No Limit	No Limit
	co	Nov 2	Jan 31	Continuous open season		No Limit	No Limit
	ot[9]	Nov 2	Jan 31			2	2
	bc[9, 10,11]	Nov 2	Jan 31	Nov 2	Jan 31	3	3
	spsk, gw	Continuous closed season		Continuous closed season			
2020-21	ra, stsk, ba, op, rf, gf	Nov 7	Jan 31	Nov 7	Jan 31	No Limit	No Limit
	mi, mu, we	Nov 7	Jan 31			No Limit	No Limit
	be	Nov 7	Jan 31			No Limit	No Limit
	co	Nov 7	Jan 31	Continuous open season		No Limit	No Limit
	ot[9, 12]	Nov 7	Jan 31			3	3
	bc[9, 13]	Nov 7	Jan 31	Nov 7	Jan 31	3	3
	spsk, gw	Continuous closed season		Continuous closed season			
2021-22	ra, stsk, ba, op, rf, gf	Nov 6	Jan 31	Nov 7	Jan 31	No Limit	No Limit
	mi, mu, we	Nov 6	Jan 31			No Limit	No Limit
	be	Nov 6	Jan 31			No Limit	No Limit
	co	Nov 6	Jan 31	Continuous open season		No Limit	No Limit
	ot[9, 12]	Nov 6	Jan 31			3	3
	bc[9, 14]	Nov 6	Jan 31	Nov 6	Jan 31	3	3
	spsk, gw	Continuous closed season		Continuous closed season			
2022-23	ra, stsk, ba, op, rf, gf	Nov 5	Jan 31	Nov 5	Jan 31	No Limit	No Limit
	mi, mu, we	Nov 5	Jan 31			No Limit	No Limit

Season	Species*	Trapping Season Dates		Hunting Season Dates		Bag Limit	
		Open	Close	Open	Close	Daily	Possession
	be	Nov 5	Apr 15			No Limit	No Limit
	co	Nov 5	Jan 31	Continuous open season		No Limit	No Limit
	ot[9, 12]	Nov 5	Jan 31			3	3
	bc[9, 14]	Nov 5	Jan 31	Nov 5	Jan 31	3	3
	spsk, gw	Continuous closed season		Continuous closed season			

*Species codes: ba-badger; bc-bobcat; be-beaver; co-coyote; gr-gray fox; gw-gray wolf; mi-mink; mu-muskrat; op-opossum; ot-otter; ra-raccoon; rf-red fox; spsk-spotted skunk; stsk-striped skunk; we-weasel.

[1]State-wide quota of 500 animals, plus a 48-hour grace period. Season bag limit of two per licensed furharvester

[2]Quota of 200 animals in the southern two tiers of counties only, plus a 48-hour grace period. Season bag limit of one per licensed furharvester, either hunted or trapped.

[3]Quota of 200 animals in the southern two tiers of counties and Pottawattamie, Harrison, Monona, and Woodbury counties along the Missouri river only, plus a 48-hour grace period. Season bag limit of one per licensed furharvester, either hunted or trapped.

[4]Quota of 250 animals in the southern three tiers of counties, Harrison, Monona, and Woodbury counties along the Missouri river, and Guthrie County only, plus a 48-hour grace period. Season bag limit of one per licensed furharvester, either hunted or trapped.

[5]State-wide quota of 650 animals, plus a 48-hour grace period. Season bag limit of three per licensed furharvester.

[6]Quota of 350 animals in the southern three tiers of counties, Harrison, Monona, and Woodbury counties along the Missouri river, and Guthrie County only, plus a 48-hour grace period. Season bag limit of one per licensed furharvester, either hunted or trapped.

[7]State-wide quota of 850 animals, plus a 48-hour grace period. Season bag limit of three per licensed furharvester.

[8]Quota of 450 animals in the southern three tiers of counties, Harrison, Monona, and Woodbury counties along the Missouri river, and Guthrie County only, plus a 48-hour grace period. Season bag limit of one per licensed furharvester, either hunted or trapped.

[9] CITES tag required.

[10]12 counties added to bobcat harvest zone (=53 total) in 2018.

[11]Bag limit in lower 3 tier counties (31) increased from 1 to 3 bobcats in 2019

[12]Bag limit of 2 otters increased to 3 in 2020

[13]Two counties (Boone & Webster) added to bobcat harvest zone (55 total) in 2020

[14]Two counties (Jones & Delaware) assed to bobcat harvest zone (57 total) in 2021

Table 3.7 Otter harvest seasons and harvest data in Iowa (2006-Present).

Season	Harvest Season					Male Harvest	Female Harvest	Unknown Sex Harvest	Total Harvest[2]	Quota
	No. of Counties[1]	Open Date	Close Date	Season Length	Average Catch Rate per Day					
2006[a,b,d]	Statewide	Nov 4	Nov 17	14	33	197	191	80	468	400
2007[b,e]	Statewide	Nov 3	Nov 25	23	18	192	185	42	419	400
2008[b,e]	Statewide	Nov 1	Nov 27	25	19	222	218	40	480	500
2009[b,e]	Statewide	Nov 7	Dec 4	28	18	225	240	49	514	500
2010[b,e]	Statewide	Nov 6	Nov 24	19	24	200	206	51	457	500
2011[c,e]	Statewide	Nov 5	Nov 23	19	41	360	335	75	770	650
2012[c,e]	Statewide	Nov 3	Nov 25	23	42	446	460	67	973	850
2013[b]	Statewide	Nov 2	Jan 31	91	13	559	484	122	1165	none
2014[b]	Statewide	Nov 1	Jan 31	92	9	409	345	81	835	none
2015[b]	Statewide	Nov 7	Jan 31	86	8	343	279	70	692	none
2016[b]	Statewide	Nov 5	Jan 31	88	6	291	228	37	556	none
2017[b]	Statewide	Nov 4	Jan 31	89	9	392	363	67	822	None
2018[b]	Statewide	Nov 3	Jan 31	90	6	275	239	62	576	None
2019	Statewide	Nov 2	Jan 31	91	8	398	349	24	771	None
2020[f]	Statewide	Nov 7	Jan 31	86	10	425	395	33	853	None
2021	Statewide	Nov 6	Jan 31	87	9	465	346	9	822	None

Season	Harvest Season					Male Harvest	Female Harvest	Unknown Sex Harvest	Total Harvest[2]	Quota
	No. of Counties[1]	Open Date	Close Date	Season Length	Average Catch Rate per Day					
2022	Statewide	Nov 6	Jan 31	88	8	389	301	22	712	None
					Total	5,790	5,164	931	11,885	5,790

*Harvest data excludes known road-killed otters.
[a]First regulated otter harvest season in Iowa.
[b]Season bag limit of two per licensed furharvester.
[c]Season bag limit of three per licensed furharvester.
[d]Harvest data includes animals harvested during a 72-hour grace period following season closure.
[e]Harvest data includes animals harvested during a 48-hour grace period following season closure.
[f]Season bag limit of three per licensed furhavester in 2020
[1]Statewide includes 99 Iowa counties.
[2]Data includes harvest from unknown sources; may include road-killed animals. Source of collection was not specified in some harvest reports.

Table 3.8 Otter harvest methods by season in Iowa (2006-Present).

Season	Harvest Method							Total Harvest	Harvest Quota
	Conibear	Foothold	Live Trap	Road Kill	Snare	Other[1]	Unknown[1]		
2006[a,b]	160	254	0	2	26	4	22	468	400
2007[c]	141	231	3	3	40	0	1	419	400
2008[c]	174	239	0	1	49	0	17	480	500
2009[c]	197	249	2	6	52	0	8	514	500
2010[c]	196	198	0	1	39	0	23	457	500
2011[c]	305	340	1	0	96	0	28	770	650
2012[c]	371	470	5	2	116	2	7	973	850
2013	549	471	1	5	119	6	19	1165	None
2014	422	308	2	8	79	12	12	835	None
2015	358	228	1	9	74	18	13	692	None
2016	288	183	3	10	58	3	11	556	None
2017	451	272	2	7	59	13	25	822	None
2018	325	184	1	7	38	11	17	576	None
2019	468	219	4	12	65	13	2	771	None
2020	519	246	1	9	64	15	8	853	None
2021	514	230	1	9	55	6	7	822	None
2022	457	172	2	19	40	17	5	712	None
Total	5,895	4,494	29	110	1,069	60	218	11,885	

[a]First regulated otter harvest season in Iowa
[b]Harvest data includes animals harvested during a 72-hour grace period following season closure.
[c]Harvest data includes animals harvested during a 48-hour grace period following season closure.
[1]Data may include road-killed animals. Source of collection was not specified in some harvest reports.

Table 3.9 Bobcat harvest seasons and harvest data in Iowa (2007-Present).

Season	Harvest Season					Male Harvest	Female Harvest	Unknown Sex Harvest	Total Harvest[2]	Quota
	No. of Counties[1]	Open Date	Close Date	Season Length	Average Catch Rate per Day					
2007[a]	21	3-Nov	21-Nov	19	8	69	71	14	154	150
2008	25	1-Nov	21-Nov	21	11	103	117	14	234	200
2009	25	7-Nov	30-Nov	24	9	107	107	21	235	200
2010	35	6-Nov	23-Nov	18	15	100	140	34	274	250
2011	35	5-Nov	29-Nov	25	16	162	209	27	398	350
2012	35	3-Nov	1-Dec	29	18	233	263	32	528	450
2013	41	2-Nov	31-Jan	91	11	436	484	58	978	None
2014	41	1-Nov	31-Jan	92	8	315	356	35	706	None
2015	41	7-Nov	31-Jan	86	6	228	274	33	535	None
2016	41	5-Nov	31-Jan	88	7	253	303	35	591	None
2017	41	4-Nov	31-Jan	89	9	364	401	54	819	None
2018	53	3-Nov	31-Jan	90	8	330	297	60	687	None
2019[b]	53	2-Nov	31-Jan	90	13	552	557	51	1160	None
2020[c]	55	7-Nov	31-Jan	86	11	455	498	27	980	None
2021	55	6-Nov	31-Jan	87	11	459	496	15	970	None
2022	57	5-Nov	31-Jan	88	9	368	408	13	789	None
Total						4,534	4,981	523	10,038	

*Season bag limit of one per licensed furharvester (2007-present).

*Harvest data includes animals harvested during a 48-hour grace period following season closure.

*Harvest data excludes known road-killed bobcats.

[a] First regulated bobcat harvest season in Iowa.

[b] Bag limit in lower 3 tier counties (31) increased from 1 to 3 bobcats in 2019

[c] 2 counties(Webster & Boone) added in 2020

[d] 2 counties (Jones & Delaware) added in 2021

Table 3.10 Bobcat harvest methods by season in Iowa, 2007-Present

Season	Harvest Method												Total Harvest	Harvest Quota
	Conibear	Foothold	Live Trap	Snare	Archery	Gun Deer	Calling	Hounds	Roadkill	Shot	Other	Unknown		
2007[a]	37	26	0	40	20	4		6	5			16	154	150
2008	72	35	3	85	23	3		7	2			4	234	200
2009	56	35	0	82	24	7		4	14			13	235	200
2010	58	50	1	92	38	6		4	6			19	274	250
2011	114	85	3	122	32	5		6	7			24	398	350
2012	107	143	7	167	47	16	15	7	15			4	528	450
2013	223	231	7	328	51	37	51	5	30		10	5	978	none
2014	124	217	7	174	45	44	31	14	27		4	19	706	none
2015	63	157	9	89	51	33	64	8	38		19	4	535	none
2016	88	181	5	91	56	39	74	5	34		11	7	591	none
2017	90	271	14	132	68	51	112	8	40		8	25	819	none
2018	81	184	8	107	50	82	106	11	34		12	12	687	none
2019[b]	147	375	24	224	72	67	172	4	47		6	22	1160	none
2020	78	392	10	99	56	46	164	7	51	54	3	20	980	none
2021	87	451	22	83	40	51	125	3	38	63	0	7	970	none
2022	65	231	11	80	54	48	186	3	25	78	0	8	789	none
Total	1,490	3,064	131	1,995	727	539	1,100	102	413	195	73	209	10,038	

*Harvest data includes animals harvested during a 48-hour grace period following season closure.

[a]First regulated bobcat harvest season in Iowa

[b]Bag limit in lower 3 tier counties (31) increased from 1 to 3 bobcats in 2019.