

# Trapping and Furbearer Rule Development 19.32.2 NMAC



January 17, 2020

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

Las Cruces, NM

# Rule Development Timeline

- **August, October, November** – present at SGC meetings
- **August** – Initial NMDGF proposals posted on the website
- **October**– Public meetings throughout the state
- **December**- Final NMDGF proposed rule posted on the website
- **January**– Act on rule



# Rule Development

- 5,002 comments received
  - From 2,024 unique senders
- The most common comments on the proposed changes addressed:
  - Increased setback distances and a setback distance from trailheads
  - Additional area closures
  - Mandatory trapper education

# Modern Furbearer Management

- Trapping is the most efficient/effective method to manage furbearers
  - Used by researchers, managers, and the general public
  - Highly regulated
  - Guided by international standards



# North American Model of Wildlife Management

- The North American Model guides furbearer management:
  - Wildlife held in public trust
  - Elimination of unregulated markets and overexploitation
  - Strict enforcement of regulations
  - Democracy of rule or law
  - Scientific Management

# Regulation and Enforcement

- Harvest only for abundant populations; does not cause wildlife to become threatened or endangered
- Season length establishes a limited window for harvest
- License and reporting requirements
- Types, sizes and designs of traps are restricted
- Trap placement and frequency at which they're checked is regulated



# International Standards and BMPs

- The U.S. and E.U. signed an Agreed Minute in 1997 concerning humane trapping standards
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) for humane traps and trapping practices
- Evaluated traps based on:
  - Animal Welfare
  - Practicality
  - Efficiency
  - Safety
  - Selectivity

# Trapping and Furbearer Rule

- Proposing Trapping and Furbearer Rule be a four year rule





# Mandatory Trapper Education

- Every trapper purchasing a furbearer license will be required to pass a trapper education course
  - General trapper education course
  - NM specific rules and regulations
  - NM species identification course



# Area Closures

- Land sets will be prohibited on/within:
  - The Sandia Ranger District
  - Eastern portion of Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument
  - Forest Service lands within ½ mile of:
    - NM Hwy 475 on the Santa Fe National Forest
    - NM Hwy 150 on the Carson National Forest



# Setback Distances

- Establish a setback distance of ½ mile from
  - Designated trailheads
  - Designated and signed roadside rest areas
  - Picnic areas
  - Occupied dwellings (unless permitted by occupant or set by the occupant)
  - Established and maintained public campgrounds or boat-launching areas

# Manner and Method

- Traps must be permanently marked or have a tag securely attached with the trapper's identification information





# Manner and Method

- Require that water sets be fully in water
  - Body-gripping traps with jaw spread 8-12”
  - Foothold traps must be fully submerged in water and no greater than 7.5” inside jaw
- Make illegal any land set within 30 feet of bait which is > 2 ounces weight and visible to airborne raptors

# Manner and Method

- Clarify that the following are illegal:
  - Land sets for foothold traps with an outside jaw spread of  $> 6\frac{1}{2}$ " , or  $> 7$ " maximum if laminated
  - Foot-hold traps with an inside jaw spread  $\geq 5\frac{1}{2}$ " unless they are offset at least  $\frac{3}{16}$ " or have padded jaws.





# Manner and Method

- Require a break-away device for all snares on land
- Require  $\geq 2$  separate swivel points for all foothold traps, one of which must be within 6" of the trap
- Require an anchor or drag system that prevents escape with trap
- Require trappers to report incidental wolf capture



# Manner and Method

- Prohibit use of poison for taking wildlife





# Seasons and Bag Limits

- Prohibit take of NM Threatened & Endangered species
- Clarify it is unlawful to kill mink, otter, black-footed ferret, coatimundi, or American marten





# Seasons and Bag Limits

- Raccoon – open  
May 16 – Aug 31  
with restricted trap  
types during this  
time.
- Nutria – April 1 –  
March 31





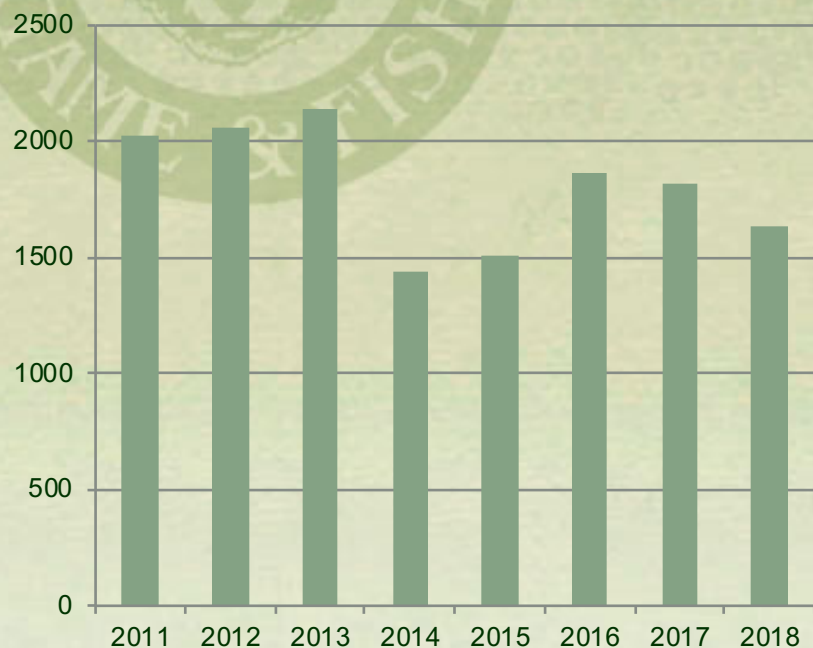
# Seasons and Bag Limits

- Allow the Director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson, to set a bag limit for a given species for one regulatory year

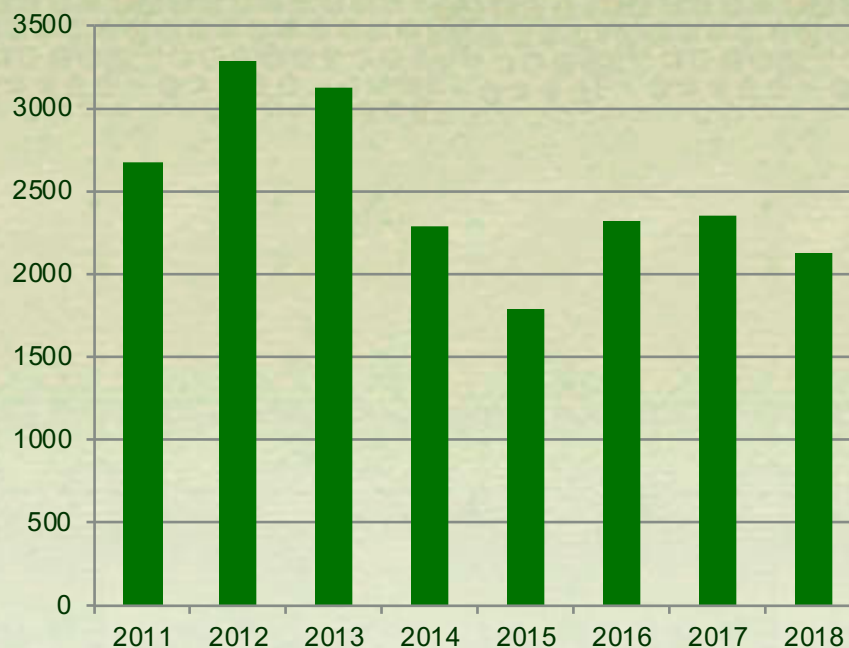


# Statewide Harvest

## Statewide Bobcat Harvest



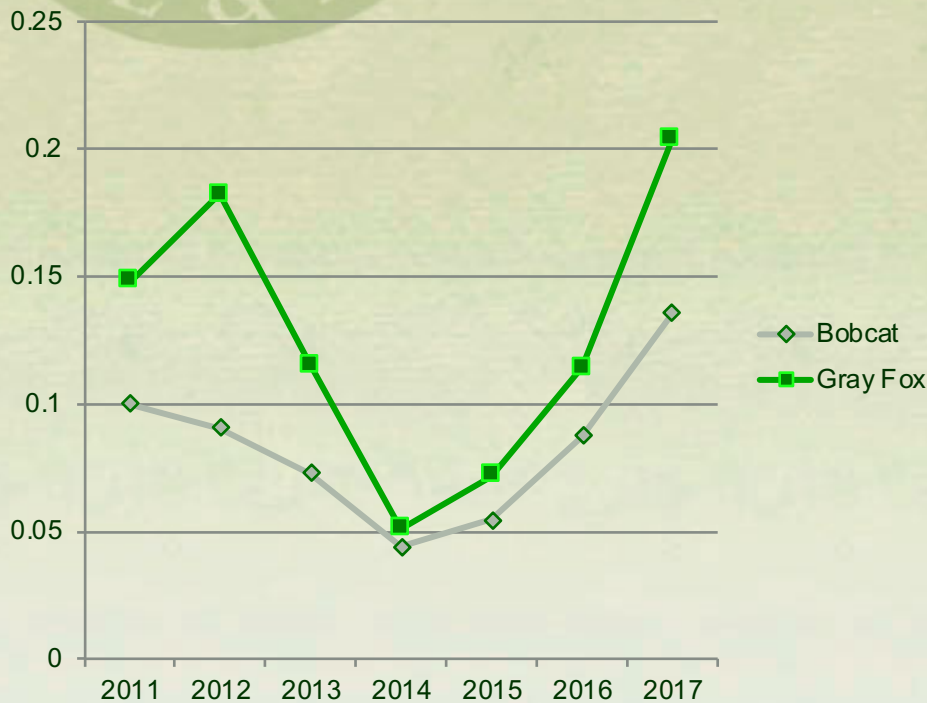
## Statewide Gray Fox Harvest



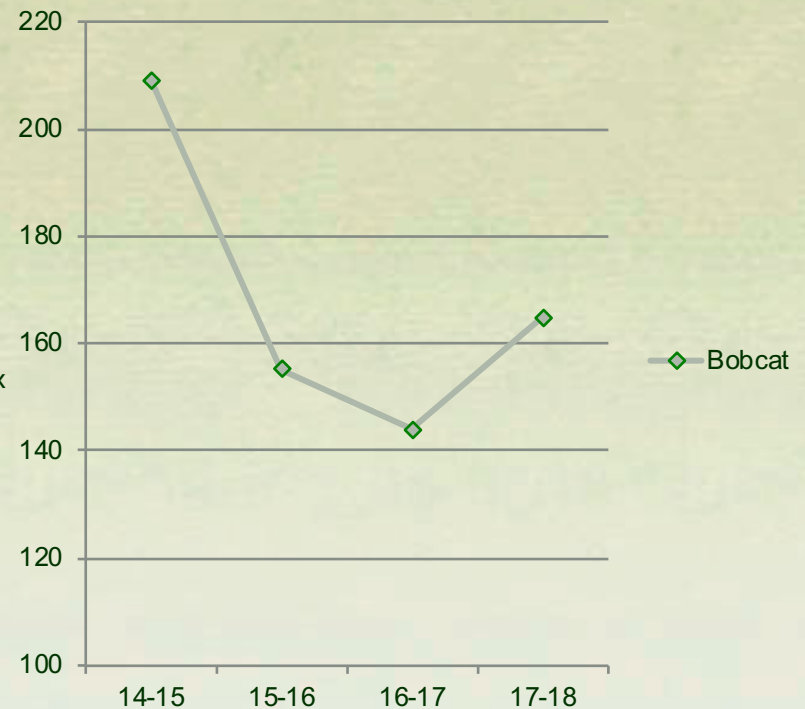


# Catch per Unit Effort

## Catch Per Night from Mandatory Harvest Reporting

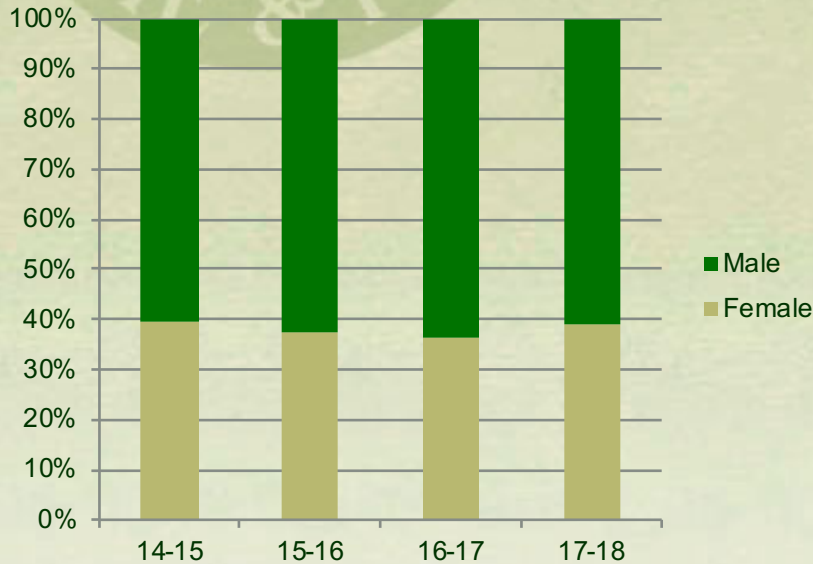


## Trap Nights per Catch from CITES Pelt Tagging

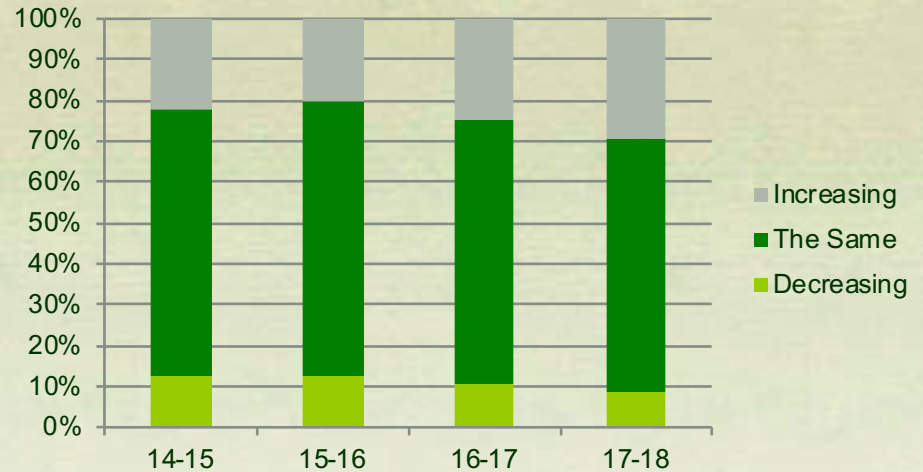


# Statewide Harvest

## Bobcat Harvest Sex Ratio



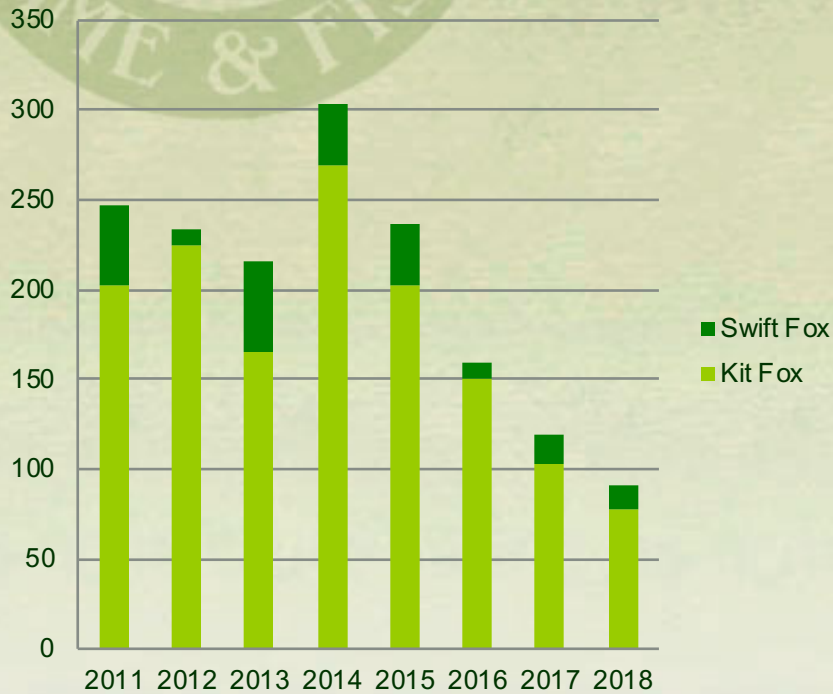
## Trapper Opinion on Bobcat Population Trend Current vs 10 Years Prior



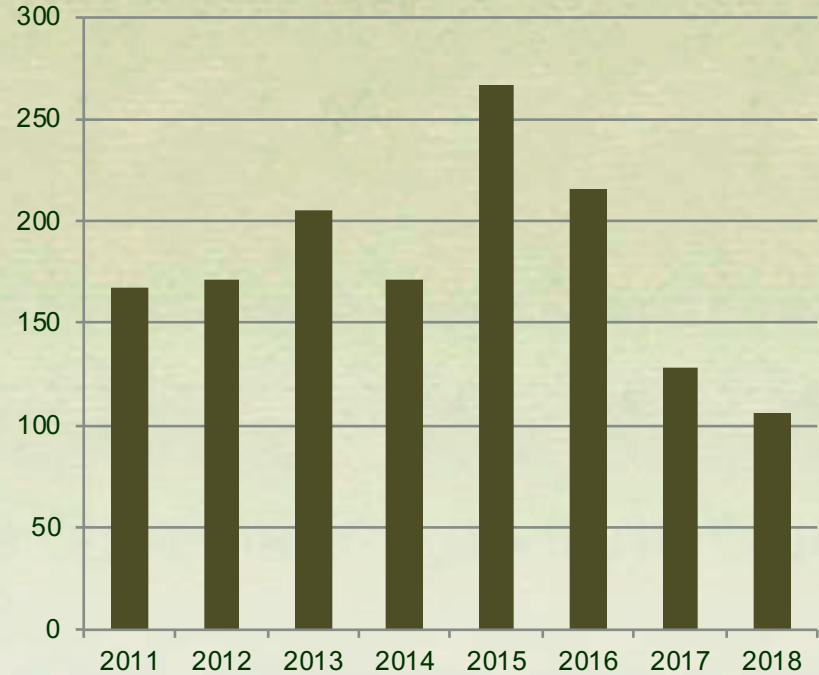


# Statewide Harvest

## Statewide Desert Fox Harvest

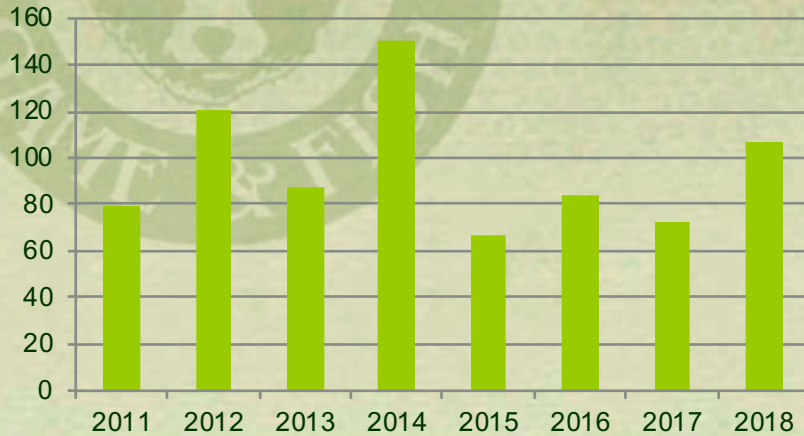


## Statewide Badger Harvest

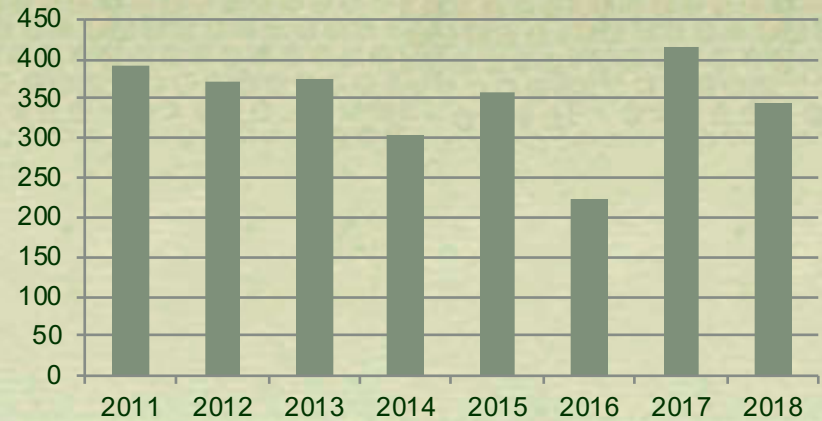


# Statewide Harvest

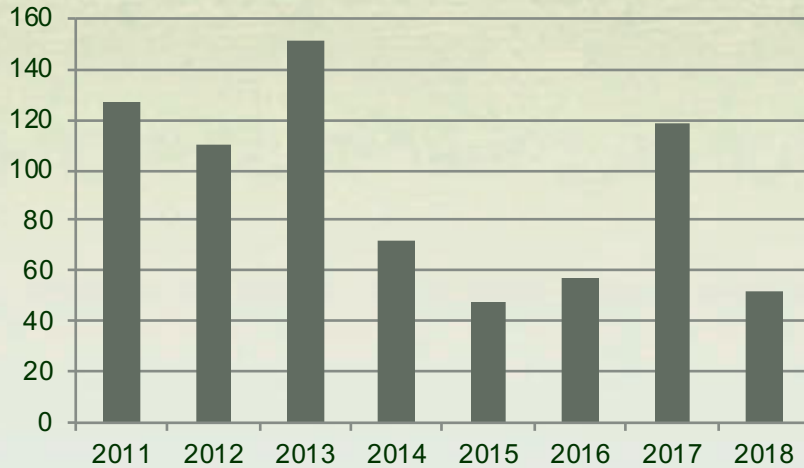
## Statewide Beaver Harvest



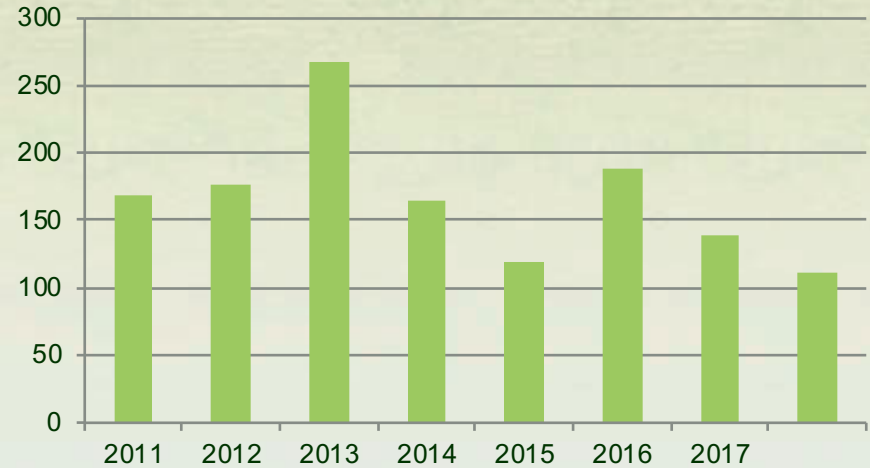
## Statewide Raccoon Harvest



## Statewide Ringtail Harvest



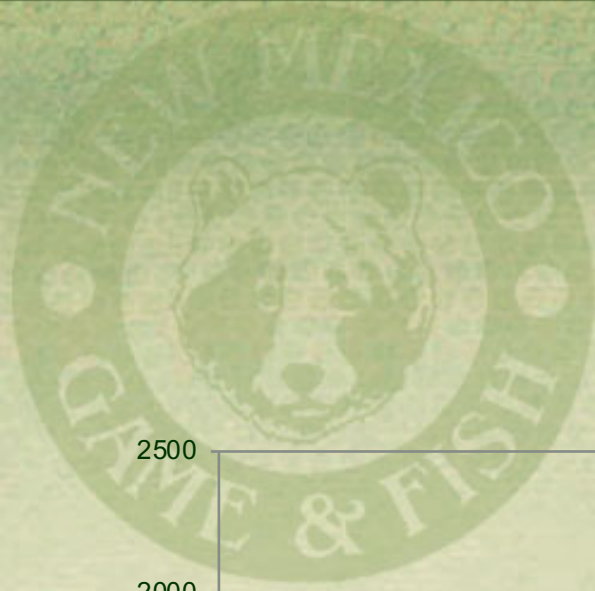
## Statewide Red Fox Harvest



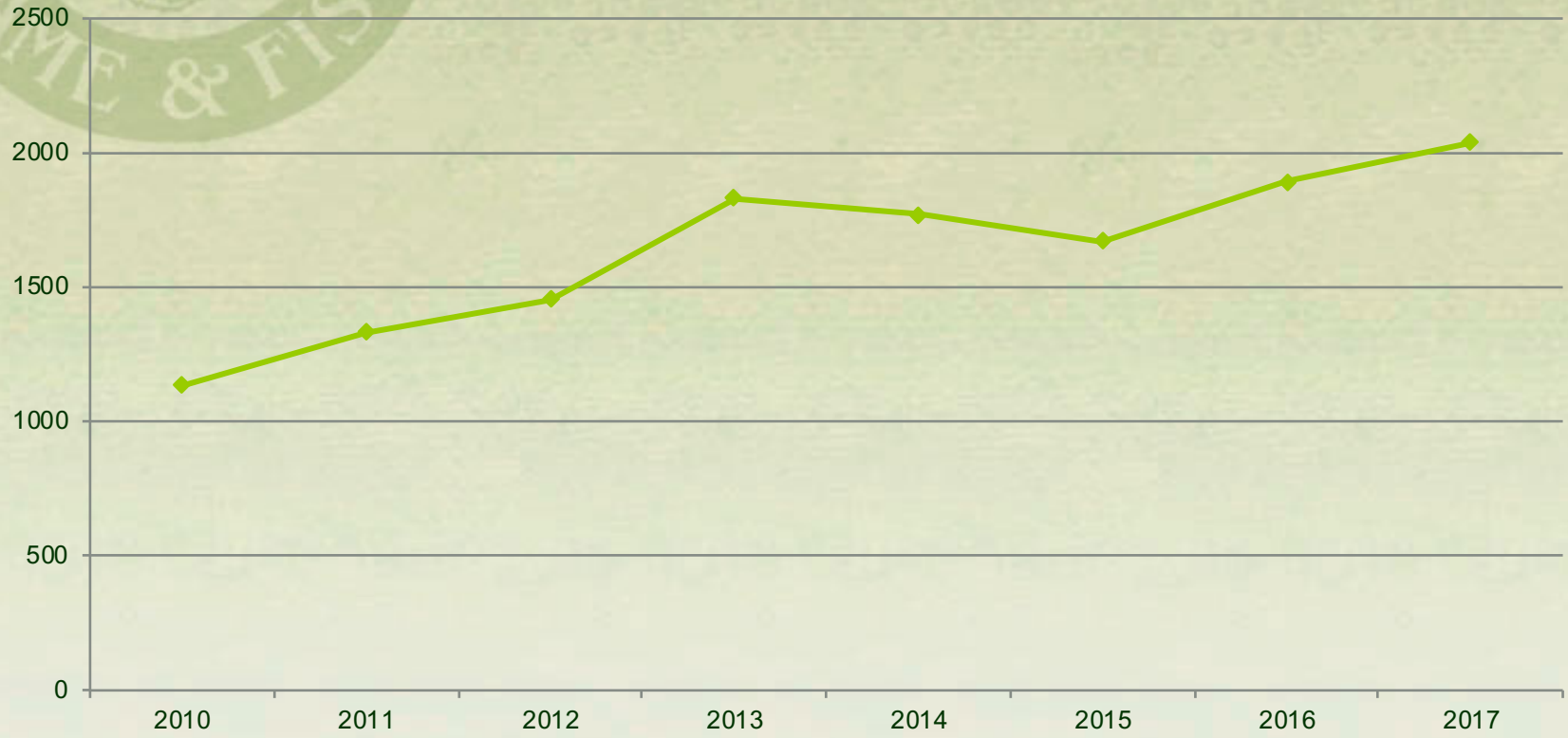


# Questions?





## Furbearer Licenses Sold





# Trapping and Furbearer Management

- Support from:
  - the Wildlife Society
  - American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians
- Highly regulated form of consumptive use