

Trapping and Furbearer Rule Development 19.32.2 NMAC



November 21, 2019

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

Roswell, 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

- Approximately 2400 comments received
- 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 ≥ 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



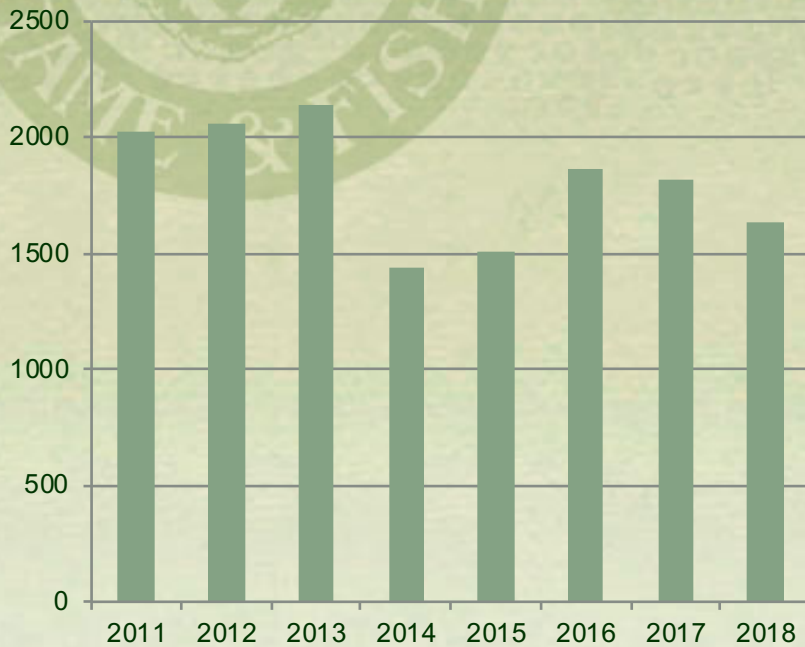
Seasons and Bag Limits

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

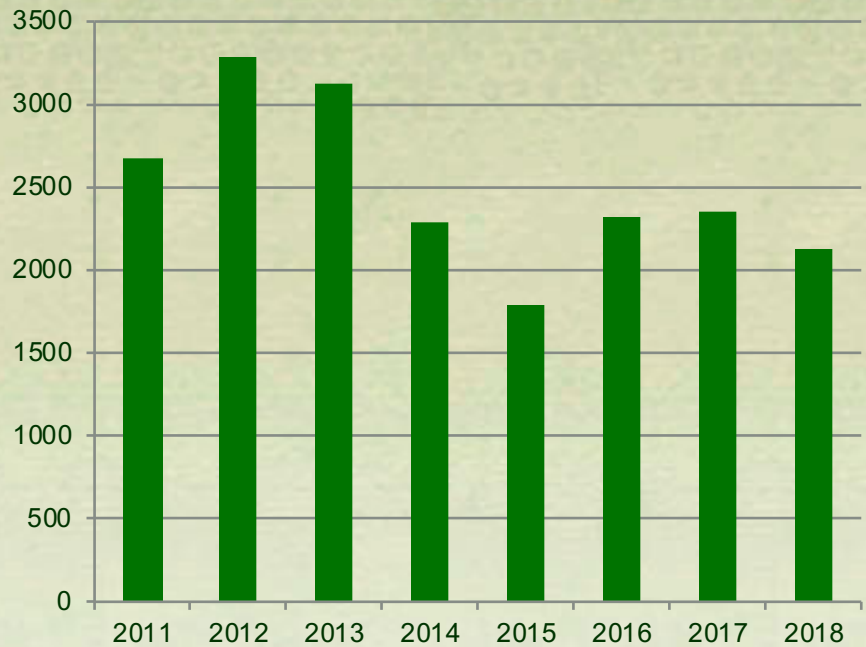


Statewide Harvest

Statewide Bobcat Harvest

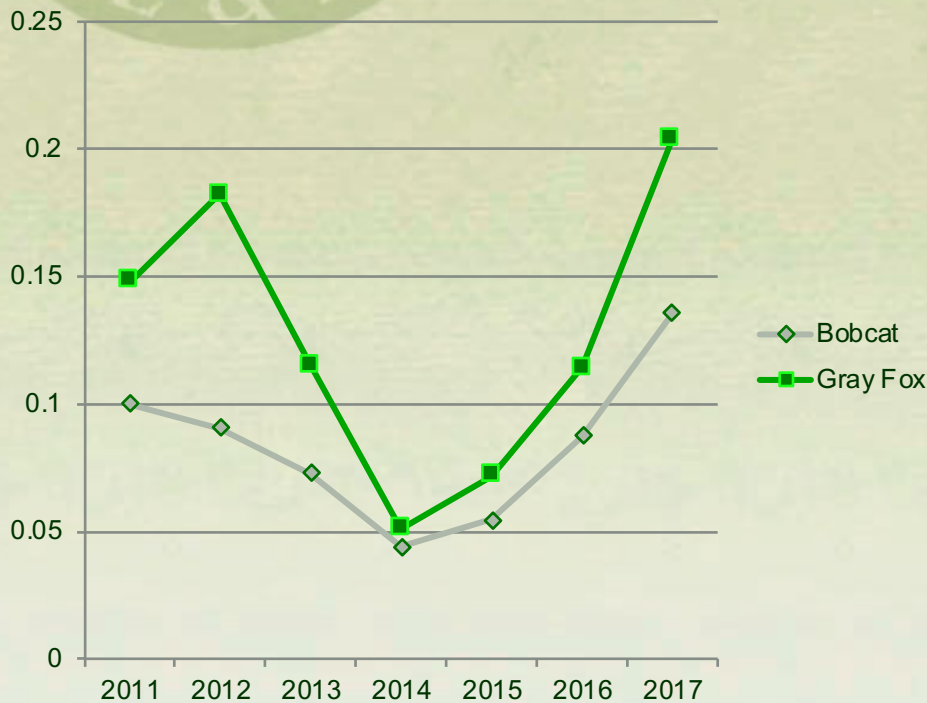


Statewide Gray Fox Harvest

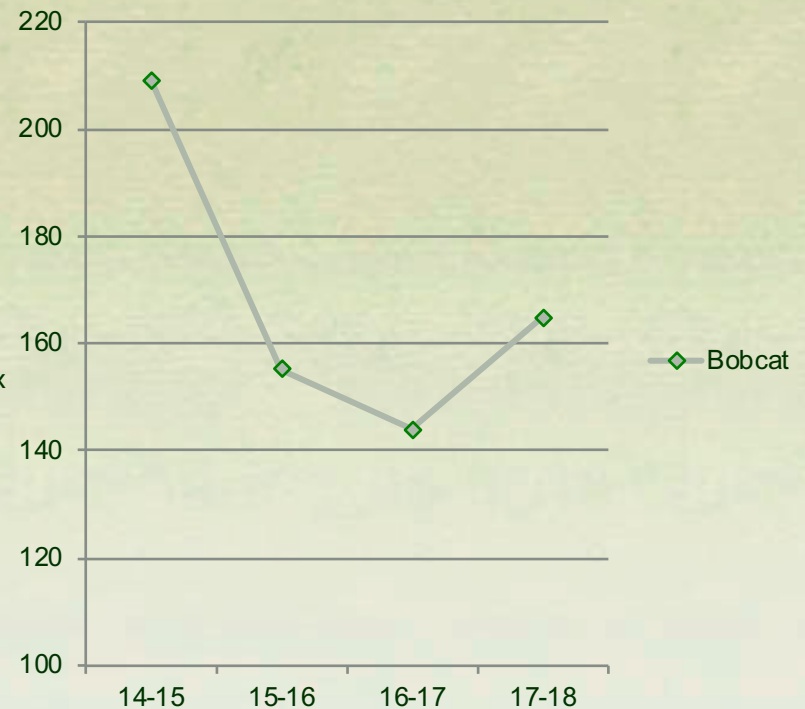


Catch per Unit Effort

Catch Per Night from Mandatory Harvest Reporting

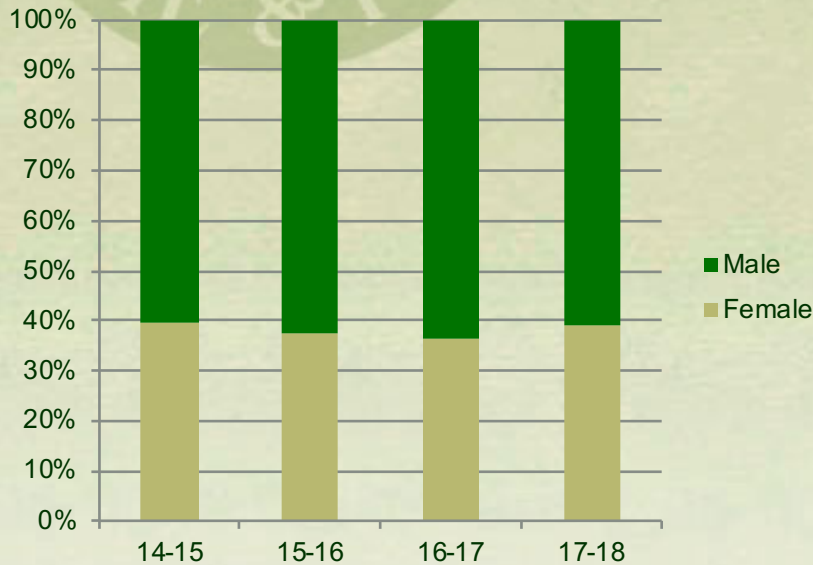


Trap Nights per Catch from CITES Pelt Tagging

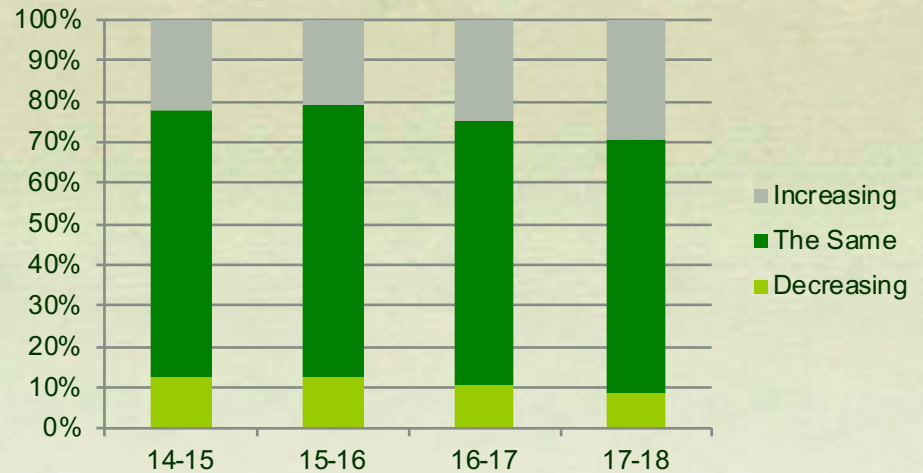


Statewide Harvest

Bobcat Harvest Sex Ratio

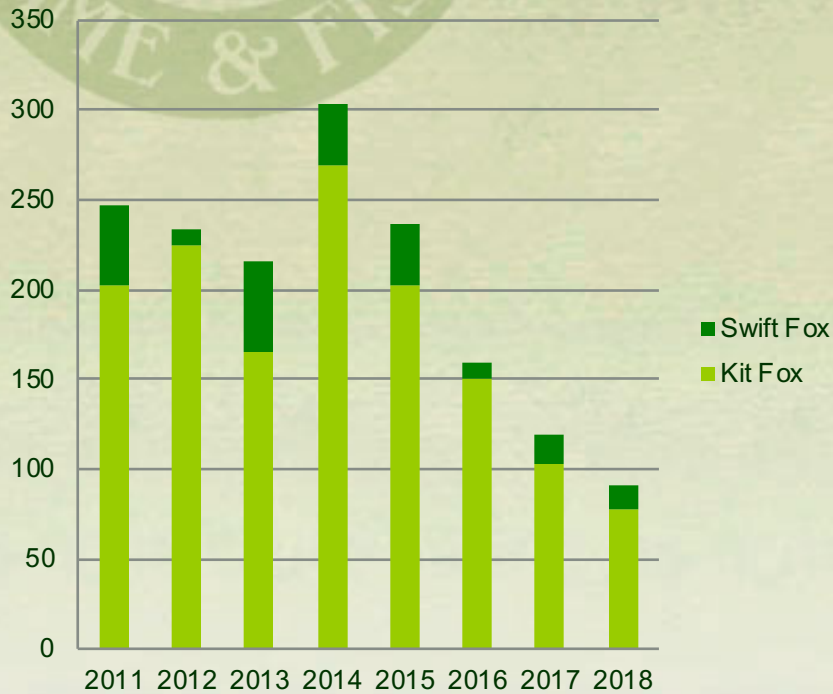


Trapper Opinion on Bobcat Population Trend Current vs 10 Years Prior

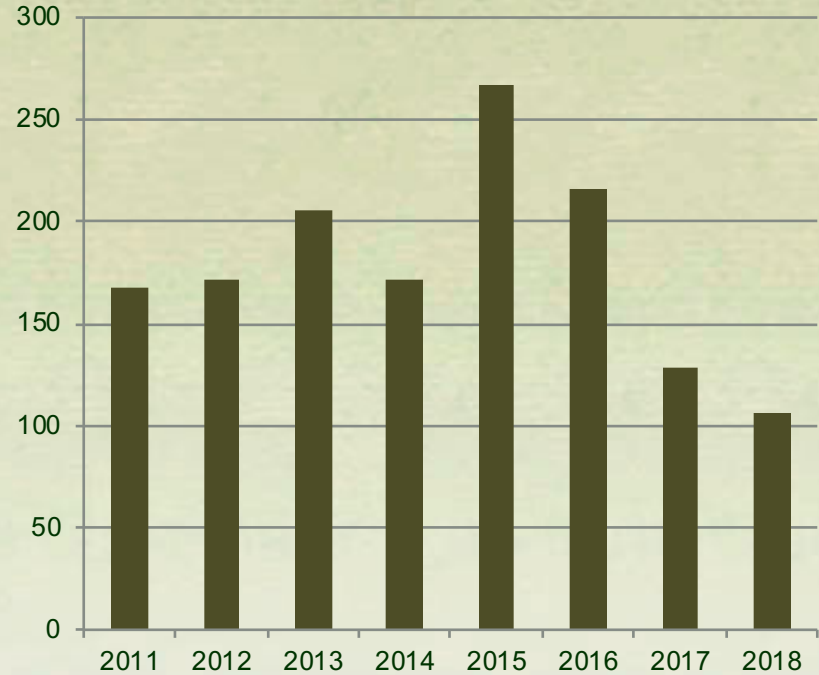


Statewide Harvest

Statewide Desert Fox Harvest

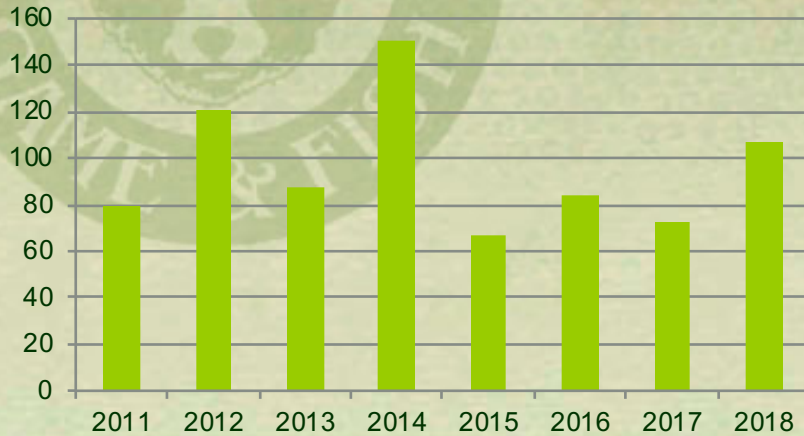


Statewide Badger Harvest

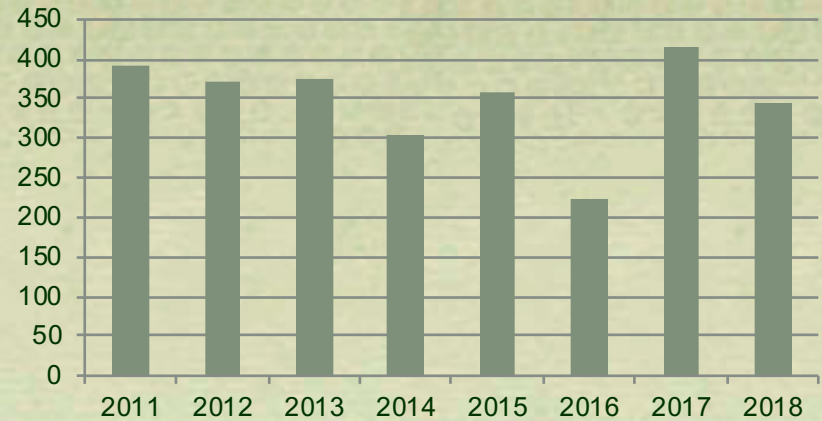


Statewide Harvest

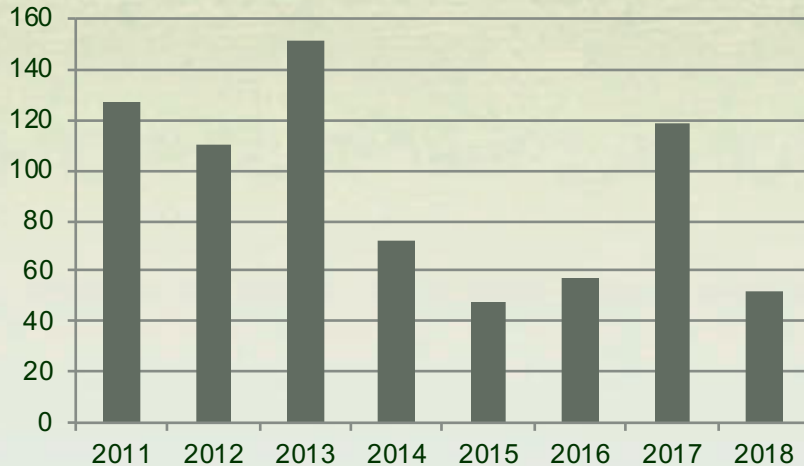
Statewide Beaver Harvest



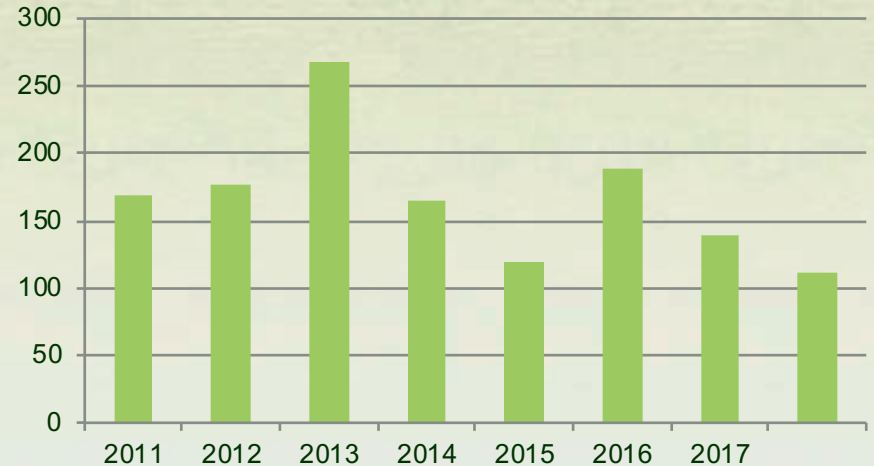
Statewide Raccoon Harvest



Statewide Ringtail Harvest



Statewide Red Fox Harvest



Questions?

