

Highlights of Changes for the 2010-11 Trapping Seasons

DEC has made several changes to trapping regulations and seasons for 2010-11. The trapping season for pine marten has been expanded to new wildlife management areas, and there is now an extended trapping season in portions of the Northern Zone. Please review the information below and trapping season information on the DEC website (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/45551.html>) before you go afield.

New Law on Tagging Traps

Effective immediately, trappers may now use their DEC customer identification number to tag their traps. Trappers may now choose: You can either use tags that show your name and address, OR just use a tag showing your official DEC customer identification number. This number can be found on your license panel if you have a trapping license or is the same as your back tag number if you have a hunting/trapping combination license.

Reporting Beaver and Beaver Pelt-Seals

You are no longer required to fill out a furbearer possession tag for your beaver take or have your beaver pelts sealed. From now on, DEC will measure beaver harvest via surveys of trappers.

Use of Carcasses

Any carcass, as defined below, used as bait and placed or used in conjunction with a foothold trap shall be completely covered at the time the trap is set or visited. Coverings shall include but not be limited to brush; branches; leaves; soil; snow; water; or enclosures constructed of wood, metal, wire, plastic or natural materials; and must completely cover the carcass so that it is not visible from directly above.

Note: A carcass is defined as the body or parts thereof, meat, organs or viscera of an animal, including fish. Feathers (including feathers with attached skin or entire bird wings), hair (with or without skin or hide), and bones that include no attached meat, organs or viscera, are excluded from this definition.

Checking Traps

In the Southern Zone: You must check traps once in each 24 hour period.

In the Northern Zone:

<i>Wildlife Management Unit</i>	<i>Trap Type</i>	<i>Trap Check Requirements</i>
WMU 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J, and 6N	All	Visited once in each 48 hour period
WMU 5A, 6A, 6C, 6G, 6H, and 6K	Traps set in water during the open season for beaver, otter, mink & muskrat	Visited once in each 48 hour period
	Body-gripping traps set on land	Visited once in each 48 hour period
	Restraining traps	Visited once in each 24 hour period

Trapping Near or On Beaver Dams

You may set a trap on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam ONLY under these conditions:

- You are trapping during an OPEN otter season.
- If the otter season is CLOSED, you may use these traps:
 - Body-gripping trap that measures less than 5.5 inches.
 - Foot encapsulating trap.
 - Foothold traps that are 4¾ inches or less.
 - Cage or box traps.

By limiting the trap sizes that are usable on beaver dams, this regulation provides greater opportunities for trappers while minimizing the accidental capture of otter.

Possession of Road-Killed Furbearers

If the trapping or hunting season is open for the species in a Wildlife Management Unit (WMU), you may keep a dead furbearer found on roads within that WMU. The requirements for possessing road-killed furbearers are the same as for trapping and hunting. For example, if you find a road-killed fisher in an area with an open fisher season and you possess a trapping license, you have to contact DEC for a pelt seal. If you find a bobcat, you can possess it if you have a small game or trapping license, but you also must have it pelt sealed.

New Definitions

To help administer the trapping laws and regulations, DEC has defined some important terms:

1. **Public highway:** The traveled portion of a public highway. Culverts, drainage ditches, and the area under bridges are not considered the traveled portion of a public highway.
2. **Carcass:** The body or parts thereof, meat, organs or viscera of an animal, including fish. Feathers (including feathers with attached skin or entire bird wings), hair (with or without skin or hide), and bones that include no attached meat, organs or viscera, are excluded from this definition.
3. **Suspension:** This term applies to animals fully suspended in the air by means of the trap anchoring system (typically a chain, cable or wire). It does not apply to traps set in water or to traps that are directly and firmly attached to an elevated structure, such as a tree.
4. **Restraining trap:** A device used to capture and restrain a mammal. These traps include leg-gripping traps (“foothold traps”), foot encapsulating traps, and cage or box traps.
5. **Foot encapsulating trap:** A trap with the following mechanical attributes: The triggering and restraining mechanisms are enclosed within a housing; the triggering and restraining mechanisms are only accessible through a single opening when set; the opening does not exceed 2 inches in diameter; and the trap has a swivel mounted anchoring system.
6. **Cage or box trap:** A type of restraining trap that fully encloses a captured animal within wood, wire, plastic, or metal.