



NEBRASKA BOBCAT TAGGING REPORT 2015/2016 SEASON



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Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
May 30, 2016

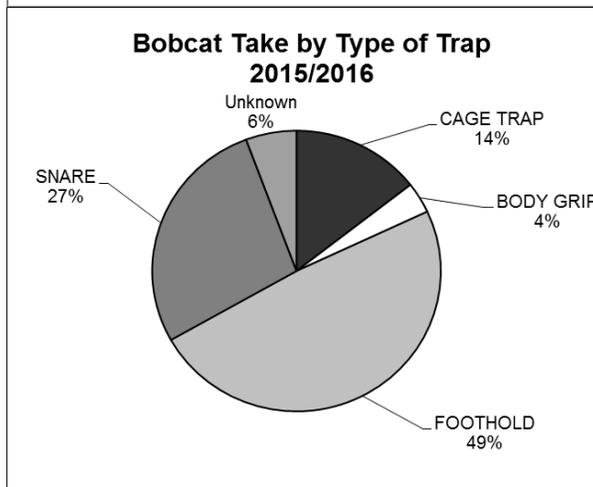
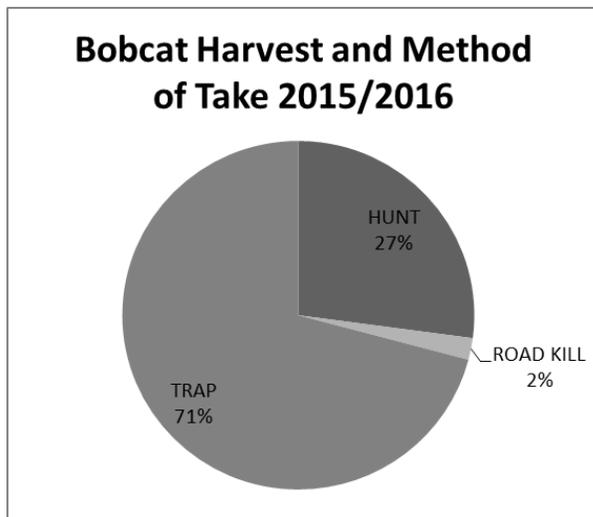
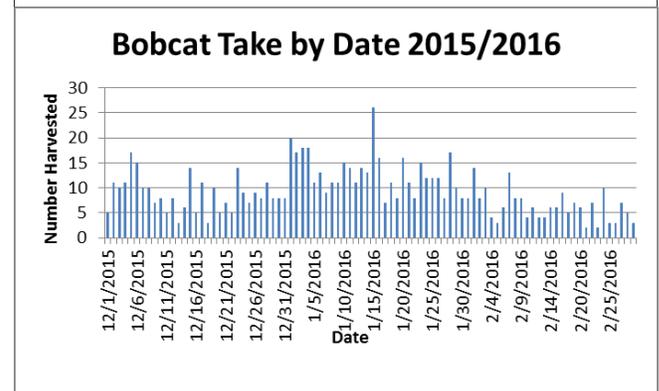
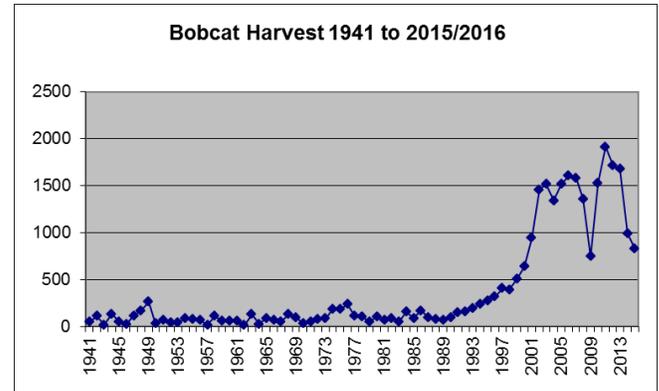
Season:

The 2015/2016 bobcat season opened on December 1, 2015 and closed on February 29, 2016.

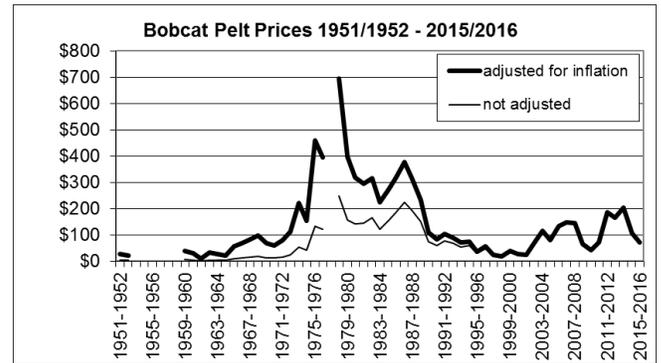
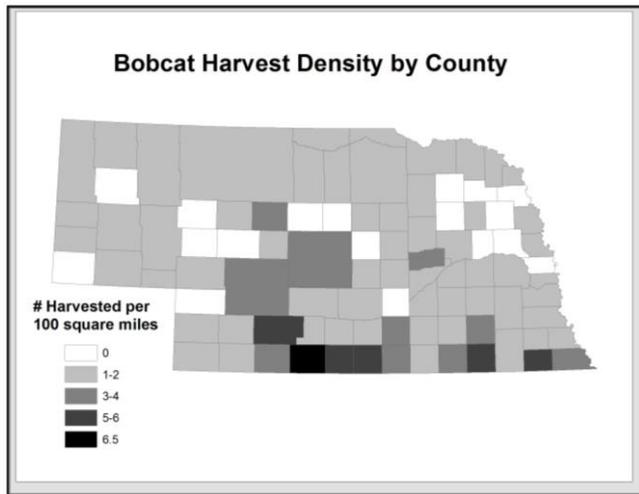
Bobcats:

A total of 843 bobcats were tagged during the 2015/2016 season (compared with 994 in 2014/2015). Of these, trappers and hunters harvested 826 bobcats, 17 bobcats were killed by vehicles. Forty six percent of bobcats with known gender harvested during the 2015/2016 season were females.

With 151 fewer bobcats than the previous season's harvest, this is the fifteenth consecutive harvest total over 700 since the dramatic rise in the late 1990's.

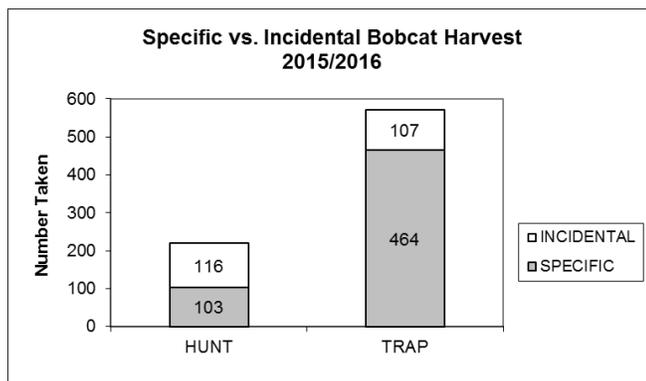


The bobcat harvest density per square mile was highest in the southern and central part of the state. The three counties with the highest harvest densities were Furnas (6.5 bobcats per 100 miles²), Harlan (6 bobcats per 100 miles²) and Pawnee (5.5 bobcats per 100 miles²). The three counties with the highest total bobcat harvest were Lincoln (85), Custer (65) and Frontier (47).



Harvesters:

Trappers harvested more bobcats than hunters did (599 vs. 229), and trappers also indicated a greater proportion of bobcats taken specifically. More than two times as many bobcats were harvested by trapping as by hunting. The highest number of bobcats taken by one individual was 15.



Pelts:

Preliminary data from the 2015/2016 fur buyer survey indicate that the average price for bobcat pelts paid by fur buyers in Nebraska was \$71.58. This represents a 33% decrease compared with an average of \$107 in 2014/2015. Bobcat pelts remain the most valuable wild fur harvested in Nebraska. Individual pelt prices are highly variable due to differences in pelt quality and stages of processing at sale. According to fur buyers and harvesters, bobcat pelts are prime from December 1 through the end of the season.

Conclusion:

Historically, bobcat pelts have been one of the most valuable of Nebraska's wild pelts. Decreases in bobcat pelt prices may have caused a decrease in harvest effort for bobcats in recent years.

While at this time there is no indication that the harvest negatively impacts bobcat populations in Nebraska, a shortening of the season and/or the implementation of bag limits will be considered if, despite high harvest participation and relatively high pelt prices, a substantial and persistent drop in total harvest occurs in coming years.

Special thanks to all NGPC staff that collected harvest data, tagged bobcats, and enforced regulations during the 2015/2016 bobcat season. Harvest monitoring and status assessment would not be possible without your help. Thanks also to harvesters and fur buyers for providing data used in this analysis.