

2020

MICHIGAN FUR HARVESTER DIGEST

Rules apply from May 1, 2020 - April 30, 2021



Reminders

- **New!** Otter Bag Limit changes pg. 4.
- **New!** Beaver and Otter Season Date changes pg. 4.
- Fur harvester license valid May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021.
- All fur harvester kill tags available beginning May 1, 2020.
- **Bobcat kill tags are available until Nov. 30, 2020.**



RAP (Report All Poaching) - Call or Text - 800-292-7800

Michigan.gov/Trapping

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

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The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The NRC has exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sportfish. The commission conducts monthly, public meetings in locations throughout Michigan. Citizens are encouraged to become actively involved in these public forums. For more information visit Michigan.gov/NRC.

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NOTICE: This brochure is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed digest issued for hunters' convenience. Copies of Wildlife Conservation Orders, which contain complete listings of regulations and legal descriptions, are available on our website: Michigan.gov/DNRLaws.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended (MI PA 453 and MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909-7528 or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600, 3054 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202 or the Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

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Your licenses provide nearly \$61 million a year to conserve wildlife, public lands and waters. Because of you, habitats have been restored and populations of deer, elk, waterfowl, turkey and other game species have been preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

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Furbearer Management

Michigan has 17 species of furbearers which may be harvested. The term “furbearer” generally applies to those species which have historically been harvested for their fur. Furbearers found in Michigan are badger, bobcat, fisher, marten, fox (red and gray), coyote, weasels (least, short-tailed (ermine), and long-tailed), mink, raccoon, muskrat, beaver, otter, skunk, and opossum. Most of these species are carnivores, with a few notable exceptions such as beaver and muskrat.

Given the large number of furbearing species which can be hunted or trapped, there are many different types of recreational opportunities that exist related to furbearers throughout the state. Furharvesting has played an important role in the lives of many living in Michigan long before it was a state and has continued to the present day.

The DNR monitors furbearer populations and regularly reviews regulations to ensure that furbearers are managed to sustain populations, maintain recreational opportunities, and to allow for management of nuisance issues and damage control. Regulations are in place to ensure populations are not harvested in a way that may be unsustainable and to allow biologists to have information on species to aid in management (such as mandatory registration).

On the Cover: American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) are large rodents found throughout much of North America. Beaver have a variety of adaptations for their semi-aquatic lifestyle, including their characteristic large flattened tail and webbed hindfeet. Beaver are well known for their construction of lodges and dams in or around lakes or slow-moving streams. Beaver are active all year-round and their lodge provides them with a warm shelter through the winter months. A beaver’s thick fur also provide it plenty of insulation to be active in the water during the winter months and is a primary reason for harvest of this species.

A beaver’s diet typically consists of bark, twigs, buds and leaves from aspen, cottonwood and willow trees as well as aquatic vegetation. While beaver do occasionally cause conflicts with people through building dams or chewing on trees, they are an important species to have in Michigan’s ecosystems. Beaver are an important species on the landscape, because they can create a variety of wetland conditions which provide suitable habitat for a wide variety of species including many rare species.

Harvest of beaver in Michigan is allowed by trapping only. In 2018, our harvest surveys estimate between 16,000 and 20,000 beavers were harvested by licensed fur harvesters in Michigan. Harvest of beaver and other furbearing species are carefully regulated to ensure beaver populations remain healthy and that landowners have options for dealing with conflicts or damage caused by beaver.

For more information on the Furbearer Management Program in Michigan visit: Michigan.gov/Trapping.

Fur Harvester Season and Bag Limits 2020 - 2021

Season	Bag Limit	Area	Season Dates	Kill Tag & Mandatory Registration	Kill Tag Availability
Hunting Seasons					
Bobcat	2 per RESIDENT fur harvester. 2 nd kill tag valid on private land in Unit A only. ¹	Units A, B, & C Unit D Unit E & F	Jan. 1 - Mar. 1 Jan. 1 - Feb. 1 Jan. 1 - Jan. 11	Yes	May 1 - Nov. 30
Coyote	No limit	Statewide	Year-round	No	N/A
Fox (Gray and Red)	No limit	Statewide	Oct. 15 - Mar. 1	No	N/A
Raccoon	No limit	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31	No	N/A
Trapping Seasons					
Badger	1 per RESIDENT fur harvester.	Zones 1* & 2 Zone 3	Oct. 15 - Nov. 14 Nov. 1 - Mar. 1	No	N/A
Beaver (Resident)	No limit	Unit A Unit B Unit C	Oct. 25 - April 30 Nov. 1 - April 23 Nov. 10 - April 23	No	N/A
Beaver (Nonresident)	No limit	Unit A Unit B Unit C	Nov. 15 - April 30 Nov. 24 - April 23 Dec. 15 - April 23	No	N/A
Bobcat	2 per RESIDENT fur harvester. 2 nd kill tag valid on private land in Unit A only. ¹	Units A & B Units C, D, E, & F	Dec. 1 - Feb. 1 Dec. 10 - 20	Yes	May 1 - Nov. 30
Coyote and Fox (Gray and Red)	No limit	Statewide	Oct. 15 - Mar. 1	No	N/A
Fisher and Marten	Combined bag limit of 2 per RESIDENT fur harvester, of which only 1 may be a fisher. ²	Zone 1 – excluding Drummond Island	Dec. 4 - 13	Yes	May 1 - end of season
Muskrat and Mink	No limit	Zone 1 Zone 2 Zone 3	Oct. 25 - Mar. 1 Nov. 1 - Mar. 1 Nov. 10 - Mar. 1	No	N/A
Otter	4 per RESIDENT fur harvester, only 3 may be taken from Unit B, and only 2 from Unit C.	Unit A Unit B Unit C	Oct. 25 - Mar. 31 Nov. 1 - Mar. 31 Nov. 10 - Mar. 31	Yes	May 1 - end of season
Raccoon	No limit	Statewide	Oct. 15 - Mar. 31	No	N/A

Year-round Hunting Seasons 2020-2021

Opossum, porcupine, weasel, red squirrel, skunk, ground squirrel, woodchuck, and feral swine may be harvested year-round, statewide with a valid Michigan hunting license. There is no bag limit for these species.

Raccoons, skunks, woodchuck, and coyotes may be taken year-round, using otherwise lawful hunting or trapping methods, on private property and with landowner permission when doing or about to do damage. A license or written permission is not needed.

Note:

*Zone 1 Badger management unit is: Baraga, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee, and Ontonagon counties and that area of Alger and Delta counties west of a line beginning at the point on the Lake Superior shoreline due north of where federal forest highway 13 and H 58 intersect, then southerly upon federal forest highway 13 to where it intersects with US-2, then due south of the intersection of federal forest highway 13 and US-2 to the point of intersection with the Lake Michigan shoreline.

¹Bobcat: One kill tag is valid for all lands and for all units combined. A second kill tag is valid for Unit A ONLY, on private lands (excluding Commercial Forest lands).

²The fisher/marten kill tag can be used for 1 fisher OR 1 marten. The marten only kill tag can be used for 1 marten.



For nighttime hunting information, see pages 21-22.

License Types and Fees by Age

License Type	Cost				
	¹ Age: Up to 9	Junior Age: 10-16	Resident Age: 17+	Nonresident ² Age: 17+	Resident Senior Age: 65+
DNR Sportcard	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
Mentored Youth License	\$7.50	--	--	--	--
*4 Base License - Valid through March 31, 2021	--	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$151.00	\$5.00
¹ Fur Harvester - ³ Valid through April 30, 2021	--	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$6.00

*One dollar from each of these licenses will be used to educate the public on the benefits of hunting, fishing, and trapping in Michigan, and the impact of these activities on the conservation, preservation and management of the state's natural resources.

¹ Must be a resident, 8 years of age or older, to obtain kill tags for bobcat, otter, marten, or fisher.

² Nonresidents under 17 years of age may purchase resident licenses.

³ Must purchase 2020 base license by Feb. 28, 2021 in order to purchase a fur harvester license in March or April 2021.

⁴ The 2021 base license is available for purchase beginning March 1, 2021.

Lost Licenses

All Hunting and Fishing Licenses

- If originally purchased at a license agent or on E-license, you may visit a license agent and have your license(s) reprinted. (\$3 for non-kill tag replacement and full price for kill tag replacement). You must provide the identification number used to purchase the original license.
- If originally purchased online, you received an e-mail containing a PDF file of printable licenses, including your base license. Save your PDF so it can be reprinted if misplaced.

For a replacement Michigan hunter safety certificate, visit

Michigan.gov/RecreationalSafety

Base License

All hunters are required to have a base license before purchasing other licenses. The base license provides funding for habitat and conservation work on both public and private land, and supports the work of conservation officers and field staff to ensure safe, legal hunting practices are followed. The base license is valid for hunting small game. Hunters are encouraged to carry their base license at all times when hunting.

U.S. Military Personnel

Hunting license fees are waived for all **full time active-duty** U.S. military personnel who have maintained resident status, except for hunting licenses obtained through a drawing. The individual must present military ID, leave papers, duty papers, military orders, or other evidence verifying that he or she is an active-duty member of the military, along with a valid Michigan driver's license or voter's registration card.

Michigan Veterans with Disabilities

A resident veteran with a disability is eligible to obtain any hunting license that does not require a separate application free of charge if one of the following conditions is met:

- The person has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100-percent rate, for disabilities other than blindness.
- The person has been rated by United States Department of Veterans Affairs as individually unemployable.

Documentation of eligibility from the Veterans Administration stating either of the above conditions shall be in the possession of a veteran when obtaining free licenses and while afield.

See the Hunting Digest or visit Michigan.gov/DNR for more information for hunters with disabilities.

Apprentice Hunting

A person who does not have a hunter safety certificate and is 10 years of age or older may purchase a base apprentice (APC) license. An apprentice hunter may purchase this license for two license years before he or she must successfully complete a hunter safety course. Additional licenses are required to hunt big game and waterfowl. The base apprentice license is available to both residents and nonresidents. When afield, an apprentice hunter must be accompanied by someone 21 years of age or older who possesses a regular current-year hunting license for the same game as the apprentice. For apprentices 10-16 years of age, the accompanying hunter must be the apprentice's parent, guardian, or someone designated by the parent or guardian. "Accompanied by" requires the accompanying hunter to be able to come to the immediate aid of the apprentice and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact. A person may accompany no more than two apprentice hunters while hunting.

Mentored Youth Hunting (MYH) Program

The MYH Program allows youth hunters 9 years of age and younger to hunt with a mentor who is at least 21 years of age, has hunting experience, and possesses a valid Michigan license to hunt other than an apprentice license. The mentored youth license is a “package” license to hunt small game including waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall), deer, trap furbearers, and fish for all species, and also allows the mentored youth hunter to apply for or purchase additional licenses including antlerless deer, bear, elk, and fall turkey. The mentor is limited to two hunting devices (shotgun, rifle, bow, or crossbow) in the field while mentoring, and the youth hunter must be within arm’s length of the mentor at all times. Any hunting device possessed by a mentored youth must be sized appropriately to fit the physical abilities of the youth. The mentor will be held responsible for all actions of the youth hunter while in the field. See Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting for complete rules and restrictions.

Youth Hunting

Youth 10-16 years of age, and who are hunter safety-certified, must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older to hunt, unless:

- The youth is hunting on land upon which a parent or guardian is regularly domiciled; AND
- The license is not an apprentice license.

Youth 10-16 years of age, and who are NOT hunter safety-certified, may hunt as an apprentice hunter. Nonresidents up to 16 years of age may purchase resident and junior licenses but are not eligible to obtain kill tags for fisher, otter, marten, and bobcat.

To Purchase a License

You must have one of the following forms of identification:

- Valid Michigan driver’s license or valid Nonresident driver’s license.
- State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State).
- DNR Sportcard (issued through license agents or at mdnr-elicense.com). If the information on your DNR Sportcard from the previous year is still accurate, you should continue to use it.

All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1960 must present their hunter safety certificate or previous hunting license (other than an apprentice license) to purchase their licenses. Hunters must possess qualifying credentials and/or identification that may be required for certain license purchases. When hunting or trapping, you must carry your license and present upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer, or any law enforcement officer. It is unlawful to use another person’s hunting license or kill tag.

To qualify for any adult resident hunting or fur harvester license, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- Reside in a settled or permanent home or domicile within the boundaries of this state with the intention of remaining in this state. The ownership of land in Michigan by itself is not a qualification for a resident license. “Resident” status can only be claimed in one state.
- Be a full-time student at a Michigan college or university and reside in the state during the school year.
- Serve full-time in the U.S. military and be officially stationed in Michigan.
- Serve full-time in the U.S. military and maintain residency in Michigan.

Hunter and Trapper Education Programs

Safe hunting and trapping begins with education. The DNR along with other organizations have developed the mandatory hunter education program and the voluntary Michigan trapper education program. For more information on classes currently offered in your area, please visit the DNR website at Michigan.gov/HunterEducation.

Fur Harvester License

A valid base license is needed to purchase a fur harvester license. A fur harvester license allows **residents** to hunt fox, opossum, skunk, weasel, bobcat, coyote, raccoon, and trap badger, bobcat, fisher, marten, fox, coyote, weasel, mink, raccoon, muskrat, beaver, otter, skunk, and opossum.

Nonresidents, including nonresident youth, with a valid fur harvester license can harvest the species listed above EXCEPT they may not harvest bobcat, otter, fisher, marten, or badger.

Fur harvester licenses are valid May 1, 2020 – Apr. 30, 2021. HOWEVER, to purchase a 2020 fur harvester license AFTER Feb. 28, 2021, you must have purchased a 2020 base license. If you do not purchase a 2020 base license by Feb. 28, 2021, you cannot purchase a fur harvester license in March or April 2021.

Youth 9 and younger may trap furbearers as licensed through the Mentored Youth Hunting Program (see pg. 8).

Furbearer Kill Tags

Residents with a fur harvester license, who intend to harvest bobcat, otter, fisher, or marten must request free kill tags for these species.

- Kill tags are available May 1 through the last day of the trapping season for fisher, marten, and otter.
- **Bobcat kill tags are only available through Nov. 30.**

Continued ►

Kill tags will be available from license agents, DNR Customer Service Centers, or online. A person who harvests a bobcat, otter, fisher, or marten shall immediately validate the tag and attach the tag to the hide from the upper jaw through the eye socket or through the lower jaw. The kill tag must be replaced by an official DNR seal at registration.

Furbearer Registration

A person taking a bobcat, fisher, marten, and otter must present the animal at a DNR registration station for registration. See page 11 for registration dates.

- Fur takers must register their own take. It is unlawful to register the take of another person. Animals should be skinned prior to registration.
- The pelt and skull must be brought in to a DNR registration station for registration.
- Hunters and trappers are strongly encouraged to call ahead to determine availability of DNR personnel or to make arrangements to register animals outside normal working hours.
- A complete listing of available furbearer registration locations and hours is available at Michigan.gov/Trapping.

The DNR will attach an official seal to the pelt of each animal. This seal replaces the furbearer kill tag. The location of take, date of harvest, and manner of harvest will be recorded when the animal is sealed. The skull will also be collected to determine the sex and age of the specimen.

Skulls will be retained and will not be returned. New population estimation techniques require precise sex and age information, which will be obtained from skulls. Mandatory skull collection ensures tooth samples are undamaged for aging and adequate material is available for DNA analysis. Ages for bobcat, fisher, and marten can be found at Michigan.gov/DNRLab.

Seals may be removed by a licensed taxidermist upon acceptance and recording of the specimen. Otherwise, seals shall not be removed until the pelt is processed or tanned, nor shall a person possess or transport a raw, unsealed hide after the required registration date for each animal. A person may not buy or sell a bobcat, fisher, marten, or otter pelt without a DNR seal unless the pelt has been processed or tanned.

NOTE: If you intend to have a taxidermist skin your animal, you may take it to the taxidermist PRIOR to registration IF you are within the deadline for registration. The animal should have the kill tag attached. After the animal has been skinned, you must bring the skull, pelt and kill tag to at DNR registration station for registration. After registration the sealed pelt may be returned to the taxidermist if additional work will be done on the pelt. An unsealed animal/pelt cannot be at a taxidermist after the registration deadline for that species/season (see next page).

Furbearer Registration Dates

Note: The skull and pelt are required for sealing. The skull will be retained and will not be returned.

- **Bobcat Trapping Season:** Unit A and B on or before Feb. 11, 2021. Units C, D, E, & F on or before Dec. 30, 2020.
- **Bobcat Hunting Season:** Units A, B, and C, on or before Mar. 11, 2021. Unit D, on or before Feb. 11, 2021. Units E and F, on or before Jan. 21, 2021.
- **Fisher:** On or before Dec. 16, 2020.
- **Marten:** On or before Dec. 16, 2020.
- **Otter:** Units A, B, and C on or before Apr. 10, 2021.
- **Incidental Catches** you must bring the entire carcass and pelt. The carcass and pelt must be surrendered. (See below for additional details on incidental catches.)

What to Do When You Have an Incidental Catch

Trappers occasionally trap non-target species. It is unlawful to possess animals out of season, animals over the bag limit, or to trap non-game protected species. The following procedure is required for non-game protected species and those furbearers with a bag limit (bobcat, badger, fisher, marten, otter).

Otter incidentally taken while trapping for beaver through April 30 may be lawfully possessed if included within the otter season bag limit and a valid otter kill tag is used. All rules and regulations for taking otter apply. Otters incidentally taken above the individual's bag limit shall NOT be kept but shall be submitted to the Department following existing incidental catch regulations.

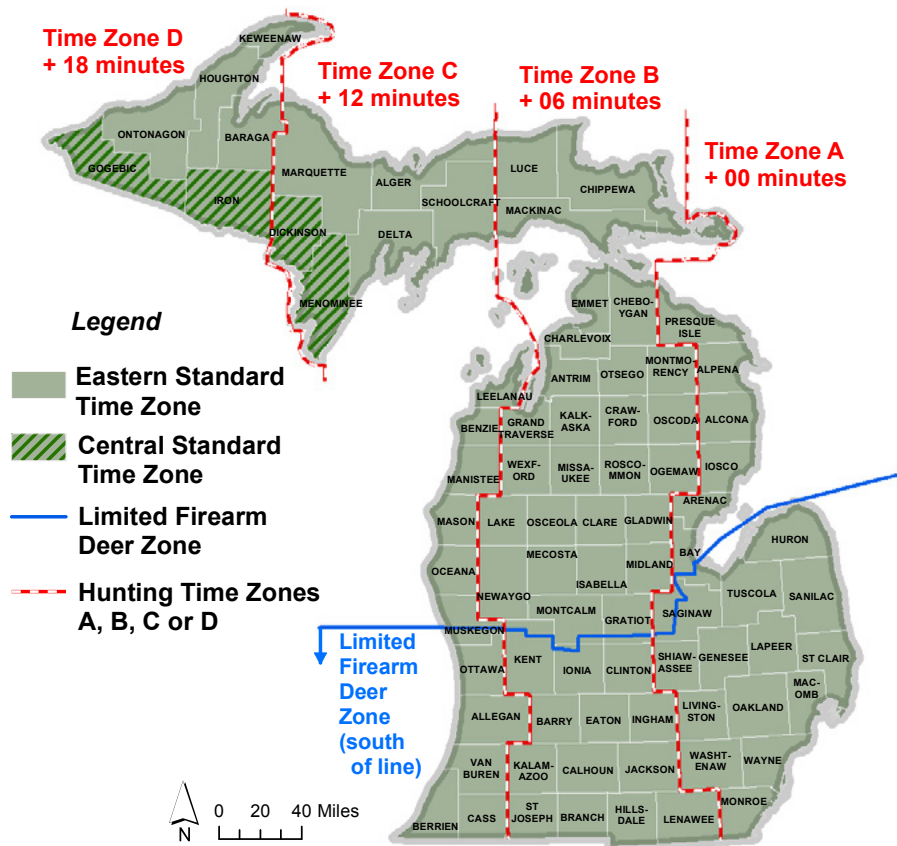
Trappers must:

- Immediately release live protected animals from the trap.
- If the animal is dead or dies in the attempt to release it, attach a Michigan incidental seal to the animal before removing it from the trap. Then transport the carcass in an open manner to the nearest DNR office. The carcass must be surrendered.
- Michigan incidental seals are available from DNR offices and should be picked up prior to trapping activity.
- **All incidental seals remain the property of the DNR and must be returned by May 1 each year.**

Hunting Hours

Shown is a map of the hunting-hour time zones. Actual legal hunting hours for furbearers for Time Zone A are shown in the table to the right. To determine the opening (a.m.) and closing (p.m.) time for any day in another time zone, add the minutes shown below to the times listed in the Time Zone A Hunting Hours Table. The hunting hours listed in the table reflect Eastern Standard Time, with an adjustment for daylight saving time. If you are hunting or trapping in Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson, or Menominee counties (Central Standard Time), you must make an additional adjustment to the printed time by subtracting one hour.

Hunting-Hour Time Zones



Zone A Hunting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset (adjusted for daylight saving time).

Zone D Counties

(Central Standard Time)
Subtract one hour from table.

- Gogebic
- Iron
- Dickinson
- Menominee

2020	Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.	
Date	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
1	6:28	8:37	7:00	7:45	6:36	5:56	7:12	5:31
2	6:29	8:35	7:01	7:43	6:37	5:55	7:13	5:31
3	6:30	8:34	7:02	7:41	6:38	5:54	7:14	5:30
4	6:31	8:32	7:03	7:39	6:40	5:52	7:15	5:30
5	6:32	8:30	7:04	7:38	6:41	5:51	7:16	5:30
6	6:33	8:29	7:05	7:36	6:42	5:50	7:17	5:30
7	6:34	8:27	7:06	7:34	6:43	5:49	7:18	5:30
8	6:35	8:25	7:07	7:33	6:45	5:48	7:19	5:30
9	6:36	8:23	7:08	7:31	6:46	5:47	7:20	5:30
10	6:37	8:22	7:10	7:29	6:47	5:46	7:21	5:30
11	6:38	8:20	7:11	7:28	6:48	5:45	7:22	5:30
12	6:39	8:18	7:12	7:26	6:50	5:44	7:22	5:30
13	6:40	8:16	7:13	7:24	6:51	5:43	7:23	5:30
14	6:41	8:15	7:14	7:23	6:52	5:42	7:24	5:30
15	6:42	8:13	7:15	7:21	6:53	5:41	7:25	5:30
16	6:43	8:11	7:16	7:19	6:55	5:40	7:25	5:31
17	6:44	8:09	7:18	7:18	6:56	5:39	7:26	5:31
18	6:46	8:08	7:19	7:16	6:57	5:38	7:27	5:31
19	6:47	8:06	7:20	7:15	6:58	5:37	7:27	5:32
20	6:48	8:04	7:21	7:13	6:59	5:37	7:28	5:32
21	6:49	8:02	7:22	7:12	7:01	5:36	7:28	5:33
22	6:50	8:00	7:24	7:10	7:02	5:35	7:29	5:33
23	6:51	7:59	7:25	7:09	7:03	5:35	7:29	5:34
24	6:52	7:57	7:26	7:07	7:04	5:34	7:30	5:34
25	6:53	7:55	7:27	7:06	7:05	5:33	7:30	5:35
26	6:54	7:53	7:28	7:04	7:06	5:33	7:30	5:35
27	6:55	7:52	7:30	7:03	7:08	5:32	7:31	5:36
28	6:56	7:50	7:31	7:01	7:09	5:32	7:31	5:37
29	6:57	7:48	7:32	7:00	7:10	5:32	7:31	5:38
30	6:58	7:46	7:33	6:59	7:11	5:31	7:31	5:38
31			7:35	6:57			7:32	5:39

Hunting and Trapping Zones

Michigan is divided into Hunting and Trapping Zones 1-2-3; see map below.

Zone 1 includes all of the Upper Peninsula. The dividing line between Zones 2 and 3 is from the Lake Michigan shoreline north of Muskegon Lake easterly on Memorial Drive to Ruddiman Drive to Lake Avenue, easterly on Lake Avenue to M-120 in North Muskegon, northeasterly on M-120 to M-20, easterly on M-20 to US-10, easterly on US-10 to Garfield Road in Bay County, northerly on Garfield Road to Pinconning Road, easterly on Pinconning Road to Seven Mile Road, northerly on Seven Mile Road to Lincoln School Road (County Road 25) in Arenac County, northerly on Lincoln School Road to M-61, easterly on M-61 to US-23, easterly on US-23 to center line of AuGres River, southerly along center line of AuGres River to Saginaw Bay, easterly 90 degrees east for 7 miles into Saginaw Bay, then northerly 78 degrees east to the International Boundary.

Limited Firearm Deer Zone

Michigan is divided into a northern zone and a southern limited firearm deer zone (see map) where only shotguns, certain firearms, and certain handguns may be

used for deer hunting (see pg. 20). The dividing line between the northern zone and the southern limited firearm deer zone is as follows: starting at a point on the Lake Michigan shoreline directly west of M-46, then easterly to M-46, then easterly along M-46 to US-131 at Cedar Springs, southerly on US-131 to M-57, easterly on M-57 to Montcalm Road on the Kent-Montcalm county line, southerly on Montcalm Road and the Kent-Ionia county line to M-44, easterly on M-44 to M-66, northerly on M-66 to M-57, easterly on M-57 to M-52 near Chesaning, northerly on M-52 to M-46, easterly on M-46 to M-47, northerly on M-47 to US10 west of Bay City, easterly on US-10 to I-75, northerly on I-75 and US-23 to Beaver Road (about 1 mile north of Kawkawlin), easterly to Saginaw Bay, north 50 degrees east to the International Boundary.



Hunting and Trapping in State Parks and Recreation Areas

State parks are closed to hunting unless opened by law ([Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](https://www.michigan.gov/DNR/Laws)). State Recreation Areas are open to hunting unless closed by law. All or portions of 38 state parks are open to hunting. Portions of 16 state recreation areas are closed to hunting. Contact the individual parks or recreation area for hunting information.

It is unlawful to use a centerfire rifle or centerfire pistol to take an animal during nighttime hours in any state park or state recreation area.

Trapping within 50 feet of the mowed portions of developed areas within state recreation areas is prohibited. Contact individual parks or recreation areas for current trapping regulations and any restrictions for those areas prior to trapping.

Public-Land Trapping Areas Where a Permit is Required

A special permit is required to trap in the management areas listed below. Trapping season closure dates may vary. Contact area headquarters for details.

- Muskegon State Game Area. Trapping permits are required for beaver and otter and are available at the game area headquarters.
- Poel Island Waterfowl Refuge, Grand Haven State Game Area. Trapping permits are available at the Muskegon State Game Area headquarters.
- Fish Point State Wildlife Area. Trapping permits are available at the wildlife area headquarters.
- Nayanquing Point and Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Areas. Trapping permits are available at the Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area headquarters.
- Shiawassee River State Game Area. Trapping permits may be obtained at the St. Charles field office. Trapping permits for the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge may be obtained from the refuge manager.
- Pte. Mouillee State Game Area. Trapping permits are available at the game area headquarters.
- Tobico Marsh Unit of Bay City State Park. Trapping permits are available at the headquarters.
- Crow Island State Game Area. Trapping permits are available at the Bay City Customer Service Center.
- Harsens Island, St. Clair Flats Wildlife Area. Trapping permits are available at the wildlife area headquarters.

It is unlawful to trap any species within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

Safety Zones Around Buildings

Safety zones are all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, house, cabin, or any barn or other building used in a farm operation. No person may hunt with a firearm in a safety zone, or shoot at any wild animal or wild bird within a safety zone, without the written permission of the owner or occupant of the property. The safety zone applies to hunting only. It does not apply to indoor or outdoor shooting ranges, target shooting, law enforcement activities, or the lawful discharge of firearms for any non-hunting purpose.

Townships with Hunting and Trapping Restrictions

Some townships may be closed to hunting, trapping or the discharge of firearms. Please contact the local township office or local law enforcement agency to find out about restrictions.

Hunting and Trapping Within a Road Right-of-way or Railroad Right-of-way

You may hunt and trap within a road right-of-way where the adjoining property is publicly owned. If the adjacent property is privately owned, you must have permission from the landowner. Railroad rights-of-way are private property. Trespassing on railroad property is a misdemeanor. You must have written permission from the railroad company to be exempt from trespass.

Float Hunting and Trapping

Hunting and trapping are exclusive rights of landowner(s) bordering the waterway and their invited guests. You must secure permission from the landowner before float hunting or setting traps along those waterways that are protected by the recreational trespass law. You may float hunt and trap on and along waterways that are surrounded by public land and open to hunting.

Trespassing on Private Land

Trespassing is unlawful and erodes support for recreational hunting. Written or verbal permission is required from the landowner or leaseholder before you hunt on any farm lands or connected woodlots or on any posted private land or on any property that is fenced or enclosed. Hunters are required to produce their hunting license to landowners upon request. If you wound an animal or bird and it runs or flies onto private property, you have no legal right to pursue it without permission of the landowner and would be subject to prosecution. A person not possessing a firearm, unless previously prohibited by the landowner, may enter on foot upon the property of another person for the sole purpose of retrieving a hunting dog. The person shall not remain on the property beyond the reasonable time necessary to retrieve the dog.

Finding Places to Hunt and Trap

- The DNR has an interactive application called Mi-HUNT, which helps you plan your hunting, trapping, and outdoor recreation adventures. Check it out at Michigan.gov/MiHunt.
- The Hunting Access Program (HAP) is another resource that can be found on Mi-HUNT. HAP provides access to private hunting lands. For more information about HAP, contact your local DNR office. Visit Michigan.gov/Hap.
- Over 2.2 million acres of privately owned forests enrolled in the Commercial Forest (CF) Lands Program are accessible by foot to the public for hunting and trapping. Contact the DNR Forest Resources Division or visit Michigan.gov/Forestry for more information about CF property.
- Opportunities to hunt on National Forest Lands (NF) may be available for the Hiawatha NF, Huron-Manistee NF, and Ottawa NF. For more details and regulations, visit www.fs.fed.us or see the Hunting Digest.

Commercial Hunting Guides on Public Land

All commercial hunting guides using state-owned lands must receive written authorization. Guides are required to meet the conditions of the written authorization. If you are a guide who utilizes state-owned lands, visit the DNR website at Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits or contact Casey Reitz at reitzc@michigan.gov or 517-284-6210 for more information.

Commercial guiding on National Forest (NF) lands requires a federal special use permit. Applications can be obtained through any NF office or by calling - Hiawatha NF: 906-428-5800; Huron-Manistee NF: 877-444-6777; or Ottawa NF: 906-932-1330.

Use of Wild Game as Bait when Hunting and Trapping

Fur harvesters may use the parts of game animals as bait if:

- The game used as bait was lawfully trapped or hunted and if it is the open season for the game being used as bait.
- Some game killed as the result of a motor vehicle collision may be used as bait. Visit Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits for roadkill salvage permit information.

Hunter Orange Clothing Requirements

A person shall not take game during the established daylight shooting hours from Aug. 15 through April 30 unless the person wears a cap, hat, vest, jacket, or rain gear of hunter orange. Hunter orange includes camouflage that is not less than 50 percent hunter orange. The garments that are hunter orange shall be the hunter's outermost garment and shall be visible from all sides of the hunter.

The hunter orange requirements do not apply to a person who is stationary and in the act of hunting bobcat, coyote, or fox. Hunter orange is NOT required year-round when nighttime hunting.

Foothold Trapping Restrictions Near Exposed Bait

Foothold traps may not be used to trap furbearers within 20 feet of bait that is visible from more than 4 feet above the bait.

- For the purposes of this regulation, bait is defined as: any animal or animal parts, including dead fish, EXCEPT:
 - Dried hide, fur, feathers or bones that are less than 36 square inches in size and entirely free of meat may be used as a visual attractant.
- Completely submerged foothold traps are exempt from this restriction.

Equipment Regulations

Hunting with Dogs

Bobcat, raccoon, opossum, fox, and coyote may be hunted with dogs during their respective open seasons. It is unlawful for any person to hunt with the aid of dogs from April 16 through July 7.

Raised Platforms and Tree Stands

The following persons may hunt from a raised platform or tree stand:

- Bow and crossbow hunters (all species).
- Fox, coyote, raccoon and opossum hunters (day or night).
- Bobcat hunters (day only).

All other firearm fur harvesters are prohibited from using a raised platform or tree stand.

Ground Blinds on Public Land

A ground blind means a structure, enclosure or any material, natural or manufactured, placed on the ground to assist in concealing or disguising the user for the purpose of taking an animal. There are restrictions on movability and building materials.

Please see Hunting Digest available at [Michigan.gov/DNRDigests](https://www.michigan.gov/DNRDigests), for more details on **tree stand and ground blinds**.

Firearm Restrictions Nov. 10 – 30

- Centerfire or rimfire rifles may be used Dec. 1 – Nov. 9 in the Limited Firearm Deer Zone during the open season for all furbearing species. Nighttime furbearer regulation restrictions apply, see pg. 22-23.
- Between November 10-14, a resident who holds a fur harvester license may carry a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearm while hunting or trapping furbearers or checking a trap line during the open season for hunting or trapping furbearing animals.
- Coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat, and badger may be killed in traps by fur takers using .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearms, except from Nov. 15 – 30 unless the firearm is loaded at the point of kill only.

- From Nov. 15-30, a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire rifle or handgun may be used to kill a raccoon while hunting with dogs between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. Firearm loaded at the point of kill only.
- In the Limited Firearm Deer Zone, all hunters afield from Nov. 15-30, must abide by the following firearm restrictions or use a crossbow or a bow and arrow. Legal firearms are as follows:
 - A shotgun may have a smooth or rifled barrel and may be of any gauge.
 - A muzzleloading rifle or black powder handgun must be loaded with black powder or a commercially manufactured black powder substitute.
 - A conventional (smokeless powder) handgun must be .35 caliber or larger and loaded with straight-walled cartridges and may be single- or multiple-shot but cannot exceed a maximum capacity of nine rounds in the barrel and magazine combined.
 - A .35 caliber or larger rifle loaded with straight-walled cartridges with a min. case length of 1.16 inches and a maximum case length of 1.80 inches.
 - A .35 caliber or larger air rifle or pistol charged only from an external high compression power source.

Shotguns and Centerfire Rifles – Shell Capacity

It is unlawful to hunt with a semi-automatic shotgun or semi-automatic rifle that can hold more than six shells in the barrel and magazine combined, unless it is a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire. Fully automatic firearms are unlawful.

Crossbows

A crossbow may be used during any season in which a firearm is allowed, for both big and small game, **except** hunters in the Upper Peninsula may not use a crossbow or a modified bow during the Dec. 1 - Jan. 1 late archery deer season and December muzzleloader deer season, unless the hunter is disabled and has a crossbow permit or special permit to take game with a modified bow. Crossbows may be used during the Dec. 1 – Jan. 1 late archery season in the UP Core CWD Surveillance Area.

Any licensed hunter may use a crossbow throughout the archery deer season in the Lower Peninsula (Oct. 1 - Nov. 14 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1) and during the early archery deer season in the Upper Peninsula (Oct. 1 - Nov. 14). See the Hunting Digest for details.

Transporting Firearms, Crossbows, and Bows and Arrows

These rules apply whether your vehicle is parked, stopped, or moving. Firearms must be unloaded in the barrel, and all arrows must be in a quiver when a hunter is afield outside the legal hunting hours.

At all times when carried in or on a motor vehicle, including snowmobiles:

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a vehicle on private or public property, whether your vehicle is parked, stopped, or moving.
- Crossbows, slingshots, and bows and arrows may be transported while operated on public land or on a highway, road, or street if it meets one of the following requirements: unloaded and uncocked, or enclosed in a case, or carried in the trunk of a vehicle.

At all times, when carried in or on an off-road vehicle (ORV):

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or unloaded and equipped with and made inoperative by a manufactured key-locked trigger-housing mechanism.
- Crossbows, slingshots, and bows and arrows must meet one of the following requirements: unloaded and uncocked, or enclosed in a case, or carried in the trunk of a vehicle.

At all times, when carried in or on a motor-propelled boat or sailboat:

- Rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, and all other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine.

Exceptions:

- These rules do not apply to a pistol carried under authority of a concealed pistol license or properly carried under authority of a specific exception from the requirement of a concealed pistol license. See Handgun Regulations on pg. 21.
- A person holding a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle may transport or possess an uncased firearm with a loaded magazine on a Personal Assistive Mobility Device if the action is open.

Note: Muzzleloading firearms are considered unloaded when the cap is removed or priming powder is removed from the pan, or when the battery is removed on electronic systems. The ball and powder can remain in the barrel.

See the Hunting Digest or visit Michigan.gov/DNRLaws for **ORV and Snowmobile regulations**.

Handgun Regulations

- The rules listed below may not apply to those having a concealed pistol license (CPL) or specifically exempt by law from a CPL and carrying their handgun in accordance with their license or exemption.
- A person must be at least 18 years of age to hunt with or possess a handgun.
 - Handguns cannot be borrowed or loaned to another person other than provided for under the CPL.
 - While in the field, handguns must be carried in plain view.
 - Carrying a handgun in a holster in plain view is permitted.
 - You may transport your registered handguns while en route to and from your hunting or target shooting area; however, handguns, including BB guns larger than .177 caliber and all pellet guns, must be unloaded, in the barrel and magazines, and in a closed case designed for the storage of firearms and cannot be readily accessible to any occupant of the vehicle.
 - It is a crime for certain felons to possess ammunition and firearms, including rifles and shotguns, in Michigan.
 - Nonresidents must have a CPL or a license to purchase, carry or transport issued by their home state in their possession in order to legally carry or transport a handgun in Michigan. For more information regarding statewide handgun regulations, obtaining a CPL, or concealed weapons and firearms laws, contact your local police department.

Nighttime Furbearer Regulations 

The following nighttime hunting regulations apply to raccoon, opossum, fox (red and gray), and coyote.

Species	Bag Limit	Area	Season Dates
Hunting Seasons (same as daytime)			
Coyote	No limit	Statewide	Year-round
Fox Gray and Red	No limit	Statewide	Oct. 15 - Mar. 1
Opossum	No limit	Statewide	Year-round
Raccoon	No limit	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31

- Nighttime hunters must use a game call or predator call, or use the aid of dogs.
 - Dogs cannot be used Apr. 16 – Jul. 7.
 - When hunting with dogs, an individual may only possess a loaded firearm, a cocked crossbow, or bow with a nocked arrow at the point of kill.
- These species may be hunted from an elevated platform at night.
- A licensed individual may travel afoot with ONLY: a bow and arrow; a crossbow; a pneumatic gun; a rimfire firearm .22 caliber or smaller; a shotgun with loads other than buckshot larger than size 3, slug, or cut shell; a centerfire rifle or centerfire pistol .269 caliber or smaller.

- **Firearm restrictions during deer season(s) must be followed from Nov. 10 – 30. See pg. 18 for more information.**
- It is unlawful to use a centerfire rifle or centerfire pistol to take an animal during nighttime hours in any state park or state recreation area statewide, and on public lands in the Limited Firearm Deer Zone.
- **All fur harvesters taking a furbearing animal, day or night, from Nov. 10-14, must have a fur harvester license and must use a .22 or smaller caliber rimfire.**
- Individuals in compliance with the above regulations may use artificial lights of the type ordinarily held in the hand or on the person.
- There are no optic restrictions (scopes, open sights, thermal, infrared, laser sights may all be used by individuals complying with nighttime regulations above).

Other Use of Artificial Lights and Shining

- It is unlawful to use an artificial light (including vehicle headlights) to locate wild animals at any time during November and all other days of the year between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- Unless hunting furbearers at night and in compliance with nighttime hunting regulations, it is unlawful to use an artificial light on a highway or in a field, wetland, woodland, or forest while having in your possession or control a bow and arrow, firearm, or other device capable of shooting a projectile.
- An artificial light may be used from Nov. 1-30 on property you own or property owned by a member of your immediate family if you do not have in your possession or control a bow and arrow, firearm, or other device capable of shooting a projectile.
- It is a violation of federal law to shine at any time on any national wildlife refuge.
- Those not possessing a firearm or bow and arrow while traveling on foot may use lights during dog training or field trials to follow dogs chasing raccoon, opossum, or fox.
- A lighted pin sight on a bow or a scope with illuminated crosshairs may be used to hunt game during legal hunting hours.

Exception: This prohibition does not apply to pistols carried under the authority of a concealed pistol license or properly carried under authority of a specific exemption from the requirement of a concealed pistol license. This does not authorize the individual to use the pistol to take game except as provided by law.

Trapping Equipment Regulations

- Trappers are legally required to check traps set in a manner to hold animals alive at least once each day in Zones 2 and 3 and at least once within each 48-hour period in Zone 1. It is highly recommended that trappers in Zone 1 check traps daily.

- Trappers may only use foothold, body-gripping (see page 24) or conibear-type traps. Snarers/cable restraints are illegal unless used for beaver and otter trapping (see page 29), and winter fox and coyote trapping (see page 26). Traps with teeth or serrations are illegal.
- Foothold traps used when taking mink or muskrat may not exceed a jaw spread of a number 2 foothold trap.
- All catching devices must have the user's name and address, Michigan driver's license number, or DNR sportcard number permanently etched or attached with a metal tag while in possession or transporting the catching device in an area frequented by wild animals. Additional tagging requirements may apply for beaver trapping (see page 29).
- Traps may only be set within 50 feet of water prior to October 25 in Zone 1, November 1 in Zone 2, or November 10 in Zone 3 IF the trap meets one of the following requirements:
 - Duffer-type, egg-type, or similarly designed foothold traps for raccoons.
 - Body-gripping or conibear trap may be used if it is placed 4 feet or more above the ground.
- Fur harvesters may NOT molest or set a trap in the internal compartment of any structure such as a lodge, hut, push-up, house, hole, nest, burrow or den of a badger, beaver, mink, muskrat or raccoon, whether occupied or not, or molest or destroy a beaver dam.
- Traps may only be set on a beaver dam or lodge if the trap is:
 - Submerged below the water.
 - A duffer-type, egg-type, or similarly designed foothold trap which by construction will selectively capture raccoon.
 - A body-gripping trap 5 inches or less in width as measured inside the jaw hinges.
 - A body-gripping trap less than 8 inches above the ground at the highest point, and set in a way that does not use bait, lure or attractant to entice an animal, and the trap is between 5 inches and 6 and one half inches as measured inside the jaw hinges.
- Trappers may only stake, put out, or set a catching device when the open season for the targeted species begins.
- Multiple catch or colony traps may only be used for taking muskrats, provided that the trap is completely submerged. Colony traps must be constructed of steel and be no larger than 8 inches high, 8 inches wide and 36 inches deep. Mink caught incidentally in colony traps set for muskrat may be kept.
- Only coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat and badger may be killed in traps by fur harvesters using only .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearms.

From Nov. 15-30, .22 caliber or smaller rimfire must be loaded at the point of kill only.

Live Restraining Cage Traps

As a substitute for foothold traps, trappers may use live restraining cage traps capable of taking only one animal at a time. Live restraining cage traps must be checked daily statewide. Any animal captured in a trap must be immediately killed or released; it is unlawful to take, or hold in captivity, live game or protected animals from the wild. Traps must have a permanent etching or a metal tag bearing the user's name and address, Michigan driver license number, or DNR sportcard number.

Body-Gripping Traps

Body-gripping traps may be used on dryland or in water. For a trap greater than 5.5 inches between the jaw hinges, the trap must be at least half submerged to qualify as being in the water.

The following regulations were developed to help improve the selectivity of dryland body-gripping traps in an effort to reduce the take of non-target animals. Find information on safely removing animals from traps at [Michigan.gov/Trapping](https://www.michigan.gov/Trapping) under Additional Resources.

1. Private Land Dryland and Surface-Ice Body-Gripping Traps

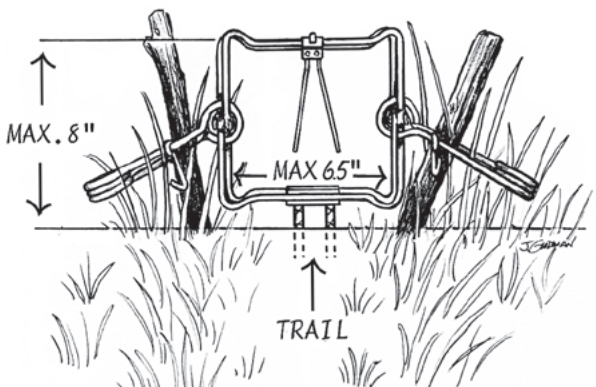
It is unlawful to set a body-gripping or conibear-type trap larger than 7.5 inches in width (as measured inside the jaw hinges) on drylands that are privately owned, or over frozen submerged privately owned bottomlands unless the trap is 4 or more feet above dry ground or the frozen surface of ice.

2. Public Land Dryland and Surface-Ice Body-Gripping Traps

Body-gripping traps less than 5.5 inches inside the jaw hinges may be set without restrictions if used according to other regulations. All legal body-gripping traps of any size may be used if they are 4 or more feet off the ground without set restriction.

Body-gripping traps set on dryland or on ice on public lands without the use of

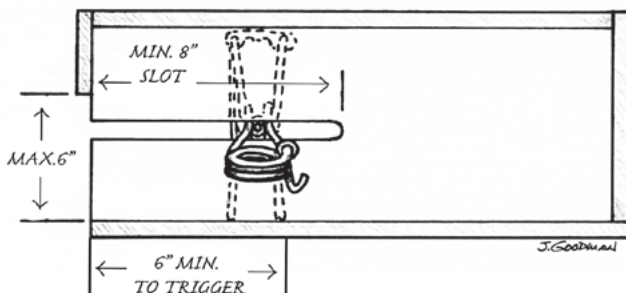
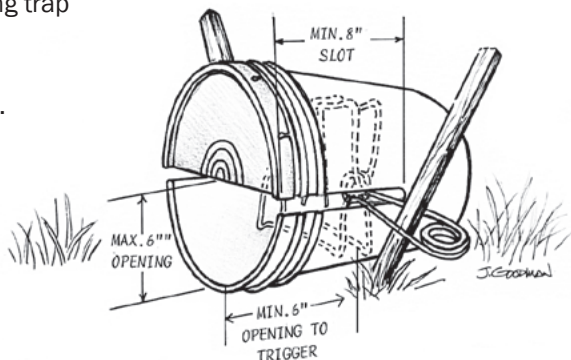
bait, lure, or attractant must be no greater than 6.5 inches inside the jaw hinges (160s) and only may be set such that no part of the body-gripping surface is more than 8 inches above the ground (see figure above).



Body-gripping traps 5.5 inches to 7.5 inches inside the jaw hinges (160s and 220s) set on dryland or on ice with the use of bait, lure or other attractants may be used only in the following manner:

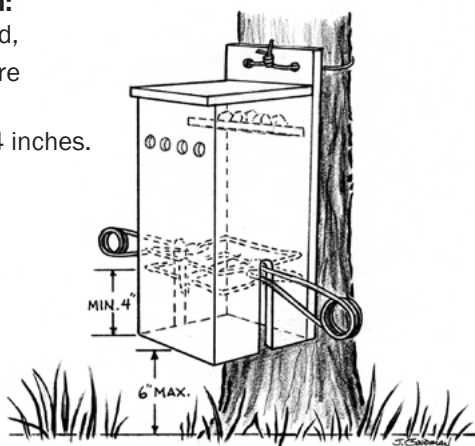
In a container of the following design:

- Opening height 6 inches or less,
- 8-inch minimum spring trap placement slots,
- Trap trigger recessed minimum of 6 inches.



In a container of the following design:

- Only one entrance facing the ground,
- Container set so entrance is no more than 6 inches from ground,
- Trap trigger recessed minimum of 4 inches.



Winter Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Cable Restraints



Non-lethal cable restraints may be used from Jan. 1 - Mar. 1 to take fox and coyotes, provided:

- Cable restraints are not placed on publicly owned land or Commercial Forest lands.
- All cable restraints in possession or carried afield must have a metallic identification tag affixed with the owner or user's name and address, Michigan driver license number, or sportcard number.
- Steel cable 1/16-inch or larger is used.
- The cable restraint loop does not exceed 15 inches in diameter.
- The top of the loop is not placed more than 24 inches above the ground. In snow, 24 inches is measured from the compacted snow in a trapper's footprint established by the full body weight of the trapper.
- Cable restraints are equipped with a relaxing lock. A relaxing lock is defined as a lock that allows the loop to loosen slightly to reduce the possibility of strangulation. Cable restraints also must be equipped with a stop to prevent the loop from closing to a diameter less than 4 ¼ inches.
- Cable restraints are equipped with a breakaway locking system with a breaking point not greater than 285 pounds. The breakaway device must be attached to the relaxing lock.
- Cable restraints are affixed to a stake or object sufficient to hold a fox or coyote. It is unlawful to use any type of drag.
- Cable restraints are equipped with two swivels, including one swivel at the anchor point.
- Spring poles, counterbalanced weights, springs, or other similar devices are not used to close the cable restraint.
- Cable restraints may be up to 60 inches in length, not including a cable anchor extension. A cable anchor extension may be up to 36 inches in length.
- Cable restraints are not attached to a fence or set in a manner that would allow an animal to become entangled in a fence.
- Cable restraints may be anchored to woody vegetation provided that the stem is free of branches and stubs to a height of 5 feet above the ground or compacted snow. Branches and stubs must be cut flush with the outer bark of the stem.
- Cable restraints may not be set so that a restrained animal is suspended with two or more feet off the ground.

Note: Dogs and other domestic animals caught in cable restraints, body-gripping, or conibear-type traps should be reported to the DNR Report All Poaching Hotline at 800-292-7800. Find information on safely removing dogs from traps at Michigan.gov/Trapping under Additional Resources.

Coyote Hunting At-A-Glance

Coyote hunting is open year-round, statewide with no bag limit.

Licenses

- Residents may HUNT coyote with a base license.
EXCEPTION: Residents hunting coyote Nov. 10 - 14 must have a fur harvester license and are limited to the use of a .22 or smaller rimfire.
- Residents trapping coyotes must have a fur harvester license.
- Non-residents must have a fur harvester license to hunt or trap coyotes.
- Coyotes doing or about to do damage to private property on private land may be taken by the owner or designee without a license year-round.

Equipment

- Centerfire rifles may be used to hunt coyotes during regular daytime hunting hours statewide.
- Centerfire rifles or centerfire pistols .269 caliber or smaller MAY be used at night. **EXCEPTION:** Centerfire rifles and centerfire pistols may NOT be used in state park or recreation areas statewide, or on any public land in the Limited Firearms Deer Zone at night.
- Electronic calls, mouth calls, or other types of game calls or predator calls may be used. Mechanical/ electronic decoys may be used.
- Coyotes MAY be taken day or night from an elevated platform if all other hunting regulations are followed.

Bobcat* Hunting and Trapping

Unit	Hunting Season	Trapping Season	Bag Limit
A&B	Jan. 1 - Mar. 1	Dec. 1 - Feb. 1	2 per resident. One kill tag is valid for all lands and for all units combined. A second kill tag is valid for Unit A ONLY, on private lands (excluding Commercial Forest lands).
C	Jan. 1 - Mar. 1	Dec. 10 - Dec. 20	
D	Jan. 1 - Feb. 1	Dec. 10 - Dec. 20	
E&F	Jan. 1 - Jan. 11	Dec. 10 - Dec. 20	

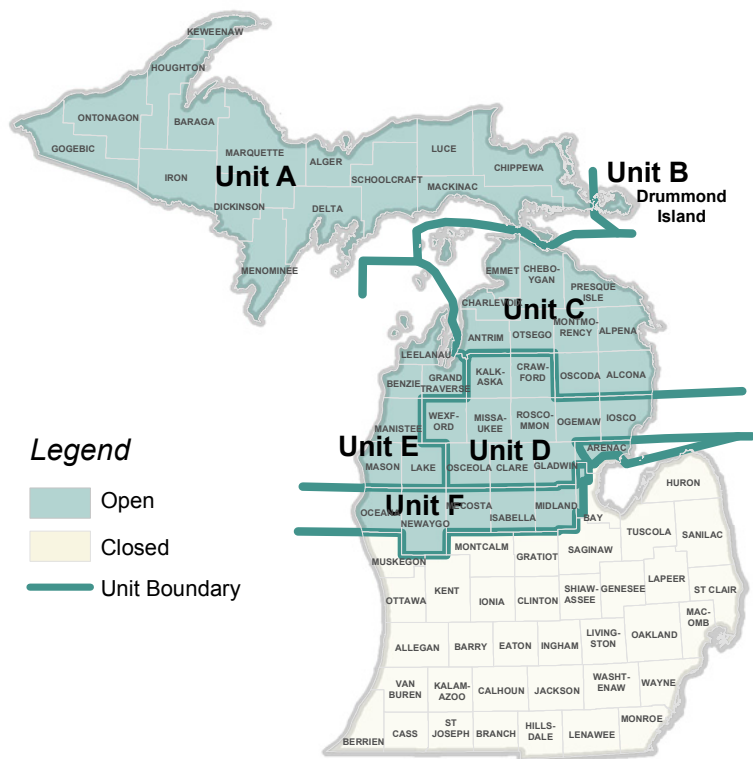
***Mandatory registration and free kill tag(s) required.**

Bobcat Unit Map on page 28.

Important:

- Kill tags for bobcat are only available until November 30, 2020 (see pg. 9).**
- Units C, D, E & F are limited to foothold traps only.
- A fur harvester license is required by any individual in possession of a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow who accompanies a licensed bobcat hunter during the hunt. This license is also required by the owner of any dog chasing or locating bobcat on a hunt.

Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Units



Unit A includes all of the Upper Peninsula, except Drummond Island. **Unit B** is Drummond Island. **Unit C** includes Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle counties. **Unit D** includes Clare, Crawford, Gladwin, Iosco, Kalkaska, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Osceola, Roscommon and Wexford counties, and Arenac County north of M-61 and west of I-75. **Unit E** includes Benzie, Grand Traverse, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, and Mason counties. **Unit F** all of Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Newaygo, and Oceana counties, and those portions of Arenac and Bay counties that are in zone 2 except that portion of Arenac county west of highway I-75 and north of highway M-61.

Beaver and Otter* Trapping



Beaver and Otter Unit Map on page 30.

Beaver Trapping

Unit	Resident Trapping	Nonresident Trapping	Beaver Bag Limit
A	Oct. 25 - April 30	Nov. 15 - April 30	None
B	Nov. 1 - April 23	Nov. 24 - April 23	None
C	Nov. 10 - April 23	Dec. 15 - April 23	None

Otter incidentally taken while trapping for beaver through April 30 may be lawfully possessed if included within the otter season bag limit and a valid otter kill tag is used. All rules and regulations for taking otter apply.

Otter Trapping

Unit	Resident Trapping	Otter Bag Limit
A	Oct. 25 - Mar. 31	4 otter per RESIDENT fur harvester; only 3 may be taken from Unit B, and only 2 from Unit C.
B	Nov. 1 - Mar. 31	
C	Nov. 10 - Mar. 31	

*Free kill tag(s) for otter are required (see pg. 9).

Equipment

Only foothold, body-gripping, or conibear-type traps may be used for taking beaver and otter. Traps with teeth are unlawful. **Exception:** Snares may be used for taking beaver in water or under ice, statewide. Snares must be made of 1/16-inch or larger cable. Snares not under ice must have a loop which is at least half submerged and be set in a fashion to hold the beaver completely submerged. Snares shall be removed and made inoperative within 24 hours after the close of the beaver season.

A catching device of any type must have a permanent etching or metal tag bearing the user's name and address, Michigan driver license number, or DNR sportcard number. If one or more snares are attached to a pole, both the snare(s) and the uppermost end of the pole need a metal tag.

Up to 10 muskrat pelts may be legally taken in beaver or otter sets.

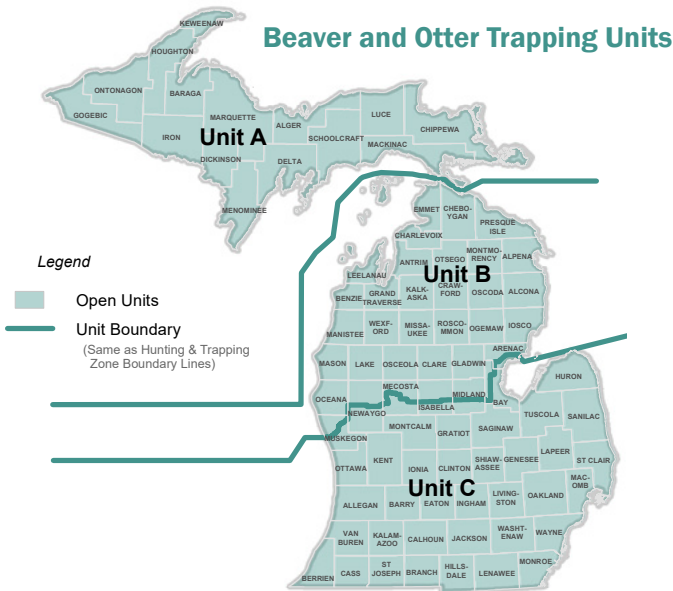
It is unlawful to molest or destroy a beaver dam, except under a DNR Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Animal Control Permit.

Beaver and Otter Trapping Units

The units for beaver and otter trapping correspond with the three Michigan hunting zones. Unit A is Zone 1, Unit B is Zone 2, and Unit C is Zone 3. Description of the hunting zones can be located on page 14.

Beaver and otter trapping are closed in the following areas:

Alger: Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, **Benzie:** Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, **Leelanau:** Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, **Schoolcraft:** Seney National Wildlife Refuge, closed to otter trapping. Contact the refuge on possible beaver trapping. **Also see Public Land Trapping Areas where a permit is required on pg. 15.**



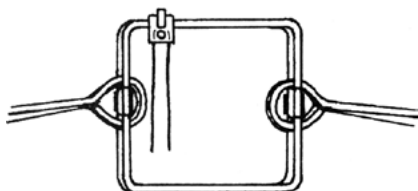
Attention Beaver and Otter Trappers

Beginning in 2020, Michigan beaver season and otter season end at different times. This change was made to allow for more beaver harvest opportunities without increasing the spring harvest of otters.

We are asking beaver trappers in April to make every effort to target only beaver and to make sets that are most likely to avoid otters. Reducing the April take of otters will help ensure the extended beaver season can remain in place and that we can offer expanded otter bag limits for the open season. However, if a trapper has otter kill tags they may be used to tag otter taken in April if caught incidentally in beaver sets.

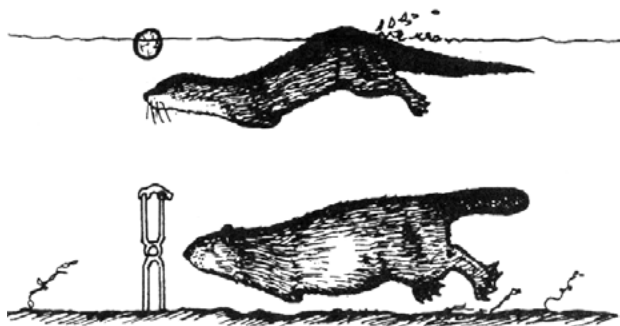
Tips for Avoiding Otters while Trapping Beavers:

- Avoid trapping areas with a lot of otter sign.
- Avoid trapping streams, ditches or narrow connecting bodies of water between ponds, wetlands, lakes, etc. These are frequently used by otters for travel.
- Avoid sets near abandoned beaver lodges and bank dens
- Avoid setting on crossovers especially those near culverts, berms, dikes, and narrow portions of streams. Crossovers near the inflow or dam of beaver ponds should also be avoided.
- When using body gripping traps, moving triggers to the side of the trap may reduce the chance an otter triggers the trap while beavers will trigger the trap (see sketch).



Illustrated by Bob Noonan

- Use a dive stick above the body gripping trap. Place the body gripping trap on the bottom below the dive stick. Beavers tend to dive to the bottom when going under dive sticks, while otters remain close to the surface (see sketch).



Illustrated by Bob Noonan

- Make trap sets outside of high animal movement areas in combination with castor sets or baited sets (such as aspen branches) to allow for good opportunities to catch beaver but will reduce the chances of otter catch.
- Gang-set active areas to catch the beaver as fast as possible, and leave. Setting fewer traps and scattering large numbers of traps at every possible beaver travel-way or trying to catch that “last beaver” will substantially increase the likelihood of catching an unwanted otter.

Shipping Hides and Furs

All out-of-state shipments of raw hides or furs must be plainly marked on the outside of the package as to the contents. To export bobcat, otter, or wolf hides from the U.S., you need federal approval. For details, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 800-358-2104 or managementauthority@fws.gov.

Additional Regulations

A person accompanying a hunter lawfully engaged in treaty-authorized hunting may not harvest a game animal unless also lawfully licensed as a treaty-authorized hunter or as a state-licensed hunter for the applicable species and season.

It is unlawful to hunt or pursue wild animals from a car, snowmobile, aircraft, drone, motorboat, personal water craft, ORV, or other motorized vehicle, or by a sailboat. Special permits may apply, see the Hunting Digest or Michigan.gov/DNR for more information for hunters with disabilities.

It is unlawful to:

- Set fires to drive out game. Use snares, traps, cages, nets, pitfalls, deadfalls, spears, drugs, poisons, chemicals, smoke, gas, explosives, ferrets, weasels, or mechanical devices other than firearms, crossbows, bows and arrows, or slingshots to take wild animals, except as provided by trapping rules or special permit.
- Use cartridges containing tracer or explosive bullets.
- Buy or sell game, except as provided by the Wildlife Conservation Order 4.3.
- Destroy the identity of game or evidence of the sex of game while in the field or when transported in a motor vehicle.
- Hunt while under the influence of intoxicating alcohol or controlled substances.
- Camp on state land without a permit.
- Kill or wound any game without making a reasonable attempt to retrieve the animal and include it in the daily bag.
- Block any gate, road, or trail on public land.
- Cut branches, limbs, trees, or other vegetation for shooting lanes on public land.

Transporting Game

You may transport your own and another person's lawfully taken game. You cannot destroy the identity or evidence of the sex of any furbearer.

Protected Wildlife

Eagles, hawks, owls, spotted fawns, spruce grouse, flying squirrels, wolverines, lynx, moose, cougars, cub bears, and sow bears accompanied by cubs may not be taken at any time. All nongame birds are protected, except starlings, house sparrows, and feral pigeons.

Important Live Animal Restrictions

Live Animals: It is unlawful to possess live game or protected animals taken from the wild except under a permit issued by the DNR.

Importation Bans: It is unlawful to bring live raccoon, skunk, wild rabbit or hare, feral swine, wild turkey or wild turkey hybrid or their eggs, or mute swan or their eggs into Michigan. It is unlawful to import or possess a lynx or cougar without an endangered species permit.

Rehabilitation: A permit is required to rehabilitate a wild animal in Michigan. It is unlawful to possess a live bat, skunk, mute swan, feral swine, moose, or elk.

Dog Training

Dogs may only be trained on game which may be lawfully taken with dogs from July 8 – April 15. **Exception:** Michigan residents may train dogs on fox on state lands in Zone 3 under special permit.

For additional information on dog permits, contact Casey Reitz at 517-284-6210 or ReitzC@Michigan.gov.

Releasing a Dog from a Trap

For information on how to release dogs from traps or cable restraints go to Michigan.gov/Trapping and look under Additional Resources.

Wolf/Dog Conflicts

Wolves will defend their territories and may attack other wolves, coyotes, and domestic dogs that are in their territory. Most wolf-dog conflicts occur where dogs are trained or used for bear hunting, which overlaps with the time wolf pups are using home sites.

Dogs used for hunting are at risk of being attacked by wolves because they: (1) traverse large areas, which increases their chance of encountering wolves; (2) may be released at bait sites that also may be used by wolves; (3) bark while tracking, which may be viewed as a territorial challenge by wolves; and (4) are some distance from hunters and therefore not protected by the presence of humans.

To minimize the conflict between wolves and dogs, it is best to avoid areas of recent wolf activity. Wolves will concentrate much of their activity around the den and home sites. These sites may vary from year to year and can change throughout the summer. Home sites usually are forest openings or edge areas and

Continued ►

often are near water. They can be identified by the concentration of wolf tracks, droppings and matted vegetation. It is best to do some scouting beforehand and look for wolf sign before releasing hounds. Be especially vigilant when starting dogs from a bait site, and make sure wolves have not been using the bait. If wolf sign, particularly the sign of wolf pups, is evident, move to another area before releasing dogs.

What You Can Do:

1. Report all suspected wolf-dog conflicts to the DNR immediately to allow a timely investigation.
2. Become familiar with coyote and dog tracks, so they can be correctly distinguished from wolf tracks.
3. Consider adding bells or beepers to dog collars - this may reduce wolf attacks.

For information on hunting dog conflicts with wolves, contact the Marquette Customer Service Center at 906-228-6561. To report a dog depredation, call the Report All Poaching hotline: 800-292-7800.

At the time the digest was printed, use of lethal control of wolves in the act of depredation is not authorized. Because the federal listing status has changed, and may continue to change, please contact a DNR office to inquire about current rules regarding lethal take of wolves if in the act of preying upon a dog.

Report Sightings of Diseased Wildlife

In an effort to maintain healthy wildlife populations, the DNR encourages people to report any sightings of sick or dead wildlife at [Michigan.gov/WildlifeDisease](https://www.michigan.gov/WildlifeDisease).

Rabies

Rabies is a disease of the central nervous system caused by a virus. The virus is usually transmitted in the saliva from animal to animal and from animal to human by a bite. All mammals are susceptible.

It is important to understand that there are no typical or characteristic signs for this disease and many signs associated with rabies overlap with symptoms of other wildlife diseases. However, some behaviors to watch for include aggressive biting, paralysis, restlessness, tremors, and convulsions.

Once signs of illness appear, rabies is 100% fatal; however, proper post-exposure treatment is nearly 100% effective. Contact your local state health department regarding any sample submissions.

Canine Distemper

Canine distemper is a highly contagious disease of carnivores. The virus is widespread and impacted species include wolf, coyote, fox, domestic dog, raccoon, mink, marten, fisher, otter, badger, and skunk. The canine distemper virus is very resistant to cold. In wild animals, the majority of cases are seen in the spring and summer, but cases are observed year-round. Die-offs of raccoons due to canine distemper occur yearly. The impact of this disease on other wildlife populations is not known at this time.

Typical signs of canine distemper in wild carnivores may include lack of fear, nasal and eye discharge, disorientation, convulsive movements of the head and paws, and aimless wandering. Affected animals should be handled with caution until a diagnosis is confirmed.

Sarcoptic Mange

Sarcoptic mange is commonly seen in wolves, coyotes, red foxes, and occasionally raccoons. It is caused by a mite, which lives and burrows into the layers of the skin. The mites cause an irritation, resulting in the animal scratching and biting the affected area and spreading the mite on its body.

Hair loss, thickening and wrinkling of the skin, and scab and crust formation on the skin are the result of the infestation. Feeding behavior may be altered due to the intense irritation resulting in malnutrition. In severe cases, the animals can die due to exposure from losing the insulating layer that the hair provides. In most cases, mange will resolve itself.

Mange-infested animals should only be handled while wearing gloves. Freezing the carcass will kill the mites for safer handling. The mite can live on humans for a period of time causing severe irritation at the exposure site. Consult your physician or veterinarian, respectively, if you or your pet may have been in contact with an infected animal.

Invasive Species

Nutria

Trappers are encouraged to report nutria that they have seen or trapped to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network at www.misin.msu.edu/report/. Nutria are approximately twice the size of a muskrat. Although nutria have not yet been discovered in Michigan, they could cause damage to wetlands if they become established. Things to look for: Heavy, scaly round rat-like tail; long white whiskers; and large, orange teeth.

Feral Swine

Hunters are encouraged to report all feral swine seen or taken, online at Michigan.gov/FeralSwine or by calling 517-284-9453. Feral swine can be taken on public land by anyone possessing a valid hunting license or a concealed pistol license, or on private land with the landowner's permission. Hunters who shoot a feral swine are asked to submit parts of the animal to the DNR for disease testing.

Need information?

Contact a DNR office listed below or visit us online. Customer Service Centers (CSC) are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Baraga CSC

427 U.S. 41 N.
Baraga, MI 49908
906-353-6651

Bay City CSC

3580 State Park Dr.
Bay City, MI 48706
989-684-9141

Cadillac CSC

8015 Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-775-9727

Crystal Falls Field Office

1420 W. U.S. 2
Crystal Falls, MI 49920
906-875-6622

Detroit Metro CSC

1801 Atwater St.
Detroit, MI 48207
313-396-6890

Escanaba CSC

6833 U.S. 2 41 and M-35
Gladstone, MI 49837
906-786-2351

Gaylord CSC

1732 W. M-32
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-3541

Lansing CSC

4166 Legacy Parkway
Lansing, MI 48911
517-284-4720

Marquette CSC

1990 U.S. 41 S.
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-6561

Naubinway Field Office

P.O. Box 287
W11569 U.S. 2 East
Naubinway, MI 49762
906-477-6048

Newberry CSC

5100 M-123
Newberry, MI 49868
906-293-5131

Norway Field Office

520 W. U.S. 2
Norway, MI 49870
906-563-9247

Plainwell CSC

621 N. 10th St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-685-6851

Roscommon CSC

I-75 and M-18 S.
8717 N. Roscommon Road
Roscommon, MI 48653
989-275-5151

Sault Ste. Marie CSC

P.O. Box 798
4131 S. M-129
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
906-635-5281

Traverse City CSC

2122 S. M-37
Traverse City, MI 49685
231-922-5280

Helpful URLs:

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/michigandnr

Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/mdnr_wildlife

Direct DNR website URLs:

Hunting: Michigan.gov/Hunting

Trapping/Fur Harvesting: Michigan.gov/Trapping

Pure Michigan Hunt: Michigan.gov/PureMichiganHunt

DNR Digests and Guides: Michigan.gov/DNRDigests

Mi-HUNT: Michigan.gov/MiHunt

Explore Michigan's Wetland Wonders: Michigan.gov/WetlandWonders

Invasive Species: Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies

Shooting Ranges: Michigan.gov/ShootingRanges

Emerging Diseases: Michigan.gov/EmergingDiseases

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife Division

525 W. Allegan St.

P.O. Box 30444

Lansing, MI 48933

517-284-9453

Contact hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.