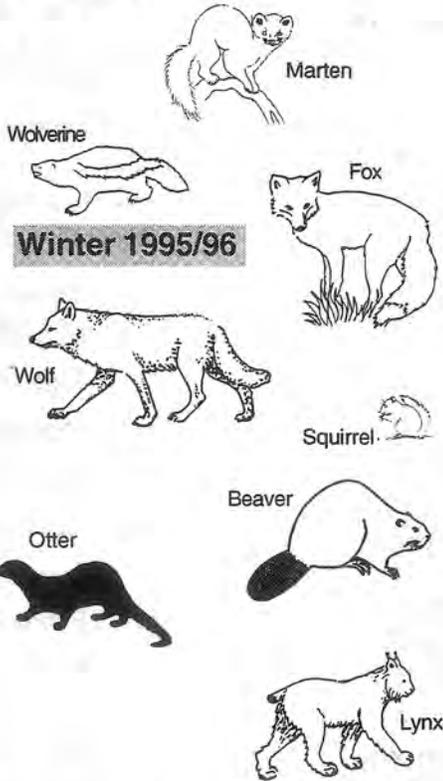


# TRAPPING IN THE YUKON

*A Survey of Trappers Working in  
the Yukon*



Winter 1995/96

**Yukon**  
Government

*Results from the*  
**TRAPPING IN  
THE YUKON**  
*Survey*

**Yukon**  
Government



# Trapping in the Yukon

*A Survey of Trappers Working in the Yukon*

Winter 1995/96

*April, 1997*

The Yukon Government

Department of Renewable Resources

Executive Council Office  
Yukon Bureau of Statistics



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

PHYSICS 435

## **INTRODUCTION**

In the spring of 1995 the Regional Management Section of the Yukon Government's Department of Renewable Resources met with representatives of the Yukon Bureau of Statistics to begin work on a survey of Yukon trappers. This survey, the first of its kind, was identified and approved for inclusion in the Bureau's work plan for early 1995/1996. Preliminary discussions focussed on the purpose of the survey, appropriate questions to include and their phrasing, the advisability of including concession area maps and identification of and contacting potential survey respondents.

The purpose of the survey was to aid in the development of a much needed profile of trapping and its importance as a lifestyle to hundreds of Yukoners. The survey was also to help in the assessment of the effectiveness of fur bearer management and support programs to the trapping industry.

The survey form was finalized with input from the Yukon Trappers Association. The survey was printed and, along with a covering letter from Renewable Resources, mailed to trappers in early 1996. Completed forms were returned to the Yukon Bureau of Statistics where the data was entered into a computerized database. Trappers who had not completed a form were telephoned and interviewed over the phone.

Thanks to the cooperation of the Yukon Trappers Association, Conservation Officers and the trapping community in general, the response rate for the survey was excellent.

The following report presents the results of the survey question-by-question. Wherever possible, graphs have been used to present the data in as clear a fashion as possible.

The fur industry has been in decline these past few years and therefore the survey results may not be a reflection of the industry's historical value. For this reason a sample survey of individual trappers that were licenced five years ago will also be completed. Plans call for the repeat of this survey in the near future, at which time the industry will hopefully have rebounded thus providing for a more complete picture.

For further information please contact:

Harvey Jessup at 667-5767 or  
Helen Slama at 667-8403

The **TRAPPING IN THE YUKON** survey was a joint project of the Yukon Government's Department of Renewable Resources and the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, a branch of the Yukon Government's Executive Council Office.

This report presents preliminary figures from the **TRAPPING IN THE YUKON** survey.

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\* question 1 on the survey concerned verifying name and address information



## HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to copies given by hand to trappers either individually or at meetings, the Bureau of Statistics mailed out 327 questionnaires to some 300 trappers (a small number of trappers (20) have more than 1 license). A total of 208 surveys were returned either fully or partially completed. Since some surveys were not fully completed, you will see as you read the report that the number of responses varies from one question to the next.

■ approximately 1 out of 4 trappers who completed a questionnaire said that they had spent "no time" on the trapline this season (1995/96). Conversely, almost the same proportion (1 out of 4) said that they had spent "more than 10 weeks" on the trapline. Over half the full-time trappers spent greater than 10 weeks "out" and for part-time trappers 6 of 10 spent from 3 to 10 weeks "out" on the trap line.

■ 4 out of 10 trappers consider themselves to be "full-time" trappers. An additional 5 out of ten (half of the trappers) consider themselves to be "part-time".

■ 1 out of 2 trappers think of trapping as a "way of life".

■ almost 2 out of 10 trappers told us that more than 50% of their winter income comes from trapping.

3 out of 10 full-time trappers make more than 50% of their winter income trapping. Another 3 out of 10 earned 21 to 50% whereas 7 out of 10

part-time trappers earned less than 10% of their winter income trapping.

■ on average, the months of November & December, 1995 and January, 1996 had the highest number of days spent trapping at 19, 17 and 18 respectively.

■ looking at a five year average for trapping effort, about half of the trappers said that in the 1995/96 season their effort was less than in other years.

■ the average number of traps owned by the respondents was:

- 31 steel jawed foothold;
- 30 padded jawed foothold;
- 30 snares; and
- 91 quick kill.

■ in terms of the types and number of traps set this season (1995/96):

- 113 trappers set a total of 1,671 foothold traps;
- 124 trappers set a total of 5,270 quick kill traps;
- and 83 trappers set a total of 179 drowning set traps.

On average, full-time trappers set almost twice as many of each type of trap as the part-time trappers.

■ by far the most commonly trapped animal\* was the marten, which 100 trappers reported trapping with an average "take" of 35. The next most commonly trapped animals were the lynx and weasel, both reported by 38 trappers with an average "take" of 4 and 6 respectively.

*\* determined by how many trappers were trapping an animal*

■ of those 89 trappers who sold their pelts through Fur Dealers or Auction Houses, 3 out of 4 said they sold more than 75% of their pelts that way.

Of those 42 trappers who sold their pelts through private sales, 3 out of 10 said they sold more than 75% that way.

3 out of 4 trappers (75%) reported they would be holding over none to < 10% of their furs, whereas approximately 1 out of 10 trappers (11%) reported they would hold over more than 75% of their furs.

■ trappers spent approximately \$240,000 in total on trapping in 1995/96 - an average expenditure by each trapper of \$2,100. Full-time trappers spent about twice as much to go trapping as part-time trappers - \$3,122 compared to \$1,430.

■ 3 out of 4 trappers said that most of their trapping expenditures was spent on transportation.

■ in response to the question: "Would you agree to banning the use of the foothold trap in Canada in order to protect the European fur market?", 56% of trappers said "no" and 44% said "yes".

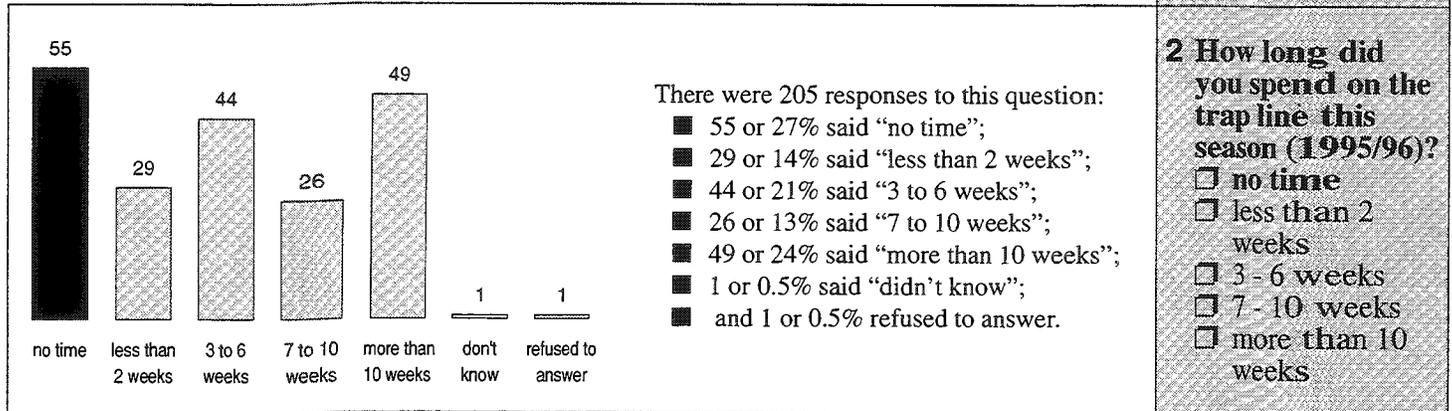
■ on average, there were 73 kilometres of trapping trails on each trapper's trapline.

■ trappers reported that the trails gave them access to 44% of the concession on average.

- the most commonly mentioned issue facing trappers was fur prices/marketing. The second issue was the anti-trapping movement. This breakdown was the same for full-time and part-time trappers.
- just over 8 out of 10 trappers reported that they were a member of the Yukon Trappers Association.
- 3 out of 4 trappers reported that they had attended a Trapper Education Workshop.
  - virtually all of the trappers who attended found the workshops useful, learned something and applied what they had learned.
- 4 out of 5 trappers said that the Trap Exchange Program had been helpful.

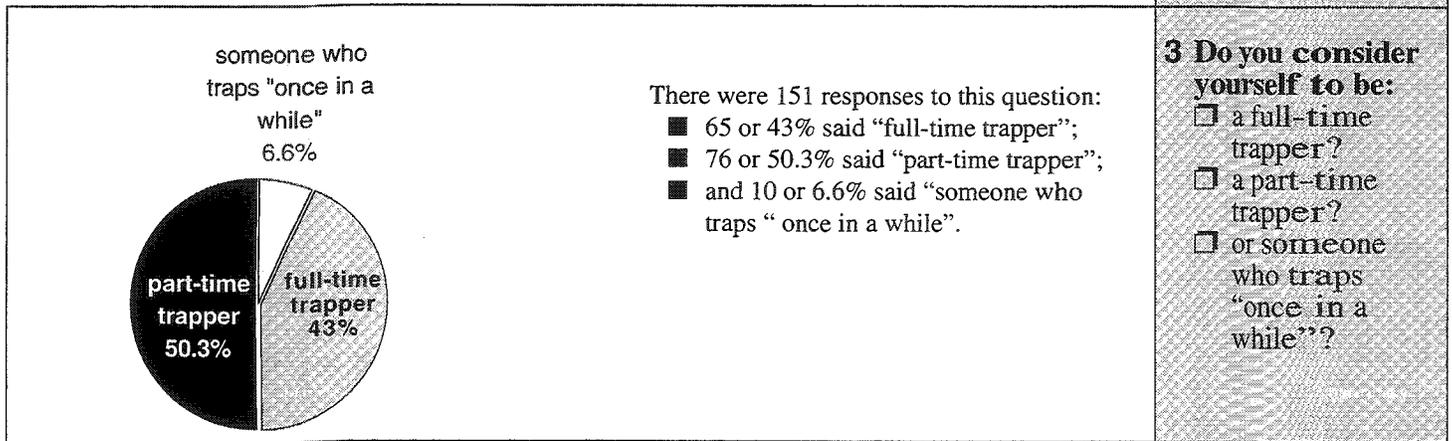
## SURVEY QUESTIONS \*

### THE RESPONSE (where appropriate the highest response is in black)



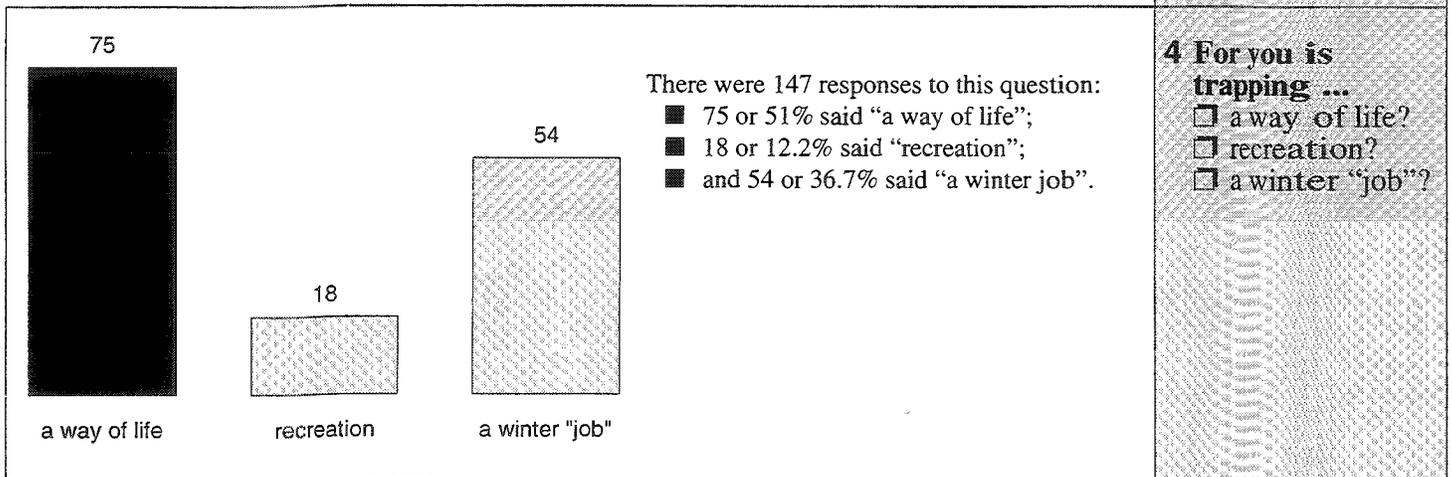
**2 How long did you spend on the trap line this season (1995/96)?**

- no time
- less than 2 weeks
- 3 - 6 weeks
- 7 - 10 weeks
- more than 10 weeks



**3 Do you consider yourself to be:**

- a full-time trapper?
- a part-time trapper?
- or someone who traps "once in a while"?



**4 For you is trapping ...**

- a way of life?
- recreation?
- a winter "job"?

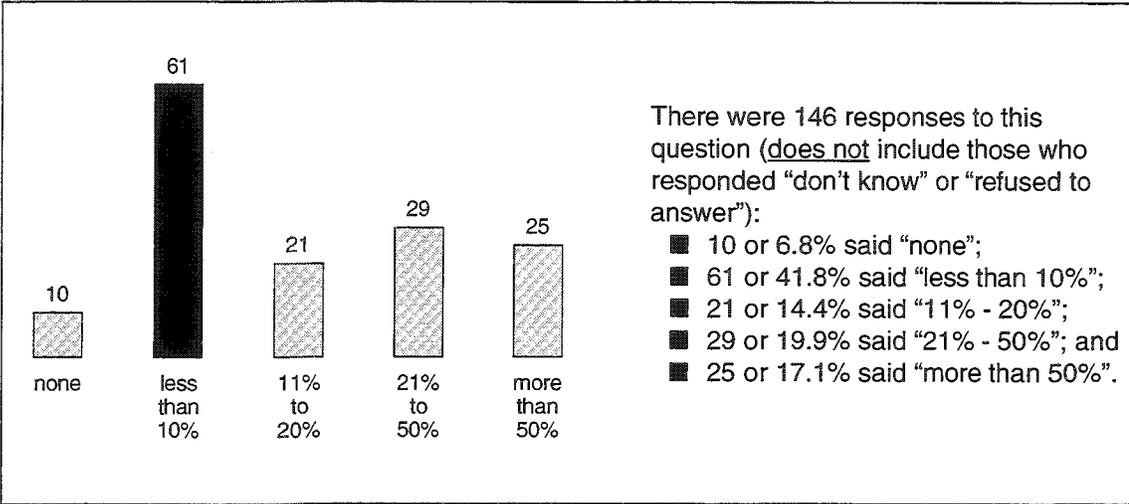
\* question 1 on the survey concerned verifying name and address information



**5 How much of your winter income comes from trapping?**

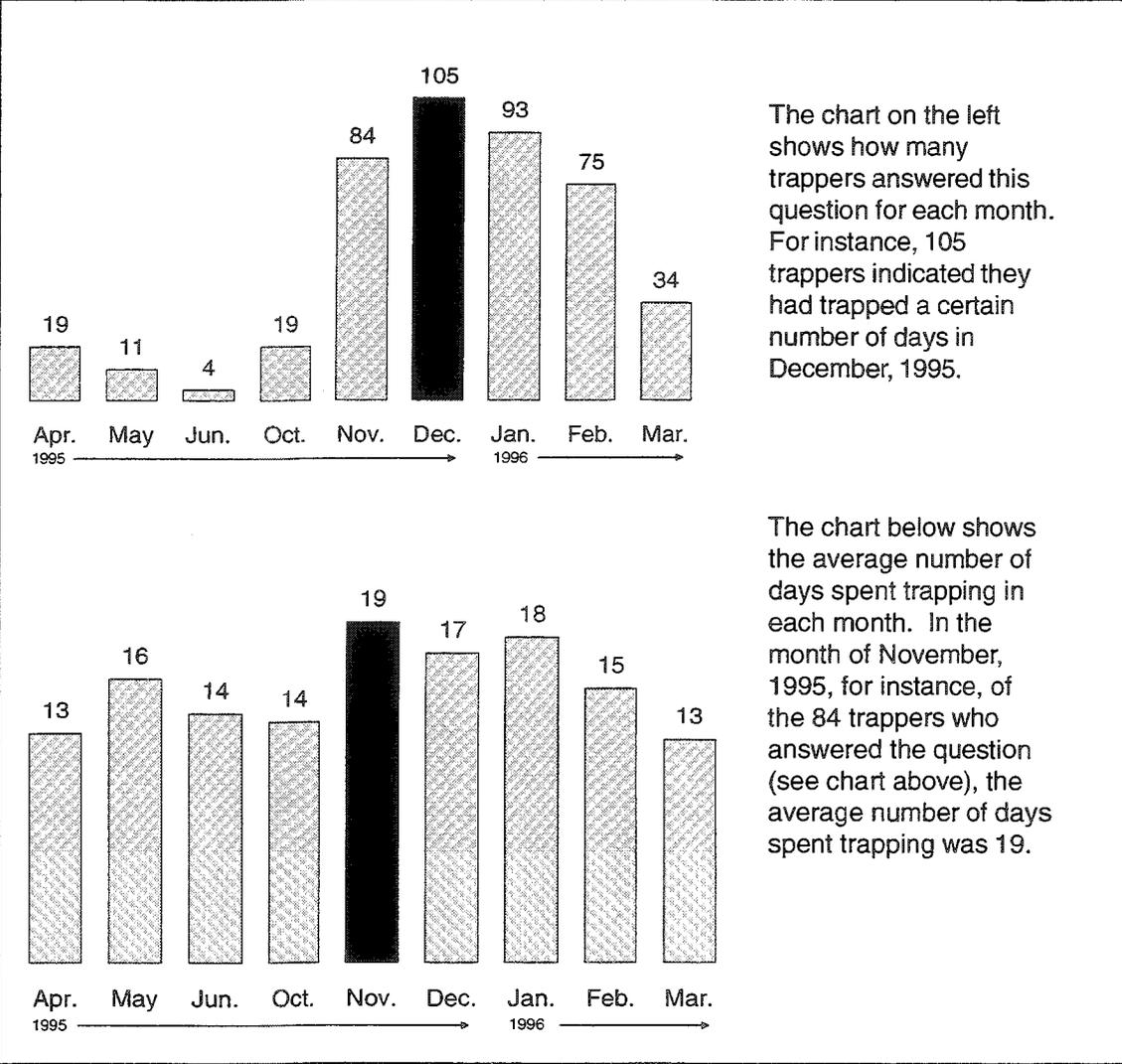
- none
- less than 10%
- 11% - 20%
- 21% - 50%
- more than 50%

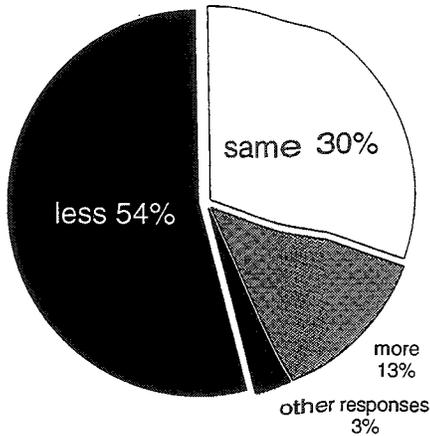
*\* please note: for the purposes of this report it was assumed that respondents were answering the question specifically for the 1995/96 trapping season.*



**6 How many days did you trap in the months of ...**

- April, 1995?
- May, 1995?
- June, 1995?
- October, 1995?
- November, 1995?
- December, 1995?
- January, 1996?
- February, 1996?
- March, 1996?



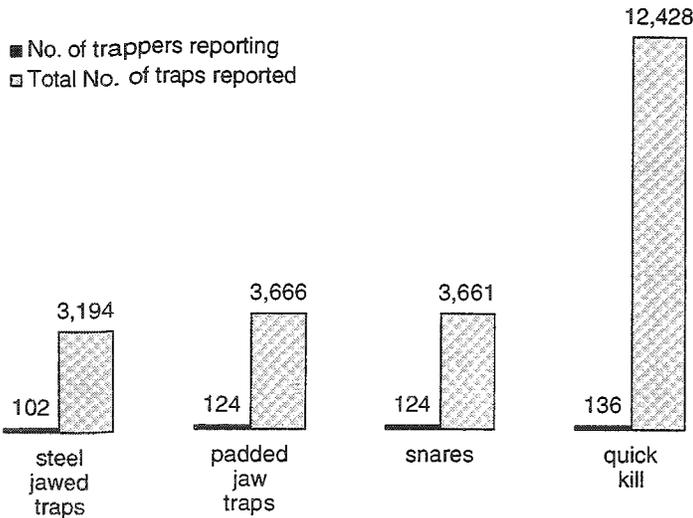


There were 148 responses to this question:

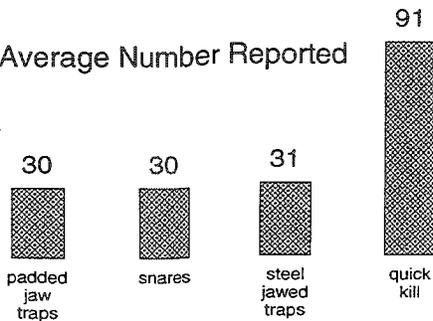
- 80 or 54.1% said "less";
- 45 or 30.4% said "same";
- 19 or 12.8% said "more";
- and other responses included 2 who said the question was "not applicable"; 1 who "didn't know"; and 1 who refused to answer.

**7 On a 5 year average, what was your trapping effort this season?**

- less
- same
- more



**Average Number Reported**



The number of responses varied:

- 102 trappers indicated they had steel jawed traps. The average number reported was 31;
- 124 trappers indicated they had padded jaw traps. The average number reported was 30;
- 124 trappers indicated they had snares. The average number reported was 30; and
- 136 trappers indicated they had quick kill traps. The average number reported was 91.

**8 How many of each type of foot-hold trap do you have?**

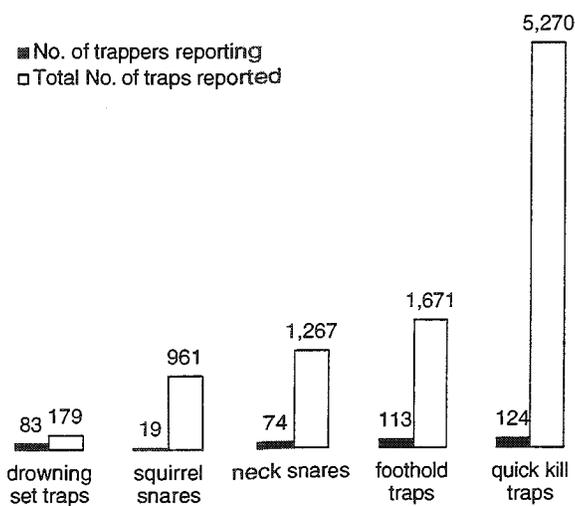
- \* steel jawed
- \* padded jaw
- snares  
(not including squirrel snares)

*\* please note: for the purposes of this report it was assumed that respondents were answering the question with the number of neck snares they owned.*

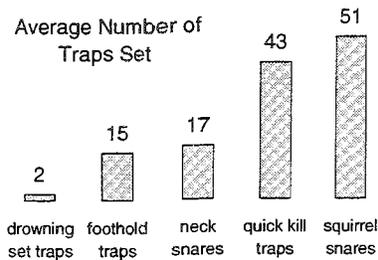
**9 How many quick kill traps do you have?**



■ No. of trappers reporting  
□ Total No. of traps reported



Average Number of Traps Set



The number of responses varied:

- 113 trappers indicated they had set foothold traps. The average number set was 15;
- 124 trappers indicated they had set quick kill traps. The average number set was 43;
- 83 trappers indicated they had set drowning set traps. The average number set was 2;
- 74 trappers reported setting neck snares this season. The average number set was 17; and
- 19 trappers reported setting squirrel snares this season. The average number set was 51.

**10 For this season, how many of the traps you set were:**

- \* foothold traps?
- \* quick kill traps?
- \* drowning set traps?

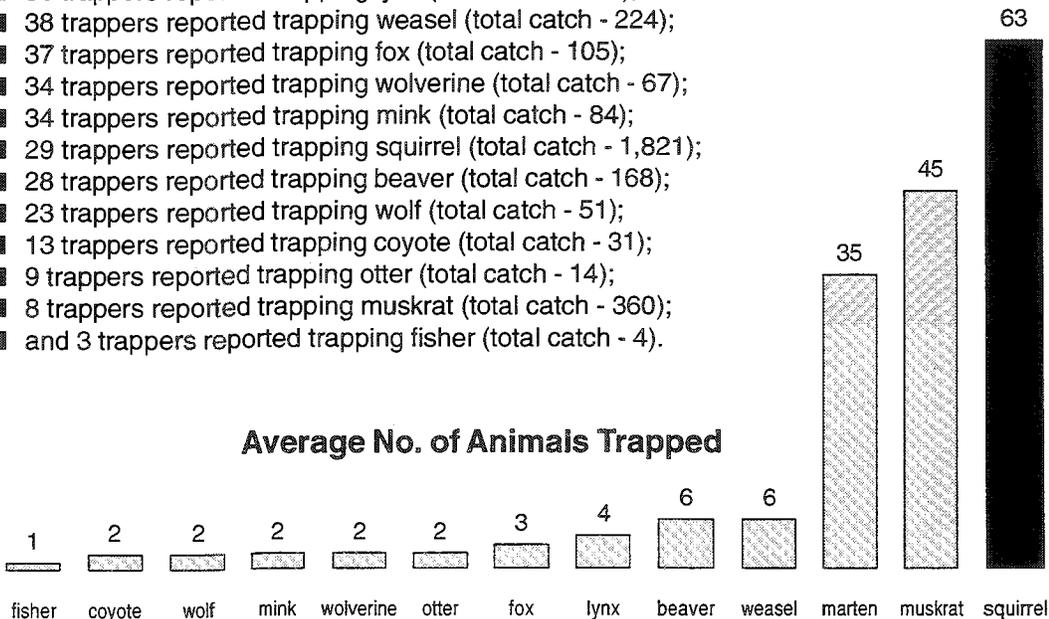
**11 How many neck snares did you set this season?**

*how many squirrel snares?*

The number of trappers reporting varied:

- 100 trappers reported trapping marten (total catch - 3,488);
- 38 trappers reported trapping lynx (total catch - 146);
- 38 trappers reported trapping weasel (total catch - 224);
- 37 trappers reported trapping fox (total catch - 105);
- 34 trappers reported trapping wolverine (total catch - 67);
- 34 trappers reported trapping mink (total catch - 84);
- 29 trappers reported trapping squirrel (total catch - 1,821);
- 28 trappers reported trapping beaver (total catch - 168);
- 23 trappers reported trapping wolf (total catch - 51);
- 13 trappers reported trapping coyote (total catch - 31);
- 9 trappers reported trapping otter (total catch - 14);
- 8 trappers reported trapping muskrat (total catch - 360);
- and 3 trappers reported trapping fisher (total catch - 4).

Average No. of Animals Trapped



**12 What animals did you trap this season?**

How many did you trap?

- lynx
- fox
- coyote
- wolf
- beaver
- muskrat
- marten
- fisher
- mink
- squirrel
- weasel
- wolverine
- otter

... continued



... question 12  
continued

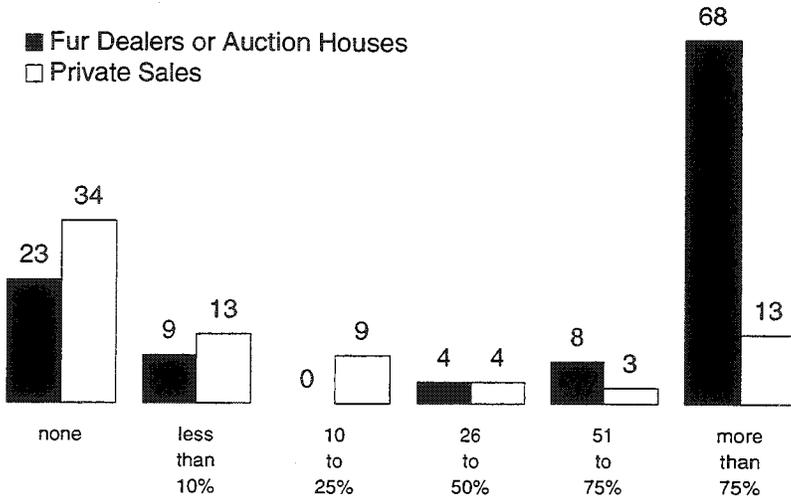
Animal	No. of trappers who reported trapping this animal	Total No. of this animal trapped	Average No. of this animal trapped	Type(s) of traps used to trap this animal	No. of trappers who reported using this type of trap *
■ Lynx	38	146	4	quick kill	8
				foothold	32
				snare	15
■ Fox	37	105	3	quick kill	9
				foothold	25
				snare	12
■ Coyote	13	31	2	foothold	11
				snare	6
■ Wolf	23	51	2	quick kill	2
				foothold	8
				shot wolf snare	3
				snare	17
■ Beaver	28	168	6	quick kill	24
				shot beaver	3
				foothold	3
				snare	1
■ Muskrat	8	360	45	quick kill	4
				foothold	3
				snare	1
■ Marten	100	3,488	35	quick kill	77
				foothold •	5
				snare	3
				magnum quick kill	6
■ Fisher	3	4	1	quick kill	1
■ Mink	34	84	2	quick kill	27
				foothold	1
				magnum quick kill	1
■ Squirrel	29	1,821	63	quick kill	9
				foothold •	2
				snare	14
				magnum quick kill	1
■ Weasel	38	224	6	quick kill	25
				foothold •	4
				snare	4
■ Wolverine	34	67	2	quick kill	30
				foothold •	7
				boxtrap	1
				snare	5
■ Otter	9	14	2	quick kill	7
				foothold	2

\* some trappers used more than one type of trap  
• trapped by accident

The table on the left shows the animal trapped, how many trappers reported trapping the animal, what the total & average "take" was, the type(s) of traps used and how many trappers used each type of trap. For instance, using lynx as an example, 38 trappers reported that they trapped lynx; the total number of lynx trapped by these 38 trappers was 146; a simple average (146 divided by 38) shows that each trapper averaged 4 lynx (the average was rounded to the nearest whole number); three types of traps were used: quick kill, foothold and snare; and, finally, 8 trappers reported using a quick kill trap, 32 trappers used a foothold trap and 15 trappers used a snare (if you add up these figures (8 + 32 + 15 = 55) it is more than the number of trappers who said they trapped lynx (38). This is due to the fact that some trappers used more than one type of trap).



■ Fur Dealers or Auction Houses  
□ Private Sales



120 trappers responded to the question "How many of your pelts did you sell through fur dealers or auction houses?" 8 of these responses were either "not applicable"; "don't know"; or "refused". The remaining 112 were divided as shown in the chart to the left.

■ 68 or 60.7% of those trappers said they sold more than 75% of their pelts through Fur Dealers or Auction Houses.

84 trappers responded to the question "How many of your pelts did you sell through private sales?" 8 of these responses were either "not applicable"; "don't know"; or "refused". The remaining 76 were divided as shown in the chart above.

■ 13 or 17.1% of those trappers said they sold more than 75% of their pelts through private sales.

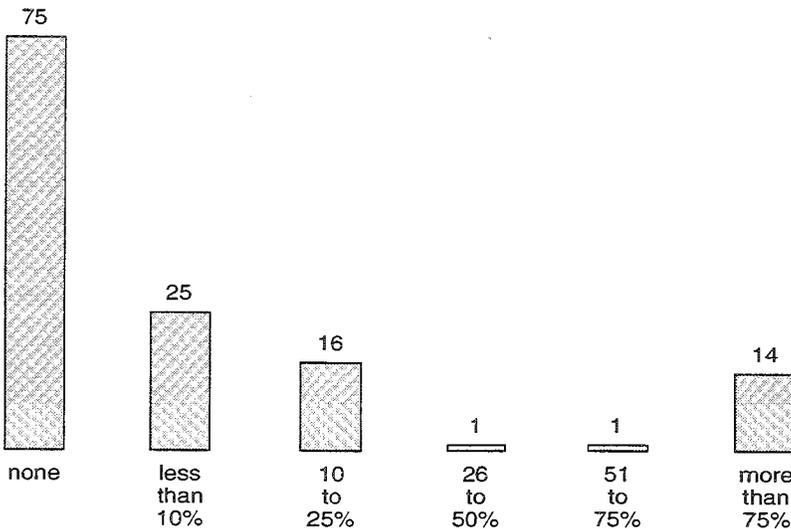
### 13 How many of your pelts did you sell through:

Fur Dealers or Auction Houses?

Private Sales?

- \* none
- \* less than 10%
- \* 10 to 25%
- \* 26 to 50%
- \* 51 to 75%
- \* more than 75%

\* please note: for the purposes of this report it was assumed that respondents were answering the question specifically for the 1995/96 trapping season.



138 trappers responded to the question: "How many pelts will you hold over?" 6 of those responses were either "not applicable" or "refused". The remaining 132 were divided as shown in the chart to the left.

■ 75 or 56.8% of those trappers said they would not hold over any of their pelts.

### 14 How many pelts will you hold over?

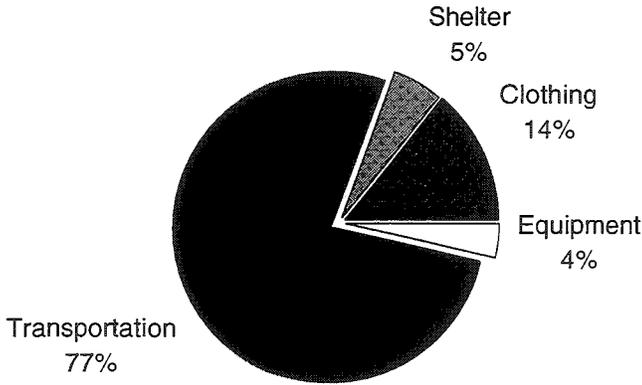
- none
- less than 10%
- 10 to 25%
- 26 to 50%
- 51 to 75%
- more than 75%



113 trappers responded to the question: "What did it cost to trap this season?"

- in total, the 113 trappers spent approximately \$240,000.
- average cost for each trapper was \$2,100.

\* the figures have been rounded



135 trappers answered this question.

- 104 or 77% said they spent most of their money on transportation.
- the next largest group were those who said they spent most of their money on clothing. 19 or 14% of the trappers responded in that category.

15 What did it cost to trap this season?

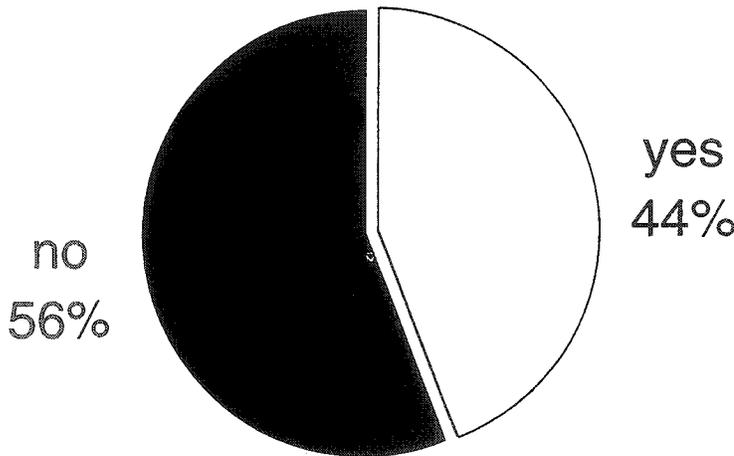
\$ | | | | |

16 Most of this money was spent on:

- equipment?
- transportation?
- shelter?
- clothing?
- food?

136 trappers responded to the question: "Would you agree to banning the use of the foothold trap in Canada in order to protect the European fur market?"

- 60 or 44% said "yes".
- 76 or 56% said "no"



17 The European fur market is important to Canada. The European Union would like Canada to ban the foothold trap.

Would you agree to banning the use of the foothold trap in Canada in order to protect the European fur market?

- yes
- no



141 trappers responded to the question: "What is the total length of trapping trails on your trapline?"

- the total length of trapping trails on all the traplines of the 141 trappers was 10,270 kilometres.
- on average, there were 73 kilometres of trapping trails on each trapper's trapline.

119 trappers responded to the question: "How much of the concession do these trails give you access to?"

- on average, the trapping trails gave a trapper access to 44% of the concession.

147 trappers responded to the question: "What is the total length of trapping trails you used this season?"

- the total length of trapping trails used this season on all the traplines of the 147 trappers was 5,576 kilometres.
- on average, each trapper who responded to this question used 38 kilometres of trapping trails this season.

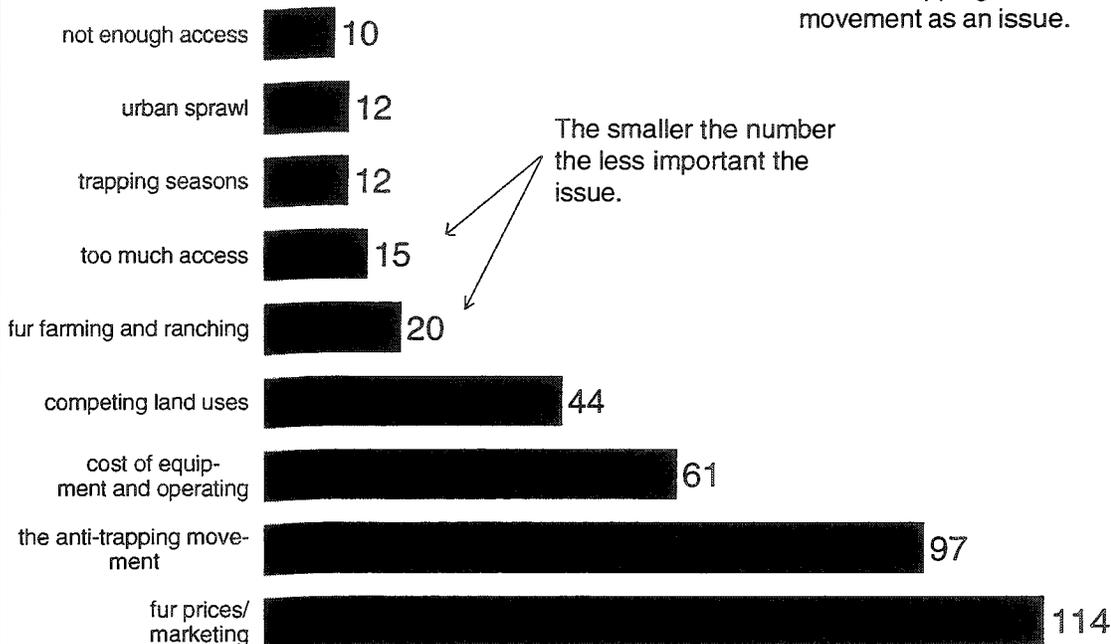
18 a) What is the total length of trapping trails on your trapline?

b) how much of the concession do these trails give you access to?

c) What is the total length of trapping trails you used this season?

The graph below shows how often an issue was mentioned by trappers. As examples:

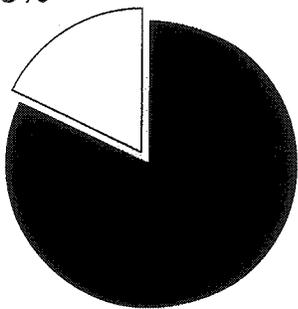
- 114 trappers picked fur prices/marketing as an issue;
- and 97 trappers picked the anti-trapping movement as an issue.



19 What do you feel are the most important issues facing you and your trapline?

- fur prices/marketing
- the anti-trapping movement
- trapping seasons
- competing land uses, e.g., agriculture, mining, forestry
- cost of equipment and operating expenses
- fur farming and ranching
- urban sprawl
- access:
  - not enough or
  - too much?
- other (please explain):

no  
18%



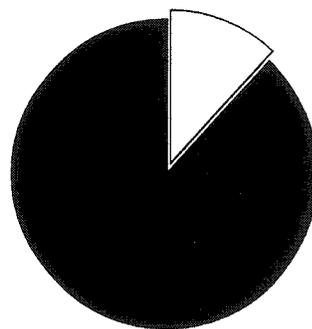
yes  
82%

In response to the question,  
 "Are you a member of the  
 Yukon Trappers Association?":  
 ■ 119 trappers said "yes";  
 ■ and 26 trappers said "no".

**20 Are you a member of the Yukon Trappers Association?**  
 yes  
 no

In response to the question,  
 "Are you a member of any  
 other trapper association or  
 organization?":  
 ■ 17 trappers said "yes";  
 ■ and 123 trappers said  
 "no".

yes  
12%

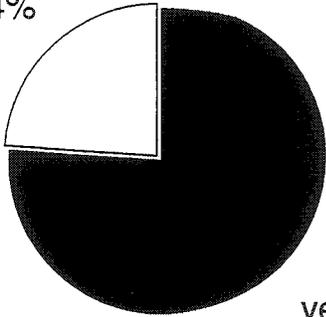


no  
88%

**21 Are you a member of any other trapper association or organization?**  
 yes  
 no



no  
24%



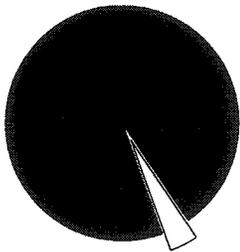
yes  
76%

In response to the question, "Have you been to any of the Trapper Education Workshops?":

- 112 (76%) trappers said "yes";
- and 35 (24%) trappers said "no".

Did you find the workshops useful?

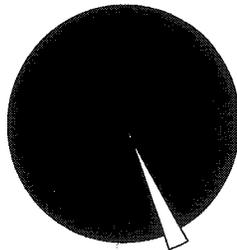
yes  
96%



no  
4%

Did you learn anything from the workshops?

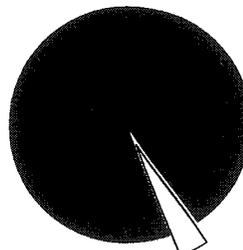
yes  
97%



no  
3%

Have you applied what you learned to your trapping?

yes  
96%



no  
4%

**22 Have you been to any of the Trapper Education Workshops?**

yes  no

Did you find them useful?

yes  
 no

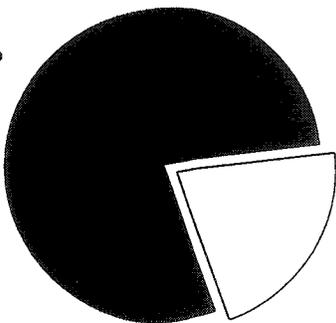
Did you learn anything from them?

yes  
 no

Have you applied what you learned to your trapping?

yes  
 no

yes  
79%



no  
21%

In response to the question, "Has the Trap Exchange Program been helpful?":

- 107 (79%) trappers said "yes";
- and 29 (21%) trappers said "no".

**23 a) Has the Trap Exchange Program been helpful?**

yes  
 no



**Appendix 1: Trapping in the Yukon  
- A Survey of Trappers Working in  
the Yukon**

**Covering letter  
Survey form**



Covering letter sent with the survey form to respondents:



fwl/HJ#1/survey  
3125-30-01

1996 March 1

Dear Trapper:

The fur industry is forever changing and we have limited information to effectively assist trappers to adjust to this change. With the registered trapline system, the management of furbearers has evolved as a cooperative effort between yourself and the Department of Renewable Resources. This survey, a first of its kind, will aid in the development of a much needed profile of trapping and its importance as a lifestyle to hundreds of Yukoners. Good management begins with good information. We need your help to assess how effective our management and support programs have been.

The results of this survey will also be pooled with surveys conducted in other jurisdictions to provide for a larger national profile of Canada's wild fur industry. This information is vital to our defense of the fur industry both at home and abroad. This information will be summarized and stored in a manner that individual trapper information will not be identifiable. Your individual information is confidential. This survey is supported by the Yukon Trappers Association.

We realize that the fur industry has been in decline these past few years and that the survey results may not be a reflection of the industry's historical value. For this reason we will also complete a sample survey of individual trappers that were licenced five years ago. It is our intention to repeat this survey in the near future, at which time the industry will hopefully have rebounded thus providing for a more complete picture.

If you have any concerns about the survey please contact Helen Slama (667-8403) or your District Conservation Officer. For assistance in completing the survey contact Gerry Ewert at the Yukon Bureau of Statistics (667-5463).

Thank you for your cooperation.

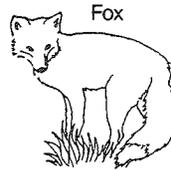
Sincerely,

Hugh J. Monaghan  
Director  
Fish and Wildlife Branch

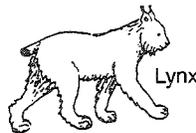
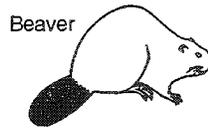
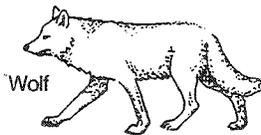


# TRAPPING IN THE YUKON

*A Survey of Trappers Working in  
the Yukon*



**Winter 1995/96**



**Yukon**  
Government

*Dear Trapper,  
We need your help! Please fill in this survey and return it to us in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. With your cooperation this survey will give us the answers we need to better manage the Yukon's wildlife and to assist the trapping community. If you have any concerns about the survey please contact Helen Slama (667-8403) or your district conservation officer. For assistance in completing the survey contact Gerry Ewert at the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, 667-5463.*

*Thank You.  
Renewable Resources*

**1 Please make any changes necessary to the information on the label:**

Please answer each of the following questions about your trapping activity on the concession listed above, by making a check (✓) or an X in the box (☐) next to the best answer.

**2 How long did you spend on the trapline this season (1995/96)?**

- \*  no time
- less than 2 weeks
- 3 - 6 weeks
- 7 - 10 weeks
- more than 10 weeks

\* if you checked "no time" please do not complete the survey but return it to us in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Thank you.

**3 Do you consider yourself to be:**

- a full-time trapper?
- a part-time trapper?
- or someone who traps "once in a while"?

**4 For you is trapping ...**

- a way of life?
- recreation?
- a winter "job"?

**5 How much of your winter income comes from trapping?**

- none
- less than 10%
- 11% - 20%
- 21% - 50%
- more than 50%

**6 How many days did you trap in the months of ...**

- April, 1995? -----
- May, 1995? -----
- June, 1995? -----
- October, 1995? -----
- November, 1995? -----
- December, 1995? -----
- January, 1996? -----
- February, 1996? -----
- March, 1996? -----

**7 On a 5 year average, what was your trapping effort this season?**

- less
- same
- more

8 How many of each type of foot hold trap do you have?

- \* steel jawed ----- [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
- \* padded jaw ----- [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
- \* snares ----- [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
(not including squirrel snares)

9 How many quick kill traps do you have? [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

10 For this season, how many of the traps you set were:

- \* foot hold traps? ----- [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
- \* quick kill traps? ----- [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
- \* drowning set traps? - [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

11 How many neck snares did you set this season? [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

how many squirrel snares? [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

12 What animals did you trap this season?

	How many did you trap?	What trap did you use?
<input type="checkbox"/> lynx	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> fox	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> coyote	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> wolf	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> beaver	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> muskrat	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> marten	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> fisher	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> mink	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> squirrel	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> weasel	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> wolverine	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> otter	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	_____

13 How many of your pelts did you sell through:

	Private Sales?	Fur Dealers or Auction Houses?
* none	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* less than 10%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* 10 to 25%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* 26 to 50%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* 51 to 75%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* more than 75%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14 How many pelts will you hold over?

- none
- less than 10%
- 10 to 25%
- 26 to 50%
- 51 to 75%
- more than 75%

15 What did it cost to trap this season? \$ [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

16 Most of this money was spent on:

- equipment?
- transportation?
- shelter?
- clothing?
- food?

17 The European fur market is important to Canada. The European Union would like Canada to ban the foothold trap. Would you agree to banning the use of the foothold trap in Canada in order to protect the European fur market?

- yes
- no

18 a) What is the total length of trapping trails on your trapline?

\_\_\_\_\_ kilometres

b) how much of the concession do these trails give you access to?

\_\_\_\_\_ %

c) What is the total length of trapping trails you used this season?

\_\_\_\_\_ kilometres

19 What do you feel are the most important issues facing you and your trapline?

- fur prices/marketing
- the anti-trapping movement
- trapping seasons
- competing land uses, e.g., agriculture, mining, forestry
- cost of equipment and operating expenses
- fur farming and ranching
- urban sprawl
- access:
  - not enough or
  - too much?
- other (please explain):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

20 Are you a member of the Yukon Trappers Association?

yes  no

21 Are you a member of any other trapper association or organization?

yes  no

which one? \_\_\_\_\_

22 Have you been to any of the Trapper Education Workshops?

yes  no

- did you find them useful?  yes  no
- did you learn anything from them?  yes  no
- have you applied what you learned to your trapping?  yes  no

23 a) Has the Trap Exchange Program been helpful?

yes  no

b) Are there improvements you would recommend (please explain)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





**Appendix 2: Trapping in the Yukon  
- A Survey of Trappers Working in  
the Yukon**

**Results shown for full-time and  
part-time trappers**

## SURVEY QUESTIONS \*

### 2 How long did you spend on the trapline this season (1995/96)?

- no time
- less than 2 weeks
- 3 - 6 weeks
- 7 - 10 weeks
- more than 10 weeks

Time on the trapline  
this season

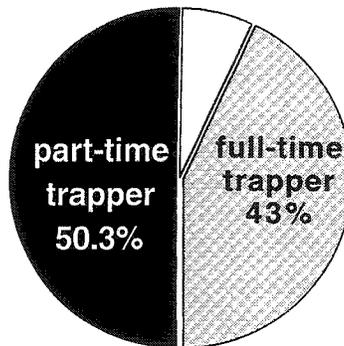
	<u>Full-time trappers</u>	<u>Part-time trappers</u>
less than 2 weeks	14.1%	18.9%
3 to 6 weeks	17.2%	39.2%
7 to 10 weeks	14.1%	23.0%
more than 10 weeks	<u>54.6%</u>	<u>18.9%</u>
	100.0%	100.0%

An example of how to read this table: Of all the full-time trappers who responded to this question, 14.1% spent less than 2 weeks on the trapline this season. Of all the trappers who said they were part-time, 18.9% spent less than 2 weeks on the trapline this season (the percentages in each column add to 100%). Note that an "average length of time" on the trap line cannot be calculated since the survey only gave respondents the option to respond in ranges of time such as "less than 2 weeks".

### 3 Do you consider yourself to be:

- a full-time trapper?
- a part-time trapper?
- or someone who traps "once in a while"?

someone who traps "once in a while"  
6.6%



There were 151 responses to this question:

- 65 or 43% said "full-time trapper";
- 76 or 50.3% said "part-time trapper";
- and 10 or 6.6% said "someone who traps "once in a while".

### 4 For you is trapping ...

- a way of life?
- recreation?
- a winter "job"?

	<u>Full-time trappers</u>	<u>Part-time trappers</u>
a way of life	55.4%	50.0%
recreation	1.5%	16.7%
a winter job	<u>43.1%</u>	<u>33.3%</u>
	100.0%	100.0%

An example of how to read this table: Of all the full-time trappers who responded to this question, 55.4% consider trapping a "way of life"; 1.5% consider trapping "recreation; and 43.1% consider trapping a "winter job".

\* question 1 on the survey concerned verifying name and address information

% of winter income from trapping	<u>Full-time trappers</u>	<u>Part-time trappers</u>
less than 10%	17.5%	67.7%
11% - 20%	17.5%	13.8%
21% - 50%	31.7%	12.3%
more than 50%	<u>33.3%</u>	<u>6.2%</u>
	100.0%	100.0%

*An example of how to read this table: Of all the full-time trappers who responded to this question, 17.5% earned less than 10% of their winter income from trapping; 17.5% earned from 11 to 20%; 31.7% earned from 21 to 50%; and 33.3% or 1/3 earned more than 50% of their winter income from trapping.*

	<u>Full-time trappers</u>		<u>Part-time trappers</u>	
	<u>Number who trapped</u>	<u>Average no. of days they trapped</u>	<u>Number who trapped</u>	<u>Average no. of days they trapped</u>
April, 1995	8	13	9	14
May, 1995	5	17	6	15
June, 1995	3	17	1	4
October, 1995	12	14	6	14
November, 1995	46	21	33	17
December, 1995	54	21	45	14
January, 1996	47	24	40	13
February, 1996	36	19	36	12
March, 1996	13	16	20	11

*An example of how to read this table: Of all the full-time trappers who responded to this question, 8 reported that they had trapped in April, 1995. On average, they each trapped 13 days in April. Of all the part-time trappers who responded to this question, 9 reported that they had trapped in April, 1995. On average, they each trapped 14 days in April.*

**5 How much of your winter income comes from trapping?**

- none
- less than 10%
- 11% - 20%
- 21% - 50%
- more than 50%

**6 How many days did you trap in the months of ...**

- April, 1995?
- May, 1995?
- June, 1995?
- October, 1995?
- November, 1995?
- December, 1995?
- January, 1996?
- February, 1996?
- March, 1996?

**7 On a 5 year average, what was your trapping effort this season?**

- less
- same
- more

Trapping effort this season	<u>Full-time trappers</u>	<u>Part-time trappers</u>
less	50.0%	58.3%
same	34.4%	30.6%
more	<u>15.6%</u>	<u>11.1%</u>
	100.0%	100.0%

An example of how to read this table: Of all the full-time trappers who responded to this question, 50% said their trapping effort on a 5 year average was **less** this season; 34.4% said their effort was the **same**; and 15.6% said their effort was **more** this season.

**8 How many of each type of foot-hold trap do you have?**

- \* steel jawed
- \* padded jaw
- \* snares  
(not including squirrel snares)

<u>Type of trap</u>	<u>Full-time trappers</u>			<u>Part-time trappers</u>		
	<u>No. of trappers reporting</u>	<u>Total no. of traps</u>	<u>Average number</u>	<u>No. of trappers reporting</u>	<u>Total no. of traps</u>	<u>Average number</u>
steel jawed	47	1,294	28	46	1,780	39
padded jaw	56	2,091	37	59	1,491	25
snares	51	1,790	35	64	1,626	25

An example of how to read this table: Of all the full-time trappers who responded to this question, 47 reported that they had steel jawed traps; they had in total 1,294 of these traps; on average each full-time trapper had 28 steel jawed traps. Of all the part-time trappers who responded to this question, 46 reported that they had steel jawed traps; they had in total 1,780 of these traps; on average, each part-time trapper had 39 steel jawed traps.

**9 How many quick kill traps do you have?**

	<u>Full-time trappers</u>			<u>Part-time trappers</u>		
	<u>No. of trappers reporting</u>	<u>Total no. of traps</u>	<u>Average number</u>	<u>No. of trappers reporting</u>	<u>Total no. of traps</u>	<u>Average number</u>
quick kill traps	61	7,262	119	66	4,627	70

An example of how to read this table: 61 full-time trappers reported that they had quick kill traps; they had in total 7,262 of these traps; and on average each full-time trapper had 119 quick kill traps.

Type of trap set	Full-time trappers			Part-time trappers		
	No. of trappers reporting	Total no. of traps	Average number	No. of trappers reporting	Total no. of traps	Average number
foothold traps	50	944	19	56	693	12
quick kill traps	54	3,324	62	62	1,846	30
drowning set traps	36	114	3	41	45	1

An example of how to read this table: Of all the full-time trappers who responded to this question, 50 reported setting a total of 944 foothold traps; on average, each full-time trapper set 19 foothold traps. Of all the part-time trappers who responded to this question, 56 reported setting a total of 693 traps; on average, each part-time trapper set 12 foothold traps.

Type of trap set	Full-time trappers			Part-time trappers		
	No. of trappers reporting	Total no. of traps	Average number	No. of trappers reporting	Total no. of traps	Average number
neck snares	36	723	20	34	471	14
squirrel snares	9	645	72	9	306	34

An example of how to read this table: Of all the full-time trappers who responded to this question, 36 reported setting a total of 723 neck snares; on average, each full-time trapper set 20 neck snares. Of all the trappers who said they were part-time (76), 34 reported setting a total of 471 neck snares; on average, each part-time trapper set 14 neck snares.

Animals trapped	Full-time trappers			Part-time trappers		
	No. of trappers reporting	Total no. trapped	Average no. trapped	No. of trappers reporting	Total no. trapped	Average no. trapped
lynx	24	110	5	14	36	3
fox	20	54	3	15	40	3
coyote	6	7	1	7	24	3
wolf	15	37	2	8	14	2
beaver	17	109	6	11	59	5
muskrat	3	137	46	5	223	45
marten	49	2,409	49	42	891	21
fisher	2	3	2	1	1	1
mink	20	55	3	12	27	2
squirrel	17	679	40	10	252	25
weasel	20	153	8	17	70	4
wolverine	19	32	7	14	33	2
otter	6	8	1	3	6	2

An example of how to read this table: Of all the full-time trappers who responded to this question, 24 reported trapping a total of 110 lynx; on average, each full-time trapper trapped 5 lynx. Of all the part-time trappers who responded to this question, 14 reported trapping a total of 36 lynx; on average, each part-time trapper trapped 3 lynx. Please note that averages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

**10 For this season, how many of the traps you set were:**  
 \* foothold traps?  
 \* quick kill traps?  
 \* drowning set traps?

**11 How many neck snares did you set this season?**  
 how many squirrel snares?

**12 What animals did you trap this season?**

How many did you trap?

- lynx
- fox
- coyote
- wolf
- beaver
- muskrat
- marten
- fisher
- mink
- squirrel
- weasel
- wolverine
- otter

**13 How many of your pelts did you sell through:**

Fur Dealers or Auction Houses?

Private Sales?

- \* none
- \* less than 10%
- \* 10 to 25%
- \* 26 to 50%
- \* 51 to 75%
- \* more than 75%

		<u>Full-time trappers</u>					
		<u>none</u>	<u>less than 10%</u>	<u>11% to 25%</u>	<u>26% to 50%</u>	<u>51% to 75%</u>	<u>more than 75%</u>
fur dealers or auction houses	5	4	0	3	4	37	
private sales	9	13	3	3	2	7	

		<u>Part-time trappers</u>					
		<u>none</u>	<u>less than 10%</u>	<u>11% to 25%</u>	<u>26% to 50%</u>	<u>51% to 75%</u>	<u>more than 75%</u>
fur dealers or auction houses	16	4	0	1	4	26	
private sales	22	0	6	1	1	6	

*An example of how to read these tables: Of all the full-time trappers who responded to this question, 5 did not sell any of their pelts through fur dealers or auction houses; 4 reported selling less than 10%; none sold 11% to 25%; 3 sold 26% to 50%; 4 sold 51% to 75%; and 37 sold more than 75% of their pelts through fur dealers or auction houses.*

**14 How many pelts will you hold over?**

- none
- less than 10%
- 10 to 25%
- 26 to 50%
- 51 to 75%
- more than 75%

		<u>none</u>	<u>less than 10%</u>	<u>11% to 25%</u>	<u>26% to 50%</u>	<u>51% to 75%</u>	<u>more than 75%</u>
full-time trappers	37	12	6	1	1	3	
part-time trappers	42	9	10	0	0	11	

*An example of how to read these tables: Of all the full-time trappers who responded to this question, 37 said they would not hold over any of their pelts; 12 reported they would hold over less than 10% of their pelts; 6 reported they would hold over 11% to 25% of their pelts; 1 reported they would hold over 26% to 50% as well as 1 for the category of 51% to 75%; and 3 reported they would hold over more than 75% of their pelts.*



18 a) What is the total length of trapping trails on your trapline?

b) how much of the concession do these trails give you access to?

c) What is the total length of trapping trails you used this season?

	No. of trappers reporting	Total length of all trails	Average length of trails per trapper	% access to concession	Total length of trails used
full-time trappers	59	4,668	79	46%	2,689
part-time trappers	70	4,699	67	44%	2,412

An example of how to read this table: Of all the trappers who said they were full-time (65), 59 responded to the question. They reported in total 4,668 kms of trails; an average length of trails of 79 kms per trapper; access to 46% of the concession; and the total length of trails used in this season was 2,689.

19 What do you feel are the most important issues facing you and your trapline?

- fur prices/marketing
- the anti-trapping movement
- trapping seasons
- competing land uses, e.g., agriculture, mining, forestry
- cost of equipment and operating expenses
- fur farming and ranching
- urban sprawl
- access:
  - not enough or
  - too much?
- other (please explain):

Issues	Full-time trappers		Part-time trappers	
	Priority	Important	Priority	Important
fur prices/marketing	1 <sup>st</sup>	81.5%	1 <sup>st</sup>	71.1%
the anti-trapping movement	2 <sup>nd</sup>	70.8%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	60.5%
cost of equipment & operating expenses	3 <sup>rd</sup>	41.5%	3 <sup>rd</sup>	38.2%
competing land uses	4 <sup>th</sup>	27.7%	4 <sup>th</sup>	30.3%
trapping seasons	5 <sup>th</sup>	7.7%	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.2%
fur farming and ranching	5 <sup>th</sup>	7.7%	5 <sup>th</sup>	19.7%
access - not enough	5 <sup>th</sup>	7.7%	9 <sup>th</sup>	6.6%
urban sprawl	6 <sup>th</sup>	4.6%	7 <sup>th</sup>	11.8%
access - too much	6 <sup>th</sup>	4.6%	6 <sup>th</sup>	14.5%

An example of how to read this table: For full-time trappers 81.5% said fur prices/marketing was the most important issue facing themselves & their trapline. For part-time trappers, 71.1% said the issue was important. Note that the top four issues and their order of importance is the same for both full-time and part-time trappers.

Are you a member of the Yukon Trapper's Association?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
full-time trappers	51	10
part-time trappers	61	12

*An example of how to read this table: 61 full-time trappers responded to the question. 51 reported they were a member of the Association and 10 said they were not.*

Are you a member of any other trapper association or organization?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
full-time trappers	10	50
part-time trappers	6	64

*An example of how to read this table: 60 full-time trappers responded to the question. 10 reported they were a member of another trapper association or organization and 50 said they were not.*

**20 Are you a member of the Yukon Trappers Association?**

- yes  
 no

**21 Are you a member of any other trapper association or organization?**

- yes  
 no

**22 Have you been to any of the Trapper Education Workshops?**

yes  no

Did you find them useful?

yes  
 no

Did you learn anything from them?

yes  
 no

Have you applied what you learned to your trapping?

yes  
 no

Have you been to any of the Trapper Education Workshops?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
full-time trappers	47 (75%)	16 (25%)
part-time trappers	55 (75%)	18 (25%)

*An example of how to read this table: 63 full-time trappers responded to the question. 47 (or 75% of those who responded) reported they had been to a Trapper Education Workshop; 16 (or 25%) said they had not.*

Did you find them useful?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
full-time trappers	41 (93%)	3 (7%)
part-time trappers	54 (98%)	1 (2%)

Did you learn anything from them?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
full-time trappers	42 (95%)	2 (5%)
part-time trappers	54 (98%)	1 (2%)

Have you applied what you learned to your trapping?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
full-time trappers	40 (93%)	3 (7%)
part-time trappers	52 (98%)	1 (2%)

**23 a) Has the Trap Exchange Program been helpful?**

yes  
 no

Has the Trap Exchange Program been helpful?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
full-time trappers	52 (84%)	10 (16%)
part-time trappers	49 (73%)	18 (27%)

*An example of how to read this table: 62 full-time trappers responded to the question. 52 (or 84% of those who responded) said that the Trap Exchange Program had been helpful; 10 (or 16%) said it had not.*



