Small Game
A small game license entitles you to hunt rabbit, hare, squirrel (fox and gray), pheasant, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, woodcock (HIP endorsement required), quail, crow, coyote (applies to Michigan residents only) and waterfowl (with a federal waterfowl stamp and Michigan waterfowl hunting license, if age 16 or older) during the open season. Opossum, porcupine, weasel, red squirrel, skunk, ground squirrel and woodchuck also may be taken year-round with a valid hunting license. No license is required for a resident, resident’s spouse or resident’s children to hunt small game on the enclosed farmlands where they live, except a federal waterfowl stamp and state waterfowl license are required to hunt waterfowl.

Pheasant
The area open to pheasant hunting Oct. 10-31 in Zone 1 (U.P.) includes all of Menominee County and portions of Delta, Dickinson, Iron and Marquette counties. See the DNR website for the complete detailed definition of this and other unit boundaries.

Quail
Quail can be hunted only in Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Montcalm, Oakland, Saginaw, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. All other counties are closed to quail hunting. Please see page 32 for Ionia and Highland Recreation Area restrictions.

Sharp-tailed Grouse
The area open to sharp-tailed grouse hunting Oct. 10-Oct. 31 in Zone 1 (U.P.) includes the green shaded area shown below. See the DNR website for the complete detailed definition of this boundary. A free sharp-tailed grouse stamp, available from all license agents or online at www.michigan.gov/hunting, is required in addition to a valid small game hunting license for those hunting sharp-tailed grouse.

Quail can be hunted only in Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Montcalm, Oakland, Saginaw, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. All other counties are closed to quail hunting. Please see page 32 for Ionia and Highland Recreation Area restrictions.

Migratory Game Birds
Harvest Information Program (HIP)
If you are planning to hunt migratory birds (ducks, geese, woodcock, snipe, rails, etc.) in Michigan this fall, you must have a Harvest Information Program endorsement printed on your small game license. The HIP endorsement, which consists of the statement: “Migratory Bird Hunter—YES,” is printed on your small game license when you answer the HIP survey questions. There is no cost for this endorsement. If the agent fails to ask you the HIP question, you can do any of the following to receive the endorsement:
- Ask the agent to reissue the license.
- Visit the DNR E-license website at www.mdnr-elicense.com and select item # 005 — HIP migratory bird survey.
- Visit any DNR Operations Service Center (see page 7).

If you purchase a waterfowl hunting license the HIP endorsement is automatically included. But it must be added by the agent if you are purchasing a small game license and plan to hunt woodcock. Those who are hunting migratory birds without this endorsement can be fined.

Woodcock and Waterfowl Leg-band Reporting
Every hunter can promote sound woodcock and waterfowl management by promptly reporting all banded birds harvested, including date and location taken. This information is used to determine annual survival and migration routes. To report bands, call 800-327-BAND, go online to www.reportband.gov or write: USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Bird Banding Laboratory, 12100 Beech Forest Road, Laurel, MD 20708-4037; www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl.
Early September Canada Goose Hunting

Dates: Sept. 1-10 in the Upper Peninsula and Saginaw, Tuscola and Huron counties (except areas noted below). Sept. 1-15 in the Lower Peninsula except Saginaw, Tuscola and Huron counties (except areas noted below).

Daily Limit: 5 Canada geese daily.

Hunting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset (see below).

Open Hunt Areas: Statewide, excluding some wildlife areas and portions of some state parks and recreation areas. See map below and additional information that follows.

1. All or portions of the following areas are open Sept. 1-10:

- Port Crescent S.P.
- Sleeper S.P.

2. Portions of the following areas are open Sept. 1-15:

- Bald Mountain R.A.
- Lake Hudson R.A.
- Proud Lake R.A.
- Bay City R.A.
- Mitchell S.P.
- Rose Lake W.R.A.
- Brighton R.A.
- Negwegon S.P.
- Sleepy Hollow S.P.
- Grand Mere S.P.
- Ortonville R.A.
- Thompson's Harbor S.P.
- Highland R.A.
- Pinckney R.A.
- Waterlo R.A.
- Holly R.A.
- Pontiac Lake R.A.
- Wetzel R.A.
- Ionia R.A.

3. All or portions of the following areas are open Sept. 7-10:

- Brimley S.P.
- Laughing Whitefish
- Porcupine Mountains S.P.
- Craig Lake S.P.
- Falls S.S.
- Tahquamenon Falls S.P.
- Fayette S.P.
- McLain S.P.
- Van Riper S.P.
- Indian Lake S.P.
- Palms Book S.P.
- Wagner Falls S.S.

4. All or portions of the following areas are open Sept. 7-15:

- Cheboygan S.P.
- Ludington S.P.
- Sterling S.P.
- Fisherman’s Island S.P.
- Metamora-Hadley R.A.
- Sturgeon Point S.P.
- Fort Custer R.A.
- Rifle River R.A.
- Wilderness S.P.
- Hoef S.P.
- Seven Lakes S.P.
- Yankee Springs R.A.
- Island Lake R.A.
- Silver Lake S.P.
- Leelanau S.P.
- South Higgins Lake S.P.

State Parks (S.P.), Scenic Sites (S.S.), Recreation Areas (R.A.) and Wildlife Research Areas (W.R.A.)

Contact your local DNR Parks and Recreation or Wildlife office for information. Note: The early September season is closed within the following management units (see map below):

1. Fennville farm unit of the Allegan SGA.
2. The Muskegon county wastewater system management unit.

Waterfowl

Michigan Waterfowl Hunting License

In addition to a small game license, all waterfowl hunters age 16 and older are required to purchase a Michigan waterfowl license. For information on waterfowl seasons, bag limits and other regulations, see the 2011-2012 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Digest (available Sept. 15) and the 2011 Waterfowl Reserved Hunt brochure (available Aug. 1).

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp

This stamp is required for all waterfowl hunters 16 and older, including people hunting on their own enclosed farmland. Federal waterfowl stamps are not required for hunting woodcock, rails and snipe. The federal stamp must be signed across its face with your name in ink. The stamps are available at post offices and some Michigan license agents or go to www.fws.gov/duckstamps.

Townships with Hunting Restrictions

Townships or parts of townships in these counties are closed to hunting or restricted to types of firearms or the discharge of firearms as posted: Alcona, Arenac, Barry, Berrien, Crawford, Dickinson, Eaton, Emmet, Genesee, Iosco, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Livingston, Macomb, Manistee, Mason, Oakland, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Saginaw, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne. These areas are posted with the restrictions. For descriptions, contact the appropriate township clerk or township police department.

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, including archery and crossbow hunters, may hunt or discharge a firearm, crossbow or bow 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 discharge of firearms, crossbows or bows for any non-hunting purpose.

Transportation of 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 bird or animal, except for processed or butchered deer, bear and elk as noted below. If you are transporting migratory birds, one fully feathered wing must be left on the bird. If transporting another person’s migratory birds, they must be tagged with the person’s name, signature and home address, and the number of birds by species, dates of kill and small game license number.

If you butcher your deer, elk or bear, or have the animal butchered by a commercial processor before going home, the head of the animal, along with the kill tag or seal, must accompany the butchered animal during transport.

Exception: If you submit the head for TB or CWD testing, you must have the kill tag and disease tag receipt in your possession. Nonresidents may need to comply with restrictions in other states for importing game taken in Michigan (see Hunters Importing Deer, Elk or Moose on page 34).

Ready for hunting season? Looking for a place to shoot?

Check out Michigan’s quality shooting ranges – including six DNR-managed ranges – at www.michigan.gov/shootingranges
Private Lands Open to Public Hunting

Commercial Forest (CF) Lands

Nearly 2.2 million acres of privately owned forests enrolled in the CF program are accessible by foot to the public for fishing and hunting. Use of motorized vehicles for fishing and hunting access is at the landowner’s discretion. The CF lands are not posted or signed as commercial forests and may be fenced and/or gated. The presence of a fence or gate does not prohibit public access to CF lands for fishing or hunting. The owner may restrict public access during periods of active commercial logging to ensure public safety. Other than foot access for the acts of hunting or fishing, activities such as (but not limited to) camping, leaving anything unattended (e.g. bait, blinds, traps, etc.), and damaging or injuring vegetation (e.g. cutting/ nailing), require the landowner’s permission. Commercial activity on CF lands is not allowed for any purpose other than forestry or oil and gas extraction. Legal land descriptions of lands listed in this program are available on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/gohunt, under “Where Can I Hunt?” If you have questions about this program or specific CF lands, contact the nearest DNR office or DNR Forest Management Division, PO Box 30452, Lansing, MI 48909, or call 517-373-1275.

Select Privately Owned Lands

Hunting rights have been purchased by the state of Michigan for various privately owned lands. These lands are open to public hunting. Registration is not required, but all applicable laws still apply. For additional information and a complete legal description of these parcels, refer to the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/gohunt.

Hunting Access Program (HAP)

Michigan’s Hunting Access Program (HAP) was created in 1977 to increase public hunting opportunities in southern Michigan where 97 percent of the land base is privately owned. This program is now one of the oldest dedicated private lands public access programs in the nation. Providing access to quality hunting lands close to urban centers is a key component to offering additional hunting opportunities, as well as attracting new and retaining current hunters.

HAP provides financial incentives to landowners in southern Michigan who allow hunters access to their lands. Using funds from a new federal grant, the DNR plans to significantly expand HAP. To encourage landowner participation in HAP, landowners can now select from a variety of hunting options, including allowing all hunting, youth and apprentice only, small game only, deer only and/or turkey only. If you are interested in enrolling your property in HAP, please contact Mike Parker at 517-641-4903, ext. 228 or e-mail: parkerm5@michigan.gov.

For any license type, HAP lands are considered private lands. For further details consult the Public Hunting on Private Lands 2011-2012 digest, which is available at DNR offices and license agents, or online at: www.michigan.gov/hap. Information and maps of participating HAP properties can also be found on the Mi-HUNT website at www.michigan.gov/mihunt.

Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting

Only raccoon, opossum, coyote and fox may be hunted at night. The following regulations apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (Type)</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Legal Type of Hunting</th>
<th>Legal Artificial Light</th>
<th>Legal Devices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raccoon</strong> (Regular)</td>
<td>Oct. 1 - Jan. 31</td>
<td>With the aid of a call. With dogs, firearm must be unloaded and arrows un-nocked except when taking raccoon in tree.</td>
<td>Only lights similar to the type ordinarily held in the hand or on the person. (Flashlights, portable battery-powered spotlights and headlamps, and similar portable lights designed to be carried in the hand or on the person are legal.)</td>
<td>Only a bow and arrow, crossbow, .22 or smaller caliber rimfire rifle or handgun, or shotgun with loads other than buckshot, slug, ball or cut shell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raccoon</strong> (Damage Control)</td>
<td>July 15 - Sept. 30 and Feb. 1 - March 31</td>
<td>Only on private lands when doing or about to do damage; landowners and guests only; with the aid of a call. With dogs, firearm must be unloaded and arrows un-nocked except when taking raccoon in tree.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Same as above except no rifles or handguns from Nov. 15 - Nov. 30 in Shotgun Zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Opossum</strong></td>
<td>Sept. 15 - March 31</td>
<td>With the aid of a call; with dogs, firearm must be unloaded and arrows un-nocked except at point of kill.</td>
<td>The use of natural light, including night vision optics and scopes, is legal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fox and Coyote</strong> (See note below)</td>
<td>Oct. 15 - March 1</td>
<td>With game or predator call only. Firearm may be loaded or arrow nocked only when using call.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coyote</strong> (Damage Control)</td>
<td>Sept. 15 - Oct. 14 and March 1 - March 31</td>
<td>Only on private lands when doing or about to do damage; landowners and guests only; with game or predator call only; firearm may be loaded or arrow nocked only when using call.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: After fox season closes (March 1) hunting hours for coyote return to the regular hunting hours for small game (see page 9).

- An artificial light, including laser sights, of the type described above may be mounted on a person’s clothing or firearm. Spotlights powered by vehicle batteries, floodlights, vehicle headlights and other artificial lights not similar to the type ordinarily held in the hand or on the person are illegal.
- All hunters using a .22 or smaller caliber rimfire to take a furbearing animal, day or night, from Nov. 10 - Nov. 14, must have a fur harvester license.
Fur Harvester License

All persons who hunt and trap furbearing animals, including those who trap on their own enclosed farmland or private property, must have a valid fur harvester license. This license allows you to hunt fox, bobcat, coyote or raccoon, and trap badger, bobcat, fisher, marten, fox, coyote, weasel, mink, raccoon, muskrat, beaver, otter, skunk or opossum.

Exception: See footnotes 1, 5 and 10 on page 22.

A person may trap at any age but must possess a valid fur harvester license. This license does not authorize a person under age 10 to possess a firearm while trapping. A junior resident fur harvester-trap only license is available to youth without hunter safety training.

Nonresident Fur Harvester License

Nonresidents may hunt and trap furbearing animals only from Nov. 15 through the regular season closing dates (except for beaver and otter, see map on page 26 for nonresident season dates). A nonresident cannot purchase a license before Nov. 15. Residents of Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the province of Ontario cannot purchase a Michigan nonresident fur harvester license.

Furbearer Kill Tags

A person who intends to harvest bobcat, otter, fisher or marten must request and shall be issued free kill tags for these species. These tags are available Sept. 15 through the last day of the hunting and trapping season for that furbearer. Kill tags will be available from license agents or by contacting any DNR Operations Service Center. A person who kills a bobcat, otter, fisher or marten shall immediately validate the tag and attach the tag to the hide from the upper jaw to the eye socket or through the lower jaw. Persons under eight years of age may not obtain a kill tag for bobcat, otter, fisher or marten. The tag must be replaced by an official DNR seal for registration. See Furbearer Registration, page 27.

Because of the change in stock for the new license year beginning March 1, 2012, otter tags for 2011-2012 will be available only from Sept. 15, 2011 to March 1, 2012. After March 1, individuals who have not obtained their ‘11-‘12 otter kill tags should contact a DNR Operations Service Center to request tags.

Federal Regulations

All out-of-state shipments of raw hides or furs must be plainly marked on the outside of the package as to the contents. If you wish to export bobcat, otter or bear hides from the United States, you need a federal permit. For details, contact the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at 800-358-2104.

Bait

Trappers may use game animals and game birds or their parts, lawfully taken and possessed as bait, only during the open season for those animals or birds. Other game, protected animals, birds or deer parts from taxidermy operations may not be used as bait. Your bait should be placed where it is not visible by hawks, owls and eagles.

Incidental Catches

Trappers occasionally trap nontargeted species. Because it is unlawful to possess animals out of season or those which are protected species, the following procedure allows trappers to help the DNR collect and utilize the biological data available through carcass examination and ensure that pelts are put to good use. Trappers must:

- Immediately release live protected animals from the trap. Help may be available for advice on the release of endangered species.
- 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. All incidental seals remain the property of the DNR and must be returned by May 1 each year.

Live Traps

As a substitute for foothold traps, trappers may use live traps capable of taking only one animal at a time within 450 feet of an occupied dwelling and associated buildings during the legal time for trapping the target animal. Live traps must be checked daily. Any animal captured in a live trap must be immediately killed or released; it is illegal to take these game animals or protected animals live from the wild. It also is illegal to hold these animals in captivity.

Special Management Areas

A special permit is required to trap in the management areas listed below and 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.
- Tobico Marsh Unit of Bay City Recreation Area. Trapping permits are available at the headquarters.
- Pte. Moullee State Game Area. Trapping permits are available at the game area headquarters.
- Crow Island State Game Area. Trapping permits are available at the Bay City Operations Service Center.
- Harsens Island, St. Clair Flats Wildlife Area. Trapping permits are available at the wildlife area headquarters.
- State Parks and Recreation Areas. Check with the park headquarters for current trapping regulations and any restrictions prior to trapping.

DNR Offers Trapper Education Program

The DNR, in cooperation with state trapping organizations, has developed a trapper education program that will help individuals acquire the knowledge and skills they need to become successful, responsible trappers.

The program is designed to educate our state’s youth and other interested individuals about one of the oldest wildlife management tools – trapping. The basic content for the trapper education student manual, which is about 180 pages, was developed by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, who, in turn, provided it to state agencies for state-specific modifications tailored to reflect Michigan conditions and regulations. The Michigan trapper education manual covers basic techniques with a focus on the responsible treatment of animals, legal methods, safety, selectivity and ethical behavior.

DNR personnel and representatives from the trapping community, including representatives from the Michigan trapping associations and independent trappers, have worked cooperatively on the program. Classes feature classroom work as well as hands-on training experiences. To find more information on classes currently offered in your area, please visit the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/trapping and click on Michigan Trapper Education.
### Fur Harvester Trapping and Hunting Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>SEASON DATES</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muskrat &amp; Mink</td>
<td>Zone 1</td>
<td>Oct. 25 - Mar. 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zone 2</td>
<td>Nov. 1 - Mar. 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zone 3</td>
<td>Nov. 10 - Mar. 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raccoon</td>
<td>Zones 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Oct. 15 - Jan. 31</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zone 3</td>
<td>Nov. 1 - Jan. 31</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fox &amp; Coyote</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Oct. 15 - Mar. 1</td>
<td>1, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobcat</td>
<td>Units A &amp; B</td>
<td>Dec. 1 - Feb. 1</td>
<td>2,10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Units C &amp; D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badger</td>
<td>Zones 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Oct. 15 - Nov. 14</td>
<td>3 &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zone 3</td>
<td>Nov. 1 - Mar. 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisher/Marten</td>
<td>Zone 1</td>
<td>Dec. 1 - 15</td>
<td>6,10, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver &amp; Otter</td>
<td>Units A, B &amp; C</td>
<td>See page 26</td>
<td>10 (Otter)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hunting Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bobcat</td>
<td>Units A &amp; B &amp; C Unit D</td>
<td>Jan. 1 - Feb. 1</td>
<td>2,10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan. 1 - Mar. 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray &amp; Red Fox</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Oct. 15 - Mar. 1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raccoon</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Oct. 1 - Jan. 31</td>
<td>1, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coyote</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Jul. 15 - Apr. 15</td>
<td>1, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fur Harvester Rules

- Trappers are legally required to check restraining-type traps and non-lethal cable restraints 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 restraining type traps and snares daily.

- Trappers may use game animals and game birds or their parts, lawfully taken and possessed as bait, only during the open season for those animals or birds. See Bait on page 21.

- Centerfire or rimfire rifles may be used Dec. 1-Nov. 9 in the Shotgun Zone during the open season for all species except no rifles may be used for deer, turkeys and migratory game birds. See page 20 for Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting restrictions.

**It is illegal to:**

- Use any kind of a trap other than a foothold, body-gripping or conibear-type trap unless specifically otherwise provided.

- Use a foothold trap with a jaw spread exceeding a number 2 foothold trap when taking mink or muskrat.

- Use snares or live traps. Exceptions: See Beaver and Otter Trapping Regulations on page 26, Live Traps on page 21 and Winter Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Cable Restraints on page 27.

- Use a trap with teeth or serrations.

- Use or have in possession or transport in an area frequented by wild animals a catching device of any kind without permanent etching or a metal tag bearing the user’s name and address or Michigan Driver License number. Exception: See Beaver and Otter Trapping Regulations on page 26.

- Set a steel trap within 50 feet of any water in Zone 1 before Oct. 25, before Nov. 1 in Zone 2 or before Nov. 10 in Zone 3, unless a duffer-type, egg-type, or similarly designed foothold trap for raccoon is used, or a body gripping or conibear trap that is placed four feet or more above the ground. See page 12 for hunting, trapping, rifle and shotgun zone map.

- Moisten or disturb 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, except under a DNR Wildlife Damage Investigation and Control Permit.

- Set a trap on a beaver dam or lodge unless the trap is submerged below the water.

- Transport or possess live game taken from the wild, except under a rehabilitation permit or as specified in a DNR Wildlife Damage Investigation and Control Permit.

- Stake, put out or set a catching device at any time before the day the open season begins.

- Use a multiple catch or colony trap except for taking muskrats, provided the trap is completely submerged. Colony traps must be constructed of steel and be no larger than eight inches high, eight inches wide and 36 inches deep. (Nuisance control operators MAY use colony traps for muskrats and other species.)

- Bring a live raccoon or skunk into Michigan.

- Shoot a muskrat, beaver, otter, mink, fisher or marten, except under DNR permit. Coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat and badger may be killed in traps by furtakers using .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearms, except for junior fur harvesters with trap-only licenses.

- Use a .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearm to dispatch coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat and badger from Nov. 15 - Nov. 30 in the Shotgun Zone unless the firearm is loaded at the point of kill only.

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1. Raccoon and coyote may be taken on private property by a property owner or designee all year if they are doing or about to do damage on private property. A license or written permit is not needed.
2. Season bag limit for bobcat is two per person; only one bobcat may be taken in Units C or D combined; and only one bobcat may be taken from Unit B. The trapping season in bobcat Units C and D is on private lands only, using foothold traps only.
3. The season bag limit for badger is one per person. Badgers do not require registration.
4. See Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting on page 20 for specific regulations governing the hunting of these species at night.
5. Residents possessing a valid small-game license may hunt coyote during the established season.
6. Combined bag limit of one fisher or one marten.
7. No closed season on opossum, weasel or skunk.
8. In Zone 1, badger may be trapped only in Baraga, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee and Ontonagon counties, and Alger and Delta counties west of federal forest highway 13.
9. See Winter Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Cable Restraints on page 27 for regulations governing the trapping of fox and coyote.
10. This species requires a free kill tag. See Furbearer Kill Tags on page 21 for details.
11. Fisher and marten are open in Zone 1 excluding Drummond Island.
Trap Selectivity

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. Although the set regulations on this page are required only on public land, these sets also may be useful to private-land trappers. Selective trapping techniques are essential for maintaining trapping opportunity in Michigan. Trappers are encouraged to use the most selective trapping techniques possible.

Dryland and Surface Ice Public Land

Body-Gripping Trap Regulations:

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 four 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 eight inches above the ground (Figure 1).

Dryland and Surface Ice Private Land

Body-Gripping Trap Regulations

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 dry lands that are privately owned, or over frozen submerged privately owned bottomlands unless the trap is four or more feet above dry ground or the frozen surface of ice. See above for regulations for body-gripping traps on publicly owned lands.
Beaver and Otter Trapping Regulations

Statewide Season Limits

Beaver: No limit
Otter: Three per person. Only two may be taken from Unit B, and only one from Unit C. Also see Note 3 below.

In addition to the general fur harvester rules on page 22, the following regulations apply to beaver and otter trapping:

- Only foothold, body-gripping or conibear-type traps may be used for taking beaver and otter. Traps with teeth are illegal. **Exception:** See below for use of snares to take beaver.
- A catching device of any type must have a permanent etching or metal tag bearing the user’s name and address or Michigan driver license number. If one or more snares are attached to a pole, both the snare and the uppermost end of the pole need a metal tag.
- 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.
- Up to 10 muskrat pelts may be legally taken in beaver or otter sets.

Notes:

1. The beaver and otter trapping season in Unit A extends through April 30 on designated trout streams only. For a list of these streams in the Upper Peninsula, see Fisheries Order FO-210.08 at www.michigan.gov/fishing.
2. The Gladwin Field Dog Trial Area is closed to trapping except for beaver and otter trapping, which is permitted from Nov. 15, 2011 through March 15, 2012.
3. Fur harvesters must purchase a new license after March 31. The season limit for otter does not change with the purchase of a new license. Otter taken after March 31 count against the 2011-2012 otter season bag limit. A free otter kill tag is required. See page 21.

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 Special Management Areas on page 21.

Bobcat Units and Bag Limits

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 l-75. Unit E includes remainder of Zone 2 and all counties in Zone 3.

**Bag Limits:** The season bag limit for bobcat is two per person; only one bobcat may be taken in Units C or D combined; and only one bobcat may be taken from Unit B. A free kill tag is required (see page 21).

**Bobcat Hunting with Dogs:** 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 also is required by the owner of any dog chasing or locating bobcat on a hunt.

Fisher and Marten Open Area and Bag Limit

The fisher and marten open area includes all of Zone 1, except Drummond Island.

**Bag Limit:** The season limit is one marten per person OR one fisher per person. Note: A free kill tag is required for fisher and marten. See page 21.