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REPORT ON THE STATUS OF CANADIAN WILDLIFE USED BY THE FUR INDUSTRY REVISED EDITION (1977)

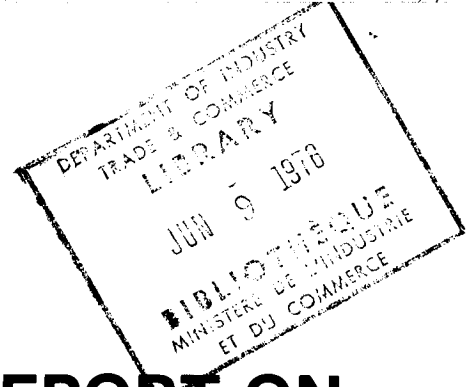


Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Industry, Trade
and Commerce

Industrie
et Commerce



REPORT ON THE STATUS OF CANADIAN WILDLIFE USED BY THE FUR INDUSTRY

Canada

Published by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Canada
in association with the Canada Fur Council

(AUSSI PUBLIÉ EN FRANÇAIS)

Ottawa, Canada, 1978

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Cat. No. C65-222/1978

ISBN 0-662-01916-4

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The statistical data on wild fur production are based on data published by Statistics Canada (Fur Production 1971-72). Statistics on seals were provided by the Fisheries Service, Environment Canada. Modifications were made on the basis of recent information received from provincial and territorial fur resource agencies.

Contributions by provincial and territorial fur resource administration agencies, the Canadian Wildlife Service and Fisheries Service, Environment Canada and Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development are gratefully acknowledged. Without such inputs, this report could not have been completed.

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR SPECIES TABLES

1. Province or Territory:

See cover map for location

2. Legal Status:

Designation provided by federal, provincial or territorial legislation

3. Population Abundance:

Nil — not present

Rare — present with limited population density

Declining — present but below historical population levels

Limited Range — habitat suitable to species is limited

Adequate — good population, maintaining its range

Abundant — large population, extending its range

Cycles — natural cyclic fluctuations controlling population abundance at acceptable levels

4. Conservation Methods and Management Employed:

Federal, provincial or territorial legislation regulates level and intensity of harvests and action taken to expand or control the population

5. General Status:

N/A — species not present

Satisfactory — population level satisfactory in relation to range capability

Excellent — abundant population, adequately harvested

Not satisfactory — limited or declining population, usually below carrying capacity

— may also designate abundant overpopulation, with inadequate harvests

6. Current Harvest

Production figures secured from Statistics Canada and may be updated from Fur Production Bulletin Catalogue No. 23-207 published annually.
(Totals do not include harvests by sportsmen)

7. Potential Harvest:

Related primarily to long-term average production, with due consideration for cyclic fluctuations familiar to some species.

8. Remarks:

Intended to qualify comments in preceding columns.

INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared on behalf of the Canadian Fur Council to present a factual account of the status of Canadian wildlife harvested by trappers, and in some cases by hunters, and used by the international fur trade. Information on various animal populations in relation to abundance and distribution in Canada is provided.

It is hoped that this report will also serve as a perspective for judging publicity circulated by special interest groups and will supersede misleading or inaccurate accounts about the status of wildlife used in the fur industry. It can be used as a guide for persons and organizations concerned with wildlife conservation and management.

CANADA FUR COUNCIL

The Canada Fur Council, an unincorporated body having no administrative or regulatory responsibility or authority, is composed of representatives of the federal, provincial and territorial governments and the Canadian fur industry. Industry representatives include primary producers (trappers and ranchers), fur buyers, auction companies, dressers and dyers, unions, manufacturers and retailers. Government representatives include natural resource, trade promotion and licensing agencies.

The council was established to provide a co-ordinated approach to resolving national problems related to resource management and the fur industry at large. Consideration is given to primary production, resource use and management, publicity and information, marketing, promotion and research.

Concern has been expressed about the prevalence of biased, inaccurate and misleading information respecting fur-bearing animals and the impact this may have on the Canadian fur industry. There also seems to be some question regarding legislation prohibiting the importation into the United States of certain species of fur, the justification for which is based on the status of those species in areas outside Canada. This report has been prepared in an effort to clarify the status — in Canada — of wildlife species used in the world fur trade.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Much of the controversy concerning the fur industry relates to the use of wild furs. Little, if any, consideration is given to the extent of wildlife management practised in Canada and the fact that fur pelts are largely the product of that management. It is realistic, therefore, to comment on the development of wild fur management and its objectives in Canada.

Wildlife management may be described as the manipulation of animals or their environment to produce optimum sustained yields, or harvests, consistent with the carrying capacity of the range and maintenance of adequate breeding stock. This can seldom be achieved without a view of other considerations and it is often necessary to modify and relate wildlife management objectives to other land use or resource management priorities.

REFERENCES

For information regarding technical references write to: The Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of Fisheries and Environment, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0E7.

CANADIAN WILDLIFE AND THE FUR TRADE

Wildlife — and particularly most fur species — cannot be stockpiled. Natural mortality tends to begin reducing the population as soon as reproduction occurs, maintaining a balance between the reproductive rate and the carrying capacity of the habitat. Unless surplus animals are harvested each season, they are either lost or survive at the expense of range quality. If degradation remains unchecked, a severe decline in population may result. Good management, therefore, dictates that an annual harvest be taken to maintain fur population in proper balance and secure appropriate economic returns.

Canada is blessed with vast areas of relatively undeveloped Crown land, much of it subject to multiple use including forestry, fur production, big game hunting and recreation. Unlike more developed areas, however, the trapper or occasional hunter may be the only persons to travel through these parts and fur may be the only resource harvested in a given area during a particular year. Consequently, fur is a valid and important renewable resource and its harvest cannot be determined by conditions existing outside Canada.

Most provinces and territories in Canada have established some form of registered trapline or fur block system whereby specific trappers are licensed to harvest the annual fur crop. A variety of management techniques is used to control and monitor the harvest of each species as conditions dictate. The tables in this report indicate this variation through provinces and territories, although regulations may also vary from area to area within a particular province or territory.

The species composition of the fur harvest varies across Canada due to habitat, climate and habitat requirements of specific species. Problems involving the decline of certain species tend to be related to areas where agriculture and industry have permanently altered the environment. Overharvesting and the absence of sound management practices have also influenced the decline of certain species in some undeveloped areas.

Fur production in Canada has responded favourably to management during the past 25 years — particularly that of beaver and muskrat, which are now underharvested and constitute a problem of overabundance in some areas. Restocking and rehabilitation of other species, notably marten and fisher, have aided in their re-establishment in previously depleted areas. Some problems still exist, but are receiving attention. Basically, if one national problem were to be cited, it would be that fur resources are not being harvested to their full potential.

Canadian provincial and territorial governments have exclusive legislative responsibility and authority within their respective boundaries for the management and use of fur-bearing and other animals used in the fur industry. The federal government has exclusive jurisdiction over marine mammals, which includes responsibility for the management and use of seals within Canada's territorial waters, and animals within national parks.

Because of varying environments within each province or territory, or even within a habitat, the status of a particular species may differ extensively across Canada. It is recommended, therefore, that since each province or territory is best able to determine the management, conservation and protection of species within its jurisdiction, action to restrict the market for Canadian furs should not be taken without prior and full consultation with appropriate provinces and territories. The Canada Fur Council is prepared to provide assistance in co-ordinating discussions or presenting recommendations related to such consultation as and when required.

Although seals do not precisely fit the category of fur-bearing animals harvested by trappers, many northern Indian and Eskimo hunters depend on them for a substantial portion of their earned income. Seals also account for a large percentage of Canada's overall production of pelts and no report of this type would be complete without them.

The captioned comment on each species is intended to serve as a summary only; for more precise information on regional status, distribution, abundance and harvest, refer to the tables.

THE CANADIAN FUR TRADE AND THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora is an international convention designed to regulate the trade in those species of animals alive or dead, or their products, that were classed by the international community as endangered, threatened or likely to be threatened by such trade. The convention is sponsored by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya and the Secretariat is the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the Natural Resources (IUCN), headquartered in Morges, Switzerland. The convention statutes were discussed at a meeting of 80 nations in Washington in February of 1973 and subsequently ratified by 36 nations, Canada being one of them, so that the convention is in effect in Canada as of July 3, 1975.

The significant aspect of the convention is a list of species in various categories, the trade or movement of which is regulated or controlled by a permit system under Canadian law. These are species classed as endangered (Appendix I species), threatened or likely to be threatened (Appendix II species) and those species not endangered in a country but are listed so that other nations can assist in the regulation of trade in that particular species (Appendix III species).

Trade in Appendix I species will not be permitted for primarily commercial purposes. Before trade is commenced, the importer must be in possession of a convention export permit issued by the government of the exporting nation and an import permit issued by The Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of Fisheries and the Environment, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0E7.

Appendix II species being traded must be covered by appropriate convention export permits issued by the government of the exporting nations before entry into Canada will be permitted.

Appendix III species are managed within the listing nation. Permit requirements for Appendix III are as for Appendix II species, and are applicable between Canada and the listing nation.

Canadian export permits for animals or plants, or their parts and derivatives, may be obtained from the provincial or territorial wildlife service responsible for the management of the species. The Canadian Wildlife Service will issue permits for species or products not regulated by the provinces or territories, and when necessary, on behalf of a province.

The significance of the convention, and in particular, of the list attached to the convention (Appendices I, II and III), to the fur trade in Canada is that some species which may be endangered in some other country may be a "look alike" to a Canadian species and as a result both are included on the list, usually in Appendix II. Examples of these include the wolf, river otter, cougar, lynx and bobcat. Another example of a different kind is the polar bear which is still hunted in Canada and the furs traded, whereas, hunting of this species has been curtailed elsewhere. The polar bear also is in Appendix II. As this matter is the responsibility of the various provincial and territorial jurisdictions, the only significance to the Canadian trapping industry is that the jurisdictions involved where the above species are either trapped or traded must issue a permit for inter-provincial movement and a convention export permit for those particular species leaving Canada. It does not burden the trapper with an extra responsibility and as a result the explanation of the convention is for information purposes only. A summary of the convention, and a more detailed description of it is available from the Administrator, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora, The Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of Fisheries and Environment, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7.

Because the above species are identified through the convention, they will be discussed in the status reports found in the main body of the report. As a few are significant to the fur trade, (river otter, lynx), the statistics supplied for those species by the jurisdictions are accurate as we have an international obligation to document our judgement that the above species are neither endangered nor threatened at this time.

The species concerned are:

Timber Wolf (*Canis lupus*) pages 18 and 19
Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*) pages 28 and 29
Otter (*Lutra canadensis*) pages 46 and 47
Cougar (*Felis concolor*) pages 48 and 49
Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) pages 50 and 51
Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) pages 52 and 53

VARYING HARE (*Lepus americanus*)

(Also known as showshoe rabbit)

Canada's most abundant species, the varying hare is found in all provinces and territories. Its importance to the fur industry has been as variable as its colour and population levels. Currently its main economic significance is not in the manufacture of fur garments and trim, but in its role as a prey species for other fur-bearing animals.

ARCTIC HARE (*Lepus arcticus*)

This species is found throughout the arctic and subarctic regions of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, northern Quebec, Labrador and, in limited numbers, Newfoundland. In the latter, it has been largely replaced by the varying hare, introduced many years earlier from New Brunswick.

WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT (*Lepus townsendii campanius*)

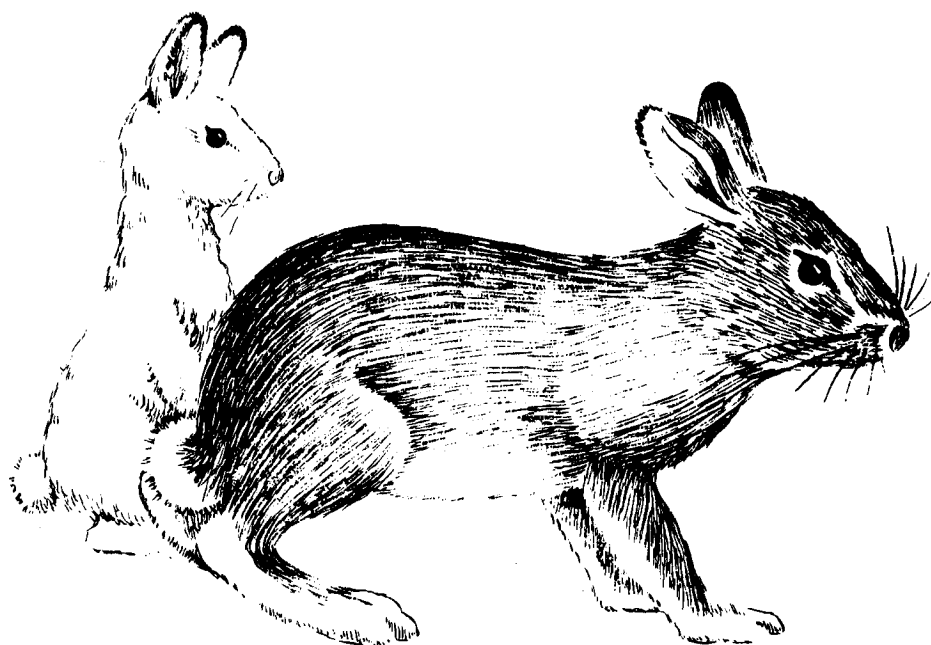
The native white-tailed jack rabbit is common to southern areas of the prairie provinces and reaches the northern limits of its range in Alberta. At one time it was important in the production of rabbit skins, but current harvests are light and the species is relatively abundant except in Manitoba, where, however, there is evidence of resurgence. When available, the meat is used as mink feed by fur ranchers in western Canada.

Another white-tailed jack rabbit (*L. t. townsendii*) is found only in the extreme southcentral portion of British Columbia and is of no importance to the fur industry.

EUROPEAN HARE (*Lepus europaeus*)

(Also known as eastern jack rabbit)

This species, as might be expected by its name, was introduced into Canada from Europe. Its range is centred in southern Ontario and extends from just west of Lake Superior to the eastern townships of Quebec. At one time abundant, populations have levelled off and are now moderate in southern Ontario to light or occasional towards the range edge.



The most important contributors to past Canadian rabbit skin production were varying hare, Arctic hare and European hare. During the last 50 years, production figures have varied from a low in 1923-24 of 496 skins valued at \$100, to a high in 1941-42 of 9,012,329 skins valued at \$938,568. The average production in recent years is about 100,000 skins valued at \$30,000 (But in 1971-72 production totalled 10,021 skins valued at \$1,002 — the lowest production since 1923-24.)

These figures indicate a substantial decline in rabbit harvesting during the past 25 years. Price does not appear to be a factor since the current price is near the highest levels paid in the last 50 years. It should be noted, however, that the above production figures may include an unknown quantity of domestic rabbit skins marketed by commercial meat producers.

Population figures for Arctic and varying hare exhibit wide cyclic fluctuations that influence the abundance of some predator species important to the fur industry. This is particularly apparent in the more northern areas where buffer prey species are not readily available.

The general status of the rabbit population in Canada is satisfactory within the limits of cyclic variations.

RED SQUIRREL (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*)

Classed as a fur bearer throughout its range, the red squirrel is found in all provinces and territories in Canada. Populations are reported adequate to abundant, except in Newfoundland and Labrador where insufficient data is available to permit evaluation.

The bulk of production is chiefly in the western provinces where squirrels tend to be somewhat larger. (Production figures include all squirrels.)

Management is chiefly confined to the regulation of trapping seasons and licensing, but some provinces provide no specific protection. Populations are currently underharvested and general status is excellent.

GRAY SQUIRREL (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

(Includes black colour phase)

Although confined primarily to southern hardwood forests, this species has extended its range west into Manitoba in limited numbers and occurs east into southern Quebec. It is not an important fur species in Canada and is primarily of sporting interest to squirrel hunters.

No precise data are provided respecting population levels, but its general status is satisfactory.



**SPECIES RED SQUIRREL (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*)
GRAY SQUIRREL (*Sciurus carolinensis*)**

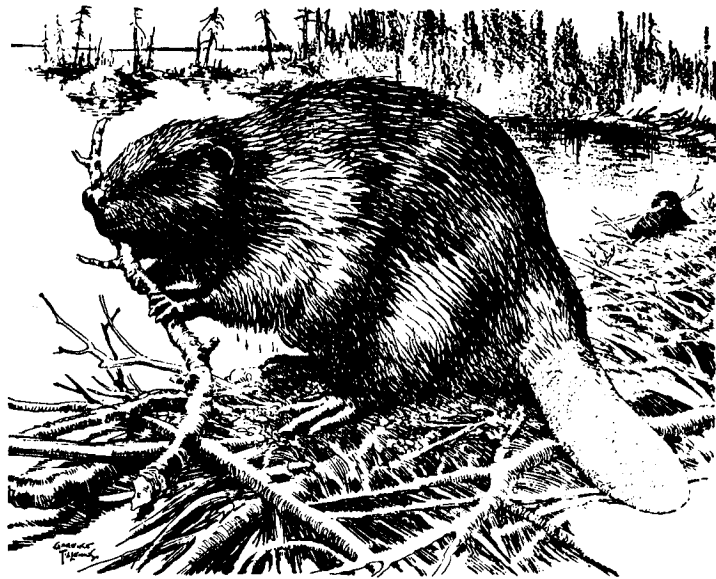
PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Fur bearer	Adequate in Labrador Extending range on Island	Regulated seasons	Satisfactory	67	1,000	Introduced to Island limited range
Prince Edward Island	Fur bearer	Abundant	Regulated seasons and licences	Satisfactory	206	5,000	Tamiasciurus
Nova Scotia	" "	"	Regulated seasons March 15-November 1	"	2,397	10,000	"
New Brunswick	" "	Adequate	Harvest surveys, regulated seasons	Excellent	175	5,000	"
Quebec	" "	Abundant	No closed season	Satisfactory	4,630	25,000	"
Ontario	" "	Adequate	No closed season	Excellent	5,803	50,000	Both species occur
Manitoba	" "	Abundant	Regulated seasons	Satisfactory	82,527	250,000	Tamiasciurus
Saskatchewan	" "	Abundant	Regulated seasons	"	116,304	300,000	Under-harvested
Alberta	" "	"	Regulated seasons, limited census, habitat mapping	"	193,413	400,000	Grossly underharvested
British Columbia	" "	"	Regulated trapping season	"	27,190	500,000	"
Yukon Territory	" "	"	Regulated seasons, licences	"	7,939	25,000	Underharvested
Northwest Territories	" "	"	Regulated seasons, licences	"	4,856	25,000	"
Summary		Abundant over most of its range	Management largely confined to regulation of seasons	"	445,507	1,596,000	Grossly under-harvested

BEAVER (*Castor canadensis*)

Canada's most valuable fur species, the beaver is classified as a fur bearer in all provinces and territories. While it is abundant and expanding its range, this is not a problem — except where its presence conflicts with other land use. The beaver creates a nuisance in agricultural areas and parks, however, by damming streams, felling trees and flooding roads.

For the past 25 years, beavers have been generally easy to manage due to controlled harvests (based on number of colonies), regulated seasons and licensing. At the same time, depletion in some areas and overabundance elsewhere indicate need for a more orderly harvesting program throughout its range.

General status is excellent to satisfactory.



SPECIES BEAVER (*Castor canadensis*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Fur bearer	Adequate	Harvested on trapline basis, seasons and quota	Satisfactory	834	4,000	Underharvested
Prince Edward Island	" "	Adequate	Seasons, census, surveys, re-introductions	"	91	200	
Nova Scotia	" "	Adequate	Controlled season, harvests and licences	"	349	4,000	Underharvested
New Brunswick	" "	"	Aerial census and harvest, surveys, regulated seasons	"	5,426	10,000	Underharvested
Quebec	" "	Abundant to adequate	Quotas on registered traplines and preserves, seasons and licences	"	46,472	100,000	"
Ontario	" "	Abundant and adequate	Seasons, licences, surveys and census	"	136,680	250,000	"
Manitoba	" "	Abundant	Seasons and licences, surveys and research	"	39,501	100,000	"
Saskatchewan	" "	"	Quotas, seasons, surveys and census	"	37,858	50,000	"
Alberta	" "	"	Seasons and licences, harvest surveys, census, habitat mapping	"	50,704	150,000	"
British Columbia	" "	Abundant and expanding	Seasons and licences, registered traplines	"	13,693	50,000	"
Yukon Territory	" "	Expanding	Seasons and quotas, licences, sealing	"	766	Unknown	
Northwest Territories	" "	Adequate on restricted range	Seasons and licences	Not satisfactory	2,550	50,000	Underharvested
Summary		Abundant and expanding over most of its range	Generally well managed, with good control of seasons, quotas, licences; suffers from underharvesting in many areas	Excellent to satisfactory	334,900	770,000	Harvest could be substantially expanded

MUSKRAT (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

Classed as a fur bearer throughout its range, the muskrat is present in all provinces and territories. Populations are reported adequate to abundant, except in Newfoundland, where suitable habitat is limited.

The muskrat is an important species in the fur industry and production exceeds that of all other species; in value it is exceeded only by the beaver.

Management consists primarily of regulated seasons. In addition, extensive areas (particularly in Manitoba and Saskatchewan) are maintained for optimum muskrat production by regulation of water levels.

While general status is satisfactory to excellent, overpopulation tends to encourage the spread of disease. Consequently, some provinces have designated its status as unsatisfactory.



SPECIES MUSKRAT (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Fur bearer	Declining on Island	Regulated seasons	Not satisfactory	1,456	6,000	Species declining
Prince Edward Island	" "	Adequate	Regulated seasons and licences	Satisfactory	4,124	6,000	Underharvested
Nova Scotia	" "	Adequate	Regulated trapping season	"	29,309	35,000	Record harvest for province
New Brunswick	" "	"	Regulated trapping season, harvest surveys	"	14,658	35,000	Underharvested
Quebec	" "	"	Regulated trapping season, and zoned	"	161,200	200,000	"
Ontario	" "	"	Regulated trapping season	"	432,233	1,800,000	"
Manitoba	" "	Abundant	Marsh management, rehabilitation	"	414,404	1,000,000	"
Saskatchewan	" "	"	Regulated seasons, limited census	"	455,012	1,000,000	Grossly under-harvested
Alberta	" "	Adequate	" " " "	"	367,574	1,000,000	"
British Columbia	" "	Adequate within range	Regulated trapping season	"	21,050	100,000	"
Yukon Territory	" "	Adequate to abundant	Licences, seasons	"	17,262	Unknown	Underharvested
Northwest Territories	" "	Abundant	Licences, seasons	"	183,726	250,000	"
Summary		Abundant over most of its range	Management is varied but mainly confined to regulation of seasons; some habitat and mapping work has been done.	Excellent to satisfactory	2,102,000	5,400,000	Grossly under-harvested

COYOTE (*Canis latrans*)

(Also known as prairie wolf)

Classification across Canada varies with importance from fur bearer to game animal to non-game animal. The coyote is used extensively in the fur industry, with the western form in particular demand.

Population is abundant, except on the edge of its range in the Northwest Territories. Coyotes do not occur in the Maritime Provinces, except in rare instances. Established in Quebec during the early 1950s, this species has extended its range eastward into the Saguenay and lower St. Lawrence River regions.

General status is excellent to satisfactory. Management is limited over most of its range; however, control measures are periodically required in livestock areas.



SPECIES COYOTE (*Canis latrans*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Prince Edward Island	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "
Nova Scotia	"	First reported 1977	Regulated seasons	Unknown	1	Unknown	Natural introduction from N.B.
New Brunswick	"	New species extending range	Regulated seasons, harvest surveys	Extending satisfactory	35 (1977)	"	Recognized fur bearer for one year
Quebec	Fur bearer	Abundant expanding	Not protected, licence required	Satisfactory	Unknown	Unknown	Harvest data included with wolves
Ontario	No status	Adequate	No closed season, control in livestock areas	"	2,268	"	
Manitoba	No status	"	Not protected, no special management	"	9,568	10,000	Classified predator in agricultural areas
Saskatchewan	Fur bearer	"	Season open all year	"	16,684	12,000	Periodic control in agricultural areas
Alberta	" "	"	Licence required in some areas regulated seasons, census	"	30,248	36,000	Underharvested in cyclic peaks
British Columbia	Game animal, fur bearer	"	Regulated season	"	2,905	5,000	Control where needed
Yukon Territory	Game animal	Adequate expanding	Season open all year	"	85	Unknown	Limited range
Northwest Territories	Game animal	Stable limited range	Not specified	"	21	"	Satisfactory south of Great Slave Lake
Summary		Abundant or adequate except in fringe areas	Limited management applied anywhere in the coyote range	Generally satisfactory	61,779 likely not complete data, and may not include hunters' harvest	63,000	Probably harvest is close to potential

TIMBER WOLF (*Canis lupus*)

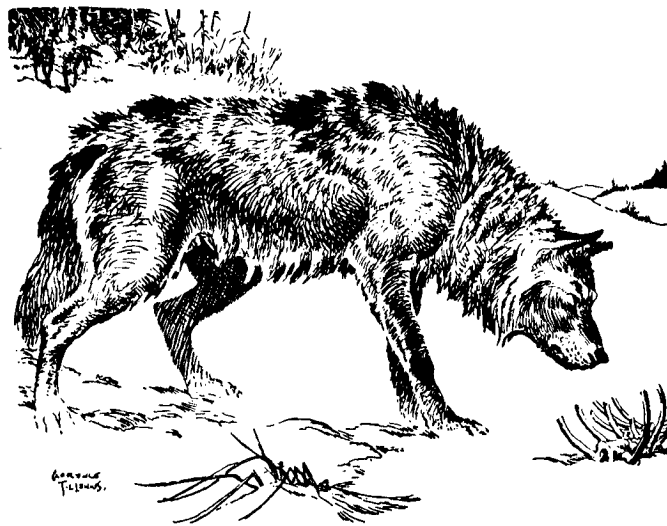
Classed mainly as a fur bearer, it is rated as a game and non-game animal.

Despite extensive controversy, Canada's timber wolf population is reported adequate or abundant over its entire range, with the exception of Vancouver Island. While not highly important to the fur industry, there is a demand for prime pelts and a harvestable surplus is available to trappers.

Limited management is practised in most areas, although in British Columbia hunting and trapping are closely regulated. Good management requires that population be regulated to coincide with other big game species. Consequently, in some areas, specific control measures are needed.

Because Canada has a harvestable surplus of wolves, markets should not be denied Canadian trappers based on the status of wolf populations in other parts of the world. For example, the United States has arbitrarily banned the importation of wolf skins without sufficient justification, in the opinion of the Canada Fur Council.

General status is satisfactory in Canada although some subspecies or isolated population segments may be threatened. This species is included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (see page 7). It is an Appendix II species in order to protect the European wolf of the same species.



SPECIES TIMBER WOLF (*Canis lupus*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Fur bearer	Adequate	Regulated seasons	Satisfactory	8	100	Labrador only
Prince Edward Island	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Nova Scotia	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "
New Brunswick	"	"	"	"	"	"	No record since 1850
Quebec	Fur bearer predator small game	Adequate to abundant	Not protected, licence required, controlled as required, no special management	Satisfactory	2,359	4,500	Northern gray wolf adequate, see page 17
Ontario	No status	Adequate	No special management, controlled as required	"	285	1,200	
Manitoba	" "	"	Not protected	"	404 366	400	Stable population predator in agricultural areas
Saskatchewan	Fur bearer	"	Open season year round; licence required in some areas	"	447	500-800	Potential harvest may be greater, periodic control
Alberta	Fur bearer and game animal	Abundant	Regulated seasons	"		1000+	Underharvested
British Columbia	Game animal	"	Regulated hunting and trapping	"	190	1,200	Abundant in suitable habitat
Yukon Territory	" "	Adequate	Season open all year	"	158	Unknown	Requires periodic control
Northwest Territories	Non-game animal	Abundant	Season open all year	"	662	1000+	Includes timber and barren ground wolves
Summary		Abundant to adequate; rare in some provinces	Limited management in most areas; some control exercised when required	Generally satisfactory	4,879 may not be complete data, i.e. sports, hunters' harvest	10,000	Harvest can probably be increased over most of range

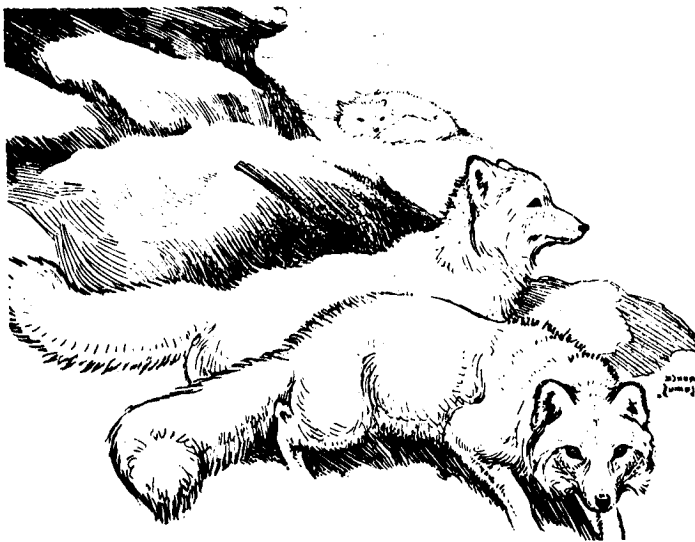
ARCTIC FOX (*Alopex lagopus*)

(Includes white and blue colour phases)

The Arctic fox is classified as a fur bearer throughout its range. Restricted to northern regions, this fox is reported abundant or adequate, except in Labrador, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Arctic fox population is highly cyclic with extensive variations from year to year, regulated by the abundance of lemmings — its main food supply. It is an important fur species only in the Northwest Territories where the bulk of the harvest is taken by Indians and Eskimos.

Management consists primarily of regulated seasons and harvests are related to its cyclic abundance. The main problem is underharvesting since large areas of the Barren Lands have been only lightly trapped in recent years.

The Arctic fox's general status is excellent to satisfactory within its range.



SPECIES ARCTIC FOX (*Alopex lagopus*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Fur bearer	Adequate in cycles	Regulated seasons	Satisfactory	14	500	Underharvested Northern Labrador
Prince Edward Island	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Nova Scotia	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "
New Brunswick	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "
Quebec	Fur bearer	Adequate in cycles	No special management, no closed season	Satisfactory	2,328	500-15,000, varies with cycle	Range limited to north coast
Ontario	" "	"	No special management. Seasons and licences	"	101	200-500 in cycle	Limited range
Manitoba	" "	"	Regulated seasons and licences	"	270	1,200	Potential is long-term average harvest
Saskatchewan	" "	Limited range	Regulated seasons in northern areas	"	36	100	Extreme edge of range
Alberta	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A			Beyond normal range
British Columbia	"	"	"	"			"
Yukon Territory	Fur bearer	Unknown	Seasons and licences	Unknown	1	Unknown	Range limited to northern areas
Northwest Territories	" "	Abundant in cycles	" "	Satisfactory	23,834	Up to 100,000	Extensive range, underharvested
Summary		Abundance is related to cycles and availability of food	Management generally limited to regulation of seasons	Excellent to satisfactory	26,797	140,000 to 160,000 based on past records	Underharvested over most of its range

COLOURED FOX (*Vulpes fulva*)

(Includes red, cross and silver colour phases)

Classified as a fur bearer throughout most of its range, the coloured fox is also considered a game animal in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and British Columbia.

Its popularity in the fur industry has increased extensively over the past few years and, as a result, its importance to trappers has expanded. Populations are reported abundant to adequate in all provinces and territories.

Management consists primarily of regulated seasons and licences, although some provinces impose no restrictions. Because the coloured fox is often a rabies carrier, control is occasionally required in agricultural areas. (This disease is believed to control populations in some parts of the country.)

General status is satisfactory.



SPECIES COLOURED FOX (*Vulpes fulva*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Fur bearer	Adequate Adequate	Regulated season	Satisfactory	654	1,400	Underharvested
Prince Edward Island	Game animal	Adequate	Regulated seasons and licences	"	1,185	1,500	Heavy trapping pressure
Nova Scotia	Fur bearer	Adequate	Regulated trapping seasons	"	1,996	3,000	Mange has reduced numbers in some areas
New Brunswick	Fur bearer and game animal	"	Seasons, licences and harvest surveys	Excellent	3,354	Unknown	—
Quebec	Fur bearer	Abundant	Licences, no closed season	Satisfactory	15,647	15,000	—
Ontario	" "	Adequate	" " "	"	10,125	10,000	—
Manitoba	" "	"	Licences and seasons	"	10,045	10,000	
Saskatchewan	" "	Abundant	Regulated seasons in north, no closed season in south	"	17,103	14,000	
Alberta	" "	Adequate increasing	Regulated seasons	"	3,588	Unknown	Available data inadequate, possibly underharvested
British Columbia	Fur bearer and game animal	Adequate	Regulated hunting and trapping seasons	"	621	2,500	
Yukon Territory	Fur bearer	Adequate	Seasons and licences	"	206	Unknown	
Northwest Territories	" "	Abundant	Seasons and licences	"	1,295	1,500	
Summary		Population is abundant to sustained over most of its range	Limited management; fox control is practised in some agricultural areas, particularly where rabies is prevalent	Excellent to satisfactory	55,614	70,000	Harvest can probably be expanded in most areas

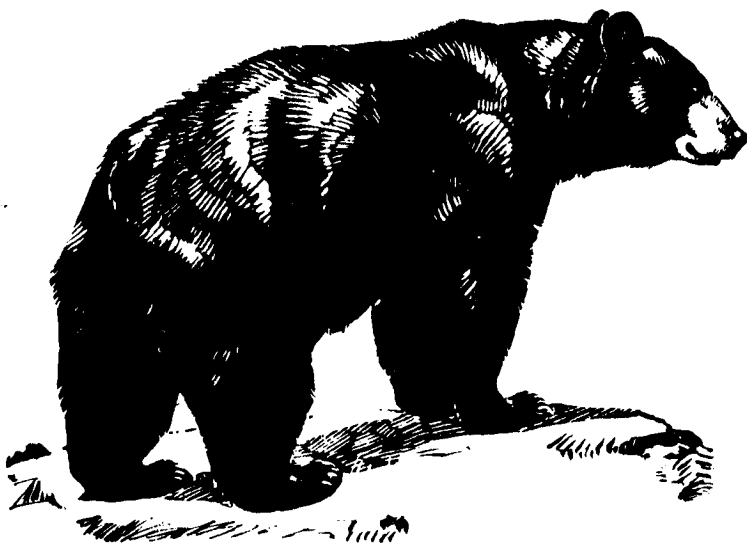
BLACK BEAR (*Ursus americanus*)

(Includes brown and cinnamon colour phases)

Although considered a fur bearer in Manitoba, the black bear is classed as a big game animal in most of its range. It occurs in all provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island.

The black bear is important as a sporting trophy and is used in the fur trade for the manufacture of headgear and rugs. Management consists primarily of licensing and regulated seasons.

General status is excellent to satisfactory.



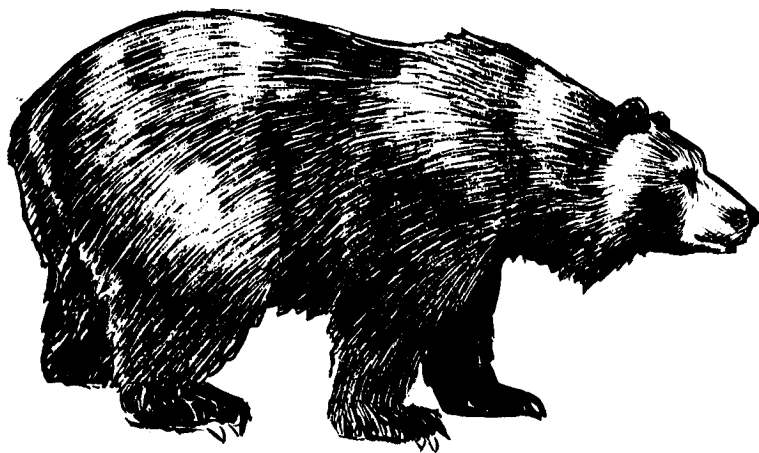
SPECIES BLACK BEAR (*Ursus americanus*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Game animal	Abundant	Annual hunting season	Satisfactory	21	200	Underharvested
Prince Edward Island	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nil	Extirpated
Nova Scotia	Game animal	Scarce to abundant	Harvested only during deer season, trapped 2 weeks before and 2 weeks after	Satisfactory	33	500	Habitat determines abundance. Nuisance to sheep and bees
New Brunswick	" "	Adequate	Harvest surveys, seasons	"	68	1,000	
Quebec	Fur bearer and game animal	Abundant	Seasons and licences	"	1,298	2,000	Not all recorded
Ontario	Game animal	Adequate	" "	"	282	1,000	
Manitoba	Fur bearer big game animal	"	Licences required in trapping and hunting seasons	"	494	1,500	Controlled in agricultural areas
Saskatchewan	" "	"	Regulated seasons, licences required	"	696	1,000	" " "
Alberta	Game animal	Abundant	Seasons and licences, field research	"	240	20,000	Grossly underharvested
British Columbia	" "	"	Seasons and licences	"	219	3,000	Removed where causing damage
Yukon Territory	" "	"	Seasons, licences and seals	"	120	Unknown	Requires periodic control
Northwest Territories	" "	"	Seasons and licences for sports hunting	"	180	250+	Open spring season to reduce problem near settlements
Summary		Generally abundant and sustaining hunting and trapping pressure	Managed primarily as a big game animal with regulated seasons,	Excellent to satisfactory	3,651 probably does not include bears taken by sports hunters	29,450	Control required in areas used for livestock; has limited interest for most trappers

GRIZZLY BEAR (*Ursus arctos*)

Classed as a big game animal, the grizzly bear is found only in western Canada. It is reported rare or declining except in the Northwest Territories and Alberta. Prime importance is as a game animal and its use in the fur industry is only incidental to sports hunting.

Management consists of complete protection, regulated seasons, licensing, quotas and live trapping for tagging and zoological gardens. General status is not satisfactory, but significant numbers are protected in national parks.



SPECIES GRIZZLY BEAR (*Ursus arctos*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prince Edward Island	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Nova Scotia	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
New Brunswick	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Quebec	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Ontario	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Manitoba	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Saskatchewan	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Alberta	Big game	Rare	Regulated seasons	Satisfactory on restricted range	Unknown	Unknown	" Population and occupied range increasing
British Columbia	Game animal	Declining; limited range and distribution	Seasons and licences; regional protection	Stable	8	Unknown	Being studied, removed where causing damage
Yukon Territory	" "	Adequate; declining in south	Seasons and licences; special seals required	Generally satisfactory Locally unsatisfactory	101	100	Needs more sophisticated and intense management
Northwest Territories	" "	Adequate	Seasons and licences; protected in some areas	Satisfactory	0	Being studied	Barren Grounds grizzly protected
Summary		Range limited to western Canada; may be declining	Managed as a game animal	Somewhat less than satisfactory	Unknown does not include bears taken by sports hunters or natives for personal use.	Unknown	Regional management required. Not important to fur trade

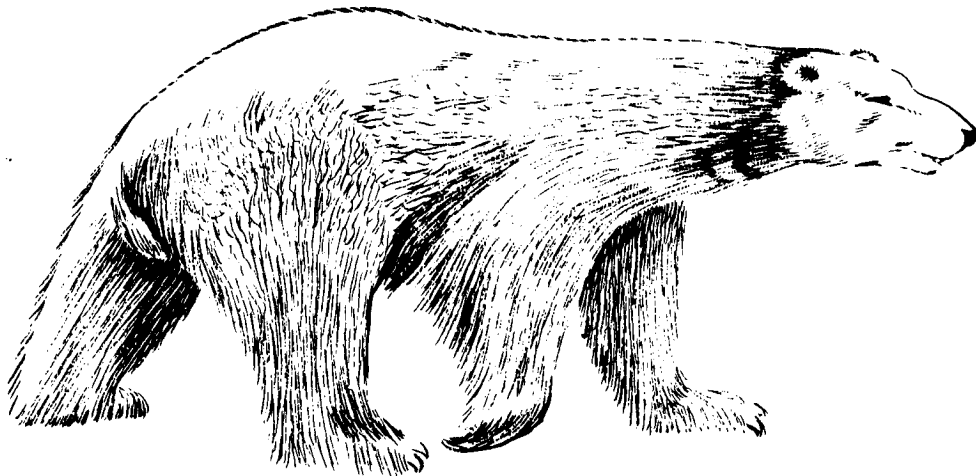
POLAR BEAR (*Ursus maritimus*)

Classification varies from game animal and fur bearer to non-game animal. Populations are reported abundant and adequate in the western Arctic to rare in the eastern portion of the range — accessible in previous years to whalers and commercial fishermen from Europe and the United States.

Management consists of complete protection in eastern areas, strictly controlled quotas in the Northwest Territories, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba; census taking, live trapping for tagging, protection of denning areas and prohibition on killing cubs or females with cubs. Extensive research on this species is continuing.

General status is satisfactory except in eastern Arctic areas and northern Quebec. Despite international controversy concerning the decline in polar bear populations, there is a harvestable surplus of polar bears in Canada. This species is included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (see page 7). It was the harvestable surplus over a period of many years by which Canada was able to keep the polar bear on Appendix II where other nations would have restricted trade even further. Canada may have 65-70 per cent of the world population. However, it has been increasingly difficult for Canadians to export the valuable polar bear hides because of restrictions by other nations through their domestic legislation.

Canada has also entered into an international agreement on the conservation of polar bears with Denmark, Norway, the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. Canadian ratification of this agreement is accompanied by a declaration which clarifies Canada's position on management, research, and native peoples' hunting rights, which emphasizes sound management principles rather than on a rigid form of protection.



SPECIES POLAR BEAR (*Ursus maritimus*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Non-game animal, protected	Rare	No harvest permitted	Not satisfactory	0	0	Limited to north Labrador coast
Prince Edward Island	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Nova Scotia	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "
New Brunswick	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "
Quebec	Fur bearer	Rare	Hunting permitted by natives only; surveys and census, quotas, seals required	Not satisfactory	41	40	Limited to far northern coast
Ontario	Protected fur bearer	Adequate	" "	Satisfactory	17	30	Limited range, Hudson and James Bay
Manitoba	Game animal	"	Protected, seals required, surveys and research	"	No data	50	Limited to Hudson Bay
Saskatchewan	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Alberta	"	"	"	"	"	"	
British Columbia	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Yukon Territory	Game animal	Unknown	Protected except for limited native use	Not satisfactory	Unknown	Unknown	Limited range
Northwest Territories	" "	Adequate to abundant	Quotas of 516 for natives and sports hunting; surveys and research	Satisfactory	348	516	Extensive range across maritime areas of NWT
Summary		Abundant in most of its northern and central range, rare in the eastern section	Protected or managed intensively through close control of hunting; quotas set for all areas	Generally satisfactory except in eastern areas	406* may not be an accurate record of harvest	630 potential limited to northern and central part of range	*Technical Committee on Polar Bear Management and Research reported in 1975-76 that 51 bears were taken.

RACCOON (*Procyon lotor*)

The raccoon is classed as a fur bearer in those provinces where it is important to trappers; elsewhere it is classed as either a game or non-game animal. The raccoon population is reported as adequate to abundant and has been expanding its range extensively over the past 20 years. It is now present in all provinces and territories except Newfoundland and the Northwest Territories.

Management is confined to regulated seasons in British Columbia; and the Maritime Provinces; no other protection or regulation is provided. Raccoons tend to inhabit agricultural areas and are quite destructive to some farm crops. Production in some areas could be expanded.

General status is satisfactory except in provinces situated on the edge of its range.



SPECIES RACCOON (*Procyon lotor*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Prince Edward Island	Game animal	Adequate	Regulated seasons and licences	Satisfactory	726	1,500	Introduced
Nova Scotia	Fur bearer	Abundant	Regulated season	"	4,715	4,000	Record harvest after distemper epidemic, also taken by hunters
New Brunswick	" "	Adequate	Harvest surveys, regulated season	Excellent	5,593	Unknown	
Quebec	Small game	Abundant	Licences, no closed season	Satisfactory	17,866	20,000	Limited range
Ontario	Fur bearer	Adequate to abundant	No closed season	"	44,223	70,000	
Manitoba	No status	Adequate	Not protected	"	4,175	5,000	Population stable
Saskatchewan	Fur bearer	"	No closed season	"	1,303	2,500	Population and range increasing rapidly
Alberta	" "	Rare but increasing	No closed season	"	50	Unknown	
British Columbia	Fur bearer and game animal	Limited range	Regulated trapping season	"	740	4,000	Control where needed
Yukon Territory	Non-game animal	Adequate	Not specified	"	0	0	Limited range
Northwest Territories	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Summary		Adequate to abundant	Management confined mainly to regulation of seasons or no protection where raccoons are a nuisance	Generally satisfactory	79,253	120,000	Underharvested

MARTEN (*Martes americana*)

The marten is classed as a fur bearer throughout Canada. Populations fluctuate between rare and abundant and main production comes from provinces and territories where most abundant.

Management consists of closely regulated seasons, tight licensing regulations, quotas, restocking and complete protection. Consequently, there is an expanding population. Control should continue to be exercised on a provincial basis.

General status is satisfactory except in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, where rare or declining populations require protection.



SPECIES MARTEN (*Martes americana*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Fur bearer	Rare on Island	Regulated season in Labrador, protected on island	Rare on island	46	500	Satisfactory in Labrador
Prince Edward Island	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Extirpated
Nova Scotia	Protected fur bearer	Rare and limited distribution	Complete protection	Not satisfactory	0	0	A relic population
New Brunswick	Fur bearer	Limited range	Regulated seasons and harvest surveys	Satisfactory	933	1,000	Re-introduced and protected in southern New Brunswick
Quebec	" "	Adequate	Regulated seasons and licences	"	11,045	15,000	Potential harvest varies cyclically
Ontario	" "	"	Seasons, licences, quotas and sealing	"	20,742	30,000	
Manitoba	" "	Maintaining low population levels	Closed season, special permits	Not satisfactory	650	500	Some restocking done
Saskatchewan	Fur bearer	Rare	Regulated seasons	" "	262	500	
Alberta	" "	Adequate	" "	Satisfactory	2,483	2,000	
British Columbia	" "	"	Regulated trapping season	"	7,974	15,000	
Yukon Territory	Protected fur bearer	Limited range, adequate	Seasons and licences	Unknown	1,263	Unknown	Requires management research
Northwest Territories	Fur bearer	Abundant	Seasons and licences	"	7,711	10,000	
Summary		Adequate to low populations	Management consists of regulating harvests but little effort made to rehabilitate the species	Generally satisfactory	53,100	75,000	Apparently being harvested close to potential within cyclic variations

FISHER (*Martes pennanti*)

The fisher is classified as a fur bearer throughout Canada. Abundance has been increasing for the past 25 years, from a low in the mid-1930s when overtrapping reduced this species to near extinction. Populations, which have never been abundant, are currently adequate in a large part of the range, declining in some areas and still rare in others.

Although the fur industry at one time paid a premium for small dark females, new processing techniques have resulted in a good market for males and females alike. Annual production, however, will not likely exceed 6,000 to 8,000 pelts.

Management consists of regulated trapping seasons, quotas, licensing, pelt tagging and restocking from preserves. Tighter harvest control, rehabilitation and restocking will likely expand the population if adequate food is available — including big game killed by other predators. Additionally, fishers maintain higher population levels where their range is fairly extensive and where porcupines are common.

General status is satisfactory except in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan, where populations are reported to be stable or declining.



SPECIES FISHER (*Martes pennanti*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Protected	Unknown	Protected species	Unknown	Nil	Unknown	Labrador only
Prince Edward Island	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Extirpated
Nova Scotia	Fur bearer	Introducing and expanding	Restricted season, bag limit	Satisfactory	64	Unknown	Re-introduced to former ranges
New Brunswick	" "	Adequate	Surveys, seasons	"	172	200	Protected in south re-introduced
Quebec	" "	"	Seasons and licences	"	1,518	2,000	
Ontario	" "	"	Quotas, seasons, licences, sealing, restocking	"	2,161	3,000	Species cyclic
Manitoba	" "	Adequate in cycles	Regulated seasons, special permits, research	"	926	700	Potential expressed as long-term
Saskatchewan	" "	Rare	Regulated seasons	Not satisfactory	434	400	Average harvest
Alberta	" "	Adequate	" "	Satisfactory	2,412	2,000	Long-term increase continues
British Columbia	" "	"	Regulated trapping season	"	1,043	12,000	
Yukon Territory	Protected fur bearer	Rare	Licences, seasons	Not satisfactory	0	Unknown	Northern limit of range
Northwest Territories	Fur bearer	Rare	Seasons and licences	"	32	25	Population being maintained at low level
Summary		Adequate to declining	Management adequate to protect species only; limited effort made to rehabilitate over previous range	Generally satisfactory except in Yukon, N.W.T. and Saskatchewan	8,700	9,000	

ERMINE (*Mustela erminea*, *M. frenata* and *M. rixosa*)

The ermine is classified as a fur bearer throughout Canada and is reported adequate or abundant over its entire range. The species has not been in heavy demand by the fur industry for several years, and consequently, production has declined to about 10 per cent of potential.

Management consists of regulated seasons and licensing. General status is excellent to adequate — except in southern prairies, where concern has been expressed about a declining population of ***M. frenata***.



SPECIES ERMINE (*Mustela erminea*, *M. frenata* and *M. rixosa*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Fur bearer	Adequate	Regulated season	Satisfactory	462	1,500	Underharvested
Prince Edward Island	" "	"	Seasons and licences	"	41	300	Limited economic importance
Nova Scotia	" "	"	Regulated trapping season	"	1,073	5,000	Underharvested
New Brunswick	" "	"	Harvest surveys, regulated seasons	Excellent	521	Unknown	Predominantly short tailed
Quebec	" "	"	Seasons and licences	Satisfactory	7,009	10,000	
Ontario	" "	"	No closed season	"	3,576	Unknown	Probably underharvested
Manitoba	" "	"	Regulated seasons, research on long tailed ermine	"	13,020	20,000	Possible decline in long tail ermine
Saskatchewan	" "	"	Regulated seasons	"	18,396	20,000	" " "
Alberta	" "	"	" "	"	23,184	100,000	Short tail grossly underharvested
British Columbia	" "	"	Seasons and licences	"	7,308	20,000	Population increasing
Yukon Territory	" "	Abundant	" "	"	146	Unknown	Underharvested
Northwest Territories	" "	"	Seasons and licences	"	1,455	"	Long tail not native
Summary		Reported to be abundant to adequate but population may be down due to pesticides in some areas	Management limited to regulated seasons	Generally satisfactory	76,200	500,000 based on historic production	Research needed to determine cause of production decline of long tail ermine

MINK (*Mustela vison*)

The mink is classified as a fur bearer. Although seldom numerous in any given area, populations are reported adequate to abundant throughout Canada.

Due to competition from ranched mink, the demand for some of Canada's many regional types of wild mink has dwindled in recent years. Annual production of 150,000 wild mink is reasonable under good conditions, but could be substantially increased.

Management consists of regulated seasons and licensing. Without optimum annual harvesting, many mink are lost as a result of natural mortality factors usually associated with a predator at the top of the food chain.

General status is satisfactory.



SPECIES MINK (*Mustela vison*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Fur bearer	Abundant	Regulated trapping season	Satisfactory	1,031	3,000	Underharvested
Prince Edward Island	" "	Adequate	" " "	Satisfactory	527	1,000	
Nova Scotia	" "	"	" " "		2,351	2,000	
New Brunswick	" "	"	" " "	Satisfactory	1,736	Unknown	
Quebec	" "	"	" " "	Satisfactory	6,498	15,000	
Ontario	" "	"	Sealing	"	14,835	30,000	Underharvested
Manitoba	" "	"	Regulated trapping season	"	12,000	30,000	Underharvested
Saskatchewan	" "	"	" " "	"	19,328	20,000	
Alberta	" "	"	" " "	"	6,525	20,000	Underharvested
British Columbia	" "	"	" " "	"	2,494	20,000	"
Yukon Territory	" "	"	" " "	"	77	2,000	
Northwest Territories	" "	"	" " "	"	2,488	10,000	
Summary		Adequate to abundant in some sections	Management largely confined to regulation of seasons		70,000	155,000	Production can be expanded substantially

WOLVERINE (*Gulo luscus*)

The wolverine is classed as a fur bearer in all of Canada except New Brunswick, where it is considered a protected game animal. The population is rare through eastern Canada, while in Alberta, most areas of British Columbia, the Yukon and Northwest Territories, it is adequate.

Wolverine fur, not of great importance to the general fur industry, is in demand for parka trim because of its frost resistance.

Management consists of closely regulated seasons, quotas and complete protection where necessary. The wolverine is not a popular animal with trappers because of its tendency for destroying traps and their fur-bearing contents. In addition, this species is often accidentally caught in traps set for other fur bearers.

The wolverine may be rated as abundant, but because it is a predator, it is not present in large numbers in any area. More stringent control of harvests in areas where it is rare may not contribute to any significant population increase unless other factors are favourable. Like the fisher, the wolverine depends on the kills of other large predators and is unlikely to be abundant in an area where such kills are scarce.

General status is satisfactory, except in eastern Canada where complete protection should be provided.



SPECIES WOLVERINE (*Gulo luscus*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Protected fur bearer	Rare in Labrador, none on Island	No open season	Unknown	Nil	No data	Occasional in Labrador
Prince Edward Island	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Nova Scotia	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "
New Brunswick	Protected game animal	Extinct	"	"	"	"	Rare
Quebec	Fur bearer	Rare	Not specified	Not satisfactory	3	Unknown	
Ontario	" "	"	Seasons and quota	Not satisfactory	0	3	Limited range
Manitoba	" "	"	Regulated season	Not satisfactory	31	Unknown	Rare
Saskatchewan	" "	Limited range	Season open year round	Not satisfactory	8	"	Limited
Alberta	" "	Adequate	Regulated seasons	Satisfactory	52	Unknown	
British Columbia	" "	"	" "	Satisfactory	455	400-600	Protected on Vancouver Island
Yukon Territory	Fur bearer game animal	"	Licences, seasons, seals	Unknown	236	Unknown	Requires management research
Northwest Territories	" "	"	Seasons and licences	Satisfactory	86	"	Reported harvest does not include domestic use
Summary		Rare and probably still declining due to overharvest and loss of habitat	Management confined to protection and regulated harvest	Generally satisfactory except in Eastern Canada	871, may not be complete	Insufficient data to make an estimate	Trapping moratorium except in British Columbia, Yukon, Alberta and Northwest Territories should be considered, however current information to substantiate this is limited

BADGER (*Taxidea taxus*)

The badger is classed as a fur bearer in the three western provinces and a non-game species elsewhere. It is not important to the fur industry and its elimination from the market would not be a hardship.

Management is only practised in British Columbia, where the badger is protected.

Its general status is not satisfactory and, except in Alberta and Saskatchewan, populations are reported to be declining or rare due to extensive agricultural developments. The badger will likely continue to exist only in areas where conditions favour its principal food species, the ground squirrel, or where it has been able to adapt to a modified environment.



SPECIES BADGER (*Taxidea taxus*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Prince Edward Island	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "
Nova Scotia	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "
New Brunswick	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "
Quebec	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "
Ontario	Non-game animal	Rare	Extreme edge of range, no special management	Not satisfactory	Nil	Unknown	Has always been rare
Manitoba	No status	Maintaining low, level population	No special management, not protected	Not satisfactory	727	500	Limited range possible decline
Saskatchewan	" "	Limited range	Open season year round	Satisfactory	2,350	2,500	
Alberta	Fur bearer	Adequate	No special management	Satisfactory	2,047	2,000	Sustained
British Columbia	" "	Rare and protected	No trapping	Not satisfactory	Nil	Unknown	
Yukon Territory	" "	Declining, limited distribution	No special management	" "	Unknown	Unknown	Limited range
Northwest Territories	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Summary		Declining as suitable range is depleted; abundance is directly related to range quality	No special management	Not satisfactory	2,124	5,000 Limited potential	Has restricted range which is not expanding

SKUNK (*Mephitis mephitis*)

Classed as a fur bearer in many provinces, the skunk is also considered a non-game animal, particularly in agricultural areas. It has not been used extensively in the fur industry in recent years and is not important to trappers. Skunks are largely considered varmints and many are killed and discarded. In some areas they are rabies carriers and control measures are required.

No management or protection is provided. General status is satisfactory.



SPECIES SKUNK (*Mephitis mephitis*)

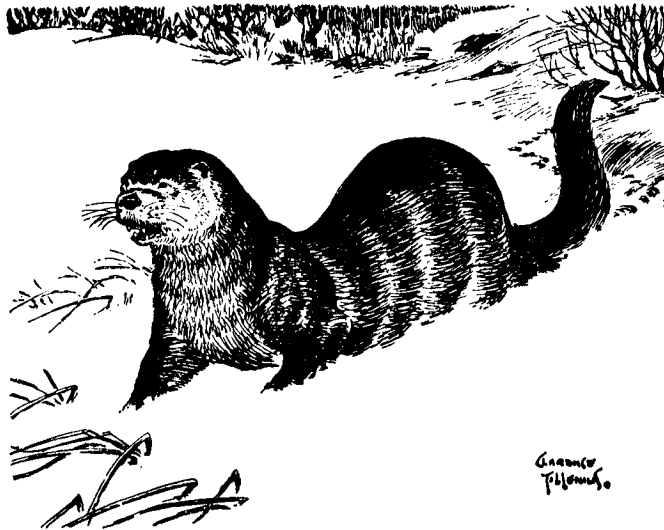
PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Prince Edward Island	Fur bearer	Adequate	No closed season	Satisfactory	16	Unknown	Introduced
Nova Scotia	" "	"	Regulated trapping season	"	91	500	Expanding its range
New Brunswick	Fur bearer small game	"	Regulated seasons, harvest surveys	"	45	Unknown	
Quebec	" "	Abundant	Licences, no closed season	"	437	"	Not all recorded
Ontario	" "	Adequate	No closed season	"	98	"	" " "
Manitoba	No status	Abundant	Not protected	"	39	"	Value not sufficient to encourage harvest
Saskatchewan	Fur bearer	"	Open season year round	"	8	"	Not commercially exploited
Alberta	" "	"	" " " "	"	13	75,000	
British Columbia	" "	"	No closed season	"	Nil	Unknown	
Yukon Territory	Protected non-game animal	"	Regulated seasons	"	Unknown	Unknown	
Northwest Territories	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Summary		Abundant to adequate over most of range	No special management applied; treated largely as a varmint; potential rabies carrier and is controlled as required	Satisfactory	750, not a true picture of kill; many killed and discarded as varmints		Not sufficient data for an estimate. Demand by fur trade may increase

OTTER (*Lutra canadensis*)

Classed as fur bearers, Otters are reported adequate. They are seldom numerous and production, as well as price and demand, has been fairly stable over the years.

Management is confined primarily to closely regulated seasons and licensing.

General status is satisfactory. This species is included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (See page 7). The designation of this species, which is not endangered in Canada, as an Appendix II species is largely a reaction to stem further exploitation of the European Otter (*Lutra lutra*) by illegal means. Their similarity in size, colour and fur quality makes them hard to separate, and as a result exports from Canada require an export permit under the convention to forestall illegal trade.



SPECIES OTTER (*Lutra canadensis*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Fur bearer	Adequate	Regulated seasons	Satisfactory	499	900	
Prince Edward Island	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Extirpated
Nova Scotia	Fur bearer	Adequate	Regulated trapping season	Satisfactory	202	500	
New Brunswick	" "	"	Seasons, surveys	"	364	Unknown	
Quebec	" "	"	Season licences	"	2,549	4,000	
Ontario	" "	"	Regulated trapping seasons, licences and seals	"	7,826	8,000	
Manitoba	" "	"	Regulated trapping seasons, special permits	"	2,647	3,000	Population stable
Saskatchewan	" "	"	Regulated seasons	"	920	1,000	
Alberta	" "	"	Regulated seasons and quotas	"	173	300	Numbers and range likely increasing
British Columbia	" "	"	Regulated seasons	"	702	1,500	
Yukon Territory	" "	Stable	Seasons, licences	"	21	Unknown	Limited range
Northwest Territories	" "	Adequate	Seasons, licences	"	102	200	
Summary		Adequate. Remains fairly stable over a period of years	Management restricted to regulation of seasons, licences, etc.	Generally satisfactory	16,005 Production remains fairly constant	20,000	Harvested near full potential

COUGAR (*Felis concolor*)

The cougar is classed as a big game animal in western Canada and as a fur bearer and non-game animal elsewhere in Canada. It is rare, except in Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon where it is reported declining. In eastern Canada it had been considered extinct since the mid-1800s, but recent periodic sightings have been reported.

The cougar is not important to the fur industry.

Management consists of complete protection in most provinces and regulated seasons in Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon. Licensing and research are being conducted in western Canada.

Its general status is satisfactory. This species is included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (see page 7). As the cougar is rarely traded except as a live specimen it is difficult to justify the restrictions imposed on such trade. However, it is the indiscriminate use of this animal as a pet that led to the restriction, particularly as no other federal legislation could prohibit trade in live animals other than the existing Export and Import Permits Act.



SPECIES COUGAR (*Felis concolor*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Prince Edward Island	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	" "
Nova Scotia	Non-game animal	Rare	Completely protected	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Believed to be trying to establish its presence
New Brunswick	" "	"	" "	"	Unknown	"	
Quebec	N/A	Nil	N/A	"	N/A	"	Not recorded
Ontario	"	Unknown rare	"	Unknown	"	Unknown	Sight records exist, presence being documented
Manitoba	Protected	Rare	Completely protected	"	Nil	"	Documentation of sightings continue
Saskatchewan	Fur bearer	"	Management status under review	"	"	"	May be increasing
Alberta	Game animal	"	Regulated season, compulsory registration	Satisfactory on limited range	6	"	Limited data
British Columbia	" "	Stable	Regulated hunting season	Satisfactory	58	"	Being studied, animals removed when required
Yukon Territory	Big game	Rare	Fully protected	Not satisfactory	0	"	
Northwest Territories	Not classified	"	Protected	Rare	0	Nil	
Summary		Generally stable	Management generally confined to protection	Satisfactory	May not include animals taken by sports hunters	Limited potential for fur trade	Appears to require complete protection in most provinces

*Approximately 400 animals taken annually in Alberta and British Columbia (mainly as trophies) indicating population abundance in the thousands to sustain such a harvest. Rare elsewhere.

LYNX (*Lynx canadensis*)

This species is classed as a fur bearer and is present in every province and territory except Prince Edward Island.

The lynx is reported adequate or abundant across the northern portion of its range, while declining or rare in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It exhibits a cyclic fluctuation in population, associated with the population level of the varying hare.

Management, which varies in intensity between provinces, is based mainly on closely regulated seasons, tight licensing, quotas and protection in areas where populations are low or declining. The exception is New Brunswick where the lynx is regarded as an endangered species. It is protected under the New Brunswick Endangered Species Act of 1975.

This animal, like the fox, is currently enjoying popularity in the fur industry and is an important asset to trappers. The population appears to be above average across the country and general status is excellent to satisfactory, except in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where the lynx is unlikely to become an important fur species. This species is included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (see page 7). The lynx is a valuable fur bearer and unfortunately has an endangered European counterpart (*Lynx lynx*) which is decidedly a "look-alike". The requirement for an export permit, however, is not onerous as the possibility that other countries where *Lynx canadensis* may be endangered (such as the United States) may restrict Canadian imports by domestic legislation to prevent illegal exploitation of their lynx populations.



SPECIES LYNX (*Lynx canadensis*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Fur bearer	Cyclic	Regulated seasons	Satisfactory	385	500	Harvested to full potential
Prince Edward Island	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A			
Nova Scotia	Fur bearer	Limited distribution	Closed season	Questionable	1	50	may be endangered by competition from bobcats
New Brunswick	" "	Rare	Completely protected	Not satisfactory	Unknown	Unknown	Occasional accidental trapping
Quebec	" "	Adequate in cycles	Seasons and licences	Satisfactory	2,328	2,500	Cyclic variations
Ontario	" "	"	Quotas; seals required, seasons and licences	"	1,151	4,000	Highly cyclic
Manitoba	" "	"	Regulated season and licences	"	768	2,000-8,000	Potential highly cyclic
Saskatchewan	" "	"	Regulated season	"	1,697	6,000	
Alberta	" "	Adequate	Regulated trapping seasons	"	1,829	10,000	Long-term average
British Columbia	Fur bearer and game animal	Abundant	Regulated season	"	3,084	10,000	
Yukon Territory	Fur bearer	Adequate	Seasons and licences	"	737	Unknown	
Northwest Territories	Fur bearer	Abundant in cycles	" "	"	581	8,000+	
Summary		Abundant over most of its range, except Maritimes; abundance depends on cycles	Generally well managed; regulated seasons, quotas, licences, etc.	Excellent to satisfactory	13,162	50,000 average expected with due regard for cyclic variations	

LYNX (*Lynx canadensis*)

This species is classed as a fur bearer and is present in every province and territory except Prince Edward Island.

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SPECIES LYNX (*Lynx canadensis*)

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Newfoundland and Labrador	Fur bearer	Cyclic	Regulated seasons	Satisfactory	385	500	Harvested to full potential
Prince Edward Island	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A			
Nova Scotia	Fur bearer	Limited distribution	Closed season	Questionable	1	50	may be endangered by competition from bobcats
New Brunswick	" "	Rare	Completely protected	Not satisfactory	Unknown	Unknown	Occasional accidental trapping
Quebec	" "	Adequate in cycles	Seasons and licences	Satisfactory	2,328	2,500	Cyclic variations
Ontario	" "	"	Quotas; seals required, seasons and licences	"	1,151	4,000	Highly cyclic
Manitoba	" "	"	Regulated season and licences	"	768	2,000-8,000	Potential highly cyclic
Saskatchewan	" "	"	Regulated season	"	1,697	6,000	
Alberta	" "	Adequate	Regulated trapping seasons	"	1,829	10,000	Long-term average
British Columbia	Fur bearer and game animal	Abundant	Regulated season	"	3,084	10,000	
Yukon Territory	Fur bearer	Adequate	Seasons and licences	"	737	Unknown	
Northwest Territories	Fur bearer	Abundant in cycles	" "	"	581	8,000+	
Summary		Abundant over most of its range, except Maritimes; abundance depends on cycles	Generally well managed; regulated seasons, quotas, licences, etc.	Excellent to satisfactory	13,162	50,000 average expected with due regard for cyclic variations	

BOBCAT (*Lynx rufus*)

Classification of the bobcat varies from fur bearer to game animal to non-game animal. It is adequate to abundant over its normal range and reported rare in provinces located at the edge of its range. The bobcat is confined primarily to the southern areas of Canada and prefers a forest edge habitat to dense bush or open prairie. Demand in the fur industry has been increasing.

Management consists primarily of regulated seasons and licensing, except on the prairies, where it is not an important species.

Its general status is excellent to satisfactory and its range has been expanding in some areas at the expense of the lynx where they compete for the same habitat and food source. The bobcat is not as important as the lynx in the fur trade, and research on this phenomenon (a smaller animal competing successfully with a larger animal while occupying the same habitat) is now being conducted. For the purpose of the fur trade there is enough similarity in pelt to justify its inclusion in Appendix II even though the bobcat and lynx differ in size and in markings.

This species is included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (see page 7).



SPECIES BOBCAT (*Lynx rufus*)

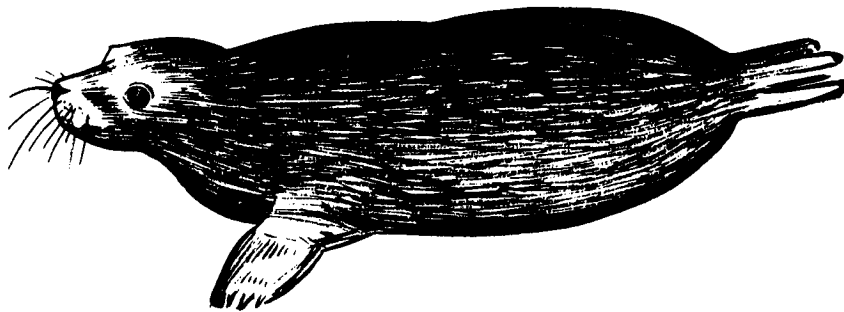
PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Prince Edward Island	"	"	"	"	"	"	" "
Nova Scotia	Fur bearer	Abundant	Regulated trapping season	Satisfactory	1,862	2,000	Record harvest
New Brunswick	" "	Adequate cyclic	Harvest surveys, regulated seasons	"	752	1,500	
Quebec	" "	Adequate	No closed season south of The St. Lawrence River	"	197	400	Limited range
Ontario	Fur bearer	Adequate within normal range	Regulated seasons, licences	"	24	25	At northern edge of range
Manitoba	No status	Rare, limited range	No protection	Satisfactory	31	Unknown	Extreme edge of range
Saskatchewan	Fur bearer	" "	Open season year around	Satisfactory	29	100	
Alberta	" "	Rare, increasing limited range	Regulated season	Satisfactory	18	150	
British Columbia	Fur bearer and game animal	Adequate	Regulated hunting and trapping season	"	221	500	
Yukon Territory	Fur bearer	"	Seasons and licences	"	No data	No data	Extreme edge of range
Northwest Territories	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not native
Summary		Generally abundant to adequate within its normal range	Limited management	Satisfactory, expanding its range in most areas	3,103	4,700	Limited range in Canada

HARBOUR SEAL (*Phoca vitulina*)

This seal is actively hunted for bounty in Eastern Canada (except Quebec). Most pelts are discarded except in Quebec and Labrador. In British Columbia, seals were actively hunted for bounty until 1965, when payment was discontinued. Now they are protected.

An average of 2,900 seals were taken annually from 1914 to 1964. About 500 are killed on the east coast each year for the bounty, and an unknown number taken in the Northwest Territories. An unknown percentage of pelts are marketed but the number is probably small and the species has little commercial significance.

General status is satisfactory under present control measures.



SPECIES HARBOUR SEAL (*Phoca vitulina*)

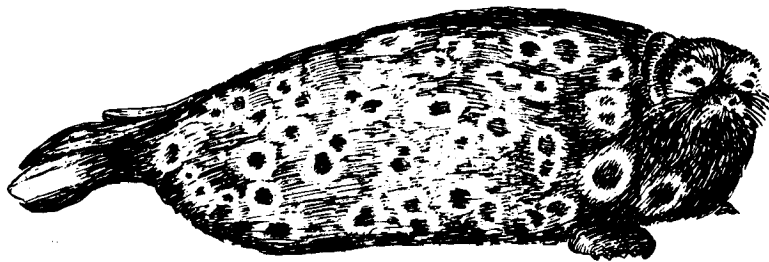
PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Marine mammal	Had declined to a low level under bounty killing	Bounty discontinued in 1976. Protected	Satisfactory			Estimated 250 killed for bounty, unknown percentage of skins sold, probably few in number
Prince Edward Island	" "	"	" "	"			Ga. 20
Nova Scotia	" "	"	" "	"			200
New Brunswick	" "	"	" "	"			Ca. 50
Quebec	" "	"	" "	"			Unknown
Ontario		Nil					
Manitoba		Nil					
Saskatchewan							
Alberta							
British Columbia	Protected marine mammal	Estimated 35,000	Fully protected	Satisfactory			
Yukon Territory			None				
Northwest Territories	Unprotected marine mammal		"	"	"	"	
Summary							

RINGED SEAL (*Phoca hispida*)

Widespread throughout the Arctic, the ringed seal is economically and culturally important to Inuit hunters.

Pelt sales fluctuate yearly from 25,000, when prices are low, to 75,000, in a year of good prices. The higher figure likely represents the average annual harvest, since fewer skins are sold when prices are low, while virtually all skins are marketed when prices are high. An unknown number of skins are also used for handicrafts and clothing.

General status is satisfactory with a potential harvest of at least 100,000 skins. No market restrictions apply to ringed seals hunted by the Inuit.



SPECIES RINGED SEAL (*Phoca hispida*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Marine mammal	Small population in Northern Labrador		Satisfactory	Unknown	Limited	
Prince Edward Island							
Nova Scotia							
New Brunswick							
Quebec							
Ontario							
Manitoba							
Saskatchewan							
Alberta							
British Columbia							
Yukon Territory							
Northwest Territories	"	Estimated 1 to 1½ million	None	"	Average about 60,000	100,000	Catch may reach 75,000 per year when prices are high
Summary	These seals are harvested primarily by natives from the Northwest Territories but are also harvested in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. Because they are all taken in Northwest Territories waters from James and Hudson Bay, they are reported as Northwest Territories production.						

HARP SEAL (*Pagophilus groenlandicus*)

Classed as a fur bearer, this is the most important source of seal skins in Canada. Industrial fisheries from Canada and Norway take pelts annually from waters off Canada's east coast, while shore fishermen, using small craft, take about 60,000 additional pelts anywhere between the estuary of the St. Lawrence River and the eastern Arctic archipelago, according to season.

Control is exercised by Canada following discussions held under the sponsorship of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF).

There are opening and closing dates for ship and landsmen hunts as well as prohibition of certain types of shore fishery and killing of females with pups. There are also national quotas. As a result, the population appears to be increasing after an earlier, marked decline.

General status is satisfactory under present management and conservation measures. Research will be continued to improve the data base for future management.



Seal

SPECIES HARP SEAL (*Pagophilus groenlandica*)

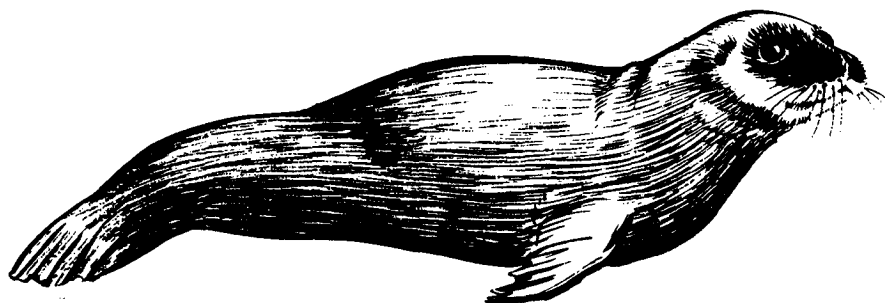
PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Marine mammal classed as a fur bearer	Estimated to be approximately 1¼ million divided between Gulf of St. Lawrence and the north-west Atlantic	Prohibition of killing of adult females on large vessels, kill restricted to young of year and small quantities of older seals	Reduced from former abundance. Now increasing under controlled harvesting			
Prince Edward Island			Starting and closing dates of harvest, March 12-April 25 for large vessels and Nov. 15-May 14 for landsmen				
Nova Scotia			1977 national quotas currently average 97,000 for ships from Canada and Norway and 63,000 for landsmen from Canada			240,000-270,000 when population fully restored	
Quebec							
Ontario			Canadian regulation following international consultation				
Manitoba							
Saskatchewan							
Alberta							
British Columbia							
Yukon Territory							
Northwest Territories	Marine mammal	Migrate to Davis Strait and Baffin Island in summer	No quota imposed on West Greenland and Canadian native harvest				1,000
Summary					Approx. 115,000	240,000-270,000	

BEARDED SEAL (*Erignathus barbatus*)

This large seal, weighing up to 800 pounds, normally frequents moving pack ice which makes it more difficult to hunt. It is also more wary and elusive than the ringed seal. At one time the bearded seal was highly prized by the Eskimos as a source of meat and, more importantly, strong, supple and durable leather for lashing lines, dog harnesses, traces, whips and particularly boot soles.

The bearded seal is sought by Eskimos who continue to live by hunting and trapping; however, it is probable that less than 1,000 are taken each year, and of these, several hundred are marketed as raw skins or undressed leather.

General status is satisfactory and the current rate of use poses no threat to the population in Arctic Canada.



SPECIES BEARDED SEAL (*Erignathus barbatus*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador		Rare	None				
Prince Edward Island		Nil					
Nova Scotia		"					
New Brunswick							
Quebec		Rare	None	"			
Ontario		"	"	"			
Manitoba		"	"	"			
Saskatchewan			"	"			
Alberta				"			
British Columbia		Nil					
Yukon Territory		Rare	None				
Northwest Territories Waters	Marine mammal	Adequate	"	Satisfactory	500-1,000	5,000	Virtually aboriginal use only

Summary These mammals are also harvested by native people in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

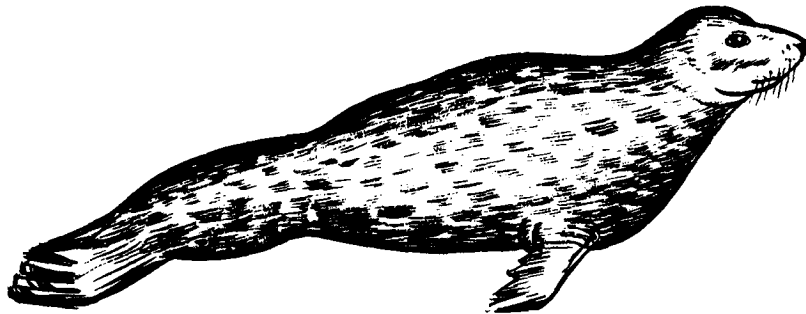
GRAY SEAL (*Halichoerus grypus*)

This species bears its young on small islands and ice fields that are usually difficult to reach. Up to 100 pelts are taken annually at the Magdalen Islands, and about 800 pelts are taken by the Fisheries Service under a system of controlled killing at the breeding colonies.

A potential harvest of more than 2,000 pelts is possible at the present population level, but current harvests are less than half that number.

General status is not satisfactory owing to rapid expansion of the population and increased predation of inshore fisheries, but the bounty introduced in 1976 may reduce its numbers to an acceptable level.

Little importance as a fur bearer, but is economically significant as it causes much damage to inshore fisheries of mackerel, herring, cod, salmon and lobsters, and is the most important seal host of 'codworm'.



SPECIES GRAY SEAL (*Halichoerus grypus*)

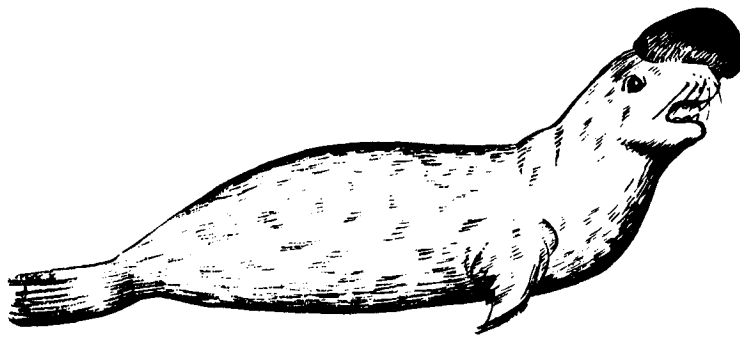
PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Marine mammal	Total estimated population for eastern Canada	Open to killing by persons holding a sealing permit	Few summer migrants, large nonbreeding colony at Miquelon			Commercially important as predator of inshore fisheries and host of 'codworm'
Prince Edward Island	" "	24,000+	Annual controlled harvest, mainly pups; carried out by Fisheries Service in eastern Nova Scotia and southern Gulf of St. Lawrence	Breeding colonies at Sable Island, eastern Nova Scotia and Northumberland Strait			
New Brunswick	" "			Summer visitor to east shore		2,000	
Quebec	" "		Bounty in Atlantic Provinces established in 1976: \$10 for young of year; \$25 for older seals	Small breeding colony at Magdalen Islands also summer visitor			
Ontario							
Manitoba							
Saskatchewan							
Alberta							
British Columbia							
Yukon Territory							
Northwest Territories							
Summary							

HOODED SEAL (*Cystophora cristata*)

This species commonly occurs with harp seals and is hunted with them as a secondary source of pelts. The furs, however, are more valuable than those of harp seals. The catch has for some years been limited to 15,000 annually (by ships off Canada's east coast), of which about half are taken by Norway. Coastal fisheries are negligible.

Starting date for hunting hooded seals is later than that for harp seals. The Gulf of St. Lawrence is closed to sealing for hooded seals. Adults of both sexes are taken together with their young, but recently the catch of adult females has been controlled at a maximum of 10 per cent of the total.

There is no evidence of depletion. There is a supply source from farther north, including recently discovered whelping groups in Davis Strait, numbering several, or tens, of thousands.



SPECIES HOODED SEAL (*Cystophorus cristata*)

PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	LEGAL STATUS	POPULATION ABUNDANCE	CONSERVATION METHODS AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYED	GENERAL STATUS	HARVEST 1975-76	POTENTIAL HARVEST	REMARKS
Newfoundland and Labrador	Marine mammal	Largely unknown		Satisfactory			
Prince Edward Island	" "	Estimated to be about 100,000	Canadian regulation with international consultation		12,000		
Nova Scotia	" "		Season March 22 to April 25 Total quota				
New Brunswick	" "		15,000				
Quebec							
Ontario							
Manitoba							
Saskatchewan							
Alberta							
British Columbia							
Yukon Territory							
Northwest Territories	" "	Migration not adequately known	None	Largely unknown	Exceptionally few		Research efforts increasing
Summary							

TABLE 1. Number and Value of Pelts Produced, by Kind, Canada, Seasons 1974-75 and 1975-76.

	1974-1975			1975-1976		
	Number	Value	Average value	Number	Value	Average value
CANADA						
Wildlife						
Badger	3,626	56,990	15.72	5,124	156,441	30.53
Bear						
Black or brown	3,585	114,635	31.98	3,531	154,523	43.76
Grizzly	20	5,249	262.45	8	1,520	190.00
White	548	347,706	634.50	406	192,700	474.63
Beaver	357,732	5,990,920	16.77	334,924	6,723,401	10.07
Cougar	33	3,404	103.15	58	9,570	165.00
Coyote or prairie wolf	44,366	1,416,512	31.93	61,779	3,150,383	50.99
Ermine (weasel)	88,098	81,011	0.92	76,199	68,113	0.89
Fisher or pekan	10,163	463,739	45.63	8,698	702,997	80.82
Fox						
Blue	207	4,226	20.42	116	6,599	56.89
Cross and red	43,103	1,450,227	33.65	55,064	2,555,659	46.41
Silver or black	429	13,827	32.23	583	26,738	45.86
White	31,913	593,249	18.59	26,797	724,678	27.04
Not specified	13,563	429,575	31.67	10,125	559,508	55.26
Lynx	20,648	2,331,933	112.94	13,162	2,845,416	216.18
Marten	47,598	538,250	11.31	53,108	910,787	17.15
Mink	63,083	688,792	10.92	69,901	1,106,189	15.82
Muskrat	1,762,589	4,519,164	2.56	2,102,016	7,412,311	3.53
Otter	15,258	629,655	41.27	16,005	1,156,679	72.27
Rabbit	8,353	3,595	0.43	865	131	0.15
Raccoon	81,504	1,015,354	12.46	79,253	1,513,926	19.10
Seals						
Fur seal — North Pacific ¹	7,543	344,312	45.65 ²	6,609	232,067	35.11 ²
Hair seal ³	154,501 ⁴	3,194,896 ⁴	20.68 ⁴	161,082 ⁴	2,907,054 ⁴	18.05 ⁴
Skunk	596	862	1.45	747	1,102	1.48
Squirrel	469,093	336,755	0.72	445,507	320,128	0.72
Wildcat	3,425	133,235	38.90	3,103	295,069	95.09
Wolf	5,510	246,957	44.82	4,879	300,667	61.62
Wolverine	1,090	115,328	105.81	871	133,497	153.27
Sub-total	3,238,177	25,070,358	...	3,540,520	34,167,853	...
Ranch-raised⁵						
Fox	1,548	162,239	104.87	1,923	349,505	181.75
Mink	1,113,061	16,429,319	14.76	958,088	19,425,356	20.28
Sub-total	1,114,609	16,591,658	...	960,011	19,774,861	...
Total	4,352,786	41,662,016	...	4,500,531	53,942,714	...

¹ Commonly known as Alaska fur seal. The data cannot be broken down by province. The value figures are the net returns to the Canadian Government for pelts sold.

² The gross average realized price per pelt sold in 1974-75 was \$66.83 and \$78.84 in 1975-76.

³ Includes data for the three maritime provinces which are not shown separately.

⁴ Hair seal data are on a calendar year basis for 1975-76 except for Northwest Territories which is on a full year ending June 30.

⁵ See footnote 2 at the end of Table 2, page 10.

Note: Average value is the price paid to trapper.

