

2015-16 BOBCAT PELT TAGGING REPORT

PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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An enumeration of bobcats taken in Kansas has been conducted annually since 1978. This project is accomplished with tags provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, under the CITES Export Tag Program. In 2015, Kansas used yellow “KS BCAT” tags below number 65721. A total of 133 KDWPT employees and offices were issued tags for the 2015-16 furharvesting season.

CITES tags were affixed to the pelts of 2319 bobcats that were taken in Kansas during the furharvesting season. This was a 24% decrease in harvest from last season (3044) and the second lowest take in the last 16 years. The number of bobcats pelt tagged annually since 1978 can be found in **Figure 1**.

Bobcats were taken in 101 of 105 counties. The number of bobcats taken in each county is presented in **Figure 2**. The estimated number of bobcats taken each day of the season is presented in **Figure 3**.

Bobcats may be taken using equipment authorized in K.A.R. 115-5-1 or salvaged during the harvest season. A total of 1188 furharvesters took bobcats during the season. **Table 1** provides a break down of the methods furharvesters used to take bobcats. **Table 2** indicates the primary species being pursued at the time the bobcat was taken. The number of furharvesters having various total season bags is given in **Table 3**.

After the initial tag allocation, tag accountability was maintained via reports from KDWPT employees or offices issued tags. After the season, each was responsible for inventorying unused tags and accounting for all tags they were issued. Unused tags were then destroyed or retained by each tagger, or returned to the Emporia office. Bobcats taken outside this furharvesting season (n = 3) were not included in this analysis.

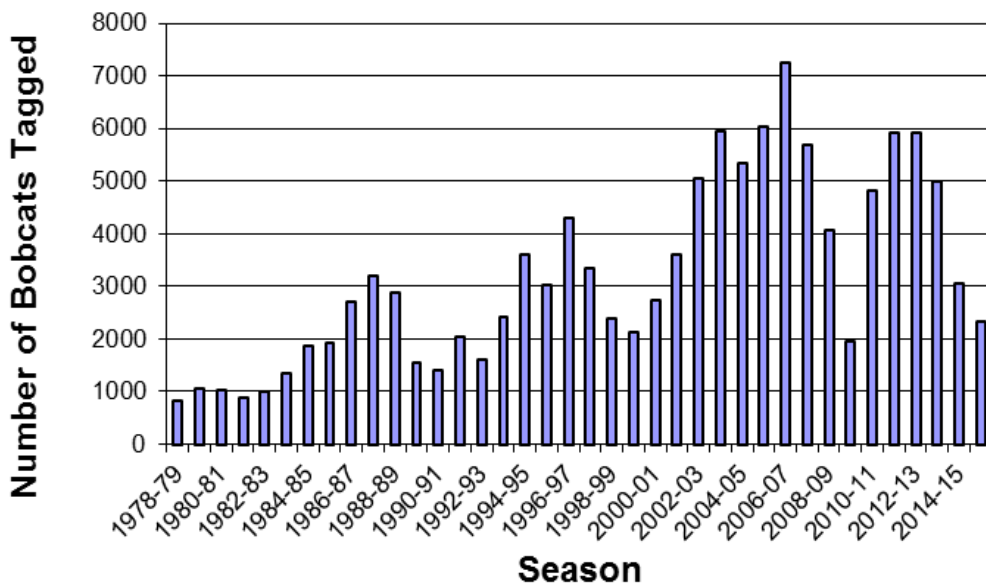


Figure 1. Number of bobcats pelt tagged annually since tagging began in 1978.

Figure 2. Number of bobcats taken per county during the 2015-16 furharvesting season in Kansas (n = 2317).

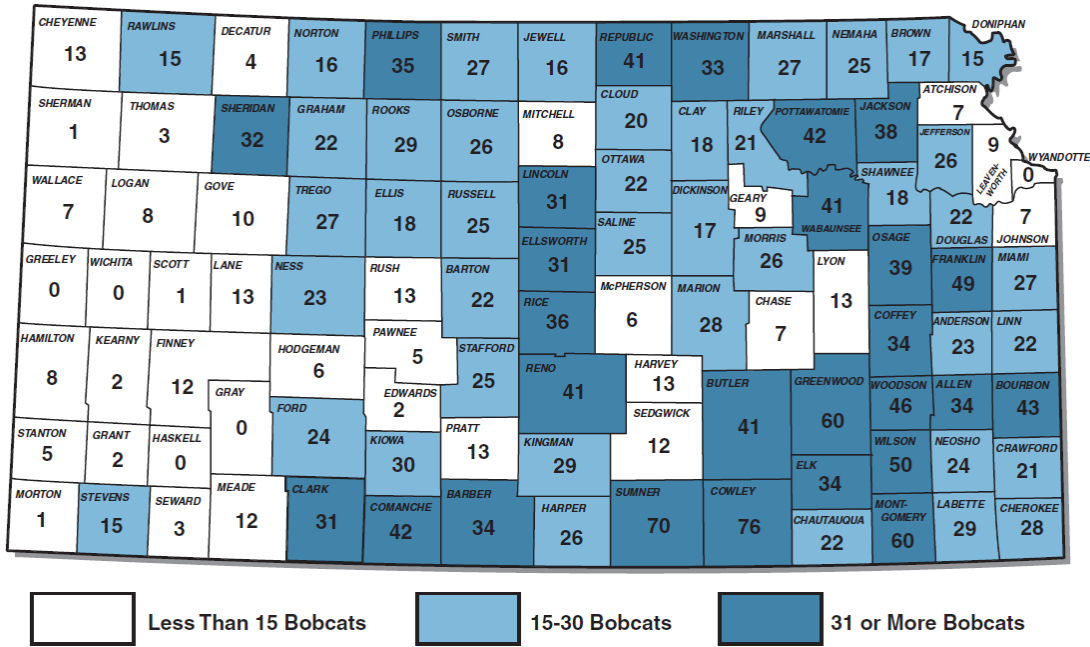


Figure 3. Estimated number of bobcats taken per day during the 2015-16 furharvesting season. (Data smoothed: $y_{(i)} = .5y_{(i)} + .25y_{(i+1)} + .25y_{(i-1)}$.)

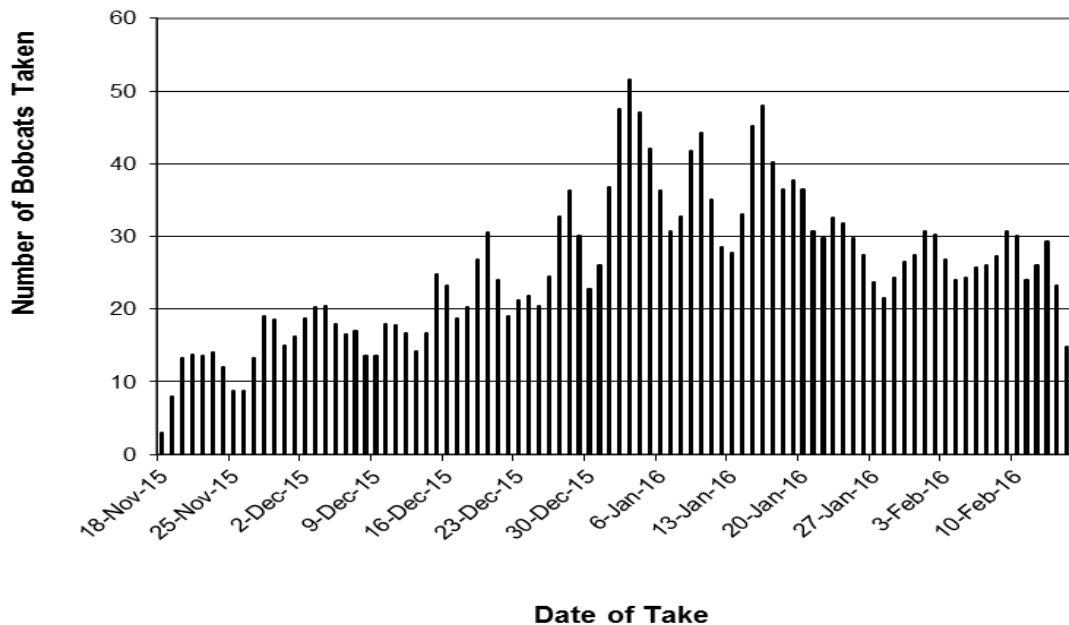


Table 1. Methods used to take bobcats during the 2015-16 furharvesting season in Kansas.

METHOD	Number of Furharvesters*	Number of Bobcats taken	Percent of Bobcats taken
TRAPPING			
(1) Foothold Trap	363	1050	45.3%
(2) Body Gripping Trap	58	99	4.3%
(3) Cage Trap	142	283	12.2%
(4) Snare	101	210	9.1%
SUB-TOTAL	664	1642	70.8%
HUNTING			
(5) Rifle	322	443	19.1%
(6) Shotgun	41	48	2.1%
(7) Archery	55	61	2.6%
(8) Hounds	7	9	0.4%
SUB-TOTAL	425	561	24.2%
OTHER			
(9) Salvage	88	101	4.4%
(10) Unspecified or other	11	15	0.6%
SUB-TOTAL	99	116	5.0%
TOTAL	1188	2319	100.0%

* Furharvesters who took bobcats by more than one method are represented multiple times.

Table 2. Primary species being pursued when bobcats were taken during the 2015-16 furharvesting season in Kansas.

SPECIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
FURBEARERS		
Bobcat	1634	70.5%
Coyote	408	17.6%
Raccoon	44	1.9%
Beaver	2	0.1%
Fox	3	0.1%
Muskrat	1	0.0%
Opossum	3	0.1%
Skunk	2	0.1%
Unspecified "predator"	7	0.3%
SUB-TOTAL	2104	90.7%
BIG GAME		
Deer	96	4.1%
SMALL GAME		
Quail	1	0.0%
Pheasant	8	0.3%
Other small game	3	0.1%
SUB-TOTAL	12	0.5%
OTHER		
Unspecified or other	6	0.3%
Salvage	101	4.4%
SUB-TOTAL	107	4.6%
TOTAL	2319	100.0%

Table 3. Total season bag of bobcats per furharvester during the 2015-16 season.

Total Season Bag	Number of Furharvesters	Percent of Furharvesters	Cumulative Percent of Furharvesters	Total number of Bobcats Taken	Percent of Bobcats Taken	Cumulative Percent of Bobcats Taken
1	552	55.42%	55.42%	552	23.80%	23.80%
2	195	19.58%	75.00%	390	16.82%	40.62%
3	92	9.24%	84.24%	276	11.90%	52.52%
4	47	4.72%	88.96%	188	8.11%	60.63%
5	30	3.01%	91.97%	150	6.47%	67.10%
6	16	1.61%	93.57%	96	4.14%	71.24%
7	20	2.01%	95.58%	140	6.04%	77.27%
8	13	1.31%	96.89%	104	4.48%	81.76%
9	5	0.50%	97.39%	45	1.94%	83.70%
10	6	0.60%	97.99%	60	2.59%	86.29%
11	3	0.30%	98.29%	33	1.42%	87.71%
12	2	0.20%	98.49%	24	1.03%	88.75%
13	2	0.20%	98.69%	26	1.12%	89.87%
14	3	0.30%	99.00%	42	1.81%	91.68%
15	2	0.20%	99.20%	30	1.29%	92.97%
16	1	0.10%	99.30%	16	0.69%	93.66%
18	3	0.30%	99.60%	54	2.33%	95.99%
20	1	0.10%	99.70%	20	0.86%	96.85%
22	2	0.20%	99.90%	44	1.90%	98.75%
29	1	0.10%	100.00%	29	1.25%	100.00%
Total	996			2319		

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