



PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE  
RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT SECTION  
650 STATE STREET  
BANGOR ME 04401

CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK  
COMMISSIONER

Dear Trapper:

I hope this letter finds you excited for the upcoming trapping season. In this mailing, you will find information regarding the regulations all trappers must follow to avoid the incidental capture of lynx, the fall and spring trapper effort forms, and jaw tags for jaw/tooth samples of harvested bobcat, fisher, marten, and otter. In mid-October, we will additionally be mailing all licensed trappers the 2017-2018 Trapping Law book and post the information on our website ([www.mefishwildlife.com/hunting\\_trapping/trapping](http://www.mefishwildlife.com/hunting_trapping/trapping)).

**The early fox and coyote season opens on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.** In addition to the general trapping rules, the following regulations also apply during this season:

- Traps must be set at or below ground level and checked daily.
- Killer-type traps are not permitted.
- Traps may not be set in the water.
- The use of exposed bait or visible attractors is prohibited.
- You are allowed to keep any incidental opossum, raccoon, or skunk which you catch in your fox and coyote traps. Any other furbearing animal must be immediately released alive (except lynx – see information in this mailing) or, if found dead, must be left in the trap and reported to a game warden as soon as possible.
- Foothold regulations regarding chain attachment, swiveling, and catch circles for traps set on dry land that were implemented in 2015 are still in effect. Please consult the material in this mailing or last year's trapping law book.

Please be diligent in your efforts to follow the regulations and recommendations to reduce the chance of incidentally capturing a lynx. This information is provided in this mailing, and in the lynx avoidance videos and booklet "How to Avoid Incidental Take of Lynx" available on our website. Please remember that the Department operates a 24 hour hotline (207-592-4734) for reporting incidental captures of lynx. The Department appreciates the continued cooperation of trappers to report incidentally caught lynx and following all trapping regulations.

Last season marked the first year of mandatory submission of a tooth sample for bobcat, fisher, marten, and otter. We received 1,200 total samples representing 33% of bobcat, 71% of fisher, 59% of marten, and 86% of the otter harvest(s). These samples will provide us with the age and sex of the harvested population to further strengthen the furbearer management program in Maine. A description of the rule and how to provide samples is in the lawbook. Please remember that you need to provide a tooth/jaw sample for these four species and a tissue sample for bobcat when you submit the pelts for tagging.

PHONE: (207) 941-4466  
FAX: (207) 941-4450

FISH AND WILDLIFE ON THE WEB:  
[www.maine.gov/ifw](http://www.maine.gov/ifw)

You may remember that last year you did not receive the trapping effort forms. We are still collecting this data and have provided the fall and spring forms for this season. Please fill them out and return to the address provided on the forms. With changes in both regulations and fur prices affecting the harvest of Maine's furbearers, this data is important in managing furbearer populations.

Remember that regulations regarding exclusion devices and the foothold swiveling, anchoring, catch circles and chain configurations are still in effect. Please review the trapper lawbook or contact the Department if you have any questions. Check out our videos on how to avoid lynx and construct exclusion devices on our website at [www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com). All skins must be tagged within 10 days of the end of the season for that species, and all bobcats taken by hunting must be tagged within 72 hours. Only Department personnel can tag otter and bobcat. Telephone numbers for Department offices can be found in the trapping law booklet.

In closing, please review the lynx information, save those jaw samples, fill out your trapper effort cards, and have fun out there.

Respectfully,



Cory Mosby  
Furbearer and Small Mammal Biologist  
650 State St.  
Bangor, ME 04401  
207-941-4473