



**Wildlife Safety and Conservation
Education Program**

SELF-TRAINING

***TRAPPING AND MANAGEMENT
OF FURBEARING ANIMALS***

REGULATIONS LESSON 2020 - 2022

Ministère des forêts, de la faune et des parcs (MFFP)

Direction générale de la valorisation du patrimoine naturel

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et des Parcs**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
INTRODUCTION	1
1. LAWS AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING WILDLIFE	2
Why so many regulations?	2
Right to trap.....	3
Furbearing animal.....	4
Definition of trapping.....	5
Trapper's certificate	5
Trapping license	6
Hunting certain furbearing animals	7
Trapping territories and operation of trap lines	7
Trapping devices	8
Registration of black bear	11
Fur trade and trader's license	12
Cancellation and suspension of certificate.....	13
Accidental captures	14
Special provisions.....	15
Trapping seasons	16
Sale and purchase of game.....	16
Exporting	16
Firearms and vehicles.....	18
Bait and decoys	19
Indemnity for trappers.....	20
Questions on trapping laws and regulations in Québec	20
2. LAWS CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF TRAPPERS	21
3. IDENTIFICATION OF WILDLIFE SPECIES	21
CONCLUSION	22
REVIEW QUESTIONS	23

WARNING!

The regulatory information provided in this document is only valid for August 01, 2018 to July 31, 2020.

It is the trapper's responsibility to read the regulations in force prior to the start of a new trapping season by consulting the web site entitled *“Trapping in Quebec, Main Regulations”*.

If a modification occur, it will be updated on the web site:

<http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/online/wildlife/trapping-regulations/index.asp>

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this lesson is to provide information on certain trapping regulations in Québec and to promote an efficient use of the web site entitled “*Trapping in Quebec, Main Regulations*”. This lesson also examines certain provisions related to private property. Trapping, in addition to being a significant economic factor, is an important wildlife management tool and is part of our culture. Aware of its importance, the Government of Québec has stipulated in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife that every person has the right to trap in accordance with the Act and that no person may knowingly hinder a person who is lawfully carrying on a trapping activity, including an activity preparatory to such an activity. However, the right to trap stipulated in the Act does not take precedence over other activities that may be practiced on the same territory.

The successful completion of the “*Trapping and management of furbearing animals*” module will enable you to obtain the trapper’s certificate which is mandatory to purchase a trapping license in Québec. You can hold the title of trapper if you learn to be careful, to take the necessary precautions when transporting, storing and installing your trapping devices. And that is not all: a good trapper respects the right of landowners, complies with wildlife protection legislation, is concerned about the accessibility of wildlife resources, etc. All these aspects of the regulations will be covered in this lesson.

It is important to comply with the regulations governing trapping and the management of furbearing animals. Some forms of poaching can adversely affect the natural balance. The impact caused by repeated wildlife harvesting abuses can be detrimental to certain species. That is why the regulations, while protecting wildlife, help to ensure the safety and welfare of citizens as well as access to wildlife resources while promoting the sustainable use of these resources. Being unaware of the law cannot serve as an excuse to the person who violates it.

1. LAWS AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING WILDLIFE

In Québec, furbearing animals may be trapped under certain conditions, including the obligation of being a license-holder and the observance of the applicable trapping seasons. The laws and regulations seek, among other things, to protect the future of trapping, but they also have other objectives, such as the protection of wildlife, the safety and welfare of citizens and ensuring that all citizens can have access to trapping. That is why it is necessary to impose limits on trapping periods, on the ways animals may be captured, on license categories, etc.

Why so many regulations?

Human activities continue to develop: logging, construction of roads, farming, mining, power transmission lines, etc. These initiatives often take place to the detriment of wildlife habitats and consequently wildlife. Moreover, the constant and often growing demand for wildlife harvesting activities is such that we must protect the wildlife in various ways:

- a) First, “Furbearer management units” (UGAFS) have been imposed. Why? Québec is vast, its climate is varied and there is a diversified distribution of wildlife. For trapping purposes, Québec’s territory is divided into 96 management units (UGAFs). These UGAFs take into account the climate, the distribution of animals, the accessibility to the territory and the use of the wildlife resource (observation, harvesting, sale, etc.);
- b) Seasons are established:
 - 1) due to the vulnerability of the species: reproduction period, relative scarcity, etc.;

- 2) due to the quota of animals that may be harvested without endangering the survival of the reproductive population;
- c) To ensure a fair distribution among the many users, harvest limits have been set in some cases;
- d) The regulations concerning trapping devices seek to:
 - 1) avoid having the animal that is killed or captured suffer needlessly;
 - 2) make capturing furbearing animals more difficult, to reduce the number of animals harvested without prohibiting this activity altogether.

From here on, please use the web site entitled *“Trapping in Quebec, Main Regulations”* as your basic reference and find the regulatory provisions in question in that document. This section deals with general elements applicable to practically all of the regions of Québec. However, it is important to take into account certain regional particularities. For example: when trapping black bear in UGAF’s 57 to 66 (North Shore), the fall season begins in September and ends in December.

Right to trap

Trapping, in addition to being a significant economic factor, is an important wildlife management tool and is part of our culture. Aware of its importance, the National Assembly of Québec has stipulated in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife that every person has the right to trap in accordance with the Act and that **no person may knowingly hinder a person who is lawfully carrying on a trapping activity, including an activity preparatory to such an activity**. However, the right to trap stipulated in the Act does not take precedence over other activities that may be practiced on the same territory.

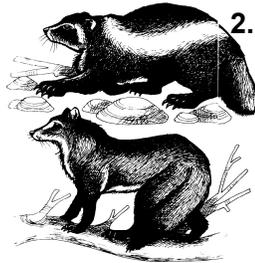
The prohibition on “hindering” is defined in the Act in particular preventing access by a trapper to trapping areas to which he has lawful access, disturbing or frightening an animal, by human, animal or other presence, a noise or an odor, or rendering ineffectual any bait, decoy, trap or device used to trap that animal.

Furbearing animal

1

**A FURBEARING
ANIMAL IS...**

- 1. An animal for
which there is a
trapping season**



- 2. Two species protected year-
round : wolverine and gray
fox**

- 3. Polar bear, which
the aboriginal
people who are
parties to the
agreements can hunt**



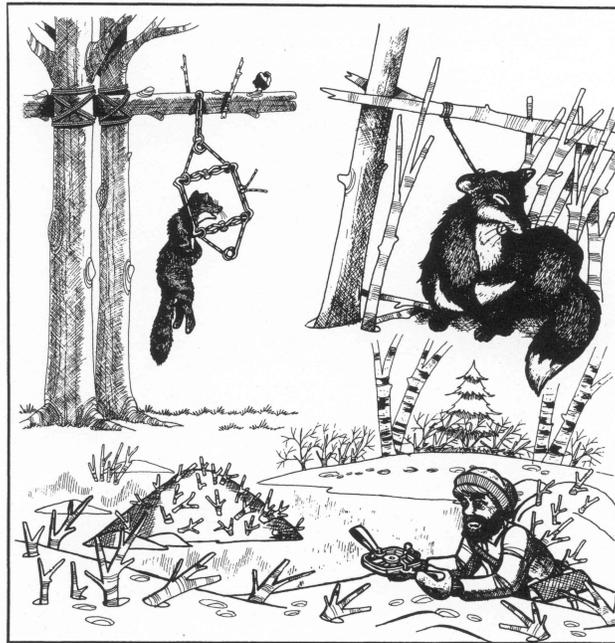
Also see the species listed in the table on trapping seasons in the web site entitled "*Trapping in Quebec, Main Regulations*".

Definition of trapping

In Québec, a person is considered to be trapping if he captures or attempts to capture a furbearing animal using a trap.

2

TRAPPING IS: THE ACTION OF CAPTURING OR ATTEMPTING TO CAPTURE A FURBEARING ANIMAL WITH A TRAP

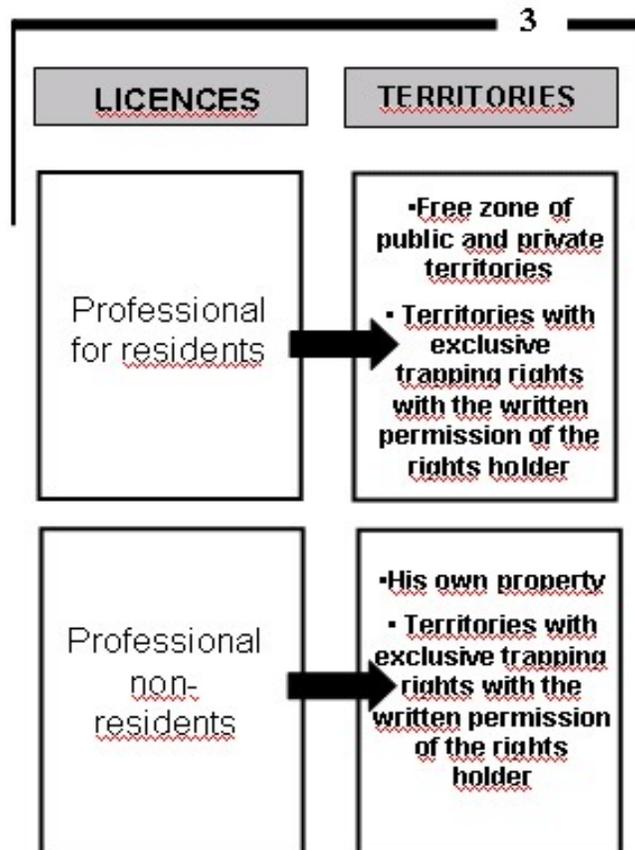


Trapper's certificate

To trap in Québec, a person must first have successfully completed the training associated with the module entitled "*Trapping and management of furbearing animals*" (theoretical exam) of PESCOF and have obtained the trapper's certificate (code P) which allows the person to obtain the trapping license in question. A life-time certificate is issued; the holder does not need to renew it. If you move, it is preferable to notify the ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) of your new address.

Trapping license

To trap a furbearing animal, you must be the holder of the appropriate trapping license and have this license on hand. See the table on the license categories in the web site entitled *“Trapping, Main Regulations”*. Persons who are under 18 years of age may, without a certificate or a license, trap under the authority of a trapping license holder aged 18 or over, provided that they are accompanied by this license holder or his spouse and are trapping at a place where the latter may lawfully trap. Animals that are captured are considered as having been captured by the license holder. The following persons may also trap under the license of an adult. The spouse of a license holder as well as the children under 18 of age and a student aged of 18 to 24 year’s old having this valid student’s card with him. Residents must then be holders of a trapping certificate.



Hunting certain furbearing animals

A person may hunt certain furbearing animals (black bear, wolf, coyote, red fox, and raccoon) in the hunting zones where there is a hunting season for these species, provided that he is the holder of the appropriate hunting license and complies with the conditions applicable to hunting.

Territories and operation of trap lines

Québec is divided into 96 furbearer management units (UGAFs) which take into account the distribution of species. You will find the maps illustrating these UGAF's in the web site entitled "*Trapping, Main Regulations*". The trapper must comply with the trapping regulations that apply in the UGAF as well as the requirements pertaining to specific territories, such as outfitting establishments, wildlife sanctuaries and zecs. To find out the limits of the territories where trapping may be practiced, you can contact one of the offices of the Minister.

Trap lines are tracts of land located in zecs, wildlife sanctuaries and on lands of the State domain designated for this purpose. To operate a trap line, you must obtain a nine-year lease granting exclusive trapping rights. This lease establishes the conditions of the agreement between the ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) and the lease-holder regarding the harvesting of furbearing animals on this trap line.

To trap on a registered trap line, a person must be holder of the written authorization of the trap line owner. The same rule applies in an outfitting establishment with exclusive trapping rights

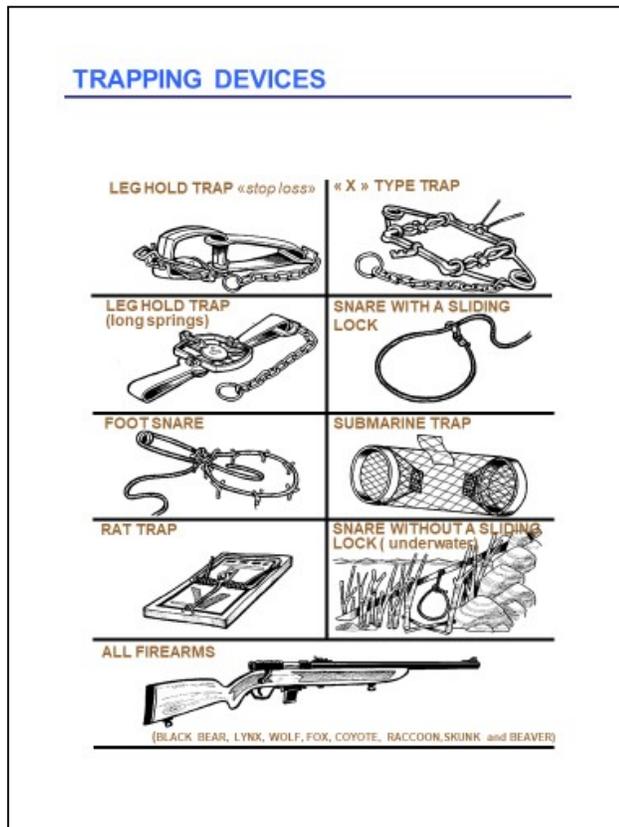
Trapping devices

See the text of the web site entitled “*Trapping in Quebec, Main Regulations*” in addition to the table concerned.

The use of a firearm (within its broad meaning) is allowed to kill certain animals caught in a trap. Black bear, wolf, fox, raccoon, coyote, lynx and striped skunk may be killed using a firearm.

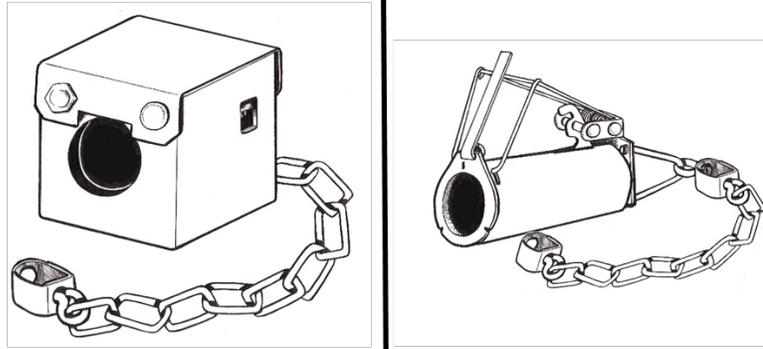
Cages to trap live animals are authorized for trapping skunk and raccoon.

The use of an underwater cage is permitted in the fall for muskrat and mink, until December 31st.

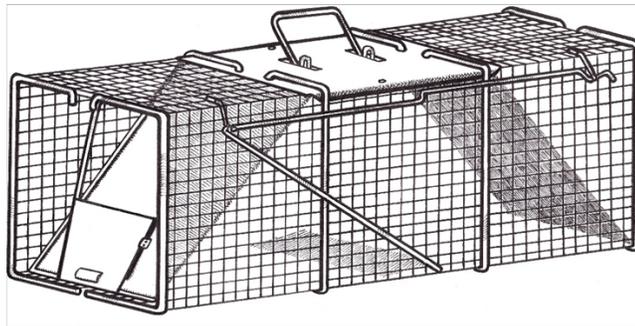


TRAPPING DEVICES

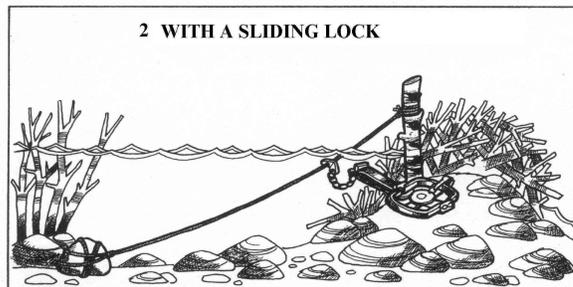
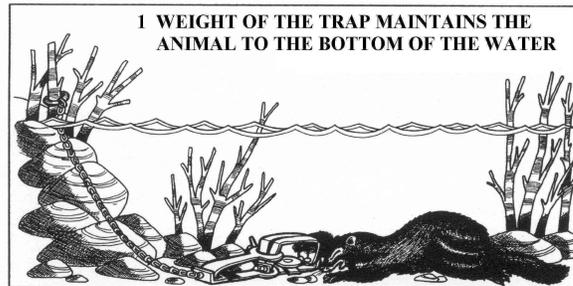
Foot Encapsulating Trap for raccoon



Live capture Cage for raccoon, skunk and beaver



Refer to the recommended traps and advocated methods in the manual entitled *“Trapping and management of furbearing animals”*. Without being exhaustive, this list drawn up by the Minister is a valid standard for the observance and application of the regulation in question.

DROWNING SYSTEM METHODS

For example, a leg-hold trap for muskrat must be connected to a drowning system; in the manual, this system consists simply of the weight of the trap which causes the animal to drown by keeping it at the bottom of the water, which is of sufficient depth. An identical method could be used for mink.

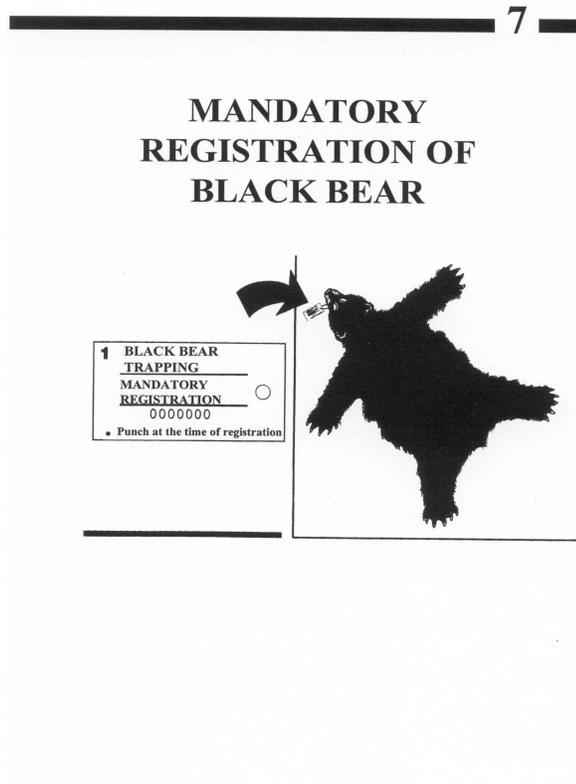
Under the International Agreement on Humane Trapping Standards entered into by Canada and the European Union, new provisions concerning trapping devices are coming into force in the fall 2007. For many species, the trapper will have to use certified traps listed on the web site:

<http://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/publications/enligne/faune/reglementation-piegeage/engins/anipsc.asp>

The authorized trap must correspond to the following definition: "Spring trap designed to permanently hold an animal alive by the leg equipped with two parallel jaws at least 9 millimeters thick or not touching each other over their length when closed or without a metal contact surface with the animal; the jaws must not have teeth, hooks, claws, barbs or other projections".

Registration of black bear

The trapper must affix a transport tag to the black bear before moving it. In the 15 days following the time he leaves trapping site, he must present his license and the carcass or the pelt of the bear at a registration station to register his kill.



Fur trade and trader's license

Such a license is not required to purchase the pelt or for a **resident** who sells the proceeds of his own trapping or hunting. In all other cases, to sell a **raw** pelt from a hunted or trapped animal, you must hold a specific license issued for this purpose. However, a person who acts as an intermediary for the sale or the trade needs a license only if he obtains some benefit from the transaction. The types of licenses are listed at the bottom of the table.

Cancellation and suspension of the certificate

Following an offence, the hunter's or trapper's certificate and the trapping license can be cancelled or suspended for 24 months from the date of conviction.

9



PENALTIES

CANCELLATION

1-CERTIFICATES AND LICENCES ARE AUTOMATICALLY CANCELLED FOR TWO YEARS FOLLOWING A CONVICTION FOR A MAJOR OFFENCE INVOLVING BIG GAME.

SUSPENSION

2-FOLLOWING A CONVICTION, A JUDGE CAN SUSPEND A LICENCE AND A CERTIFICATE FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO 24 MONTHS.

Accidental captures

Accidental capture refers to the involuntary capture of an animal, whose capture is prohibited during the period in question, a capture using an unauthorized trapping device or without the trapper being the holder of the proper license.

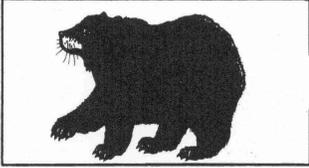
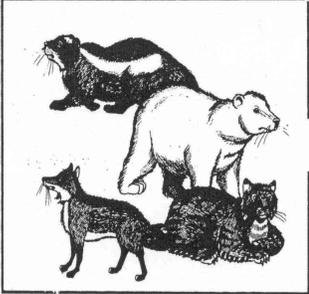
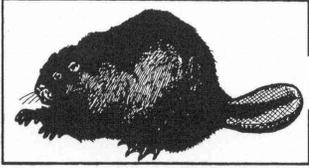
In all cases where an animal captured accidentally is uninjured and alive, the trapper must immediately release the animal.

However, if it is one of the following species: musk-ox, wolverine, caribou, white-tailed deer, cougar, coyote, wolf, lynx, bobcat, opossum, moose, polar bear, black bear, grey fox, wild turkey and bird of prey, and this animal is injured or dead; it must be reported immediately to a wildlife protection officer and, if the latter so requires, delivered for confiscation.

Any fish captured accidentally, whether living or dead, must immediately be returned to the water in which it was captured.

Special provisions

The furbearing animals illustrated here benefit from certain special regulatory provisions:

- | | | | |
|----------|---|---|--|
| 1 |  | <p>2 TRAPPING SEASONS:
- BLACK BEAR (GENERAL)
- MUSKRAT (UGAF 19 -
OUTAOUAIS)</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An annual quota of 2, 3 or 4 black bears is granted to the holders of a professional trapping license. In several UGAF's, the quota for black bear is set at four (4) bears. (Please consult the web site entitled "<i>Trapping, Main Regulations</i>"); 2. wolverine, polar bear and grey fox cannot be trapped; 3. holder of a trapper's license may, during the trapping season, damage the dam of a beaver or open the den of a muskrat to install a trap there. He may also, during the 30 days preceding the beaver trapping season, damage a beaver dam to check for its presence; 4. muskrat and mink are the only furbearing animals for which the "Stop Loss" trap and submarine cage may be used. (see p.8) |
| 2 |  | <p>TRAPPING PROHIBITED</p> | |
| 3 |  | <p>A TRAPPER CAN
DAMAGE THE DAM OF A
BEAVER UNDER CER-
TAIN CONDITIONS</p> | |
| 4 |  | <p>MAY ALSO BE
CAPTURED WITH A
STOPLOSS OR WITH A
SUBMARINE TRAP</p> | |

Trapping seasons

Find out about these seasons in the web site entitled “*Trapping, Main Regulations*” in relation with the UGAF of your region.

Sale and purchase of game

It is prohibited to sell the meat of certain species: musk-ox and caribou from Québec, white-tailed deer, moose, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, grey partridge, spruce grouse, ptarmigan and migratory birds.

12

THE SALE OF EDIBLE MEAT FROM A FURBEARING ANIMAL IS ALLOWED UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- 1- A TRAPPING PERIOD IS STIPULATED
- 2- THE ANIMAL WAS KILLED OR CAPTURED LEGALLY
- 3- THE SALE TAKES PLACE BEGINNING FROM THE THIRD DAY FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF TRAPPING AND NOT LATER THAN FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER THE CLOSE OF TRAPPING.



The possession of the gallbladder of a black bear detached from the animal's body is prohibited. The sale and purchase of the gallbladder and bile of bears is prohibited.

Exporting

To export outside Québec raw pelts from a hunted or trapped animal, a person must have an export form and either a trader's license or a public auction license.

Firearms and vehicles

Trappers are concerned by the obligations relating to the possession of firearms in vehicles and the federal firearms legislation. Read these obligations in the web site entitled "*Trapping in Québec, Main Regulations*" and "*Sport Hunting in Québec*".

Bait and decoys

When trapping an animal, only the use of bait or decoys is permitted.

The use of a call is prohibited.

Bait: A food or olfactory substance intended to attract an animal in order to trap it. Special rules apply to baiting certain species as the black bear. In some periods, it is forbidden to bait black bear for the purpose of trapping (See the web site "*Trapping in Québec, Main Regulations*".)

Prohibited black bear baiting periods:

July 1 to August 15 for the UGAF'S: 6, 38, 39, 40, 50 and 56 to 66.

July 1 to August 31 for the UGAF'S: 1 to 5, 7 to 37, 41 to 49, 51 to 55 and 68 to 86.

Decoy: Inanimate object or artificial reproduction of the form of an animal, including a **(lure)** mounted animal, used to attract or make an animal feel at ease in order to trap it.

Indemnity for trappers

“The holder of a sport hunting or trapping license or his assigns may claim an indemnity stipulated in Chapter III, section VI of the *Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife* and in Regulation C-61, r. 21, following an accident that results directly from the practice for recreational purposes of hunting or trapping in Québec”.

Every notice of claim must be addressed to the:

Ministère des forêts, de la faune et des Parcs (MFFP)
Direction générale de la protection de la faune
880, Chemin Sainte-Foy, RC-80
Québec (Québec) G1S 4X4
Tel.: (418) 646-8688

Questions on trapping laws and regulations in Québec

If questions arise following this lesson, start by looking for the answer in the web site entitled “*Trapping in Québec, Main Regulations*” and if you still are in doubt, please get in touch with the person identified to obtain assistance.

2. LAWS CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF TRAPPERS

To ensure that they act in a respectful and responsible manner at all times, trappers are required to comply with the applicable laws, but they must also adhere to a code of ethics. They have a responsibility for the **protection and sustainable use of the territory** where they practice their activity. Trappers must also show **courtesy and good manners** towards other territory users, whether or not they are trappers. Trappers undertake **to respect the private property** on which they wish to practice **as well as the wildlife** with which they come into contact. Finally, responsible trappers make sure that they **dispose cleanly and efficiently of the carcasses** of the animals that they harvest.

In the Bas-Saint-Laurent, Estrie, Chaudière-Appalaches and Montérégie regions, landowners or their representatives have agreed to a memorandum of understanding with the Minister for the purposes of managing wildlife and ensuring that it is **accessible** to trappers. It is **forbidden to trap** on these lands without the prior authorization of the landowner or his representative. This is also the case when you trap on a private lot concerned by an agreement reached between an owner and an association or organization, the vocation of which is to promote access for trappers to private lands and recognized as such by the Minister, for the purposes of ensuring the accessibility of wildlife.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF WILDLIFE SPECIES

Remember that you must use methods that are likely to avoid capturing unwanted animals. Some species such as flying squirrels and common raven are protected.

NOTICE: *Let's protect wildlife habitats by preventing forest fires. Be careful: make sure that you put out fires completely and pay attention to the flammability index.*

CONCLUSION

Obeying the law is a characteristic of true trappers and poaching constitutes a threat to wildlife and the natural environment, not to mention the fact that it tarnishes the public image of trappers. Please assimilate the content of the manual and read the web site entitled "*Trapping in Québec, Main Regulations*" before engaging in trapping.

Get in touch with the nearest wildlife protection office to obtain specific or additional information. We encourage you to contribute to wildlife conservation by reporting all acts of poaching that you witness. Get in touch with a wildlife protection officer or call toll-free "**S.O.S. Poaching**" at the following telephone number: **1-800-463-2191**.

End of lesson by suggesting the participants to invite young trappers to accompany them for trapping activities.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- What does a Québec resident need to obtain a trapping license?
- What is the condition to trap on a territory with exclusive trapping rights?
- Do you need to have your license on hand when you go trapping?
- Following an offence, for how long can a trapping license be cancelled or suspended?
- Up to what age can a person trap without a license or a certificate under the authority of an adult who is the holder of a valid trapping license?
- Who can trap under an adult trapping license?
- What does the abbreviation UGAF mean?
- Under what conditions can you damage a beaver dam?
- What devices may be used to trap beaver?
- What animals may be killed with a firearm when they have been caught in a trap?
- For what animals may a submarine cage be used?
- For what species is registration obligatory?
- What are furbearing animals?
- What must you do in the event of an accidental capture?
- What does a trapper need to sell his pelts to a trader or an auction house?