

**Alberta Conservation Association
2023/24 Project Summary Report**

Project Name: Furbearer Trends

Wildlife Program Manager: Doug Manzer

Project Lead: Mike Jokinen

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Partnerships

Alberta Trappers' Association

Government of Alberta

Lethbridge College

Key Findings

- The 2022/23 trapping year broke the 1,000 mark for logbooks submitted through the logbook program over the past six years.
- Trappers submitted a total of 159 logbooks from the 2022/23 trapping season (down slightly from the previous year).
- On average, trappers set 29 marten traps for about 51 days and harvested nine marten. The average catch-per-unit-effort was 0.94 marten per 100 trap nights (standard error = 0.15), which would be equivalent to setting approximately 15 traps for a week and catching one marten.
- Although provincial marten fur production declined from 2018 to 2022, logbook data showed that the catch rate for a given amount of effort did not decline over that time. This highlights the value of logbook information collected over a series of years.

Details

The Government of Alberta and Alberta Trappers' Association asked Alberta Conservation Association to assist with the development of a logbook for trappers to record information about their activities and fur harvesting results. This resource-user-derived information provides an opportunity to track furbearer population trends over time at the provincial and natural region levels. The 2022/23 trapping season marked the sixth year of marten data collection and the fourth year for quota species (fisher, lynx, wolverine, and otter). It was the second year that wolf harvest data was incorporated into the logbooks as part of the provincial wolf management program. During the 2022/23 trapping season, marten catch for an equivalent amount of effort remained similar to previous years at 0.94 marten per 100 trap nights. The number of logbook submissions decreased by seven logbooks in 2022/23 when compared to the previous year. We hope to expand logbook program participation as the information provides valuable insight into patterns of furbearer harvest and population indices.