

# **TRENDS IN MISSISSIPPI'S MAIL SURVEY OF RESIDENT TRAPPER HARVEST AND EFFORT**

**BY**

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## INTRODUCTION

Resident trapper harvest mail surveys have been conducted since the 1976-77 season. These surveys provide indices for monitoring changes in harvest and trapper effort among seasons to determine trends. It should be noted that changes in such factors as harvest regulations, habitat conditions, the socioeconomic environment and seasonal weather conditions, as well as changes in furbearer population levels may be reflected in and monitored by changes in trapper harvest and effort indices.

Mail surveys to obtain wildlife harvest data result in parameter estimates which contain sampling, response and non-response biases. As a result, of these biases the degrees of accuracy of the estimates are unknown. Filion (1980) reviewed these biases and their effect on the estimates. Although parameter estimates obtained from mail surveys may not be totally accurate, they provide good indices for trend determinations if all biases remain constant. At the present time mail surveys are the best and most economically practical method available for monitoring population and harvest trend indices in furbearing species. As Wright (1978) has indicated, until the wildlife profession can develop more accurate methods of estimating population numbers, measures of absolute harvest are relatively meaningless and indices to harvest should be adequate.

The objective of the trapper survey is to provide a statistically reliable set of statewide harvest indices for furbearer species in Mississippi. Until more accurate

methods are available these indices will serve as harvest and effort estimators. No effort was made to interpret the data presented here. The purpose of this publication is to compile existing information for future reference.

## METHODS

The methods used for these surveys have varied over the years due to changes in laws relating to trapping and changes in personnel assigned to the duty. Hamrick et al. (1986) described the different survey methods used from the 1976-77 season through the 1982-83 season.

From the 1980-81 through 1993-94 seasons the Mississippi trapper license was modified to provide an extra copy of the trappers name, address and trapper identification number. This copy was in the form of a prepaid postcard addressed to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP). After the license was issued this extra copy was filled out by the trapper and mailed to the MDWFP.

Starting with the 1994-95 season the MDWFP began using a universal license, with specific codes for the various license types. Commercial licenses, including trapping licenses, are sold by agency employees only. Each month copies of all licenses sold are submitted to the MDWFP's state office where the names and addresses of all licensees are maintained by license type. The mailing list for the trapper survey is now provided by the

agency's accounting department. Both methods have provided the furbearer biologist an annual list of virtually all licensed trappers. A questionnaire (Figure 1) was mailed to each trapper on this list at the end of the trapping season. The questionnaire was designed and perforated so that the section containing the requested information could be torn off and mailed. This portion of the questionnaire was printed with the MDWFP address and prepaid postage. Only one questionnaire mailing was made. Returns were edited for legibility and directly key punched as described by Hamrick (1986).

## ANALYSIS

Estimates presented are based upon the end of June resident trapping license sales. Complete annual trapping license sale figures are not available until the end of December, 10 (ten) months after the closing date of the trapping season. Trapping license sales available at the end of June represent approximately 95% of the yearly total. Since the main purpose of this survey is to provide reliable indices as to trends in furbearer population changes and trapper effort, it is felt that waiting for survey results from one year until the next season is well underway is an unnecessary burden. Waiting also eliminates the ability of the department to alter upcoming seasons based upon current survey data.

## RESULTS

Survey returns and number of trapper licenses sold each year are shown in Table 1 and Figure 2. The expanded statewide harvest estimates, average catch per trapper, average catch per successful trapper and percent successful trappers are shown for each year in Table 2 through 9 and depicted graphically by species in Figure 3 through 13. The precision of all estimates is shown as standard errors in the tables.

Indicators of trapper effort by year (average number of days trapped per trapper, average trapline length per trapper, average trapper age and average number of traps used per trapper are shown in Tables 10 through 11 and Figures 14 through 20. Average seasonal pelt prices are shown in Table 12 and graphic trends in Figures 3 through 13 by species. Pelt price values shown are the average prices paid at Mississippi Trappers Association fur auctions.

Adequate data were not available to provide statistically reliable harvest figures by county. However, county data are available for such purposes as verifying occurrence of species in certain counties or documenting past and future range expansion by such species as coyotes and nutria.

## DISCUSSION

Since the 1980-81 survey an effort has been made to standardize survey procedures so that future data would be comparable. When interpreting trends in harvest and trapper effort there are several elements to consider. These are very similar to those listed by Steffen (1983) for interpretation of hunter survey data. Elements to consider are listed below:

1. Changes in furbearer population densities.
2. Habitat changes.
3. Correlations between the harvest and effort parameters.
4. Seasonal weather conditions (e.g. heavy rainfall and freezing weather negatively affect trapping operations).
5. Changes in regulations and laws.
6. Changes in trapper access (e.g. a 1978 law required landowner permission to trap).
7. The shifting of trapper emphasis among species (influenced by pelt prices and demand).
8. Economic changes: e.g.
  - (a) Gasoline costs
  - (b) License costs

- (c) Leisure time available
  - (d) Unemployment levels
  - (e) Overall fur prices
9. Immigration of new unexperienced trappers into the trapping population.
  10. Emigration of experienced trappers from the trapping population.
  11. Harvest and effort incidental to trapping for other species (e.g. land sets for fox may take raccoon, bobcat, or coyote and otter may be taken in beaver sets).

Bobcat, red and gray fox, raccoon, opossum and coyote are also taken by hunting.

Hunting harvest estimates often exceed trapping harvest estimates and should be considered when evaluating trends for these species.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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The efforts of the Mississippi Trappers Association to maintain complete and accurate records of fur prices and providing that information for this publication as well as providing survey ideas and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

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## **TABLES AND FIGURES**

**Table 1. Number of trapping licenses sold, number of trappers surveyed and useable returns for the 1989-90 through 1996-97 seasons.**

Season	License Sales (End Of June)	Total License Sales	Trappers Surveyed	Useable Returns
1989-90	566	594	513	236
1990-91	337	377	308	147
1991-92	315	336	285	144
1992-93	312	328	256	141
1993-94	229	230	188	100
1994-95	240	241	210	98
1995-96	201	214	177	85
1996-97	417	NOT AVAILABLE	388	195

**Table 2. Expanded statewide harvest estimates, average catch per license holder, and percent successful license holders by furbearing species for the 1989-90 season.**

Species	Harvest (a)	SE	Catch/Lic. Holder (a)	SE	Catch/ Succ. Trapper	SE	n (b)	% Succ. Lic. Holder	SE
Mink	2106	287	4.11	0.56	9.98	1.20	88	41.7	2.6
Raccoon	7893	602	15.53	1.16	18.08	1.29	182	86.3	1.8
Muskrat	2506	482	4.85	0.95	15.83	2.78	66	31.3	2.4
Red Fox	269	43	0.53	0.08	2.38	0.30	47	22.3	2.2
Gray Fox	1511	147	2.99	0.29	6.84	0.49	101	47.9	2.6
Bobcat	568	68	1.12	0.13	3.29	0.31	72	34.1	2.4
Opossum	3969	504	7.81	0.99	16.71	1.88	99	46.9	2.6
River Otter	425	73	0.84	0.14	4.21	0.57	42	19.9	2.1
Sp. Skunk	79	39	0.16	0.08	4.71	2.01	7	3.3	0.9
St. Skunk	307	57	0.60	0.11	5.12	0.59	25	11.8	1.7
Coyote	1535	256	3.03	0.50	8.10	1.23	79	37.4	2.6
Weasel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nutria	1017	259	2.01	0.51	15.14	3.33	28	13.3	1.8
Beaver	8591	1610	16.14	3.12	33.48	6.01	107	50.7	2.6

(a) n = 236

(b) - Sample size for average catch per successful trapper

**Table 3. Expanded statewide harvest estimates, average catch per license holder, average catch per successful trapper and percent successful license holders by furbearing species for the 1990-91 season.**

Species	Harvest (a)	S E	Catch/Lic. Holder (a)	S E	Catch/ Succ. Trapper	S E	n (b)	% Succ. Lic. Holder	S E
Mink	917	145	3.38	0.53	8.51	1.11	47	40.1	3.4
Raccoon	4232	411	15.60	1.45	20.97	1.74	88	75.2	3.0
Muskrat	681	153	2.41	0.56	9.58	1.86	31	26.5	3.1
Red Fox	236	47	0.88	0.17	3.81	0.58	27	23.1	2.9
Gray Fox	839	114	3.08	0.41	6.78	0.74	54	46.2	3.5
Bobcat	362	60	1.32	0.22	4.51	0.57	35	29.9	3.2
Opossum	2008	226	7.21	0.80	13.69	1.20	64	54.7	3.5
River Otter	199	38	0.69	0.14	3.22	0.46	27	23.1	2.9
Sp. Skunk	46	23	0.17	0.09	6.67	2.18	3	2.6	1.1
St. Skunk	131	32	0.49	0.12	4.07	0.65	14	12.0	2.2
Coyote	1146	222	4.26	0.82	10.20	1.78	49	41.9	3.4
Weasel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nutria	378	121	1.41	0.45	9.71	2.68	17	14.5	2.5
Beaver	4475	872	15.93	3.20	33.66	6.06	58	49.6	3.5

(a) n = 147

(b) - Sample size for average catch per successful trapper

**Table 4. Expanded statewide harvest estimates, average catch per license holder, average catch per successful trapper and percent successful license holders by furbearing species for the 1991-92 season.**

Species	Harvest (a)	\$ E	Catch/Lic. Holder (a)	\$ E	Catch/ Succ. Trapper	\$ E	n (b)	% Succ. Lic. Holder	\$ E
Mink	1424	213	5.09	0.75	11.03	1.44	59	46.1	3.3
Raccoon	5443	505	19.44	1.75	23.70	2.01	105	82.0	2.5
Muskrat	1256	241	4.48	0.85	15.11	2.47	38	29.7	3.0
Red Fox	199	40	0.71	0.14	3.96	0.59	23	18.0	2.5
Gray Fox	1092	187	3.90	0.66	9.78	1.48	51	39.8	3.2
Bobcat	360	64	1.29	0.23	4.53	0.65	36	28.1	2.9
Opossum	2218	270	7.92	0.95	14.28	1.49	71	55.5	3.2
River Otter	302	54	1.08	0.19	3.73	0.55	37	28.9	3.0
Sp. Skunk	9	4	0.03	0.01	1.33	0.25	3	2.3	1.0
St. Skunk	291	64	1.03	0.23	5.54	0.98	24	18.8	2.6
Coyote	1584	269	5.58	0.95	15.40	2.25	47	36.7	3.2
Weasel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nutria	254	66	0.91	0.23	5.04	1.11	23	18.0	2.5
Beaver	5110	1319	18.25	4.70	32.44	8.16	72	56.3	3.2

(a) n = 144

(b) - Sample size for average catch per successful trapper

**Table 5. Expanded statewide harvest estimates, average catch per license holder, average catch per successful trapper and percent successful license holders by furbearing species for the 1992-93 season.**

Species	Harvest (a)	SE	Catch/Lic. Holder (a)	SE	Catch/ Succ. Trapper	SE	n (b)	% Succ. Lic. Holder	SE
Mink	1503	413	5.51	1.51	14.25	3.74	48	38.7	3.2
Raccoon	5763	622	21.15	2.23	28.51	2.79	92	74.2	2.9
Muskrat	1439	298	5.28	1.09	15.98	2.94	41	33.1	3.1
Red Fox	167	31	0.61	0.11	3.62	0.40	21	16.9	2.5
Gray Fox	1050	179	3.85	0.65	9.02	1.36	53	42.7	3.3
Bobcat	483	73	1.77	0.27	5.24	0.19	42	33.9	3.2
Opossum	2366	309	8.69	1.12	15.61	1.79	69	55.6	3.3
River Otter	349	58	1.28	0.21	4.68	0.58	34	27.4	3.0
Sp. Skunk	26	8	0.09	0.03	1.50	0.28	8	6.5	1.6
St. Skunk	426	81	1.56	0.29	6.47	0.96	30	24.2	2.9
Coyote	1224	219	4.49	0.80	12.38	1.92	45	36.3	3.2
Weasel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nutria	694	141	2.54	0.51	9.58	1.63	33	26.6	2.9
Beaver	6203	1264	22.77	4.61	41.51	8.05	68	54.8	

(a) n = 142

(b) - Sample size for average catch per successful trapper

**Table 6. Expanded statewide harvest estimates, average catch per license holder, average catch per successful trapper and percent successful license holders by furbearing species for the 1993-94 season.**

Species	Harvest (a)	SE	Catch/Lic. Holder (a)	SE	Catch/ Succ. Trapper	SE	n (b)	% Succ. Lic. Holder	SE
Mink	685	321	3.32	1.56	13.00	5.93	23	25.6	3.5
Raccoon	4887	472	23.71	2.21	30.06	2.52	71	78.9	3.2
Muskrat	725	235	3.52	1.14	13.78	4.11	23	25.6	3.5
Red Fox	117	33	0.57	0.16	2.83	0.66	18	20.0	3.2
Gray Fox	643	102	3.12	0.49	7.39	0.94	38	42.2	3.9
Bobcat	474	80	2.30	0.38	5.45	0.76	38	42.2	3.9
Opossum	1649	213	8.00	1.01	14.40	1.52	50	55.6	4.0
River Otter	449	68	2.18	0.32	4.78	0.58	41	45.6	4.0
Sp. Skunk	44	22	0.21	0.11	4.75	1.87	4	4.4	1.6
St. Skunk	336	135	1.78	0.65	13.33	4.24	12	13.3	2.7
Coyote	909	154	4.41	0.74	10.18	1.44	39	43.3	3.9
Weasel	5	2	0.02	0.01	1.00	0	2	2.2	1.2
Nutria	6153	3952	29.86	19.2	83.97	53.72	32	35.6	3.8
Beaver	6563	1249	31.84	3.01	50.28	9.02	57	63.3	3.8

(a) n = 100

(b) - Sample size for average catch per successful trapper

**Table 7. Expanded statewide harvest estimates, average catch per license holder, average catch per successful trapper and percent successful license holders by furbearing species for the 1994-95 season.**

Species	Harvest (a)	S E	Catch/Lic. Holder (a)	S E	Catch/ Succ. Trapper	S E	n (b)	% Succ. Lic. Holder	S E
Mink	326	111	1.48	0.50	5.54	1.75	24	26.7	3.6
Raccoon	7971	958	36.17	4.27	45.21	5.01	72	80.0	3.3
Muskrat	238	71	1.08	0.32	4.47	1.58	15	16.7	3.0
Red Fox	113	24	0.51	0.11	2.88	0.35	16	17.8	3.1
Gray Fox	531	82	2.41	0.37	6.03	0.70	36	40.0	4.0
Bobcat	419	80	1.90	0.36	4.75	0.77	36	40.0	4.0
Opossum	2552	365	11.58	1.63	19.66	2.44	53	58.9	4.0
River Otter	598	107	2.71	0.48	5.30	0.85	46	51.1	4.0
Sp. Skunk	12	8	0.06	0.04	2.50	1.15	2	2.2	1.2
St. Skunk	88	25	0.40	0.12	3.27	0.64	44	12.2	2.7
Coyote	1283	310	5.82	1.40	14.97	3.29	35	38.9	4.0
Weasel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nutria	541	115	2.46	0.52	7.89	1.39	28	31.1	3.8
Beaver	5929	1317	26.90	5.94	37.83	8.14	64	71.1	3.7

(a) n = 98

(b) - Sample size for average catch per successful trapper

**Table 8. Expanded statewide harvest estimates, average catch per license holder, average catch per successful trapper and percent successful license holders by furbearing species for the 1995-96 season.**

Species	Harvest (a)	SE	Catch/Lic. Holder (a)	SE	Catch/ Succ. Trapper	SE	n (b)	% Succ. Lic. Holder	SE
Mink	315	89	1.35	0.52	7.39	1.77	18	26.1	4.0
Raccoon	5399	637	26.75	3.63	37.43	3.98	61	88.4	2.9
Muskrat	267	66	1.38	0.38	6.65	1.24	17	24.6	4.0
Red Fox	76	22	0.45	0.13	2.91	0.57	11	15.9	3.4
Gray Fox	400	67	2.14	0.39	5.63	0.70	30	43.5	4.6
Bobcat	293	51	1.71	0.30	4.28	0.56	29	42.0	4.5
Opossum	1809	305	8.78	1.72	18.21	2.68	42	60.9	4.5
River Otter	452	78	2.43	0.45	4.78	0.71	40	58.0	4.5
Sp. Skunk	38	21	0.23	0.13	8.00	1.52	2	2.9	1.5
St. Skunk	97	23	0.49	0.13	2.93	0.45	14	20.3	27.7
Coyote	844	169	4.93	1.02	11.16	1.91	32	46.4	55.6
Weasel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nutria	620	117	3.09	0.68	10.08	1.46	26	37.7	46.6
Beaver	5654	956	31.42	5.74	43.47	6.88	56	79.7	87.1

(a) n = 85

(b) - Sample size for average catch per successful trapper

**Table 9. Expanded statewide harvest estimates, average catch per license holder, average catch per successful license holders by furbearing species for the 1996-97 season.**

Species	Harvest (a)	SE	Catch/Lic. Holder (a)	SE	Catch/ Succ. Trapper	SE	n (b)	% Lic
Mink	600	111	1.56	0.29	5.13	0.85	55	1
Raccoon	13,704	1024	35.98	2.63	38.57	2.76	167	1
Muskrat	1432	572	3.76	1.50	15.65	6.12	43	1
Red Fox	219	41	0.58	0.11	3.12	0.46	33	1
Gray Fox	1323	199	3.47	0.52	7.78	1.07	80	7
Bobcat	885	94	2.32	0.24	5.07	0.44	82	7
Opossum	3872	304	10.17	0.78	14.80	1.00	123	5
River Otter	1404	162	3.68	0.42	6.95	0.71	95	7
Sp. Skunk	72	39	0.19	0.10	5.67	2.82	6	0
St. Skunk	189	35	0.50	0.09	3.07	0.42	29	0
Coyote	1870	313	4.91	0.82	11.42	1.77	77	7
Weasel	4	2	0.01	0.01	1.00	0.00	2	6
Nutria	890	143	2.63	0.37	8.13	1.09	52	5
Beaver	11,404	1390	29.58	3.62	46.21	5.27	116	6

(a) n = 196

(b) - Sample size for average catch per successful trapper

**Table 10. Average number of days trapped, average trapline length and average trapper age for the 1983-84 through the 1996-97 seasons.**

Season	Average Number of Days	S E	Average Trapline Length (Mi.)	S E	Average Trapper Age	S E
1983-84	35.02	0.83	8.05	0.57	47.29	0.72
1984-85	37.67	1.06	7.97	0.60	47.74	0.70
1985-86	36.17	1.21	7.01	0.55	46.27	0.90
1986-87	39.25	1.02	8.00	0.58	47.94	0.75
1987-88	35.18	1.24	8.00	0.75	47.47	0.84
1988-89	34.63	1.39	9.70	0.91	49.18	0.90
1989-90	37.34	2.96	7.14	0.77	52.14	1.24
1990-91	38.50	4.50	9.92	1.41	50.85	1.39
1991-92	37.33	4.01	No Data		45.38	1.93
1992-93	46.87	5.36	12.60	1.75	52.16	1.64
1993-94	48.20	6.01	13.78	2.45	53.11	1.83
1994-95	45.90	6.00	16.56	3.11	52.33	1.80
1995-96	40.54	6.29	12.02	2.16	51.64	1.81
1996-97	49.35	3.92	13.07	2.00	47.58	1.30

Table 11. Average number of traps used per trapper for the 1983-84 through the 1996-97 seasons, by trap type.

Season	Leghold	SE	Padded Jaw	SE	Conibear	SE	Snare	SE
1983-84	27.75	0.83	Not Asked		2.10	0.43	0.93	0.27
1984-85	27.76	0.89	Not Asked		2.73	0.48	1.28	0.27
1985-86	25.09	0.93	Not Asked		2.79	0.32	1.41	0.21
1986-87	27.30	0.84	Not Asked		5.33	0.59	5.07	0.80
1987-88	25.46	0.96	Not Asked		3.19	0.35	2.74	0.48
1988-89	28.69	1.16	Not Asked		3.98	0.49	5.43	1.00
1989-90	21.92	1.28	Not Asked		4.21	0.59	4.48	1.11
1990-91	17.79	2.13	4.75	1.29	5.61	1.31	10.15	3.39
1991-92	15.01	1.68	3.52	0.76	4.93	1.24	6.77	1.84
1992-93	25.21	3.24	3.84	0.96	6.55	1.17	11.96	3.20
1993-94	21.45	2.87	2.27	0.77	8.20	1.36	26.25	2.90
1994-95	18.96	1.89	3.63	1.10	9.90	1.91	10.03	2.61
1995-96	18.32	2.21	9.43	2.47	10.35	1.85	23.74	4.96
1996-97	22.18	1.47	3.32	0.64	9.36	1.24	11.04	1.80

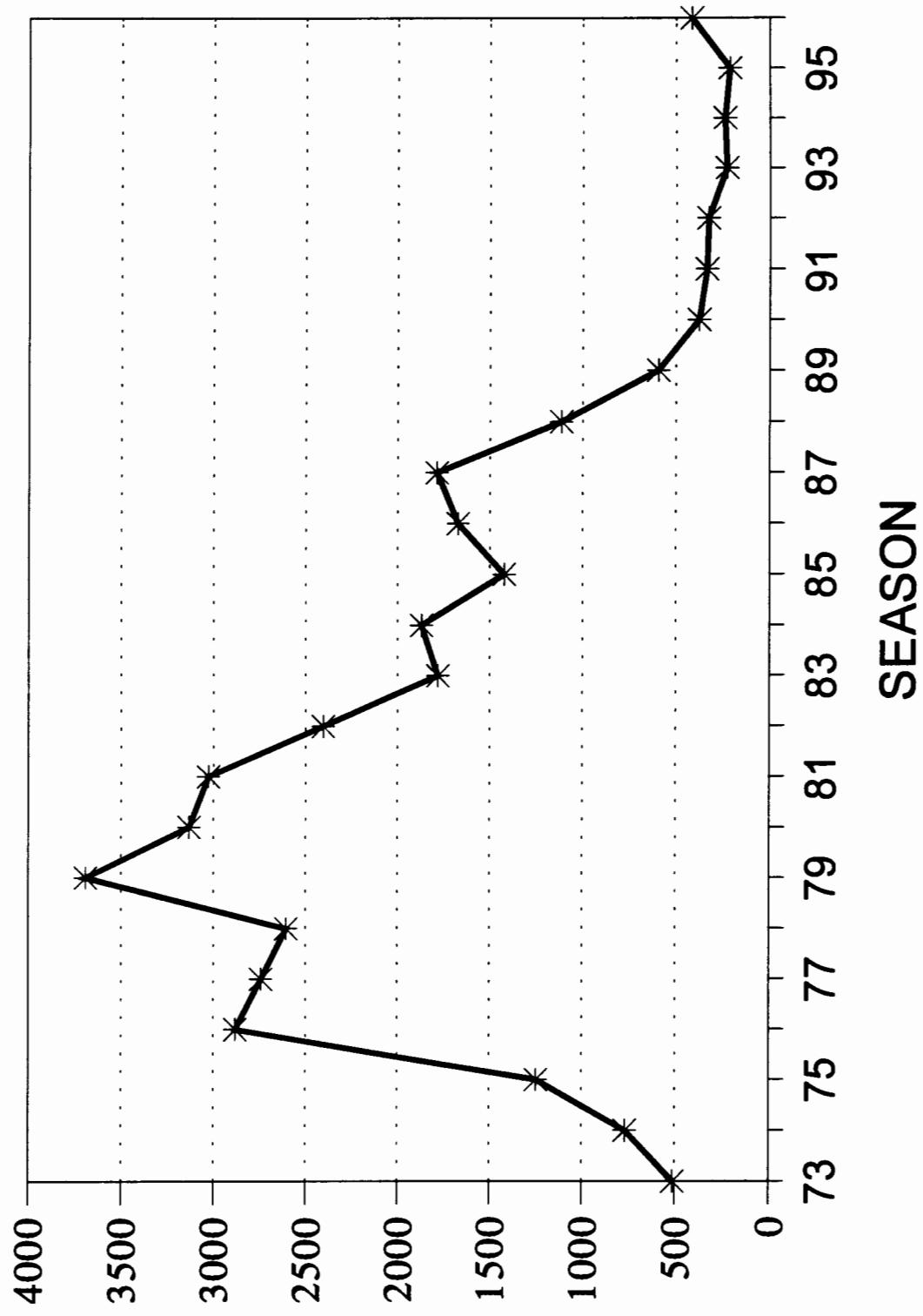
**Table 12. Average pelt price paid for fur sold at Mississippi Trappers Association fur auctions for the 1989-90 Through the 1996-97 seasons, by species.**

Species	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Mink	\$16.62	\$15.49	\$17.52	\$14.14	\$14.07	\$10.84	\$12.15	\$15.50
Raccoon	\$1.81	\$1.75	\$4.55	\$1.87	\$5.59	\$4.87	\$9.55	\$10.76
Muskrat	\$0.67	\$0.66	\$1.67	\$1.35	\$1.74	\$1.67	\$2.61	\$3.45
Red Fox	\$6.61	\$3.50	\$9.61	\$8.70	\$11.14	\$11.91	\$17.02	\$15.39
Gray Fox	\$5.91	\$4.55	\$8.67	\$10.02	\$10.47	\$7.46	\$9.04	\$10.64
Bobcat	\$15.78	\$8.97	\$10.93	\$7.89	\$21.81	\$11.37	\$13.69	\$15.03
Opossum	\$0.58	\$0.84	\$0.92	\$0.99	\$1.70	\$1.17	\$1.70	\$1.11
River Otter	\$13.67	\$7.51	\$22.33	\$35.05	\$37.00	\$30.08	\$37.14	\$30.79
Sp. Skunk	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
St. Skunk	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Coyote	\$1.40	---	\$14.70	\$17.94	\$12.47	\$6.01	\$6.38	\$9.24
Weasel	---	---	---	---	---	\$1.00	---	---
Nutria	\$0.30	\$0.10	\$0.24	\$1.03	\$0.62	\$0.96	\$3.73	\$2.55
Beaver	\$3.37	\$2.11	\$1.42	\$2.80	\$4.98	\$5.89	\$8.73	\$11.78

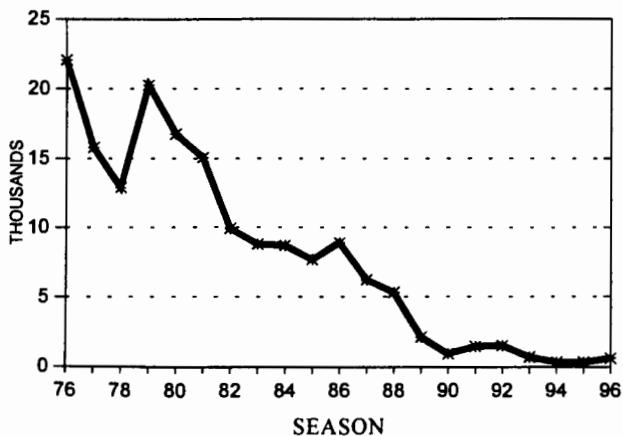
**Figure 1. Questionnaire used for the 1990-91 through the 1996-97 surveys of licensed trappers in Mississippi.**

<b>Trapper Harvest Survey (1996-97)</b>				
<b>A. Please answer the following questions:</b>				
1. Did you trap furbearers in Mississippi during the 1996-97 season? Yes (1) _____ No (2) _____				
2. In what county did you do most of your trapping? _____				
3. How many days (or nights) did you have traps set? _____				
4. How many traps did you use? Legholds _____ Soft catch _____ Conibear (killer type) _____ Snare _____				
5. How long was your trapline? _____ miles				
6. What kind of trapper do you consider yourself? _____ 1. Strictly land trapper _____ 4. Mostly water trapper _____ 2. Mostly land trapper _____ 5. Strictly water trapper _____ 3. 50% land - 50% water trapper				
7. Your age: _____ years?				
8. How many years have you been trapping? _____				
<b>B. What was your catch for this past season (1996-97)? If you trapped with a partner, include only your portion of the partnership catch.</b>				
	Total No. Trapped	Total No. Taken By Hunting	Others Taken (Road Kills)	Total No. Sold
(1) Mink	_____	_____	_____	_____
(2) Raccoon	_____	_____	_____	_____
(3) Muskrat	_____	_____	_____	_____
(4) Red Fox	_____	_____	_____	_____
(5) Gray Fox	_____	_____	_____	_____
(6) Bobcat	_____	_____	_____	_____
(7) Opossum	_____	_____	_____	_____
(8) Otter	_____	_____	_____	_____
(9) Spotted Skunk (Civet)	_____	_____	_____	_____
(10) Striped Skunk	_____	_____	_____	_____
(11) Coyote	_____	_____	_____	_____
(12) Weasel	_____	_____	_____	_____
(13) Nutria	_____	_____	_____	_____
(14) Beaver	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>NO POSTAGE REQUIRED</b>				
<b>Please return by May 1, 1997.</b>				

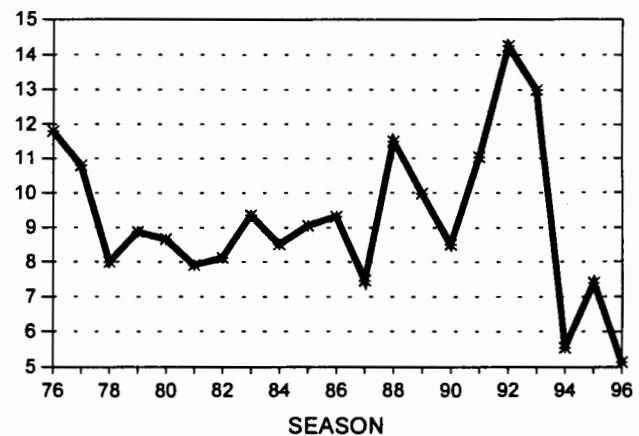
**FIGURE 2: Mississippi resident trapping license sales  
for the 1973-74 through the 1996-97 seasons.**



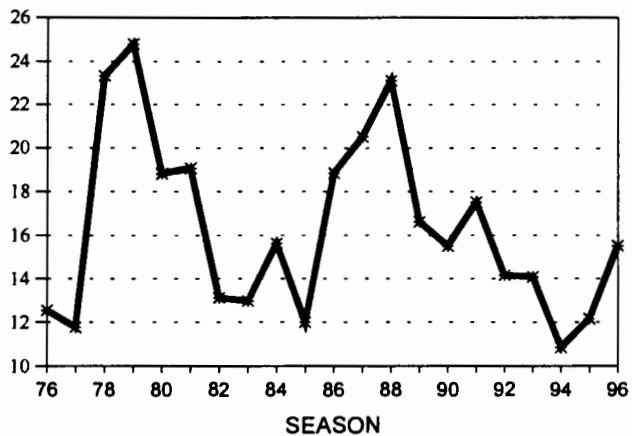
TRAPPING HARVEST



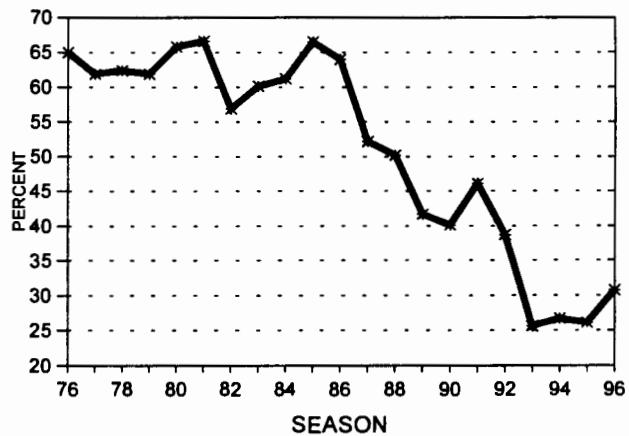
AVERAGE CATCH PER SUCCESSFUL TRAPPER



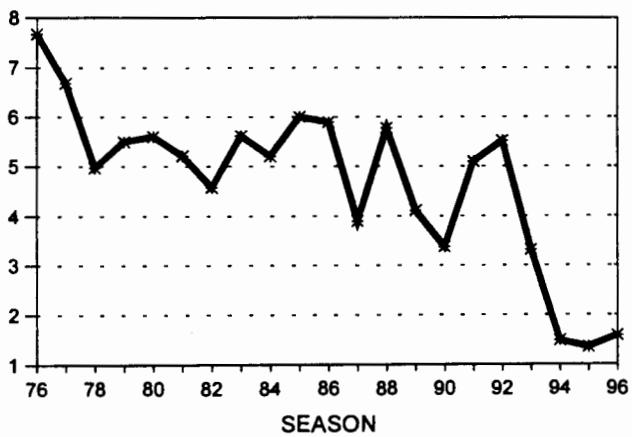
AVERAGE PELT PRICE



PROPORTION OF SUCCESSFUL TRAPPERS

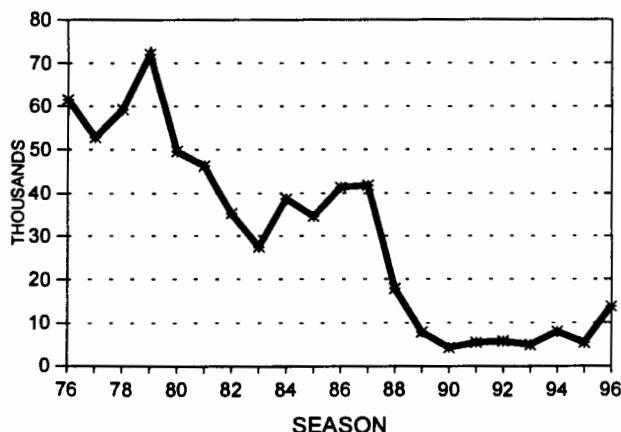


AVERAGE CATCH PER TRAPPER

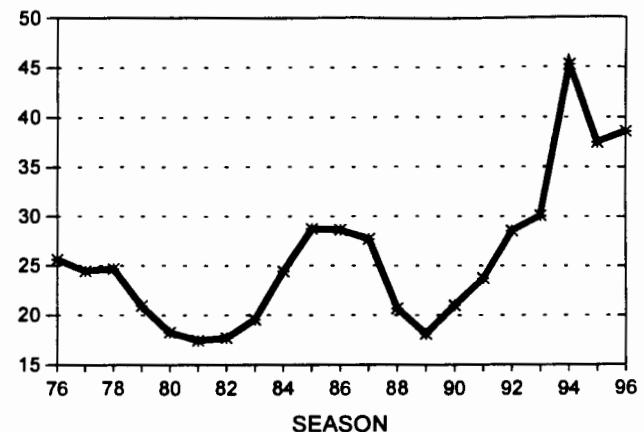


**FIGURE 3:**  
Seasonal trends  
in mink trapping  
harvest indices  
and pelt prices  
in Mississippi.

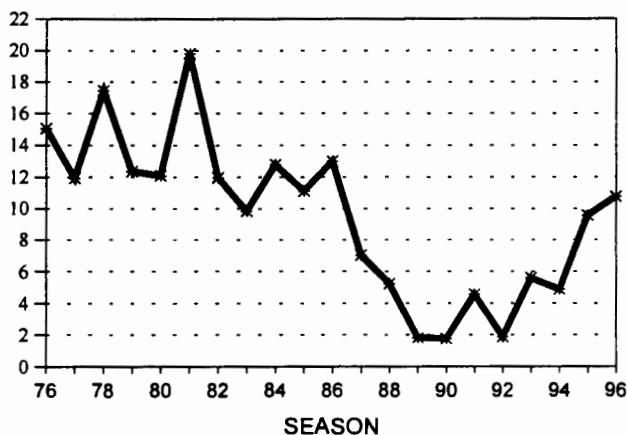
TRAPPING HARVEST



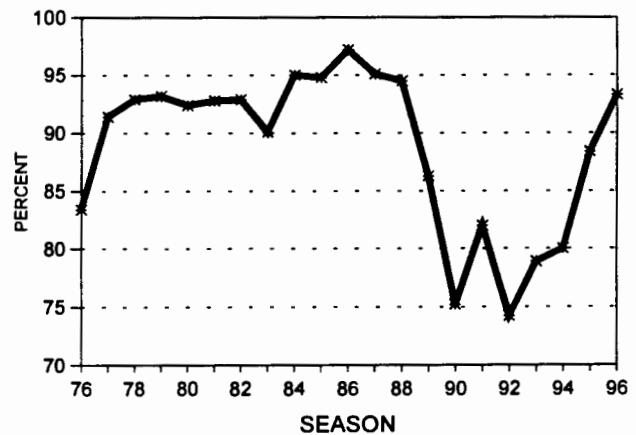
AVERAGE CATCH PER SUCCESSFUL TRAPPER



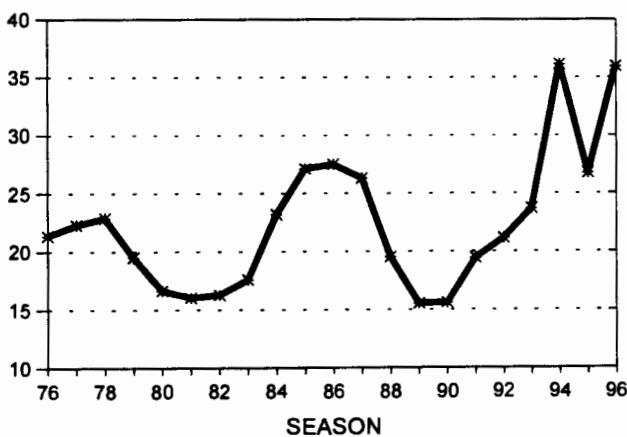
AVERAGE PELT PRICE



PROPORTION OF SUCCESSFUL TRAPPERS

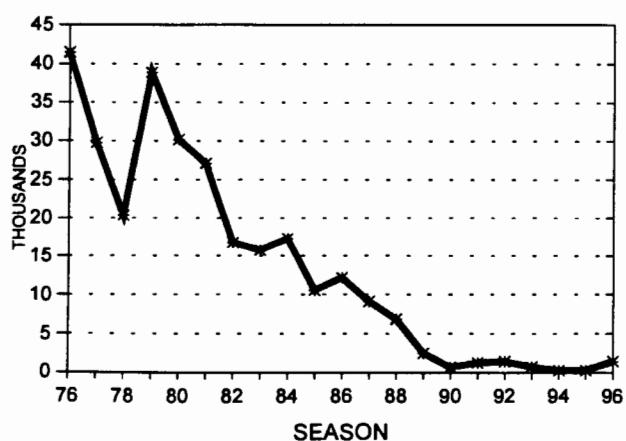


AVERAGE CATCH PER TRAPPER

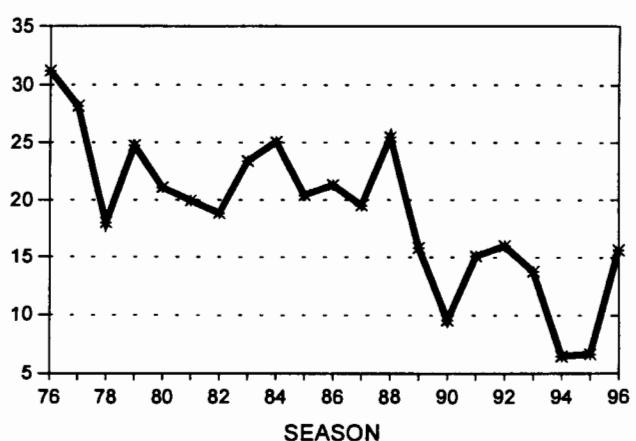


**FIGURE 4:**  
Seasonal trends  
in raccoon  
trapping harvest  
indices and pelt  
prices in  
Mississippi.

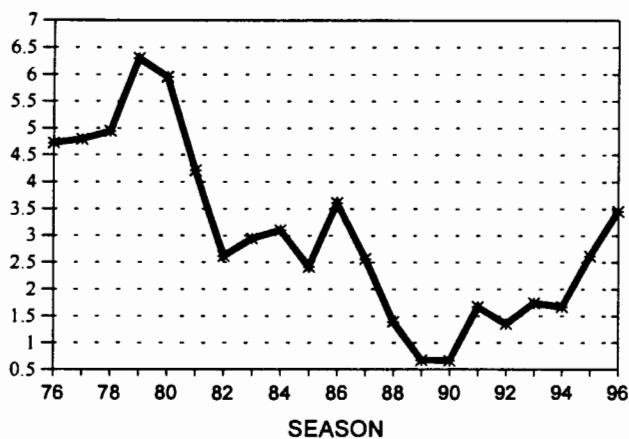
TRAPPING HARVEST



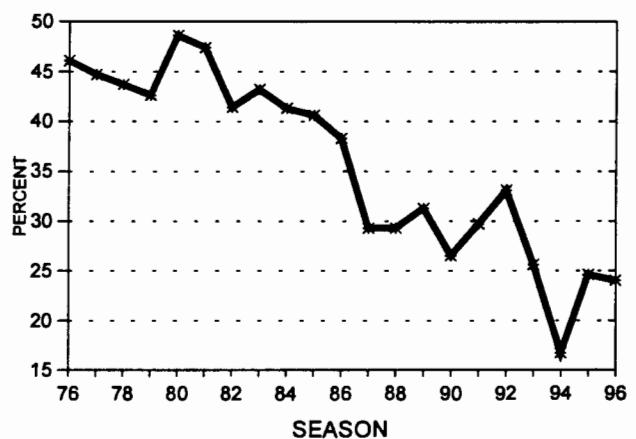
AVERAGE CATCH PER SUCCESSFUL TRAPPER



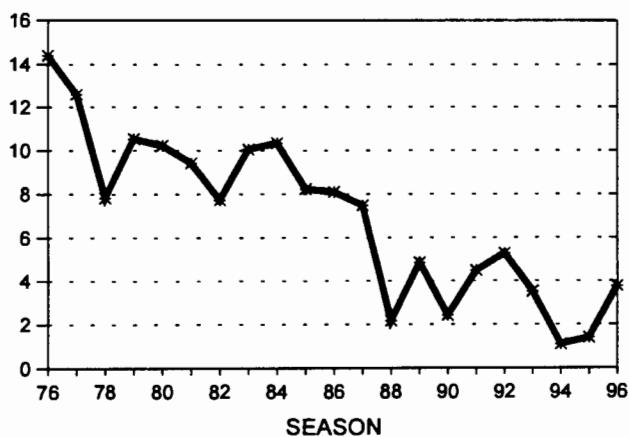
AVERAGE PELT PRICE



PROPORTION OF SUCCESSFUL TRAPPERS

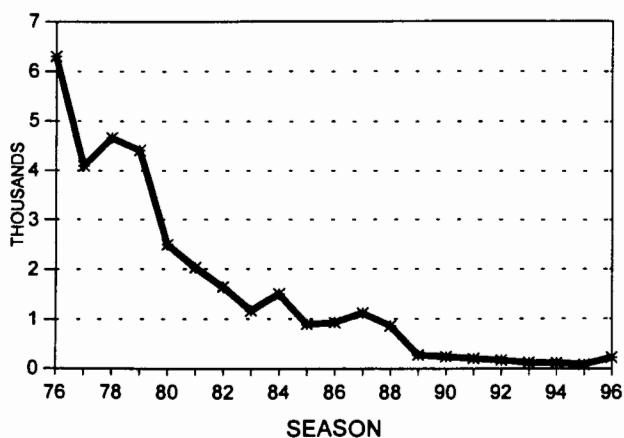


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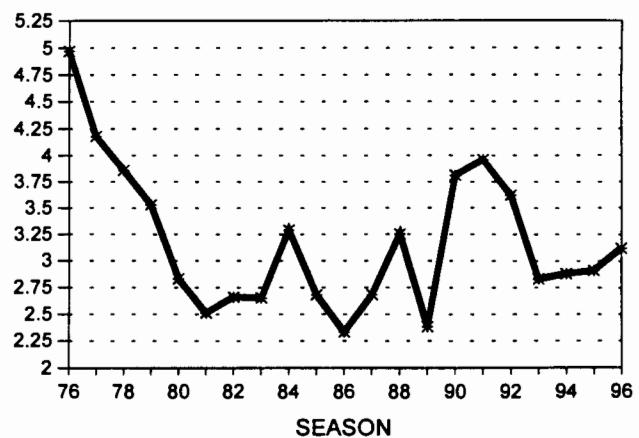


**FIGURE 5:**  
Seasonal trends  
in muskrat  
trapping harvest  
indices and pelt  
prices in  
Mississippi.

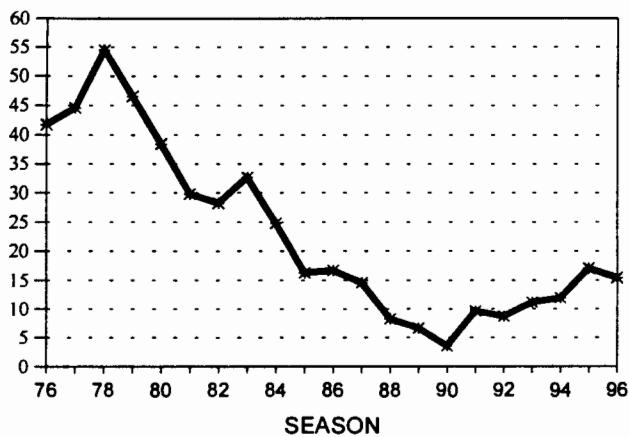
TRAPPING HARVEST



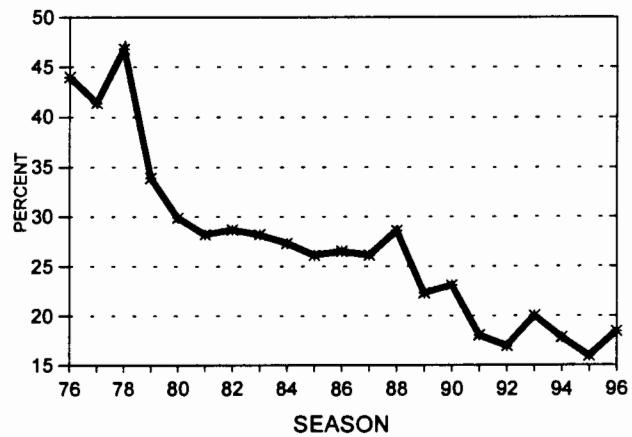
AVERAGE CATCH PER SUCCESSFUL TRAPPER



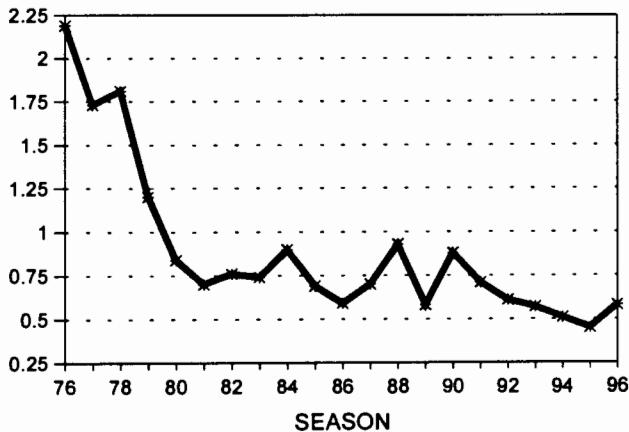
AVERAGE PELT PRICE



PROPORTION OF SUCCESSFUL TRAPPERS

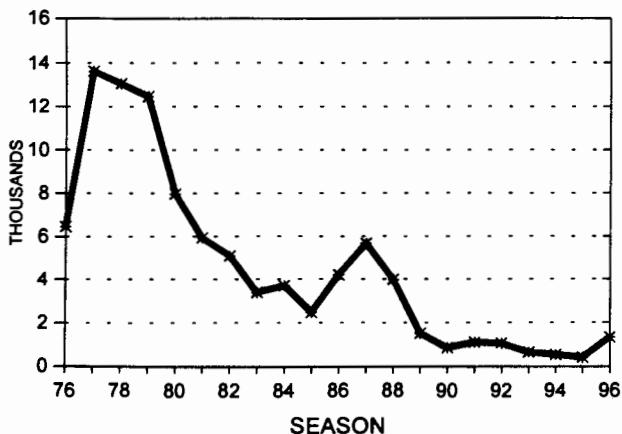


AVERAGE CATCH PER TRAPPER

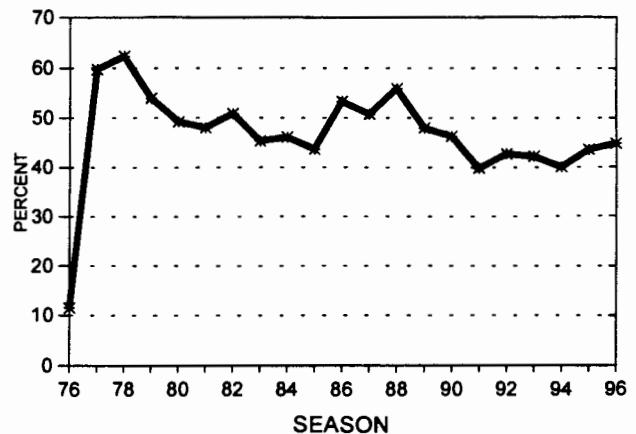


**FIGURE 6:**  
Seasonal trends  
in red fox  
trapping harvest  
indices and pelt  
prices in  
Mississippi.

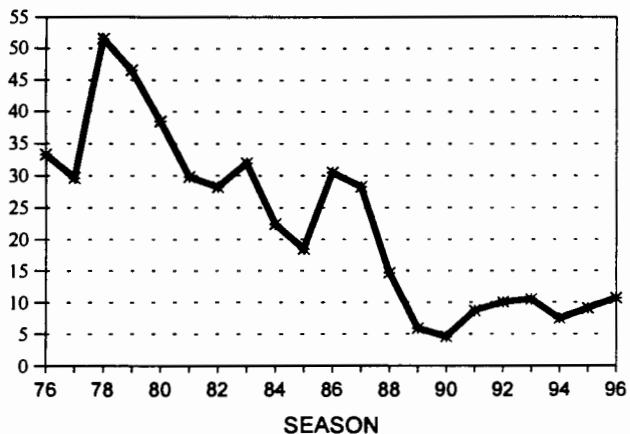
TRAPPING HARVEST



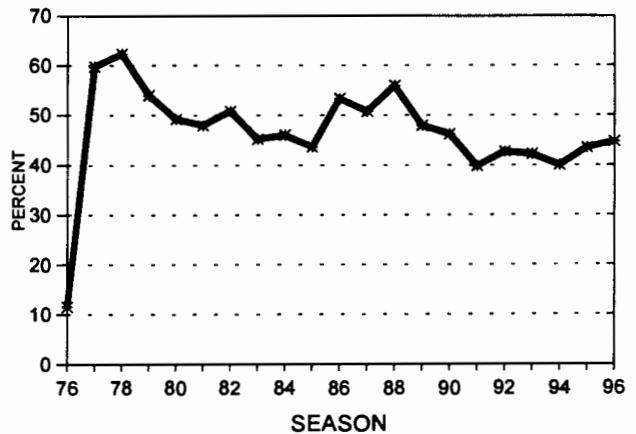
PROPORTION OF SUCCESSFUL TRAPPERS



AVERAGE PELT PRICE



PROPORTION OF SUCCESSFUL TRAPPERS



AVERAGE CATCH PER TRAPPER

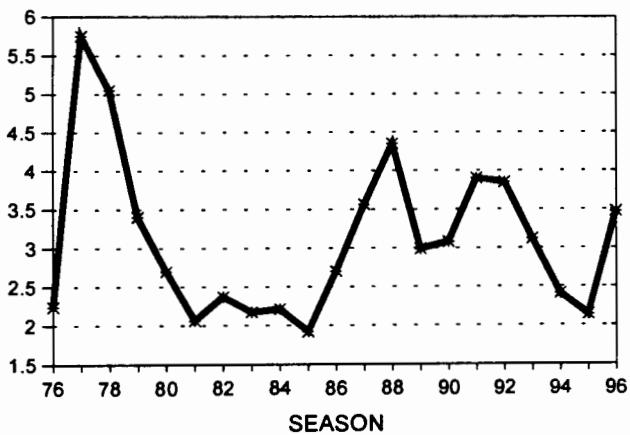
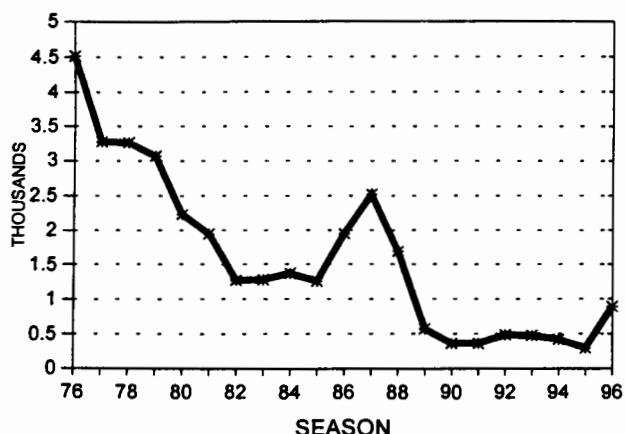
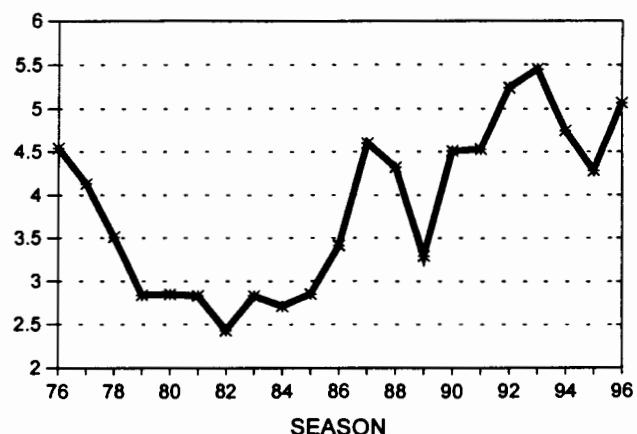


FIGURE 7:  
Seasonal trends  
in gray fox  
trapping harvest  
indices and pelt  
prices in  
Mississippi.

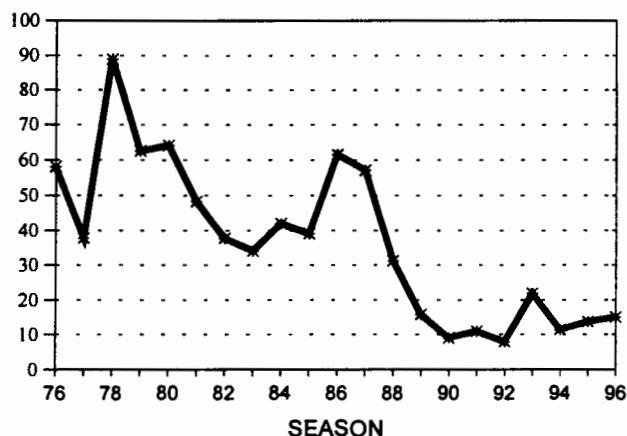
TRAPPING HARVEST



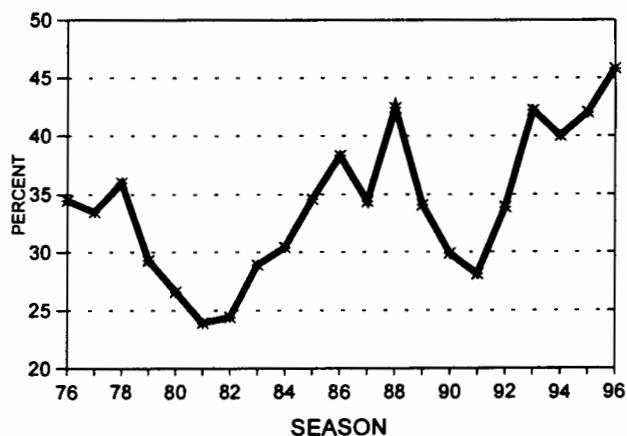
AVERAGE CATCH PER SUSSESSFUL TRAPPER



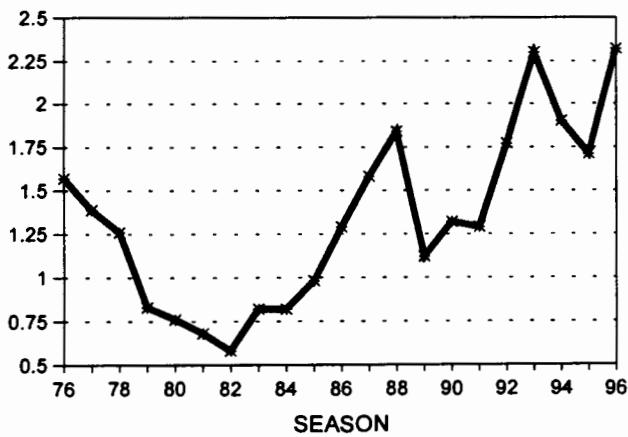
AVERAGE PELT PRICE



PROPORTION OF SUCCESSFUL TRAPPERS

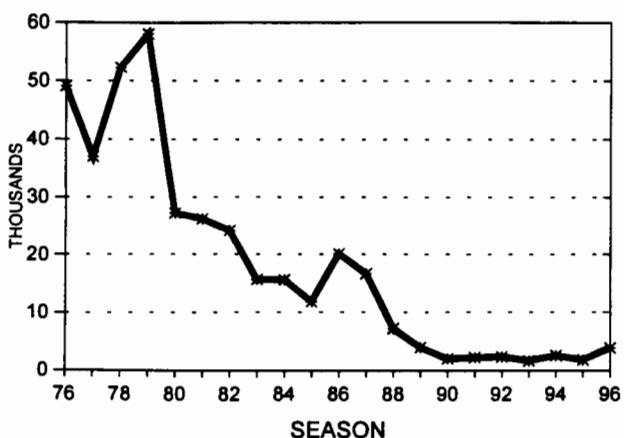


AVERAGE CATCH PER TRAPPER

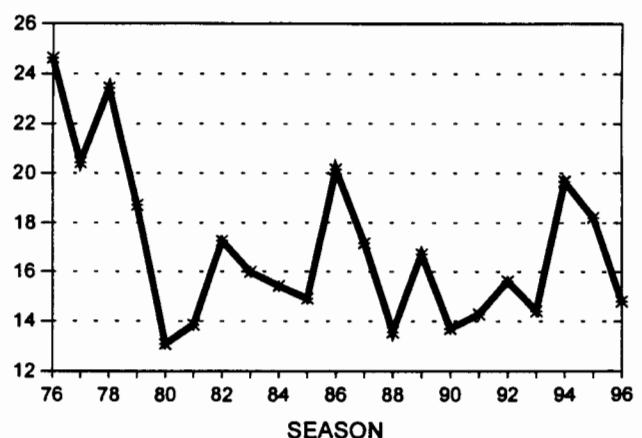


**FIGURE 8:**  
Seasonal trends  
in bobcat  
trapping harvest  
indices and pelt  
prices in  
Mississippi.

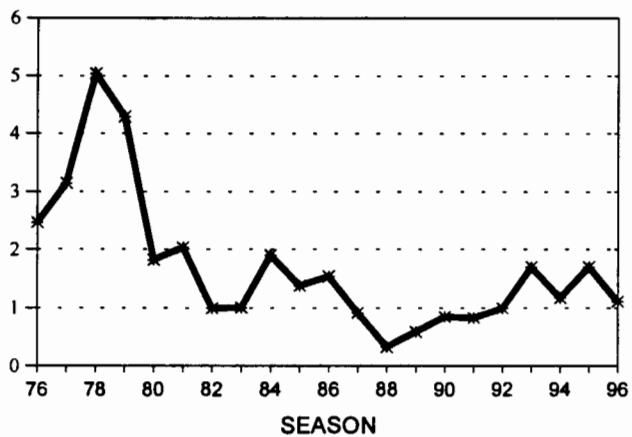
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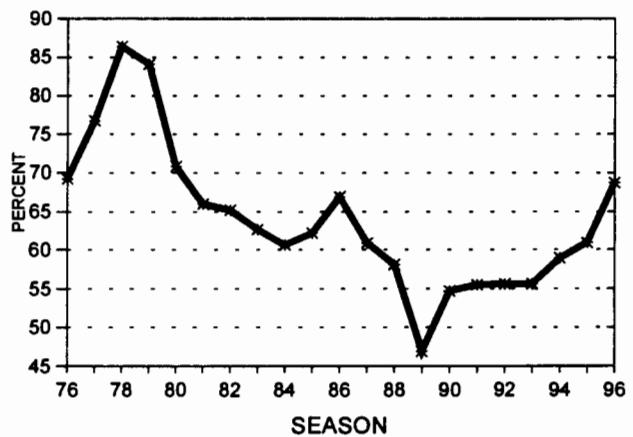
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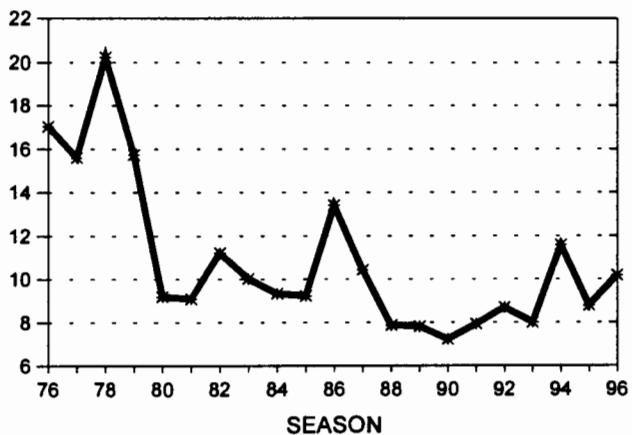
AVERAGE PELT PRICE



PROPORTION OF SUCCESSFUL TRAPPERS

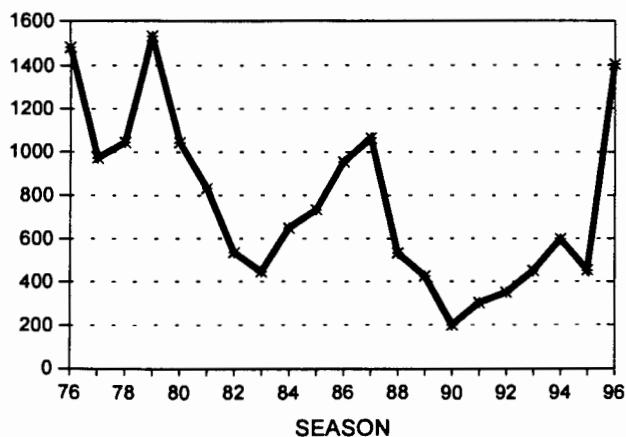


AVERAGE CATCH PER TRAPPER

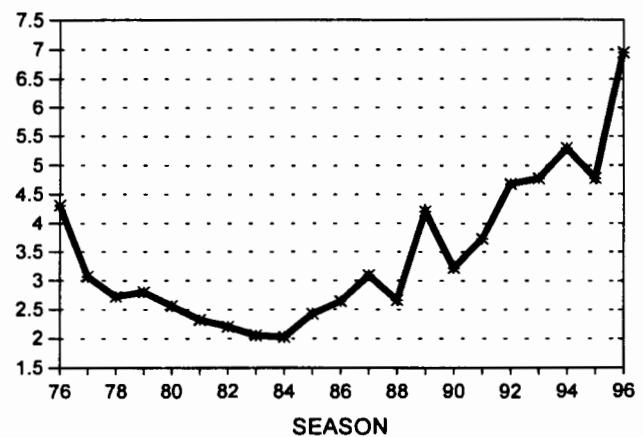


**FIGURE 9:**  
Seasonal trends  
in opossum  
trapping harvest  
indices and pelt  
prices in  
Mississippi.

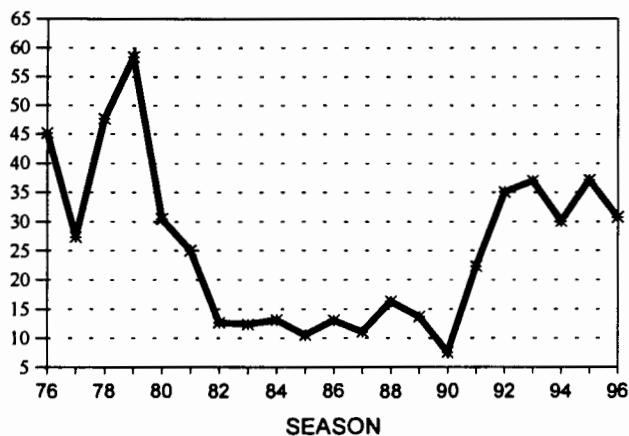
TRAPPING HARVEST



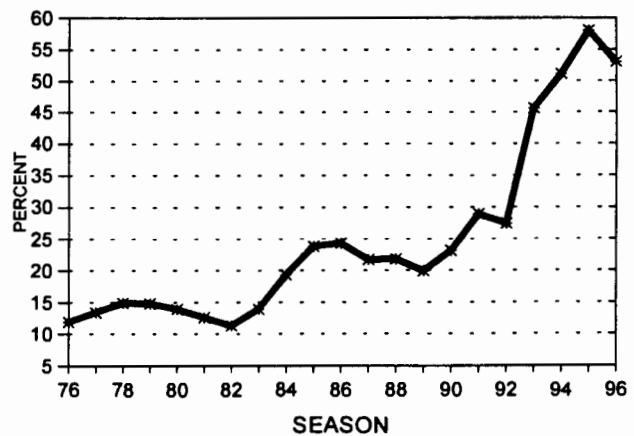
AVERAGE CATCH PER SUCCESSFUL TRAPPER



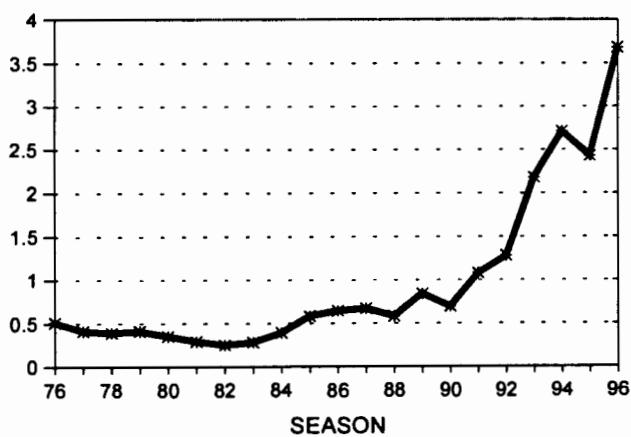
AVERAGE PELT PRICE



PROPORTION OF SUCCESSFUL TRAPPERS

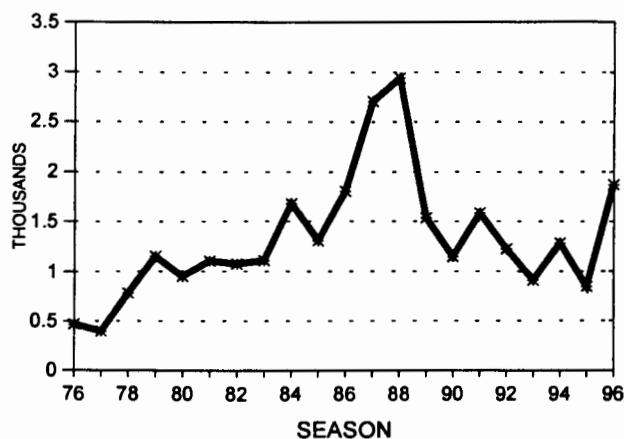


AVERAGE CATCH PER TRAPPER

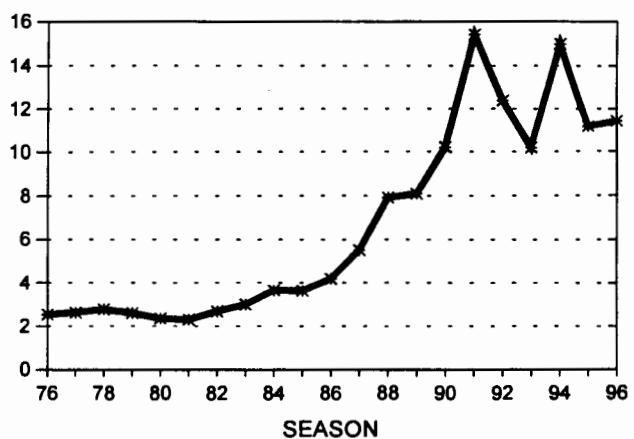


**FIGURE 10:**  
Seasonal trends  
in river otter  
trapping harvest  
indices and pelt  
prices in  
Mississippi.

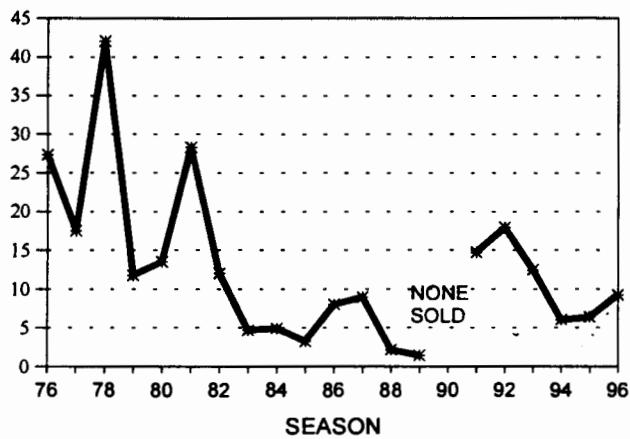
TRAPPING HARVEST



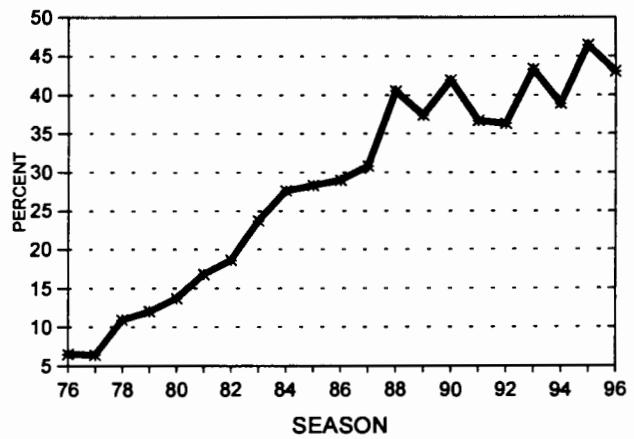
AVERAGE CATCH PER SUCCESSFUL TRAPPER



AVERAGE PELT PRICE



PROPORTION OF SUCCESSFUL TRAPPERS



AVERAGE CATCH PER TRAPPER

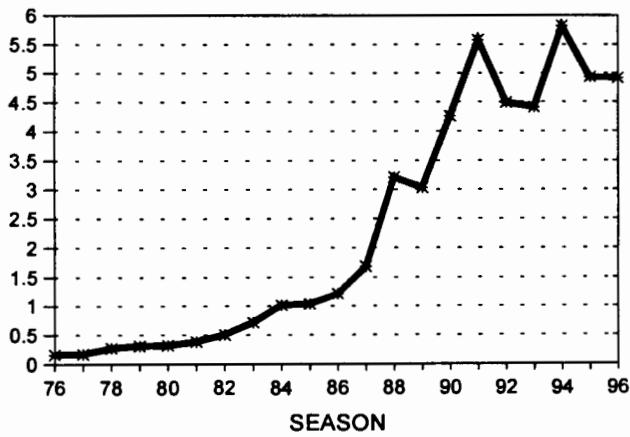
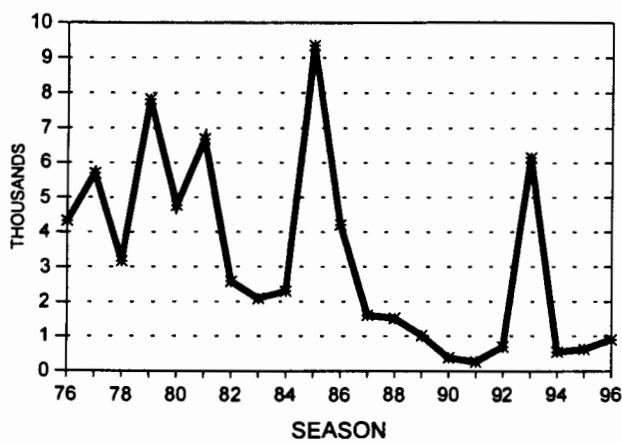
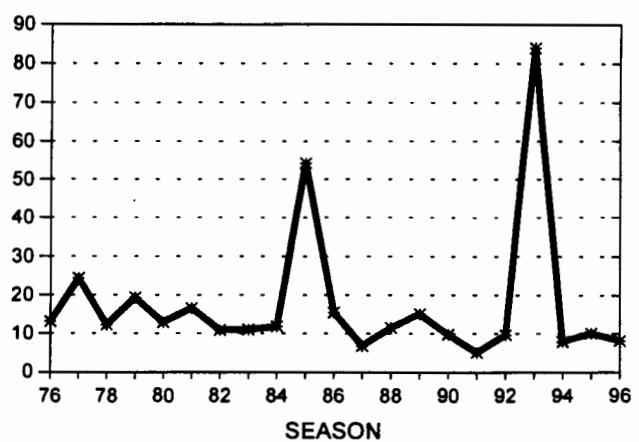


FIGURE 11:  
Seasonal trends  
in coyote  
trapping harvest  
indices and pelt  
prices in  
Mississippi.

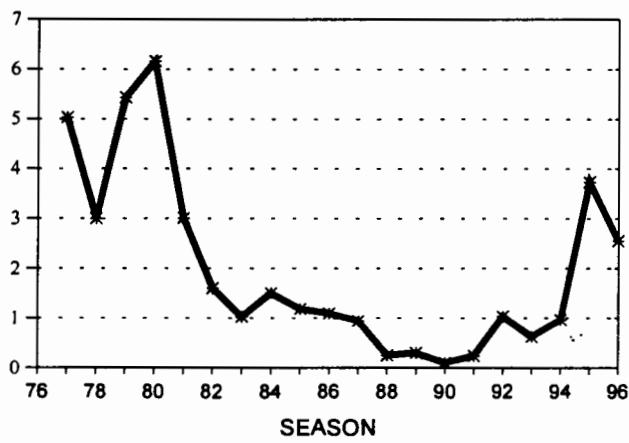
TRAPPING HARVEST



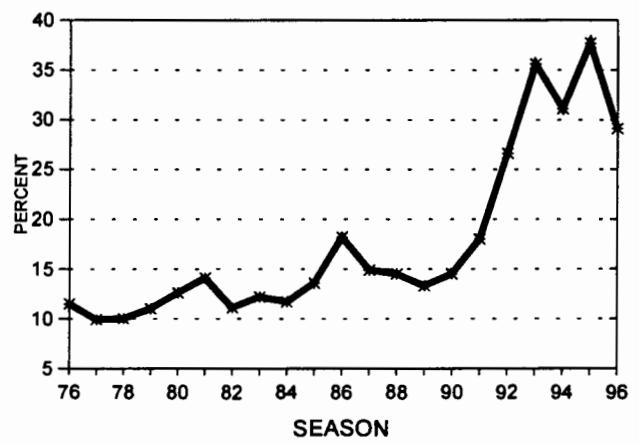
AVERAGE CATCH PER SUCCESSFUL TRAPPER



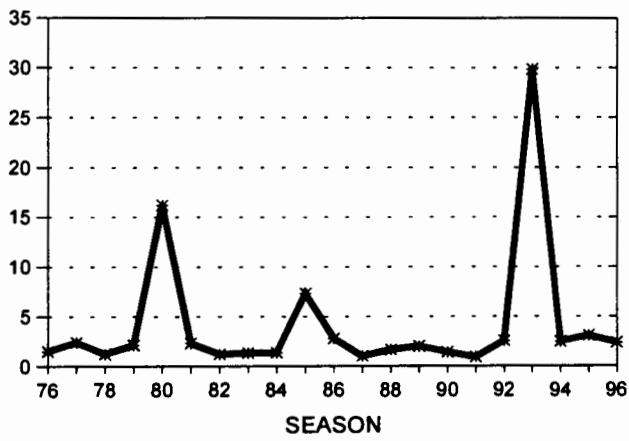
AVERAGE PELT PRICE



PROPORTION OF SUCCESSFUL TRAPPERS

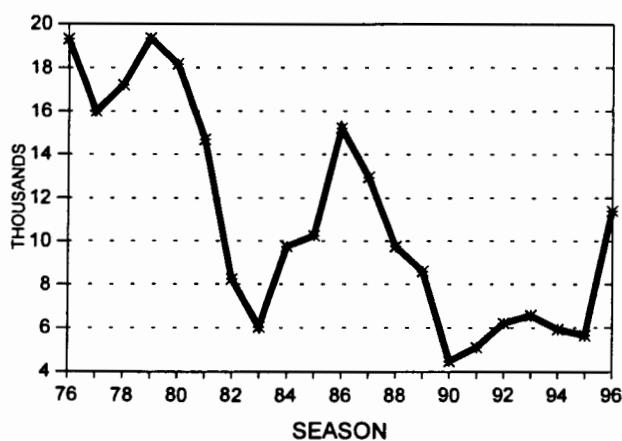


AVERAGE CATCH PER TRAPPER

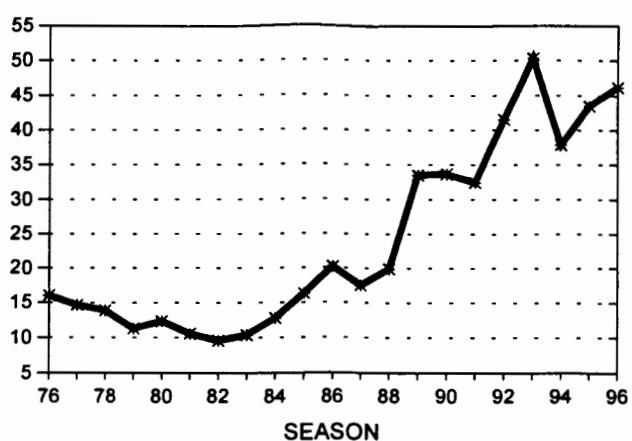


**FIGURE 12:**  
Seasonal trends  
in nutria  
trapping harvest  
indices and pelt  
prices in  
Mississippi.

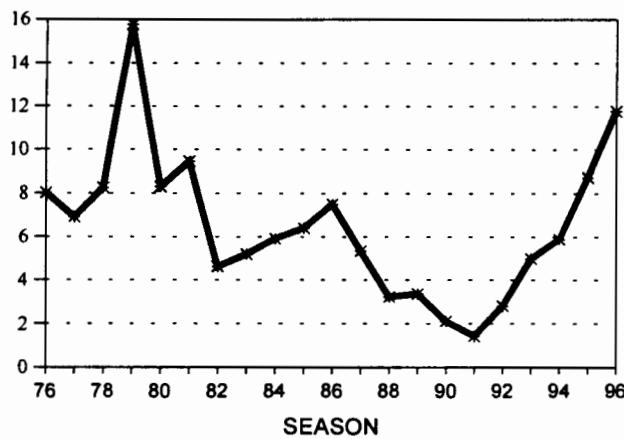
TRAPPING HARVEST



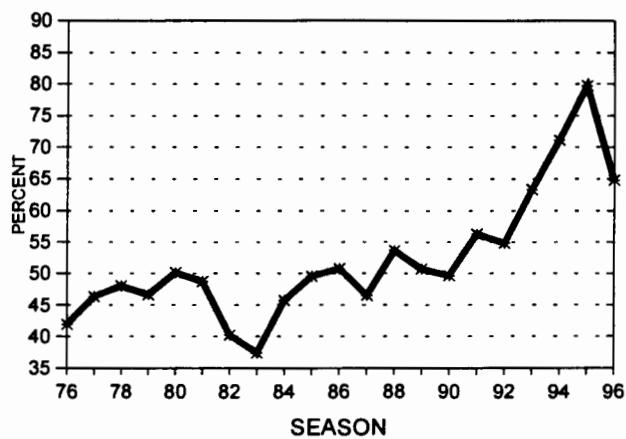
AVERAGE CATCH PER SUCCESSFUL TRAPPER



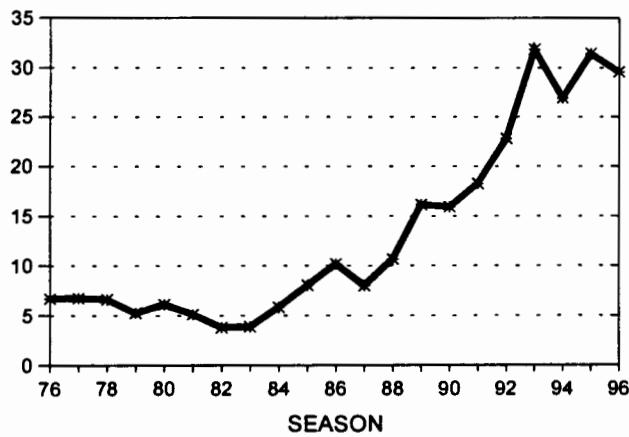
AVERAGE PELT PRICE



PROPORTION OF SUCCESSFUL TRAPPERS

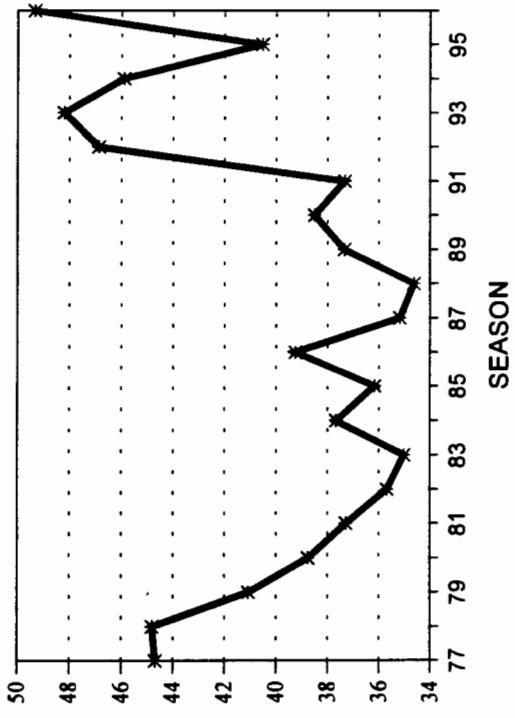


AVERAGE CATCH PER TRAPPER



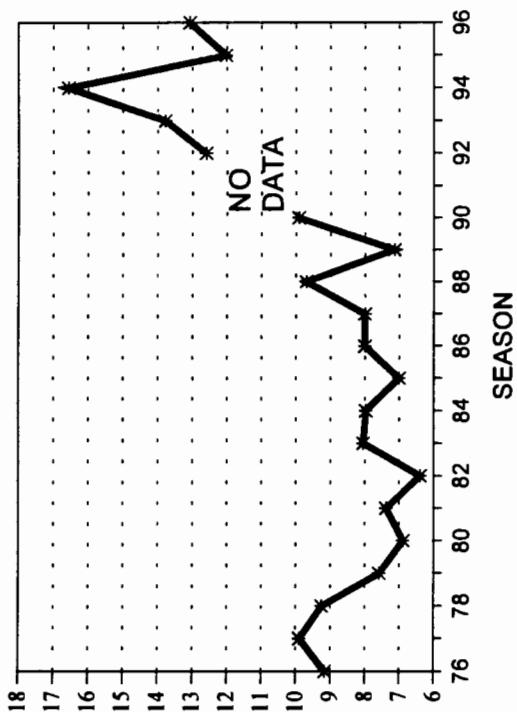
**FIGURE 13:**  
Seasonal trends  
in beaver  
trapping harvest  
indices and pelt  
prices in  
Mississippi.

**FIGURE 14:** Average number of days trapped per trapper for the 1977-78 through the 1996-97 seasons.

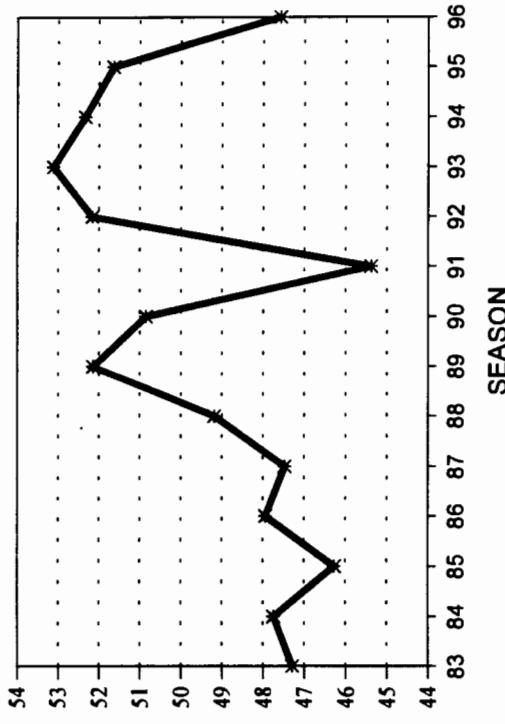


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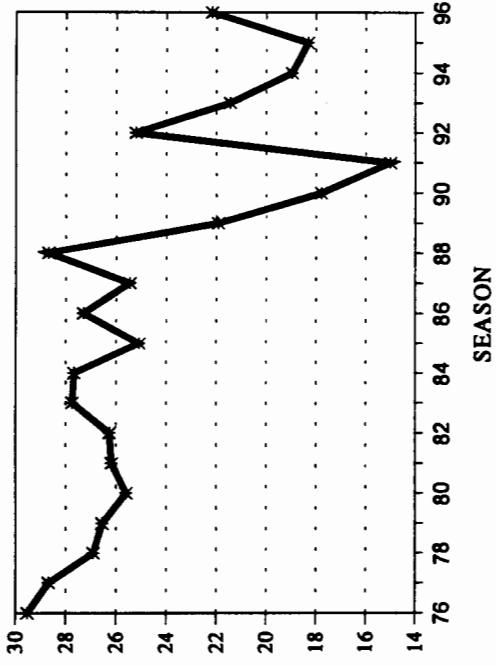
**FIGURE 15:** Average trapline length in miles for the 1976-77 through the 1996-97 seasons.



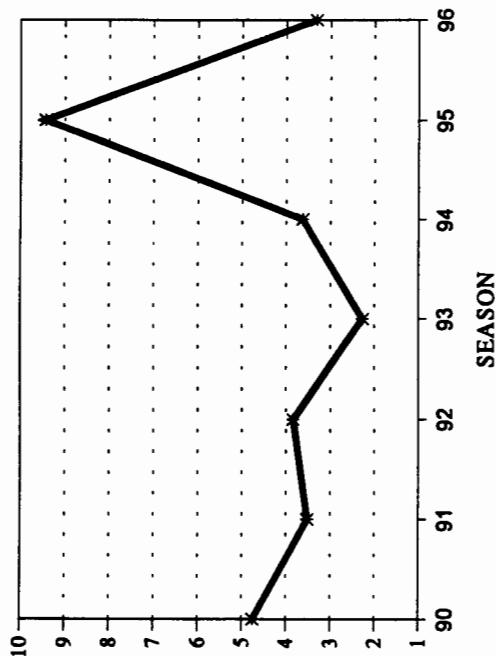
**FIGURE 16:** Average trapper age in years for the 1983-84 through the 1996-97 seasons.



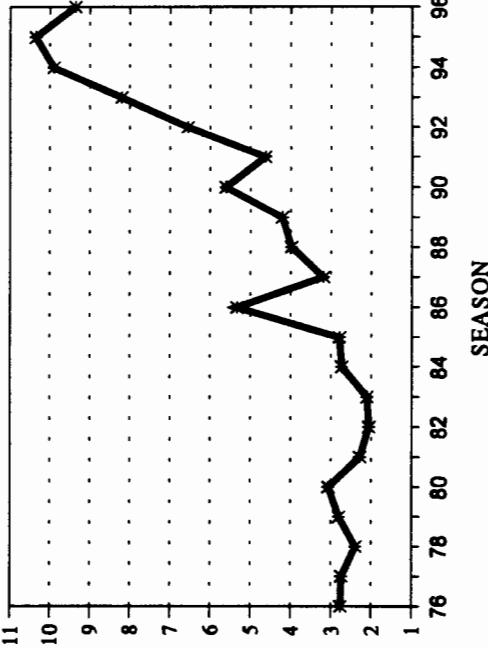
**FIGURE 17:** Average number of leghold traps used per trapper for the 1976-77 through the 1996-97 seasons.



**FIGURE 18:** Average number of padded jaw traps used per trapper for the 1990-91 through the 1996-97 seasons.



**FIGURE 19:** Average number of conibear traps used per trapper for the 1976-77 through the 1996-97 seasons.



**FIGURE 20:** Average number of snares used per trapper for the 1979-80 through the 1996-97 seasons.

