



“As hunting season begins, I encourage all sportsmen and women to enjoy the outdoors safely and responsibly. Hunting is a proud tradition in New York that supports conservation, strengthens our economy, and brings communities together. Let’s respect our natural resources, follow all safety regulations, and make this season both successful and safe for everyone.”

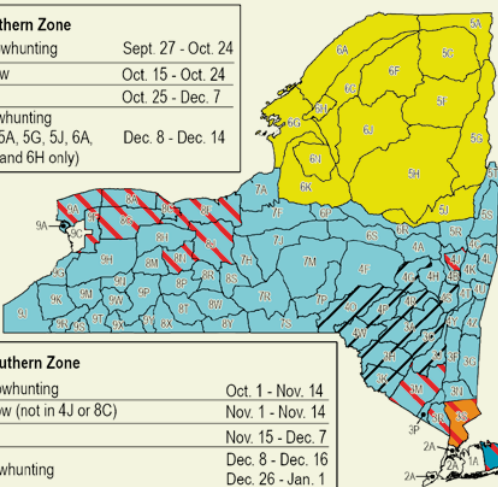
-ASSEMBLYMAN ANGELO MORINELLO

Angelo J Morinello

Regular & Bowhunting Deer Seasons

Hunting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

Northern Zone	
Early Bowhunting	Sept. 27 - Oct. 24
Crossbow	Oct. 15 - Oct. 24
Regular	Oct. 25 - Dec. 7
Late Bowhunting (WMUs 5A, 5G, 5J, 6A, 6C, 6G, and 6H only)	Dec. 8 - Dec. 14



Southern Zone	
Early Bowhunting	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14
Crossbow (not in 4J or 8C)	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14
Regular	Nov. 15 - Dec. 7
Late Bowhunting	Dec. 8 - Dec. 16
	Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
Westchester County (3S)	
Regular - bowhunting only	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31
Suffolk County (1C)	
Regular - Bowhunting Only	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31
Special Firearms (Permit Req.)	Jan. 4 - Jan. 31
Early Antlerless Season	
	Sept. 13 - Sept. 21
Tags: DMP and DMAP	
Vertical Bow-Only: 1C, 3S, 4J, 8C	
Firearms, Bow, & Crossbow: 3M, 3R, 8A, 8F, 8G, 8J, 8N, 9A, and 9F	

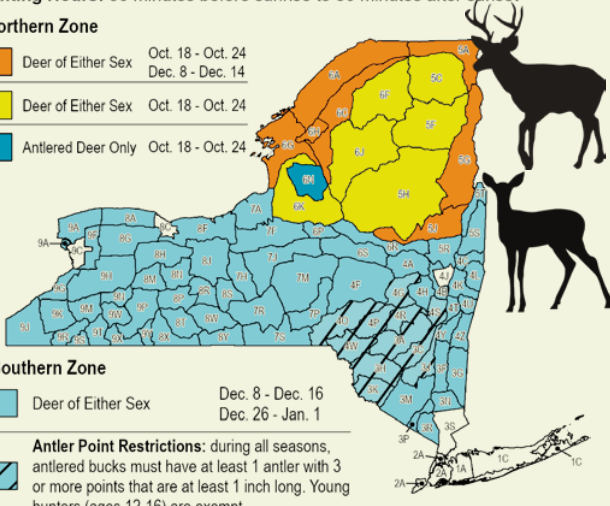
Youth Firearms
Season Dates
Oct. 11 - 13
Area Open
All open areas, except bowhunting only WMUs
Eligible Hunters
- Youth 14-15 yrs
- Youths 12-13 yrs (select counties, see dec.ny.gov)
Bag Limit
One deer
Tags
Regular (either sex), DMP and DMAP (antlerless only); Bow/Muzz tags are not valid

Antler Point Restrictions
During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least 1 antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.
Closed

Muzzleloading Deer Seasons

Hunting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

Northern Zone	
Deer of Either Sex	Oct. 18 - Oct. 24
	Dec. 8 - Dec. 14
Deer of Either Sex	Oct. 18 - Oct. 24
Antlered Deer Only	Oct. 18 - Oct. 24



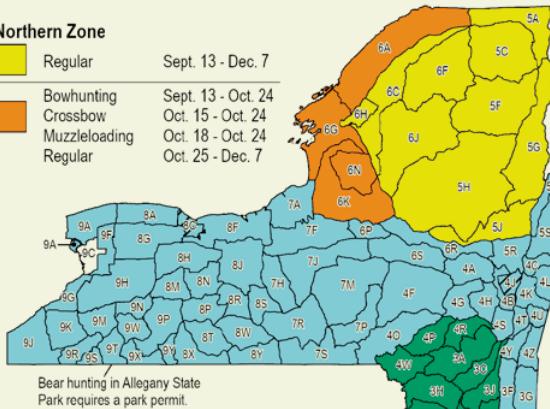
Southern Zone	
Deer of Either Sex	Dec. 8 - Dec. 16
	Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
Antler Point Restrictions: during all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least 1 antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.	

Crossbows may be used to hunt deer and bear during their respective firearms seasons (early bear, regular and muzzleloading deer & bear seasons). Crossbows may not be used to hunt deer during the youth firearms season, or anytime in WMUs 1C, 3S, 4J or 8C.

Black Bear Hunting

Hunting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

Northern Zone	
Regular	Sept. 13 - Dec. 7
Bowhunting	Sept. 13 - Oct. 24
Crossbow	Oct. 15 - Oct. 24
Muzzleloading	Oct. 18 - Oct. 24
Regular	Oct. 25 - Dec. 7

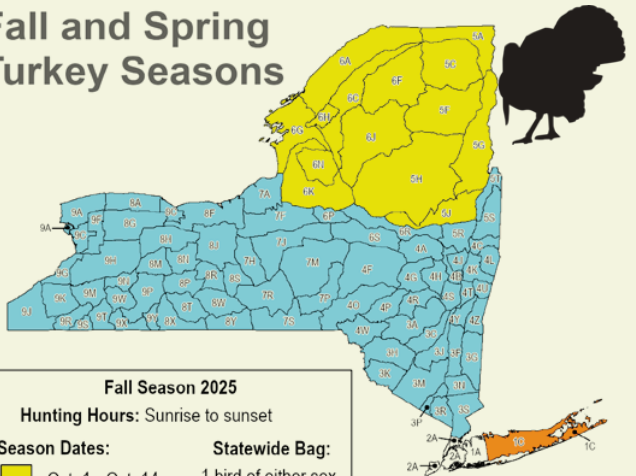


Southern Zone	
Early Firearms	Sept. 6 - Sept. 21
Early Bowhunting	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14
Crossbow (Not in WMUs 4J or 8C)	Nov. 1 - Nov. 14
Regular	Nov. 15 - Dec. 7
Late Bowhunting	Dec. 8 - Dec. 16
Late Muzzleloading	Dec. 8 - Dec. 16
Westchester County (3S)	
Regular - bowhunting Only	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31

Youth Firearms
Season Dates
Oct. 11 - 13, 2025
Area Open
All open areas, except bowhunting only WMUs
Eligible Hunters
Youth 14-15 yrs

Bowhunting Only WMUs
Closed

Fall and Spring Turkey Seasons



Fall Season 2025	
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to sunset	
Season Dates:	Statewide Bag:
Oct. 1 - Oct. 14	1 bird of either sex
Oct. 18 - Oct. 31	
Nov. 15 - Nov. 28	
Closed	
Spring Season 2026	
Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to noon	
Season Dates:	Statewide Bag:
May 1 - May 31	- 2 bearded birds, no more than 1 per day.
in all open areas	- No more than 1 in WMU 1C.
Closed	

Youth Turkey Season Spring 2026
Hunting Hours:
1/2 hour before sunrise to noon
Season Dates:
April 25 - 26, 2026
Statewide Bag Limit
1 bearded bird
Open Areas:
Same as regular spring season



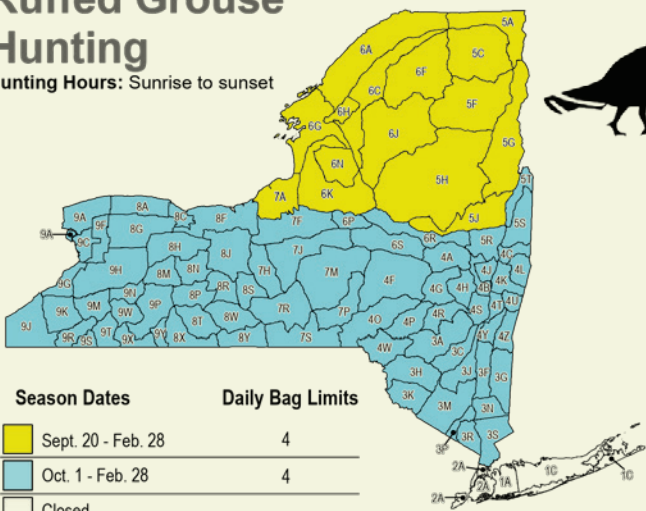
Remember to Report Your Game Harvest
HuntFishNY Mobile App * 1-866-426-3778 * www.dec.ny.gov

Most regulations are in effect Sept. 1, 2025 through Aug. 31, 2026

New York State 2025-2026

Ruffed Grouse Hunting

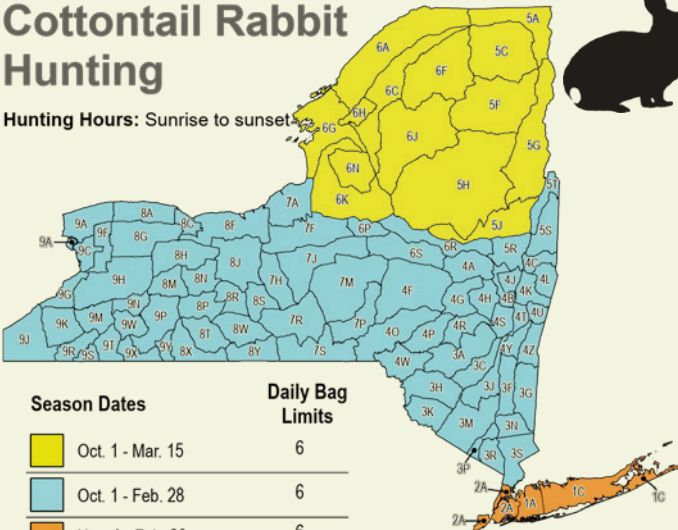
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to sunset



Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits
Sept. 20 - Feb. 28	4
Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	4
Closed	

Cottontail Rabbit Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to sunset

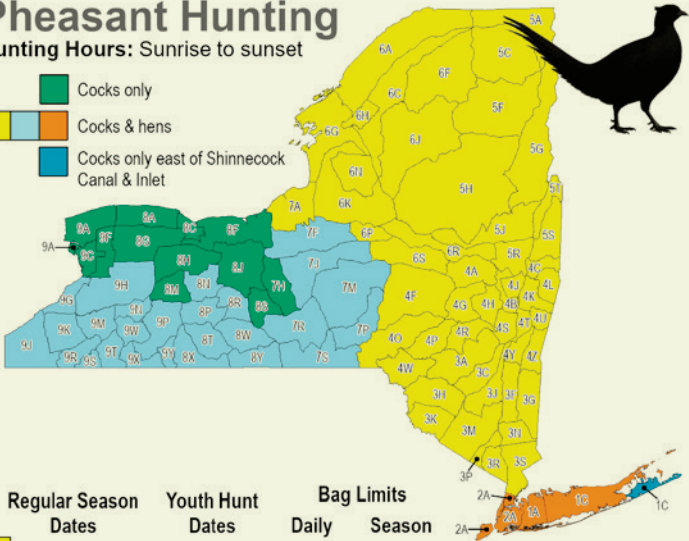


Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits
Oct. 1 - Mar. 15	6
Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	6
Nov. 1 - Feb. 28	6

Pheasant Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to sunset

- Cocks only
- Cocks & hens
- Cocks only east of Shinnecock Canal & Inlet

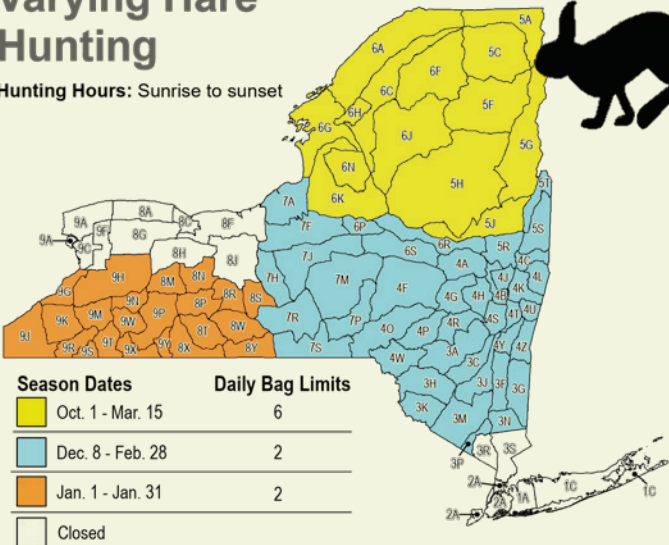


Regular Season Dates	Youth Hunt Dates	Daily Bag Limits	Season
Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	Sept. 27 & 28	2	--
Oct. 18 - Feb. 28	Oct. 11 & 12	2	--
Oct. 18 - Dec. 31	Oct. 11 & 12	2	--
Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	Oct. 25 & 26 ¹	2 ¹ /4 ^{**}	30
Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	Oct. 25 & 26	2 ¹ /4 ^{**}	30

¹In WMU 2A no youth hunt; hunting is by falconry only
^{**}Youth hunt
^{**}Regular season

Varying Hare Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to sunset



Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits
Oct. 1 - Mar. 15	6
Dec. 8 - Feb. 28	2
Jan. 1 - Jan. 31	2
Closed	

Gray, Black & Fox Squirrel Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Long Island & NYC: Nov. 1 Feb. 28
All other areas of New York: Sept. 1 Feb. 28

Daily bag limit of 6 total, regardless of species

Red squirrels are unprotected, and may be hunted at any time without limit.

Bobwhite Quail Hunting

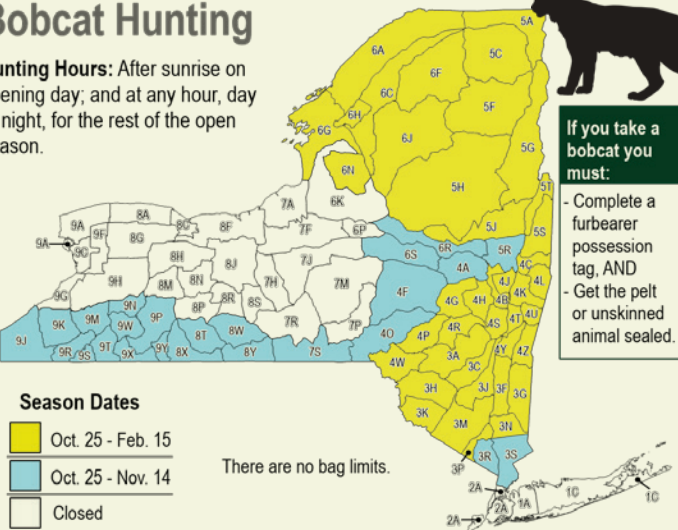
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Season Dates	Bag Limits
Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	4 10
Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	6 40
Closed	



Bobcat Hunting

Hunting Hours: After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the open season.



Season Dates
Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
Oct. 25 - Nov. 14
Closed

There are no bag limits.

If you take a bobcat you must:

- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

Raccoon, Fox, Skunk, Opossum & Weasel Hunting

Long Island & NYC: Nov. 1 Feb. 25
All other areas of New York: Oct. 25 Feb. 15

There are no bag limits for these species. They may be hunted during the day or night, except weasel, which may only be hunted from sunrise to sunset.

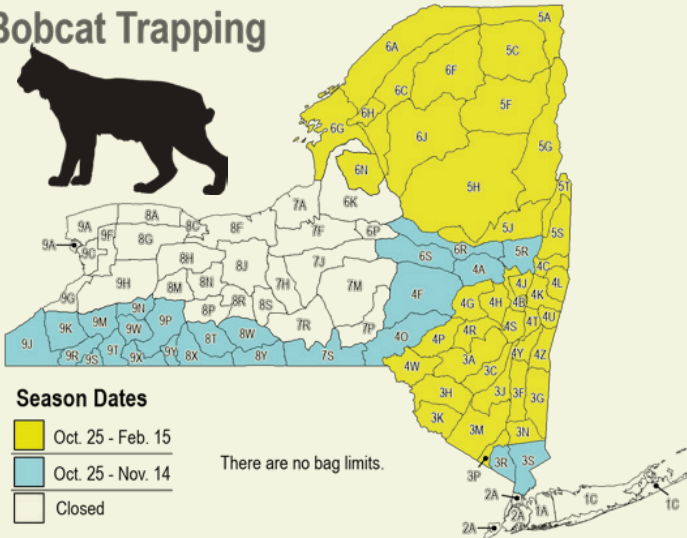
Coyote Hunting

Statewide except Long Island & NYC: Oct. 1 Mar. 29

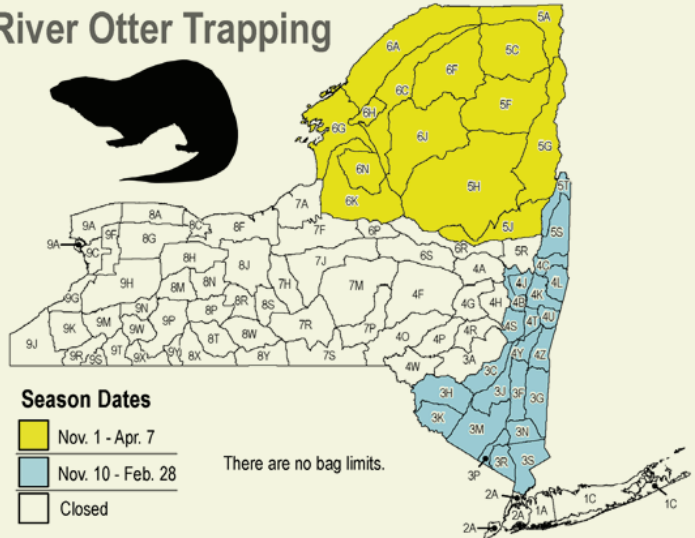
There are no bag limits for coyotes. They may be hunted during the day or night.

26 Hunting Season Guide

Bobcat Trapping



River Otter Trapping

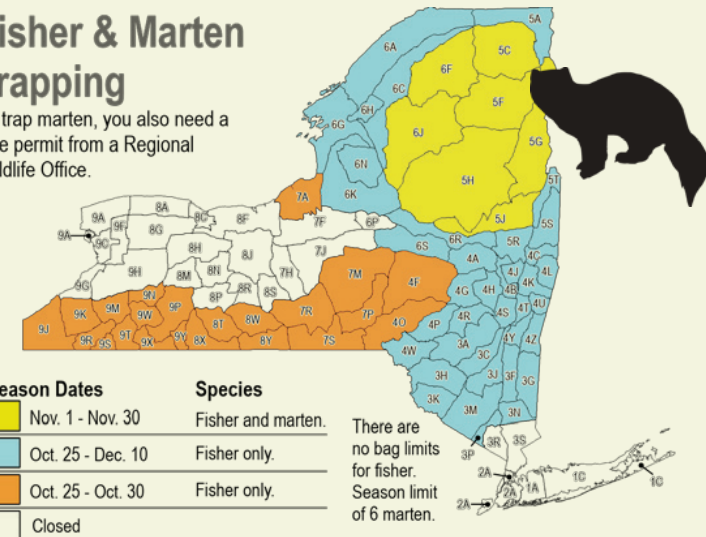


If you take a bobcat, otter, fisher, or marten, you must:

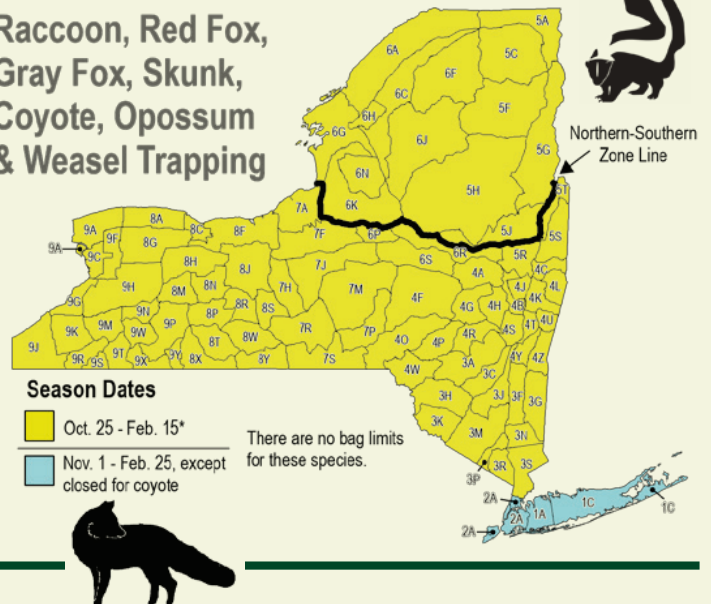
- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

Fisher & Marten Trapping

To trap marten, you also need a free permit from a Regional Wildlife Office.

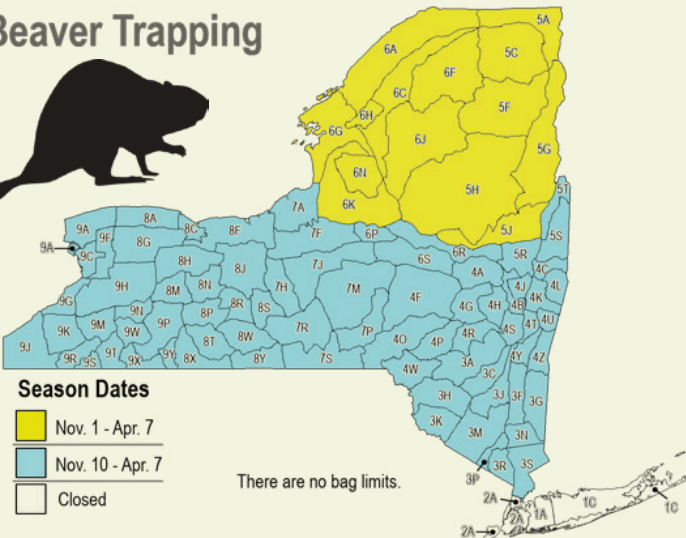


Raccoon, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Skunk, Coyote, Opossum & Weasel Trapping

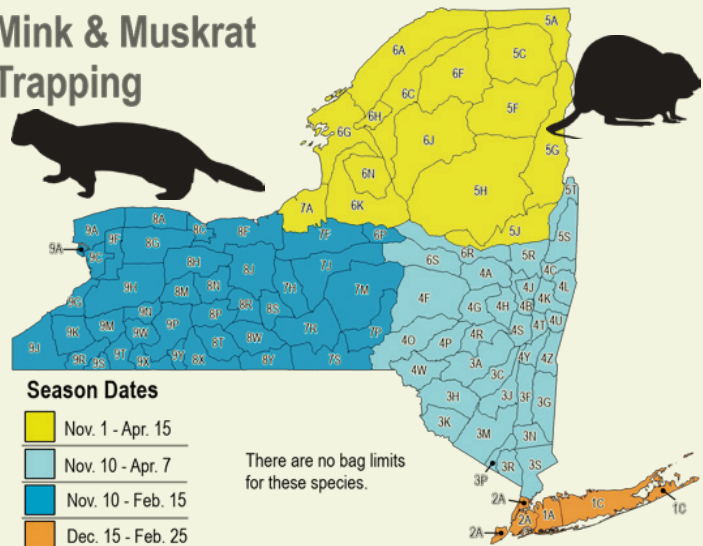


*In the Northern Zone, body gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure if the fisher and marten season is closed.

Beaver Trapping



Mink & Muskrat Trapping



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Lifetime License (Residents Only)		Cost
Hunting & Fishing	\$380 (Under 5), \$535 (Ages 5-11), \$765 (Ages 12-69), \$65 (Ages 70+)	\$535
Hunting		\$535
Bowhunting		\$235
Trapping		\$395
Muzzleloading		\$235
Fresh Water Fishing		\$460 (Ages up to 69) \$65 (Ages 70+)

Annual Hunting License

Ages 12-15	Resident	\$5	Non-resident	\$5
Ages 16-69	Resident	\$22	Non-resident	\$100
Ages 70+	Resident	\$5	Non-resident	\$100

Bowhunting Privilege

Ages 12-15	Resident	\$4	Non-resident	\$4
Ages 16-69	Resident	\$15	Non-resident	\$30
Ages 70+	Resident	No fee	Non-resident	\$30

Muzzleloading Privilege

Ages 14-69	Resident	\$15	Non-resident	\$30
Ages 70+	Resident	No fee	Non-resident	\$30

Turkey Permit

Ages 12+	Resident	\$10	Non-resident	\$20
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Active military and some veterans may qualify for reduced fees.



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Carrying on the Heritage and Tradition of Upstate New York

A guide for the 2025-26 DEC hunting fees and regulations

New York State Assembly
Albany, NY 12248

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Permit No. 75

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Hunting is a tradition shared by many and is an important part of the heritage of Upstate New York.

MORE INSIDE!

I supported the passage of a bill that was signed by the Governor which will allow crossbows to be used in any area where longbows are allowed. This took effect on August 26th, 2025. (Chapter 358 of the Laws of NYS 2025)

