2012-2013 Bobcat Hunting/Trapping & Fisher Trapping Seasons

Season length is now used to regulate bobcat taking in specified WMUs in the state. Because fisher populations have increased dramatically in many areas of the state, the PGC has adopted a highly conservative fisher trapping season in select WMUs. To assess interest, effort, and harvest success rates during these seasons, the PGC requires that hunters and trappers possess bobcat and/or fisher permits to pursue these species. All eligible furtakers may purchase one permit for each species during the 2012-13 season, and permit holders must report their harvest.

Who Can Attempt to Harvest A Bobcat?

Licensed furtakers (hunters and trappers) who possess a valid bobcat harvest permit may attempt to take one bobcat per license year in **WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4C, 4D or 4E from January 15-February 5, 2013, by hunting only,** or **December 15-January 6, 2013, by trapping only,** using legal devices and methods.

Who Can Attempt to Harvest a Fisher?

Licensed furtakers who possess a valid fisher permit can **harvest by trapping** one fisher per license year in **WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G or 4D from December 15-20** using legal devices and methods during the trapping season.

To Apply for A Bobcat and/or Fisher Permit:

Permits are available through any license issuing agent and through the "Outdoor Shop" on the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.state.pa.us. **Bobcat and fisher permits must be purchased before December 15, 2012.**

If You Harvest a Bobcat or Fisher:

A permitted person taking a bobcat or fisher shall, immediately before removing the animal from the location of the taking, fully complete and attach to the animal a carcass tag furnished with the permit. CITES tags will be issued for bobcats that may be exported or sold. The tag shall remain attached to the animal until it is mounted, tanned, made into a commercial fur or prepared for consumption. A CITES tag **is not** required for a fisher pelt. A permitted person taking a bobcat or fisher shall report the harvest to the Game Commission within 48 hours of the taking by using the agency website (www.pgc.state.pa.us), by using the Interactive Voice Response system by calling 1-855-PAHUNT1 (1-855-724-8681), or calling the nearest region office (phone numbers for region offices are listed in the front of this Digest).

Avoiding Otter Captures: The river otter population continues to increase through natural expansion of existing populations and reintroduction efforts. Trappers are urged to learn to identify otter sign and, where otters exist, to adopt the following recommendations to avoid the accidental capture of otters while trapping beavers: When using snares, set snare loops at 10 to 12 inches in diameter. Use baited sets for beavers where feasible. Avoid main channels in ponds and primary crossings where otter sign is present. Report accidental otter captures to your local wildlife conservation officer through your PGC region office.