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Survey of Changes to Cable-Trap Regulations in the United States during 1980–2007

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Introduction

Despite the anti-trapping initiatives that occurred during 1992–2000, the overall national trend has been less restrictive trapping regulations as they apply to cable-restraint devices.¹ We believe this policy shift among state wildlife agencies has been influenced by two different events. The first relates to advances in trap technology and trapping methods. Nowhere has this change been more evident than in the liberalization of snaring regulations for the capture of beaver. Even land-based snaring has been expanded as development of break-away devices and setting strategies have increased snare performance to capture target-species, and do so without lethal effects. The second event was the development of reliable trap-testing research, such as that performed by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, which documented the remarkable advances made by trap manufacturers and in trapping techniques.

In light of these developments, it is indeed a conundrum why more states, particularly on the eastern seaboard, have not updated their regulations to permit broader use of cable-restraints. One suspects, however, that the lack of modernization of the regulations stems from the erroneous and outdated reputation that snares are by definition lethal devices and therefore dangerous. Improved education and dissemination of facts should help dispel this incomplete view of snares and cable-restraints. We hope readers will find this information useful as they work for the responsible management of wildlife resources.

¹ For the most part, snaring and cable-restraint are interchangeable terms. For our purposes, snaring includes all forms of trapping that involve the use of a cable to capture an animal. These captures may be lethal or non-lethal. Cable-restraint is more narrowly defined as it only involves the non-lethal capture of animals with snares, such as with foot-snares or snares set in non-lethal ways.

Methods

We defined cable-traps to include all devices (lethal and non-lethal) that employ a flexible twisted multi-stranded wire loop to capture animals. Snares were specifically defined as cable-traps designed to capture (ideally around the neck) and dispatch animals. Alternatively, cable-restraints were defined as cable-traps designed to capture and restrain animals alive until the trapper arrives. Regulations that do not allow for entanglement of captured animals, which may increase lethal effects, were part of the characteristics of use for cable-restraints. Many state regulations distinguish between cable-trapping in water and on land, so the terms water and land further modified the aforementioned definitions. For example, land-snaring would refer to cable-traps designed to be lethal when set on dry ground.

During January–February 2008, we conducted a state-level review to qualitatively describe cable-trapping regulations, including allowance or prohibition of cable-traps, throughout the United States. We also assessed regulatory changes that occurred since approximately 1980, which included any state-level changes in cable-trapping regulations following advances in cable-trapping tools and methodology (Olson and Tischafer 2004). We obtained copies of state statutes and regulations related to cable-trapping from the Washington University School of Law (2008) and contacts within the wildlife-damage management and fur-trapping industries known to the Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management (<http://icwdm.org>). We contacted state wildlife agency personnel via telephone and electronic mail to request information about changes in statutes or regulations that affected cable-trapping during the period of interest. We used a standardized inquiry to review state regulations, but not

a formal script as we did not want to limit our ability to collect qualitative data from individual respondents.

We ignored regulatory changes related to incidental issues, such as season length or bag limit. We also omitted regulatory changes that did not affect the use of cable-traps as a legitimate wildlife management tool. For example, a regulatory change that prohibited cable-trapping within 30 m of water to protect recently reintroduced river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) was not identified as a negative trapping restriction because the ultimate goal was not to restrict trapping but to provide reasonable protection for a newly established wildlife resource. In contrast, if cable-traps were prohibited on public lands because a dog was captured in a cable-trap, whether legally or illegally set, and the pet owner successfully lobbied for regulatory change, we considered this situation directly relevant to our review.

Results and Discussion

We gathered information for our review from ≥ 1 respondent from each state wildlife agency throughout the U.S. (Appendix A). Although state cable-trapping regulations exhibited high diversity (Fig. 1), we identified several patterns. The use of cable-traps was either prohibited or allowed only to reduce depredation in 12 states (AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, NY, OK, RI, VT, WA; portions of MD and TN). Six states (GA, IL, ME, NH, NC, SC) allowed use of cable-traps; New Hampshire required a special depredation license, and South Carolina allowed cable-traps only in water sets. Five states (GA, ME, MI [under ice only], NC, SC) further restricted water-snaring to include only beaver (*Castor canadensis*). New York prohibited cable-trapping, but granted a special exception for their use in the control of nuisance beaver. Five states (AL, MI, MO, PA, WI) allowed both cable-trapping in water and cable-restraints on land.

Kentucky and Ohio only allowed non-locking cable-traps (i.e., relaxing locks that allow for minimal loop-size increases).

The remaining 25 states (50%) had more liberal cable-trapping regulations that allowed the use of snares and cable-restraints for the capture of wildlife (Fig. 1). Although Hawaii lacks fur-bearing animals, snaring has routinely been used for animal damage control such as for feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) and other invasive species (E. Johnson, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, personal communication). Upon closer inspection, 14 (ID, KS, LA, MN, MS, MT, NV, NM, ND, OR, SD, TX, UT, WY) of the 25 states that we classified as having more liberal regulations actually placed few restrictions of any kind on cable-trap use.

Respondents from several of these states (e.g., OR) indicated that their state had always allowed snaring, i.e., they could not recollect cable-trap regulations that prohibited their use.

During the past two decades, cable-trapping regulations became less restrictive (e.g., more options for use by trappers) in Arkansas, California, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Modifications to cable-trapping regulations were being considered in Arizona, Nebraska, Vermont, and Wyoming, all of which might expand the use of cable-traps except Wyoming (J. Stevens, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, personal communication).

Although states typically recorded the date of changes to statutes and regulations, they rarely specified the portion of the statute or regulation that underwent the change. Respondents in Nebraska and Kentucky indicated that snaring had been allowed for at least 25 years, the time period of agency employment of each respondent. Snaring became prohibited in Illinois in the 1930s, but then reinstated during the 1990s for water snaring for beaver, although the statute was not species-specific. Information gathered for other states was more detailed. For example, in

Utah, lethal sets within 30 m of water were prohibited in 1989 to protect river otters, and break-away devices became required on cable-traps in 2007. No regulatory changes had occurred in Wyoming during the past decade. The use of snares was illegal in Oklahoma except when under the purview of a depredation permit, according to their law enforcement division.

Conclusions

Regulatory trends in cable-trapping seem to becoming less restrictive, which holds promise for their use as legitimate wildlife management tools (e.g., research), for avocational purposes, and for wildlife damage management. Capitalizing on these regulatory advancements may allow for further improvements and updates in regulations for other aspects of trapping, and may also improve public perception of trapping. Despite some instances of state wildlife agencies losing some level of management control through ballot initiatives, the future could certainly result in promising regulatory change based on advancements in trapping technology and tools, such as cable-restraints.

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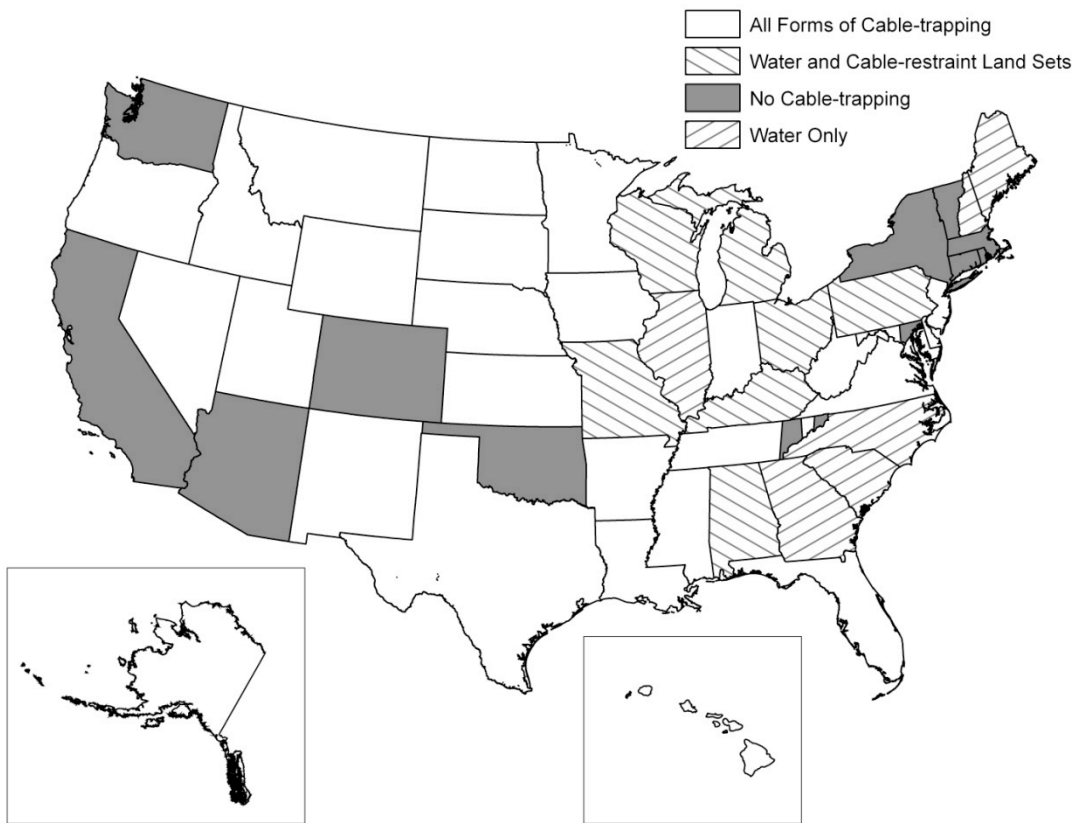
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Fig. 1. State-level cable-trapping regulations, USA, 2008. Cable-traps were defined to include both snares (designed to be lethal to captured animals) and cable restraints (non-lethal).



Appendix A: Snaring Laws And Regulations

Alabama

Snaring allowed: Yes (water sets only; power foot snares on land)

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Contact: Asst. Chief of Wildlife Division Keith Guyse (334) 242-3465 (Contacted 2/25/08)

Alaska

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No (not statewide)

Changes (if any): Specific regulations vary with different regions of the state (ie – if moose population is large in one area, that area may have a restriction on loop size to reduce incidental moose captures)

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation

Contact: Biologist Neil Barton (907) 465-4267 (Contacted 2/29/08)

Arizona

Snaring allowed: No

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): All snares (land and water sets) were prohibited around 1992. Currently looking at foot snares (for private land) in the next legislative session due to the improved technology. Any revisions would not take effect for two years.

Source: Arizona Game and Fish Department

Contact: Game Farm – Ron Day (602) 942-3000 (Contacted 2/15/08)

Arkansas

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): Allowed for water sets since 1978. First allowed on land in 1984 within 20 feet of water. In 1995 was allowed for more than 20 feet from water with a deer stop requirement.

Source: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission – Wildlife Management Division

Contact: Biologist Blake Sasse (501) 223-6370 (Contacted 2/25/08)

California

Snaring allowed: No (except for research purposes)

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): All body-gripping traps (including snares) were banned Nov. 4th, 1998 by Proposition 4 – a referendum voted on by the public.

In 2003 (from 2002 but took effect 2003) body-gripping traps for commercial fur harvest and recreational purposes were not allowed but they could be used for depredation purposes by wildlife control officers (“for profit” trappers) – must now get trapping licenses from the Dept. of Fish and Game (they also are regulated by two other agencies). They are required to take a class and test online with a passing score of 70%.

Source: California Department of Fish and Game

Contact: Biologist Jesse Garcia (916) 445-3709 (contacted 2/28/08)

Colorado

Snaring allowed: No (exception for nuisance animals allows landowners to use snares with a 30-day exemption for protection of crops and livestock and non-lethal snares with authorization may be used for research, relocation, falconry and medical treatment)

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): In the late 1990’s body grip traps and snares were prohibited in the state constitution by Amendment 14 (a citizen’s referendum/initiative). Section 12b (Prohibited methods of taking wildlife) was added to the constitution on January 15, 1997.

Source: Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Brett Ackerman (Denver Office) at (303) 297-1192 ext. 7278 (Contacted 2/20/08)

Connecticut

Snaring allowed: No

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources Wildlife Division

Contact: Wildlife Biologist Paul Rego (via email) (860) 675-8130 (2/15/08)
Email: Paul.Rego@po.state.ct.us

Delaware

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Contact: Game Mammal Biologist Joe Rogerson (302) 735-3600 (Contacted 2/25/08)

Florida

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Wildlife – Southwest Region

Contact: Biologist Brianne Shapina (863) 648-3200 (Contacted 3/4/08)

Georgia

Snaring allowed: Yes (beavers only)

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Biologist Kevin Vonseggern (770) 918-6416 (Contacted 2/21/08)

Hawaii

Snaring allowed: Yes (Feral Pigs)

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources

Contact: Wildlife Biologist Ed Johnson (808) 587-4185 (Contacted 3/3/08)

Idaho

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Idaho Fish and Game

Contact: Wildlife Biologist Don Kemner (208) 334-3700 (Contacted 2/15/08)

Illinois

Snaring allowed: Yes (water sets only)

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): Snaring was prohibited during the 1930's but was changed during the 1990's to allow water sets (with restrictions). The species was not specified but it was intended for trapping beaver.

Source: Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Biologist Bob Bluett (217) 782-6384 (Contacted 2/14/08)

Indiana

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Biologist Bruce Plowman (812) 349-4586 (Contacted 2/19/2008)

Iowa

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Law Enforcement Steve Durman (515) 281-4515 (Contacted 2/14/08)

Kansas

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Contact: Furbearer Biologist Matt Peak (620) 342-0658 (Contacted 2/14/08)

Kentucky

Snaring allowed: Yes (non-locking snares)

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Contact: Law Enforcement Major Randy Hedges (800) 858-1549 (Contacted 2/15/08)

Louisiana

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Contact: Refuge Biologist Edmund Mouton (337) 373-0032 (Contacted 2/22/08)

Maine

Snaring allowed: Yes (water sets for beaver, research purposes for bear)

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): In 2003 snaring for canids was prohibited as an administrative regulations change (not a statute change) due to lawsuits centered around the issue of the lynx as a possible incidental take. See the commissioner's memorandum below.

Source: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Contact: Furbearer Biologist Dr. Walter Jakubas (Wally)(207) 941-4466 (Contacted 2/25/08)

Maryland

Snaring allowed: Yes (except for counties around Annapolis)

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): Snaring was banned in the 3 or 4 counties around Annapolis 25 years ago. (No recent changes to the snaring laws.)

Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Furbearer Specialist Robert Colona (410) 221-8838 Ext. 101 (Contacted 2/25/08)

Massachusetts

Snaring allowed: No

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): Snaring was banned in the regulations in the 1940's and banned by statute in 1996.

Source: University of Nebraska Wildlife Damage Management Extension

Contact: Project Coordinator Stephen Vantassel (402) 472-8390

Michigan

Snaring allowed: Yes (for beaver in ice-covered water; non-lethal snares for coyote and fox on private land)

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): In 2005 there were several changes to the fox and coyote snaring regulations in response to concerns about lethality of snares to non-target species such as bobcat, raptors, and domestic dogs. Details are included below in an excerpt from the 2005 Amendment.

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Wildlife Technician w/Furbearer Biologist Valerie Frawley (517) 241-3944
(Contacted 2/8/08)

Minnesota

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Season Setting Specialist/ Furbearer Coordinator Jason Abraham (via email)
Email: Jason.Abraham@dnr.state.mn.us (Initial Contact 2/15/08)

Mississippi

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

Contact: Biologist Ricky Flint (601) 432-2400 (Contacted 2/21/08)

Missouri

Snaring allowed: Yes (snares in water only; cable restraints on land)

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): In 2004 the Missouri Department of Conservation started allowing the use of cable restraints on land for the first time. Trappers must complete a Cable Restraint Training Program and pass a test to become eligible to buy the annual Cable Restraint Permit.

Source: Missouri Department of Conservation

Contact: Wildlife Damage Biologist Todd Meese Email: Todd.Meese@mdc.mo.gov (Contacted 2/21/08)

Montana

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): Break-away required starting in 2000-2001 season. This was a commission change (not in the statutes).

Source: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Contact: Furbearer Biologist/Trapper Coordinator Brian Giddings (406) 444-0042 (Contacted 2/27/08)

Nebraska

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): In 2007 the legislature banned trapping (including snares) on county roadside right-of-ways (Section 37-513). There is a bill before the legislature this year to reverse that regulation.

Source: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Contact: Law Enforcement Murray Johnson (402) 471-5003 (Contacted 2/12/08)

Nevada

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Nevada Department of Wildlife

Contact: Law Enforcement Steve Albert (775) 688-1543 (Contacted 2/21/08)

New Hampshire

Snaring allowed: Yes (Water sets for beaver/otter allowed and WCOs with 3 years of trapping experience can use a snare for nuisance animals. They must complete a class on how to use snares and the snares are required to have a relaxing lock and a deer stop.)

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Contact: Region 3 Office – Pat Tate (603) 868-1095 (Contacted 2/19/08)

New Jersey

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): The changes in snare regulations (12" loop, 24" height and 1/8" cable diameter) were instituted in the 2005-06 season. The previous snare regulations included 10"

loop diameter, 18" height from ground with a maximum cable diameter under 1/8 inch. The new maximum of 1/8" cable diameter was made specifically for the collarum which is legal.

Source: New Jersey Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Fish and Wildlife

Contact: Furbearer Biologist Andrew Burnett (609) 748-2058 (Contacted 2/29/08)

New Mexico

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Contact: Furbearer Biologist Rick Winslow (505) 268-6347 (Contacted 2/27/08)

New York

Snaring allowed: No (exception for nuisance beaver – use any device. Allows cable restraint to be used with special permission with a required class for anyone wanting to use one. (live restraint only within the last 10 years after the otter restoration project – concerned with harming the otters).)

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: New York Department of Environmental Conservation

Contact: Wildlife Biologist Lou Berchielli (518) 402-8896 (Contacted 2/14/08)

North Carolina

Snaring allowed: Yes (for beaver only)

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): Snares have been illegal by state statute since the 1970's, however, in 1997, in response to growing complaints about beaver conflicts, the legislature legalized the use of snares for beavers only.

Source: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Division of Wildlife Management

Contact: Black Bear and Furbearer Biologist Colleen Olfenbuttel, CWB (919) 629-2644
Email: olfenbuttelc@earthlink.net (Contacted 3/10/08)

North Dakota

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A (regulations are reviewed each year – only minor alterations are made)

Source: North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Contact: Game Warden Bob Timmian (701) 328-6324 (Contacted 2/29/08)

Ohio

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): Snares used to be prohibited but were made legal a few years after 1983 (when he started work in this position) because they were found to be an effective means of trapping. Mike Dwyer, president of Critter Control, Inc. emailed that snares were made legal in Ohio in 1986-87.

Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Law Enforcement Supervisor – Tom Donnelly (740) 589-9936 (Contacted 2/20/08)

Oklahoma

Snaring allowed: No (exception for special depredation permit – requires a 10 inch stop to keep from killing non-target animals.)

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Wildlife Division

Contact: Law Enforcement Captain David Deckard (405) 521-2739 (Contacted 2/21/08)

Oregon

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): Snares have always been allowed. Only modifications in the last 10 years have been in regard to trap check time intervals.

For restraining snares for predatory animals on private land – trap check is 76 hours.

For killing snares for predatory animals on private land (coyotes, rodents, feral pigs) – trap check is 30 days.

For killing or restraining snares for furbearers on private or public land – trap check is 48 hours.

For restraining snares on private land for predatory animals with damage – trap check is 7 days.

For killing snares on private land for predatory animals with damage – trap check is 30 days.

Source: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact: Deputy Administrator of Wildlife Larry Cooper (503) 947-6311 (Contacted 2/22/08)

Pennsylvania

Snaring allowed: Yes (snares allowed for beaver and cable restraints allowed on land)

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): Cable restraints were allowed on land during a restricted season (Jan. 1-Feb. 17) for coyote and fox for the first time at the end of 2006. Prior to that snares were allowed only for beavers in water sets. The laws were changed because they had experienced several harsh winters and the traps were freezing to the ground.

Source: Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Protection

Contact: Law Enforcement Jason Decoskey (717) 783-6526 (Contacted 2/13/08)

Rhode Island

Snaring allowed: No (law predates 1981)

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of fish and Wildlife

Contact: Wildlife Biologist Charlie Brown (401) 789-7481 (Contacted 2/14/08)

South Carolina

Snaring allowed: Yes (only allowed in water sets for beavers (at least for the last 14 years) or with a special depredation permit)

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Biologist Billy Dukes (803) 784-3886 (Contacted 2/15/08)

South Dakota

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

Contact: Wildlife Animal Damage Program Administrator Art Smith (via email to Stephen Vantassel 2/12/08) Email: Art.Smith@state.sd.us Phone Number: (605) 773-7595

Tennessee

Snaring allowed: Yes (except in the eastern portion of the state (10-12 counties) where it is prohibited due to fox/raccoon hunting with dogs)

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A (Note: Snaring laws not consistent throughout the state. The power to change the snaring laws currently rests with the legislature, not the wildlife agency.)

Source: Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Wildlife Division

Contact: Biologist Gray Anderson (615) 781-6610 (Contacted 2/20/08)

Texas

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No (no changes in allowed methods for 20 years)

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Austin)

Contact: Biologist John Young (512) 912-7047 (Contacted 2/22/08)

Utah

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): For the 2007/2008 season breakaways are now required. In 1989/90 they had site specific change to eliminate lethal sets within 100 feet of water due to otters.

Source: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Contact: Biologist Kevin Bunnels (801) 538-4758 (Contacted 2/26/08)

Vermont

Snaring allowed: No (prohibited since 1961)

Changes in snaring laws: No (Legislature is currently considering legalizing cable restraints – not snares.)

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Contact: Hunter Education Shawn Williamson (802) 241-3723 (Contacted 2/14/08)

Virginia

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No (laws have not changed much - considered changing the snare height regulation due to coyote problems but did not go forward with it.)

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Contact: Biologist Mike Fies (540) 248-9390 (Contacted 2/25/08)

Washington

Snaring allowed: No

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): The snaring law was changed in 2000 due to Voter Initiative 713 which made it unlawful to use all body-gripping traps for furbearers (including all snares – even foot snares). The only exception is that non-strangling snares may be used by agency personnel for research and nuisance animals with a special permit from the commissioner.

Source: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact: Biologist Donnie Martirello (360) 902-2521 (Contacted 3/3/08)

West Virginia

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: West Virginia Department of Commerce – Division of Natural Resources

Contact: Biologist (Bear) Chris Ryan (304) 558-2771 (Contacted 2/22/08)

Wisconsin

Snaring allowed: Yes (snares only in water sets; cable restraints - see below)

Changes in snaring laws: Yes

Changes (if any): In 2001 started a 2-year research project on cable restraints and the humaneness of their use. There was a push by the trapping community to allow their use. First allowed to be used by the public in 2003 for canids only within a restricted season (Jan. 1 – Feb

15). New this year regarding bobcats – if the trapper has a bobcat permit and inadvertently captures a bobcat in the cable restraint, he/she is allowed to keep the bobcat. May also extend the season to include all of December. They developed a special cable restraint booklet for hunter education.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Contact: Wildlife Division – Caleb Bilda (608) 261-6452 (Contacted 2/14/08)

Wyoming

Snaring allowed: Yes

Changes in snaring laws: No (No changes within the last decade but due to trappers and anti-trapping groups they have a review committee reviewing their regulations and comparing them to other states. They will most likely have different regulations with regards to snaring for the 2009 season.)

Changes (if any): N/A

Source: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Contact: Game Warden John Stevens (307) 777-4585 (Contacted 2/22/08)