

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

18

DECISION

TOPIC Chapter 108, Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons - Final

The Commission is requested to adopt a final rule to amend Chapter 571 – 108, “Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons”. Chapter 108 sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits and areas open to hunting or trapping furbearers. These amendments change the ending date for the unrestricted taking of muskrats from April 15 to April 1 and require that traps be placed entirely within the muskrat lodge to reduce the incidental catch of other wildlife. The amendment clarifies that persons displaying either bobcats or otters as taxidermy mounts must keep the CITES tag in their possession.

Dr. Dale Garner, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
June 11, 2009

Attachment: Chapter 108, Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons – Final

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby amends Chapter 108, “Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Chapter 108 sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits and areas open to hunting or trapping furbearers.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on April 8, 2009, as ARC 7691B. A public hearing was held on April 29, 2009. There were no comments received. There have been no changes to the Notice of Intended Action.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.6, 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.87, and 481A.90.

These amendments shall become effective August 19, 2009.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend subrules 108.1(1) and 108.1(2) as follows:

108.1(1) Molesting or disturbing muskrat houses. Any department of natural resources officer, natural resource biologist, or county conservation board director may permit trappers to molest or disturb muskrat houses on specific state or county game management areas as provided in Iowa Code section 481A.90, after finding that muskrats are causing excessive damage by destroying the vegetation essential to the welfare of a marsh and after so posting the area.

108.1(2) Game management areas. Open season for taking muskrats on certain state game management areas, certain federal national wildlife refuges, and certain county conservation board areas, only where approved by the wildlife bureau and posted accordingly, shall be from 8 a.m. the day after the regular muskrat trapping season ends until April ~~15~~ 1. The use of leg-hold traps during this season is prohibited unless each trap is placed completely inside a muskrat house. No bag or possession limit.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 108.7(6) as follows:

108.7(6) Tagging requirements. Every river otter or bobcat that may legally be kept must have a CITES tag attached. Tags will be supplied by the conservation officer or designated DNR employee. The tag must remain with the pelt until the pelt is sold or used for other purposes that render it no longer available for sale. Persons displaying river otters or bobcats as taxidermy mounts or as other decorative items must keep the tags in their possession as proof of legal harvest.

Date

Richard A. Leopold, Director

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