



Dear Volunteer:

As part of our deliverables to the Government of Alberta under our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) we are required to design and test a log book for use amongst our trappers working on Registered Fur Management Areas (RFMA's).

To comply, we have designed this log book to track activity on RFMA's. We have tried to keep the log book simple and greatly appreciate your help with testing it and providing us with your feedback. Your RFMA number is important so we can map your location and relate harvest to environmental variables. No personal information will ever be shared and results will be compiled by region.

In 2017, we asked Alberta Conservation Association to assist with our log book initiative so that it achieves multiple objectives. One important change is the focus on marten and the collection of trapper effort in order to determine population trends based on catch per unit effort. Marten was selected because their catch is not restricted by quota and they are caught by a large proportion of RFMA trappers across the province. Regardless of whether you caught marten or no animals at all, please complete **page 5**.

At the end of the season, we will be collecting the log books and analyzing the data. If you wish, we will mail the log book and results back to you for your records on completion of that process.

In the back pages, we have provided a short survey. It would also be greatly appreciated if you would provide us with any feedback that you feel is relevant to this project or making the log book better for future versions.

In closing, I want to thank you for your time and commitment to the Alberta Trappers' Association. Without our volunteers and commitments from people like yourself, we would not be able to offer the many programs, services and initiatives that we do.

Sincerely,

Anne Coles

President, Alberta Trappers' Association

INSTRUCTIONS

It is very important that the information you provide for this document is accurate and is completed the same way throughout the province.

Some general points to remember are:

- **Be sure to only include furbearing animals taken on your RFMA. Do not include fur taken under a *resident* fur management licence or damage control licence on this form.**
- **Only include one RFMA per form. If you are trapping multiple RFMA's, you must fill out a separate log for each.**
- **Multiple partners working on the same RFMA can keep their own logs, but only one RFMA form must be submitted for each RFMA. Please combine time and harvest success the best you can for the final form and make a note in General Comments.**
- **Trapping Activity includes all trapping-related activities for all furbearing animals.**
- **Initially, we are testing the log book with marten. Please estimate average number of marten traps set and for how many days marten traps were set on your RFMA. Trapper effort and harvest success can be used to determine relative abundance.**
- **If you did not catch marten, please complete page 5. If you set marten traps, but caught none, please record 0 marten and trapper effort information.**
- **If you are interested in participating in the trial to estimate age class from marten skulls, please contact Mike Jokinen for more information at 403-715-0211 (cell) or mike.jokinen@ab-conservation.com**
- **General Comments can include topics of interest such as weather, furbearer sign, disease, etc.**

Please submit log books by July 15th of each year by mail or email to ATA.

If you experience any issues while completing your RFMA Log or have questions about the correct method for recording your activities, please contact:

Alberta Trappers' Association

Hwy 44 South Industrial Park, Lot 14
PO Box 6020, Westlock, AB T7P 2P7

Phone: (780) 349-6626; Email: info@albertatrappers.com

DEFINITIONS

Trapper - An individual who is licensed by the Government to harvest fur bearing animals on either private land or an RFMA, with the intent to market and sell the fur for consumption.

RFMA - Is a Registered Fur Management Area within Alberta. RFMA's are assigned and administered by the provincial Government.

Fur Bearing Animal - A wild animal whose pelt has a market value, including but not limited to: coyote, fox, wolf, lynx, bobcat, red squirrel, muskrat, beaver, marten, fisher, wolverine, weasel, mink, otter, badger, skunk, raccoon and black bear.

Fur Handling - Any activity related to the skinning, fleshing, or boarding of fur bearing animals for the purpose of processing the pelt.

Preparation - Any activity related to the readying of equipment, tools or location for the future harvest of fur bearing animals. This could include getting trapping equipment ready for use (including but not limited to: trap repair, snare building, trap/snare treating, construction of set making devices such as marten boxes, muskrat floats, etc.), lure making, snowmobile maintenance or travel to/from trap line.

Trap Treating - The act of preparing traps or snares so they are ready to be used to harvest fur bearing animals including but not limited to: dyeing, waxing, boiling, de-scenting.

Scouting - Any activity related to prepping a trapping area for the harvest of fur bearing animals including but not limited to: clearing trails, building water crossings, marking beaver/muskrat runs or starting bait stations.

Bait Station - Any area where a meat or scent based lure is used in large quantity to attract fur bearing animals into the area.

Checking/Setting - Any activity that includes the making and monitoring of trap sets. This would include the retrieval of caught animals.

Cabin Maintenance - Any activity related to prepping a cabin to be used by a licensed trapper in the harvesting of fur bearing animals including but not limited to: cabin repair, cabin/outbuilding construction, gathering of firewood or stockpiling supplies.

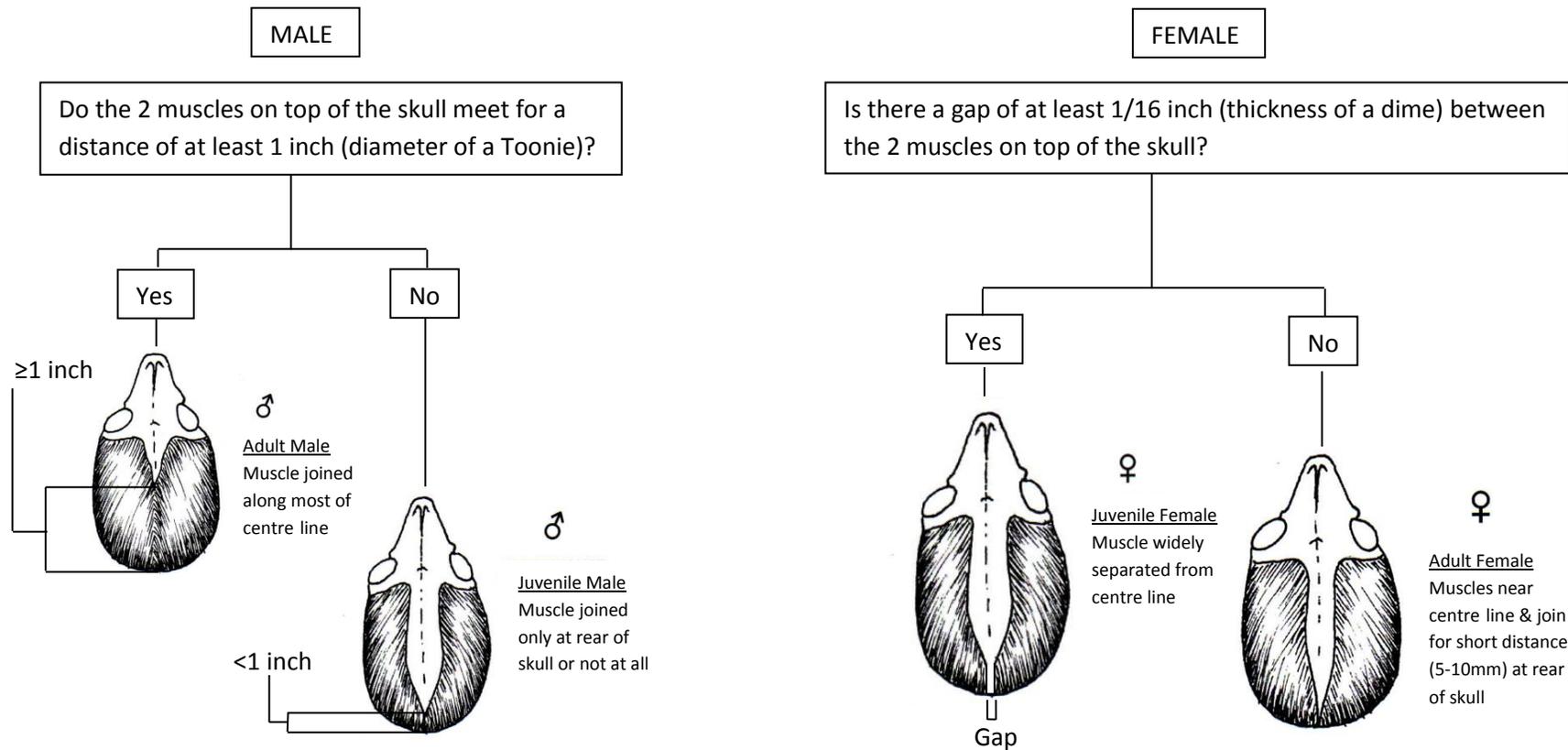
Trapping Device - Any certified trap or snare designed to capture fur bearing animals.

Trap set - Any trapping device that is armed and positioned in such a manner as to capture a fur bearing animal in accordance with the Alberta Trapping Regulations. A trap set can include a single trapping device such as a coyote snare or multiple traps such as a two-sided muskrat float.

Trapping - The activity of using trapping devices with the intent of harvesting fur bearing animals for their pelts.

How to Determine Age from Marten Skulls

- Sex and age ratios of species caught on your RFMA can indicate harvest sustainability
- A technique has been developed in Alaska to determine age class of marten from skulls, but it has not been tested on marten across their range
- We are conducting a trial to determine whether this technique works for Alberta marten and how accurate trappers are
- Along with log books, we are collecting marten skulls from trappers so that we can pull a tooth and send to the lab to determine age
- We need a large sample of uncleaned marten skulls from across the province to adequately test this method; each intact marten skull will be worth 1 ticket into a prize draw for trappers



RFMA LOG SURVEY

Thank you for taking the time to complete the RFMA Log. Please take a few additional minutes to answer the following questions. Your responses will assist us in making the RMFA Log a relevant tool for trappers now and into the future.

1. Prior to completing the RFMA Log, did you log any of your trapping activities or harvest in another manner?

Yes:____ No:____

If yes, did the RFMA Log contain more or less information than you were already collecting?

More:____ Less:____ Same:____

2. Would you replace your existing log with the RFMA Log?

Yes:____ No:____

If no, why not?

3. Do you think completing the RFMA Log will benefit your Trapping activities within the season?

Yes:____ No:____ Maybe:____

