

THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS

On June 1, 1999, the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS, or the "Agreement") came into effect. Signed by the Government of Canada, the European Community, and the Government of the Russian Federation, the Agreement serves to protect Canada's access to the European fur market and thus protects the wild fur industry in Canada.

The AIHTS sets performance thresholds on traps for specific species. Those traps that meet the performance thresholds are then eligible for certification.

In order to comply with the Agreement, BC has made numerous regulatory changes and will make further regulatory changes to ensure that only certified traps will be legal for those species listed in the AIHTS.

WHAT DOES THE AGREEMENT MEAN FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA'S TRAPPERS?

The Agreement applies to most furbearers trapped in BC, including beaver, bobcat, coyote, ermine, fisher, lynx, marten, muskrat, otter, raccoon and wolf for the following purposes:

1. for wildlife management purposes, including wildlife conflict control;
2. to obtain furs, skins or meat;
3. for conservation purposes.

Since the 2007/2008 trapping season, a person using killing traps for beaver, fisher, marten, raccoon and muskrat and restraining traps for lynx has been required, by law, to use only species-specific traps included in BC's trapping regulations which have been certified under the Agreement. See page 94 for the list of traps. As additional traps are tested and certified for these species they will be added to this list of legal traps – traps for these species are not legal until they have been added to BC's regulations.

If no certified trap is available for a given species after June 2007, current trap types and/or models will be allowed for the given species until a reasonable number of traps have been certified through the aforementioned process.

Since 1999, the Province of British Columbia has been moving towards meeting its obligations under the Agreement. The implementation of the Agreement allows trappers to continue to market their furs internationally, and will ensure Canada continues to play a leading role in the research, development and implementation of humane trapping methods to effectively manage our fur resource.

For more information on the Agreement and to see an updated list of traps currently meeting the standards of the Agreement, please visit the Fur Institute of Canada's website at www.fur.ca or contact the Ministry of Environment at 250-387-9771.

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Removal of Edible Portions and Hide

► It is an offence to kill wildlife (with the exception of grizzly bear, cougar or a fur bearing animal other than a black bear) and fail to remove from the carcass the edible portions of the four quarters and loins to the person's normal dwelling place or to a meat cutter or the owner or operator of a cold storage plant. A person who kills wildlife is exempted from the requirement to remove the edible portions if that person transfers possession of the wildlife to a recipient who complies with the requirement. Edible portions do not include meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking. Of grizzly bear, cougar or a fur bearing animal other than a black bear, the hide must be removed to the person's normal dwelling place or to a meat cutter, the owner or operator of a cold storage plant or to a taxidermist, tanner or a fur trader. A person who kills wildlife is exempted from the requirement to remove the hide if that person transfers possession of the wildlife to another person who complies with the requirement.

Use of Road-Kill Wildlife

► Trappers may pick up and transport any dead mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear, or any wildlife listed in Schedules B or C (see the "What is Wildlife?" section for current schedules) if:

- (a) the wildlife is dead as a result of colliding with a motor vehicle, other than a motor vehicle operated by the trapper;
- (b) the meat of the wildlife is unfit for human consumption;
- (c) the carcass of the wildlife is to be used only
 - (i) by the trapper; and
 - (ii) as bait for traps set under the authority of the trapper's licence or licence exemption; and
- (d) at the time of possession and transportation, the trapper has, on his or her person, the trapper's current trapping licence or proof of the trapper's licence exemption.

► Trappers who pick up road-kill wildlife for use as bait must, within 30 days of picking up the road kill, complete a "Trapper Road Kill Possession Report Form" (available at

any regional office, Service BC's office, or on the ministry website at: www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/index.html and submit it to the address shown on the form.

► Trappers must retain a copy of every completed Trapper Road Kill Possession Report Form for at least 2 years after the date of pick up of the road kill described on the form.

► For more information on this regulation, please contact the F&W Branch at 250-387-9771.

Bait for traplines

Trappers may keep the carcass of a Beaver, Coyote, Ermine, Fox, Marmot (except Vancouver Island Marmots), Mink, Mole, Muskrat, Prairie dog, River Otter, Squirrel (ground, flying, Douglas, red), or wildlife described in Schedules B or C (see the "What is Wildlife?" section for current schedules) trapped out of season if:

- (a) the wildlife carcass is to be used only by the trapper; and
 - (i) as bait for traps set under the authority of the trapper's licence or licence exemption, and