

# Estimated Bear Harvest

**REMINDER:** It is **MANDATORY** to report on your hunting license, **regardless** of success. The Department of Natural Resources and Renewables relies on harvest reporting data for important management decisions, and so efforts to improve this reporting compliance level will be made over the coming hunting seasons.

Year	General Bear Harvesting Licences Sold	Senior Bear Harvesting Licences Sold	Corrected Bear harvest Estimates (General)	Corrected Bear harvest Estimates (Senior)
2019	3,869	5,805	426	151
2020	3,766	4,822	414	125
2021	4,586	6,149	504	160
2022	4,516	6,922	497	180
2023	4,919	7,276	541	189

## How is bear harvest estimated?

In 2015, DNR staff aimed to correct historical black bear harvest numbers based on licence sales. These correction factors are based on follow up calls to hunters that did not submit their mandatory bear harvest report. The following correcting methods were used to estimate harvest based on the number of licences sold:

### General licences:

To determine a "kill" estimate:

(General licences sold) x (0.11) = Estimated number of licence holders that hunted and killed a bear.

To determine a "no kill" estimate:

(General licences sold) x (0.47) = Estimated number of licence holders that hunted and did not kill.

To determine a "did not hunt" estimate:

(General licences sold) x (0.31) = Estimated licenses not used.

### Senior licences:

To determine a "kill" estimate:

(Senior licences distributed) x (0.026) = Estimated number of licence holders that hunted and killed a bear.

To determine a "no kill" estimate:

(Senior licences distributed) x (0.31) = Estimated number of licence holders that hunted and did not kill.

To determine a "did not hunt" estimate:

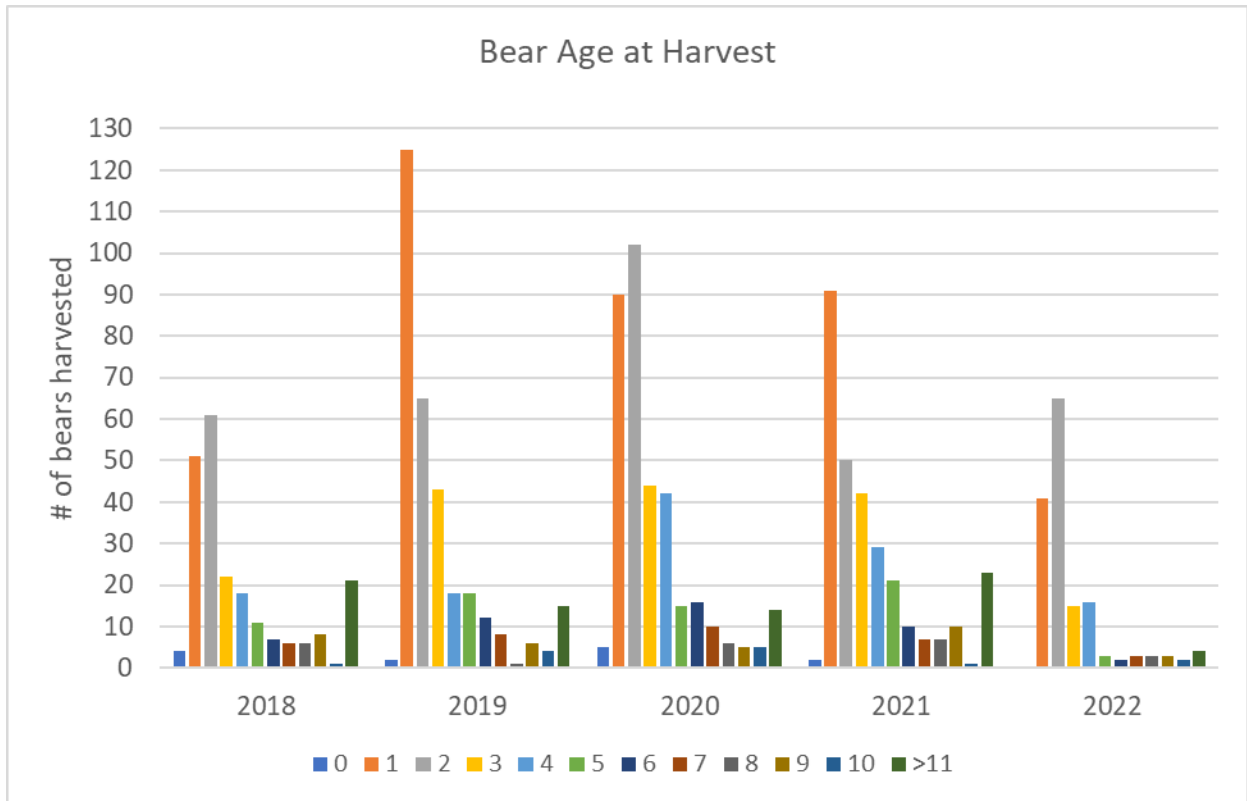
(Senior licences distributed) x (0.61) = Estimated licenses not used.

Note: there are a proportion of reports that come back "incomplete"; therefore the totals do not equal 100%.

**Reported Black Bear Harvest by County\***

<b>County</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Annapolis	33	31	50	16	27
Antigonish	20	11	12	8	16
Cape Breton	3	4	1	2	2
Colchester	56	24	53	13	42
Cumberland	98	48	68	36	45
Digby	18	20	21	11	45
Guysborough	36	16	26	23	13
Halifax	22	28	38	24	42
Hants	23	24	36	12	24
Inverness	16	5	10	3	6
Kings	21	26	44	10	24
Lunenburg	8	21	29	16	14
Pictou	47	19	47	8	18
Queens	16	19	25	9	15
Richmond	0	0	0	0	11
Shelburne	6	14	12	7	2
Victoria	3	3	2	2	18
Yarmouth	8	18	11	4	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>408</b>

\*These harvest numbers are only those that were reported. This table does not account for the estimation determined in the Harvest Table.



Bear pre-molar teeth are submitted as part of a mandatory collection from hunters and trappers when successful in harvesting a bear. The ages were determined by cementum tooth analysis performed by Matson's Laboratory.

**Black Bear Snaring Information:**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b><i>Harvest Information</i></b>					
Licences sold/distributed	328	352	255	398	447
Did not hunt	91	114	95	87	135
Returned blank	35	130	144	78	137
Returned no kill	47	50	38	39	51
Returned with kill	86	49	110	45	71
<b><i>Sex Ratio</i></b>					
Male	38	26	61	24	43
Female	15	11	33	12	17
Unknown	5	5	16	9	6
<b><i>Effort Information</i></b>					
Number of snares	267	170	286	142	225
Number of snare days	3086	1969	2754	1332	2151
Number of snare nights	1442	1128	1434	794	1079

Please note all data for snaring combines senior and general license data.

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