

Estimated Bear Harvest

REMINDER: It is **MANDATORY** to report on your hunting license, **regardless** of success. The Department of Natural Resources 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)
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
2024	5,006	7,317	551	190

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:

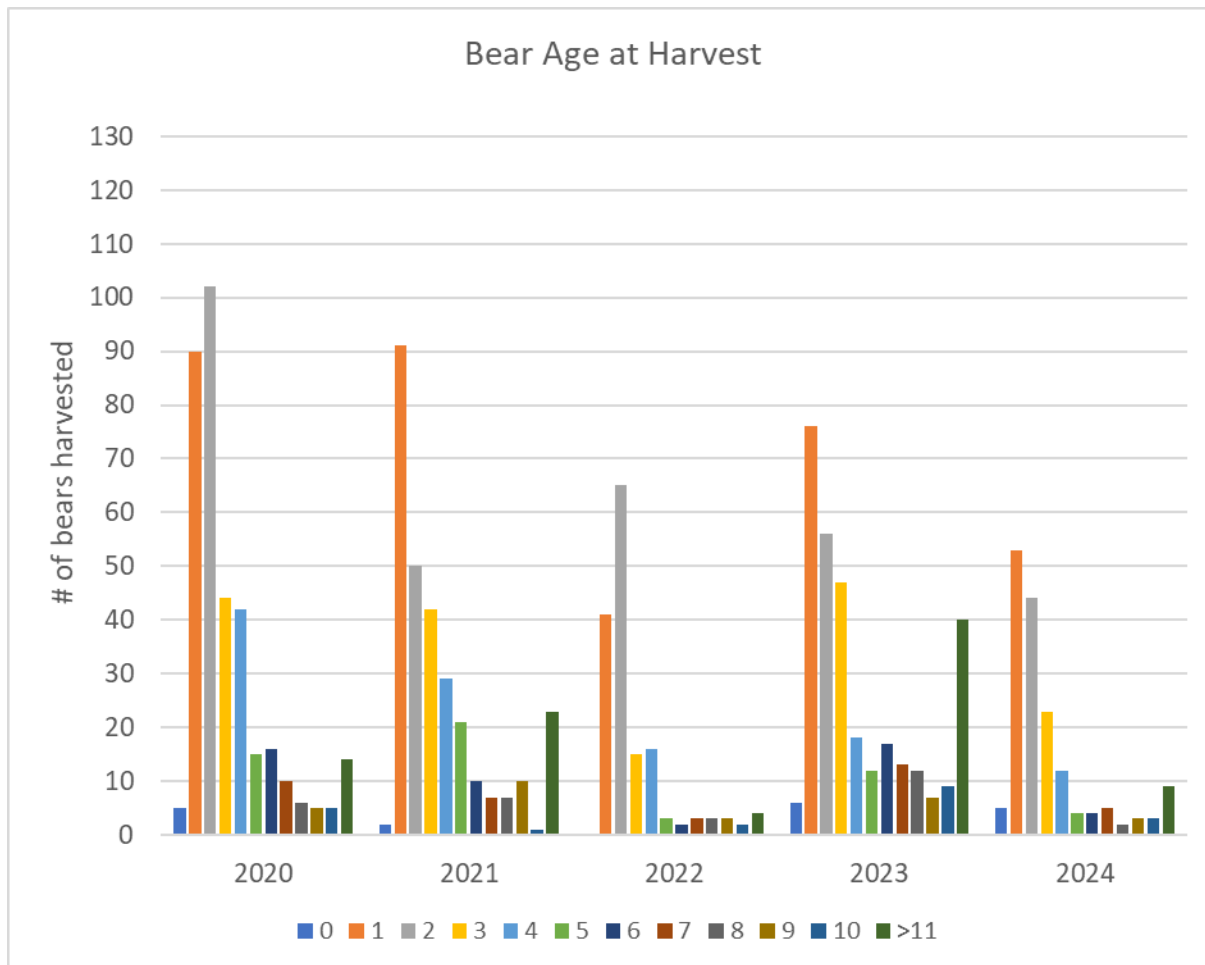
(Senior licences distributed) x (0.61) = Estimated licenses not used.

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

Reported Black Bear Harvest by County*

County	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Annapolis	31	50	16	27	17
Antigonish	11	12	8	16	11
Cape Breton	4	1	2	2	1
Colchester	24	53	13	42	41
Cumberland	48	68	36	45	51
Digby	20	21	11	45	17
Guysborough	16	26	23	13	12
Halifax	28	38	24	42	28
Hants	24	36	12	24	19
Inverness	5	10	3	6	1
Kings	26	44	10	24	21
Lunenburg	21	29	16	14	15
Pictou	19	47	8	18	26
Queens	19	25	9	15	5
Richmond	0	0	0	11	0
Shelburne	14	12	7	2	9
Victoria	3	2	2	18	8
Yarmouth	18	11	4	44	10
Total	331	485	204	408	292

*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:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<i>Harvest Information</i>					
Licences sold/distributed	352	255	398	447	428
Did not hunt	114	95	87	135	65
Returned blank	130	144	78	137	58
Returned no kill	50	38	39	51	19
Returned with kill	49	110	45	71	60
<i>Sex Ratio</i>					
Male	26	61	24	43	9
Female	11	33	12	17	43
Unknown	5	16	9	6	2
<i>Effort Information</i>					
Number of snares	170	286	142	225	165
Number of snare days	1969	2754	1332	2151	
Number of snare nights	1128	1434	794	1079	643

Please note all data for snaring combines senior and general license data. Due to the transition to the HuntNS.ca reporting system, the recording of the number of snare days has been discontinued.

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