

Nova Scotia Black Bear Harvest Information

Estimated Bear Harvest

REMINDER: It is **MANDATORY** to report on your hunting Licence, **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)
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
2025	4,936	7,331	543	191

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 Licences 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 Licences not used.

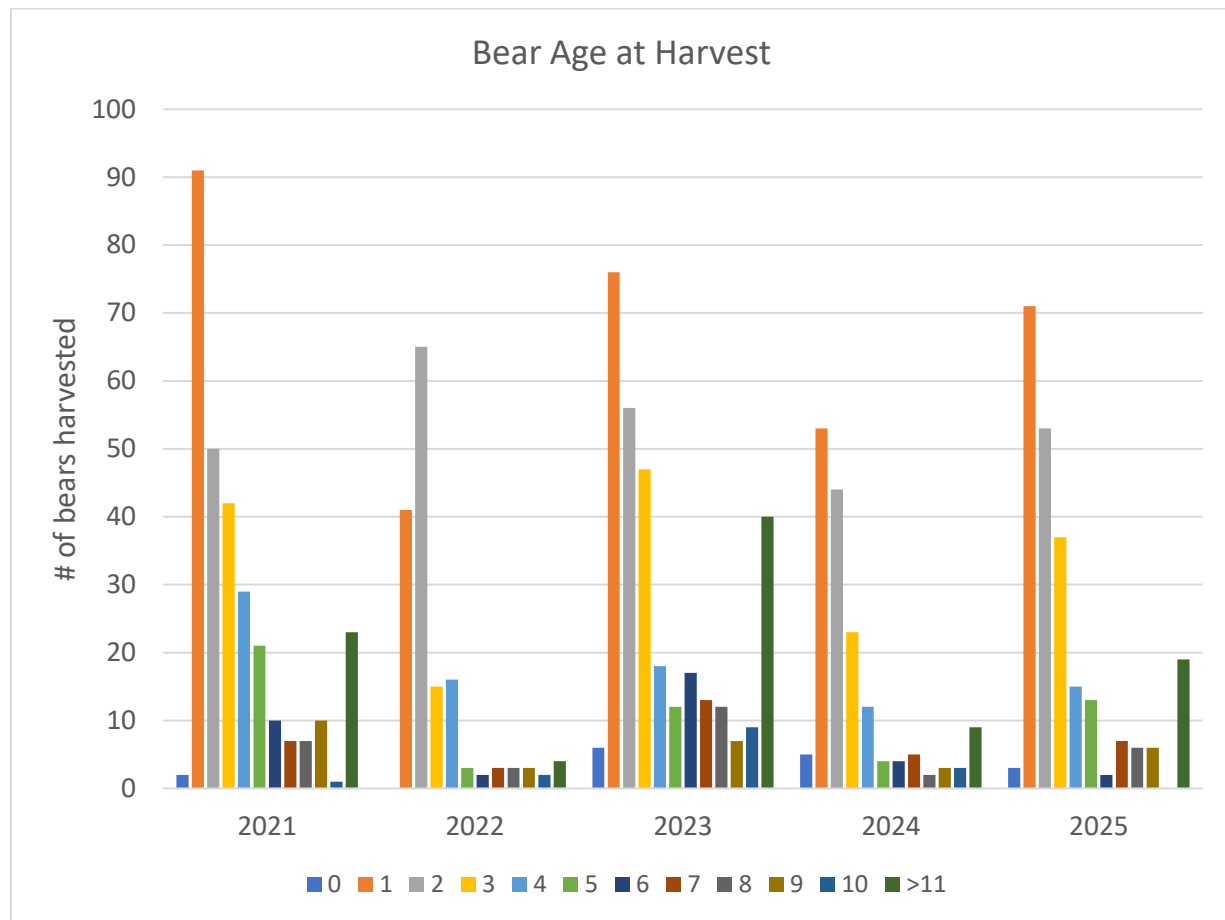
Note: there are a proportion of reports that come back "incomplete"; therefore the totals do not equal 100%.

Reported Black Bear Harvest by County*

County	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Annapolis	50	16	27	17	6
Antigonish	12	8	16	11	19
Cape Breton	1	2	2	1	0
Colchester	53	13	42	41	28
Cumberland	68	36	45	51	17
Digby	21	11	45	17	21
Guysborough	26	23	13	12	13
Halifax	38	24	42	28	23
Hants	36	12	24	19	7
Inverness	10	3	6	1	4
Kings	44	10	24	21	12
Lunenburg	29	16	14	15	6
Pictou	47	8	18	26	17
Queens	25	9	15	5	6
Richmond	0	0	11	0	1
Shelburne	12	7	2	9	5
Victoria	2	2	18	8	2
Yarmouth	11	4	44	10	10
Total	485	204	408	292	201

*These harvest numbers are only those that were reported. This table does not account for the estimation determined in the Harvest Table. All numbers are based on data submitted before June 4, 2026.

Age Distribution of Harvested Black Bears



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

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<i>Harvest Information</i>					
Licences sold/distributed	255	398	447	428	465
Did not hunt	95	87	135	65	81
Returned blank	144	78	137	58	0
Returned no kill	38	39	51	19	36
Returned with kill	110	45	71	60	59
<i>Sex Ratio</i>					
Male	61	24	43	49*	46
Female	33	12	17	10*	13
Unknown	16	9	6	2	0
<i>Effort Information</i>					
Number of snares	286	142	225	165	103
Number of snare days	2754	1332	2151		
Number of snare nights	1434	794	1079	643	571

Please note all data for snaring combines senior and general Licence data. All numbers are based on data submitted before June 4, 2026. Due to the transition to the HuntNS.ca reporting system, the recording of the number of snare days has been discontinued. *Corrected from the 2024 season.

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