



FOR RELEASE
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Humane trapping rules put in place for lynx, ermine and otter

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon government is improving its rules for licensed trappers so that Yukon furs can continue to be sold around the world.

"The majority of Yukon trappers already use the types of traps that will soon be mandatory under the new rules, which follow the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards," Minister of Environment Currie Dixon said. "The Yukon government will provide our trapping community with specific information before the new rules take effect."

Licensed trappers will have to use certified humane killing traps for lynx and ermine (weasel) from October 1, 2015 onwards. The deadline is October 1, 2016 for otter traps. Since 2007, certified quick kill traps have been required for beaver, fisher, marten and muskrat and certified restraining traps have been required for lynx.

Before they can receive a trapping licence, trappers must take training in humane trapping practices, trapping ethics and modern trapping tools as well as furbearer biology and management.

"Our trappers take pride in the fact that our furs are recognized around the world for their exceptional handling and quality and with this improvement our government wants to ensure that Yukoners continue to have access to global markets," Dixon added.

The Yukon government also made several minor changes to the Trapping Regulations that will not affect what trappers do in the field but will make trapping activities easier to administer.

Yukon is home to 14 species of mammals that are trapped for their fur. More than 400 Yukoners hold trapping licences; most are registered trapping concession holders and the others are assistant trappers.

For more information about the changes to the Trapping Regulations, visit the Environment Yukon website.

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