

Bear Harvesting Regulations
made under subsection 113(1) of the
Wildlife Act
R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 504

O.I.C. 88-349 (effective May 1, 1988), N.S. Reg. 60/1988
amended to O.I.C. 2015-239 (effective July 23, 2015), N.S. Reg. 287/2015

Citation

1 These regulations may be cited as the *Bear Harvesting Regulations*.

Definition[s]

2 In these regulations

- (a) “Act” means the *Wildlife Act*;
- (b) [repealed]
- (c) [repealed]
- (ca) “baiting period” means the period of time when bait may be set out for the purpose of attracting bears;
- (d) “Bear Hunting Licence” means a valid base licence which has affixed to it a valid Bear Hunting Stamp and a tag;
- (da) “Bear Hunting Stamp” means a stamp issued by the Department that, when affixed to a valid base licence, confers on the holder the privilege of hunting bear with a weapon in accordance with the Act and regulations;
- (db) “Bear Snaring Stamp” means a stamp issued by the Department that, when affixed to a valid base licence, confers on the holder the privilege of snaring bear in accordance with the Act and regulations;
- (e) [repealed]
- (ea) “cable foot snare” means a cable that is at least 4.75 mm in diameter and is capable of being set to catch and hold a bear by 1 leg only and other devices that assist in placing a loop of the cable around the leg of the bear;
- (f) “Department” means the Department of Natural Resources;
- (g) [repealed]
- (h) “Minister” means the Minister of Natural Resources;
- (i) “Resident Bear Snaring Licence” means a valid base licence which has affixed to it a valid Bear Snaring Stamp and a tag;

- (j) “special baiting permit” means a permit issued by the Department permitting the holder to set out bait for the sole purpose of viewing or photographing bear.

Type of licence/fees

3 (1) The Minister may issue a stamp in the following form at the rates stated:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| (a) Resident Bear Hunting Stamp | \$26.57 |
| (b) Resident Bear Snaring Stamp | \$26.57 |
| (c) Non-Resident Bear Hunting Stamp | \$124.52 |

(2) Despite clauses (1)(a) and (1)(b), the Minister may issue a Resident Bear Hunting Stamp or a Resident Bear Snaring Stamp at no charge to a resident who is 65 years of age or older and shows proof of age and residency.

(3) The Department may issue a special baiting permit at any time during the year at no charge.

Qualifications

4 (1) Any resident eighteen years of age or over who is certified to hunt with a weapon under the *Hunter Education, Safety and Training Regulations* made under the Act may apply for a Resident Bear Hunting Licence.

(2) Any resident eighteen years of age or over who is certified as a qualified fur harvester under the *Hunter Education, Safety and Training Regulations* made under the Act may apply for a Resident Bear Snaring Licence.

(3) Any non-resident eighteen years of age or over who is certified to hunt with a weapon under the *Hunter Education, Safety and Training Regulations* made under the Act may apply for a Non-Resident Bear Hunting Licence.

(4) It is an offence for a non-resident to snare for bear.

(5) No Bear Hunting Licence or Bear Snaring Licence shall be issued to any person under the age of sixteen years.

(6) (a) Any resident or non-resident over sixteen and under eighteen years of age may apply for a Resident or Non-Resident Bear Hunting Licence and any resident over sixteen and under eighteen years of age may apply for a Resident Bear Snaring Licence provided

(i) the appropriate licence is acquired by the parent or guardian of the applicant at the fee prescribed; and

(ii) the applicant and the parent or guardian both sign the licence.

(b) Any person issued a Bear Hunting Licence or Bear Snaring Licence under clause (a) shall, while hunting or snaring, be under the immediate supervision of the parent or guardian or any other responsible person eighteen years or over who is certified under the *Hunter Education, Safety and Training Regulations* made under the Act to hunt with a weapon.

(7) No person shall take, hunt or kill or attempt to take, hunt or kill bear with a weapon unless that person

- (a) holds a valid Bear Hunting Licence; and
 - (b) is certified to hunt with the weapon under the *Hunter Education, Safety and Training Regulations* made under the Act.
- (8) No person shall snare for bear unless that person
- (a) holds a valid Resident Bear Snaring Licence; and
 - (b) is certified as a qualified fur harvester under the *Hunter Education, Safety and Training Regulations* made under the Act.

Bear hunting open season

5 A person who holds a valid Bear Hunting Licence may take, hunt or kill or attempt to take, hunt or kill the bag limit for hunting bear regardless of sex with a weapon in all counties of the Province within the open season for hunting bear which is defined as the period from the second Monday of September until the end of the general open season for hunting deer specified in the *Deer Hunting Regulations* in any year, both dates inclusive.

Bear snaring open season

6 A person who holds a valid Resident Bear Snaring Licence may snare the bag limit for snaring bear regardless of sex in all counties of the Province within the open season for snaring bear which is defined as the period from October 1 to the date specified for the end of the general open season for hunting deer in the *Deer Hunting Regulations* made under the Act, both dates inclusive, including Sundays.

Bag limit for bear

- 7**
- (1) The bag limit for hunting bear with a weapon during the open season for hunting bear is one bear regardless of sex.
 - (2) The bag limit for snaring bear during the open season for snaring bear is two bear regardless of sex.
 - (3) No person shall take, hunt or kill or attempt to take, hunt or kill or have in their possession a greater number of bear than the bag limits for bear prescribed in these regulations.

[Prohibition—female bear with cubs]

7A Despite [Section 5](#) and [subsection 7\(1\)](#), no person who holds a Bear Hunting Licence shall take, hunt or kill or attempt to take, hunt or kill a female bear that is accompanied by one or more cubs.

Tagging bear

- 8**
- (1) When the holder of a Bear Hunting Licence or Resident Bear Snaring Licence kills a bear, that person shall immediately
 - (a) detach from the Bear Hunting Licence or Resident Bear Snaring Licence issued to that person the tag which forms part of the licence; and
 - (b) indicate the date of kill on the Bear Hunting Licence or Resident Bear Snaring Licence by cutting out both the outlined areas showing respectively the day and month of the kill.

- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the holder of a valid Bear Hunting Licence or Resident Bear Snaring Licence shall ensure that the detached tag remains in or upon the bear carcass until it is prepared for consumption.
- (3) The holder of a valid Bear Hunting Licence or Resident Bear Snaring Licence may keep the detached tag on their person provided the holder stays with the bear at all times while it is being transported.
- (4) Except as provided in [Section 8A](#) for snaring bear in partnership, no person shall take, hunt, kill or snare or attempt to take, hunt, kill or snare a bear after the tag has been detached from the Bear Hunting Licence or Resident Bear Snaring Licence issued to that person.

Snaring bear with partner

- 8A** (1) In this Section, “partner” means a person snaring bear in partnership with another person in accordance with this Section.
- (2) To snare bear in partnership, a person who holds a valid Resident Bear Snaring Licence must notify the Department in writing that they are snaring bear in partnership with another holder of a valid Resident Bear Snaring Licence named in the notice.
 - (3) A person may tend bear snares set by their partner.
 - (4) A person tending their partner’s snares must
 - (a) carry their partner’s Resident Bear Snaring Licence with them while tending the snares;
and
 - (b) complete the necessary tagging requirements on behalf of their partner in accordance with these regulations.

Transporting bear

- 9** (1) No person shall be in possession of or transport a bear carcass killed by another person unless
 - (a) it is possessed or transported during the open season when the bear was taken or one day immediately thereafter;
 - (b) the bear carcass has attached to it the tag of the valid Bear Hunting Licence or Resident Bear Snaring Licence issued to the person who killed the bear.
 - (c) [repealed]
- (2) No person who kills a bear shall permit it to be transported by another person without complying with this Section.
 - (4) [repealed]
 - (5) [repealed]

Hunting methods and equipment

- 10** (1) (a) No person shall snare for bear except with a cable foot snare.

- (b) No person shall snare for bear within 100 feet of the boundaries of any common or public highway.
 - (c) No person who has set a snare for bear shall fail to examine it at least once every day.
 - (d) For the purpose of these regulations, “day” is defined as the time period between 12:01 a.m. and 11:59 p.m.
- (2) No person shall set out bait for the purpose of attracting bears within the distances prohibited under the *Firearm and Bow Regulations* made under the Act for discharging a weapon near a school, dwelling or any other place listed in those regulations, unless the person has the consent of the owner or occupier of the place.
- (3) [repealed]
- (4) [repealed]
- (5) [repealed]

Information return

- 11 The holder of a Bear Hunting Licence or a Resident Bear Snaring Licence shall, not later than 2 weeks after the end of the season for which the licence was issued,
- (a) complete and return to an area office of the Department an information return as required by the Minister; and
 - (b) where the licence holder has killed a bear, submit the lower jawbone or skull of the bear to an area office of the Department for extraction of a pre-molar tooth together with the completed information return required under clause (a).

Terms/conditions of licence

- 12 It shall be an offence for any person to contravene any term or condition contained on a Bear Hunting Licence or Resident Bear Snaring Licence.

- 13 [repealed]

Repeal of old regulations

- 14 Regulations made by Order in Council 87-959 dated the 18th day of August, 1987, respecting the snaring of bear are rescinded as and from the 1st day of May, 1988.

Effective date of new regulations

- 15 These regulations shall come into force on and after the 1st day of May, 1988.
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Legislative History Reference Tables

Bear Harvesting Regulations
[Wildlife Act](#)

N.S. Reg. 60/1988

Note: The information in these tables does not form part of the regulations and is compiled by the Office of the Registrar of Regulations for reference only.

Source Law

The current consolidation of the *Bear Harvesting Regulations* made under the [Wildlife Act](#) includes all of the following regulations:

N.S. Regulation	In force date*	How in force	Royal Gazette Part II Issue
60/1988	May 1, 1988	date specified	Apr 21, 1988
90/1989	Jul 1, 1989	date specified	Jul 27, 1989
181/1990	Jul 15, 1990	date specified	Jul 27, 1990
166/1991	Jul 15, 1991	date specified	Jul 26, 1991
148/1992	Jul 15, 1992	date specified	Aug 7, 1992
137/1994	Aug 17, 1994	date specified	Sep 2, 1994
89/1995	Jun 20, 1995	date specified	Jul 7, 1995
116/1996	July 1, 1996	date specified	Jul 19, 1996
105/1997	Jul 1, 1997	date specified	Aug 15, 1997
60/1999	Jul 15, 1999	date specified	Jun 18, 1999
77/2001	Jun 22, 2001	date specified	Jul 13, 2001
103/2003	May 1, 2003	date specified	May 16, 2003
120/2004	Apr 1, 2004	date specified	Apr 6, 2004
116/2005	Jun 9, 2005	date specified	Jun 24, 2006
154/2006	Aug 17, 2006	date specified	Sep 1, 2006
167/2007	Apr 1, 2007	date specified	Mar 30, 2007
222/2008	Apr 1, 2008	date specified	Apr 18, 2008
379/2008	Sep 9, 2008	date specified	Sept 26, 2008
161/2009	Apr 1, 2009	date specified	Apr 14, 2009
85/2010	Jun 22, 2010	date specified	Jul 16, 2010
137/2011	Apr 1, 2011	date specified	Apr 15, 2011
165/2013	Apr 1, 2013	date specified	Apr 12, 2013
240/2013	Jun 25, 2013	date specified	Jul 12, 2013
165/2015	Apr 1, 2015	date specified	Apr 8, 2015

N.S. Regulation	In force date*	How in force	Royal Gazette Part II Issue
287/2015	Jul 23, 2015	date specified	Aug 7, 2015

The following regulations are not yet in force and are not included in the current consolidation:

N.S. Regulation	In force date*	How in force	Royal Gazette Part II Issue
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*See [subsection 3\(6\)](#) of the *Regulations Act* for rules about in force dates of regulations.

Amendments by Provision

ad. = added
am. = amended

fc. = fee change
ra. = reassigned

rep.=repealed
rs. = repealed and substituted

Provision affected	How affected
2(a).....	am. 148/1992
2(b).....	rep. 116/2005
2(c).....	rs. 137/1994; rep. 85/2010
2(ca).....	ad. 137/1994; rs. 85/2010
2(d).....	rs. 60/1999
2(da)-(db).....	ad. 60/1999
2(e).....	rep. 154/2006
2(ea).....	ad. 116/2005
2(f).....	am. 148/1992
2(g).....	rep. 154/2006
2(h).....	am. 148/1992
2(i).....	rs. 60/1999
2(j).....	ad. 137/1994; rs. 85/2010
3	ra. from 3(1) 60/1999; ra. as 3(1) 116/2005
3(a)-(c).....	fc. 120/2004
3(1).....	rs. 90/1989; am. 60/1999; ra. as 3 60/1999; ra. from 3 116/2005
3(1)(a)-(c).....	am. 60/1999; fc. 167/2007, 222/2008, 161/2009, 137/2011, 165/2013, 165/2015
3(2).....	rep. 60/1999; ad. 116/2005

ad. = added
am. = amended

fc. = fee change
ra. = reassigned

rep.=repealed
rs. = repealed and substituted

Provision affected	How affected
3(2)(a).....	am. 89/1995
3(3).....	ad. 85/2010
4(1).....	am. 154/2006
4(2).....	am. 137/1994, 154/2006
4(3).....	am. 154/2006
4(5).....	am. 137/1994
4(6)(a).....	am. 137/1994
4(6)(b).....	am. 137/1994, 154/2006, 85/2010
4(7).....	rs. 154/2006
4(7)(b).....	am. 85/2010
4(8).....	rs. 154/2006
5.....	ra. from 5(1) 105/1997; am. 105/1997, 103/2003, 287/2015
5(1) ¹	am. 181/1990, 166/1991, 89/1995; ra. as 5 105/1997
6.....	am. 148/1992, 116/2005, 379/2008
7(2).....	am. 85/2010
7A.....	ad. 103/2003
8(4).....	am. 379/2008
8A.....	ad. 379/2008
9(1)(b).....	am. 90/1989, 60/1099
9(1)(c).....	rep. 60/1999
9(2).....	rep. 60/1999
9(2).....	ra. from 9(3) 60/1999
9(3).....	ra. as 9(2) 60/1999
9(4)-(5).....	rep. 60/1999
10(1)(a).....	am. 116/2005
10(1)(c).....	am. 90/1989
10(1)(d).....	ad. 90/1989
10(2).....	rs. 85/2010
10(2)(a).....	rs. 137/1994
10(2)(b).....	ra. as 10(2)(c) 137/1994
10(2)(b).....	ad. 137/1994; am. 77/2001
10(2)(c).....	ra. as 10(2)(d) 137/1994
10(2)(c).....	ra. from 10(2)(b) 137/1994
10(2)(d).....	ra. from 10(2)(c) 137/1994

ad. = added
am. = amended

fc. = fee change
ra. = reassigned

rep.=repealed
rs. = repealed and substituted

Provision affected	How affected
10(2)(e).....	ad. 137/1994
10(2)(f).....	ad. 116/1996; rs. 77/2001
10(2)(g).....	ad. 116/1996
10(3).....	ad. 166/1991; ra. as 10(5) 137/1994
10(3).....	ad. 137/1994; rs. 85/2010; rep. 240/2013
10(4).....	ad. 137/1994; rs. 85/2010; rep. 240/2013
10(4)(b).....	am. 103/2003
10(5).....	ra. from 10(3) 137/1994; am. 103/2003; rep. 85/2010
11.....	rs. 89/1995, 77/2001
13.....	rep. 105/1997
“firearm and bow” replaced throughout with “weapon”.....	am. 85/2010
“firearm or bow” replaced throughout with “weapon”.....	am. 85/2010

Note that changes to headings are not included in the above table.

Editorial Notes and Corrections:

Note	Effective date
1 Original text does not include any other subsections in s. 5 .	
2 References to the Minister and Department of Lands and Forests should be read as references to the Minister and Department of Natural Resources in accordance with O.I.C. 1991-971 under the Public Service Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 376 . (corrected by N.S. Reg. 148/1992)	Sep 16, 1991
3 References to the Minister and Department of Natural Resources should be read as references to the Minister and Department of Lands and Forestry in accordance with O.I.C. 2018-188 under the Public Service Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 376 .	Jul 5, 2018
4 References to the Minister and Department of Natural Resources should be read as references to the Minister and Department of Natural Resources and Renewables in accordance with O.I.C. 2021-210 under the Public Service Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 376 .	Aug 31, 2021

Repealed and Superseded:

N.S. Regulation	Title	In force date	Repealed date
126/1980	Regulations Respecting Black Bear made under the <i>Lands and Forests Act</i>	Aug 15, 1980	Aug 19, 1987
168/1987	<i>Bear Snaring Regulations</i> made under the <i>Lands and Forests Act</i>	Aug 19, 1987	May 1, 1988

Note: Only regulations that are specifically repealed and replaced appear in this table. It may not reflect the entire history of regulations on this subject matter.