

**Background Report
Draft Rule 68A-24.002
Agenda Item 4.C.1
November 20, 2013**

DRAFT RULE

RULE NO: 68A-24.002
Season

RULE TITLE: Methods of taking Fur-Bearing Animals; Possession; Open

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to revise regulations to extend the season when bobcats may be taken with guns and dogs. The effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to enable the agency to better manage fish and wildlife resources.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendment would extend the season for harvest of bobcat by the use of guns and dogs only (not traps or snares) from March 2 through March 31. Currently, bobcat may be harvested from December 1 through March 1 by the use of live traps, guns, dogs or snares. The proposed rule would not change periods when bobcat may be harvested on Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife and Environmental Areas and Miscellaneous Areas.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

68A-24.002 Methods of Taking Fur-Bearing Animals; Possession; Open Season.

(1) No change.

(2) Fur-bearing animals may be taken in accordance with the following:

(a) through (b) No change.

(c) Bobcat or otter may be taken ~~only~~ from December 1 through March 1 by live traps, guns, dogs or snares.

Additionally, bobcat may be taken for non-commercial purposes from March 2-31 by guns or dogs. Fox and bobcats may be chased by the use of free-running dogs throughout the year. The taking of any fox and/or coyote by a dog or dogs within an enclosure is prohibited. For the purposes of this subsection, in relation to using dogs for the taking of fox or coyote, an "enclosure" is defined as an area of land enclosed in such a manner as to prevent the natural ingress or egress of fox or coyote. No person shall kill or possess fox unless authorized by permit from the executive director.

(d) No change.

(3) No change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: As soon as possible following Commission action.

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History--New 8-1-79, Amended 6-22-80, 6-4-81, 6-21-82, 7-1-83, 7-5-84, 7-1-85, Formerly 39-24.02, Amended 10-8-87, 4-11-90, Formerly 39-24.002, Amended 5-13-02, 7-1-08, 10-5-10, 3-25-12,_____.