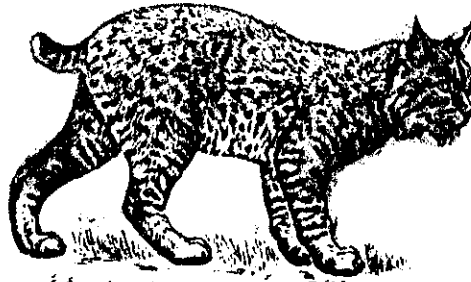


LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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St. Charles Parish
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SEA GRANT PROGRAM



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LAGNIAPPE

SHRIMP LICENSES

1982 will be the first year that commercial shrimp licenses must be bought during the month of January. Act 492 of the 1981 Legislature limited the dates during which shrimp licenses may be purchased to the period January 1 to February 1 of each year.

So if you are planning to buy a commercial shrimp license this next year, make sure you remember to buy it in January. I'd recommend that you either purchase your license in person or send in your license application by registered mail. That way the license to your living won't get lost in the mail.

SHRIMPERS OPPOSE COAST GUARD FEES

A plan by the federal government to impose an annual \$1,800 to \$2,000 user fee on shrimpers for assistance provided by the U. S. Coast Guard recently drew criticism from members of the Texas Shrimp Association.

The Reagan administration plan calls for the shrimp industry, among with other maritime business (oil company crew boats, barges, etc.), to start paying for a service the Coast Guard has rendered free of charge in the past.

The present timetable for the plan may see the fees charged by midspring 1982.

The user fee proposal, in essence, calls for the fishing industry to pay for search and rescue operations and other maritime assistance provided by the U. S. Coast Guard.

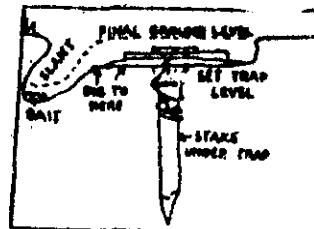
At a per vessel rate of \$1,800 to \$2,000, user fees would cover about 56 percent of the overall Coast Guard budget nationally.

TRAPPING BOBCATS

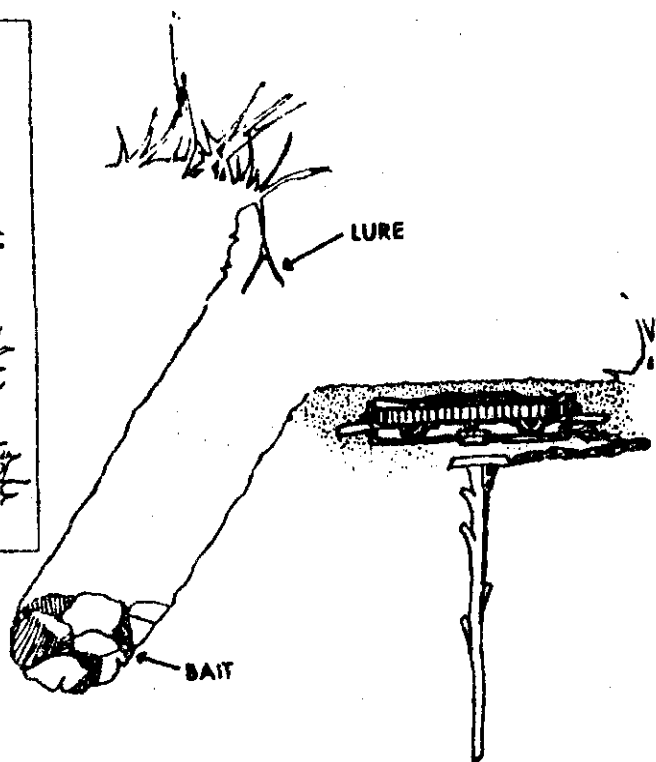
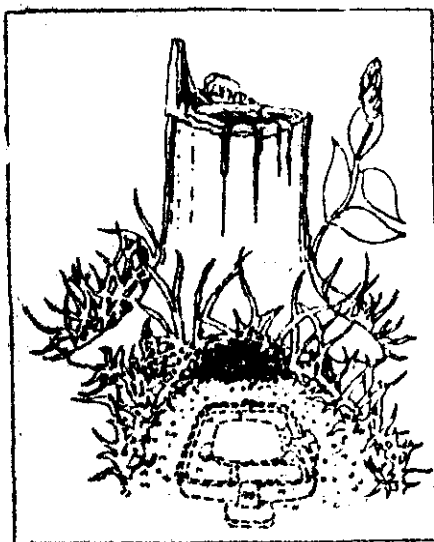
In recent years bobcat fur has become quite valuable. Unfortunately, not many of our trappers are familiar with how to trap bobcats. Bobcats are very good at never being seen, even where they are quite common. Bobcat researchers who put radio collars on them to track their movements, find that they hardly ever get in sight of them even with the radio sending out signals to follow. Generally if you see one or two bobcats in an area, it means that you probably have a good population.

Old time bobcat trappers in other parts of the country usually use what is called a "dirt hole set" to trap bobcats. Dirt hole sets can be built several ways, but all of them use bait. Trappers in other areas often use rabbit, but any fresh bloody meat works well.

The dirt hole set can be made under a stump or in an open area near a game trail used by bobcats.



Cross-section of the dirt-hole set.



Some trappers use a scent lure on a twig at the edge of the hole. These lures can be ordered from trapping magazines or you can use catnip on homemade fish oil. Most trappers will hang a strip of rabbit fur or even flannel cloth by a string from a low tree limb near the set. This is because bobcats hunt with both their eyes and their nose. The piece of fur moving in a breeze will quickly attract their attention.

When they get closer, the smell of the bait attracts them to the set. The dirt hole set is built so that the bobcat steps into the trap when he looks into the hole. A Victor 3N or a No. 2 trap is usually used for bobcats.

Because bobcats are so secretive, about the only sign you will find is their tracks. They look much like a small dog's, but are different because you will almost never see claw marks. A dog's tracks almost always show a claw mark in front of each toe

because a dog can't pull his claws up inside his toes like a cat can. Source: Trapping Furbearers: A Tool for Managing a Renewable Natural Resource. Robert A. Pierce. Arkansas Cooperative Service.

STEEL SHOT FOR DUCKS

I don't usually put articles about hunting in the LAGNIAPPE, however since most of our commercial fishermen also like to duck hunt and there is so much confusion over steel shot, I've made an exception this month.

Steel shot is already required for duck hunting in some parts of the state and if things don't change duck hunters may have to use steel shot everywhere. The drawings below illustrate the differences in performance between steel and lead and are pretty much self-explanatory.

LEAD vs STEEL

LENGTH OF SHOT STRING - 50 YARDS

STEEL SHOT STRING ONLY 1/2 to 2/3 AS LONG AND 50% OF THE DIAMETER OF LEAD.

STEEL - 1 TO 16 FEET

LEAD - 16 TO 30 FEET

SIZE 50% OF

TYPICAL PERCENT OF SHOT WITHIN A 36 INCH CIRCLE

STEEL - 30%

LEAD - 75%

PATTERN SIZE - 35 TO 45 YARDS

STEEL SHOT PATTERN MORE DENSE AND SMALLER THAN LEAD

REMEMBER:
A SHORTER, DENSER COLUMN OF STEEL SHOT MEANS MORE ACCURATE SHOOTING REQUIRED ... BUT MORE PELLETS HITTING THE TARGET.

AIMING POINT

STEEL LEANS THE MIDDLE PATTERN, BUT SLOWS DOWN QUICKER, REQUIRING A CHANGE IN AIMING POINT AS DISTANCE INCREASES.

30 YARDS

40-45 YARDS

60+ YARDS

STEEL IS FASTER, SO USE LESS LEAD UNDER 40 YARDS.

LEAD FOR BOTH ABOUT THE SAME.

STEEL SLOWS DOWN FASTER SO USE MORE LEAD BEYOND 60 YARDS.

SHOT SIZE IS VERY IMPORTANT

TO GET THE SAME PERFORMANCE USE TWO SIZES LARGER STEEL SHOT THAN WOULD NORMALLY BE USED WITH LEAD.

No. 6 Lead

No. 4 Steel

No. 4 Lead

No. 2 Steel

No. 2 Lead

No. 1 Steel

No. 00 Steel