

## **PROPOSAL 51**

### **5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**

Align muskrat trapping seasons with beaver trapping seasons in Units 19, 20 (except 20E), 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C as follows:

I recommend changing the trapping season for muskrat in Units 19, 20 (except 20E), 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C to align with (be the same as) the beaver trapping seasons in those units (i.e. from September until June) to allow for simultaneous open water trapping of these two species in the fall, winter, and spring.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current trapping season for muskrat in Units 19, 20 (except 20E), 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C begins on 1 November, while the beaver trapping seasons in these areas opens in September. Beaver and muskrat are often trapped in overlapping habitats by “water trappers” who pursue them simultaneously using similar gear and equipment. Better aligning the muskrat and beaver seasons to allow for open water trapping in the fall would expand opportunity for trappers who pursue both species.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stephen Meyers

(EG-F23-166)

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