

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

# **The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission**

**Will Meet at 10:30 AM  
On Wed., August 20, 2025  
Department of Natural Resources  
Google Meet**

**Meeting Agenda:**

**Approval of August 20, 2025, Meeting Agenda**

**Approval of June 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

**Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee Update (Associate Director Jonathan McKnight)**

**Natural Heritage Program Update (Associate Director Jonathan McKnight)**

**Outreach and Community Engagement Program Update (Associate Director Chris Markin)**

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update (Tyler Hough)**

**Natural Resources Police Update (Lieutenant Brian Miller or Lieutenant Bill Davis)**

**Old Business:**

- **Revamping Trapping Course Update - (Commissioner Kaitlin Rossignuolo)**
- **Sunday Hunting Discussion – (Group Discussion)**
- **Non-Lead Ammunition – Deferred to a Later Meeting.**

**New Business:**

**Public Comment:**

**Adjourn**

***NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.***

**The Proposed Schedule for the 2025 Meetings  
Of the Wildlife Advisory Commission is as follows:**

<b>January 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>February 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>March 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>April 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>May 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>June 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>In-Person Meeting at the Tawes State Office Building</b>
<b>July 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
<b>August 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>September 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>In-Person Meeting at the Sideling Hill Training Center</b>
<b>October 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>November 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>In-Person Meeting at the Tawes State Office Building</b>
<b>December 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Meeting</b>

***PLEASE NOTE THAT MEETING DATES ARE HELD  
ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH***

**Note:** Unless notified otherwise, all meetings will be held via Google Meet. When meeting in person, they will be held in the C-4 Conference Room of the Department of Natural Resources—Tawes State Office Building beginning at 10:30 a.m. Available parking is located at the Navy Stadium Parking Lot.

***NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.***

# THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

JUNE 18, 2025

Chair Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. This meeting was held by teleconference and in person. Chair Wagner requested a roll call from individuals on by teleconference. Unfortunately, due to the anonymity of Google Meet callers, it was impossible to determine the identities of every participant.

## **Approval of June 18, 2025, Meeting Agenda**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Parks moved to accept the agenda for the June 18, 2025, Wildlife Advisory Commission meeting.
  2. Commissioner Smith seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

## **Approval of May 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Parks moved to approve the May 21, 2025, meeting minutes.
  2. Vice Chair Keithley seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

## **WHS Game Program Update - Furbearer Project – Joshua Tabora, Furbearer Project Leader**

- The furbearer species usually go unnoticed most of the time. Since staff mainly provide updates on deer, bear, and turkey, staff thought it would be helpful to give the Commission an update on furbearer species.
- Associate Director Brian Eyler introduced Kevin Lamp as the Deer Project Leader and Carson Coriell as the Game Species Data and Research Project Leader.
- The presentation will cover Maryland's 14 furbearer species and some other related mammal groups. Furbearer is pronounced with the emphasis on **FUR**-bair-er, like pallbearer.
- Furbearer Project Leader Joshua Tabora delivered the Furbearer Project Update. [ATTACHMENT A] Mr. Tabora's notes were included in the presentation as part of the meeting minutes.
  1. Coyotes are almost ubiquitous throughout Maryland. Coyotes are not as common in many parts of the tidewater or the coastal plain. Coyotes are well distributed, and there have been confirmed sightings in every county in Maryland. Coyotes are not considered a truly native species to Maryland. Coyotes were first confirmed to have breeding populations in Maryland in 1972 and then in Delaware shortly thereafter. Maryland was one of the last states in the continental United States to have coyotes colonize; it was a natural range expansion. Coyotes have been moving east for the previous 150 years or so, and they have been in Pennsylvania and New York since the 1920s. Coyotes are most common in Central and Western Maryland, with the lower population densities in Southern and Eastern Maryland.
  2. Red Fox is a prevalent furbearing species. Additionally, red fox is one of the more frequently reported furbearer species by the public because they are more visible and active, often during the daytime in central and suburban Maryland. Red Fox maintains a substantial population with healthy numbers throughout the western parts of Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore. Historically, it has been a culturally and economically significant furbearing species. Furthermore, the red fox holds importance for a few recreational communities, particularly the fox chaser community.
  3. Gray Fox is one of our truly native canids. Gray Fox lived in Maryland at the time of colonization and remains common throughout the State. Gray Fox is found in all of our Maryland Counties.
  4. Bobcats are another terrestrial carnivore species in our region. They are less common and less widespread than foxes and coyotes, but they show a stable and increasing trend within Maryland.

A video of a bobcat at McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area (WMA) confirmed a 100% identification of the species, although the footage could not be played. Staff members confirmed sightings of bobcats outside their core range in four western counties, where they are known to reproduce. There have been sightings this year at two different times: one in Charles County, indicated by a roadkill, and another in Montgomery County at McKee-Beshers WMA. These sightings suggest that the species is thriving in Maryland and may be colonizing nearby habitats where they have been absent for some time. Bobcats maintain a breeding population in Garrett, Allegany, Washington, and Frederick Counties, though they are becoming slightly less common as the species moves eastward. Staff have not documented breeding east of the Frederick County area in quite some time; the last record in central Maryland was probably in Baltimore County in the 1960s. The good news is that bobcats are becoming somewhat more common in Maryland.

5. Some remaining members of our species are mustelids, so any animal that is weasel-like falls into that family, including fisher, mink, and long-tailed weasel. Fishers are semi-arboreal, meaning they spend a significant part of their lives in trees. Like bobcats, fishers are thought to have breeding populations only in the four western counties; however, they are thriving in Maryland. They were reintroduced into West Virginia, likely around 1966 or 1967, and within a few years, expanded into nearby parts of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Maryland has maintained consistent harvest records through a tagging program. When fishers were first discovered in Maryland, officials decided not to have a closed trapping season because their presence was due to natural range expansion from an experimental population in an existing state. This provides staff with a comprehensive history of harvest data going back to the 1960s. Therefore, staff members have robust records on the species, which indicate that fishers are doing well. They are commonly seen in wildlife studies that use cameras. The last robust estimate of fisher populations was reliable in Garrett and Allegany Counties.
6. American mink is considerably smaller than a fisher, roughly the size of a ferret, with a male probably about the size of a medium-sized domestic ferret or possibly a fox squirrel. The female is approximately the size of a gray squirrel. There is noticeable dimorphism between males and females, with males being larger and females smaller. Minks are common throughout their established range in Maryland. They are very prevalent in Garrett County and across western Maryland, and they are somewhat more sporadic but still present in central and southern Maryland thanks to strong riparian corridor protections and the ecological niches minks require. Minks are semi-aquatic; they are not fully adapted to a water environment, but they spend much of their time on land while also foraging in the water for shellfish, sunfish, and crayfish. Much of their diet includes amphibians and arthropods, though they are not as specialized as their distant relatives. Notably, minks are absent from the Eastern Shore, which is believed or confirmed through fur sale records to be part of their historical range. The reason for their absence today remains unknown. Staff have consistent records of minks in Cecil County, but why they don't extend to the Eastern Shore is unclear. Still, minks have maintained a healthy population elsewhere in Maryland. They are often caught as bycatch when trappers set traps for muskrats.
7. The long-tailed weasel, our smallest mustelid species and a designated game animal, is believed to inhabit all parts of Maryland. There is a smaller species, but it is quite rare. Due to more selective trapping methods and some habitat loss, long-tailed weasels have become less common than they were recently. The long-tailed weasel might be experiencing a long-term decline, but it is still found throughout Maryland counties. It is considered a species of least concern with relatively stable populations in the short term.
8. The muskrat is one of the most culturally and ecologically critical fur-bearing animals in Maryland. Muskrats are highly visible and common in southern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore. Additionally, they are widespread throughout central Maryland, especially in larger, slow-moving river systems like the Monocacy River and Potomac River. Muskrat populations are maintained in the riparian areas of Mount Maryland, allowing them to be spread throughout suitable habitats in Garrett, Allegany, Washington, and Frederick Counties. The primary habitat



for muskrats in Maryland is the salt marshes of the southern and eastern regions. Muskrat is a prolific furbearer species, and it holds significant cultural and economic importance to many communities, especially on the Eastern Shore. Muskrats are considered a delicacy by many communities; in fact, they are still sold at Lexington Market in Baltimore. Besides being a culturally relevant and valuable food resource, muskrat also maintains relatively steady fur prices and can be caught in large numbers. It is common for some trappers in Maryland to catch over a thousand muskrats, even though the pelts range from three to eight dollars, depending on size and quality. It remains a relatively profitable trap for furbearers in Maryland. The muskrat is another species that is currently doing well in Maryland; they were more common in the past, and this trend is echoed across their range, especially in the Midwest and Northeast.

9. The North American river otter and the North American beaver are also the largest furbearer species in Maryland, with the beaver being the larger of the two by a wide margin. The largest beaver ever weighed in Maryland was nearly 75 pounds and was caught from a pond in Carroll County, although some specimens in the northern upper lake states can exceed 100 pounds. The river otter also appears surprisingly large. Male river otters can weigh between 35 and 40 pounds. These two species maintain a relatively steady demand for their fur, with the beaver driving a recent resurgence of trapping interest. Beavers declined throughout North America as the West was settled to promote or support a fur trade. Trapping was less regulated or nearly unregulated during that time, leading to the species being trapped to extinction or ecological extinction, effectively disappearing from most of its range by the early 20th century. Thanks to restoration efforts, beavers are now widespread across their range again. However, the original reason for trapping was that beaver pelts were highly valuable because their unique underfur allowed for the production of high-quality, water-resistant pelts used for hats, like the hat President Lincoln wore and the bowler hats. Now, moving forward to 2022 and beyond, a cultural trend has increased the demand for beaver pelts; a resurgence in interest in country western culture, mainly spurred by popular TV shows like Yellowstone, has created a significant rise in demand for cowboy hats. Today, high-quality cowboy hats are still made from beaver underfur combined with a few other natural fibers, but this has raised beaver pelt prices enough to boost trapping participation—at least for that species—for the first time in about 10 years. However, as with all fashion and fur price trends, that interest is cooling, and biologists expect prices to decline over the next couple of years.
- Small Game Mammal Species – these include three native tree squirrels and the eastern cottontail, all of which are present and can be hunted. There is no trapping season for these species. Maryland offers a generous squirrel season from September through February. In slide 17, in the upper left corner, there is a picture of the ubiquitous gray squirrel, which is very common; in the upper right corner, the red squirrel, smaller like a chipmunk; the lower left corner shows the fox squirrel, the largest of Maryland's tree squirrels, found throughout western and central Maryland; and the lower right corner features the eastern cottontail, a widely distributed small game mammal across the state. It is very common in the suburbs but is also hunted recreationally in rural Maryland and is widespread throughout the state.
- The Furbearer Project keeps records of large cat sightings in Maryland. Pumas and mountain lions have been extirpated from the East Coast since the late 1800s, except for Florida. However, staff maintain records and reports of any sightings that cannot be identified as a bobcat or a house cat, so they have those records if a mountain lion is spotted. It is becoming more common in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and a few other places to see mountain lions. Therefore, it is not entirely out of the question that a mountain lion reaches the eastern United States. One made it to Connecticut before being hit by a vehicle, but this is very rare.
- One of the key functions of the Furbearer Project is managing various surveys that assess participation in hunting and trapping activities related to furbearer species and harvest, as well as some population trends.
  1. The Bowhunter Survey takes archery hunters as observers and standardizes their observations.

2. The bowhunters report what they saw throughout any given hunt. Bowhunters record the number of hours that they hunt in the county where they are hunting.
3. Staff are looking to study the grey fox in the future.
- Chair Wagner thanked Josh Tabora for his very detailed presentation to the Commission.
- Maryland Horse Council Jane Seigler commented on Furbearer Project Leader Josh Tabora's statement that opossums are not a concern in terms of disease. Ms. Seigler noted that opossums may be the only vector of Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM), which is a devastating neurologic disease that horses can contract. The opossums carry these protozoan parasites, which they can discharge in their feces, and that can contaminate the food and water of the horses. Additionally, Ms. Seigler mentioned that about 50% of the horses in Maryland are seropositive for it. However, only a smaller percentage of the horses become symptomatic. If it is not diagnosed and treated, which is a very long course of drugs, it can be devastating neurologically for the horses.
  1. Furbearer Project Leader Josh Tabora thanked Ms. Seigler for her comment. He was aware of EPM and opossums as a vector species. Like all parasites and protozoans, they have a complex life cycle. These parasites and protozoans are at some point hosted by snails and slugs; they are almost ubiquitous and challenging to prevent and treat unless they are caught quickly.
  2. Furbearer Project Leader Josh Tabora spoke from a human health and safety perspective, but it was a great point to raise.
  3. Ms. Jane Seigler thought Furbearer Project Leader Josh Tabora's presentation was excellent. Ms. Seigler added that the reason why EPM is a concern with horses is that horses have a significant economic impact.
  4. Furbearer Project Leader Josh Tabora responded that Ms. Seigler raised valid points. He also acknowledged knowing several horse owners affected by EPM. To be proactive, prevention would be challenging, whether by trapping opossums or managing pasture, because breaking the protozoan's life cycle is tough since the hosts are slugs and snails; cleaning these hosts from the landscape would be nearly impossible.
- Q&A Section:
  1. Chair Wagner asked Furbearer Project Leader Josh Tabora to talk about the furbearer license trend for the last 10 to 15 years.
    - a. Over the last five years, during COVID, staff saw a boost in sales, especially in the 2020 license year. There were some mirroring trends, but overall, there was no rapid decline.
    - b. The furbearer permit, which costs \$5, can be bought over the counter. It allows hunters to hunt furbearer species during designated seasons. As an endorsement, it permits a person to trap as long as they have proof of trapper education or verification that they have received trapper training.
    - c. The sales seem stable, and staff expect them to maintain that trend. Predator hunting is gaining popularity; a trend staff have observed through the survey and in the field. Furbearer Project Leader Josh Tabora believes most of the furbearer permit sales are going to deer hunters who may also be hunting furbearers at the same time. So that's the impetus for a lot of sales. Staff observe from the furbearer survey that many people do not intentionally hunt furbearer species or compartmentalize their efforts. Still, hunters are open to taking a furbearer species while hunting for another game species, which is typically white-tailed deer.
  2. Chair Wagner asked about the impact of trapping as a management tool, specifically how important it is and which species is most important.
    - a. It is crucial to remember the context of where we are in space and time. There was a point in recent history when fur prices were strong. Although there was more pressure on the resources, it did not cause harmful effects on the populations, particularly the fox and raccoon populations.
    - b. Maryland has enough trappers to have localized effects, but not at a level where those trapping efforts cause residual impacts on nesting gamebirds recruitment, waterfowl recruitment, or similar areas.

- c. On the landscape level, the effects of trapping are evident. The residuals are present, but they might not be as noticeable as they would be at another point in time. Regarding more specific parcels of land that are intentionally trapped, such as beavers to address conflict concerns, a person could see immediate benefits from targeted removals. There are properties on the Eastern Shore that are managed very actively for quail habitat. Also, some trapping is used to reduce pressure during nesting season on incubating and roosting females. In areas with good habitat and the best management practices, trapping can be one of the tools to support nesting game bird species.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update (MFB)** – Tyler Hough, Director,

- Mr. Tyler had to leave the meeting early for another meeting. However, Mr. Tyler posted a note in the “chat” that the MFB was optimistic after the Sunday hunting meeting that was held several weeks ago, to find a uniform solution to Sunday hunting regulations statewide for at least deer.

**Natural Resources Police Update (NRP)** – Lieutenant Bill Davis gave an update.

- Lieutenant Bill Davis indicated that he did not have the stats; Lieutenant Davis thought Lieutenant Brian Miller had that information.
- Lieutenant Bill Davis outlined that there were several turkey cases in Area 7, which is Frederick and Washington Counties. NRP officers were online checking people’s posts and were able to catch some individuals who took turkeys illegally.

**Old Business**

- Revamping Trapping Course Update—Commissioner Kaitlin Rossignuolo commented that Josh Tabora provided an excellent update. She mentioned that the future of trapper education is complex, with ongoing behind-the-scenes items, and it will take some time to implement the new plan.
- License Portal Update (MD Outdoors)—The new MD Outdoors will go live on June 24. Kudos were given to Licensing and Registration Service Director Margie Maccubbin and her staff for their hard work with Brandt, the software company. The current information in COMPASS should be transferred smoothly to MD Outdoors. The MD Outdoors platform should be fairly easy for the public to understand. Licensing agents and internal staff received training. The DNRID number will remain the same.
  1. The Bass Pro Shops and Anglers are the two biggest licensing agents in Maryland. They still sell more licenses than the online portal. One of the major updates with the new licensing system (MD Outdoors) is auto-renewal, something we've been working on for many years.
  2. An option exists to get a hard card; the front picture is chosen through a contest. The hard card costs an extra fee.
  3. Regarding increased efficiency, the hard card option made a difference. If Maryland reaches the sales numbers the vendor expects and uses data from three or four other states where they’ve tested, that additional sales fee will cover the marketing and some system administration costs. As a result, Maryland can expand its capacity to promote license sales and generate higher revenue. This means Maryland isn't losing money; we're earning more.
  4. Phase I will be released on June 24 as stage I; there will be phases II and III, which include wildlife permits, such as a retriever training permit and a scientific collection permit.
  5. Looking ahead with this vendor, it can perform tasks in other states that Maryland cannot accomplish with the self-built vendor-added model in COMPASS. WHS has two reservation systems, one at Gwynnbrook WMA and the other at Myrtle Grove WMA. These locations are heavily staffed, with employees answering phones during the hunting reservation period from September through February and during the turkey season. Staff are working with the vendor to develop an electronic model, enabling hunters and trappers to book reservations through this portal. This will reduce the number of staff required to answer phones during the reservations process.
- Chair Wagner informed the Commission that he has been working with Southern Region Manager

Candice Collision on some issues, and Chair Wagner has heard from people that their biggest frustrations with DNR involve the reservation system and how they access it. The new system will not eliminate the issue of high-demand areas, but it will make them more accessible.

- There is outreach going out about the new MD Outdoors.
- Maryland Bucks-Bears-Stags Access to Specimens & Designated Storage Area—Director Stonesifer informed Commissioner Keithley that Hunter Safety Education staff are taking pictures of their inventory, and Director Stonesifer will send that information to Commissioner Keithley directly. The specimens are located at the Allegany Hunter Safety Training Facility.
  1. Chair Wagner suggested that the Allegany Hunter Safety Training Facility would be a great place to hold the September 17, 2025, WAC meeting.
  2. Director Karina Stonesifer agreed.
  3. Chair Wagner decided to have Maryland Bucks-Bears-Stags removed from Old Business because it has been taken care of.
- Non-Lead Ammunition Regulation—Deferred to a later meeting.

#### **New Business –**

- Sunday Hunting Stakeholder Meeting Recap Discussion – Director Karina Stonesifer confirmed the next meeting will be held on July 17 at Sandy Point State Park. Director Stonesifer will be sending out a notification to the same stakeholders on Friday. Also, Director Stonesifer will send out the comments from the first meeting to the group. The goal is to summarize the previous discussions and present a concept, thereby solidifying the decision to move the law to regulation and grant DNR the authority to set Sunday hunting dates.
  1. Assistant Secretary Paul Peditto informed the Commission that the Pennsylvania House passed Sunday Hunting by a 4 to 1 majority, led by a woman, who is a Democrat from the Pittsburgh area.
  2. Chair Wagner mentioned it still needs to go through the Pennsylvania Senate.
  3. Assistant Secretary Peditto commented that another Pennsylvania House member introduced another version of the bill, which is even simpler than the bill that has already passed the House. Sunday hunting in Pennsylvania is likely to pass, leaving Maryland and one other state as the only ones without a uniform Sunday hunting law.
  4. Director Stonesifer reiterated that giving DNR the authority does not mean DNR will go wide open for Sunday hunting. If potential Sunday hunting gets introduced and passes, it will still run through the regulatory process.
- Director Stonesifer reminded the Commission that this fall, WHS will be going into a regulation cycle. Therefore, the Commission will be hearing a lot about the proposed changes for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 hunting and trapping regulation cycle.
  1. Staff members have started the internal process.
  2. Staff will bring the first round of concepts to the October 15, 2025, meeting, and then staff will host the internal stakeholder meeting, the external stakeholder meeting, and public comment online.
  3. This process is usually every two years unless there is a mandate.
- Chair Wagner instructed Ms. Tracey Spencer to return the Sunday Hunting topic to the list under Old Business.
- Assistant Secretary Peditto reported that the Commission members should have received some form of communication about membership, reappointments, or not being reappointed. Also, Assistant Secretary Peditto informed the Commission that there is a new Governor's Appointment Secretary. The Governor's Appointment Office staff are regrouping.
  1. Director Stonesifer mentioned that those who were seeking reappointments did so with the link that was sent out a couple of weeks ago.
  2. Chair Wagner stated that the Commission has two vacancies.
  3. Chair Wagner recalled that Commissioner Showalter wanted to be switched from farm to hunting on the roster, and to leave that Commission's spot for someone from the farming community. Chair Wagner reached out to Mr. Tyler Hough of the MFB if he could provide any

recommendations or know of someone from the farming community who would be interested in serving on the Commission.

4. Director Stonesifer outlined that there is a new mandate that one of the vacancies is identified to be an academic researcher with expertise in biology, wildlife conservation, and management, which was passed during last year's legislative session.
5. It is up to the Governor's Appointments Office to decide who is on the Commission; therefore, there is no guarantee that reappointments are granted.

**Public Comment –**

- The public may contact the Members of the Commission at [wac.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:wac.dnr@maryland.gov).

**Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

The next meeting will be virtually using Google Meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

**Attendance**

Members:	S. Keithley, K. Kullberg, J. Parks, K. Rossignuolo, J. Schroyer, R. Showalter, M. Smith, and C. Wagner
Absent:	TJ. Jenkins
Guest:	C. Pickett, L. Radov, J. Seigler
Staff:	C. Coriell, B. Davis, H. Devine, B. Eyler, K. Fleming, K. Harvey, J. Homyack, K. Lamp, B. Long, B. Miller, J. McKnight, I. Montañez, J. Moulis, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, K. Stonesifer, and J. Trudeau





# Furbearer Project Update

Joshua Tabora  
June 2025







# Fur-bair-er





# Furbearer?

- -**Cultural** and **Economic** vs Taxonomic
- -14 species
  - Three Orders
  - Seven Families







# Nutria

- Large (8-20 lbs!)
- Introduced in 1900's
- Harmful to marsh habitat
- Successful eradication declared in 2022

**Invading our Wetlands: Nutria!**

Report sightings of this  
invasive species  
before it destroys our wetlands!



Photo by Rachael @ waterbirds.org

**Distinguishing Characteristics**

- Large blocky head and orange teeth
- Body length up to 24 inches, tail is round, slightly haired and up to 15 inches long
- Weighs up to 20 pounds
- Hump-back posture when walking
- Distinctive droppings up to 2 inches long and banana-shaped

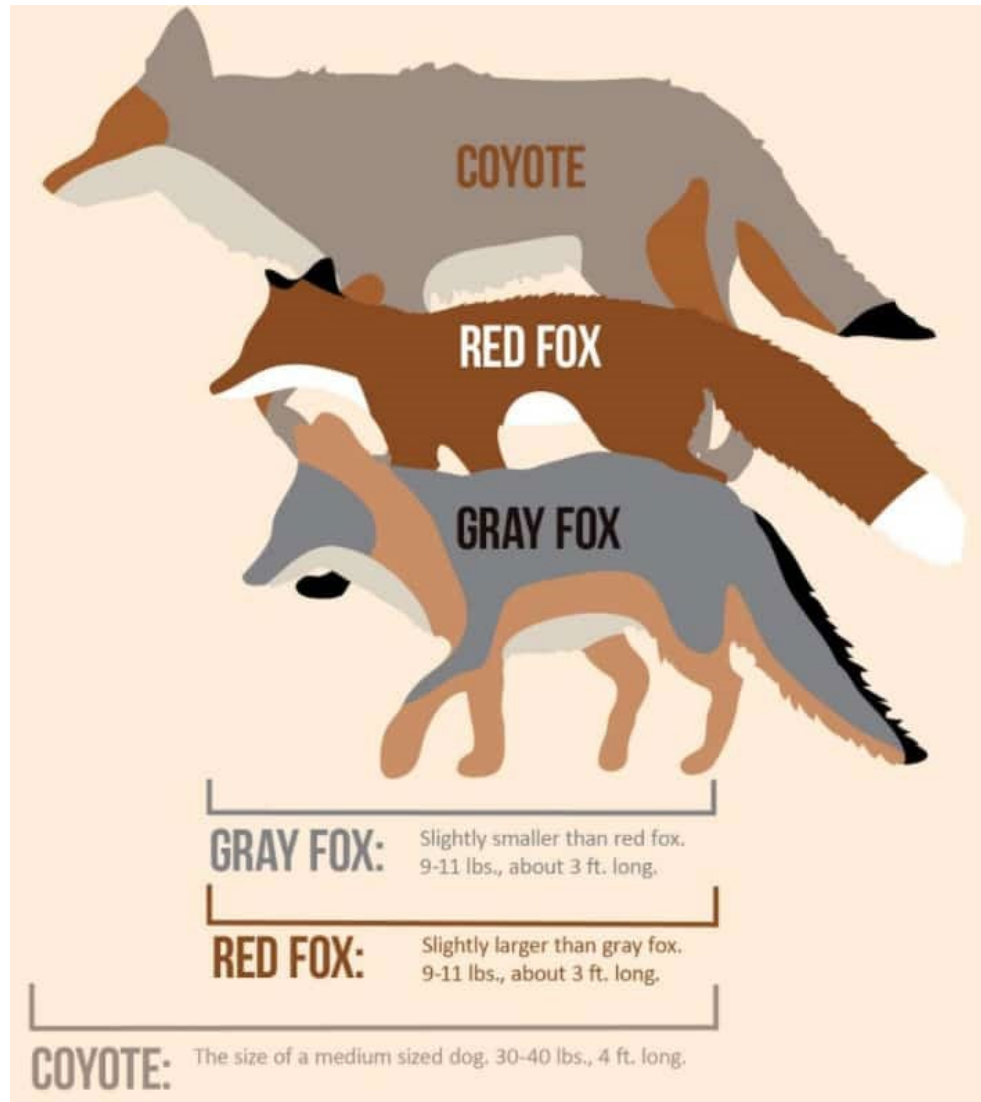
**Call**  
**877-463-6497**  
to report sightings

**The Chesapeake Bay  
Nutria Eradication Project**





# Canid species





# Coyote







# Red Fox







# Gray Fox





# Bobcat







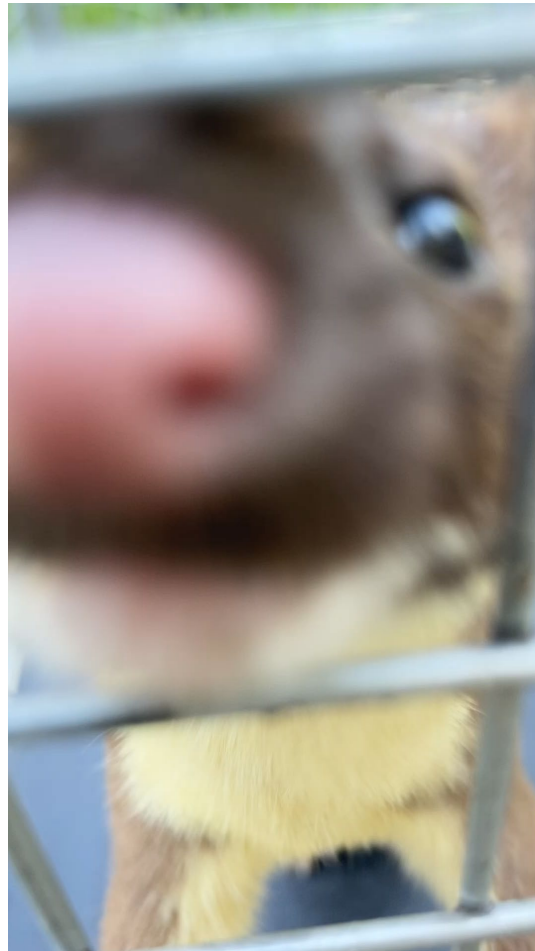
# Bobcat





# Fisher & Mink









# Muskrat













# Groundhog













Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife & Heritage Service

FURBEARER PERMIT SURVEY FOR THE 2024-25 HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASON

Did you hunt, trap, or chase furbearers during the 2024-25 license year? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, I was not able or did not have the time.
- ☐ I did not trap during the 2024-25 license year, but have trapped hunted, or chased furbearers during previous years.
- ☐ I did not trap during the 2024-25 license year, but plan on trapping, hunting, or chasing furbearers in future years.

If you marked yes to the question above, please complete the rest of this form. If you marked no, stop here and return the form in the enclosed envelope. Your response is important, and we thank you for your participation.

Part 1. Please answer the questions below and continue to part 2 and part 3.

1. Please check all activities that you participated in during the 2024-25 hunting license year.

Trapping furbearers

Armed hunting of furbearers with the use of dogs

Armed hunting of furbearers with the use of a predator call

Armed hunting of furbearers without the use of dogs or predator calls

Unarmed fox chasing with the use of dogs

Unarmed chasing of raccoons with the use of dogs

I did not participate in any of these activities

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Did you participate in any of the above activities on DNR Wildlife Management Areas, State Parks, or State Forests? YES ☐ NO ☐

If you answered yes, please list the areas in the space provided.

3. If you trapped during the 2024-25 hunting license year, please check the trap types you used.

Foothold traps

Body-gripping (conibear type) traps

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Did you trap any furbearers to specifically address nuisance animal problems during the last year? YES ☐ NO ☐

6. If you hunted furbearers during the 2024-25 year, please check the hunting methods that you used (check all that apply).

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Electronic calls

Manually operated calls (e.g. mouth calls)

Dogs

Decoys

Hunted opportunistically while hunting other species (e.g. while deer or turkey hunting).

7. If you participated in unarmed fox chasing, please estimate how many days you participated in the field and how many foxes you chased. In the space provided, also record the counties where this activity was conducted.

Days of participation \_\_\_\_\_ Number of foxes chased \_\_\_\_\_

Counties \_\_\_\_\_

8. If you participated in unarmed raccoon hunting/chasing, please estimate how many days you participated in the field and how many raccoons you chased. In the space provided, also record the counties where this activity was conducted.





## 2024-2025 Archery Hunter Survey Form

See instructions other side - please fill in email address, DNRid, and other information below

[illegible]

DNRid Number:

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email address:

# Muskrat Health Interstate Grant



- 13 contributing states
- Examining muskrats for
  - *Francisella tularensis*
  - *Clostridium piliforme*
  - *Toxoplasma gondii*
  - Heavy metals
  - PFAS





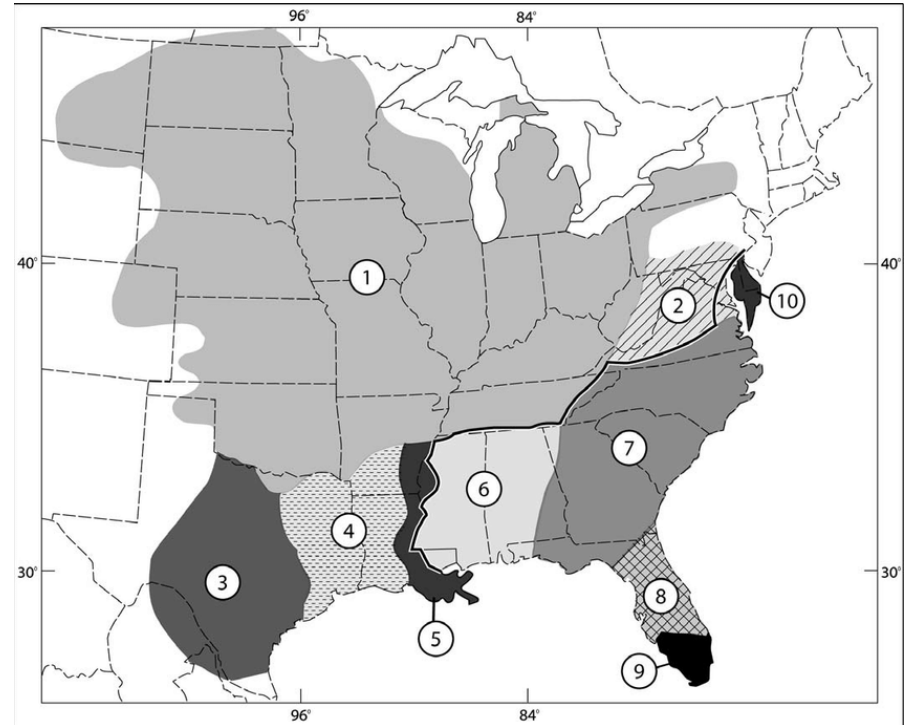
# Fisher/Gray Fox

- AFWA Multi-State Cooperative Grant
- Furbearer Health
  - Complete Histopathology and necropsies per member state



# Fox Squirrel

- PA Game Commission: Fox Squirrel genetics





# Trapper Education





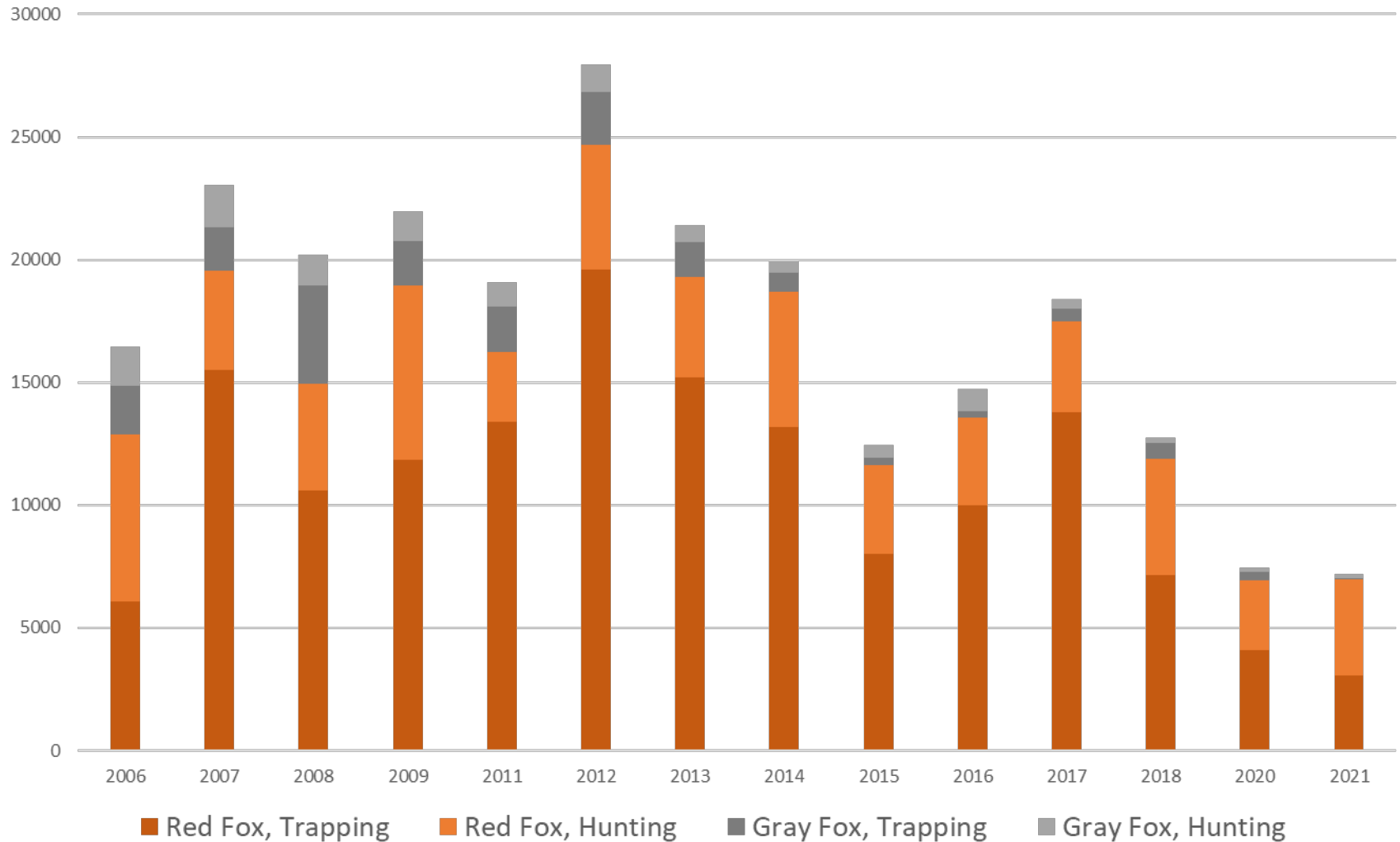


# Beaver Co-existence

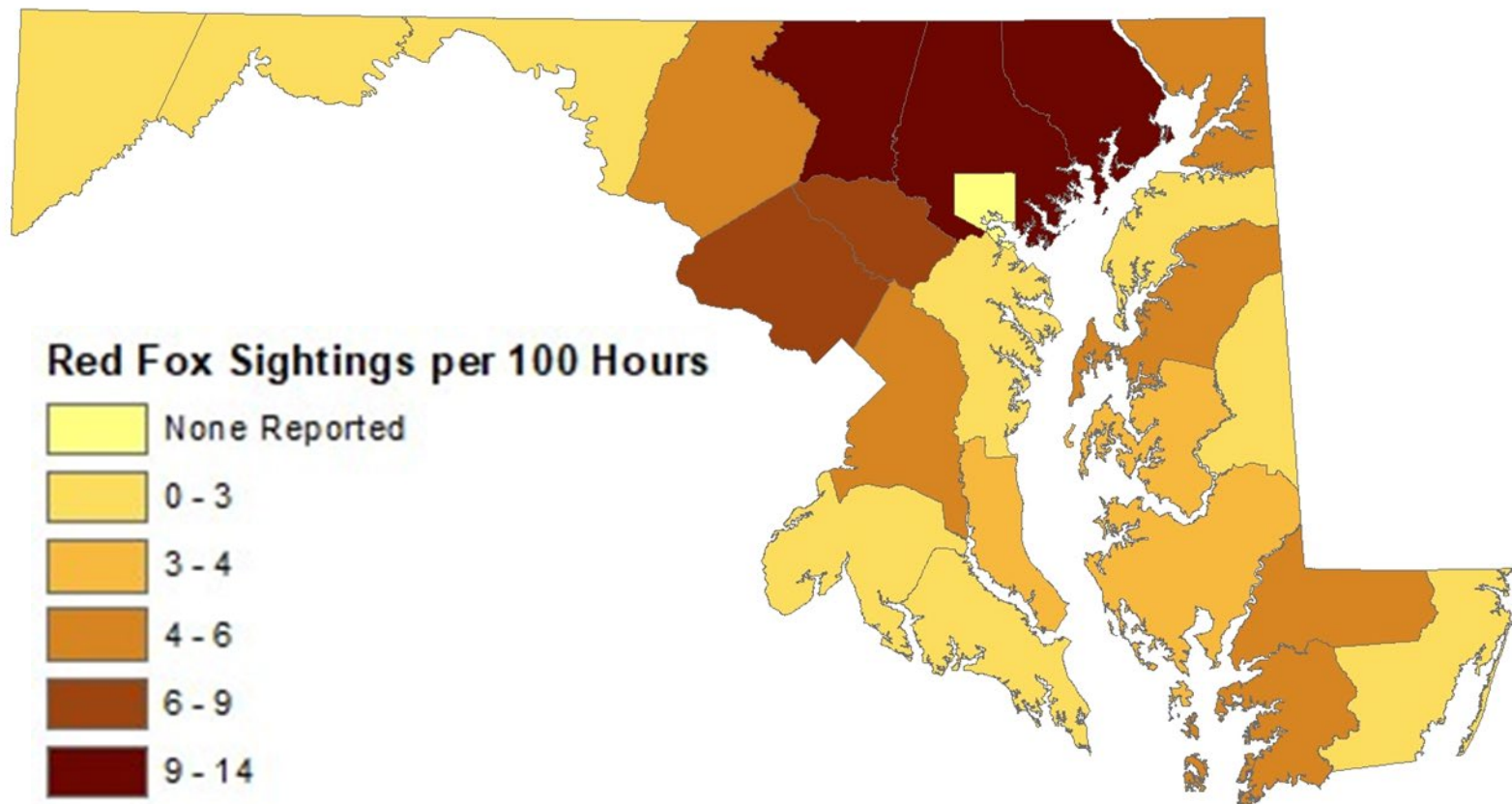




# Future Work, Fox Harvest



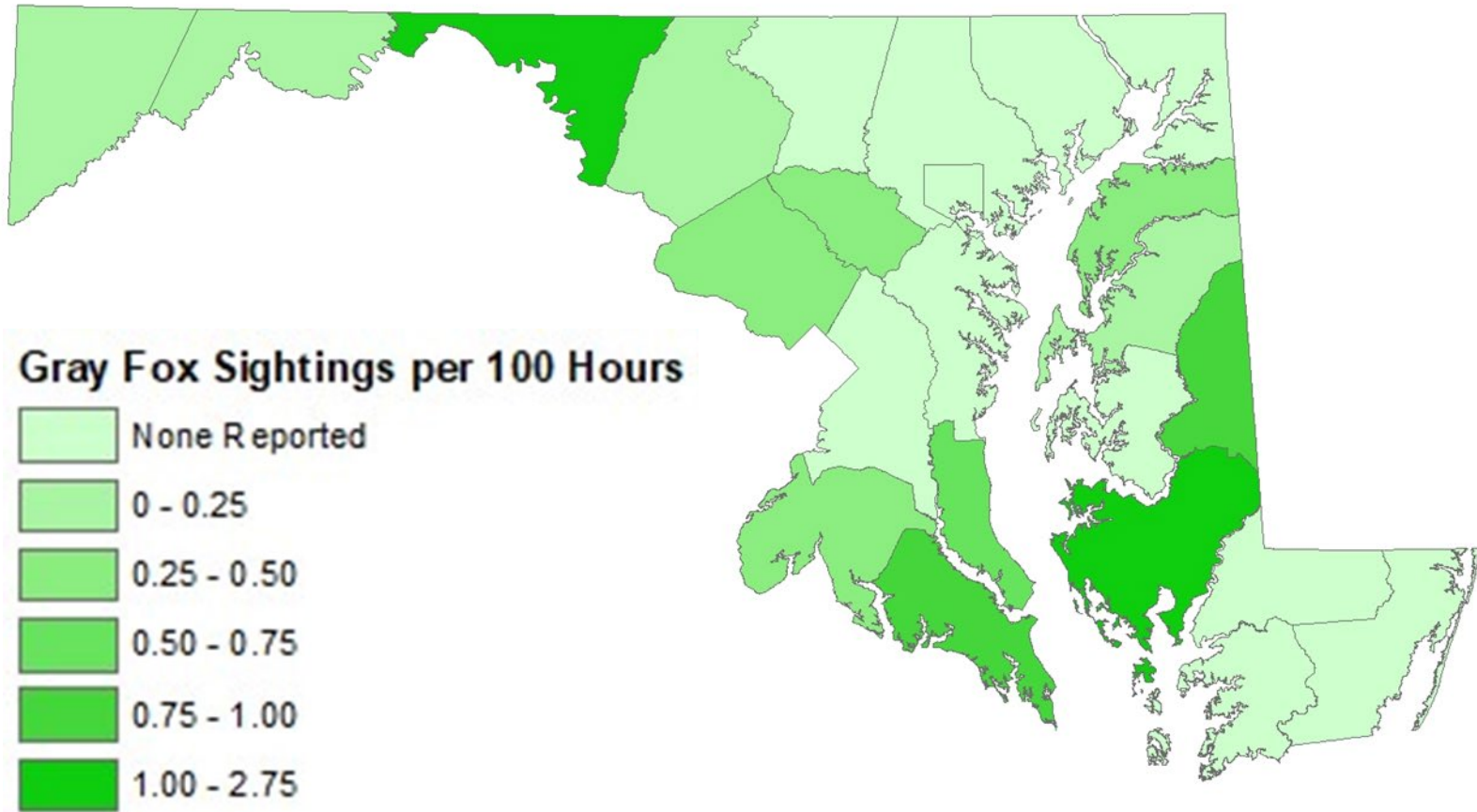
# Red Fox, Bowhunter survey







# Gray Fox, Bowhunter survey



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