

BEAVERS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

HISTORY

- 1865
 - New Hampshire Fish & Game Department Begins

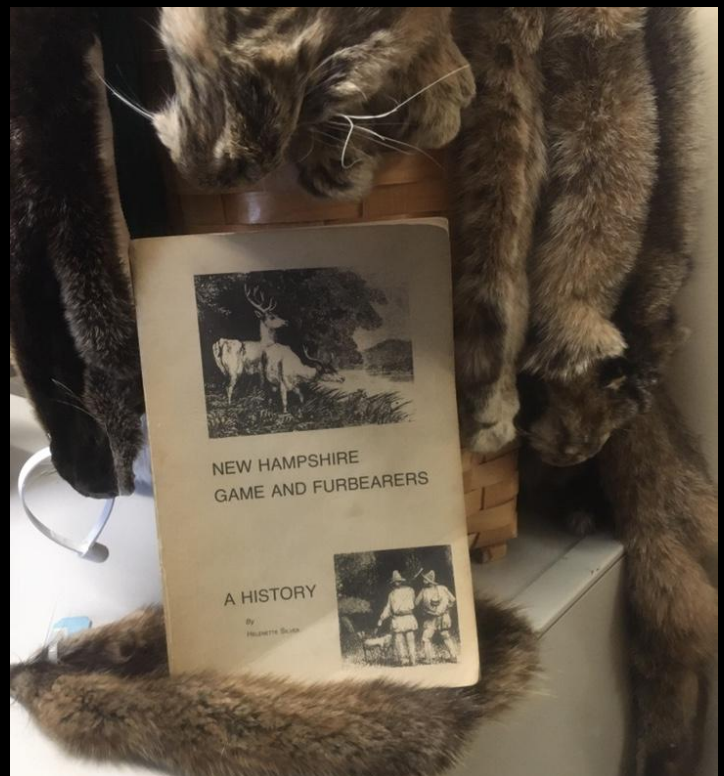
TITLE XVIII FISH AND GAME

Chapter 207 GENERAL PROVISIONS AS TO FISH AND GAME

Definitions, Inclusions, Methods of Taking, Etc

207:1 Definitions. –

- VIII. Fur-Bearing Animals: **Beaver**, otter, marten, sable, mink, fisher or fisher cat, raccoon, bobcat, fox, coyote, opossum, weasel, skunk, and muskrat.



SPECIES REDISTRIBUTIONS

New Hampshire Beaver

- 1905
 - NH Beaver Season Closed
- 1915 - Population estimated at 240 in Coos County (Absent south of Coos County)
- 1920-1940
 - Beavers trapped in Coos County and transported to other NH counties by NHFG staff.
 - 7,000 estimated statewide population by 1940 (Limited beaver season was opened during 1940)
- 1955
 - Carrying capacity reported to be reached

BEAVER DAMS

- Slow moving streams
- Ponds
- Springs



AGENCY POWERS

- **206:10 Powers and Duties.** –
I. ...”The executive director shall, subject to the limitations hereinafter set forth, have the power and authority to adopt and enforce rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, for the adequate and effective control, management, restoration, conservation, and regulation of the fish, game, bird, and wildlife resources of the state,”
- ... “Such power and authority may be exercised with reference to the state as a whole, or for any specified county or part thereof, or for any lake, pond, stream, or part thereof”...
- **210:23 Authority of Fish and Game Executive Director.** – The executive director of the fish and game department with the approval of the commission may declare an open season or closed season on any fur-bearing animals in any town and county in the state. The executive director may make such other rules as necessary as to lengthening or shortening the seasons, bag limits, reporting requirements, and the method and manner of taking, in accordance with RSA 541-A

PROTECTION OF BEAVER

- **210:9 Protection of Beaver.** –
I. No person shall destroy or disturb or interfere in any manner with the dams or houses of beaver, without first obtaining a special permit from the executive director.
II. Notwithstanding paragraph I or any other provision of law or rule of the executive director or the department of environmental services, a landowner, the landowner's agent, or any town or municipal or state official or employee, may destroy beaver, remove beaver dams, or install beaver pipes or beaver fences on property under their control to protect property, public highways, or bridges from damage or submersion. **Dam removal** shall be allowed without a permit under RSA 482-A if machinery does not enter the water and filling or dredging in or adjacent to surface water, wetlands, or their banks does not occur. Removal shall be done in a gradual manner that does not allow a sudden release of impounded water so as to cause erosion, siltation, or a safety hazard downstream.
II-a. For purposes of paragraph II, the term "**beaver pipes**" means no more than **3 temporary structures** with the widest dimension **no larger than 15 inches** that is placed in a beaver dam to allow water passage to maintain a specific water surface elevation, and the term "**beaver fences**" means posts and **fencing installed at culverts** in such a manner as to either encourage or discourage beaver damming against the fence.
III. The executive director may require the reporting of beaver taken pursuant to paragraph II by rules made in accordance with RSA 541-A.
IV. Skins or unskinned carcasses taken under this section shall be sealed pursuant to RSA 210:8 before such skins or unskinned carcasses are sold or given away.
V. The executive director or his agents shall provide advice relative to beaver control techniques when requested.

PROPERTY PROTECTION

- Property Protection

- **207:26 Killing by Land Owner of Bird or Animal Inflicting Damage.** – A person may pursue, wound or kill, on land owned or occupied by such person, any unprotected bird or wild animal which the person finds in the act of doing actual and substantial damage to poultry, crops, domestic animals, or the person's property, and may authorize a family member, employee, or other person requested to do so under the provision of a depredation permit issued by the executive director pursuant to RSA 207:22-c, III.
- **207:30 Rights Reserved.** – The provisions of this subdivision shall not impair the constitutional rights of persons to protect themselves or their property from injury or destruction by wild birds, game, or fur-bearing animals, protected by the laws of this state.

- Wildlife Control Operator Program

SPECIES TAKE & MONITORING

Beaver

