

## **Russian Wild Sable**

This is a summary of the Russian Wild Sable sector. Further detailed information, including legislation is available but in Russian language. Translations can be provided.

The trapping and trading of furs has been government-controlled and economically significant in Russia since the 9th Century when furs were used as an equivalent for money. Taxes to princes were mainly paid with fur at that time, and the fur trade was the main source of gold and silver for the Medieval Russian state. One motivation for the expansion of the Russian state into Siberia between the 15th to 19th centuries was for the access to new sources of fur. Russian borders in Siberia largely coincided with the range of available sable.



There are 55,000 professional trappers and 25,000 part-time trappers in Russia, with the total number of people economically dependent on the fur trade estimated at 400,000. Sable trapping is regulated by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and its regional branches. Trapping is of paramount importance for the socio-economic stability of the indigenous populations in the rural regions in the north of Russia, Siberia and the Russian Far East. The fur trade provides the economic opportunity to acquire what they cannot get from nature or self-produce.

Indigenous people have the right to harvest any animal all year round to maintain a traditional lifestyle although they are controlled by government and inspectors. Each indigenous hunter must have a hunting licence, prove that they are a member of the indigenous people of the North Community and hunts because of the traditional lifestyle. They then receive a special 'indigenous people' stamp in their license that allows them certain benefits. The stamp is subject to review at which point the indigenous hunter must prove that their circumstances have not changed. Indigenous hunters must declare how many skins they have in order that the harvesting volumes are also under control of the inspectors.

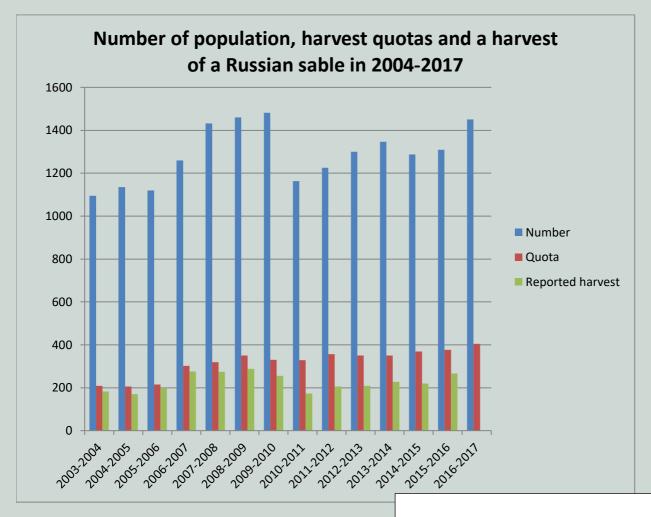




Russia is a signatory to the Agreement of International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS). Indigenous hunters use traps that are considered as humane in the AIHTS.

Hunting regions range from the Taiga zone on the eastern slopes of the Urals to the Pacific coastline. Hunting and trapping territories are granted for long-term rent, and so it is in the interest of the landowner to preserve and potentially increase the number of sable on their property. To trap sable, each hunter is required to have a licence. A hunter can only harvest the allowed number of sable in accordance with the quota in their region. In each region there is a hunting supervisory authority that conducts spot checks on the status of hunting grounds, hunters and trappers.

Based on official calculations, the population of sable is estimated at a minimum of 1.3 million. It is this figure that is used to calculate production quotas.





**Range**: the whole taiga zone from the eastern slopes of Ural to the coast of the Pacific Ocean **Population number**: 1,2 – 1,4 million **Average year harvest**: 200-250K +about 300-350K of indigenous harvest

> In 2018, the IFF commissioned an independent study to monitor the number of wild sables in Russia to ensure that they are sourced sustainably. Once this study is complete, recommendations will be made on how to monitor and maintain the optimal sable population level for harvesting purposes.

The results will be publish in October 2019.

# Statutory Regulation of Sable Harvest. Right to Harvest Sable.

#### FEDERAL HUNTIG ACT

Article 2. Basic Principles of Regulation of Hunting and Conservation of Hunting of Animals

• 5. The methods and gears used for the harvest of animals have to be humane and avoid cruelty.

Article 19. Indigenous people have rights to harvest any wild animals all year round and without any permission.

#### Article 22. Limitations and Restrictions of Hunting

• 2. Gears and methods used for hunting have to meet International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS).

**Article 24.** Sable is to be harvested in accordance with annual quotas established by the provincial governments and approved on a federal level.

→ The quotas are dynamic and established based on the data collected by state monitoring of a number, age, number and structure of the population

#### FEDERAL TAX CODE

**Article 333.3.** A hunter must pay a royalty in order to receive a har- vest permit. The royalty is about EUR 1.6 for every sable. After a payment a hunter should to get a harvest permit for a number of sables he has paid. If they have paid for three permits, they are only allowed to harvest three sable.

#### FEDERAL ACT 'ON ANIMALS'

**Article 12. Basic Principles of the State Management of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Animals**. Any use of the animal must be made with methods that prevent cruelty and suffering of the animal and in accordance to general principles of humanity.

#### **RULES OF HUNTING**

#### Section VII: Requirements to Capturing, Trapping and Shooting of Hunting Animals

- 51. The capturing, trapping and shooting of hunted animals must meet be humane and avoid cruelty.
- 52. It is unlawful to:
  - $\rightarrow$  **52.1.1** Use conventional steel-jaw holding traps for the harvest of sable (and others).

## Rules and producers of Sable Harvest and Trade in Sable Skins

- 1. Before the start of trapping season, a trapper has to get the harvest permit for required number of sables.
- 2. At the end of the season a trapper should indicate the number of sables harvested in their permit sheet and to return it back to the local hunting inspectorate

3. Trapper sells skins to landholder (if a trapper is an employee) or to middlemen (if a trapper is self-employed)

4. A buyer is responsible for screening of skins by a veterinary specialist who has to issue a veterinary certificate and to seal skins

5. Skins are to be passed to auction



Conibear-like and other types of "gothrough" human traps



Traditional wooden traps



Shooting (laika dogs and small-bore rifles charged for .22 rim-fire cartridges)

# Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS)

Russia is a signatory to the Agreement of International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS). Indigenous hunters use traps that are considered as humane in the AIHTS. The Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia is the authority responsible for the implementation of the AIHTS agreement. As well as AIHTS, a memorandum of understanding was established in 2017 with the Fur Institute of Canada on humane trapping.

#### Decree of the government of the Russian federation

**February 26, 1998 r. # 253** "On Agreement on international humane trapping standards between the European Community, Canada and the Russian Federation".

#### Federal act on the ratification

The Agreement was signed by the special representative of Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brussels at April 22, 1998. The Agreement was ratified by the Federal Act of April 26, 2008 #52-FZ.

#### Decree of the government of the Russian federation

The Government of the Russian Federation appointed the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) as a competent authority for AIHTS implementation.

#### The order of the Ministry of the Environment

MNRE appointed "<u>Centerokhotcontrol</u>" in responsibility for practical implementation of MNRE competence for AIHTS.

## **Trap Certification**

Russia's trap certification system was established on the basis of 'Centerokhotkontrol' (The Control Information and Analytic Centre of Hunting Animals and Their Habitats) in 2016. Four standards were developed and approved for traps and testing procedures in accordance with ISO documents. The resulting procedure requires laboratory and field tests (carried out using state experimental hunting enterprise 'Mechshera'), after which the results are analysed and, if a sufficiently high score is achieved, a certificate for the certified trap is issued.

There are four main traps producers in Russia:

- Steel Element, City of Kirov
- Tropa (Path), City of Kirov
- Sreduralavtostroy, Ural Region
- TONAR, City of Barnaul

In order to promote an exchange of data on trapping, a Memorandum of Understanding between The Control Information and Analytic Centre of Hunting Animals, The Habitats of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation and The Fur Institute of Canada was signed in 2017.

The main aim of this document is to promote an exchange of actual data and information relevant to traps certification. Actual data on mechanical characteristics of certified Canadian traps was got from Fur Institute of Canada.

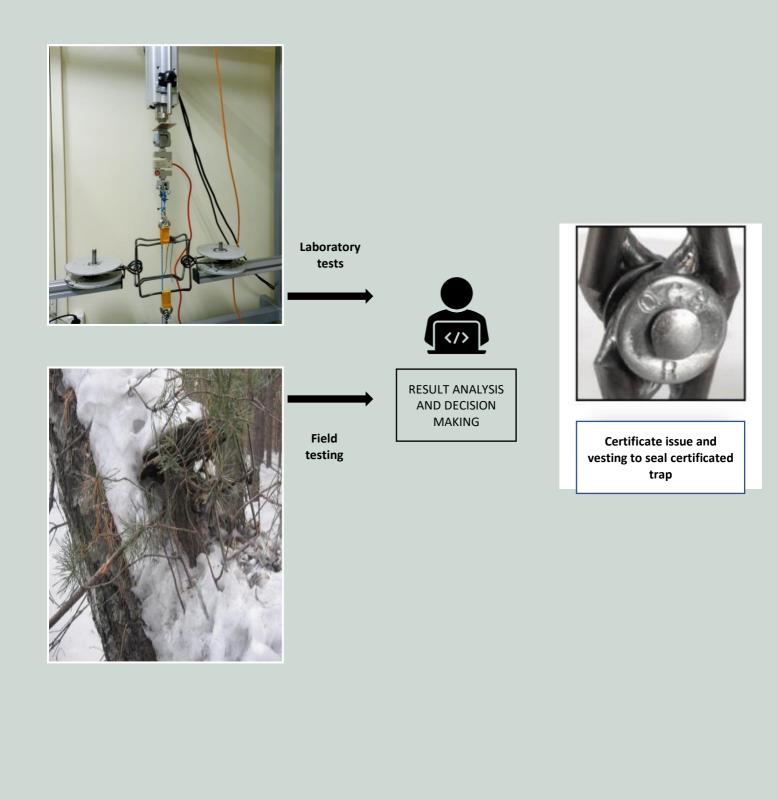
#### **Traps Certification. System for Voluntary Certification**



#### **Traps Certification. Development of Standards and Supporting Documents**

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# Traps Certification. Procedure.

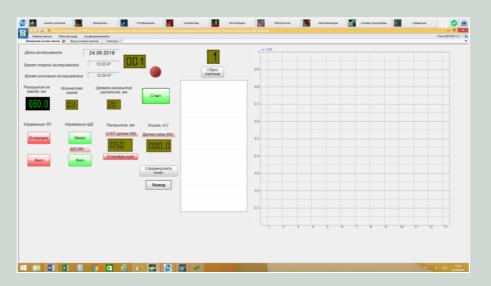


Test-frame for "go-through" traps





Interface of the testing soft



# **Traps certification. Field Testing**



Field testing of traps is to be run on base of the State Experimental Hunting Enterprise "Mechshera

#### Test-frame for restraining traps

# Legality and Traceability

Once the skin is harvested, the state body checks it for disease and also for a trapping permit. A veterinary certificate is then issued by the state body and supplied with the tags of the state veterinary administration. The certificate is stored on an electronic database called Mercury that allows the tracing of pelts from trapping to auction house.

In 2016, the Eurasian Economic Union (Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgystan) introduced mandatory labelling of fur products with RFID chips. Violation of the law leads to significant fines and the confiscation of goods and results in a criminal charge. The introduction of this labeling system has, therefore, created a traceability tool that has clamped down on the illegal circulation of fur products in the Russian Federation. It has also created equal business conditions for all market participants and allows consumers to verify the origin of their goods.



- Sable population is under the permanent (annual) monitoring
- Sable is harvested in accordance to annually established quotas
- Trapping of and trade in sable are controlled at all stages (Hunting Inspection, Veterinary controlling service)
- Methods of harvest meet the standards of human harvest of wild animals

### Wild sable auction certification

