I live in the south and my grey fox catch is great the first few checks and then drops to nothing, what am I doing wrong?

Join the club pal! Grey fox are not hard to catch and their home range is relatively small. When you're on location you can put the hurts to them real quick. Every trip south that I take it seems that there is a grey fox in a trap around every corner the first couple days and by the end of the week I will come back to camp after running all day and have one or two and sometimes none. Looking at my records from a trip six years ago with a partner is a prime example. Our grey fox catch was 14, 24, 12, 6, 2, 2, 1, 1. The second check beat the first check simply because we had twice as many traps out after another day of setting. The coyote count was a bit higher and in the opposite order with most of the coyotes coming at the end of the week of trapping. If I was running for grey fox only I would totally move my line every 3 to 4 days. When I retire and can be gone for longer periods of time I intend on doing just that. Set heavy and keep moving to fresh ground.

I used to do real good on bobcats but my catch seems to be getting less every year. What gives?

Bobcats are very susceptible to trapping and reproduce slowly. It is amazing what happens when you have enough land to let it rest a year. When I head south to trap the same properties two years in a row I find my bobcat catch will fall by 25-50% the second year. The other option is to harvest the Toms and let some females go. You are doing the cat population a favor by removing some Toms though as they are tough on the kittens. I'm trapping relatively low dollar cats so I don't mind turning some females loose, not so easy to do when a female western cat might bring 5 bills or better!

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**Rob's Tip on Adjusting the Pan Tension on MB-550’s**

Although the MB-550 traps come out of the box with approximately 2.5 lbs. of pan tension, some trappers inquire about how to adjust the trap to a lesser tension.

Below you will see how easy and permanent it is to adjust the tension. The MB-550 and MB-450 incorporate a Paws-I-Trip pan system. These systems are tension adjustable by bending the dog up or down. To decrease pan tension simply bend the dog down. Each 5 degree’s you bend the dog down you will achieve approximately a ½ pound less of tension. We recommend bending the dog from ¼” to ½” from the notch end.

The pictures below show a stock trap on left and on the right a trap with a dog bent approximately 10 degrees to achieve 1 1/2 lbs. of pan tension.