



## Nutria Eradication Program Update

Since implementing the Nutria Eradication Incident Command System in March 2018, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's redirected field crews, along with three USDA-Wildlife Services trappers and the California Department of Food and Agriculture's delimitation crews, have:

- Completed full and/or rapid assessments on over 480K acres
- Set up 753 camera stations
  - Conducted over 2845 camera checks
- Confirmed nutria within 143 [40-acre] cells (Figure 1)
- Deployed 1269 trap sets for a total of 16018 trap nights
- Taken or accounted for the take of 525 nutria (since Mar 2017)
  - Merced- 438
  - San Joaquin- 69 (68 from Walthall Slough)
  - Stanislaus- 15
  - Mariposa- 2
  - Fresno- 1
  
- Of 521 necropsies:
  - 1.18 sex ratio (M:F)
  - Of the females captured:
    - 25% of juvenile (2-6 mos.) females have been pregnant
    - 59% of subadult (6-14 mos.) females have been pregnant
    - 75% of adult (>14 months of age) females have been pregnant
  - Along with the pregnant females, 626 fetal nutria have been removed from the population
  - Litter size ranged from 2-11, with an average of 6.1
    - Average litter size for adult females (> 14 mos.) is 6.8

With dedicated program funding anticipated through the Governor's FY 19-20 budget and grants from the Wildlife Conservation Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (SSJDC), including a new \$8.5 M award from the SSJDC, the Department is currently building a dedicated team of 30-40 to eradicate nutria from California. The Department expects to transition from the ICS into the dedicated program during summer 2019.

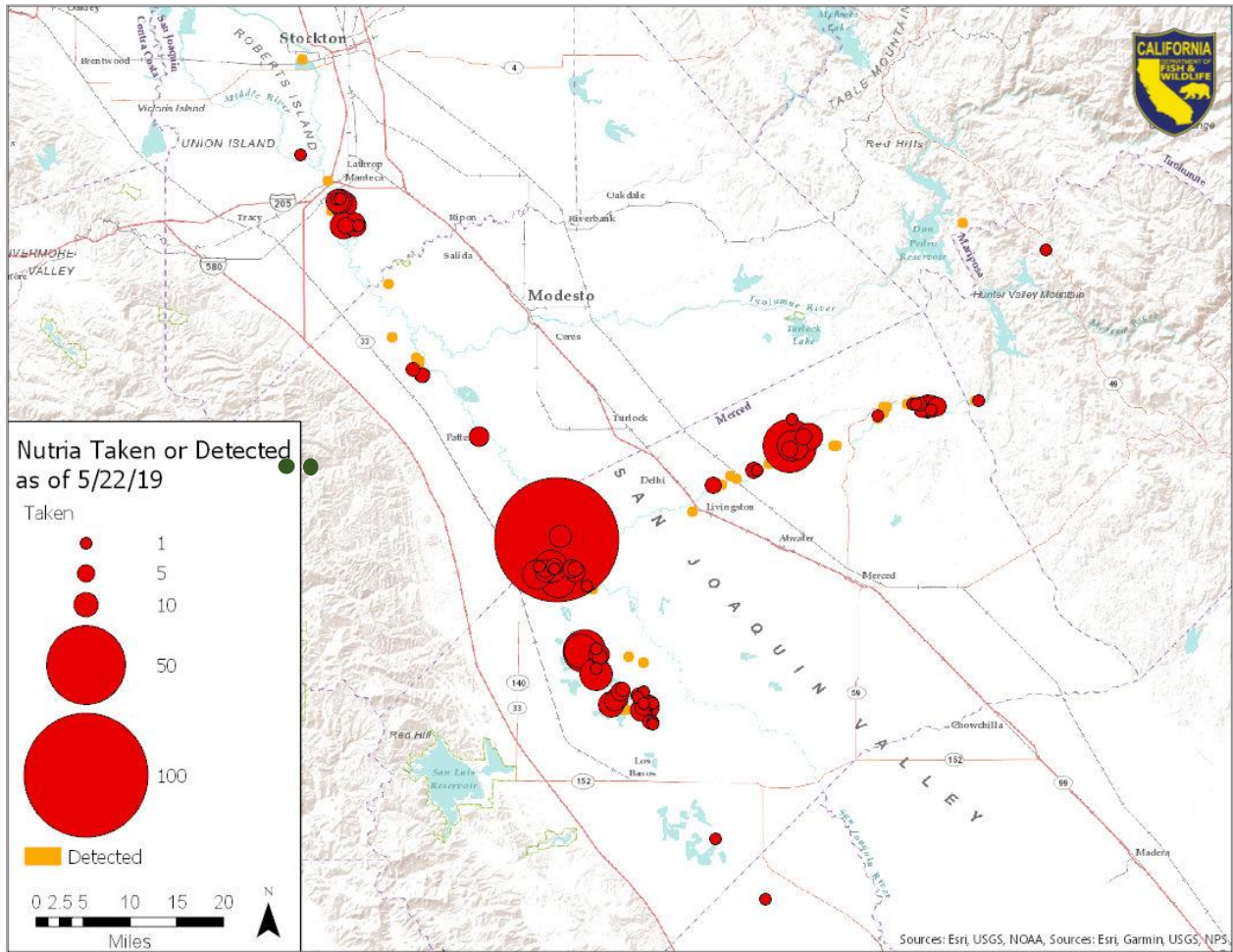


Figure 1. As of June 2019, 525 nutria have been taken or otherwise confirmed taken in California, with the following distribution of take by county: Merced – 438; San Joaquin – 69; Stanislaus – 15; Mariposa – 2; Fresno – 1; Tuolumne – 0; confirmed present. Map of take densities by 40-acre cell is as of 5/22/19.