



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 817 camera stations
 - Conducted over 3354 camera checks
- Confirmed nutria within 146 [40-acre] cells
- Deployed 1354 trap sets for a total of 17,453 trap nights
- Taken or accounted for the take of 593 nutria (since Mar 2017; Figure 1)
 - Merced- 483
 - San Joaquin- 69 (68 from Walthall Slough)
 - Stanislaus- 38
 - 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
 - Litter size ranged from 2-11, with an average of 6.1
 - Average litter size for adult females (> 14 mos.) is 6.8

San Joaquin County: No additional nutria have been detected or taken from Walthall Slough since June 7, 2019. Following the May 7, 2019, confirmed nutria detection at Rough and Ready Island, additional camera stations and traps were deployed throughout Burns Cutoff. No nutria have been captured in the vicinity, nor have any additional nutria detections occurred, which indicates the individual was likely a dispersing male that was passing through the area. Baited camera stations continue to monitor the area.

Stanislaus County: On July 1, 2019, CDFW received a report and confirmed images of a male, road-killed nutria near Grayson. The location of the roadkill is within a known infested site, previously trapped during 2018, and is assigned for trapping to resume. Following confirmed detections on the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge (SJR NWR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staff have begun trapping efforts in their permanent wetlands and have subsequently removed 25 nutria from the SJR NWR.

Merced County: On July 2, 2019, CDFW received a report and confirmed images of a nutria carcass adjacent to the Le Grand canal at the UC-Merced campus. Though this location is approximately 11.5 linear miles from the Merced River, it is hydrologically connected via a series of irrigation district canals. USFWS staff have confirmed nutria on Merced NWR and subsequently trapped and removed 11 individuals. Where summer water persists, survey and trapping efforts continue in the Grasslands.

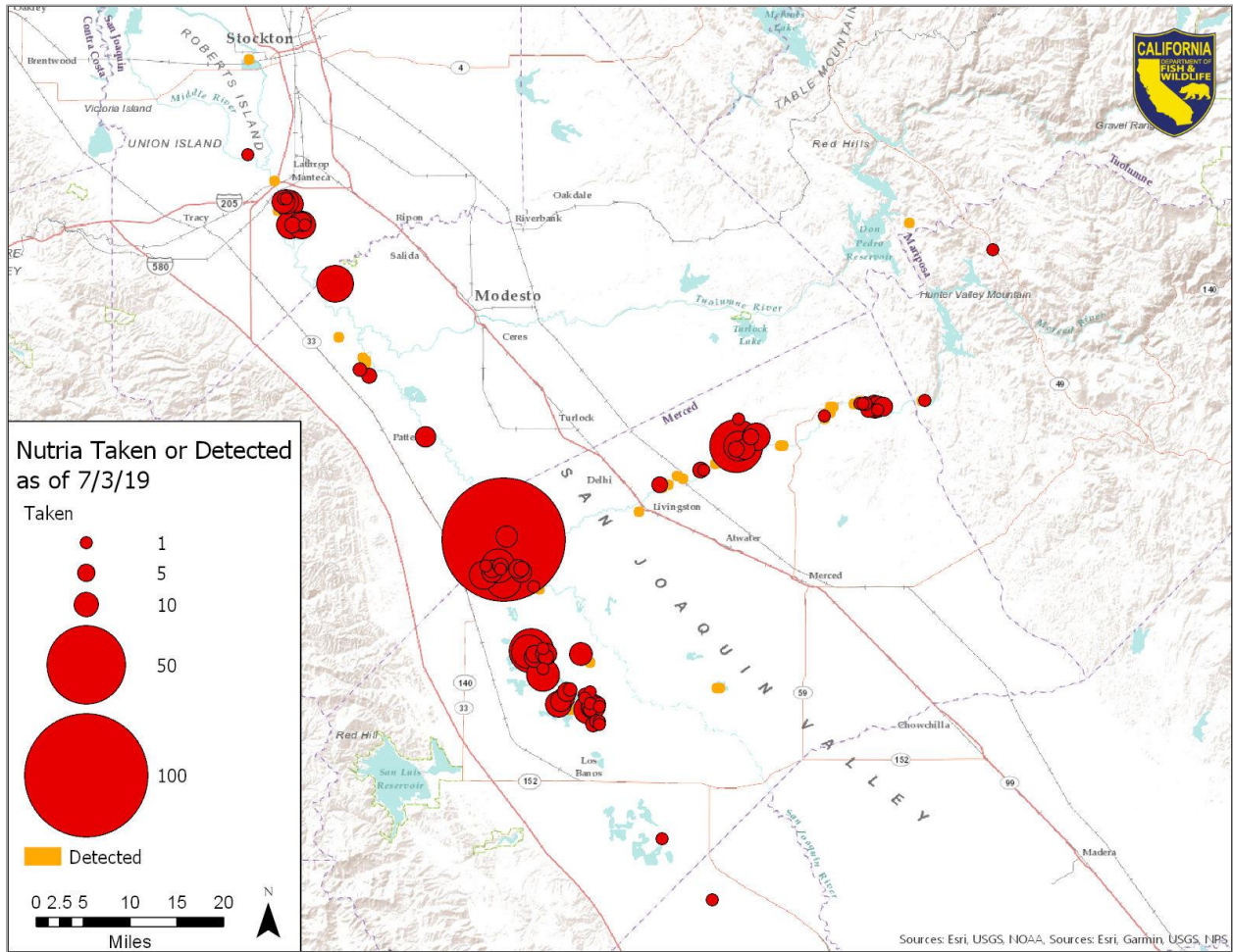


Figure 1. As of July 9, 2019, 593 nutria have been taken or otherwise confirmed taken in California, with the following distribution of take by county: Merced – 483; San Joaquin – 69; Stanislaus – 38; Mariposa – 2; Fresno – 1; Tuolumne – 0; confirmed present.