

LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS REPORT
1976-77

A total of 1,692 trapping licenses were sold in the 1976-77 fur trapping season. This is an increase of 82% from the 931 licenses sold in 1975-76 and an increase of 44% from the 1,172 sold in the 1974-75 trapping season.

Legislation enacted in 1974 requires every person who now takes furbearing or nongame mammals for profit to purchase a trapping license. The fees are \$10 adult, \$5 juvenile and \$25 nonresident.

	<u>1975-76</u>	<u>1976-77</u>
Licenses Who Reported Trapping Effort	598	786
Licenses Who Reported But Did Not Trap or Were Unsuccessful	126	155
Licenses Not Reporting	207	751
Total Licenses Sold	931	1,692

Revenue received by trappers from the sale of furs in 1976-77 based on average prices paid by fur buyers was \$855,314.00. This represents an increase of 19% from the \$719,431.00 reported for the 1975-76 season (Table 1). The average income for successful trappers in 1976-77 was \$1,088. This is a decrease of 11% from the \$1,221 per trapper in 1975-76.

Each year a portion of the fur harvest is reported unsold. During the 1976-77 season 5% was unsold, about the same as last season. For the purpose of this report unsold pelts have the same monetary value as sold pelts. Therefore, the estimated value of the 1976-77 fur harvest was \$895,603, an increase of 24% from the \$767,437 for 1975-76.

Bobcat, for the second successive year, was the most economically important animal providing fur. The 3,618 bobcat taken is 64% more than last season's 2,203 and represents 4.4% of the 1976-77 catch. The average price paid for bobcat pelts was \$76, a 33% decrease from the \$113.50 paid in 1975-76. This resulted in a drop of 6% in the total revenue provided by bobcat fur.

Muskrats accounted for 72% of the total harvest. However, the 59,076 muskrats taken is only 19% fewer than the 1975-76 season despite severe drought conditions throughout the state. The average price paid for muskrat pelts was \$4.25, an increase of 47% from the \$3.20 paid in 1975-76.

Other furbearers represented 23.6% of the total reported harvest (Table 2). Spotted skunk is the only species other than muskrat with a smaller harvest this season than last season. The increased harvest of the other species noted this season was: badger 179%, beaver 41%, coyote 59%, gray fox 104%, mink 4%, opossum 43%, raccoon 66%, striped skunk 57%.

No furs were reported taken in Orange and San Francisco counties.

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF ANIMALS TAKEN, RANGE OF PRICES PAID, AVERAGE PRICES PAID^{1/2}, AND REVENUE RECEIVED, BY SPECIES
1975-76 AND 1976-77

SPECIES	1975-76					1976-77								
	HARVEST		FUR VALUE			HARVEST		FUR VALUE						
	SOLD	UNSOLD	TOTAL	MAX.	MIN.	AVG.	REVENUE	SOLD	UNSOLD	TOTAL	MAX.	MIN.	AVG.	REVENUE
Badger	88	19	107	\$ 30.00	\$ 1.50	\$ 18.75	\$ 1,650.00	254	45	299	\$ 30.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 2,286.00
Beaver	742	114	856	25.00	3.00	15.00	11,130.00	1,036	174	1,210	22.00	2.00	10.00	10,360.00
Bobcat	2,096	107	2,203	300.00	10.00	133.50	279,816.00	3,469	149	3,618	225.00	15.00	76.00	263,644.00
Coyote	2,717	340	3,057	50.00	2.00	29.20	79,336.40	4,567	288	4,855	70.00	10.00	32.00	146,144.00
Gray fox	1,717	163	1,880	25.00	5.00	24.80	42,581.60	3,713	120	3,833	36.00	10.00	25.00	92,825.00
Mink	430	140	570	15.00	2.00	10.40	4,472.00	504	91	595	14.00	3.00	7.50	3,780.00
Muskrat	70,962	1,825	72,787	4.50	.50	3.20	227,078.40	57,917	1,159	59,076	5.50	1.00	4.25	246,147.25
Opossum	367	128	495	2.50	.25	1.70	623.90	541	165	706	2.50	.50	1.50	811.50
Raccoon	3,132	357	3,489	26.00	4.00	22.80	71,409.60	5,459	347	5,806	25.00	5.00	16.00	87,344.00
Spotted Skunk	113	167	280	5.00	.50	2.50	282.50	102	125	227	8.00	2.00	4.50	459.00
Striped Skunk	524	806	1,330	3.50	.50	2.00	1,048.00	605	1,465	2,070	3.50	.50	2.50	1,512.50
Weasel	4	2	6	1.00	.25	.75	3.00	2	12	14	1.00	.25	.50	1.00
Total	82,889	4,168	87,060				\$719,431.40	78,169	4,140	82,309				\$855,314.25

^{1/2}fur values determined from average prices paid as reported by fur buyers for #1 and #2 dressable furs.

TABLE 2

NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED TAKEN BY LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS BY SPECIES AND COUNTY
1976-77 TRAPPING SEASON

County of Catch	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Gray Fox	Mink	Muskrat	Opossum	Raccoon	Spotted Skunk	Striped Skunk	Weasel	Total
Alameda	-	1	10	6	17	2	14	47	32	-	39	-	168
Alpine	1	-	5	35	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	44
Amador	-	-	15	27	30	-	-	2	61	-	103	-	238
Butte	-	129	62	65	218	17	6,422	47	642	5	-	-	7,607
Calaveras	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	22
Colusa	-	10	5	14	3	-	3,125	6	19	-	-	-	3,182
Contra Costa	2	22	-	-	61	15	1,731	27	271	-	-	-	2,129
Del Norte	-	18	80	16	21	-	25	1	32	-	-	1	194
El Dorado	1	20	62	74	52	2	53	4	147	-	11	-	426
Fresno	45	14	159	295	100	12	847	28	72	24	15	-	1,611
Glenn	1	40	39	35	192	2	4,570	20	210	11	37	-	5,157
Humboldt	4	25	298	16	335	4	100	-	509	45	154	6	1,496
Imperial	6	-	5	10	12	-	122	-	9	5	20	-	189
Inyo	14	16	136	215	26	-	-	-	28	2	2	-	439
Kern	-	6	42	23	32	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	106
Kings	4	-	10	13	7	-	14	-	9	-	12	-	69
Lake	-	7	111	50	312	7	110	1	170	8	99	-	875
Lassen	22	39	132	399	26	4	1,587	-	57	10	67	1	2,344
Los Angeles	-	-	40	62	60	-	-	1	25	-	41	-	229
Madera	-	5	14	43	1	-	376	-	-	-	8	-	447
Marin	-	-	18	-	34	-	-	-	9	-	20	-	81
Mariposa	2	-	29	51	20	-	8	7	18	3	39	-	177
Mendocino	1	-	177	28	181	3	4	-	334	10	97	-	835
Merced	2	13	11	126	6	50	3,460	35	162	3	40	-	3,908
Modoc	68	27	128	382	-	67	2,314	-	85	5	24	1	3,101
Mono	6	59	97	371	22	7	119	-	18	6	1	-	706
Monterey	11	6	104	33	186	-	103	85	50	6	78	-	662
Napa	-	-	19	9	23	-	21	-	70	-	11	-	153
Nevada	-	11	11	24	19	1	51	-	10	-	5	-	132
Orange	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Placer	1	31	11	25	63	13	622	6	78	2	7	-	859
Plumas	2	81	33	182	12	10	69	-	61	8	47	-	505
Riverside	4	-	47	86	25	-	95	7	11	1	1	-	277
Sacramento	-	96	5	18	21	46	2,215	45	242	-	20	-	2,708
San Benito	20	-	184	117	93	-	-	17	51	2	101	1	586
San Bernardino	16	-	216	348	128	-	-	2	6	8	1	-	725
San Diego	4	-	149	307	114	-	2	8	32	7	10	2	635
San Francisco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Joaquin	1	96	9	5	71	104	2,618	6	112	-	11	-	3,033
San Luis Obispo	-	-	53	27	119	-	-	15	4	5	70	-	293
San Mateo	1	-	45	49	14	-	-	8	18	-	12	-	147
Santa Barbara	9	-	195	65	74	-	-	31	9	-	72	-	455
Santa Clara	-	-	12	5	9	-	-	4	9	-	21	-	60
Santa Cruz	-	-	12	15	13	-	-	4	3	-	17	-	64
Shasta	12	82	193	378	227	3	6,679	19	459	11	170	-	8,233
Sierra	3	39	6	25	6	-	-	-	22	-	1	-	102
Siskiyou	26	42	118	231	39	179	4,342	-	119	10	75	-	5,181
Solano	-	40	47	44	85	7	3,812	2	248	5	49	-	4,339
Sonoma	-	-	24	-	28	-	1	-	104	11	22	1	191
Stanislaus	-	59	3	29	102	15	1,659	77	278	-	5	1	2,228
Sutter	-	64	-	-	21	-	2,018	20	80	-	2	-	2,205
Tehama	3	39	107	181	218	-	205	55	296	10	316	-	1,430
Trinity	-	2	52	47	109	20	-	-	73	1	10	-	314
Tulare	5	10	171	99	87	-	-	27	124	-	3	-	526
Tuolumne	-	-	31	63	33	-	-	1	35	-	11	-	174
Ventura	2	-	38	50	57	-	-	18	6	-	10	-	181
Yolo	-	31	30	7	36	5	4,261	16	124	3	45	-	4,558
Yuba	-	30	8	21	33	-	5,302	4	137	-	38	-	5,573
Total Animals Trapped	299	1,210	3,618	4,855	3,833	595	59,076	706	5,806	227	2,070	14	82,309
Percent of Total Catch	.4	1.5	4.4	5.9	4.7	.7	71.7	.9	7	.3	2.5	.02	