

LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS REPORT
1977-78

A total of 1,889 trapping licenses were sold in the 1977-78 fur trapping season. This is an increase of 12% from the 1,692 licenses sold in 1976-77 and an increase of 103% from the 931 sold in the 1975-76 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>1976-77</u>	<u>1977-78</u>
Licenseses Who Reported Trapping Effort	786	1,015
Licenseses Who Reported But Did Not Trap or Were Unsuccessful	155	310
Licenseses Not Reporting	751	564
Total Licenses Sold	1,692	1,889

Revenue received by trappers from the sale of furs in 1977-78 based on average prices paid by fur buyers at trapper's association fur sales was \$1,159,126.50. This is the highest fur revenue recorded and the first time the reported value has exceeded \$1,000,000. This record revenue also represents an increase of 36% from the \$855,314.00 reported for the 1976-77 season (Table 1). The average income for successful trappers in 1977-78 was \$1,142. This is an increase of 5% from the \$1,088 per trapper of 1976-77. However, this was not as high as the \$1,221.45 per trapper of 1975-76.

Each year a portion of the fur harvest is reported unsold. During 1977-78 season 6% was unsold, a slight increase from the 4 to 5% of recent seasons. For the purpose of this report unsold pelts have the same monetary value as marketed pelts. Therefore, the estimated value of the 1977-78 fur harvest was \$1,225,631.50, an increase of 37% from the \$895,603 for 1976-77.

Bobcats, for the third successive year, were the most economically important animals providing fur. Although 5,111 bobcat export tags were sold in the first year tags were required for out-of-state shipment of bobcat furs, holders of trapping licenses only reported the take of 4,445 bobcats.

The reported take of 4,445 is an increase of 23% over the reported take of 3,618 bobcats taken in 1976-77 and represents 5.8% of the 1977-78 catch. The average price paid for bobcat pelts was \$106, an increase of 39% from the \$76 paid during 1976-77. However, the average price was still below the \$113.50 paid in 1975-76. The increased number of bobcat pelts taken and the increase in fur value resulted in an increase of 69%, to \$446,790.00, in the total revenue provided by bobcat fur.

Muskrats accounted for 63% of the total harvest. The 48,562 is a reduction of 18% from the 1976-77 season and of 33% from the 1975-76 season. This probably reflects the two year statewide drought which ended during the 1977-78 season. The average price paid for muskrat pelts was \$4.67, an increase of 10% from the \$4.25 paid in 1976-77.

Other furbearers represented 30.8% of the total reported harvest (Table 2). Coyote, gray fox and raccoon continue to be the dominant minor furs although if present trends continue coyotes could replace muskrats as the second most valuable furbearer in California. The take of furs of all species increased except for badger (down 9%), weasel (down 57%) and muskrat.

Furs were reported taken in all counties except San Francisco County.

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF ANIMALS TAKEN, AVERAGE PRICES PAID^{1/}, AND REVENUE RECEIVED, BY SPECIES
1976-77 AND 1977-78

SPECIES	1976-77						1977-78				
	HARVEST		TOTAL		FUR VALUE		HARVEST		FUR VALUE		
	SOLD	UNSOLD	MAX.	MIN.	AVG.	REVENUE	SOLD	UNSOLD	TOTAL	AVG.	REVENUE
Badger	254	45	\$30.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 2,286.00	231	40	271	\$ 12.00	\$ 2,772.00
Beaver	1,036	174	22.00	2.00	10.00	10,360.00	1,173	301	1,474	8.50	9,970.50
Bobcat	3,469	149	225.00	15.00	76.00	263,644.00	4,215	230	4,445	106.00	446,790.00
Coyote	4,567	288	70.00	10.00	32.00	146,144.00	5,920	521	6,441	32.00	189,440.00
Gray Fox	3,713	120	36.00	10.00	25.00	92,825.00	4,688	195	4,883	34.00	159,392.00
Mink	504	91	14.00	3.00	7.50	3,780.00	612	33	645	5.50	3,366.00
Muskrat	57,917	1,159	5.50	1.00	4.25	246,147.25	47,749	813	48,562	4.67	222,988.00
Opossum	541	165	2.50	.50	1.50	811.50	537	643	1,180	N.C. ^{2/}	N.C. ^{2/}
Raccoon	5,459	347	25.00	5.00	16.00	87,344.00	5,923	334	6,257	20.50	121,421.50
Spotted Skunk	102	125	8.00	2.00	4.50	459.00	141	158	299	9.00	1,269.00
Striped Skunk	605	1,465	3.50	.50	2.50	1,512.50	687	1,415	2,102	2.50	1,717.50
Weasel	2	12	1.00	.25	.50	1.00	3	3	6	N.C. ^{2/}	N.C. ^{2/}
Total	78,169	4,140	82,309			\$855,314.25	71,879	4,686	76,565		\$1,159,126.50

^{1/} Fur values determined from average prices paid as reported by fur dealers for 1976-77, and from average prices paid at California Trappers Association fur sales for 1977-78.

^{2/} Not calculated.

TABLE 2
 NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED TAKEN BY LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS BY SPECIES AND COUNTY
 1977-78 TRAPPING SEASON

COUNTY	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	GRAY FOX	MINK	MUSKRAT	OPOSSUM	RACCOON	SPOTTED SKUNK	STRIPED SKUNK	WEASEL	TOTAL
Alameda	-	-	1	19	6	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	49
Alpine	-	3	11	43	-	1	-	-	7	4	3	-	72
Amador	-	-	-	14	15	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	32
Butte	-	428	65	98	231	3	5,036	40	528	13	127	-	6,569
Calaveras	-	-	3	6	45	-	-	1	56	-	1	-	112
Colusa	-	37	11	32	39	2	3,174	3	46	1	9	-	3,354
Contra Costa	-	24	-	-	54	65	2,000	56	212	-	20	-	2,431
Del Norte	-	17	53	15	36	-	91	2	76	8	23	-	321
El Dorado	16	8	33	80	50	-	5	7	38	-	64	-	301
Fresno	18	20	173	204	135	12	557	32	125	1	56	-	1,343
Glenn	-	31	19	50	70	-	2,293	6	64	3	38	-	2,574
Humboldt	5	9	317	54	318	7	-	6	810	76	127	-	1,729
Imperial	3	-	3	47	8	-	68	-	4	-	-	-	133
Inyo	14	97	200	397	35	-	-	-	29	-	12	-	784
Kern	10	19	161	139	85	-	220	400	49	-	304	-	1,387
Kings	-	-	-	12	2	-	49	5	10	1	2	-	81
Lake	3	11	94	68	317	1	38	9	89	11	57	-	698
Lassen	21	27	79	339	2	6	1,199	-	29	3	41	1	1,747
Los Angeles	3	-	144	199	111	-	-	6	26	-	12	-	501
Madera	-	11	41	51	21	7	316	21	46	-	5	1	520
Marin	-	-	29	-	59	-	-	-	24	-	18	-	130
Mariposa	2	-	75	36	75	-	3	6	112	1	73	-	383
Mendocino	1	-	187	60	301	1	-	-	351	31	106	-	1,028
Merced	1	16	11	29	6	25	858	15	90	2	21	1	1,075
Modoc	52	24	169	691	4	47	1,614	2	53	19	32	-	2,707
Mono	12	24	89	236	8	-	-	-	19	2	-	-	390
Monterey	9	2	194	112	183	2	341	79	98	9	99	-	1,128
Napa	-	-	24	4	19	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	73
Nevada	4	4	3	21	7	-	6	5	21	-	2	-	73
Orange	-	-	2	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Placer	1	1	19	43	52	-	441	1	44	-	3	-	605
Plumas	12	85	60	296	43	28	101	-	57	6	8	-	696
Riverside	2	-	23	114	50	-	-	2	2	1	7	-	201
Sacramento	-	104	10	60	110	110	3,924	72	321	-	54	-	4,765
San Benito	2	-	102	73	88	-	-	5	10	-	11	-	291
San Bernardino	39	-	462	669	123	-	-	8	11	2	11	-	1,325
San Diego	4	-	157	267	283	-	-	12	37	12	24	-	796
San Francisco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Joaquin	1	73	1	1	80	128	3,479	77	192	1	30	-	4,063
San Luis Obispo	-	2	39	11	101	-	-	19	24	2	55	-	253
San Mateo	-	-	49	51	2	-	-	2	14	-	10	-	128
Santa Barbara	3	-	224	122	140	-	-	35	18	-	63	1	606
Santa Clara	-	-	23	31	12	-	-	7	33	-	33	-	139
Santa Cruz	-	-	18	26	10	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	60
Shasta	11	63	189	432	405	18	6,323	33	586	6	92	1	8,159
Sierra	-	17	27	154	7	-	68	-	-	-	-	-	273
Siskiyou	8	70	177	378	97	150	4,533	-	415	27	97	1	5,953
Solano	-	25	22	52	65	10	2,272	3	150	1	39	-	2,639
Sonoma	-	-	55	2	66	1	1	4	124	4	42	-	299
Stanislaus	1	29	14	76	72	4	1,289	72	163	7	36	-	1,763
Sutter	-	45	5	4	28	-	2,284	-	19	-	-	-	2,385
Tehama	4	96	107	258	285	2	494	76	379	17	171	-	1,889
Trinity	-	-	73	70	179	3	-	-	148	9	12	-	494
Tulare	8	1	300	66	159	-	-	7	135	10	11	-	697
Tuolumne	-	-	20	31	26	-	216	9	69	-	16	-	387
Ventura	1	-	49	42	69	-	-	16	13	-	4	-	194
Yolo	-	29	21	22	64	3	3,933	17	92	9	18	-	4,208
Yuba	-	22	8	28	21	9	1,336	2	131	-	3	-	1,560
Total Animals Trapped	271	1,474	4,445	6,441	4,883	645	48,562	1,180	6,257	299	2,102	6	76,565
Percent of Total Catch	.35	1.9	5.8	8.4	6.4	.84	63.4	1.5	8.2	.4	2.7	.01	