

LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS REPORT  
1978-79

A total of 2,378 trapping licenses were sold during the 1978-79 trapping season. This is an increase of 26% from the 1,889 licenses sold in the 1977-78 season and an increase of 258% from the 664 licenses sold ten seasons ago in the 1969-70 season. However, this number of licenses is still below the 2,500 to 5,200 licenses sold annually during the 1920's.

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>1977-78</u> | <u>1978-79</u> |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Licensees Who Reported Trapping Effort                       | 1,015          | 1,378          |
| Licensees Who Reported But Did Not Trap or Were Unsuccessful | 310            | 385            |
| Licensees Not Reporting                                      | 564            | 615            |
| Total Licenses Sold  | 1,889          | 2,378          |

Revenue received by trappers from the sale of furs during the 1978-79 season, based on average prices paid by fur buyers at trapper's association fur sales, was \$2,399,565.30, and for the first time the reported fur revenue exceeded \$2,000,000. This is an increase of 107% from the revenue realized during the 1977-78 season of \$1,159,126.50 which previously had been the highest revenue recorded. The average income per successful trapper in 1978-79 reached a new high of \$1,741.34. This is an increase of 52% from the \$1,142 per trapper of 1977-78 and an increase of 43% from the previous high of \$1,221.45 per trapper of the 1975-76 season.

Each year a portion of the fur sale is reported unsold. During the 1978-79 season 5% was unsold, a slight decrease from the 6% of the 1977-78 season and similar to the percent reported unsold of previous seasons. Unsold pelts still have value, and for the purpose of this report they have the same monetary value as marketed pelts. Therefore, the estimated value of the 1978-79 fur harvest was up to \$2,663,310, an increase of 117% from the \$1,225,631.50 of the 1977-78 season.

Bobcats, as in recent years, were the most economically important animals providing fur. Although 7,974 bobcat export tags were sold in a program requiring bobcat tags for out-of-state shipment of bobcat furs, holders of trapping licenses only reported the take of 6,928 bobcats. This reported take is an increase of 56% over the reported take of 4,445 bobcats taken in 1977-78 and represents 6.9% of the 1978-79 catch. The average price paid for bobcat pelts was \$190.98, an increase of 80% from the \$106 paid during 1977-78 and above the previous high average price of \$113.50 of the 1975-76 season by 68%.

The increased number of bobcat pelts taken and the increased fur value resulted in a large increase of 153%, to \$1,130,219.60, in the total fur value. In other terms, the value of the bobcat fur in the 1978-79 season was 97.5% of the value of the total fur harvest taken during the 1977-78 season, the previous season of highest fur value recorded.

The economic value of muskrats, historically the most important furbearer economically, dropped in comparison to the economic value of gray foxes and coyotes. Despite the fact that the muskrat take was up 33%, there was little increase in fur value. The take of gray foxes and coyotes increased by 57% and 19% respectively and their prices both increased by about 55% resulting in total revenues, for each of these two species, higher than the revenue brought by muskrat furs.

However, the take of 64,455 muskrats represented 63.8% of the total take of animals, similar to representing 63% of the animals taken during 1977-78. The take of all species except beaver increased during the 1978-79 season over the 1977-78 season. The take of beavers in the 1978-79 season was down 39% from the previous season despite an increase of 68% in the average price per pelt.

As occurred in 1977-78, furs were reported taken in all counties except San Francisco County.

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF ANIMALS TAKEN, AVERAGE PRICES PAID<sup>1/</sup>, AND REVENUE RECEIVED, BY SPECIES  
1977-78 AND 1978-79

| SPECIES       | 1977-78 |        |           |                    | 1978-79            |        |           |         |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|---------------|---------|--------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|               | HARVEST |        | FUR VALUE |                    | HARVEST            |        | FUR VALUE |         |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|               | SOLD    | UNSOLD | TOTAL     | AVG.               | REVENUE            | SOLD   | UNSOLD    | TOTAL   | MAX.               | MIN.               | AVE.               | REVENUE            |
| Badger        | 231     | 40     | 271       | \$ 12.00           | \$ 2,772.00        | 309    | 58        | 367     | \$35.33            | \$ 2.00            | \$ 16.05           | \$ 4,959.45        |
| Beaver        | 1,173   | 301    | 1,474     | 8.50               | 9,970.50           | 717    | 185       | 902     | 40.88              | 4.38               | 14.31              | 10,260.27          |
| Bobcat        | 4,215   | 230    | 4,445     | 106.00             | 446,790.00         | 5,918  | 1,010     | 6,928   | 387.12             | 10.06              | 190.98             | 1,130,219.60       |
| Coyote        | 5,920   | 521    | 6,441     | 32.00              | 189,440.00         | 7,046  | 630       | 7,676   | 86.41              | 4.35               | 50.34              | 354,695.64         |
| Gray Fox      | 4,688   | 195    | 4,883     | 34.00              | 159,392.00         | 7,401  | 274       | 7,675   | 58.86              | 12.81              | 52.05              | 385,222.05         |
| Mink          | 612     | 33     | 645       | 5.50               | 3,366.00           | 753    | 48        | 801     | 20.09              | 4.32               | 9.46               | 7,123.38           |
| Muskrat       | 47,749  | 813    | 48,562    | 4.67               | 222,988.00         | 63,575 | 880       | 64,455  | 6.02               | 0.44               | 4.69               | 298,166.75         |
| Opossum       | 537     | 643    | 1,180     | N.C. <sup>2/</sup> | N.C. <sup>2/</sup> | 754    | 387       | 1,141   | 8.00               | 1.07               | 2.78               | 2,096.12           |
| Raccoon       | 5,923   | 334    | 6,257     | 20.50              | 121,421.50         | 7,974  | 403       | 8,377   | 50.00              | 1.59               | 25.12              | 200,306.88         |
| Spotted Skunk | 141     | 158    | 299       | 9.00               | 1,269.00           | 372    | 159       | 531     | N.C. <sup>2/</sup> | N.C. <sup>2/</sup> | 8.63               | 3,210.36           |
| Striped Skunk | 687     | 1,415  | 2,102     | 2.50               | 1,717.50           | 972    | 1,220     | 2,192   | N.C. <sup>2/</sup> | N.C. <sup>2/</sup> | 3.40               | 3,304.80           |
| Weasel        | 3       | 3      | 6         | N.C. <sup>2/</sup> | N.C. <sup>2/</sup> | 8      | 8         | 8       | N.C. <sup>2/</sup> | N.C. <sup>2/</sup> | N.C. <sup>2/</sup> | N.C. <sup>2/</sup> |
| Total         | 71,879  | 4,686  | 76,565    |                    | \$1,159,126.50     | 95,791 | 5,262     | 101,053 |                    |                    |                    | \$2,399,565.30     |

<sup>1/</sup> Fur values determined from average prices paid at California Trappers Association fur sales.

<sup>2/</sup> Not calculated.

TABLE 2  
 NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED TAKEN BY LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS BY SPECIES AND COUNTY  
 1978-79 TRAPPING SEASON

| COUNTY                        | GRAY       |            |              |              |              |            |               |              |              | SPOTTED SKUNK | STRIPED SKUNK | WEASEL     | TOTAL          |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|----------------|
|                               | BADGER     | BEAVER     | BOBCAT       | COYOTE       | FOX          | MINK       | MUSKRAT       | OPOSSUM      | RACCOON      |               |               |            |                |
| Alameda                       | -          | -          | 3            | 4            | 24           | -          | -             | 14           | 61           | -             | 11            | -          | 117            |
| Alpine                        | -          | -          | 19           | 20           | 1            | -          | -             | -            | 3            | 6             | 6             | -          | 55             |
| Amador                        | -          | -          | 7            | 10           | 4            | -          | -             | -            | 26           | -             | -             | -          | 47             |
| Butte                         | 20         | 58         | 46           | 52           | 301          | 3          | 5,699         | 107          | 536          | 26            | 173           | -          | 7,021          |
| Calaveras                     | -          | -          | 19           | 12           | 50           | -          | -             | 2            | 59           | -             | -             | -          | 142            |
| Colusa                        | -          | 32         | 15           | 28           | 10           | -          | 5,615         | 4            | 35           | -             | 4             | -          | 5,743          |
| Contra Costa                  | -          | 10         | -            | -            | 17           | 85         | 1,614         | 43           | 136          | -             | -             | -          | 1,905          |
| Del Norte                     | -          | 15         | 146          | 32           | 89           | 1          | 48            | -            | 203          | 21            | 26            | -          | 581            |
| El Dorado                     | -          | 3          | 29           | 24           | 65           | 1          | 16            | 3            | 174          | 6             | 28            | -          | 350            |
| Fresno                        | 14         | -          | 206          | 229          | 92           | 18         | 1,121         | 27           | 127          | -             | -             | -          | 1,834          |
| Glenn                         | -          | 28         | 59           | 89           | 257          | -          | 8,463         | 12           | 112          | 22            | 20            | -          | 9,062          |
| Humboldt                      | 1          | -          | 474          | 60           | 648          | 10         | 22            | -            | 1,161        | 60            | 94            | 1          | 2,531          |
| Imperial                      | 7          | 5          | 13           | 92           | 59           | -          | 94            | -            | 20           | -             | -             | -          | 290            |
| Inyo                          | 27         | 46         | 291          | 370          | 92           | -          | -             | -            | 45           | 2             | 42            | -          | 915            |
| Kern                          | 6          | 5          | 329          | 160          | 119          | -          | -             | 1            | 41           | 2             | 17            | -          | 680            |
| Kings                         | 4          | -          | 15           | 18           | 16           | -          | -             | 10           | 1            | -             | 5             | -          | 69             |
| Lake                          | 3          | -          | 158          | 65           | 441          | -          | -             | -            | 166          | 52            | 27            | -          | 912            |
| Lassen                        | 45         | 52         | 205          | 605          | 3            | 1          | 3,448         | -            | 110          | 12            | 29            | 4          | 4,514          |
| Los Angeles                   | 3          | -          | 131          | 161          | 118          | -          | -             | 2            | 23           | -             | 5             | -          | 443            |
| Madera                        | 1          | -          | 80           | 57           | 44           | 8          | 260           | 25           | 46           | 5             | 44            | -          | 570            |
| Marin                         | -          | -          | 1            | 2            | 27           | -          | -             | 1            | 71           | -             | 22            | -          | 124            |
| Mariposa                      | 3          | -          | 98           | 91           | 64           | -          | -             | 18           | 110          | -             | 31            | -          | 415            |
| Mendocino                     | 1          | -          | 382          | 111          | 753          | 13         | 9             | 1            | 807          | 72            | 215           | -          | 2,364          |
| Merced                        | 1          | 15         | 11           | 98           | 26           | 24         | 1,933         | 52           | 209          | -             | 4             | -          | 2,373          |
| Modoc                         | 88         | 11         | 265          | 583          | 1            | 66         | 1,667         | -            | 44           | 8             | 13            | -          | 2,746          |
| Mono                          | 8          | 19         | 91           | 295          | 30           | -          | -             | 62           | 15           | 20            | 4             | -          | 544            |
| Monterey                      | 11         | -          | 327          | 88           | 305          | 2          | 213           | 39           | 135          | 18            | 228           | -          | 1,366          |
| Napa                          | -          | -          | 59           | 34           | 51           | 1          | 3             | 1            | 57           | 9             | 21            | -          | 236            |
| Nevada                        | -          | -          | 2            | 21           | 6            | -          | 15            | -            | 30           | -             | -             | -          | 74             |
| Orange                        | -          | -          | 11           | 44           | 23           | -          | 62            | 14           | 3            | 1             | 4             | -          | 162            |
| Placer                        | -          | 8          | 11           | 54           | 27           | 3          | 852           | 7            | 43           | -             | 35            | -          | 1,040          |
| Plumas                        | 3          | 60         | 46           | 176          | 36           | 38         | 196           | -            | 123          | -             | 10            | -          | 688            |
| Riverside                     | 6          | 6          | 101          | 241          | 219          | -          | 154           | 17           | 19           | -             | 12            | -          | 775            |
| Sacramento                    | 1          | 100        | 1            | 21           | 65           | 59         | 4,199         | 80           | 255          | -             | 62            | -          | 4,843          |
| San Benito                    | 8          | -          | 187          | 186          | 81           | -          | 34            | -            | 45           | 2             | 43            | -          | 586            |
| San Bernardino                | 49         | -          | 530          | 950          | 299          | -          | 1             | 3            | 19           | 4             | 17            | 1          | 1,873          |
| San Diego                     | 1          | -          | 212          | 470          | 236          | -          | -             | 48           | 38           | 12            | 112           | -          | 1,129          |
| San Francisco                 | -          | -          | -            | -            | -            | -          | -             | -            | -            | -             | -             | -          | -              |
| San Joaquin                   | -          | 106        | -            | 5            | 130          | 167        | 4,508         | 115          | 314          | -             | 43            | -          | 5,388          |
| San Luis Obispo               | 6          | -          | 199          | 69           | 197          | -          | -             | 35           | 26           | 31            | 98            | -          | 661            |
| San Mateo                     | 3          | -          | 90           | 120          | 33           | -          | -             | 3            | 51           | -             | 23            | -          | 323            |
| Santa Barbara                 | 6          | -          | 304          | 148          | 315          | -          | -             | 75           | 27           | 1             | 58            | -          | 934            |
| Santa Clara                   | 1          | -          | 50           | 54           | 19           | -          | -             | 4            | 27           | 1             | 3             | -          | 159            |
| Santa Cruz                    | -          | -          | 48           | 62           | 5            | -          | -             | -            | 9            | -             | -             | -          | 124            |
| Shasta                        | 5          | 83         | 324          | 479          | 663          | 20         | 5,797         | 28           | 654          | 46            | 144           | 2          | 8,245          |
| Sierra                        | 1          | 13         | 5            | 59           | -            | -          | 151           | 1            | 8            | 8             | -             | -          | 246            |
| Siskiyou                      | 13         | 42         | 347          | 438          | 180          | 223        | 4,642         | -            | 400          | 37            | 124           | -          | 6,446          |
| Solano                        | -          | 17         | 23           | 7            | 18           | 18         | 2,083         | 4            | 258          | 4             | 18            | -          | 2,450          |
| Sonoma                        | -          | -          | 64           | 31           | 125          | 1          | -             | 10           | 266          | 2             | 107           | -          | 606            |
| Stanislaus                    | 5          | 39         | 1            | 34           | 148          | 4          | 1,851         | 152          | 231          | -             | 63            | -          | 2,528          |
| Sutter                        | 1          | 63         | -            | 18           | 5            | -          | 3,589         | -            | 52           | -             | 7             | -          | 3,735          |
| Tehama                        | 4          | 21         | 192          | 214          | 549          | 1          | 229           | 80           | 392          | 19            | 60            | -          | 1,761          |
| Trinity                       | -          | 6          | 151          | 89           | 220          | 4          | 6             | -            | 224          | 20            | 36            | -          | 756            |
| Tulare                        | 4          | 6          | 370          | 100          | 119          | -          | -             | 6            | 76           | 2             | 19            | -          | 702            |
| Tuolumne                      | 2          | -          | 11           | 54           | 9            | -          | -             | -            | 60           | -             | -             | -          | 136            |
| Ventura                       | 5          | -          | 119          | 114          | 148          | -          | -             | 13           | 8            | -             | 13            | -          | 420            |
| Yolo                          | -          | 1          | 25           | 11           | 23           | 27         | 4,349         | 15           | 85           | -             | -             | -          | 4,536          |
| Yuba                          | -          | 29         | 10           | 17           | 17           | 3          | 1,512         | 7            | 101          | -             | 12            | -          | 1,708          |
| Unknown                       | -          | -          | 5            | -            | -            | -          | -             | -            | -            | -             | -             | -          | 5              |
| <b>Total Animals Trapped</b>  | <b>367</b> | <b>902</b> | <b>6,928</b> | <b>7,676</b> | <b>7,675</b> | <b>801</b> | <b>64,455</b> | <b>1,141</b> | <b>8,377</b> | <b>531</b>    | <b>2,192</b>  | <b>8</b>   | <b>101,053</b> |
| <b>Percent of Total Catch</b> | <b>.4</b>  | <b>.9</b>  | <b>6.9</b>   | <b>7.6</b>   | <b>7.6</b>   | <b>.8</b>  | <b>63.8</b>   | <b>1.1</b>   | <b>8.3</b>   | <b>.5</b>     | <b>2.2</b>    | <b>.01</b> |                |