

LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS REPORT
1980-1981

A total of 3,201 trapping licenses were sold during the 1980-81 trapping season. This is a decrease of 1% from the 3,237 licenses sold in the 1979-80 season, the first decrease in license sales since the 1975-76 trapping season. This is the second consecutive season since the 1920's, when license sales varied between 2,500 and 5,200, that more than 3,000 licenses were sold in a single season.

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

	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>
Licenses Who Reported Trapping Effort	1,683	1,874
Licenses Who Reported But Did Not Trap or Were Unsuccessful	478	719
Licenses Not Reporting	1,076	608
Total Licenses Sold	3,237	3,201

Revenue received by trappers from the sale of furs during the 1980-81 season, based on average prices paid by fur buyers was \$2,295,533.06. This was the third consecutive year and the third time ever that the reported fur value exceeded \$2,000,000. This is also a 10% increase in revenue from the 1979-80 trapping season when a total of \$2,093,268.20 in revenue was received by trappers. The average income per trapper decreased 1.5% from the \$1,243.77 in 1979-80 to \$1,224.94 in 1980-81. But the average income per trapper during the 1980-81 season is the third highest on record.

Each year a portion of the fur sale is reported as unsold. During the 1980-81 season 9% were unsold, a slight increase from the 8% unsold during the 1979-80 season. 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 1980-81 fur harvest was \$2,501,270.66, an increase of 8% from the \$2,259,320.00 of the 1979-80 season.

Bobcats, for the fifth successive year, were the most economically important animals providing fur. Although 9,595 export tags were sold for bobcats taken during the 1980-81 season in a program requiring tags for sale or shipment of bobcat furs, holders of trapping licenses only reported the take at 8,782. This is an increase at 23% in the reported take over the 1978-79 season reported take of 7,127 bobcats. The average price paid per bobcat pelt was \$127.84, an increase of 12% from the previous average price of \$114.20 which was paid during the 1979-80 season. This increased value of the bobcat pelts, as well as the increase in take, resulted in an increase of 37% in the over-all value of bobcat pelts during the 1980-81 season. Also, this is the

major cause of the over-all increase in the total fur value from the 1979-80 to the 1980-81 season.

Muskrats, historically the most important furbearer economically, remain second in comparison to bobcats. The 10% decrease in value of muskrat pelts has resulted in the decrease in the over-all value of muskrat during the 1980-81 season. Despite the 22% decline in fur value the take of gray fox was up 7% and gray fox remained the third most economically important furbearer. Coyote, fourth most economically important furbearer, increased in average fur value by 12% as well as increasing in over-all fur value by 22% during the 1980-81 season. The take of raccoon increased by 31% from the 1979-80 season and despite the 5% drop in pelt value the total fur value increased by 25%.

Once again, muskrats led all other furbearers in the number of take than any other species. The 84,158 muskrats taken during the 1980-81 season was 64% of the total take, a decrease from the 67% portion of the take this species represented during the 1979-80 season. The take of all species except beaver, muskrat and spotted skunk increase during the 1980-81 season over the take of the 1979-80 season.

For the fourth consecutive year furs were reported taken in all counties except San Francisco County.

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF ANIMALS TAKEN, AVERAGE PRICE PAID, AND REVENUE RECEIVED, BY SPECIES
1979-80 AND 1980-81

SPECIES	1979-80				1980-81										
	HARVEST		FUR VALUE		HARVEST		FUR VALUE								
	SOLD	UNSOLD	TOTAL	MAX.	MIN.	AVE.	REVENUE	SOLD	UNSOLD	TOTAL	MAX.	MIN.	AVE.	REVENUE	
Badger	220	100	320	\$16.00	\$0.11	\$ 4.62	\$	1,016.40	192	147	339	\$35.00	\$1.25	\$ 10.26	\$ 1,969.92
Beaver	2,354	285	2,639	51.75	2.04	21.29	50,116.66	1,307	373	1,680	31.06	1.00	13.69	17,892.83	
Bobcat	6,629	498	7,127	313.40	3.10	114.20	757,031.80	8,125	657	8,782	325.00	21.50	127.84	1,038,700.00	
Coyote	7,753	1,147	8,900	80.00	0.79	29.12	225,767.36	8,390	1,259	9,649	81.22	1.59	32.74	274,688.60	
Gray Fox	9,108	569	9,677	62.00	1.00	47.42	431,901.36	9,497	845	10,342	52.01	1.53	36.88	350,249.36	
Mink	671	62	733	33.00	1.03	17.55	11,776.05	724	47	771	22.50	3.37	13.88	10,049.12	
Muskrat	80,985	3,619	84,604	8.05	0.01	5.97	483,480.45	81,835	2,323	84,158	6.80	0.31	5.38	440,272.30	
Opossum	1,144	699	1,843	8.26	0.01	2.35	2,688.40	774	1,174	1,948	3.53	0.01	2.32	1,795.68	
Raccoon	6,123	549	6,672	41.50	1.00	20.39	124,847.97	8,037	731	8,768	38.00	0.03	19.44	156,239.28	
Spotted Skunk	384	206	590	8.16	1.00	5.72	2,196.48	249	283	532	7.00	0.39	5.89	1,466.61	
Striped Skunk	1,148	2,610	3,758	7.00	0.10	2.13	2,445.24	752	3,748	4,500	4.00	0.20	2.93	2,203.36	
Weasel	9	9	18	NC	NC	NC	NC	6	16	22	NA	NA	1.00	6.00	
	<u>116,528</u>	<u>10,353</u>	<u>126,881</u>				<u>\$2,093,268.20</u>	<u>119,888</u>	<u>11,603</u>	<u>131,491</u>				<u>\$2,295,533.06</u>	

TABLE 2
 NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED TAKEN BY LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS BY SPECIES AND COUNTY
 1980-81 TRAPPING SEASON

COUNTY	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	GRAY FOX	MINK	MUSKRAT	OPOSSUM	RACCOON	SPOTTED SKUNK	STRIPED SKUNK	WEASEL	TOTAL
Alameda	1	-	5	12	15	-	3	25	37	-	7	-	105
Alpine	-	17	11	64	3	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	99
Amador	-	1	19	33	27	-	29	7	85	-	1	-	202
Butte	-	83	33	78	314	-	8,074	55	363	3	108	-	9,111
Calaveras	-	-	25	31	20	-	-	2	66	-	8	-	152
Colusa	-	7	14	19	74	-	5,136	2	65	3	7	-	5,327
Contra Costa	1	4	2	16	35	45	1,759	46	150	-	5	-	2,063
Del Norte	2	31	66	32	97	10	305	-	186	17	11	4	761
El Dorado	-	10	47	134	79	-	30	6	106	-	197	-	609
Fresno	6	7	369	158	223	15	1,072	35	106	1	47	-	2,039
Glenn	-	1	54	13	227	1	7,834	15	104	19	77	-	8,345
Humboldt	9	16	409	90	672	12	-	-	1,472	84	283	-	3,047
Imperial	13	2	25	129	30	-	160	-	26	-	10	-	395
Inyo	16	107	287	627	255	-	-	-	28	2	11	-	1,333
Kern	11	30	499	448	303	-	99	316	35	6	401	-	2,148
Kings	4	1	44	43	16	-	191	1	8	-	4	-	312
Lake	4	-	164	104	495	32	326	11	386	16	103	-	1,641
Lassen	15	136	112	613	3	8	6,812	-	40	15	16	2	7,772
Los Angeles	10	-	199	421	251	-	-	72	26	2	47	-	1,028
Madera	4	-	130	39	21	2	387	7	27	-	19	-	636
Marin	-	-	12	7	17	-	-	-	16	-	28	-	80
Mariposa	5	-	144	194	124	-	1	9	108	52	69	-	706
Mendocino	2	-	368	135	650	19	46	40	706	48	167	-	2,181
Merced	1	35	6	121	40	48	4,016	62	186	-	5	2	4,522
Modoc	45	57	113	413	1	109	6,756	-	29	4	9	-	7,536
Mono	4	58	83	339	68	2	17	-	8	-	-	-	579
Monterey	22	2	569	148	341	-	310	103	116	18	363	1	1,993
Napa	-	-	14	37	105	2	336	1	126	-	69	-	690
Nevada	-	35	2	41	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	84
Orange	-	-	25	64	64	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	155
Placer	4	16	4	80	38	2	776	10	71	-	105	-	1,106
Plumas	8	207	33	176	7	39	195	-	50	2	15	-	732
Riverside	2	23	109	274	215	-	1,191	23	26	1	26	-	1,890
Sacramento	-	139	-	63	47	55	4,960	72	210	-	163	-	5,709
San Benito	12	-	307	69	233	-	148	36	96	3	107	-	1,011
San Bernardino	54	-	1,113	1,319	711	-	-	10	52	4	53	3	3,319
San Diego	6	-	175	477	293	-	-	65	35	32	83	-	1,166
San Francisco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Joaquin	1	174	8	27	34	123	6,154	65	267	-	113	9	6,975
San Luis Obispo	11	2	476	124	522	-	-	149	51	6	299	-	1,240
San Mateo	-	-	154	118	45	-	-	2	37	2	62	-	420
Santa Barbara	14	-	685	244	845	-	-	220	86	12	435	-	2,541
Santa Clara	-	-	8	6	4	-	64	3	22	-	7	-	114
Santa Cruz	3	-	53	108	11	-	38	-	34	-	17	-	264
Shasta	6	117	185	444	574	28	8,278	55	572	32	117	-	10,408
Sierra	1	17	8	71	9	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	113
Siskiyou	23	94	250	483	76	166	5,729	1	307	58	150	-	7,337
Solano	-	12	28	8	57	16	2,629	15	272	22	104	-	3,163
Sonoma	-	-	141	61	285	13	47	59	414	25	190	-	1,235
Stanislaus	3	27	31	63	143	9	1,644	110	190	-	67	1	2,288
Sutter	-	42	-	13	18	1	4,421	11	146	-	19	-	4,671
Tehama	2	95	182	314	498	4	538	125	644	13	114	-	2,529
Trinity	-	10	86	70	280	5	-	-	137	16	81	-	685
Tulare	3	-	373	110	261	-	5	15	52	-	4	-	823
Tuolumne	4	4	98	74	76	-	18	11	106	-	15	-	406
Ventura	3	-	349	218	439	-	-	29	34	13	34	-	1,119
Yolo	4	18	71	18	31	3	1,398	20	69	-	35	-	1,667
UNKNOWN	-	18	3	9	14	-	2,188	20	153	-	5	-	2,410
UNKNOWN	-	25	2	5	4	1	36	7	5	-	6	-	91
Total Animals Trapped	339	1,680	8,782	9,649	10,342	771	84,158	1,948	8,768	532	4,500	22	131,491
Percent of Total Catch	.3	1.3	6.7	7.3	7.9	.6	64.0	1.5	6.7	.4	3.4	-	