

Licensed Fur Trappers and Dealers Report
1981-1982

A total of 3,686 trapping licenses were sold during the 1981-82 trapping season. This is an increase of 15% from the 3,201 licenses sold for the 1980-81 season. This is the third 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>1980-81</u>	<u>1981-82</u>
Licensees Who Reported Trapping Effort	1,874	1,905
Licensees Who Reported But Did Not Trap or Were Unsuccessful	719	773
Licensees Not Reporting	608	1,008
Total Licenses Sold	3,201	3,686

Revenue received by trappers from the sale of furs during the 1981-82 season, based on average prices paid by fur buyers, was \$1,920,685.29. This was the first season since 1977-78 that the reported fur revenue did not exceed \$2,000,000.00. This is also a 16% decrease in revenue from the 1980-81 trapping season, when a total of \$2,295,533.06 in revenue was received by trappers. The average income per trapper decreased 18% from \$1,224.94 in 1980-81 to \$1,008.23 in 1981-82.

Each year a portion of the fur harvest is reported as unsold. During the 1981-82 season 12% were unsold, compared to 9% unsold during the 1980-81 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 1981-82 fur harvest was \$2,135,500.11, a decrease of 15% from the \$2,501,270.66 of the 1980-81 season.

Bobcats, for the sixth consecutive year, were the most economically important animals providing fur. Although 9,337 export tags were sold for bobcats taken during the 1981-82 season in a program requiring tags for sale or shipment of bobcat furs, holders of trapping licenses only reported the take of 8,327. This is a 5% decrease from the reported take of 8,782 during the 1980-81 season. The average price paid per bobcat pelt was \$114.53, a 10% decrease from the average price of \$127.84 paid during the 1980-81 season. This decreased value of bobcat pelts, as well as the decrease in take, resulted in a 18% decrease in the overall value of bobcat pelts during the 1981-82 season.

Muskrats, historically the most economically important furbearer, dropped to fourth in importance behind the coyote and the gray fox during the 1981-82 season. The 39% decrease in average value of muskrat pelts, and the 31% decrease in take, resulted in a 60% decrease in overall value of muskrats. The coyote was the second most important furbearer, with a record high fur revenue of \$426,343.00, an increase of 36% over that of the 1980-81 season. Take of coyotes was up 17% and value of pelts up 12% over the 1980-81 season. Gray fox remained the third most economically important furbearer, with little change in the amount of take, but a 25% drop in average pelt value. The take of raccoon increased by 8% over the 1980-81 season. The average raccoon pelt value increased by 3%, and the total fur revenue increased by 7% and almost surpassed the muskrat as the fourth most valuable furbearer in California.

Once again, more muskrats were taken than any other species. The 57,314 muskrats taken during the 1981-82 season represented 54% of the total take, a decrease from the 64% this species represented during the 1980-81 season. The take of all species except coyotes and raccoons remained stable or decreased during the 1981-82 season.

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

During the 1981-82 season there were 28 licensed fur dealers and an additional five licensed fur agents. Twenty-four licensed fur dealers reported on 1981-82 season activities; 21 of these dealers are from California and three are from other states. In total they bought 83,695 California furs amounting to a total purchase of \$1,611,076.60. This represents handling 78% of the furs reported sold by licensed trappers. Four of the reporting fur dealers reported buying no fur while four reported buying over \$150,000 in furs, eight reported buying \$14,000 to \$45,000, five reported buying \$2,600 to \$4,600, and two reported buying less than \$250 worth of furs. The average prices paid for each species by the reporting dealers is used to calculate the fur value of the furs reported bought by licensed fur dealers.

A cursory survey of the licensed fur trappers reports indicated that California trappers sold furs to 63 different dealers: 28 dealers from other states, 10 where no address was known, and 24 from California. Of those 24 dealers from California, 12 were licensed and 12 were unlicensed as fur dealers.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS TAKEN, AVERAGE PRICE PAID, ^{1/} AND REVENUE RECEIVED, BY SPECIES
 1980-81 AND 1981-82

TABLE 1

SPECIES	HARVEST					FUR VALUE					HARVEST					FUR VALUE				
	SOLD	UNSOLD	TOTAL	MAX.	MIN.	AVE.	REVENUE	SOLD	UNSOLD	TOTAL	MAX.	MIN.	AVE.	REVENUE						
Badger	192	147	339	\$35.00	\$1.25	\$ 10.26	\$ 1,969.92	171	180	351	\$ 15.00	\$ 0.67	\$ 6.29	\$ 1,075.59						
Beaver	1,307	373	1,680	31.06	1.00	13.69	17,892.83	615	475	1,090	21.50	1.03	9.44	5,805.60						
Bobcat	8,125	657	8,782	325.00	21.50	127.84	1,038,700.00	7,415	912	8,327	325.00	2.00	114.53	849,239.95						
Coyote	8,390	1,259	9,649	81.22	1.59	32.74	274,688.60	10,540	1,152	11,692	128.96	0.29	40.45	426,343.00						
Gray Fox	9,497	845	10,342	52.01	1.53	36.88	350,249.36	9,961	642	10,603	45.00	0.56	27.57	274,624.77						
Mink	724	47	771	22.50	3.37	13.88	10,049.12	464	104	568	20.00	1.01	12.54	5,818.56						
Muskrat	81,835	2,323	84,158	6.80	0.31	5.38	440,272.30	53,754	4,291	58,045	4.75	0.89	3.30	177,388.20						
Opossum	774	1,174	1,948	3.53	0.01	2.32	1,795.68	800	828	1,628	3.08	0.14	1.77	1,416.00						
Raccoon	8,037	731	8,768	38.00	0.03	19.44	156,239.28	8,808	666	9,474	50.01	2.00	20.02	176,336.16						
Spotted Skunk	249	283	532	7.00	0.39	5.89	1,466.61	201	325	526	7.50	0.34	4.26	856.26						
Striped Skunk	752	3,748	4,500	4.00	0.20	2.93	2,203.36	730	3,607	4,337	5.00	0.53	2.44	1,781.20						
Weasel	6	16	22	NC ^{2/}	NC ^{2/}	1.00	6.00	8	20	28	--	--	--							
	<u>119,888</u>	<u>11,603</u>	<u>131,491</u>				<u>\$2,295,533.06</u>	<u>93,467</u>	<u>13,202</u>	<u>106,669</u>				<u>\$1,920,685.29</u>						

^{1/} Fur values determined from average prices paid at California Trappers Association fur sales.
^{2/} Not calculated.

TABLE 2

NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED TAKEN BY LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS BY SPECIES AND COUNTY
1981-82 TRAPPING SEASON

COUNTY	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	GRAY FOX	MINK	MUSKRAT	OPOSSUM	RACCOON	SPOTTED SKUNK	STRIPED SKUNK	WEASEL	TOTAL
Alameda	3	-	8	22	8	-	1	12	30	-	6	-	90
Alpine	-	?	11	26	5	2	-	-	3	3	-	-	52
Amador	-	-	-	9	6	-	?	1	22	-	-	-	40
Butte	1	76	46	68	498	3	5,148	72	510	8	114	-	6,544
Calaveras	-	-	19	43	23	-	-	2	19	-	1	-	107
Colusa	-	10	57	41	105	2	3,996	24	108	-	3	-	4,344
Contra Costa	-	5	-	4	21	27	790	11	104	-	6	1	969
Del Norte	-	15	76	46	127	1	140	-	200	30	24	9	668
El Dorado	5	13	33	56	121	-	18	37	170	1	211	-	665
Fresno	1	12	338	203	124	12	846	28	116	3	69	-	1,752
Glenn	-	7	88	58	281	-	4,527	58	144	16	101	-	5,280
Humboldt	9	18	368	66	232	5	-	4	1,530	105	253	2	2,592
Imperial	6	3	71	207	143	-	37	-	59	-	24	-	550
Inyo	12	61	227	625	133	-	-	-	26	6	14	1	1,105
Kern	38	3	733	902	410	-	2	13	106	5	100	-	2,312
Kings	26	1	39	23	21	-	253	1	21	-	42	-	427
Lake	-	2	167	107	501	15	452	7	318	22	96	-	1,687
Lassen	33	28	145	577	1	1	855	-	60	2	5	-	1,707
Los Angeles	5	-	180	488	282	-	-	27	101	12	87	-	1,182
Madera	2	1	107	113	76	-	34	45	48	-	121	7	554
Marin	-	-	22	-	28	1	76	-	26	-	13	-	166
Mariposa	-	-	213	172	192	-	-	5	131	-	93	-	806
Mendocino	-	-	200	137	569	17	-	6	676	15	221	1	1,842
Merced	-	22	21	123	13	79	3,545	68	203	3	28	-	4,105
Modoc	44	41	175	533	53	98	3,841	-	42	12	23	1	4,913
Mono	5	67	59	335	86	-	-	-	3	1	4	-	560
Monterey	17	4	501	140	465	-	788	120	103	65	385	-	2,588
Napa	-	-	15	75	66	-	-	12	102	-	67	-	337
Nevada	-	-	1	6	8	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	18
Orange	-	-	24	56	41	-	-	3	-	-	7	-	131
Placer	2	23	8	38	72	3	459	9	87	-	11	-	712
Plumas	5	55	62	263	1	54	7	-	31	7	68	-	553
Riverside	12	29	248	386	432	-	1,697	15	20	2	12	-	2,853
Sacramento	-	123	-	24	25	84	2,766	29	266	-	14	-	3,331
San Benito	6	-	208	72	82	-	40	88	49	6	124	-	675
San Bernardino	32	4	744	2,230	560	1	-	22	97	18	113	1	3,822
San Diego	14	-	382	574	488	-	-	31	79	12	67	-	1,647
San Francisco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Joaquin	-	126	-	12	15	54	3,002	41	127	-	61	2	3,440
San Luis Obispo	13	-	390	157	492	-	-	97	50	5	231	-	1,435
San Mateo	-	-	75	121	28	-	-	-	39	3	14	-	280
Santa Barbara	14	-	535	178	751	-	-	125	52	7	332	-	1,994
Santa Clara	2	-	13	111	26	-	64	4	24	-	26	-	270
Santa Cruz	-	-	11	37	5	-	6	1	5	-	-	-	65
Shasta	6	129	202	398	655	16	6,075	107	575	31	261	-	8,455
Sierra	-	-	4	47	24	-	-	-	17	3	15	-	110
Siskiyou	24	26	313	483	111	55	6,321	-	262	35	170	2	7,802
Solano	-	39	3	41	40	7	1,330	5	332	1	140	-	1,938
Sonoma	1	-	157	202	246	6	20	155	698	42	164	1	1,692
Stanislaus	6	19	21	104	74	4	1,023	99	179	-	35	-	1,584
Sutter	-	25	-	3	10	2	5,365	21	118	-	23	-	5,567
Tehama	3	39	141	311	413	5	652	143	633	9	217	-	2,566
Trinity	-	10	59	54	428	9	6	-	326	32	45	-	969
Tulare	-	-	779	156	322	-	?	9	92	-	-	-	960
Tuolumne	-	-	70	109	107	-	15	6	133	-	3	-	443
Ventura	4	-	355	251	469	-	-	14	28	4	39	-	1,164
Yolo	-	12	2	6	48	5	2,115	35	97	-	12	-	2,332
Yuba	-	40	1	13	22	-	1,729	16	74	-	22	-	1,917
Total Animals Trapped	351	1,090	8,327	11,692	10,603	568	58,045	1,628	9,474	526	4,337	28	106,669
Percent of Total Catch	0.3	1.0	7.8	11.0	9.9	0.5	54.4	1.5	8.9	0.5	4.1	<0.1	

TABLE 3

Furs Purchased by Dealers as Reported
in Licensed Fur Dealers Reports, 1981-82

Species	Range of Average Prices	Number of Animals Purchased	Total Spent
Badger	\$ 1.24 - \$ 15.00	93	\$ 584.94
Beaver	3.74 - 21.50	474	4,473.56
Bobcat	5.05 - 135.00	5,756	659,221.33
Coyote	19.00 - 50.02	7,006	283,405.69
Gray Fox	15.00 - 34.64	9,630	265,485.69
Mink	7.00 - 19.00	449	5,629.99
Muskrat	2.25 - 4.00	54,378	181,158.20
Opossum	0.14 - 2.53	679	1,202.91
Raccoon	5.00 - 33.58	10,401	208,177.69
Spotted Skunk	3.00 - 6.57	170	724.63
Striped Skunk	0.94 - 3.13	415	1,012.25
TOTAL		89,451	\$1,611,076.60