

Licensed Fur Trappers and Dealers Report  
1982-1983

A total of 3,901 trapping licenses were sold during the 1982-83 trapping season. This is an increase of 5.8% from the 3686 licenses sold for the 1981-82 season. This is the fourth 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 every person who takes furbearing or nongame mammals for profit to purchase a trapping license. As of January 1, 1983, anyone being issued a trapping license must pass a test of trapping competence and proficiency and pay a fee of:

Adult: \$25.00      Juvenile: \$15.00      Nonresident: \$200.00

The price of licenses will be raised \$5 at the beginning of each fiscal year, until the price of an adult license reaches \$50.00.

	<u>1981-82</u>	<u>1982-83</u>
Licensees who reported trapping effort	1,905	1,499
Licensees who reported but did not trap or were unsuccessful	773	667
Licensees not reporting	1,008	1,735
Total licenses sold	3,686	3,901

Revenue received by trappers from the sale of furs during the 1982-83 season, based on average prices paid by fur buyers, was \$1,320,981.31. This was the second season since 1977-78 that the reported fur revenue did not exceed \$2,000,000.00. This is also a 31% decrease in revenue from the 1981-82 trapping season, when a total of \$1,920,685.29 in revenue was received by trappers. The average income per trapper decreased 13% from \$1,008.23 in 1981-82 to \$881.24 in 1982-83.

Each year a portion of the fur harvest is reported as unsold. During the 1982-83 season 16% was unsold, compared to 13% unsold during the 1981-82 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 1982-83 fur harvest was \$1,462,523.05, a decrease of 32% from the \$2,135,500.11 of the 1981-82 season.

Bobcats continued to be the most economically important animals providing fur. Although 8,513 export tags were sold for bobcats taken during the 1982-83 season in a program requiring tags for sale or shipment of bobcat furs, holders of trapping licenses only reported the take of 7,457. This is an 11% decrease from the reported take of 8,327 during the 1981-82 season. The average price paid per bobcat was \$105.85, an 8% decrease from the average price of \$114.53 paid during the 1981-82 season. This decreased value of bobcat pelts, as well as the decrease in take, resulted in a 17% decrease in the overall value of bobcat pelts during the 1982-83 season.

Muskrats, historically the most economically important furbearer, were fourth in importance behind the gray fox and coyote during the 1982-83 season. The 37% decrease in average value of muskrat pelts, and the 17% decrease in take, resulted in a 49% decrease in the overall value of muskrats. The gray fox was the second most important furbearer, with an 11% increase in pelt value, and 17% decrease in take resulting in a 6.8% decrease in the overall value of gray foxes. Coyote was the third most economically important furbearer, even though there was a 27% decrease in take, and a 35% decrease in average pelt value. Also, the take of raccoon decreased substantially, down 40% from the take during the 1981-82 season, with additional decreases in the average pelt value and the total fur revenue of 47% and 69%, respectively.

Once again more muskrats were taken than any other species. The 47,981 muskrats taken during the 1982-83 season represented 56% of the total take, an increase over the 54% that this species represented during the 1981-82 season. The take of all species of furbearers decreased, except for the take of striped skunk which remained the same.

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

During the 1982-83 season there were 20 licensed fur dealers and an additional eight licensed fur agents. Eighteen licensed fur dealers reported on 1982-83 season activities; 15 of these dealers are from California and five are from other states. In total they bought 69,590 California furs amounting to a total purchase of \$982,116.48. This represents handling 96% of the furs reported sold by licensed trappers. Two of the reporting fur dealers reported buying no fur while three reported buying over \$150,000 in furs, three reported buying \$57,500 to \$81,100, four reported buying \$12,400 to \$32,200, four reported buying \$1,200 to \$9,300, 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.

Table 1  
 NUMBER OF ANIMALS TAKEN, AVERAGE PRICE PAID, AND REVENUE RECEIVED,  
 BY SPECIES DURING 1981-82 AND 1982-83

1981-82							
SPECIES	HARVEST			FUR VALUE			
	SOLD	UNSOLD	TOTAL	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	REVENUE
Badger	171	180	351	15.00	0.67	6.29	1075.59
Beaver	615	475	1090	21.50	1.03	9.44	5805.60
Bobcat	7415	912	8327	325.00	2.00	114.53	849239.95
Coyote	10540	1152	11692	128.96	0.29	40.45	426343.00
Gray Fox	9961	642	10603	45.00	0.56	27.57	274624.77
Mink	464	104	568	20.00	1.01	12.54	5818.56
Muskrat	53754	4291	58045	4.75	0.89	3.30	177388.20
Opossum	800	828	1628	3.08	0.14	1.77	1416.00
Raccoon	8808	666	9474	50.01	2.00	20.02	176336.16
Spotted Skunk	201	325	526	7.50	0.34	4.26	856.26
Striped Skunk	730	3607	4337	5.00	0.53	2.44	1781.20
Weasel	8	20	28	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93467</b>	<b>13202</b>	<b>106669</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>1920685.29</b>

1982-83							
SPECIES	HARVEST			FUR VALUE			
	SOLD	UNSOLD	TOTAL	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	REVENUE
Badger	88	207	295	14.56	0.20	7.34	645.92
Beaver	352	330	682	14.16	1.06	7.87	2770.24
Bobcat	6845	612	7457	342.11	4.00	105.85	724543.25
Coyote	7189	1377	8566	110.93	0.01	26.28	188926.92
Gray Fox	8395	382	8777	50.00	4.00	30.49	255963.55
Mink	198	56	254	20.00	0.41	10.29	2037.42
Muskrat	43458	4523	47981	5.00	0.14	2.09	90827.22
Opossum	191	874	1065	4.69	0.05	1.29	246.39
Raccoon	5124	571	5695	31.10	0.32	10.61	54365.64
Spotted Skunk	69	355	424	5.12	0.53	3.96	273.24
Striped Skunk	251	4072	4323	3.01	0.01	1.52	381.52
Weasel	4	11	15	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72164</b>	<b>13370</b>	<b>85534</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>1320981.31</b>

Table 2  
NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED TAKEN BY LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS  
AND BY SPECIES AND COUNTY DURING THE 1982-83 TRAPPING SEASON

COUNTY	GRAY							SPOTTED		STRIPED		WEASEL	TOTAL
	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	FOX	MINK	MUSKRAT	OPOSSUM	RACCOON	SKUNK	SKUNK		
Alameda	1	0	19	15	13	0	0	3	18	0	11	0	80
Alpine	0	2	10	11	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	28
Amador	0	2	5	9	8	0	0	2	3	0	4	0	33
Butte	0	57	21	54	169	0	3705	54	306	1	147	0	4514
Calaveras	0	0	57	37	26	0	0	12	39	0	25	0	196
Colusa	0	1	47	17	63	0	5071	0	109	0	7	0	5315
Contra Costa	0	12	0	7	12	7	476	9	38	0	2	1	564
Del Norte	4	21	38	17	20	0	34	1	58	0	11	0	204
El Dorado	0	0	59	62	109	0	8	99	132	14	229	0	712
Fresno	4	4	221	195	178	2	122	41	73	1	143	0	984
Glenn	5	22	75	59	188	0	6420	36	133	18	117	0	7073
Humboldt	3	7	218	26	303	0	0	0	791	24	179	0	1551
Imperial	2	0	83	133	163	0	3	0	28	3	10	0	425
Inyo	10	59	154	439	51	5	0	0	36	0	23	1	778
Kern	20	3	656	594	389	0	0	9	73	6	151	0	1901
Kings	0	0	27	21	1	0	32	0	5	0	40	0	126
Lake	0	4	114	31	308	7	376	1	106	21	78	0	1046
Lassen	21	17	176	472	3	2	1034	1	23	10	17	0	1776
Los Angeles	17	0	283	482	376	0	0	31	27	0	33	0	1249
Madera	3	0	96	36	87	0	0	18	71	1	51	0	363
Marin	0	0	11	28	3	0	0	0	38	0	31	0	111
Mariposa	0	0	82	118	170	0	0	5	57	0	32	0	464
Mendocino	0	0	183	61	376	13	0	7	482	13	78	0	1213
Merced	1	9	8	120	5	15	1785	8	113	0	19	2	2085
Modoc	19	26	191	528	1	64	3687	0	28	13	17	0	4574
Mono	2	26	89	231	67	0	0	0	20	3	8	0	446
Monterey	12	1	456	105	332	0	898	66	119	51	615	2	2657
Napa	0	0	36	42	47	0	0	6	45	0	7	0	183
Nevada	0	4	6	9	10	0	0	2	4	0	1	0	36
Orange	0	0	21	78	88	0	0	3	10	1	4	0	205
Placer	0	11	0	11	8	3	329	3	31	0	13	0	409
Plumas	3	63	45	171	10	9	3	5	48	7	17	0	381
Riverside	14	20	208	349	437	0	405	22	52	8	200	0	1715
Sacramento	0	15	0	7	5	5	2109	8	102	0	7	0	2258
San Benito	6	0	108	67	75	0	0	5	25	1	67	0	354
San Bernardino	62	11	680	1334	412	0	1	42	96	14	84	4	2740
San Diego	8	0	352	436	624	0	0	81	58	13	176	0	1748
San Francisco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Joaquin	0	42	0	4	13	34	1386	20	108	0	6	0	1613
San Luis Obispo	17	1	518	134	584	0	0	75	74	25	468	0	1896
San Mateo	0	0	38	70	11	0	0	3	49	0	15	0	186
Santa Barbara	4	0	547	164	873	0	0	63	57	63	309	0	2080
Santa Clara	4	0	18	30	1	0	0	0	4	0	15	0	72
Santa Cruz	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shasta	2	99	156	468	525	9	6354	73	325	19	156	0	8186
Sierra	0	1	4	59	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	71
Siskiyou	41	37	257	313	57	47	7660	0	212	15	104	0	8743
Solano	1	15	5	4	8	9	834	1	140	0	4	0	1021
Sonoma	1	0	126	89	139	2	391	89	527	54	198	1	1617
Stanislaus	0	4	19	46	81	11	530	13	48	0	17	0	769
Sutter	0	16	0	7	16	0	1495	4	51	0	5	0	1594
Tehama	4	41	124	208	234	0	258	43	338	1	166	0	1417
Trinity	0	15	101	54	182	7	0	0	92	13	32	0	496
Tulare	0	0	258	121	251	0	8	62	87	8	52	0	847
Tuolumne	0	0	82	77	92	3	546	8	44	0	8	0	860
Ventura	4	0	368	287	515	0	0	23	21	3	66	0	1287
Yolo	0	0	1	8	28	0	1438	2	39	0	39	0	1555
Yuba	0	14	0	11	28	0	583	5	79	0	5	2	727
Total Animals Trapped	295	682	7457	8566	8777	254	47981	1065	5695	424	4323	15	85534
% of Total Take	0.34	0.79	8.71	10.01	10.26	0.29	56.09	1.24	6.65	0.49	5.05	0.01	100.00

TABLE 3  
 FURS PURCHASED BY DEALERS IN LICENSED  
 FUR DEALER REPORTS, 82-83

Species	Range of Average Prices	No. Furs Purchased	Total Spent
Badger	.50 - 10.00	44	323.15
Beaver	3.69 - 11.68	469	3,689.19
Bobcat	54.95 - 135.61	4,511	474,488.33
Coyote	14.61 - 43.85	5,131	134,840.83
Gray Fox	15.00 - 38.00	6,539	199,345.13
Mink	4.00 - 14.00	301	3,097.44
Muskrat	1.00 - 2.80	45,359	94,788.08
Opossum	.50 - 1.90	395	508.79
Raccoon	6.83 - 16.26	6,659	70,643.65
Sp. Skunk	3.00 - 4.32	47	186.34
Str. Skunk	1.25 - 2.30	135	205.55
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$982,116.48</b>