



State of California  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Wild Pig Take Report  
2023 – 2024



**Wildlife Branch**  
**1010 Riverside Parkway**  
**West Sacramento, CA 95605**

## Executive Summary

Tag return for successful pig hunters is mandatory and provides the data comprising this report. In the 2023 – 2024 hunting season, tag sales decreased 2.3 percent from the 48,485 tags sold in 2022 – 2023. Furthermore, 3,327 wild pigs were reported taken, representing a 6.6 percent decrease in the number of successful tags returned from the 2022 season at 3,563. A total of 47,415 wild pig tags were issued making the overall successful tag return 7.0 percent. The top six counties for pig harvest were: Monterey (25.8%), San Luis Obispo (15.2%), Kern (8.3%), Tehama (7.0%), Mendocino (4.9%) and Santa Clara (4.3%). These six counties accounted for about 65.4 percent of reported take.

Of the reported take, 55.5 percent (1,848) of hunters indicated a male was taken, 44.3 percent (1,473) indicated a female was taken, and 0.2 percent (6) left the sex portion of the tag blank. Dogs were reported being used on 3.6 percent (120) of returned tags. Finally, 87.5 percent (2,911) of all returned tags indicated that they hunted wild pigs on private land.



Photos courtesy of CDFW Deer Program

## Introduction

The primary goal of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) wild pig management program is to minimize damage to California's native plants and animals, park and recreational activities, and agricultural operations from the foraging habits of wild pigs. To attain this goal, the Department seeks to enhance hunting opportunities as a means of reducing these threats. This program was developed in accordance with the state's policy regarding wildlife resources (Fish and Game Code Section 1801), which states the following goals:

- a) To provide for the beneficial use and enjoyment of wildlife by all citizens of the state;
- b) To perpetuate all species for their intrinsic and ecological values;
- c) To provide for aesthetic, educational, and non-appropriative uses;
- d) To maintain diversified recreational uses of wildlife including sport hunting;
- e) To provide for economic contributions to the citizens of the state through the recognition that wildlife is a renewable resource; and
- f) To alleviate economic losses or public health and safety problems caused by wildlife.

In order for the state to meet these goals, the Legislature has delegated the power to regulate the take and possession of wild pigs, among other wildlife, to the California Fish and Game Commission. The Commission, in consultation with Department staff, reviews the factors which may affect meeting the aforementioned goals.

In 1957, wild pigs became a game species in California. Wild pig hunting was regulated with annual seasons and bag limits. In 1992, wild pig license tags were established to aid in the effective monitoring of wild pig populations. In 2012, the use of the Automated License Data System (ALDS) was implemented to further streamline the tag issuance process and give hunters the option to report take online. Currently, there are no daily bag or possession limits for hunting wild pigs, and the season occurs year-round. Regulations during the period of this report required hunters to report any successful take on a wild pig tag with a request that unsuccessful hunters also report on their tag.

The provisions of Senate Bill 856 (2022) became effective July 1, 2024. The intent of this legislation is to give the public and the Department more tools to manage wild pigs and the damage they cause to private property and the environment. This bill made sweeping changes to Fish and Game Code (FGC), which included changes to laws regarding definitions, licensing, hunting take, captive hunting preserves, capture, possession, and release of wild pigs including the reclassification of wild pigs, specifying that the wild pig is not a game mammal or nongame mammal (FGC 4150), but is an exotic game mammal, with the addition of FGC 3965. Additionally, amendments to FGC 4652 establish a wild pig validation in place of tags which will allow hunters to take any number of pigs on an annual basis. The base fee for a wild pig validation is \$25 for residents and \$90 for nonresidents, which will be adjusted annually based on an inflation index indicated in FGC 713. These validations are good for one license year, beginning on July 1, 2024, and revenues generated from the sale of these validations will be placed in the Big Game Management Account for expenditure by the Department per FGC 3953.

New reporting requirements take effect for the 2024 – 2025 license year and will require hunters to report pig harvest at the end of the season in the ALDS. The reporting requirements will include the number of pigs harvested by month and by county per Fish and Game Code 4657 and Title 14 of California Code of Regulations Section 708.13. Because the Wild Pig Validation is valid for the full hunt season (July 1 – June 30), for any number of wild pigs, the reporting requirements have been adjusted so that harvest reports may be collected following the close of the license year and thus be able to capture wild pig harvest during the full (1-year) period of the validation. Reporting for the 2024 – 2025 hunt season will become available in ALDS on July 1, 2025, and reports shall be made there, within 60 days of the close of the hunt season.

## **Summary of 2023 – 2024 Wild Pig Hunting Regulations**

Wild pig season opened on July 1, 2023 at the start of the license year, and ran continuously until the end of the license year on June 30, 2024. Individuals were able to purchase an unlimited number of tags throughout the season, and the daily bag and possession limits were also unlimited. There were no restrictions on the age or breeding status of animals that were legal for take. The use of dogs for pursuing wild pigs was also permitted. The 2023 – 2024 wild pig season ran its full length with no closures.

### **Results of 2023 - 2024 Wild Pig Hunting Season**

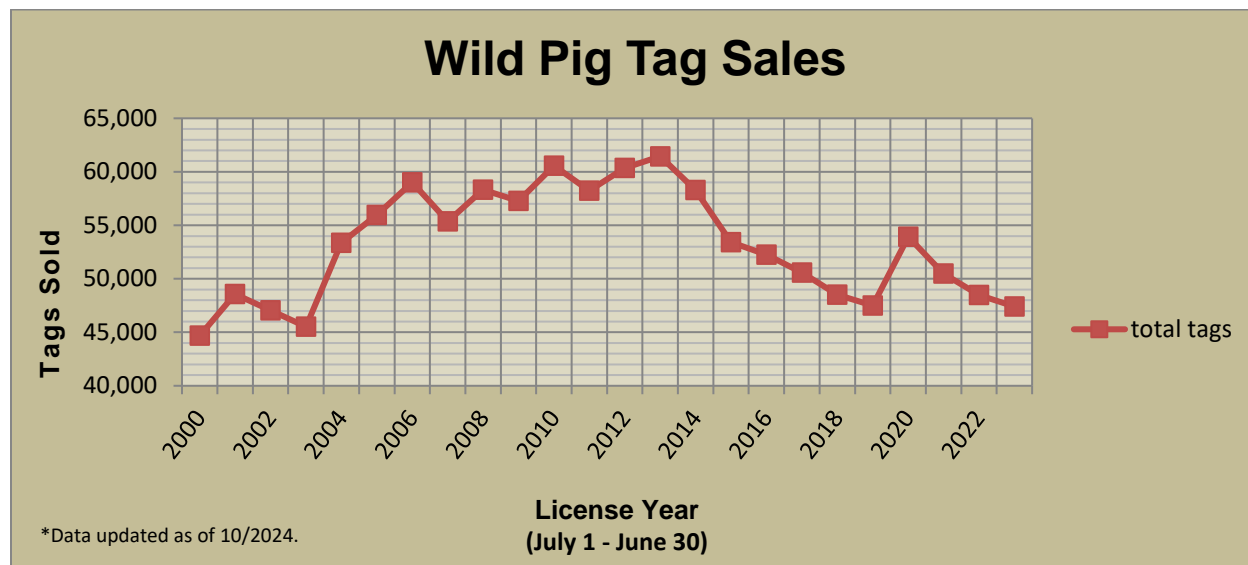
#### **Tag Sales**

During the 2023 – 2024 wild pig season, 47,415 tags were sold (Figure 1). This was down 1,071 tags from the previous year, constituting a decrease of 2.2 percent in pig tag sales. This total consisted of 37,733 resident tags (3.2 percent decrease), 1,092 non-resident tags (2.7 percent increase), and 8,590 lifetime license tags (1.9 percent increase). Since the 2000 season, tag sales have fluctuated from a peak in 2013 at 61,447 tags and a low in the 2000 license year with 44,671 tags issued.

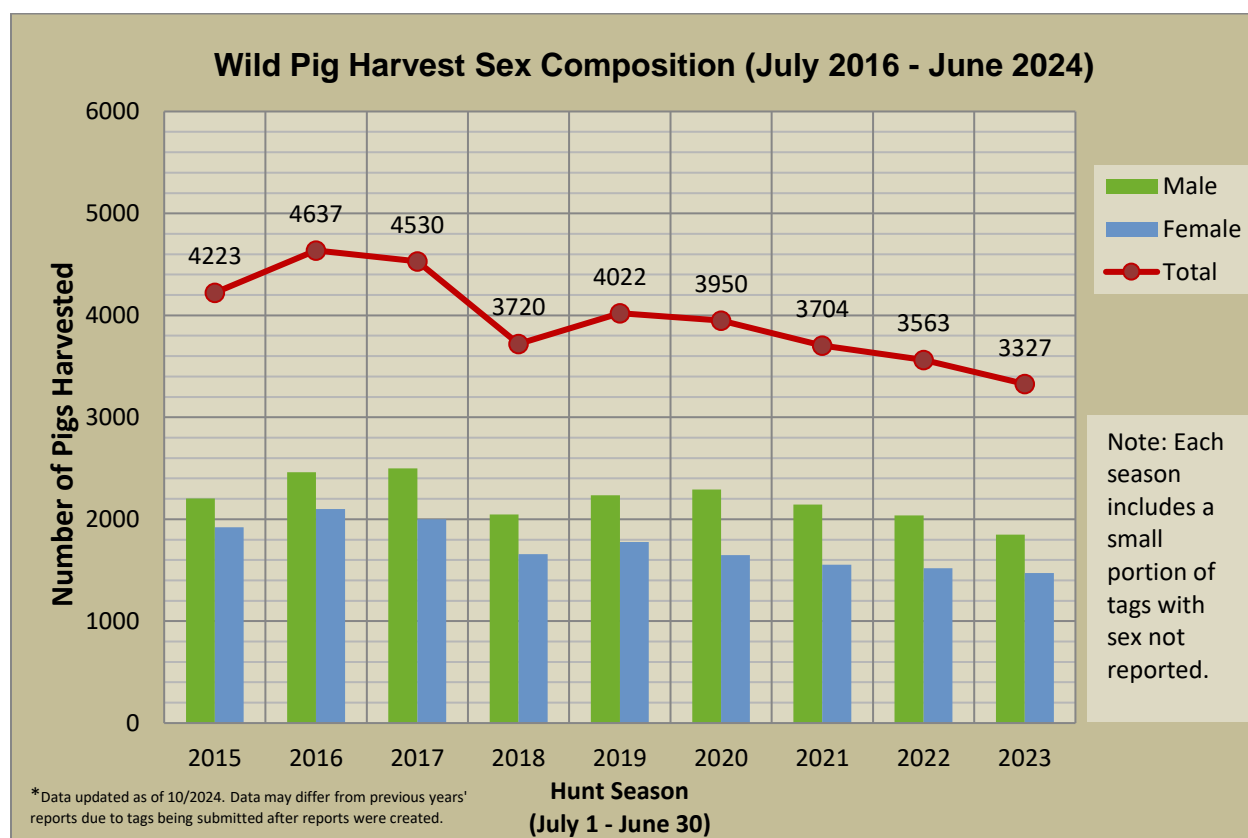
#### **Total Take and Sex Composition**

In total, 3,327 wild pigs were reported taken during the 2023 – 2024 season (Figure 2). Overall reported take was down 236 pigs from the 2022 season. Of the returned tags, 55.5 percent (1,848) reported sex of the animal as male, 44.3 percent (1,473) as female, with the remaining 0.2 percent (6) not reporting the sex of the animal. As is typical, harvest composition generally reflects a nearly 1:1 sex ratio with males taken at a slightly higher proportion.

**Figure 1. Wild Pig Tag Sales (July 2000 - June 2024)**



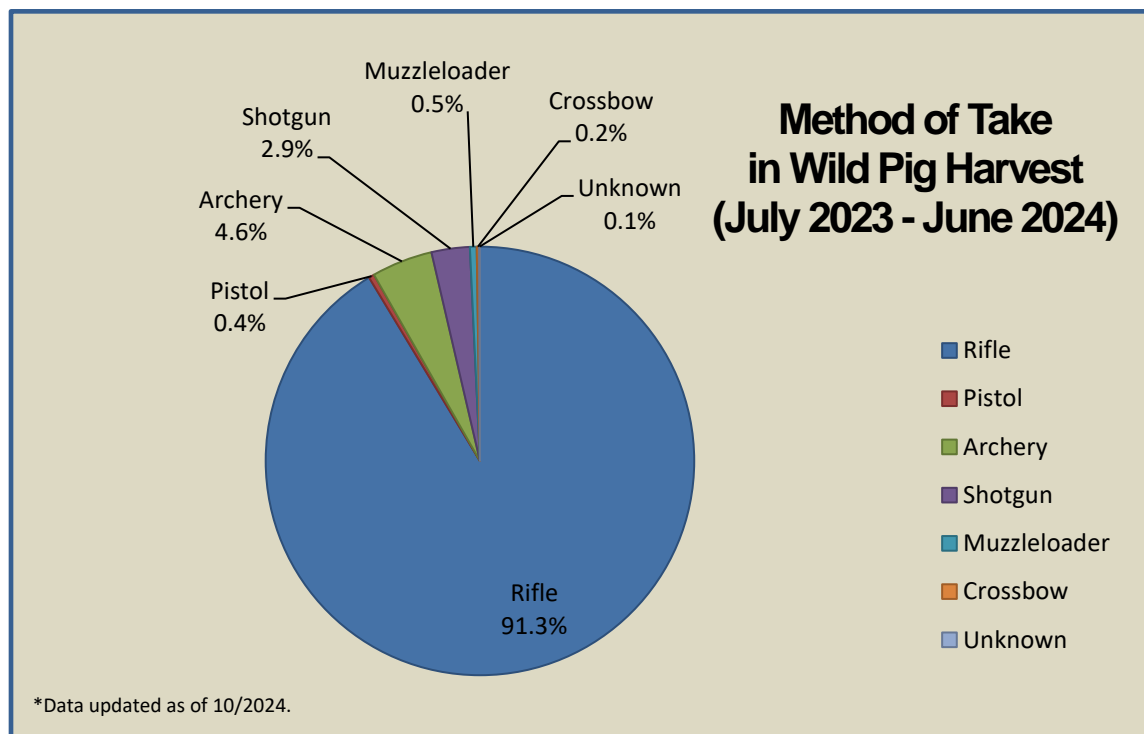
**Figure 2. Wild Pig Harvest Sex Composition (July 2015 – June 2024)**



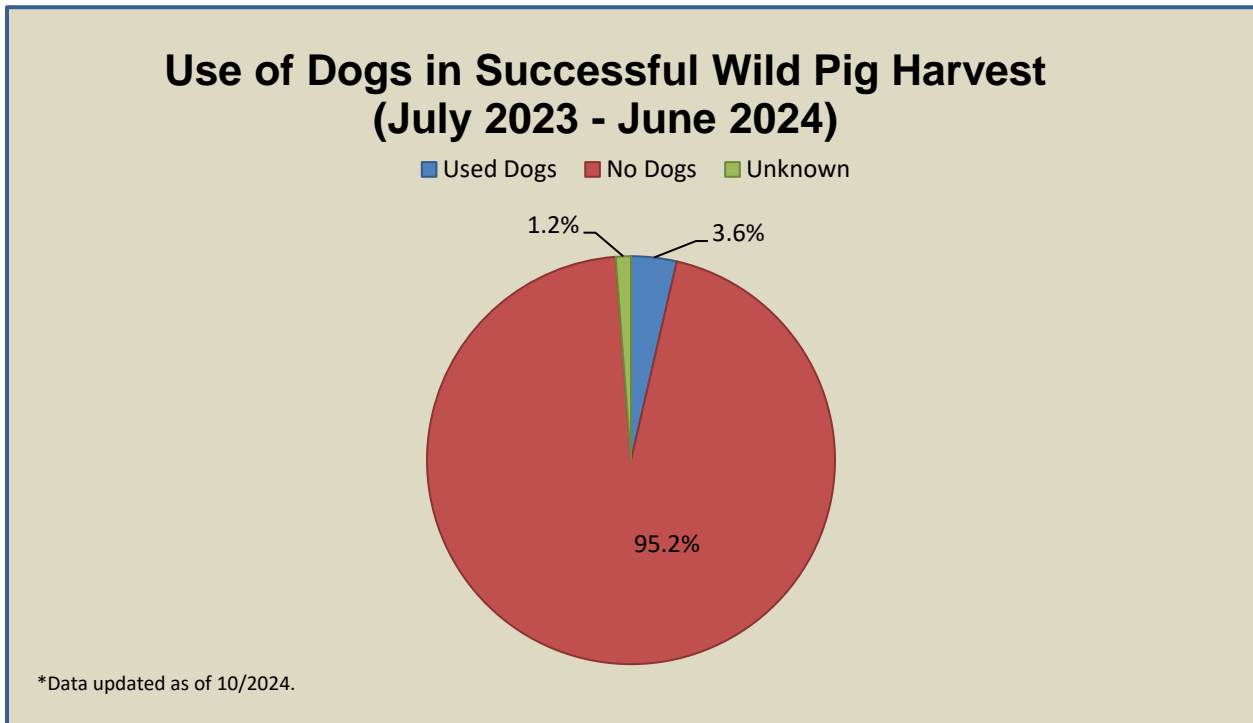
### Methods of Take

California wild pig hunters are allowed several legal methods of take which are valid at any point during the season including rifle, archery, shotgun, pistol, muzzleloader, and crossbow. Overall 91.3 percent (3,039) reported using a rifle, 4.6 percent (153) reported using archery equipment, 2.9 percent (96) reported using a shotgun, 0.4 percent (14) reported using a pistol, and less than 1 percent reported using a muzzleloader (17), or crossbow (6) (Figure 3). There were 2 (0.1%) successful tags that did not indicate method of take. Additionally, dogs are allowed to be used to assist in taking pigs. A total of 3.6 percent (120) reported using dogs to aid in taking their pig (Figure 4).

**Figure 3. Wild Pig Harvest Method of Take (July 2023 – June 2024)**



**Figure 4. Use of Dogs in Successful Wild Pig Harvest (July 2023 – June 2024)**



### **Location of Take**

Pigs were reported to be harvested in 43 of California’s 58 counties in the 2023 – 2024 license year (Table 1). Six counties accounted for approximately 65.4 percent of all take reported during the 2023 – 2024 season. These six counties were: Monterey (25.8%), San Luis Obispo (15.2%), Kern (8.3%), Tehama (7.0%), Mendocino (4.9%) Santa Clara (4.3%).

Across the entire state, 87.5 percent (2,911) of wild pigs were reported being taken on private land (Figure 5), while only 6.8 percent (225) were reported being taking on public land. An additional 5.7 percent (189) were harvested on military land, leaving 0.1 percent (2) unreported.

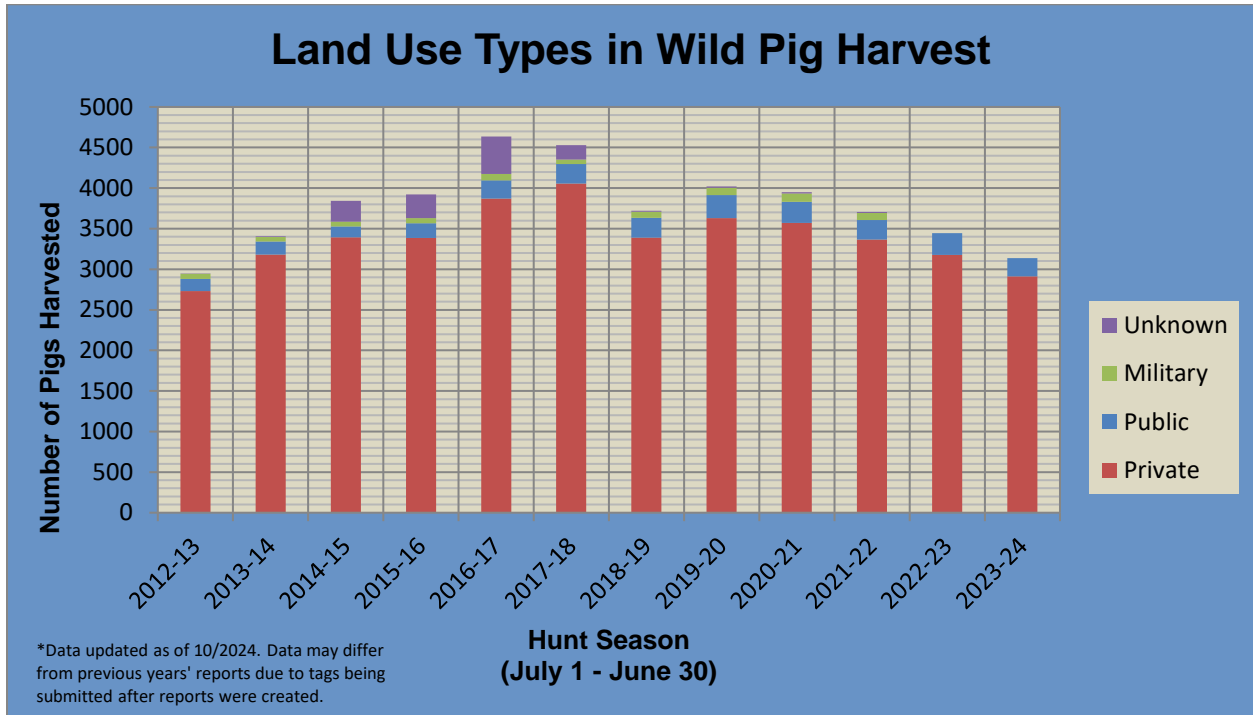


**Table 1. Reported Wild Pig Take by County (July 2023 – June 2024)**

County	Pigs Harvested
Alameda	81
Amador	1
Butte	3
Calaveras	1
Colusa	109
Contra Costa	11
Fresno	60
Glen	83
Humboldt	52
Kern	275
Kings	14
Lake	30
Lassen	1
Los Angeles	1
Madera	37
Marin	2
Mariposa	17
Mendocino	162
Merced	63
Monterey	854
Napa	63
Nevada	13
Placer	1
Sacramento	5

County	Pigs Harvested
San Benito	120
Sacramento	2
San Benito	128
San Bernardino	1
San Joaquin	3
San Luis Obispo	505
Santa Barbara	67
Santa Clara	141
Santa Cruz	4
Shasta	45
Solano	32
Sonoma	61
Stanislaus	18
Sutter	29
Tehama	233
Trinity	23
Tulare	35
Tuolumne	2
Ventura	9
Tuolumne	5
Yolo	22
Yuba	8
Unknown	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>3327</b>

**Figure 5. Reported Wild Pig Harvest on Land Ownership Types (July 2015 – June 2024)**

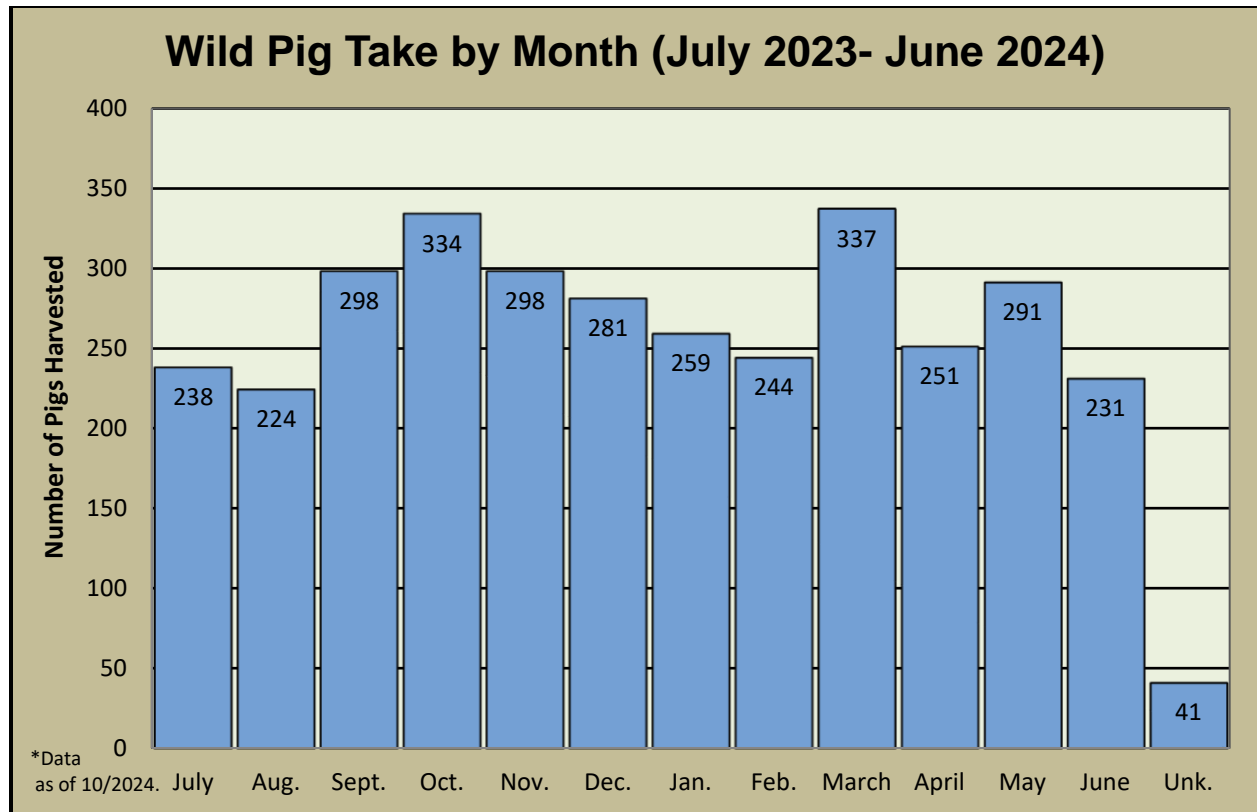


### Timing of Take

Wild pig season is continuous, year-round. Because wild pigs are not migratory and do not hibernate, they are often consistently available for hunting, although localized events such as extreme hunting pressures, weather conditions, and variation in land use throughout the year can affect pig behavior, occurrence, and harvest. Pig harvest was highest during the spring and fall months, March – May, and September - November.

The month with the lowest reported wild pig harvest for the 2022 - 2023 hunting season stood at 224 for the month of August. A kill date was not specified for forty-one (41) harvested pigs (Figure 6).

Figure 6. 2023-2024 Reported Wild Pig Take by Month



### Discussion

Wild pigs occur throughout a large portion of California and can be extremely destructive to property, especially while engaged in their rooting foraging behavior. The Department will continue to monitor wild pig take annually and adjust take regulations as necessary in order to meet the goals laid out by Fish and Game Code Section 1801.

