

State of California
The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Wildlife Programs Branch

2005 Annual Bear Take Report

Summary:

The 2005 black bear hunting season closed according to the regulations on December 25, 2005. The recent regulation change that increased the tag quota from 1,500 to 1,700 bears harvested has made this the fifth time in eleven years that the season has run to its designated closure date rather than closing when the Department has received its tag quota. The License and Revenue Branch has reported that a total of 23,160 bear tags were sold in 2005 with 22,897 resident and 263 non-resident tags. Non-resident tag sales increased in 2005 but still comprise about one percent of tag sales. A total of 1,418 black bears were reported taken this year and overall hunter success was 6.1%, down about 2 points from 2004.

Once again, success rates for the different hunting methods varied only marginally in 2005 compared to previous years (see Table 3). Hunters with trailing hounds took 742 bears, (52.3%), which is down just slightly from 2004 but still representing half the kills. Hunters took 476 bears (33.6%) while they were deer hunting, a 4% increase from last year. Archery hunters accounted for only 99 kills, up about a percent from last year, while the number of hunters using guides increased slightly to 6.4% (91 kills).

Ninety-two percent of successful hunters and 3.0% of unsuccessful bear hunters indicated the number of days they spent hunting on their report cards. Successful hunters spent an average of 3.8 days and unsuccessful hunters spent an average of 23.3 days hunting bear. Successful hunters spent less time hunting than last year and unsuccessful hunters tripled their time in the field. A total of 274 (17.4%) successful bear hunters said they had taken bears on private land, this is down 3% from last year. Preliminary numbers, as of 02/08/2006 show that premolar teeth were collected from 338 (23.8%) of the bears harvested.

Again in 2005 the general bear season and deer season overlapped in the A, B, C, D, and some of the X zones (see Table 4). Zones X-1 through X-7b opened on October 1st. During the general deer season hunters were limited to one dog per hunter. Regulation changes in 2002 continue to be the primary factor affecting tag sales, season closure, and changes in the proportions of bear take by hunting method.

Seasons:

Archery Bear Season: Opened August 21, closed September 12, 2005.

General Bear Season: Opened (Table 4), closed December 25, 2005.

Table 1: 2005 Black Bear Take by					
Department of Fish and Game Region and County					
NCNCR (Region 1)	County	Males	Females	Unknown	Total
	Del Norte	11	7	0	18
	Humboldt	45	52	1	98
	Lassen	10	8	0	18
	Modoc	2	0	0	2
	Shasta	95	71	1	167
	Siskiyou	70	51	0	121
	Tehama	34	29	0	63
	Trinity	117	68	0	185
	Subtotal	384	286	2	672
	% of Take	27.1 %	20.2 %	0.1%	47.4%
SVCSR (Region 2)	Alpine	6	5	0	11
	Amador	0	5	0	5
	Butte	31	16	0	47
	Calaveras	5	4	0	9
	Colusa	4	4	0	8
	El Dorado	30	17	0	47
	Glenn	26	7	0	33
	Nevada	8	10	0	18
	Placer	20	10	0	30
	Plumas	55	29	1	85
	Sierra	24	9	0	33
	Yolo	0	0	0	0
	Yuba	12	7	1	20
	Subtotal	221	123	2	346
	% of Take	15.6%	8.7%	0.1%	24.4%
CCR (Region 3)	Lake	7	2	0	9
	Mendocino	33	23	0	56
	Napa	1	1	0	2
	Subtotal	41	26	0	67
	% of Take	2.9%	1.8%	0.0%	4.7%
SJVSS (Region 4)	Fresno	36	22	1	59
	Kern	13	5	0	18
	Madera	21	19	0	40
	Mariposa	11	13	0	24
	Stanislaus	2	0	0	2
	Tulare	44	18	0	62
	Tuolumne	32	25	0	57
	Subtotal	159	102	1	262
	% of Take	11.2%	7.2%	0.1%	18.5%
SCR (Region 5)	Los Angeles	14	4	0	18
	Santa Barbara	4	5	0	9
	Ventura	6	10	0	16
	Subtotal	24	19	0	43
	% of Take	1.7%	1.3%	0.0%	3.0%
IDES (Region 6)	Inyo	0	1	0	1
	Mono	7	5	0	12
	Riverside	0	0	0	0
	San Bernardino	7	4	0	11
	Unknown	4	0	0	4
	Subtotal	18	10	0	28
	% of Take	1.2%	0.7%	0.0%	1.9%
Statewide Totals		847	566	5	1,418
Statewide Percent of Take		59.7%	39.9%	0.4%	100%

Table 2
Ten Year Bear Take Data
For Returned Bear Tags

County	1996¹	1997¹	1998¹	1999¹	2000¹	2001¹	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alpine	14	10	10	26	19	5	5	8	9	11
Amador	4	2	1	3	0	0	0	1	2	5
Butte	32	63	28	48	38	39	51	45	30	47
Calaveras	25	26	13	12	19	17	19	20	36	9
Colusa	1	5	6	2	0	2	2	1	4	8
Del Norte	44	35	51	53	32	18	28	22	30	18
El Dorado	23	44	44	29	61	61	61	61	63	47
Fresno	75	85	62	70	94	78	78	86	99	59
Glenn	23	11	22	27	33	18	25	27	31	33
Humboldt	102	119	142	164	130	110	147	113	154	98
Inyo	4	2	1	3	5	2	5	2	2	1
Kern	40	32	34	32	79	85	76	68	59	18
Lake	16	16	16	7	8	27	11	5	10	9
Lassen	11	7	22	30	19	13	8	26	18	18
Los Angeles	9	5	6	13	13	16	2	9	13	18
Madera	48	67	50	41	41	46	53	43	47	40
Mariposa	33	22	15	30	20	35	27	24	34	24
Mendocino	94	86	102	91	93	122	78	74	85	56
Merced	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Modoc	5	0	0	6	6	3	4	3	0	2
Mono	6	7	6	4	10	10	9	2	11	12
Napa	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	1	2
Nevada	7	12	9	15	20	17	14	15	19	18
Placer	26	50	36	32	38	37	34	38	49	30
Plumas	77	98	96	71	49	82	75	61	79	85
Riverside	3	6	2	2	4	2	5	3	2	0
San Bernardino	19	18	17	17	14	23	25	30	14	11
San Joaquin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Barbara	19	23	20	18	14	16	12	8	24	9
Shasta	219	148	185	208	179	104	178	142	199	167
Sierra	16	32	12	33	31	34	28	16	19	33
Siskiyou	196	156	205	260	181	104	199	190	209	121
Sonoma	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
Stanislaus	0	2	5	4	6	1	2	3	0	2
Tehama	71	76	75	86	65	79	81	67	67	63
Trinity	261	184	186	242	190	198	179	201	224	185
Tulare	84	107	103	75	133	130	138	158	88	62
Tuolumne	68	84	60	46	103	66	60	66	73	57
Ventura	29	22	24	20	27	21	26	14	24	16
Yolo	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Yuba	2	14	6	13	17	8	17	12	19	20
Unknown	4	0	3	2	3	3	1	0	1	4
Total	1,714	1,677	1,676	1,836	1,796	1,633	1,768	1,670	1,848	1,418
Bear Tags Sold	15,000	15,264	18,475	18,321	20,620	19,796	22,157	22,331	21,000	23,160

Table 3
Method of Take Summary
For Returned Bear Tags, Statewide-2005

County	Used Dogs	Used Archery Equipment	While Deer Hunting	Used Guides	Hunt In County of Res.	(%) H.I.C. /Co. Total
Alpine	3	3	3	0	0	0.0 %
Amador	2	0	3	0	0	0.0 %
Butte	27	1	13	0	24	51.1 %
Calaveras	4	0	4	0	1	11.1 %
Colusa	0	0	5	0	0	0.0 %
Del Norte	4	1	8	0	16	88.9 %
El Dorado	14	5	24	0	16	34.0 %
Fresno	30	2	21	0	41	69.5 %
Glenn	7	3	20	1	3	9.1 %
Humboldt	66	6	19	9	63	64.3 %
Inyo	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
Kern	7	3	8	0	8	44.4 %
Lake	3	0	5	0	1	11.1 %
Lassen	14	1	2	2	10	55.6 %
Los Angeles	3	2	10	1	9	50.0 %
Madera	26	4	11	0	10	25.0 %
Mariposa	15	2	7	0	5	20.8 %
Mendocino	18	2	31	2	11	19.6 %
Merced	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
Modoc	2	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
Mono	3	6	5	0	2	16.7 %
Napa	0	0	2	0	0	0.0 %
Nevada	4	3	11	0	3	16.7 %
Placer	11	3	12	0	4	13.3 %
Plumas	54	1	22	3	8	9.4 %
Riverside	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
San Bernardino	9	0	2	0	7	63.6 %
San Luis Obispo	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
Santa Barbara	0	0	4	0	2	22.2 %
Shasta	115	7	29	43	72	43.1 %
Sierra	16	1	13	1	0	0.0 %
Siskiyou	72	11	31	12	39	32.2 %
Sonoma	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
Stanislaus	2	0	0	0	1	50.0 %
Tehama	27	5	27	1	17	27.0 %
Trinity	112	14	66	4	24	13.0 %
Tulare	24	10	24	10	21	33.9 %
Tuolumne	34	0	19	0	8	14.0 %
Ventura	2	0	6	0	7	43.8 %
Yolo	0	0	0	0	0	0.0 %
Yuba	10	2	7	2	9	45.0 %
Unknown	2	1	2	0	0	0.0 %
Total	742	99	476	91	442	
% of Harvest	52.3%	7.0%	33.6%	6.4%	31.2%	

Table 4
Opening Date and Season Length of Bear Season by Deer Hunting Zone
2005 Hunting Season

Deer Zone	Opening Date	Closing Date	Season Length
A	August 13	December 25	135 days
B1, B2, B3, B5	September 17	December 25	100 days
B4	August 27	December 25	121 days
B6	September 17	December 25	100 days
C1, C2, C3 C4	September 17	December 25	100 days
D3, D4, D5, D8, D9, D10	September 24	December 25	93 days
D6, D7	September 17	December 25	100 days
D11, D13, D14, D15, D17	October 8	December 25	79 days
D12	November 5	December 25	51 days
D16	October 22	December 25	65 days
D19	October 1	December 25	86 days
X1-7b	October 1	December 25	86 days
X8, X10	September 24	December 25	93 days
X9a, X9b, X12	September 17	December 25	100 days
X9c	October 15	December 25	72 days