

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

2006 Annual Bear Take Report

Summary:

The 2006 black bear hunting season closed according to the regulations on December 31, 2006. The recent regulation change that increased the tag quota from 1,500 to 1,700 bears harvested has made this the sixth time in twelve 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 24,076 bear tags were sold in 2006 with 23,911 resident and 165 non-resident tags. Non-resident tag sales decreased in 2006, comprising about one-half of one percent of tag sales. A total of 1,822 black bears were reported taken this year and overall hunter success was 7.6%, about the same as 2005.

Once again, success rates for the different hunting methods varied only marginally in 2006 compared to previous years (see Table 3). Hunters with trailing hounds took 836 bears, (45.9%), which is down approximately 7% from 2005 but still representing about half the take. Hunters took 667 bears (36.6%) while they were deer hunting, a 3% increase from last year. Archery hunters accounted for only 128 kills (7.0%), about the same as last year, and the number of hunters using guides decreased slightly to 5.8% (105 kills).

Ninety-three percent of successful hunters and 3.5% of unsuccessful bear hunters indicated the number of days they spent hunting on their report cards. Successful hunters spent an average of 4.1 days and unsuccessful hunters spent an average of 8.6 days hunting bear. Successful hunters spent slightly more time hunting than last year. A total of 374 (20.5%) successful bear hunters said they had taken bears on private land, this is up 3% from last year. Preliminary numbers, as of 05/10/2007 show that premolar teeth were collected from 839 (46.0%) of the bears harvested.

Again in 2006 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 7th. 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 19, closed September 10, 2006.

General Bear Season: Opened (Table 4), closed December 31, 2006.

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	19	8	0	27
	Humboldt	77	63	0	140
	Lassen	18	10	0	28
	Modoc	3	1	0	4
	Shasta	101	57	0	158
	Siskiyou	141	87	1	229
	Tehama	32	31	0	63
	Trinity	148	89	0	237
	Subtotal	539	346	1	886
	% of Take	29.6%	19.0%	0.01%	48.6%
SVCSR (Region 2)	Alpine	10	13	0	23
	Amador	3	2	0	5
	Butte	24	20	1	45
	Calaveras	6	6	0	12
	Colusa	2	0	0	2
	El Dorado	39	23	0	62
	Glenn	21	14	0	35
	Nevada	14	15	0	29
	Placer	21	20	0	41
	Plumas	50	23	0	73
	Sierra	10	15	0	25
	Yolo	2	0	0	2
	Yuba	26	7	0	33
	Subtotal	228	158	1	387
	% of Take	12.5%	8.6%	0.01%	21.2%
CCR (Region 3)	Lake	11	6	0	17
	Mendocino	64	48	0	112
	Napa	1	0	0	1
	Subtotal	76	54	0	130
	% of Take	4.2%	3.0%	0.0%	7.1%
SJVSS (Region 4)	Fresno	52	27	0	79
	Kern	30	10	0	40
	Madera	24	24	2	50
	Mariposa	11	6	0	17
	Stanislaus	3	2	0	5
	Tulare	48	39	0	87
	Tuolumne	52	19	0	71
	Subtotal	220	127	2	349
	% of Take	12.1%	7.0%	0.1%	19.2%
SCR (Region 5)	Los Angeles	11	11	0	22
	Santa Barbara	8	1	0	9
	Ventura	10	2	0	12
	Subtotal	29	14	0	43
	% of Take	1.6%	0.8%	0.0%	2.4%
IDES (Region 6)	Inyo	3	0	1	4
	Mono	5	6	0	11
	Riverside	2	0	0	2
	San Bernardino	6	2	0	8
	Unknown	1	1	0	2
	Subtotal	17	9	1	27
	% of Take	0.9%	0.5%	0.01%	1.5%
Statewide Totals		1,109	708	5	1,822
Statewide Percent of Take		60.9%	38.9%	0.2%	100%

**Table 2
Ten Year Bear Take Data
For Returned Bear Tags**

County	1997¹	1998¹	1999¹	2000¹	2001¹	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Alpine	10	10	26	19	5	5	8	9	11	23
Amador	2	1	3	0	0	0	1	2	5	5
Butte	63	28	48	38	39	51	45	30	47	45
Calaveras	26	13	12	19	17	19	20	36	9	12
Colusa	5	6	2	0	2	2	1	4	8	2
Del Norte	35	51	53	32	18	28	22	30	18	27
El Dorado	44	44	29	61	61	61	61	63	47	62
Fresno	85	62	70	94	78	78	86	99	59	79
Glenn	11	22	27	33	18	25	27	31	33	35
Humboldt	119	142	164	130	110	147	113	154	98	140
Inyo	2	1	3	5	2	5	2	2	1	4
Kern	32	34	32	79	85	76	68	59	18	40
Lake	16	16	7	8	27	11	5	10	9	17
Lassen	7	22	30	19	13	8	26	18	18	28
Los Angeles	5	6	13	13	16	2	9	13	18	22
Madera	67	50	41	41	46	53	43	47	40	50
Mariposa	22	15	30	20	35	27	24	34	24	17
Mendocino	86	102	91	93	122	78	74	85	56	112
Merced	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Modoc	0	0	6	6	3	4	3	0	2	4
Mono	7	6	4	10	10	9	2	11	12	11
Napa	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	1	2	1
Nevada	12	9	15	20	17	14	15	19	18	29
Placer	50	36	32	38	37	34	38	49	30	41
Plumas	98	96	71	49	82	75	61	79	85	73
Riverside	6	2	2	4	2	5	3	2	0	2
San Bernardino	18	17	17	14	23	25	30	14	11	8
San Joaquin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Barbara	23	20	18	14	16	12	8	24	9	9
Shasta	148	185	208	179	104	178	142	199	167	158
Sierra	32	12	33	31	34	28	16	19	33	25
Siskiyou	156	205	260	181	104	199	190	209	121	229
Sonoma	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Stanislaus	2	5	4	6	1	2	3	0	2	5
Tehama	76	75	86	65	79	81	67	67	63	63
Trinity	184	186	242	190	198	179	201	224	185	237
Tulare	107	103	75	133	130	138	158	88	62	87
Tuolumne	84	60	46	103	66	60	66	73	57	71
Ventura	22	24	20	27	21	26	14	24	16	12
Yolo	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Yuba	14	6	13	17	8	17	12	19	20	33
Unknown	0	3	2	3	3	1	0	1	4	2
Total	1,677	1,676	1,836	1,796	1,633	1,768	1,670	1,848	1,418	1,822
Bear Tags Sold	15,264	18,475	18,321	20,620	19,796	22,157	22,331	21,000	23,160	24,076

Table 3
Method of Take Summary
For Returned Bear Tags, Statewide-2006

County	Used Dogs	Used Archery Equipment	While Deer Hunting	Used Guides	Hunt In County of Res.	(%) H.I.C. /Co. Total
Alpine	6	3	14	3	3	13.6%
Amador	1	0	3	0	1	25.0%
Butte	24	4	10	0	26	57.8%
Calaveras	2	1	7	0	3	27.3%
Colusa	0	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Del Norte	5	0	14	0	24	88.9%
El Dorado	22	3	33	0	21	33.9%
Fresno	38	8	33	2	59	74.7%
Glenn	7	0	20	0	6	17.1%
Humboldt	82	4	37	11	90	64.3%
Inyo	0	1	2	0	0	0.0%
Kern	14	8	15	2	19	47.5%
Lake	6	0	8	0	3	20.0%
Lassen	20	4	2	2	7	28.0%
Los Angeles	1	3	15	0	8	36.4%
Madera	34	0	9	0	12	24.0%
Mariposa	9	0	6	0	3	17.6%
Mendocino	22	8	59	6	18	16.1%
Merced	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Modoc	3	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Mono	0	3	6	0	3	27.3%
Napa	0	0	1	0	1	100.0%
Nevada	5	4	21	0	7	3.4%
Placer	10	3	18	0	16	40.0%
Plumas	40	8	20	7	11	15.1%
Riverside	0	1	1	0	2	100.0%
San Bernardino	3	0	3	0	2	25.0%
San Luis Obispo	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Santa Barbara	1	0	7	1	2	22.2%
Shasta	88	11	39	24	79	50.0%
Sierra	12	1	9	2	1	4.2%
Siskiyou	138	17	55	22	67	29.3%
Sonoma	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Stanislaus	0	0	4	0	1	20.0%
Tehama	15	3	37	0	19	30.2%
Trinity	131	15	84	4	32	13.5%
Tulare	36	7	33	15	35	40.2%
Tuolumne	42	6	19	1	13	18.3%
Ventura	0	0	7	1	6	50.0%
Yolo	1	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Yuba	18	2	12	2	7	21.9%
Unknown	0	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Total	836	128	667	105	607	
% of Harvest	45.9%	7.0%	36.6%	5.8%	33.3%	

Table 4
Opening Date and Season Length of Bear Season by Deer Hunting Zone
2006 Hunting Season

Deer Zone	Opening Date	Closing Date	Season Length
A	August 12	December 31	142 Days
B1, B2, B3, B5	September 16	December 31	107 Days
B4	August 26	December 31	128 Days
B6	September 16	December 31	107 Days
C1, C2, C3 C4	September 16	December 31	107 Days
D3, D4, D5, D8, D9, D10	September 23	December 31	100 Days
D6, D7	September 16	December 31	107 Days
D11, D13, D14, D15, D17	October 14	December 31	78 Days
D12	November 4	December 31	58 Days
D16	October 28	December 31	64 Days
D19	October 7	December 31	85 Days
X1-7b	October 7	December 31	85 Days
X8	September 23	December 31	100 Days
X9a, X9b, X12	September 16	December 31	107 Days
X9c	October 21	December 31	71 Days
X10	September 30	December 31	93 Days