State of California The Resources Agency Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Management Division Bird and Manmal Conservation Program

BOBCAT HARVEST ASSESSMENT

1996-97

State of California THE RESOURCES AGENCY Department of Fish and Game

BOBCAT HARVEST ASSESSMENT 1996-97

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ABSTRACT

An estimated 1,573 bobcats were taken during the 1996 hunting year and the 1996-97 trapping season. Trappers took 1,066 bobcats, and hunters took 429. The total take was an increase of 62 percent from the 1995-96 year. The average pelt price increased from \$33.66 last year to \$75.24 this year (Table 5). The average take per successful trapper increased, and the number of bobcat trappers increased from 62 to 94.

Data on the bobcat harvest were gathered through the process of tagging bobcat furs for export, the annual trapping report and bobcat hunter report cards, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services records.

INTRODUCTION

The annual bobcat harvest increased in the 1960s and continued through the late 1970s. This increase was brought about by high fur prices. The sale of bobcat pelts provided the most income to trappers of any species trapped and sold in California since the 1975-76 season. In order to determine the magnitude of the bobcat harvest and the effects on bobcat populations in the state, several studies were initiated. Field studies of local population dynamics were conducted on unharvested populations in Siskiyou, Riverside and San Diego counties and on a harvested population in San Diego county. Also, a statewide harvest monitoring program was initiated to determine the age, sex structure, and harvest of bobcats on a regional basis. Currently, only the harvest is being monitored because the harvest and demand have been low since 1981-82.

Public interest in the bobcat increased in the early 1970s on both domestic and international fronts due to an increase in the demand for bobcat pelts. Prior to 1971, the bobcat in California was a non-protected mammal, and there were no restrictions on its take. In 1971, this species was given nongame status by the California Legislature.

In 1973, the United States became party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). The treaty restricted trade in endangered species and established procedures to monitor the trade of other species that might be faced with endangerment in the future. The bobcat was one of the species selected by the parties to the treaty as a possible candidate for future endangerment, primarily because of concern for the Mexican bobcat. The Endangered Species Scientific Authority (ESSA) was established as the scientific body to monitor the bobcat's status in the United States, and The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was given authority over trade as provided in the treaty.

In 1974 a six month season was established for the take of bobcats. This season was reduced to the standard 3% month furbearer season in 1976.

In 1977 The Defenders of Wildlife petitioned the Secretary of Interior to place the bobcat on the endangered species list. This action was taken because of the high demand and prices for bobcats at that time. The Secretary of Interior found that Defender's petition was not warranted. Also in 1977, the California Fish and Game Commission enacted regulations that required pelts from bobcats taken for commercial purposes under a trapping license be tagged with a United States Fish and Wildlife Service shipping (export) tag. This was done to comply with the provisions of CITES, as the bobcat had recently been designated an Appendix 2 species. The issuance of export tags allowed the Department to closely monitor the take and sale of bobcat pelts.

In November 1979, Defenders brought suit against the ESSA, claiming that ESSA did not make its findings based on biological information. The suit was heard in December, and the court reversed ESSA's findings for several states, but not for California. Later, the ESSA was dissolved, and responsibility was transferred to the USFWS Office of Scientific Authority (OSA). OSA was given responsibility for scientific monitoring. OSA reviewed California's biological data and analysis that resulted from several years of harvest monitoring field studies of the bobcat. California's pre-breeding estimate of 72,000 adult bobcats, and harvest quota of 14,400 animals per year was approved by OSA.

Defenders of wildlife appealed the Court's ruling. This resulted in a court order that prohibited the export of bobcat pelts taken after July 1, 1982. This ban was imposed until OSA could satisfy the court that export of bobcat pelts was based on reliable population estimates, and that each state would enforce a predetermined take limit. During 1982 there was legislative redefinition of the Endangered Species Act which effectively voided the court's ban on export. On December 1, 1982, the export ban was lifted and the major European market was reopened.

During the 1978-79 trapping season, the export tag quota of 14,400 animals was reached by the end of January, effectively shortening the season by one month. During 1979-80, the trapping season was reduced to 2% months, but was closed on December 29, 1979, one month earlier than proposed, because the quota of export tags had been reached once again.

For the 1980-81 season, The State was divided into three trapping zones, each with a different season length, depending on the status of the local bobcat populations. These regulations were a result of previous research and monitoring efforts. The 1981-82 season length was increased by one week, except in the northeastern California zone, in order to have the bobcat trapping season coincide with the trapping season on gray fox. In 1982-83, the northeastern California trapping season was set back two weeks, and its length was increased by one week.

The season limit for hunting bobcats was set at two for the 1980-81 hunting season, and increased to five for the 1984-85 season. Prior to 1982-83, the hunting season length and timing coincided with the trapping (commercial) season. In 1982-83, the hunting season was extended by two weeks past the end of the trapping (commercial) season in Del Norte, Humboldt, Kern, Lake, Mendocino, Trinity, and San Diego counties. For the 1985-86 season, the hunting season was extended statewide to open one week before the commercial season through February 15.

In 1993, legislation was introduced (Assembly Bill 380) to ban the hunting and trapping of bobcats in California. That proposed legislation did not pass.

Bobcat hunting and trapping regulations were again adjusted for the 1994-95 season. The season length of the three trapping 'zones were made the same, and ran from November 24 through January 31. The hunting season was adjusted to run from October 15 through February 28, statewide. The reason for this action was to provide more opportunity for hunters and trappers. The total bobcat take in recent years has been substantially less than 20 percent of the OSA quota, and therefore is not in danger of overharvest.

Since 1982, the bobcat harvest has been monitored closely; the results of this monitoring for the 1996-97 season are discussed in this report.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Determine the annual bobcat harvest on a regional basis.
- 2. Use this information, along with previously gathered information on bobcat biology and population dynamics, to manage, local populations by manipulating season lengths and chronology, take methods, and harvest limits.

METHODS

The commercial take is determined through assessment of mandatory annual reports of licensed trappers and an export tagging program for all bobcat furs. Commercial fur trappers report their take at the end of each license year (fiscal year), giving the quantity of take of each species by county. Anyone possessing or wishing to sell or to transport a bobcat fur must have it tagged. As part of the tagging process, the trapper must supply information on the place, date, and method of take.

Information on hunting is gathered through the sale of hunting tags and their return. Hunters of bobcat are required to report their kill and provide information on their take.

All depredation take must be reported to the Department. This information is reported directly by the person taking the bobcat or by the public agencies responsible for the depredation control work.

RESULTS

For the 1996-97 season, the total estimated take of bobcats was 1,573 individuals (Table 1). This was a 62 percent increase over the 1995-96 trapping year. Commercial trappers continue to take the majority (68 percent) of bobcats. The total hunter take of 429 (Tables 1 and 2) was higher (5 percent) than in 1995-96. The total take of bobcats ranged from none in 7 counties to 179 in Kern County (Table 2). In the 1996-97 season, over 100 bobcats were taken from each of two counties.

TABLE 1
ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAKE OF BOBCATS BY HUNTING AND TRAPPING IN CALIFORNIA
1978-79 TO 1996-97

Season	Total Commercial Take (IA + IB)	Commercial Trapper Take (IA)	Commercial Hunter Take (IB)	Total Hunter Take (II)	Animal Damage Control Take* (III)	Total Annual Take (IA+II+III)
1978-79	8,325	6,825	1,500	5,811	56	12,692
1979-80	7,809	6,686	1,123	7,708	32	14,426
1980-81	9,595	8,702	893	3,737	24	12,463
1981-82	9,337	8,162	1,175	3,037	34	11,233
1982-83	8,513	7,427	1,086	2,951	48	10,426
1983-84	7,362	6,576	786	2,077	43	8,696
1984-85	8,897	7,495	1,402	2,993	48	10,536
1985-86	8,099	6,927	1,172	2,861	36	9,824
1986-87	9,123	8,003	1,120	1,739	44	9,786
1987-88	8,994	8,017	977	2,773	47	10,837
1988-89	5,586	4,877	709	1,778	52	6,707
1989-90	2,980	2,677	303	715	63	3,455
1990-91	1,148	962	186	881	46	1,889
1991-92	1,089	1,089	0	401	12	1,502
1992-93	1,039	1,039	0	342	48	1,429
1993-94	1,148	1,148	0	451	50	1,649
1994-95	1,319	1,319	0	488	62	1,869
1995-96	660	660	0	410	61	1,131
1996-97	1,066	1,066	0	429	78	1,573

Federal fiscal year data 10-1-96 to 9-30-97. Other data in this table 7-1 to 6-30.

County Licensed Trappers Sport Hunters Control	TABLE 2. TAKE OF BOBCATS BY COUNTY DURING THE 1996-97 SEASO								
Alpine	County	Licensed Trappers	Sport Hunters	Animal Damage Control	Total County				
Annador	Alameda		1		1				
Butte	Alpine	1			1				
Calueras 3	Amador	5	2		7				
Colusa	Butte				0				
Colusa	Calaveras		3		3				
Contra Costa		18		2	21				
Del Norte					0				
El Dorado 7 13 2 Presno 57 17 Glorin Glorin 2			1		1				
Fresho F		7		2					
Glenn					22				
Humboldt 29			1 /		74				
Imperial			20		2				
Inyo		29		9	58				
Kern 118 59 2 1 Kings 8 5 1 1 Lake 8 5 1 1 Las Angeles 48 9 9 4 Madera 3 4 4 4 4 Mariposa 1 9 9 4					3				
Lings					57				
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Monterey 19 8 Napa 4 1 Nevada 1 1 Orange 1 1 Placer				1	22				
Napa 4 1 1 Nevada 1 1 1 Orange 1 1 1 Placer					27				
Nevada		4			5				
Orange 1 Placer 2 Plumas 12 Riverside 12 Sacramento 5 San Benito 12 San Bernardino 145 San Bernardino 145 San Diego 27 San Diego 27 San Joaquin 2 San Luis Obispo 9 San Luis Obispo 9 Santa Barbara 85 Santa Clara 11 Santa Cruz 1 Shasta 38 Sierra 1 Siskiyou 130 Solano 1 Sonoma 18 Sutter 17 Tehama 18 Trinity 26 9 Tulare 58 37			1		2				
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Santa Clara 11 Santa Cruz 1 Shasta 38 18 Sierra 1 2 Siskiyou 130 20 1 1! Solano 1 1 1. Sonoma 18 17 1. Stanislaus 4 1. 1. Sutter 1 9 1. Tehama 18 9 1. Trinity 26 9 1. Tulare 58 37 37	San Mateo				0				
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Tulare 58 37	,				27				
					35				
- 		58			95				
				4	11				
		11			19				
Yolo 1					1				
Yuba 1			1		1				
Unknown	Unknown				0				
TOTAL 1,066 429 78 1,57	TOTAL	1,066	429	78	1,573				

Seven of the 10 counties reporting the highest commercial take of bobcats were the same in 1996-97 as in 1995-96. However, Inyo, Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties replaced Colusa and Ventura counties (Table 3).

TABLE 3								
TEN COUNTIES REPORTING HIGHEST COMMERCIAL TAKE OF BOBCATS								
			78 TO 1996-97					
Rank	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82			
1	Santa Barbara	Humboldt	Santa Barbara	San Bernardino	San Bernardino			
2	Humboldt	San Bernardino	Humboldt	Monterey	Kern			
3	Tulare	Shasta	Tulare	Santa Barbara	Monterey			
4	Santa Barbara	Kern	Kern	San Luis Obispo	Santa Barbara			
5	Kern	Siskiyou	San Bernardino	Humboldt	Tulare			
6	Inyo	Santa Barbara	Siskiyou	Tulare	Humboldt			
7	Mendocino	Inyo	San Diego	Mendocino	San Diego			
8	Modoc	Modoc	Mendocino	Kern	Ventura			
9	Shasta	Mendocino	Monterey	San Diego	Fresno			
10	Monterey	Tehama	San Luis Obispo	San Benito	San Luis			
Rank	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87			
1	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	Kern	Kern	San Bernardino			
2	Monterey	Kern	Tulare	San Bernardino	Kern			
3	Kern	Santa Barbara	Monterey	Tulare	Santa Barbara			
4	Santa Barbara	San Luis Obispo	San Bernardino	Monterey	Tulare			
5	San Luis Obispo	Los Angeles	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Ventura			
6	Tulare	Monterey	San Luis Obispo	San Diego	Monterey			
7	Humboldt	Tulare	Los Angeles	Ventura	San Luis			
8	Los Angeles	San Diego	Humboldt	Humboldt	San Diego			
9	San Diego	Ventura	Siskiyou	Los Angeles	Humboldt			
10	Ventura	Humboldt	San Diego	Inyo	Fresno			
Rank	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92			
1	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	Kern	Kern	Kern			
2	Kern	Kern	San Bernardino	Tulare	Shasta			
3	Monterey	San Diego	Ventura	Colusa	Siskiyou			
4	Tulare	Santa Barbara	Fresno	San Bernardino	Humboldt			
5	Santa Barbara	Monterey	Monterey	Fresno	Tulare			
6	Siskiyou	Los Angeles	Los Angeles	Siskiyou	San Bernardino			
7	Humboldt	Ventura	San Diego	Los Angeles	San Diego			
8	Ventura	Fresno	Siskiyou	Ventura	Ventura			
9	San Diego	Tulare	Tulare	San Diego	Santa Barbara			
10	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Humboldt	Shasta	Trinity			
Rank	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97			
1	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	Siskiyou	Kern	Kern			
2	Tulare	Fresno	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	San Bernardino			
3	Siskiyou	Los Angeles	Kern	Fresno	Fresno			
4	San Diego	Humboldt	Modoc	Siskiyou	Siskiyou			
5	Santa Barbara	Siskiyou	Los Angeles	Modoc	Modoc			
6	Modoc	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	Humboldt	Tulare			
7	Shasta	Tulare	Fresno	Tulare	Lassen			
8	Kern	Modoc	Lassen	Colusa	Inyo			
9	Los Angeles	Ventura	Tulare	Lassen	Los Angeles			
10	Tehama	Riverside	Humboldt	Ventura	Santa Barbara			

The 1996-97 commercial take of bobcats increased in all of the geographic regions (Table 4). The Northeast region increased from 122 (1995-96) to 221 (1996-97), but is still well below the management threshold quota of 425 animals.

TABLE 4
GEOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES IN THE AMOUNT OF COMMERCIAL TAKE OF BOBCATS IN
CALIFORNIA
1991-92 TO 1996-97

Area	91-92 Take	Change <to> (%)</to>	92-93 Take	Change <to> (%)</to>	93-94 Take	Change <to> (%)</to>	94-95 Take	Change <to> (%)</to>	95-96 Take	Change <to></to>	96-97 Take
Northeast	88	26	111	12	124	90	236	-48	122	81	221
Northwest	260	-31	180	4	187	40	261	-66	88	78	157
North Coast	55	-27	40	55	62	-42	36	67	60	2	61
Central Coast	0	N/A	28	-79	6	67	10	-100	0	N/A	0
North Sierra	3	0	3	0	3	-100	0	N/A	0	N/A	5
Central Sierra	4	150	10	0	10	320	42	-64	15	-13	13
East Sierra	46	-39	28	-75	7	0	7	300	28	136	66
South Coast	216	-5	205	-12	181	-1	180	-77	42	150	105
South Sierra	287	-34	188	18	221	19	264	-29	187	25	233
So. California	130	89	246	37	337	-16	283	-58	118	74	205
Total	1,089	-5	1,039	10	1,138	16	1,319	-50	660	62	1,066

The average price of a bobcat pelt dropped by about 88 percent in the two years prior to 1990-91. It dropped from an all time high of \$167.33 in 1986-87 to \$17.91 in 1989-90 (Table 5). During 1990-91, the pelt price increased to \$49.50. There was no national or international regulatory action pending which might have influenced the demand for bobcat furs. The market appeared saturated during 1989-90 and 1990-91. During 1991-92 the price increased to \$71.32, but in 1992-93 the price dropped again to \$43.92. In 1993-94, the average price paid for California bobcat pelts dropped to \$40.44. In 1994-95, the pelt price again dropped by 39 percent to \$24.72. In 1995-96, the average pelt price increased to \$33.66. In 1996-97 the price again increased to \$75.24.

In the 1996-97 season, the average take per commercial trapper increased to 11.3 animals, as compared to 10.1 during 1995-96. The number of bobcat trappers increased from 62 to 94. In the last 12 years, the highest number of bobcat trappers was 664 in the 1987-88 season (Table 6).

The commercial take of bobcats was primarily by trapping (72 percent) (tables 7 and 8). Hunting with dogs remains the second most common way to take bobcats. Nine percent were taken through the use of a predator call. Predator calling is used occasionally as a hunting method by persons holding a commercial trapper's license.

Information on the extent and distribution of the hunting take of bobcats is gathered through the hunting tag program. Obtaining these tags and returning them to the Department upon taking bobcat are legal requirements of bobcat hunters. The Department sold 10,075 bobcat hunting tags during the 1996-97 season. Four hundred and twenty-nine were returned to the Department. The hunting take by county is shown in Table 2.

TABLE 5 BOBCAT PELT PRICES 1971-72 TO 1996-97							
Season	Average Price	Highest Price					
1971-72	18.83	\$ 30.00					
1972-73	29.33	60.00					
1973-74	45.00	110.00					
1974-75	50.00	110.00					
1975-76	133.50	300.00					
1976-77	76.00	225.00					
1977-78	105.00	185.00					
1978-79	120.00	426.00					
1979-80	114.20	313.00					
1980-81	129.90	325.00					
1981-82	114.53	325.00					
1982-83	105.85	342.11					
1983-84	102.33	380.00					
1984-85	121.96	368.00					
1985-86	107.86	Not Available					
1986-87	167.33	Not Available					
1987-88	142.73	Not Available					
1988-89	102.31	Not Available					
1989-90	17.91	Not Available					
1990-91	49.50	125.00					
1991-92	71.32	74.15					
1992-93	43.92	94.00					
1993-94	40.44	70.20					
1994-95	24.72	35.00					
1995-96	33.66	37.61					
1996-97	75.24	82.00					

	TABLE 6 AVERAGE BOBCAT HARVEST PER SUCCESSFUL TRAPPER PER SEASON IN CALIFORNIA*											
County	85-86	86-87	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97
Butte												
Fresno	12.1	17.6	15.3	16.1	17.4							
Glenn			10.7								······································	
Humboldt	18.0	12.5	13.0	8.6	2.3							
Inyo	14.2	9.7	6.2									
Kern	14.7	13.0	14.2	9.1	11.7	16.9				11.1		
Lake		7.2	7.9									
Lassen	4.4	4.4	9.8	3.9	5.6					6.3		
Los Angeles	14.9	15.6	11.1	12.0	14.4	5.9						
Madera			7.3									
Mariposa	7.2	10.1	19.9									
Mendocino	5.1	6.5	6.2	5.4								
Modoc	6.3	6.2	7.2	7.2	3.0					10.5		
Mono				6.5								
Monterey	17.8	21.4	24.8	14.0	16.1							
Plumas												
Riverside	10.1	9.8	12.0	8.7	16.5							
San Benito		14.2									-	
San Bernardino	14.6	14.6	13.3	12.3	14.0	5.2	5.5	16.5	14.6	11.7	8.1	9.7
San Diego	10.8	11.6	14.0	16.9	16.8							
San Luis Obispo	10.8	14.7	14.4	10.4	7.5					:		
Santa Barbara	16.1	13.9	13.9	11.7								
Shasta	4.8	4.7	4.9	6.3	4.9							
Siskiyou	5.6	5.9	9.9	6.5	5.0	2.5	6.8	9.1		14.0		8.1
Sonoma		6.8		9.3								
Tehama	3.8	3.9	5.8					·				
Trinity		8.5	5.0	2.2								
Tulare	14.5	12.3	17.1	8.5	6.2	6.7						
Tuolumne			5.2									
Ventura	12.6	18.4	16.6	9.9	16.1							
Statewide	12.71	14.75	13.55	12.61	12.06	7.00	6.19	10.71	13.67	8.61	10.1	11.3
# Trappers Harvesting Bobcats	547	584	664	443	303	124	113	97	84	102	62	94
#Trappers Licensed	1,417	1,347	1,460	1,244	834	511	371	338	300	313	257	282
* County dat	a from cou	inties and	years w	nere mor	e than 10) trapper	s per cou	unty repo	rted.			

TABLE 7. METHODS OF COMMERCIAL TAKE OF BOBCAT, 1996-97									
County	% by Calling	% by Dogs	% by Hunting	% Misc.	% Trap	Sample Size			
Alpine	0	0	0	0	100	1			
Amador	0	0	20	0	80	5			
Colusa	0	0	0	0	100	18			
El Dorado	0	85.7	0	0	14.3	· 7			
Fresno	0	0	0	0	100	57			
Glenn	0	0	0	0	100	2			
Humboldt	0	0	0	0	100	29			
Inyo	53.1	0	0	2	44.9	49			
Kern	18.6	0	0	0	81.4	118			
Lake	0	0	0	0	100	8			
Lassen	0	37.2	4.7	0	58.1	43			
Los Angeles	22.9	0	0	0	77.1	48			
Marin	0	0	0	0	100	11			
Mariposa	0	0	0	0	100	1			
Mendocino	0	100	0	0	0	4			
Modoc	14.1	15.4	0	0	70.5	78			
Mono	43.8	0	0	0	56.3	16			
Napa	0	0	0	0	100	4			
Plumas	0	0	0	0	100	12			
Riverside	0	0	0	8.3	91.7	12			
Sacramento	0	0	20	0	80	5			
San Bernardino	10.3	0	0	0.7	89	145			
San Luis Obispo	0	0	0	0	100	9			
Santa Barbara	0	0	0	0	100	85			
Shasta	0	26.3	0	0	73.7	38			
Siskiyou	2.3	46.9	1.5	0	47.7	130			
Sonoma	0	0	0	0	100	18			
Tehama	0	0	0	0	100	18			
Trinity	0	69.2	0	0	30.8	26			
Tulare	0	86.2	0	0	13.8	58			
Ventura	0	0	0	0	100	11			
Total/ Percentage	95/8.9	177/16.6	6/.06	5/.4	783/73.5	1066/100.0			

TABLE 8. METHOD OF COMMERCIAL TAKE OF BOBCATS, 1981-97										
	Method of Take (Percent of Total Statewide Take)									
Season	Trap	Dogs	Calling	Other Hunt	Misc.	Unknown	Total %			
1981-82	86.2	9.5	1.3	1.8	0.3	0.9	100.0			
1982-83	86.7	10.4	0.9	1.4	0.2	0.4	100.0			
1983-84	89.0	9.3	0.4	1.1	0.2	< 0 . 1	100.0			
1984-85	82.8	13.5	0.7	1.7	0.3	1.0	100.0			
1985-86	85.1	13.2	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.3	100.0			
1986-87	83.4	10.6	0.8	0.8	0.1	4.2	99.9			
1987-88	88.5	9.6	1.1	0.6	0.1	0.1	100.0			
1988-89	85.5	11.8	0.9	0.4	0.1	1.4	100.1			
1989-90	89.9	7.8	0.7	1.6	-		100.0			
1990-91	83.7	13.2	2.4	0.5	0.2	-	100.0			
1991-92	77.2	19.8	1.2	1.7	0.1	-	100.0			
1992-93	75.6	19.2	0.6	4.5	0.1	-	100.0			
1993-94	87.8	9.8	1.7	0.5	0.2	-	100.0			
1994-95	78.7	15.5	2.9	2.7	0.2	-	100.0			
1995-96	81.1	14.0	4.9	0	0	-	100.0			
1996-97	73.5	16.6	8.9	0.6	0.3	0.1	100.0			

DISCUSSION

The total bobcat harvest increased in the 1996-97 season from 1995-96. The number of bobcat trappers increased from 62 to 94. Pelt prices increased about 124 percent.

Since the 1982-83 season, the harvest has remained below the 14,400 statewide harvest limit. Harvest monitoring will continue. If the statewide harvest reaches 14,400 bobcats, the age and sex structure monitoring will be reinstated.

The bobcat take in northeastern California has been monitored annually since 1980-81, based on the need to document and monitor the age and sex structures of this population. If the commercial harvest in this local area increases to more than 425 for more than two successive seasons, additional management action will be taken to determine the effects on that population. The harvest has been below this level for the last eight seasons (Table 4 and 9).

TABLE 9 RECENT COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF BOBCATS IN NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA										
Season		County								
	Eastern Siskiyou	Modoc	Lassen	Plumas	Northeastern California					
1978-79	81	306	246	47	680					
1979-80	88	216	302	95	701					
1980-81	82	126	96	39	343					
1981-82	49	143	147	58	397					
1982-83	74	238	177	35	524					
1983-84	45	182	84	17	328					
1984-85	54	231	188	33	506					
1985-86	78	181	108	23	390					
1986-87	78	237	139	60	514					
1987-88	148	223	187	43	601					
1988-89	60	107	85	30	282					
1989-90	36	62	85	47	230					
1990-91	22	30	29	9	90					
1991-92	25	39	24	0.00	88					
1992-93	40	47	24	0.00	111					
1993-94	30	57	22	15	124					
1994-95	56	116	63	1	236					
1995-96	36	53	21	12	122					
1996-97	88	78	43	12	221					

RECOMMENDATION

Continue to monitor the take of bobcats by geographical area, and use that information to determine the management needed to maintain viable bobcat populations throughout California.