

State of California  
THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
Department of Fish and Game  
Wildlife Branch

**BOBCAT HARVEST ASSESSMENT**

**2006-07**

by

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## **ABSTRACT**

An estimated 1,262 bobcats were taken during the 2006-07 hunting year and trapping season. Trappers took 885 bobcats, sport hunters took 317, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services took 60. The total take was an increase of 35 percent from the 2005-06 year. The average pelt price decreased from \$194.50 last year to \$92.86 this year (Table 4). The number of successful bobcat trappers increased from 26 in 2005-06, to 34 during the 2006-07 season.

Data on the bobcat harvest were gathered through the process of tagging bobcat furs for export, the annual trapping report, 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 un-harvested 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 non-game 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 3½ 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 USFWS 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 allows 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 2½ 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 lengths of all 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 over harvest.

On November 3, 1998, California voters passed Proposition 4. This proposition specifically bans the use of all body-gripping traps, including leg-hold and Conibear type traps.

Since 1982, the bobcat harvest has been monitored closely; the results of this monitoring for the 2006-07 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 2006-07 season, the total estimated take of bobcats was 1,262 individuals (Table 1). This was a 35 percent increase from the 2005-06 season. Commercial trappers accounted for the majority of bobcats harvested. The total sport hunter take of 317 (Tables 1 and 2) was 20 percent more than 2005-06. Commercial trappers took bobcats in 17 counties.

**TABLE 1**  
**Estimated Annual Take of Bobcats by Hunting and Trapping in California**  
**1981-1982 to 2006-2007**

| Season  | Total Commercial Take (IA+IB) | Commercial Trapper Take** (IA) | Commercial Hunter Take (IB) | Total Hunter Take (II) | Wildlife Services Take* (III) | Total Annual Take (IA+IB+II+III) |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1981-82 | 9,337                         | 8,162                          | 1,175                       | 3,037                  | 34                            | 12,408                           |
| 1982-83 | 8,513                         | 7,427                          | 1,086                       | 2,951                  | 48                            | 11,512                           |
| 1983-84 | 7,362                         | 6,576                          | 786                         | 2,077                  | 43                            | 9,482                            |
| 1984-85 | 8,897                         | 7,495                          | 1,402                       | 2,993                  | 48                            | 11,938                           |
| 1985-86 | 8,099                         | 6,927                          | 1,172                       | 2,861                  | 36                            | 10,996                           |
| 1986-87 | 9,123                         | 8,003                          | 1,120                       | 1,739                  | 44                            | 10,906                           |
| 1987-88 | 8,994                         | 8,017                          | 977                         | 2,773                  | 47                            | 11,814                           |
| 1988-89 | 5,586                         | 4,877                          | 709                         | 1,778                  | 52                            | 7,416                            |
| 1989-90 | 2,980                         | 2,677                          | 303                         | 715                    | 63                            | 3,758                            |
| 1990-91 | 1,148                         | 962                            | 186                         | 881                    | 46                            | 2,075                            |
| 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                            |
| 1997-98 | 1,165                         | 1,165                          | 0                           | 426                    | 99                            | 1,690                            |
| 1998-99 | 224                           | 224                            | 0                           | 353                    | 113                           | 690                              |
| 1999-00 | 182                           | 182                            | 0                           | 352                    | 97                            | 631                              |
| 2000-01 | 190                           | 190                            | 0                           | 414                    | 72                            | 676                              |
| 2001-02 | 214                           | 214                            | 0                           | 295                    | 71                            | 580                              |
| 2002-03 | 394                           | 394                            | 0                           | 342                    | 63                            | 799                              |
| 2003-04 | 429                           | 429                            | 0                           | 268                    | 65                            | 762                              |
| 2004-05 | 506                           | 506                            | 0                           | 261                    | 41                            | 808                              |
| 2005-06 | 627                           | 627                            | 0                           | 265                    | 46                            | 938                              |
| 2006-07 | 885                           | 885                            | 0                           | 317                    | 60                            | 1,262                            |

*\*Federal fiscal year data is from 10-1 to 9-30, all other data in this table is from 7-1 to 6-30.*

*\*\*Totals taken from annual trapper reports, starting with 2001.*

Information on the extent and distribution of the sport 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. Three hundred and seventeen were returned to the Department. The hunting take by county is shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2  
Bobcat Take by County  
2006-2007 Season

| COUNTY          | LICENSED TRAPPERS | SPORT HUNTERS | WILDLIFE SERVICES | TOTAL |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------|
| Alameda         |                   | 1             |                   | 1     |
| Alpine          |                   |               |                   | 0     |
| Amador          |                   | 3             |                   | 3     |
| Butte           |                   | 2             | 1                 | 3     |
| Calaveras       |                   | 1             |                   | 1     |
| Colusa          |                   | 4             |                   | 4     |
| Contra Costa    |                   | 1             |                   | 1     |
| Del Norte       |                   | 2             |                   | 2     |
| El Dorado       |                   | 3             | 2                 | 5     |
| Fresno          | 6                 | 7             |                   | 13    |
| Glenn           |                   | 1             |                   | 1     |
| Humboldt        | 2                 | 2             | 1                 | 5     |
| Imperial        |                   | 2             |                   | 2     |
| Inyo            | 86                | 11            |                   | 97    |
| Kern            | 25                | 37            | 3                 | 65    |
| Kings           |                   |               |                   | 0     |
| Lake            |                   | 3             | 6                 | 9     |
| Lassen          | 81                | 11            | 3                 | 95    |
| Los Angeles     | 18                | 9             |                   | 27    |
| Madera          | 3                 | 5             | 1                 | 9     |
| Marin           |                   |               |                   | 0     |
| Mariposa        |                   | 2             | 6                 | 8     |
| Mendocino       | 2                 | 8             | 5                 | 15    |
| Merced          |                   | 1             | 1                 | 2     |
| Modoc           | 186               | 12            |                   | 198   |
| Mono            | 27                | 2             |                   | 29    |
| Monterey        |                   | 12            |                   | 12    |
| Napa            |                   |               | 3                 | 3     |
| Nevada          |                   | 1             |                   | 1     |
| Orange          |                   |               |                   | 0     |
| Placer          |                   |               | 4                 | 4     |
| Plumas          |                   | 9             |                   | 9     |
| Riverside       |                   | 8             |                   | 8     |
| Sacramento      |                   | 1             |                   | 1     |
| San Benito      |                   | 10            |                   | 10    |
| San Bernardino  | 238               | 47            |                   | 285   |
| San Diego       |                   | 16            | 5                 | 21    |
| San Francisco   |                   |               |                   | 0     |
| San Joaquin     |                   | 1             |                   | 1     |
| San Luis Obispo |                   | 3             | 3                 | 6     |
| San Mateo       |                   | 1             |                   | 1     |
| Santa Barbara   |                   | 3             |                   | 3     |
| Santa Clara     |                   | 3             |                   | 3     |
| Santa Cruz      |                   | 1             |                   | 1     |
| Shasta          | 17                | 12            |                   | 29    |
| Sierra          |                   |               |                   | 0     |
| Siskiyou        | 163               | 2             |                   | 165   |
| Solano          |                   | 17            |                   | 17    |
| Sonoma          |                   |               | 7                 | 7     |
| Stanislaus      |                   | 1             | 1                 | 2     |
| Sutter          |                   | 2             |                   | 2     |
| Tehama          | 4                 |               | 1                 | 5     |
| Trinity         | 7                 | 3             |                   | 10    |
| Tulare          | 20                |               |                   | 20    |
| Tuolumne        |                   | 18            | 3                 | 21    |
| Ventura         |                   | 6             |                   | 6     |
| Yolo            |                   | 6             |                   | 6     |
| Yuba            |                   | 1             | 4                 | 5     |
| Unknown         |                   | 3             |                   | 3     |
| Total           | 885               | 317           | 60                | 1,262 |

The 2006-07 commercial take of bobcats decreased in all geographic regions (Table 3). The Northeast Area bobcat take decreased by 5 percent from 287 (2005-06) to 271 (2006-07), but is still well below the management threshold quota of 425 animals.

**TABLE 3**  
Geographical Differences in the COMMERCIAL Bobcat Harvest in California  
2000-2001 TO 2006-2007

| AREA                | 2001-2002<br>Take | 2001-2003<br>%<br>Change | 2002-2003<br>Take* | 2002-2004<br>%<br>Change | 2003-2004<br>Take | 2003-2005<br>%<br>Change | 2004-2005<br>Take | 2004-2006<br>%<br>Change | 2005-2006<br>Take | 2005-2007<br>%<br>Change | 2006-2007<br>Take |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Northeast           | 104               | 91                       | 199                | 3                        | 204               | 9                        | 223               | 29                       | 287               | 27                       | 364.8             |
| Northwest           | 40                | -8                       | 37                 | -49                      | 19                | 311                      | 78                | 50                       | 117               | -17                      | 97.2              |
| North Coast         | 7                 | -57                      | 3                  | 33                       | 4                 | 0                        | 4                 | 225                      | 13                | -100                     | 0                 |
| Central Coast       | 0                 | n/a                      | 0                  | n/a                      | 5                 | -100                     | 0                 | n/a                      | 3                 | -100                     | 0                 |
| North Sierra        | 0                 | n/a                      | 0                  | n/a                      | 21                | -95                      | 1                 | 1,000                    | 11                | -100                     | 0                 |
| Central Sierra      | 11                | -100                     | 0                  | n/a                      | 61                | -100                     | 0                 | n/a                      | 27                | -100                     | 0                 |
| East Sierra         | 6                 | -100                     | 0                  | n/a                      | 0                 | n/a                      | 27                | 48                       | 40                | 183                      | 113               |
| South Coast         | 0                 | n/a                      | 0                  | n/a                      | 0                 | n/a                      | 30                | 7                        | 32                | -100                     | 0                 |
| South Sierra        | 17                | 129                      | 39                 | 31                       | 51                | 16                       | 59                | 49                       | 88                | -39                      | 54                |
| Southern California | 29                | 197                      | 86                 | -35                      | 56                | 50                       | 84                | 226                      | 274               | -7                       | 256               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>214</b>        | <b>70</b>                | <b>364</b>         | <b>16</b>                | <b>421</b>        | <b>20</b>                | <b>506</b>        | <b>76</b>                | <b>892</b>        | <b>-1</b>                | <b>885</b>        |

\* Error corrected in calculated Total, previous reports did not include the Southern California take in the 2002-2003 Total.

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 4). 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 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. For the period of 1997 to 2001, the average price paid for bobcat pelts was about \$33.00. The price increased 74 percent in 2001-02 and another 182 percent in 2002-03. In 2003-04 the average pelt price for bobcats decreased by about 20 percent, from \$186.27 to \$148.75 (Table 4). The 2004-05 average price for a bobcat pelt increased 7.5 percent from \$148.75 to \$160.00. During 2005-06, the price of bobcat pelts increased 22 percent to \$194.50, while the 2006-2007 average price for a bobcat pelt dropped 52 percent to \$92.86.

During the 2006-07 year, the number of bobcat trappers was 34. In the last 17 years, the highest number of bobcat trappers was 124 in the 1990-91 season.

| TABLE 4<br>Fur Dealer Reported Bobcat Pelt Prices<br>1978-1979 TO 2006-2007 |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Season  | Average Price | Highest Price |
| 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      | n/a           |
| 1986-87   | \$167.33      | n/a           |
| 1987-88   | \$142.73      | n/a           |
| 1988-89   | \$102.31      | n/a           |
| 1989-90   | \$17.91       | n/a           |
| 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       |
| 1997-98   | \$31.11       | \$32.10       |
| 1998-99   | \$30.55       | \$33.36       |
| 1999-00   | \$32.06       | \$35.00       |
| 2000-01   | \$38.47       | n/a           |
| 2001-02   | \$66.00       | n/a           |
| 2002-03   | \$186.27      | n/a           |
| 2003-04   | \$148.75      | n/a           |
| 2004-05   | \$160.00      | n/a           |
| 2005-06   | \$194.50      | n/a           |
| 2006-07   | \$92.86       | \$100.00      |

| TABLE 5   |         |         |         |         |                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |                   |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| Average Bobcat Harvest per Successful Trapper per Season in California*         |         |         |         |         |                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |                   |
| COUNTY  | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99           | 1999-00 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07           |
| Kern  | 11.1    |         |         |         |                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |                   |
| Lassen  | 6.3     |         |         | 8.9     |                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |                   |
| Modoc   | 10.5    |         |         |         |                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | 17.6 <sup>‡</sup> |
| San Bernadino   | 11.7    | 8.1     | 9.7     | 6.8     |                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |                   |
| Siskiyou  | 14.0    |         |         | 10.9    | 10.3 <sup>+</sup> |         |         |         |         |         |         |         | 10.4              |
| Statewide   | 8.6     | 10.1    | 11.3    | 9.0     | 10.3              | N/A     |                   |
| # of Trappers Harvesting  | 102.0   | 62.0    | 94.0    | 91.0    | 22.0              | 22.0    | 18.0    | 24.0    | 31.0    | 37.0    | 37.0    | 26.0    |                   |
| # of Trappers Licensed  | 313.0   | 257.0   | 282.0   | 292.0   | 170.0             | 79.0    | 76.0    | 211.0   | 127.0   | 191.0   | 211.0   | 202.0   |                   |
| * Data from counties and years where more than 10 trappers per county reported. |         |         |         |         |                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |                   |
| + Six trappers reported   |         |         |         |         |                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |                   |
| ‡ Eight trappers reported   |         |         |         |         |                   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |                   |

The export tag data indicated that the commercial take of bobcats was primarily with the use of traps, 65 percent (Tables 6 and 7), and totaled four hundred and seventy three animals.

| TABLE 6<br>Methods of COMMERCIAL Bobcat Take*<br>2006 - 2007  |      |      |         |          |       |       |
|---|------|------|---------|----------|-------|-------|
| COUNTY  | CALL | DOGS | HUNTING | TRAPPING | MISC. | TOTAL |
| Fresno  | 1    |      |         | 6        |       | 7     |
| Humboldt  |      | 2    |         |          |       | 2     |
| Inyo  | 17   |      |         | 38       |       | 55    |
| Kern  | 25   |      |         |          |       | 25    |
| Lake  |      | 1    |         |          |       | 1     |
| Lassen  | 1    | 6    |         | 61       |       | 68    |
| Los Angeles   |      |      |         | 18       |       | 18    |
| Madera  |      | 1    |         | 2        |       | 3     |
| Mendocino   |      | 1    |         |          |       | 1     |
| Modoc   | 2    | 3    |         | 136      |       | 141   |
| Mono  | 3    |      |         |          |       | 3     |
| San Bernardino  | 79   |      |         | 160      |       | 239   |
| Shasta  | 1    | 31   |         | 2        |       | 34    |
| Siskiyou  | 28   |      | 18      | 49       | 9     | 104   |
| Tehama  |      |      | 1       |          |       | 1     |
| Trinity   |      | 6    |         | 1        |       | 7     |
| Tulare  |      | 18   | 2       |          |       | 20    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | 157  | 69   | 21      | 473      | 9     | 729   |
| <b>PERCENTAGE</b>   | 22   | 9    | 3       | 65       | 1     | 100   |
| * Trapping method is taken from Export Tag data, the total value reported will be different than the Trapper Report data value for total animals harvested. |      |      |         |          |       |       |

| TABLE 7<br>Method of COMMERCIAL Take of Bobcats<br>1985-1986 TO 2006-2007<br>Method of Take: <i>Percent of Statewide Total</i> |      |      |      |         |       |           |
|--|------|------|------|---------|-------|-----------|
| SEASON   | Call | Dogs | Trap | Hunting | Misc. | Total (%) |
| 1985-86  | 0.6  | 13.2 | 85.1 | 0.7     | 0.4   | 100       |
| 1986-87  | 0.8  | 10.6 | 83.4 | 0.8     | 4.3   | 100       |
| 1987-88  | 1.1  | 9.6  | 88.5 | 0.6     | 0.2   | 100       |
| 1988-89  | 0.9  | 11.8 | 85.5 | 0.4     | 1.5   | 100       |
| 1989-90  | 0.7  | 7.8  | 89.9 | 1.6     | -     | 100       |
| 1990-91  | 2.4  | 13.2 | 83.7 | 0.5     | 0.2   | 100       |
| 1991-92  | 1.2  | 19.8 | 77.2 | 1.7     | 0.1   | 100       |
| 1992-93  | 0.6  | 19.2 | 75.6 | 4.5     | 0.1   | 100       |
| 1993-94  | 1.7  | 9.8  | 87.8 | 0.5     | 0.2   | 100       |
| 1994-95  | 2.9  | 15.5 | 78.7 | 2.7     | 0.2   | 100       |
| 1995-96  | 4.9  | 14.0 | 81.1 | 0.0     | -     | 100       |
| 1996-97  | 8.9  | 16.6 | 73.5 | 0.6     | 0.4   | 100       |
| 1997-98  | 1.0  | 25.0 | 69.0 | 5.0     | -     | 100       |
| 1998-99  | 2.0  | 61.0 | 28.0 | 9.0     | -     | 100       |
| 1999-00  | 8.0  | 39.0 | 49.0 | 3.0     | 0.5   | 100       |
| 2000-01  | 12.6 | 44.2 | 40.0 | 3.2     | -     | 100       |
| 2001-02  | 2.6  | 28.5 | 64.7 | 3.7     | 0.5   | 100       |
| 2002-03  | 5.5  | 14.8 | 68.9 | 10.8    | -     | 100       |
| 2003-04  | 12.0 | 30.0 | 50.0 | 8.0     | -     | 100       |
| 2004-05  | 14.0 | 22.0 | 63.0 | 1.0     | -     | 100       |
| 2005-06  | 20.0 | 9.0  | 70.0 | 1.0     | -     | 100       |
| 2006-07  | 21.5 | 9.5  | 64.9 | 2.9     | 1.2   | 100       |

## DISCUSSION

The total bobcat harvest for the 2006-07 season increased 16 percent from 2005-06. The number of successful bobcat trappers was 34. Pelt prices decreased approximately 52 percent. Since the 1981-82 season, the harvest has remained below the 14,400 statewide harvest limit. Harvest monitoring will continue. 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 had been below 425 for the last 18 seasons (Table 8).

| TABLE 8   |          |       |        |        |       |
|---|----------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Recent COMMERCIAL Harvest of Bobcats in Northeastern California |          |       |        |        |       |
| Season  | Siskiyou | Modoc | Lassen | Plumas | Total |
| 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      | 88    |
| 1992-93   | 40       | 47    | 24     | 0      | 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   |
| 1997-98   | 98       | 120   | 89     | 0      | 307   |
| 1998-99   | 41       | 31    | 8      | 3      | 83    |
| 1999-00   | 26       | 39    | 4      | 0      | 69    |
| 2000-01   | 48       | 46    | 1      | 0      | 95    |
| 2001-02   | 11       | 89    | 4      | 0      | 104   |
| 2002-03   | 37       | 103   | 59     | 0      | 199   |
| 2003-04   | 31       | 184   | 27     | 5      | 247   |
| 2004-05   | 71       | 150   | 37     | 4      | 262   |
| 2005-06   | 53       | 190   | 31     | 4      | 278   |
| 2006-07   | 163      | 186   | 81     | 0      | 430   |

#### 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.