State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Branch

2007-2008 Wild Pig Take Report

The 2007-2008 wild pig hunting season ran from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 with no daily bag or seasonal possession limits. The License and Revenue Branch reported having sold 58,345 tags. This figure includes 47,495 individual resident tags, 1,060 non-resident tags and 9,790 lifetime tags. Successful hunters returned 3,021 (5.2%) wild pig report cards (Figure 1), which is less than last year when 4,800 of 54,607 (8.7%) report cards were returned.

In years past, Monterey and Kern Counties have led the statewide harvest; last year they were responsible for 19% and 17% of the State's total harvest, respectively (Table 1). This year they are responsible for a much higher percentage, 30% in Monterey and 26% in Kern. Though they account for a greater proportion of the total harvest, actual number harvested was not dissimilar to last year's - only 5% less in both counties. This indicates a decrease in harvest across the rest of the State. The decline in harvest may be due to a decrease in hunter participation (effort), the result of drought in the region suppressing population numbers or diminishing private land access in other counties.

Land access is pivotal to hunting wild pigs, considering 88% of the State's total reported wild pig hunting harvest occurs on private land (Figure 2). For instance, 91% of the pig harvest in Kern County occurred on private land; the Tejon Ranch alone accounts for 30% of the harvest in Kern County. Only 6% of successful hunters reported taking a pig on public land, many of which were on military bases such as Fort Hunter Liggett and Camp Roberts. The overall absence of harvest on public land may be a result of hunting pressure. As hunting pressure increases, wild pigs may become less inclined to move about and feed in the daytime, thereby making them inaccessible to hunters.

The methods used to take wild pigs in California are consistent with years' past. Rifle hunting represented the most successful hunting method, and accounted for 85% of the total harvest (Figure 3). Archery represented 7% of the harvest, shotgun and pistol each represented 2% and crossbow and muzzleloader combined represent less than 1% of

the total harvest. Only 7% of successful hunters used hounds to hunt wild pigs (Figure 5).

Genders were harvested nearly equal - 50% of harvested pigs were male and 46% were female (Figure 4). Four percent of the harvest report cards did not indicate a gender. This statistic indicates no hunter selectivity for gender. This is because, as with most wildlife populations, the gender ratio in wild populations is nearly 50:50.

Comparing this year's harvest results to previous years reveals an inconsistency when assessed by county. For instance, the 9 year average take of wild pigs in San Luis Obispo County is 428 pigs. Although there is a downward trend in the data, a linear regression predicts this year's harvest to be approximately 260 wild pigs for San Luis Obispo County - not the 23 as recorded. This may reflect a minor administrative error. If so, I predict next year's San Luis Obispo County harvest results to fall in trend with previous years'.

Figure 1. Annual California Wild Pig Harvest (1998-2008)

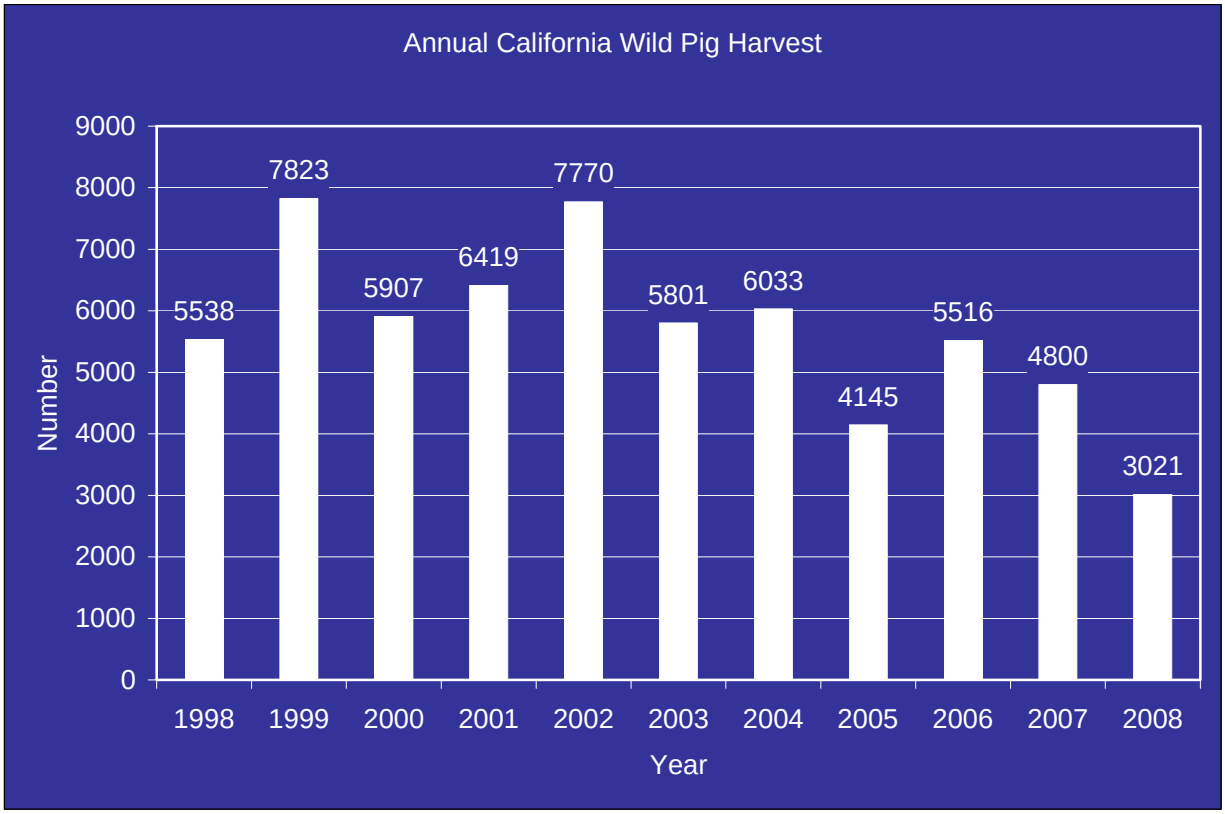

Table 1. Wild Pig Harvest by County (2007 – 2008)

County	# Wild Pigs Taken
Alameda	6
Calaveras	1
Colusa	128
Contra Costa	9
Fresno	88
Glenn	92
Humboldt	12
Kern	806
Lake	103
Madera	2
Mariposa	15
Mendocino	131
Merced	25
Monterey	911
Napa	2
Nevada	6
Placer	2
San Benito	113
San Luis Obispo	23
Santa Barbara	21
Santa Clara	6
Santa Cruz	10
Shasta	5
Solano	20
Sonoma	166
Stanislaus	19
Tehama	182
Trinity	19
Tulare	74
Tuolumne	2
Ventura	6
Yolo	1
Unknown	15
Grand Total	3021

Figure 2. Wild Pig Harvest by Land Ownership (2007 – 2008)

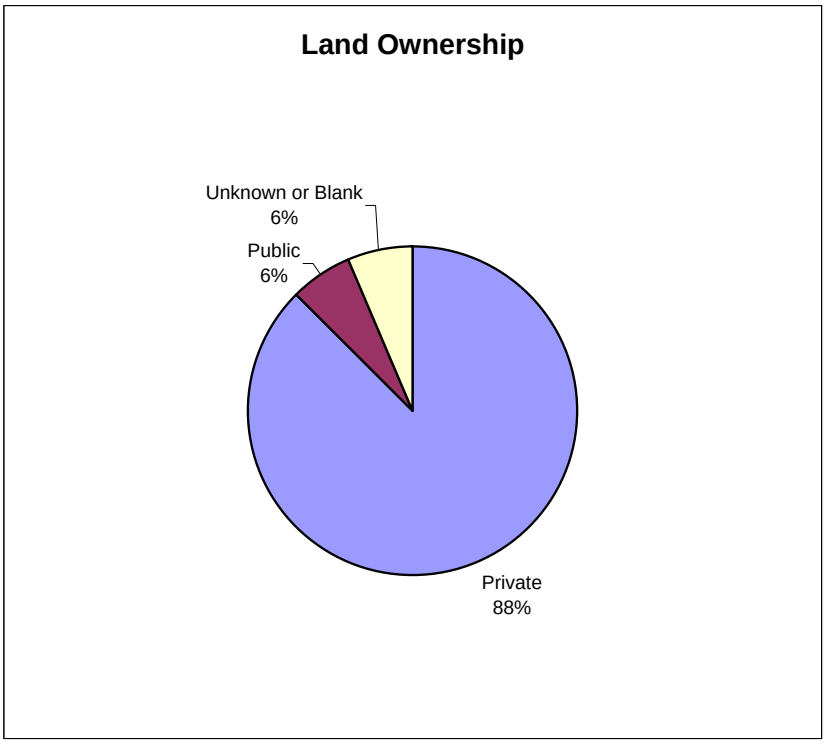

Figure 3. Wild Pig Harvest by Method of Take (2007 – 2008)

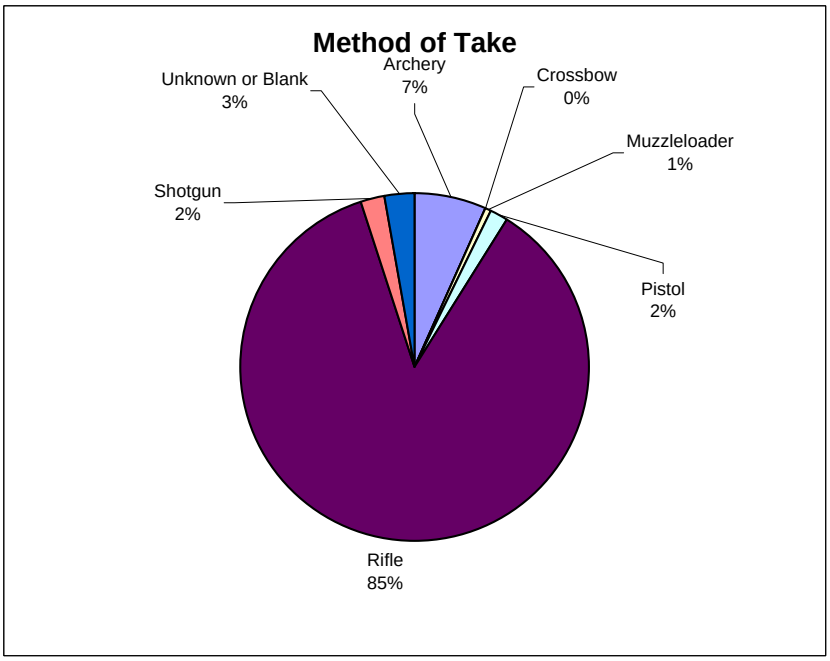

Figure 4. Wild Pig Harvest Gender (2007 – 2008)

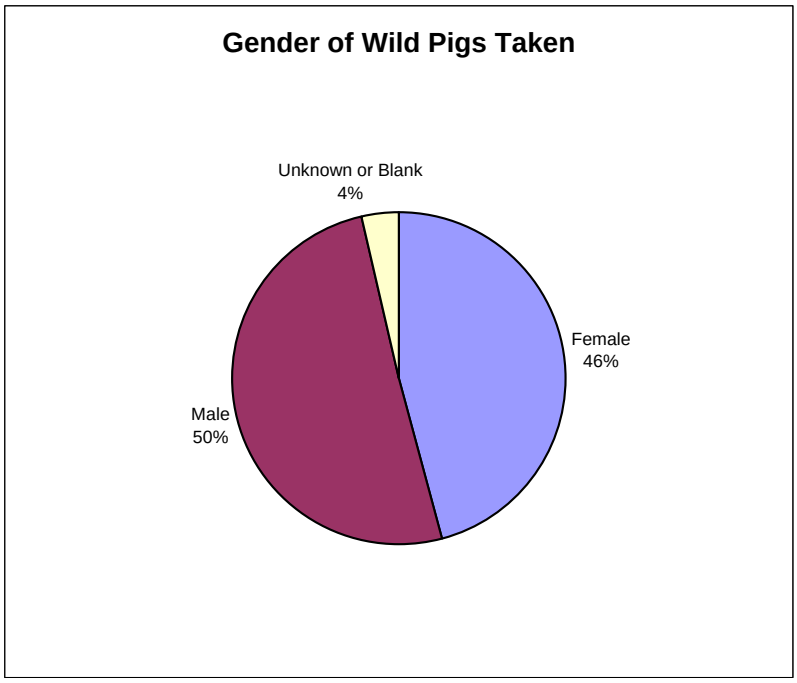

Figure 5. Wild Pig Harvest Dog Use (2007 – 2008)