

November 1957

LICENSED FUR TRAPPER REPORT

(1956-57 Season, Nov. 16, 1956 to Feb. 28, 1957)
 (Compiled by Game Management Branch, Sacramento)

Data for this report is compiled from the reports of licensed fur trappers. Each trapper is required by law to fill out and return to the Department at the end of each trapping season a record of activities including the following data: number and kinds of animals caught, county where caught, company buying furs, and prices received for furs.

858 licenses were sold for the 1956-57 season of which 856 were citizens and 2 were aliens. This is a decrease of 6 percent under the 1955-56 season when 912 licenses were sold. Of the 858 licensees, 506 (59%) submitted reports, 62 (7%) failed to report, and 290 (34%) reported they did not trap.

Trapping laws remained the same as last year except that the beaver trapping was less restricted in certain areas in northeastern California. This accounted for a 34 percent increase in the 1956-57 beaver take.

The total reported catch for the 1956-57 season was 85,252 against the total reported catch of 87,581 for the 1955-56 season, a decrease of 2.65 percent. The decrease is in proportion to the decrease in the number of licensed trappers. Muskrat, which accounted for 86 percent of the catch has continued to be in poor demand by domestic markets. Some of the trappers reported that they ceased trapping upon receipt of sales of the first shipment of pelts.

The buyer demand remained with the dark short-haired furs with otter in highest demand. The price of mink declined sharply, the lowest since 1943. A bright spot for the trappers has been the increasing interest in raccoon and skunk. Beaver is in low demand with only large and blanket sized pelts being sought by buyers. One nutria was reported taken from the Russian River.

The estimated value of the 1956-57 catch was \$96,060, a decrease of 4 percent under the 1955-56 season. The main reasons for this decrease is the proportionate decrease in the number of trappers and the continued low prices being paid for muskrats, the species in most abundance.

The following table shows the number of animals taken and the average price received for the main fur species.

Species	Number Taken		Prices Reported	
	1955-56	1956-57	1955-56	1956-57
Beaver	1,467	2,247	\$ 6.92	\$ 5.42
Bobcat	228	276	1.73	1.29
Coyote	205	170	.91	.53
Grey Fox	272	449	.30	.27
Mink	1,796	2,906	13.73	8.26
Muskrat	77,128	73,795	.96	.69
Raccoon	1,193	2,220	.92	1.10
Ringtail	120	171	1.13	1.18
River Otter	81	142	15.10	16.38
Striped Skunk	528	729	.69	.90

NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED TAKEN BY
LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS 1956-57 TRAPPING SEASON

COUNTY OF CATCH	NO. OF TRAPPERS	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	FOX GREY	MINK	MUCKRAT	SANDRAT	POSSUM	RACCOON	RINGTAIL	RIVER OTTER	SKUNK SPOTTED	SKUNK STRIPED	WEASEL	NUTRIA	TOTAL
ALAMEDA	1	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
ALPINE	1	-	20	23	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
BUTTE	24	-	46	5	7	15	1	3024	-	2	157	85	5	23	35	-	-	3405
COLUSA	9	-	60	-	-	-	-	6653	-	-	161	-	-	-	-	-	-	6874
CONTRA COSTA	8	-	51	-	-	4	141	1319	-	19	134	-	3	-	-	1	-	1672
DEL NORTE	8	-	18	2	-	-	20	111	-	-	28	2	10	6	-	-	-	197
EL DORADO	5	-	2	2	-	-	8	1	-	-	13	-	-	-	57	1	-	84
FRESNO	9	1	9	5	-	9	44	745	-	18	24	-	-	10	18	2	-	855
GLENN	26	-	48	5	-	7	5	9000	-	3	105	-	2	33	51	-	-	9259
HUMBOLDT	22	-	53	27	1	18	57	-	-	-	61	7	17	9	6	-	-	256
IMPERIAL	10	-	104	6	2	8	-	-	1451	-	-	-	-	2	12	-	-	1585
INYO	5	-	32	2	3	1	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	60
LAKE	9	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	153	-	-	-	23	-	-	276
LASSEN	13	-	38	2	-	-	7	1514	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1567
LOS ANGELES	5	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	9	12	-	-	2	-	-	-	27
MADERA	1	-	16	-	-	-	4	243	-	10	3	-	-	2	14	-	-	292
MARIPOSA	2	-	6	2	-	-	1	266	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	275
MENDOCINO	21	-	-	9	-	42	107	1	-	-	122	19	11	11	51	3	1	377
MERCED	19	-	189	6	-	16	426	2386	-	14	94	3	-	2	24	1	-	3161
MODOC	16	3	41	38	8	-	22	2126	-	-	7	-	2	5	5	-	-	2257
MONO	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	34	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
NAFA	4	-	-	1	-	16	20	-	-	-	122	-	-	3	16	-	-	178
NEVADA	4	-	27	-	1	-	10	101	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	143
PLACER	8	-	55	-	-	1	13	136	-	-	5	4	-	-	10	-	-	224
PLUMAS	33	2	370	25	8	7	20	121	-	-	42	5	1	1	23	1	-	626
RIVERSIDE	3	3	-	46	29	6	-	-	349	4	6	-	-	23	-	-	-	466
SACRAMENTO	29	-	100	3	2	29	220	6780	-	18	86	-	5	8	70	-	-	7321
SAN BENITO	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	4	19	-	-	48
SAN JOAQUIN	34	-	370	-	-	27	1036	7770	-	14	219	-	5	1	91	12	-	9545
SANTA CLARA	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
SHASTA	26	-	133	5	-	1	7	6587	-	-	51	2	8	-	16	-	-	6810
SIERRA	4	-	13	-	-	-	1	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	26
SISKIYOU	39	2	89	45	105	3	336	9571	-	-	240	-	17	20	5	2	-	10435
SOLANO	17	-	-	-	-	1	29	5699	-	-	23	-	35	-	10	-	-	5797

NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED - 1956-57

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COUNTY	NO. OF TRAPPERS	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	FOX GREY	MINK	MUSKRAT	SANDRAT	OPOSSUM	RACCOON	RINGTAIL	RIVER OTTER	SKUNK SPOTTED	SKUNK STRIPED	WEASEL	NUTRIA	TOTAL
SONOMA	3	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	1	10	-	-	-	-	2	-	18
STANISLAUS	17	-	184	8	-	-	139	2324	-	12	72	-	-	-	5	-	-	2744
SUTTER	12	-	-	-	-	2	2	1436	-	-	33	-	-	-	1	-	-	1474
TEHAMA	14	1	153	1	-	33	4	864	-	1	58	14	14	1	3	-	-	1144
TRINITY	23	-	-	8	4	186	116	-	-	-	103	24	10	9	80	-	-	540
TULARE	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	3
VENTURA	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
YOLO	12	1	5	-	-	3	14	3121	-	-	17	-	-	4	30	-	-	3195
YUBA	6	-	15	-	-	4	-	1829	-	22	13	3	-	-	25	-	-	1911
NO. OF ANIMALS	13	2247	276	170	170	449	2906	73795	1800	154	2220	171	142	154	729	25	1	85252
NO. OF PELTS SOLD	2	1719	151	30	30	92	2762	72002	1286	53	1472	147	136	57	274	9	1	80193
% OF TOTAL CATCH	TRACE	2.63	.32	.19	.19	.52	3.40	86.00	2.11	.18	2.60	.20	.17	.18	.86	TRACE	TRACE	100.00

NO TRAPPING REPORTED FROM: AMADOR, CALAVERAS, KERN, KINGS, MARIN, MONTEREY, ORANGE, SAN BERNARDINO, SAN DIEGO, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN LUIS OBISPO, SAN MATEO, SANTA BARBARA, SANTA CRUZ, AND TUOLUMNE COUNTIES.

NUMBER OF LICENSES SOLD 858
 NUMBER OF TRAPPERS REPORTING 506
 NUMBER OF TRAPPERS NOT REPORTING 62
 NUMBER OF TRAPPERS NOT TRAPPING 290

AVERAGE OF REPORTED PRICES FOR EACH SPECIES
IN COUNTY OF CATCH, 1956-57 TRAPPING SEASON

COUNTY OF CATCH	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	FOX GREY	MINK	RUSK RAT	SAN DRAT	OPSSUM	RACCOON	RINGTAIL	RIVER	SKUNK SPOTTED	SKUNK STRIPED	WEASEL	NUTRIA
ALAMEDA							\$.57			\$.75						
ALPINE	\$5.81	\$2.62				\$ 8.00				1.13						
BUTTE	3.37	2.00	\$1.00		\$.35	8.00	.65		\$.10	1.09	\$1.22	\$17.20	\$.39	\$.84		
COLUSA	6.68						.58			.97						
CONTRA COSTA	4.23					9.22	.67		.15	.89		17.50			\$.50	
DEL NORTE	6.24	1.00				11.40	.66			1.12	1.00					
EL DORADO		1.50				9.28	.75			.96				1.00		
FRESNO	3.00	1.00				7.05	.73		.13	1.28			.50	1.00		
GLENN	5.98	1.00				11.20	.70			1.23		17.50	.76	.65		
HUMBOLDT	6.02	1.12		.75	.18	9.68				1.28	1.33	11.58		1.00		
IMPERIAL	4.38	1.33			.25			\$.29		.52				.40		
INYO				.25	.10	10.75										
LAKE						13.78	1.00			1.14						
LASSEN						8.07	.43			1.45				.71		
MADERA	5.75	1.50				6.87	.78		.15	1.58			.65	.80		
MARIPOSA	3.66	1.50				2.50	.62			.73						
MENDOCINO		.64			.36	8.57	.50					12.73	.50	.66		\$2.00
MERCED	4.95	.58			.25	8.62	.78		.12	1.18	1.10			.60	.15	
MODOC	7.78					10.52	.52			.65						
MONO							.34			.56		15.00				
NAPA						12.97				1.05			.25	.50		
NEVADA					.25	15.00	.52				.50					
PLACER	6.11					9.04	.79									
PLUMAS	6.79	3.12		1.50		10.85	.64	.24		.96	1.08				1.00	
RIVERSIDE		.93		.25						.84						
SACRAMENTO	5.56					6.83	.68			1.00		16.80				
SAN BENITO										1.28			.78	1.00		
SAN JOAQUIN	4.28				.30	6.61	.58			.95		17.60	.40	1.67	.27	
SHASTA	6.18	1.80			.30	9.85	.82			1.16		17.00				
SIERRA	5.88					17.00	.90									
SISKIYOU	5.49	.85		.60		6.25	.68			1.03		18.50	.20	.75	.20	
SOLANO					.25	7.90	.78			1.34		22.80				
SONOMA						12.00				1.08						

AVERAGE OF REPORTED PRICES - 1956-57

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COUNTY OR CATCH	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	FOX GREY	MINK	MUSKRAT	SANDRAT	OPOSSUM	RACCOON	RINGTAIL	RIVER OTTER	SKUNK SPOTTED	SKUNK STRIPED	WEASEL	NUTRIA
STANISLAUS	-	\$4.56	\$1.00	-	-	\$10.01	\$.82	-	\$.13	\$1.22	-	-	-	\$.75	-	-
SUTTER	-	-	-	-	-	11.50	.73	-	-	1.08	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEHAMA	-	5.34	-	-	\$.30	7.50	.51	-	.10	.93	\$1.20	\$18.09	\$.60	.92	-	-
TRINITY	-	-	1.50	\$1.00	.24	10.81	-	-	-	.63	.88	15.00	.25	.35	-	-
YOLO	-	2.75	-	-	-	6.91	.63	-	-	1.50	-	-	.25	-	-	-
YUBA	-	6.26	1.29	-	-	-	.74	-	.10	1.07	1.08	-	-	1.02	-	-
STATEWIDE AVERAGE	\$.25	\$5.45	\$1.29	\$.53	\$.27	\$ 8.26	\$.69	\$.27	\$.13	\$1.10	\$1.18	\$16.38	\$.56	\$.90	\$.33	\$2.00

NO FUR REPORTED SOLD FROM: AMADOR, CALAVERAS, KERN, KINGS, MARIN, MONTEREY, ORANGE, SAN BERNARDINO, SAN DIEGO, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN LUIS OBISPO, SAN MATEO, SANTA BARBARA, SANTA CLARA, SANTA CRUZ, TULARE, TUOLUMNE, AND VENTURA COUNTIES.