

LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS REPORT

1973-74

A total of 878 trapping licenses was sold in the 1973-74 fur trapping season, an increase of 29 percent from the 682 licenses sold in 1972-73.

| | <u>1972-73</u> | <u>1973-74</u> |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Licensees Who Reported Trapping Effort | 275 | 395 |
| Licensees Who Reported But Did Not Trap or Were Unsuccessful | 114 | 159 |
| Licensees Not Reporting | <u>293</u> | <u>324</u> |
| Total Trapping Licenses Sold | 682 | 878 |

Success in trapping was reported by 395 trappers. This represents an increase in trapper success of 44% from 1972-73.

Revenue received by trappers from the sale of furs in 1973-74 amounted to \$227,403.60. This represents an increase of 56% above the \$145,755.38 reported for the 1972-73 season. The average income per trapper in 1973-74 was \$575.70. This is an increase of 9% from the \$530.02 per trapper in 1972-73.

Each year a portion of the fur catch is unsold. During the 1973-74 season 4% of the catch was unsold compared to 1% in 1972-73. For the purpose of this report, unsold pelts have monetary value based on statewide price per pelt for each species. Therefore, the estimated value of the 1973-74 fur catch was \$239,000 an increase of 59% from the 1972-73 estimated value of \$150,000.

Muskrats, as in the past, were first on the list in number of pelts taken and revenue received. The 1973-74 reported catch of 51,072 muskrats represents 84% of the total fur catch for the season of 61,036 animals. Muskrat catch was up 13% from the catch of 45,175 reported for 1972-73. Revenue for muskrat pelts in 1973-74 was up 27% from the \$87,233.63 received by trappers in 1972-73. Average price for muskrat pelts was \$2.20, up 14% from \$1.93 in 1972-73.

The percent of other furbearers increased from 12.4% of the total fur take in 1972-73 to 16% in 1973-74. This represented increased take of all species except beaver and mink which registered drops of 62% and 37% respectively. The most notable increases were increases of 247% and 108% in the take of striped skunk and coyote respectively. Also the average price per fur increased for the majority of species with only beaver and mink pelts bringing less than in the previous season. The most notable increases in value were for badger - 156%, opossum - 145%, raccoon - 71%, fox - 68%, and bobcat - 53%.

Eight counties, Solano, Siskiyou, Sutter, Butte, Glenn, Shasta, Merced, and San Joaquin, representing 14% of the total number of counties, accounted for 60% of

the total fur catch. No furs were reported taken in Amador, Calaveras, Marin, Monterey, Orange, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, or Santa Cruz counties.

An unprecedented demand for long-haired furs such as badger, raccoon, gray fox, coyote and bobcat is reflected in the prices paid.

TABLE I

NUMBER OF FURBEARERS TAKEN, RANGE OF PRICES PAID, AVERAGE PRICES PAID, AND REVENUE RECEIVED, BY SPECIES
1972-73 and 1973-74

| Species | 1972-73 | | | Fur Value | | 1973-74 | | | Fur Value | | | |
|---------------|---------|--------|--------|-----------|--------------|---------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|---------|--------------|
| | Sold | Unsold | Total | Avg. | Revenue | Sold | Unsold | Total | Max. | Min. | Avg. | Revenue |
| Badger | 16 | 5 | 21 | \$ 3.12 | \$ 50.00 | 40 | 11 | 51 | \$ 15.00 | \$ 2.00 | \$ 8.00 | \$ 320.00 |
| Beaver | 1,664 | 45 | 1,709 | 10.44 | 17,367.49 | 871 | 182 | 1,053 | 26.00 | 1.50 | 6.95 | 6,053.45 |
| Bobcat | 642 | 44 | 686 | 29.33 | 18,828.77 | 1,180 | 64 | 1,244 | 110.00 | 3.00 | 45.00 | 53,100.00 |
| Coyote | 808 | 127 | 935 | 10.64 | 8,594.94 | 1,772 | 171 | 1,943 | 36.00 | 3.00 | 14.00 | 24,808.00 |
| Fox | 521 | 49 | 570 | 7.31 | 3,808.50 | 1,016 | 45 | 1,061 | 16.00 | 3.00 | 12.25 | 12,446.00 |
| Mink | 496 | 6 | 502 | 7.07 | 3,505.07 | 331 | 36 | 367 | 15.00 | .15 | 5.25 | 1,737.75 |
| Muskkrat | 45,104 | 71 | 45,175 | 1.93 | 87,233.63 | 50,288 | 784 | 51,072 | 3.50 | 1.00 | 2.20 | 110,633.60 |
| Opossum | 196 | 75 | 271 | .55 | 106.85 | 498 | 130 | 628 | 1.75 | .20 | 1.35 | 672.30 |
| Raccoon | 1,178 | 52 | 1,230 | 4.96 | 5,839.23 | 1,984 | 80 | 2,064 | 15.00 | 2.00 | 8.50 | 16,864.00 |
| Striped Skunk | 260 | 151 | 411 | 1.38 | 357.71 | 407 | 1,020 | 1,427 | 2.50 | .25 | 1.50 | 610.50 |
| Spotted Skunk | 33 | 17 | 50 | 1.89 | 62.44 | 63 | 49 | 112 | 3.50 | .50 | 2.50 | 157.50 |
| Weasel | 2 | 1 | 3 | .39 | .75 | 1 | 13 | 14 | -- | -- | .50 | .50 |
| Totals | 50,920 | 643 | 51,563 | | \$145,755.38 | 58,451 | 2,585 | 61,036 | | | | \$227,403.60 |

Note: Fur values determined from December 1973 fur buyers list and average prices paid as reported by fur buyers.

TABLE 11

NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED TAKEN BY LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS BY SPECIES AND COUNTY
1973-74 TRAPPING SEASON

| County | Radger | Beaver | Bobcat | Coyote | Fox | Mink | Muskrat | Opossum | Raccoon | Striped Skunk | Spotted Skunk | Weasel | Total |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|---------------|--------|--------|
| Alameda | 1 | - | 11 | 3 | 17 | - | - | 2 | 13 | 5 | - | - | 52 |
| Alpine | - | - | 34 | 26 | 11 | - | - | - | 8 | 26 | 6 | 1 | 112 |
| Amador | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Butte | - | 72 | 13 | 42 | 61 | 5 | 3,799 | 79 | 222 | 159 | - | - | 4,452 |
| Calaveras | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colusa | - | - | 7 | - | 18 | - | 1,294 | - | 7 | - | - | - | 1,326 |
| Contra Costa | - | 10 | - | 11 | 2 | 1 | 165 | 3 | 33 | 4 | - | - | 237 |
| Del Norte | - | 67 | 5 | - | 10 | - | 21 | - | 12 | - | - | - | 115 |
| El Dorado | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 19 | - | 53 | 1 | 12 | 1 | - | - | 98 |
| Fresno | 2 | - | 6 | 31 | 10 | 8 | 1,636 | 17 | 4 | 8 | 5 | - | 1,727 |
| Glenn | - | 57 | 17 | 6 | 54 | - | 3,981 | 6 | 77 | 21 | 3 | - | 4,222 |
| Humboldt | - | 4 | 76 | 12 | 43 | 3 | - | - | 103 | 134 | 6 | - | 381 |
| Imperial | - | 5 | 12 | 22 | 6 | - | - | - | 14 | 3 | - | - | 594 |
| Inyo | 2 | 14 | 8 | 31 | 3 | - | - | - | 7 | - | - | - | 65 |
| Kern | - | 1 | 5 | 4 | 5 | - | 1 | - | - | 9 | - | - | 25 |
| Kings | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lake | - | - | 50 | 26 | 59 | 19 | 121 | 2 | 82 | 14 | 1 | - | 374 |
| Lassen | 9 | 7 | 23 | 206 | 1 | - | 466 | - | 26 | 26 | - | 1 | 765 |
| Los Angeles | 2 | - | 12 | 24 | 21 | - | - | 2 | 3 | - | 1 | - | 65 |
| Madera | 1 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 692 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 743 |
| Marin | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mariposa | - | - | 26 | 35 | 22 | - | - | 4 | 22 | - | 2 | - | 111 |
| Mendocino | - | - | 70 | 30 | 72 | 4 | - | 2 | 111 | 48 | 7 | - | 344 |
| Merced | - | 45 | - | 8 | 7 | 55 | 3,893 | 32 | 59 | 22 | 5 | 3 | 4,129 |
| Monaco | 10 | 42 | 117 | 150 | - | 33 | 886 | - | 43 | 23 | 11 | - | 1,315 |
| Mono | 2 | 8 | 29 | 183 | 21 | - | - | - | 16 | - | - | - | 259 |
| Monterey | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Napa | - | - | 19 | 1 | 6 | - | 162 | - | 23 | 1 | - | - | 212 |
| Nevada | - | 30 | 4 | 4 | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | 43 |
| Orange | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Piacer | - | 8 | 8 | 34 | 14 | 6 | 439 | 6 | 16 | 10 | - | - | 541 |
| Plumas | 1 | 124 | 26 | 126 | 5 | 20 | 54 | 2 | 28 | 100 | - | - | 486 |
| Riverside | 3 | - | 18 | 112 | 11 | - | 539 | 1 | 10 | 5 | - | - | 699 |
| Sacramento | - | 80 | 9 | 9 | 29 | 21 | 2,693 | 10 | 52 | 35 | - | - | 2,938 |
| San Benito | 1 | - | 20 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 59 | 4 | 5 | 18 | - | - | 124 |
| San Bernardino | 3 | - | 24 | 124 | 20 | - | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | 176 |
| San Diego | 6 | - | 123 | 264 | 51 | - | - | 3 | 16 | 6 | 1 | - | 470 |
| San Francisco | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| San Joaquin | - | 69 | - | 2 | 49 | 78 | 3,398 | 252 | 87 | 106 | - | - | 4,041 |
| San Luis Obispo | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| San Mateo | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Santa Barbara | - | - | 5 | 7 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 13 |
| Santa Clara | - | - | 4 | 1 | 24 | - | - | 3 | 10 | 3 | - | - | 45 |
| Santa Cruz | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - |
| Shasta | - | 45 | 66 | 95 | 75 | 14 | 3,700 | 13 | 162 | 39 | 4 | - | 4,213 |
| Sierra | - | 27 | 4 | 33 | - | 1 | 159 | 4 | 24 | 7 | - | - | 259 |
| Siskiyou | 3 | 67 | 82 | 88 | 22 | 57 | 4,479 | - | 103 | 277 | 26 | - | 5,204 |
| Solano | - | 30 | 43 | 15 | 29 | 5 | 5,142 | 8 | 186 | 35 | 18 | - | 5,511 |
| Sonoma | 3 | - | 33 | 3 | 37 | - | - | 2 | 56 | 12 | 1 | - | 147 |
| Stanislaus | - | 93 | - | 2 | 9 | 12 | 3,495 | 51 | 36 | 30 | 3 | 3 | 3,734 |
| Sutter | - | 17 | - | 18 | 4 | - | 4,449 | 2 | 33 | 100 | - | - | 4,623 |
| Tenama | 1 | 21 | 86 | 63 | 124 | 3 | 69 | 62 | 171 | 104 | 4 | - | 708 |
| Trinity | - | - | 12 | 27 | 37 | 13 | - | - | 36 | 5 | 1 | - | 131 |
| Tulare | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 70 | 34 | 1 | 9 | 5 | - | 122 |
| Tuolumne | - | - | 84 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 89 |
| Ventura | - | - | 12 | 12 | 14 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 38 |
| Yolo | - | 38 | 21 | 1 | 19 | - | 2,948 | 3 | 72 | 1 | - | - | 3,103 |
| Yuba | - | 38 | 5 | 27 | 12 | 1 | 1,675 | 8 | 52 | 17 | - | - | 1,835 |
| Total Animals Trapped | 51 | 1,053 | 1,244 | 1,943 | 1,061 | 367 | 51,072 | 628 | 2,064 | 1,427 | 112 | 14 | 61,036 |
| Percent of Total Catch | .08 | 1.74 | 2.01 | 3.18 | 1.74 | .60 | 83.70 | 1.03 | 3.38 | 2.33 | 1.8 | 0.2 | |