

LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS REPORT  
1978-79

A total of 2,378 trapping licenses were sold during the 1978-79 trapping season. This is an increase of 26% from the 1,889 licenses sold in the 1977-78 season and an increase of 258% from the 664 licenses sold ten seasons ago in the 1969-70 season. However, this number of licenses is still below the 2,500 to 5,200 licenses sold annually during the 1920's.

Legislation enacted in 1974 requires every person who now takes furbearing or nongame mammals for profit to purchase a trapping license. The fees are \$10 - adult, \$5 - juvenile, and \$25 - nonresident.

	<u>1977-78</u>	<u>1978-79</u>
Licensees Who Reported Trapping Effort	1,015	1,378
Licensees Who Reported But Did Not Trap or Were Unsuccessful	310	385
Licensees Not Reporting	564	615
Total Licenses Sold	1,889	2,378

Revenue received by trappers from the sale of furs during the 1978-79 season, based on average prices paid by fur buyers at trapper's association fur sales, was \$2,399,565.30, and for the first time the reported fur revenue exceeded \$2,000,000. This is an increase of 107% from the revenue realized during the 1977-78 season of \$1,159,126.50 which previously had been the highest revenue recorded. The average income per successful trapper in 1978-79 reached a new high of \$1,741.34. This is an increase of 52% from the \$1,142 per trapper of 1977-78 and an increase of 43% from the previous high of \$1,221.45 per trapper of the 1975-76 season.

Each year a portion of the fur sale is reported unsold. During the 1978-79 season 5% was unsold, a slight decrease from the 6% of the 1977-78 season and similar to the percent reported unsold of previous seasons. Unsold pelts still have value, and for the purpose of this report they have the same monetary value as marketed pelts. Therefore, the estimated value of the 1978-79 fur harvest was up to \$2,663,310, an increase of 117% from the \$1,225,631.50 of the 1977-78 season.

Bobcats, as in recent years, were the most economically important animals providing fur. Although 7,974 bobcat export tags were sold in a program requiring bobcat tags for out-of-state shipment of bobcat furs, holders of trapping licenses only reported the take of 6,928 bobcats. This reported take is an increase of 56% over the reported take of 4,445 bobcats taken in 1977-78 and represents 6.9% of the 1978-79 catch. The average price paid for bobcat pelts was \$190.98, an increase of 80% from the \$106 paid during 1977-78 and above the previous high average price of \$113.50 of the 1975-76 season by 68%.

The increased number of bobcat pelts taken and the increased fur value resulted in a large increase of 153%, to \$1,130,219.60, in the total fur value. In other terms, the value of the bobcat fur in the 1978-79 season was 97.5% of the value of the total fur harvest taken during the 1977-78 season, the previous season of highest fur value recorded.

The economic value of muskrats, historically the most important furbearer economically, dropped in comparison to the economic value of gray foxes and coyotes. Despite the fact that the muskrat take was up 33%, there was little increase in fur value. The take of gray foxes and coyotes increased by 57% and 19% respectively and their prices both increased by about 55% resulting in total revenues, for each of these two species, higher than the revenue brought by muskrat furs.

However, the take of 64,455 muskrats represented 63.8% of the total take of animals, similar to representing 63% of the animals taken during 1977-78. The take of all species except beaver increased during the 1978-79 season over the 1977-78 season. The take of beavers in the 1978-79 season was down 39% from the previous season despite an increase of 68% in the average price per pelt.

As occurred in 1977-78, furs were reported taken in all counties except San Francisco County.

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF ANIMALS TAKEN, AVERAGE PRICES PAID<sup>1/</sup>, AND REVENUE RECEIVED, BY SPECIES  
1977-78 AND 1978-79

SPECIES	1977-78				1978-79							
	HARVEST		FUR VALUE		HARVEST		FUR VALUE					
	SOLD	UNSOLD	TOTAL	AVG.	REVENUE	SOLD	UNSOLD	TOTAL	MAX.	MIN.	AVE.	REVENUE
Badger	231	40	271	\$ 12.00	\$ 2,772.00	309	58	367	\$35.33	\$ 2.00	\$ 16.05	\$ 4,959.45
Beaver	1,173	301	1,474	8.50	9,970.50	717	185	902	40.88	4.38	14.31	10,260.27
Bobcat	4,215	230	4,445	106.00	446,790.00	5,918	1,010	6,928	387.12	10.06	190.98	1,130,219.60
Coyote	5,920	521	6,441	32.00	189,440.00	7,046	630	7,676	86.41	4.35	50.34	354,695.64
Gray Fox	4,688	195	4,883	34.00	159,392.00	7,401	274	7,675	58.86	12.81	52.05	385,222.05
Mink	612	33	645	5.50	3,366.00	753	48	801	20.09	4.32	9.46	7,123.38
Muskrat	47,749	813	48,562	4.67	222,988.00	63,575	880	64,455	6.02	0.44	4.69	298,166.75
Opossum	537	643	1,180	N.C. <sup>2/</sup>	N.C. <sup>2/</sup>	754	387	1,141	8.00	1.07	2.78	2,096.12
Raccoon	5,923	334	6,257	20.50	121,421.50	7,974	403	8,377	50.00	1.59	25.12	200,306.88
Spotted Skunk	141	158	299	9.00	1,269.00	372	159	531	N.C. <sup>2/</sup>	N.C. <sup>2/</sup>	8.63	3,210.36
Striped Skunk	687	1,415	2,102	2.50	1,717.50	972	1,220	2,192	N.C. <sup>2/</sup>	N.C. <sup>2/</sup>	3.40	3,304.80
Weasel	3	3	6	N.C. <sup>2/</sup>	N.C. <sup>2/</sup>	8	8	8	N.C. <sup>2/</sup>	N.C. <sup>2/</sup>	N.C. <sup>2/</sup>	N.C. <sup>2/</sup>
Total	71,879	4,686	76,565		\$1,159,126.50	95,791	5,262	101,053				\$2,399,565.30

<sup>1/</sup> Fur values determined from average prices paid at California Trappers Association fur sales.

<sup>2/</sup> Not calculated.

TABLE 2  
 NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED TAKEN BY LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS BY SPECIES AND COUNTY  
 1978-79 TRAPPING SEASON

COUNTY	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	GRAY FOX	MINK	MUSKRAT	OPOSSUM	RACCOON	SPOTTED SKUNK	STRIPED SKUNK	WEASEL	TOTAL
Alameda	-	-	3	4	24	-	-	14	61	-	11	-	117
Alpine	-	-	19	20	1	-	-	-	3	6	6	-	55
Amador	-	-	7	10	4	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	47
Butte	20	58	46	52	301	3	5,699	107	536	26	173	-	7,021
Calaveras	-	-	19	12	50	-	-	2	59	-	-	-	142
Colusa	-	32	15	28	10	-	5,615	4	35	-	4	-	5,743
Contra Costa	-	10	-	-	17	85	1,614	43	136	-	-	-	1,905
Del Norte	-	15	146	32	89	1	48	-	203	21	26	-	581
El Dorado	-	3	29	24	65	1	16	3	174	6	28	-	350
Fresno	14	-	206	229	92	18	1,121	27	127	-	-	-	1,834
Glenn	-	28	59	89	257	-	8,463	12	112	22	20	-	9,062
Humboldt	1	-	474	60	648	10	22	-	1,161	60	94	1	2,531
Imperial	7	5	13	92	59	-	94	-	20	-	-	-	290
Inyo	27	46	291	370	92	-	-	-	45	2	42	-	915
Kern	6	5	329	160	119	-	-	1	41	2	17	-	680
Kings	4	-	15	18	16	-	-	10	1	-	5	-	69
Lake	3	-	158	65	441	-	-	-	166	52	27	-	912
Lassen	45	52	205	605	3	1	3,448	-	110	12	29	4	4,514
Los Angeles	3	-	131	161	118	-	-	2	23	-	5	-	443
Madera	1	-	80	57	44	8	260	25	46	5	44	-	570
Marin	-	-	1	2	27	-	-	1	71	-	22	-	124
Mariposa	3	-	98	91	64	-	-	18	110	-	31	-	415
Mendocino	1	-	382	111	753	13	9	1	807	72	215	-	2,364
Merced	1	15	11	98	26	24	1,933	52	209	-	4	-	2,373
Modoc	88	11	265	583	1	66	1,667	-	44	8	13	-	2,746
Mono	8	19	91	295	30	-	-	62	15	20	4	-	544
Monterey	11	-	327	88	305	2	213	39	135	18	228	-	1,366
Napa	-	-	59	34	51	1	3	1	57	9	21	-	236
Nevada	-	-	2	21	6	-	15	-	30	-	-	-	74
Orange	-	-	11	44	23	-	62	14	3	1	4	-	162
Placer	-	8	11	54	27	3	852	7	43	-	35	-	1,040
Plumas	3	60	46	176	36	38	196	-	123	-	10	-	688
Riverside	6	6	101	241	219	-	154	17	19	-	12	-	775
Sacramento	1	100	1	21	65	59	4,199	80	255	-	62	-	4,843
San Benito	8	-	187	186	81	-	34	-	45	2	43	-	586
San Bernardino	49	-	530	950	299	-	1	3	19	4	17	1	1,873
San Diego	1	-	212	470	236	-	-	48	38	12	112	-	1,129
San Francisco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Joaquin	-	106	-	5	130	167	4,508	115	314	-	43	-	5,388
San Luis Obispo	6	-	199	69	197	-	-	35	26	31	98	-	661
San Mateo	3	-	90	120	33	-	-	3	51	-	23	-	323
Santa Barbara	6	-	304	148	315	-	-	75	27	1	58	-	934
Santa Clara	1	-	50	54	19	-	-	4	27	1	3	-	159
Santa Cruz	-	-	48	62	5	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	124
Shasta	5	83	324	479	663	20	5,797	28	654	46	144	2	8,245
Sierra	1	13	5	59	-	-	151	1	8	8	-	-	246
Siskiyou	13	42	347	438	180	223	4,642	-	400	37	124	-	6,446
Solano	-	17	23	7	18	18	2,083	4	258	4	18	-	2,450
Sonoma	-	-	64	31	125	1	-	10	266	2	107	-	606
Stanislaus	5	39	1	34	148	4	1,851	152	231	-	63	-	2,528
Sutter	1	63	-	18	5	-	3,589	-	52	-	7	-	3,735
Tehama	4	21	192	214	549	1	229	80	392	19	60	-	1,761
Trinity	-	6	151	89	220	4	6	-	224	20	36	-	756
Tulare	4	6	370	100	119	-	-	6	76	2	19	-	702
Tuolumne	2	-	11	54	9	-	-	-	60	-	-	-	136
Ventura	5	-	119	114	148	-	-	13	8	-	13	-	420
Yolo	-	1	25	11	23	27	4,349	15	85	-	-	-	4,536
Yuba	-	29	10	17	17	3	1,512	7	101	-	12	-	1,708
Unknown	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Total Animals Trapped	367	902	6,928	7,676	7,675	801	64,455	1,141	8,377	531	2,192	8	101,053
Percent of Total Catch	.4	.9	6.9	7.6	7.6	.8	63.8	1.1	8.3	.5	2.2	.01	