

LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS REPORT
1979-80

A total of 3,237 trapping licenses were sold during the 1979-80 trapping season. This is an increase of 36% from the 2,378 licenses sold in the 1978-79 season and an increase of 387% from the 664 licenses sold eleven seasons ago in the 1969-70 season. This is the first season since the 1920's, when license sales varied between 2,500 and 5,200 that more than 3,000 licenses were sold in a single season.

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>1978-79</u>	<u>1979-80</u>
Licensees Who Reported Trapping Effort	1,378	1,683
Licensees Who Reported But Did Not Trap or Were Unsuccessful	385	478
Licensees Not Reporting	615	1,076
Total Licenses Sold	2,378	3,237

Revenue received by trappers from the sale of furs during the 1979-80 season, based on average prices paid by fur buyers at trappers' association fur sales, was \$2,093,268.20. This was the second consecutive year and the second time ever that the reported fur value exceeded \$2,000,000. However, this is a decrease of 13% in revenue from the \$2,399,565.30 realized during the 1978-79 season. Likewise, the average income per trapper decreased 29% from the \$1,741.34 per trapper in 1978-79 to \$1,243.77. But the average income per trapper during the 1979-80 season is the second highest on record.

Each year a portion of the fur sale is reported as unsold. During the 1979-80 season. 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 1979-80 fur harvest was \$2,259,320 down 15% from the \$2,663,310 of the 1978-79 season.

As has occurred for the four previous seasons, bobcats were the most economically important animals providing fur. Although 7,809 export tags were sold for bobcats taken during the 1979-80 season in a program requiring tags for sale or shipment of bobcat furs, holders of trapping licenses only reported the take of 7,127 bobcats. This is an increase of 3% in the reported take over the 1978-79 season reported take of 6,928 bobcats. The average price paid per bobcat pelts was \$114.20, a decrease of 40% from previous high average of \$190.98 which was paid during the 1978-79 season. The decreased value of the bobcat pelts, despite the slight increase in take, resulted in a decrease of 33% in over-all value of bobcats pelts during the 1979-80 season. Also, this is probably the major cause of the over-all decrease in the total fur value from the 1978-79 season to the 1979-80 season.

The value of muskrats, historically the most important furbearer economically, increased to \$483,480.45 the highest value ever recorded for this species. This was caused by an increase of 27% in the average muskrat fur value and placed muskrat value second only to the value of bobcat fur. The take of gray fox increased by 26% from the previous season and despite the slight drop in average fur value resulted in a record high total fur value for this species of \$431,901.36. The take of the fourth most valuable furbearer, the coyote, increased by 16% from the 1978-79 season but the 42% decrease in fur value caused a decrease in the total fur value from the record high for this species during 1978-79. Decreases in both take and average fur value of raccoon resulted in a 38% decrease in total fur value from the 1978-79 season to the 1979-80 for this species.

Once again, far more muskrats are taken than any other species. Almost 67% of the total take during the 1979-80 season was muskrats, an increase from the 63.8% portion of the take this species represented during the 1978-79 season. The take of all species except badger, mink and raccoon increased during the 1979-80 season over the take of the 1978-79 season.

For the third successive year furs were reported taken in all counties except San Francisco County.

TABLE 2

NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED TAKEN BY LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS BY SPECIES AND COUNTY
1979-80 TRAPPING SEASON

COUNTY	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	GRAY FOX	MINK	MUSKRAT	OPOSSUM	RACCOON	SPOTTED SKUNK	STRIPED SKUNK	WEASEL	TOTAL
Alameda	-	-	9	19	17	-	-	26	38	-	19	-	128
Alpine	-	21	8	31	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	64
Amador	-	14	11	40	40	1	41	7	36	-	21	-	210
Butte	-	162	64	59	402	-	9,416	103	539	25	170	-	10,940
Calaveras	-	-	13	56	30	-	-	5	43	-	5	-	152
Colusa	-	64	19	18	67	-	6,248	11	45	-	16	-	6,488
Contra Costa	-	38	9	2	28	94	2,881	24	129	-	3	1	3,209
Del Norte	-	40	82	16	37	-	213	-	103	40	17	-	548
El Dorado	-	3	32	87	92	1	44	16	145	5	77	-	502
Fresno	18	32	240	324	179	6	888	62	76	5	24	-	1,854
Glenn	-	93	15	26	94	-	5,611	35	59	10	34	-	5,977
Humboldt	5	9	391	50	875	8	-	-	206	78	293	-	1,915
Imperial	8	10	41	163	59	-	75	2	20	-	28	-	406
Inyo	17	275	263	527	183	9	-	-	50	5	21	2	1,352
Kern	9	43	276	235	197	-	-	17	27	-	9	-	814
Kings	3	-	34	7	12	-	70	8	7	1	-	-	142
Lake	4	-	173	153	571	3	3	1	210	32	60	-	1,210
Lassen	18	122	144	542	-	5	3,311	-	38	5	21	3	4,209
Los Angeles	6	-	273	274	263	-	9	14	42	-	23	-	904
Madera	5	29	64	55	20	11	758	47	36	3	49	3	1,080
Marin	-	-	17	-	16	-	-	-	36	-	15	-	84
Mariposa	1	1	118	102	77	-	2	16	180	3	42	-	542
Mendocino	-	-	337	72	792	13	60	11	711	64	243	-	2,303
Merced	3	47	2	87	18	62	4,532	72	140	1	29	1	4,994
Modoc	58	46	163	461	1	110	6,729	-	61	10	33	-	7,672
Mono	16	44	94	522	53	5	26	-	8	4	7	2	781
Monterey	11	2	306	114	216	-	752	50	129	13	197	-	1,790
Nevada	-	-	66	14	115	-	6	-	110	2	161	-	474
Orange	-	20	2	29	7	-	-	1	8	-	-	-	67
Placer	-	-	53	38	272	-	-	8	6	3	3	-	383
Plumas	1	22	13	24	42	3	920	14	69	1	32	-	1,141
Plumas	12	165	76	260	30	7	120	1	75	-	63	-	809
Riverside	3	16	124	371	377	-	710	13	63	11	28	-	1,716
Sacramento	2	187	4	26	130	60	4,293	81	259	2	106	-	5,150
San Benito	10	-	205	159	85	-	-	9	52	-	45	-	565
San Bernardino	55	-	908	1,139	505	-	-	12	26	3	29	2	2,679
San Diego	4	-	286	461	308	-	-	62	54	63	85	-	1,323
San Francisco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Joaquin	-	121	2	20	126	114	4,722	73	160	-	230	1	5,569
San Luis Obispo	13	1	222	155	364	-	-	76	78	-	242	-	1,151
San Mateo	1	-	62	88	38	-	-	4	20	-	11	-	224
Santa Barbara	3	-	441	160	526	-	-	235	45	2	313	-	1,725
Santa Clara	1	-	18	64	31	-	42	14	29	3	17	-	219
Santa Cruz	-	-	30	54	22	-	18	4	18	-	18	-	164
Shasta	4	150	187	400	524	17	8,529	67	438	46	205	1	10,568
Sierra	-	43	8	32	26	-	1	-	19	2	5	-	136
Siskiyou	18	68	255	552	69	169	7,349	-	215	69	162	1	8,927
Solano	-	18	21	30	45	7	2,432	9	145	1	30	-	2,738
Sonoma	-	-	72	26	185	4	3	44	305	20	144	-	803
Stanislaus	-	275	25	52	156	2	1,271	189	177	1	88	1	2,237
Sutter	-	196	-	8	13	1	3,983	25	106	-	18	-	4,350
Tehama	2	156	107	158	320	4	593	173	513	33	158	-	2,217
Trinity	-	5	72	95	418	6	-	-	167	14	38	-	815
Tulare	3	18	362	114	205	1	6	21	106	5	10	-	851
Tuolumne	-	-	51	40	14	-	-	-	102	-	-	-	207
Ventura	6	-	248	276	301	-	-	64	19	-	47	-	961
Yuba	-	61	-	3	17	7	3,553	104	80	-	4	-	3,829
Yuba	-	22	6	6	47	3	1,860	10	54	-	10	-	2,018
Unknown	-	-	3	4	20	-	2,524	3	36	4	-	-	2,594
Total Animals Trapped	320	2,639	7,127	8,900	9,677	733	84,604	1,843	6,672	590	3,758	18	126,881
Percent of Total Catch	.3	2.1	5.6	7.0	7.6	.6	66.7	1.5	5.3	.5	3.0	.01	

NUMBER OF ANIMALS TAKEN, AVERAGE PRICES PAID^{1/}, AND REVENUE RECEIVED, BY SPECIES
1978-79 AND 1979-80

SPECIES	1978-79						1979-80						
	HARVEST		TOTAL	FUR VALUE		REVENUE	HARVEST		FUR VALUE		REVENUE		
SOLD	UNSOLD	MAX.		MIN.	AVE.		SOLD	UNSOLD	MAX.	MIN.		AVE.	
Badger	309	58	367 \$35.33	\$ 2.00	\$ 16.05	\$ 4,959.45	220	100	100 \$ 16.00	\$ 0.11	\$ 4.62	\$ 1,016.40	
Beaver	717	185	902 40.88	4.38	14.31	10,260.27	2354	285	2639 51.75	2.04	21.29	50,116.66	
Bobcat	5,918	1,010	6,928 387.12	10.06	190.98	1,130,219.60	6629	498	7127 313.40	3.10	114.20	757,031.80	
Coyote	7,046	630	7,676 86.41	4.35	50.34	354,695.64	7753	1147	8900 80.00	0.79	29.12	225,767.36	
Gray Fox	7,401	274	7,675 58.86	12.81	52.05	385,222.05	9108	569	9677 62.00	1.00	47.42	431,901.36	
Mink	753	48	801 20.09	4.32	9.46	7,123.38	671	62	733 33.00	1.03	17.55	11,776.05	
Muskrat	63,575	880	64,455 6.02	0.44	4.69	298,166.75	80,985	3619	84604 8.05	0.01	5.97	483,480.45	
Opossum	754	387	1,141 8.00	1.07	2.78	2,096.12	1144	699	1843 8.26	0.01	2.35	2,688.40	
Raccoon	7,974	403	8,377 50.00	1.59	25.12	200,306.88	6123	549	6672 41.50	1.00	20.39	124,847.97	
Spotted Skunk	372	159	531 N.C. ^{2/}	N.C. ^{2/}	8.63	3,210.36	384	206	590 8.16	1.00	5.72	2,196.48	
Striped Skunk	972	1,220	2,192 N.C. ^{2/}	N.C. ^{2/}	3.40	3,304.80	1148	2610	3758 7.00	0.10	2.13	2,445.24	
	95,791	5,262	101,053	8	8	N.C. ^{2/}	N.C. ^{2/}	N.C. ^{2/}	9	9	18	N.C. ^{2/}	N.C. ^{2/}
						\$2,399,565.30	116,582	10,353	126,881			\$2,093,268.20	

^{1/} Fur values determined from average prices paid at California Trappers Association fur sales.

^{2/} Not calculated.