

July 1954

LICENSED FUR TRAPPER REPORT

(1953-54 Season, Nov. 16, 1953 to Feb. 28, 1954)  
(Compiled by Game Management Branch, Sacramento)

Data for this report is derived 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 species of animals caught, county where caught, price received for furs, and company buying furs.

950 trapping licenses were sold for the 1953-54 season of which 943 were citizens and 7 aliens. This is an increase of 5% from the 1952-53 season when 901 were sold. Of the 950 licenses, 858 (90%) submitted reports, 92 failed to report, and 304 (32%) indicated they did not trap.

Trapping laws remained the same as last season except that marten were placed on the list of totally protected mammals.

The total reported catch, including all species, was 107,435 for 1953-54 and 91,266 for 1952-53, an increase of 18%. The 1953-54 catch was the greatest since 1941-42 when over 112,000 animals were taken. The rise in the 1953-54 catch was due mainly to the increase in muskrats taken; over 100,000 (muskrat and sandrat) for the first time.

As in the previous season, the buyer's demand was for the short haired fur species such as muskrat, mink, beaver, and river otter. A marked decline in price was reported for muskrat, the poorest price received for this fur since 1938. The beaver price again declined with mink and river otter holding steady. The long haired species such as coyotes, badgers, skunks, raccoons, etc., were low in value with buyers exhibiting little demand. Trapping effort for the long haired species has declined accordingly.

The total value of the 1953-54 fur season catch is estimated at \$92,750, a decline of 11% from 1952-53 despite more animals taken. The marked decline in the value of the muskrat catch, the bulk of the fur trapped, accounts for this.

The following table shows numbers of animals taken together with price reported received for the main fur species.

Species	Number Taken		Prices Reported	
	1952-53	1953-54	1952-53	1953-54
Beaver	690	947	\$ 5.87	\$ 4.88
Coyote	353	217	1.66	1.15
Grey Fox	517	554	.38	.48
Mink	1,193	1,690	10.38	10.19
Muskrat	*83,053	95,311	* 1.00	.69
Sandrat		5,274		.32
Raccoon	1,665	1,688	.68	.72
River Otter	42	75	12.48	12.60
Striped Skunk	1,215	521	.84	.63
Ringtail	163	157	1.28	1.10

\*For the 1952-53 season the sandrats were included in the muskrat total.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED TAKEN BY  
LICENSED FUR TRAPPERS 1953-54 TRAPPING SEASON

COUNTY OF CATCH	NO. OF TRAPPERS	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	FERAL CAT	FOX GREY	FOX KIT	FOX RED	MINK	MUSKRAT	SANDRAT	OPOSSUM	RACCOON	RINGTAIL	RIVER OTTER	SKUNK SPOTTED	SKUNK STRIPED	WEASEL	TOTAL
ALAMDEA	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
BUTTE	45	-	65	5	1	5	27	-	-	7	5948	-	3	74	95	1	4	29	-	6264
CALAVERAS	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	3
COLUSA	24	21	-	20	44	31	8	-	-	46	9997	-	-	52	-	1	-	37	-	10257
CONTRA COSTA	19	-	29	-	-	-	3	-	-	120	4053	-	22	168	1	11	-	5	3	4415
DEL NORTE	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	217	-	-	57	-	-	-	-	1	303
ELDORADO	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	6	-	18
FRESNO	11	-	-	13	8	1	5	-	-	23	14	-	12	7	9	-	23	27	23	165
GLENN	41	-	17	-	-	15	6	-	-	8	13130	-	-	83	1	4	16	13	-	13293
HUMBOLDT	11	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	29	-	-	1	15	1	4	7	-	-	58
IMPERIAL	14	-	43	6	4	-	2	1	-	-	-	2145	-	9	-	-	-	9	-	2219
INYO	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
LAKE	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	63
LASSEN	20	-	-	3	6	6	-	-	-	16	2888	-	-	14	1	-	-	19	2	2955
LOS ANGELES	6	-	-	-	-	7	10	-	-	-	-	626	3	6	-	-	-	3	-	655
MADERA	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	8	-	-	1	8	-	29
MARIPOSA	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	4
MENDOCINO	26	-	-	11	2	7	11	-	-	91	-	-	-	100	4	12	10	55	2	305
MERCED	11	-	199	2	-	-	1	-	-	73	18	-	8	57	-	-	-	42	-	400
MODOC	26	-	-	7	2	1	-	-	-	25	4628	-	-	4	-	-	2	3	1	4673
MONO	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	36	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	44
NAPA	3	-	-	-	-	10	8	-	-	66	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	6	-	108
NEVADA	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	4	1	-	-	2	-	12
PLACER	11	-	-	1	-	4	1	-	-	17	486	-	1	11	-	-	-	2	-	523
PLUMAS	10	-	-	9	3	-	36	-	-	29	355	-	-	54	7	-	2	2	2	499
RIVERSIDE	15	2	64	10	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	2493	-	3	-	-	2	14	-	2594
SACRAMENTO	30	-	32	-	-	-	6	-	-	205	3867	-	9	83	-	14	-	22	-	4238
SAN BERNARDINO	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
SAN DIEGO	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	20
SAN JOAQUIN	29	-	66	-	-	22	9	-	-	391	6288	-	7	37	-	6	-	15	4	6845
SANTA CLARA	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
SHASTA	39	-	-	7	13	3	15	-	4	62	8288	-	-	142	18	5	3	15	-	8575
SIERRA	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	75	-	-	4	-	-	-	3	-	86

NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED - 1954

COUNTY OF CATCH	NO. OF TRAPPERS	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	FERAL CAT	FOX GREY	FOX KIT	FOX RED	MINK	MUSKRAT	SANDRAT	OPOSSUM	RACCOON	RINGTAIL	RIVER OTTER	SKUNK SPOTTED	SKUNK STRIPED	WEASEL	TOTAL
SISKIYOU	52	4	-	33	112	8	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOLANO	15	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	21437	-	-	94	4	-	-	-	-	-
SONOMA	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	3905	-	-	56	-	2	10	1	5	21835
STANISLAUS	15	-	348	-	-	6	1	-	-	34	-	-	-	35	-	9	-	-	-	4047
SUTTER	18	3	-	-	-	6	8	-	-	92	533	-	27	27	1	-	-	-	-	76
TEHAMA	12	-	-	-	8	23	152	-	-	2	3139	-	8	124	-	-	1	5	-	1048
TRINITY	19	-	-	5	5	36	18	-	1	8	814	-	1	54	1	4	1	56	-	3509
TUOLUMNE	1	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	88	-	-	-	57	10	1	6	19	-	926
YOLO	19	21	9	-	-	31	6	-	-	9	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	234
YUBA	24	5	27	4	4	285	200	-	-	11	4605	-	-	30	-	-	-	4	-	43
NO. OF ANIMALS		56	947	144	217	507	554	2	5	1690	95311	5274	145	1688	157	75	96	521	46	4751
% TOTAL CATCH		0.1	0.9	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.5	TRACE	TRACE	1.6	88.7	4.9	0.1	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	TRACE	1325

NO TRAPPING REPORTED FROM: ALPINE, AMADOR, KERN, KINGS, MARIN, MONTEREY, ORANGE, SAN BENITO, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN LUIS OBISPO, SAN MATEO, SANTA BARBARA, SANTA CRUZ, TULARE, AND VENTURA COUNTIES.

NUMBER OF LICENSES SOLD 950  
 NUMBER OF TRAPPERS REPORTING 858  
 NUMBER OF TRAPPERS NOT TRAPPING 304

AVERAGE OF REPORTED PRICES FOR EACH SPECIES  
IN COUNTY OF CATCH, 1953-54 TRAPPING SEASON

COUNTY OF CATCH	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	FERAL CAT	FOX GREY	FOX KIT	FOX RED	MINK	MUSKRAT	SANDRAT	OPOSSUM	RACCOON	RINGTAIL	RIVER OTTER	SKUNK SPOTTED	SKUNK STRIPED	WEASEL
BUTTE		\$5.15	\$1.25	\$ .75		\$ .31	-	-	\$5.85	\$ .65	-	\$ .08	\$ .66	\$1.06	\$10.00	\$ .12	\$ .56	-
CALAVERAS		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.05	-	-	.40	-
COLUSA		-	-	-		-	-	-	9.45	.67	-	-	.63	-	13.00	-	-	-
CONTRA COSTA		4.78	-	-		-	-	-	8.70	.73	-	-	.99	-	15.67	-	-	.37
DEL NORTE		-	-	-		-	-	-	13.57	.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ELDORADO		-	-	-		-	-	-	7.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.40	-
FRESNO		-	.71	-		-	-	-	10.78	.73	-	-	.56	1.33	-	.41	.80	.27
GLENN		4.41	-	-		.42	-	-	6.81	.66	-	-	.80	1.00	12.50	.50	.94	-
HUMBOLDT		-	-	-		-	-	-	10.91	-	-	-	.68	.75	6.50	.63	-	-
IMPERIAL		4.48	1.13	-		.50	.60	-	-	-	.31	-	.44	-	-	-	-	-
INYO		-	-	-		-	-	-	4.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LAKE		-	-	-		-	-	-	12.96	-	-	-	.81	-	-	-	-	-
LASSEN	- NO FURS REPORTED SOLD	-	2.80	-	- NO FURS REPORTED SOLD	-	-	-	11.03	.73	-	-	.39	-	-	-	.67	.25
LOS ANGELES		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	.57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MADERA		-	-	-		.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	.50	-	-	.25	.72	-
MENDOCINO		-	-	-		1.25	-	-	11.62	-	-	-	1.00	1.50	11.12	.60	.59	-
MERCED		3.98	-	-		-	-	-	10.88	.81	.24	.24	.80	-	-	-	.55	-
MODOC		-	-	-		-	-	-	8.84	.73	-	-	2.00	-	-	-	-	-
MONO		-	-	-		-	-	-	6.00	.56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NAPA		-	-	-		.10	-	-	13.84	-	-	-	.50	-	-	-	.42	-
NEVADA		-	-	-		-	-	-	10.00	.57	-	-	-	1.00	-	-	-	-
PLACER		-	.50	-		.25	-	-	8.29	.60	-	-	.29	-	-	-	.25	-
PLUMAS		-	.75	-		.58	-	-	13.07	.77	-	-	.75	1.00	-	-	.75	.67
RIVERSIDE		5.93	.75	-		-	-	-	-	-	.28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SACRAMENTO		4.27	-	-		.30	-	-	9.00	.70	-	.23	.67	-	10.82	-	.54	-
SAN JOAQUIN		4.59	-	-		.25	-	-	8.99	.62	-	.10	.56	-	17.16	-	1.00	1.00
SANTA CLARA		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	.42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHASTA		-	-	1.00		-	-	.10	12.45	.71	-	-	.83	1.00	18.00	-	-	-
SIERRA		-	.50	-		-	-	-	2.00	.64	-	-	2.00	-	-	-	-	-
SISKIYOU		-	2.08	1.30		.40	-	-	13.20	.70	-	-	.91	1.50	16.00	.87	-	.82
SOLANO		4.00	-	-		-	-	-	8.60	.81	-	-	.67	-	-	-	-	-
SONOMA		-	-	-		-	-	-	11.68	-	-	-	1.00	-	-	-	-	-
STANISLAUS		4.98	-	-		.25	-	-	10.46	.65	-	.21	.77	2.00	-	-	-	-

AVERAGE OF REPORTED PRICES - 1954

COUNTY OF CATCH	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	FERAL CAT	FOX GREY	FOX KIT	FOX RED	MINK	MUSKRAT	SANDRAT	OPOSSUM	RACCOON	RINGTAIL	RIVER OTTER	SKUNK SPOTTED	SKUNK STRIPED	WEASEL
SUTTER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.25	.76	-	-	.48	-	-	-	.50	-
TEHAMA	-	-	-	-	-	.38	-	-	4.25	.62	-	-	.42	1.50	-	.30	1.15	-
TRINITY	-	-	-	1.08	-	.40	-	-	13.39	-	-	-	.88	.92	11.55	-	-	-
TUOLUMNE	-	10.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.00	-	-	-	1.50	-	-	-	-	-
YOLO	-	3.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.95	.61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
YUBA	-	4.54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.65	-	.10	1.00	-	-	-	.75	-
STATEWIDE AVERAGE		\$4.88	\$1.31	\$1.15		\$ .48	\$ .60	\$ .10	\$10.19	\$ .69	\$ .32	\$ .19	\$ .72	\$1.10	\$12.60	\$ .42	\$ .63	\$ .39

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

IN OTHERS OF WHICH 1954-55 INCLUSIVE PERIOD  
 REPORTS OF WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO BUREAU  
 VALUES OF REPORTED PRICES FOR EACH SPECIES