

California Department of Fish and Game  
722 Capitol Avenue  
Sacramento, California

August 1956

LICENSED FUR TRAPPER REPORT

(1955-56 Season, Nov. 16, 1955 to Feb. 28, 1956)  
(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 species of animals caught, county where caught, price received for furs, and company buying furs.

912 trapping licenses were sold for the 1955-56 season, of which 908 were citizens and 4 aliens. This is an increase of 3 percent over the 1954-55 season when 882 were sold. Of the 912 licensees, 818 (90%) submitted reports, 94 (10%) failed to report, and 297 (32%) reported they did not trap.

Trapping laws remained the same as last year, except the beaver depredations control areas were extended from northeastern California south through the Sierras to and including Alpine County. 1,780 permits were issued as a damage control measure. This accounted for the 45 percent increase in the 1955-56 beaver take.

The total reported catch was 87,581 for the 1955-56 season against the reported catch of 112,409 for 1954-55, a decrease of 28 percent. This decrease is accountable in that the heaviest rainfalls in the history of the State occurred during the height of the muskrat trapping in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. Many trappers reported they were flooded out or that they never trapped due to unprecedented high waters. A nutria was reported taken from the Merced River at its confluence with the San Joaquin.

The buyer demand has remained for the short haired fur species: muskrat, mink, otter, and beaver. A slight increase in interest was shown in raccoon and bobcat, but other long haired species such as coyote, badger, ringtail, fox, etc., drew little attention due to a continued low demand by the fur trade.

The total value of the 1955-56 fur season catch is estimated at \$100,168 - a decrease of 31 percent under the 1954-55 season. The main reason for this decrease was due to flood conditions during the trapping season.

The following table shows number of animals taken together with average price reported received for the main fur species:

Species	Number Taken		Prices Reported	
	1954-55	1955-56	1954-55	1955-56
Beaver	1,006	1,467	\$ 7.66	\$ 6.92
Coyote	276	205	1.23	.91
Grey Fox	281	272	.34	.30
Mink	2,240	1,796	12.34	13.73
Muskrat	100,844	77,128	1.02	.96
Sandrat	4,163	3,964	.42	.44
Raccoon	1,448	1,193	.74	.92
Ringtail	230	120	1.61	1.13
River Otter	107	81	16.55	15.10
Skunk	725	528	.66	.69



NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED - 1955-56

COUNTY OF CATCH	NO. OF TRAPPERS	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	HOUSE CAT	FOX GREY	FOX SHIRT	MINK	MUSKRAT	SANDRAT	CROSSUM	RACCOON	RINGTAIL	RIVER OTTER	SKUNK SPOTTED	SKUNK STRIPED	WEASEL	NUTRIA	TOTAL
SISKIYOU	53	-	5	40	86	17	1	-	107	14461	-	-	86	3	3	12	7	2	-	14830
SOLANO	15	-	2	1	-	4	6	-	146	6136	-	-	31	-	31	4	41	-	-	6402
SONOMA	3	-	-	-	-	25	5	-	12	-	-	-	38	-	-	10	-	-	-	90
STANISLAUS	11	-	156	2	-	12	11	-	201	1674	-	26	21	-	-	1	9	-	-	2113
SUTTER	13	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	2026	-	2	3	1	1	-	12	-	-	2049
TEHAMA	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	91
TRINITY	18	-	-	6	3	-	8	-	103	-	-	-	47	15	6	4	8	-	-	200
TUOLUMNE	2	-	83	-	-	-	-	-	2	467	-	26	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	579
VENTURA	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4
YOLO	17	7	15	-	-	77	10	-	8	3590	-	-	46	-	-	9	13	-	-	3775
YUBA	6	-	18	6	-	12	9	-	2	1060	-	15	24	3	-	4	93	-	-	1246
NO. OF ANIMALS		24	1467	228	205	267	272	2	1796	77128	3964	169	1193	120	81	123	528	13	1	87581
% TOTAL CATCH		TRACE	1.67	0.26	0.23	0.30	0.31	TRACE	2.05	88.00	4.52	0.19	1.36	0.13	0.09	0.14	0.60	TRACE	TRACE	100.00

NO TRAPPING REPORTED FROM: AMADOR, INYO, KERN, KINGS, MARIN, MONTEREY, ORANGE, SAN BENITO, SAN FRANCISCO, SANTA BARBARA, SANTA CRUZ, AND TULARE COUNTIES.

NUMBER OF LICENSES SOLD	912
NUMBER OF TRAPPERS REPORTING	521
NUMBER OF TRAPPERS NOT REPORTING	94
NUMBER OF TRAPPERS NOT TRAPPING	297

AVERAGE OF REPORTED PRICES FOR EACH SPECIES  
IN COUNTY OF CATCH, 1955-56 TRAPPING SEASON

COUNTY OF CATCH	BADGER	BEAVER	BOBCAT	COYOTE	FOX GREY	FOX SWIFT	MINK	MUSKRAT	SANDRAT	OPOSSUM	RACCOON	RINGTAIL	RIVER OTTER	SKUNK SPOTTED	SKUNK STRIPED	WEASEL	NUTRIA
ALPINE	-	\$ 8.79	\$2.78	\$1.10	\$ .10	-	\$17.35	\$1.00	-	-	\$1.09	-	-	-	\$1.00	-	-
BUTTE	-	10.48	1.12	.50	.30	-	23.00	.88	-	-	.68	\$1.06	\$19.33	-	.65	-	-
CALAVERAS	-	-	-	-	.20	-	-	-	-	-	1.00	1.00	-	-	.50	-	-
COLUSA	-	-	-	-	.35	-	10.00	1.09	-	-	.94	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONTRA COSTA	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.00	1.06	-	\$ .15	1.25	-	-	-	-	-	-
DEL NORTE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.78	-	-	.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
EL DORADO	-	-	.50	1.00	-	-	12.06	1.53	-	-	.78	-	-	-	-	-	-
FRESNO	-	5.22	.50	4.00	.50	-	10.11	1.05	-	.12	1.12	.90	12.00	\$ .55	-	-	-
GLENN	-	6.46	-	.87	-	-	-	.97	-	.30	.69	1.25	12.00	-	.85	-	-
HUMBOLDT	-	10.76	.70	-	.10	-	11.90	-	-	-	1.11	1.00	10.40	-	.47	-	-
IMPERIAL	-	5.70	2.25	.54	-	\$ .35	-	-	\$ .38	-	.83	-	-	-	.71	-	-
LAKE	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.19	-	-	-	1.02	-	-	-	-	-	-
LASSEN	-	8.32	3.50	2.00	-	-	-	.95	-	-	-	-	-	.49	-	-	-
LOS ANGELES	-	-	-	2.25	.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.37	-	-
MADERA	-	5.68	1.00	-	.65	-	20.00	-	-	-	1.12	-	-	-	-	-	-
MARIPOSA	-	4.40	-	-	.15	-	-	-	-	.10	1.19	1.00	-	-	-	-	-
MENDOCINO	-	-	1.25	-	.25	-	12.84	1.00	-	-	.56	-	15.53	.46	1.00	-	-
MERCED	\$ .70	4.97	-	-	.30	-	13.58	1.04	-	.13	.79	-	-	.56	-	\$ .16	\$2.50
MODOC	-	10.53	1.50	-	-	-	11.06	1.02	-	-	1.17	-	-	-	-	-	-
MONO	-	-	3.50	1.00	-	-	20.00	.48	-	-	1.30	-	-	-	-	-	-
NAPA	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.33	-	-	-	.93	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEVADA	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.00	.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PLACER	-	-	.75	.30	.10	-	5.00	1.01	-	-	.40	-	-	-	.19	-	-
PLUMAS	-	9.00	-	1.25	.10	-	13.76	1.36	-	-	.96	-	-	-	-	1.00	-
RIVERSIDE	-	5.09	-	-	-	-	-	-	.47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SACRAMENTO	-	6.07	-	-	.30	-	9.05	1.35	-	-	1.18	-	13.00	-	-	-	-
SAN BERNARDINO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SAN JOAQUIN	-	5.31	-	-	.33	-	11.36	.83	-	.32	.87	-	11.66	-	.75	-	-
SHASTA	-	8.50	1.59	1.10	.25	-	21.51	.94	-	-	.67	-	14.60	-	.60	-	-
SIERRA	-	8.80	-	-	-	-	14.00	1.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SISKIYOU	-	9.20	1.75	3.00	-	-	16.85	.82	-	-	1.00	-	5.50	-	-	-	-
SOLANO	-	5.50	1.25	-	-	-	10.57	.98	-	-	1.02	-	16.70	.44	.92	-	-
SONOMA	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.33	-	-	-	1.40	-	-	-	-	-	-

