

2005 SOUTH CAROLINA DEER HARVEST REPORT



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DEER RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT PROJECT



DNR

Submitted by

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INTRODUCTION

The white-tailed deer is the most popular, sought after, economically important, and controversial game animal in South Carolina. The 2005 Deer Hunter Survey represents the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources– (DNR), Wildlife Section 's ongoing commitment to conduct pertinent research related to the state 's white-tailed deer resource. The primary objectives of this survey research were to obtain valid estimates of; (1) the statewide deer harvest in 2005, (2) the harvest of deer in the constituent counties of the state, (3) hunting effort related to deer, (4) resident and non-resident hunter activities, and (5) weapons use, weapons preference, and harvest rates by weapon type. Information on hunter opinion related to certain aspects of the deer resource as well as estimates of the wild hog and coyote harvest in the state is also presented.

Due to the importance of deer as a state resource, DNR believes that accurately assessing the harvest of deer, as well as hunter participation in deer hunting, is key to the management of this species. Proposed changes in deer-related laws and regulations should have foundations in biology, therefore, the population dynamics associated with annual hunting mortality cannot be ignored. Similarly, when issues arise that do not involve biological parameters, it is important to have information related to deer hunter activities afield because they too form an important basis for managing deer.

Since the inception of the Statewide Deer Research and Management Project (Deer Project) the methods used to document the state 's deer harvest have changed. Historically, deer harvest figures were developed using a system of mandatory deer check stations in the 18 county Upstate (Game Zones 1, 2, & 4) in conjunction with reported harvests from properties enrolled in the Antlerless Deer Quota Program (ADQP) in the 28 county Coastal Plain (Game Zones 3 & 5-11). This system yielded an actual count of harvested deer and was, therefore, an absolute minimum harvest figure. Shortcomings in this system included deterioration of check station compliance in the Upstate and failure to report by ADQP cooperators in the Coastal Plain. Also, since the acreage enrolled in the ADQP tends to be about one-half of the deer habitat in the Coastal Plain, past harvest figures have not documented deer harvests on non-quota lands (4.8

million acres) because there was no legal requirement to report harvested deer in the Coastal Plain. Therefore, it is suspected that historic deer harvest figures only accounted for about one-half of the total deer harvest that occurred annually in the state.

Survey Methodology

The 2005 Deer Hunter Survey represents a near random mail survey that involved a single mail-out. The questionnaire for the 2005 Deer Hunter Survey was developed by Wildlife Section personnel (Figure 1). The mailing list database was constructed by randomly selecting 25,000 known Big Game Permit holders that included 5 license types, the first 3 of which have a Big Game Permit included. The license types included: (1) Resident Sportsman=s, (2) Resident Combination, (3) Resident Junior Sportsman ' s, (4) Resident Big Game Permit, and (5) Non-resident Big Game Permit. The number of individuals associated with each license type was based on an attempted sampling rate of approximately 15 percent for licenses purchased through December of 2005. Since deer seasons statewide end on January 1 there was no need to sample individuals that were licensed thereafter.

Experience gained from past survey efforts indicated that even though licenses used to construct the database for each license type are randomly selected, there are biases associated with counties being either under or over-represented. In order to avoid this identified form of bias, a minimum number of each type of license from every county was randomly selected and entered. The final mailing list for each license type was then randomly selected from each license type database.

Statistical analysis was conducted using Statistix 7 (Analytical Software, Tallahassee, FL)

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Results and Discussion

As with any mail survey, a portion of the attempted sample (25,000) was returned as undeliverable mail (1,033). Therefore, the actual attempted sample was 23,967 representing 14.8 percent of the entire population (161,478) of license holders. A total of 7,332 completed surveys were returned yielding a 30.6 percent response rate and 5.7 percent sampling rate on the entire licensee population. Response rates for resident hunters was less (30.1 percent) than for non-residents (39.7 percent).

Deer Harvest

During the 2005 deer season it is estimated that a total of 123,503 bucks and 120,542 does were harvested for a statewide total of 244,045 deer (Table 1). This figure represents a 2.9 percent decrease in harvest from 2004 (251,205) and a 23.7 percent decrease from the record harvest established in 2002 (319,902). After many years of rapid increase, the deer population in South Carolina was relatively stable between 1995 and 2002. The reduction in harvest seen since 2002 can likely be attributable to several factors. (1) The state experience a very significant drought 1998-2002, and although rainfall has been more normal the last 3 years, any reduction in reproduction, recruitment, and survival of deer during the drought would result in reduced deer numbers in years immediately following the drought. (2) Although timber management activities stimulated the growth in South Carolina's deer population in the 1980s, considerable acreage is currently in even-aged pine stands that are greater than 10 years old, a situation that does not support deer densities at the same level as younger stands. (3) The good rainfall that was experienced in many parts of the state during spring/summer 2005 produced an abundance of natural foods for deer (including acorns) which worked to keep deer movements low during the fall hunting season. (4) Fall temperatures in 2005 were unseasonably warm which also contributed to decreased daytime movements of deer during the hunting season. (5) Hunter effort in 2005 was down nearly 10 percent likely a result of the significant increase in fuel prices following hurricanes in the Gulf Coast Region. Deer harvest is directly related to hunter effort.

Harvest Per Unit Area County Rankings

Comparisons can be made between deer harvests from the various counties in South Carolina if a harvest per unit area is established. Harvest per unit area standardizes the harvest among counties regardless of the size of individual counties. One measure of harvest rate is the number of deer taken per square mile (640ac. = 1 mile²). When considering the estimated deer habitat that is available in South Carolina, the deer harvest rate in 2005 was 11.5 deer per square mile over the entire state (Table 2). Although the deer harvest has been down each of the last 3 years, this harvest rate should be considered extraordinary in comparison with other states. Three counties recorded harvest rates in excess of 20 deer per square mile with the top counties including; Bamberg (26.5 deer/mile²), Hampton (21.6 deer/mile²), Allendale (20.8 deer/mile²), Union (19.7 deer/mile²), and Fairfield (17.5 deer/mile²) (Table 2).

Deer Harvest Rankings by County

Total deer harvest from a county is not comparable among counties because there is no standard unit of comparison, i.e. counties vary in size and are, therefore, not directly comparable. However, it has become customary to rank the counties based on number of deer harvested (Table 3). The top 5 counties during 2005 were Orangeburg, Hampton, Fairfield, Colleton, and Williamsburg.

Deer Harvest on Wildlife Management Areas

Deer hunting on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) remains popular in South Carolina with approximately 47,000 licensees having a WMA Permit. Wildlife Management Areas represent lands owned by DNR, other state owned lands enrolled in the WMA Program, US Forest Service lands enrolled in the WMA Program, and private and/or corporate lands that are leased by DNR as part of the WMA Program. Deer harvest figures for coastal WMAs are from check stations and are presented only for those WMA properties that have a deer check-in requirement. Deer harvest figures for upstate WMAs (Mountain and Central and Western Piedmont Hunt Units) were estimated by extrapolating the county deer harvest rates (deer/mi²) to the acreage of WMA land that falls within the respective counties comprising the WMA. This assumes that hunters on WMA lands exhibit effort and deer harvest patterns similar to those of the general licensee database that was surveyed. Finally, the estimated deer harvest on WMA lands is included in, not additive to, the

county and statewide estimates found throughout this report.

During the 2005 season it is estimated that 4,524 bucks and 4,187 does were harvested for a total deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas of 8,710 (Table 4). This figure represents an increase of approximately 2.1 percent from 2004. If hunter effort and deer harvest patterns of hunters on WMAs are similar to that of the general licensee database then it would require approximately 15,042 hunters 128,125 days to harvest that number of deer on WMAs in South Carolina in 2005.

Number of Deer Hunters

Even though all individuals receiving a survey were licensed to hunt deer, only 88.1 percent actually hunted deer. For residents, 86.4 percent of sampled licensees hunted deer and for non-residents 96.6 percent hunted deer. Extrapolating to the respective licensee populations yields 124,366 residents (Table 5) and 16,941 non-residents (Table 6) for a total of 141,307 deer hunters statewide during 2005. This figure is a modest 1.3 percent increase from the 139,437 hunters in 2004. Counties with the highest estimates for individual hunters include Orangeburg, Fairfield, Colleton, Newberry, and Aiken for resident hunters (Table 5) and Hampton, Chester, Allendale, Union and Fairfield for non-residents (Table 6).

Hunting Success

For determination of hunting success only those individuals that actually hunted deer were included in the analysis and similarly, success was defined as harvesting at least one deer. Overall hunting success in 2005 was 72.5 percent, which should be considered extraordinary. For the second year in a row, residents were less successful (72.3%, Table 5) than non-residents (73.9%, Table 6). Estimates for resident and non-resident success rates for all counties are presented in Tables 5 and 6. Success rates for resident hunters were highest in Bamberg, Allendale, Hampton, Beaufort, and Marlboro. Non-residents experienced the highest success in Horry, Lee, Marion, Spartanburg, and Jasper counties. However, only Jasper county had reasonable numbers of non-resident hunters.

Hunter Effort

For the purposes of this survey hunter effort was measured in days with one day being

defined as any portion of the day spent afield. Resident hunters averaged 15.0 days afield for a total of 1,859,504 days deer hunting and non-residents averaged 12.9 days for a total of 219,137 days (Table 7). Compared to 2004, these figures represent an 6.9 percent decrease in effort for residents and a 21.7 percent decrease in effort for non-residents. The dramatic increase in fuel costs early last fall likely attributed to reduced days devoted to deer hunting particularly by non-residents. Total effort expended deer hunting in South Carolina during 2005 was estimated at 2,078,641 days (Table 7), down approximately 8.7 percent from 2004. Although hunting effort was down in 2005, the number of days devoted to deer hunting in South Carolina is very significant and points not only to the availability and popularity of deer as a game species, but to the obvious economic benefits related to this important natural resource. Previous surveys (2001) conducted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service indicate that approximately 200 million dollars in direct retail sales are related to deer hunting in South Carolina annually.

The top 5 South Carolina counties for overall days of deer hunting during 2005 were Orangeburg, Colleton, Fairfield, Williamsburg, and Hampton counties (Table 7). Resident hunters expended the most hunting effort in Orangeburg, Colleton, Williamsburg, Fairfield, and Aiken counties. Non-residents hunted the most in Hampton, Chester, Allendale, Colleton, and Fairfield counties and these 5 counties totaled 43 percent of all the non-resident deer hunting effort that took place in South Carolina in 2005. For the first time in two years residents (33,056 days) hunted more in Hampton County than non-residents (32,979 days).

Resident hunters who were successful at harvesting at least one deer averaged more than twice as many days (20.1 days) afield as unsuccessful residents (9.2 days) (Table 7). Similarly, successful non-residents (15.7 days) averaged about 2 times the days afield when compared with unsuccessful non-residents (8.4 days).

The amount of effort required to harvest a deer varied between residents and non-residents and by the county hunted. On the average it took less time for non-residents to harvest a deer (6.79 days, Table 6) compared to residents (8.78 days, Table 5). This may be due to the fact that many non-residents hunt commercially where considerable preparation is done prior to the hunter's arrival. Also, there may be less selectivity with respect to deer harvested by non-residents. Counties requiring the least effort to harvest a deer included Allendale, Cherokee, Clarendon, Orangeburg, and Hampton for resident hunters (Table 5). On the other hand, non-residents spent less time to harvest a deer in Spartanburg, Williamsburg, McCormick, Clarendon,

and Saluda counties (Table 6), however, none of these counties exhibited what should be considered a high level of non-resident hunting activity.

Deer Harvest by Weapon Type and Weapons Utilization and Preference

All areas of South Carolina have long and liberal firearms seasons and the majority (79.2%) of deer are harvested with centerfire rifles (Table 8). Shotguns (11.5%) and archery equipment (6.2%) also contribute significantly to the overall deer harvest in the state, whereas, muzzleloaders, crossbows, and handguns combine to contribute less than 5 percent of the total harvest (Table 8).

Although rifles are used by approximately 90 percent of hunters, over 70 percent of hunters use multiple weapons during the course of the deer season (Table 9, Table 10). Resident hunters appear to be more flexible than non-residents in their use of multiple weapons and significantly more residents use archery equipment (24.6%) and shotguns (34.8%) than non-residents (16.2% archery and 14.6% shotguns) (Table 10). Two points can likely be made on this outcome. First, since most aspects of deer hunting (travel, accommodations, etc.) are typically more convenient for residents, they may have more time to devote to becoming comfortable or proficient with additional weapons, in this case archery equipment. Second, shotguns are the customary weapon related to hunting deer with dogs and the argument can be made that dog hunting is being practiced more by residents than non-residents. The weapons utilization data supports this contention.

On the other hand, non-residents (24.6%) used muzzleloaders more frequently than residents (15.7%). Keep in mind that muzzleloader or primitive weapons seasons are only available in Game Zones 1, 2, and 4 (the Upstate). It is suspected that the high utilization of muzzleloaders by non-residents is related to the availability of this special season at an earlier date in South Carolina than in neighboring states. Also, the argument can be made that muzzleloaders require less commitment than archery equipment and would allow non-residents a comparatively easy method of harvesting deer during the special season.

Unlike weapons utilization, weapons preference is the single weapon that a hunter prefers. Obviously, a majority (78.2%) of deer hunters prefer rifles (Table 11). However, there are several interesting points that can be made about preferences for other weapons based on residency. Archery equipment and shotguns are preferred significantly more by residents (12.0% and 9.3%) than non-residents (8.1% and 2.5%) and muzzleloaders are preferred more by non-residents (3.5%) than by residents (1.2%) (Table 12). The explanation of this situation is likely similar to that for

weapons utilization in that, (1) hunting is more convenient for residents and they can devote the time needed for archery, (2) the idea that residents do most of the dog hunting in the state and tend to use shotguns, and (3) non-residents use muzzleloaders to take advantage of a special season that is not available as early in their home state. Finally, non-residents (85.2%) prefer rifles significantly more than residents (76.8%), however, this is likely an artifact of the idea that non-residents participate less in dog hunting than residents, favoring rifles and still hunting.

Hunter Opinion Regarding Deer Numbers

The 2005 Deer Hunter Survey asked participants their opinion regarding one topic; compared to past years, how would you describe the number of deer in the area that you hunt most often. About half (53.4%) of hunters indicated that the number of deer in the area they hunted most often was about the same as in past years (Table 12). More hunters (28.9%) believed that the deer population was decreasing than increasing (17.7%). There were no significant differences in hunter's perception of deer numbers based on residency. On a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being increasing, 2 being neutral, and 3 being decreasing, the overall rank mean of 2.11 suggests that hunters viewed the deer population as slightly decreasing.

Profile of South Carolina Deer Hunters

For the first time survey participants were asked their sex and age which allowed for a profile of South Carolina deer hunters to be developed (Table 13). Men made up 96 percent (135,655) of all deer hunters in 2005 while women accounted for 4 percent (5,652). The average age of male hunters was significantly higher (44.5 years) than for females (42.1 years) with the overall average age of deer hunters being 44.4 years. Men averaged 23.7 years of deer hunting experience with women averaging significantly less experience at 10.9 years. Based on this, men begin deer hunting when they are about 20 years old while women do not begin until they are about 30 years old. With an average of 60 deer killed, men had harvested significantly more deer in their lifetime than women (16 deer).

The profile of hunters based on residency revealed that resident hunters comprised 88 percent (124,366 hunters) of deer hunters in 2005 and non-residents made up 12 percent (16,941) (Table 14). Non-residents were significantly older (49.1 years) and have more years hunting

experience (25.0 years) than residents hunters (43.5 years old and 22.3 years experience). These statistics may be related to the idea that older individuals are more financially stable and can bear the cost of hunting abroad. Finally, there was no significant difference in the number of deer killed over their life comparing residents (59.9 deer) and non-residents (56.7 deer).

Wild Hog and Coyote Harvest

The 2005 Deer Hunter Survey also asked hunters to provide information on their wild hog and coyote harvesting activities. Documenting the harvest of these species has been difficult to accomplish in South Carolina, however, both wild hogs and coyotes are commonly taken incidental to deer hunting. On the one hand, wild or feral hogs are often thought of as *Agame* and there is a certain amount of sport associated with harvesting hogs. Wild hogs provide quality meat for the hunter and mature hogs can make a highly sought-after *Atrophy*. Wild hogs are not native to South Carolina or any part of the North American continent. They are descendants of European domestic hogs that escaped or were released dating back as far as the early Spanish explorers. Also, closed-range or fencing requirements for livestock did not arise until the 1900's and letting hogs *Afree-range* was common prior to fencing laws. Wild hogs were historically associated with the major river flood plain systems in Coastal South Carolina. Unfortunately, recent relocations of wild hogs by hunters appear to be responsible for the species populating areas where they were not found in the past. Wild hogs directly compete with native species like deer and wild turkey for habitat and food, and hogs can do significant damage to the habitat and agricultural production through their rooting activities. Legislation passed during the 2005 session of the South Carolina General Assembly prohibits the release of hogs in the state (SC Code Section 50-16-25).

During 2005 an estimated 23,166 wild hogs were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 15), a 3.2 percent decrease from 2004 (23,932 hogs). Evidence of the presence of hogs in 38 of 46 counties was made by hunter harvest activities (44 of 46 counties in 2004). Statewide, approximately 1.06 hogs/mile² were harvested and the top 5 counties for wild hog harvest per unit area were Allendale (4.73 hogs/mile²), Calhoun (3.69 hogs/mile²), Hampton (3.04 hogs/mile²), Dorchester (2.85 hogs/mile²), and Sumter (2.80 hogs/mile²). With respect to river drainage systems, top counties for wild hog harvest per unit area include Allendale, Hampton, and Jasper in the lower Savannah River drainage and Calhoun, Richland, and Sumter counties in the

Congaree/Wateree drainage.

On the other hand, coyotes are typically thought of as varmints that pose a threat to native game species. Like wild hogs, coyotes are a non-native species in South Carolina. However, the occurrence of coyotes in the state is more recent and they appear to have gotten to the state by two methods, (1) natural movements from western states and (2) illegal importation. Coyotes were first documented in Oconee and Pickens Counties in 1978 and were thought to be linked to animals that were illegally imported for hunting purposes. Evidence for this includes an illegal importation case that was made and the fact that coyotes had not been documented in adjacent counties in Georgia and North Carolina. Within a few years coyotes began to appear in the western piedmont counties of Anderson, Abbeville, McCormick, etc. indicating a southeastern expansion from the original site. In the early 1980's coyotes were documented in Allendale County and were thought to be natural immigrants from Georgia since they had previously been documented in the adjacent Georgia counties. Coyotes from this source apparently populated to the Northeast until they encountered the Santee Cooper Lakes. In the late 1980's coyotes were documented in the Pee Dee Region, again associated with illegal imports. In any event, by the mid-1990's coyotes had been documented in all South Carolina counties.

Sportsmen often voice concern over the presence of coyotes and the potential impact they have on game species such as deer. Though coyotes are one of the most adaptable animals, they are not designed to prey on big game. The coyote's diet is chiefly composed of small mammals (rats and mice), insects, and a variety of vegetable matter including fruits. Clearly, coyotes will take very young deer and deer that are sick or injured, however, there is no reason to believe that coyotes constitute a threat to the deer population in South Carolina. On the other hand, since coyotes share the same habitat and food requirements as foxes, competition between them can be important. For example, there has been a documented decline in the red fox population index as the coyote population has increased.

Coyotes are not protected animals in South Carolina and hunters are allowed to harvest them throughout the year during daylight hours. During 2005 it is estimated that approximately 20,159 coyotes were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 15), a decrease of 9.9 percent from 2004 (22,379 coyotes). As in past years, there was evidence of coyotes being harvested in all

counties. However, this was first time the coyote harvest by deer hunters has decreased since it was first measured in 1999. This may indicate that coyote numbers have stabilized in many areas or that deer hunters are losing interest in killing them. Statewide approximately 0.92 coyotes/mile² were harvested and the top 5 counties for coyote harvest per unit area included Calhoun (2.72 coyotes/mile²), Saluda (2.50 coyotes/mile²), Allendale (2.34 coyotes/mile²), Newberry (2.51 coyotes/mile²), and Bamberg (1.88 coyotes/mile²).

Supplementary Information

The following section is not related to the 2005 Big Game Hunter Survey, but is offered as information relevant to the state's deer population.

According to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS), the number of reported deer-vehicle collisions for 2005 was 910 (Table 16). This figure is down 65 percent from 2004 (1,401 collisions) and is the lowest number of reported deer-vehicle collisions since prior to 1990. Since reporting of deer vehicle collisions is contingent upon notification of some law enforcement agency and then SCDPS, this figure should be considered a minimum. Also, the reader should bear in mind that reporting criteria have changed over time.

Average body weights and antler characteristic of deer vary among the constituent counties in South Carolina and are dependent on deer density and available nutrition (Tables 17 and 18). Statewide averages for male deer indicate that 1.5 year old bucks average about 107 lbs. and 3.6 antler points while bucks 2.5 years old and older average about 138 lbs. and 6.5 antler points. Yearling (1.5 years old) females average approximately 88 lbs. while does 2.5 years old and older average nearly 101 lbs. This information is based on sampling completed between 1987 and 1994.

Peak breeding in the Upstate and Coastal Plain occurs during late October and early November (Figure 2). Harvest dates for deer in the piedmont mirror the breeding season with the vast majority of deer being harvested during the relatively short peak of breeding (Figure 3). In the Coastal Plain, however, the relationship between peak breeding and hunter harvest appears to be undermined by the early opening buck only seasons found in Coastal Game Zones. Opening early, coastal plain buck only seasons find deer in summer movement and behavior patterns, therefore, the animals are not as vulnerable to harvest as they are during the breeding season when movements are greatest. It is suspected that hunter disturbance during the early buck only season leads to a

suppressed harvest during the breeding season when deer movements and hunter harvests should be greatest.

The history of the deer population and harvest in South Carolina demonstrates a trend typical of a species that initially expands into available habitat, stabilizes, and begins to decline as habitat changes (Figures 4 and 5). It is important to recognize that habitat is the primary factor controlling deer density in South Carolina, though regulated harvest is important as well. Keep in mind that between 1750 and 1900 the deer population in South Carolina experienced a tremendous decline as it did in most of North America. Although unrestricted subsistence and commercial harvest of deer was important in the decline, major changes in habitat related to clearing of land for agriculture was the controlling factor.

By 1900 deer numbers in the State were very low, perhaps 20,000. However, in the 1920's, significant drought and the cotton bowl weevil had devastating consequences for farming. With the decline in farming, reforestation of the state began and was largely complete by the 1970's. Timber harvest activities that followed into and throughout the 1980's created vast areas of early successional habitat that allowed for a dramatic increase in the State's deer population. South Carolina's deer population peaked in the mid to late 1990's at just over 1,000,000 deer.

Over time, deer hunters have gained a better understanding of the relationship between deer numbers, habitat, and deer quality leading to more aggressive female harvests in many parts of the state. This increased emphasis on harvesting female deer as a means to control deer densities has played a role in the stabilization in the State's deer population. However, the overriding factor is habitat. Keep in mind that the same timber management activities that stimulated the growth in South Carolina's deer population in the 1980s have resulted in considerable acreage currently being in even-aged pine stands that are greater than 10 years old. This habitat type simply does not support deer densities at the same level as habitat in early stages of ecological succession. As a result, the deer population has trended down since 2000 and currently the population is estimated at about 750,000 deer, a level comparable with the mid 1980's.

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Table 1. Estimated statewide deer harvest in South Carolina in 2005.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2004
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²	
Abbeville	223,113	349	3,196	2,689	5,885	37.9	16.9	-19.8
Aiken	500,546	782	3,172	2,652	5,824	85.9	7.4	-25.1
Allendale	216,455	338	3,557	3,464	7,021	30.8	20.8	-22.2
Anderson	219,068	342	2,573	2,162	4,735	46.3	13.8	-7.7
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,930	4,200	8,130	24.2	26.5	-8.8
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,899	2,345	5,244	53.7	11.9	-14.7
Beaufort	147,441	230	650	1,312	1,962	75.2	8.5	-46.1
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,520	2,933	6,453	88.0	7.3	14.4
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,298	2,806	5,104	37.3	17.1	30.6
Charleston	288,732	451	3,036	2,700	5,736	50.3	12.7	5.7
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,987	2,077	4,064	38.5	16.6	-2.9
Chester	300,589	470	3,668	3,815	7,483	40.2	15.9	-10.0
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,197	1,849	4,046	92.1	7.0	-19.7
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,386	2,147	4,534	65.8	9.7	-8.8
Colleton	502,666	785	4,815	5,361	10,175	49.4	13.0	-1.4
Darlington	286,228	447	1,001	747	1,748	163.8	3.9	18.3
Dillon	214,069	334	885	736	1,621	132.1	4.8	9.1
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,003	2,001	4,003	75.6	8.5	-6.4
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,501	1,929	4,430	55.7	11.5	-2.5
Fairfield	384,607	601	4,953	5,581	10,534	36.5	17.5	-3.3
Florence	397,888	622	2,449	2,792	5,242	75.9	8.4	-7.5
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,761	1,703	3,464	115.4	5.5	-25.1
Greenville	294,257	460	695	449	1,144	257.3	2.5	-1.4
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,272	2,583	4,855	42.1	15.2	11.3
Hampton	324,840	508	5,552	5,402	10,954	29.7	21.6	16.4
Horry	533,336	833	2,136	1,977	4,113	129.7	4.9	25.8
Jasper	309,889	484	2,163	2,525	4,688	66.1	9.7	-27.7
Kershaw	360,485	563	3,291	3,580	6,870	52.5	12.2	11.2
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,646	3,215	5,861	45.5	14.1	-7.2
Laurens	317,916	497	3,183	3,187	6,370	49.9	12.8	-17.7
Lee	220,106	344	1,597	1,390	2,987	73.7	8.7	-27.3
Lexington	280,742	439	1,688	1,038	2,726	103.0	6.2	49.8
McCormick	212,021	331	2,237	1,853	4,090	51.8	12.3	-10.8
Marion	216,907	339	1,461	1,539	3,000	72.3	8.9	-36.0
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,286	1,329	2,615	107.5	6.0	-16.9
Newberry	317,761	497	3,614	4,391	8,005	39.7	16.1	27.1
Oconee	284,348	444	514	393	907	313.7	2.0	2.3
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,529	6,363	12,892	39.1	16.4	8.8
Pickens	219,926	344	902	570	1,472	149.4	4.3	3.2
Richland	340,121	531	2,922	2,417	5,340	63.7	10.0	6.3
Saluda	192,173	300	1,810	1,830	3,640	52.8	12.1	-0.4
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,170	2,537	5,707	46.6	13.7	27.8
Sumter	338,968	530	2,538	2,313	4,851	69.9	9.2	4.5
Union	258,111	403	4,376	3,563	7,939	32.5	19.7	-0.5
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,711	5,127	9,837	52.2	12.3	9.2
York	276,650	432	2,774	2,972	5,747	48.1	13.3	45.0
Total	14,028,896	21,920	123,503	120,542	244,045	75.2	11.5	-2.9
95% Confidence Interval for harvest			(+ -) 3,956	(+ -) 4,182	(+ -) 6,853			

* Acreage shown represents the acreage of forested land and acreage of row crops considered to be significant deer habitat within each county.

Table 2. County rankings based on deer harvested per unit area in South Carolina in 2005.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2004
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²	
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,930	4,200	8,130	24.2	26.5	-8.8
Hampton	324,840	508	5,552	5,402	10,954	29.7	21.6	16.4
Allendale	216,455	338	3,557	3,464	7,021	30.8	20.8	-22.2
Union	258,111	403	4,376	3,563	7,939	32.5	19.7	-0.5
Fairfield	384,607	601	4,953	5,581	10,534	36.5	17.5	-3.3
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,298	2,806	5,104	37.3	17.1	30.6
Abbeville	223,113	349	3,196	2,689	5,885	37.9	16.9	-19.8
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,987	2,077	4,064	38.5	16.6	-2.9
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,529	6,363	12,892	39.1	16.4	8.8
Newberry	317,761	497	3,614	4,391	8,005	39.7	16.1	27.1
Chester	300,589	470	3,668	3,815	7,483	40.2	15.9	-10.0
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,272	2,583	4,855	42.1	15.2	11.3
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,646	3,215	5,861	45.5	14.1	-7.2
Anderson	219,068	342	2,573	2,162	4,735	46.3	13.8	-7.7
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,170	2,537	5,707	46.6	13.7	27.8
York	276,650	432	2,774	2,972	5,747	48.1	13.3	45.0
Colleton	502,666	785	4,815	5,361	10,175	49.4	13.0	-1.4
Laurens	317,916	497	3,183	3,187	6,370	49.9	12.8	-17.7
Charleston	288,732	451	3,036	2,700	5,736	50.3	12.7	5.7
McCormick	212,021	331	2,237	1,853	4,090	51.8	12.3	-10.8
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,711	5,127	9,837	52.2	12.3	9.2
Kershaw	360,485	563	3,291	3,580	6,870	52.5	12.2	11.2
Saluda	192,173	300	1,810	1,830	3,640	52.8	12.1	-0.4
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,899	2,345	5,244	53.7	11.9	-14.7
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,501	1,929	4,430	55.7	11.5	-2.5
Richland	340,121	531	2,922	2,417	5,340	63.7	10.0	6.3
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,386	2,147	4,534	65.8	9.7	-8.8
Jasper	309,889	484	2,163	2,525	4,688	66.1	9.7	-27.7
Sumter	338,968	530	2,538	2,313	4,851	69.9	9.2	4.5
Marion	216,907	339	1,461	1,539	3,000	72.3	8.9	-36.0
Lee	220,106	344	1,597	1,390	2,987	73.7	8.7	-27.3
Beaufort	147,441	230	650	1,312	1,962	75.2	8.5	-46.1
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,003	2,001	4,003	75.6	8.5	-6.4
Florence	397,888	622	2,449	2,792	5,242	75.9	8.4	-7.5
Aiken	500,546	782	3,172	2,652	5,824	85.9	7.4	-25.1
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,520	2,933	6,453	88.0	7.3	14.4
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,197	1,849	4,046	92.1	7.0	-19.7
Lexington	280,742	439	1,688	1,038	2,726	103.0	6.2	49.8
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,286	1,329	2,615	107.5	6.0	-16.9
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,761	1,703	3,464	115.4	5.5	-25.1
Horry	533,336	833	2,136	1,977	4,113	129.7	4.9	25.8
Dillon	214,069	334	885	736	1,621	132.1	4.8	9.1
Pickens	219,926	344	902	570	1,472	149.4	4.3	3.2
Darlington	286,228	447	1,001	747	1,748	163.8	3.9	18.3
Greenville	294,257	460	695	449	1,144	257.3	2.5	-1.4
Oconee	284,348	444	514	393	907	313.7	2.0	2.3
Total	14,028,896	21,920	123,503	120,542	244,045	75.2	11.5	-2.9

95% Confidence Interval for harvest (+ -) **3,583** (+ -) **3,848** (+ -) **6,232**

* Acreage shown represents the acreage of forested land and acreage of row crops considered to be significant deer habitat within each county.

Table 3. County rankings based on total deer harvested in South Carolina in 2005.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2004
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²	
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,529	6,363	12,892	39.1	16.4	8.8
Hampton	324,840	508	5,552	5,402	10,954	29.7	21.6	16.4
Fairfield	384,607	601	4,953	5,581	10,534	36.5	17.5	-3.3
Colleton	502,666	785	4,815	5,361	10,175	49.4	13.0	-1.4
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,711	5,127	9,837	52.2	12.3	9.2
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,930	4,200	8,130	24.2	26.5	-8.8
Newberry	317,761	497	3,614	4,391	8,005	39.7	16.1	27.1
Union	258,111	403	4,376	3,563	7,939	32.5	19.7	-0.5
Chester	300,589	470	3,668	3,815	7,483	40.2	15.9	-10.0
Allendale	216,455	338	3,557	3,464	7,021	30.8	20.8	-22.2
Kershaw	360,485	563	3,291	3,580	6,870	52.5	12.2	11.2
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,520	2,933	6,453	88.0	7.3	14.4
Laurens	317,916	497	3,183	3,187	6,370	49.9	12.8	-17.7
Abbeville	223,113	349	3,196	2,689	5,885	37.9	16.9	-19.8
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,646	3,215	5,861	45.5	14.1	-7.2
Aiken	500,546	782	3,172	2,652	5,824	85.9	7.4	-25.1
York	276,650	432	2,774	2,972	5,747	48.1	13.3	45.0
Charleston	288,732	451	3,036	2,700	5,736	50.3	12.7	5.7
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,170	2,537	5,707	46.6	13.7	27.8
Richland	340,121	531	2,922	2,417	5,340	63.7	10.0	6.3
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,899	2,345	5,244	53.7	11.9	-14.7
Florence	397,888	622	2,449	2,792	5,242	75.9	8.4	-7.5
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,298	2,806	5,104	37.3	17.1	30.6
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,272	2,583	4,855	42.1	15.2	11.3
Sumter	338,968	530	2,538	2,313	4,851	69.9	9.2	4.5
Anderson	219,068	342	2,573	2,162	4,735	46.3	13.8	-7.7
Jasper	309,889	484	2,163	2,525	4,688	66.1	9.7	-27.7
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,386	2,147	4,534	65.8	9.7	-8.8
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,501	1,929	4,430	55.7	11.5	-2.5
Horry	533,336	833	2,136	1,977	4,113	129.7	4.9	25.8
McCormick	212,021	331	2,237	1,853	4,090	51.8	12.3	-10.8
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,987	2,077	4,064	38.5	16.6	-2.9
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,197	1,849	4,046	92.1	7.0	-19.7
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,003	2,001	4,003	75.6	8.5	-6.4
Saluda	192,173	300	1,810	1,830	3,640	52.8	12.1	-0.4
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,761	1,703	3,464	115.4	5.5	-25.1
Marion	216,907	339	1,461	1,539	3,000	72.3	8.9	-36.0
Lee	220,106	344	1,597	1,390	2,987	73.7	8.7	-27.3
Lexington	280,742	439	1,688	1,038	2,726	103.0	6.2	49.8
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,286	1,329	2,615	107.5	6.0	-16.9
Beaufort	147,441	230	650	1,312	1,962	75.2	8.5	-46.1
Darlington	286,228	447	1,001	747	1,748	163.8	3.9	18.3
Dillon	214,069	334	885	736	1,621	132.1	4.8	9.1
Pickens	219,926	344	902	570	1,472	149.4	4.3	3.2
Greenville	294,257	460	695	449	1,144	257.3	2.5	-1.4
Oconee	284,348	444	514	393	907	313.7	2.0	2.3
Total	14,028,896	21,920	123,503	120,542	244,045	75.2	11.5	-2.9

Table 4. Estimated deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas in South Carolina in 2005

Area	Acreage	Bucks	Does	Total	Deer/Mi. ²
Mountain Hunt Unit	193,566	529	359	888	2.9
Central Piedmont Hunt Unit	159,793	2,175	2,137	4,312	17.3
Western Piedmont Hunt Unit	119,077	1,047	944	1,991	10.7
Subtotal for Upstate WMA's	472,436	3,751	3,440	7,190	9.7
Coastal WMA's*					
Bear Island WMA	1,519	12	20	32	13.5
Bonneau Ferry	10,697	61	52	113	6.8
Crackerneck WMA	10,470	76	46	122	7.5
Cross Generating Station WMA	654	11	14	25	24.5
Donnelley WMA	8,048	27	51	78	6.2
Edisto River WMA	1,400	4	0	4	1.8
Francis Marion WMA	252,578	320	300	620	1.6
Hickory Top WMA	1,836	15	7	22	7.7
Manchester State Forest WMA	16,000	80	38	118	4.7
Moultrie WMA	9,480	42	48	90	6.1
Oak Lea WMA	2,000	17	32	49	15.7
Palachucola WMA	5,947	28	33	61	6.6
Santee Coastal Reserve WMA	5,000	18	12	30	3.8
Santee Cooper WMA	1,928	18	23	41	13.6
Tillman Sand Ridge WMA	952	3	4	7	4.7
Victoria Bluff WMA	800	5	3	8	6.4
Webb Wildlife Center WMA	5,866	36	64	100	10.9
Subtotal for Coastal WMA's	335,175	773	747	1,520	2.9
Total	807,611	4,524	4,187	8,710	6.9

*Check Station data

Table 5. Resident deer hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2005.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/Hunter	Days/Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	4,019	58,813	70.0	1.41	10.38	3,067	2,598	5,665
Aiken	4,079	64,298	75.2	1.35	11.66	2,991	2,523	5,514
Allendale	2,085	30,487	84.8	2.29	6.39	2,176	2,599	4,774
Anderson	3,399	51,984	68.0	1.35	11.32	2,508	2,085	4,593
Bamberg	2,916	48,224	86.0	2.27	7.27	3,052	3,581	6,632
Barnwell	2,236	35,095	77.7	1.91	8.21	2,357	1,919	4,276
Beaufort	1,042	14,398	82.4	1.70	8.15	650	1,118	1,768
Berkeley	3,716	52,741	73.8	1.69	8.39	3,430	2,855	6,285
Calhoun	2,795	40,233	74.6	1.82	7.93	2,296	2,780	5,076
Charleston	3,278	44,143	78.1	1.71	7.85	2,946	2,674	5,620
Cherokee	1,314	22,118	73.6	2.55	6.59	1,677	1,677	3,354
Chester	2,991	47,287	79.6	1.77	8.94	2,583	2,704	5,287
Chesterfield	2,024	39,205	70.1	1.81	10.68	2,055	1,617	3,671
Clarendon	1,873	29,308	78.2	2.28	6.86	2,206	2,070	4,275
Colleton	4,200	68,152	78.2	2.01	8.07	3,988	4,457	8,445
Darlington	1,541	21,725	76.5	1.06	13.32	937	695	1,632
Dillon	967	19,217	71.4	1.61	12.35	846	710	1,556
Dorchester	2,463	43,072	71.8	1.59	11.01	1,964	1,949	3,913
Edgefield	2,886	37,830	71.6	1.39	9.45	2,281	1,722	4,004
Fairfield	4,895	64,676	76.9	1.79	7.37	4,140	4,638	8,777
Florence	2,886	48,933	74.3	1.75	9.67	2,372	2,689	5,061
Georgetown	2,160	37,934	75.3	1.57	11.16	1,722	1,677	3,399
Greenville	1,571	16,301	61.8	0.71	14.58	695	423	1,118
Greenwood	2,659	34,686	74.9	1.74	7.50	2,130	2,493	4,623
Hampton	2,508	33,056	84.2	1.86	7.10	2,130	2,523	4,653
Horry	2,327	41,229	69.9	1.74	10.18	2,085	1,964	4,049
Jasper	1,556	23,688	78.6	2.06	7.40	1,465	1,737	3,203
Kershaw	3,399	59,690	76.4	1.86	9.45	3,097	3,218	6,315
Lancaster	2,160	35,789	73.4	1.89	8.77	1,949	2,130	4,079
Laurens	3,958	48,904	71.9	1.49	8.30	2,886	3,006	5,892
Lee	1,919	31,334	74.8	1.54	10.58	1,571	1,390	2,961
Lexington	2,402	34,172	71.1	1.11	12.78	1,662	1,012	2,674
McCormick	2,538	30,637	74.8	1.36	8.89	1,798	1,647	3,444
Marion	1,737	31,363	73.0	1.70	10.59	1,435	1,526	2,961
Marlboro	1,194	26,091	82.1	2.05	10.66	1,209	1,239	2,448
Newberry	4,185	59,223	76.8	1.74	8.13	3,278	4,004	7,282
Oconee	1,224	12,706	56.8	0.74	14.02	514	393	907
Orangeburg	5,696	82,728	80.5	2.07	7.03	5,832	5,937	11,769
Pickens	1,647	18,280	63.0	0.86	12.87	876	544	1,420
Richland	3,535	49,945	71.7	1.50	9.45	2,871	2,417	5,288
Saluda	2,387	32,888	79.0	1.45	9.51	1,707	1,753	3,460
Spartanburg	3,278	41,379	70.6	1.57	8.03	2,886	2,266	5,152
Sumter	2,644	36,530	76.0	1.77	7.80	2,447	2,236	4,683
Union	3,460	50,082	74.0	1.74	8.31	3,369	2,659	6,028
Williamsburg	3,671	66,294	81.8	2.47	7.33	4,427	4,623	9,050
York	2,946	42,634	69.1	1.60	9.05	2,296	2,417	4,714
Total	124,366	1,859,504	72.3	1.70	8.78	106,856	104,892	211,749
% Change from 2004	1.2	-6.9	-0.01	-2.9	-5.7	-0.9	-1.5	-1.2

Table 6. Non-resident hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2005.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/Hunter	Days/Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	207	1,433	57.1	1.06	6.53	129	90	220
Aiken	336	2,957	61.5	0.92	9.54	181	129	310
Allendale	1,240	17,044	76.0	1.81	7.59	1,382	865	2,247
Anderson	77	1,214	83.3	1.83	8.55	65	77	142
Bamberg	813	8,367	83.9	1.84	5.59	878	620	1,498
Barnwell	413	5,488	84.4	2.34	5.67	542	426	968
Beaufort	129	1,795	77.7	2.10	9.25	0	194	194
Berkeley	181	1,020	58.3	0.93	6.08	90	77	168
Calhoun	129	956	70.0	0.90	34.65	2	26	28
Charleston	129	1,614	37.5	0.90	13.89	90	26	116
Cherokee	232	4,532	77.7	3.06	6.38	310	400	710
Chester	1,369	18,465	71.2	1.60	8.41	1,085	1,110	2,195
Chesterfield	426	6,508	66.7	0.88	17.38	142	232	374
Clarendon	168	1,265	69.2	1.54	4.90	181	77	258
Colleton	788	13,170	79.3	2.20	7.61	826	904	1,730
Darlington	155	839	50.0	0.75	7.22	65	52	116
Dillon	39	775	50.0	1.67	12.00	39	26	65
Dorchester	142	1,136	54.5	0.64	12.57	39	52	90
Edgefield	245	2,466	72.2	1.74	5.79	220	207	426
Fairfield	865	13,067	70.1	2.03	7.44	813	943	1,756
Florence	129	1,265	60.0	1.40	7.00	77	103	181
Georgetown	116	1,085	37.5	0.56	16.80	39	26	65
Greenville	65	220	33.3	0.40	8.50	0	26	26
Greenwood	207	3,383	86.7	1.13	14.56	142	90	232
Hampton	2,195	32,979	81.2	2.87	5.23	3,422	2,880	6,301
Horry	52	1,046	100.0	1.25	16.20	52	13	65
Jasper	646	9,697	88.0	2.30	6.53	697	788	1,485
Kershaw	374	4,881	82.8	1.48	8.79	194	362	555
Lancaster	839	10,549	75.4	2.12	5.92	697	1,085	1,782
Laurens	323	4,248	69.6	1.48	8.89	297	181	478
Lee	52	426	100.0	0.50	16.50	26	0	26
Lexington	39	504	33.3	1.33	9.75	26	26	52
McCormick	400	2,208	76.7	1.61	3.42	439	207	646
Marion	39	529	100.0	1.00	13.67	26	13	39
Marlboro	168	2,531	66.7	1.00	15.08	77	90	168
Newberry	426	5,281	75.0	1.70	7.30	336	387	723
Oconee	52	413	50.0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
Orangeburg	516	7,373	71.1	2.18	6.56	697	426	1,123
Pickens	77	1,420	80.0	0.67	27.50	26	26	52
Richland	90	671	66.7	0.57	13.00	52	0	52
Saluda	103	891	85.7	1.75	4.93	103	77	181
Spartanburg	142	1,769	100.0	3.91	3.19	284	271	555
Sumter	116	1,123	66.7	1.44	6.69	90	77	168
Union	878	11,724	75.8	2.18	6.14	1,007	904	1,911
Williamsburg	297	2,608	77.3	2.65	3.31	284	504	788
York	516	6,198	82.1	2.00	6.00	478	555	1,033
TOTAL	16,941	219,137	73.9	1.92	6.79	16,646	15,650	32,296
% Change from 2004	-1.6	-21.7	-5.4	-11.2	-10.4	-11.4	-13.9	-12.7

Table 7. Hunting effort (man/days) by county for successful and unsuccessful resident and non-resident deer hunters in South Carolina in 2005.

County	Residents (man/days)			Total Effort Residents	Non-Residents (man/days)			Total Effort Non-residents	Total Days
	Successful	Unsuccessful	Average		Successful	Unsuccessful	Average		
Abbeville	19.4	8.8	14.6	58,813	9.7	4.8	6.9	1,433	60,490
Aiken	23.2	8.2	15.8	64,298	14.8	2.8	8.8	2,957	67,643
Allendale	20.7	3.9	14.6	30,487	16.0	8.0	13.8	17,044	48,904
Anderson	20.5	9.2	15.3	51,984	18.4	2.0	15.7	1,214	53,318
Bamberg	21.7	5.5	16.5	48,224	10.8	8.8	10.3	8,367	57,498
Barnwell	20.6	6.7	15.7	35,095	15.7	8.0	13.3	5,488	41,065
Beaufort	18.2	7.4	13.8	14,398	15.0	9.5	13.9	1,795	16,370
Berkeley	17.5	9.0	14.2	52,741	6.4	4.2	5.6	1,020	53,972
Calhoun	19.2	6.7	14.4	40,233	9.3	6.2	7.4	956	41,350
Charleston	18.4	6.3	13.5	44,143	22.3	6.0	12.5	1,614	45,937
Cherokee	22.8	6.0	16.8	22,118	24.3	7.0	19.5	4,532	26,952
Chester	19.3	8.9	15.8	47,287	16.8	7.9	13.5	18,465	67,265
Chesterfield	24.2	12.7	19.4	39,205	21.4	9.5	15.3	6,508	46,218
Clarendon	22.1	5.8	15.6	29,308	9.1	4.0	7.5	1,265	30,775
Colleton	21.1	8.5	16.2	68,152	18.6	11.4	16.7	13,170	82,218
Darlington	19.0	10.1	14.1	21,725	6.0	4.8	5.4	839	22,747
Dillon	25.7	12.4	19.9	19,217	20.0	20.0	20.0	775	20,093
Dorchester	24.8	8.0	17.5	43,072	6.2	10.2	8.0	1,136	44,386
Edgefield	17.6	6.6	13.1	37,830	12.9	6.1	10.1	2,466	40,589
Fairfield	17.5	6.4	13.2	64,676	17.5	10.4	15.1	13,067	78,718
Florence	23.5	7.7	17.0	48,933	13.8	3.8	9.8	1,265	50,365
Georgetown	24.3	7.6	17.6	37,934	10.3	8.6	9.3	1,085	39,172
Greenville	16.5	7.1	10.4	16,301	4.0	3.3	3.4	220	16,601
Greenwood	16.9	7.3	13.0	34,686	17.4	13.3	16.4	3,383	38,339
Hampton	17.5	5.5	13.2	33,056	16.9	8.1	15.0	32,979	68,440
Horry	23.6	8.8	17.7	41,229	20.3	20.0	20.3	1,046	42,391
Jasper	21.3	4.0	15.2	23,688	18.0	5.6	15.0	9,697	34,120
Kershaw	22.7	9.5	17.6	59,690	19.7	3.6	13.0	4,881	65,011
Lancaster	21.9	8.0	16.6	35,789	15.8	5.4	12.6	10,549	47,276
Laurens	17.1	6.2	12.4	48,904	18.2	5.6	13.2	4,248	53,536
Lee	22.5	7.7	16.3	31,334	13.0	3.5	8.3	426	31,840
Lexington	20.7	8.1	14.2	34,172	15.0	12.0	13.0	504	34,758
McCormick	17.5	5.7	12.1	30,637	7.4	2.9	5.5	2,208	33,292
Marion	22.7	12.2	18.1	31,363	19.5	2.0	13.7	529	31,969
Marlboro	27.4	10.7	21.9	26,091	17.3	12.5	15.1	2,531	28,848
Newberry	18.2	7.2	14.2	59,223	13.6	10.3	12.4	5,281	65,000
Oconee	12.7	8.9	10.4	12,706	0.0	8.0	8.0	413	13,191
Orangeburg	18.9	7.3	14.5	82,728	17.6	7.4	14.3	7,373	90,697
Pickens	16.8	7.6	11.1	18,280	15.0	19.0	18.3	1,420	19,837
Richland	20.8	6.1	14.1	49,945	5.0	8.4	7.4	671	50,735
Saluda	18.5	6.3	13.8	32,888	10.8	2.0	8.6	891	33,912
Spartanburg	16.9	6.5	12.6	41,379	12.2	15.0	12.5	1,769	43,341
Sumter	18.9	7.1	13.8	36,530	12.8	3.3	9.7	1,123	37,804
Union	18.6	7.9	14.5	50,082	16.2	7.0	13.4	11,724	62,789
Williamsburg	22.9	7.1	18.1	66,294	10.3	4.5	8.8	2,608	69,246
York	20.5	7.5	14.5	42,634	14.8	6.2	12.0	6,198	49,422
Total	20.1	9.2	15.0	1,859,504	15.7	8.4	12.9	219,137	2,078,641
% Change from 2004	-9.5	15.3	-8.6	-6.9	-19.9	-2.4	-20.4	-21.70	-8.7

Table 8. Estimated deer harvest by weapon type in South Carolina in 2005.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun	Total
Number of Deer Harvested	193,284	15,131	28,065	6,345	439	781	244,045
Percent Total Deer Harvest	79.2	6.2	11.5	2.6	0.18	0.32	100.0
Percent Hunter Success With Weapon	69.2	33.2	37.1	28.2	22.3	14.4	NA*

* Total is not applicable because individual hunters take deer with multiple weapons.

Table 9. Number of hunters using each type of weapon in South Carolina in 2005.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun
Residents	114,541	30,594	43,279	19,525	1,492	6,094
Non-Residents	15,704	3,930	5,319	2,914	203	813
Total	130,245	34,524	48,599	22,439	1,696	6,907

Total across weapons not given because hunters use multiple weapons. Total hunters = 141,307.

Table 10. Weapons utilization (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2005.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun
Residents	92.1*	24.6*	34.8*	15.7*	1.2	4.9
Non-Residents	95.7	16.2	14.6	24.6	1.1	4.1
Total	92.7	23.2	31.4	17.2	1.2	4.8

* Significant difference in weapons use category based on residency.

Table 11. Weapons preference (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2005.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun	Total
Residents	76.8*	12.0*	9.3*	1.2*	0.3	0.5	100.0
Non-Residents	85.2	8.1	2.5	3.5	0.2	0.6	100.0
Total	78.2	11.1	8.1	1.6	0.3	0.3	100.0

* Significant difference in weapons preference category based on residency.

Table 12. Hunter opinion (percent) regarding the number of deer in the area hunted most often in South Carolina in 2005 compared to previous years.

	Increasing	About the Same	Decreasing
Residents	18.1	53.2	28.6
Non-Residents	15.6	54.2	30.2
Overall	17.7	53.4	28.9

No significant differences based on residency.

Table 13. Profile of male versus female deer hunters in South Carolina.

	Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Avg. Age	Years Hunting Experience	Avg. Deer Killed In Life
Men	135,655	96.0*	44.5*	23.7*	60.8*
Women	5,652	4.0	42.1	10.9	16.0
Total	141,307	100.0	44.4	22.6	59.1

* Significant difference based on sex.

Table 14. Profile of resident versus nonresident deer hunters in South Carolina.

	Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Avg. Age	Years Hunting Experience	Avg. Deer Killed In Life
Residents	124,366	88.0*	43.5*	22.3*	59.9
Non-Residents	16,941	12.0	49.1	25.0	56.7
Total	141,307	100.0	44.4	22.6	59.4

* Significant difference based on residency.

Table 15. Estimated wild hog and coyote harvest by deer hunters in South Carolina in 2005.

County	Hog Harv.	Harv./ Mile ²	% Change from 2004	2005 Rank	2004 Rank	Coyote Harv.	Harv./ Mile ²	% Change from 2004	2005 Rank	2004 Rank
Abbeville	463	1.33	-36.0	15	9	636	1.82	-12.3	6	8
Aiken	1,445	1.85	-20.2	10	7	636	0.81	-63.4	25	6
Allendale	1,600	4.73	-32.5	1	1	790	2.34	-33.8	3	1
Anderson	328	0.96	-57.4	18	8	617	1.80	-29.6	7	3
Bamberg	501	1.63	27.5	13	16	578	1.88	-24.9	5	4
Barnwell	173	0.39	-57.5	29	19	366	0.83	-46.2	24	11
Beaufort	193	0.84	6.5	21	23	116	0.50	52.2	37	42
Berkeley	617	0.70	104.2	23	30	443	0.50	8.6	37	37
Calhoun	1,099	3.69	5.4	2	2	809	2.72	14.0	1	5
Charleston	925	2.05	33.1	8	12	193	0.43	6.5	41	40
Cherokee	0	0.00	0.0	39	44	173	0.71	-17.8	30	22
Chester	39	0.08	-81.7	36	26	771	1.64	-22.7	8	7
Chesterfield	520	0.89	4.5	20	21	366	0.63	-13.4	34	27
Clarendon	771	1.66	21.6	12	14	347	0.74	-11.7	28	24
Colleton	1,349	1.72	62.5	11	17	328	0.42	-38.1	43	29
Darlington	925	2.07	45.9	7	13	173	0.39	90.6	44	44
Dillon	212	0.63	0.5	24	24	251	0.75	65.9	26	38
Dorchester	1,349	2.85	75.2	4	11	231	0.49	-27.0	39	29
Edgefield	0	0.00	-100.0	39	25	559	1.45	-22.9	9	9
Fairfield	328	0.55	27.5	25	27	829	1.38	-14.2	11	10
Florence	443	0.71	-47.6	22	14	405	0.65	432.5	33	46
Georgetown	1,272	2.04	91.6	9	17	270	0.43	37.7	41	43
Greenville	0	0.00	-100.0	39	35	308	0.67	13.4	31	32
Greenwood	0	0.00	-100.0	39	41	270	0.84	-0.8	22	23
Hampton	1,542	3.04	-3.7	3	4	540	1.06	-29.9	14	12
Horry	752	0.90	10.5	19	22	173	0.21	43.4	45	45
Jasper	771	1.59	-17.6	14	10	77	0.16	-78.7	46	26
Kershaw	655	1.16	27.7	17	20	482	0.86	-6.1	21	20
Lancaster	58	0.14	-57.5	34	32	597	1.44	36.4	10	19
Laurens	96	0.19	*	32	40	463	0.93	-27.0	18	16
Lee	0	0.00	-100.0	39	37	231	0.67	-50.6	31	14
Lexington	58	0.13	-52.2	35	33	385	0.88	-29.1	20	17
McCormick	19	0.06	-78.8	37	34	366	1.11	-26.5	13	13
Marion	405	1.19	-54.6	16	6	173	0.51	-28.3	36	28
Marlboro	193	0.44	16.1	28	29	328	0.75	35.4	26	34
Newberry	0	0.00	-100.0	39	43	1,041	2.10	56.7	4	15
Oconee	231	0.52	53.2	27	30	231	0.52	18.0	35	39
Orangeburg	308	0.39	126.7	29	39	809	1.03	-7.6	16	18
Pickens	77	0.22	1.4	31	36	328	0.95	97.4	17	36
Richland	1,445	2.72	-20.9	6	3	559	1.05	32.1	15	25
Saluda	19	0.06	*	37	42	752	2.50	-6.0	2	2
Spartanburg	0	0.00	-100.0	39	37	385	0.93	59.3	18	33
Sumter	1,484	2.80	5.7	5	5	443	0.84	63.0	22	35
Union	0	0.00	0.0	39	44	193	0.48	-46.8	40	21
Williamsburg	424	0.53	33.8	26	28	597	0.74	97.8	28	41
York	77	0.18	413.9	33	43	540	1.25	98.4	12	31
Total	23,166	1.06	-3.2	NA	NA	20,159	0.92	-9.9	NA	NA
	(+ -) 1,777					(+ -) 1,125				

95% Confidence Interval for harvest

*No indication of hogs harvested in 2004

Table 16. Number of deer-vehicle collisions reported by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety 2000-2005.

County	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbeville	48	53	39	16	5	5
Aiken	101	123	121	57	60	31
Allendale	23	16	12	12	7	5
Anderson	49	37	76	32	27	27
Bamberg	27	32	20	10	13	8
Barnwell	24	27	30	19	13	17
Beaufort	125	88	102	73	100	57
Berkeley	137	96	114	63	52	35
Calhoun	26	25	16	21	6	8
Charleston	159	154	121	150	159	100
Cherokee	78	77	100	12	8	4
Chester	123	103	90	13	5	7
Chesterfield	34	24	20	4	4	4
Clarendon	27	34	33	37	29	12
Colleton	86	65	94	36	48	24
Darlington	38	53	47	20	10	9
Dillon	25	27	25	8	4	4
Dorchester	122	86	127	91	73	52
Edgefield	42	45	44	24	22	15
Fairfield	85	78	61	14	16	11
Florence	152	139	134	40	27	17
Georgetown	59	44	32	25	13	16
Greenville	45	80	116	45	53	18
Greenwood	154	152	131	42	32	16
Hampton	25	18	6	19	16	10
Horry	159	160	144	48	46	24
Jasper	85	68	84	37	38	23
Kershaw	108	101	82	22	28	11
Lancaster	127	96	98	16	18	7
Laurens	146	158	186	65	59	34
Lee	25	23	39	21	10	15
Lexington	75	55	65	60	43	26
McCormick	48	29	17	13	6	6
Marion	12	15	26	6	7	0
Marlboro	34	37	51	8	7	5
Newberry	107	115	112	33	32	21
Oconee	14	12	26	10	4	9
Orangeburg	132	109	45	53	35	25
Pickens	26	27	37	20	17	11
Richland	130	74	72	75	83	51
Saluda	62	71	59	18	16	16
Spartanburg	119	144	186	86	68	35
Sumter	101	94	95	44	37	38
Union	43	46	23	10	10	9
Williamsburg	79	79	65	28	18	21
York	130	137	151	29	17	11
Total	3,576	3,326	3,374	1,585	1,401	910

Table 17. Average live body weights of deer from South Carolina counties, based on historic data.

COUNTY	Males				Females			
	1.5 Years Old		2.5+ Years Old		1.5 Years Old		2.5+ Years Old	
	N	Avg. Wt.	N	Avg. Wt.	N	Avg. Wt.	N	Avg. Wt.
Abbeville	1,390	111.7	484	145.9	466	90.4	747	102.7
Aiken	2,667	121.6	1,485	162.6	808	94.9	1,522	109.6
Allendale	6,175	108.9	3,333	146.0	2,503	87.7	5,606	100.8
Anderson	30	121.9	17	148.1	4	92.5	8	113.0
Bamberg	2,414	111.9	1,113	142.4	884	91.4	1,721	103.9
Barnwell	1,478	119.1	695	156.6	601	94.3	1,071	106.9
Beaufort	952	101.6	1,236	135.2	690	86.7	1,818	99.8
Berkeley	3,162	100.6	4,198	127.3	1,086	83.4	3,991	97.2
Calhoun	1,588	110.2	633	144.1	312	91.4	943	104.6
Charleston	1,256	97.9	2,088	123.3	422	83.3	1,581	95.8
Cherokee	1	80.0	1	139.0	9	77.8	26	89.6
Chester	1,445	105.9	963	140.1	470	87.4	1,091	99.4
Chesterfield	79	119.4	140	152.5	27	93.5	1,128	99.8
Clarendon	13	101.3	29	152.5	42	89.6	87	103.0
Colleton	5,822	105.6	6,908	135.5	3,279	87.9	8,920	100.4
Darlington	334	113.6	273	153.3	216	92.8	573	105.2
Dillon	74	112.8	46	138.5	13	92.8	50	103.9
Dorchester	1,868	107.2	2,205	137.0	653	88.0	2,055	103.0
Edgefield	556	100.9	334	133.4	159	84.6	306	96.9
Fairfield	2,048	102.1	1,444	136.5	761	86.3	2,021	99.2
Florence	696	110.8	459	139.2	198	89.6	621	102.8
Georgetown	1,881	98.7	2,281	126.1	668	85.6	1,961	97.6
Greenville	7	122.1	9	149.9	7	79.3	16	98.4
Greenwood	1,158	111.4	537	145.1	313	90.2	629	103.0
Hampton	6,103	106.7	4,710	140.0	3,034	87.2	7,236	100.5
Horry	302	96.1	311	126.1	129	79.2	301	91.3
Jasper	3,385	101.8	4,691	135.4	2,142	84.6	5,948	96.9
Kershaw	603	108.9	588	144.6	251	89.6	758	102.9
Lancaster	472	113.1	246	153.3	213	91.4	441	105.2
Laurens	240	104.7	181	132.9	107	87.3	238	96.9
Lee	472	119.6	187	151.3	162	96.6	330	108.5
Lexington	20	120.8	9	164.8	6	101.3	15	115.8
McCormick	2,354	101.5	1,056	134.5	877	85.3	1,745	97.3
Marion	690	108.5	501	138.7	256	88.6	630	98.7
Marlboro	106	115.0	62	149.8	30	95.0	70	107.8
Newberry	143	97.1	100	135.6	85	86.0	171	92.7
Oconee	74	113.1	58	152.6	33	85.3	39	99.6
Orangeburg	2,293	112.5	1,375	145.0	686	90.8	1,684	103.4
Pickens	47	109.1	41	145.4	18	79.9	48	100.5
Richland	1,320	106.1	1,274	145.2	651	92.7	1,879	106.3
Saluda	100	115.8	40	148.0	25	93.6	34	105.2
Spartanburg	34	109.3	22	142.2	13	95.0	31	98.8
Sumter	666	111.3	353	142.1	188	94.4	509	105.3
Union	958	101.7	608	135.8	439	87.9	761	97.8
Williamsburg	469	112.5	559	143.3	150	91.4	478	106.0
York	13	96.9	30	143.9	20	78.7	41	93.9
Total	57,958	107.3	47,913	137.9	24,106	88.0	61,879	100.6

Table 18. Antler characteristics of male deer from South Carolina counties, based on historic data.

COUNTY	1.5 Years Old Males			2.5+ Years Old Males			% 1.5 Bucks in Antlered Harvest
	Number Points	Percent Spikes	Outside Spread	Number Points	Percent Spikes	Outside Spread	
Abbeville	4.2	32		7.2	2		74
Aiken	4.4	28	8.7	7.4	1	14.7	64
Allendale	4.0	36	7.7	7.2	3	13.7	65
Anderson	4.7	28		6.8	0		63
Bamberg	4.0	34	7.6	6.7	4	12.5	68
Barnwell	4.6	21	8.7	7.1	2	13.9	68
Beaufort	3.1	58	7.4	6.4	9	13.0	44
Berkeley	3.0	62	6.6	5.8	12	11.5	43
Calhoun	4.0	33	7.4	7.0	3	13.2	72
Charleston	2.8	69	6.2	5.4	15	10.6	38
Cherokee				7.0	0		50
Chester	3.4	47	8.7	6.7	4	13.9	61
Chesterfield	4.5	21	8.6	7.2			61
Clarendon	2.8	58	6.2	7.7	3	12.9	31
Colleton	3.3	50	6.9	6.4	7	11.7	46
Darlington	3.1	57	7.4	6.7	5	13.7	55
Dillon	3.2	54	8.1	5.7	9	11.6	62
Dorchester	3.3	53	6.6	6.0	9	11.1	46
Edgefield	3.3	50		6.6	5		63
Fairfield	3.1	55	7.5	6.4	6	13.8	59
Florence	3.4	47	7.4	6.1	9	12.1	60
Georgetown	2.8	65	6.6	5.6	13	11.0	45
Greenville	4.7	14		7.6	0		44
Greenwood	3.9	34		6.7	3		68
Hampton	3.9	39	7.7	6.9	4	13.0	56
Horry	3.0	58	6.8	6.2	8	12.1	49
Jasper	3.3	52	7.0	6.6	6	12.8	42
Kershaw	3.6	47	7.7	6.9	7	12.3	51
Lancaster	4.3	27	6.7	7.4	0	15.0	66
Laurens	3.2	53	6.7	6.0	10	13.7	57
Lee	4.3	25	8.4	6.7	2	12.9	72
Lexington	4.1	30	9.1	7.3	0	15.7	69
McCormick	3.5	47		6.8	4		69
Marion	3.3	52	7.3	6.2	10	12.4	58
Marlboro	3.1	53	7.0	6.4	10	12.6	63
Newberry	2.8	54		6.3	8	13.3	59
Oconee	3.4	52		7.3	3		56
Orangeburg	3.8	38	7.6	6.8	5	12.6	63
Pickens	4.0	43		7.2	2		53
Richland	3.3	52	7.3	6.8	5	13.5	51
Saluda	4.0	32	9.0	6.9	0	10.8	71
Spartanburg	4.0	33	6.1	7.1	0		61
Sumter	3.7	41	7.7	6.6	5	12.5	65
Union	3.3	51	7.2	6.6	5	13.6	61
Williamsburg	3.6	43	7.6	6.8	5	12.6	46
York	3.1	60	5.3	7.4	0	13.3	30
Total	3.6	44	7.4	6.5	7	12.4	55

Figure 1. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources 2005 Deer Hunter Survey

January, 2006

Dear Sportsman:

White-tailed deer are one of the most important game species in South Carolina. Therefore, it is important that this species be monitored for population status and harvesting activities. Wildlife resource managers require current and accurate information about deer harvests to aid in successfully managing this important natural resource and to optimize future hunting potential. To obtain this needed data, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is conducting a survey of licensed Big Game Permit holders.

You are one of a group of randomly selected hunters asked to participate in this survey. To draw accurate conclusions it is very important that you complete the survey and return it. Please take time to read each question. Even if you did not hunt deer last season please indicate this by answering the appropriate questions and moving on to the next set of questions.

In addition to the questions concerning your deer hunting activities, there are questions concerning the weapons that you used to hunt deer and questions concerning the number of wild hogs and coyotes that you may have harvested. Not only is this data important to DNR game biologists, many hunters are interested in this type of information so it is important that you answer these questions too.

Please note that complete confidentiality will be given to you. Each survey form is numbered, but only so I can avoid costly repeat mailings to those survey participants who have not returned their survey.

Keep in mind that the purpose of the survey is to determine the deer harvest in South Carolina and not to determine whether game laws are observed. By accurately answering the survey questions you will enable DNR biologists to better manage the white-tailed deer resource for you and other citizens of the state. Therefore, it is very important that you take a few minutes to complete this survey and mail it. Return postage is prepaid.

Results of this survey will be posted on the DNR web site once completed (hopefully by June). The results from the 2004 survey can be found at www.dnr.state.sc.us/wild/deer/img/2004DeerHarvestReport.pdf


Thank you for your assistance.

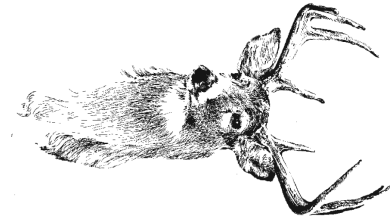


Charles Ruth
Wildlife Biologist
Deer/Turkey Project Supervisor

PLEASE MAIL YOUR SURVEY AFTER SEPARATING THIS HALF FROM THE SIDE ON WHICH YOUR ANSWERS HAVE BEEN ENTERED. NO POSTAGE IS NECESSARY.

If you have questions regarding this survey, please call 803-734-3886 or write 2005 Deer Hunter Survey, SCDNR, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, disability, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202
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**DEER HUNTER SURVEY
SC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 167
COLUMBIA SC 29202-9976**

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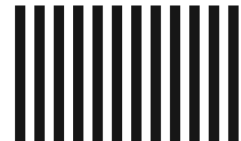


Figure 1 Cont.

2005 South Carolina Deer Hunter Survey

1. Did you hunt deer in SC this past season (2005)? **1. Yes** **2. No**
If you answered **No** to this question please **go to question # 8.**
2. Did you harvest any deer in SC this past season? **1. Yes** **2. No**
3. Even if you did not harvest any deer, please record the SC counties you deer hunted and the number of days hunted in each county this past season (2005). Please begin with the county you hunted the most. If you harvested deer please record the number of bucks and does taken in each county. A day of hunting is defined as any portion of the day spent afield. Please do not give ranges (i.e. 5-10), rather provide absolute numbers (i.e. 5). Provide information only for yourself - not friends, relatives, or other hunt club members.

Counties You Deer Hunted	# Days Hunted	Number Deer Harvested	
		# Bucks	#Does
1			
2			
3			
4			

4. Please record the number of deer taken with each weapon last season (2005).

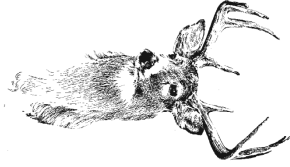
Rifle	Bow	Shotgun	Muzzleloader	Crossbow	Handgun

5. Please circle **all** the weapons that you hunted deer with in 2005.
1. Rifle 2. Bow 3. Shotgun 4. Muzzleloader 5. Crossbow 6. Handgun
6. Please circle the **one** weapon that you **prefer to hunt deer with.**
1. Rifle 2. Bow 3. Shotgun 4. Muzzleloader 5. Crossbow 6. Handgun
7. Compared to past years, how would you describe the number of deer in the area that you hunt most often? **Circle one**
1. Increasing 2. About the same 3. Decreasing
8. If you **harvested** any wild hogs or coyotes in SC in 2005, please complete the box below.
If you did not harvest any hogs or coyotes please **go to question # 9.**

County	# Hogs	County	# Coyotes
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	

9. How many years have you been deer hunting? _____ years **Do not deer hunt** _____
If you do not deer hunt please **go to question # 11.**
10. Estimate how many deer you have harvested over the years? _____ deer
11. What is your sex? **1. Male** **2. Female**
12. What is your age? _____ years
13. Are you a resident of SC? **1. Yes** **2. No**
14. If yes, which county _____

Separate and return this portion of the survey. Postage is prepaid. Please do not staple this form.



**IMPORTANT
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SCDNR
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Figure 3. Percent of female deer conceiving by week in South Carolina, based on historic data.

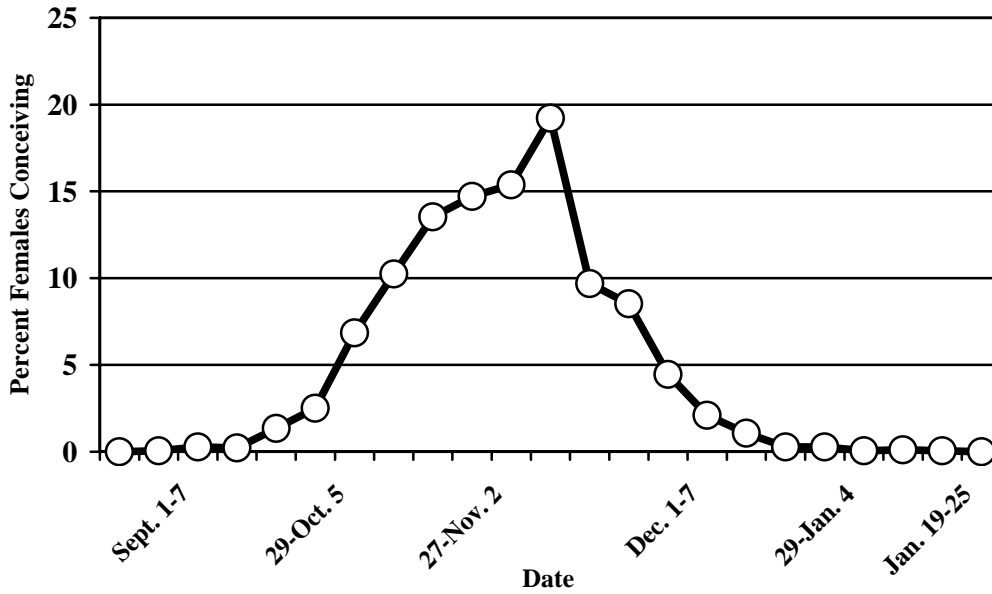


Figure 3. Percent of deer harvested by week of hunting season in South Carolina, based on historic data.

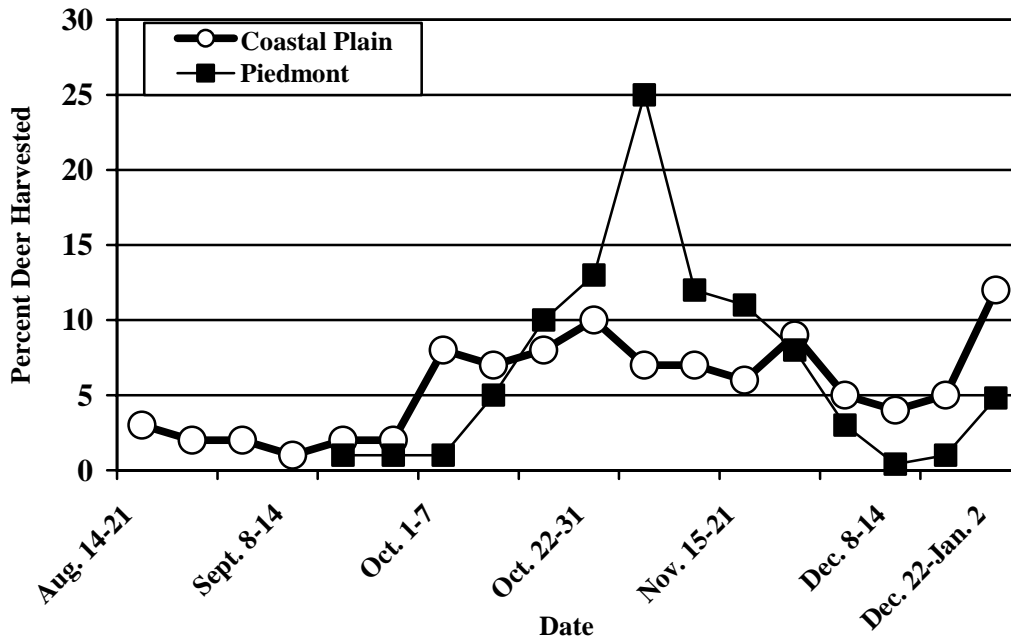


Figure 4. Estimated deer harvest in South Carolina 1972-2005.

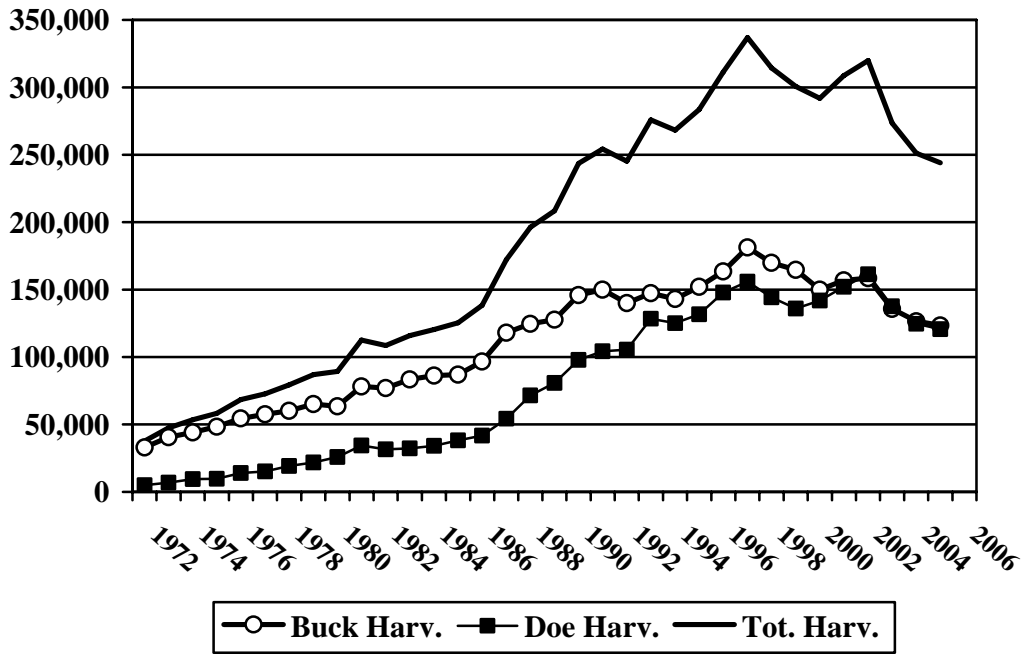


Figure 5. South Carolina deer population 1972-2005 based on population reconstruction modeling. Note that antlerless deer includes male fawns (button bucks).

