

2007 SOUTH CAROLINA DEER HARVEST REPORT



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DEER RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT PROJECT



DNR

Submitted by

Charles Ruth; Project Supervisor

INTRODUCTION

The white-tailed deer is the most popular, sought after, economically important, and controversial game animal in South Carolina. The 2007 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 2007, (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 and 2) in conjunction with reported harvests from properties enrolled in the Antlerless Deer Quota Program (ADQP) in the 28 county Coastal Plain (Game Zones 3-6). 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 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 2007 Deer Hunter Survey represents a near random mail survey that involved a single mail-out. The questionnaire for the 2007 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 2007. Since deer seasons statewide end on January 1 there was no need to sample individuals that were licensed thereafter.

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

Acknowledgments

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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 (1,563). Therefore, the actual attempted sample was 23,437 representing 14.2 percent of the entire population (164,524) of license holders. A total of 6,351 completed surveys were returned yielding a 27.1 percent response rate and 3.9 percent sampling rate on the entire licensee population. Response rates for resident hunters were less (26.1 percent) than for non-residents (33.4 percent).

Deer Harvest

During the 2007 deer season it is estimated that a total of 124,522 bucks and 114,671 does were harvested for a statewide total of 239,193 deer (Table 1). This figure represents a 7.5 percent increase in harvest from 2006 (221,320) and is 25 percent below the record harvest established in 2002 (319,902). After many years of rapidly increasing during the 1970's and 1980's, the deer population in South Carolina exhibited relative stability between 1995 and 2002. Since 2002, however, the population has trended down, with 2007 being the first year since 2002 with an increase in harvest. The reduction in harvest seen since 2002 can likely be attributable to one main factor, habitat change. Although timber management activities stimulated significant growth in South Carolina's deer population in the 1970's and 1980's, 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 in which food and cover is more available. The slight increase in harvest in 2007 is likely related to the fact that there was a slight increase in number of hunters and man-days of hunting effort compared to 2006, rather than to a significant increase in deer numbers.

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 2007 was 11.2 deer per square mile over the entire state (Table 2). Although the deer population in the state has moderated in recent years, this harvest rate should be considered extraordinary in comparison with many other states. The top 5 counties for harvest per unit area were Bamberg (21.0 deer/mile²), Union (18.1 deer/mile²) Spartanburg (17.0 deer/mile²), Allendale (16.0 deer/mile²), and Newberry (16.0 deer/mile²) (Table 2).

Deer Harvest Rankings by County

Total deer harvest by county is not comparable among counties because 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 2007 were Orangeburg, Williamsburg, Colleton, Fairfield, and Newberry.

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 2007 season it is estimated that 4,901 bucks and 4,336 does were harvested for a total deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas of 9,237 (Table 4). This figure represents

an increase of approximately 8.2 percent from 2006. It is estimated that approximately 18,445 hunters spent 217,651 days hunting on WMAs in South Carolina in 2007.

Hunter Opinion Regarding Deer Numbers

The 2007 Deer Hunter Survey asked participants their opinion regarding one topic: compared to past years, how would you rate the number of deer in the area that you hunt most often. Survey participants were given 3 choices; increasing, about the same, or decreasing. About half (53.7%) of hunters indicated that the number of deer in the area they hunted most often was about the same as in past years (Table 5). More hunters (28.4%) believed that the deer population was decreasing than increasing (17.1%). Significantly more residents (18.9%) than non-residents (13.0%) indicated that the population was increasing. On a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being increasing, 2 being neutral, and 3 being decreasing, the overall mean rating of 2.1 suggests that hunters viewed the deer population as slightly decreasing. The opinion among hunters that the deer population is decreasing has been consistent the last few years. Harvest data and population reconstruction modeling supports this opinion.

Number of Deer Hunters

Even though all individuals receiving a survey were licensed to hunt deer, only 87.8 percent actually hunted deer. For residents, 87.2 percent of sampled licensees hunted deer and for non-residents 97.0 percent hunted deer. Extrapolating to the respective licensee populations yields 127,699 residents (Table 6) and 17,537 non-residents (Table 7) for a total of 145,236 deer hunters statewide during 2007. This figure is a 9.3 percent increase from the 134,965 hunters in 2006. Counties with the highest estimates for individual hunters include Orangeburg, Laurens, Fairfield, Newberry, and Colleton for resident hunters (Table 6) and Hampton, Allendale, Union, Chester, and Fairfield for non-residents (Table 7).

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 2007 was 71.6 percent, which should be considered extraordinary. Success rates for residents (71.7%, Table 6) and non-residents (71.2%, Table 7) were the same. Estimates for resident and non-resident success rates for all counties are presented in Tables 6 and 7. Success rates for resident hunters were highest in Williamsburg, Lancaster, Clarendon, Orangeburg, and Bamberg. Non-residents experienced the highest success in Lexington, Florence, Dorchester, Union, and Clarendon counties. However, only Union county had appreciable 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 15.4 days afield for a total of 1,968,499 days deer hunting and non-residents averaged 13.3 days for a total of 233,454 days (Table 8). Total effort expended deer hunting in South Carolina during 2007 was estimated at 2,201,942 days (Table 8), up approximately 9.4 percent from 2006. 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 2007 were the same as in 2005; Orangeburg, Colleton, Fairfield, Newberry, and Laurens counties (Table 8). Resident hunters expended the most hunting effort in Orangeburg, Colleton, Fairfield, Laurens, and Berkeley counties. Non-residents hunted the most in Hampton, Allendale, Union, Chester, and Fairfield counties and these 5 counties totaled 36 percent of all the non-resident deer hunting effort that took place in South Carolina in 2007.

Resident hunters who were successful at harvesting at least one deer averaged twice as many days (17.8 days) afield as unsuccessful residents (8.9 days) (Table 8). Similarly, successful non-residents (15.2 days) averaged about 2 times the days afield when compared with unsuccessful non-residents (7.6 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 (8.6 days, Table 7) compared to residents (9.2 days, Table 6). 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 Jasper, Hampton, Williamsburg, Union, and Bamberg for resident hunters (Table 6). On the other hand, non-residents spent less time to harvest a deer in Abbeville, Marion, Lee, Saluda, and Williamsburg, counties (Table 7), 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 (79.0%) of deer are harvested with centerfire rifles (Table 9). Shotguns (11.2%) and archery equipment (6.0%) 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 9).

Although rifles are used by approximately 90 percent of hunters, nearly 80 percent of hunters use multiple weapons during the course of the deer season (Table 10, Table 11). Resident hunters appear to be more flexible than non-residents in their use of multiple weapons and significantly more residents use archery equipment (24.9%) and shotguns (33.8%) than non-residents (17.8% archery and 14.5% shotguns) (Table 11). This finding has been consistent the last few years and two points can likely be made. 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 (25.2%) used muzzleloaders more frequently than residents (16.1%). Keep in mind that muzzleloader or primitive weapons seasons are only available in Game Zones 1 and 2 (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. This finding has been consistent the last few years.

Unlike weapons utilization, weapons preference is the single weapon that a hunter prefers. Obviously, a majority (77.0%) of deer hunters prefer rifles (Table 12). Bows (12.0%) are the second most preferred weapon which is interesting because compared to other states, there are limited exclusive opportunities for bow hunters in South Carolina. Nonetheless, the number of hunters indicating that bows are their preferred weapon continues to increase. Finally, there are several interesting points that can be made about preferences for other weapons based on residency. Shotguns are preferred significantly more by residents (9.4%) than non-residents (2.8%) and muzzleloaders are preferred more by non-residents (4.1%) than by residents (1.4%) (Table 12). The explanation of this situation is likely similar to that for weapons utilization in that, (1) residents do most of the dog hunting in the state and tend to use shotguns, and (2) non-residents use muzzleloaders to take advantage of a special season that is not available as early in their home state.

Wild Hog Harvest

The 2007 Deer Hunter Survey also asked hunters to provide information on their wild hog and coyote harvesting activities. Documenting the hog harvest became customary several years ago because wild hogs commonly taken incidental to deer hunting. Wild or feral hogs are often thought of as “game” 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 “trophy”. 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 “free-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 2007 an estimated 27,971 wild hogs were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 13), a 4.1 percent increase from 2006 (26,843 hogs). Evidence of the presence of hogs in 42 of 46 counties was made by hunter harvest activities (42 of 46 counties in 2006). Statewide, approximately 1.28 hogs/mile² were harvested, however, this figure is deceiving because hogs only inhabit a relatively small portion of the state as a whole. The top 5 counties for wild hog harvest per unit area were Allendale (4.26 hogs/mile²), Richland (3.74 hogs/mile²), Darlington (3.27 hogs/mile²), Dorchester (3.26 hogs/mile²), and Calhoun (3.07 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.

Coyote Harvest

Unlike wild hogs which are treated like game to some degree, 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. Although a popular notion among hunters is that DNR released coyotes, the agency has never released coyotes in South Carolina. The occurrence of coyotes in the state is more recent than hogs 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 major threat to the deer population in South Carolina because they have not decimated deer in other Southeastern states as they have expanded from the west. 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. In any event, DNR is currently participating in a multi-year study with researchers at the Savannah River Site in Aiken and Barnwell Counties concerning the impact that coyotes may be having on deer. Specifically, the objective of this study is to determine potential impacts on deer fawn survival and recruitment.

Coyotes are not protected animals in South Carolina and hunters are allowed to harvest them throughout the year during daylight hours. During 2007 it is estimated that approximately 23,957 coyotes were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 13), an increase of 15.8 percent from 2006 (20,194 coyotes). As in past years, there was evidence of coyotes being harvested in all counties. Although the number of coyotes killed by deer hunters increased beginning in the late 1990's, it had somewhat stabilized the last few years. The increase in coyote harvest in 2007 was the first notable increase in three years. This "moderation" in coyote harvest may indicate that coyote numbers have stabilized in many areas or that deer hunters are losing interest in killing them. Statewide approximately 1.09 coyotes/mile² were harvested and the top 5 counties for coyote harvest per unit area included Saluda (2.13 coyotes/mile²), Lancaster (2.09 coyotes/mile²), Chester (2.06 coyotes/mile²), Greenwood (1.86 coyotes/mile²), and Spartanburg (1.82 coyotes/mile²).

Supplementary Information

The following section is not related to the 2007 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 2007 was 1,560 (Table 14). 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 800,000 deer, a level comparable with the mid 1980's.

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Table 1. Estimated statewide deer harvest in South Carolina in 2007.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2006
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²	
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,370	2,351	4,721	47.3	13.5	5.6
Aiken	500,546	782	2,788	2,175	4,963	100.9	6.3	35.3
Allendale	216,455	338	3,123	2,299	5,422	39.9	16.0	-3.8
Anderson	219,068	342	2,522	1,824	4,346	50.4	12.7	4.4
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,565	2,875	6,441	30.5	21.0	5.1
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,616	3,158	5,774	48.8	13.1	23.9
Beaufort	147,441	230	658	1,060	1,717	85.9	7.5	-30.2
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,741	2,491	6,232	91.1	7.0	39.2
Calhoun	190,584	298	1,951	2,627	4,578	41.6	15.4	6.0
Charleston	288,732	451	2,781	2,531	5,312	54.4	11.8	20.8
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,734	1,811	3,545	44.2	14.5	15.8
Chester	300,589	470	2,748	3,403	6,150	48.9	13.1	-14.9
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,389	1,906	4,295	86.7	7.4	-2.1
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,893	2,787	5,680	52.5	12.2	-14.5
Colleton	502,666	785	4,907	4,542	9,449	53.2	12.0	2.3
Darlington	286,228	447	1,304	946	2,251	127.2	5.0	15.7
Dillon	214,069	334	980	735	1,715	124.8	5.1	12.6
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,427	2,462	4,889	61.9	10.3	16.7
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,267	2,154	4,421	55.8	11.5	-0.5
Fairfield	384,607	601	4,769	4,272	9,041	42.5	15.0	13.4
Florence	397,888	622	3,099	2,859	5,958	66.8	9.6	-9.9
Georgetown	399,638	624	2,397	1,783	4,180	95.6	6.7	9.4
Greenville	294,257	460	2,146	1,628	3,774	78.0	8.2	76.9
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,351	2,231	4,582	44.6	14.3	-6.5
Hampton	324,840	508	3,593	3,589	7,182	45.2	14.2	-19.0
Horry	533,336	833	2,747	2,285	5,032	106.0	6.0	30.1
Jasper	309,889	484	2,695	2,826	5,522	56.1	11.4	-3.6
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,897	3,198	6,095	59.1	10.8	43.1
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,960	3,095	6,055	44.0	14.5	10.0
Laurens	317,916	497	3,992	3,830	7,821	40.6	15.7	30.3
Lee	220,106	344	1,908	1,367	3,275	67.2	9.5	-14.1
Lexington	280,742	439	1,589	1,288	2,877	97.6	6.6	63.7
McCormick	212,021	331	2,296	1,721	4,017	52.8	12.1	-11.0
Marion	216,907	339	1,340	1,750	3,090	70.2	9.1	4.4
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,483	1,574	3,058	92.0	7.0	-8.2
Newberry	317,761	497	3,871	4,056	7,927	40.1	16.0	43.5
Oconee	284,348	444	912	483	1,395	203.8	3.1	67.9
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,116	5,051	11,167	45.2	14.2	-1.6
Pickens	219,926	344	946	465	1,411	155.8	4.1	33.7
Richland	340,121	531	3,160	2,210	5,370	63.3	10.1	11.7
Saluda	192,173	300	2,028	1,935	3,963	48.5	13.2	2.5
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,634	3,437	7,071	37.6	17.0	31.4
Sumter	338,968	530	2,142	1,890	4,032	84.1	7.6	-0.2
Union	258,111	403	3,511	3,778	7,289	35.4	18.1	-1.5
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,915	5,264	10,179	50.5	12.7	2.8
York	276,650	432	3,260	2,669	5,929	46.7	13.7	44.6
Total	14,028,896	21,920	124,522	114,671	239,193	67.7	11.2	7.5

95% Confidence Interval for harvest (+ -) 4,255 (+ -) 4,444 (+ -) 7,262

* 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 2007.

County	Acres	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2006
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²	
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,565	2,875	6,441	30.5	21.0	5.1
Union	258,111	403	3,511	3,778	7,289	35.4	18.1	-1.5
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,634	3,437	7,071	37.6	17.0	31.4
Allendale	216,455	338	3,123	2,299	5,422	39.9	16.0	-3.8
Newberry	317,761	497	3,871	4,056	7,927	40.1	16.0	43.5
Laurens	317,916	497	3,992	3,830	7,821	40.6	15.7	30.3
Calhoun	190,584	298	1,951	2,627	4,578	41.6	15.4	6.0
Fairfield	384,607	601	4,769	4,272	9,041	42.5	15.0	13.4
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,960	3,095	6,055	44.0	14.5	10.0
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,734	1,811	3,545	44.2	14.5	15.8
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,351	2,231	4,582	44.6	14.3	-6.5
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,116	5,051	11,167	45.2	14.2	-1.6
Hampton	324,840	508	3,593	3,589	7,182	45.2	14.2	-19.0
York	276,650	432	3,260	2,669	5,929	46.7	13.7	44.6
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,370	2,351	4,721	47.3	13.5	5.6
Saluda	192,173	300	2,028	1,935	3,963	48.5	13.2	2.5
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,616	3,158	5,774	48.8	13.1	23.9
Chester	300,589	470	2,748	3,403	6,150	48.9	13.1	-14.9
Anderson	219,068	342	2,522	1,824	4,346	50.4	12.7	4.4
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,915	5,264	10,179	50.5	12.7	2.8
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,893	2,787	5,680	52.5	12.2	-14.5
McCormick	212,021	331	2,296	1,721	4,017	52.8	12.1	-11.0
Colleton	502,666	785	4,907	4,542	9,449	53.2	12.0	2.3
Charleston	288,732	451	2,781	2,531	5,312	54.4	11.8	20.8
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,267	2,154	4,421	55.8	11.5	-0.5
Jasper	309,889	484	2,695	2,826	5,522	56.1	11.4	-3.6
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,897	3,198	6,095	59.1	10.8	43.1
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,427	2,462	4,889	61.9	10.3	16.7
Richland	340,121	531	3,160	2,210	5,370	63.3	10.1	11.7
Florence	397,888	622	3,099	2,859	5,958	66.8	9.6	-9.9
Lee	220,106	344	1,908	1,367	3,275	67.2	9.5	-14.1
Marion	216,907	339	1,340	1,750	3,090	70.2	9.1	4.4
Greenville	294,257	460	2,146	1,628	3,774	78.0	8.2	76.9
Sumter	338,968	530	2,142	1,890	4,032	84.1	7.6	-0.2
Beaufort	147,441	230	658	1,060	1,717	85.9	7.5	-30.2
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,389	1,906	4,295	86.7	7.4	-2.1
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,741	2,491	6,232	91.1	7.0	39.2
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,483	1,574	3,058	92.0	7.0	-8.2
Georgetown	399,638	624	2,397	1,783	4,180	95.6	6.7	9.4
Lexington	280,742	439	1,589	1,288	2,877	97.6	6.6	63.7
Aiken	500,546	782	2,788	2,175	4,963	100.9	6.3	35.3
Horry	533,336	833	2,747	2,285	5,032	106.0	6.0	30.1
Dillon	214,069	334	980	735	1,715	124.8	5.1	12.6
Darlington	286,228	447	1,304	946	2,251	127.2	5.0	15.7
Pickens	219,926	344	946	465	1,411	155.8	4.1	33.7
Oconee	284,348	444	912	483	1,395	203.8	3.1	67.9
Total	14,028,896	21,920	124,522	114,671	239,193	67.7	11.2	7.5

Table 3. County rankings based on total deer harvested in South Carolina in 2007.

County	Acres	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2006
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²	
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,116	5,051	11,167	45.2	14.2	-1.6
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,915	5,264	10,179	50.5	12.7	2.8
Colleton	502,666	785	4,907	4,542	9,449	53.2	12.0	2.3
Fairfield	384,607	601	4,769	4,272	9,041	42.5	15.0	13.4
Newberry	317,761	497	3,871	4,056	7,927	40.1	16.0	43.5
Laurens	317,916	497	3,992	3,830	7,821	40.6	15.7	30.3
Union	258,111	403	3,511	3,778	7,289	35.4	18.1	-1.5
Hampton	324,840	508	3,593	3,589	7,182	45.2	14.2	-19.0
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,634	3,437	7,071	37.6	17.0	31.4
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,565	2,875	6,441	30.5	21.0	5.1
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,741	2,491	6,232	91.1	7.0	39.2
Chester	300,589	470	2,748	3,403	6,150	48.9	13.1	-14.9
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,897	3,198	6,095	59.1	10.8	43.1
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,960	3,095	6,055	44.0	14.5	10.0
Florence	397,888	622	3,099	2,859	5,958	66.8	9.6	-9.9
York	276,650	432	3,260	2,669	5,929	46.7	13.7	44.6
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,616	3,158	5,774	48.8	13.1	23.9
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,893	2,787	5,680	52.5	12.2	-14.5
Jasper	309,889	484	2,695	2,826	5,522	56.1	11.4	-3.6
Allendale	216,455	338	3,123	2,299	5,422	39.9	16.0	-3.8
Richland	340,121	531	3,160	2,210	5,370	63.3	10.1	11.7
Charleston	288,732	451	2,781	2,531	5,312	54.4	11.8	20.8
Horry	533,336	833	2,747	2,285	5,032	106.0	6.0	30.1
Aiken	500,546	782	2,788	2,175	4,963	100.9	6.3	35.3
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,427	2,462	4,889	61.9	10.3	16.7
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,370	2,351	4,721	47.3	13.5	5.6
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,351	2,231	4,582	44.6	14.3	-6.5
Calhoun	190,584	298	1,951	2,627	4,578	41.6	15.4	6.0
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,267	2,154	4,421	55.8	11.5	-0.5
Anderson	219,068	342	2,522	1,824	4,346	50.4	12.7	4.4
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,389	1,906	4,295	86.7	7.4	-2.1
Georgetown	399,638	624	2,397	1,783	4,180	95.6	6.7	9.4
Sumter	338,968	530	2,142	1,890	4,032	84.1	7.6	-0.2
McCormick	212,021	331	2,296	1,721	4,017	52.8	12.1	-11.0
Saluda	192,173	300	2,028	1,935	3,963	48.5	13.2	2.5
Greenville	294,257	460	2,146	1,628	3,774	78.0	8.2	76.9
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,734	1,811	3,545	44.2	14.5	15.8
Lee	220,106	344	1,908	1,367	3,275	67.2	9.5	-14.1
Marion	216,907	339	1,340	1,750	3,090	70.2	9.1	4.4
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,483	1,574	3,058	92.0	7.0	-8.2
Lexington	280,742	439	1,589	1,288	2,877	97.6	6.6	63.7
Darlington	286,228	447	1,304	946	2,251	127.2	5.0	15.7
Beaufort	147,441	230	658	1,060	1,717	85.9	7.5	-30.2
Dillon	214,069	334	980	735	1,715	124.8	5.1	12.6
Pickens	219,926	344	946	465	1,411	155.8	4.1	33.7
Oconee	284,348	444	912	483	1,395	203.8	3.1	67.9
Total	14,028,896	21,920	124,522	114,671	239,193	67.7	11.2	7.5

Table 4. Estimated deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas in South Carolina in 2007

Area	Acreage	Bucks	Does	Total	Deer/Mi. ²
Mountain Hunt Unit	193,566	793	445	1,238	4.1
Central Piedmont Hunt Unit	159,793	1,998	2,106	4,104	16.4
Western Piedmont Hunt Unit	119,077	1,244	1,083	2,327	12.5
Subtotal for Upstate WMA's	472,436	4,035	3,634	7,669	10.4
Coastal WMA's*					
Bear Island WMA	1,519	12	17	29	12.2
Bonneau Ferry	10,697	81	39	120	7.2
Crackerneck WMA	10,470	99	39	138	8.4
Cross Generating Station WMA	654	8	3	11	10.8
Donnelley WMA	8,048	21	36	57	4.5
Francis Marion WMA	252,578	368	275	643	1.6
Hamilton Ridge	13,281	36	66	102	4.9
Hickory Top WMA	1,836	9	8	17	5.9
Manchester State Forest WMA	25,505	62	20	82	2.1
Moultrie WMA	9,480	27	17	44	3.0
Oak Lea WMA	2,024	25	62	87	27.5
Palachucola WMA	5,947	24	25	49	5.3
Santee Coastal Reserve WMA	5,000	14	8	22	2.8
Santee Cooper WMA	2,828	23	20	43	9.7
Victoria Bluff WMA	800	11	12	23	18.4
Webb Wildlife Center WMA	5,866	46	55	101	11.0
Subtotal for Coastal WMA's	356,533	866	702	1,568	2.8
Total	828,969	4,901	4,336	9,237	7.1

*Check Station data

Table 5. Hunter opinion (percent) regarding the number of deer in the area hunted most often in South Carolina in 2007 compared to previous years.

	Increasing	About the Same	Decreasing
Residents	18.9*	52.7	28.4
Non-Residents	13.0	58.9	28.1
Overall	17.9	53.7	28.4

* Significant difference in hunter perception of deer herd based on residency.

Table 6. Resident deer hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2007.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/Hunter	Days/Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	3,792	47,156	67.4	1.19	10.46	2,272	2,236	4,507
Aiken	3,398	48,433	73.8	1.35	10.53	2,591	2,011	4,601
Allendale	2,218	24,935	77.9	1.16	9.67	1,496	1,083	2,579
Anderson	3,774	52,679	70.6	1.15	12.12	2,522	1,824	4,346
Bamberg	2,844	36,476	78.6	1.77	7.23	2,826	2,218	5,044
Barnwell	2,003	34,882	82.1	2.36	7.39	2,057	2,665	4,722
Beaufort	1,109	15,225	79.6	1.52	9.04	657	1,027	1,684
Berkeley	3,416	64,605	70.6	1.73	10.91	3,577	2,343	5,920
Calhoun	2,450	34,346	74.5	1.77	7.90	1,949	2,397	4,346
Charleston	2,987	40,544	68.8	1.71	7.93	2,683	2,432	5,115
Cherokee	1,413	26,140	67.1	1.71	10.84	1,142	1,269	2,411
Chester	2,915	39,488	73.0	1.40	9.64	1,860	2,236	4,096
Chesterfield	2,039	41,599	72.8	1.62	12.57	1,896	1,413	3,309
Clarendon	2,522	40,509	75.8	2.22	7.24	2,844	2,754	5,598
Colleton	3,953	71,600	76.0	2.00	9.08	3,970	3,917	7,887
Darlington	2,039	33,670	74.6	1.09	15.18	1,288	930	2,218
Dillon	1,037	16,531	60.7	1.59	10.02	931	719	1,649
Dorchester	2,844	46,394	71.1	1.67	9.75	2,361	2,397	4,758
Edgefield	2,844	35,282	74.8	1.28	9.67	1,806	1,842	3,648
Fairfield	4,525	65,802	81.8	1.71	8.52	4,095	3,631	7,726
Florence	3,291	57,058	75.5	1.70	10.23	2,951	2,629	5,580
Georgetown	2,575	49,269	73.6	1.57	12.17	2,331	1,717	4,048
Greenville	2,987	35,108	70.6	1.26	9.30	2,146	1,628	3,774
Greenwood	2,701	38,397	76.2	1.64	8.69	2,236	2,182	4,417
Hampton	2,522	23,775	74.8	1.51	6.24	1,489	2,323	3,813
Horry	2,271	48,471	70.0	2.16	9.89	2,665	2,236	4,901
Jasper	2,057	24,903	74.5	2.05	5.92	2,038	2,169	4,207
Kershaw	2,862	45,688	72.6	1.72	9.30	2,404	2,508	4,912
Lancaster	1,860	32,875	81.7	2.12	8.36	1,842	2,093	3,935
Laurens	4,829	65,470	71.1	1.55	8.76	3,827	3,649	7,476
Lee	2,110	28,807	80.5	1.47	9.31	1,842	1,252	3,094
Lexington	2,736	37,982	69.3	1.04	13.36	1,556	1,288	2,844
McCormick	2,289	23,025	75.7	1.37	7.36	1,771	1,359	3,130
Marion	1,413	23,993	75.9	2.15	7.89	1,323	1,717	3,040
Marlboro	1,216	26,953	72.9	2.27	9.76	1,368	1,394	2,762
Newberry	4,114	62,221	75.4	1.79	8.46	3,592	3,761	7,352
Oconee	1,556	20,323	66.7	0.90	14.57	912	483	1,395
Orangeburg	5,008	86,115	79.1	2.07	8.32	5,623	4,722	10,345
Pickens	1,932	18,662	62.0	0.72	13.38	930	465	1,395
Richland	3,792	59,344	80.6	1.38	11.36	3,094	2,128	5,222
Saluda	2,468	32,667	78.2	1.41	9.41	1,699	1,771	3,470
Spartanburg	3,899	55,016	76.1	1.71	8.24	3,404	3,273	6,677
Sumter	2,701	45,753	69.1	1.45	11.68	2,092	1,824	3,917
Union	3,416	36,890	76.9	1.51	7.14	2,361	2,808	5,169
Williamsburg	3,881	63,775	78.3	2.42	6.79	4,471	4,918	9,390
York	3,094	46,516	67.1	1.62	9.29	2,701	2,307	5,009
Total	127,699	1,905,358	71.7	1.64	9.19	107,492	99,944	207,436
% Change from 2006	8.2	3.2	-3.9	0.0	-4.9	7.0	8.9	8.0

Table 7. Non-resident hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2007.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/Hunter	Days/Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	66	626	75.0	3.25	2.93	99	115	214
Aiken	329	2,210	75.0	1.10	6.11	197	164	362
Allendale	1,381	20,553	80.9	2.06	7.23	1,627	1,216	2,843
Anderson	16	58	0.0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
Bamberg	789	12,430	83.3	1.77	8.90	740	657	1,397
Barnwell	625	8,570	86.8	1.68	8.15	559	493	1,052
Beaufort	279	2,895	52.9	1.12	87.05	0	33	33
Berkeley	148	1,834	100.0	2.11	5.87	164	148	312
Calhoun	197	1,679	91.6	1.92	7.24	2	230	232
Charleston	131	1,814	62.5	1.50	9.20	99	99	197
Cherokee	394	12,044	75.0	2.88	10.62	592	542	1,134
Chester	1,068	15,653	76.9	1.92	7.62	888	1,167	2,054
Chesterfield	674	11,523	65.8	1.46	11.68	493	493	986
Clarendon	115	1,004	57.1	0.71	12.21	49	33	82
Colleton	657	10,500	80.0	2.38	6.72	937	625	1,561
Darlington	131	483	25.0	0.25	14.68	16	16	33
Dillon	66	1,814	75.0	1.00	27.60	49	16	66
Dorchester	66	1,332	75.0	2.00	10.13	66	66	131
Edgefield	411	6,234	76.0	1.88	8.07	460	312	772
Fairfield	888	14,360	70.4	1.48	10.92	674	641	1,315
Florence	131	2,142	75.0	2.88	5.67	148	230	378
Georgetown	82	676	80.0	1.60	5.14	66	66	131
Greenville	49	290	0.0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
Greenwood	99	1,332	83.3	1.67	8.10	115	49	164
Hampton	1,841	26,925	69.6	1.83	7.99	2,104	1,266	3,369
Horry	99	1,158	66.7	1.33	8.81	82	49	131
Jasper	625	13,704	73.7	2.11	10.42	657	657	1,315
Kershaw	592	10,307	83.3	2.00	8.71	493	690	1,183
Lancaster	805	13,453	81.6	2.63	6.34	1,118	1,003	2,120
Laurens	197	3,069	83.3	1.75	8.89	164	181	345
Lee	99	791	66.7	1.83	4.38	66	115	181
Lexington	82	656	40.0	0.40	19.96	33	0	33
McCormick	444	7,894	77.8	2.00	8.89	526	362	888
Marion	33	212	100.0	1.50	4.31	16	33	49
Marlboro	181	4,632	72.7	1.64	15.66	115	181	296
Newberry	444	7,663	70.4	1.30	13.32	279	296	575
Oconee	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
Orangeburg	460	6,408	71.4	1.79	7.80	493	329	822
Pickens	49	386	66.7	0.33	23.49	16	0	16
Richland	181	3,088	63.6	0.82	20.88	66	82	148
Saluda	279	2,548	76.4	1.76	5.17	329	164	493
Spartanburg	230	4,420	64.2	1.71	11.21	230	164	394
Sumter	99	695	83.3	1.17	6.04	49	66	115
Union	1,068	19,147	80.0	1.98	9.03	1,150	970	2,120
Williamsburg	345	4,188	66.7	2.29	5.31	444	345	789
York	592	9,631	66.7	1.56	10.46	559	362	920
TOTAL	17,537	273,032	71.2	1.84	8.60	17,030	14,727	31,756
% Change from 2006	-0.01	18.6	0.05	6.6	-14.7	6.5	2.4	4.6

Table 8. Hunting effort (man/days) by county for successful and unsuccessful resident and non-resident deer hunters in South Carolina in 2007.

County	Residents (man/days)			Total Effort Residents	Non-Residents (man/days)			Total Effort Non-residents	Total Days
	Successful	Unsuccessful	Average		Successful	Unsuccessful	Average		
Abbeville	14.8	8.8	12.8	48,719	10.3	3.0	8.5	559	49,369
Aiken	16.7	9.2	14.7	50,038	6.9	3.2	6.0	1,972	52,375
Allendale	13.0	6.6	11.6	25,761	14.6	7.9	13.3	18,343	45,604
Anderson	17.0	8.1	14.4	54,425	0.0	3.0	3.0	49	54,498
Bamberg	15.1	6.4	13.3	37,685	14.1	10.3	13.4	10,585	49,144
Barnwell	18.5	15.7	18.0	36,038	12.6	5.6	11.7	7,297	44,028
Beaufort	16.8	3.8	14.2	15,729	14.2	2.8	8.8	2,465	18,517
Berkeley	22.3	12.9	19.5	66,746	10.6	0.0	10.6	1,561	68,485
Calhoun	17.4	5.9	14.5	35,484	7.4	6.0	7.3	1,430	37,144
Charleston	16.8	7.9	14.0	41,887	13.4	9.0	11.8	1,545	43,605
Cherokee	22.8	11.7	19.1	27,006	31.1	10.8	26.0	10,256	37,749
Chester	15.9	8.9	14.0	40,796	14.6	5.5	12.5	13,330	55,292
Chesterfield	25.7	8.6	21.1	42,978	18.6	6.9	14.6	9,812	53,545
Clarendon	19.7	7.0	16.6	41,852	10.0	4.0	7.4	855	42,850
Colleton	21.5	10.0	18.7	73,973	15.6	5.8	13.6	8,941	83,646
Darlington	19.9	8.7	17.1	34,786	2.0	3.5	3.1	411	35,345
Dillon	21.6	8.5	16.5	17,079	24.7	20.0	23.5	1,545	18,761
Dorchester	18.3	13.3	16.9	47,931	22.3	2.0	17.3	1,134	49,176
Edgefield	14.8	6.8	12.8	36,451	15.4	5.0	12.9	5,309	42,229
Fairfield	16.5	8.4	15.0	67,982	14.5	12.0	13.8	12,228	81,192
Florence	20.1	11.1	17.9	58,949	17.5	3.0	13.9	1,824	60,947
Georgetown	21.9	13.8	19.8	50,901	7.5	5.0	7.0	575	51,583
Greenville	13.7	8.4	12.1	36,272	0.0	5.0	5.0	247	36,581
Greenwood	15.3	12.8	14.7	39,670	12.8	5.0	11.5	1,134	40,938
Hampton	11.6	4.3	9.7	24,563	14.9	6.7	12.5	22,927	49,477
Horry	26.5	11.6	22.0	50,077	12.3	5.5	10.0	986	51,196
Jasper	15.1	4.9	12.5	25,728	22.9	6.8	18.7	11,669	38,108
Kershaw	19.7	7.8	16.5	47,202	16.4	6.8	14.8	8,777	56,644
Lancaster	19.9	10.9	18.3	33,964	15.5	8.4	14.2	11,455	46,312
Laurens	16.6	7.6	14.0	67,639	15.0	4.5	13.3	2,613	70,494
Lee	15.6	7.8	14.1	29,761	8.0	4.5	6.8	674	30,559
Lexington	16.3	9.8	14.3	39,240	4.5	8.3	6.8	559	39,906
McCormick	11.3	7.5	10.4	23,788	17.1	8.3	15.1	6,722	31,021
Marion	19.8	10.6	17.5	24,788	5.5	0.0	5.5	181	25,015
Marlboro	29.0	6.5	22.9	27,846	27.6	6.3	21.8	3,945	32,038
Newberry	18.1	8.2	15.6	64,282	13.2	18.3	14.7	6,525	71,325
Oconee	15.6	9.3	13.5	20,997	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	20,997
Orangeburg	20.1	8.9	17.8	88,969	12.8	9.6	11.9	5,457	94,948
Pickens	12.8	5.4	10.0	19,280	7.5	5.0	6.7	329	19,680
Richland	18.0	8.7	16.2	61,311	18.4	7.8	14.5	2,630	64,173
Saluda	15.4	7.4	13.7	33,749	7.6	8.3	7.8	2,170	36,239
Spartanburg	16.8	7.5	14.6	56,839	20.7	8.6	16.4	3,764	60,892
Sumter	20.6	10.5	17.5	47,269	6.8	2.0	6.0	592	47,980
Union	12.2	7.6	11.2	38,113	16.4	10.6	15.3	16,305	55,593
Williamsburg	19.5	7.9	17.0	65,889	12.5	6.0	10.3	3,566	69,850
York	19.0	8.6	15.5	48,058	16.1	9.4	13.9	8,201	56,926
Total	21.3	7.9	15.7	1,968,488	15.5	7.1	12.6	233,454	2,201,942
% Change from 2006	5.9	-16.4	4.6	-0.7	-1.3	-18.3	-2.4	1.80	-0.5

Table 9. Estimated deer harvest by weapon type in South Carolina in 2007.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun	Total
Number of Deer Harvested	188,962	14,352	26,790	7,415	718	957	239,192
Percent Total Deer Harvest	79.0	6.0	11.2	3.1	0.3	0.4	100.0
Percent Hunter Success With Weapon	68.2	31.5	35.0	29.3	25.0	16.4	NA*

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

Table 10. Number of hunters using each type of weapon in South Carolina in 2007.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun
Residents	117,994	31,797	43,162	20,560	1,788	5,619
Non-Residents	16,590	3,122	2,543	4,419	333	737
Total	134,584	34,919	45,705	24,979	2,121	6,355

Total across weapons not given because hunters use multiple weapons. Total hunters = 145,236.

Table 11. Weapons utilization (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2007.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun
Residents	92.4*	24.9*	33.8*	16.1*	1.4	4.4
Non-Residents	94.6	17.8	14.5	25.2	1.9	4.2
Total	92.7	23.7	30.7	17.6	1.5	4.3

* Significant difference in weapons use category based on residency.

Table 12. Weapons preference (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2007.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun	Total
Residents	75.9*	12.5*	9.4*	1.4*	0.3	0.6	100.0
Non-Residents	82.6	9.4	2.8	4.1	0.2	0.9	100.0
Total	77.0	12.0	8.3	1.8	0.3	0.6	100.0

* Significant difference in weapons preference category based on residency.

Table 13. Estimated wild hog and coyote harvest by deer hunters in South Carolina in 2007.

County	Hog Harv.	Harv./Mile ²	% Change from 2006	2007 Rank	2006 Rank	Coyote Harv.	Harv./Mile ²	% Change from 2006	2007 Rank	2006 Rank
Abbeville	664	1.91	-39.3	11	6	457	1.31	12.9	18	18
Aiken	892	1.14	10.9	19	18	949	1.21	59.0	23	27
Allendale	1,441	4.26	-0.8	1	2	412	1.22	-26.9	21	7
Anderson	503	1.47	87.7	16	23	572	1.67	8.3	6	9
Bamberg	480	1.56	-13.9	15	12	320	1.04	-20.4	31	13
Barnwell	457	1.04	582.6	23	37	526	1.19	65.4	24	28
Beaufort	0	0.00	*	43	43	69	0.30	107.9	43	45
Berkeley	1,124	1.27	214.7	18	29	526	0.59	310.9	38	46
Calhoun	915	3.07	-28.1	5	3	389	1.31	-56.1	18	1
Charleston	1,121	2.48	25.5	8	11	160	0.35	-28.2	41	36
Cherokee	23	0.09	*	40	43	366	1.49	41.8	12	19
Chester	160	0.34	627.6	36	40	966	2.06	13.1	3	5
Chesterfield	617	1.06	31.7	22	22	709	1.22	109.1	21	34
Clarendon	1,189	2.55	153.5	7	19	675	1.45	67.9	14	24
Colleton	1,372	1.75	-26.9	13	9	503	0.64	45.8	36	38
Darlington	1,464	3.27	-13.8	3	5	412	0.92	311.6	33	42
Dillon	137	0.41	2.4	33	29	23	0.07	-93.4	46	20
Dorchester	1,540	3.26	16.8	4	7	480	1.02	222.3	32	41
Edgefield	0	0.00	0.0	43	33	640	1.66	-26.9	7	3
Fairfield	617	1.03	62.5	24	24	903	1.50	25.4	11	17
Florence	697	1.12	183.4	20	29	343	0.55	31.4	39	39
Georgetown	1,143	1.83	-18.7	12	10	320	0.51	-23.2	40	29
Greenville	183	0.40	731.6	34	40	572	1.24	105.6	20	33
Greenwood	69	0.21	-65.9	37	24	595	1.86	22.3	4	10
Hampton	1,235	2.43	49.5	9	14	366	0.72	-20.6	35	22
Horry	920	1.10	17.6	21	20	229	0.27	51.4	44	43
Jasper	320	0.66	-42.6	30	16	91	0.19	-69.3	45	31
Kershaw	549	0.97	-31.7	25	15	658	1.17	112.2	25	35
Lancaster	354	0.85	428.4	27	36	869	2.09	164.9	2	26
Laurens	183	0.37	731.6	35	42	709	1.43	11.5	17	16
Lee	160	0.47	-57.9	32	17	503	1.46	141.9	13	31
Lexington	69	0.16	-74.4	38	26	686	1.56	323.5	10	40
McCormick	23	0.07	-74.3	41	34	526	1.59	-28.2	9	4
Marion	892	2.63	-4.9	6	8	206	0.61	261.1	37	44
Marlboro	572	1.30	-24.7	17	13	137	0.31	-75.9	42	15
Newberry	0	0.00	-100.0	43	32	792	1.60	0.6	8	8
Oconee	409	0.92	265.1	26	35	503	1.13	25.1	26	23
Orangeburg	434	0.55	8.1	31	28	1,143	1.45	52.5	14	21
Pickens	252	0.73	459.0	29	38	389	1.13	-23.2	26	11
Richland	1,987	3.74	-7.3	2	4	764	1.44	10.1	16	13
Saluda	238	0.79	52.4	28	27	640	2.13	-19.2	1	2
Spartanburg	0	0.00	-100.0	43	39	755	1.82	6.7	5	6
Sumter	1,126	2.13	-52.9	10	1	595	1.12	147.7	28	37
Union	23	0.06	*	42	43	434	1.08	29.7	30	25
Williamsburg	1,349	1.68	83.1	14	21	595	0.74	14.6	34	30
York	69	0.16	*	38	43	480	1.11	-23.2	29	12
Total	27,971	1.28	15.8	NA	NA	23,957	1.09	0.2	NA	NA
	(+ -) 2,426					(+ -) 1,341				

95% Confidence Interval for harvest

*No indication of hogs harvested in 2006

Table 14. Number of deer-vehicle collisions reported by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety 2000-2007.

County	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*
Abbeville	53	39	16	5	5	11	17
Aiken	123	121	57	60	31	47	48
Allendale	16	12	12	7	5	10	12
Anderson	37	76	32	27	27	47	60
Bamberg	32	20	10	13	8	20	12
Barnwell	27	30	19	13	17	29	11
Beaufort	88	102	73	100	57	110	101
Berkeley	96	114	63	52	35	40	49
Calhoun	25	16	21	6	8	10	16
Charleston	154	121	150	159	100	175	157
Cherokee	77	100	12	8	4	10	2
Chester	103	90	13	5	7	7	12
Chesterfield	24	20	4	4	4	7	9
Clarendon	34	33	37	29	12	16	26
Colleton	65	94	36	48	24	45	55
Darlington	53	47	20	10	9	13	20
Dillon	27	25	8	4	4	8	3
Dorchester	86	127	91	73	52	48	70
Edgefield	45	44	24	22	15	17	20
Fairfield	78	61	14	16	11	9	19
Florence	139	134	40	27	17	24	30
Georgetown	44	32	25	13	16	8	13
Greenville	80	116	45	53	18	56	69
Greenwood	152	131	42	32	16	33	55
Hampton	18	6	19	16	10	25	10
Horry	160	144	48	46	24	45	54
Jasper	68	84	37	38	23	50	50
Kershaw	101	82	22	28	11	18	21
Lancaster	96	98	16	18	7	11	10
Laurens	158	186	65	59	34	48	45
Lee	23	39	21	10	15	8	9
Lexington	55	65	60	43	26	34	36
McCormick	29	17	13	6	6	11	12
Marion	15	26	6	7	0	4	10
Marlboro	37	51	8	7	5	7	9
Newberry	115	112	33	32	21	31	26
Oconee	12	26	10	4	9	13	8
Orangeburg	109	45	53	35	25	64	72
Pickens	27	37	20	17	11	18	11
Richland	74	72	75	83	51	64	83
Saluda	71	59	18	16	16	10	24
Spartanburg	144	186	86	68	35	94	80
Sumter	94	95	44	37	38	30	37
Union	46	23	10	10	9	9	7
Williamsburg	79	65	28	18	21	19	29
York	137	151	29	17	11	53	31
Total	3,326	3,374	1,585	1,401	910	1,466	1,560

* 2007 data preliminary.

Table 15. 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 16. 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

2006 South Carolina Deer Hunter Survey

1. Did you hunt deer in SC this past season (2006)? **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 (2006). 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	
1		# Bucks	#Does
2		# Bucks	#Does
3		# Bucks	#Does
4		# Bucks	#Does

4. Please record the number of deer taken with each weapon last season (2006).

Rifle	Bow	Shotgun	Muzzleloader	Crossbow	Handgun

5. Please circle **all** the weapons that you hunted deer with in 2006.

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 2006, 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 youths under 16 years in your household hunt deer? _____ **None** _____
 If you answered **None** to this question please **go to question # 11.**

10. How many deer did these youth(s) kill in 2006? # Bucks _____ # Does _____

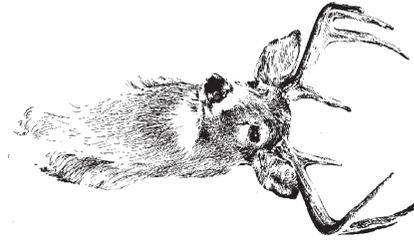
11. How would you rate the management of deer in South Carolina? **Circle one.**

1. Poor 2. Fair 3. Good 4. Very Good 5. Excellent

12. Are you a resident of SC? **1. Yes** **2. No**

13. If yes, which county _____

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



**IMPORTANT
DEER
RESEARCH**



DNR

**DEER HUNTER SURVEY
SCDNR
PO BOX 167
COLUMBIA SC 29202-0167**

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January, 2007

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. 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.

Please keep in mind that in order to reduce costs, this is the only 2006 Deer Hunter Survey form you will receive. There will be no reminders or second surveys sent to individuals that do not respond to this initial survey. 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 2005 survey can be found at www.dnr.state.sc.us/wild/deer/img/2005DeerHarvestReport.pdf

Thank you for your assistance.

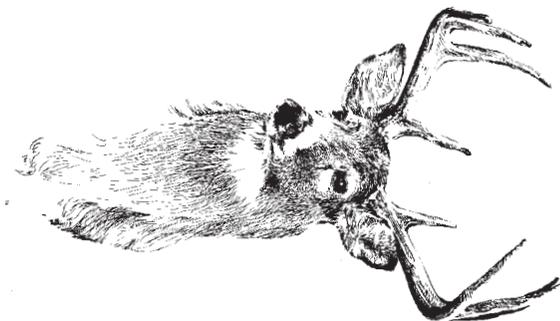


Charles Ruth
Wildlife Biologist
Deer/Turkey Project Supervisor

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 2006 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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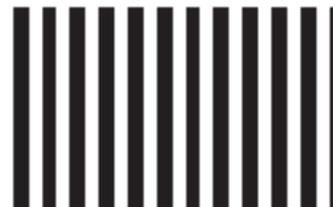


Figure 2. Percent of female deer conceiving by week in South Carolina, based on historic data.

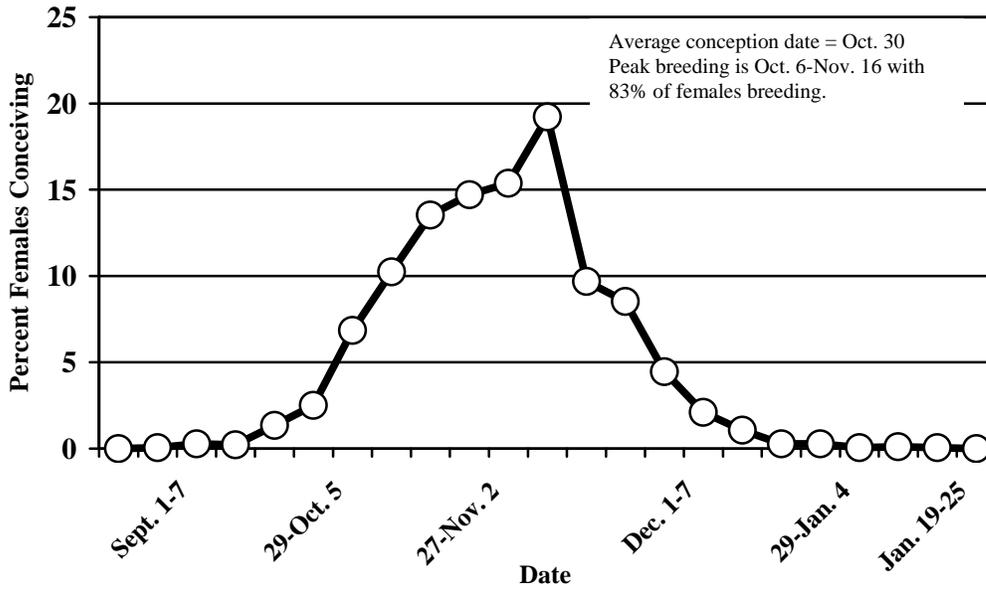


Figure 3. Percent of deer harvested by week of hunting season in South Carolina, based on historic data.

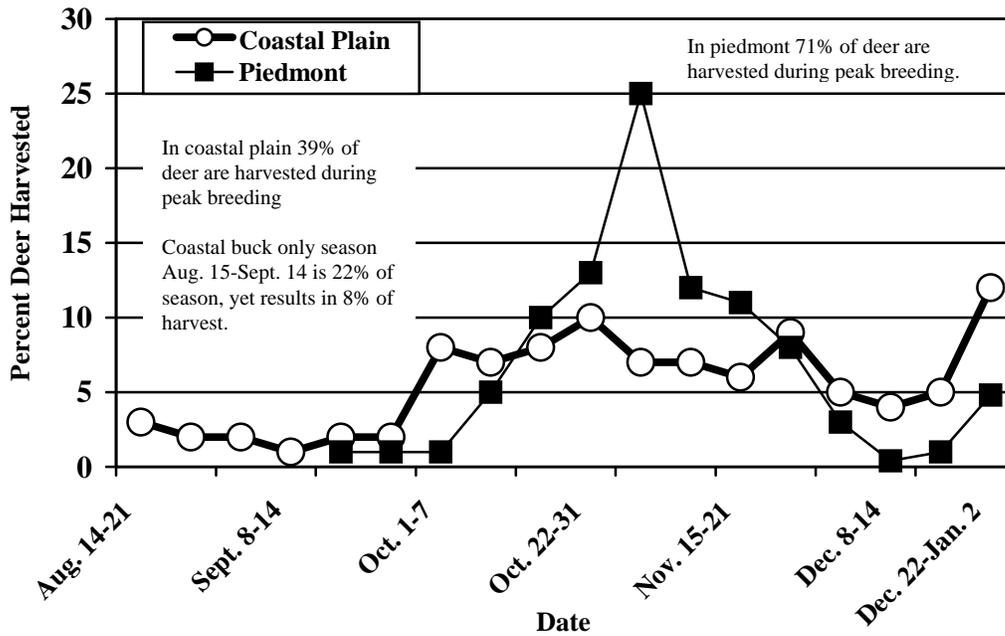


Figure 4. Estimated deer harvest in South Carolina 1972-2007.

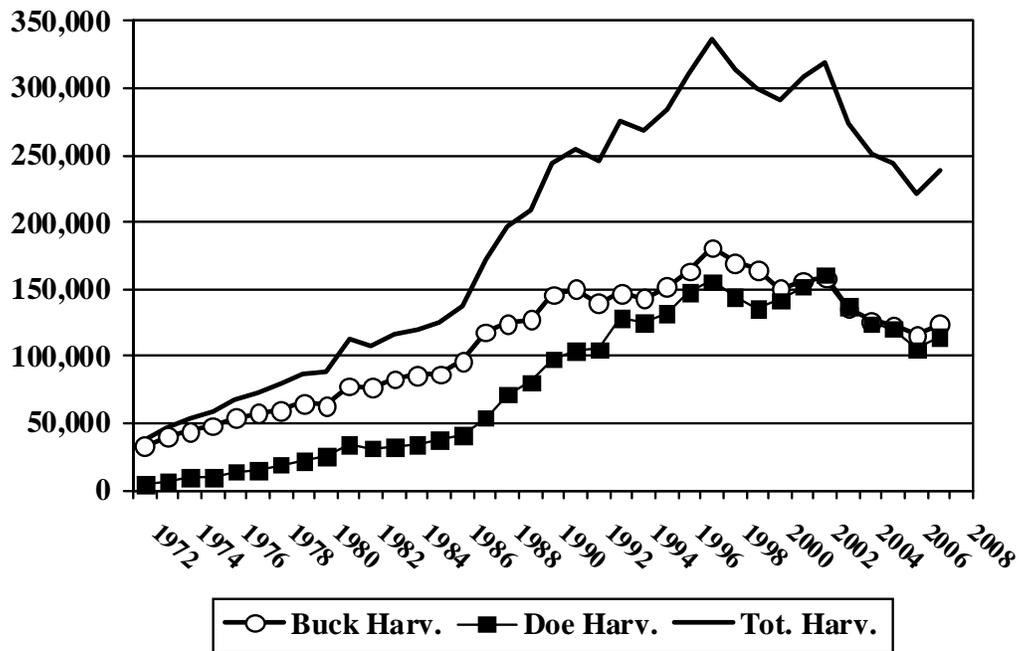


Figure 5. South Carolina deer population 1972-2007 based on population reconstruction modeling. Note that antlerless deer includes male fawns (button bucks).

