2009 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 2009 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 2009, (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 (+- 3.6 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 2009 Deer Hunter Survey represents a random mail survey that involved a single mail-out. The questionnaire for the 2009 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 2009. Since deer seasons statewide end on January 1 there was no need to sample individuals that were licensed thereafter.

Data entry was completed by Priority Data, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska. 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 (517). Therefore, the actual attempted sample was 24,483 representing 14.6 percent of the entire population (167,321) of license holders. A total of 6,501 completed surveys were returned yielding a 26.3 percent response rate and 3.9 percent sampling rate on the entire licensee population.

Deer Harvest

During the 2009 deer season it is estimated that a total of 120,365 bucks and 111,338 does were harvested for a statewide total of 231,703 deer (Table 1). This figure represents a 6.9 percent decrease in harvest from 2008 (248,778) and is 27.5 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 2009 being no exception. The overall reduction in harvest seen since 2002 can likely be attributable to a number of factors, including 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.

Also, coyotes are a recent addition to the landscape and are another piece of the puzzle. SCDNR is currently involved in a major study with researchers at the Savannah River Site investigating the affects coyotes are having on the survival of deer fawns. Cumulative data through 3 years indicates approximately 80 percent total fawn mortality with coyotes being responsible for approximately 70 percent of these mortalities. If these findings even moderately represent a statewide situation, this "new mortality factor" is clearly involved in the reduction in deer numbers. This is especially true when combined with extremely liberal deer harvests that have been the norm in South Carolina.

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 mile^2). When considering the estimated deer habitat that is available in South Carolina, the deer harvest rate in 2009 was 11.0 deer per square mile over the entire state (Table 2). Although the deer population in the state has declined in recent years, this harvest rate should be considered good in comparison with most other states. The top 5 counties for harvest per unit area were Bamberg (22.4 deer/mile^2), Allendale (18.7 deer/mile^2), Union (17.7 deer/mile^2), Anderson (17.4 deer/mile^2), and Calhoun (17.1 deer/mile^2) (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 2009 were Orangeburg, Colleton, Williamsburg, Hampton, and Florence.

Deer Harvest on Wildlife Management Areas

Deer hunting on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) remains popular in South Carolina with approximately 49,000 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/mi^2) 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 2009 season it is estimated that 4,706 bucks and 3,786 does were harvested for a total deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas of 8,492 (Table 4). This figure represents decrease of approximately 9.9 percent from 2008. It is estimated that approximately 18,661 hunters spent 220,199 days hunting deer on WMAs in South Carolina in 2009.

Hunter Opinion Regarding Deer Numbers

The 2009 Deer Hunter Survey asked participants their opinion regarding the following question. 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 (50.5%) 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 (35.0%) believed that the deer population was decreasing than increasing (14.5%). On a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being increasing, 2 being neutral, and 3 being decreasing, the overall mean rating of 2.2 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 88.2 percent actually hunted deer. For residents, 87.0 percent of sampled licensees hunted deer and for non-residents 95.5 percent hunted deer. Extrapolating to the respective licensee populations yields 131,537 residents (Table 6) and 15,402 non-residents (Table 7) for a total of 146,939 deer hunters statewide during 2009. This figure represents a less than 1 percent increase from the 146,388 hunters in 2008. Counties with the highest estimates for individual hunters include Orangeburg, Newberry, Berkeley, Spartanburg, and Colleton for resident hunters (Table 6) and Hampton, Jasper, Chester, Allendale, and Colleton 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 2009 was 69.6 percent, which should be considered extraordinary. Success rates for residents (70.0%, Table 6) was slightly higher than non-residents (67.4%, Table 7). 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 Barnwell, Fairfield, Lancaster, Richland, and Lee. Non-residents experienced the highest success in Marion, Berkeley, Calhoun, Barnwell, and Bamberg counties. However, only Bamberg 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 15.7 days afield for a total of 2,073,756 days deer hunting and non-residents averaged 14.0 days for a total of 216,187 days (Table 8). Total effort expended deer hunting in South Carolina during 2009 was estimated at 2,289,943 days (Table 8), down approximately 1.3 percent from 2008. 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 2009; Orangeburg, Colleton, Newberry, Union, and Spartanburg (Table 8). Resident hunters expended the most hunting effort in Orangeburg, Newberry, Berkeley, Spartanburg, and Colleton, counties. Non-residents hunted the most in Hampton, Jasper, Chester, Allendale, and Colleton counties and these 5 counties totaled 42 percent of all the non-resident deer hunting effort that took place in South Carolina in 2009.

Resident hunters who were successful at harvesting at least one deer averaged about twice

as many days (21.3 days) afield as unsuccessful residents (8.3 days) (Table 8). Similarly, successful non-residents (17.5 days) averaged about 2 times the days afield when compared with unsuccessful non-residents (7.9 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 (8.5 days, Table 7) compared to residents (10.0 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, Clarendon, Beaufort, Allendale, and Florence for resident hunters (Table 6). On the other hand, non-residents spent less time to harvest a deer in Charleston, Williamsburg, Dorchester, Georgetown, and Beaufort 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 (78.0%) of deer are harvested with centerfire rifles (Table 9). Shotguns (11.0%) and archery equipment (6.8%) 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 (26.0%) and shotguns (31.1%) than non-residents (17.1% archery and 12.6% shotguns) (Table 11). This finding has been consistent for many 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 (22.8%) used muzzleloaders more frequently than residents (16.5%). 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 for many years.

Unlike weapons utilization, weapons preference is the single weapon that a hunter prefers. Obviously, a majority (78.0%) 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 has increased over time. 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 (8.1%) than non-residents (2.9%) and muzzleloaders are preferred more by non-residents (2.6%) than by residents (1.3%) (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.

Deer Harvest by Month of Season

The 2009 Deer Hunter Survey asked hunters to provide information on the month of kill for deer taken during the 2009 season. Although South Carolina is noted to have the longest firearms deer season in the country, the relationship between season length and deer harvest is often misunderstood. Deer naturally increase their movements during the breeding season or rut making them more susceptible to being seen and harvested by hunters. In contrast, outside of the breeding season deer movements are reduced, therefore the chances of hunters seeing and harvesting deer are reduced.

Deer harvest by month of season demonstrates this phenomenon (Figure 2). Although firearms seasons are not open in all parts of the state in late August and early September, relatively few deer are harvested during that time where the season is open. On the other hand, a disproportionately high number of deer are taken during October and November. October and November encompass the majority of the breeding season in South Carolina with over 80 percent of does conceiving during that period (Figure 3). Ultimately, timing of the season is a more important factor in determining deer harvest and quality hunting than the length of the season. Although South Carolina offers early opening seasons, there may be negative consequences as it relates to deer harvest. Hunters should understand that hunting pressure that builds prior to the breeding season can suppress daytime movements of deer during the breeding season when deer movements and hunter harvests should be greatest.

Wild Hog Harvest

The 2009 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 though 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 2009 an estimated 36,888 wild hogs were harvested by deer hunters in South

Carolina (Table 13), a 9.4 percent decrease from 2008 (39,221 hogs). Evidence of the presence of hogs in 42 of 46 counties was made by hunter harvest activities (42 of 46 counties in 2008). Statewide, approximately 1.68 hogs/mile^2 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 Calhoun (4.11 hogs/mile^2), Richland (4.29 hogs/mile^2), Marion (4.24 hogs/mile^2), Allendale (4.11 hogs/mile^2), and Abbeville (3.53 hogs/mile^2).

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. On the other hand, coyotes will take deer fawns and deer that are sick or injured. 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 are having deer. Specifically, the objective of this study is to determine potential impacts on deer fawn survival and recruitment. Cumulative data through 3 years indicates approximately 80 percent total fawn mortality with coyotes being responsible for approximately 70 percent of these mortalities. If these findings even moderately represent a statewide situation, this "new mortality factor" combined with extremely liberal deer harvests and lower deer populations should cause concern.

Coyotes are not protected animals in South Carolina and hunters are allowed to harvest them throughout the year during daylight hours. During 2009 it is estimated that approximately 29,783 coyotes were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 13), an increase of 14.3 percent from 2008 (25,526 coyotes). As in past years, there was evidence of coyotes being harvested in all counties. The number of coyotes killed by deer hunters has increased exponentially since the late 1990's pointing to the expansion of this species in South Carolina. Statewide approximately 1.36 coyotes/mile^2 were harvested and the top 5 counties for coyote harvest per unit area included Abbeville (3.47 coyotes/mile^2), Saluda (3.36 coyotes/mile^2), Bamberg (3.07 coyotes/mile^2), Anderson (2.95 coyotes/mile^2), and Spartanburg (2.91 coyotes/mile^2).

Supplementary Information

The following section is not related to the 2009 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 preliminary number of reported deer-vehicle collisions for 2009 was 1,953 (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 15 and 16). 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.

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 boll 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 725,000 deer, a level comparable with the mid 1980's.

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Table 1. Estimated statewide deer harvest in South Carolina in 2009.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates Ac/Deer	Harvest Rates Deer/Mi.^{2}	% Change from 2008
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,513	2,347	4,860	45.9	13.9	-13.8
Aiken	500,546	782	2,970	1,970	4,940	101.3	6.3	-14.8
Allendale	216,455	338	3,086	3,249	6,336	34.2	18.7	0.4
Anderson	219,068	342	3,017	2,933	5,950	36.8	17.4	18.9
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,454	3,439	6,893	28.5	22.4	12.2
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,094	2,399	4,493	62.7	10.2	-27.0
Beaufort	147,441	230	1,063	1,416	2,480	59.5	10.8	15.3
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,652	2,491	6,143	92.4	6.9	-17.2
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,755	2,333	5,088	37.5	17.1	34.4
Charleston	288,732	451	2,795	2,525	5,321	54.3	11.8	-16.6
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,620	1,811	3,431	45.7	14.0	-0.8
Chester	300,589	470	2,941	3,024	5,965	50.4	12.7	-5.0
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,480	2,060	4,540	82.1	7.8	0.5
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,402	2,180	4,582	65.1	9.8	-36.2
Colleton	502,666	785	5,305	4,878	10,182	49.4	13.0	-10.3
Darlington	286,228	447	1,087	784	1,871	153.0	4.2	-25.9
Dillon	214,069	334	1,016	868	1,885	113.6	5.6	7.1
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,503	2,387	4,890	61.9	10.3	-12.0
Edgefield	246,543	385	1,752	1,455	3,207	76.9	8.3	-22.8
Fairfield	384,607	601	3,500	3,681	7,181	53.6	11.9	-1.8
Florence	397,888	622	3,629	3,615	7,243	54.9	11.7	7.7
Georgetown	399,638	624	2,068	2,506	4,574	87.4	7.3	-12.1
Greenville	294,257	460	1,752	1,515	3,267	90.1	7.1	5.5
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,352	2,148	4,501	45.4	14.1	-2.8
Hampton	324,840	508	3,494	3,863	7,356	44.2	14.5	-20.4
Horry	533,336	833	2,318	1,364	3,682	144.9	4.4	-30.3
Jasper	309,889	484	2,056	2,448	4,504	68.8	9.3	-26.0
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,977	3,239	6,216	58.0	11.0	6.5
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,415	2,337	4,752	56.1	11.4	-7.4
Laurens	317,916	497	3,383	3,034	6,417	49.5	12.9	-19.3
Lee	220,106	344	2,298	2,150	4,448	49.5	12.9	30.0
Lexington	280,742	439	2,004	1,345	3,349	83.8	7.6	54.5
McCormick	212,021	331	1,529	1,045	2,574	82.4	7.8	-31.6
Marion	216,907	339	1,456	1,460	2,916	74.4	8.6	-19.2
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,431	1,379	2,811	100.1	6.4	20.3
Newberry	317,761	497	3,301	3,395	6,696	47.5	13.5	-11.6
Oconee	284,348	444	831	277	1,109	256.5	2.5	-1.0
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,333	5,733	12,066	41.8	15.3	6.9
Pickens	219,926	344	1,018	610	1,628	135.1	4.7	0.9
Richland	340,121	531	2,328	2,269	4,597	74.0	8.7	9.3
Saluda	192,173	300	2,268	2,222	4,490	42.8	15.0	39.7
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,598	3,360	6,958	38.2	16.7	3.9
Sumter	338,968	530	3,035	2,379	5,414	62.6	10.2	6.1
Union	258,111	403	3,742	3,386	7,128	36.2	17.7	-9.4
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,390	3,786	8,176	62.8	10.2	-23.0
York	276,650	432	2,354	2,240	4,593	60.2	10.6	-24.7
Total	**14,028,896**	**21,920**	**120,365**	**111,338**	**231,703**	**70.7**	**11.0**	**-6.9**
95% Confidence Interval for harvest			**(+ -) 4,114**	**(+ -) 4,481**	**(+ -) 7,214**			

* 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 2009.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2008
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi.^{2}	
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,454	3,439	6,893	28.5	22.4	12.2
Allendale	216,455	338	3,086	3,249	6,336	34.2	18.7	0.4
Union	258,111	403	3,742	3,386	7,128	36.2	17.7	-9.4
Anderson	219,068	342	3,017	2,933	5,950	36.8	17.4	18.9
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,755	2,333	5,088	37.5	17.1	34.4
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,598	3,360	6,958	38.2	16.7	3.9
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,333	5,733	12,066	41.8	15.3	6.9
Saluda	192,173	300	2,268	2,222	4,490	42.8	15.0	39.7
Hampton	324,840	508	3,494	3,863	7,356	44.2	14.5	-20.4
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,352	2,148	4,501	45.4	14.1	-2.8
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,620	1,811	3,431	45.7	14.0	-0.8
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,513	2,347	4,860	45.9	13.9	-13.8
Newberry	317,761	497	3,301	3,395	6,696	47.5	13.5	-11.6
Colleton	502,666	785	5,305	4,878	10,182	49.4	13.0	-10.3
Lee	220,106	344	2,298	2,150	4,448	49.5	12.9	30.0
Laurens	317,916	497	3,383	3,034	6,417	49.5	12.9	-19.3
Chester	300,589	470	2,941	3,024	5,965	50.4	12.7	-5.0
Fairfield	384,607	601	3,500	3,681	7,181	53.6	11.9	-1.8
Charleston	288,732	451	2,795	2,525	5,321	54.3	11.8	-16.6
Florence	397,888	622	3,629	3,615	7,243	54.9	11.7	7.7
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,415	2,337	4,752	56.1	11.4	-7.4
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,977	3,239	6,216	58.0	11.0	6.5
Beaufort	147,441	230	1,063	1,416	2,480	59.5	10.8	15.3
York	276,650	432	2,354	2,240	4,593	60.2	10.6	-24.7
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,503	2,387	4,890	61.9	10.3	-12.0
Sumter	338,968	530	3,035	2,379	5,414	62.6	10.2	6.1
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,094	2,399	4,493	62.7	10.2	-27.0
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,390	3,786	8,176	62.8	10.2	-23.0
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,402	2,180	4,582	65.1	9.8	-36.2
Jasper	309,889	484	2,056	2,448	4,504	68.8	9.3	-26.0
Richland	340,121	531	2,328	2,269	4,597	74.0	8.7	9.3
Marion	216,907	339	1,456	1,460	2,916	74.4	8.6	-19.2
Edgefield	246,543	385	1,752	1,455	3,207	76.9	8.3	-22.8
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,480	2,060	4,540	82.1	7.8	0.5
McCormick	212,021	331	1,529	1,045	2,574	82.4	7.8	-31.6
Lexington	280,742	439	2,004	1,345	3,349	83.8	7.6	54.5
Georgetown	399,638	624	2,068	2,506	4,574	87.4	7.3	-12.1
Greenville	294,257	460	1,752	1,515	3,267	90.1	7.1	5.5
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,652	2,491	6,143	92.4	6.9	-17.2
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,431	1,379	2,811	100.1	6.4	20.3
Aiken	500,546	782	2,970	1,970	4,940	101.3	6.3	-14.8
Dillon	214,069	334	1,016	868	1,885	113.6	5.6	7.1
Pickens	219,926	344	1,018	610	1,628	135.1	4.7	0.9
Horry	533,336	833	2,318	1,364	3,682	144.9	4.4	-30.3
Darlington	286,228	447	1,087	784	1,871	153.0	4.2	-25.9
Oconee	284,348	444	831	277	1,109	256.5	2.5	-1.0
Total	**14,028,896**	**21,920**	**120,365**	**111,338**	**231,703**	**70.7**	**11.0**	**-6.9**

Table 3. County rankings based on total deer harvested in South Carolina in 2009.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2008
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi.^{2}	
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,333	5,733	12,066	41.8	15.3	6.9
Colleton	502,666	785	5,305	4,878	10,182	49.4	13.0	-10.3
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,390	3,786	8,176	62.8	10.2	-23.0
Hampton	324,840	508	3,494	3,863	7,356	44.2	14.5	-20.4
Florence	397,888	622	3,629	3,615	7,243	54.9	11.7	7.7
Fairfield	384,607	601	3,500	3,681	7,181	53.6	11.9	-1.8
Union	258,111	403	3,742	3,386	7,128	36.2	17.7	-9.4
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,598	3,360	6,958	38.2	16.7	3.9
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,454	3,439	6,893	28.5	22.4	12.2
Newberry	317,761	497	3,301	3,395	6,696	47.5	13.5	-11.6
Laurens	317,916	497	3,383	3,034	6,417	49.5	12.9	-19.3
Allendale	216,455	338	3,086	3,249	6,336	34.2	18.7	0.4
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,977	3,239	6,216	58.0	11.0	6.5
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,652	2,491	6,143	92.4	6.9	-17.2
Chester	300,589	470	2,941	3,024	5,965	50.4	12.7	-5.0
Anderson	219,068	342	3,017	2,933	5,950	36.8	17.4	18.9
Sumter	338,968	530	3,035	2,379	5,414	62.6	10.2	6.1
Charleston	288,732	451	2,795	2,525	5,321	54.3	11.8	-16.6
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,755	2,333	5,088	37.5	17.1	34.4
Aiken	500,546	782	2,970	1,970	4,940	101.3	6.3	-14.8
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,503	2,387	4,890	61.9	10.3	-12.0
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,513	2,347	4,860	45.9	13.9	-13.8
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,415	2,337	4,752	56.1	11.4	-7.4
Richland	340,121	531	2,328	2,269	4,597	74.0	8.7	9.3
York	276,650	432	2,354	2,240	4,593	60.2	10.6	-24.7
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,402	2,180	4,582	65.1	9.8	-36.2
Georgetown	399,638	624	2,068	2,506	4,574	87.4	7.3	-12.1
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,480	2,060	4,540	82.1	7.8	0.5
Jasper	309,889	484	2,056	2,448	4,504	68.8	9.3	-26.0
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,352	2,148	4,501	45.4	14.1	-2.8
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,094	2,399	4,493	62.7	10.2	-27.0
Saluda	192,173	300	2,268	2,222	4,490	42.8	15.0	39.7
Lee	220,106	344	2,298	2,150	4,448	49.5	12.9	30.0
Horry	533,336	833	2,318	1,364	3,682	144.9	4.4	-30.3
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,620	1,811	3,431	45.7	14.0	-0.8
Lexington	280,742	439	2,004	1,345	3,349	83.8	7.6	54.5
Greenville	294,257	460	1,752	1,515	3,267	90.1	7.1	5.5
Edgefield	246,543	385	1,752	1,455	3,207	76.9	8.3	-22.8
Marion	216,907	339	1,456	1,460	2,916	74.4	8.6	-19.2
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,431	1,379	2,811	100.1	6.4	20.3
McCormick	212,021	331	1,529	1,045	2,574	82.4	7.8	-31.6
Beaufort	147,441	230	1,063	1,416	2,480	59.5	10.8	15.3
Dillon	214,069	334	1,016	868	1,885	113.6	5.6	7.1
Darlington	286,228	447	1,087	784	1,871	153.0	4.2	-25.9
Pickens	219,926	344	1,018	610	1,628	135.1	4.7	0.9
Oconee	284,348	444	831	277	1,109	256.5	2.5	-1.0
Total	**14,028,896**	**21,920**	**120,365**	**111,338**	**231,703**	**70.7**	**11.0**	**-6.9**

Table 4. Estimated deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas in South Carolina in 2009

Area	Acreage	Bucks	Does	Total	Deer/Mi.^{2}
Mountain Hunt Unit	193,566	757	412	1,169	3.9
Central Piedmont Hunt Unit	159,793	1,885	1,806	3,691	14.8
Western Piedmont Hunt Unit	119,077	1,204	803	2,007	10.8
Subtotal for Upstate WMA's	**472,436**	**3,846**	**3,022**	**6,868**	**9.3**
Coastal WMA's*					
Bear Island WMA	1,519	9	15	24	10.1
Bonneau Ferry	10,697	57	45	102	6.1
Botany Bay WMA	2,000	21	40	61	19.5
Crackerneck WMA	10,470	87	32	119	7.3
Cross Generating Station WMA	654	10	17	27	26.4
Donnelley WMA	8,048	28	44	72	5.7
Francis Marion WMA	252,578	363	266	629	1.6
Hamilton Ridge	13,281	48	73	121	5.8
Hickory Top WMA	1,836	12	10	22	7.7
Manchester State Forest WMA	25,505	42	19	61	1.5
Moultrie WMA	9,480	29	24	53	3.6
Oak Lea WMA	2,024	35	38	73	23.1
Palachucola WMA	5,947	28	31	59	6.3
Santee Coastal Reserve WMA	5,000	5	19	24	3.1
Santee Cooper WMA	2,828	22	30	52	11.8
Victoria Bluff WMA	800	4	2	6	4.8
Webb Wildlife Center WMA	5,866	60	59	119	13.0
Subtotal for Coastal WMA's	**358,533**	**860**	**764**	**1,624**	**2.9**
Total	**830,969**	**4,706**	**3,786**	**8,492**	**6.5**

*Check Station data

Table 5. Hunter opinion (percent) regarding the number of deer in the area hunted most often in South Carolina in 2009 compared to previous years.

	Increasing	About the Same	Decreasing
Residents	14.7	50.5	34.8
Non-Residents	13.7	50.4	35.9
Overall	14.5	50.5	35.0

Table 6. Resident deer hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2009.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/ Hunter	Days/ Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	3,492	50,755	76	1.30	11.21	2,347	2,180	4,527
Aiken	3,899	53,973	72	1.23	11.24	2,864	1,940	4,804
Allendale	1,681	25,572	73	2.16	7.03	1,663	1,977	3,640
Anderson	3,529	58,241	75	1.64	10.07	2,956	2,827	5,783
Bamberg	3,030	53,011	79	1.90	9.21	2,788	2,970	5,757
Barnwell	2,254	36,732	82	1.74	9.38	1,700	2,217	3,917
Beaufort	1,072	13,895	74	2.02	6.43	942	1,219	2,162
Berkeley	3,880	74,072	70	1.57	12.15	3,621	2,476	6,097
Calhoun	2,716	43,235	74	1.85	8.60	2,753	2,273	5,026
Charleston	3,326	48,448	70	1.42	10.24	2,568	2,162	4,730
Cherokee	1,681	29,083	74	1.73	10.03	1,423	1,478	2,901
Chester	2,901	44,993	69	1.30	11.94	2,032	1,737	3,769
Chesterfield	2,199	44,584	70	1.82	11.12	2,162	1,848	4,009
Clarendon	2,069	29,249	81	2.21	6.38	2,402	2,180	4,582
Colleton	4,287	69,898	76	1.97	8.30	4,305	4,120	8,425
Darlington	1,534	21,674	69	1.18	11.97	1,072	739	1,811
Dillon	979	19,844	81	1.92	10.53	1,016	868	1,885
Dorchester	2,402	35,420	72	1.88	7.82	2,291	2,236	4,527
Edgefield	2,587	35,902	73	1.13	12.30	1,570	1,349	2,919
Fairfield	4,564	59,147	69	1.36	9.50	3,030	3,196	6,227
Florence	2,956	54,026	79	2.39	7.63	3,492	3,585	7,077
Georgetown	2,661	53,804	70	1.67	12.08	1,977	2,476	4,453
Greenville	2,882	33,684	67	1.13	10.36	1,737	1,515	3,252
Greenwood	3,141	43,551	73	1.34	10.34	2,125	2,088	4,213
Hampton	2,457	33,812	75	1.63	8.43	1,571	2,439	4,010
Horry	2,291	45,232	64	1.58	12.49	2,273	1,349	3,621
Jasper	1,478	18,755	78	2.13	5.97	1,238	1,903	3,141
Kershaw	3,160	54,711	75	1.77	9.80	2,735	2,845	5,580
Lancaster	2,217	36,935	75	1.66	10.05	1,885	1,792	3,677
Laurens	4,434	59,014	67	1.36	9.80	3,141	2,882	6,023
Lee	2,069	43,071	75	2.02	10.31	2,162	2,014	4,176
Lexington	3,012	46,119	72	1.09	14.02	1,959	1,330	3,289
McCormick	2,347	31,744	72	1.00	13.53	1,423	924	2,347
Marion	1,589	25,461	83	1.83	8.78	1,441	1,460	2,901
Marlboro	1,164	27,050	73	2.06	11.26	1,219	1,183	2,402
Newberry	4,915	77,198	68	1.30	12.07	3,104	3,289	6,393
Oconee	1,681	19,363	63	0.66	17.47	831	277	1,109
Orangeburg	6,319	104,891	76	1.78	9.34	5,894	5,340	11,233
Pickens	2,069	23,151	58	0.75	14.92	942	610	1,552
Richland	3,566	51,697	73	1.28	11.28	2,328	2,254	4,582
Saluda	3,086	46,099	75	1.40	10.66	2,162	2,162	4,324
Spartanburg	4,324	72,615	70	1.54	10.89	3,492	3,178	6,670
Sumter	3,067	48,891	80	1.71	9.32	2,975	2,273	5,248
Union	3,862	60,899	69	1.49	10.56	3,030	2,734	5,765
Williamsburg	3,658	67,717	83	2.09	8.87	4,102	3,529	7,631
York	3,049	46,544	67	1.30	11.72	2,051	1,922	3,972
Total	**131,537**	**2,073,756**	**70.0**	**1.58**	**10.06**	**106,794**	**99,344**	**206,137**
% Change from 2008	**1.2**	**-1.4**	**-2.4**	**-8.7**	**-4.5**	**-7.2**	**-4.3**	**-5.8**

Table 7. Non-resident hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2009.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/ Hunter	Days/ Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	182	1,711	83	1.83	5.14	167	167	333
Aiken	257	1,545	47	0.53	11.33	106	30	136
Allendale	1,181	15,492	73	2.28	5.75	1,424	1,272	2,696
Anderson	91	757	67	1.83	4.55	61	106	167
Bamberg	591	8,087	69	1.92	7.12	666	469	1,136
Barnwell	439	4,044	58	1.31	7.03	394	182	576
Beaufort	121	1,424	100	2.63	4.48	121	197	318
Berkeley	61	666	25	0.75	14.67	30	15	45
Calhoun	182	1,605	58	0.75	25.76	2	61	62
Charleston	212	1,863	78	2.79	3.15	227	363	591
Cherokee	379	6,028	64	1.40	11.37	197	333	530
Chester	1,196	17,462	68	1.84	7.95	909	1,287	2,196
Chesterfield	485	6,012	59	1.09	11.34	318	212	530
Clarendon	45	757	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
Colleton	833	14,978	70	2.11	8.53	1,000	757	1,757
Darlington	151	545	40	0.40	9.00	15	45	61
Dillon	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
Dorchester	273	1,363	67	1.33	3.75	212	151	363
Edgefield	197	3,786	61	1.46	13.16	182	106	288
Fairfield	878	13,221	62	1.09	13.86	469	485	954
Florence	167	1,045	45	1.00	6.27	136	30	167
Georgetown	91	485	83	1.33	4.00	91	30	121
Greenville	61	363	75	0.25	24.00	15	0	15
Greenwood	167	2,590	90	1.73	9.00	227	61	288
Hampton	1,514	26,306	81	2.21	7.86	1,923	1,424	3,347
Horry	76	606	80	0.80	10.00	45	15	61
Jasper	712	17,598	76	1.91	12.91	818	545	1,363
Kershaw	454	4,574	70	1.40	7.19	242	394	636
Lancaster	636	10,298	71	1.69	9.58	530	545	1,075
Laurens	242	3,317	75	1.63	8.42	242	151	394
Lee	151	1,651	80	1.80	6.06	136	136	273
Lexington	45	560	67	1.33	0.00	45	15	61
McCormick	257	3,074	70	0.88	13.53	106	121	227
Marion	45	121	67	0.33	8.00	15	0	15
Marlboro	197	4,316	76	2.08	10.56	212	197	409
Newberry	288	4,089	57	1.05	13.50	197	106	303
Oconee	30	348	50	1.00	0.00	0	0	0
Orangeburg	424	4,559	71	1.96	5.47	439	394	833
Pickens	61	560	75	1.25	7.40	76	0	76
Richland	106	424	14	0.14	27.99	0	15	15
Saluda	121	1,439	75	1.38	8.64	106	61	167
Spartanburg	197	2,408	69	1.46	8.37	106	182	288
Sumter	182	2,135	58	0.92	12.82	61	106	167
Union	863	14,660	78	1.58	10.75	712	651	1,363
Williamsburg	197	1,863	84	2.77	3.42	288	257	545
York	363	5,452	67	1.71	8.78	303	318	621
TOTAL	**15,402**	**216,187**	**67.0**	**1.67**	**8.46**	**13,571**	**11,994**	**25,566**
% Change from 2008	**-6.7**	**-0.1**	**-7.8**	**-8.8**	**-14.7**	**-16.8**	**-12.5**	**-14.8**

Table 8. Hunting effort (man/days) by county for successful and unsuccessful resident and non-resident deer hunters in South Carolina in 2009.

County	Residents (man/days)			Total Effort	Non-Residents (man/days)			Total Effort	Total
	Successful	Unsuccessful	Average	Residents	Successful	Unsuccessful	Average	Non-residents	Days
Abbeville	19.4	7.7	14.5	50,755	11.9	2.0	9.4	1,711	52,683
Aiken	20.9	6.0	13.8	53,973	9.0	3.3	6.0	1,545	55,810
Allendale	19.5	8.9	15.2	25,572	15.7	6.6	13.1	15,492	42,359
Anderson	20.9	8.2	16.5	58,241	8.7	8.0	8.3	757	59,120
Bamberg	22.9	6.2	17.5	53,011	18.1	5.9	13.7	8,087	61,765
Barnwell	21.6	5.8	16.3	36,732	12.3	5.4	9.2	4,044	41,271
Beaufort	18.1	5.2	13.0	13,895	11.8	0.0	11.8	1,424	15,471
Berkeley	24.0	11.4	19.1	74,072	8.0	12.0	11.0	666	74,834
Calhoun	22.0	6.3	15.9	43,235	10.8	6.8	8.8	1,605	45,060
Charleston	20.8	7.8	14.6	48,448	11.5	2.0	8.8	1,863	50,559
Cherokee	22.3	10.3	17.3	29,083	18.7	11.7	15.9	6,028	35,561
Chester	20.2	10.4	15.5	44,993	19.8	6.5	14.6	17,462	63,771
Chesterfield	27.1	10.9	20.3	44,584	14.3	9.9	12.4	6,012	51,150
Clarendon	18.1	5.3	14.1	29,249	0.0	16.7	16.7	757	30,088
Colleton	22.7	6.6	16.3	69,898	22.7	8.3	18.0	14,978	85,813
Darlington	19.5	7.8	14.1	21,674	5.3	2.5	3.6	545	22,392
Dillon	25.0	11.1	20.3	19,844	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	19,844
Dorchester	19.7	7.5	14.7	35,420	6.3	2.3	5.0	1,363	37,087
Edgefield	17.7	9.7	13.9	35,902	27.7	12.0	19.2	3,786	39,957
Fairfield	18.6	6.7	13.0	59,147	19.8	9.3	15.1	13,221	73,349
Florence	23.1	7.4	18.3	54,026	5.0	7.3	6.3	1,045	55,268
Georgetown	28.0	10.8	20.2	53,804	6.0	2.0	5.3	485	54,399
Greenville	15.3	8.3	11.7	33,684	8.0	5.3	6.0	363	34,131
Greenwood	17.6	9.1	13.9	43,551	17.0	9.0	15.5	2,590	46,360
Hampton	18.4	7.8	13.8	33,812	20.4	8.3	17.4	26,306	61,778
Horry	26.7	12.1	19.7	45,232	9.8	1.0	8.0	606	45,937
Jasper	17.9	6.0	12.7	18,755	26.5	18.9	24.7	17,598	37,181
Kershaw	24.0	7.6	17.3	54,711	12.4	6.5	10.1	4,574	59,798
Lancaster	21.4	7.6	16.7	36,935	19.1	10.4	16.2	10,298	47,956
Laurens	17.5	7.5	13.3	59,014	20.6	2.2	13.7	3,317	62,625
Lee	27.1	9.5	20.8	43,071	12.9	6.3	10.9	1,651	44,913
Lexington	21.7	9.5	15.3	46,119	17.0	3.0	12.3	560	46,760
McCormick	16.9	10.0	13.5	31,744	12.8	11.0	11.9	3,074	35,129
Marion	22.4	6.7	16.0	25,461	3.0	2.5	2.7	121	25,639
Marlboro	34.7	8.9	23.2	27,050	27.1	10.3	21.9	4,316	31,635
Newberry	20.9	9.4	15.7	77,198	15.8	12.8	14.2	4,089	81,636
Oconee	17.6	8.2	11.5	19,363	12.0	11.0	11.5	348	19,778
Orangeburg	22.6	7.2	16.6	104,891	13.6	5.6	10.8	4,559	109,931
Pickens	16.1	8.7	11.2	23,151	7.3	15.0	9.3	560	23,807
Richland	18.8	8.7	14.5	51,697	8.0	3.3	4.0	424	52,249
Saluda	18.4	10.4	14.9	46,099	14.7	3.5	11.9	1,439	47,697
Spartanburg	23.0	9.3	16.8	72,615	13.6	10.0	12.2	2,408	75,269
Sumter	21.3	7.8	15.9	48,891	15.7	7.8	11.8	2,135	51,255
Union	21.3	8.0	15.8	60,899	19.5	9.3	17.0	14,660	76,524
Williamsburg	25.2	6.6	18.5	67,717	10.0	6.5	9.5	1,863	69,816
York	21.2	8.3	15.3	46,544	24.0	6.0	15.0	5,452	52,429
Total	**21.3**	**8.3**	**15.7**	**2,073,756**	**17.5**	**7.9**	**14.0**	**216,187**	**2,289,943**
% Change from 2008	**-1.2**	**0.0**	**-3.1**	**-1.4**	**8.6**	**-4.9**	**-5.8**	**-0.10**	**-1.3**

Table 9. Estimated deer harvest by weapon type in South Carolina in 2009.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun	Total
Number of Deer Harvested	180,728	15,756	25,487	7,183	1,390	1,159	231,703
Percent Total Deer Harvest	78.0	6.8	11.0	3.1	0.6	0.5	100.0
Percent Hunter Success With Weapon	65.0	29.0	34.7	29.1	23.5	16.5	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 2009.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun
Residents	121,540	34,200	40,908	21,704	4,998	6,051
Non-Residents	14,616	2,634	1,941	3,512	724	570
Total	136,157	36,833	42,849	25,215	5,722	6,621

Total across weapons not given because hunters use multiple weapons. Total hunters = 146,939.

Table 12. Weapons utilization (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2009.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun
Residents	92.4*	26.0*	31.1*	16.5*	3.8	4.6
Non-Residents	94.9	17.1	12.6	22.8	4.7	3.7
Total	92.8	24.6	28.2	17.5	3.9	4.4

* Significant difference in weapons use category based on residency.

Table 12. Weapons preference (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2009.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun	Total
Residents	76.8*	12.7*	8.1*	1.3*	0.5	0.7	100.0
Non-Residents	84.5	8.4	2.9	2.6	1.3	0.3	100.0
Total	78.0	12.0	7.3	1.5	0.6	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 2009.

County	Hog Harv.	Harv./ Mile^2	% Change from 2008	2009 Rank	2008 Rank	Coyote Harv.	Harv./ Mile^2	% Change from 2008	2009 Rank	2008 Rank
Abbeville	1,231	3.53	-36.6	5	3	1,208	3.47	44.7	1	6
Aiken	1,117	1.43	-21.8	23	17	571	0.73	-44.7	39	16
Allendale	1,391	4.11	-43.5	4	1	703	2.08	77.9	12	21
Anderson	844	2.46	-16.5	14	11	1,010	2.95	35.3	4	7
Bamberg	844	2.75	-6.4	11	12	944	3.07	65.4	3	9
Barnwell	410	0.93	-33.3	27	21	329	0.75	-37.5	37	20
Beaufort	182	0.79	-17.1	28	26	22	0.10	-93.7	46	12
Berkeley	1,801	2.03	82.3	20	24	242	0.27	-31.2	44	44
Calhoun	1,596	5.36	304.0	1	22	483	1.62	10.1	15	14
Charleston	958	2.12	-49.9	19	6	176	0.39	-70.4	42	18
Cherokee	23	0.09	-60.0	44	36	351	1.44	-61.0	20	1
Chester	342	0.73	418.2	30	38	1,274	2.71	123.1	7	19
Chesterfield	456	0.78	3.9	29	31	1,032	1.77	213.8	14	39
Clarendon	1,231	2.64	75.1	13	19	922	1.98	50.0	13	16
Colleton	1,733	2.21	-23.4	16	13	615	0.78	210.6	35	46
Darlington	1,300	2.91	-10.4	10	9	483	1.08	69.0	28	38
Dillon	1,072	3.20	44.4	8	14	286	0.85	-1.5	33	33
Dorchester	1,573	3.33	-10.5	7	7	264	0.56	-52.0	41	22
Edgefield	114	0.30	*	39	43	571	1.48	-38.1	19	5
Fairfield	365	0.61	-20.9	33	29	922	1.54	199.5	17	42
Florence	1,163	1.87	103.6	21	28	615	0.99	115.0	30	43
Georgetown	2,166	3.47	9.7	6	10	461	0.74	-30.0	38	29
Greenville	137	0.30	-30.9	39	34	593	1.29	50.1	23	34
Greenwood	114	0.36	-26.0	38	33	373	1.17	13.5	27	31
Hampton	1,573	3.10	-36.1	9	4	461	0.91	16.8	31	37
Horry	593	0.71	-67.9	31	15	176	0.21	-38.6	45	45
Jasper	1,186	2.45	58.7	15	18	571	1.18	-27.8	26	11
Kershaw	319	0.57	-70.3	34	16	879	1.56	37.9	16	24
Lancaster	160	0.38	625.4	37	42	1,054	2.53	19.9	9	8
Laurens	68	0.14	3.6	43	39	1,098	2.21	150.2	11	32
Lee	342	0.99	418.2	26	37	879	2.55	74.0	8	15
Lexington	0	0.00	-100.0	46	32	593	1.35	-27.1	21	10
McCormick	91	0.28	107.3	41	39	286	0.86	62.2	32	41
Marion	1,436	4.24	-38.0	3	2	110	0.32	-68.7	43	30
Marlboro	935	2.13	77.4	18	23	549	1.25	-47.9	24	4
Newberry	114	0.23	*	42	43	1,406	2.83	146.2	6	23
Oconee	684	1.54	48.4	22	25	286	0.64	-74.5	40	3
Orangeburg	388	0.49	-48.1	36	26	944	1.20	115.1	25	40
Pickens	365	1.06	38.2	25	29	264	0.77	-50.0	36	12
Richland	2,280	4.29	-7.0	2	5	571	1.07	0.0	29	27
Saluda	160	0.53	625.4	35	41	1,010	3.36	0.0	2	2
Spartanburg	524	1.26	376.7	24	35	1,208	2.91	162.0	5	25
Sumter	1,459	2.75	-21.8	11	8	703	1.33	60.1	22	36
Union	274	0.68	*	32	43	944	2.34	115.1	10	26
Williamsburg	1,756	2.19	50.8	17	20	681	0.85	0.0	33	35
York	23	0.05	*	45	43	659	1.52	42.9	18	27
Total	**36,888**	**1.68**	**-9.4**	**NA**	**NA**	**29,783**	**1.36**	**14.3**	**NA**	**NA**
	(+ -) 3,011					**(+ -) 1,540**				

95% Confidence Interval for harvest

*No indication of hogs harvested in 2008

Table 14. Number of deer-vehicle collisions reported by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety 2003-2009.

County	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009*
Abbeville	16	5	5	11	22	10	8
Aiken	57	60	31	47	57	54	59
Allendale	12	7	5	10	13	5	8
Anderson	32	27	27	47	67	75	87
Bamberg	10	13	8	20	14	14	21
Barnwell	19	13	17	29	13	11	16
Beaufort	73	100	57	110	128	157	155
Berkeley	63	52	35	40	62	66	84
Calhoun	21	6	8	10	16	27	14
Charleston	150	159	100	175	194	200	182
Cherokee	12	8	4	10	7	13	17
Chester	13	5	7	7	22	17	20
Chesterfield	4	4	4	7	18	20	25
Clarendon	37	29	12	16	34	35	47
Colleton	36	48	24	45	59	64	60
Darlington	20	10	9	13	24	38	29
Dillon	8	4	4	8	5	8	17
Dorchester	91	73	52	48	82	63	67
Edgefield	24	22	15	17	24	15	12
Fairfield	14	16	11	9	26	16	15
Florence	40	27	17	24	40	39	56
Georgetown	25	13	16	8	15	16	20
Greenville	45	53	18	56	87	63	96
Greenwood	42	32	16	33	63	21	27
Hampton	19	16	10	25	14	16	13
Horry	48	46	24	45	67	70	95
Jasper	37	38	23	50	61	75	63
Kershaw	22	28	11	18	30	24	29
Lancaster	16	18	7	11	13	29	20
Laurens	65	59	34	48	51	45	27
Lee	21	10	15	8	15	18	27
Lexington	60	43	26	34	50	37	36
McCormick	13	6	6	11	12	11	4
Marion	6	7	0	4	10	15	13
Marlboro	8	7	5	7	9	14	10
Newberry	33	32	21	31	31	21	14
Oconee	10	4	9	13	15	17	18
Orangeburg	53	35	25	64	88	86	55
Pickens	20	17	11	18	13	21	22
Richland	75	83	51	64	94	96	100
Saluda	18	16	16	10	27	25	11
Spartanburg	86	68	35	94	91	106	113
Sumter	44	37	38	30	48	58	51
Union	10	10	9	9	10	12	17
Williamsburg	28	18	21	19	30	42	42
York	29	17	11	53	43	36	31
Total	**1,585**	**1,401**	**910**	**1,466**	**1,914**	**1,921**	**1,953**

* 2009 data preliminary.

Table 15. Average live body weights of deer from South Carolina counties, based on historic data.

	Males				Females			
	1.5 Years Old		2.5+ Years Old		1.5 Years Old		2.5+ Years Old	
COUNTY	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

	1.5 Years Old Males			2.5+ Years Old Males			
COUNTY	Number Points	Percent Spikes	Outside Spread	Number Points	Percent Spikes	Outside Spread	% 1.5 Bucks in Antlered Harvest
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 2009 Deer Hunter Survey

January, 2010

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 harvest 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. There is no number on your survey form, therefore, there is no way to link your responses to you. Keep in mind that the primary 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 2009 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 2008 survey can be found at www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/deer/2008/DeerHarvestReport.html

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 2009 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, gender, 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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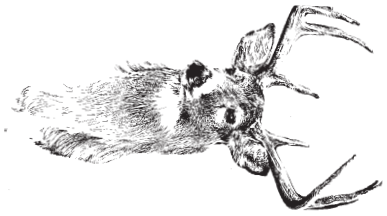

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DEER HUNTER SURVEY
SC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 167
COLUMBIA SC 29202-9976

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Figure 1. Cont.

2009 South Carolina Deer Hunter Survey

1. Did you hunt deer in SC this past season (2009)? **1. Yes** **2. No**
   If you answered **No** to this question please **go to question # 9.**

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 (2009). 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

If you did not harvest any deer in SC in 2009 please go to question # 6.

4. Please record the number of deer taken by month of season in SC last season (2009).

August	September	October	November	December	January

5. Please record the number of deer taken with each weapon in SC last season (2009).

Rifle	Bow	Shotgun	Muzzleloader	Crossbow	Handgun

6. Please circle **all** the weapons that you hunted deer with in 2009.
   1. Rifle 2. Bow 3. Shotgun 4. Muzzleloader 5. Crossbow 6. Handgun

7. Please circle the **one** weapon that you **prefer to hunt deer with**.
   1. Rifle 2. Bow 3. Shotgun 4. Muzzleloader 5. Crossbow 6. Handgun

8. 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

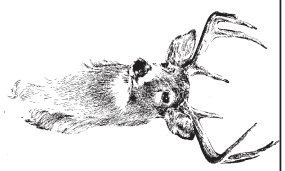
9. If you **harvested** any wild hogs or coyotes while hunting in SC in 2009, please complete the box below.
   If you did not harvest any hogs or coyotes please **go to question # 10.**

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

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

11. If yes, which county _____

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



Help Manage SC's Deer Herd

COMPLETE YOUR HUNTER SURVEY

DEER HUNTER SURVEY
SCDNR
PO BOX 167
COLUMBIA SC 29202-0167
www.dnr.sc.gov

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Figure 2. Percent of deer harvested by month of season in South Carolina in 2009. Note that December includes January 1 which is the last day of deer season.

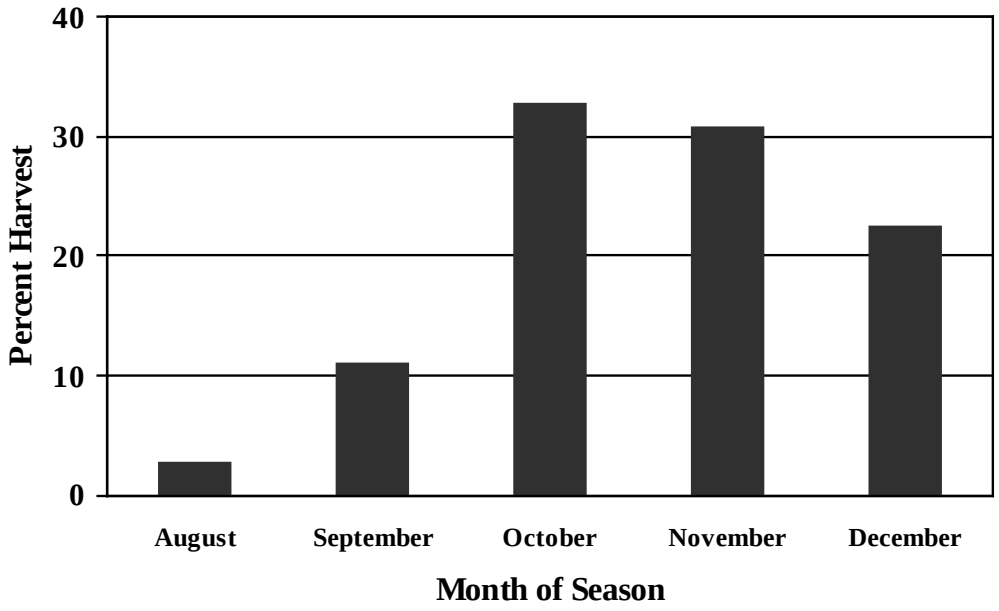

Figure 3. Percent of female deer conceiving by week in South Carolina, based on historic data.

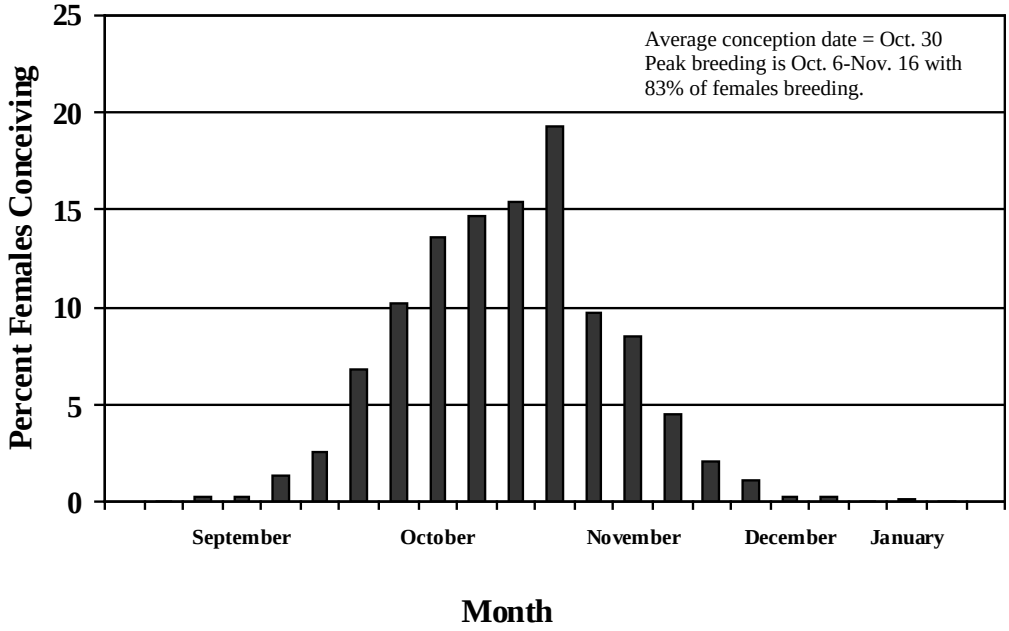

Figure 4. Estimated deer harvest in South Carolina 1972-2009.

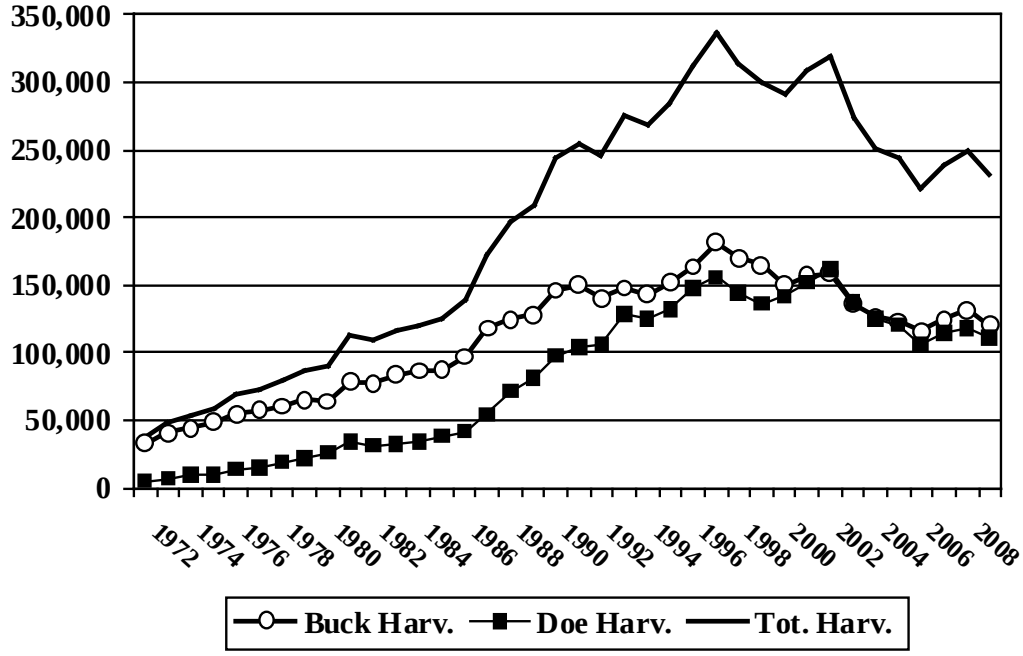
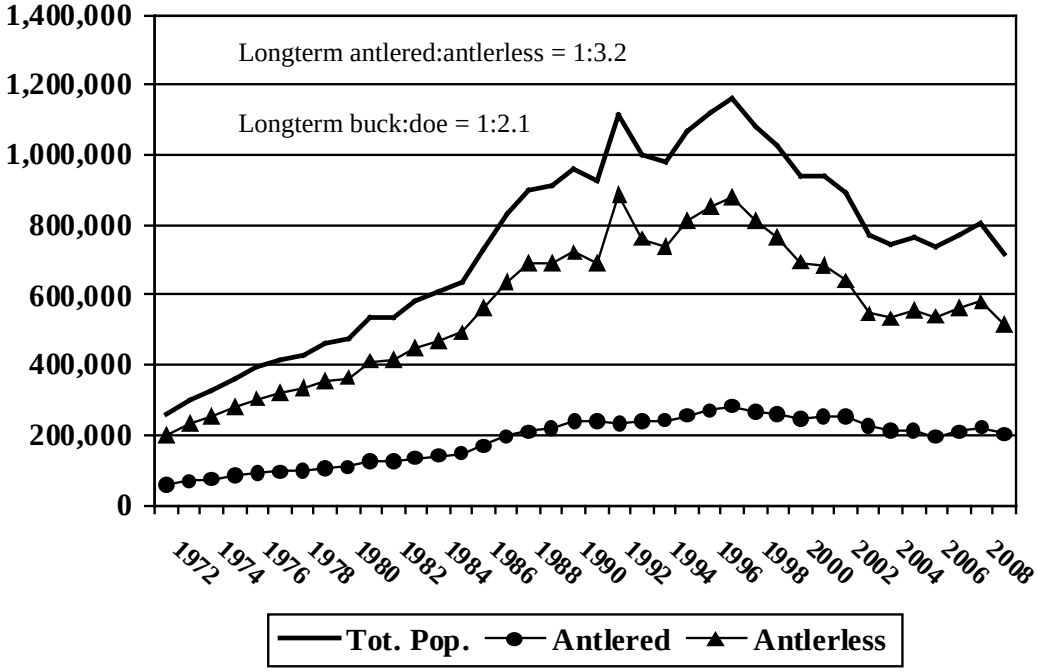
Figure 5. Estimated South Carolina deer population 1972-2009 based on population reconstruction modeling. Note that antlerless deer includes male fawns (button bucks).