

2014 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 (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is the most popular, sought after, economically important, and controversial game animal in South Carolina. The 2014 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 2014, (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 (+- 3.3 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 2014 Deer Hunter Survey represents a random mail survey that involved a single mail-out. The questionnaire for the 2014 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 2014. Since deer season 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 (648). Therefore, the actual attempted sample was 24,352 representing 14.6 percent of the entire population (166,703) of license holders. A total of 6,457 completed surveys were returned yielding a 26.5 percent response rate and 3.9 percent sampling rate on the entire licensee population.

Deer Harvest

During the 2014 deer season it is estimated that a total of 109,446 bucks and 93,506 does were harvested for a statewide total of 202,952 deer (Table 1). This figure represents a 9 percent decrease in harvest from 2013 (225,806) and is 36.7 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. 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 has recently completed 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 the first 3 years of the study indicated approximately 70 percent total fawn mortality with coyotes being responsible for approximately 80 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.

The last 3 years of the study were for the purpose of determining if reducing coyote density through trapping increases fawn survival. It seems logical that if coyotes are preying on fawns, then significantly reducing coyote densities should increase fawn survival. Over the course of the 3 year coyote “control” phase, 474 coyotes were trapped/killed on the study areas. Overall, results showed only modest increases in fawn survival following these efforts with an overall average of about 39 percent increase in survival. Also, trapping seemed to help in some years but have little effect on predation in others. This “year” effect may have something to do with the availability of coyote food sources that may change in abundance annually. Given these results and the difficulty and high cost of coyote control, it seems apparent that making adjustments to how we manage deer, particularly female deer, is more important now than prior to the colonization of the state by coyotes.

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 2014 was 9.6 deer per square mile over the entire state (Table 2). Although the deer population in the state has declined in recent years, South Carolina remains at the top among southeastern states, many of which have also noted a declining trend. The top 5 counties for harvest per unit area were Bamberg (18.0 deer/mile²), Greenwood (15.5 deer/mile²), Spartanburg (15.2 deer/mile²), Abbeville (14.6 deer/mile²), and Hampton (14.1 deer/mile²).

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 2014 were Orangeburg, Colleton, Williamsburg, Hampton, and Berkeley.

Deer Harvest on Wildlife Management Areas

Deer hunting on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) remains popular in South Carolina with approximately 59,408 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 2014 season it is estimated that 4,087 bucks, 3,121 does and 6 deer of unknown sex were harvested for a total deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas of 7,214 (Table 4). This figure represents a 15.9 percent decrease from 2013.

Hunter Opinion Regarding the Deer Population

The 2014 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. Just under half (47.9%) 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 (41.0%) believed that the deer population was decreasing than increasing (11.1%). On a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being increasing, 2 being neutral, and 3 being decreasing, the overall mean rating of 2.3 suggests that hunters viewed the deer population as decreasing. The opinion among hunters that the deer population is decreasing has been consistent the last few years and in 2014 this opinion was the strongest to date. 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 percent actually hunted deer. For residents, 86 percent of sampled licensees hunted deer and for non-residents 91 percent hunted deer. Extrapolating to the respective licensee populations yields 130,176 residents (Table 6) and 14,085 non-residents (Table 7) for a total of 144,261 deer hunters statewide during 2014. This figure represents a 2.1 percent decrease from the 147,273 hunters in 2013. Counties with the highest estimates for individual hunters include Orangeburg, Spartanburg, Fairfield, Laurens, Williamsburg, and Berkeley for resident hunters (Table 6) and Hampton, Chester, Allendale, Chester, and Union 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 2014 was 70 percent, which should be considered very good. Success rates for residents (70%, Table 6) were the same as non-residents (70%, 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 Jasper, Barnwell, Bamberg, Beaufort, and Hampton. Non-residents experienced the highest success in Saluda, Beaufort, Dorchester, and Union. 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 16 days afield for a total of 2,063,216 days deer hunting and non-residents averaged 13 days for a total of 179,397 days (Table 8). Total effort expended deer hunting in South Carolina during 2014 was estimated at 2,242,613 days (Table 8), down 4.2 percent from 2013. 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 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 2014 were Orangeburg, Spartanburg, Williamsburg, Colleton, and Berkeley (Table 8). Resident hunters expended the most hunting effort in Orangeburg, Williamsburg, Spartanburg, Berkeley, and Colleton counties. Non-residents hunted the most in Hampton, Chester, Lancaster, Allendale, and Jasper counties and these 5 counties totaled 37 percent of all the non-resident deer hunting effort that took place in South Carolina in 2014.

Resident hunters who were successful at harvesting at least one deer averaged over twice as many days (21 days) afield as unsuccessful residents (9 days) (Table 8). Similarly, successful non-residents (15 days) averaged about 2 times the days afield when compared with unsuccessful non-residents (8 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 days, Table 7) compared to residents (11 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 Hampton, Beaufort, Barnwell, Jasper, and Dillon for resident hunters (Table 6). On the other hand, non-residents spent less time to harvest a deer in Clarendon, Darlington, Florence, Barnwell and Bamberg counties (Table 7), however, only Bamberg County 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 (80.2%) of deer are harvested with centerfire rifles (Table 9). Shotguns (8.9%) 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 to the total harvest (Table 9).

Although rifles are used by over 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 (25.1%) and shotguns (24.6%) than non-residents (11.7% archery and 8.1% 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 (20.6%) used muzzleloaders more frequently than residents (13.0%). 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 (78.3%) of deer hunters prefer rifles (Table 12). Bows (12.6%) 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 (6.4%) than non-residents (1.3%) and muzzleloaders are preferred more by non-residents (2.8%) 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 2014 Deer Hunter Survey asked hunters to provide information on the month of kill for deer taken during the 2014 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 2014 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 and legislation passed in 2010 prohibits the removal of a live hog from the woods without a permit (SC Code Section 50-16-25).

During 2014 an estimated 29,383 wild hogs were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 13), a 17 percent decrease from 2013 (35,281 hogs). Hog numbers and thus harvest, can vary substantially from year to year due to bottomland flooding during the winter farrowing season. Evidence of the presence of hogs in 46 of 46 counties was made by hunter harvest activities (46 of 46 counties in 2013). Statewide, approximately 1.3 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 Abbeville (4.4 hogs/mile²), Hampton (3.3 hogs/mile²), Allendale (2.6 hogs/mile²), Anderson (2.6 hogs/mile²), and Clarendon (2.6 hogs/mile²).

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. SCDNR has recently completed 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 the first 3 years of the study indicated approximately 70 percent total fawn mortality with coyotes being responsible for approximately 80 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. The final 3 years of the study is attempting to determine if coyote control (trap/kill) leads to increased fawn survival on the area.

The last 3 years of the study were for the purpose of determining if reducing coyote density through trapping increases fawn survival. It seems logical that if coyotes are preying on fawns, then significantly reducing coyote densities should increase fawn survival. Over the course of the 3 year coyote "control" phase, 474 coyotes were trapped/killed on the study areas. Overall, results showed only modest increases in fawn survival following these efforts with an overall average of about 35 percent increase in survival. Also, trapping seemed to help in some years but have little effect on predation in others. This "year" effect may have something to do with the availability of coyote food sources that may change in abundance annually. Given these results and the difficulty and high cost of coyote control, it seems apparent that making

adjustments to how we manage deer, particularly female deer, is more important now than prior to the colonization of the state by coyotes.

Coyotes are not protected animals in South Carolina and hunters are allowed to harvest them throughout the year during daylight hours. During 2014 it is estimated that approximately 31,306 coyotes were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 13), an increase of 4 percent from 2013 (30,076 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 1.4 coyotes/mile² were harvested and the top 5 counties for coyote harvest per unit area included Anderson (3.7 coyotes/mile²), Abbeville (3.4 coyotes/mile²), Edgefield (3.0 coyotes/mile²), Lancaster (3.0 coyotes/mile²), and Laurens (3.0 coyotes/mile²).

Supplementary Information

The following section is not related to the 2014 Big Game Hunter Survey, but is offered as information relevant to the state's deer population.

Data related to deer-vehicle collisions for 2014 was not available from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) at the time of this publication, therefore, 2013 is the most current data available (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 characteristics 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 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 and ultimate reduction in the State's deer population. Habitat is also very important. 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, a combination of habitat change, high deer harvests, and the establishment of coyotes has caused the deer population to trend down since 2000. Currently the statewide population is estimated at about 730,000 deer.

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Table 1. Estimated statewide deer harvest in South Carolina in 2014.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2013
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²	
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,682	2,404	5,086	43.9	14.6	-0.7
Aiken	500,546	782	2,816	2,180	4,996	100.2	6.4	-15.0
Allendale	216,455	338	1,959	2,095	4,054	53.4	12.0	-29.0
Anderson	219,068	342	2,616	2,074	4,690	46.7	13.7	-9.8
Bamberg	196,573	307	2,346	3,177	5,523	35.6	18.0	-3.8
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,068	2,306	4,374	64.4	9.9	-14.3
Beaufort	147,441	230	1,480	1,331	2,811	52.5	12.2	80.9
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,787	2,583	6,370	89.1	7.2	15.6
Calhoun	190,584	298	1,774	1,871	3,645	52.3	12.2	-25.5
Charleston	288,732	451	2,538	2,163	4,701	61.4	10.4	8.5
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,558	1,251	2,809	55.8	11.5	-23.2
Chester	300,589	470	2,651	2,106	4,757	63.2	10.1	-14.4
Chesterfield	372,478	582	1,782	1,797	3,579	104.1	6.1	-26.2
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,239	1,937	4,176	71.4	9.0	-29.9
Colleton	502,666	785	4,530	4,132	8,662	58.0	11.0	8.0
Darlington	286,228	447	990	598	1,588	180.2	3.6	-26.5
Dillon	214,069	334	865	1,150	2,015	106.2	6.0	34.3
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,802	2,182	4,984	60.7	10.5	-9.0
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,317	1,530	3,847	64.1	10.0	-29.2
Fairfield	384,607	601	3,194	2,539	5,733	67.1	9.5	-28.3
Florence	397,888	622	2,899	2,441	5,340	74.5	8.6	-3.6
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,888	2,083	3,971	100.6	6.4	17.3
Greenville	294,257	460	1,843	1,558	3,401	86.5	7.4	12.8
Greenwood	204,400	319	3,062	1,892	4,954	41.3	15.5	20.1
Hampton	324,840	508	3,122	4,055	7,177	45.3	14.1	-3.3
Horry	533,336	833	2,385	1,334	3,719	143.4	4.5	-22.5
Jasper	309,889	484	1,826	1,880	3,706	83.6	7.7	-2.6
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,881	2,262	5,143	70.1	9.1	-9.4
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,457	2,340	4,797	55.5	11.5	-5.8
Laurens	317,916	497	3,126	2,418	5,544	57.3	11.2	-12.9
Lee	220,106	344	1,647	1,433	3,080	71.5	9.0	-18.0
Lexington	280,742	439	1,678	1,015	2,693	104.2	6.1	-11.1
McCormick	212,021	331	1,244	778	2,022	104.9	6.1	-31.7
Marion	216,907	339	1,047	778	1,825	118.9	5.4	4.7
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,214	1,047	2,261	124.4	5.1	-21.0
Newberry	317,761	497	3,081	2,676	5,757	55.2	11.6	-28.3
Oconee	284,348	444	1,147	603	1,750	162.5	3.9	18.7
Orangeburg	504,516	788	5,485	4,745	10,230	49.3	13.0	-13.0
Pickens	219,926	344	1,355	716	2,071	106.2	6.0	-5.0
Richland	340,121	531	1,807	1,609	3,416	99.6	6.4	-2.6
Saluda	192,173	300	1,838	1,388	3,226	59.6	10.7	-19.7
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,146	3,158	6,304	42.2	15.2	-8.2
Sumter	338,968	530	2,972	2,423	5,395	62.8	10.2	15.2
Union	258,111	403	2,516	2,299	4,815	53.6	11.9	-33.4
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,308	3,215	7,523	68.3	9.4	0.1
York	276,650	432	2,478	1,954	4,432	62.4	10.3	-16.8
Total	#####	21,920	109,446	93,506	202,952	76.8	9.6	-9.0
95% Confidence Interval for harvest			(+ -) 3,678	(+ -) 3,707	(+ -) 5,986			

* 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 2014.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2013
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²	
Bamberg	196,573	307	2,346	3,177	5,523	35.6	18.0	-3.8
Greenwood	204,400	319	3,062	1,892	4,954	41.3	15.5	20.1
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,146	3,158	6,304	42.2	15.2	-8.2
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,682	2,404	5,086	43.9	14.6	-0.7
Hampton	324,840	508	3,122	4,055	7,177	45.3	14.1	-3.3
Anderson	219,068	342	2,616	2,074	4,690	46.7	13.7	-9.8
Orangeburg	504,516	788	5,485	4,745	10,230	49.3	13.0	-13.0
Calhoun	190,584	298	1,774	1,871	3,645	52.3	12.2	-25.5
Beaufort	147,441	230	1,480	1,331	2,811	52.5	12.2	80.9
Allendale	216,455	338	1,959	2,095	4,054	53.4	12.0	-29.0
Union	258,111	403	2,516	2,299	4,815	53.6	11.9	-33.4
Newberry	317,761	497	3,081	2,676	5,757	55.2	11.6	-28.3
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,457	2,340	4,797	55.5	11.5	-5.8
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,558	1,251	2,809	55.8	11.5	-23.2
Laurens	317,916	497	3,126	2,418	5,544	57.3	11.2	-12.9
Colleton	502,666	785	4,530	4,132	8,662	58.0	11.0	8.0
Saluda	192,173	300	1,838	1,388	3,226	59.6	10.7	-19.7
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,802	2,182	4,984	60.7	10.5	-9.0
Charleston	288,732	451	2,538	2,163	4,701	61.4	10.4	8.5
York	276,650	432	2,478	1,954	4,432	62.4	10.3	-16.8
Sumter	338,968	530	2,972	2,423	5,395	62.8	10.2	15.2
Chester	300,589	470	2,651	2,106	4,757	63.2	10.1	-14.4
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,317	1,530	3,847	64.1	10.0	-29.2
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,068	2,306	4,374	64.4	9.9	-14.3
Fairfield	384,607	601	3,194	2,539	5,733	67.1	9.5	-28.3
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,308	3,215	7,523	68.3	9.4	0.1
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,881	2,262	5,143	70.1	9.1	-9.4
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,239	1,937	4,176	71.4	9.0	-29.9
Lee	220,106	344	1,647	1,433	3,080	71.5	9.0	-18.0
Florence	397,888	622	2,899	2,441	5,340	74.5	8.6	-3.6
Jasper	309,889	484	1,826	1,880	3,706	83.6	7.7	-2.6
Greenville	294,257	460	1,843	1,558	3,401	86.5	7.4	12.8
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,787	2,583	6,370	89.1	7.2	15.6
Richland	340,121	531	1,807	1,602	3,409	99.8	6.4	-2.8
Aiken	500,546	782	2,816	2,180	4,996	100.2	6.4	-15.0
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,888	2,083	3,971	100.6	6.4	17.3
Chesterfield	372,478	582	1,782	1,797	3,579	104.1	6.1	-26.2
Lexington	280,742	439	1,678	1,015	2,693	104.2	6.1	-11.1
McCormick	212,021	331	1,244	778	2,022	104.9	6.1	-31.7
Pickens	219,926	344	1,355	716	2,071	106.2	6.0	-5.0
Dillon	214,069	334	865	1,150	2,015	106.2	6.0	34.3
Marion	216,907	339	1,037	773	1,810	119.8	5.3	3.8
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,214	1,047	2,261	124.4	5.1	-21.0
Horry	533,336	833	2,385	1,334	3,719	143.4	4.5	-22.5
Oconee	284,348	444	1,147	603	1,750	162.5	3.9	18.7
Darlington	286,228	447	990	598	1,588	180.2	3.6	-26.5
Total	14,028,896	21,920	109,436	93,494	202,930	76.9	9.6	-9.0

Table 3. County rankings based on total deer harvested in South Carolina in 2014.

County	Acres	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2013
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²	
Orangeburg	504,516	788	5,485	4,745	10,230	49.3	13.0	-13.0
Colleton	502,666	785	4,530	4,132	8,662	58.0	11.0	8.0
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,308	3,215	7,523	68.3	9.4	0.1
Hampton	324,840	508	3,122	4,055	7,177	45.3	14.1	-3.3
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,787	2,583	6,370	89.1	7.2	15.6
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,146	3,158	6,304	42.2	15.2	-8.2
Newberry	317,761	497	3,081	2,676	5,757	55.2	11.6	-28.3
Fairfield	384,607	601	3,194	2,539	5,733	67.1	9.5	-28.3
Laurens	317,916	497	3,126	2,418	5,544	57.3	11.2	-12.9
Bamberg	196,573	307	2,346	3,177	5,523	35.6	18.0	-3.8
Sumter	338,968	530	2,972	2,423	5,395	62.8	10.2	15.2
Florence	397,888	622	2,899	2,441	5,340	74.5	8.6	-3.6
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,881	2,262	5,143	70.1	9.1	-9.4
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,682	2,404	5,086	43.9	14.6	-0.7
Aiken	500,546	782	2,816	2,180	4,996	100.2	6.4	-15.0
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,802	2,182	4,984	60.7	10.5	-9.0
Greenwood	204,400	319	3,062	1,892	4,954	41.3	15.5	20.1
Union	258,111	403	2,516	2,299	4,815	53.6	11.9	-33.4
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,457	2,340	4,797	55.5	11.5	-5.8
Chester	300,589	470	2,651	2,106	4,757	63.2	10.1	-14.4
Charleston	288,732	451	2,538	2,163	4,701	61.4	10.4	8.5
Anderson	219,068	342	2,616	2,074	4,690	46.7	13.7	-9.8
York	276,650	432	2,478	1,954	4,432	62.4	10.3	-16.8
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,068	2,306	4,374	64.4	9.9	-14.3
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,239	1,937	4,176	71.4	9.0	-29.9
Allendale	216,455	338	1,959	2,095	4,054	53.4	12.0	-29.0
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,888	2,083	3,971	100.6	6.4	17.3
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,317	1,530	3,847	64.1	10.0	-29.2
Horry	533,336	833	2,385	1,334	3,719	143.4	4.5	-22.5
Jasper	309,889	484	1,826	1,880	3,706	83.6	7.7	-2.6
Calhoun	190,584	298	1,774	1,871	3,645	52.3	12.2	-25.5
Chesterfield	372,478	582	1,782	1,797	3,579	104.1	6.1	-26.2
Richland	340,121	531	1,807	1,602	3,409	99.8	6.4	-2.8
Greenville	294,257	460	1,843	1,558	3,401	86.5	7.4	12.8
Saluda	192,173	300	1,838	1,388	3,226	59.6	10.7	-19.7
Lee	220,106	344	1,647	1,433	3,080	71.5	9.0	-18.0
Beaufort	147,441	230	1,480	1,331	2,811	52.5	12.2	80.9
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,558	1,251	2,809	55.8	11.5	-23.2
Lexington	280,742	439	1,678	1,015	2,693	104.2	6.1	-11.1
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,214	1,047	2,261	124.4	5.1	-21.0
Pickens	219,926	344	1,355	716	2,071	106.2	6.0	-5.0
McCormick	212,021	331	1,244	778	2,022	104.9	6.1	-31.7
Dillon	214,069	334	865	1,150	2,015	106.2	6.0	34.3
Marion	216,907	339	1,037	773	1,810	119.8	5.3	3.8
Oconee	284,348	444	1,147	603	1,750	162.5	3.9	18.7
Darlington	286,228	447	990	598	1,588	180.2	3.6	-26.5
Total	14,028,896	21,920	109,436	93,494	202,930	76.9	9.6	-9.0

Table 4. Estimated deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas in South Carolina in 2014.

Area	Acreage	Bucks	Does	Total	Deer/Mi.²
Mountain Hunt Unit	193,566	985	563	1,548	5.1
Central Piedmont Hunt Unit	159,793	1,528	1,318	2,846	11.4
Western Piedmont Hunt Unit	119,077	1,018	728	1,746	9.4
Subtotal for Upstate WMA's	472,436	3,532	2,610	6,140	8.3
Coastal WMA's*					
Bear Island WMA	1,519	8	15	23	9.7
Bonneau Ferry	10,697	50	33	83	5.0
Botany Bay WMA	2,000	13	19	32	10.2
Crackerneck WMA	10,470	69	47	116	7.1
Cross Generating Station WMA	654	9	6	15	14.7
Donnelley WMA	8,048	34	61	95	7.6
Francis Marion WMA	252,578	112	111	223	0.6
Hamilton Ridge	13,281	40	35	75	3.6
Hickory Top WMA ¹	1,836			6	2.1
Manchester State Forest WMA	25,505	80	56	136	3.4
Moultrie WMA	9,480	15	12	27	1.8
Oak Lea WMA ²	2,024	24	31	57	18.0
Palachucola WMA	5,947	36	18	54	5.8
Santee Cooper WMA	2,828	11	15	26	5.9
Victoria Bluff WMA	800	5	7	12	9.6
Webb Wildlife Center WMA	5,866	49	45	94	10.3
Subtotal for Coastal WMA's	353,533	555	511	1,074	1.9
Total	825,969	4,087	3,121	7,214	5.6

*Check Station data. ¹ No sex data for harvest. ² Includes 2 unknown antlerless.

Table 5. Hunter opinion (percent) regarding the number of deer in the area hunted most often in South Carolina in 2014 compared to previous years.

	Increasing	About the Same	Decreasing
Residents	10.8	47.6	41.6
Non-Residents	12.6	50.7	36.7
Overall	11.1	47.9	41.0

Table 6. Resident deer hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2014.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/Hunter	Days/Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	4,016	60,752	68	1.23	12.3	2,583	2,338	4,921
Aiken	4,016	60,752	68	1.21	12.5	2,734	2,131	4,865
Allendale	1,282	18,366	82	1.69	8.5	999	1,169	2,168
Anderson	4,224	62,656	68	1.10	13.5	2,583	2,074	4,657
Bamberg	1,980	39,408	83	2.17	9.2	1,867	2,432	4,299
Barnwell	1,904	26,680	84	1.94	7.2	1,754	1,942	3,696
Beaufort	1,584	19,251	83	1.70	7.1	1,414	1,282	2,696
Berkeley	4,374	72,554	73	1.45	11.4	3,771	2,583	6,354
Calhoun	2,244	35,824	78	1.58	10.1	1,772	1,772	3,545
Charleston	3,488	44,084	71	1.32	9.5	2,489	2,131	4,619
Cherokee	1,508	31,978	74	1.69	12.6	1,376	1,169	2,545
Chester	2,602	39,803	75	1.28	12.0	1,923	1,395	3,318
Chesterfield	1,640	36,295	69	1.68	13.2	1,452	1,301	2,753
Clarendon	2,413	41,613	80	1.65	10.5	2,206	1,772	3,979
Colleton	4,129	66,824	79	1.92	8.4	4,167	3,752	7,919
Darlington	1,471	21,024	68	1.01	14.1	924	566	1,490
Dillon	754	16,555	77	2.65	8.3	848	1,150	1,999
Dorchester	2,904	52,473	78	1.69	10.7	2,753	2,150	4,903
Edgefield	2,847	39,387	68	1.26	11.0	2,168	1,414	3,583
Fairfield	4,148	59,999	67	1.19	12.1	2,847	2,093	4,940
Florence	3,224	63,901	75	1.63	12.2	2,866	2,376	5,242
Georgetown	2,376	48,137	71	1.60	12.7	1,772	2,017	3,790
Greenville	3,337	49,476	64	0.99	14.9	1,810	1,508	3,319
Greenwood	3,281	49,776	74	1.42	10.7	2,847	1,810	4,657
Hampton	2,244	26,981	83	1.79	6.7	1,848	2,168	4,016
Horry	2,885	47,251	56	1.25	13.1	2,319	1,301	3,620
Jasper	1,263	18,365	88	1.93	7.6	1,131	1,301	2,432
Kershaw	3,149	59,298	72	1.50	12.6	2,583	2,130	4,714
Lancaster	2,149	43,688	75	1.69	12.0	1,961	1,678	3,639
Laurens	4,450	60,451	62	1.13	12.1	2,828	2,187	5,015
Lee	1,904	32,658	83	1.57	10.9	1,565	1,433	2,998
Lexington	2,866	42,652	72	0.93	15.9	1,678	999	2,677
McCormick	2,300	29,131	74	0.78	16.3	1,112	679	1,791
Marion	1,565	29,622	66	1.16	16.4	1,037	773	1,810
Marlboro	886	13,689	64	1.64	9.4	867	585	1,452
Newberry	4,035	56,978	69	1.27	11.1	2,734	2,395	5,129
Oconee	1,848	23,645	60	0.94	13.6	1,131	603	1,735
Orangeburg	5,449	95,899	79	1.77	10.0	5,204	4,431	9,635
Pickens	2,357	28,943	64	0.87	14.1	1,339	716	2,055
Richland	3,582	42,517	64	0.95	12.5	1,791	1,603	3,394
Saluda	2,508	39,201	71	1.24	12.6	1,772	1,339	3,111
Spartanburg	4,638	74,989	69	1.28	12.6	2,998	2,960	5,958
Sumter	3,450	63,524	72	1.53	12.0	2,923	2,357	5,280
Union	3,224	43,708	62	1.13	11.9	1,904	1,754	3,658
Williamsburg	4,412	80,172	77	1.62	11.2	4,110	3,017	7,127
York	3,262	52,286	63	1.20	13.4	2,131	1,773	3,903
Total	130,176	2,063,216	70	1.39	11.4	98,896	82,511	181,406
% Change from 2013	-1.4	-2.3	0.0	-1.3	-9.8	-11.1	-7.8	-9.1

Table 7. Non-resident deer hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2014.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/Hunter	Days/Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	215	2,334	46	0.77	14.1	99	66	166
Aiken	149	1,159	33	0.89	8.7	83	50	132
Allendale	1,092	10,824	70	1.73	5.7	960	927	1,887
Anderson	66	348	25	0.50	10.5	33	0	33
Bamberg	679	6,720	78	1.80	5.5	480	745	1,225
Barnwell	381	3,476	78	1.78	5.1	314	364	679
Beaufort	99	1,605	83	1.17	13.9	66	50	116
Berkeley	83	463	40	0.20	28.0	17	0	17
Calhoun	166	1,672	80	1.70	16.5	2	99	101
Charleston	83	960	60	1.00	11.6	50	33	83
Cherokee	149	2,632	67	1.78	9.9	182	83	265
Chester	1,125	15,045	69	1.28	10.4	728	712	1,440
Chesterfield	447	8,358	59	1.85	10.1	331	497	828
Clarendon	99	248	50	2.00	1.3	33	166	199
Colleton	414	6,240	80	1.80	8.4	364	381	745
Darlington	83	298	80	1.20	3.0	66	33	99
Dillon	83	1,622	80	0.20	98.0	17	0	17
Dorchester	99	794	83	0.83	9.6	50	33	83
Edgefield	265	3,178	50	1.00	12.0	149	116	265
Fairfield	761	9,682	63	1.04	12.2	348	447	794
Florence	99	314	67	1.00	3.2	33	66	99
Georgetown	182	1,076	64	1.00	5.9	116	66	182
Greenville	83	612	60	1.00	7.4	33	50	83
Greenwood	166	1,705	60	1.80	5.7	215	83	298
Hampton	1,390	20,275	72	2.27	6.4	1,274	1,887	3,161
Horry	83	1,423	60	1.20	14.3	66	33	99
Jasper	530	9,798	78	2.41	7.7	695	579	1,274
Kershaw	430	5,445	77	1.00	12.7	298	132	430
Lancaster	712	10,957	72	1.63	9.5	497	662	1,159
Laurens	298	5,429	78	1.78	10.2	298	232	530
Lee	116	1,605	57	0.71	19.4	83	0	83
Lexington	83	381	60	0.20	23.0	0	17	17
McCormick	248	3,343	60	0.93	14.4	132	99	232
Marion	50	348	33	0.30	23.3	10	5	15
Marlboro	331	6,885	80	2.45	8.5	348	463	811
Newberry	414	4,866	72	1.52	7.7	348	281	629
Oconee	99	596	67	0.17	36.0	17	0	17
Orangeburg	281	4,088	76	2.12	6.9	281	314	596
Pickens	50	679	67	0.33	41.0	17	0	17
Richland	66	563	25	0.35	24.3	17	7	23
Saluda	83	861	89	1.40	7.4	66	50	116
Spartanburg	232	3,790	64	1.50	10.9	149	199	348
Sumter	83	728	40	1.40	6.3	50	66	116
Union	679	8,805	83	1.71	7.6	612	546	1,159
Williamsburg	265	2,400	75	1.50	6.0	199	199	397
York	497	4,767	63	1.07	9.0	348	182	530
TOTAL	14,085	179,397	70	1.74	8.3	10,571	11,018	21,590
% Change from 2012	3.8	9.1	-2.8	-11.9	-4.8	11.9	7.0	9.8

Table 8. Hunting effort (man/days) by county for successful and unsuccessful resident and nonresident deer hunters in South Carolina in 2014.

County	Residents (man/days)			Total Effort Residents	Non-Residents (man/days)			Total Effort Non-residents	Total Days
	Successful	Unsuccessful	Average		Successful	Unsuccessful	Average		
Abbeville	19.6	9.8	15.1	60,752	14.2	8.0	10.8	2,334	63,086
Aiken	20.9	7.9	15.1	60,752	16.0	3.7	7.8	1,159	61,911
Allendale	18.8	6.6	14.3	18,366	12.3	4.1	9.9	10,824	29,190
Anderson	18.4	10.4	14.8	62,656	4.0	5.7	5.3	348	63,004
Bamberg	24.2	7.6	19.9	39,408	11.3	5.5	9.9	6,720	46,127
Barnwell	16.0	9.4	14.0	26,680	10.9	4.2	9.1	3,476	30,156
Beaufort	13.8	8.9	12.2	19,251	15.2	21.0	16.2	1,605	20,857
Berkeley	22.6	8.4	16.6	72,554	10.0	4.5	5.6	463	73,017
Calhoun	20.6	8.1	16.0	35,824	10.6	6.0	10.1	1,672	37,496
Charleston	18.5	6.0	12.6	44,084	14.7	7.0	11.6	960	45,044
Cherokee	26.5	10.3	21.2	31,978	23.7	5.7	17.7	2,632	34,610
Chester	20.3	7.6	15.3	39,803	15.5	10.8	13.4	15,045	54,848
Chesterfield	27.9	13.1	22.1	36,295	24.8	9.8	18.7	8,358	44,654
Clarendon	22.1	8.5	17.2	41,613	2.0	3.0	2.5	248	41,861
Colleton	19.8	8.2	16.2	66,824	15.3	14.4	15.1	6,240	73,064
Darlington	19.0	9.3	14.3	21,024	3.3	5.0	3.6	298	21,322
Dillon	25.5	12.6	22.0	16,555	32.0	16.5	19.6	1,622	18,177
Dorchester	23.7	7.3	18.1	52,473	6.6	15.0	8.0	794	53,267
Edgefield	16.3	10.8	13.8	39,387	13.8	10.9	12.0	3,178	42,565
Fairfield	18.6	9.6	14.5	59,999	12.4	13.1	12.7	9,682	69,681
Florence	25.5	9.0	19.8	63,901	2.8	4.0	3.2	314	64,216
Georgetown	24.7	13.5	20.3	48,137	7.9	2.5	5.9	1,076	49,213
Greenville	20.5	9.0	14.8	49,476	12.5	4.0	7.4	612	50,089
Greenwood	18.7	9.5	15.2	49,776	14.5	4.0	10.3	1,705	51,481
Hampton	15.6	5.6	12.0	26,981	17.2	8.1	14.6	20,275	47,256
Horry	24.6	9.2	16.4	47,251	18.7	15.0	17.2	1,423	48,674
Jasper	17.5	8.0	14.5	18,365	21.7	9.0	18.5	9,798	28,163
Kershaw	23.6	11.9	18.8	59,298	16.0	6.3	12.7	5,445	64,744
Lancaster	24.6	11.8	20.3	43,688	16.3	13.0	15.4	10,957	54,645
Laurens	18.6	8.8	13.6	60,451	23.3	8.0	18.2	5,429	65,879
Lee	21.7	7.3	17.1	32,658	24.0	6.3	13.9	1,605	34,263
Lexington	19.8	9.2	14.9	42,652	2.0	5.3	4.6	381	43,032
McCormick	16.4	9.5	12.7	29,131	16.6	9.9	13.5	3,343	32,475
Marion	24.3	12.9	18.9	29,622	24.8	7.0	7.0	348	29,969
Marlboro	20.7	9.5	15.4	13,689	14.3	4.8	20.8	6,885	20,574
Newberry	18.9	7.6	14.1	56,978	10.0	7.3	11.8	4,866	61,844
Oconee	19.2	7.6	12.8	23,645	16.6	5.2	6.0	596	24,240
Orangeburg	21.5	9.3	17.6	95,899	27.0	5.0	14.5	4,088	99,987
Pickens	17.2	7.7	12.3	28,943	5.0	7.0	13.7	679	29,621
Richland	16.0	8.4	11.9	42,517	10.4	9.7	8.5	563	43,080
Saluda	19.4	9.4	15.6	39,201	25.0	4.8	10.4	861	40,062
Spartanburg	21.1	8.3	16.2	74,989	7.5	9.7	16.4	3,790	78,779
Sumter	24.3	9.4	18.4	63,524	14.4	7.8	8.8	728	64,252
Union	19.1	7.9	13.6	43,708	10.5	4.8	13.0	8,805	52,513
Williamsburg	24.7	6.8	18.2	80,172	16.1	4.6	9.1	2,400	82,572
York	22.2	9.4	16.0	52,286	17.9	12.0	9.6	4,767	57,052
Total	20.8	8.9	15.8	2,063,216	15.3	8.1	12.7	179,397	2,242,613
% Change from 2013	-0.1	19.1	-0.1	-2.6	-12.0	-9.0	-11.9	-19.3	-4.2

Table 9. Estimated deer harvest by weapon type in South Carolina in 2014.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun	Total
Number of Deer Harvested	162,768	13,801	18,063	5,683	2,232	406	202,952
Percent Total Deer Harvest	80.2	6.8	8.9	2.8	1.1	0.2	100.0
Percent Hunter Success With Weapon	63.6	29.5	35.2	24.2	16.7	6.9	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 2014.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun
Residents	120,543	32,674	32,023	16,923	10,414	4,556
Non-Residents	13,592	1,648	1,141	2,902	1,197	310
Total	134,135	34,322	33,164	19,824	11,611	4,866

Total across weapons not given because hunters use multiple weapons. Total hunters = 144,261.

Table 11. Weapons utilization (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2014.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun
Residents	92.6*	25.1*	24.6*	13.0*	8	3.5
Non-Residents	96.5	11.7	8.1	20.6	8.5	2.2
Total	93.1	23.4	22.5	14.0	8.1	3.4

* Significant difference in weapons use category based on residency.

Table 12. Weapons preference (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2014.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun	Total
Residents	77.1*	13.3*	6.4*	1.3*	1.5	0.4	100.0
Non-Residents	86.6	7.9	1.3	2.8	1.3	0.1	100.0
Total	78.3	12.6	5.7	1.5	1.5	0.4	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 2014.
Rank is by per unit area harvested.

County	Hog Harv.	Harv./ Mile ²	% Change from 2013	2014 Rank	2013 Rank	Coyote Harv.	Harv./ Mile ²	% Change from 2013	2014 Rank	2013 Rank
Abbeville	1,547	4.44	-32.0	1	1	1,193	3.42	-8.7	2	1
Aiken	759	0.97	-17.8	26	27	1,020	1.30	-20.6	25	18
Allendale	890	2.63	-48.7	3	2	521	1.54	-20.3	16	10
Anderson	882	2.58	-45.6	4	3	1,280	3.74	32.1	1	4
Bamberg	391	1.27	-3.7	22	22	456	1.48	19.0	19	28
Barnwell	456	1.03	26.4	25	32	174	0.39	-72.5	45	22
Beaufort	130	0.57	15.6	37	42	87	0.38	285.2	46	46
Berkeley	1,237	1.39	-8.5	20	17	933	1.05	117.9	32	41
Calhoun	694	2.33	-18.9	8	6	195	0.66	-27.8	41	34
Charleston	1,150	2.55	-5.5	6	8	629	1.39	47.0	21	33
Cherokee	130	0.53	-55.6	38	24	391	1.60	-45.8	13	3
Chester	152	0.32	-60.3	44	32	738	1.57	-33.2	15	7
Chesterfield	542	0.93	-22.3	27	24	933	1.60	-8.0	13	15
Clarendon	1,193	2.56	70.9	5	18	673	1.44	-9.5	20	20
Colleton	1,264	1.61	-15.0	17	12	694	0.88	23.3	36	38
Darlington	607	1.36	-15.7	21	16	542	1.21	85.2	28	40
Dillon	174	0.52	-14.4	39	39	412	1.23	204.9	26	42
Dorchester	1,063	2.25	-20.0	10	7	304	0.64	-60.3	42	19
Edgefield	130	0.34	-51.9	43	37	1,172	3.04	116.7	3	23
Fairfield	239	0.40	-64.7	41	28	694	1.16	-40.7	30	9
Florence	369	0.59	-50.4	36	26	651	1.05	3.2	32	31
Georgetown	1,280	2.05	42.0	13	19	586	0.94	23.8	35	36
Greenville	325	0.71	261.1	31	46	759	1.65	-6.4	12	14
Greenwood	456	1.43	-15.7	19	13	434	1.36	-37.9	23	8
Hampton	1,692	3.33	-28.5	2	4	499	0.98	-34.9	34	21
Horry	933	1.12	-33.2	23	14	347	0.42	156.8	44	45
Jasper	738	1.52	5.6	18	19	325	0.67	-3.7	40	39
Kershaw	391	0.69	-57.7	34	15	781	1.39	-19.4	21	17
Lancaster	174	0.42	-3.7	40	43	1,258	3.02	26.9	4	6
Laurens	434	0.87	75.1	28	40	1,367	2.75	44.4	5	11
Lee	231	0.67	-14.4	35	34	673	1.96	42.2	11	24
Lexington	369	0.84	227.4	29	45	673	1.53	113.2	17	37
McCormick	759	2.29	60.5	9	21	260	0.79	-17.5	39	32
Marion	683	2.02	4.6	15	11	412	1.22	357.4	27	44
Marlboro	130	0.30	-67.9	45	30	282	0.64	-51.9	42	25
Newberry	347	0.70	40.1	32	40	1,041	2.10	15.6	10	12
Oconee	325	0.73	-15.0	30	31	369	0.83	9.1	37	35
Orangeburg	174	0.22	-45.0	46	44	955	1.21	-7.9	28	26
Pickens	775	2.25	114.9	10	29	391	1.14	246.7	31	43
Richland	1,139	2.14	-14.3	12	9	1,258	2.37	86.2	8	27
Saluda	108	0.36	-51.9	42	35	803	2.67	-17.1	6	2
Spartanburg	699	1.68	158.4	16	38	1,020	2.45	41.4	7	16
Sumter	1,085	2.05	-15.5	13	10	434	0.82	-28.7	38	30
Union	989	2.45	99.6	7	23	542	1.34	-24.8	24	13
Williamsburg	846	1.05	-65.2	24	5	1,215	1.51	25.4	18	29
York	304	0.70	-3.7	32	36	933	2.16	-11.9	9	5
Total	29,383	1.34	-16.8	NA	NA	31,306	1.43	4.0	NA	NA
	(+ -) 2,189					(+ -) 1,662				

95% Confidence Interval for harvest
Ranking is based on harvest per square mile

Table 14. Number of deer-vehicle collisions reported by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety 2008-2013. Data for 2014 was not available at printing.

County	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Abbeville	10	8	12	13	11	1
Aiken	54	59	62	69	72	65
Allendale	5	8	12	9	8	9
Anderson	75	87	116	94	104	85
Bamberg	14	21	14	15	18	12
Barnwell	11	16	20	17	15	14
Beaufort	157	155	163	171	172	148
Berkeley	66	84	87	97	102	83
Calhoun	27	14	15	24	41	29
Charleston	200	182	219	212	239	135
Cherokee	13	17	15	23	26	25
Chester	17	20	19	19	23	18
Chesterfield	20	25	15	16	13	21
Clarendon	35	47	50	49	34	24
Colleton	64	60	55	70	69	81
Darlington	38	29	35	40	44	46
Dillon	8	17	27	15	26	41
Dorchester	63	67	63	87	79	71
Edgefield	15	12	12	4	7	7
Fairfield	16	15	22	26	35	16
Florence	39	56	66	78	90	87
Georgetown	16	20	24	32	46	48
Greenville	63	96	133	135	127	112
Greenwood	21	27	29	13	14	10
Hampton	16	13	29	22	12	11
Horry	70	95	85	109	98	127
Jasper	75	63	76	67	57	67
Kershaw	24	29	71	57	49	48
Lancaster	29	20	14	23	21	12
Laurens	45	27	28	23	16	15
Lee	18	27	35	33	32	20
Lexington	37	36	46	51	63	29
McCormick	11	4	4	3	7	3
Marion	15	13	19	34	35	42
Marlboro	14	10	19	22	18	20
Newberry	21	14	22	17	8	11
Oconee	17	18	12	16	18	5
Orangeburg	86	55	62	86	114	141
Pickens	21	22	23	26	22	25
Richland	96	100	101	112	94	71
Saluda	25	11	8	8	9	8
Spartanburg	106	113	117	151	144	156
Sumter	58	51	73	77	63	58
Union	12	17	8	7	20	13
Williamsburg	42	42	39	57	71	64
York	36	31	38	41	34	73
Total	1,921	1,953	2,214	2,370	2,420	2,207

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

Figure 1. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources 2014 Deer Hunter Survey

January, 2015

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 2014 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 2013 survey can be found at www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/deer/2013/DeerHarvestReport.html

Thank you for your assistance.



Charles Ruth
Wildlife Biologist
Deer/Turkey Project Supervisor

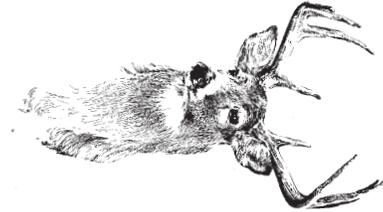
PLEASE MAIL YOUR SURVEY AFTER SEPARATING THIS HALF FROM THE SIDE ON WHICH YOUR ANSWERS HAVE BEEN ENTERED. NO POSTAGE IS NECESSARY.

If you have questions regarding this survey, please call 803-734-3886 or write 2014 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

14-10269

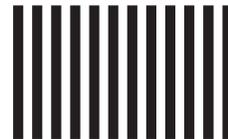
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**DEER HUNTER SURVEY
SC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 167
COLUMBIA SC 29202-9976**

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Figure 1 Cont.

2014 South Carolina Deer Hunter Survey

1. Did you hunt deer in SC this past season (2014)? **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 (2014). Please begin with the county you hunted the most. If you harvested deer please record the number of bucks and does taken in each county. A day of hunting is defined as any portion of the day spent afield. Please do not give ranges (i.e. 5-10), rather provide absolute numbers (i.e. 5). Provide information only for yourself - not friends, relatives, or other hunt club members.

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

If you did not harvest any deer in SC in 2014 please go to question # 6.

4. Please record the number of deer taken by month of season in SC last season (2014).

August	September	October	November	December	January

5. Please record the number of deer taken with each weapon in SC last season (2014).

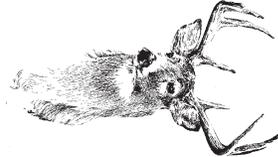
Rifle	Bow	Shotgun	Muzzleloader	Crossbow	Handgun

6. Please circle **all** the weapons that you hunted deer with in 2014.
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 2014, 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**


DNR
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 2014. Note that December includes January 1 which is the last day of deer season.

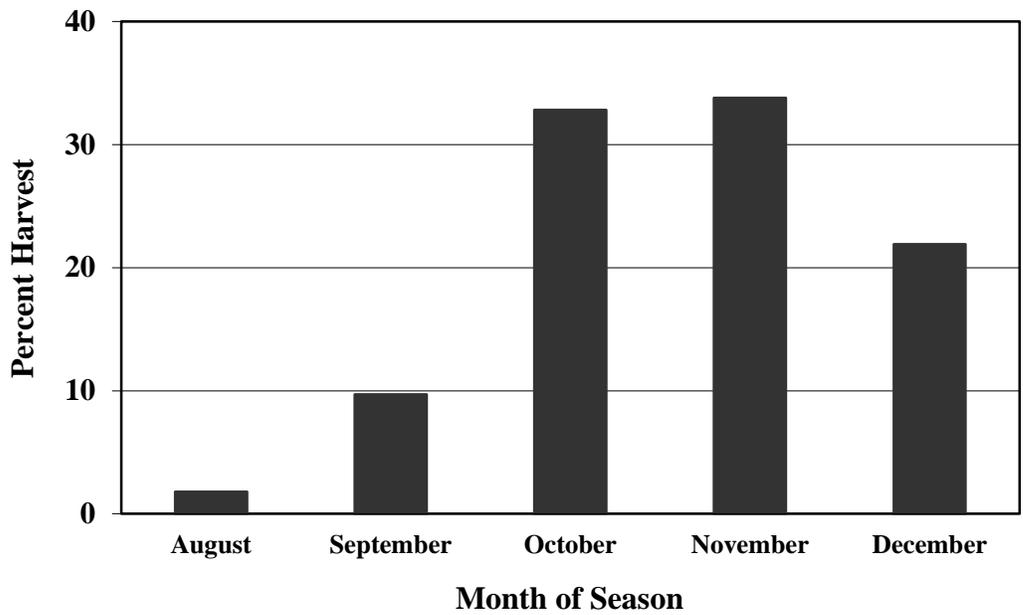


Figure 3. Percent of female deer conceiving by week in South Carolina, based on historic data.

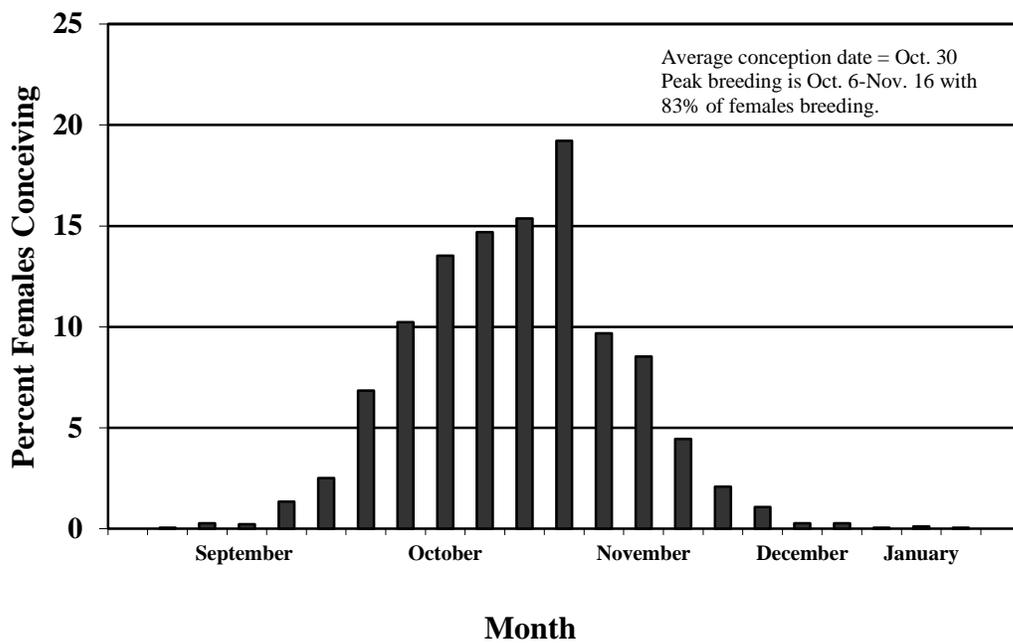


Figure 4. Estimated deer harvest in South Carolina 1972-2014.

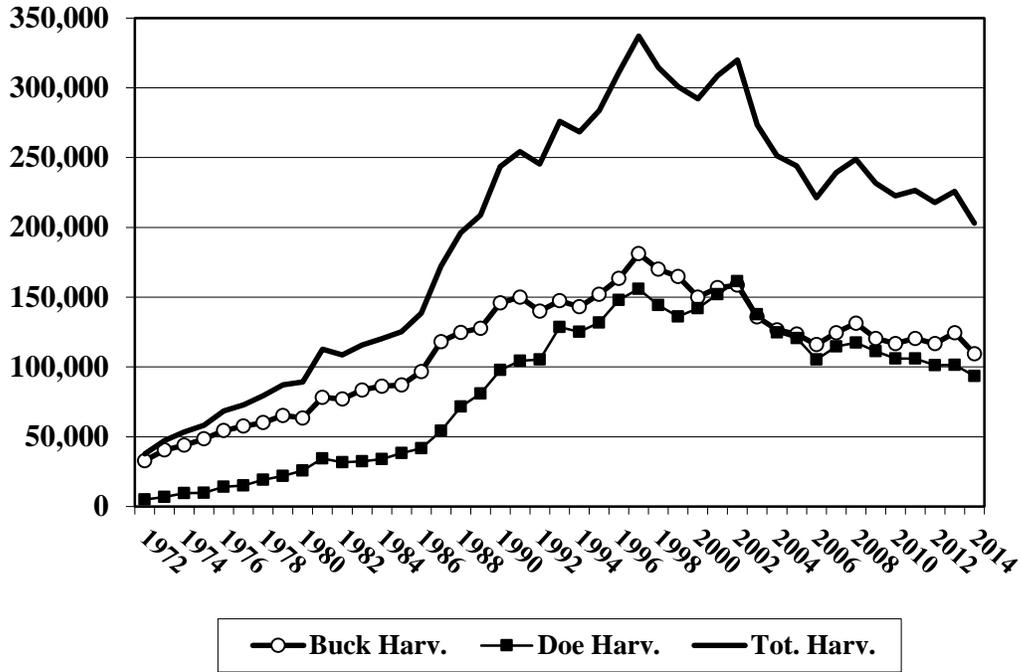


Figure 5. Estimated South Carolina deer population 1972-2014 based on population reconstruction modeling. Note that antlerless deer includes male fawns (button bucks).

