

List of Tables

Table	Title	Page
1	Estimated statewide turkey harvest in South Carolina in 2015	10
2	County rankings based on turkeys harvested per unit area in South Carolina in 2015.....	11
3	County rankings based on total turkeys harvested in South Carolina in 2015.....	12
4	Estimated number of turkey hunters, average days hunted, and total hunting effort by county in South Carolina in 2015	13

List of Figures

Figure	Title	Page
1	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources 2015 Turkey Hunter Survey	14-15
2	Summer wild turkey recruitment ratio in South Carolina 1982-2014	16
3	Spring wild turkey harvest in South Carolina 1982-2015.....	16
4	Percentage of gobblers harvested by week of season in South Carolina in 2015	17
5	Percentage of gobblers harvested by week in areas with March 15-May 1 season.....	17
6	Percentage of gobblers harvested by week in areas with April 1-May 1 season	17
7	Hunter success during the spring turkey season in South Carolina in 2015	18
8	Relative contribution to the total turkey harvest by hunters taking multiple birds in South Carolina in 2015	18

Table 1. Estimated statewide turkey harvest in South Carolina in 2015.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Rates	
							Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. ²
Abbeville	223,113	349	246	69	315	21.9	708.3	0.9
Aiken	500,546	782	145	49	194	25.3	2580.1	0.2
Allendale	216,455	338	178	20	198	10.1	1093.2	0.6
Anderson	219,068	342	307	84	391	21.5	560.3	1.1
Bamberg	196,573	307	190	25	215	11.6	914.3	0.7
Barnwell	281,764	440	106	13	119	10.9	2367.8	0.3
Beaufort	147,441	230	106	16	122	13.1	1208.5	0.5
Berkeley	567,530	887	587	86	673	12.8	843.3	0.8
Calhoun	190,584	298	113	30	143	21.0	1332.8	0.5
Charleston	288,732	451	391	60	451	13.3	640.2	1.0
Cherokee	156,664	245	268	81	349	23.2	448.9	1.4
Chester	300,589	470	335	81	416	19.5	722.6	0.9
Chesterfield	372,478	582	251	55	306	18.0	1217.2	0.5
Clarendon	298,087	466	239	56	295	19.0	1010.5	0.6
Colleton	502,666	785	509	73	582	12.5	863.7	0.7
Darlington	286,228	447	113	19	132	14.4	2168.4	0.3
Dillon	214,069	334	95	12	107	11.2	2000.6	0.3
Dorchester	302,717	473	352	40	392	10.2	772.2	0.8
Edgefield	246,543	385	341	70	411	17.0	599.9	1.1
Fairfield	384,607	601	520	86	606	14.2	634.7	1.0
Florence	397,888	622	358	73	431	16.9	923.2	0.7
Georgetown	399,638	624	369	29	398	7.3	1004.1	0.6
Greenville	294,257	460	352	61	413	14.8	712.5	0.9
Greenwood	204,400	319	229	44	273	16.1	748.7	0.9
Hampton	324,840	508	378	54	432	12.5	751.9	0.9
Horry	533,336	833	347	57	404	14.1	1320.1	0.5
Jasper	309,889	484	201	36	237	15.2	1307.5	0.5
Kershaw	360,485	563	240	71	311	22.8	1159.1	0.6
Lancaster	266,382	416	190	68	258	26.4	1032.5	0.6
Laurens	317,916	497	408	87	495	17.6	642.3	1.0
Lee	220,106	344	119	54	173	31.2	1272.3	0.5
Lexington	280,742	439	44	15	59	25.4	4758.3	0.1
McCormick	212,021	331	201	26	227	11.5	934.0	0.7
Marion	216,907	339	132	28	160	17.5	1355.7	0.5
Marlboro	281,271	439	67	23	90	25.6	3125.2	0.2
Newberry	317,761	497	469	89	558	15.9	569.5	1.1
Oconee	284,348	444	235	38	273	13.9	1041.6	0.6
Orangeburg	504,516	788	486	60	546	11.0	924.0	0.7
Pickens	219,926	344	330	77	407	18.9	540.4	1.2
Richland	340,121	531	179	40	219	18.3	1553.1	0.4
Saluda	192,173	300	190	58	248	23.4	774.9	0.8
Spartanburg	265,939	416	402	91	493	18.5	539.4	1.2
Sumter	338,968	530	215	39	254	15.4	1334.5	0.5
Union	258,111	403	285	103	388	26.5	665.2	1.0
Williamsburg	513,851	803	673	55	728	7.6	705.8	0.9
York	276,650	432	250	95	345	27.5	801.9	0.8
Total	14,028,896	21,920	12,741	2,496	15,237	16.4	920.7	0.7

95% Conf. Interval for harvest

(+) 1,405 (+) 442 (+) 1,494

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

Table 2. County rankings based on turkey harvested per unit area in South Carolina in 2015.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Rates	
							Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. ²
Cherokee	156,664	245	268	81	349	23.2	448.9	1.4
Spartanburg	265,939	416	402	91	493	18.5	539.4	1.2
Pickens	219,926	344	330	77	407	18.9	540.4	1.2
Anderson	219,068	342	307	84	391	21.5	560.3	1.1
Newberry	317,761	497	469	89	558	15.9	569.5	1.1
Edgefield	246,543	385	341	70	411	17.0	599.9	1.1
Fairfield	384,607	601	520	86	606	14.2	634.7	1.0
Charleston	288,732	451	391	60	451	13.3	640.2	1.0
Laurens	317,916	497	408	87	495	17.6	642.3	1.0
Union	258,111	403	285	103	388	26.5	665.2	1.0
Williamsburg	513,851	803	673	55	728	7.6	705.8	0.9
Abbeville	223,113	349	246	69	315	21.9	708.3	0.9
Greenville	294,257	460	352	61	413	14.8	712.5	0.9
Chester	300,589	470	335	81	416	19.5	722.6	0.9
Greenwood	204,400	319	229	44	273	16.1	748.7	0.9
Hampton	324,840	508	378	54	432	12.5	751.9	0.9
Dorchester	302,717	473	352	40	392	10.2	772.2	0.8
Saluda	192,173	300	190	58	248	23.4	774.9	0.8
York	276,650	432	250	95	345	27.5	801.9	0.8
Berkeley	567,530	887	587	86	673	12.8	843.3	0.8
Colleton	502,666	785	509	73	582	12.5	863.7	0.7
Bamberg	196,573	307	190	25	215	11.6	914.3	0.7
Florence	397,888	622	358	73	431	16.9	923.2	0.7
Orangeburg	504,516	788	486	60	546	11.0	924.0	0.7
McCormick	212,021	331	201	26	227	11.5	934.0	0.7
Georgetown	399,638	624	369	29	398	7.3	1004.1	0.6
Clarendon	298,087	466	239	56	295	19.0	1010.5	0.6
Lancaster	266,382	416	190	68	258	26.4	1032.5	0.6
Oconee	284,348	444	235	38	273	13.9	1041.6	0.6
Allendale	216,455	338	178	20	198	10.1	1093.2	0.6
Kershaw	360,485	563	240	71	311	22.8	1159.1	0.6
Beaufort	147,441	230	106	16	122	13.1	1208.5	0.5
Chesterfield	372,478	582	251	55	306	18.0	1217.2	0.5
Lee	220,106	344	119	54	173	31.2	1272.3	0.5
Jasper	309,889	484	201	36	237	15.2	1307.5	0.5
Horry	533,336	833	347	57	404	14.1	1320.1	0.5
Calhoun	190,584	298	113	30	143	21.0	1332.8	0.5
Sumter	338,968	530	215	39	254	15.4	1334.5	0.5
Marion	216,907	339	132	28	160	17.5	1355.7	0.5
Richland	340,121	531	179	40	219	18.3	1553.1	0.4
Dillon	214,069	334	95	12	107	11.2	2000.6	0.3
Darlington	286,228	447	113	19	132	14.4	2168.4	0.3
Barnwell	281,764	440	106	13	119	10.9	2367.8	0.3
Aiken	500,546	782	145	49	194	25.3	2580.1	0.2
Marlboro	281,271	439	67	23	90	25.6	3125.2	0.2
Lexington	280,742	439	44	15	59	25.4	4758.3	0.1
Total	14,028,896	21,920	12,741	2,496	15,237	16.4	920.7	0.7

Table 3. County rankings based on total turkeys harvested in South Carolina in 2015.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Rates	
							Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. ²
Williamsburg	513,851	803	673	55	728	7.6	705.8	0.9
Berkeley	567,530	887	587	86	673	12.8	843.3	0.8
Fairfield	384,607	601	520	86	606	14.2	634.7	1.0
Colleton	502,666	785	509	73	582	12.5	863.7	0.7
Newberry	317,761	497	469	89	558	15.9	569.5	1.1
Orangeburg	504,516	788	486	60	546	11.0	924.0	0.7
Laurens	317,916	497	408	87	495	17.6	642.3	1.0
Spartanburg	265,939	416	402	91	493	18.5	539.4	1.2
Charleston	288,732	451	391	60	451	13.3	640.2	1.0
Hampton	324,840	508	378	54	432	12.5	751.9	0.9
Florence	397,888	622	358	73	431	16.9	923.2	0.7
Chester	300,589	470	335	81	416	19.5	722.6	0.9
Greenville	294,257	460	352	61	413	14.8	712.5	0.9
Edgefield	246,543	385	341	70	411	17.0	599.9	1.1
Pickens	219,926	344	330	77	407	18.9	540.4	1.2
Horry	533,336	833	347	57	404	14.1	1320.1	0.5
Georgetown	399,638	624	369	29	398	7.3	1004.1	0.6
Dorchester	302,717	473	352	40	392	10.2	772.2	0.8
Anderson	219,068	342	307	84	391	21.5	560.3	1.1
Union	258,111	403	285	103	388	26.5	665.2	1.0
Cherokee	156,664	245	268	81	349	23.2	448.9	1.4
York	276,650	432	250	95	345	27.5	801.9	0.8
Abbeville	223,113	349	246	69	315	21.9	708.3	0.9
Kershaw	360,485	563	240	71	311	22.8	1159.1	0.6
Chesterfield	372,478	582	251	55	306	18.0	1217.2	0.5
Clarendon	298,087	466	239	56	295	19.0	1010.5	0.6
Greenwood	204,400	319	229	44	273	16.1	748.7	0.9
Oconee	284,348	444	235	38	273	13.9	1041.6	0.6
Lancaster	266,382	416	190	68	258	26.4	1032.5	0.6
Sumter	338,968	530	215	39	254	15.4	1334.5	0.5
Saluda	192,173	300	190	58	248	23.4	774.9	0.8
Jasper	309,889	484	201	36	237	15.2	1307.5	0.5
McCormick	212,021	331	201	26	227	11.5	934.0	0.7
Richland	340,121	531	179	40	219	18.3	1553.1	0.4
Bamberg	196,573	307	190	25	215	11.6	914.3	0.7
Allendale	216,455	338	178	20	198	10.1	1093.2	0.6
Aiken	500,546	782	145	49	194	25.3	2580.1	0.2
Lee	220,106	344	119	54	173	31.2	1272.3	0.5
Marion	216,907	339	132	28	160	17.5	1355.7	0.5
Calhoun	190,584	298	113	30	143	21.0	1332.8	0.5
Darlington	286,228	447	113	19	132	14.4	2168.4	0.3
Beaufort	147,441	230	106	16	122	13.1	1208.5	0.5
Barnwell	281,764	440	106	13	119	10.9	2367.8	0.3
Dillon	214,069	334	95	12	107	11.2	2000.6	0.3
Marlboro	281,271	439	67	23	90	25.6	3125.2	0.2
Lexington	280,742	439	44	15	59	25.4	4758.3	0.1
Total	14,028,896	21,920	12,741	2,496	15,237	16.4	920.7	0.7

Table 4. Estimated number of turkey hunters, average days hunted, and total hunting effort in South Carolina in 2015.

County	Total Harvest	Number Hunters	Avg. Days Hunted	Total Man/Days
Abbeville	315	1,254	4.5	5,586
Aiken	194	944	4.0	3,792
Allendale	198	672	5.4	3,629
Anderson	391	1,397	4.4	6,134
Bamberg	215	687	4.9	3,365
Barnwell	119	430	4.2	1,815
Beaufort	122	264	4.2	1,117
Berkeley	673	1,427	6.1	8,700
Calhoun	143	589	4.0	2,383
Charleston	451	1,080	5.3	5,674
Cherokee	349	657	5.8	3,819
Chester	416	1,435	5.2	7,448
Chesterfield	306	967	5.2	5,037
Clarendon	295	755	4.3	3,230
Colleton	582	1,178	6.1	7,238
Darlington	132	468	4.8	2,228
Dillon	107	219	5.7	1,239
Dorchester	392	763	5.8	4,442
Edgefield	411	1,322	5.7	7,556
Fairfield	606	1,994	5.0	9,912
Florence	431	959	4.7	4,550
Georgetown	398	740	4.6	3,372
Greenville	413	1,103	4.9	5,349
Greenwood	273	906	4.7	4,266
Hampton	432	1,012	6.1	6,202
Horry	404	891	4.4	3,920
Jasper	237	634	5.9	3,731
Kershaw	311	1,004	4.5	4,550
Lancaster	258	816	4.6	3,717
Laurens	495	1,684	4.2	7,062
Lee	173	702	4.4	3,060
Lexington	59	340	3.7	1,253
McCormick	227	914	5.1	4,678
Marion	160	423	4.3	1,815
Marlboro	90	363	4.5	1,639
Newberry	558	1,881	5.0	9,492
Oconee	273	921	5.8	5,335
Orangeburg	546	1,269	4.8	6,066
Pickens	407	1,012	4.8	4,855
Richland	219	823	4.5	3,710
Saluda	248	861	5.0	4,272
Spartanburg	493	1,405	4.3	5,978
Sumter	254	937	4.8	4,502
Union	388	1,465	5.5	8,016
Williamsburg	728	1,329	4.3	5,681
York	345	1,307	5.2	6,845
Total	15,237	44,205	5.0	218,258

Figure 1. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources 2015 Turkey Hunter Survey.

2015 South Carolina Turkey Hunter Survey

1. Did you turkey hunt in SC this past season (2015)? 1. Yes 2. No
If you answered **No** to this question please go to question # 8.
2. Did you harvest any turkeys in SC this past season? 1. Yes 2. No
3. Even if you did not harvest a turkey, please record the SC counties you turkey hunted and the number of days hunted in each county this past season (2015). If you harvested turkeys please record the number of adult gobblers and jakes 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 people you may have called or guided for. See the diagram below if you are unsure how to determine an adult gobbler or "longbeard" from a juvenile gobbler or "jake".



**HELP MANAGE
TURKEYS IN S.C.
COMPLETE YOUR
HUNTER SURVEY**

DNR



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

SC Counties You Turkey Hunted	# Days Hunted	Number Turkeys Harvested
1		Adult gobblers _____ Jakes _____
2		Adult gobblers _____ Jakes _____
3		Adult gobblers _____ Jakes _____
4		Adult gobblers _____ Jakes _____
5		Adult gobblers _____ Jakes _____

If you did not harvest any turkeys in SC this past season please go to question 6.

4. If you harvested turkeys in SC this past season, please indicate as best you can the number of turkeys killed by week of season.

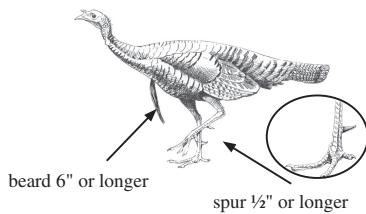
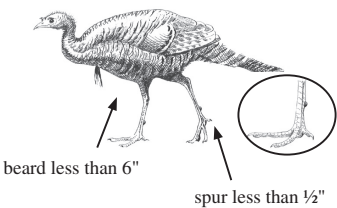
Week of Season	# Turkeys Harvested	Week of Season	# Turkeys Harvested
1 March 15-22		4 April 8-14	
2 March 23-31		5 April 15-21	
3 April 1-7		6 April 22-May 1	

5. How many turkeys did you kill in the morning _____ after 12:00 noon _____?
6. How many turkeys did you shoot but not kill or recover in SC this past season? _____
7. Compared to past years, how would you describe the number of turkeys in the area that you hunted most often this spring? **Circle one**
 1. Increasing 2. About the same 3. Decreasing
8. Are you a resident of SC? 1. Yes 2. No
9. If yes, which county _____

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

Juvenile "Jake"

Adult "Gobbler"



PRESORTED
 FIRST CLASS
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 COLUMBIA SC
 PERMIT 535

Figure 1. continued

May, 2015

Dear Sportsman:

Eastern wild turkeys 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 wild turkey harvests to aid in successfully managing this important natural resource and to optimize future hunting potential. To obtain this needed data, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) is conducting a survey of hunters who received a set of turkey tags during spring 2015.

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 wild turkeys this spring please indicate this by answering the appropriate questions and moving on to the next set of questions.

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

Results of this survey will be posted on the SCDNR web site once completed. The results from the 2014 survey can be found at: www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/turkey/2014TurkeyHarvest.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 2015 Turkey Hunter Survey, SCDNR, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, disability, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202

15-10437



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

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 1371 COLUMBIA SC
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



**NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES**

Figure 2. Summer wild turkey recruitment ratio in South Carolina 1982-2014. Recruitment ratio is a measure of young entering the population based on the number of hens in the population. Note declining trend since 1988. Average recruitment prior to 1988 = 3.5. Average recruitment since 1988 = 2.2. This represents a 37 percent decrease.

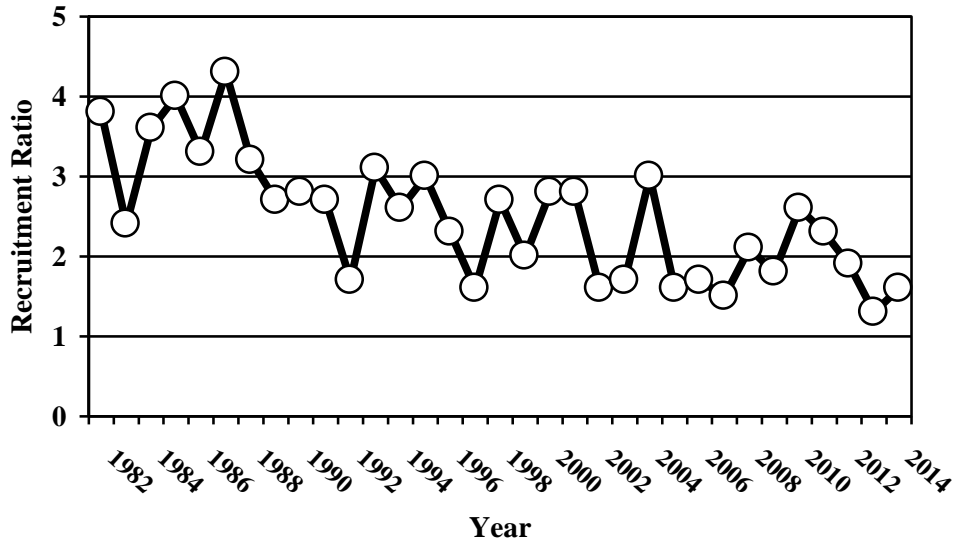


Figure 3. Spring wild turkey harvest in South Carolina 1982-2015. Note declines in harvest associated with years of poor recruitment (Fig. 2 above) and improved harvests associated with years of improved recruitment.

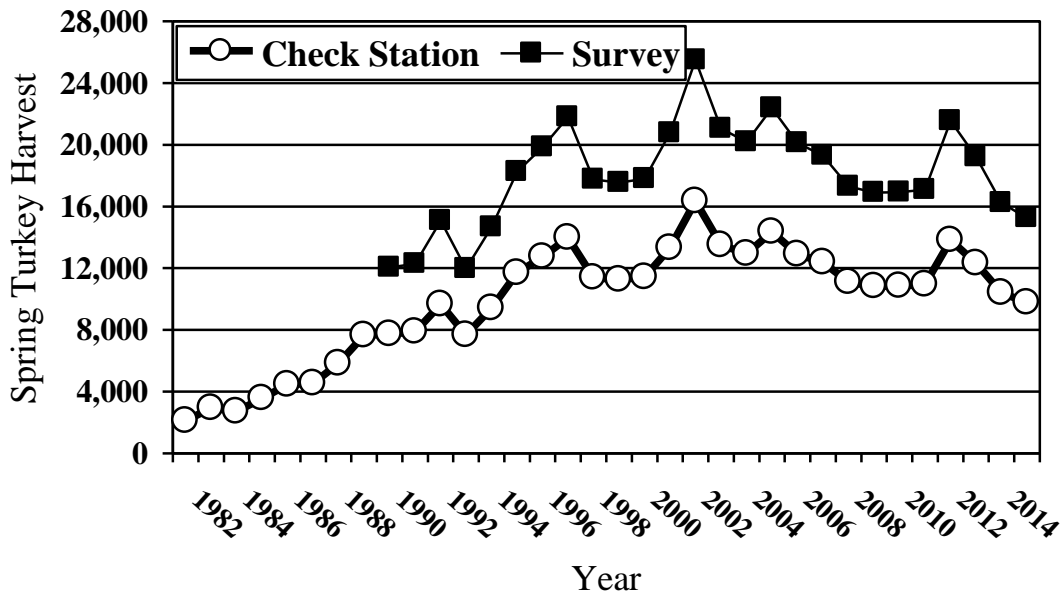


Figure 4. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week of season in South Carolina in 2015.

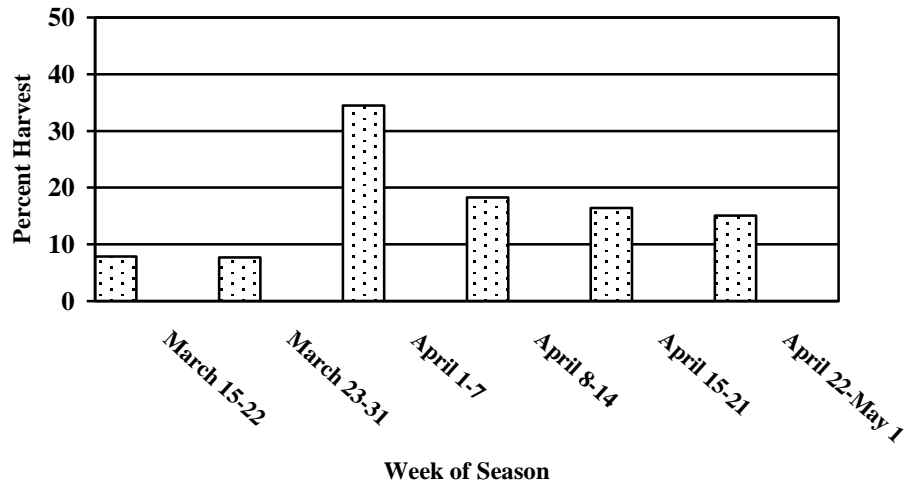


Figure 5. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week in areas with March 15-May 1 season.

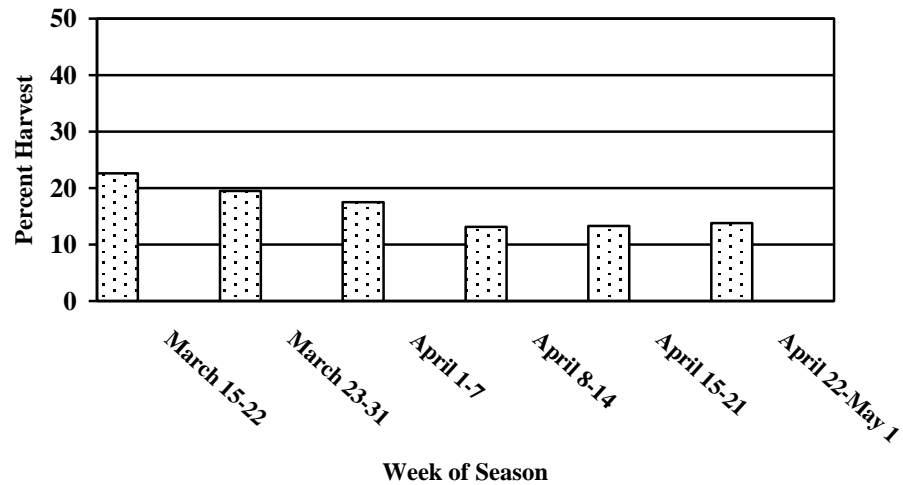


Figure 6. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week in areas with April 1-May 1 season.

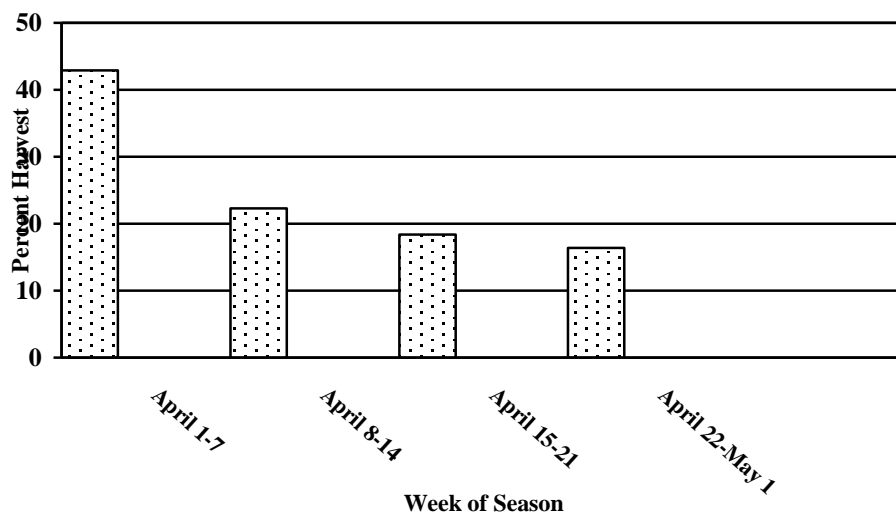


Figure 7. Hunter success during the spring turkey season in South Carolina in 2015. Overall success was 26 percent at harvesting at least one gobbler.

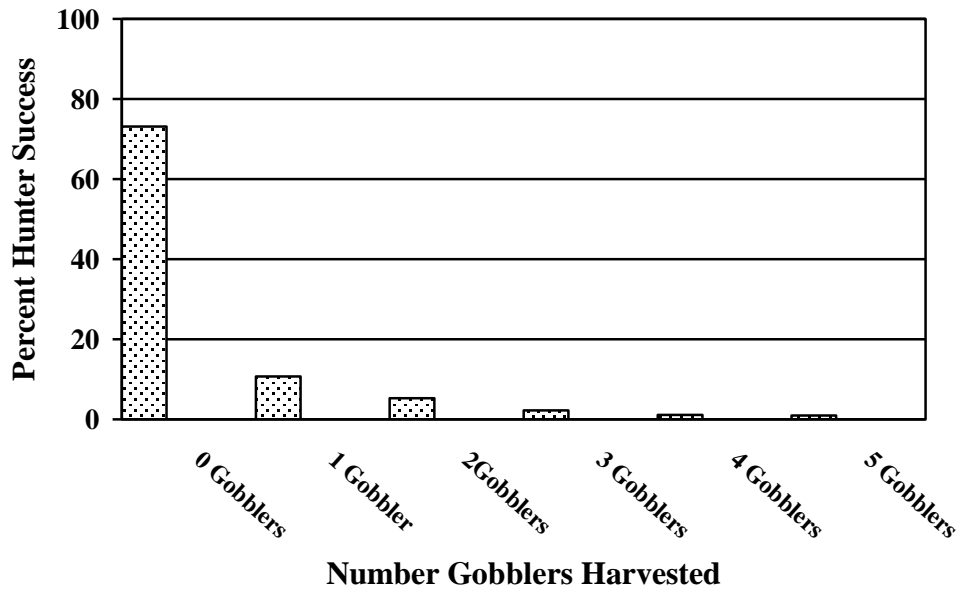


Figure 8. Relative contribution to the total turkey harvest by hunters taking between 1 and 5 gobbler in South Carolina in 2015. Hunters taking more than 3 birds accounted for 25% of total statewide harvest.

