

2015 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 2015 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 2015, (2) the harvest of deer in the constituent counties of the state, (3) hunting effort related to deer, (4) resident and nonresident 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 and 4). 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 (+- 3.2 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 2015 Deer Hunter Survey represents a random mail survey that involved a single mail-out. The questionnaire for the 2015 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 8 license types. The license types included: (1) Resident Sportsman's, (2) 3-year Resident Sportsman's, (3) Resident Combination, (4) 3-year Resident Combination, (5) Resident Junior Sportsman's, (6) Resident Big Game Permit, (7) 3-year Resident Big Game Permit, and (8) Nonresident 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 2015. 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 (452). Therefore, the actual attempted sample was 24,548 representing 14.6 percent of the entire population (168,112) of license holders. A total of 6,145 completed surveys were returned yielding a 24.5 percent response rate and 3.7 percent sampling rate on the entire licensee population.

Deer Harvest

During the 2015 deer season it is estimated that a total of 111,035 bucks and 83,995 does were harvested for a statewide total of 195,030 deer (Table 1). Although the buck harvest was up slightly from 2014 the overall harvest represents a 4 percent decrease in harvest from 2014 (202,952) and is 39 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 stands that are greater than 15 years old. According to forest inventory data, during the last 20 years the states' timberlands in the 0 to 15 year age class dropped 34 percent while timberlands in the 16 to 30 year age class increased 104 percent. This situation simply 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 long-term study with researchers from the United States Forest Service Southern Research Station at the Savannah River Site investigating the affects coyotes are having on the survival of deer fawns. This research demonstrated that coyotes can be a significant predator of deer fawns, that predation by coyotes can be an additive source of mortality, and that efforts to increase fawn recruitment via coyote control provided only modest results and at

high cost. Obviously one cannot apply these results uniformly across the state because habitats, coyote densities, deer densities, etc. vary. However, coyotes are now well established in South Carolina so they should be expected to play a role in deer population dynamics at some level. That being the case, this “new mortality factor” combined with extremely liberal deer harvests that have been the norm in South Carolina are clearly involved in the reduction in deer numbers in the last decade. Given this 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.

As it relates specifically to the decrease in harvest during the 2015 deer season it should be noted that hunting conditions in South Carolina were poor during the fall of 2015. This began the first week in October with a 1,000 year rainfall and flooding event spawned by hurricane Joaquin in the Atlantic Ocean. The magnitude of this event forced a temporary season closure for all game species in parts of 15 coastal counties. Although these closures only lasted 5 to 10 days, the aftermath of the flooding in these areas and throughout the state created access and other problems for deer hunters. Additionally, hunting was negatively impacted by ongoing rainfall and unseasonably warm temperatures for the remainder of the deer season.

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 2015 was 9.0 deer per square mile over the entire state (Table 2). Although the deer harvest 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 Anderson (18.1 deer/mile²), Hampton (17.9 deer/mile²), Spartanburg (15.0 deer/mile²), Bamberg (13.9 deer/mile²), and Orangeburg (13.1 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 2015 were Orangeburg, Hampton, Colleton, Williamsburg, and Spartanburg.

Deer Harvest on Wildlife Management Areas

Deer hunting on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) remains popular in South Carolina with approximately 60,000 licensees having a WMA Permit. Wildlife Management Areas represent lands owned by DNR, other state owned lands enrolled in the WMA Program, US Forest Service lands enrolled in the WMA Program, and private and/or corporate lands that are leased by DNR as part of the WMA Program. Deer harvest figures for coastal WMAs are from check stations and are presented only for those WMA properties that have a deer check-in requirement. Deer harvest figures for upstate WMAs (Mountain and Central and Western Piedmont Hunt Units) were estimated by extrapolating the county deer harvest rates (deer/mi²) to the acreage of WMA land that falls within the respective counties comprising the WMA. This assumes that hunters on WMA lands exhibit effort and deer harvest patterns similar to those of the general licensee database that was surveyed. Finally, the estimated deer harvest on WMA lands is included in, not additive to, the county and statewide estimates found throughout this report.

During the 2015 season it is estimated that 3,840 bucks, 2,866 does were harvested for a total deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas of 6,706 (Table 4). This figure represents a 7 percent decrease from 2014.

Hunter Opinion Regarding the Deer Population

The 2015 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 (48%) 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%) believed

that the deer population was decreasing than increasing (11%). 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 recent 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 86 percent actually hunted deer. For residents, 86 percent of sampled licensees hunted deer and for nonresidents 79 percent hunted deer. Extrapolating to the respective licensee populations yields 132,534 residents (Table 6) and 13,490 nonresidents (Table 7) for a total of 146,024 deer hunters statewide during 2015. This figure represents a 1.3 percent increase from the 144,261 hunters in 2014. Counties with the highest estimates for individual hunters include Orangeburg, Laurens, Anderson, Spartanburg, and Colleton for resident hunters (Table 6) and Hampton, Allendale, Bamberg, Jasper, and Colleton for nonresidents (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 2015 was 66 percent, which should be considered very good. Success rates for residents (66%, Table 6) were slightly lower than nonresidents (71%, Table 7) likely due to the fact that many nonresidents hunt commercially where considerable preparation is done for them. Estimates for resident and nonresident success rates for all counties are presented in Tables 6 and 7.

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 days afield for a total of 2,026,590 days deer hunting and nonresidents averaged 17 days for a total of 237,671 days

(Table 8). Total effort expended deer hunting in South Carolina during 2015 was estimated at 2,264,261 days (Table 8), down 1.0 percent from 2014. 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 2015 were Orangeburg, Colleton, Aiken, Anderson, and Spartanburg (Table 8). Resident hunters expended the most hunting effort in Orangeburg, Colleton, Aiken, Anderson, and Spartanburg counties. Nonresidents hunted the most in Hampton, Bamberg, Allendale, Jasper, and Colleton counties and these 5 counties totaled 48 percent of all the nonresident deer hunting effort that took place in South Carolina in 2015.

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 nonresidents (21 days) averaged about 2 times the days afield when compared with unsuccessful nonresidents (11 days).

The amount of effort required to harvest a deer varied between residents and nonresidents and by the county hunted. On the average it took less time for nonresidents to harvest a deer (10 days, Table 7) compared to residents (12 days, Table 6). This may be due to the fact that many nonresidents 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 nonresidents. Counties requiring the least effort to harvest a deer included Jasper, Williamsburg, Beaufort, Bamberg, and Barnwell for resident hunters (Table 6). On the other hand, nonresidents spent less time to harvest a deer in Anderson, Pickens, Oconee, Richland, and Lee counties (Table 7), however, none of these counties experienced what should be considered a high level of nonresident 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 (82%) of deer are harvested with centerfire rifles (Table 9). Shotguns (7.9%) and archery equipment (6.5%) 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 nonresidents in their use of multiple weapons and significantly more residents use archery equipment (23.8%) and shotguns (23.7%) than nonresidents (13.8% archery and 8.5% 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 nonresidents. The weapons utilization data supports this contention.

On the other hand, nonresidents (15%) used muzzleloaders more frequently than residents (11.1%). Keep in mind that muzzleloader or primitive weapons seasons are only available in Game Zones 1 and 2 (the Upstate). It is suspected that the high utilization of muzzleloaders by nonresidents 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 nonresidents 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 (76.4%) of deer hunters prefer rifles (Table 12). Bows (13%) 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 (7.6%) than nonresidents (1%) and

muzzleloaders are preferred more by nonresidents (1.4%) than by residents (0.8%) (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) nonresidents 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 2015 Deer Hunter Survey asked hunters to provide information on the month of kill for deer taken during the 2015 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 2015 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 2015 an estimated 33,404 wild hogs were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 13), a 12 percent increase from 2014 (29,383 hogs). Hog numbers and thus harvest, can vary substantially from year to year due to bottomland flooding during the winter farrowing season which can cause mortality in piglets. On the other hand, flooding during the fall of 2015 may have forced hogs to higher ground, thus exposing them to hunters which led to the increase in harvest. Evidence of the presence of hogs in 46 of 46 counties was made by hunter harvest activities (46 of 46 counties in 2014). Statewide, approximately 1.5 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 (5.5 hogs/mile²), Anderson (5.0 hogs/mile²), Allendale (5.0 hogs/mile²), Hampton (4.5 hogs/mile²), and Marion (4.5 hogs/mile²). With the exception of Marion County all of these counties were in the top 5 counties for wild hog harvest in 2014 as well.

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 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 2015 it is estimated that approximately 29,027 coyotes were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 13), an decrease of 7 percent from 2014 (31,306 coyotes). As in past years, there was evidence of coyotes being harvested in all counties. Although the number of coyotes killed by deer hunters increased exponentially since the late 1990’s pointing to the expansion of this species in South Carolina, the harvest has been relatively stable around 30,000 since 2010. Statewide approximately 1.3 coyotes/mile² were harvested and the top 5 counties for coyote harvest per unit area included Anderson (4.0 coyotes/mile²), Saluda (2.8 coyotes/mile²), Cherokee (2.8 coyotes/mile²), Abbeville (2.5 coyotes/mile²), and Spartanburg (2.3 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 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 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 stands that are greater than 15 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 2015.

| County | Acres* | Square Miles | Buck Harvest | Doe Harvest | Total Harvest | Harvest Rates | | % Change from 2014 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | Ac/Deer | Deer/Mi. ² | |
| Abbeville | 223,113 | 349 | 2,773 | 1,564 | 4,337 | 51.4 | 12.4 | -14.7 |
| Aiken | 500,546 | 782 | 3,344 | 2,015 | 5,359 | 93.4 | 6.9 | 7.3 |
| Allendale | 216,455 | 338 | 2,490 | 1,920 | 4,410 | 49.1 | 13.0 | 8.8 |
| Anderson | 219,068 | 342 | 3,784 | 2,399 | 6,183 | 35.4 | 18.1 | 31.8 |
| Bamberg | 196,573 | 307 | 1,804 | 2,454 | 4,258 | 46.2 | 13.9 | -22.9 |
| Barnwell | 281,764 | 440 | 2,939 | 1,725 | 4,664 | 60.4 | 10.6 | 6.6 |
| Beaufort | 147,441 | 230 | 794 | 845 | 1,639 | 90.0 | 7.1 | -41.7 |
| Berkeley | 567,530 | 887 | 3,611 | 2,138 | 5,749 | 98.7 | 6.5 | -9.7 |
| Calhoun | 190,584 | 298 | 1,800 | 1,524 | 3,324 | 57.3 | 11.2 | -8.8 |
| Charleston | 288,732 | 451 | 1,596 | 1,372 | 2,968 | 97.3 | 6.6 | -36.9 |
| Cherokee | 156,664 | 245 | 1,415 | 1,047 | 2,462 | 63.6 | 10.1 | -12.4 |
| Chester | 300,589 | 470 | 2,621 | 2,123 | 4,744 | 63.4 | 10.1 | -0.3 |
| Chesterfield | 372,478 | 582 | 2,014 | 1,603 | 3,617 | 103.0 | 6.2 | 1.1 |
| Clarendon | 298,087 | 466 | 1,783 | 996 | 2,779 | 107.3 | 6.0 | -33.5 |
| Colleton | 502,666 | 785 | 4,607 | 3,863 | 8,470 | 59.3 | 10.8 | -2.2 |
| Darlington | 286,228 | 447 | 722 | 816 | 1,538 | 186.1 | 3.4 | -3.1 |
| Dillon | 214,069 | 334 | 989 | 570 | 1,559 | 137.3 | 4.7 | -22.6 |
| Dorchester | 302,717 | 473 | 2,369 | 1,928 | 4,297 | 70.4 | 9.1 | -13.8 |
| Edgefield | 246,543 | 385 | 2,267 | 1,567 | 3,834 | 64.3 | 10.0 | -0.3 |
| Fairfield | 384,607 | 601 | 3,481 | 2,686 | 6,167 | 62.4 | 10.3 | 7.6 |
| Florence | 397,888 | 622 | 3,069 | 2,766 | 5,835 | 68.2 | 9.4 | 9.3 |
| Georgetown | 399,638 | 624 | 2,145 | 1,618 | 3,763 | 106.2 | 6.0 | -5.2 |
| Greenville | 294,257 | 460 | 2,007 | 1,480 | 3,487 | 84.4 | 7.6 | 2.5 |
| Greenwood | 204,400 | 319 | 1,791 | 1,278 | 3,069 | 66.6 | 9.6 | -38.1 |
| Hampton | 324,840 | 508 | 4,416 | 4,669 | 9,085 | 35.8 | 17.9 | 26.6 |
| Horry | 533,336 | 833 | 2,687 | 1,394 | 4,081 | 130.7 | 4.9 | 9.7 |
| Jasper | 309,889 | 484 | 2,476 | 2,664 | 5,140 | 60.3 | 10.6 | 38.7 |
| Kershaw | 360,485 | 563 | 3,574 | 2,224 | 5,798 | 62.2 | 10.3 | 12.7 |
| Lancaster | 266,382 | 416 | 1,964 | 1,321 | 3,285 | 81.1 | 7.9 | -31.5 |
| Laurens | 317,916 | 497 | 2,715 | 1,675 | 4,390 | 72.4 | 8.8 | -20.8 |
| Lee | 220,106 | 344 | 1,365 | 1,177 | 2,542 | 86.6 | 7.4 | -17.5 |
| Lexington | 280,742 | 439 | 2,123 | 924 | 3,047 | 92.1 | 6.9 | 13.1 |
| McCormick | 212,021 | 331 | 1,271 | 931 | 2,202 | 96.3 | 6.6 | 8.9 |
| Marion | 216,907 | 339 | 1,133 | 1,083 | 2,216 | 97.9 | 6.5 | 21.4 |
| Marlboro | 281,271 | 439 | 1,668 | 1,032 | 2,700 | 104.2 | 6.1 | 19.4 |
| Newberry | 317,761 | 497 | 2,889 | 2,361 | 5,250 | 60.5 | 10.6 | -8.8 |
| Oconee | 284,348 | 444 | 1,350 | 404 | 1,754 | 162.1 | 3.9 | 0.2 |
| Orangeburg | 504,516 | 788 | 5,698 | 4,636 | 10,334 | 48.8 | 13.1 | 1.0 |
| Pickens | 219,926 | 344 | 1,011 | 856 | 1,867 | 117.8 | 5.4 | -9.9 |
| Richland | 340,121 | 531 | 1,531 | 1,314 | 2,845 | 119.6 | 5.4 | -16.7 |
| Saluda | 192,173 | 300 | 1,690 | 1,003 | 2,693 | 71.4 | 9.0 | -16.5 |
| Spartanburg | 265,939 | 416 | 3,445 | 2,787 | 6,232 | 42.7 | 15.0 | -1.1 |
| Sumter | 338,968 | 530 | 2,737 | 1,307 | 4,044 | 83.8 | 7.6 | -25.0 |
| Union | 258,111 | 403 | 2,397 | 2,267 | 4,664 | 55.3 | 11.6 | -3.1 |
| Williamsburg | 513,851 | 803 | 3,965 | 3,835 | 7,800 | 65.9 | 9.7 | 3.7 |
| York | 276,650 | 432 | 2,715 | 1,834 | 4,549 | 60.8 | 10.5 | 2.6 |
| Total | 14,028,896 | 21,920 | 111,035 | 83,995 | 195,030 | 81.1 | 9.0 | -4.0 |
| 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 2015.

| County | Acres* | Square Miles | Buck Harvest | Doe Harvest | Total Harvest | Harvest Rates | | % Change from 2014 |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | Ac/Deer | Deer/Mi. ² | |
| Anderson | 219,068 | 342 | 3,784 | 2,399 | 6,183 | 35.4 | 18.1 | 31.8 |
| Hampton | 324,840 | 508 | 4,416 | 4,669 | 9,085 | 35.8 | 17.9 | 26.6 |
| Spartanburg | 265,939 | 416 | 3,445 | 2,787 | 6,232 | 42.7 | 15.0 | -1.1 |
| Bamberg | 196,573 | 307 | 1,804 | 2,454 | 4,258 | 46.2 | 13.9 | -22.9 |
| Orangeburg | 504,516 | 788 | 5,698 | 4,636 | 10,334 | 48.8 | 13.1 | 1.0 |
| Allendale | 216,455 | 338 | 2,490 | 1,920 | 4,410 | 49.1 | 13.0 | 8.8 |
| Abbeville | 223,113 | 349 | 2,773 | 1,564 | 4,337 | 51.4 | 12.4 | -14.7 |
| Union | 258,111 | 403 | 2,397 | 2,267 | 4,664 | 55.3 | 11.6 | -3.1 |
| Calhoun | 190,584 | 298 | 1,800 | 1,524 | 3,324 | 57.3 | 11.2 | -8.8 |
| Colleton | 502,666 | 785 | 4,607 | 3,863 | 8,470 | 59.3 | 10.8 | -2.2 |
| Jasper | 309,889 | 484 | 2,476 | 2,664 | 5,140 | 60.3 | 10.6 | 38.7 |
| Barnwell | 281,764 | 440 | 2,939 | 1,725 | 4,664 | 60.4 | 10.6 | 6.6 |
| Newberry | 317,761 | 497 | 2,889 | 2,361 | 5,250 | 60.5 | 10.6 | -8.8 |
| York | 276,650 | 432 | 2,715 | 1,834 | 4,549 | 60.8 | 10.5 | 2.6 |
| Kershaw | 360,485 | 563 | 3,574 | 2,224 | 5,798 | 62.2 | 10.3 | 12.7 |
| Fairfield | 384,607 | 601 | 3,481 | 2,686 | 6,167 | 62.4 | 10.3 | 7.6 |
| Chester | 300,589 | 470 | 2,621 | 2,123 | 4,744 | 63.4 | 10.1 | -0.3 |
| Cherokee | 156,664 | 245 | 1,415 | 1,047 | 2,462 | 63.6 | 10.1 | -12.4 |
| Edgefield | 246,543 | 385 | 2,267 | 1,567 | 3,834 | 64.3 | 10.0 | -0.3 |
| Williamsburg | 513,851 | 803 | 3,965 | 3,835 | 7,800 | 65.9 | 9.7 | 3.7 |
| Greenwood | 204,400 | 319 | 1,791 | 1,278 | 3,069 | 66.6 | 9.6 | -38.1 |
| Florence | 397,888 | 622 | 3,069 | 2,766 | 5,835 | 68.2 | 9.4 | 9.3 |
| Dorchester | 302,717 | 473 | 2,369 | 1,928 | 4,297 | 70.4 | 9.1 | -13.8 |
| Saluda | 192,173 | 300 | 1,690 | 1,003 | 2,693 | 71.4 | 9.0 | -16.5 |
| Laurens | 317,916 | 497 | 2,715 | 1,675 | 4,390 | 72.4 | 8.8 | -20.8 |
| Lancaster | 266,382 | 416 | 1,964 | 1,321 | 3,285 | 81.1 | 7.9 | -31.5 |
| Sumter | 338,968 | 530 | 2,737 | 1,307 | 4,044 | 83.8 | 7.6 | -25.0 |
| Greenville | 294,257 | 460 | 2,007 | 1,480 | 3,487 | 84.4 | 7.6 | 2.5 |
| Lee | 220,106 | 344 | 1,365 | 1,177 | 2,542 | 86.6 | 7.4 | -17.5 |
| Beaufort | 147,441 | 230 | 794 | 845 | 1,639 | 90.0 | 7.1 | -41.7 |
| Lexington | 280,742 | 439 | 2,123 | 924 | 3,047 | 92.1 | 6.9 | 13.1 |
| Aiken | 500,546 | 782 | 3,344 | 2,015 | 5,359 | 93.4 | 6.9 | 7.3 |
| McCormick | 212,021 | 331 | 1,271 | 931 | 2,202 | 96.3 | 6.6 | 8.9 |
| Charleston | 288,732 | 451 | 1,596 | 1,372 | 2,968 | 97.3 | 6.6 | -36.9 |
| Marion | 216,907 | 339 | 1,133 | 1,083 | 2,216 | 97.9 | 6.5 | 21.4 |
| Berkeley | 567,530 | 887 | 3,611 | 2,138 | 5,749 | 98.7 | 6.5 | -9.7 |
| Chesterfield | 372,478 | 582 | 2,014 | 1,603 | 3,617 | 103.0 | 6.2 | 1.1 |
| Marlboro | 281,271 | 439 | 1,668 | 1,032 | 2,700 | 104.2 | 6.1 | 19.4 |
| Georgetown | 399,638 | 624 | 2,145 | 1,618 | 3,763 | 106.2 | 6.0 | -5.2 |
| Clarendon | 298,087 | 466 | 1,783 | 996 | 2,779 | 107.3 | 6.0 | -33.5 |
| Pickens | 219,926 | 344 | 1,011 | 856 | 1,867 | 117.8 | 5.4 | -9.9 |
| Richland | 340,121 | 531 | 1,531 | 1,314 | 2,845 | 119.6 | 5.4 | -16.7 |
| Horry | 533,336 | 833 | 2,687 | 1,394 | 4,081 | 130.7 | 4.9 | 9.7 |
| Dillon | 214,069 | 334 | 989 | 570 | 1,559 | 137.3 | 4.7 | -22.6 |
| Oconee | 284,348 | 444 | 1,350 | 404 | 1,754 | 162.1 | 3.9 | 0.2 |
| Darlington | 286,228 | 447 | 722 | 816 | 1,538 | 186.1 | 3.4 | -3.1 |
| Total | 14,028,896 | 21,920 | 111,035 | 83,995 | 195,030 | 81.1 | 9.0 | -4.0 |

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

| County | Acres* | Square Miles | Buck Harvest | Doe Harvest | Total Harvest | Harvest Rates | | % Change from 2014 |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | Ac/Deer | Deer/Mi. ² | |
| Orangeburg | 504,516 | 788 | 5,698 | 4,636 | 10,334 | 48.8 | 13.1 | 1.0 |
| Hampton | 324,840 | 508 | 4,416 | 4,669 | 9,085 | 35.8 | 17.9 | 26.6 |
| Colleton | 502,666 | 785 | 4,607 | 3,863 | 8,470 | 59.3 | 10.8 | -2.2 |
| Williamsburg | 513,851 | 803 | 3,965 | 3,835 | 7,800 | 65.9 | 9.7 | 3.7 |
| Spartanburg | 265,939 | 416 | 3,445 | 2,787 | 6,232 | 42.7 | 15.0 | -1.1 |
| Anderson | 219,068 | 342 | 3,784 | 2,399 | 6,183 | 35.4 | 18.1 | 31.8 |
| Fairfield | 384,607 | 601 | 3,481 | 2,686 | 6,167 | 62.4 | 10.3 | 7.6 |
| Florence | 397,888 | 622 | 3,069 | 2,766 | 5,835 | 68.2 | 9.4 | 9.3 |
| Kershaw | 360,485 | 563 | 3,574 | 2,224 | 5,798 | 62.2 | 10.3 | 12.7 |
| Berkeley | 567,530 | 887 | 3,611 | 2,138 | 5,749 | 98.7 | 6.5 | -9.7 |
| Aiken | 500,546 | 782 | 3,344 | 2,015 | 5,359 | 93.4 | 6.9 | 7.3 |
| Newberry | 317,761 | 497 | 2,889 | 2,361 | 5,250 | 60.5 | 10.6 | -8.8 |
| Jasper | 309,889 | 484 | 2,476 | 2,664 | 5,140 | 60.3 | 10.6 | 38.7 |
| Chester | 300,589 | 470 | 2,621 | 2,123 | 4,744 | 63.4 | 10.1 | -0.3 |
| Union | 258,111 | 403 | 2,397 | 2,267 | 4,664 | 55.3 | 11.6 | -3.1 |
| Barnwell | 281,764 | 440 | 2,939 | 1,725 | 4,664 | 60.4 | 10.6 | 6.6 |
| York | 276,650 | 432 | 2,715 | 1,834 | 4,549 | 60.8 | 10.5 | 2.6 |
| Allendale | 216,455 | 338 | 2,490 | 1,920 | 4,410 | 49.1 | 13.0 | 8.8 |
| Laurens | 317,916 | 497 | 2,715 | 1,675 | 4,390 | 72.4 | 8.8 | -20.8 |
| Abbeville | 223,113 | 349 | 2,773 | 1,564 | 4,337 | 51.4 | 12.4 | -14.7 |
| Dorchester | 302,717 | 473 | 2,369 | 1,928 | 4,297 | 70.4 | 9.1 | -13.8 |
| Bamberg | 196,573 | 307 | 1,804 | 2,454 | 4,258 | 46.2 | 13.9 | -22.9 |
| Horry | 533,336 | 833 | 2,687 | 1,394 | 4,081 | 130.7 | 4.9 | 9.7 |
| Sumter | 338,968 | 530 | 2,737 | 1,307 | 4,044 | 83.8 | 7.6 | -25.0 |
| Edgefield | 246,543 | 385 | 2,267 | 1,567 | 3,834 | 64.3 | 10.0 | -0.3 |
| Georgetown | 399,638 | 624 | 2,145 | 1,618 | 3,763 | 106.2 | 6.0 | -5.2 |
| Chesterfield | 372,478 | 582 | 2,014 | 1,603 | 3,617 | 103.0 | 6.2 | 1.1 |
| Greenville | 294,257 | 460 | 2,007 | 1,480 | 3,487 | 84.4 | 7.6 | 2.5 |
| Calhoun | 190,584 | 298 | 1,800 | 1,524 | 3,324 | 57.3 | 11.2 | -8.8 |
| Lancaster | 266,382 | 416 | 1,964 | 1,321 | 3,285 | 81.1 | 7.9 | -31.5 |
| Greenwood | 204,400 | 319 | 1,791 | 1,278 | 3,069 | 66.6 | 9.6 | -38.1 |
| Lexington | 280,742 | 439 | 2,123 | 924 | 3,047 | 92.1 | 6.9 | 13.1 |
| Charleston | 288,732 | 451 | 1,596 | 1,372 | 2,968 | 97.3 | 6.6 | -36.9 |
| Richland | 340,121 | 531 | 1,531 | 1,314 | 2,845 | 119.6 | 5.4 | -16.7 |
| Clarendon | 298,087 | 466 | 1,783 | 996 | 2,779 | 107.3 | 6.0 | -33.5 |
| Marlboro | 281,271 | 439 | 1,668 | 1,032 | 2,700 | 104.2 | 6.1 | 19.4 |
| Saluda | 192,173 | 300 | 1,690 | 1,003 | 2,693 | 71.4 | 9.0 | -16.5 |
| Lee | 220,106 | 344 | 1,365 | 1,177 | 2,542 | 86.6 | 7.4 | -17.5 |
| Cherokee | 156,664 | 245 | 1,415 | 1,047 | 2,462 | 63.6 | 10.1 | -12.4 |
| Marion | 216,907 | 339 | 1,133 | 1,083 | 2,216 | 97.9 | 6.5 | 21.4 |
| McCormick | 212,021 | 331 | 1,271 | 931 | 2,202 | 96.3 | 6.6 | 8.9 |
| Pickens | 219,926 | 344 | 1,011 | 856 | 1,867 | 117.8 | 5.4 | -9.9 |
| Oconee | 284,348 | 444 | 1,350 | 404 | 1,754 | 162.1 | 3.9 | 0.2 |
| Beaufort | 147,441 | 230 | 794 | 845 | 1,639 | 90.0 | 7.1 | -41.7 |
| Dillon | 214,069 | 334 | 989 | 570 | 1,559 | 137.3 | 4.7 | -22.6 |
| Darlington | 286,228 | 447 | 722 | 816 | 1,538 | 186.1 | 3.4 | -3.1 |
| Total | 14,028,896 | 21,920 | 111,035 | 83,995 | 195,030 | 81.1 | 9.0 | -4.0 |

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 4. Estimated deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas in South Carolina in 2015.

| Area | Acreage | Bucks | Does | Total | Deer/Mi.² |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Mountain Hunt Unit | 193,566 | 954 | 534 | 1,488 | 4.9 |
| Central Piedmont Hunt Unit | 159,793 | 1,447 | 1,212 | 2,659 | 10.6 |
| Western Piedmont Hunt Unit | 119,077 | 977 | 714 | 1,691 | 9.1 |
| Subtotal for Upstate WMA's | 472,436 | 3,378 | 2,460 | 5,838 | 7.9 |
| Coastal WMA's* | | | | | |
| Bear Island WMA | 1,519 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 5.5 |
| Bonneau Ferry | 10,697 | 43 | 30 | 73 | 4.4 |
| Botany Bay WMA | 2,000 | 26 | 18 | 44 | 14.1 |
| Crackerneck WMA | 10,470 | 55 | 38 | 93 | 5.7 |
| Cross Generating Station WMA | 654 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7.8 |
| Donnelley WMA | 8,048 | 17 | 32 | 49 | 3.9 |
| Francis Marion WMA | 252,578 | 118 | 87 | 205 | 0.5 |
| Hamilton Ridge | 13,281 | 32 | 38 | 70 | 3.4 |
| Hickory Top WMA | 1,836 | 13 | 3 | 16 | 5.6 |
| Manchester State Forest WMA | 25,505 | 46 | 33 | 79 | 2.0 |
| Moultrie WMA | 9,480 | 16 | 17 | 33 | 2.2 |
| Oak Lea WMA | 2,024 | 25 | 28 | 53 | 16.8 |
| Palachucola WMA | 5,947 | 26 | 17 | 43 | 4.6 |
| Santee Cooper WMA | 2,828 | 5 | 14 | 19 | 4.3 |
| Victoria Bluff WMA | 800 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 5.6 |
| Wateree River WMA | 3,674 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 1.2 |
| Webb Wildlife Center WMA | 5,866 | 27 | 29 | 56 | 6.1 |
| Subtotal for Coastal WMA's | 357,207 | 462 | 406 | 868 | 1.6 |
| Total | 829,643 | 3,840 | 2,866 | 6,706 | 5.2 |

*Check Station data.

Table 5. Hunter opinion (percent) regarding the number of deer in the area hunted most often in South Carolina in 2015 compared to previous years.

| | Increasing | About the Same | Decreasing |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Residents | 11.6 | 47.6 | 40.8 |
| Non-Residents | 10.5 | 49.5 | 40.0 |
| Overall | 11.4 | 47.9 | 40.7 |

Table 6. Resident deer hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2015.

| County | Number Hunters | Man/Days Hunted | Percent Success | Deer/Hunter | Days/Deer | Buck Harvest | Doe Harvest | Total Harvest |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Abbeville | 3,792 | 50,403 | 69 | 1.11 | 12.0 | 2,687 | 1,517 | 4,204 |
| Aiken | 4,031 | 76,018 | 66 | 1.28 | 14.7 | 3,229 | 1,929 | 5,158 |
| Allendale | 1,409 | 22,126 | 76 | 1.46 | 10.7 | 1,149 | 910 | 2,059 |
| Anderson | 4,962 | 72,467 | 72 | 1.23 | 11.9 | 3,770 | 2,340 | 6,111 |
| Bamberg | 1,907 | 24,812 | 75 | 1.36 | 9.5 | 997 | 1,604 | 2,600 |
| Barnwell | 2,102 | 36,905 | 76 | 1.84 | 9.6 | 2,449 | 1,409 | 3,857 |
| Beaufort | 1,257 | 13,565 | 74 | 1.26 | 8.6 | 780 | 802 | 1,582 |
| Berkeley | 4,421 | 66,094 | 65 | 1.28 | 11.6 | 3,554 | 2,124 | 5,677 |
| Calhoun | 2,232 | 37,467 | 64 | 1.48 | 11.4 | 1,799 | 1,495 | 3,294 |
| Charleston | 2,644 | 32,116 | 70 | 1.09 | 11.1 | 1,539 | 1,344 | 2,882 |
| Cherokee | 1,582 | 25,224 | 70 | 1.41 | 11.3 | 1,257 | 975 | 2,232 |
| Chester | 3,511 | 53,827 | 66 | 1.10 | 13.9 | 2,145 | 1,734 | 3,879 |
| Chesterfield | 2,297 | 54,609 | 57 | 1.22 | 19.5 | 1,669 | 1,127 | 2,795 |
| Clarendon | 1,669 | 28,323 | 67 | 1.49 | 11.4 | 1,539 | 953 | 2,492 |
| Colleton | 4,442 | 80,069 | 73 | 1.63 | 11.0 | 3,987 | 3,272 | 7,260 |
| Darlington | 1,279 | 21,648 | 64 | 1.14 | 14.9 | 693 | 758 | 1,452 |
| Dillon | 888 | 23,447 | 78 | 1.56 | 16.9 | 888 | 498 | 1,387 |
| Dorchester | 2,795 | 45,398 | 76 | 1.50 | 10.9 | 2,340 | 1,842 | 4,182 |
| Edgefield | 2,860 | 39,071 | 63 | 1.19 | 11.5 | 1,994 | 1,408 | 3,402 |
| Fairfield | 4,312 | 58,876 | 71 | 1.25 | 11.0 | 3,120 | 2,254 | 5,374 |
| Florence | 3,251 | 56,146 | 76 | 1.78 | 9.7 | 3,055 | 2,730 | 5,786 |
| Georgetown | 2,449 | 41,173 | 73 | 1.51 | 11.1 | 2,102 | 1,604 | 3,706 |
| Greenville | 2,969 | 35,364 | 69 | 1.16 | 10.3 | 1,994 | 1,452 | 3,446 |
| Greenwood | 2,990 | 42,581 | 67 | 0.99 | 14.3 | 1,734 | 1,235 | 2,969 |
| Hampton | 2,514 | 33,372 | 70 | 1.25 | 10.6 | 1,214 | 1,929 | 3,142 |
| Horry | 2,990 | 57,901 | 62 | 1.34 | 14.4 | 2,644 | 1,365 | 4,009 |
| Jasper | 1,517 | 20,434 | 74 | 1.94 | 6.9 | 1,322 | 1,625 | 2,947 |
| Kershaw | 3,576 | 65,855 | 67 | 1.35 | 13.6 | 3,055 | 1,777 | 4,832 |
| Lancaster | 2,232 | 42,082 | 67 | 1.23 | 15.3 | 1,603 | 1,149 | 2,752 |
| Laurens | 5,006 | 58,638 | 61 | 0.83 | 14.1 | 2,557 | 1,603 | 4,160 |
| Lee | 1,690 | 28,128 | 73 | 1.38 | 12.0 | 1,322 | 1,019 | 2,341 |
| Lexington | 3,077 | 42,255 | 68 | 0.97 | 14.1 | 2,080 | 910 | 2,991 |
| McCormick | 1,929 | 24,575 | 72 | 1.00 | 12.7 | 1,127 | 802 | 1,929 |
| Marion | 1,517 | 22,732 | 69 | 1.36 | 11.0 | 1,018 | 1,040 | 2,059 |
| Marlboro | 1,127 | 22,363 | 77 | 2.00 | 9.9 | 1,322 | 932 | 2,254 |
| Newberry | 4,312 | 57,315 | 73 | 1.17 | 11.4 | 2,774 | 2,275 | 5,049 |
| Oconee | 2,124 | 25,571 | 62 | 0.81 | 14.9 | 1,322 | 390 | 1,712 |
| Orangeburg | 6,024 | 108,545 | 72 | 1.54 | 11.7 | 5,049 | 4,204 | 9,253 |
| Pickens | 2,579 | 28,237 | 33 | 0.71 | 15.3 | 997 | 845 | 1,842 |
| Richland | 2,860 | 41,042 | 67 | 0.98 | 14.6 | 1,517 | 1,300 | 2,817 |
| Saluda | 2,860 | 35,930 | 67 | 0.93 | 13.5 | 1,690 | 975 | 2,665 |
| Spartanburg | 4,681 | 69,017 | 68 | 1.31 | 11.3 | 3,402 | 2,730 | 6,133 |
| Sumter | 2,904 | 42,299 | 68 | 1.33 | 11.0 | 2,622 | 1,235 | 3,857 |
| Union | 3,684 | 47,371 | 68 | 1.16 | 11.0 | 2,210 | 2,080 | 4,291 |
| Williamsburg | 3,857 | 58,985 | 72 | 1.91 | 8.0 | 3,792 | 3,576 | 7,368 |
| York | 3,424 | 56,213 | 61 | 1.19 | 13.8 | 2,427 | 1,647 | 4,074 |
| Total | 132,534 | 2,026,590 | 66 | 1.28 | 11.9 | 97,537 | 72,724 | 170,260 |
| % Change from 2014 | 1.8 | -1.8 | -5.8 | -8.0 | 4.3 | -1.4 | -11.9 | -6.2 |

Table 7. Nonresident deer hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2015.

| County | Number Hunters | Man/Days Hunted | Percent Success | Deer/Hunter | Days/Deer | Buck Harvest | Doe Harvest | Total Harvest |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Abbeville | 58 | 721 | 75 | 2.33 | 5.4 | 87 | 48 | 134 |
| Aiken | 144 | 1,544 | 75 | 1.40 | 7.6 | 115 | 87 | 202 |
| Allendale | 1,154 | 19,868 | 84 | 2.04 | 8.4 | 1,342 | 1,010 | 2,352 |
| Anderson | 72 | 274 | 44 | 1.03 | 3.7 | 14 | 60 | 74 |
| Bamberg | 923 | 20,055 | 81 | 1.80 | 12.1 | 808 | 851 | 1,659 |
| Barnwell | 491 | 7,560 | 83 | 1.65 | 9.4 | 491 | 317 | 808 |
| Beaufort | 72 | 505 | 33 | 0.80 | 8.8 | 14 | 43 | 58 |
| Berkeley | 58 | 390 | 25 | 1.25 | 5.4 | 58 | 14 | 72 |
| Calhoun | 58 | 1,212 | 85 | 2.50 | 39.6 | 2 | 29 | 31 |
| Charleston | 58 | 880 | 50 | 1.50 | 10.2 | 58 | 29 | 87 |
| Cherokee | 216 | 2,669 | 62 | 1.07 | 11.6 | 159 | 72 | 231 |
| Chester | 664 | 8,094 | 74 | 1.30 | 9.3 | 476 | 390 | 866 |
| Chesterfield | 563 | 7,661 | 62 | 1.46 | 9.3 | 346 | 476 | 822 |
| Clarendon | 101 | 2,294 | 50 | 2.86 | 7.9 | 245 | 43 | 289 |
| Colleton | 693 | 14,860 | 74 | 1.75 | 12.3 | 620 | 592 | 1,212 |
| Darlington | 29 | 866 | 67 | 3.00 | 10.0 | 29 | 58 | 87 |
| Dillon | 130 | 2,034 | 78 | 1.33 | 11.7 | 101 | 72 | 173 |
| Dorchester | 72 | 563 | 89 | 1.60 | 4.9 | 29 | 87 | 115 |
| Edgefield | 317 | 4,963 | 70 | 1.36 | 11.5 | 274 | 159 | 433 |
| Fairfield | 620 | 12,523 | 67 | 1.28 | 15.8 | 361 | 433 | 794 |
| Florence | 43 | 418 | 67 | 1.16 | 8.3 | 14 | 36 | 50 |
| Georgetown | 58 | 476 | 60 | 1.00 | 8.3 | 43 | 14 | 58 |
| Greenville | 29 | 245 | 75 | 1.50 | 5.7 | 14 | 29 | 43 |
| Greenwood | 72 | 1,111 | 78 | 1.40 | 11.0 | 58 | 43 | 101 |
| Hampton | 2,135 | 48,724 | 83 | 2.78 | 8.2 | 3,203 | 2,741 | 5,944 |
| Horry | 58 | 750 | 33 | 1.25 | 10.4 | 43 | 29 | 72 |
| Jasper | 750 | 18,641 | 87 | 2.92 | 8.5 | 1,154 | 1,039 | 2,193 |
| Kershaw | 505 | 8,902 | 67 | 1.91 | 9.2 | 519 | 447 | 967 |
| Lancaster | 548 | 6,074 | 66 | 0.97 | 11.4 | 361 | 173 | 534 |
| Laurens | 101 | 2,337 | 63 | 2.29 | 10.1 | 159 | 72 | 231 |
| Lee | 101 | 923 | 88 | 2.00 | 4.6 | 43 | 159 | 202 |
| Lexington | 43 | 346 | 67 | 1.34 | 6.0 | 43 | 14 | 58 |
| McCormick | 245 | 3,347 | 78 | 1.12 | 12.2 | 144 | 130 | 274 |
| Marion | 72 | 1,587 | 88 | 2.20 | 10.0 | 115 | 43 | 159 |
| Marlboro | 245 | 7,084 | 65 | 1.82 | 15.8 | 346 | 101 | 447 |
| Newberry | 144 | 2,712 | 70 | 1.40 | 13.4 | 115 | 87 | 202 |
| Oconee | 43 | 188 | 67 | 1.00 | 4.3 | 29 | 14 | 43 |
| Orangeburg | 433 | 7,113 | 74 | 2.50 | 6.6 | 649 | 433 | 1,082 |
| Pickens | 14 | 101 | 90 | 1.83 | 3.8 | 14 | 12 | 26 |
| Richland | 14 | 115 | 50 | 2.00 | 4.0 | 14 | 14 | 29 |
| Saluda | 29 | 231 | 50 | 1.00 | 8.0 | 0 | 29 | 29 |
| Spartanburg | 72 | 534 | 83 | 1.40 | 5.3 | 43 | 58 | 101 |
| Sumter | 173 | 1,688 | 73 | 1.08 | 9.0 | 115 | 72 | 188 |
| Union | 346 | 6,391 | 65 | 1.08 | 17.0 | 188 | 188 | 375 |
| Williamsburg | 231 | 2,712 | 82 | 1.88 | 6.3 | 173 | 260 | 433 |
| York | 491 | 5,382 | 59 | 0.97 | 11.3 | 289 | 188 | 476 |
| TOTAL | 13,490 | 237,671 | 71 | 1.83 | 9.6 | 13,521 | 11,293 | 24,814 |
| % Change from 2014 | -4.3 | 24.6 | 1.4 | 5.0 | 13.6 | 21.9 | 2.5 | 13.0 |

Table 8. Hunting effort (man/days) by county for successful and unsuccessful resident and nonresident deer hunters in South Carolina in 2015.

| County | Residents (man/days) | | | Total Effort Residents | Non-Residents (man/days) | | | Total Effort Non-residents | Total Days |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| | Successful | Unsuccessful | Average | | Successful | Unsuccessful | Average | | |
| Abbeville | 17.1 | 8.6 | 13.3 | 50,403 | 16.7 | 0.0 | 12.5 | 721 | 51,124 |
| Aiken | 25.6 | 10.5 | 18.9 | 76,018 | 10.0 | 11.8 | 10.7 | 1,544 | 77,561 |
| Allendale | 21.3 | 7.9 | 15.7 | 22,126 | 20.2 | 7.6 | 17.2 | 19,868 | 41,993 |
| Anderson | 18.1 | 9.4 | 14.6 | 72,467 | 7.0 | 3.0 | 3.8 | 274 | 72,741 |
| Bamberg | 19.2 | 6.6 | 13.0 | 24,812 | 25.1 | 10.6 | 21.7 | 20,055 | 44,866 |
| Barnwell | 21.5 | 9.2 | 17.6 | 36,905 | 17.2 | 11.7 | 15.4 | 7,560 | 44,465 |
| Beaufort | 15.0 | 6.3 | 10.8 | 13,565 | 10.5 | 4.7 | 7.0 | 505 | 14,070 |
| Berkeley | 21.3 | 7.9 | 15.0 | 66,094 | 4.0 | 7.7 | 6.8 | 390 | 66,483 |
| Calhoun | 24.6 | 8.5 | 16.8 | 37,467 | 21.0 | | 21.0 | 1,212 | 38,679 |
| Charleston | 17.6 | 6.0 | 12.1 | 32,116 | 26.5 | 4.0 | 15.3 | 880 | 32,996 |
| Cherokee | 20.0 | 9.9 | 15.9 | 25,224 | 14.7 | 10.3 | 12.3 | 2,669 | 27,893 |
| Chester | 19.2 | 10.3 | 15.3 | 53,827 | 14.1 | 8.7 | 12.2 | 8,094 | 61,921 |
| Chesterfield | 33.0 | 13.8 | 23.8 | 54,609 | 18.9 | 9.1 | 13.6 | 7,661 | 62,270 |
| Clarendon | 22.3 | 9.9 | 17.0 | 28,323 | 30.8 | 2.5 | 22.7 | 2,294 | 30,617 |
| Colleton | 23.6 | 9.1 | 18.0 | 80,069 | 24.2 | 15.3 | 21.5 | 14,860 | 94,929 |
| Darlington | 21.2 | 11.5 | 16.9 | 21,648 | 58.0 | 2.0 | 30.0 | 866 | 22,514 |
| Dillon | 33.1 | 13.4 | 26.4 | 23,447 | 18.0 | 7.5 | 15.7 | 2,034 | 25,481 |
| Dorchester | 21.7 | 7.6 | 16.2 | 45,398 | 7.8 | | 7.8 | 563 | 45,961 |
| Edgefield | 20.0 | 7.3 | 13.7 | 39,071 | 20.2 | 9.0 | 15.6 | 4,963 | 44,034 |
| Fairfield | 17.5 | 7.4 | 13.7 | 58,876 | 25.1 | 13.4 | 20.2 | 12,523 | 71,400 |
| Florence | 20.8 | 11.3 | 17.3 | 56,146 | 10.0 | 9.5 | 9.7 | 418 | 56,564 |
| Georgetown | 21.5 | 8.9 | 16.8 | 41,173 | 14.0 | 2.5 | 8.3 | 476 | 41,649 |
| Greenville | 17.5 | 5.6 | 11.9 | 35,364 | 16.0 | 1.0 | 8.5 | 245 | 35,610 |
| Greenwood | 19.9 | 8.4 | 14.2 | 42,581 | 22.3 | 5.0 | 15.4 | 1,111 | 43,692 |
| Hampton | 19.3 | 6.1 | 13.3 | 33,372 | 25.5 | 12.3 | 22.8 | 48,724 | 82,096 |
| Horry | 26.1 | 11.3 | 19.4 | 57,901 | 15.0 | 11.0 | 13.0 | 750 | 58,652 |
| Jasper | 17.8 | 6.1 | 13.5 | 20,434 | 25.6 | 21.5 | 24.8 | 18,641 | 39,075 |
| Kershaw | 26.0 | 8.9 | 18.4 | 65,855 | 20.4 | 11.5 | 17.6 | 8,902 | 74,757 |
| Lancaster | 22.5 | 14.2 | 18.9 | 42,082 | 15.6 | 6.5 | 11.1 | 6,074 | 48,157 |
| Laurens | 15.5 | 8.3 | 11.7 | 58,638 | 30.2 | 5.5 | 23.1 | 2,337 | 60,975 |
| Lee | 22.1 | 9.5 | 16.6 | 28,128 | 10.7 | 0.0 | 9.1 | 923 | 29,051 |
| Lexington | 18.9 | 9.0 | 13.7 | 42,255 | 11.0 | 6.5 | 8.0 | 346 | 42,602 |
| McCormick | 15.3 | 9.6 | 12.7 | 24,575 | 16.8 | 9.1 | 13.6 | 3,347 | 27,922 |
| Marion | 17.9 | 11.3 | 15.0 | 22,732 | 22.0 | | 22.0 | 1,587 | 24,319 |
| Marlboro | 27.3 | 6.8 | 19.8 | 22,363 | 38.0 | 12.2 | 28.9 | 7,084 | 29,447 |
| Newberry | 17.4 | 7.9 | 13.3 | 57,315 | 21.0 | 16.6 | 18.8 | 2,712 | 60,028 |
| Oconee | 16.9 | 8.3 | 12.0 | 25,571 | 5.5 | 2.0 | 4.3 | 188 | 25,759 |
| Orangeburg | 25.3 | 7.1 | 18.0 | 108,545 | 17.9 | 12.5 | 16.4 | 7,113 | 115,658 |
| Pickens | 17.7 | 7.1 | 11.0 | 28,237 | 7.8 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 101 | 28,338 |
| Richland | 19.1 | 9.6 | 14.3 | 41,042 | 8.0 | | 8.0 | 115 | 41,157 |
| Saluda | 15.6 | 9.2 | 12.6 | 35,930 | 15.0 | 1.0 | 8.0 | 231 | 36,161 |
| Spartanburg | 19.1 | 9.2 | 14.7 | 69,017 | 8.3 | 4.0 | 7.4 | 534 | 69,551 |
| Sumter | 18.7 | 8.6 | 14.6 | 42,299 | 9.9 | 9.6 | 9.8 | 1,688 | 43,988 |
| Union | 19.0 | 6.7 | 12.9 | 47,371 | 16.5 | 20.4 | 18.5 | 6,391 | 53,763 |
| Williamsburg | 20.1 | 7.2 | 15.3 | 58,985 | 14.0 | 5.0 | 11.8 | 2,712 | 61,698 |
| York | 20.6 | 11.4 | 16.4 | 56,213 | 12.6 | 10.0 | 11.0 | 5,382 | 61,595 |
| Total | 20.5 | 8.7 | 15.3 | 2,026,590 | 21.0 | 10.6 | 17.6 | 237,671 | 2,264,261 |
| % Change from 2014 | -0.9 | -1.0 | -1.0 | -1.0 | 27.2 | 13.6 | -11.9 | 27.9 | 1.0 |

Table 9. Estimated deer harvest by weapon type in South Carolina in 2015.

| | Rifle | Bow & Arrow | Shotgun | Muzzle-loader | Crossbow | Handgun | Total |
|---|--------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Number of Deer Harvested | 159,144 | 12,579 | 15,407 | 4,486 | 3,120 | 195 | 195,030 |
| Percent Total Deer Harvest | 81.6 | 6.5 | 7.9 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 0.1 | 100.0 |
| Percent Hunter Success With Weapon | 63.3 | 27.9 | 31.1 | 26.9 | 22.4 | 14.6 | 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 2015.

| | Rifle | Bow & Arrow | Shotgun | Muzzle-loader | Crossbow | Handgun |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Residents | 121,270 | 31,543 | 31,411 | 14,711 | 12,061 | 4,506 |
| Non-Residents | 12,896 | 1,862 | 1,147 | 2,024 | 1,201 | 418 |
| Total | 134,166 | 33,405 | 32,557 | 16,735 | 13,261 | 4,924 |

Total across weapons not given because hunters use multiple weapons. Total hunters = 146,025.

Table 11. Weapons utilization (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2015.

| | Rifle | Bow & Arrow | Shotgun | Muzzle-loader | Crossbow | Handgun |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Residents | 91.5* | 23.8* | 23.7* | 11.1* | 9.1 | 3.4 |
| Non-Residents | 95.6 | 13.8 | 8.5 | 15.0 | 8.9 | 3.1 |
| Total | 92.2 | 22.2 | 21.4 | 11.7 | 9.1 | 3.4 |

* Significant difference in weapons use category based on residency.

Table 12. Weapons preference (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2015.

| | Rifle | Bow & Arrow | Shotgun | Muzzle-loader | Crossbow | Handgun | Total |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Residents | 76.4* | 13.0* | 7.6* | 0.8 | 1.7 | 0.5 | 100.0 |
| Non-Residents | 87.8 | 8.7 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 78.2 | 12.4 | 6.6 | 0.9 | 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 2015.

Rank is by per unit area harvested.

| County | Hog Harv. | Harv./ Mile ² | % Change from 2014 | 2015 Rank | 2014 Rank | Coyote Harv. | Harv./ Mile ² | % Change from 2014 | 2015 Rank | 2014 Rank |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Abbeville | 1,948 | 5.59 | 25.9 | 1 | 1 | 866 | 2.48 | -27.4 | 4 | 2 |
| Aiken | 673 | 0.86 | -11.3 | 28 | 26 | 649 | 0.83 | -36.3 | 35 | 25 |
| Allendale | 1,707 | 5.05 | 92.0 | 3 | 3 | 240 | 0.71 | -53.8 | 38 | 16 |
| Anderson | 1,732 | 5.06 | 96.4 | 2 | 4 | 1,395 | 4.07 | 9.0 | 1 | 1 |
| Bamberg | 433 | 1.41 | 10.8 | 19 | 22 | 409 | 1.33 | -10.3 | 23 | 19 |
| Barnwell | 553 | 1.26 | 21.4 | 21 | 25 | 553 | 1.26 | 218.7 | 24 | 45 |
| Beaufort | 24 | 0.10 | -81.5 | 45 | 37 | 72 | 0.31 | -16.9 | 45 | 46 |
| Berkeley | 1,804 | 2.03 | 45.9 | 10 | 20 | 361 | 0.41 | -61.3 | 43 | 32 |
| Calhoun | 649 | 2.18 | -6.5 | 8 | 8 | 481 | 1.62 | 146.3 | 14 | 41 |
| Charleston | 361 | 0.80 | -68.6 | 30 | 6 | 144 | 0.32 | -77.1 | 44 | 21 |
| Cherokee | 265 | 1.08 | 103.2 | 24 | 38 | 697 | 2.85 | 78.6 | 3 | 13 |
| Chester | 625 | 1.33 | 311.7 | 20 | 44 | 746 | 1.59 | 1.1 | 15 | 15 |
| Chesterfield | 938 | 1.61 | 72.9 | 17 | 27 | 1,251 | 2.15 | 34.1 | 8 | 13 |
| Clarendon | 794 | 1.70 | -33.5 | 15 | 5 | 721 | 1.55 | 7.3 | 18 | 20 |
| Colleton | 1,299 | 1.65 | 2.7 | 16 | 17 | 673 | 0.86 | -3.0 | 34 | 36 |
| Darlington | 313 | 0.70 | -48.5 | 33 | 21 | 289 | 0.65 | -46.8 | 41 | 28 |
| Dillon | 192 | 0.58 | 10.8 | 38 | 39 | 24 | 0.07 | -94.2 | 46 | 26 |
| Dorchester | 505 | 1.07 | -52.5 | 25 | 10 | 313 | 0.66 | 2.9 | 40 | 42 |
| Edgefield | 72 | 0.19 | -44.6 | 43 | 43 | 553 | 1.44 | -52.8 | 21 | 3 |
| Fairfield | 385 | 0.64 | 61.2 | 36 | 41 | 746 | 1.24 | 7.4 | 25 | 30 |
| Florence | 481 | 0.77 | 30.4 | 31 | 36 | 601 | 0.97 | -7.6 | 31 | 32 |
| Georgetown | 890 | 1.42 | -30.5 | 18 | 13 | 481 | 0.77 | -17.9 | 36 | 35 |
| Greenville | 168 | 0.37 | -48.3 | 41 | 31 | 553 | 1.20 | -27.2 | 26 | 12 |
| Greenwood | 553 | 1.73 | 21.4 | 14 | 19 | 505 | 1.58 | 16.4 | 16 | 23 |
| Hampton | 2,309 | 4.55 | 36.4 | 4 | 2 | 962 | 1.90 | 92.8 | 10 | 34 |
| Horry | 770 | 0.92 | -17.5 | 27 | 23 | 625 | 0.75 | 80.1 | 37 | 44 |
| Jasper | 914 | 1.89 | 23.9 | 12 | 18 | 553 | 1.14 | 70.0 | 28 | 40 |
| Kershaw | 649 | 1.15 | 66.3 | 22 | 34 | 1,106 | 1.96 | 41.6 | 9 | 21 |
| Lancaster | 48 | 0.12 | -72.3 | 44 | 40 | 601 | 1.44 | -52.2 | 21 | 4 |
| Laurens | 481 | 0.97 | 10.9 | 26 | 28 | 1,130 | 2.28 | -17.3 | 7 | 5 |
| Lee | 240 | 0.70 | 3.9 | 33 | 35 | 794 | 2.31 | 18.0 | 6 | 11 |
| Lexington | 289 | 0.66 | -21.8 | 35 | 29 | 481 | 1.10 | -28.5 | 29 | 17 |
| McCormick | 361 | 1.09 | -52.5 | 23 | 9 | 313 | 0.94 | 20.1 | 33 | 39 |
| Marion | 1,539 | 4.54 | 125.2 | 5 | 15 | 529 | 1.56 | 28.3 | 17 | 27 |
| Marlboro | 1,635 | 3.72 | 1,156.3 | 6 | 45 | 481 | 1.09 | 70.5 | 30 | 42 |
| Newberry | 265 | 0.53 | -23.8 | 39 | 32 | 866 | 1.74 | -16.9 | 13 | 10 |
| Oconee | 938 | 2.11 | 188.2 | 9 | 30 | 842 | 1.89 | 128.2 | 11 | 37 |
| Orangeburg | 601 | 0.76 | 246.4 | 32 | 46 | 1,178 | 1.49 | 23.4 | 20 | 28 |
| Pickens | 144 | 0.42 | -81.4 | 40 | 10 | 240 | 0.70 | -38.4 | 39 | 31 |
| Richland | 938 | 1.76 | -17.7 | 13 | 12 | 265 | 0.50 | -79.0 | 42 | 8 |
| Saluda | 192 | 0.64 | 77.4 | 36 | 42 | 866 | 2.88 | 7.9 | 2 | 6 |
| Spartanburg | 337 | 0.81 | -51.8 | 29 | 16 | 986 | 2.37 | -3.3 | 5 | 7 |
| Sumter | 1,707 | 3.22 | 57.4 | 7 | 13 | 505 | 0.95 | 16.4 | 32 | 38 |
| Union | 120 | 0.30 | -87.8 | 42 | 7 | 625 | 1.55 | 15.3 | 18 | 24 |
| Williamsburg | 1,539 | 1.92 | 81.9 | 11 | 24 | 938 | 1.17 | -22.8 | 27 | 18 |
| York | 24 | 0.06 | -92.1 | 46 | 32 | 818 | 1.89 | -12.4 | 11 | 9 |
| Total | 33,404 | 1.52 | 12.1 | NA | NA | 29,027 | 1.32 | -7.3 | NA | NA |
| | (+ -) 2,443 | | | | | (+ -) 1,640 | | | | |

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 2011-2015.

| County | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Abbeville | 13 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 3 |
| Aiken | 70 | 74 | 67 | 77 | 62 |
| Allendale | 9 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 9 |
| Anderson | 94 | 105 | 91 | 87 | 86 |
| Bamberg | 16 | 18 | 13 | 21 | 11 |
| Barnwell | 16 | 15 | 15 | 17 | 15 |
| Beaufort | 172 | 179 | 166 | 138 | 112 |
| Berkeley | 100 | 102 | 88 | 74 | 79 |
| Calhoun | 24 | 41 | 29 | 28 | 34 |
| Charleston | 215 | 244 | 185 | 185 | 147 |
| Cherokee | 23 | 26 | 25 | 22 | 25 |
| Chester | 20 | 22 | 18 | 16 | 16 |
| Chesterfield | 16 | 14 | 21 | 11 | 14 |
| Clarendon | 48 | 34 | 24 | 26 | 23 |
| Colleton | 70 | 70 | 82 | 85 | 66 |
| Darlington | 40 | 44 | 48 | 49 | 59 |
| Dillon | 15 | 28 | 41 | 25 | 64 |
| Dorchester | 87 | 81 | 73 | 71 | 77 |
| Edgefield | 5 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| Fairfield | 25 | 35 | 16 | 15 | 26 |
| Florence | 80 | 99 | 91 | 74 | 118 |
| Georgetown | 32 | 47 | 47 | 28 | 34 |
| Greenville | 134 | 129 | 115 | 139 | 121 |
| Greenwood | 14 | 15 | 10 | 25 | 17 |
| Hampton | 22 | 12 | 11 | 20 | 15 |
| Horry | 112 | 103 | 135 | 131 | 184 |
| Jasper | 67 | 58 | 74 | 55 | 56 |
| Kershaw | 58 | 49 | 51 | 46 | 37 |
| Lancaster | 23 | 23 | 15 | 23 | 30 |
| Laurens | 22 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 16 |
| Lee | 33 | 35 | 23 | 19 | 21 |
| Lexington | 51 | 68 | 35 | 57 | 34 |
| McCormick | 3 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| Marion | 34 | 35 | 43 | 31 | 39 |
| Marlboro | 23 | 19 | 22 | 21 | 21 |
| Newberry | 18 | 8 | 11 | 10 | 7 |
| Oconee | 16 | 18 | 8 | 14 | 15 |
| Orangeburg | 89 | 115 | 142 | 152 | 143 |
| Pickens | 27 | 25 | 29 | 23 | 32 |
| Richland | 112 | 99 | 71 | 85 | 54 |
| Saluda | 8 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 7 |
| Spartanburg | 150 | 146 | 160 | 158 | 136 |
| Sumter | 77 | 69 | 62 | 39 | 43 |
| Union | 7 | 19 | 15 | 15 | 10 |
| Williamsburg | 57 | 71 | 64 | 43 | 58 |
| York | 42 | 35 | 77 | 98 | 96 |
| Total | 2,389 | 2,484 | 2,357 | 2,315 | 2,278 |

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 2015 Deer Hunter Survey

January, 2016

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 2015 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 2014 survey can be found at www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/deer/2014/DeerHarvestReport.html

Thank you for your assistance.



Charles Ruth
Wildlife Biologist
Deer/Turkey Project Supervisor

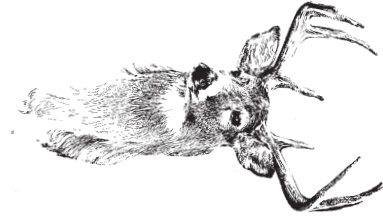
PLEASE MAIL YOUR SURVEY AFTER SEPARATING THIS HALF FROM THE SIDE ON WHICH YOUR ANSWERS HAVE BEEN ENTERED. NO POSTAGE IS NECESSARY.

If you have questions regarding this survey, please call 803-734-3886 or write 2015 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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SC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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COLUMBIA SC 29202-9976**

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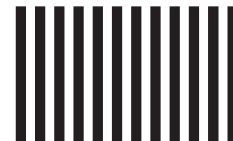


Figure 1 Cont.

2015 South Carolina Deer Hunter Survey

- Did you hunt deer in SC this past season (2015)? **1. Yes** **2. No**
If you answered **No** to this question please **go to question # 9.**
- Did you harvest any deer in SC this past season? **1. Yes** **2. No**
- 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 (2015). 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 2015 please go to question # 6.

- Please record the number of deer taken by month of season in SC last season (2015).

| August | September | October | November | December | January |
|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| | | | | | |

- Please record the number of deer taken with each weapon in SC last season (2015).

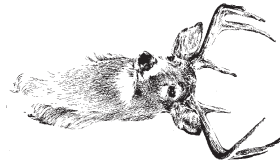
| Rifle | Bow | Shotgun | Muzzleloader | Crossbow | Handgun |
|-------|-----|---------|--------------|----------|---------|
| | | | | | |

- Please circle **all** the weapons that you hunted deer with in 2015.
1. Rifle 2. Bow 3. Shotgun 4. Muzzleloader 5. Crossbow 6. Handgun
- Please circle the **one** weapon that you **prefer to hunt deer with.**
1. Rifle 2. Bow 3. Shotgun 4. Muzzleloader 5. Crossbow 6. Handgun
- 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
- If you **harvested** any wild hogs or coyotes while hunting in SC in 2015, 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 | |

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

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Figure 2. Percent of deer harvested by month of season in South Carolina in 2015. Note that December includes January 1 which is the last day of deer season.

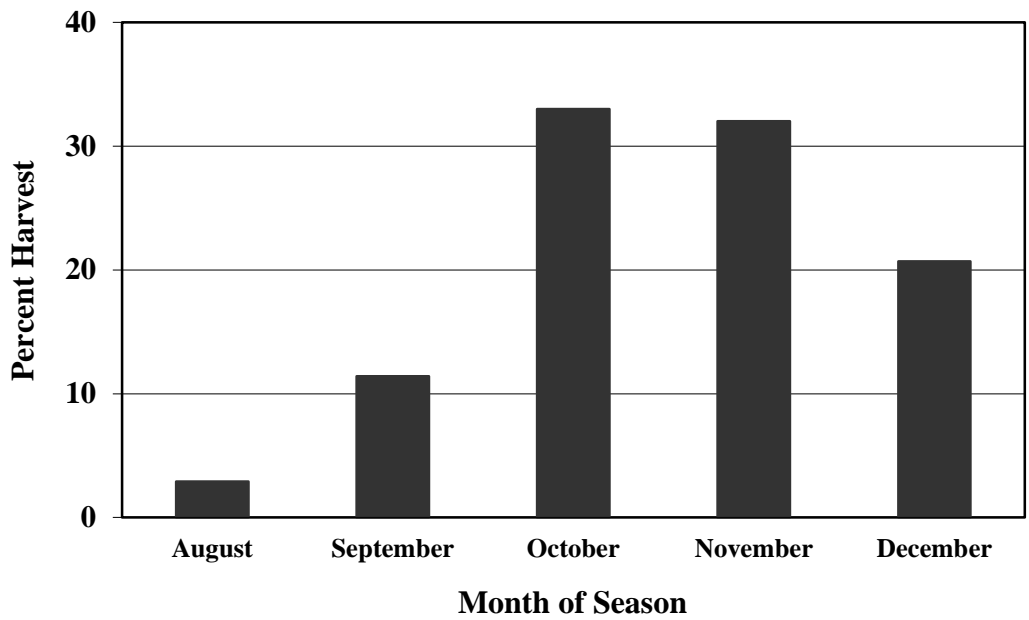


Figure 3. Percent of female deer conceiving by week in South Carolina, based on historic data.

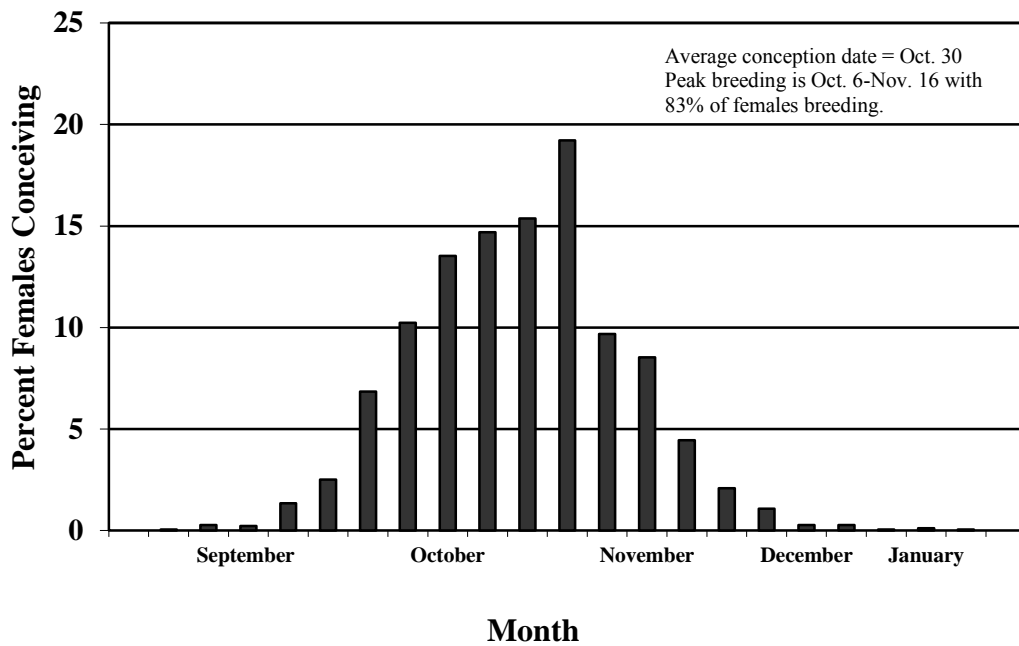


Figure 4. Estimated deer harvest in South Carolina 1972-2015.

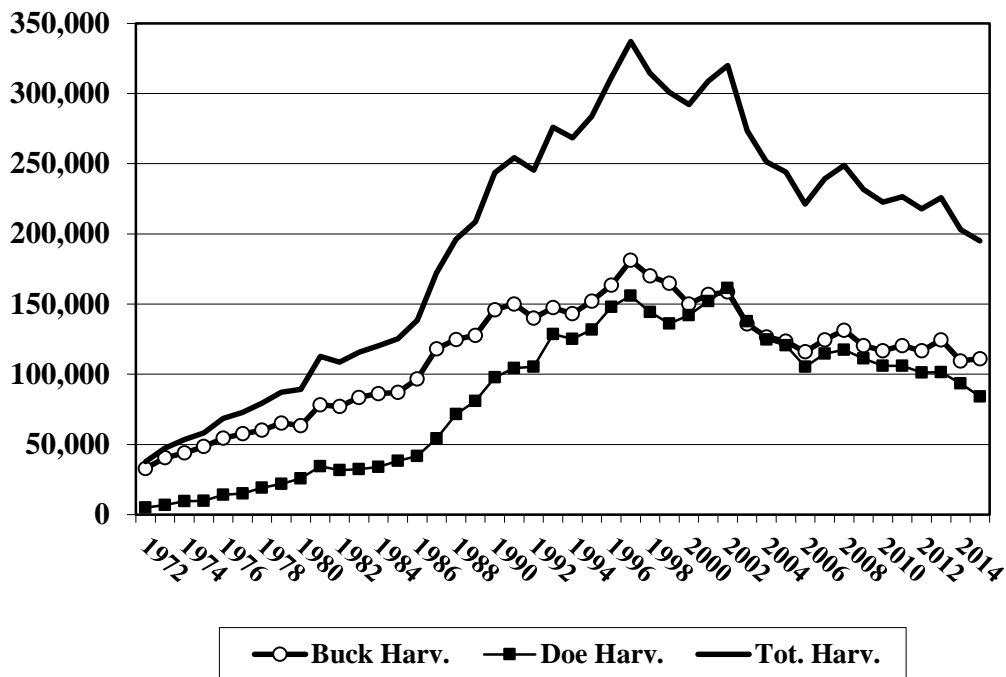


Figure 5. Estimated South Carolina deer population 1972-2015 based on population reconstruction modeling. Note that antlerless deer includes male fawns (button bucks).

