In September of 2010 the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) conducted an internet based survey using Survey Monkey® that was identical to a telephone survey conducted by Responsive Management, Inc. in May 2010. The internet survey was open to the public and a notification was sent directly to the 82,439 individual license holders whose e-mail addresses were available in the SCDNR database.

A total of 7,049 individuals participated in the internet survey, the most of any such survey conducted by SCDNR. Statewide, results indicate the following: 74 percent of hunters support a limit on the number of antlered bucks a hunter can kill each year; 60 percent of deer hunters chose a limit of fewer than 5 bucks, 19 percent of hunters chose a limit of 5 bucks, and 16 percent indicated that they supported no limit; 75 percent of deer hunters indicated support for a tagging system that would enable buck limits to be enforced; 66 percent of deer hunters indicated that they would be willing to pay at least $5 for a tagging system provided that revenue be used to administer the tagging program and for deer research and management; and 64 percent of deer hunters supported limiting the harvest of bucks based on antler criteria, such as antler points or antler spread, in an effort to reduce the harvest of young bucks.

The following are the results of the internet survey generated by the Survey Monkey® software.

South Carolina Deer Hunters' Attitudes Regarding Harvest Limits and Tagging of Deer

1. Did you hunt deer in South Carolina during the 2009 deer season, which started in August 2009 through January 1, 2010?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	81.9%	5,743
No	18.1%	1,272
answered question		7,015
skipped question		34

2. In what South Carolina county do you hunt deer most often?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Abbeville	2.8%	158
Aiken	2.5%	142
Allendale	1.8%	103
Anderson	2.4%	139
Bamberg	2.1%	118
Barnwell	1.5%	83
Beaufort	1.2%	67
Berkeley	3.3%	191
Calhoun	1.6%	93
Charleston	2.9%	168
Cherokee	1.0%	58
Chester	2.7%	152
Chesterfield	1.3%	76
Clarendon	1.4%	82
Colleton	4.1%	232
Darlington	0.7%	39
Dillon	0.4%	22
Dorchester	2.3%	134
Edgefield	2.0%	113
Fairfield	4.1%	235
Florence	1.7%	100
Georgetown	2.3%	132
Greenville	1.8%	101
Greenwood	2.3%	132

Hampton	2.7%	152
Horry	2.2%	126
Jasper	1.6%	91
Kershaw	1.9%	108
Lancaster	2.0%	112
Laurens	3.9%	225
Lee	1.2%	67
Lexington	1.1%	65
Marion	1.1%	63
Marlboro	1.1%	65
McCormick	2.0%	112
Newberry	3.6%	204
Oconee	1.0%	55
Orangeburg	**4.5%**	**259**
Pickens	1.3%	73
Richland	2.5%	143
Saluda	1.6%	89
Spartanburg	3.3%	188
Sumter	2.1%	118
Union	3.1%	180
Williamsburg	3.7%	213
York	2.4%	140
	answered question	**5,718**
	skipped question	**1,331**

3. In what South Carolina county do you live in?

	Response Percent	Response Count
I am a non-resident hunter	**9.9%**	**671**
Abbeville	0.7%	50
Aiken	3.4%	232
Allendale	0.3%	22
Anderson	3.3%	227
Bamberg	0.6%	42
Barnwell	0.6%	43
Beaufort	2.8%	193
Berkeley	3.7%	248
Calhoun	0.8%	51
Charleston	7.5%	507
Cherokee	0.8%	56
Chester	0.8%	52
Chesterfield	0.7%	46
Clarendon	0.9%	64
Colleton	1.7%	113
Darlington	0.9%	60
Dillon	0.3%	19
Dorchester	2.9%	195
Edgefield	0.8%	52
Fairfield	0.7%	45
Florence	2.2%	151
Georgetown	2.0%	135
Greenville	7.4%	502

Greenwood	1.7%	113
Hampton	0.6%	44
Horry	4.1%	275
Jasper	0.6%	38
Kershaw	1.6%	108
Lancaster	1.4%	95
Laurens	1.3%	90
Lee	0.3%	19
Lexington	6.4%	435
Marion	0.4%	29
Marlboro	0.4%	27
McCormick	0.3%	20
Newberry	1.5%	100
Oconee	1.6%	111
Orangeburg	1.5%	105
Pickens	2.4%	166
Richland	5.1%	346
Saluda	0.5%	31
Spartanburg	4.9%	335
Sumter	1.9%	129
Union	0.8%	57
Williamsburg	1.0%	68
York	3.9%	263
	answered question	**6,780**
	skipped question	**269**

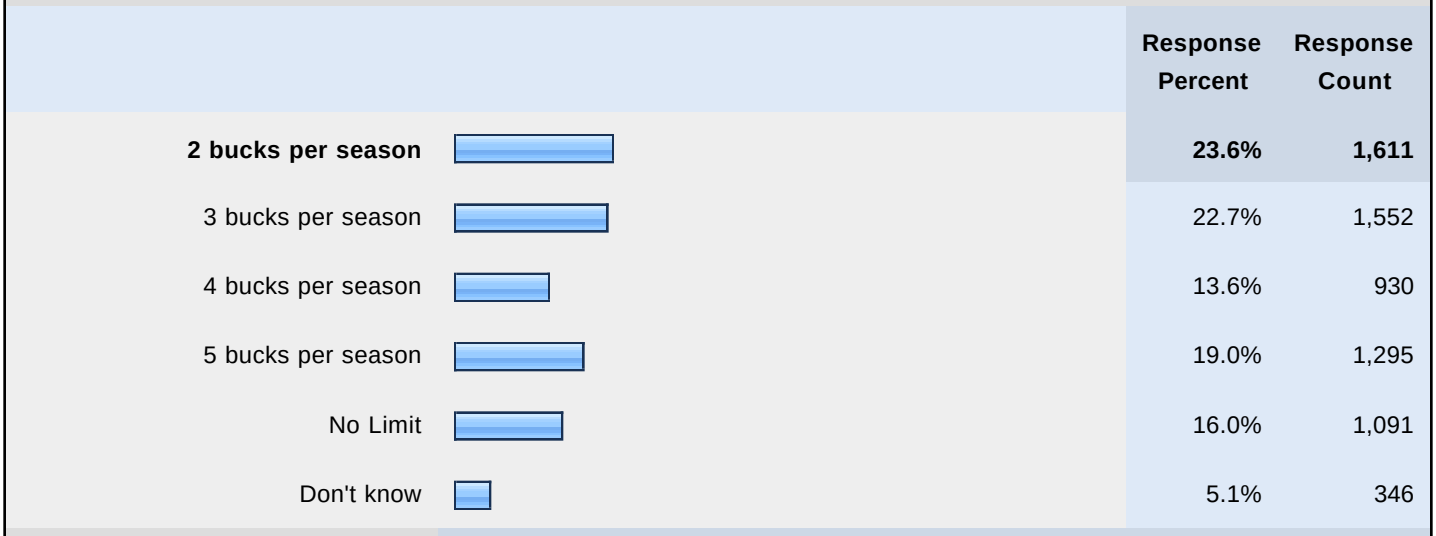
4. Are you a current member of a deer hunting club?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	41.0%	2,406
No	**59.0%**	**3,460**
answered question		**5,866**
skipped question		**1,183**

5. Do you support or oppose a limit on the number of antlered bucks a hunter can kill each season in South Carolina?

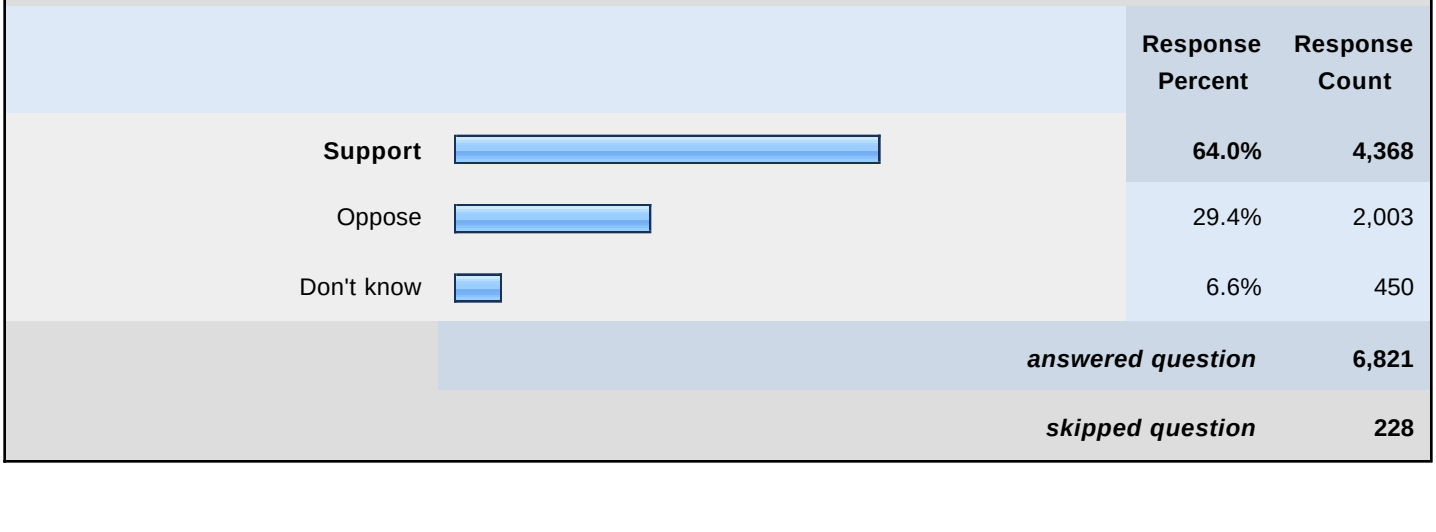
	Response Percent	Response Count
Support	**74.2%**	**5,058**
Oppose	20.4%	1,388
Don't know	5.5%	374
answered question		**6,820**
skipped question		**229**

6. If a limit is placed on antlered bucks, which of the following limit on the number of bucks a hunter can kill each season in South Carolina would you prefer?



	Response Percent	Response Count
2 bucks per season	**23.6%**	**1,611**
3 bucks per season	22.7%	1,552
4 bucks per season	13.6%	930
5 bucks per season	19.0%	1,295
No Limit	16.0%	1,091
Don't know	5.1%	346
answered question		**6,825**
skipped question		**224**

7. Would you support or oppose limiting the harvest of bucks based on antler criteria, such as minimum number of antler points, a specified antler spread, or a combination of both, to reduce harvest of young bucks? This antler criteria may or may not be used in conjunction with a limit on antlered bucks a hunter may harvest each season.



	Response Percent	Response Count
Support	**64.0%**	**4,368**
Oppose	29.4%	2,003
Don't know	6.6%	450
answered question		**6,821**
skipped question		**228**

8. If a limit is placed on the number of antlered bucks a hunter can kill each season in South Carolina, would you support or oppose a tagging system that would enable the buck limit to be enforced?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Support	**75.0%**	**5,075**
Oppose	20.8%	1,404
Don't know	4.2%	285
answered question		**6,764**
skipped question		**285**

9. If the Department recommends using a tagging system to enable the antlered buck limit to be enforced, fees for issued tags would be used by the SCDNR to administer the tagging system as well as for deer research and management. The set of tags would contain as many tags as the limit on the number of bucks a hunter can kill each season and some number of doe tags as needed for proper management each season. What would you be willing to pay for a set of deer hunting tags in addition to your South Carolina Hunting License and Big Game Permit?

	Response Percent	Response Count
$5.00	27.2%	1,841
$10.00	19.5%	1,317
$15.00	3.3%	223
$20.00	15.6%	1,056
Would not be willing to pay	**34.4%**	**2,327**
answered question		**6,764**
skipped question		**285**