

# 2014 South Carolina TURKEY HARVEST REPORT



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
TURKEY RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT PROJECT



**DNR**

Submitted by  
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## INTRODUCTION

Ranking only behind the white-tailed deer in popularity among hunters, the Eastern wild turkey is an important natural resource in South Carolina. The 2014 Turkey 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 wild turkey population. The primary objectives of this survey research were to obtain valid estimates of; (1) the statewide spring gobbler harvest in 2014, (2) the harvest of gobblers in the constituent counties of the state, and (3) hunting effort related to turkeys. Information on hunter's opinions of the turkey resource and other aspects of turkey hunting are also presented.

Due to the importance of turkeys as a state resource, DNR believes that accurately assessing the harvest of turkeys, as well as hunter participation in turkey hunting, is key to the management of this species. Proposed changes in turkey-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 turkey hunter activities afield because they too form an important basis for managing wild turkeys.

Since the inception of the Statewide Turkey Restoration and Research Project (Turkey Project) the methods used to document the turkey harvest have changed. Historically, turkey harvest figures were developed using a system of mandatory turkey check stations across the state. This system yielded an actual count of harvested turkey and was, therefore, an absolute minimum harvest figure. Shortcomings in this system included deterioration of check station compliance, complaints from hunters regarding the inconvenience of check stations, and costs associated with the check station system. The requirement to check harvested turkeys in South Carolina was eliminated following the 2005 season. Prior to eliminating the check-in requirement, DNR conducted surveys in order to document the rate of noncompliance, as well as, to determine the relationship between harvest figures obtained from check stations and those obtained from surveys. As would be expected, harvest figures obtained from surveys are higher than those from check stations due to lack of compliance with the check-in requirement.

## **Survey Methodology**

The 2014 Turkey Hunter Survey represented a random mail survey that involved a single mail-out. The questionnaire for the 2014 Turkey Hunter Survey was developed by Wildlife Section personnel (Figure 1). The mailing list database was constructed by randomly selecting 25,000 individuals who received a set of 2014 Turkey Transportation Tags which are required in order to hunt turkeys in South Carolina. Data entry was completed by Priority Data, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

Results from the mail survey were corrected for nonresponse bias using data collected during 2008-2013 by Responsive Management of Harrisonburg, Virginia using a Computer Assisted Telephone Interview program (CATI).

Statistical analysis was conducted using Statistix 7 (Analytical Software, Tallahassee, FL).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Turkey Harvest**

During the 2014 spring season it is estimated that a total of 14,649 adult gobblers and 1,599 jakes were harvested for a statewide total of 16,248 turkeys (Table 1). This figure represents a 15 percent decrease in harvest from 2013 (19,211) and a 36 percent decrease from the record harvest established in 2002 (16,348 check station, 25,487 estimated by survey). The overall reduction in harvest seen since 2002 can likely be attributable to one primary factor, poor reproduction.

Although reproduction in wild turkeys was generally poor between 2003 and 2009 it was much better in both 2010 and 2011 (Figure 2) which led to a substantial increase in harvest in 2012. However, reproduction returned to poor levels following the 2012 season resulting in decreased harvests the last two seasons (Figure 3). Also interesting, the percentage of juveniles (jakes) in the harvest in 2014 was the lowest on record and coincident with the lowest recruitment ratio on record which occurred in the summer of 2013. This association between changes in reproduction and its effects on harvest are rather remarkable in South Carolina's turkey harvest and reproductive data sets.

Unlike deer, wild turkeys are much more susceptible to significant fluctuations in reproduction and recruitment and with the exception of the last two years, these measures of production have generally not been good in the last decade. Lack of reproductive success is typically associated with bad weather (cold and wet) during nesting and brood rearing season. On the other hand, habitats are continually changing in South Carolina. Although timber management activities stimulated the growth in South Carolina's turkey population in the 1980s, considerable acreage is currently in even-aged pine stands that are greater than 10 years old, a situation that does not support turkeys as well.

### **Harvest Per Unit Area County Rankings**

Comparisons can be made between turkey 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 turkeys taken per square mile (640ac. = 1 mile<sup>2</sup>). When considering the estimated turkey habitat that is available in South Carolina, the turkey harvest rate in 2014 was 0.7 gobblers per square mile statewide (Table 2). Although this harvest rate is not as high as it once was, it should be considered good and is similar to other Southeastern states. The top 5 counties for harvest per unit area were Union (1.6 turkeys/mile<sup>2</sup>), Laurens (1.6 turkeys/mile<sup>2</sup>), Cherokee (1.5 turkeys/mile<sup>2</sup>), Spartanburg (1.4 turkeys/mile<sup>2</sup>), and Greenville (1.3 turkeys/mile<sup>2</sup>) (Table 2).

### **Turkey Harvest Rankings by County**

Total turkey harvest is not comparable among counties because there is no standard unit of comparison, i.e. counties vary in size and are, therefore, not directly comparable. However, some readers may be interested in this type of ranking. The top 5 counties during 2014 were Williamsburg, Laurens, Berkeley, Union, and Fairfield (Table 3).

### **Turkey Harvest by Week of Season**

Gobbling by male wild turkeys occurs primarily in the spring and is for the purpose of attracting hens for mating purposes. Therefore, spring turkey hunting is characterized by hunters attempting to locate and call gobbling male turkeys using emulated hens calls. With respect to both biology and effective hunting, the timing of the spring gobbler season should take into account three primary factors; peak breeding, peak gobbling, and peak incubation. Considering these factors, seasons can be set to afford hunters the best opportunity to hunt during the best time (i.e. peak gobbling) without inhibiting reproductive success.

South Carolina currently has two spring turkey season frameworks. Throughout most of the state (Game Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) the season is April 1-May1. This season is based on a recommendation from DNR following gobbling and nesting studies that were conducted in the 1970's. The other season framework is March 15-May 1 and is only in effect in Game Zone 6 (lower coastal plain). This season is socio-politically based. For additional information on setting spring turkey season refer to: <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/turkey/springseason09.html>.

If seasons are set appropriately, the greatest proportion of turkeys should be harvested

during the first week of the season because hens should be laying or nesting resulting in gobblers that are naïve and most responsive to hunter's calls. Harvest by week of season demonstrates that the timing of the April 1 opening season affords higher turkey harvests as most turkeys are harvested during the week following the April 1 opening date (Figure 4). When broken-out by specific season frameworks the results are similar. In areas where the season begins March 15, only 27 percent of the total harvest was accounted for during the first week of the season (Figure 5). This is likely due to the fact that late March is the time of peak breeding and males gobble less because "they are all henned up". On the other hand, 44 percent of the harvest occurred during the first week of the season in areas where the season begins April 1 (Figure 6). This is due to the fact that by the first week in April, a significant number of hens have left the gobblers and begun continuous incubation.

Comparing the first two weeks of each season format, we find that where the season opens March 15, 43 percent of gobblers were harvested while this figure is 67 percent where the season opens on April 1. Finally, the percentage of turkeys harvested in the first week of the season in areas where the season opens April 1 is essentially the same as the percentage of turkeys harvested during the first two weeks of the season in areas where the season opens March 15. Again, this is a reflection of fewer available hens due to nesting and this lack of hens stimulates peak gobbling resulting in hunters being more successful in locating and calling responsive birds. These results have been consistent since this type of data has been available.

### **Number of Turkey Hunters**

Even though all individuals receiving a set of Turkey Transportation Tags were licensed to hunt turkeys, only 42 percent actually hunted turkeys. Based on this figure, approximately 45,949 hunters participated in the 2014 spring turkey season, an 9 percent decrease from 2013 (50,752). Counties with the highest estimates for individual hunters include Laurens, Fairfield, Newberry, Union, and Chester (Table 4).

### **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. Turkey hunters averaged approximately 5.0 days afield during the 2014 season (Table 4). Successful hunters averaged significantly more days afield (7.1 days) than unsuccessful hunters (4.5 days). Extrapolating to the entire population of turkey hunters yields a figure of 227,069 total days of spring gobbler hunting, down 5 percent from 2013 (240,256 days).

The number of days devoted to turkey hunting in South Carolina is significant and points not only to the availability and popularity of turkeys as a game species, but to the obvious economic benefits related to this important natural resource. Figures generated by a 2003 Survey by the National Wild Turkey Federation estimate that approximately 35 million dollars are added to South Carolina's economy annually from turkey hunting. The top 5 South Carolina counties for overall days of turkey hunting during 2014 were Newberry, Fairfield, Union, Laurens, and Chester counties (Table 4).

### **Hunting Success**

For determination of hunting success only those individuals that actually hunted turkeys were included in the analysis and similarly, success was defined as harvesting at least one turkey. Overall hunting success in 2014 was 22 percent (Figure 7). Unlike deer hunting which typically has high success, turkey hunting can be an inherently unsuccessful endeavor, relatively speaking. As would be expected, the majority of successful hunters take one gobbler (Figure 7). However, the percentage of successful hunters who take two birds is quite high as well. This indicates that successful hunters had nearly the same chance of taking two birds as they did one bird.

The statewide bag limit in South Carolina is five gobblers. Obviously, most successful hunters harvest only one or two birds. However, it is interesting to note the relative contribution to the total harvest of turkeys by the few hunters that harvest many birds. Ironically, the percentage of hunters taking more than 3 birds was only 2.5 percent, however, this small percentage of hunters harvested 26 percent of the total birds taken in the state (Figure 8). These results have been consistent since this type of data has been available.

### **Hunter Opinion Regarding Turkey Numbers**

The 2014 Turkey Hunter Survey asked participants to compare the number of turkeys in

the area they hunt most often with the number of turkeys in past years. Participants were given 3 choices; increasing, about the same, or decreasing. Half (50%) of hunters indicated that the number of turkeys in the area they hunted most often was about the same as in past years. A higher percentage of hunters (35%) believed that the turkey population was decreasing than increasing (15%). On a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being increasing, 2 being the same, and 3 being decreasing, the overall mean rating of 2.1 suggests that hunters viewed the turkey population as decreasing. As previously discussed, this is likely attributable to very poor reproduction the last two years.

### **Turkeys Shot but not Recovered**

Harvesting game signals the end of a successful hunt and although most hunters do a good job of preparing their equipment and mental state, it goes without saying that a certain percentage of game is shot or shot at and not killed or recovered. This point is no different when turkey hunting.

In order to estimate the prevalence of errant shots at turkeys, the 2014 Turkey Hunter Survey asked hunters to indicate the number of turkeys that they “shot but did not kill or recover during the 2014 season in South Carolina”. Approximately 10.8 percent of hunters indicated that they shot but did not kill or recover at least one turkey in 2014 (10.9% in 2013). There were approximately 45,949 turkey hunters in 2014 meaning that approximately 4,763 turkeys were shot or shot at and not killed or recovered. Therefore, approximately 22 percent of the total number of turkeys shot at were not killed or recovered. These results have been consistent since this type of data has been available.

This data is certainly not indicative of “dead and unrecovered turkeys”, however, it is clear that some percentage of the 4,763 turkeys that were shot at did eventually die. Although shot shells for turkeys have become increasingly sophisticated, accurate, and lethal it is a fact that the pattern of a shotgun is relatively broad and contains between 200 and 400 pellets. Therefore, a “clean miss” is not as clear-cut for turkeys compared to other big game like deer where there is typically a single projectile. Additional research is needed on this topic.



## **Turkey Harvest in the Morning VS. Afternoon**

The typical spring turkey hunt is characterized by attempting to locate a gobbling bird prior to or just after sunrise. Once a gobbler is located most hunters position themselves as close as they can to the gobbler without scaring it away. Various types of callers that mimic the sounds of wild turkeys are then used to attempt to call the gobbler into gun range. This technique of locating a gobbling bird, setting-up, and calling is repeated as necessary.

Traditionally, spring turkey hunting was primarily carried out during the first few hours of the day. As the popularity of turkey hunting has increased, many hunters now hunt in the afternoon as well. Gobblers are generally not as vocal in the afternoon but they can be stimulated to gobble using the various turkey calls, particularly late in the afternoon near areas where turkeys frequently roost.

In order to gain a better understanding of the distribution of harvest with respect to time of day, the 2014 Turkey Hunter Survey asked hunters to identify the number of birds harvested in the morning compared to the afternoon. Results indicate that approximately 73 percent of gobblers were harvested in the morning compared to 27 percent in the afternoon. This data may be useful if discussions arise concerning the relative importance of morning compared to afternoon harvest of gobblers in the spring. These results have been consistent since this type of data has been available.

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

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Rates	
							Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. <sup>2</sup>
Abbeville	223,113	349	285	48	333	14.4	670.0	1.0
Aiken	500,546	782	157	16	173	9.2	2893.3	0.2
Allendale	216,455	338	167	24	191	12.6	1133.3	0.6
Anderson	219,068	342	325	40	365	11.0	600.2	1.1
Bamberg	196,573	307	177	16	193	8.3	1018.5	0.6
Barnwell	281,764	440	128	13	141	9.2	1998.3	0.3
Beaufort	147,441	230	98	10	108	9.3	1365.2	0.5
Berkeley	567,530	887	640	47	687	6.8	826.1	0.8
Calhoun	190,584	298	68	8	76	10.5	2507.7	0.3
Charleston	288,732	451	404	33	437	7.6	660.7	1.0
Cherokee	156,664	245	325	48	373	12.9	420.0	1.5
Chester	300,589	470	423	81	504	16.1	596.4	1.1
Chesterfield	372,478	582	325	56	381	14.7	977.6	0.7
Clarendon	298,087	466	315	24	339	7.1	879.3	0.7
Colleton	502,666	785	482	48	530	9.1	948.4	0.7
Darlington	286,228	447	108	12	120	10.0	2385.2	0.3
Dillon	214,069	334	118	9	127	7.1	1685.6	0.4
Dorchester	302,717	473	364	16	380	4.2	796.6	0.8
Edgefield	246,543	385	364	65	429	15.2	574.7	1.1
Fairfield	384,607	601	551	65	616	10.6	624.4	1.0
Florence	397,888	622	374	24	398	6.0	999.7	0.6
Georgetown	399,638	624	384	19	403	4.7	991.7	0.6
Greenville	294,257	460	532	48	580	8.3	507.3	1.3
Greenwood	204,400	319	226	24	250	9.6	817.6	0.8
Hampton	324,840	508	374	33	407	8.1	798.1	0.8
Horry	533,336	833	335	40	375	10.7	1422.2	0.4
Jasper	309,889	484	187	18	205	8.8	1511.7	0.4
Kershaw	360,485	563	236	62	298	20.8	1209.7	0.5
Lancaster	266,382	416	256	48	304	15.8	876.3	0.7
Laurens	317,916	497	719	56	775	7.2	410.2	1.6
Lee	220,106	344	128	24	152	15.8	1448.1	0.4
Lexington	280,742	439	73	13	86	15.1	3264.4	0.2
McCormick	212,021	331	236	17	253	6.7	838.0	0.8
Marion	216,907	339	118	29	147	19.7	1475.6	0.4
Marlboro	281,271	439	187	24	211	11.4	1333.0	0.5
Newberry	317,761	497	532	40	572	7.0	555.5	1.2
Oconee	284,348	444	325	16	341	4.7	833.9	0.8
Orangeburg	504,516	788	532	24	556	4.3	907.4	0.7
Pickens	219,926	344	335	32	367	8.7	599.3	1.1
Richland	340,121	531	167	26	193	13.5	1762.3	0.4
Saluda	192,173	300	187	40	227	17.6	846.6	0.8
Spartanburg	265,939	416	522	65	587	11.1	453.0	1.4
Sumter	338,968	530	246	16	262	6.1	1293.8	0.5
Union	258,111	403	561	78	639	12.2	403.9	1.6
Williamsburg	513,851	803	768	56	824	6.8	623.6	1.0
York	276,650	432	285	48	333	14.4	830.8	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028,896</b>	<b>21,920</b>	<b>14,649</b>	<b>1,599</b>	<b>16,248</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>863.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>

95% Conf. Interval for harvest

(+/-) 2,116      (+/-) 639      (+/-) 2,248

\* 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 turkeys harvested per unit area in South Carolina in 2014.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Rates	
							Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. <sup>2</sup>
Union	258,111	403	561	78	639	12.2	403.9	1.6
Laurens	317,916	497	719	56	775	7.2	410.2	1.6
Cherokee	156,664	245	325	48	373	12.9	420.0	1.5
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Abbeville	223,113	349	285	48	333	14.4	670.0	1.0
Dorchester	302,717	473	364	16	380	4.2	796.6	0.8
Hampton	324,840	508	374	33	407	8.1	798.1	0.8
Greenwood	204,400	319	226	24	250	9.6	817.6	0.8
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Table 3. County rankings based on total turkeys harvested in South Carolina in 2014.

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Lexington	280,742	439	73	13	86	15.1	3264.4	0.2
Calhoun	190,584	298	68	8	76	10.5	2507.7	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028,896</b>	<b>21,920</b>	<b>14,649</b>	<b>1,599</b>	<b>16,248</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>863.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>

Table 4. Estimated number of turkey hunters, average days hunted, and total hunting effort in South Carolina in 2014.

<b>County</b>	<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>Number Hunters</b>	<b>Avg. Days Hunted</b>	<b>Total Man/Days</b>
Abbeville	333	1,284	3.8	4,914
Aiken	173	913	4.4	4,014
Allendale	191	656	4.1	2,676
Anderson	365	1,369	4.9	6,765
Bamberg	193	656	3.8	2,526
Barnwell	141	428	4.4	1,876
Beaufort	108	342	4.4	1,501
Berkeley	687	1,270	6.2	7,840
Calhoun	76	571	3.8	2,151
Charleston	437	1,056	5.7	6,040
Cherokee	373	713	5.4	3,839
Chester	504	1,726	5.0	8,678
Chesterfield	381	942	5.6	5,252
Clarendon	339	670	5.2	3,476
Colleton	530	1,198	5.5	6,552
Darlington	120	371	5.1	1,876
Dillon	127	300	4.0	1,188
Dorchester	380	685	6.5	4,464
Edgefield	429	1,312	4.8	6,240
Fairfield	616	1,897	5.0	9,453
Florence	398	970	5.4	5,202
Georgetown	403	628	3.8	2,376
Greenville	580	1,412	4.2	5,915
Greenwood	250	927	4.5	4,126
Hampton	407	1,070	5.3	5,715
Horry	375	842	5.1	4,289
Jasper	205	571	5.1	2,901
Kershaw	298	1,027	4.8	4,902
Lancaster	304	842	5.5	4,664
Laurens	775	1,969	4.7	9,241
Lee	152	556	5.2	2,889
Lexington	86	499	3.4	1,713
McCormick	253	856	5.0	4,314
Marion	147	571	3.9	2,251
Marlboro	211	656	5.4	3,526
Newberry	572	1,855	5.3	9,829
Oconee	341	1,013	6.3	6,415
Orangeburg	556	1,698	5.0	8,553
Pickens	367	1,084	5.5	5,952
Richland	193	842	3.6	3,039
Saluda	227	756	4.4	3,326
Spartanburg	587	1,555	4.5	6,928
Sumter	262	942	4.5	4,252
Union	639	1,797	5.2	9,341
Williamsburg	824	1,298	5.4	7,053
York	333	1,355	5.2	7,040
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,248</b>	<b>45,949</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>227,069</b>

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

May, 2014

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 2014.

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 2013 survey can be found at: [www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/turkey/2013TurkeyHarvest.html](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/turkey/2013TurkeyHarvest.html)

Thank you for your assistance.

Charles Ruth  
Wildlife Biologist  
Deer/Turkey Project Supervisor

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

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

14-9053



**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



Figure 1. continued

2014 South Carolina Turkey Hunter Survey

- Did you turkey hunt in SC this past season (2014)? **1. Yes 2. No**  
If you answered **No** to this question please **go to question # 8.**
- Did you harvest any turkeys in SC this past season? **1. Yes 2. No**
- 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 (2014). 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".



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.

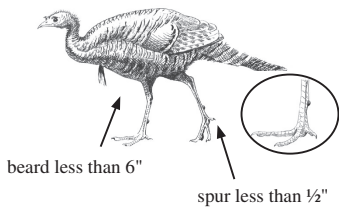
- If you harvested turkeys in SC this past season, please indicate as best you can the number of turkeys killed by week of season.

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	

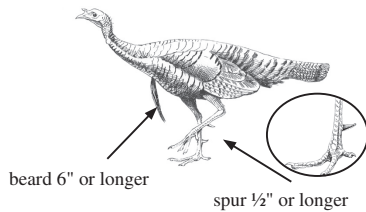
- How many turkeys did you kill in the morning \_\_\_\_\_ after 12:00 noon \_\_\_\_\_?
- How many turkeys did you shoot but not kill or recover in SC this past season? \_\_\_\_\_
- Compared to past years, how would you describe the number of turkeys in the area that you hunted most often this spring? **Circle one**  
**1. Increasing 2. About the same 3. Decreasing**
- 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.

Juvenile "Jake"



Adult "Gobbler"



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



DNR

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Figure 2. Summer wild turkey recruitment ratio in South Carolina 1982-2013. Recruitment ratio is a measure of young entering the population based on the number of hens in the population. Note improved harvest (Fig. 3 below) related to improved recruitment in 2010 and 2011.

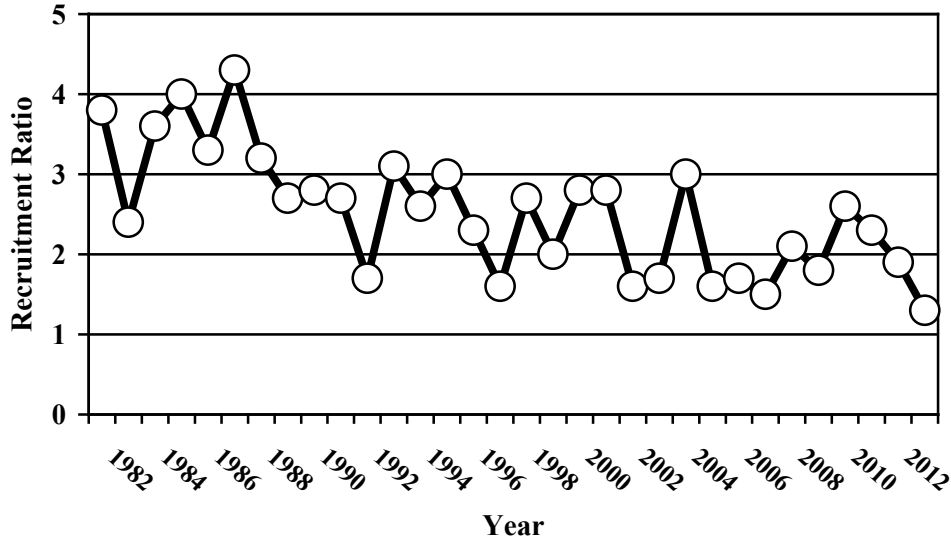


Figure 3. Spring wild turkey harvest in South Carolina 1982-2014. Note declines in harvest associated with years of poor recruitment (Fig. 2 above) and improved harvests associated with years of improved recruitment.

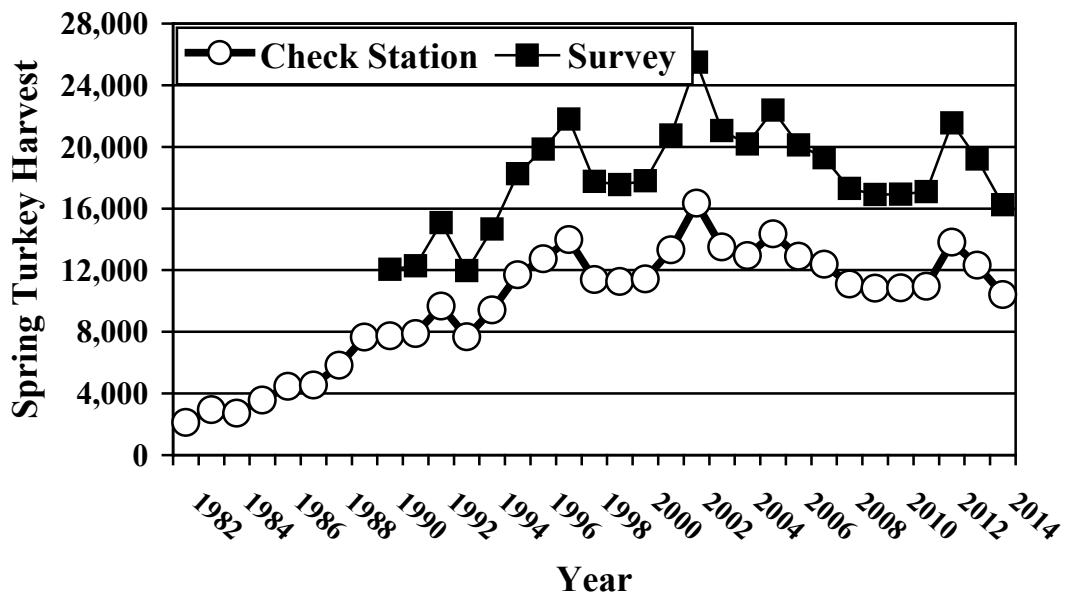


Figure 4. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week of season in South Carolina in 2014.

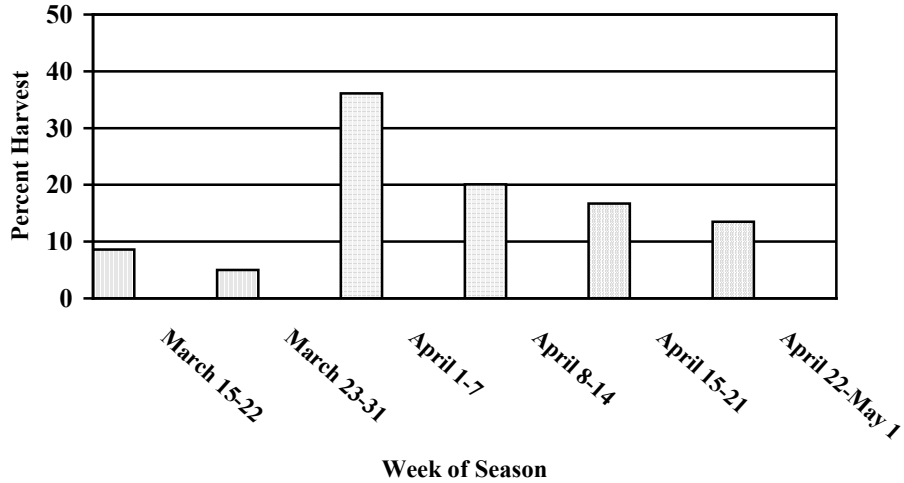


Figure 5. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week in areas with March 15-May 1 season.

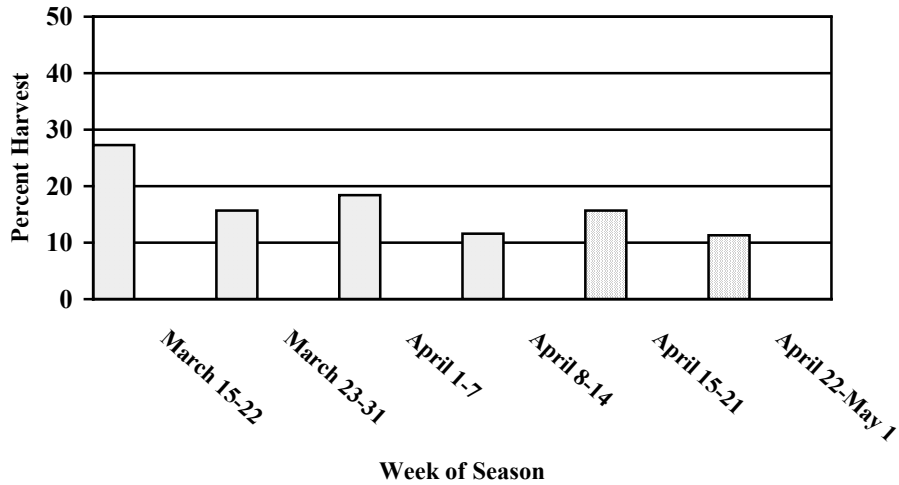


Figure 6. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week in areas with April 1-May 1 season.

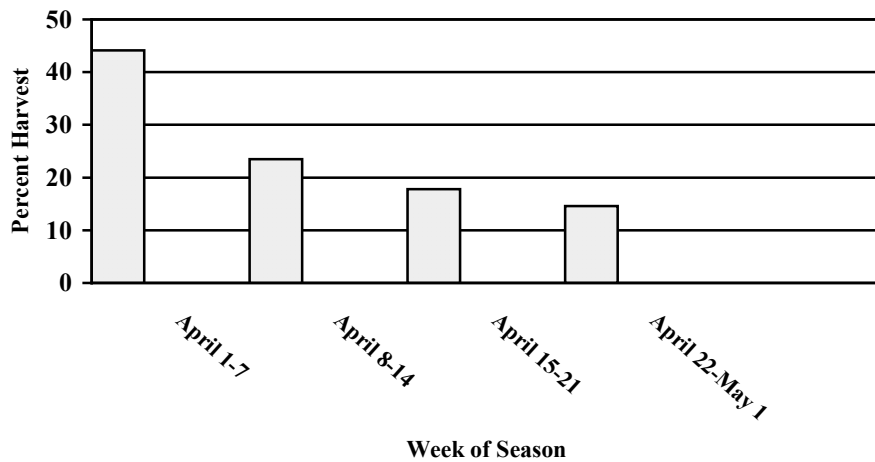


Figure 7. Hunter success during the spring turkey season in South Carolina in 2014. Overall success was 22 percent at harvesting at least one gobbler.

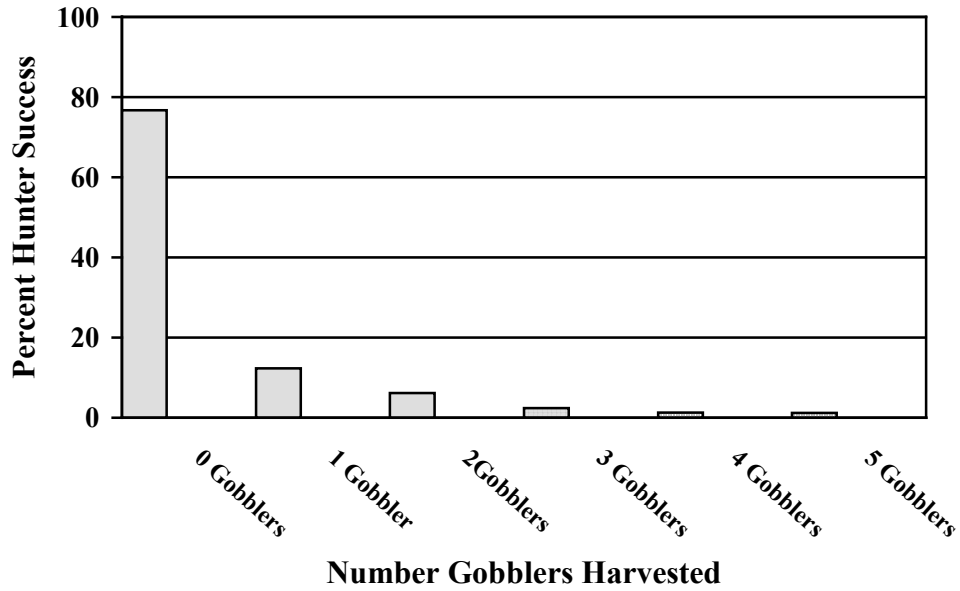


Figure 8. Relative contribution to the total turkey harvest by hunters taking between 1 and 5 gobbler in South Carolina in 2014. Hunters taking more than 3 birds accounted for 26% of total statewide harvest.

