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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
Spartanburg	265,939	416	522	65	587	11.1	453.0	1.4
Greenville	294,257	460	532	48	580	8.3	507.3	1.3
Newberry	317,761	497	532	40	572	7.0	555.5	1.2
Edgefield	246,543	385	364	65	429	15.2	574.7	1.1
Chester	300,589	470	423	81	504	16.1	596.4	1.1
Pickens	219,926	344	335	32	367	8.7	599.3	1.1
Anderson	219,068	342	325	40	365	11.0	600.2	1.1
Williamsburg	513,851	803	768	56	824	6.8	623.6	1.0
Fairfield	384,607	601	551	65	616	10.6	624.4	1.0
Charleston	288,732	451	404	33	437	7.6	660.7	1.0
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
Berkeley	567,530	887	640	47	687	6.8	826.1	0.8
York	276,650	432	285	48	333	14.4	830.8	0.8
Oconee	284,348	444	325	16	341	4.7	833.9	0.8
McCormick	212,021	331	236	17	253	6.7	838.0	0.8
Saluda	192,173	300	187	40	227	17.6	846.6	0.8
Lancaster	266,382	416	256	48	304	15.8	876.3	0.7
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Georgetown	399,638	624	384	19	403	4.7	991.7	0.6
Florence	397,888	622	374	24	398	6.0	999.7	0.6
Bamberg	196,573	307	177	16	193	8.3	1018.5	0.6
Allendale	216,455	338	167	24	191	12.6	1133.3	0.6
Kershaw	360,485	563	236	62	298	20.8	1209.7	0.5
Sumter	338,968	530	246	16	262	6.1	1293.8	0.5
Marlboro	281,271	439	187	24	211	11.4	1333.0	0.5
Beaufort	147,441	230	98	10	108	9.3	1365.2	0.5
Horry	533,336	833	335	40	375	10.7	1422.2	0.4
Lee	220,106	344	128	24	152	15.8	1448.1	0.4
Marion	216,907	339	118	29	147	19.7	1475.6	0.4
Jasper	309,889	484	187	18	205	8.8	1511.7	0.4
Dillon	214,069	334	118	9	127	7.1	1685.6	0.4
Richland	340,121	531	167	26	193	13.5	1762.3	0.4
Barnwell	281,764	440	128	13	141	9.2	1998.3	0.3
Darlington	286,228	447	108	12	120	10.0	2385.2	0.3
Calhoun	190,584	298	68	8	76	10.5	2507.7	0.3
Aiken	500,546	782	157	16	173	9.2	2893.3	0.2
Lexington	280,742	439	73	13	86	15.1	3264.4	0.2
<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 3. County rankings based on total turkeys harvested 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>
Williamsburg	513,851	803	768	56	824	6.8	623.6	1.0
Laurens	317,916	497	719	56	775	7.2	410.2	1.6
Berkeley	567,530	887	640	47	687	6.8	826.1	0.8
Union	258,111	403	561	78	639	12.2	403.9	1.6
Fairfield	384,607	601	551	65	616	10.6	624.4	1.0
Spartanburg	265,939	416	522	65	587	11.1	453.0	1.4
Greenville	294,257	460	532	48	580	8.3	507.3	1.3
Newberry	317,761	497	532	40	572	7.0	555.5	1.2
Orangeburg	504,516	788	532	24	556	4.3	907.4	0.7
Colleton	502,666	785	482	48	530	9.1	948.4	0.7
Chester	300,589	470	423	81	504	16.1	596.4	1.1
Charleston	288,732	451	404	33	437	7.6	660.7	1.0
Edgefield	246,543	385	364	65	429	15.2	574.7	1.1
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Anderson	219,068	342	325	40	365	11.0	600.2	1.1
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Kershaw	360,485	563	236	62	298	20.8	1209.7	0.5
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Lexington	280,742	439	73	13	86	15.1	3264.4	0.2
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<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



**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.**

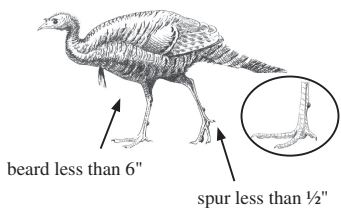
- If you harvested turkeys in SC this past season, please indicate as best you can the number of turkeys killed by week of season.

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	

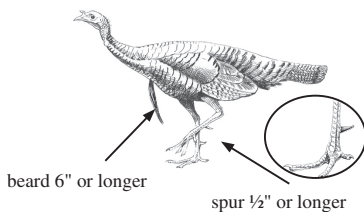
- How many turkeys did you kill in the morning \_\_\_\_\_ after 12:00 noon \_\_\_\_\_?
- How many turkeys did you shoot but not kill or recover in SC this past season? \_\_\_\_\_
- Compared to past years, how would you describe the number of turkeys in the area that you hunted most often this spring? **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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SC DNR  
PO BOX 167  
COLUMBIA SC 29202-0167  
www.dnr.sc.gov**

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PAID  
COLUMBIA SC  
PERMIT 535

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.

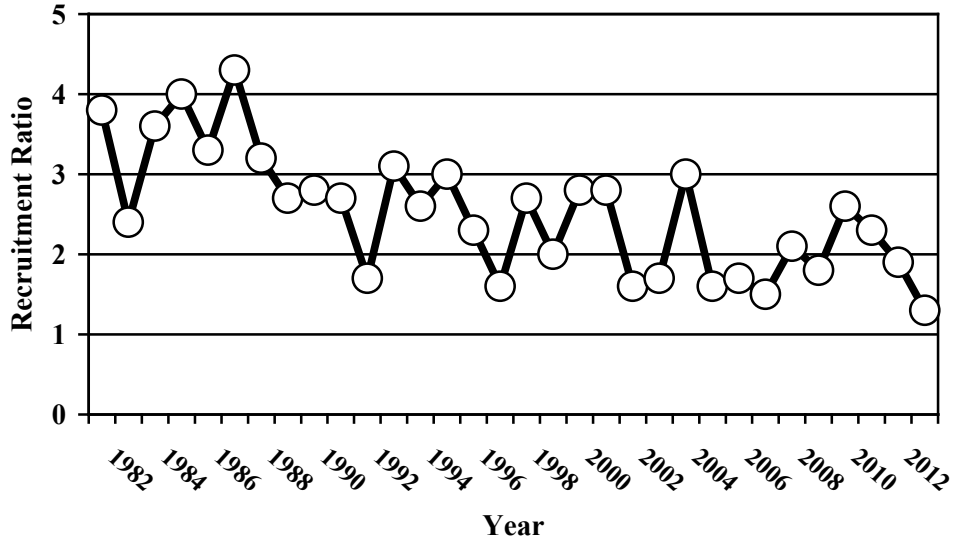


Figure 3. Spring wild turkey harvest in South Carolina 1982-2014. Note declines in harvest associated with years of poor recruitment (Fig. 2 above) and improved harvests associated with years of improved recruitment.

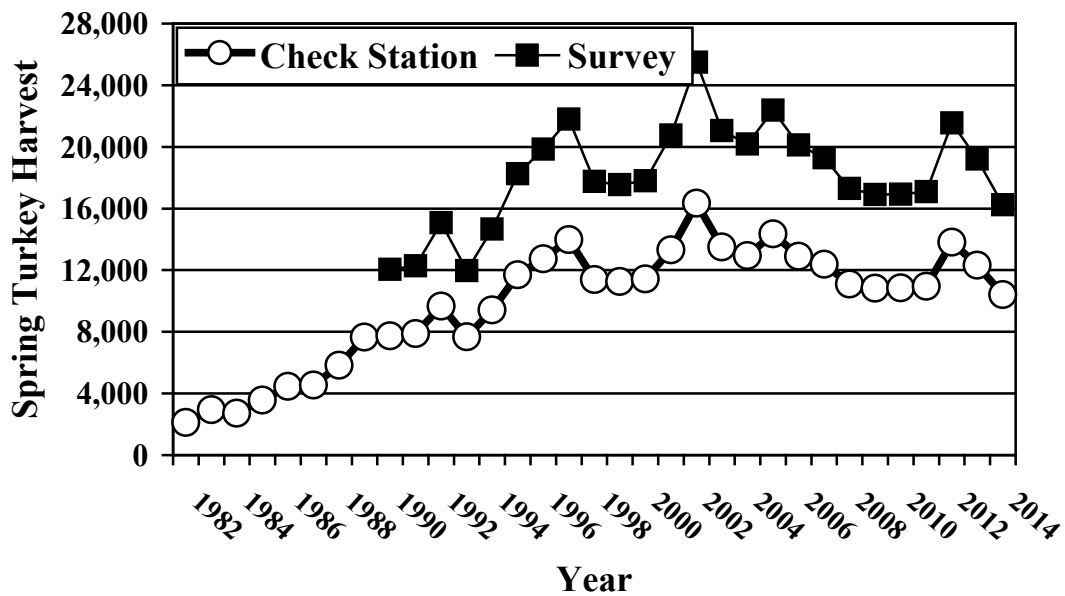




Figure 4. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week of season in South Carolina in 2014.

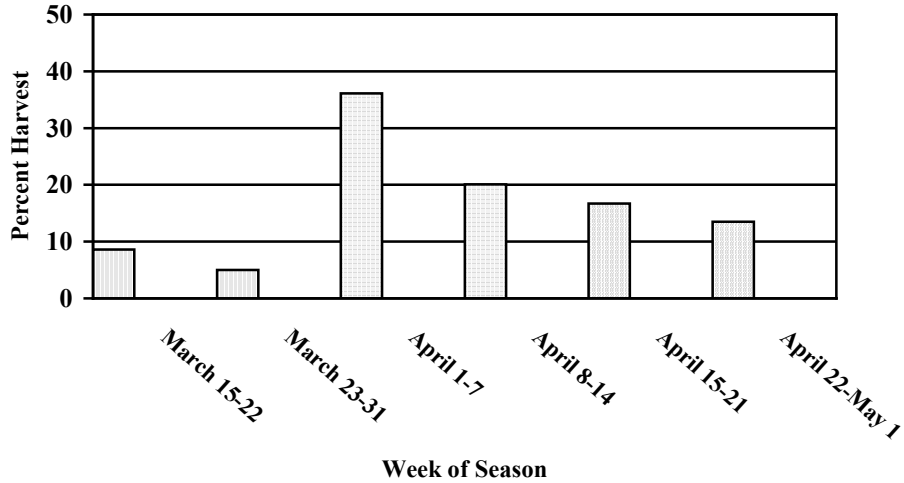


Figure 5. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week in areas with March 15-May 1 season.

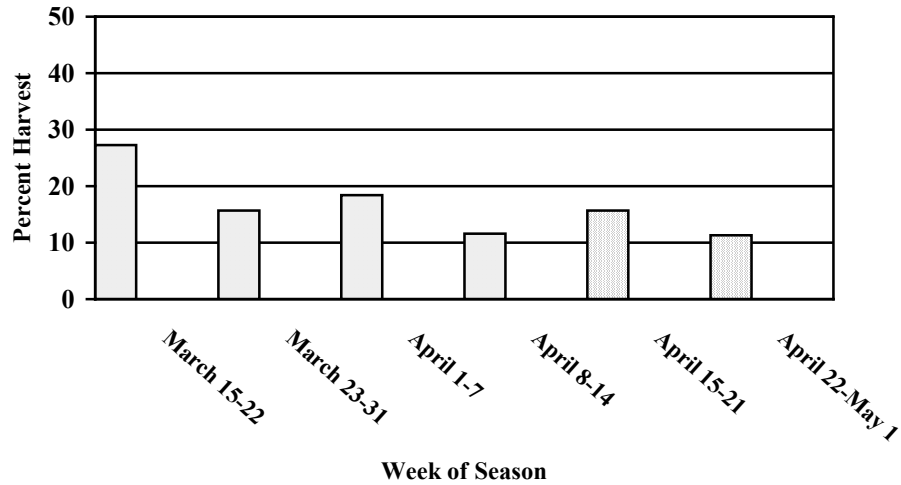


Figure 6. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week in areas with April 1-May 1 season.

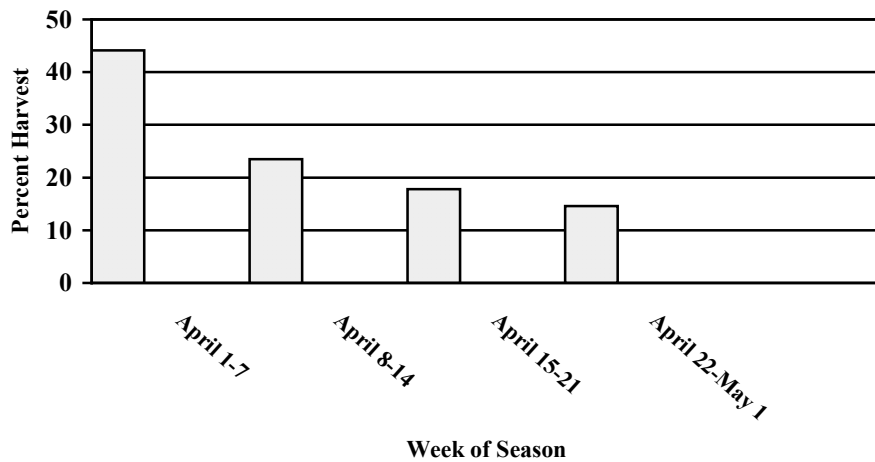


Figure 7. Hunter success during the spring turkey season in South Carolina in 2014. Overall success was 22 percent at harvesting at least one gobbler.

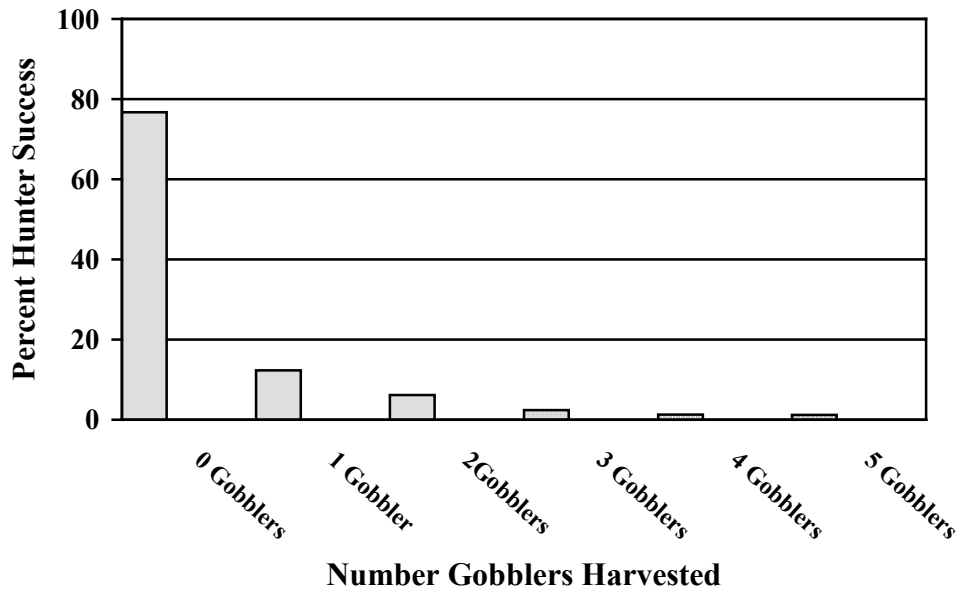


Figure 8. Relative contribution to the total turkey harvest by hunters taking between 1 and 5 gobbler in South Carolina in 2014. Hunters taking more than 3 birds accounted for 26% of total statewide harvest.

