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Table 1. Estimated statewide turkey harvest in South Carolina in 2017.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest	Rates
							Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. ²
Abbeville	223,113	349	297	38	335	11.3	666	1.0
Aiken	500,546	782	387	57	444	12.8	1,127	0.6
Allendale	216,455	338	327	44	371	11.9	583	1.1
Anderson	219,068	342	320	63	383	16.4	572	1.1
Bamberg	196,573	307	342	50	392	12.8	501	1.3
Barnwell	281,764	440	238	50	288	17.4	978	0.7
Beaufort	147,441	230	44	6	50	12.0	2,949	0.2
Berkeley	567,530	887	789	50	839	6.0	676	0.9
Calhoun	190,584	298	260	12	272	4.4	701	0.9
Charleston	288,732	451	558	31	589	5.3	490	1.3
Cherokee	156,664	245	290	50	340	14.7	461	1.4
Chester	300,589	470	439	69	508	13.6	592	1.1
Chesterfield	372,478	582	357	31	388	8.0	960	0.7
Clarendon	298,087	466	238	31	269	11.5	1,108	0.6
Colleton	502,666	785	677	38	715	5.3	703	0.9
Darlington	286,228	447	201	25	226	11.1	1,266	0.5
Dillon	214,069	334	134	12	146	8.2	1,466	0.4
Dorchester	302,717	473	528	42	570	7.4	531	1.2
Edgefield	246,543	385	305	57	362	15.7	681	0.9
Fairfield	384,607	601	506	63	569	11.1	676	0.9
Florence	397,888	622	506	38	544	7.0	731	0.9
Georgetown	399,638	624	305	25	330	7.6	1,211	0.5
Greenville	294,257	460	372	95	467	20.3	630	1.0
Greenwood	204,400	319	223	44	267	16.5	766	0.8
Hampton	324,840	508	484	25	509	4.9	638	1.0
Horry	533,336	833	521	63	584	10.8	913	0.7
Jasper	309,889	484	372	31	403	7.7	769	0.8
Kershaw	360,485	563	245	76	321	23.7	1,123	0.6
Lancaster	266,382	416	268	50	318	15.7	838	0.8
Laurens	317,916	497	528	114	642	17.8	495	1.3
Lee	220,106	344	320	12	332	3.6	663	1.0
Lexington	280,742	439	29	12	41	29.3	6,847	0.1
McCormick	212,021	331	201	19	220	8.6	964	0.7
Marion	216,907	339	245	6	251	2.4	864	0.7
Marlboro	281,271	439	193	6	199	3.0	1,413	0.5
Newberry	317,761	497	543	101	644	15.7	493	1.3
Oconee	284,348	444	268	57	325	17.5	875	0.7
Orangeburg	504,516	788	863	63	926	6.8	545	1.2
Pickens	219,926	344	379	38	417	9.1	527	1.2
Richland	340,121	531	238	25	263	9.5	1,293	0.5
Saluda	192,173	300	134	38	172	22.1	1,117	0.6
Spartanburg	265,939	416	357	95	452	21.0	588	1.1
Sumter	338,968	530	335	19	354	5.4	958	0.7
Union	258,111	403	625	88	713	12.3	362	1.8
Williamsburg	513,851	803	1012	50	1062	4.7	484	1.3
York	276,650	432	290	69	359	19.2	771	0.8
Total	14,028,896	21,920	17,093	2,078	19,171	10.8	732	0.9

95% Conf. Interval for harvest

(+-) 1,525 (+-) 566 (+-) 1,641

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

Table 2. County rankings based on turkey harvest per unit area in South Carolina in 2017.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest	Rates
							Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. ²
Union	258,111	403	625	88	713	12.3	362	1.8
Cherokee	156,664	245	290	50	340	14.7	461	1.4
Williamsburg	513,851	803	1012	50	1062	4.7	484	1.3
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Pickens	219,926	344	379	38	417	9.1	527	1.2
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Fairfield	384,607	601	506	63	569	11.1	676	0.9
Berkeley	567,530	887	789	50	839	6.0	676	0.9
Edgefield	246,543	385	305	57	362	15.7	681	0.9
Calhoun	190,584	298	260	12	272	4.4	701	0.9
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Greenwood	204,400	319	223	44	267	16.5	766	0.8
Jasper	309,889	484	372	31	403	7.7	769	0.8
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McCormick	212,021	331	201	19	220	8.6	964	0.7
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Richland	340,121	531	238	25	263	9.5	1,293	0.5
Marlboro	281,271	439	193	6	199	3.0	1,413	0.5
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Beaufort	147,441	230	44	6	50	12.0	2,949	0.2
Lexington	280,742	439	29	12	41	29.3	6,847	0.1
Total	14,028,896	21,920	17,093	2,078	19,171	10.8	732	0.9

95% Conf. Interval for harvest

(+-) 1,525	(+-) 566	(+-) 1,641
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Table 3. County rankings based on total turkeys harvested in South Carolina in 2017.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest	Rates
							Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. ²
Williamsburg	513,851	803	1012	50	1062	4.7	484	1.3
Orangeburg	504,516	788	863	63	926	6.8	545	1.2
Berkeley	567,530	887	789	50	839	6.0	676	0.9
Colleton	502,666	785	677	38	715	5.3	703	0.9
Union	258,111	403	625	88	713	12.3	362	1.8
Newberry	317,761	497	543	101	644	15.7	493	1.3
Laurens	317,916	497	528	114	642	17.8	495	1.3
Charleston	288,732	451	558	31	589	5.3	490	1.3
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Chester	300,589	470	439	69	508	13.6	592	1.1
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Oconee	284,348	444	268	57	325	17.5	875	0.7
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95% Conf. Interval for harvest			(+-) 1,525	(+-) 566	(+-) 1,641			

Table 4. Estimated number of turkey hunters, average days hunted, and total hunting effort in South Carolina in 2017.

County	Total Harvest	Number Hunters	Avg. Days Hunted	Total Man/Days
Abbeville	335	1,375	5.8	7,977
Aiken	444	1,047	5.8	6,122
Allendale	371	913	4.9	4,432
Anderson	383	1,283	5.1	6,533
Bamberg	392	811	4.7	3,783
Barnwell	288	575	7.0	4,021
Beaufort	50	267	2.5	676
Berkeley	839	2,032	5.3	10,682
Calhoun	272	780	5.6	4,368
Charleston	589	1,539	4.4	6,716
Cherokee	340	821	5.8	4,788
Chester	508	1,580	6.1	9,649
Chesterfield	388	1,016	7.5	7,584
Clarendon	269	841	3.9	3,271
Colleton	715	1,683	5.1	8,553
Darlington	226	718	5.5	3,938
Dillon	146	421	4.4	1,837
Dorchester	570	1,098	5.7	6,250
Edgefield	362	1,149	6.2	7,182
Fairfield	569	2,093	5.1	10,764
Florence	544	1,016	6.4	6,497
Georgetown	330	872	4.4	3,874
Greenville	467	1,385	5.2	7,264
Greenwood	267	1,098	5.2	5,729
Hampton	509	1,262	5.4	6,835
Horry	584	1,190	5.5	6,588
Jasper	403	800	4.8	3,865
Kershaw	321	934	6.2	5,821
Lancaster	318	1,016	5.3	5,346
Laurens	642	1,868	4.7	8,763
Lee	332	749	5.7	4,286
Lexington	41	400	3.5	1,416
McCormick	220	1,201	5.6	6,725
Marion	251	534	4.2	2,257
Marlboro	199	400	5.6	2,248
Newberry	644	2,114	5.7	12,144
Oconee	325	985	6.2	6,067
Orangeburg	926	2,042	5.0	10,143
Pickens	417	1,160	5.3	6,095
Richland	263	1,026	4.2	4,267
Saluda	172	852	5.0	4,231
Spartanburg	452	1,416	5.0	7,027
Sumter	354	1,160	4.5	5,181
Union	713	1,960	5.7	11,230
Williamsburg	1,062	1,704	4.6	7,913
York	359	1,242	5.1	6,360
Total	19,171	52,429	5.9	277,300

Figure 1. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources 2017 Turkey Hunter Survey.

2017 South Carolina Turkey Hunter Survey

1. Did you turkey hunt in SC this past season (2017)? **1. Yes 2. No**
If you answered **No** to this question please **go to question # 8.**
2. Did you harvest any turkeys in SC this past season? **1. Yes 2. No**
3. Even if you did not harvest a turkey, please record the SC counties you turkey hunted and the number of days hunted in each county this past season (2017). 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.

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

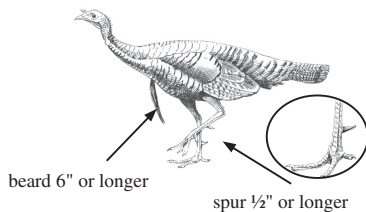
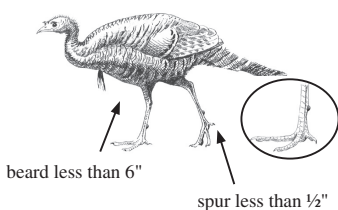
Date of Season	# Turkeys Harvested	Date of Season	# Turkeys Harvested
1 March 20-31		4 April 15-21	
2 April 1-7		5 April 22-30	
3 April 8-14		6 May 1-5	

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

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

Juvenile "Jake"

Adult "Gobbler"



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Figure 1. continued

May, 2017

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 2017.

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 2016 survey can be found at:
www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/turkey/2016TurkeyHarvest.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 2017 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

17-11297



**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

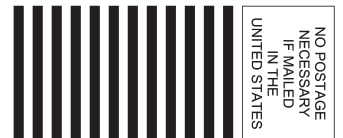


Figure 2. Summer wild turkey recruitment ratio in South Carolina 1982-2016. Note declining trend since 1988. Average recruitment prior to 1988 = 3.5. Average recruitment since 1988 = 2.2. This represents a 37 percent decrease.

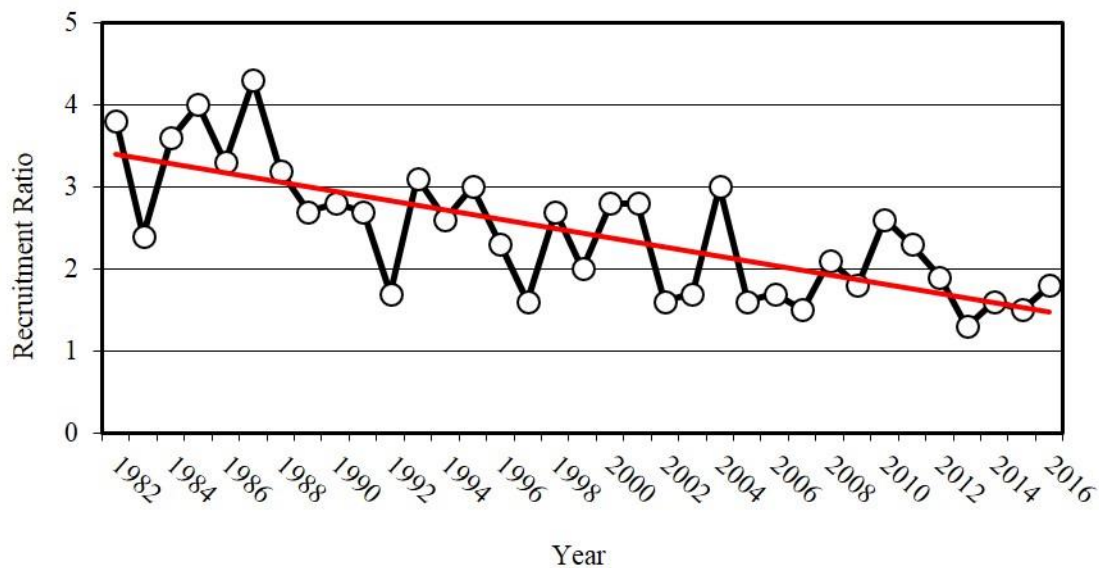


Figure 3. Spring wild turkey harvest in South Carolina 1982-2017. Harvest increased ($R^2 = 0.95$) between 1982 and 1997 as a result of increasing turkey population during restoration efforts. Since 1998 the harvest has been up and down but statistically has remained relatively stable ($R^2 = 0.14$) over the long-term averaging approximately 18,900 birds. Restoration ended in 2005.

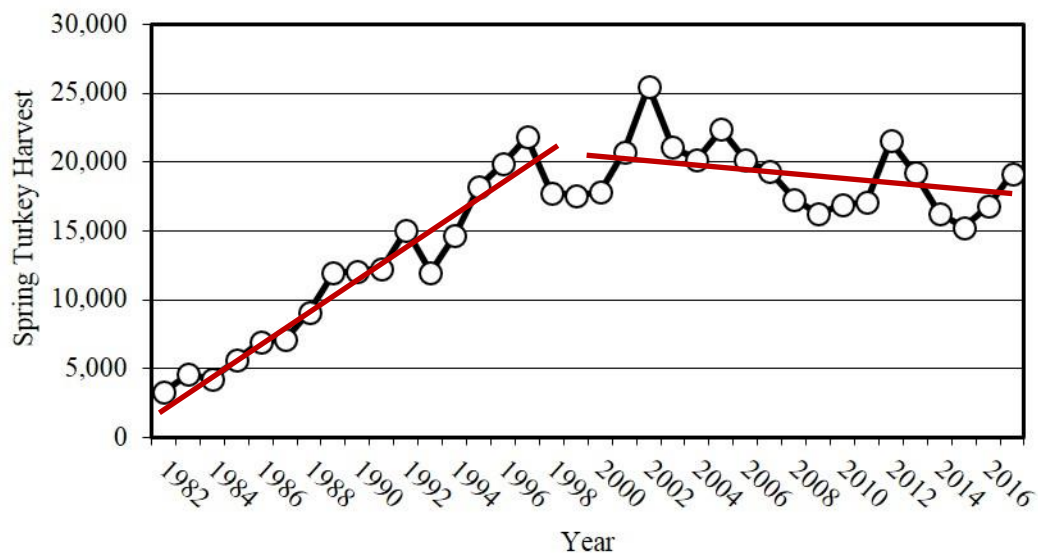


Figure 4. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week of season in South Carolina in 2017.

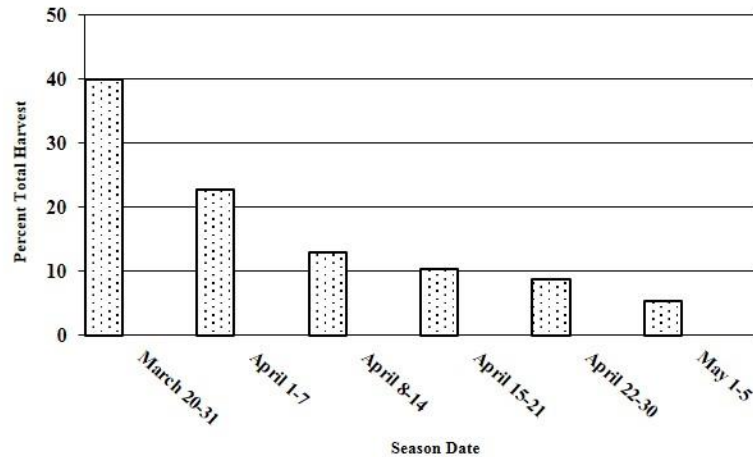


Figure 5. Hunter success during the spring turkey season in South Carolina in 2017. Overall success was 26 percent at harvesting at least one gobbler.

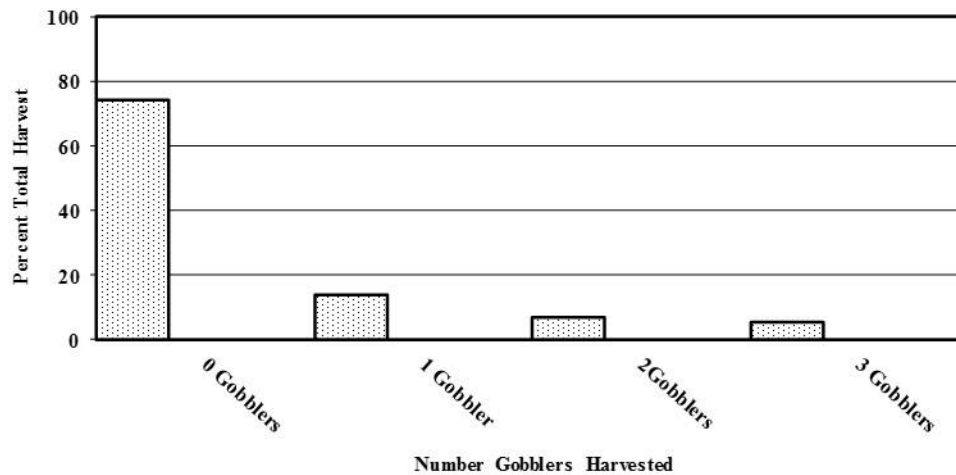


Figure 6. Relative contribution to the total turkey harvest by hunters taking between 1 and 3 gobblers in South Carolina in 2017.

