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Table 1. Estimated statewide turkey harvest in South Carolina in 2018.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Rates	
							Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. ²
Abbeville	223,113	349	210	20	230	8.7	970	0.7
Aiken	500,546	782	275	27	302	8.9	1,657	0.4
Allendale	216,455	338	283	30	313	9.6	692	0.9
Anderson	219,068	342	397	41	438	9.4	500	1.3
Bamberg	196,573	307	292	13	305	4.3	645	1.0
Barnwell	281,764	440	251	13	264	4.9	1,067	0.6
Beaufort	147,441	230	105	15	120	12.5	1,229	0.5
Berkeley	567,530	887	778	54	832	6.5	682	0.9
Calhoun	190,584	298	259	13	272	4.8	701	0.9
Charleston	288,732	451	413	27	440	6.1	656	1.0
Cherokee	156,664	245	275	48	323	14.9	485	1.3
Chester	300,589	470	348	41	389	10.5	773	0.8
Chesterfield	372,478	582	283	27	310	8.7	1,202	0.5
Clarendon	298,087	466	429	20	449	4.5	664	1.0
Colleton	502,666	785	705	13	718	1.8	700	0.9
Darlington	286,228	447	210	20	230	8.7	1,244	0.5
Dillon	214,069	334	105	41	146	28.1	1,466	0.4
Dorchester	302,717	473	365	6	371	1.6	816	0.8
Edgefield	246,543	385	227	41	268	15.3	920	0.7
Fairfield	384,607	601	649	82	731	11.2	526	1.2
Florence	397,888	622	454	116	570	20.4	698	0.9
Georgetown	399,638	624	421	27	448	6.0	892	0.7
Greenville	294,257	460	503	55	558	9.9	527	1.2
Greenwood	204,400	319	186	13	199	6.5	1,027	0.6
Hampton	324,840	508	535	45	580	7.8	560	1.1
Horry	533,336	833	365	110	475	23.2	1,123	0.6
Jasper	309,889	484	235	6	241	2.5	1,286	0.5
Kershaw	360,485	563	381	27	408	6.6	884	0.7
Lancaster	266,382	416	389	75	464	16.2	574	1.1
Laurens	317,916	497	519	68	587	11.6	542	1.2
Lee	220,106	344	227	20	247	8.1	891	0.7
Lexington	280,742	439	64	20	84	23.8	3,342	0.2
McCormick	212,021	331	170	48	218	22.0	973	0.7
Marion	216,907	339	170	13	183	7.1	1,185	0.5
Marlboro	281,271	439	121	20	141	14.2	1,995	0.3
Newberry	317,761	497	421	48	469	10.2	678	0.9
Oconee	284,348	444	146	20	166	12.0	1,713	0.4
Orangeburg	504,516	788	705	41	746	5.5	676	0.9
Pickens	219,926	344	316	48	364	13.2	604	1.1
Richland	340,121	531	227	20	247	8.1	1,377	0.5
Saluda	192,173	300	202	27	229	11.8	839	0.8
Spartanburg	265,939	416	462	103	565	18.2	471	1.4
Sumter	338,968	530	373	6	379	1.6	894	0.7
Union	258,111	403	551	144	695	20.7	371	1.7
Williamsburg	513,851	803	908	27	935	2.9	550	1.2
York	276,650	432	235	55	290	19.0	954	0.7
Total	14,028,896	21,920	16,145	1,794	17,939	10.0	782	0.8

95% Conf. Interval for harvest

(+-) 1,025 (+-) 385 (+-) 1,132

* 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 2018.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Rates	
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Union	258,111	403	551	144	695	20.7	371	1.7
Spartanburg	265,939	416	462	103	565	18.2	471	1.4
Cherokee	156,664	245	275	48	323	14.9	485	1.3
Anderson	219,068	342	397	41	438	9.4	500	1.3
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McCormick	212,021	331	170	48	218	22.0	973	0.7
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Barnwell	281,764	440	251	13	264	4.9	1,067	0.6
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Marion	216,907	339	170	13	183	7.1	1,185	0.5
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Richland	340,121	531	227	20	247	8.1	1,377	0.5
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Aiken	500,546	782	275	27	302	8.9	1,657	0.4
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Lexington	280,742	439	64	20	84	23.8	3,342	0.2
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Table 3. County rankings based on total turkeys harvested in South Carolina in 2018.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Rates	
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Total	14,028,896	21,920	16,145	1,794	17,939	10.0	782	0.8

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Table 4. Estimated number of turkey hunters, average days hunted, and total hunting effort in South Carolina in 2018.

County	Total Harvest	Number Hunters	Success Rate	Avg. Days Hunted	Total Man/Days
Abbeville	230	1,206	37.0	4.8	5,777
Aiken	302	1,116	37.1	5.2	5,827
Allendale	313	891	38.4	5.2	4,636
Anderson	438	1,714	29.6	4.3	7,299
Bamberg	305	879	43.8	5.7	5,026
Barnwell	264	620	35.3	5.9	3,635
Beaufort	120	440	36.4	3.1	1,352
Berkeley	832	1,736	30.0	6.0	10,363
Calhoun	272	609	32.7	4.6	2,783
Charleston	440	1,184	32.6	3.9	4,576
Cherokee	323	688	28.5	6.7	4,606
Chester	389	1,635	33.7	5.2	8,501
Chesterfield	310	868	44.1	4.9	4,265
Clarendon	449	834	50.0	5.2	4,305
Colleton	718	1,545	51.8	5.7	8,841
Darlington	230	586	27.6	4.4	2,573
Dillon	146	304	29.4	5.3	1,622
Dorchester	371	812	34.0	5.6	4,576
Edgefield	268	1,184	26.7	5.0	5,947
Fairfield	731	2,075	28.8	5.8	12,055
Florence	570	1,139	32.9	4.9	5,577
Georgetown	448	868	40.9	4.2	3,615
Greenville	558	1,252	23.7	5.4	6,759
Greenwood	199	970	22.8	4.0	3,925
Hampton	580	1,342	33.8	5.2	6,979
Horry	475	1,274	47.6	5.7	7,239
Jasper	241	631	49.4	5.3	3,344
Kershaw	408	1,308	32.5	4.5	5,927
Lancaster	464	1,049	34.9	6.3	6,598
Laurens	587	1,725	32.0	4.5	7,680
Lee	247	710	30.0	5.3	3,785
Lexington	84	474	20.0	3.1	1,482
McCormick	218	947	26.5	5.2	4,916
Marion	183	598	36.2	4.5	2,713
Marlboro	141	440	32.1	5.8	2,563
Newberry	469	1,860	24.1	5.2	9,642
Oconee	166	981	20.0	6.4	6,238
Orangeburg	746	1,781	30.6	5.1	9,011
Pickens	364	1,206	35.4	6.3	7,610
Richland	247	1,026	23.9	4.4	4,486
Saluda	229	902	25.4	4.6	4,185
Spartanburg	565	1,488	27.9	4.8	7,089
Sumter	379	947	33.9	4.8	4,516
Union	695	2,030	32.5	5.2	10,453
Williamsburg	935	1,612	43.8	4.3	7,009
York	290	1,285	27.9	5.4	6,879
Total	17,939	50,772	38.0	5.1	258,786

Figure 1. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources 2018 Turkey Hunter Survey.

2018 South Carolina Turkey Hunter Survey

1. Did you turkey hunt in SC this past season (2018)? **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 (2018). 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".



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



TURKEY HUNTER SURVEY
SCDNR
PO BOX 167
COLUMBIA SC 29202-0167
www.dnr.sc.gov

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.

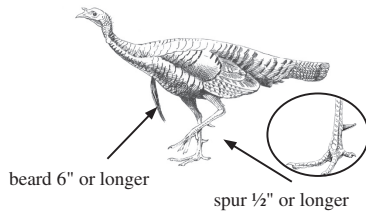
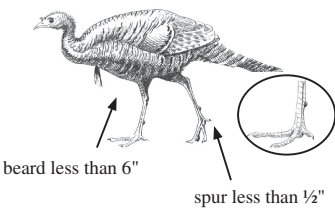
Date of Season	# Turkeys Harvested	Date of Season	# Turkeys Harvested
1 March 20-31		4 April 15-21	
2 April 1-7		5 April 22-30	
3 April 8-14		6 May 1-5	

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"



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBIA SC
PERMIT 535

Figure 1. continued

May, 2018

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 2018.

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

Thank you for your assistance.

Charles Ruth
Wildlife Biologist
Big Game Program Coordinator

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 2018 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

18-11731



**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



**NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES**

Figure 2. Spring wild turkey harvest in South Carolina 1982-2018. Harvest increased ($R^2 = 0.92$) between 1982 and 2002 as a result of increasing turkey population during restoration efforts. Since 2002 harvest has generally decreased, although harvest has been up an average of 18 percent during the 3 years of the new season framework.

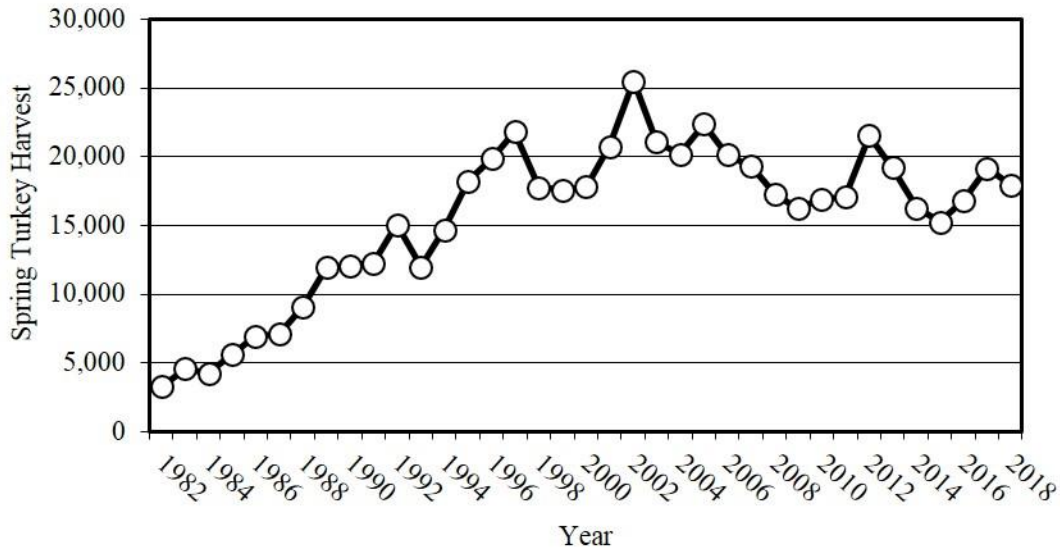


Figure 3. Summer wild turkey recruitment ratio in South Carolina 1982-2017. Note declining trend since 1988. Average recruitment prior to 1988 = 3.5. Average recruitment since 1988 = 2.1. This represents a 40 percent decrease in average recruitment.

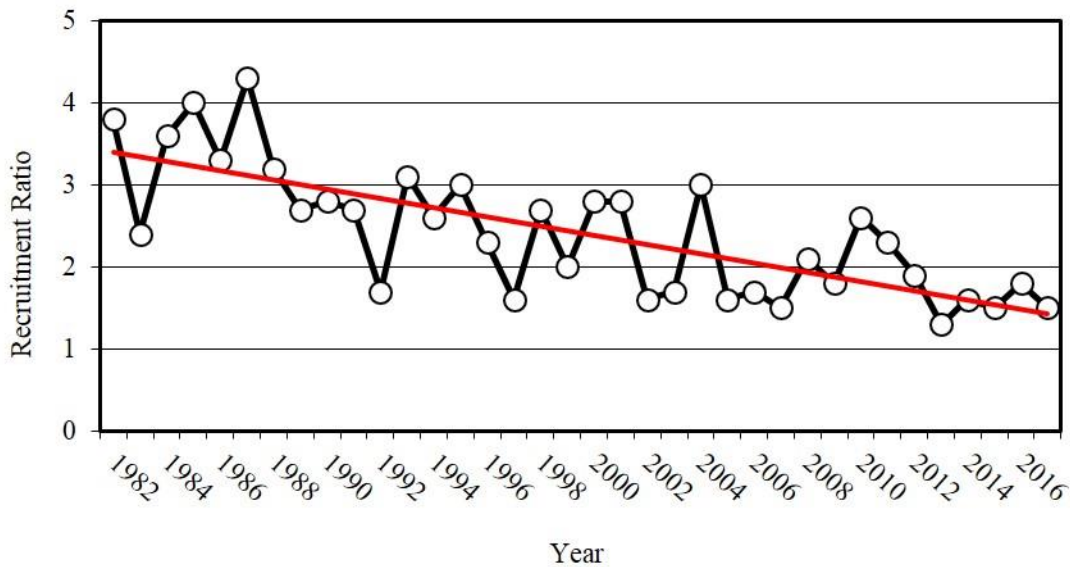


Figure 4. Percentage of gobblers harvested by period of season in South Carolina in 2018.

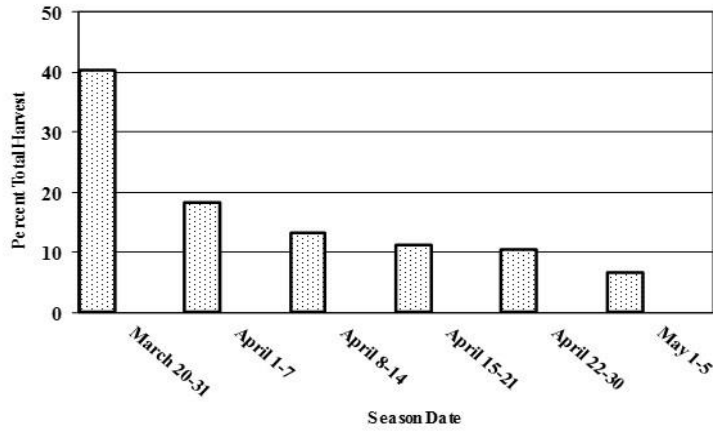


Figure 5. Hunter success during the spring turkey season in South Carolina in 2018. Overall success was 26 percent at harvesting at least one gobbler.

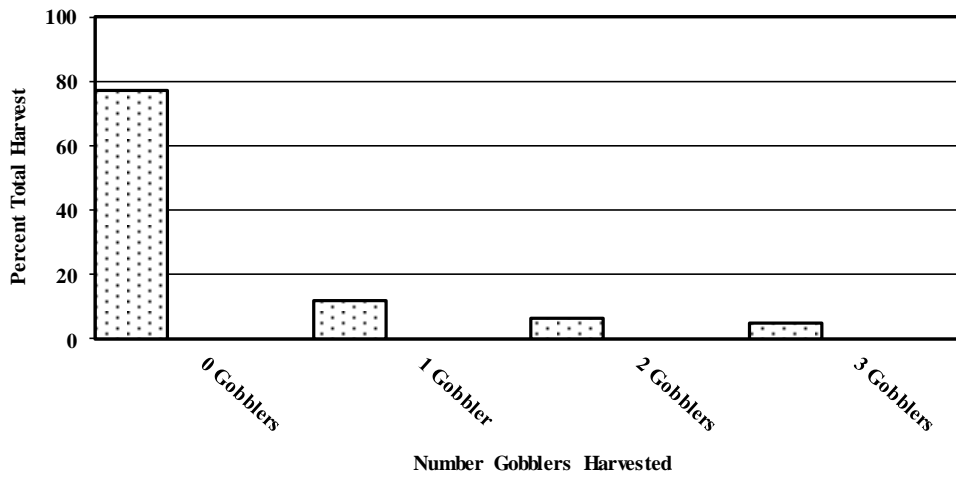


Figure 6. Relative contribution to the total turkey harvest by hunters taking between 1 and 3 gobblers in South Carolina in 2018.

