

**MISSISSIPPI MAIL SURVEY OF GAME  
HARVEST AND HUNTER EFFORT FOR 1995-96**

by

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	2
LIST OF TABLES .....	3
LIST OF FIGURES .....	6
INTRODUCTION .....	7
METHODS .....	8
RESULTS .....	10
DISCUSSION .....	11
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	13
REFERENCES CITED .....	14
TABLES .....	15
FIGURES .....	42

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Expanded statewide summary of the 1996-97 Mississippi mail survey of game harvest based on 206,499 small game license holders and 198,591 big game license holders . . . . .	15
2. Expanded statewide estimates of total harvest (and the variability of the estimates) for all game species in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	16
3. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>DOVE</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	17
4. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>QUAIL</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	18
5. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>WOODCOCK</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	19
6. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>RABBIT</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	20
7. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>SQUIRREL</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	21
8. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>RACCOON</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	22
9. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>ALL DUCK</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	23
10. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>MALLARD, WOOD DUCK</b> and <b>OTHER DUCK</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	24

Table	Page
11. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>GOOSE</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	25
12. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>RED FOX</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	26
13. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>GRAY FOX</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	27
14. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>BOBCAT</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	28
15. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>COYOTE</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	29
16. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>ARCHERY DEER</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	30
17. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>ARCHERY BUCK</b> and <b>DOE</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	31
18. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>PRIMITIVE WEAPON DEER</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	32
19. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>PRIMITIVE WEAPON BUCK</b> and <b>DOE</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	33
20. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>REGULAR GUN DEER</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	34
21. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>REGULAR GUN BUCK</b> and <b>DOE</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996-97 hunting season . . . . .	35
22. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>SPRING TURKEY</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996 hunting season . . . . .	36
23. Expanded statewide and district summaries of <b>FALL TURKEY</b> hunting in Mississippi during the 1996 hunting season . . . . .	37

Table	Page
24. Expanded statewide summaries of <b>ALL DEER, BUCK and DOE</b> hunting (combining all harvest methods) during the 1996-97 hunting season and <b>ALL TURKEY</b> hunting (combining spring and fall data) during the 1996 calendar year . . . . .	38
25. Summary of responses to opinion questions . . . . .	39

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Questionnaire used for the 1996-97 mail survey of game harvest and hunter effort in Mississippi .....	42
2. Cover letter mailed with the initial mailing of the 1996-97 survey of game harvest and hunter effort in Mississippi .....	45
3. Post card used as the first reminder mailing to nonrespondents during the 1996-97 survey of game harvest and hunter effort in Mississippi .....	46
4. Cover letter mailed with the second (and final) reminder mailing to non-respondents during the 1996-97 survey of game harvest and hunter effort in Mississippi .....	47
5. District partitions utilized for district hunted most .....	48

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the game harvest survey is to establish yearly indices of harvest and hunter effort for each game species. These indices provide trend data which allow staff to monitor changes in harvest and effort through time. When interpreting these data, it is important to consider habitat changes, species abundance, the current socio-economic climate of the state as well as changes in management strategies.

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) uses a mail survey to obtain trend data on total harvest, average daily kill, average seasonal harvest, and total man-days hunted for each game species. The estimates obtained for each of these categories contain serious sampling, response and nonresponse biases, therefore the accuracy of these estimates is unknown. Filion (1980) provided a good review of these biases and their effect on the estimates. Recognizing that these biases exist and assuming all biases remain constant, the estimates obtained from the survey provide adequate indices for monitoring trends in hunter harvest and effort.

The primary objective of the mail survey for the 1996-97 hunting season was to obtain a reliable set of statewide indices for each game species in Mississippi. The secondary objective was to provide district indices for these species. The survey is also used as a tool to monitor hunter attitudes and perceptions on specific issues. The results of the survey are used to help

guide future management decisions.

## METHODS

The sampling frame for the survey consisted of resident holders of a Type 00 - Sportsman, Type 01 - All Game Hunting and Fishing, or Type 03 - Small Game Hunting and Fishing licenses purchased during the 1996-97 license year. A 2.66 percent random sample of these hunting license buyers was selected from the 176,288 licenses processed from July 1, 1996 - February 21, 1997.

An initial sample of 1,960 Type 00, 2,860 Type 01 and 179 Type 03 license holders was selected. All Types were combined into a single computer file for mailing purposes. Incorrect zip codes and bad addresses were deleted from the file, resulting in 4,975 names on the file.

The initial mailing consisting of the questionnaire (Figure 1), a cover letter (Figure 2) and a No. 9 postage-paid business reply envelope was mailed in a No. 10 window envelope on March 6, 1997 to the 4,975 sampled hunters. Three weeks after the initial mailing reminder post cards (Figure 3) were mailed to 3,370 sampled hunters who had not returned their questionnaire. The final mailing composed of the identical questionnaire, cover letter (Figure 4) and business reply envelope was mailed three weeks after the reminder post card mailing to the 3,114 nonrespondents. First mailing questionnaires were given identification numbers from 100,001 to 104,975 while the final mailing was given a 200,000 numbering sequence to differentiate



responses between mailings. Questionnaires returned after June 26 were not considered in the analyses.

Questionnaire design and mailing procedures were outlined by Steffen (1981). Procedures for editing and data entry of returned questionnaires were also identical to Steffen (1981).

Estimates and their standard errors for each species were calculated for the following indices; total kill, average seasonal kill per hunter, proportion of licensed hunters, total licensed hunters, proportion of hunters who were successful, total man-days spent hunting, average days afield per hunter and the average daily kill. These indices were calculated both on a statewide and district (Figure 5) basis.

The 1996-97 survey obtained information about two different license years. Turkey harvest indices were partially calculated from hunters who hunted during the spring 1996 turkey season which was the 95/96 license year. Indices for other species were determined for the 1996-97 season alone. Because of prior irregularities in the license sales structure, only surveys beginning with the 1982-83 season had well defined sampling frames with a known number of license buyers (Steffen 1981, 1983 a,b), therefore spring 1996 turkey indices were calculated based on the respondents who also purchased a big game license during the previous July 1, 1995 - June 30, 1996 fiscal year (Question 10 on survey).

Estimates and standard errors of total turkey and man-days of effort were calculated as a linear combination of the spring 1996 estimates plus the fall 1996 estimates. The computer programs were altered to reflect these changes. All other calculations follow Steffen 1981.

## RESULTS

Based on all three mailings, 411 (8.3%) of the 4,975 questionnaires were returned as non-deliverable by the post office. Therefore 4,564 individuals were assumed to have been contacted to participate in the survey. Of these 2,646 (57.9%) returned their questionnaires for possible analysis and 1,918 (42.1%) were nonresponses.

Statewide expansions were calculated based on the 206,499 total hunting licenses sold and accounted for by the first of July 1997. There existed 206,499 individuals licensed to hunt small game and 198,591 (Types 00 +01) of these license holders also were eligible to pursue big game (deer and turkey) during the 1996-97 hunting seasons. The spring, 1996 turkey hunting estimates were based on the 200,216 big game license holders accounted for in the 1995-96 license sales totals.

Based on the 2,628 usable responses,  $92.4 \pm 0.52$  (SE) percent of all resident license holders actually participated in a hunting activity during the 1996-97 hunting season. Therefore an estimated  $190,805 \pm 1,067$  (SE) licenses actually utilized their license for hunting purposes.

The expanded statewide summaries of total harvest, average daily kill, average seasonal kill, the percent of hunters and the percent of total licenses that hunted are provided in Table 1 for all game species included in the survey. Table 2 provides the expanded statewide estimates of total harvest and the variability of these (standard errors and 95 percent confidence limits) for all game species surveyed.

Tables 3-8 summarize small game hunting on a statewide and district basis. Waterfowl hunting is summarized in Tables 9-11. Tables 12-15 summarize fox (red and gray), bobcat and

coyote hunting. Statewide and district summaries of deer (buck and doe data from the archery, primitive weapon and gun seasons) and turkey hunting are provided in Tables 16-24. Statewide totals will not necessarily equal the sum of the district totals. All figures were calculated independently and were the best statistical estimates available.

Table 25 summarizes the responses to the opinion questions in Part B.

### DISCUSSION

For comparison purposes, it should be noted that not all districts had the same doe opportunity during the deer season. In District 1 doe hunting was closed <sup>from</sup> December 24 - January 22 in Tippah, Alcorn, Prentiss, Tishomingo, Union, Pontotoc, Lee, and Itawamba counties. In District 2 doe hunting <sup>was</sup> closed from December 24 - January 22 in Covington, Scott and Smith counties. In District 5 doe hunting was closed December 24 - January 22 in Walthall county. Other districts were open for doe hunting during all deer seasons.

Survey results showed deer harvest remaining steady with a drop in primitives weapon effort and an increase in gun effort. Turkey harvest as well as small game harvest continued to show a downward trend. However, success rates remained stable.

For management purposes, it should be reemphasized that the hunting data provided are only indices to harvest and effort, for use in conjunction with past (and future) mail surveys to determine trends. The current survey was conducted similarly to all past surveys and is therefore useful for comparison purposes.

Response and nonresponse biases continue to exist with the survey as previously noted by

Steffen (1981). Therefore discretion must be used when considering these data as absolute estimates. Assuming the biases remain consistent over time, the best uses of these data are as indices for trend determinations.

As previously recommended, the annual survey should be continued with a sample of 3,000-5,000 sportsmen. Periodically (e.g., every 5 years) a survey of 11,000 - 12,000 hunters should be conducted to provide more precise estimates on a district basis. The next large sample survey should be conducted after the 1998-99 hunting seasons. To avoid changes in biases, attention to the consistency of survey methodology should be continued in future surveys.

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TABLE 1. EXPANDED STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF THE 1996-97 MISSISSIPPI MAIL SURVEY OF GAME HARVEST BASED ON 206,499 SMALL GAME LICENSE HOLDERS AND 198,591 BIG GAME LICENSE HOLDERS.

SPECIES	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES
DOVE	1,429,379	7.18	20.32	93.2	231,020	3.58	70,508	34.1
QUAIL	98,460	2.34	10.28	80.3	55,203	4.96	9,579	4.6
WOODCOCK	7,695	1.13	3.63	63.0	11,241	3.00	2,120	1.0
RABBIT	386,921	1.50	8.41	85.2	278,080	6.06	46,089	22.3
SQUIRREL	904,228	2.44	11.92	89.9	396,186	5.18	75,926	36.9
RACCOON	110,080	0.53	9.05	91.0	198,296	17.46	12,170	5.9
ALL DUCKS	530,223	2.19	20.10	89.9	252,756	9.63	26,382	12.5
MALLARD	300,248	1.25	11.38	73.5				
WOOD DUCK	87,703	0.40	3.32	56.8				
OTHER DUCKS	142,272	0.53	5.39	50.3				
GEESE	15,075	0.67	3.76	72.5	19,659	6.46	4,004	1.9
RED FOX	1,178	0.03	0.65	47.8	39,775	20.67	1,806	0.9
GRAY FOX	2,748	0.09	1.52	60.9	37,638	11.36	1,806	0.9
BOBCAT	6,360	0.40	1.04	83.1	37,660	3.00	6,046	2.9
COYOTE	21,828	0.12	1.92	81.1	72,779	17.47	11,228	5.4
TOTAL DEER	334,457	0.097	2.03	66.9	3,087,871	19.95	165,024	83.1
BUCK	159,952	0.047	0.97	51.4				
DOE	174,178	0.050	1.06	47.5				
ARCHERY DEER	44,574	0.064	0.77	43.7	607,910	11.92	58,000	29.2
BUCK	13,817	0.018	0.24	19.4				
DOE	30,757	0.047	0.53	34.9				
PRIMITIVE DEER	25,995	0.100	0.55	37.7	229,623	5.27	46,994	23.7
BUCK	9,524	0.039	0.20	17.3				
DOE	16,471	0.061	0.35	27.7				
GUN DEER	263,666	0.106	1.67	65.9	2,226,966	14.45	158,467	79.9
BUCK	136,566	0.057	0.86	50.4				
DOE	126,838	0.049	0.80	42.0				
TOTAL TURKEY	29,035	0.026	0.81	47.7	305,794		35,769	16.4
SPRING 1996	28,406	0.088	0.83	48.8	298,553	8.90	34,431	17.2
FALL 1996	630	0.096	0.47	35.3	7,242	4.42	1,338	0.7

(A) DEER AND TURKEY PERCENTAGES BASED ON BIG GAME LICENSE HOLDERS; ALL OTHERS BASED ON SMALL GAME LICENSE HOLDERS.

TABLE 2. EXPANDED STATEWIDE ESTIMATES OF TOTAL HARVEST (AND THE VARIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES) FOR ALL GAME SPECIES IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

SPECIES	TOTAL HARVEST	STANDARD ERROR		95% CONFIDENCE INTERVAL	
		SE	AS % OF TOTAL (A)	LOWER LIMIT	UPPER LIMIT
DOVE	1,429,379	70,086	4.9	1,289,207	1,569,551
QUAIL	98,460	16,836	17.1	64,788	132,132
WOODCOCK	7,695	2,750	35.7	2,195	13,195
RABBIT	386,921	32,925	8.5	321,071	452,771
SQUIRREL	904,228	42,316	4.7	819,596	988,860
RACCOON	110,080	20,490	18.6	69,100	151,060
ALL DUCKS	530,223	52,377	9.9	425,469	634,977
MALLARD	300,248	35,522	11.8	229,204	371,292
WOOD DUCK	87,703	9,038	10.3	69,627	105,779
OTHER DUCKS	142,272	19,314	13.6	103,644	180,900
GEESE	15,075	4,161	27.6	6,753	23,397
RED FOX	1,178	407	34.6	364	1,992
GRAY FOX	2,748	1,123	40.9	502	4,994
BOBCAT	6,360	833	13.1	4,694	8,026
COYOTE	21,828	2,615	12.0	16,598	27,058
TOTAL DEER	334,457	9,170	2.7	316,117	352,797
BUCK	159,952	4,852	3.0	150,248	169,656
DOE	174,178	5,966	3.4	162,246	186,110
ARCHERY DEER	44,574	2,980	6.7	38,614	50,534
BUCK	13,817	1,256	9.1	11,305	16,329
DOE	30,757	2,218	7.2	26,321	35,193
PRIMITIVE DEER	25,995	1,956	7.5	22,083	29,907
BUCK	9,524	982	10.3	7,560	11,488
DOE	16,471	1,378	8.4	13,715	19,227
GUN DEER	263,666	7,387	2.8	248,892	278,440
BUCK	136,566	4,243	3.1	128,080	145,052
DOE	126,838	4,760	3.8	117,318	136,358
TOTAL TURKEY	29,035	2,267	7.8	24,501	33,569
SPRING 1996	28,406	2,250	7.9	23,906	32,906
FALL 1996	630	272	43.2	86	1,174

(A) % = 100 (SE/TOTAL HARVEST)



TABLE 3. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF DOVE HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1	ESTIMATE (SE) N	219,306	5.75	17.67	96.8	37,956	3.09	12,398	17.8
		(22,292)	(0.52)	(1.17)	(1.4)	(4,313)	(0.26)	(959)	(1.3)
		2,612	155	157	157	2,606	155	883	883
2	ESTIMATE (SE) N	242,628	5.97	22.90	94.0	40,967	3.89	10,661	15.3
		(34,739)	(0.89)	(2.66)	(2.1)	(6,512)	(0.53)	(894)	(1.2)
		2,612	132	134	134	2,606	133	883	883
3	ESTIMATE (SE) N	348,171	6.80	23.30	93.7	50,713	3.40	14,925	21.4
		(41,689)	(0.52)	(2.27)	(1.8)	(4,899)	(0.23)	(1,046)	(1.4)
		2,612	188	189	189	2,606	188	883	883
4	ESTIMATE (SE) N	255,120	6.29	18.55	93.7	40,333	2.96	13,740	19.7
		(25,604)	(0.35)	(1.28)	(1.9)	(3,736)	(0.17)	(1,007)	(1.3)
		2,612	172	174	174	2,606	172	883	883
5	ESTIMATE (SE) N	120,168	5.17	15.35	93.9	23,297	2.97	7,897	11.3
		(18,560)	(0.73)	(1.83)	(2.4)	(3,763)	(0.38)	(775)	(1.1)
		2,612	99	99	99	2,606	99	883	883
6	ESTIMATE (SE) N	222,073	6.26	22.12	85.8	35,816	3.56	10,108	14.5
		(32,516)	(0.55)	(2.62)	(3.1)	(4,217)	(0.29)	(871)	(1.2)
		2,612	126	127	127	2,606	127	883	883
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STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE (SE) N	1,429,379	7.18	20.32	93.2	231,020	3.58	70,508	34.1
		(70,086)	(0.25)	(0.83)	(0.8)	(10,667)	(0.14)	(1,910)	(0.9)
		2,627	806	895	895	2,619	794	2,630	2,630
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									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES

TABLE 4. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF QUAIL HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1	ESTIMATE (SE) N	40,120 (10,974) 2,625	1.60 (0.24) 32	15.00 (3.26) 34	88.2 (5.6) 34	22,603 (6,015) 2,622	8.97 (1.82) 32	2,675 (456) 117	29.1 (4.2) 117
2	ESTIMATE (SE) N	20,296 (8,554) 2,625	2.06 (0.36) 23	11.22 (4.21) 23	82.6 (8.1) 23	9,845 (3,411) 2,622	5.43 (1.54) 23	1,809 (376) 117	19.7 (3.7) 117
3	ESTIMATE (SE) N	6,923 (2,939) 2,625	3.52 (0.95) 12	7.33 (2.39) 12	83.3 (11.2) 12	1,969 (759) 2,622	2.08 (0.56) 12	944 (272) 117	10.3 (2.8) 117
4	ESTIMATE (SE) N	13,924 (5,644) 2,625	1.95 (0.70) 19	9.32 (3.20) 19	63.2 (11.4) 19	7,167 (2,379) 2,622	4.79 (1.18) 19	1,495 (342) 117	16.2 (3.4) 117
5	ESTIMATE (SE) N	1,967 (1,046) 2,625	0.56 (0.16) 10	2.50 (1.13) 10	80.0 (13.3) 10	3,544 (2,402) 2,622	4.50 (2.85) 10	787 (248) 117	8.5 (2.6) 117
6	ESTIMATE (SE) N	14,475 (7,199) 2,625	1.94 (0.54) 18	9.68 (4.39) 19	73.7 (10.4) 19	7,324 (2,657) 2,622	5.17 (1.47) 18	1,495 (342) 117	16.2 (3.4) 117
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE (SE) N	98,460 (16,836) 2,630	2.34 (0.30) 147	10.28 (1.51) 122	80.3 (3.6) 122	55,203 (8,454) 2,626	4.96 (0.51) 136	9,579 (847) 2,630	4.6 (0.4) 2,630
									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES

TABLE 5. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF WOODCOCK HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1	ESTIMATE	1,257	0.33	5.33	66.7	3,775	16.00	236	11.5
	(SE)	(1,181)	(0.47)	(4.84)	(33.3)	(3,177)	(12.00)	(136)	(6.4)
	N	2,629	3	3	3	2,626	3	26	26
2	ESTIMATE	471	0.17	1.00	33.3	2,752	5.83	471	23.1
	(SE)	(400)	(0.03)	(0.82)	(21.1)	(2,365)	(4.83)	(192)	(8.4)
	N	2,629	6	6	6	2,626	6	26	26
3	ESTIMATE	2,985	2.71	4.75	75.0	1,101	1.75	628	30.8
	(SE)	(2,072)	(1.63)	(3.03)	(16.4)	(484)	(0.49)	(222)	(9.2)
	N	2,629	8	8	8	2,626	8	26	26
4	ESTIMATE	785	2.00	10.00	100.0	393	5.00	79	3.8
	(SE)	(785)	(.)	(.)	(.)	(393)	(.)	(79)	(3.8)
	N	2,629	1	1	1	2,626	1	26	26
5	ESTIMATE	1,178	0.20	5.00	100.0	2,359	30.00	236	11.5
	(SE)	(689)	(.)	(0.58)	(0.0)	(2,359)	(.)	(136)	(6.4)
	N	2,629	1	3	3	2,626	1	26	26
6	ESTIMATE	864	1.25	2.20	40.0	629	2.00	393	19.2
	(SE)	(789)	(0.85)	(1.96)	(24.5)	(369)	(0.71)	(176)	(7.9)
	N	2,629	4	5	5	2,626	4	26	26
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STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE (SE) N	7,695 (2,750) 2,630	1.13 (0.34) 27	3.63 (1.12) 27	63.0 (9.5) 27	11,241 (4,667) 2,627	3.00 (0.94) 15	2,120 (406) 2,630	1.0 (0.2) 2,630
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TABLE 6. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF RABBIT HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1	ESTIMATE (SE) N	51,346 (9,172) 2,590	0.81 (0.19) 81	7.85 (1.12) 82	87.8 (3.6) 82	63,224 (16,340) 2,577	9.74 (2.29) 81	6,538 (711) 547	15.0 (1.5) 547
2	ESTIMATE (SE) N	58,920 (18,023) 2,590	1.67 (0.17) 64	11.03 (3.12) 67	79.1 (5.0) 67	32,293 (9,256) 2,577	6.30 (1.64) 64	5,342 (644) 547	12.2 (1.4) 547
3	ESTIMATE (SE) N	97,668 (18,835) 2,590	2.43 (0.28) 83	14.24 (2.31) 86	89.5 (3.3) 86	39,184 (6,902) 2,577	5.89 (0.82) 83	6,857 (727) 547	15.7 (1.6) 547
4	ESTIMATE (SE) N	44,090 (6,736) 2,590	1.07 (0.19) 109	5.03 (0.61) 110	82.7 (3.6) 110	40,627 (7,792) 2,577	4.65 (0.78) 109	8,770 (818) 547	20.1 (1.7) 547
5	ESTIMATE (SE) N	43,612 (13,958) 2,590	1.41 (0.43) 69	7.81 (2.34) 70	81.4 (4.7) 70	30,931 (8,299) 2,577	5.59 (1.36) 69	5,581 (658) 547	12.8 (1.4) 547
6	ESTIMATE (SE) N	74,786 (11,546) 2,590	1.24 (0.13) 128	7.11 (0.92) 132	84.8 (3.1) 132	57,775 (7,744) 2,577	5.63 (0.58) 128	10,524 (893) 547	24.1 (1.8) 547
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE (SE) N	386,921 (32,925) 2,629	1.50 (0.11) 499	8.41 (0.65) 586	85.2 (1.5) 586	278,080 (24,016) 2,605	6.06 (0.40) 490	46,089 (1,677) 2,630	22.3 (0.8) 2,630
									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES

TABLE 7. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF SQUIRREL HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1	ESTIMATE (SE) N	94,472 (15,457) 2,588	1.64 (0.43) 106	11.17 (1.49) 106	91.5 (2.7) 106	58,128 (15,483) 2,572	6.83 (1.71) 106	8,455 (804) 926	11.4 (1.0) 926
2	ESTIMATE (SE) N	71,732 (10,559) 2,588	2.00 (0.21) 105	8.40 (0.95) 107	84.1 (3.6) 107	35,326 (4,962) 2,572	4.19 (0.43) 105	8,534 (808) 926	11.6 (1.1) 926
3	ESTIMATE (SE) N	96,068 (14,320) 2,588	2.60 (0.29) 118	9.95 (1.20) 121	86.0 (3.2) 121	36,932 (5,090) 2,572	3.90 (0.41) 118	9,651 (857) 926	13.1 (1.1) 926
4	ESTIMATE (SE) N	196,844 (20,286) 2,588	2.45 (0.18) 202	12.15 (0.95) 203	91.6 (1.9) 203	81,090 (8,358) 2,572	4.98 (0.39) 203	16,271 (1,094) 926	22.0 (1.4) 926
5	ESTIMATE (SE) N	118,968 (15,071) 2,588	2.28 (0.23) 139	10.43 (1.02) 143	86.7 (2.8) 143	48,734 (6,341) 2,572	4.37 (0.44) 139	11,406 (927) 926	15.4 (1.2) 926
6	ESTIMATE (SE) N	313,419 (29,578) 2,588	2.40 (0.29) 238	16.03 (1.16) 245	93.1 (1.6) 245	127,175 (17,247) 2,572	6.66 (0.81) 238	19,541 (1,188) 926	26.5 (1.5) 926
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE (SE) N	904,228 (42,316) 2,629	2.44 (0.12) 821	11.92 (0.47) 965	89.9 (1.0) 966	396,186 (25,400) 2,604	5.18 (0.25) 816	75,926 (1,942) 2,630	36.8 (0.9) 2,630
									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES

TABLE 8. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF RACCOON HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1		15,897 (11,900) 2,624	0.69 (0.18) 15	13.47 (9.80) 15	93.3 (6.7) 15	23,076 (12,473) 2,613	19.47 (9.57) 15	1,180 (304) 149	10.1 (2.5) 149
2		12,513 (5,364) 2,624	0.32 (0.14) 20	7.57 (2.87) 21	85.7 (7.8) 21	39,356 (24,312) 2,613	24.90 (14.72) 20	1,653 (359) 149	14.1 (2.9) 149
3		14,165 (8,555) 2,624	1.00 (0.27) 25	6.43 (3.76) 28	96.4 (3.6) 28	5,374 (1,732) 2,613	2.72 (0.70) 25	2,203 (414) 149	18.8 (3.2) 149
4		17,156 (6,892) 2,624	0.33 (0.09) 26	8.38 (3.00) 26	73.1 (8.9) 26	51,842 (26,410) 2,613	25.23 (12.11) 26	2,046 (399) 149	17.4 (3.1) 149
5		19,831 (7,426) 2,624	1.08 (0.27) 21	11.45 (3.61) 22	95.5 (4.5) 22	14,778 (6,161) 2,613	8.90 (3.25) 21	1,731 (368) 149	14.8 (2.9) 149
6		23,373 (6,281) 2,624	0.32 (0.09) 31	8.03 (1.74) 37	97.3 (2.7) 37	56,821 (26,051) 2,613	23.19 (9.95) 31	2,912 (475) 149	24.8 (3.6) 149
STATEWIDE		110,080 (20,490) 2,630	0.53 (0.09) 117	9.05 (1.53) 155	91.0 (2.3) 155	198,296 (46,601) 2,618	17.46 (4.15) 106	12,170 (948) 2,630	5.9 (0.5) 2,630
									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES

TABLE 9. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF ALL DUCK HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1		19,798 (5,480) 2,618	1.44 (0.22) 29	8.37 (1.78) 30	93.3 (4.6) 30	13,540 (3,011) 2,608	5.90 (0.74) 29	2,366 (430) 324	9.3 (1.6) 324
2		154,440 (27,303) 2,618	2.05 (0.23) 80	24.48 (3.41) 80	95.0 (2.5) 80	75,537 (14,739) 2,608	11.93 (1.93) 80	6,310 (695) 324	24.7 (2.4) 324
3		257,611 (40,909) 2,618	2.51 (0.17) 108	28.40 (3.71) 115	90.4 (2.8) 115	99,053 (13,428) 2,608	11.58 (1.13) 108	9,071 (827) 324	35.5 (2.7) 324
4		25,241 (8,065) 2,618	1.18 (0.28) 34	9.41 (2.58) 34	76.5 (7.4) 34	21,537 (6,020) 2,608	8.00 (1.80) 34	2,682 (457) 324	10.5 (1.7) 324
5		27,686 (11,330) 2,618	1.68 (0.39) 31	10.64 (4.00) 33	90.9 (5.1) 33	16,311 (4,601) 2,608	6.65 (1.47) 31	2,603 (450) 324	10.2 (1.7) 324
6		31,393 (11,046) 2,618	1.39 (0.29) 32	12.44 (3.85) 32	84.4 (6.5) 32	22,645 (6,364) 2,608	8.94 (1.99) 32	2,524 (444) 324	9.9 (1.7) 324
STATEWIDE		530,223 (52,377) 2,630	2.19 (0.13) 287	20.10 (1.70) 336	89.9 (1.6) 336	252,756 (22,096) 2,616	9.63 (0.59) 278	26,382 (1,344) 2,630	12.8 (0.7) 2,630
									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES

TABLE 10. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF MALLARD, WOOD DUCK, AND OTHER DUCK HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT(1)	STATISTIC	MALLARDS					WOOD DUCKS					OTHER DUCKS					
		TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS
1	ESTIMATE	10,096	0.75	4.27	83.3	6,152	0.43	2.60	63.3	3,549	0.26	1.50	46.7	3,549	0.26	1.50	46.7
	(SE)	(3,149)	(0.16)	(1.10)	(6.9)	(1,673)	(0.06)	(0.54)	(8.9)	(1,207)	(0.06)	(0.44)	(9.3)	(1,207)	(0.06)	(0.44)	(9.3)
	N	2,618	29	30	30	2,618	29	30	30	2,618	29	30	30	2,618	29	30	30
2	ESTIMATE	102,855	1.37	16.30	87.5	16,249	0.22	2.58	45.0	35,337	0.47	5.60	60.0	35,337	0.47	5.60	60.0
	(SE)	(19,758)	(0.19)	(2.58)	(3.7)	(3,715)	(0.04)	(0.52)	(5.6)	(8,061)	(0.08)	(1.13)	(5.5)	(8,061)	(0.08)	(1.13)	(5.5)
	N	2,618	80	80	80	2,618	80	80	80	2,618	80	80	80	2,618	80	80	80
3	ESTIMATE	154,835	1.50	17.07	87.8	30,525	0.30	3.37	55.7	72,251	0.71	7.97	60.9	72,251	0.71	7.97	60.9
	(SE)	(27,499)	(0.15)	(2.61)	(3.1)	(5,064)	(0.03)	(0.47)	(4.7)	(14,363)	(0.10)	(1.41)	(4.6)	(14,363)	(0.10)	(1.41)	(4.6)
	N	2,618	108	115	115	2,618	108	115	115	2,618	108	115	115	2,618	108	115	115
4	ESTIMATE	7,099	0.33	2.65	41.2	9,860	0.46	3.68	61.8	8,282	0.39	3.09	38.2	8,282	0.39	3.09	38.2
	(SE)	(2,799)	(0.11)	(0.96)	(8.6)	(2,606)	(0.10)	(0.75)	(8.5)	(3,595)	(0.13)	(1.25)	(8.5)	(3,595)	(0.13)	(1.25)	(8.5)
	N	2,618	34	34	34	2,618	34	34	34	2,618	34	34	34	2,618	34	34	34
5	ESTIMATE	13,172	0.80	5.06	60.6	8,598	0.51	3.30	72.7	5,916	0.36	2.27	36.4	5,916	0.36	2.27	36.4
	(SE)	(8,035)	(0.37)	(3.01)	(9.6)	(2,135)	(0.12)	(0.60)	(7.9)	(2,770)	(0.10)	(1.00)	(8.5)	(2,770)	(0.10)	(1.00)	(8.5)
	N	2,618	31	33	33	2,618	31	33	33	2,618	31	33	33	2,618	31	33	33
6	ESTIMATE	1,656	0.07	0.66	21.9	14,671	0.65	5.81	71.9	15,065	0.67	5.97	25.0	15,065	0.67	5.97	25.0
	(SE)	(718)	(0.03)	(0.26)	(7.4)	(5,349)	(0.16)	(1.89)	(8.1)	(9,240)	(0.36)	(3.56)	(7.8)	(9,240)	(0.36)	(3.56)	(7.8)
	N	2,618	32	32	32	2,618	32	32	32	2,618	32	32	32	2,618	32	32	32
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	300,248	1.25	11.38	73.5	87,703	0.40	3.32	56.8	142,272	0.53	5.39	50.3	142,272	0.53	5.39	50.3
	(SE)	(35,522)	(0.09)	(1.22)	(2.4)	(9,038)	(0.03)	(0.30)	(2.7)	(19,314)	(0.06)	(0.68)	(2.7)	(19,314)	(0.06)	(0.68)	(2.7)
	N	2,630	289	336	336	2,630	288	336	336	2,630	290	336	336	2,630	290	336	336



TABLE 11. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF GOOSE HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1		0 (0) 2,629	(.) (.) .	(.) (.) .	(.) (.) .	0 (0) 2,625	(.) (.) .	0 (0) 50	0.0 (0.0) 50
2		3,692 (1,166) 2,629	0.52 (0.13) 19	2.24 (0.53) 21	66.7 (10.5) 21	6,687 (1,969) 2,625	4.47 (0.85) 19	1,649 (359) 50	42.0 (7.1) 50
3		8,090 (3,567) 2,629	0.98 (0.49) 18	5.42 (2.10) 19	89.5 (7.2) 19	7,631 (3,422) 2,625	5.39 (2.12) 18	1,492 (341) 50	38.0 (6.9) 50
4		1,335 (984) 2,629	0.65 (0.45) 4	4.25 (2.66) 4	50.0 (28.9) 4	2,045 (1,358) 2,625	6.50 (3.28) 4	314 (157) 50	8.0 (3.9) 50
5		79 (79) 2,629	0.04 (0.06) 3	0.33 (0.33) 3	33.3 (33.3) 3	2,124 (1,896) 2,625	9.00 (7.51) 3	236 (136) 50	6.0 (3.4) 50
6		1,885 (1,527) 2,629	1.43 (1.90) 2	8.00 (5.57) 3	100.0 (0.0) 3	1,101 (847) 2,625	7.00 (3.00) 2	236 (136) 50	6.0 (3.4) 50
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STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE (SE) N	15,075 (4,161) 2,630	0.67 (0.21) 49	3.76 (0.91) 51	72.5 (6.3) 51	19,659 (4,651) 2,626	6.46 (1.68) 37	4,004 (555) 2,630	1.9 (0.3) 2,630
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									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES

TABLE 12. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF RED FOX HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1	ESTIMATE	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	4,402	18.67	236	13.0
	(SE)	(0)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.0)	(3,951)	(15.71)	(136)	(7.2)
	N	2,630	3	3	3	2,627	3	23	23
2	ESTIMATE	236	0.60	0.75	75.0	393	1.25	314	17.4
	(SE)	(136)	(0.20)	(0.25)	(25.0)	(208)	(0.25)	(157)	(8.1)
	N	2,630	4	4	4	2,627	4	23	23
3	ESTIMATE	0	(.)	(.)	(.)	0	(.)	0	0.0
	(SE)	(0)	(.)	(.)	(.)	(0)	(.)	(0)	(0.0)
	N	2,630	.	.	.	2,627	.	23	23
4	ESTIMATE	157	0.06	0.67	66.7	2,594	11.00	236	13.0
	(SE)	(111)	(0.08)	(0.33)	(33.3)	(2,365)	(9.50)	(136)	(7.2)
	N	2,630	3	3	3	2,627	3	23	23
5	ESTIMATE	550	0.01	0.78	55.6	24,997	45.43	707	39.1
	(SE)	(283)	(0.01)	(0.32)	(17.6)	(17,313)	(28.49)	(235)	(10.4)
	N	2,630	7	9	9	2,627	7	23	23
6	ESTIMATE	236	0.00	0.75	25.0	7,389	31.33	314	17.4
	(SE)	(236)	(0.00)	(0.75)	(25.0)	(5,416)	(17.33)	(157)	(8.1)
	N	2,630	3	4	4	2,627	3	23	23
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STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	1,178	0.03	0.65	47.8	39,775	20.67	1,806	0.9
	(SE)	(407)	(0.02)	(0.18)	(10.6)	(18,707)	(13.14)	(375)	(0.2)
	N	2,630	27	23	23	2,627	15	2,630	2,630
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									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES

TABLE 13. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF GRAY FOX HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1	ESTIMATE (SE) N	79	0.02	0.33	33.3	4,400	18.67	236	13.0
		(79) 2,630	(0.03) 3	(0.33) 3	(33.3) 3	(3,949) 2,628	(15.71) 3	(136) 23	(7.2) 23
2	ESTIMATE (SE) N	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	79	1.00	79	4.3
		(0) 2,630	(.) 1	(.) 1	(.) 1	(79) 2,628	(.) 1	(79) 23	(4.3) 23
3	ESTIMATE (SE) N	157	0.40	2.00	100.0	393	5.00	79	4.3
		(157) 2,630	(.) 1	(.) 1	(.) 1	(393) 2,628	(.) 1	(79) 23	(4.3) 23
4	ESTIMATE (SE) N	393	1.25	1.67	100.0	314	1.33	236	13.0
		(235) 2,630	(0.29) 3	(0.33) 3	(0.0) 3	(192) 2,628	(0.33) 3	(136) 23	(7.2) 23
5	ESTIMATE (SE) N	314	0.01	0.57	42.9	27,030	49.14	550	30.4
		(192) 2,630	(0.01) 7	(0.30) 7	(20.2) 7	(14,519) 2,628	(20.28) 7	(207) 23	(9.8) 23
6	ESTIMATE (SE) N	1,806	0.30	2.88	75.0	5,422	11.50	628	34.8
		(1,068) 2,630	(0.17) 6	(1.46) 8	(16.4) 8	(3,073) 2,628	(4.96) 6	(222) 23	(10.2) 23
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STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE (SE) N	2,748	0.09	1.52	60.9	37,638	11.36	1,806	0.9
		(1,123) 2,630	(0.04) 23	(0.55) 23	(10.4) 23	(15,356) 2,628	(4.47) 11	(375) 2,630	(0.2) 2,630
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								PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES	

TABLE 14. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF BOBCAT HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1	ESTIMATE	707	0.31	0.90	70.0	2,048	2.89	785	13.2
	(SE) N	(283) 2,629	(0.16) 9	(0.23) 10	(15.3) 10	(1,068) 2,621	(1.23) 9	(248) 76	(3.9) 76
2	ESTIMATE	785	0.80	0.83	75.0	788	1.00	943	15.8
	(SE) N	(272) 2,629	(0.20) 10	(0.17) 12	(13.1) 12	(249) 2,621	(0.00) 10	(272) 76	(4.2) 76
3	ESTIMATE	1,178	0.22	1.15	92.3	4,648	5.36	1,021	17.1
	(SE) N	(359) 2,629	(0.13) 11	(0.15) 13	(7.7) 13	(3,210) 2,621	(3.50) 11	(283) 76	(4.3) 76
4	ESTIMATE	1,728	0.55	1.29	100.0	2,994	2.38	1,335	22.4
	(SE) N	(457) 2,629	(0.11) 16	(0.14) 17	(0.0) 17	(1,067) 2,621	(0.63) 16	(323) 76	(4.8) 76
5	ESTIMATE	1,100	0.06	1.00	76.9	14,891	15.75	1,021	17.1
	(SE) N	(351) 2,629	(0.04) 12	(0.20) 13	(12.2) 13	(8,051) 2,621	(7.53) 12	(283) 76	(4.3) 76
6	ESTIMATE	785	0.05	0.91	72.7	12,291	15.60	864	14.5
	(SE) N	(294) 2,629	(0.03) 10	(0.21) 11	(14.1) 11	(6,594) 2,621	(7.13) 10	(260) 76	(4.1) 76
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE (SE) N	6,360 (833) 2,630	0.40 (0.09) 60	1.04 (0.07) 77	83.1 (4.3) 77	37,660 (10,981) 2,621	3.00 (0.67) 48	6,046 (679) 2,630	2.9 (0.3) 2,630
									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES

TABLE 15. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF COYOTE HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1	ESTIMATE	3,070	0.18	1.65	73.9	14,005	8.38	1,811	16.9
	(SE) N	(1,052) 2,623	(0.10) 21	(0.48) 23	(9.4) 23	(6,231) 2,595	(3.33) 21	(376) 136	(3.2) 136
2	ESTIMATE	3,858	0.35	2.09	78.3	8,355	5.53	1,811	16.9
	(SE) N	(1,097) 2,623	(0.15) 19	(0.43) 23	(8.8) 23	(3,342) 2,595	(1.86) 19	(376) 136	(3.2) 136
3	ESTIMATE	3,464	0.48	2.00	86.4	5,252	4.13	1,732	16.2
	(SE) N	(1,048) 2,623	(0.12) 16	(0.44) 22	(7.5) 22	(2,051) 2,595	(1.28) 16	(368) 136	(3.2) 136
4	ESTIMATE	4,802	0.21	1.85	81.8	11,220	6.13	2,598	24.3
	(SE) N	(1,264) 2,623	(0.08) 23	(0.37) 33	(6.8) 33	(4,318) 2,595	(2.03) 23	(449) 136	(3.7) 136
5	ESTIMATE	3,464	0.21	2.20	85.0	14,085	10.41	1,575	14.7
	(SE) N	(1,112) 2,623	(0.12) 17	(0.52) 20	(8.2) 20	(7,640) 2,595	(5.21) 17	(351) 136	(3.0) 136
6	ESTIMATE	2,362	0.10	1.93	73.3	18,064	18.92	1,181	11.0
	(SE) N	(825) 2,623	(0.05) 12	(0.50) 15	(11.8) 15	(7,384) 2,595	(5.73) 12	(304) 136	(2.7) 136
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE (SE) N	21,828 (2,615) 2,630	0.12 (0.04) 132	1.92 (0.17) 143	81.1 (3.3) 143	72,779 (13,640) 2,599	17.47 (5.18) 120	11,228 (913) 2,630	5.4 (0.4) 2,630

PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES

TABLE 16. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF ARCHERY DEER HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1	ESTIMATE (SE) N	4,659	0.053	0.64	39.1	79,565	11.65	7,265	12.9
		(933)	(0.010)	(0.11)	(5.1)	(11,830)	(1.21)	(744)	(1.3)
		2,515	85	92	92	2,471	85	714	714
2	ESTIMATE (SE) N	7,975	0.076	0.81	41.6	101,104	10.48	9,870	17.5
		(1,546)	(0.011)	(0.14)	(4.4)	(13,216)	(1.01)	(861)	(1.4)
		2,515	120	125	125	2,471	120	714	714
3	ESTIMATE (SE) N	4,185	0.056	0.59	36.7	74,823	10.58	7,107	12.6
		(843)	(0.009)	(0.10)	(5.1)	(9,866)	(0.85)	(736)	(1.2)
		2,515	88	90	90	2,471	88	714	714
4	ESTIMATE (SE) N	9,239	0.071	0.84	49.6	109,382	10.72	10,976	19.5
		(1,263)	(0.009)	(0.09)	(4.3)	(12,728)	(0.84)	(905)	(1.5)
		2,515	127	139	139	2,471	127	714	714
5	ESTIMATE (SE) N	9,712	0.078	0.90	48.9	114,525	11.22	10,818	19.2
		(1,582)	(0.011)	(0.13)	(4.3)	(12,703)	(0.78)	(899)	(1.5)
		2,515	127	137	137	2,471	127	714	714
6	ESTIMATE (SE) N	7,265	0.056	0.70	39.7	122,000	12.34	10,344	18.3
		(1,173)	(0.008)	(0.10)	(4.3)	(13,631)	(0.85)	(880)	(1.4)
		2,515	123	131	131	2,471	123	714	714
STATEWIDE									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES (A)
ESTIMATE (SE) N		44,574	0.064	0.77	43.7	607,910	11.92	58,000	29.2
		(2,980)	(0.004)	(0.05)	(1.8)	(28,225)	(0.42)	(1,791)	(0.9)
		2,544	612	743	743	2,487	602	2,544	2,544

(A) CALCULATED AS A PERCENT OF BIG GAME LICENSE HOLDERS ONLY.

TABLE 17. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF ARCHERY BUCK AND DOE HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	BUCKS				DOES			
		TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS
1	ESTIMATE	1,658	0.017	0.23	21.7	3,001	0.035	0.41	28.3
	(SE) N	(377) 2,515	(0.004) 85	(0.05) 92	(4.3) 92	(677) 2,515	(0.007) 85	(0.08) 92	(4.7) 92
2	ESTIMATE	1,658	0.016	0.17	12.8	6,317	0.060	0.64	39.2
	(SE) N	(452) 2,515	(0.004) 120	(0.04) 125	(3.0) 125	(1,212) 2,515	(0.009) 120	(0.11) 125	(4.4) 125
3	ESTIMATE	1,184	0.016	0.17	14.4	3,001	0.040	0.42	30.0
	(SE) N	(343) 2,515	(0.004) 88	(0.05) 90	(3.7) 90	(649) 2,515	(0.008) 88	(0.08) 90	(4.9) 90
4	ESTIMATE	2,685	0.021	0.24	20.1	6,554	0.051	0.60	42.4
	(SE) N	(556) 2,515	(0.005) 127	(0.05) 139	(3.4) 139	(942) 2,515	(0.007) 127	(0.07) 139	(4.2) 139
5	ESTIMATE	2,211	0.018	0.20	16.1	7,501	0.060	0.69	40.9
	(SE) N	(610) 2,515	(0.005) 127	(0.05) 137	(3.1) 137	(1,207) 2,515	(0.008) 127	(0.10) 137	(4.2) 137
6	ESTIMATE	3,553	0.028	0.34	26.7	3,711	0.028	0.36	26.0
	(SE) N	(643) 2,515	(0.005) 123	(0.06) 131	(3.9) 131	(707) 2,515	(0.005) 123	(0.06) 131	(3.8) 131
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	13,817	0.018	0.24	19.4	30,757	0.047	0.53	34.9
	(SE) N	(1,256) 2,544	(0.002) 612	(0.02) 743	(1.5) 743	(2,218) 2,544	(0.003) 612	(0.03) 743	(1.7) 743

TABLE 18. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF PRIMITIVE WEAPON DEER HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1	ESTIMATE (SE) N	2,909 (631) 2,526	0.105 (0.020) 71	0.50 (0.09) 74	35.1 (5.6) 74	26,511 (3,762) 2,502	4.70 (0.38) 71	5,818 (666) 584	12.7 (1.4) 584
2	ESTIMATE (SE) N	3,695 (721) 2,526	0.089 (0.016) 94	0.49 (0.08) 96	36.5 (4.9) 96	39,051 (5,640) 2,502	5.23 (0.54) 94	7,547 (756) 584	16.4 (1.5) 584
3	ESTIMATE (SE) N	4,874 (877) 2,526	0.128 (0.020) 88	0.70 (0.10) 89	43.8 (5.3) 89	37,067 (4,606) 2,502	5.31 (0.36) 88	6,997 (729) 584	15.2 (1.5) 584
4	ESTIMATE (SE) N	5,503 (957) 2,526	0.130 (0.019) 97	0.67 (0.10) 105	41.9 (4.8) 105	38,416 (4,383) 2,502	4.99 (0.28) 97	8,255 (789) 584	18.0 (1.6) 584
5	ESTIMATE (SE) N	5,896 (1,063) 2,526	0.136 (0.021) 109	0.67 (0.10) 112	43.8 (4.7) 112	40,956 (4,833) 2,502	4.73 (0.34) 109	8,805 (814) 584	19.2 (1.6) 584
6	ESTIMATE (SE) N	2,437 (489) 2,526	0.050 (0.010) 101	0.29 (0.05) 108	25.0 (4.2) 108	42,782 (4,911) 2,502	5.34 (0.32) 101	8,491 (800) 584	18.5 (1.6) 584
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE (SE) N	25,995 (1,956) 2,544	0.100 (0.006) 616	0.55 (0.04) 602	37.7 (2.0) 602	229,623 (10,987) 2,515	5.27 (0.20) 609	46,994 (1,674) 2,544	23.7 (0.8) 2,544
PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES (A)									

(A) CALCULATED AS A PERCENT OF BIG GAME LICENSE HOLDERS ONLY.



TABLE 19. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF PRIMITIVE WEAPON BUCK AND DOE HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	BUCKS				DOES			
		TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS
1	ESTIMATE	943	0.036	0.16	14.9	1,965	0.069	0.34	27.0
	(SE) N	(294) 2,526	(0.011) 71	(0.05) 74	(4.2) 74	(477) 2,526	(0.014) 71	(0.07) 74	(5.2) 74
2	ESTIMATE	1,572	0.035	0.21	17.7	2,123	0.055	0.28	20.8
	(SE) N	(400) 2,526	(0.009) 94	(0.05) 96	(3.9) 96	(571) 2,526	(0.013) 94	(0.07) 96	(4.2) 96
3	ESTIMATE	2,359	0.062	0.34	29.2	2,516	0.066	0.36	28.1
	(SE) N	(482) 2,526	(0.011) 88	(0.06) 89	(4.8) 89	(531) 2,526	(0.013) 88	(0.07) 89	(4.8) 89
4	ESTIMATE	1,494	0.033	0.18	16.2	4,010	0.097	0.49	35.2
	(SE) N	(376) 2,526	(0.008) 97	(0.04) 105	(3.6) 105	(738) 2,526	(0.015) 97	(0.08) 105	(4.7) 105
5	ESTIMATE	2,359	0.056	0.27	19.6	3,538	0.079	0.40	33.0
	(SE) N	(565) 2,526	(0.012) 109	(0.06) 112	(3.8) 112	(640) 2,526	(0.013) 109	(0.06) 112	(4.5) 112
6	ESTIMATE	629	0.013	0.07	7.4	1,808	0.037	0.21	20.4
	(SE) N	(222) 2,526	(0.005) 101	(0.03) 108	(2.5) 108	(392) 2,526	(0.007) 101	(0.04) 108	(3.9) 108
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	9,524	0.039	0.20	17.3	16,471	0.061	0.35	27.7
	(SE) N	(982) 2,544	(0.004) 616	(0.02) 602	(1.5) 602	(1,378) 2,544	(0.005) 617	(0.03) 602	(1.8) 602

TABLE 20. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF REGULAR GUN DEER HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1		31,412 (2,841) 2,453	0.096 (0.007) 266	1.39 (0.10) 279	59.9 (2.9) 279	319,167 (23,911) 2,319	14.01 (0.67) 266	22,532 (1,270) 1,945	14.3 (0.8) 1,945
2		44,932 (3,861) 2,453	0.114 (0.007) 303	1.72 (0.12) 323	64.7 (2.7) 323	357,789 (24,494) 2,319	13.74 (0.59) 304	26,247 (1,357) 1,945	16.7 (0.8) 1,945
3		41,613 (3,659) 2,453	0.143 (0.009) 251	1.94 (0.13) 265	70.9 (2.8) 265	289,623 (22,626) 2,319	13.47 (0.68) 251	21,402 (1,242) 1,945	13.6 (0.8) 1,945
4		56,347 (4,228) 2,453	0.112 (0.007) 374	1.71 (0.10) 408	67.2 (2.3) 408	469,288 (28,253) 2,319	14.61 (0.55) 375	33,112 (1,493) 1,945	21.1 (0.9) 1,945
5		52,704 (4,047) 2,453	0.125 (0.007) 288	2.09 (0.12) 311	74.9 (2.5) 311	386,392 (26,266) 2,319	15.67 (0.62) 288	25,117 (1,331) 1,945	16.0 (0.8) 1,945
6		34,893 (2,996) 2,453	0.081 (0.006) 320	1.22 (0.09) 353	57.5 (2.6) 353	404,975 (27,322) 2,319	14.73 (0.64) 321	28,670 (1,408) 1,945	18.3 (0.9) 1,945
STATEWIDE									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES (A)
		263,666 (7,387) 2,536	0.106 (0.003) 1,622	1.67 (0.04) 2,022	65.9 (1.1) 2,022	2,226,966 (45,664) 2,371	14.45 (0.26) 1,622	158,467 (1,581) 2,544	79.8 (0.8) 2,544

(A) CALCULATED AS A PERCENT OF BIG GAME LICENSE HOLDERS ONLY.

TABLE 21. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF REGULAR GUN BUCK AND DOE HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	BUCKS						DOES					
		TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS				
1	ESTIMATE	17,547	0.053	0.78	46.6	13,838	0.042	0.61	35.1				
	(SE)	(1,681)	(0.004)	(0.06)	(3.0)	(1,597)	(0.004)	(0.06)	(2.9)				
	N	2,456	266	279	279	2,454	266	279	279				
2	ESTIMATE	21,751	0.057	0.83	47.2	23,145	0.056	0.89	44.0				
	(SE)	(1,957)	(0.004)	(0.06)	(2.8)	(2,658)	(0.005)	(0.09)	(2.8)				
	N	2,456	304	324	324	2,454	303	323	323				
3	ESTIMATE	18,355	0.061	0.86	50.9	23,226	0.082	1.08	50.9				
	(SE)	(1,776)	(0.005)	(0.07)	(3.1)	(2,356)	(0.007)	(0.09)	(3.1)				
	N	2,456	251	265	265	2,454	251	265	265				
4	ESTIMATE	31,293	0.061	0.95	55.5	25,006	0.051	0.76	41.1				
	(SE)	(2,550)	(0.004)	(0.06)	(2.5)	(2,255)	(0.004)	(0.06)	(2.4)				
	N	2,456	375	409	409	2,454	374	409	409				
5	ESTIMATE	24,743	0.060	0.98	55.0	27,919	0.065	1.11	52.4				
	(SE)	(2,043)	(0.004)	(0.06)	(2.8)	(2,524)	(0.005)	(0.08)	(2.8)				
	N	2,456	288	311	311	2,454	288	311	311				
6	ESTIMATE	21,751	0.050	0.76	44.6	13,110	0.031	0.46	31.7				
	(SE)	(2,077)	(0.004)	(0.06)	(2.6)	(1,433)	(0.003)	(0.04)	(2.5)				
	N	2,456	321	354	354	2,454	320	353	353				
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	136,566	0.057	0.86	50.4	126,838	0.049	0.80	42.0				
	(SE)	(4,243)	(0.002)	(0.03)	(1.1)	(4,760)	(0.002)	(0.03)	(1.1)				
	N	2,539	1,624	2,025	2,025	2,538	1,627	2,024	2,024				

TABLE 22. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF SPRING TURKEY HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
1		1,989 (510) 2,315	0.093 (0.020) 39	0.58 (0.12) 40	45.0 (8.0) 40	20,482 (4,084) 2,307	6.05 (0.74) 39	3,459 (542) 389	10.3 (1.5) 389
2		2,941 (889) 2,315	0.075 (0.016) 38	0.85 (0.22) 40	42.5 (7.9) 40	27,858 (6,241) 2,307	8.45 (1.33) 38	3,459 (542) 389	10.3 (1.5) 389
3		2,941 (700) 2,315	0.106 (0.019) 45	0.76 (0.14) 45	48.9 (7.5) 45	27,772 (6,220) 2,307	7.11 (1.21) 45	3,892 (575) 389	11.6 (1.6) 389
4		6,746 (1,132) 2,315	0.091 (0.012) 84	0.90 (0.12) 87	52.9 (5.4) 87	71,425 (10,582) 2,307	9.80 (1.01) 84	7,524 (792) 389	22.4 (2.1) 389
5		6,486 (1,033) 2,315	0.078 (0.009) 103	0.71 (0.09) 105	45.7 (4.9) 105	79,843 (10,431) 2,307	8.93 (0.79) 103	9,081 (866) 389	27.0 (2.3) 389
6		7,005 (1,205) 2,315	0.106 (0.012) 72	1.13 (0.14) 72	55.6 (5.9) 72	66,392 (9,628) 2,307	10.63 (0.93) 72	6,227 (723) 389	18.5 (2.0) 389
STATEWIDE		28,406 (2,250) 2,326	0.088 (0.006) 382	0.83 (0.05) 400	48.8 (2.5) 400	298,553 (19,565) 2,317	8.90 (0.42) 372	34,431 (1,567) 2,326	17.2 (0.8) 2,326
									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES (A)

(A) CALCULATED AS A PERCENT OF BIG GAME LICENSE HOLDERS ONLY.

TABLE 23. EXPANDED STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT SUMMARIES OF FALL TURKEY HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996 HUNTING SEASON.

DISTRICT (A)	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER DISTRICT
2		315 (193) 2,523	0.333 (0.158) 5	0.80 (0.37) 5	60.0 (24.5) 5	945 (485) 2,523	2.40 (0.68) 5	394 (176) 17	29.4 (11.4) 17
3		79 (79) 2,523	0.250 (0.286) 3	0.33 (0.33) 3	33.3 (33.3) 3	315 (193) 2,523	1.33 (0.33) 3	236 (136) 17	17.6 (9.5) 17
5		236 (176) 2,523	0.039 (0.024) 9	0.33 (0.24) 9	22.2 (14.7) 9	5,982 (2,681) 2,523	8.44 (2.69) 9	708 (236) 17	52.9 (12.5) 17
STATEWIDE		630 (272) 2,523	0.096 (0.036) 37	0.47 (0.17) 17	35.3 (11.9) 17	7,242 (2,730) 2,523	4.42 (0.71) 26	1,338 (324) 2,523	0.7 (0.2) 2,523

(A) FALL TURKEY HUNTING WAS LEGAL ONLY IN DISTRICTS 2, 3 and 5.

(B) CALCULATED AS A PERCENT OF BIG GAME LICENSE HOLDERS ONLY.

TABLE 24 . EXPANDED STATEWIDE SUMMARIES OF ALL DEER, BUCK, AND DOE HUNTING IN MISSISSIPPI DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON AND ALL TURKEY HUNTING (COMBINING SPRING AND FALL DATA) DURING THE 1996 CALENDAR YEAR IN MISSISSIPPI.

SPECIES	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MANDAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES (A)
DEER	ESTIMATE	334,457	0.097	2.03	66.9	3,087,871	19.95	165,024	83.1
	(SE) N	(9,170) 2,536	(0.003) 1,675	(0.05) 2,106	(1.0) 2,106	(67,035) 2,352	(0.42) 1,674	(1,476) 2,544	(0.7) 2,544
BUCK	ESTIMATE	159,952	0.047	0.97	51.4				
	(SE) N	(4,852) 2,539	(0.001) 1,676	(0.03) 2,109	(1.1) 2,109				
DOE	ESTIMATE	174,178	0.050	1.06	47.5				
	(SE) N	(5,966) 2,538	(0.002) 1,680	(0.03) 2,108	(1.1) 2,108				
TURKEY	ESTIMATE	29,035	0.026	0.81	47.7	305,794	31.12	35,769	16.4
	(SE) N	(2,267) 415	(0.008) 415	(0.05) 421	(2.4) 421	(19,755)	(10.09) 405	(1,600) 2,564	(0.7) 2,564

(A) CALCULATED AS A PERCENT OF BIG GAME LICENSE HOLDERS ONLY.

TABLE 25. SURVEY OF RESPONSES TO OPINION QUESTIONS

1.	Did you harvest more does than bucks this years?		
	25.5%	670	Yes
	42.0%	1105	No
	24.1%	633	Did not harvest any deer this year
	5.4%	143	Don't deer hunt
2a.	Did having the entire season open for doe harvest		
	10.2%	269	Strongly impact your harvest of does
	10.3%	271	Mildly impact your harvest of does
	17.3%	454	No impact to your harvest of does
	62.2%	1635	Did not harvest more does than bucks
2b.	Did the 4-point rule impact your harvest of does?		
	4.7%	123	Strongly impact your harvest of does
	7.6%	199	Mildly impact your harvest of does
	29.1%	764	No impact in your harvest of does
	58.7%	1543	Did not harvest more does than bucks
3.	What is the main reason you harvested fewer does?		
	15.2%	400	A minimum amount of time to hunt
	2.2%	59	Did not see the results of past management practices to reduce does
	5.1%	23	Was afraid of killing a buck with less than four points
	0.9%	23	Got tired of processing does
	20.7%	544	Prefer to kill a buck
	3.3%	86	Don't know
	12.3%	323	Other
	40.4%	1061	No response

4. Did you accidentally kill a buck with less than 4 points?
- |       |      |             |
|-------|------|-------------|
| 8.4%  | 222  | Yes         |
| 77.7% | 2042 | No          |
| 13.9% | 365  | No response |
5. In general, do you think the deer population in Mississippi is
- |       |      |                  |
|-------|------|------------------|
| 17.8% | 467  | Too high         |
| 15.6% | 409  | Too low          |
| 40.7% | 1070 | Just about right |
| 17.6% | 464  | Don't know       |
| 8.3%  | 219  | No response      |
6. How do you feel about continuing the 4-point minimum for buck harvest?
- |       |      |                            |
|-------|------|----------------------------|
| 54.0% | 1098 | Strongly support           |
| 14.1% | 287  | Mildly support             |
| 8.8%  | 179  | Neither support nor oppose |
| 5.1%  | 103  | Mildly oppose              |
| 6.9%  | 140  | Strongly oppose            |
| 3.7%  | 75   | Don't know                 |
| 7.4%  | 150  | No response                |
7. How do you feel about a 6-point minimum on bucks to protect more than 90% of the year-old bucks?
- |       |     |                            |
|-------|-----|----------------------------|
| 24.4% | 641 | Strongly support           |
| 14.1% | 370 | Mildly support             |
| 12.0% | 316 | Neither support nor oppose |
| 10.6% | 279 | Mildly oppose              |
| 26.1% | 685 | Strongly oppose            |
| 5.3%  | 140 | Don't know                 |
| 7.5%  | 198 | No response                |



8. Would you support legislation to allow anyone to purchase a crossbow permit for use during

15.1%	398	Archery season only
16.1%	423	Archery and primitive weapon season only
8.3%	217	Any open season for deer
42.1%	845	Would not support any legislation to open crossbow season
11.1%	291	Don't know
7.3%	193	No response

9. Did someone in your household under the age of 16 hunt this year?

24.4%	642	Yes
45.9%	1206	No
28.3%	745	No one under 16 in household
1.4%	36	No response

10. Did you buy a license to hunt deer or turkey last year (1995-96)?

88.5%	2326	Yes
9.9%	260	No
1.6%	43	No response

11. Race

4.6%	122	African American
0.1%	3	Hispanic
0.1%	2	Asian
92.9%	2443	White
0.5%	14	Native American

12. Sex

93.5%	2458	Male
5.0%	132	Female
1.4%	38	No response

13. Age

37.45 Years Average

1996-97

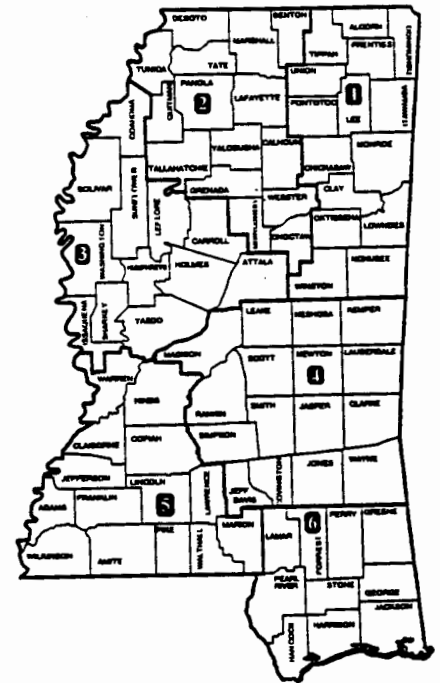
# Mississippi Hunter Questionnaire



A. Please fill in the blocks below for each game species you hunted during the 1996-97 hunting season (even if you were unsuccessful). If you hunted more than one kind of game on a particular day, count a day for each type of game you hunted. Report only game taken by you. Your answers will be kept confidential. Please answer the questions in part B, whether you hunted or not.

SPECIES	Total Kill	Total Days Hunted	District Hunted Most
1. Dove	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2. Quail	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. Woodcock	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4. Rabbit	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5. Squirrel	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6. Raccoon	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Bucks Does		
7. Deer (archery)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
8. Deer (prim. weap.)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
9. Deer (gun)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
10. Turkey (spring '96)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
11. Turkey (fall '96)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Mallard Wood Other		
12. Ducks	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
13. Geese	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
14. Red Fox	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
15. Gray Fox	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
16. Bobcat	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
17. Coyote	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Determine district HUNTED MOST from map.



B. Please answer the following questions.

1. Did you harvest more does than bucks this year?

Yes - go to question 2a

No - go to question 3

Did not harvest any deer this year

Don't deer hunt. (Skip to question 9.)

If yes,

2a. Did having the entire season open for doe harvest

Strongly impact your harvest of does

Mildly impact your harvest of does

No impact to your harvest of does

Did the 4-point rule impact your harvest of does

Strongly impact your harvest of does (Skip to question 4.)

Mildly impact your harvest of does (Skip to question 4.)

No impact in your harvest of does (Skip to question 4.)

3. What was the main reason you harvested fewer does? Choose only one answer.

A minimum amount of time to hunt

Did not see the results of past management practices to reduce does

Was afraid of killing a buck with less than four points

Got tired of processing does

Prefer to kill a buck

Don't know

Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. Did you accidentally kill a buck with less than 4 points?

Yes

No

5. In general, do you think the deer population in Mississippi is

Too high

Too low

Just about right

Don't know

6. How do you feel about continuing the 4-point minimum for buck harvest?

Strongly support

Mildly support

Neither support nor oppose

Mildly oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know

7. How do you feel about a 6-point minimum on bucks to protect more than 90% of the year-old bucks?

Strongly support

Mildly support

Neither support nor oppose

Mildly oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know

8. Would you support legislation to allow anyone to purchase of a crossbow permit for use during
- Archery season only
  - Archery and primitive weapon season only
  - Any open season for deer
  - Would not support any legislation to open crossbow season
  - Don't know
9. Did someone in your household under the age of 16 hunt this year?
- Yes
  - No
  - No one under 16 in household
10. Did you buy a license to hunt deer or turkey last year (1995-96)?
- Yes
  - No

To enable us to meet federal aid reporting requirements and to better serve our user groups, please mark the appropriate response. This information is voluntary and will be used for statistical purposes only.

11. Race:  African American  White  
 Hispanic  Native American  
 Asian
12. Sex:  Male  Female
13. Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Years



**MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS**

**SAM POLLES, Ph.D  
Executive Director**

102469

Dear Sportsman:

The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks is conducting a study to obtain reasonable estimates of game harvest, hunting effort and hunter opinions. Information supplied by you and other selected hunters will assist us in managing our game resources for the greatest public benefit.

For meaningful results, information is needed from everyone receiving a questionnaire since only a limited number of sportsmen can be contacted. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire accurately as possible (even if you did not hunt) and return it in the addressed, stamped envelope.

Your answers will be kept confidential. The questionnaire has an identification number for mailing purposes only. This allows us to check your name off the mailing list when your questionnaire is returned. Your name will never be placed on the questionnaire used in association with any of the information you provide. Your prompt reply will be sincerely appreciated.

Yours for better conservation,

  
Sam Polles, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

SP:ccs

Enclosure

P.O. Box 451 • Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0451 • (601) 362-9212

FIG. 2 Cover letter mailed with the initial mailing of the 1996-97 survey of game harvest and hunter effort in Mississippi

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS  
P.O. Box 451  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205



PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 141

Dear Sportsman:

Recently we mailed you a questionnaire on your hunting experiences. If you have not yet answered the questionnaire, will you please do so today? If you have already returned the questionnaire, disregard this notice and we thank you very much for your cooperation.

Your response is important. It is the only way we have of estimating the harvest, efforts and opinions of hunters for management purposes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Polles".

Sam Polles, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

FIG. 3 Post card used as the first reminder mailing to nonrespondents during the 1996-97 survey of game harvest and hunter effort in Mississippi



**MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS**

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102469

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Your answers will be kept confidential. The questionnaire has an identification number for mailing purposes only. This allows us to check your name off the mailing list when your questionnaire is returned. Your name will never be placed on the questionnaire used in association with any of the information you provide. A prompt reply will be sincerely appreciated.

Yours for better conservation,

  
Sam Polles, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

SP:ccs

Enclosure

P.O. Box 451 • Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0451 • (601) 362-9212  
FIG. 4 Cover letter mailed with the second (and final) reminder mailing to nonrespondents during the 1996-97 survey of game harvest and hunter effort in Mississippi

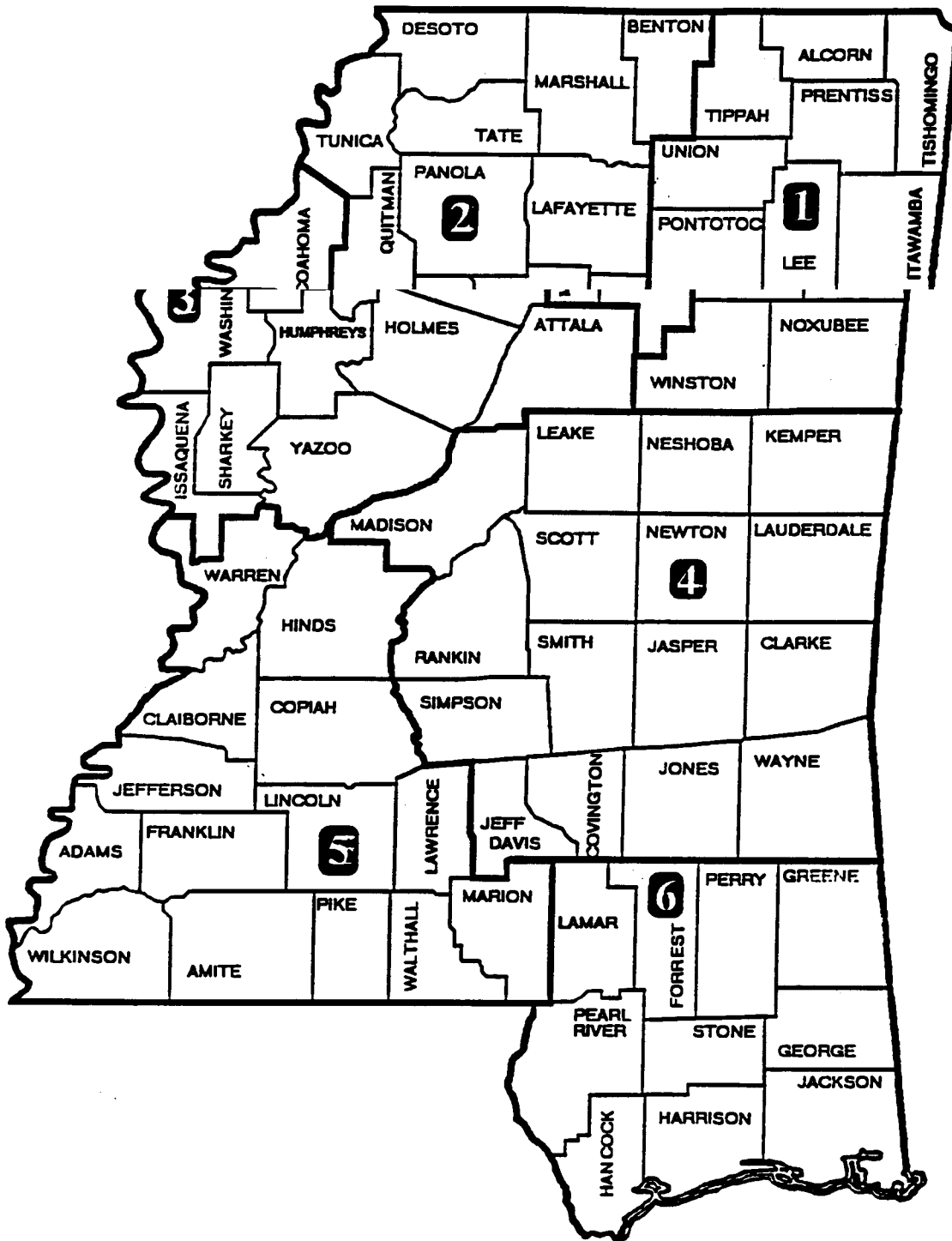


Fig. 5 District partitions for district hunted most