

Trends in Resident and Non-resident Hunter Effort and Harvest for Rabbit in Mississippi: 1980-81 to 2010-11 Seasons

Prepared for the

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INTRODUCTION & METHODS

Self-administered mail surveys of resident hunters have been conducted intermittently since the 1947-48 Mississippi hunting season to estimate hunter effort and game harvest in Mississippi, with annual surveys (unless noted) starting in the 1980-1981 hunting season. Non-resident hunter surveys began on an annual basis in the 1994-95 hunting season (unless noted).

Annual surveys were completed by the Human Dimensions & Conservation Law Enforcement Laboratory in the Forest & Wildlife Research Center at Mississippi State University from 2001 thru 2011 using mail survey methodology prescribed by Dillman (2000). This entailed an introductory letter being sent to hunters followed one-week later by another letter, questionnaire, and business reply envelope (i.e., a complete packet). Ten days after that, hunters were sent a reminder/thank you postcard. Non-respondents were sent a complete packet as necessary three and seven weeks after the postcard.

These surveys provide information to biologists and researchers to determine trends in total harvest, average seasonal harvest per hunter, average daily harvest per hunter, average persondays spent afield, total person-days spent afield, percent successful hunters, and the proportion of hunters seeking 13 different game species and feral hog. This report includes mail survey data for rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) spanning from the 1980-81 hunting season to the 2010-11 hunting season for resident hunters, and data spanning from the 1994-95 hunting season to the 2010-11 hunting season for non-resident hunters.

This document will be updated annually with most recent data and will evolve to include other measures and information as that information is extracted from archived files. This report does not attempt to determine and describe trends in hunter effort and harvest. It is meant to provide the reader with the data for these estimates in an organized manner.

LITERATURE CITED

Dillman, D.A. 2000. *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method*. 2nd Edition. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

RESULTS

TABLE 1. Mississippi rabbit hunting effort and harvest trends for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)

	(1980 to the Present)										
	TOTAL HARVEST	SE of TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENCEES (A)		
1981	1,125,302	41,024	1.46	10.6	91.1	733,747	7.15	106,294	41.5		
1982	1,321,974	87,539	1.79	12.5	89.8	691,802	6.75	106,775	43.9		
1983	1,753,344	124,354	1.90	14.85	92.1	884,686	7.59	118,869	45.3		
1984	1,212,995	80,138	1.55	11.79	92.2	745,468	7.51	103,698	40.0		
1985	1,252,815	75,736	1.72	11.77	88.6	680,191	6.53	106,860	41.7		
1986	1,077,563	48,562	1.61	11.08	90.4	652,794	6.86	97,654	38.5		
1987	1,144,043	83,511	1.70	12.01	90.9	666,260	7.17	95,153	37.3		
1988	969,259	68,855	1.56	9.80	90.0	621,899	6.35	99,683	38.8		
1989	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1990	732,984	52,278	1.46	9.02	86.8	489,055	6.17	94,790	41.4		
1991	675,655	56,546	1.57	9.65	87.3	405,412	6.10	72,000	31.5		
1992	464,267	37,635	1.32	7.85	81.9	349,390	6.02	59,264	26.0		
1993	551,263	35,605	1.42	8.70	85.9	369,609	5.99	63,325	27.5		
1994	488,342	24,742	1.38	8.73	88.4	335,726	6.16	55,951	25.4		
1995	471,070	31,841	1.34	8.68	88.4	338,613	6.40	54,843	25.5		
1996	423,038	39,983	1.50	9.02	88.7	276,375	6.06	47,198	22.6		
1997	386,921	32,925	1.50	8.41	85.2	278,080	6.06	46,089	22.3		
1998	402,265	29,250	1.22	7.88	86.7	321,582	6.51	51,347	24.7		
1999	384,813	27,366	1.36	8.80	87.8	279,297	6.55	44,254	21.4		
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
2001	314,188	23,061.99	1.14	8.13	88.4	254,244	6.81	38,618	19.1		
2002	345,503	33,273.24	1.26	8.49	90.5	257,229	6.76	40,625	20.3		
2003	313,884	34,026.10	1.17	7.80	85.9	243,066	6.46	40,259	21.3		
2004	281,751	33,029.00	1.08	8.05	89.5	220,046	6.86	34,989	18.7		
2005	348,707	38,147	0.97	7.90	83.9	312,932	7.48	44,106	23.8		
2006	266,161	28,332	1.33	9.26	97.2	169,280	6.35	28,741	16.4		
2007	233,266	40,490	1.29	9.91	92.3	149,949	6.8	23,529	13.2		
2008	285,537	13,584	1.24	9.9	86.1	222,020	7.97	28,858	16		
2009	206,057	22,994	1.15	7.82	86.2	168,015	6.6	26,339	14.7		
2010	229,334	22,886	1.21	8.48	93.1	178,826	7.19	27,056	16.3		
2011	214,448	22,832	1.06	6.9	86.3	183,137	6.41	31,068	18.7		

(A) Calculated as a percent of small game license holders only

Figure 1. Trends in total harvest of rabbit for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)

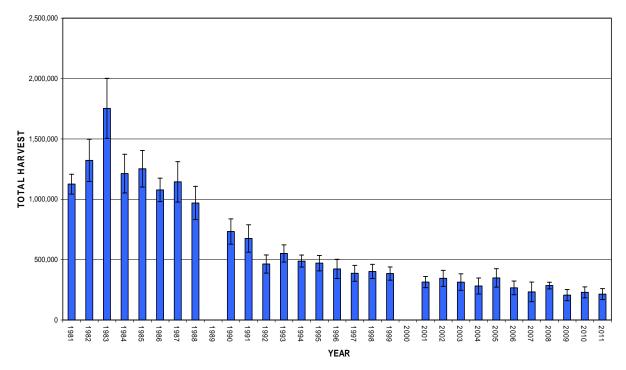


Figure 2. Trends in average daily kill of rabbit for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)

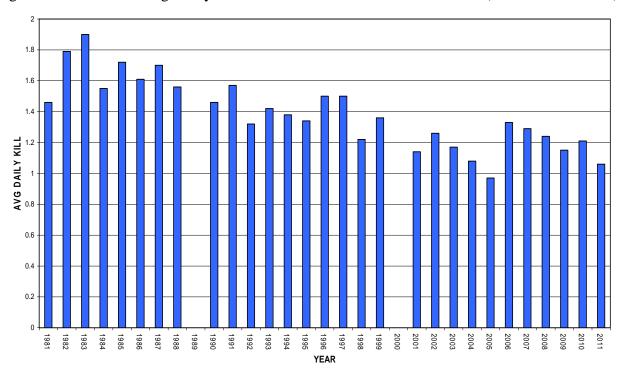


Figure 3. Trends in average seasonal harvest of rabbit for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)

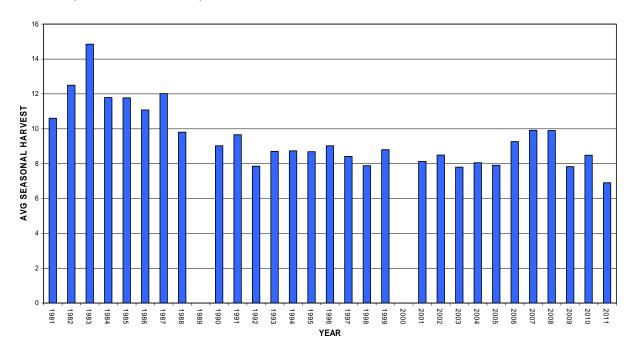


Figure 4. Trends in percent successful rabbit hunters for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)

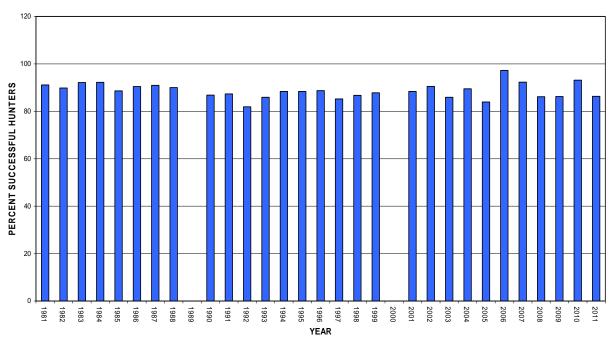


Figure 5. Trends in total man days in rabbit hunting for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)

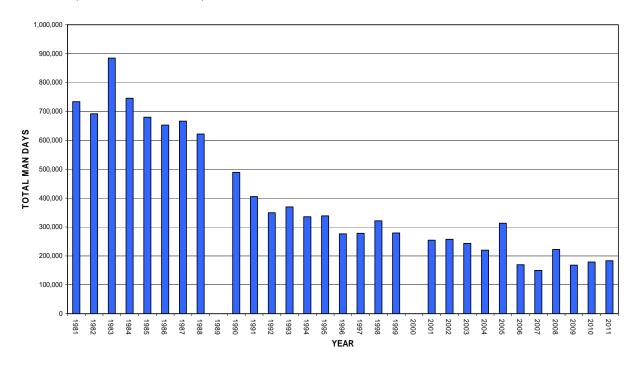
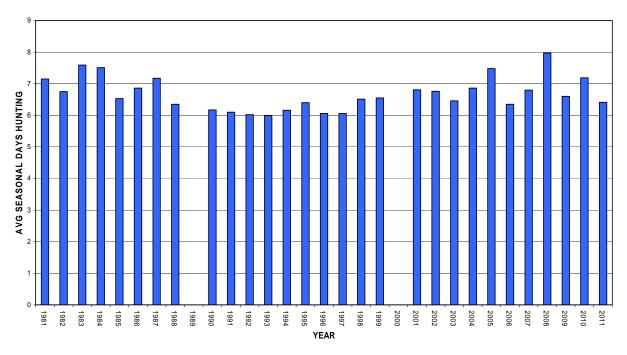
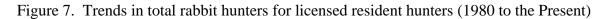


Figure 6. Trends in average seasonal days rabbit hunting for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)





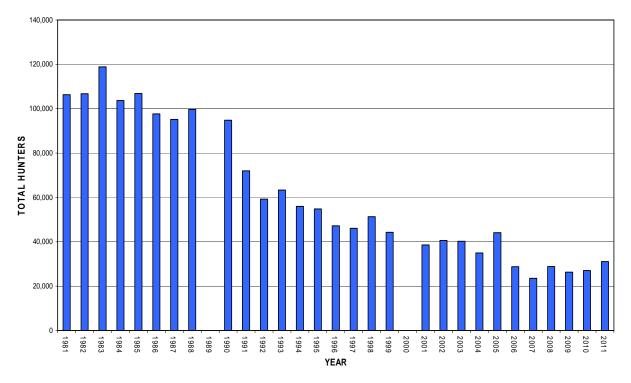


Figure 8. Trends in proportion of licensed resident hunters who hunted for rabbit (1980 to the Present)

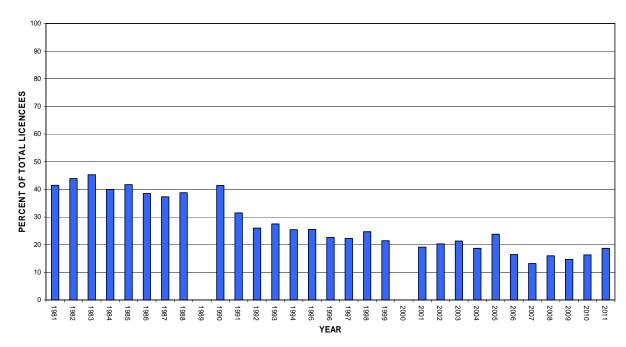


TABLE 2. Mississippi rabbit hunting effort and harvest trends for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

	TOTAL HARVEST	SE of TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENCEES
1995	17,300	-	1.573	8.11	0.905	11,546	5.323	2,270	0.09
1996	14,585	-	1.385	8.83	90.5	9,396	5.623	1,783	6.38
1997	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	15,684	-	1.883	10.385	74.375	9,064	5.61	1,842	5.65
1999	7,694	-	1.91	6.088	84.225	4,183	3.125	1,156	4.15
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	11,725	1,579.14	1.43	6.79	93.8	7,836	4.71	1,726	5.00
2002	19,072	5,104.40	1.58	9.04	88.7	10,761	5.39	2,109	5.90
2003	12,210.38	2,612.11	1.52	6.65	88	8,051	4.39	1,835	5.60
2004	12,764	2,132	1.76	8.12	92.5	6,469	4.48	1,573	5.00
2005	10,371	3,432	1.15	7	85	8,547	6	1,479	4.50
2006	16,375	5,255	3.22	14	91	4,766	4	1,172	3.70
2007	7,076	2,064	1.16	6.97	93.1	6,002	6.33	1,016	2.9
2008	12,684	2,804	2.01	8.09	89.36	5,824	3.95	1,569	4.3
2009	7,970	1,763	1.02	4.67	76.1	7,755	4.64	1,705	4.60
2010	7,746	2,814	1.07	6.03	83.9	6,892	5.72	1,284	3.5
2011	10,665	2,494	1.64	6.43	87.5	6,045	4.03	1,660	4.60

(A) Calculated as a percent of small game license holders only

Figure 9. Trends in total harvest of rabbit for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

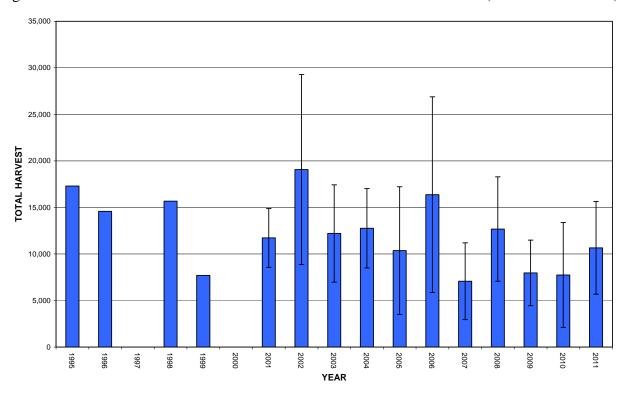


Figure 10. Trends in average daily kill of rabbit for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

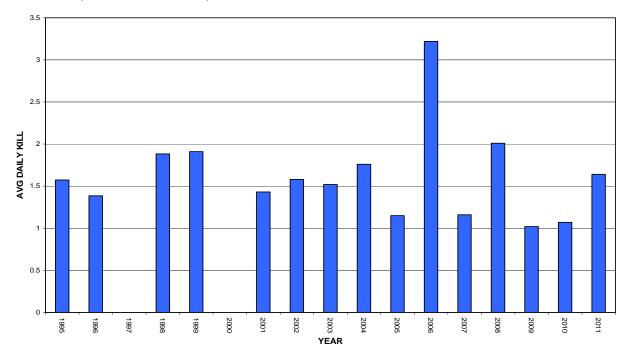


Figure 11. Trends in average seasonal harvest of rabbit for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

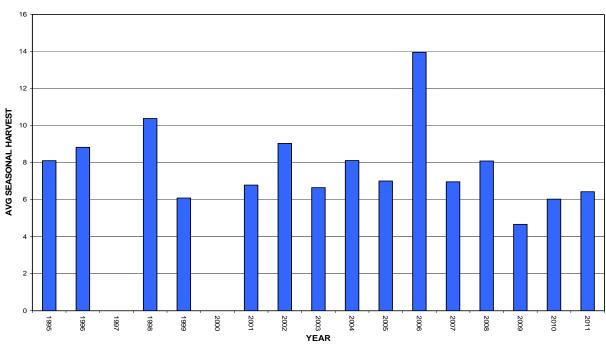


Figure 12. Trends in percent successful rabbit hunters for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

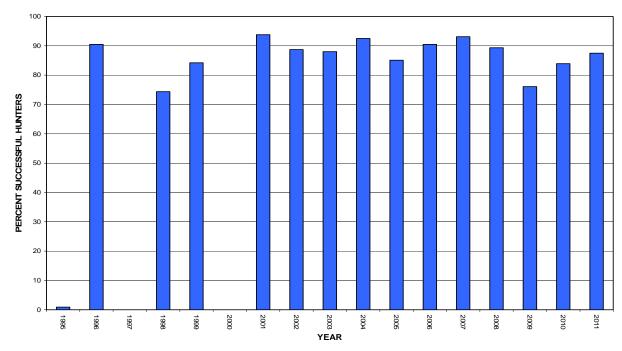


Figure 13. Trends in total man days rabbit hunting for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

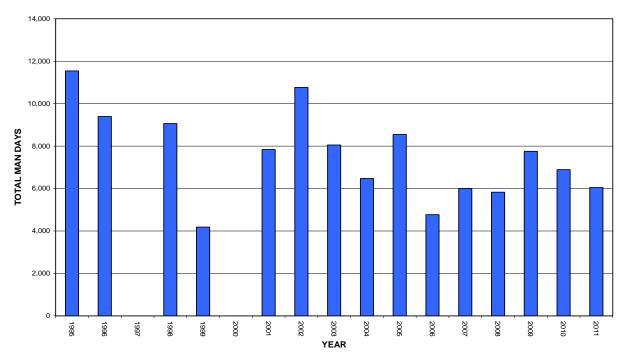


Figure 14. Trends in average seasonal days rabbit hunting for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

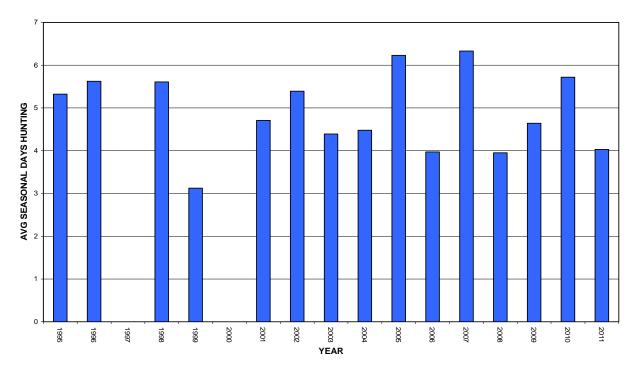


Figure 15. Trends in total rabbit hunters for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

