

MISSISSIPPI MAIL SURVEY OF GAME HARVEST FOR 1976-77



Mississippi Game and Fish Commission

MISSISSIPPI MAIL SURVEY OF GAME HARVEST FOR 1976-77

**Study Completion Report
Federal Aid Project No. W-48-25
Study VII-3**

By

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In Cooperation With
Mississippi Game & Fish Commission**

STUDY COMPLETION REPORT

State: Mississippi

Cooperators: Mississippi Game and Fish Commission
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Mississippi State University

Project Title: Investigations to Improve the Management of the White-Tailed Deer in Mississippi

Project Number: W-48-25

Study Number: VII

Job Title: Mississippi Mail Survey of Game Harvest for 1976-77

Period Covered: July 1, 1976 to June 30, 1977

Objective:

To determine the number of hunters, days afield, and harvest of game species in Mississippi during the 1976-77 season.

Introduction:

The fifth mail survey of game harvest for Mississippi was conducted during 1977. The survey was designed to obtain estimates of hunter numbers, days afield, and harvest of game species; to **determine** opinions of sportsmen toward proposed changes in **existing** license structure and fees; and to determine the incidence of botfly infestation in squirrels and the resulting sociological impacts on squirrel hunting. This report describes only that part of the survey dealing with the estimation of hunter numbers, days afield, and harvest of game species. The results of the other segments of the survey can be obtained from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi State University, or the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission.

Procedures:

Names and addresses of 10,000 sportsmen were selected at random from the 1976-77 file of 270,378 resident hunting (Type II) and combination hunting and fishing (Type I) license stubs. A predetermined set of terminal digits was utilized in the selection of participants. The initial August 3, 1977 mailing consisted of the questionnaire (see Figure 1), a cover letter (Figure 2), and a stamped return envelope. A reminder postcard (Figure 3) was mailed to non-respondents on August 17, 1977. A second reminder consisting of a cover letter (Figure 4), the questionnaire and a stamped return envelope was mailed to

non-respondents on August 31, 1977. First-class mail was used in all mailings. Responses received prior to January 1, 1978 were analyzed for inclusion in this report.

Responses were edited to determine credibility and were coded to facilitate key punching and verification. The data were punched on data cards and analyzed at the Thomas E. Tramel Computing Center, Mississippi State University, using the SPSS statistical package (Nte et al. 1970). Estimates of population totals, variances and confidence intervals were determined as outlined by Mendenhall et al. (1971).

Results and Discussion:

The analyses are based on a total response of the three mailings where 9,353 (93.5%) questionnaires were assumed to have been delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. The Postal Service was unable to deliver mailings sent to 647 (6.5%) individuals. Mailings to these individuals were returned as undeliverable. The first mailing resulted in a total of 2,965 responses (response rate of 31.0%); the second mailing, 1,908 responses (response rate of 29.5%); and the third mailing, 636 responses (response rate of 14.0%). The total number of questionnaires returned, 5,509, represented an overall response rate of 58.9%. The questionnaires returned represent a 2.04% sample of Type I and Type II license holders for the 1976-77 season. Only 71 (1.3%) of the 5,509 questionnaires received were not usable.

Of the 5,438 licenses whose questionnaires were used in the survey, 4,774 (87.8%) indicated they hunted during the 1976-77 season while 664 (12.2%) indicated that they did not hunt after purchasing a license. Statewide, an estimated 237,392 resident licensed hunters in Mississippi participated in some type of hunting activity while 32,986 did not.

The responses of the 5,438 usable replies included in the analyses are summarized in Table 1. These data reveal that the most popular forms of hunting were squirrel hunting (61.88%), hunting deer with gun (54.17%), dove hunting (43.99%), rabbit hunting (33.01%), quail hunting (21.44%), duck hunting (13.37%), turkey hunting (13.20%), raccoon hunting (9.40%), hunting deer with bow and arrow (7.82%), hunting deer with primitive weapons (4.12%) and woodcock hunting (1.97%).

Statewide estimates of hunter numbers, days afield, total harvest, average daily bag, average season bag and average days afield are summarized by species in Table 2. Standard errors and limits of 95% confidence intervals associated with estimates of hunter numbers, days afield, and total harvest by species are presented in Tables 3, 4 and 6, respectively.

Information pertaining to each species by planning unit (see Figure 5) is summarized in Tables 6-16. Information presented in these tables includes: total hunters, percent hunters per unit, total days afield, total harvest, average daily bag, average season bag, and average days afield. Tables containing this information by species are: Table 6, mourning dove; Table 7, bobwhite quail; Table 8, rabbit; Table 9, squirrel; Table 10, raccoon;

Table 11, woodcock; Table 12, wild turkey; Table 13, deer (regular gun seasons); Table 14, deer (archery seasons); Table 15, deer (primitive weapons season); and Table 16, ducks.

Recommendations:

At present, mail survey is the only feasible means available to the Mississippi Game & Fish Commission for obtaining reliable estimates of number of hunters, days afield and total harvest for most game species. The information provided by the survey has important administrative, biological and educational values. The results of this survey appear to be significantly different from those obtained during the previous survey conducted by Quisenberry (1974) for the 1973-74 season, especially with regards to turkey, deer, raccoon and duck hunting. The number of turkey hunters increased from 23,467 in 1973 to 35,699 in 1976 while total days afield increased from 108,975 to 212,766 and total harvest from 9,102 to 19,192. Similar increases for deer were observed for total harvest (regular gun, archery and primitive weapons seasons combined) from a total harvest of 41,558 in 1973 to 93,871 in 1976. The average season bag for the firearm seasons increased from 0.31 deer/hunter/year in 1973 to 0.56 deer/hunter/year in 1976. The number of raccoon hunters increased from 19,303 in 1973 to 25,407 in 1976 while days afield and harvest increased from 122,709 and 127,512 to 287,328 and 291,907, respectively. Gynn et al. (1978) estimated that an additional 63,963 raccoons were taken by licensed trappers. Total number of ducks harvested increased from 296,803 in 1973 to 672,814 in 1976 as total days afield increased from 127,721 in 1973 to 283,244 in 1976.

These apparent changes in game populations and/or hunting pressure must be monitored closely if wise and efficient management of these resources is to be realized. It is therefore imperative that similar surveys be conducted at least bi-annually to insure an adequate data base for formulating appropriate management policy.

Literature Cited:

- Gynn, D., C. Mason, H. Jacobson and D. Arner. 1978. Mississippi mail survey of trapping harvest for 1976-77. P-R Prog. Rep. W-48-25-7. 24 pp.
- Mendenall, W., L. Ott and R. Scheaffer. 1971, Elementary survey sampling. Wadsworth Publ. Co., Inc. Belmont, CA. 247 pp.
- Nie, N., C. Hull, J. Jenkins, K. Steinbrenner and D. Bent. 1975. Statistical package for the social sciences. 2nd Edition. McGraw-Hill, Inc. 675 pp.
- Quisenberry, B. 1974. Mississippi survey of game harvest (1973-74). Mississippi Game and Fish Comm. P-R Prog. Rep. W-48-25-3. 32 pp.

Table 1. Summary of 1966-77 Mississippi Mail Survey of Game Harvest
Total Number of Usable Replies: 5438

Species	Total Hunters	Percent Successful Hunters	Total Days Afield	Total Harvest	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Average Days Afield	Percentage of Respondents Who Hunted
Dove	2,392	95.19	11,845	68,699	5.80	28.72	4.95	43.99
Quail	1,166	93.14	9,435	27,163	2.88	23.30	8.09	21.44
Rabbit	1,795	97.27	16,266	25,767	1.58	14.36	9.06	33.01
Squirrel	3,365	97.62	30,356	66,784	2.20	19.85	9.02	61.88
Raccoon	511	96.87	5,779	5,871	1.02	11.49	11.31	9.40
Woodcock	107	98.13	416	746	1.79	6.97	3.89	1.97
Turkey	718	34.96	4,279	386	0.09	0.54	5.96	13.20
Deer								
Gun	2,946	35.40	28,361	1,673	0.06	0.57	9.63	54.17
Archery	425	19.76	3,463	127	0.04	0.30	8.15	7.82
Primitive Weapons	224	26.79	962	88	0.09	0.39	4.30	4.12
Duck	727	86.52	5,697	13,465	2.38	18.61	7.84	13.37

Table 2. Expanded Summary 1976-77 Mississippi Mail Survey of Game Harvest Based on 270,378 Combination Hunting and Fishing and Hunting Only Licenses Sold

Species	Total Hunters	Percent of Total Licenses	Total Days Afield	Total Harvest	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Average Days Afield
Dove	118,931	43.99	588,944	3,415,722	5.80	28.72	4.95
Quail	57,974	21.44	469,122	1,350,548	2.88	23.30	8.09
Rabbit	89,248	33.01	808,762	1,281,138	1.58	14.35	9.06
Squirrel	167,308	61.88	1,509,287	3,320,510	2.20	19.85	9.02
Raccoon	25,407	9.40	287,328	291,907	1.02	11.49	11.31
Woodcock	5,320	1.97	20,864	37,091	1.79	6.97	3.92
Turkey	35,699	13.20	212,766	19,192	0.09	0.54	5.96
Deer	146,475	54.17	1,410,199	83,182	0.06	0.56	9.63
Gun	21,131	7.82	172,176	6,314	0.04	0.30	8.15
Archery	11,137	4.12	47,835	4,375	0.09	0.39	4.30
Primitive Weapons	36,146	13.37	283,244	672,814	2.38	18.61	7.84
Duck							

Table 3. 1976-77 Mississippi Mail Survey of Game Harvest Statewide
Estimates of Total Hunters

Species	Total Hunters	Standard Error	Lower and Upper Limits of 95% Confidence Intervals
Dove	118,931	1,802	1.5% 115,328 - 122,534
Quail	57,974	1,497	2.7% 54,980 - 60,968
Rabbit	89,248	1,698	1.9% 85,852 - 92,644
Squirrel	167,308	1,762	1.1% 163,784 - 170,832
Raccoon	25,407	1,059	4.2% 23,289 - 27,525
Woodcock	5,320	504	9.5% 4,312 - 6,328
Turkey	35,699	1,227	3.4% 33,245 - 38,153
Deer			
Gun	146,475	1,808	1.2% 142,859 - 150,091
Archery	21,131	975	4.6% 19,181 - 23,081
Primitive Weapons	11,137	721	6.5% 9,695 - 12,579
Duck	36,146	1,235	3.4% 33,676 - 38,616

Table 4. 1976-77 Mississippi Mail Survey of Game Harvest, Statewide
Estimates of Total Harvest

Species	Total Harvest	Standard Error	Lower and Upper Limits of 95% Confidence Intervals
Dove	3,415,722	36,536 1.1%	3,342,650 - 3,488,794
Quail	1,350,548	43,008 3.1%	1,264,532 - 1,436,564
Rabbit	1,281,138	55,648 4.3%	1,169,842 - 1,392,434
Squirrel	3,320,510	79,210 2.4%	3,162,090 - 3,478,930
Raccoon	291,907	25,582 8.8%	240,743 - 343,071
Woodcock	37,091	6,966 18.8%	23,159 - 51,023
Turkey	19,194	1,341 7.0%	16,512 - 21,876
Deer			
Gun	83,182	2,875 3.5%	77,432 - 88,932
Archery	6,314	877 13.9%	4,560 - 8,068
Primitive Weapons	4,376	727 16.6%	2,922 - 5,830
Duck			
Mallard	352,365	24,633 7.0%	303,099 - 401,631
Wood Duck	176,182	11,174 6.3%	153,834 - 193,530
Other	143,637	13,465 9.4%	116,707 - 170,567

Table 5. 1976-77 Mississippi Mail Survey of Game Harvest Statewide
Estimates of Total Days Afield

Species	Total Days Afield	Standard Error	Lower and Upper Limits of 95% Confidence Intervals
Dove	588,944	14,190 2.4%	560,564 - 617,324
Quail	469,122	20,361 4.3%	428,400 - 509,844
Rabbit	808,762	28,106 3.5%	752,550 - 864,974
Squirrel	1,509,287	32,509 2.2%	1,444,269 - 1,574,305
Raccoon	287,328	30,260 10.5%	226,808 - 347,848
Woodcock	20,864	3,523 17.0%	13,818 - 27,910
Turkey	212,766	10,901 5.1%	190,964 - 234,568
Deer			
Gun	1,410,119	26,967 1.9%	1,356,185 - 1,464,053
Archery	172,176	10,969 6.4%	150,238 - 194,114
Primitive Weapons	47,835	4,055 8.5%	39,725 - 55,945
Duck	283,255	14,158 5.0%	254,939 - 311,571

Table 6. Expanded Summary of Dove Hunting by Planning Unit (1976-77).

Unit	Total Hunters	Percent Hunters Per Unit	Total Days Afield	Total Harvest	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Average Days Afield
1	23,965	20.15	112,767	609,917	5.41	25.45	4.71
2	14,220	11.96	76,421	544,783	7.13	38.31	5.37
3	15,165	12.75	74,382	429,781	5.78	28.34	4.90
4	22,424	18.85	111,276	644,572	5.80	28.75	4.96
5	21,976	18.48	107,745	645,615	6.00	29.38	4.90
6	21,181	17.81	106,353	541,054	5.02	25.54	5.02
Statewide Total	118,931	100.0	588,944	3,415,722	5.80	28.72	4.95

Table 7. Expanded Summary of Quail Hunting by Planning Unit (1976-77)

Unit	Total Hunters	Percent Hunters Per Unit	Total Days Afield	Total Harvest	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Average Days Afield
1	15,314	26.42	132,259	372,006	2.81	24.29	8.64
2	2,237	3.86	17,949	41,914	2.33	18.74	8.02
3	8,452	14.58	68,715	217,227	3.16	25.70	8.13
4	8,950	15.44	70,306	213,150	3.03	23.82	7.86
5	8,751	15.09	67,870	210,217	3.10	24.02	7.76
6	14,270	24.61	112,023	296,034	2.64	20.75	7.85
Statewide Total	57,974	100.00	469,122	1,350,548	2.88	23.30	8.09

Table 8. Expanded Summary of Rabbit Hunting by Planning Unit (1976-77)

Unit	Total Hunters	Percent Hunters Per Unit	Total Days Afield	Total Harvest	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Average Days Afield
1	15,712	17.60	151,997	233,436	1.54	14.86	9.67
2	12,878	14.43	144,657	258,246	2.25	20.05	8.90
3	9,347	10.47	74,979	115,251	1.54	12.33	8.02
4	16,756	18.77	144,042	243,032	1.69	14.50	8.60
5	14,369	16.11	129,275	171,137	1.32	11.91	9.00
6	20,186	22.62	193,813	260,036	1.34	12.88	9.60
Statewide Total	89,248	100.00	808,763	1,281,138	1.58	14.35	9.06

Table 9. Expanded Summary of Squirrel Hunting by Planning Region (1976-77)

Unit	Total Hunters	Percent Hunters Per Unit	Total Days Afield	Total Harvest	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Average Days Afield
1	25,469	15.22	186,878	334,129	1.79	13.12	7.34
2	16,647	9.95	128,316	314,775	2.45	18.91	7.71
3	19,535	11.68	156,061	321,770	2.06	16.47	7.99
4	37,127	22.19	396,504	941,589	2.37	25.36	10.68
5	31,823	19.02	309,780	685,667	2.21	21.55	9.73
6	36,707	21.44	331,747	722,220	2.18	19.68	9.04
Statewide Total	167,308	100.00	1,509,286	3,320,150	2.20	19.85	9.02

Table 10. Expanded Summary of Raccoon Hunting by Planning Unit (1976-77)

Unit	Total Hunters	Percent Hunters Per Unit	Total Days Afield	Total Harvest	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Average Days Afield
1	3,539	13.92	44,769	37,884	0.85	10.70	12.65
2	3,645	14.35	29,519	38,678	1.31	10.61	8.10
3	3,381	13.31	49,214	52,381	1.06	15.49	14.56
4	6,286	24.74	69,635	66,932	0.96	10.65	11.08
5	4,437	17.46	45,700	47,831	1.05	10.78	10.30
6	4,120	16.22	48,491	48,201	0.99	11.70	11.87
Statewide Total	25,408	100.00	287,328	291,907	1.02	11.49	11.31

Table 11. Expanded **Summary** of Woodcock Hunting by Planning Unft (1976-77)

Unit	Total Hunters	Percent Hunters Per Unit	Total Days Afield	Total Harvest	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Average Days Afield
1	790	14.85	2,556	2,605	1.02	3.30	3.24
2	211	3.97	535	886	1.66	4.20	2.54
3	526	9.89	1,427	1,563	1.10	2.97	2.71
4	528	9.92	1,724	9,637	5.59	18.25	3.27
5	895	16.82	5,053	5,626	1.12	6.99	5.65
6	2,370	44.55	9,570	16,774	1.75	7.08	4.04
Statewide Total	5,320	100.00	20,865	37,091	1.79	6.97	3.92

Table 12. Expanded Summary of Turkey Hunting by Planning Unit (1976-77)

Unit	Total Hunters	Percent Hunters Per Unit	Total Days Afield	Total Harvest	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Average Days Afield
1	1,316	3.69	5,011	307	0.06	0.23	3.81
2	4,429	12.40	22,785	2,917	0.12	0.66	5.14
3	3,107	8.70	15,137	1,535	0.10	0.49	4.87
4	9,004	25.22	56,066	5,425	0.10	0.60	6.23
5	6,898	19.32	44,990	3,890	0.09	0.56	6.52
6	10,952	30.67	68,777	5,118	0.07	0.47	6.28
Statewide Total	35,706	100.00	212,766	19,192	0.09	0.54	5.96

Table 13. Expanded Summary of Deer Hunting (Regular Gun) by Planning Unit (1976-77)

Unit	Total Hunters	Percent Hunters Per Unit	Total Days Afield	Total Harvest	Average Daily Bag	Average Season-Bag	Average Days Afield
1	22,987	15.69	208,092	9,356	0.05	0.41	9.05
2	18,193	12.42	155,800	11,503	0.07	0.63	8.56
3	22,213	15.17	216,603	11,912	0.06	0.54	9.75
4	27,161	18.54	276,636	20,502	0.07	0.75	10.19
5	24,430	16.68	243,620	13,088	0.05	0.54	9.97
6	31,491	21.50	309,447	16,820	0.05	0.54	9.83
Statewide Total	146,475	100.00	1,410,198	83,181	0.06	0.56	9.63

Table 14. Expanded Summary of Deer Hunting (Archery) by Planning Unit (1976-77)

Unit	Total Hunters	Percent Hunters Per Unit	Total Days Afield	Total Harvest	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Average Days Afield
1	3,631	17.18	27,761	599	0.02	0.16	7.65
2	3,026	14.32	26,345	816	0.03	0.27	8.71
3	2,824	13.36	19,367	980	0.05	0.35	6.86
4	4,186	19.81	31,957	1,687	0.05	0.40	17.63
5	3,329	15.75	31,452	1,306	0.04	0.39	9.45
6	4,135	19.58	35,295	925	0.03	0.22	8.54
Statewide Total	21,131	100.00	172,177	6,313	0.04	0.30	8.15

Table 15. Expanded Summary of Deer Hunting (Primitive Weapons) by Planning Unit (1976-77)

Unit	Total Hunters	Percent Hunters Per Unit	Total Days Afield	Total Harvest	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Average Days Afield
1	1,709	15.34	7,118	405	0.06	0.24	4.17
2	1,191	10.69	5,084	407	0.08	0.34	4.27
3	1,450	13.02	4,881	458	0.09	0.32	3.37
4	2,435	21.86	9,152	1,374	0.15	0.56	3.76
5	1,917	17.21	11,084	661	0.06	0.34	5.78
6	2,436	21.87	10,067	1,068	0.11	0.44	4.13
Statewide Total	11,138	100.00	47,836	4,374	0.09	0.39	4.30

Table 16. Expanded Summary of Duck Hunting by Planning Unit (1976-77)

Unit	Total Hunters	Percent Hunters Per Unit	Total Days Afield	TOTAL HARVEST			AVERAGE DAILY BAG			AVERAGE SEASON BAG			Average Days Afield
				Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks	Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks	Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks	
1	5,321	14.72	37,435	24,586	20,069	10,364	0.66	0.54	0.28	4.62	3.77	1.95	7.04
2	12,070	33.39	107,394	201,891	35,133	48,368	1.88	0.32	0.45	16.72	2.91	4.01	8.90
3	3,959	10.95	28,365	31,319	15,787	14,709	1.10	0.56	0.52	7.91	3.99	3.72	7.16
4	7,722	21.36	61,236	65,087	48,805	39,469	1.05	0.78	0.63	8.43	6.32	5.11	7.93
5	2,855	7.90	18,775	10,712	24,041	5,339	0.57	1.28	0.28	3.75	8.42	1.87	6.58
6	4,218	11.67	30,040	18,771	32,347	25,388	0.62	1.08	0.85	4.45	7.67	6.02	7.12
State-wide Total	36,145	100.00	283,245	352,365	176,182	143,637	1.24	0.62	0.51	9.75	4.87	3.97	7.83

1976-77 MISSISSIPPI HUNTER QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Would you favor a hunting license system that would **require** each **hunter** in Mississippi to buy just **one license**? (There would actually be two licenses available, one for **sportsmen** hunting small **game** only and the other for sportsmen hunting **all** game including deer and turkey.)

Yes _____ No _____

2. Would you **support** a modest **increase** in **resident** license fees if **such** a system were enacted? (The small **game** hunting and fishing **license** would **cost** \$8.00-10.00 and the big **game** hunting and fishing license would **cost** \$12.00-15.00.)

Yes _____ No _____

3. Do you feel that **fishing** with slat baskets should be legal in Mississippi?

Yes _____ No _____

4. Would you **support** a law requiring **written permission** of the landowner **to** hunt on all **posted** lands?

Yes _____ No _____

5. If you **squirrel** hunted last **season**, did you kill any squirrels infested with botfly larvae? (**A** larvae under the skin commonly **called** wolves, warbles or grubs.)

Yes _____ No _____

If you **answered** yes, **please** answer the following questions.

a. In what county or **counties** did you **kill** infested squirrels?

b. Did you eat squirrels infested with **bots**?

Yes _____ No _____

c. What effect did contact with infested **squirrels** have on your hunting **satisfaction**?

- (1) None. I **still** hunt squirrels.
- (2) I now hunt in other **areas** where bots are not present.
- (3) I hunt **squirrels less** than I did **before** I **killed** an infested squirrel.
- (4) I no **longer** hunt **squirrels**.
- (5) Other (**please** write in)

6. If you hunted during the **1976-77** hunting **season** in Mississippi, **please fill** in the information **below** for each animal you hunted. If you hunted more than one kind of game on a particular day, count it as a day for each type of game you hunted. Report only game taken by you.

SMALL GAME

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	SPECIES	TOTAL DAYS HUNTED	COUNTY WHICH YOU HUNTED MOST	TOTAL KILL
	DOVE			
	QUAIL			
	RABBIT			
	SQUIRREL			
	RACCOON			
	WOOD COCK			
	TURKEY			

DEER

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	SEASON	TOTAL DAYS HUNTED	COUNTY WHICH YOU HUNTED MOST	TOTAL KILL
	GUN			
	ARCHERY			
	PRIMITIVE WEAPON			

WATERFOWL

On how many days did you hunt ducks? _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	SPECIES	COUNTY WHICH YOU HUNTED MOST	TOTAL KILL
	MAILLARD		
	WOOD DUCK		
	OTHER DUCKS		

Fig. 1. Questionnaire used during the 1976-77 survey of game harvest in Mississippi

SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES • AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

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Dear Sportsman:

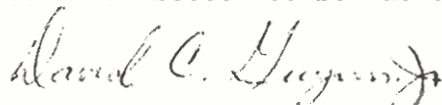
We need your help! The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi State University, in cooperation with the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission is surveying Mississippi hunters to obtain information concerning the 1976-77 hunting season.. You have been selected as a representative hunter to participate in the survey.

The purpose of this survey is to obtain a reasonable estimate of hunter effort and game harvest for the season just concluded. We would also like for you to express your opinion concerning certain issues and management practices of the Commission. Information supplied by you and other selected hunters will assist us in managing game resources for the greatest public benefit.

For meaningful results, the information is needed from everyone receiving a questionnaire as only a limited number of sportsmen can be contacted. Please fill in the enclosed questionnaire, even if you did not hunt last season, as accurately as you can and return it in the self-addressed envelope. No postage is required.

Our records are often difficult to read and we apologize if your name or address has been misspelled. A prompt reply will be sincerely appreciated.

Yours for better conservation,



David C. Gwynn, Jr., Assistant Professor
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

DCG/rmb

Enclosures

Fig. 2. Cover letter mailed with initial mailing during the 1976-77 survey of game harvest in Mississippi.

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
P. O. BOX 100
MISSISSIPPI STATE
PHONE 1607-2000

Dear Sportsman:

Recently we mailed you a hunter questionnaire and requested that you fill out and return the completed form. Please take a few minutes right now to complete the questionnaire and return it. If you have already mailed the questionnaire, please disregard this notice.

Your answers are important. It is the only way we have of estimating harvest and hunter effort and of knowing how you feel about certain issues.

Sincerely yours,

David C. Gynn, Jr.
David C. Gynn, Jr., Assist. Prof.
Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

Fig. 3. Postcard used as first reminder mailing to non-respondents during the 1976-77 survey of game harvest in Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
P. O. DRAWER LW
MISSISSIPPI STATE, MISSISSIPPI 39762
PHONE (601) 325-3133

Dear Sportsman:

We are trying to help the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission provide quality hunting for Mississippi Sportsmen. While not wanting to impose, we are depending on you to help us evaluate hunting activity and success for ~~the~~ 1976-77 hunting season.

Another copy of the questionnaire is enclosed which we hope you will complete and return as soon as possible in the enclosed addressed, postage-paid envelope. If you have already returned a questionnaire, please disregard this notice.

Remember, you can be of assistance even if you did not hunt or were not successful in your efforts. We need and will sincerely appreciate your cooperation.

Yours for better conservation,



David C. Guynn, Jr., Assistant Professor
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

DCG/rmb

Enclosures

Fig. 4. Cover letter mailed with second reminder mailing during the 1976-77 survey of game harvest in Mississippi.

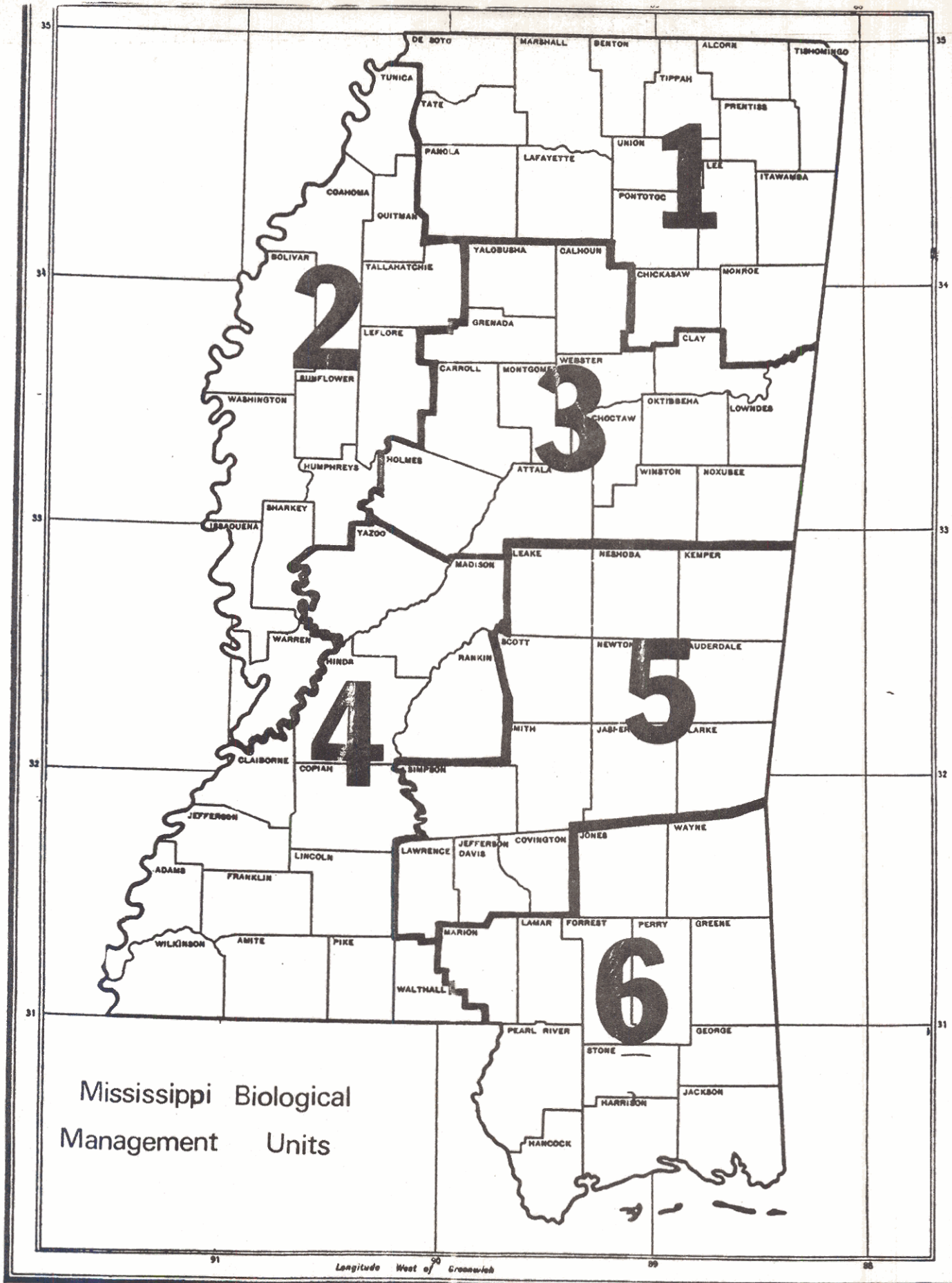


Fig. 5. Planning units for the 1976-77 mail survey of game harvest in Mississippi.