

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4037
Office of the Commissioner
651-259-5555



December 30, 2015

The Honorable John Marty
Chair, Senate Environment and Energy Committee
Capitol

The Honorable David J. Osmek
Ranking Minority Member, Senate Environment and
Energy Committee
19 State Office Building

The Honorable David J. Tomassoni
Chair, Senate Environment, Economic Development, and
Agriculture Budget Division
Capitol

The Honorable Bill Ingebrigtsen
Ranking Minority Member, Senate Environment,
Economic Development, and Agriculture Budget
Division
143 State Office Building

The Honorable Tom Hackbarth
Chair, House Mining and Outdoor Recreation Policy
Committee
409 State Office Building

The Honorable Tom Anzelc
DFL Lead, House Mining and Outdoor Recreation Policy
Committee
317 State Office Building

The Honorable Denny McNamara
Chair, House Environment, Natural Resources Policy and
Finance Committee
365 State Office Building

The Honorable Rick Hansen
DFL Lead, House Environment and Natural Resources
Policy and Finance Committee
247 State Office Building

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Please find enclosed the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' report on Hunter Surveys. The January 1, 2016, submittal of the report is required by 2015 Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 97B, Section 97B.063. Hunter Satisfaction Survey. Copies have been sent to the Legislative Reference Library.

The report is a collection of hunter information related to participation and satisfaction. This may include information on preferences, values, interests, participation rates and patterns, barriers to participation, or other factors. The data was collected using established social science methods.

This report is also being posted on the DNR website per DNR policy. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Wildlife Populations and Regulations Manager Steve Merchant, Division of Fish and Wildlife at 651-259-5220, or Steve.Merchant@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tom Landwehr
Commissioner

TJL/PR/jls
Enclosure

c Mr. Bob Meier, DNR Assistant Commissioner for Enforcement and Policy and Government Relations
Mr. Edward K. Boggess, Director Division of Fish and Wildlife
Mr. Pat Rivers, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife
Mr. Paul Telander, Chief, Section of Wildlife, Division of Fish and Wildlife
Mr. Steven S. Merchant, Wildlife Populations and Regulations Manager, Section of Wildlife





December 30, 2015

This is to fulfill the reporting requirements of Minnesota Statutes 97B.063:

97B.063 HUNTER SATISFACTION SURVEY.

The commissioner shall annually administer the collection of hunter information related to participation and satisfaction. This may include information on preferences, values, interests, participation rates and patterns, barriers to participation, or other factors. The data shall be collected using established social science methods. The commissioner shall annually submit a summary of the information gathered under this section to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources no later than January 1 for the preceding fiscal year. The commissioner shall also make the summary information available on the department's Web site.

History: 2012 c 277 art 1 s 53; 1Sp2015 c 4 art 5 s 22

The following hunter surveys were completed in 2015:

WILD TURKEY

Schroeder, S. A. (2015). Minnesota Spring Wild Turkey Hunting: A Study of Hunters' Opinions and Activities. University of Minnesota, Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/turkey/index.html?tab=2#detailTabs>

Study Purpose and Objectives

The goal of this study was to enhance understanding of turkey hunter attitudes and perceptions of regulatory alternatives. Specific objectives were to:

- 1) Critically evaluate Minnesota's spring turkey hunting season and determine if changes are appropriate,
- 2) Examine alternatives that provide more opportunity, improve hunter satisfaction, remain safe, and sustain the turkey population at target levels,
- 3) Use study results to implement regulatory harvest changes that achieve hunter and turkey population objectives.



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This is to fulfill the reporting requirements of Minnesota Statutes 97B.063

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WATERFOWL

Schroeder, S. A., Lawrence, J. S., and Cordts, S. D. (2015). The 2014 Waterfowl Hunting Season in Minnesota: A Study of Hunters' Opinions and Activities. University of Minnesota, Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/waterfowl/reports.html>

Study Purpose and Objectives

This study was conducted to identify hunter preferences/opinion on regulations, seasons, daily bag limits and zones relative to their satisfaction, success, and opinions/preferences on other waterfowl hunting and management issues. Results describe how preferences/opinions vary based upon hunter characteristics. This survey also provides ongoing information on waterfowl hunter demographics and attitudes in Minnesota. Its overall purpose was to measure hunter satisfaction, and to identify hunter preferences and opinions on various waterfowl hunting, management, and regulatory issues.

Each report will be available on the DNR website once they are in an accessible format. In the meantime, please contact Wildlife Populations and Regulations Manager Steve Merchant, Division of Fish and Wildlife at 651-259-5220, or Steve.Merchant@state.mn.us.