

# **LIGHT GEESE (regular season)**

Information provided in this section pertains only to the regular light goose season in South Dakota. The next section reports on the Spring Conservation Order.

The 2015 light goose season covered 26 September - 20 December statewide and included snow, blue, and Ross' geese and all other geese except Canada geese, brant and white-fronted geese. The daily bag was 50 geese with an unlimited season possession limit. To hunt geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license. All hunters age 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp.

In 2015, there were an estimated 3,615 hunters who hunted at least one day for light geese during the regular season (3,096 residents, 519 nonresidents). From survey responses, there was a projected harvest of 40,758 light geese (37,266 by residents, 3,492 by nonresidents).

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), those respondents who reported hunting at least one day for light geese reported an average rating of 4.78 for residents and 4.83 for nonresidents. The average days hunted by all hunters (5.66 residents, 4.71 for nonresidents) projected to a total of 19,974 recreation days for the season.

## Comparison of the 2006 - 2015 regular season light goose harvests

Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2006	6,316	80,213	6.12	12.70	5.00	1,315	6,522	4.12	4.96	5.14
2007	4,377	44,120	6.03	10.08	4.90	754	2,903	4.23	3.85	4.97
2008	5,165	58,055	5.51	11.24	5.24	849	5,422	4.15	6.39	5.23
2009	4,298	52,350	5.57	12.18	4.96	733	3,473	4.40	4.74	5.24
2010	4,031	33,739	5.55	8.37	5.18	551	2,520	5.08	4.57	5.64
2011	3,614	36,419	3.92	10.08	5.37	617	4,409	4.78	7.15	5.55
2012	4,113	49,788	5.66	12.10	5.19	726	5,383	4.81	7.41	5.49
2013	3,747	46,871	5.25	12.51	5.01	641	6,451	4.85	10.06	5.48
2014	3,572	49,460	5.34	13.85	4.92	514	4,355	4.58	8.47	5.02
2015	3,096	37,266	5.66	12.04	4.78	519	3,492	4.71	6.72	4.83

### **REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2015**

Revised: 1 June 2016

	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT						Sum Estimates	Resident Total
	00A	00B	11A	00X	00Y	YW1		
<b>Regular Season:</b>								
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	18	185	0	16	25		244	333
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	162	848	0	63	104		1,177	1,885
<b>Average Days Hunted Light Geese</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>4.58</b>		<b>3.94</b>	<b>4.16</b>		<b>4.71</b>	<b>5.66</b>
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	53	1,199	0	149	260		1,661	4,008
<b>Average Light Goose Bag for Season</b>	<b>2.94</b>	<b>6.48</b>		<b>9.31</b>	<b>10.40</b>		<b>6.72</b>	<b>12.04</b>
<b>Projected Days Light Goose Hunting</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>137</b>		<b>2,448</b>	<b>17,526</b>
<b>Projected No. Light Goose Hunters</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>33</b>		<b>519</b>	<b>3,096</b>
<b>Projected Light Goose Bag</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>2,835</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>343</b>		<b>3,492</b>	<b>37,266</b>
<b>TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST REGULAR SEASON = 40,758</b>								
<b>Light Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*</b>	5.39	4.71		5.33	5.04		4.83	4.78

\*1\* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

## STATEWIDE REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST, 1980-2015

