



NEWS

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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STATE REPORTS ON HUNTING, FISHING, AND WILDLIFE WATCHING NOW AVAILABLE

In Georgia, big bass boats rule the rivers and reservoirs, while fly fishermen stalk trout in Pennsylvania streams. Come fall, Michiganders begin looking forward to whitetail deer while Montanans prepare for elk season. With the first signs of spring, serious birders peruse brochures from their travel agents and ponder options for their next trip.

"Whether casting a fly or snapping a shutter, 77 million Americans find wildlife-associated recreation a source of lifelong enjoyment and renewal," said Jamie Rappaport Clark, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "America's great diversity of wildlife provides a wealth of opportunities for residents and tourists alike in every part of the country."

The 1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation showed that the public's interest in wildlife remains strong and detailed demographics of participation and spending on equipment, trips, meals, and other expenses. The survey has been conducted every 5 years since 1955. Comprehensive state reports based on the 1996 data are now available.

Each report details the whos, whats, whens, and wheres of wildlife-related recreation in that state: demographic information, preferred species and habitats, equipment purchased and used, and number of days spent pursuing these activities. This information is invaluable to elected officials, wildlife managers, hunting and fishing organizations, conservation groups, journalists, and others who manage or enjoy fish and wildlife.

Each state report is based on thousands of interviews conducted with U.S. residents about their fishing, hunting, and wildlife-related recreation, such as watching, feeding, and photographing wild animals. The reports focus on the activities of U.S. residents aged 16 and up. The methodology used was similar to the 1991 survey, so results from the two surveys can be compared.

The national and state reports from the 1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation are available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/fishing.html> on the Internet. Printed copies are available by calling the Service's Publications Unit at 304-876-7203.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of more than 500 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies.



FACTS

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1996 NATIONAL SURVEY OF FISHING, HUNTING, AND WILDLIFE-ASSOCIATED RECREATION

Top Five States for:

Number of Hunters

1.	Michigan	934,000
2.	Texas	913,000
3.	Pennsylvania	879,000
4.	Wisconsin	665,000
5.	New York	642,000

Proportion of Hunters

1.	Montana	21.3%
2.	Idaho	20.8%
3.	South Dakota	20.3%
4.	Wyoming	19.1%
5.	West Virginia	17.5%

Days of Hunting

1.	Michigan	18,408,000
2.	Texas	17,050,000
3.	Pennsylvania	13,173,000
4.	New York	11,552,000
5.	Wisconsin	10,042,000

Buyers of Hunting Equipment

1.	Michigan	742,000
2.	Texas	722,000
3.	Pennsylvania	674,000
4.	Wisconsin	574,000
5.	Minnesota	561,000

Buyers of Guns and Rifles for Hunting

1.	Michigan	224,000
2.	Texas	211,000
3.	Wisconsin	166,000
4.	Missouri	162,000
5.	Ohio	155,000

Buyers of Ammunition for Hunting

1.	Texas	636,000
2.	Michigan	595,000
3.	Pennsylvania	553,000
4.	Wisconsin	470,000
5.	Minnesota	450,000

Number of Anglers

1.	Florida	2,864,000
2.	California	2,722,000
3.	Texas	2,613,000
4.	Michigan	1,824,000
5.	New York	1,706,000

Proportion of Anglers

1.	Alaska	41.2%
2.	Idaho	32.0%
3.	Wyoming	31.2%
4.	South Dakota	31.1%
5.	Minnesota	31.0%

Days of Fishing

1.	Texas	51,329,000
2.	Florida	45,465,000
3.	California	36,914,000
4.	New York	29,359,000
5.	Michigan	28,709,000

Buyers of Fishing Equipment

1.	California	1,938,000
2.	Texas	1,754,000
3.	Florida	1,565,000
4.	Minnesota	1,106,000
5.	Michigan	1,086,000

Buyers of Artificial Lures and Flies

1.	California	1,448,000
2.	Texas	1,208,000
3.	Florida	1,068,000
4.	Minnesota	836,000
5.	Missouri	705,000

Buyers of Fishing Reels and Rods

1.	Texas	1,040,000
2.	Florida	1,018,000
3.	California	974,000
4.	Illinois	597,000
5.	Missouri	546,000

Number of Wildlife-Watching Participants, by State of Residence

1.	California	5,959,000
2.	Texas	3,553,000
3.	Pennsylvania	3,442,000
4.	New York	3,169,000
5.	Illinois	3,137,000

Proportion of Wildlife-Watching Participants

1.	Alaska	50%
2.	Vermont	48%
3.	Montana	47%
4.	Maine	46%
5.	New Hampshire	44%

Number of Nonresidential Wildlife Watching Participants

1.	California	2,362,000
2.	Florida	1,846,000
3.	Pennsylvania	1,559,000
4.	Texas	1,439,000
5.	Illinois	1,247,000

Days of Nonresidential Wildlife Watching

1.	California	24,587,000
2.	Michigan	16,162,000
3.	Texas	14,838,000
4.	Florida	14,658,000
5.	Pennsylvania	13,123,000

Expenditures for Wildlife Watching

1.	California	\$2,396,809,000
2.	New Jersey	\$1,800,691,000
3.	Florida	\$1,677,170,000
4.	Washington	\$1,660,936,000
5.	Wisconsin	\$1,594,265,000

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