



Survey Identifies Value of Hunting and Fishing to N.C. Economy



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RALEIGH, N.C. (Sept. 26, 2013) — In advance of National Hunting and Fishing Day on Saturday (Sept. 28), the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is highlighting results from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau survey to show the importance of sportsmen to North Carolina's economy.

The 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation measured public participation in hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and other wildlife-dependent recreation, as well as how much money was spent pursuing these activities. North Carolina results are available at <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/northcarolina/economicimpact-nc.html>.

North Carolina highlights:

- **\$3.3 billion** total spent on wildlife-related recreation in North Carolina.
- **\$1.5 billion** spent in North Carolina from fishing-related activities.
- **\$525 million** spent in North Carolina on hunting-related activities.
- **\$930 million** spent in North Carolina on wildlife-watching activities.

The Wildlife Commission is hosting four family-oriented [National Hunting and Fishing Day](#) events and assisting three others across the state on Saturday. Through interactive activities and demonstrations, participants can connect with nature and learn outdoor skills while gaining a better understanding about the important roles of hunting and fishing in wildlife conservation.

“This is a must read for anyone who hunts, fishes or watches wildlife, as well as news reporters, economists and elected officials,” said Cindy Dohner, the Service’s Southeast Regional Director. “It is filled with valuable facts that show the economic impact of hunting and fishing and wildlife viewing.”

The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, conducted every five years, has become one of the most important sources of information on fish and wildlife in the United States. Federal, state and private organizations use the rigorously compiled and detailed information to manage wildlife and wildlife-related recreation programs, and forecast trends in participation and economic impacts.

Nationally, more than 90 million Americans participated in wildlife-related recreation in 2011, up 3 percent from five years earlier. The increase was primarily among those who fished and hunted. The data show that 33.1 million people fished, 13.7 million hunted, and 71.8 million participated in a wildlife-watching activity. See the complete survey at http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Sub_pages/NationalSurvey/NatSurveyIndex.htm.

Nationally, here are some highlights:

- More than 90 million U.S. residents 16 years old and older participated in some form of wildlife-related recreation in 2011, up 3 percent from five years earlier. The increase was primarily among those who fished and hunted.
- Wildlife recreationists spent \$144.7 billion in 2011 on their activities, which equated to one percent of the Gross Domestic Product. Of the total amount spent, \$49.5 billion was trip-related, \$70.4 billion was spent on equipment, and \$25.1 billion was spent on other items such as licenses and land leasing and ownership.
- The number of people who hunted or fished or both rose from 33.9 million in 2006 to 37.4 million in 2011.
- 71.8 million U.S. residents observed, fed, and/or photographed wildlife in 2011. Almost 68.6 million people wildlife watched around their homes, and 22.5 million people took trips of at least one mile from home primarily to watch wildlife.
- Of the 46.7 million people who observed wild birds, 88 percent did so around their homes and 38 percent on trips a mile or more from home.
- People spent \$54.9 billion on their wildlife-watching trips, equipment, and other items in 2011. This amounted to \$981 on average per spender for the year.

Complete survey results are available at:

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/NatSurveyIndex.htm>.

About the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Since 1947, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has been dedicated to the conservation and sustainability of the state's fish and wildlife resources through research, scientific management, wise use, and public input. The Commission is the state regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of fishing, hunting, trapping and boating laws and provides programs and opportunities for wildlife-related educational, recreational and sporting activities. To learn more, visit www.ncwildlife.org.

Get **N.C. Wildlife Update** — news including season dates, bag limits, legislative updates and more — delivered free to your Inbox from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Go to www.ncwildlife.org/enews.

About the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov/southeast. Connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws>, and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.