



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release August 6, 1985

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LATEST HUNTING AND FISHING STATISTICS SHOW SLIGHT DECREASE IN PARTICIPANTS AS LICENSE REVENUES RISE TO RECORD LEVELS

American hunters and fishermen spent over a half a billion dollars in license and permit fees--a new record--to pursue their sports in 1984, the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

According to data from State fish and wildlife agencies, \$552 million was spent in 1984 for the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses, tags, permits, and stamps. The total number of license holders, however, dropped slightly from 45,503,447 in 1983 to 45,034,168 in 1984.

Comparing 1984 figures with those of the previous year shows that although the number of licensed hunters fell from 16,372,904 in 1983 to 16,018,250 in 1984, the revenues from hunting licenses rose from \$277 million in 1983 to \$292 million in 1984. Similarly, licensed fishermen dropped slightly in number from 29,130,543 in 1983 to 29,015,918 in 1984 while, again, fishing license revenues rose from \$244 million in 1983 to \$260 million in 1984.

Minor fluctuations in the number of hunters and anglers from year to year are not unusual. Weather, changes in State hunting and fishing regulations, economic conditions, and other factors can all affect the number of people who participate in hunting and fishing in any given year.

States finance most of their fish and wildlife management programs with the revenues from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and from federal aid programs administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs, the amount of funding each State, Commonwealth, and Territory receives is determined in part by their number of license holders. They are reimbursed for up to 75 percent of the cost of approved projects undertaken to benefit their fish and wildlife resources. The sources of these funds are excise taxes collected by manufacturers on various types of hunting and fishing equipment. For the current fiscal year, which ends September 30, 1985, approximately \$114 million was apportioned in federal aid funds for fish and wildlife conservation.

(over)

The wildlife portion of the Service's Federal Aid program, popularly known as the "Pittman-Robertson" program, will mark its 50-year anniversary in 1987. Under this federal-State partnership, more than \$1.4 billion in sportsmen's excise tax dollars have been channeled into wildlife management, research, and land acquisition projects. The Fish and Wildlife Service has scheduled a series of commemorative events throughout 1986-87 to honor the contributions that sportsmen and other conservationists have made to restoring the Nation's fish and wildlife resources.

Using the federal aid dollars that are apportioned to the States, Commonwealths, and Territories on the basis of their number of license holders and land and water area, individual fish and game agencies finance a variety of management projects based on local needs and priorities. In 1984, for example, under the "Dingell-Johnson" fish restoration program, Idaho undertook investigations of chinook salmon and steelhead recreational fisheries in many of its rivers, while Arkansas fertilized State lakes and nursery ponds. Hawaii continued its development and operation of artificial reefs; similarly, the Northern Mariana Islands studied changes in the populations of its surface, deepwater, and reef fishes.

Under the "Pittman-Robertson" wildlife program, an equally diverse series of State projects was supported. Illinois developed nesting cover for ringneck pheasants and other ground-nesting wildlife. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico made a number of capital developments and habitat improvements in its public lands, while New Jersey undertook various wetlands investigations and surveys. Maine gathered data necessary for management of moose, black bear, and deer herds.

A State-by-State breakdown of the license figures is shown in the attached tables.

NUMBER OF PAID HUNTING LICENSE HOLDERS, LICENSE SALES, AND COST TO HUNTERS
FISCAL YEAR 1984

State	Paid Hunting License Holders ₁	Resident Hunting Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps	Nonresident Hunt- ing Licenses,Tags, Permits & Stamps	Total Hunting Licenses,Tags, Permits & Stamps ₂	Gross Cost To Hunters
Alabama	286,198	313,468	28,295	341,763	\$ 4,069,397
Alaska	92,481	153,891	18,603	172,494	3,767,195
Arizona	194,548	362,111	15,121	377,232	5,111,047
Arkansas	300,241	494,316	21,678	515,994	5,980,887
California	509,106	939,078	3,573	942,651	8,931,148
Colorado	310,378	390,501	101,074	491,575	22,628,812
Connecticut	80,797	129,962	2,261	132,223	913,689
Delaware	27,160	35,206	5,556	40,762	332,478
Florida	254,802	446,244	3,900	450,144	3,998,322
Georgia	371,203	855,983	25,728	881,711	4,855,732
Hawaii	11,548	11,735	372	12,107	85,488
Idaho	244,780	504,430	53,006	557,436	7,558,427
Illinois	332,877	559,663	9,183	568,846	4,936,474
Indiana	320,894	527,321	7,606	534,927	3,930,338
Iowa	267,399	648,496	70,468	718,964	4,939,911
Kansas	248,880	244,849	48,393	293,242	4,548,882
Kentucky	307,621	443,923	10,192	454,100	3,758,921
Louisiana	392,263	603,431	11,273	614,704	3,368,230
Maine	219,226	185,170	37,998	223,168	4,050,543
Maryland	171,383	343,177	57,111	400,288	2,876,566
Massachusetts	108,740	181,493	2,932	184,425	1,440,042
Michigan	912,119	1,256,675	20,536	1,277,211	12,081,194
Minnesota	463,329	990,010	7,379	997,389	11,802,389
Mississippi	293,906	264,618	29,288	293,906	3,419,033
Missouri	483,836	1,020,299	39,012	1,059,311	7,042,379
Montana	248,427	880,223	202,347	1,082,570	8,162,260
Nebraska	173,634	324,574	40,872	365,446	4,297,600
Nevada	57,109	91,585	6,063	97,648	1,240,934
New Hampshire	85,144	117,865	15,585	133,450	1,480,232
New Jersey	135,649	263,562	7,417	270,979	3,971,027
New Mexico	137,621	134,541	14,380	148,921	4,404,490
New York	807,542	1,257,760	48,440	1,306,200	12,670,687
North Carolina	333,020	451,536	12,011	463,547	4,938,287
North Dakota	95,121	346,830	31,378	378,208	2,495,878
Ohio	464,782	783,653	7,573	791,226	6,309,247
Oklahoma	377,331	411,896	7,354	419,250	3,515,341
Oregon	356,925	971,655	17,793	989,448	7,252,473
Pennsylvania	1,271,634	2,193,468	104,902	2,298,370	17,422,850
Rhode Island	12,935	18,394	888	19,282	125,374
South Carolina	200,371	227,807	39,783	267,590	3,247,368
South Dakota	174,542	377,041	125,324	502,365	5,229,694
Tennessee	551,890	807,569	10,454	818,023	5,844,591
Texas	986,707	1,336,611	25,890	1,362,501	9,618,240
Utah	232,545	291,324	17,391	308,715	5,270,039
Vermont	133,989	108,904	25,085	133,989	1,852,805
Virginia	457,159	807,486	69,302	876,788	6,191,351
Washington	307,704	741,153	7,088	748,241	8,973,682
West Virginia	328,432	461,303	69,599	530,902	4,629,644
Wisconsin	710,986	1,254,229	27,416	1,281,645	13,472,224
Wyoming	171,336	241,573	97,491	339,064	13,300,432
TOTALS₃	16,018,250	26,808,592	1,662,364	28,470,941	\$292,344,274

1. A paid license holder is one individual regardless of the number of licenses he may purchase. Data certified by State Fish and Game Departments.
2. Period covered not identical to period covered by certification for all States.
3. Persons who hunted in more than one State are counted in each State where they hunted.

NUMBER OF PAID FISHING LICENSE HOLDERS, LICENSE SALES, AND COST TO FISHERMEN
FISCAL YEAR 1984

State	Paid Fishing License Holders ₁	Resident Fishing Licenses, Tags Permits & Stamps	Nonresident Fish- ing Licenses,Tags Permits & Stamps	Total Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps ₂	Gross Cost To Fishermen
Alabama	601,092	534,369	100,655	635,024	\$ 3,974,
Alaska	275,252	181,611	117,687	299,298	3,787,
Arizona	456,305	464,945	149,532	614,477	4,055,
Arkansas	588,597	527,869	166,488	694,357	6,020,
California	2,522,172	5,130,161	68,231	5,198,392	32,633,
Colorado	684,823	475,819	267,491	743,310	7,436,
Connecticut	188,815	184,304	4,511	188,815	1,075,
Delaware	17,983	19,917	3,412	23,329	105,
Florida	780,092	603,019	190,276	793,295	5,336,
Georgia	717,177	830,968	41,417	872,385	4,462,
Hawaii	9,574	9,584	50	9,634	29,
Idaho	406,705	283,921	157,646	441,567	3,725,
Illinois	827,991	883,715	50,235	933,950	6,070,
Indiana	705,279	664,189	130,498	794,687	4,804,
Iowa	461,333	452,445	43,071	495,516	2,827,
Kansas	295,103	277,732	22,294	300,026	2,550,
Kentucky	629,128	548,323	127,214	675,522	4,483,
Louisiana	568,823	528,076	46,058	574,134	1,655,
Maine	264,106	177,468	87,861	265,329	3,835,
Maryland	130,877	162,088	18,231	180,319	1,167,
Massachusetts	199,925	214,760	7,421	222,181	2,273,
Michigan	1,391,515	1,349,460	327,029	1,676,489	12,156,
Minnesota	1,491,788	932,994	271,207	1,204,201	11,909,
Mississippi	477,739	397,757	79,982	477,739	3,054,
Missouri	980,958	1,452,877	182,407	1,635,284	6,760,
Montana	331,072	460,271	317,060	777,331	5,532,
Nebraska	236,164	244,436	31,331	275,767	2,333,
Nevada	175,529	103,548	60,123	163,671	1,604,
New Hampshire	149,135	100,132	51,121	151,253	1,798,
New Jersey	209,085	331,033	8,436	339,469	3,208,
New Mexico	243,309	175,773	79,797	255,570	3,067,
New York	969,281	904,360	134,608	1,038,968	8,543,
North Carolina	410,523	452,466	44,724	497,190	4,902,
North Dakota	175,667	155,453	20,457	175,910	994,
Ohio	1,050,647	986,888	63,759	1,050,647	7,534,
Oklahoma	631,707	530,344	85,407	615,751	4,576,
Oregon	653,882	805,618	150,328	955,946	7,822,
Pennsylvania	1,051,714	990,284	61,430	1,051,714	12,456,
Rhode Island	34,239	32,032	3,207	35,239	207,
South Carolina	397,906	387,280	69,560	456,840	3,219,
South Dakota	177,510	193,842	51,623	245,465	1,577,
Tennessee	707,469	730,698	165,218	895,916	4,930,
Texas	1,866,909	1,755,944	110,965	1,866,909	11,981,
Utah	391,652	539,473	136,605	675,974	4,893,
Vermont	155,022	102,216	52,250	154,466	1,369,
Virginia	530,256	719,393	79,827	799,220	4,066,
Washington	810,780	965,677	73,423	1,039,100	8,971,
West Virginia	289,540	520,452	72,104	592,556	3,070,
Wisconsin	1,466,208	1,384,813	362,003	1,746,816	12,670,
Wyoming	227,560	122,702	122,415	245,117	2,148,
TOTALS₃	29,015,918	30,983,499	5,068,685	36,052,065	\$ 259,678,

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