



NEWS

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Hugh Vickery 202-208-5634

NUMBER OF ANGLERS FALLS SLIGHTLY IN 1996; HUNTER NUMBERS STABLE

The number of anglers who bought fishing licenses fell by just over 1 percent in 1996 while the number of hunters who purchased licenses remained constant, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

There were 29.9 million paid fishing licenses holders in 1996 compared with 30.3 million in 1995. These anglers paid \$447 million for their licenses compared with \$448.6 million in 1995. Meanwhile, 15.2 million hunters bought licenses in 1996, the same as the year before. They spent \$542.8 million on the licenses, \$10.2 million more than in 1995.

Revenues raised through license sales support state wildlife agencies, their conservation projects, and their hunting and fishing safety and education programs.

"Through license sales alone, hunters and anglers contribute nearly \$1 billion a year to wildlife conservation," said Service Director Jamie Rappaport Clark. "That is money that doesn't come from general tax revenue, yet it benefits every American by promoting both a healthy environment and healthy wildlife.

"This money doesn't even count the hundreds of millions of dollars sportsmen and -women contribute through excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment and through membership in and donations to non-profit conservation organizations."

License sales figures are compiled annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from information submitted by state fish and wildlife agencies. The figures are part of a formula to determine the amount of funding each state receives through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration programs, both administered by the Service.

Under these programs, hunters and anglers pay an excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment such as firearms, ammunition, and tackle. The money is, in turn, distributed to the states in the form of grants to conserve wildlife; teach hunter safety; and provide fishing, hunting, and boating opportunities.

The number of hunting license holders has declined from a record high of 16.7 million in 1982. Meanwhile, the number of fishing license holders has been about the same during that time.

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 511 national wildlife refuges encompassing 92 million acres, as well as 68 national fish hatcheries.

The agency also enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, stocks recreational fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts.

A state-by-state breakdown of 1996 hunting and fishing license sales figures is attached.

NUMBER OF PAID HUNTING LICENSE HOLDERS, LICENSE SALES, AND COST TO HUNTERS
FISCAL YEAR 1996

| State | Paid Hunting License Holders* | Resident Hunting Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps | Nonresident Hunting Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps | Total Hunting Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps** | Gross To Hur |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------|
| ALABAMA | 259,097 | 254,663 | 36,720 | 301,383 | 56,398 |
| ALASKA | 95,250 | 193,471 | 30,409 | 223,880 | 3,122 |
| ARIZONA | 179,731 | 323,304 | 29,366 | 352,670 | 3,012 |
| ARKANSAS | 323,990 | 490,245 | 67,325 | 557,560 | 10,331 |
| CALIFORNIA | 343,838 | 902,210 | 8,419 | 910,629 | 14,494 |
| COLORADO | 349,491 | 413,732 | 173,916 | 587,648 | 42,531 |
| CONNECTICUT | 55,396 | 142,237 | 7,364 | 150,201 | 1,314 |
| DELAWARE | 21,607 | 33,060 | 2,263 | 35,323 | 494 |
| FLORIDA | 183,308 | 329,759 | 4,019 | 333,778 | 5,049 |
| GEORGIA | 335,416 | 931,508 | 53,326 | 985,034 | 11,435 |
| HAWAII | 10,334 | 10,247 | 122 | 10,369 | 115 |
| IDAHO | 293,285 | 802,723 | 71,706 | 874,429 | 16,611 |
| ILLINOIS | 329,279 | 1,211,719 | 40,710 | 1,252,429 | 12,732 |
| INDIANA | 297,330 | 709,163 | 63,709 | 772,972 | 9,329 |
| IOWA | 256,355 | 689,511 | 104,192 | 793,700 | 12,356 |
| KANSAS | 172,387 | 137,527 | 34,360 | 172,387 | 7,906 |
| KENTUCKY | 291,746 | 502,450 | 16,084 | 518,534 | 7,991 |
| LOUISIANA | 257,347 | 257,350 | 9,497 | 267,347 | 6,378 |
| MAINE | 202,235 | 176,338 | 37,595 | 214,433 | 7,483 |
| MARYLAND | 143,756 | 193,794 | 13,751 | 212,545 | 4,000 |
| MASSACHUSETTS | 51,993 | 245,353 | 4,919 | 250,274 | 2,220 |
| MICHIGAN | 964,531 | 1,975,597 | 39,141 | 2,015,732 | 25,796 |
| MINNESOTA | 572,395 | 844,331 | 15,733 | 860,564 | 18,295 |
| MISSISSIPPI | 241,393 | 220,062 | 43,547 | 278,609 | 7,490 |
| MISSOURI | 456,132 | 1,047,473 | 35,086 | 1,082,553 | 11,905 |
| MONTANA | 290,775 | 709,291 | 137,441 | 846,732 | 19,752 |
| NEBRASKA | 191,006 | 347,396 | 62,412 | 410,108 | 6,187 |
| NEVADA | 55,332 | 93,805 | 9,387 | 93,192 | 2,652 |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | 83,292 | 139,623 | 25,621 | 165,304 | 2,313 |
| NEW JERSEY | 108,313 | 309,568 | 13,666 | 323,224 | 6,501 |
| NEW MEXICO | 97,766 | 291,102 | 42,405 | 323,307 | 3,953 |
| NEW YORK | 724,019 | 1,318,152 | 51,647 | 1,369,799 | 17,975 |
| NORTH CAROLINA | 367,722 | 457,977 | 19,336 | 477,313 | 7,976 |
| NORTH DAKOTA | 112,822 | 368,492 | 70,414 | 408,906 | 4,723 |
| OHIO | 538,623 | 1,145,774 | 11,927 | 1,157,701 | 23,133 |
| OKLAHOMA | 272,961 | 277,629 | 3,454 | 286,083 | 5,291 |
| OREGON | 317,713 | 1,263,131 | 40,429 | 1,303,620 | 15,695 |
| PENNSYLVANIA | 1,112,964 | 2,296,733 | 121,035 | 2,407,763 | 25,096 |
| RHODE ISLAND | 13,082 | 23,747 | 3,667 | 27,414 | 270 |
| SOUTH CAROLINA | 219,049 | 215,393 | 52,640 | 268,223 | 6,523 |
| SOUTH DAKOTA | 217,394 | 350,394 | 65,354 | 436,748 | 8,724 |
| TENNESSEE | 585,304 | 371,085 | 34,125 | 906,510 | 12,310 |
| TEXAS | 1,040,938 | 1,446,384 | 47,209 | 1,493,573 | 19,491 |
| UTAH | 212,329 | 381,531 | 12,329 | 394,360 | 3,448 |
| VERMONT | 96,318 | 143,566 | 23,773 | 167,341 | 2,797 |
| VIRGINIA | 340,397 | 865,562 | 42,441 | 908,003 | 11,568 |
| WASHINGTON | 252,933 | 824,527 | 7,489 | 842,016 | 12,397 |
| WEST VIRGINIA | 277,973 | 234,314 | 43,664 | 277,973 | 3,356 |
| WISCONSIN | 813,111 | 1,994,660 | 59,150 | 2,053,310 | 31,643 |
| WYOMING | 127,007 | 180,562 | 30,197 | 220,359 | 12,123 |
| TOTALS*** | 15,202,383 | 29,378,672 | 2,042,983 | 31,419,655 | 332,752 |

* A paid license holder is one individual regardless of the number of licenses purchased.
(Data certified by State Fish and Game Departments.)

** Period covered not identified to period covered by certification for all States.

*** Persons who hunted in more than one State are counted in each State where they hunted.

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OF PAID FISHING LICENSE HOLDERS, LICENSE SALES, AND COST TO ANGLERS
FISCAL YEAR 1996

| State | Paid Fishing License Holders* | Resident Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps | Nonresident Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps | Total Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps** | Gross Cost To Angler |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|----------------------|
| ALABAMA | 478,023 | 415,429 | 100,062 | 515,491 | \$6,348,311 |
| ALASKA | 402,913 | 262,694 | 345,525 | 608,219 | 10,744,772 |
| ARIZONA | 444,963 | 425,384 | 193,043 | 618,427 | 6,625,806 |
| ARKANSAS | 578,464 | 481,074 | 239,000 | 720,074 | 8,234,797 |
| CALIFORNIA | 2,320,695 | 2,972,218 | 49,362 | 3,021,580 | 45,101,905 |
| COLORADO | 760,614 | 513,508 | 437,932 | 951,440 | 11,893,625 |
| CONNECTICUT | 177,587 | 168,146 | 9,441 | 177,587 | 2,314,375 |
| DELAWARE | 27,834 | 29,840 | 5,204 | 35,044 | 282,143 |
| FLORIDA | 1,013,960 | 1,029,255 | 451,517 | 1,480,772 | 19,821,119 |
| GEORGIA | 657,999 | 755,227 | 76,265 | 831,492 | 6,823,505 |
| HAWAII | 6,396 | 6,297 | 260 | 6,557 | 20,977 |
| IDAHO | 508,937 | 388,825 | 217,585 | 606,410 | 7,159,158 |
| ILLINOIS | 789,880 | 814,553 | 53,250 | 867,803 | 9,749,621 |
| INDIANA | 604,399 | 614,595 | 748,251 | 1,362,846 | 6,455,133 |
| IOWA | 395,532 | 387,399 | 39,872 | 427,271 | 4,676,035 |
| KANSAS | 295,996 | 234,256 | 61,739 | 295,995 | 4,279,789 |
| KENTUCKY | 576,634 | 490,624 | 121,851 | 612,475 | 7,289,493 |
| LOUISIANA | 662,960 | 604,317 | 58,643 | 662,960 | 7,115,100 |
| MAINE | 256,684 | 179,473 | 89,481 | 268,954 | 7,065,908 |
| MARYLAND | 520,738 | 425,950 | 80,238 | 506,188 | 4,749,191 |
| MASSACHUSETTS | 193,299 | 349,948 | 18,524 | 368,472 | 4,865,026 |
| MICHIGAN | 1,348,107 | 1,580,770 | 129,437 | 1,710,207 | 17,855,100 |
| MINNESOTA | 1,535,122 | 1,261,438 | 273,684 | 1,535,122 | 19,196,571 |
| MISSISSIPPI | 401,918 | 373,338 | 79,938 | 453,276 | 4,705,093 |
| MISSOURI | 994,681 | 1,322,051 | 256,775 | 1,578,826 | 10,341,399 |
| MONTANA | 383,074 | 251,934 | 325,809 | 577,743 | 7,790,102 |
| NEBRASKA | 225,114 | 238,325 | 30,495 | 268,820 | 2,857,764 |
| NEVADA | 159,198 | 211,587 | 44,243 | 255,830 | 2,921,418 |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | 156,985 | 113,340 | 55,794 | 169,134 | 3,518,340 |
| NEW JERSEY | 229,398 | 333,044 | 12,958 | 346,002 | 4,749,260 |
| NEW MEXICO | 265,470 | 231,215 | 93,092 | 324,307 | 3,819,309 |
| NEW YORK | 1,051,781 | 887,195 | 165,543 | 1,052,738 | 13,847,897 |
| NORTH CAROLINA | 558,048 | 593,768 | 48,321 | 642,089 | 10,866,395 |
| NORTH DAKOTA | 126,204 | 128,083 | 16,395 | 144,478 | 1,062,729 |
| OHIO | 1,041,662 | 922,853 | 122,876 | 1,045,729 | 15,942,865 |
| OKLAHOMA | 620,585 | 454,104 | 97,021 | 551,125 | 7,251,341 |
| OREGON | 678,508 | 804,428 | 185,655 | 990,083 | 12,331,690 |
| PENNSYLVANIA | 1,183,432 | 1,800,604 | 143,418 | 1,944,022 | 17,384,435 |
| RHODE ISLAND | 34,774 | 47,974 | 4,730 | 52,704 | 422,020 |
| SOUTH CAROLINA | 502,309 | 507,926 | 80,189 | 588,115 | 5,381,307 |
| SOUTH DAKOTA | 212,132 | 244,956 | 68,646 | 313,602 | 2,624,485 |
| TENNESSEE | 908,807 | 945,213 | 186,981 | 1,132,194 | 10,850,870 |
| TEXAS | 1,699,199 | 2,266,067 | 108,936 | 2,375,003 | 26,420,733 |
| UTAH | 491,014 | 509,849 | 285,729 | 795,578 | 7,739,547 |
| VERMONT | 96,733 | 80,855 | 50,719 | 131,574 | 2,222,100 |
| VIRGINIA | 604,951 | 728,826 | 83,512 | 812,338 | 9,007,367 |
| WASHINGTON | 793,598 | 900,561 | 59,808 | 960,369 | 14,549,673 |
| WEST VIRGINIA | 296,367 | 260,727 | 35,640 | 296,367 | 4,495,729 |
| WISCONSIN | 1,374,809 | 1,117,540 | 320,768 | 1,438,308 | 19,860,942 |
| WYOMING | 287,046 | 122,660 | 310,250 | 432,910 | 5,355,036 |
| TOTALS*** | 29,935,533 | 30,790,243 | 7,074,407 | 37,864,650 | \$446,987,305 |

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