



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### FISHING UP, HUNTING DOWN, PROCEEDS CLIMB, IN LATEST SPORTING STATISTICS FROM STATES

Fishing is up, but hunting is down, according to 1985 license information released today, by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, while revenues derived from the sale of angling and hunting licenses continues to climb to record levels.

Statistics compiled from the individual State fish and wildlife agencies show there were 29,673,190 fishing license holders in the United States in 1985--a healthy increase over 1984's total of 29,015,918 licensed anglers. At the same time, however, hunting license sales dropped to 15,879,572 in 1985, from 16,018,250 in 1984.

Revenue from the sale of State licenses and permits jumped to \$282,342,746 for fishing licenses and \$300,766,158 for hunting licenses in 1985. In 1984, those totals were \$259,678,249 and \$292,344,274, respectively.

"These figures give a rough indication of the amount of angling and hunting that's going on in this country, which is important to those of us who manage fish and wildlife populations," says Frank Dunkle, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a former director of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. "To the States, they mean something even more tangible--they help determine the proportion of Federal aid dollars that each State receives to support fish and wildlife management and research projects."

There are many reasons why license sales fluctuate from year to year--weather, availability of game, economic conditions, and changes in State fishing and hunting regulations can all influence totals each year. For these reasons, trends in participation in angling and hunting must be based on long-term changes rather than shifts from one year to the next. Revenue increases are generally attributed to rises in the cost of sporting licenses by the individual States.

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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 the number of license holders. The Fish and Wildlife Service reimburses the States for up to 75 percent of the cost of approved projects undertaken to benefit their fish and wildlife resources. The Federal Aid funds are derived from excise taxes collected by manufacturers on various types of hunting and fishing equipment, and from a tax on motorboat fuels and import duties on yachts and certain imported fishing equipment. In 1986, these excise taxes paid by sporting enthusiasts yielded more than \$217 million for use by the States.

A State-by-State breakdown of the 1985 license figures is shown in the attached tables.

NUMBER OF PAID HUNTING LICENSE HOLDERS, LICENSE SALES, AND COST TO HUNTERS  
FISCAL YEAR 1985

State	Paid Hunting License Holders*	Resident Hunting Licenses, Tags Permits & Stamps	Nonresident Hunting Licenses Tags, Permits & Stamps	Total Hunting Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps+	Gross Cost To Hunters
ALABAMA	283,389	307,607	30,036	337,643	\$4,327,339
ALASKA	98,957	156,296	23,837	180,133	4,104,645
ARIZONA	196,301	371,232	17,735	388,967	5,478,980
ARKANSAS	295,745	469,968	23,418	493,386	5,937,423
CALIFORNIA	453,677	880,290	4,641	884,931	9,305,575
COLORADO	310,898	375,966	105,061	481,027	22,817,639
CONNECTICUT	85,205	135,731	3,368	139,099	960,331
DELAWARE	27,997	35,655	6,215	41,870	345,616
FLORIDA	257,467	461,059	4,233	465,292	4,658,473
GEORGIA	386,095	883,759	29,174	912,933	5,172,862
HAWAII	11,425	11,371	427	11,798	83,646
IDAHO	249,974	497,496	60,568	558,064	8,569,765
ILLINOIS	325,142	547,657	8,040	555,697	4,893,046
INDIANA	305,100	513,072	8,283	521,355	3,972,440
IOWA	243,852	221,925	21,927	243,852	2,098,925
KANSAS	199,646	226,724	30,420	257,144	4,384,557
KENTUCKY	305,956	447,449	10,117	457,566	3,808,656
LOUISIANA	396,490	387,344	9,146	396,490	2,829,795
MAINE	210,078	205,420	37,342	242,762	4,636,641
MARYLAND	171,214	340,868	61,035	401,903	3,184,723
MASSACHUSETTS	113,769	192,443	3,017	195,460	1,508,567
MICHIGAN	900,266	1,320,315	21,932	1,342,247	12,425,871
MINNESOTA	450,556	957,927	8,221	966,148	11,742,879
MISSISSIPPI	295,800	265,800	30,000	295,800	3,438,005
MISSOURI	477,452	893,056	29,280	922,336	7,072,533
MONTANA	254,255	809,096	196,368	1,005,464	9,618,696
NEBRASKA	146,709	298,734	30,336	329,070	3,940,400
NEVADA	56,214	103,274	7,481	110,755	1,786,378
NEW HAMPSHIRE	89,990	104,148	16,231	120,379	1,573,555
NEW JERSEY	132,978	289,652	7,263	296,915	3,954,730
NEW MEXICO	143,656	140,308	16,140	156,448	4,781,944
NEW YORK	803,112	1,289,151	52,034	1,341,185	12,927,238
NORTH CAROLINA	334,169	433,810	12,870	446,680	4,987,560
NORTH DAKOTA	95,813	353,948	32,131	386,079	2,604,765
OHIO	472,426	795,631	9,080	804,711	6,574,719
OKLAHOMA	269,008	398,341	8,305	406,646	4,531,374
OREGON	353,554	956,607	30,136	986,743	9,434,577
PENNSYLVANIA	1,222,108	2,065,565	100,862	2,166,427	16,639,057
RHOJE ISLAND	13,310	17,024	970	17,994	34,830
SOUTH CAROLINA	201,602	321,808	44,403	366,211	3,430,007
SOUTH DAKOTA	164,347	363,640	124,845	488,485	5,162,294
TENNESSEE	592,693	854,204	12,137	866,341	6,208,146
TEXAS	1,100,550	1,285,973	23,418	1,309,391	9,061,804
UTAH	230,075	294,666	23,824	318,490	6,686,319
VERMONT	143,441	118,333	25,108	143,441	2,300,693
VIRGINIA	457,990	799,253	69,309	868,562	6,148,065
WASHINGTON	298,193	692,878	5,562	698,440	8,643,586
WEST VIRGINIA	319,659	486,136	75,030	561,166	5,179,180
WISCONSIN	722,498	1,481,762	29,119	1,510,881	15,363,100
WYOMING	176,760	216,185	90,314	306,499	11,413,507
TOTALS**	15,879,572	26,076,557	1,630,749	27,707,306	\$300,766,158

\* A paid license holder is one individual regardless of the number of licenses he may purchase.  
Data certified by State Fish and Game Departments.  
+ Period covered not identical to period covered by certification for all States.  
\*\* 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 1985

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 Fishermen
ALABAMA	606,622	529,425	108,281	637,706	\$4,158,572
ALASKA	287,662	179,843	128,831	308,674	3,909,553
ARIZONA	498,799	482,334	153,884	636,218	4,521,546
ARKANSAS	597,156	532,879	173,388	706,267	6,263,194
CALIFORNIA	2,616,121	3,739,965	75,727	3,815,692	33,881,893
COLORADO	720,163	509,543	278,238	787,781	7,885,871
CONNECTICUT	198,263	192,878	5,385	198,263	1,467,848
DELAWARE	18,454	20,134	3,394	23,528	106,703
FLORIDA	823,333	621,258	210,998	832,256	5,607,158
GEORGIA	734,249	844,065	47,721	891,786	4,607,104
HAWAII	6,907	6,949	182	7,131	22,199
IDAHO	444,609	316,175	166,865	483,040	4,099,961
ILLINOIS	888,827	970,535	55,727	1,026,262	6,591,584
INDIANA	650,711	602,969	116,285	719,254	4,278,389
IOWA	460,366	418,366	42,000	460,366	3,014,196
KANSAS	299,758	270,061	29,697	299,758	3,687,716
KENTUCKY	627,250	541,156	132,555	673,711	4,475,973
LOUISIANA	591,296	543,610	47,686	591,296	1,650,034
MAINE	248,426	179,438	87,588	267,026	3,788,692
MARYLAND	238,360	323,567	31,358	354,925	2,513,162
MASSACHUSETTS	234,675	250,295	9,034	259,329	2,691,445
MICHIGAN	1,414,914	1,386,670	342,047	1,728,717	13,023,237
MINNESOTA	1,486,027	1,324,335	270,757	1,595,092	15,071,555
MISSISSIPPI	475,388	398,658	76,730	475,388	3,093,151
MISSOURI	972,086	1,508,164	120,729	1,628,893	7,352,567
MONTANA	336,134	321,785	286,405	608,190	5,986,528
NEBRASKA	229,295	250,072	32,718	282,790	2,397,429
NEVADA	186,090	112,501	66,516	179,017	1,760,060
NEW HAMPSHIRE	164,323	107,798	57,193	164,991	1,994,299
NEW JERSEY	213,413	333,531	8,827	342,358	3,156,775
NEW MEXICO	249,274	179,669	79,841	259,510	3,122,430
NEW YORK	1,023,373	927,988	165,384	1,093,372	9,015,699
NORTH CAROLINA	452,773	493,866	52,523	546,389	5,561,862
NORTH DAKOTA	169,178	151,377	18,104	169,481	1,038,519
OHIO	1,189,217	1,113,118	76,099	1,189,217	8,534,714
OKLAHOMA	632,673	539,655	85,262	624,917	5,664,475
OREGON	685,429	928,989	91,435	1,020,424	9,712,103
PENNSYLVANIA	1,036,430	973,893	62,737	1,036,430	12,341,465
RHODE ISLAND	37,260	34,583	2,677	37,260	228,179
SOUTH CAROLINA	421,784	408,350	76,728	485,078	3,435,152
SOUTH DAKOTA	180,305	237,225	47,231	284,456	1,574,967
TENNESSEE	761,210	784,585	181,793	966,378	5,377,671
TEXAS	1,652,893	1,607,821	74,680	1,682,501	11,257,564
UTAH	395,606	391,088	144,479	535,567	5,399,196
VERMONT	161,758	105,973	55,785	161,758	1,839,145
VIRGINIA	567,299	748,906	83,358	832,264	4,336,611
WASHINGTON	824,618	1,072,707	80,000	1,152,707	9,756,461
WEST VIRGINIA	277,597	491,988	71,337	563,325	2,927,090
WISCONSIN	1,536,412	1,363,107	393,619	1,756,726	14,833,200
WYOMING	148,424	125,563	166,529	292,092	3,327,813
<b>TOTALS**</b>	<b>29,673,190</b>	<b>30,499,210</b>	<b>5,176,347</b>	<b>35,675,557</b>	<b>\$282,342,746</b>

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