

LIGHT GEESE (regular season)

Information provided in this section pertains only to the regular light goose season in South Dakota. The next section reports on the Spring Conservation Order.

The 2022 light goose season was open from 24 September - 6 January statewide and included snow, blue, and Ross' geese and all other geese except Canada geese, brant and white-fronted geese. The daily bag was 50 geese with an unlimited season possession limit. To hunt geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license plus a migratory bird certification. All hunters aged 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp.

In 2022, there were an estimated 4,033 hunters who hunted at least one day for light geese during the regular season (3,182 residents, 852 nonresidents). The projected harvest was 83,023 light geese (72,756 by residents, 10,267 by nonresidents).

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), those respondents who reported hunting at least one day for light geese reported an average rating of 5.06 for residents and 5.64 for nonresidents. The average days hunted by all hunters (5.83 residents, 4.01 for nonresidents) projects to a total of 21,980 recreation days for the season.

Comparison of the 2013 - 2022 regular season light goose harvests

Year	Residents					Nonresidents				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2013	3,747	46,871	5.25	12.51	5.01	641	6,451	4.85	10.06	5.48
2014	3,572	49,460	5.34	13.85	4.92	514	4,355	4.58	8.47	5.02
2015	3,096	37,266	5.66	12.04	4.78	519	3,492	4.71	6.72	4.83
2016	3,206	39,841	5.41	12.43	4.85	515	5,263	5.40	10.22	4.77
2017	4,159	70,772	6.05	17.02	5.09	1,013	13,972	4.27	13.80	5.22
2018	3,099	39,624	5.40	12.79	4.93	883	6,644	4.39	7.53	4.85
2019	3,060	41,524	4.85	13.57	5.18	774	5,714	4.61	7.38	5.55
2020	3,415	43,499	5.61	12.74	5.17	761	5,473	3.92	7.20	5.27
2021	2,799	50,282	5.51	17.97	5.26	788	8,980	4.15	11.40	5.38
2022	3,182	72,756	5.83	22.87	5.06	852	10,267	4.01	12.05	5.64

REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2022

Revised: 1 June 2023

	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT								NR Totals	Resident Total	
	00A	00B	11A	00V	00X	00Y	00Z	YW1			
Regular Season:											
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	14	294		22	4	19	13			366	445
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	65	1,269		55	19	49	33			1,490	2,596
Average Days Hunted Light Geese	4.64	4.32		2.50	4.75	2.58	2.54			4.01	5.83
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	30	4,079		72	94	102	116			4,493	10,176
Average Light Goose Bag for Season	2.14	13.87		3.27	23.50	5.37	8.92			12.05	22.87
Projected Days Light Goose Hunting	148	2,820	0	157	61	133	99			3,419	18,561
Projected No. Light Goose Hunters	32	653	0	63	13	52	39			852	3,182
Projected Light Goose Bag	69	9,065	0	206	302	277	349			10,267	72,756
TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST REGULAR SEASON = 83,023											
Light Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	5.79	5.67		5.64	5.25	5.21	5.62			5.64	5.06

1 Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

STATEWIDE REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST, 1980-2022

