

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 2023 light goose season was open from 30 September -12 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 2023, there were an estimated 5,005 hunters who hunted at least one day for light geese during the regular season (3,781 residents, 1,224 nonresidents). The projected harvest was 92,740 light geese (74,048 by residents, 18,692 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 5.13 for residents and 5.58 for nonresidents. The average days hunted by all hunters (5.64 residents, 3.97 for nonresidents) projects to a total of 26,180 recreation days for the season.

Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 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
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
2023	3,781	74,048	5.64	19.58	5.13	1,224	18,692	3.97	15.27	5.58

REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2023										
<i>Revised: 30 May 2024</i>										
	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT							NR Totals	Resident Total	
	00A	00B	11A	00V	00X	00Y	00Z			YW1
Regular Season:										
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	19	397	0	62	8	15	14	515	475	
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	116	1,685	0	165	34	33	39	2,072	2,678	
Average Days Hunted Light Geese	6.11	4.24		2.66	4.25	2.20	2.79	3.97	5.64	
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	120	6,466	0	988	115	69	127	7,885	9,302	
Average Light Goose Bag for Season	6.32	16.29		15.94	14.38	4.60	9.07	15.27	19.58	
Projected Days Light Goose Hunting	264	3,817	0	478	118	79	106	4,862	21,318	
Projected No. Light Goose Hunters	43	899	0	179	28	36	38	1,224	3,781	
Projected Light Goose Bag	273	14,648	0	2,859	399	166	346	18,692	74,048	
TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST REGULAR SEASON = 92,740										
Light Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	4.42	5.71		5.26	5.00	5.00	5.79	5.58	5.13	

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

STATEWIDE REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST, 1980-2023

