

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 2021 light goose season was open from 25 September - 7 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, senior or junior 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 2021, there were an estimated 3,587 hunters who hunted at least one day for light geese during the regular season (2,799 residents, 788 nonresidents). The projected harvest was 59,262 light geese (50,282 by residents, 8,980 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 5.26 for residents and 5.38 for nonresidents. The average days hunted by all hunters (5.51 residents, 4.15 for nonresidents) projects to a total of 18,682 recreation days for the season.

Comparison of the 2012 - 2021 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
2012	4,113	49,788	5.66	12.10	5.19	726	5,383	4.81	7.41	5.49
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

REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2021

Revised: 31 May 2022

	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT							NR Totals	Resident Total
	00A	00B	11A	00V	00X	00Y	00Z		
Regular Season:									
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	16	271	1	40	7	17	8	360	404
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	137	1,191	2	124	12	43	25	1,534	2,225
Average Days Hunted Light Geese	8.56	4.39		3.10	1.71	2.53	3.13	4.15	5.51
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	73	3,285	1	511	2	248	51	4,171	7,258
Average Light Goose Bag for Season	4.56	12.12		12.78	0.29	14.59	6.38	11.40	17.97
Projected Days Light Goose Hunting	281	2,435	0	324	49	109	70	3,268	15,414
Projected No. Light Goose Hunters	33	554	2	104	29	43	22	788	2,799
Projected Light Goose Bag	150	6,717	0	1,335	8	628	142	8,980	50,282
TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST REGULAR SEASON = 59,262									
Light Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	4.93	5.53	6.00	4.78	4.29	4.94	6.00	5.38	5.26

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

STATEWIDE REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST, 1980-2021

