

# **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 2019 light goose season was open from 28 September - 10 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. All hunters age 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp.

In 2019, there were an estimated 3,834 hunters who hunted at least one day for light geese during the regular season (3,060 residents, 774 nonresidents). From survey responses, there was a projected harvest of 47,238 light geese (41,524 by residents, 5,714 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 5.18 for residents and 5.55 for nonresidents. The average days hunted by all hunters (4.85 residents, 4.61 for nonresidents) projected to a total of 18,412 recreation days for the season.

## Comparison of the 2010 - 2019 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
2010	4,031	33,739	5.55	8.37	5.18	551	2,520	5.08	4.57	5.64
2011	3,614	36,419	3.92	10.08	5.37	617	4,409	4.78	7.15	5.55
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

<b>LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2019</b>										
<i>Revised: 15 June 2020</i>										
	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT							NR Totals	Resident Total	
	00A	00B	11A	00V	00X	00Y	00Z			YW1
<b>Regular Season:</b>										
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	26	230	10	38	8	22	10	344	443	
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	281	1,080	24	112	16	60	24	1,597	2,149	
<b>Average Days Hunted Light Geese</b>	<b>10.81</b>	<b>4.70</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>2.95</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>4.61</b>	<b>4.85</b>	
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	259	1,782	13	269	14	157	13	2,507	6,011	
<b>Average Light Goose Bag for Season</b>	<b>9.96</b>	<b>7.75</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>7.08</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>7.14</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>7.38</b>	<b>13.57</b>	
<b>Projected Days Light Goose Hunting</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>2,804</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3,567</b>	<b>14,845</b>	
<b>Projected No. Light Goose Hunters</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>3,060</b>	
<b>Projected Light Goose Bag</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>4,626</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5,714</b>	<b>41,524</b>	
<b>TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST REGULAR SEASON = 47,238</b>										
<b>Light Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*</b>	5.29	5.60	4.33	5.58	4.13	5.68	5.90	5.55	5.18	

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

## STATEWIDE REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST, 1980-2019

