

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 2020 light goose season was open from 26 September - 8 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 2020, there were an estimated 4,176 hunters who hunted at least one day for light geese during the regular season (3,415 residents, 761 nonresidents). The projected harvest was 48,972 light geese (43,499 by residents, 5,473 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 5.17 for residents and 5.27 for nonresidents. The average days hunted by all hunters (5.61 residents, 3.92 for nonresidents) projects to a total of 22,141 recreation days for the season.

Comparison of the 2011 - 2020 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
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
2020	3,415	43,499	5.61	12.74	5.17	761	5,473	3.92	7.20	5.27

REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2020

Revised: 25 May 2021

	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT							NR Totals	Resident Total
	00A	00B	11A	00V	00X	00Y	00Z		
Regular Season:									
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	6	341	0	30	2	17	12	408	492
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	38	1,356	0	120	5	49	36	1,604	2,760
Average Days Hunted Light Geese	6.33	3.98		4.00	2.50	2.88	3.00	3.92	5.61
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	4	2,383	0	331	2	78	117	2,915	6,267
Average Light Goose Bag for Season	0.67	6.99		11.03	1.00	4.59	9.75	7.20	12.74
Projected Days Light Goose Hunting	71	2,459	0	268	13	96	75	2,984	19,157
Projected No. Light Goose Hunters	11	618	0	67	5	33	25	761	3,415
Projected Light Goose Bag	8	4,322	0	740	5	154	245	5,473	43,499
TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST REGULAR SEASON = 48,972									
Light Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	4.33	5.29		5.00	5.50	5.41	5.42	5.27	5.17

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

STATEWIDE REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST, 1980-2020

