

# **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 2024 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 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 2024, there were an estimated 3,401 hunters who hunted at least one day for light geese during the regular season (2,558 residents, 844 nonresidents). The projected harvest was 68,370 light geese (57,814 by residents, 10,556 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 4.79 for residents and 5.11 for nonresidents. The average days hunted by all hunters (6.35 residents, 4.05 for nonresidents) projects to a total of 19,964 recreation days for the season.

## Comparison of the 2015 - 2024 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
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
2024	2,558	57,814	6.35	22.60	4.79	844	10,556	4.05	12.51	5.11

REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2024										Resident Total	
Revised: 27 May 2025											
	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT								NR Totals		
	00A	00B	11A	00V	00X	00Y	00Z	YW1			
Regular Season:											
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	26	258	0	30	7	15	13		349	334	
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	152	1,123	0	73	17	47	35		1,447	2,121	
Average Days Hunted Light Geese	5.85	4.35		2.43	2.43	3.13	2.69		4.05	6.35	
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	469	3,587	0	231	26	31	134		4,478	7,549	
Average Light Goose Bag for Season	18.04	13.90		7.70	3.71	2.07	10.31		12.51	22.60	
Projected Days Light Goose Hunting	354	2,552	0	234	59	115	106		3,420	16,244	
Projected No. Light Goose Hunters	61	586	0	96	24	37	39		844	2,558	
Projected Light Goose Bag	1,091	8,150	0	742	90	76	406		10,556	57,814	
TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST REGULAR SEASON = 68,370											
Light Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	4.96	5.19		4.43	5.71	4.47	5.91		5.11	4.79	
*1* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied											

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

# STATEWIDE REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST, 1980-2024

