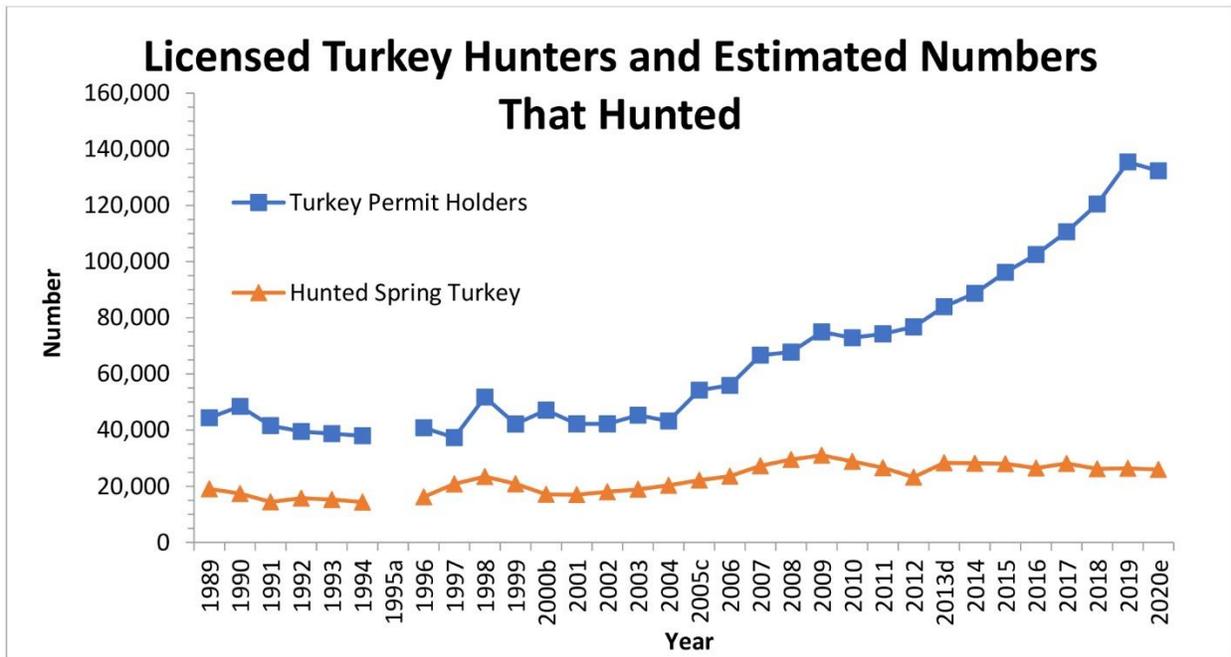


Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

2020 Annual Wild Turkey Hunting Status Report

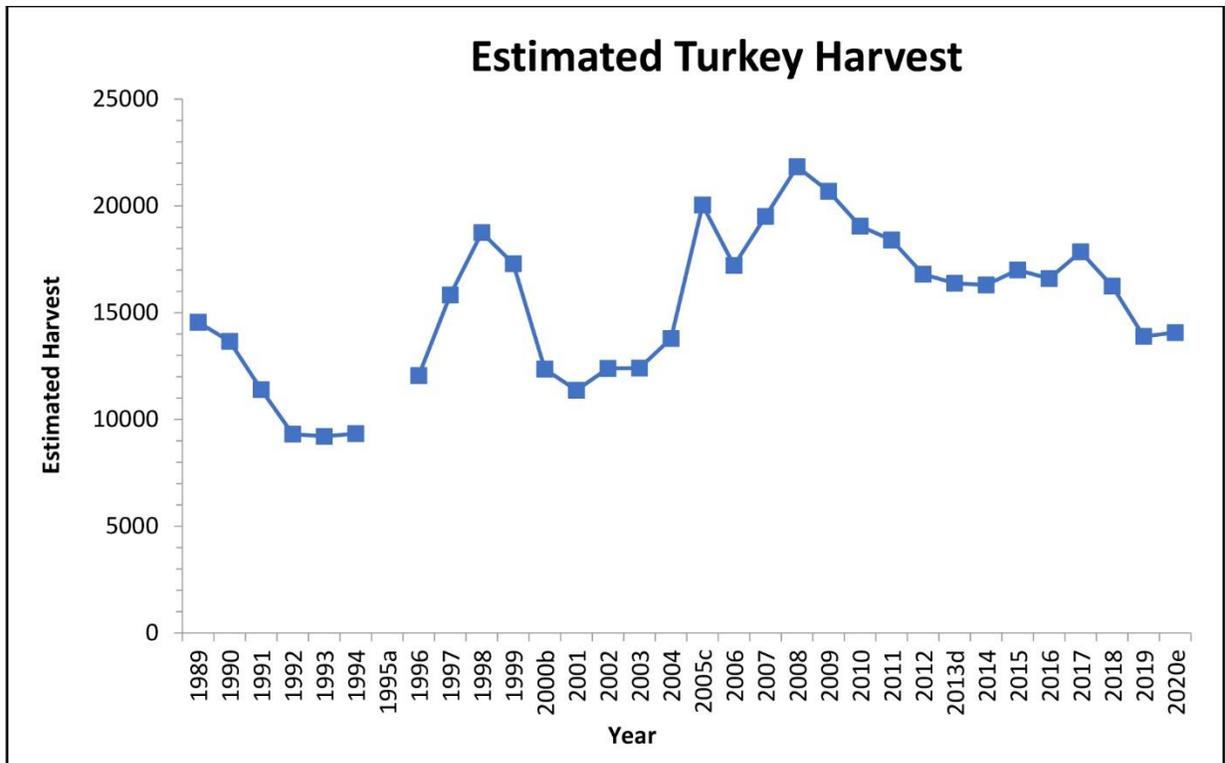
Spring Turkey Season

For the past 30 years, spring turkey harvest estimates were determined by responses from an annual spring turkey hunter mail survey. In 2020, a phone survey conducted by Responsive Management replaced the mail survey. The 2020 spring turkey hunter survey attempted to contact 14,644 license holders that were eligible to hunt turkeys (11% of 132,355 eligible turkey license holders). Based on 4,132 valid responses (28.2% response rate is comparable to similar surveys), it was estimated that 25,993 (20.9%) individuals licensed to hunt turkeys participated in the 2020 spring turkey season (Figure 1).



^a No survey was conducted, ^b Survey instrument was substantially changed from prior years, ^c The vendor conducted survey using scan forms that resulted in significant data errors, ^d Analysis approach modified to use weighted means of 7 license type categories rather than all data as equal weight, ^e Survey approach modified from a mail survey to a phone survey

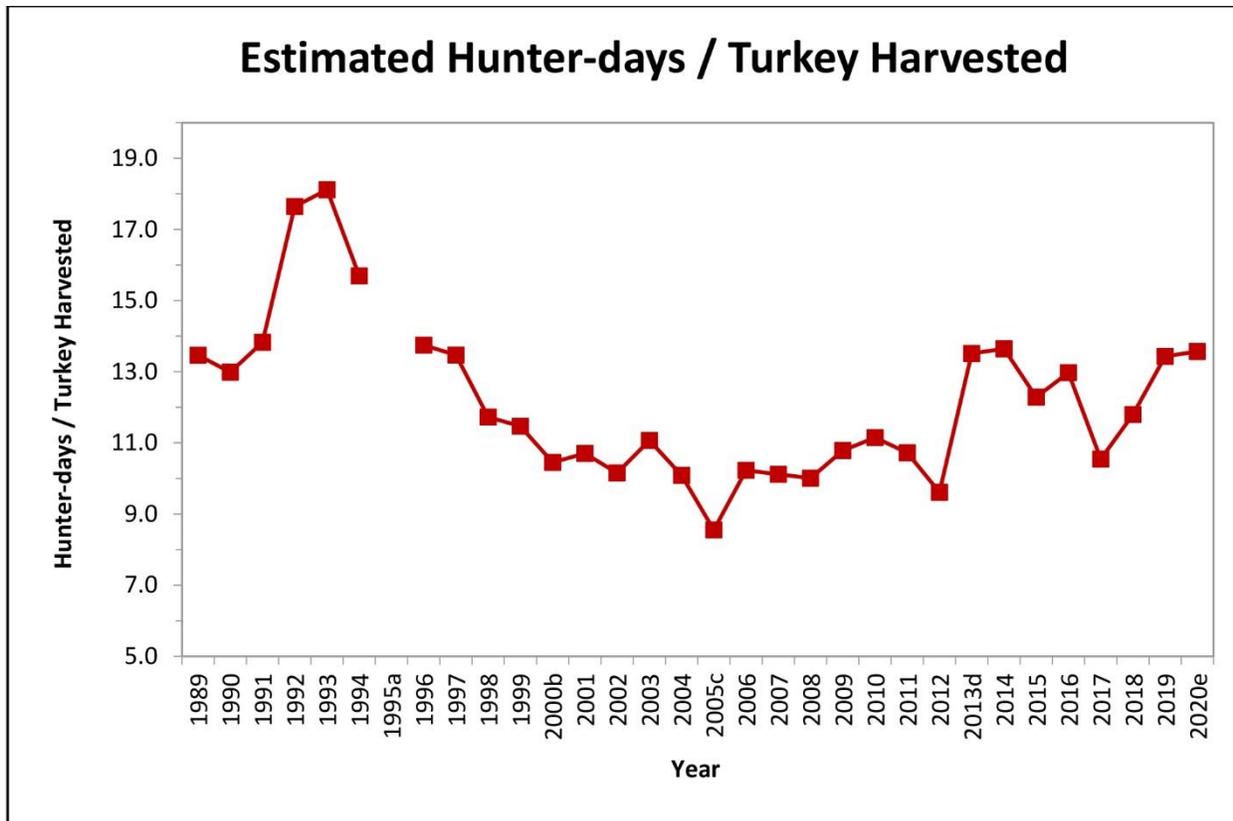
Figure 1. Turkey permit holders and estimated number of permits holders who hunted during the spring turkey season, 1989-2020.



^a No survey was conducted, ^b Survey instrument was substantially changed from prior years, ^c The vendor conducted survey using scan forms that resulted in significant data errors, ^d Analysis approach modified to use weighted means of 7 license type categories rather than all data as equal weight, ^e Survey approach modified from a mail survey to a phone survey

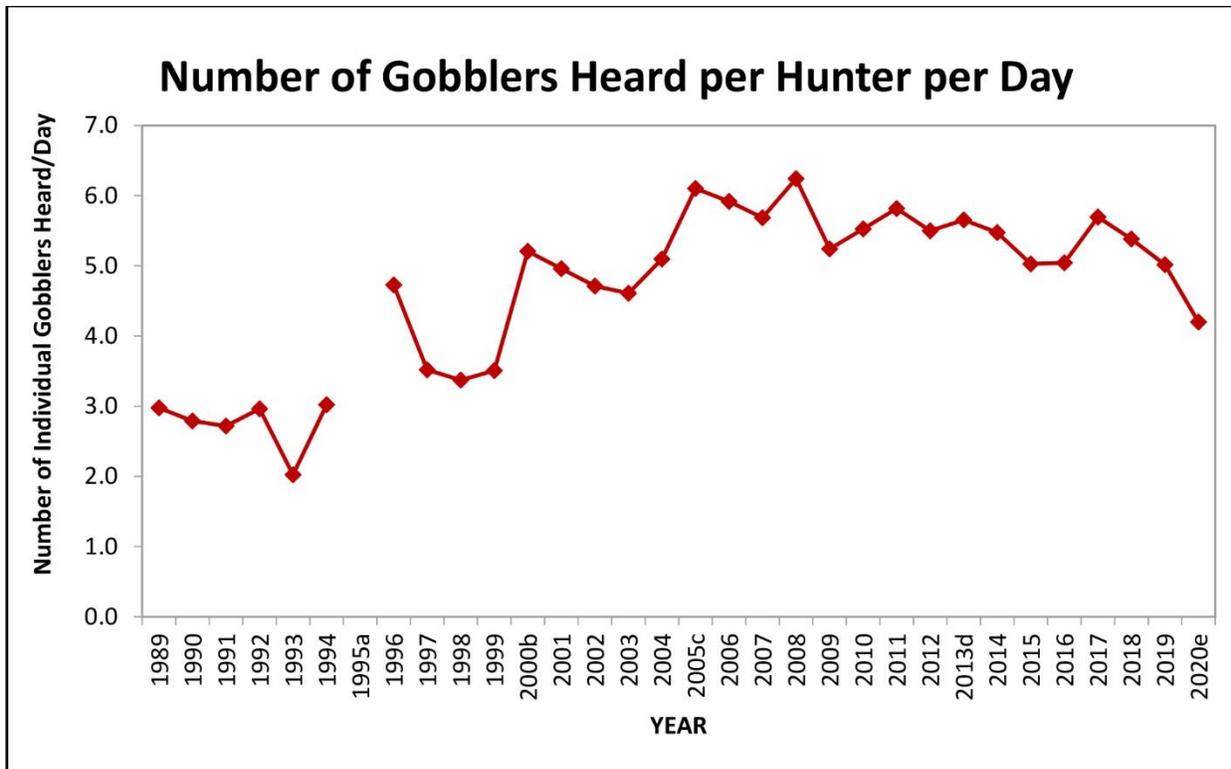
Figure 2. Spring harvest estimates as determined by the annual spring turkey hunter survey, 1989 - 2020.

Statewide spring harvest for 2020 was estimated to be 14,071 birds indicating that the turkey harvest in 2020 was similar to 2019.



^a No survey was conducted, ^b Survey instrument was substantially changed from prior years, ^c The vendor conducted survey using scan forms that resulted in significant data errors, ^d Analysis approach modified to use weighted means of 7 license type categories rather than all data as equal weight, ^e Survey approach modified from a mail survey to a phone survey

Figure 3. Hunter days per turkey harvested as determined by the annual spring turkey hunter survey, 1989-2020.



^a No survey was conducted, ^b Survey instrument was substantially changed from prior years, ^c The vendor conducted survey using scan forms that resulted in significant data errors, ^d Analysis approach modified to use weighted means of 7 license type categories rather than all data as equal weight, ^e Survey approach modified from a mail survey to a phone survey

Figure 4. Average number of individual gobblers heard per hunter on a typical day as determined by the annual spring turkey hunter survey, 1989-2020.

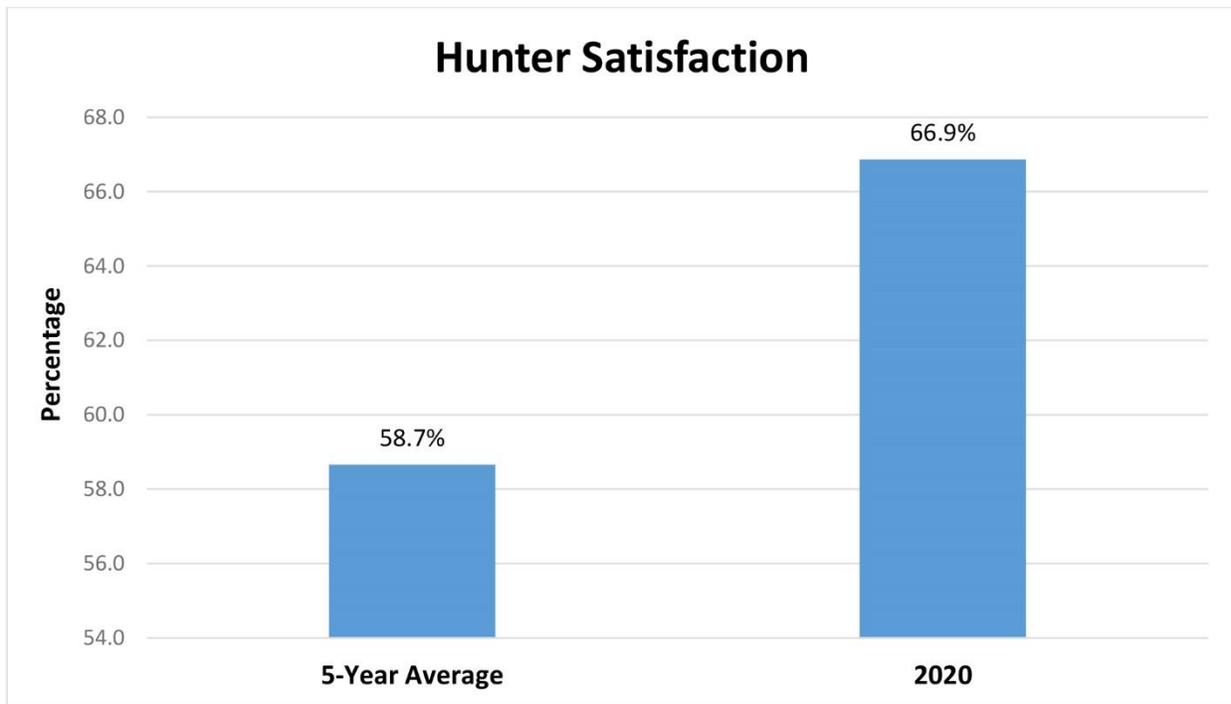


Figure 5: The percentage of hunters who rated their hunting experience as excellent or good for 2020 and the 2014-19, 5-year average, as determined by the annual spring turkey hunter survey.

The turkey harvest on some wildlife management areas (WMAs) is monitored through staffed check stations. In 2020, check stations were not staffed after March 20, 2020, due to the FWC’s response to COVID-19. Check stations located south of State Route 70 were able to record turkeys harvested the first 15 days of the 37-day spring season. Check stations located north of State Route 70 reported harvested turkeys only on March 20 or not at all. Table 1 lists the WMAs with the highest harvests based on incomplete 2020 check station data and do not include all WMAs open to turkey hunting.

Table 1. The top ten quota WMAs for spring turkey harvest during the 2020 Spring Turkey season. 2020 WMA check station data is incomplete because check stations were not staffed after March 20, 2020, due to the FWC’s response to COVID-19.

WMA	Spring Turkey Harvest
Camp Blanding	40
Okaloacoochee Slough	25
J. W. Corbett	20
Dinner Island	20
Fisheating Creek Special Opportunity Hunt	15
Big Cypress	13
Babcock Ranch Preserve	11
Crew	8

WMA	Spring Turkey Harvest
Fisheating Creek-East	8
Herky Huffman/ Bull Creek	6

Table 3. The yearly average live weight (lbs.), beard length (inches), and spur lengths (inches) for turkeys harvested on WMAs during spring turkey season during 2016-2020.

Year	Live Weight	Beard Length	Right Spur	Left Spur
2016	15.80	8.32	0.88	0.87
2017	16.67	9.11	1.02	0.99
2018	16.24	8.36	0.96	0.98
2019	15.81	8.83	0.92	0.91
2020	16.37	8.50	1.00	0.97
5 Year Average	16.18	8.62	0.95	0.95