

2010 Survey of Louisiana Waterfowl Hunters

Section I. Waterfowl Harvest, Days Afield, and Hunting Methods. Please answer the following questions for the past hunting season (September 2009 - February 2010). "Waterfowl" refers to ducks or geese. Include only the waterfowl *you* harvested and days *you* hunted in Louisiana. Whether you hunted in the morning, in the afternoon, or both, count only as one day.

1. Did you hunt waterfowl in Louisiana during the 2009-2010 season? (Please mark one.)

- Yes
- No, I did not hunt last year but have hunted waterfowl in the past 5 years
(Please proceed to Section III, Question 1 on page 6)
- No, I did not hunt waterfowl in the past 5 years
(Please return survey in the enclosed postage paid envelope. Thank you)

2. In which parish did you hunt waterfowl most often during the 2009-2010 season?

_____ Parish

3. How many ducks and/or geese did you shoot and retrieve in Louisiana during the 2009-2010 season? (Use your best estimate - write "0" if none.)

_____ Ducks (all species) _____ Geese (all species)

4. How many days did you bag your daily limit of either ducks or geese during the 2009-2010 season? (Use your best estimate - write "0" if none.)

_____ Days for ducks _____ Days for geese

5. How many days did you hunt in each Migratory Waterfowl Zone (or out-of-state) during the 2009-2010 season? (Use your best estimate - write "0" if none.)

_____ Days hunted East Zone
_____ Days hunted West Zone
_____ Days hunted Out-of-State
(please identify state(s) or province/country) _____

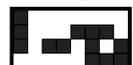


6. How many days did you hunt with a commercial waterfowl guide during the 2009-2010 season? (Use your best estimate - write "0" if none.)

_____ Days hunted with a guide In Louisiana _____ Days hunted with a guide Out-of-State

7. Did you lease a place to hunt waterfowl during the 2009-2010 season -- individually or as a member of a group or club? (Please mark the appropriate boxes and fill in the blank.)

- No (If no, please proceed to question 8.)
- Yes (If yes, please answer one of the questions below.)
- I leased hunting rights for a specific property at a cost of about \$ _____ per acre
- I leased hunting rights for a specific blind at a cost of about \$ _____ per blind



8. How many days did you hunt waterfowl (in Louisiana) on each of the following types of property during the 2009-2010 season? (Use your best estimate - write "0" if none.)

- _____ Property owned by you or your family
- _____ Property leased by you or your family
- _____ Property owned or leased by a group or club in which you are a member
- _____ Property owned or leased by someone else where you were a guest
- _____ A Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
- _____ A National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)
- _____ Other public land

9. What percentage of the time do you hunt waterfowl....(Responses should total to 100%)

- _____ % Alone (party of 1)
- _____ % With one other hunter (party of 2)
- _____ % In a party of 3 or more

10. What percentage of time do you use the following blinds or camouflage when hunting waterfowl? (Responses should total 100%)

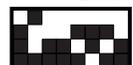
- _____ % Stand or wade in natural vegetation (no blind)
- _____ % Layout in a field
- _____ % A boat or floating blind
- _____ % A portable or temporary blind
- _____ % A permanent blind
- _____ % Other (please describe) _____

11. What type of waterfowl habitat do you hunt most often? (Please rank up to three top choices, 1 = most.)

- _____ Coastal marsh
- _____ Flooded swamp, timber, or green tree impoundment
- _____ Open freshwater habitat (bayou, stream, river, pond or lake)
- _____ Managed moist-soil impoundment
- _____ Flooded agricultural field (rice, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, wheat, etc.)
- _____ Dry agricultural field (rice, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, wheat, etc.)
- _____ Other (please describe) _____

12. What is your favorite waterfowl to hunt? (Please rank up to three top choices, 1 = favorite.)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| _____ Any puddle duck | _____ Any diving duck | _____ Any geese |
| _____ Mallards | _____ Canvasback | _____ Snow geese (incl. blue phase) |
| _____ Pintail | _____ Scaup | _____ Speckled-belly (white-fronted geese) |
| _____ Teal | _____ Redheads | _____ Canada geese |
| _____ Gadwall | _____ Ring-necked ducks | _____ Other (list) _____ |
| _____ Wood ducks | | _____ Whatever is plentiful |
| _____ Mottled ducks | | |

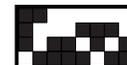


13. How important are each of the following issues in deciding the number of days that you will hunt waterfowl? (Please mark one category for each issue.)

Issue	Not At All Important	Slightly Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Free time to hunt	<input type="radio"/>				
Cost of travel	<input type="radio"/>				
Cost of hunting licenses	<input type="radio"/>				
Cost of guide fees	<input type="radio"/>				
Cost of hunting leases	<input type="radio"/>				
Permission to hunt private property	<input type="radio"/>				
Distance to your hunting area	<input type="radio"/>				
Membership in lease or club	<input type="radio"/>				
Length of hunting season	<input type="radio"/>				
Size of bag limit	<input type="radio"/>				
Hunter dispersion/crowding	<input type="radio"/>				
Access to a boat, ATV, or UTV	<input type="radio"/>				
Availability of commercial guides	<input type="radio"/>				
Availability of hunting partners	<input type="radio"/>				
National forecast of # of ducks	<input type="radio"/>				
Number of ducks seen locally	<input type="radio"/>				
Weather conditions	<input type="radio"/>				
Success of your last hunt	<input type="radio"/>				
Your personal health & fitness	<input type="radio"/>				

14. Which of the following, if any, do you currently own and use while waterfowl hunting? (Please mark all that apply.)

- Boat and motor (inboard, outboard or airboat)
- Pirogue, canoe, or john boat (unpowered)
- ATV (four-wheeler) or UTV
- None of the above



15. During the 2009-2010 hunting season, did you hunt during any of the following? (Please mark all that apply.)

- Early Teal Season
- Youth Waterfowl Hunt (as a mentor or guide)
- Extended conservation order season for snow geese

16. During the 2009-2010 hunting season, did you take someone on a "first time" duck or goose hunt? (Please mark all that apply.)

- Yes, one or more youth
- Yes, one or more adults
- No

17. Did you use a hunting retriever (dog) that you or a member of your family owns during the 2009-2010 duck season? (Please mark one.)

- Yes
- No

18. Over the past 5 years, how has the number of days that you hunted waterfowl changed? (Please mark one.)

- Slightly increased
- Greatly increased
- No change
- Slightly decreased
- Greatly decreased
- Did not hunt five years ago

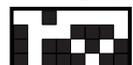
19. How often do you use a battery-operated spinning wing duck or goose decoy? (Please mark one.)

- Always
- Usually
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

Section II. Hunter Satisfaction

1. How would you rate the overall quality of your waterfowl hunting in Louisiana during the 2009-2010 season? (Please mark one.)

- Very good
- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Very Poor



2. Please tell us how important each of the following experiences was to your waterfowl hunting satisfaction during the 2009-2010 season. (Please mark one category for each experience.)

Experience	Not At All Important	Slightly Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
A large daily bag limit	<input type="radio"/>				
Access to a lot of different hunting areas	<input type="radio"/>				
Bagging ducks and geese	<input type="radio"/>				
Being on my own	<input type="radio"/>				
Hunting with friends	<input type="radio"/>				
Developing my skill and abilities	<input type="radio"/>				
Hunting with family	<input type="radio"/>				
Enjoying nature and the outdoors	<input type="radio"/>				
Getting away from crowds of people	<input type="radio"/>				
Getting food for my family	<input type="radio"/>				
Getting information about hunting seasons and conditions from LDWF or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	<input type="radio"/>				
Getting my limit	<input type="radio"/>				
Good behavior among other waterfowl hunters	<input type="radio"/>				
A long duck season	<input type="radio"/>				
Hunting areas open to the public	<input type="radio"/>				
Hunting with a dog	<input type="radio"/>				
Reducing tension and stress	<input type="radio"/>				
Seeing lots of ducks and geese	<input type="radio"/>				
Sharing my hunting skills and knowledge	<input type="radio"/>				
Thinking about personal values	<input type="radio"/>				
Using my hunting equipment (decoys, boats, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>				



3. If you hunted on a LDWF Wildlife Management Area (WMA) during the 2009-2010 season, on which WMA did you hunt most frequently? If you did not hunt on a WMA, please check here and go to section III on page 6.

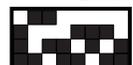
4. Please rate your satisfaction with your experience on the WMA you identified in question 3 above. (Please mark one category for each WMA experience.)

WMA Experience	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Not Sure	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Not Applicable
Availability of WMA maps	<input type="radio"/>					
Quality of WMA maps	<input type="radio"/>					
Parking facilities	<input type="radio"/>					
Boat launch facilities	<input type="radio"/>					
Availability of duck blinds	<input type="radio"/>					
Water level management	<input type="radio"/>					
Food for waterfowl	<input type="radio"/>					
Hunter dispersion/crowding	<input type="radio"/>					
Number of waterfowl you saw	<input type="radio"/>					
Number of opportunities to shoot	<input type="radio"/>					
Number of waterfowl you harvested	<input type="radio"/>					
Availability of LDWF personnel	<input type="radio"/>					
WMA regulations	<input type="radio"/>					
Enforcement of WMA regulations	<input type="radio"/>					
Overall experience at WMA	<input type="radio"/>					

Section III. Preference for Changes in Statewide Waterfowl Regulations

1. The current federal framework limits daily harvest of specific species. Current bag limits of 6 ducks include sub-limits of 4 mallards (no more than 2 hens), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 1 mottled duck, 1 black duck, 1 canvasback, and 1 pintail. Given a choice, which would you prefer? (Please mark one.)

- A 60-day season, 6 duck limit with current species sub-limits
- A 40-day season, 4 duck limit with no species sub-limits
- No opinion

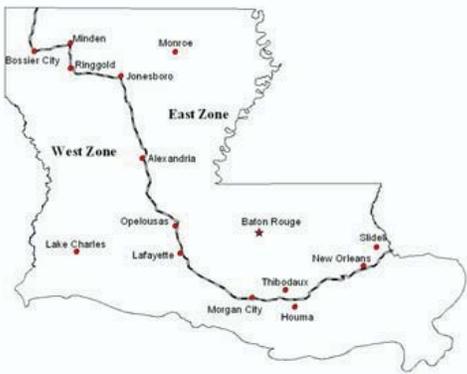


2. Using the scale below, please indicate whether you support or oppose the following policy actions. (Please mark one category for each potential policy action.)

Potential Policy Action	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neutral	Support	Strongly Support	No Opinion
Opening the season on whistling ducks during early teal season	<input type="radio"/>					
Having a separate early season for resident Canada geese	<input type="radio"/>					
Ending waterfowl shooting hours at noon each day	<input type="radio"/>					
Prohibiting the use of electronic spinning wing decoys	<input type="radio"/>					
Limiting the number of waterfowl hunters allowed on WMA's each day	<input type="radio"/>					
Conducting a daily draw for designated waterfowl hunting areas on WMA's	<input type="radio"/>					
Legalizing commercially guided waterfowl hunts on WMA's	<input type="radio"/>					
Designating specific areas of WMA's as "limited access (motorless only)"	<input type="radio"/>					

3. Louisiana currently has an East and West zone, each with split seasons (season closes for a period of time then reopens). Which of the following would you prefer for duck season? (Please mark one.)

- The current system of 2 (east and west) zones with 2 split seasons open in Nov. & Dec./Jan. (Map A)
- A new system of 2 (north and south) zones with 2 split seasons open in Nov. & Dec./Jan. (Map B)
- No zones (a statewide season) with 3 split seasons open in Oct., Nov., & Dec./Jan. (Map C)
- No opinion



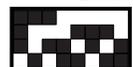
A. East-West Zones (2 split seasons)



B. North-South Zones (2 split seasons)



C. One Statewide Zone (3 split seasons)



Section IV. Personal Identity as a Waterfowl Hunter

1. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. "Neither" means that you neither agree nor disagree with the statement. (Please mark one response for each statement.)

Identity Statement	Disagree	Neither	Agree
Some people think of themselves as having an identity as a waterfowl hunter.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am interested in developing or maintaining an identity as a waterfowl hunter.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am trying to develop or maintain the skills, knowledge, and other traits so that I think of myself as having an identity as a waterfowl hunter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have reached the point where I have the skills, knowledge, and other traits so that I think of myself as having an identity as a waterfowl hunter.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I used to think of myself as a waterfowl hunter, but that identity is not as important to me as it used to be.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Which of the following groups or individuals would or do you believe played an essential role in helping you develop an identity as a waterfowl hunter? (Please mark one response for each group or individual.)

Had an essential role in making me a waterfowl hunter	No	Yes	Unsure
LDWF or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My hunting companions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local rod and gun club or local waterfowl hunting group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State or national waterfowl conservation organizations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Manufacturers or retailers of hunting equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor writers and publishers of hunting magazines and books	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting guides and outfitters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Me, personally	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. How important is waterfowl hunting to you? (Please mark one.)

- It is my most important recreational activity.
- It is one of my most important recreational activities.
- It is no more important than my other recreational activities.
- It is less important than my other recreational activities.
- It is one of my least important recreational activities.

Section V. Personal Background and Waterfowl Hunting Experience. Please tell us about yourself!

1. What is your parish or county and state of residence? _____
2. What is your gender? (Please mark one.) Male Female
3. What is your age? _____
4. How many years have you hunted waterfowl? _____
5. How old were you when you first went waterfowl hunting? _____
6. During which of the following waterfowl seasons did you hunt ducks or geese in Louisiana? (Please mark all that apply.)

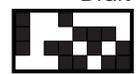
Season	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Ducks	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Geese	<input type="checkbox"/>				

7. Which type of Louisiana hunting license did you purchase for the 2009-2010 season? (Please mark one.)
 - Basic Season license
 - Sportsmen's Paradise license
 - Senior Hunt/Fish license
 - Lifetime Hunting license
 - Resident Disabled Sportsman license
 - Disabled Veteran Hunting license
 - Non-Resident Basic Season license
 - Non-Resident Small Game/Migratory Bird license (1 day)
 - Louisiana Native Non-Resident Basic Trip license (5 day)
 - College Non-Resident Student Hunting/Fishing license
 - Resident/Non-Resident Military Basic Season license

8. During the 2009-2010 hunting season, did you hunt for any of the following game in Louisiana? (Please mark all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Deer	<input type="checkbox"/> Quail	<input type="checkbox"/> Squirrel
<input type="checkbox"/> Dove	<input type="checkbox"/> Snipe	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey
<input type="checkbox"/> Gallinule	<input type="checkbox"/> Rails	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodcock

9. Are you currently a member of a hunting or conservation organization? (Please mark all that apply.)
 - Coastal Conservation Association
 - Delta Waterfowl
 - Ducks Unlimited
 - Other national/statewide/local conservation or hunting organization (please specify)



10. What is your approximate annual household income before taxes? (Please mark one.)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Under \$20,000 | <input type="radio"/> \$80,000 - \$99,999 | <input type="radio"/> \$160,000 - \$179,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> \$20,000 - \$39,999 | <input type="radio"/> \$100,000 - \$119,999 | <input type="radio"/> \$180,000 - \$199,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> \$40,000 - \$59,999 | <input type="radio"/> \$120,000 - \$139,999 | <input type="radio"/> Over \$200,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> \$60,000 - \$79,999 | <input type="radio"/> \$140,000 - \$159,999 | |

11. We welcome your comments below or on additional sheets regarding this survey or any issue of concern related to waterfowl hunting in Louisiana.

Thanks for your participation. Please return this survey by mail in the enclosed postage paid envelope to --

LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources
227 RNR Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Attn: 2010 Survey of Louisiana Waterfowl Hunters

