



# NEWS

*from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

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Eric Eckl 202-208-5636

## NUMBER OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS FALLS SLIGHTLY IN 1997

Although the number of anglers and hunters who bought licenses fell slightly from 1996 to 1997, their expenditures continued to rise, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

Anglers bought 29.3 million fishing licenses in 1997 compared with 29.9 million in 1996. These anglers paid \$498.4 million for their licenses, tags, permits, and stamps, compared with \$447 million in 1996. Meanwhile, 14.9 million hunters bought licenses in 1997, down from 15.2 million in 1996. However, they spent \$564.9 million on licenses, up from \$542.8 million the year before.

Revenues raised through license sales support state wildlife agencies, their conservation projects, and their hunting and fishing safety and education programs. "Through license sales alone, hunters and anglers contribute nearly \$1 billion a year to wildlife conservation," said Service Director Jamie Rappaport Clark. "That is money that doesn't come from general tax revenue, yet it benefits every American by promoting both a healthy environment and healthy wildlife. This money doesn't even count the hundreds of millions of dollars sportsmen and -women contribute through excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment and donate to non-profit conservation organizations."

License sales figures are compiled annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from information submitted by state fish and wildlife agencies. The figures are part of a formula to determine the amount of funding each state receives through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration programs, both administered by the Service. Under these programs, hunters and anglers pay an excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment such as firearms, ammunition, and tackle. Using these receipts, the Service provides grants to states to conserve wildlife; teach hunter safety; and provide fishing, hunting, and boating opportunities. Sales of hunting licenses peaked at 16.7 million in 1982. Sales of fishing licenses have been steady over the same time period.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of more than 500 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish

hatcheries and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies.

-FWS-

Editor's Note: A state-by-state breakdown is available from the Office of Media Services, 202-208-5634.

**NUMBER OF PAID HUNTING LICENSE HOLDERS, LICENSE SALES, AND COST TO HUNTERS  
FISCAL YEAR 1997**

<b>State</b>	<b>Paid Hunting License Holders*</b>	<b>Resident Hunting Licenses, Tags, Permits &amp; Stamps</b>	<b>Nonresident Hunting Licenses, Tags, Permits &amp; Stamps</b>	<b>Total Hunting Licenses, Tags, Permits &amp; Stamps**</b>	<b>Gross Cost To Hunters</b>
ALABAMA	266,386	262,678	38,360	301,038	\$6,965,350
ALASKA	101,306	189,921	32,248	222,169	9,053,782
ARIZONA	180,733	319,719	29,765	349,484	7,697,659
ARKANSAS	319,402	494,314	60,363	554,677	10,898,010
CALIFORNIA	328,824	859,306	8,925	868,231	13,844,148
COLORADO	352,823	382,186	195,557	577,743	45,886,917
CONNECTICUT	63,883	138,685	7,665	146,350	1,749,778
DELAWARE	21,988	32,963	2,277	35,240	500,919
FLORIDA	205,939	377,861	4,342	382,203	5,793,813
GEORGIA	342,110	869,494	55,913	925,407	12,329,396
HAWAII	10,074	10,311	166	10,477	114,922
IDAHO	234,401	857,820	71,168	928,988	17,525,199
ILLINOIS	320,657	1,194,577	48,626	1,243,203	12,311,251
INDIANA	287,443	706,075	19,505	725,580	9,045,569
IOWA	271,695	700,845	115,735	816,580	12,703,103
KANSAS	178,203	138,973	39,230	178,203	8,677,459
KENTUCKY	271,364	561,321	16,608	577,929	9,231,891
LOUISIANA	266,746	569,268	21,946	591,214	6,598,784
MAINE	196,822	170,011	39,009	209,020	7,594,471
MARYLAND	140,859	189,430	19,491	208,921	3,971,621
MASSACHUSETTS	83,443	254,417	5,074	259,491	2,655,599
MICHIGAN	952,584	2,557,828	42,306	2,600,134	26,371,911
MINNESOTA	555,630	1,029,704	15,437	1,045,141	18,764,488
MISSISSIPPI	242,854	246,770	38,445	285,215	7,618,121
MISSOURI	515,379	1,097,935	46,429	1,144,364	13,805,221
MONTANA	284,697	658,895	121,895	780,790	21,867,563
NEBRASKA	189,364	343,765	58,330	402,095	6,867,951
NEVADA	55,380	82,646	8,871	91,517	2,531,627
NEW HAMPSHIRE	81,477	135,027	26,861	161,888	2,736,861
NEW JERSEY	105,931	301,630	15,128	316,758	6,315,756
NEW MEXICO	106,909	122,779	20,527	143,306	10,000,000
NEW YORK	709,054	1,509,701	57,617	1,567,318	17,977,644
NORTH CAROLINA	353,606	443,481	23,241	466,722	7,940,586
NORTH DAKOTA	116,914	374,957	79,192	454,149	5,137,239
OHIO	528,703	1,180,387	11,751	1,192,138	22,543,970
OKLAHOMA	275,424	293,058	7,964	301,022	6,069,839
OREGON	317,072	1,282,307	43,898	1,326,205	15,905,880
PENNSYLVANIA	1,091,568	2,472,535	129,559	2,602,094	26,214,612
RHODE ISLAND	13,196	29,740	3,928	33,668	268,000
SOUTH CAROLINA	223,123	215,498	55,921	271,419	6,748,302
SOUTH DAKOTA	214,133	348,490	86,063	434,553	8,760,340
TENNESSEE	600,117	875,515	35,265	910,780	13,017,768
TEXAS	942,359	1,199,169	47,251	1,246,420	23,570,980
UTAH	191,745	454,375	16,344	470,719	9,650,330
VERMONT	94,247	148,567	22,402	170,969	2,616,589
VIRGINIA	331,559	831,786	45,383	877,169	11,560,476
WASHINGTON	235,477	594,089	7,452	601,541	11,512,596
WEST VIRGINIA	279,245	236,331	42,914	279,245	8,719,070
WISCONSIN	739,345	1,880,495	46,719	1,927,214	30,110,889
WYOMING	114,633	158,848	60,571	219,419	14,544,504
<b>TOTALS***</b>	<b>14,906,826</b>	<b>30,386,483</b>	<b>2,049,637</b>	<b>32,436,120</b>	<b>\$564,898,753</b>

\* A paid license holder is one individual regardless of the number of licenses purchased.  
(Data certified by State Fish and Game Departments.)

\*\* Period covered not identified to period covered by certification for all States.

\*\*\*Persons who hunted in more than one State are counted in each State where they hunted.

**NUMBER OF PAID FISHING LICENSE HOLDERS, LICENSE SALES, AND COST TO ANGLERS  
FISCAL YEAR 1997**

State	Paid Fishing License Holders*	Resident Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps	Nonresident Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps	Total Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps**	Gross Cost To Anglers
ALABAMA	465,877	400,537	102,784	503,321	\$6,199,523
ALASKA	408,999	266,393	362,423	628,816	10,974,077
ARIZONA	452,331	442,110	192,417	634,527	6,808,116
ARKANSAS	579,949	485,194	194,439	679,633	6,697,500
CALIFORNIA	2,216,894	2,813,763	47,568	2,861,331	44,849,678
COLORADO	756,355	505,394	428,475	933,869	11,757,177
CONNECTICUT	174,602	164,213	10,389	174,602	2,292,169
DELAWARE	26,328	29,271	4,857	34,128	269,735
FLORIDA	1,021,856	1,034,358	457,946	1,492,304	19,557,518
GEORGIA	631,436	722,831	75,132	797,963	7,440,398
HAWAII	6,304	6,202	291	6,493	20,347
IDAHO	406,506	329,936	175,862	505,798	5,647,322
ILLINOIS	762,994	802,390	36,571	838,961	9,388,527
INDIANA	600,626	571,861	90,671	662,532	6,609,511
IOWA	395,509	387,710	40,382	428,092	4,685,360
KANSAS	322,350	248,779	73,571	322,350	4,558,234
KENTUCKY	565,801	509,408	117,280	626,688	7,767,361
LOUISIANA	588,595	1,099,590	362,175	1,461,765	8,304,434
MAINE	246,070	173,325	85,015	258,340	6,977,643
MARYLAND	519,461	421,006	82,852	503,858	4,761,719
MASSACHUSETTS	180,581	344,621	18,196	362,817	4,639,786
MICHIGAN	1,306,588	1,313,695	132,230	1,445,925	22,102,669
MINNESOTA	1,499,317	1,119,717	237,409	1,357,126	20,319,410
MISSISSIPPI	398,032	375,249	79,972	455,221	4,877,434
MISSOURI	966,007	1,267,849	299,693	1,567,542	10,628,110
MONTANA	372,096	244,660	318,050	562,710	7,678,314
NEBRASKA	222,635	235,774	28,519	264,293	3,156,253
NEVADA	160,130	212,154	45,130	257,284	2,975,239
NEW HAMPSHIRE	166,985	114,329	56,704	171,033	3,571,449
NEW JERSEY	227,689	327,679	13,104	340,783	4,705,397
NEW MEXICO	247,608	170,769	84,438	255,207	39,000,000
NEW YORK	1,040,132	882,721	158,332	1,041,053	13,568,950
NORTH CAROLINA	547,727	585,340	53,859	639,199	10,988,756
NORTH DAKOTA	133,589	118,331	18,184	136,515	1,175,887
OHIO	1,090,031	978,648	113,132	1,091,780	16,603,615
OKLAHOMA	646,337	467,663	94,556	562,219	7,760,266
OREGON	678,377	810,949	188,179	999,128	12,369,052
PENNSYLVANIA	1,093,208	1,652,527	136,290	1,788,817	19,513,747
RHODE ISLAND	34,920	50,349	3,807	54,156	421,979
SOUTH CAROLINA	510,324	504,469	84,438	588,907	5,455,158
SOUTH DAKOTA	233,225	259,478	81,124	340,602	2,937,308
TENNESSEE	962,760	1,000,101	194,487	1,194,588	11,548,480
TEXAS	1,434,447	1,992,367	105,286	2,097,653	32,817,539
UTAH	462,530	540,096	214,497	754,593	7,454,608
VERMONT	96,793	81,395	50,978	132,373	2,080,281
VIRGINIA	645,057	742,840	86,153	828,993	9,177,892
WASHINGTON	867,831	811,172	57,788	868,960	13,083,766
WEST VIRGINIA	311,830	273,046	38,784	311,830	4,696,015
WISCONSIN	1,401,050	1,130,982	321,235	1,452,217	21,517,051
WYOMING	267,432	119,856	328,681	448,537	5,999,522
<b>TOTALS***</b>	<b>29,354,111</b>	<b>30,143,097</b>	<b>6,584,335</b>	<b>36,727,432</b>	<b>\$498,390,281</b>

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