

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## 1977 HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE SALES SET RECORD

People who hunted and fished last year spent a record \$329 million on licenses, tags, permits, and stamps, although the actual number of fishermen declined slightly from 1976, Lynn A. Greenwalt, Director of the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announced today.

Total income from license sales of all kinds was \$10 million over 1976 and included \$156 million for fishing licenses (up \$1.56 million over 1976) and \$172.8 million for hunting licenses (\$9.2 million more than 1976).

Last year the number of fishing license holders decreased by 494,000 to 27.3 million while the number of hunting license holders increased by 86,349 to 16,386,594. "The slight decrease in fishing license holders is not significant," Greenwalt said, "and can be attributed to some States eliminating the license requirement for senior citizens. The 1977 drought also had an impact on outdoor activities, especially in California."

License sales, however, are not accurate indicators of the actual numbers of hunters and fishermen. In several States, one sportsman may purchase separate licenses, stamps, permits, or tags for taking different kinds of fish and game. Also, most States do not require persons above or below certain ages to purchase licenses, and many coastal States do not require licenses for saltwater fishing. Some persons hunt or fish in more than one State and therefore are counted more than once.

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"The revenues derived from these license sales enable States to conduct their fish and wildlife conservation and management programs," Greenwalt said. "Additional funds come from Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs under which States are reimbursed up to 75 percent of the cost of approved projects." For the current fiscal year, which ends September 30, 1978, \$87,200,000 was apportioned in Federal aid funds for fish and wildlife conservation.

California led the Nation last year in sales of fishing licenses with 5.3 million licenses, tags, permits, and stamps sold. Closest runner-up was Michigan with 1.6 million sold. Other very heavily fished States were Wisconsin, Missouri, Oregon, Minnesota, and Texas. Wisconsin also attracted the most out-of-State fishermen in the country with 406,000 visitors buying licenses. Montana, Tennessee, Minnesota, and Michigan also ranked high with tourist fishermen.

Pennsylvania led all States in the Nation in sales of hunting licenses with 1.9 million licenses, tags, permits, and stamps sold. Michigan, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin ranked just below. Montana had the distinction of being the most frequently visited State by out-of-State hunters; over 125,000 non-resident permits were sold there.

Hawaii had the fewest licensed hunters and fishermen.

State fish and game departments certify the numbers of paid hunting and fishing license holders to the Fish and Wildlife Service, which uses them in determining Federal aid apportionments to each State.

State-by-State breakdowns of license sales are shown in accompanying tables.

NUMBER OF PAID HUNTING LICENSE HOLDERS, LICENSE SALES AND COST TO HUNTERS  
FISCAL YEAR 1977

State	Paid Hunting License Holders <u>1/</u>	Resident Hunting Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps Issued	Non-Resident Hunting Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps Issued	Total Hunting Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps Issued <u>2/</u>	Gross Cost to Hunters
Alabama	336,991	398,085	21,129	419,214	\$ 2,043,029.0
Alaska	67,878	71,489	12,114	83,603	2,140,550.0
Arizona	183,470	311,505	13,406	324,911	2,163,087.0
Arkansas	347,966	496,991	43,626	540,617	2,651,023.5
California	584,957	966,676	3,410	970,086	6,595,719.0
Colorado	298,383	394,828	58,774	453,602	10,239,276.0
Connecticut	82,534	101,683	869	102,552	372,331.0
Delaware	28,563	25,900	2,663	28,563	194,914.9
Florida	260,566	257,182	3,384	260,566	1,593,318.0
Georgia	361,449	812,562	21,374	833,936	2,559,008.7
Hawaii	12,079	12,006	272	12,278	92,732.0
Idaho	217,954	437,676	36,544	474,220	3,836,286.5
Illinois	486,353	474,820	11,533	486,353	1,704,286.5
Indiana	436,680	541,402	10,354	551,756	2,005,720.0
Iowa	369,108	481,795	44,953	526,748	3,310,890.0
Kansas	221,252	216,887	22,073	238,960	2,059,539.0
Kentucky	323,041	382,087	10,471	392,558	2,419,999.0
Louisiana	360,142	502,751	13,746	516,497	2,732,840.0
Maine	214,827	182,740	32,087	214,827	3,001,296.5
Maryland	193,855	366,458	33,761	400,219	2,258,204.5
Massachusetts	106,125	187,720	1,606	189,326	923,420.0
Michigan	921,858	1,263,766	30,273	1,294,039	9,647,088.0
Minnesota	369,665	562,877	3,303	566,180	4,803,705.0
Mississippi	339,210	530,355	44,881	575,236	2,243,179.2
Missouri	487,695	729,801	30,874	760,675	5,447,597.0
Montana	204,298	588,846	125,306	714,152	3,725,580.0
Nevada	178,625	319,006	29,322	348,328	1,763,427.0
New Hampshire	48,615	69,925	4,800	74,725	843,365.0
New Jersey	89,126	96,425	14,432	110,857	1,222,517.7
New Mexico	168,856	251,807	1,770	253,577	2,217,544.0
New York	149,105	145,740	21,320	167,060	2,103,126.2
North Carolina	746,171	1,338,788	32,064	1,370,852	7,869,427.2
North Dakota	378,417	564,592	13,964	578,556	3,483,703.0
Ohio	290,992	262,960	28,032	290,992	1,049,023.5
Oklaoma	594,737	733,377	3,162	736,539	3,880,085.0
Oregon	267,430	411,177	5,523	416,700	2,183,343.2
Pennsylvania	328,335	756,035	6,253	762,288	5,217,983.0
Rhode Island	1,281,177	1,856,341	100,450	1,956,791	14,885,430.5
South Carolina	15,676	18,111	822	18,933	64,783.0
South Dakota	215,920	253,232	24,503	277,735	1,790,320.7
Tennessee	127,953	296,404	29,374	325,778	1,704,657.0
Texas	483,539	731,743	24,195	755,938	5,070,988.7
Utah	845,463	1,084,455	25,817	1,110,272	4,981,272.0
Vermont	234,442	262,274	14,882	277,156	2,892,822.2
Virginia	132,789	114,878	44,223	159,101	1,785,890.0
Washington	443,741	834,979	68,041	903,020	4,239,094.2
West Virginia	330,517	813,943	4,662	818,605	5,351,603.0
Wisconsin	308,130	420,003	53,233	473,236	2,473,044.0
Wyoming	702,351	990,857	21,051	1,011,908	7,683,909.0
TOTALS <u>3/</u>	16,386,594	24,114,129	1,314,088	25,428,217	\$172,834,738.4

1/ A paid license holder is one individual regardless of the number of licenses he may purchase. Data certified by State fish and game departments.

2/ Period covered not identical to period covered by certification for all States.

Persons who hunted in more than one State are counted in each State where they hunted. Therefore, this figure exceeds the total number of license holders in the United States.

NUMBER OF PAID FISHING LICENSE HOLDERS, LICENSE SALES AND COST TO FISHERMEN  
FISCAL YEAR 1977

State	Paid Fishing License Holders <u>1/</u>	Resident Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps Issued	Non-Resident Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps Issued	Total Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps Issued <u>2/</u>	Gross Cost to Fishermen
Alabama	557,711	522,709	75,339	598,048	\$ 1,897,653.60
Alaska	168,104	121,913	55,821	177,734	2,057,387.00
Arizona	412,509	368,419	123,541	491,960	2,327,797.00
Arkansas	687,786	571,934	216,654	788,588	3,929,284.00
California	2,001,940	5,281,754	46,392	5,328,146	16,631,219.00
Colorado	668,794	488,183	166,617	654,800	5,092,447.00
Connecticut	185,631	205,189	4,652	209,841	707,650.50
Delaware	12,866	14,426	2,268	16,694	66,477.60
Florida	805,731	631,867	197,436	829,303	2,418,507.00
Georgia	626,440	701,805	29,384	731,189	2,123,757.25
Hawaii	7,929	7,897	107	8,004	25,989.00
Idaho	395,203	282,810	158,378	441,188	2,416,546.50
Illinois	863,366	824,037	39,329	863,366	2,048,503.50
Indiana	721,930	685,376	74,760	760,136	2,547,334.00
Iowa	568,987	528,387	65,268	593,655	2,268,103.00
Kansas	331,925	304,768	30,243	335,011	2,012,145.00
Kentucky	634,871	517,510	157,505	675,015	3,205,918.00
Louisiana	446,367	411,160	39,989	451,149	987,149.00
Maine	241,868	162,412	79,456	241,868	1,951,456.50
Maryland	145,311	166,881	14,641	181,522	701,548.85
Massachusetts	196,617	195,504	4,781	200,285	1,546,075.00
Michigan	1,192,883	1,344,343	312,602	1,656,945	8,845,241.00
Minnesota	1,615,944	872,371	323,926	1,196,297	6,464,700.00
Mississippi	431,429	364,841	92,730	457,571	1,539,025.00
Missouri	916,159	1,303,761	211,007	1,514,768	6,220,268.00
Montana	324,203	430,757	314,797	745,554	3,324,693.00
Nebraska	253,980	269,340	33,055	302,395	1,286,858.00
Nevada	156,021	87,528	70,445	157,973	1,193,401.00
New Hampshire	136,735	92,930	45,937	138,867	1,035,573.25
New Jersey	176,128	271,624	6,993	278,617	1,660,383.00
New Mexico	245,963	305,668	155,998	461,666	1,717,671.24
New York	830,893	770,327	60,566	830,893	5,207,171.75
North Carolina	458,224	494,929	44,063	538,992	3,373,420.75
North Dakota	160,988	147,116	15,936	163,052	451,120.00
Ohio	986,540	956,606	30,835	987,441	4,036,411.00
Oklahoma	586,307	484,001	110,283	594,284	3,181,489.00
Oregon	723,311	950,000	149,343	1,099,343	5,663,992.00
Pennsylvania	991,488	934,341	57,147	991,488	7,200,941.00
Rhode Island	30,630	29,636	1,714	31,350	94,482.00
South Carolina	402,867	356,735	58,625	415,360	1,970,012.50
South Dakota	152,958	109,383	45,169	154,552	575,073.00
Tennessee	686,608	770,108	232,520	1,002,628	4,709,745.50
Texas	1,556,829	1,526,367	31,150	1,557,517	6,231,611.65
Utah	481,191	330,877	181,712	512,589	2,945,107.20
Vermont	137,373	90,040	48,720	138,760	727,990.00
Virginia	449,297	655,416	70,309	725,725	2,461,149.50
Washington	521,419	602,546	46,585	649,131	4,539,428.00
West Virginia	280,402	486,137	47,658	533,795	1,803,366.50
Wisconsin	1,475,837	859,390	406,151	1,265,541	9,067,944.25
Wyoming	279,903	106,805	191,007	297,812	1,655,158.00
<b>TOTALS <u>3/</u></b>	<b>27,324,396</b>	<b>28,998,864</b>	<b>4,979,544</b>	<b>33,978,408</b>	<b>\$156,147,097.64</b>

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