

Estimation of the 2007 waterfowl harvest in the Medoc Peninsula, France

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Introduction & Objectives

A survey of waterfowl hunters was conducted annually since several years in the French department of Gironde. The main purpose of this survey was to estimate harvest trends for each waterfowl species at local and regional levels, as well as to document harvest chronology by species, origin, and distribution of hunters in the sample. We summarize here the method used to estimate the number of ducks harvested during the 2006-2007 hunting season.

Methods



Aerial view of the area

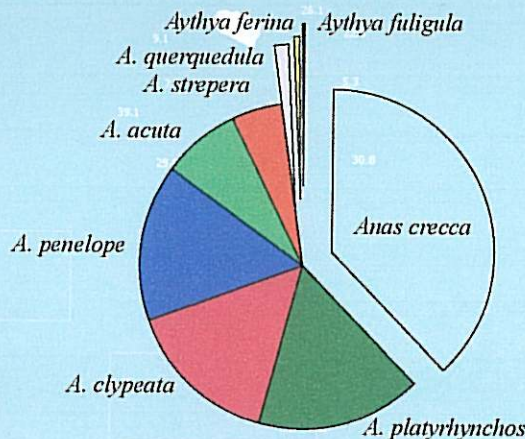


Detail of a night hunting installation



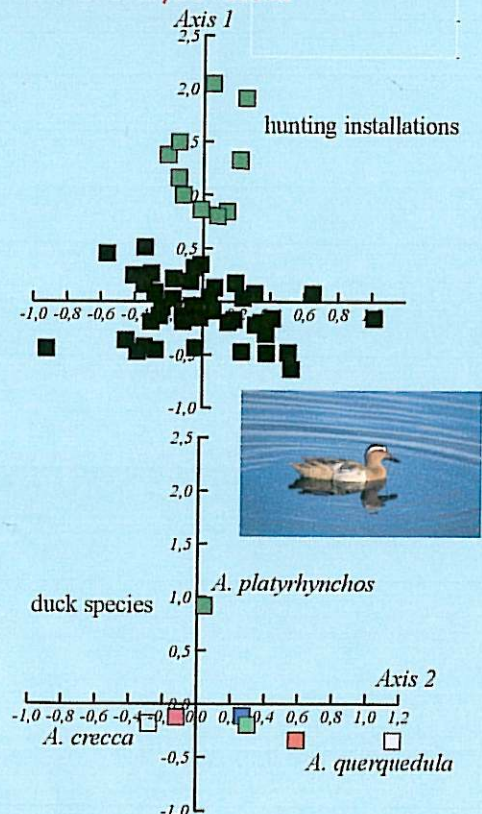
The Gironde department in the south-west of France comprised 2396 installations dedicated to nocturnal waterfowl hunting. Departmental wildlife agencies (Fédérations Départementales des Chasseurs) collect each year the name and address of each waterfowl hunter who takes an annual hunting license. From a questionnaire survey about the species hunted and the total harvest of ducks for the year, we estimate the mean number of each duck species harvested per hunter. The total harvests of ducks are estimated by expanding the means by the number of hunters. The survey was carried out of all 125 landowners based in the area. Only 59 practitioners responded to the questionnaire.

Main results



During the 2006-2007 hunting season, 2040 ducks were harvested. About 37.9 % of all ducks harvested were Common Teal *Anas crecca*, followed by Mallard *A. platyrhynchos* (16.4 %), and Northern Shoveler *A. clypeata* and European Wigeon *A. penelope* at about 15 % each. Pintail *A. acuta*, Gadwall *A. strepera*, Garganey *A. querquedula*, Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*, and Tufted Duck *A. fuligula* are also present in the total harvest.

Factorial analysis results



Comparison with other estimates and conclusion



Four species account for by far the greatest proportion of the total duck harvest in Gironde. For the 2,396 hunting installations, the estimated harvest is about 31,400 teals, 13,600 mallards, and 12,700 northern shovellers and European wigeons. During the 1998-1999 hunting season, total harvest in Gironde for teals and mallards were 22,400 and 14,000 birds respectively (Enquête nationale sur les tableaux de chasse à tir. Saison 1998-1999, Faune Sauvage, Cahiers Techniques N° 251, août/septembre 2000).

Acknowledgements

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