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MEDIA RELEASE

Enhancing Game Management

Improved Monitoring of Game Harvest Initiative

This article is a partial reproduction of a Victorian Government, Department of Sustainability and Environment publication. For the full Report please follow the links on the DSE website as listed below.

Game Harvest Report Summary – July 1 2008 – June 30, 2009

In order to manage game species sustainability, it is important to quantify harvest numbers. The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) in Victoria conducted a telephone survey of Victorian Game Licence holders during the period from July 2008 to June 2009. This summary covers the hunting seasons for deer, duck and quail over that period to determine the total harvest for each game species. Game Licence holders for each game type (deer, duck and quail) were randomly sampled and interviewed by telephone at intervals during the respective game seasons.

Deer: Respondents hunted for approximately 7.75 days on average during the 2008/09 deer hunting season (all year-round), with an average season harvest of 2.43 deer per Game Licence holder. Based on the total number of Game Licence holders, this corresponds to an estimated 39,418 deer harvested during the 2008/09 deer hunting season in Victoria. The most commonly taken species was Sambar Deer, with an estimated total harvest of 34,368, followed by Fallow Deer, Red Deer and Hog Deer. For Sambar Deer, a higher proportion of stags (52%) were taken compared to hinds (43%). For Fallow Deer, a higher proportion of hinds (60%) were taken compared to stags (36%). More deer hunting was carried out on public land (64%) than on private land (25%), with similar proportions of harvested deer. Stalking was the preferred method, used in 53% of the hunting days compared to 36% for scent-trailing hounds. Hunting by stalking was the most productive method, accounting for 76% of the reported harvest. The harvest was estimated to be greatest in Goulburn Broken catchment, followed by the Northeast, West Gippsland and East Gippsland catchments.

A Victorian Government initiative.

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