

SUMMARY OF THE SPECIAL INTEREST MEETING ON STATISTICAL GAME INVENTORY METHODS

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Four major methods used in the southeast for estimating game kill were outlined as follows:

1. Florida: Scott Overton — The field bag check by conservation officers and biologists. A post season survey of holders of current hunting licenses. A follow-up of non-respondents with personal interview. Statistical analysis applied to findings.

2. Kentucky: Larry Gale — A post season survey by conservation officers. Each officer selects and interviews approximately 50 hunters. No statistical analysis applied to findings.

3. North Carolina: Stuart Critcher — A post season survey of holders of current licence holders. Statistical analysis applied to findings.

4. Tennessee: Eugene Legler — The field bag check by conservation officers and biologists. A post season survey of holders of the past year's hunting and fishing license. No follow-up of non-respondents. No statistical analysis applied to findings.

Major points are summarized as follows:

1. It is possible that the same results can be obtained from mail questionnaires as compared to personal contacts, and at a reduced cost.

2. It may be possible to use the same list of names year after year for post season surveys provided that additional names be added to allow for those who do not respond.

3. The need for measuring game kill on an annual basis was questioned. Generally agreed, that all states need this basic data for a period of at least five years.

4. Data should be used to substantiate the biologist's views in recommending seasons and bag limits. Once these regulations are established the data should be used against proposals for unnecessary changes in hunting regulations.

5. Kill records may be useful as a service to the hunting public and for publicity purposes.

6. Above all else, additional research is needed in evaluating the various methods being employed.