

WILD HARVEST INITIATIVE®

A Program of conservation VISIONS®

QUARTERLY UPDATE

•
SEPTEMBER 2019



Analysis of data collected from the 1st Wild Harvest Initiative® Wild Meat Sharing & Consumption Survey, administered in Texas, has begun, as we prepare to share initial program results.

American Alligators are wild harvested in 8 jurisdictions in the United States. Their range does not extend into Canada.

Species profile – American Alligator

Harvest in the United States

American Alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*) have long been popular for their skins and meat and, today, are recreationally harvested in at least 8 US states including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas. Approximately 94,189 American alligators were wild caught in these jurisdictions during the 2014-15 and 2015-16 harvest seasons. The total live catch had an estimated mass of 6,122,285 kg (13,469,027 lbs) which resulted in a dressed weight of approximately 3,428,480 kg (7,542,656 lbs). 2,142,800 kg (4,714,160 lbs) of this dressed weight

would have been consumable, or about 63%, based on typical consumption habits for this species. Given a robust 6 oz. serving, this constitutes 12,571,093 meals over a two-year period.

Conservation Status

By the 1950s, American alligator populations had reached all-time lows across their native range in the United States. This was due primarily to market-hunting and habitat loss. In 1967, the species was listed as Endangered. However, in 1987, the American alligator was pronounced fully recovered, making it one of the first endangered species success stories. Interestingly, while secure, it remains protected under the

Endangered Species Act classification “threatened due to similarity of appearance” because some related animals, i.e. caimans and some crocodiles, remain in peril.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the American Alligator as a species of “Least Concern” in terms of extinction risk.

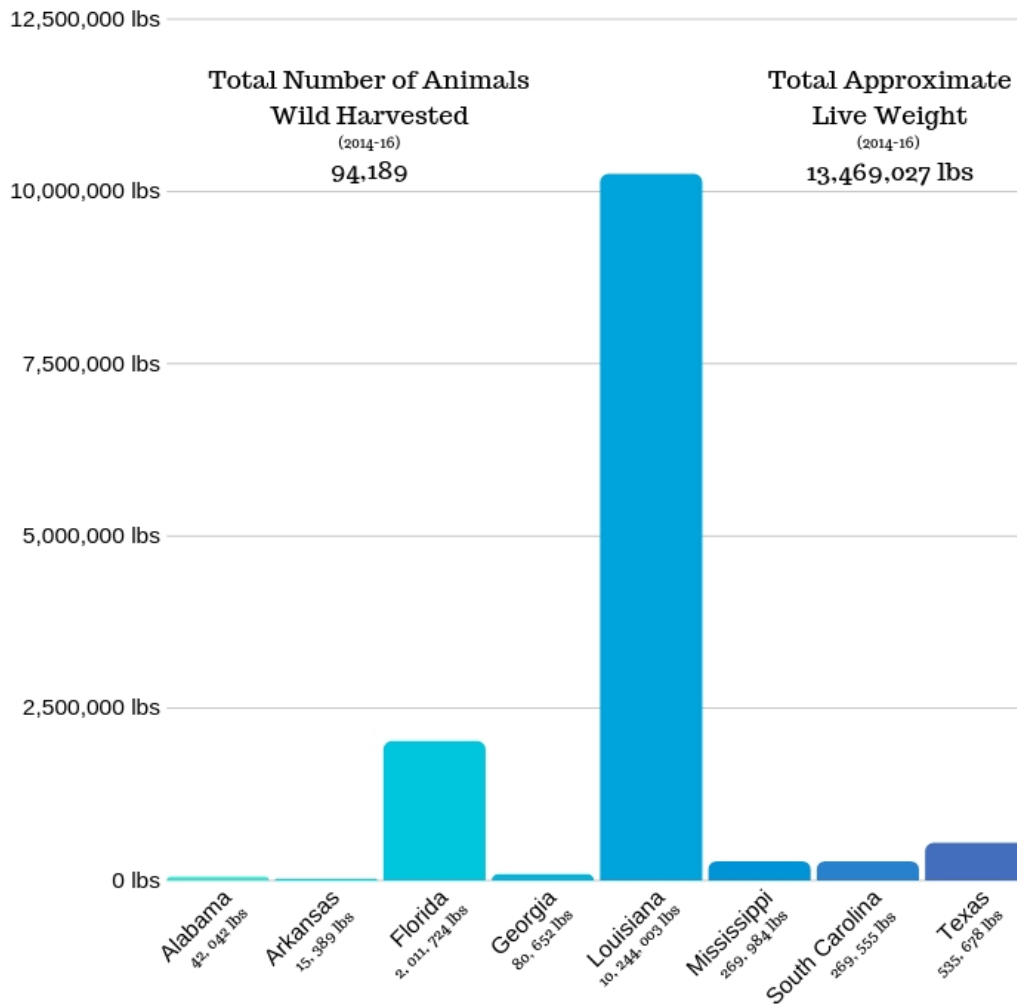




Species Profile: American Alligator

- Scientific name is *Alligator mississippiensis*
- Considered “living fossils,” having survived on Earth for 200 million years
- Individuals can live 30 years or more
- Old males can grow to 14 ft. in length and weigh up to 1,000 lbs
- Alligators will eat just about anything but primarily consume fish, turtles and snails
- Adults create “gator holes” in wetlands, which provide vital water to other animals

American Alligator: Wild Harvested Weight by US Jurisdiction (2014-16)



PROGRESS REPORTING

Wild Harvest Initiative® Database

Recreational Angling Harvest Data

The WHI Team completed collection and initial review of all available recreational angling data from each of the 63 jurisdictions identified in our study and all records have been entered, with the exception of creel data, which will require data modelling exercise to facilitate synthesis, entry and analysis. Standardized database schema is being concurrently developed.

A literature review focusing on live and dressed weights of freshwater fish species remains ongoing. Once complete, this will enable estimates of recreational catch biomass.

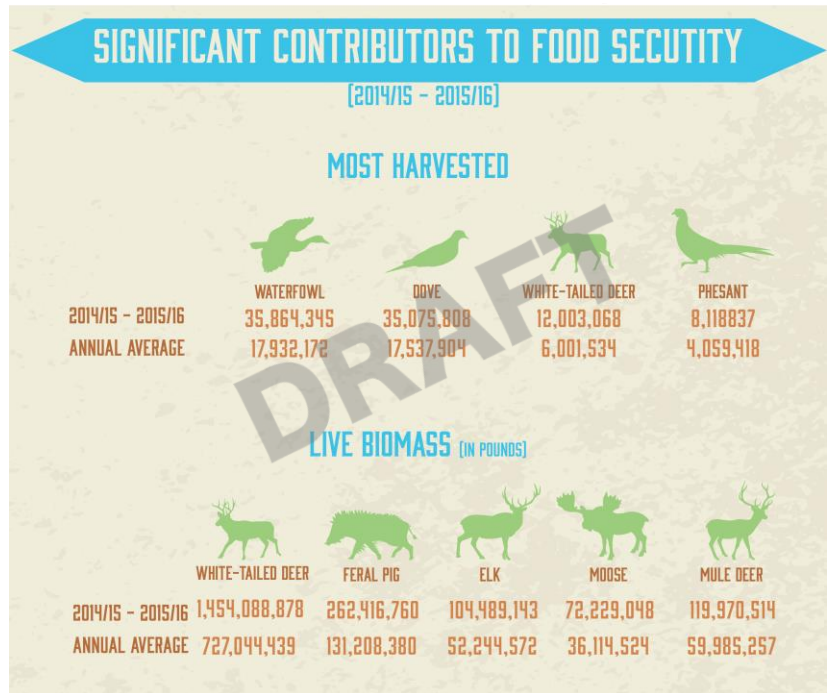
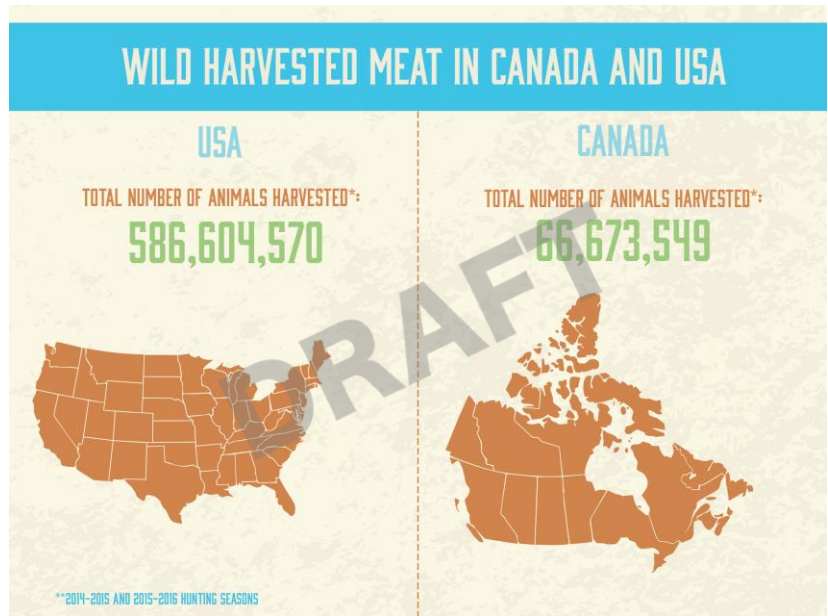
Hunting and Angling Harvest Data Analyses

The analyses of hunting harvest data remain ongoing, while preliminary analyses of angling data have just begun. A sampling of initial results was recently shared with Partners during the First Meeting of the Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership Alliance in St. John’s, Newfoundland, from August 27-29 (examples of drafts pictured at right).

Economic Valuation

Efforts to collect data regarding the economic value of commercial fish landings, as well as fish pricing data at the retail level, remain ongoing.

Research to determine the best methodology to calculate fair market values for wild harvested meat and fish also remains ongoing, though considerable progress has been made in terms of consultations with industry experts.



Country	Wild Meat Harvested in the United States and Canada (2014/15 - 2015/16)		
	Live Pounds of Harvest	Consumable Pounds of Harvest	Number of Meals (based on 6oz. servings)
Canada	263,925,707	100,994,685	269,319,160
United States	2,274,831,986	997,104,175	2,658,994,466

Compilation of data to conduct the replacement cost analysis also remains ongoing.

Database Updates

Database additions and improvements remain ongoing to facilitate more advanced analyses and entry of angling creel data. Triware Technologies, an industry leading technology and business support provider based in St. John's, Newfoundland, has been contracted to provide expert development services, as well as 24-hour technical support to ensure the continued integrity and security of our data.

Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index

Conservation Visions has contracted Mr. Glen Luther, a biological statistician with over 25 years of career experience in wildlife research for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, to complete some preliminary analyses on the results of the first Wild Harvest Initiative® Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Survey, which was administered in the state of Texas with assistance from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Statistical tests have been performed on all response variables to determine if statistical differences existed between survey types, i.e. initial, supplementary, and test. A significant difference was detected between the original and test surveys for the response to one question only and the significance was borderline with a p-value of 0.01, which indicates the rigor of our work since a small p-value (typically ≤ 0.05) indicates strong evidence against a null hypothesis. All other tests were not significant.

Results of analyses and initial conclusions will become available in the coming weeks. Additional jurisdictional surveys are in the planning stages and will soon be announced.

Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership Alliance

Inaugural Meeting of the WHI Partnership Alliance

The first meeting of the WHI Partnership Alliance, themed *Eat Wild & Live Free*, was held in St. John's, Newfoundland from August 27-29, 2019 and was well-attended by Partners. The meeting proved quite successful in both recounting progress and determining next steps, and a fulsome report will be forthcoming. It also received considerable media attention from both local and national news.

Since the meeting, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has indicated its firm intent to join the Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership Alliance, and we expect to formalize that agreement during the next quarter. We also hope to finalize a partnership with MTN OPS – Outdoor Performance Supplements by the end of this year.

Communications

As we begin to slowly transition to the provision of knowledge products and develop advocacy strategies, our historically strong efforts in terms of communications and outreach will continue to increase. This was an important topic of discussion at our recent meeting (also attended by Revolve Branding and Marketing), where a Communications Committee was established. We received excellent feedback, especially concerning target audiences, and will continue this discussion with the Committee over the next weeks to inform our formal strategy. A first Communications Committee call is being scheduled for the end of October.

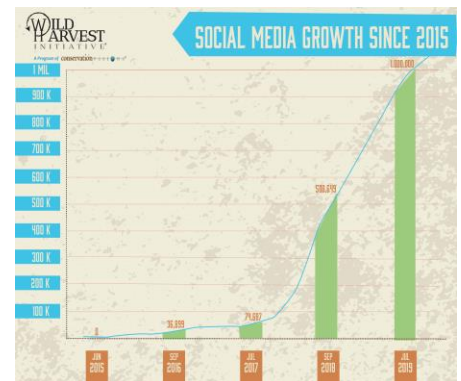
Website

During the meeting, our new standalone website was also introduced and, following some technical delays, this will

officially launch during the next quarter. The site will feature a section to showcase WHI Partners and Partners are reminded to provide requested content (i.e. logos, social media channels, etc.) as soon as possible, if this has not already been provided. Any questions about content should be directed to amanda@conservationvisions.com.

Social Media Growth

Our social media following continues to grow and we now have a combined following of more than 1,200,000 individual users on Facebook alone.



Social Media Growth

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, in partnership with the Wild Harvest Initiative® and Conservation Visions, recently produced a short film about the program, which has garnered more than 500,000 views to date. Please click the following link to view:

<https://www.facebook.com/ShaneMahoneyConservationist/videos/594977434239540/>

THE WILD HARVEST INITIATIVE® PARTNERSHIP ALLIANCE



Not pictured are Sean Olmstead and Richard A. "Dick" Corbett

