

2020 Fall Hunting Summary

Marine Corps Base Quantico
Natural Resources Section



Purpose

This report summarizes results from annual surveys relevant to hunters as well as provide species harvest data to hunters. Harvest data within includes Bear (Table 1), Small Game (Table 2), Trapping (Table 3), Turkey (Table 4, Figure 1), Waterfowl (Table 5, Table 6), and Deer (Table 7, Table 8, Figure 2).

Fawn Study

We conducted a fawn study in the spring of 2020 equipping deer fawn with radio-collars that allow us to track their survival over the summer and fall. The collar stitching is made of cotton thread and wears over time, falling off generally sometime between late fall and late the following spring. This year we caught 13 fawns and tracked them daily until 1 October. On October 1st, 3 of our original 13 fawns still had their collars on. We removed four fawns from the analysis due to lack of sufficient evidence to determine their survival (collars simply fell off). This equates to a crude estimate of 33% of the fawns successfully recruited into the population. As for the remaining six fawns, three were found to have been predated and for the remaining three the cause of death was undetermined. Average fawn survival over the last 5 years at minimum averaged 42%.

Mast Crop

We conduct an annual mast survey at the end of the summer to obtain an indicator of how much acorn mast is available. The 2020 acorn mast production resulted in an ‘average’ mast crop. As mast crops are cyclical, every few years we see a “bumper” crop (a high mast yield) in mast production as well as every few years we see a failure crop, with average crop production occurring most frequently. Mast failure is cyclic and simply means wildlife must seek out other sources of food such as grasses, forbs, and soft mast for nourishment often relying on fields and road edges during failures.

Hemorrhagic Disease

Hemorrhagic Disease, a general term used to describe one of the various strains of either EHD (epizootic hemorrhagic disease) or blue tongue virus, is a common disease that occurs annually to some degree in the Southeastern U.S., including Virginia. This disease is not transmitted by direct contact, but via tiny biting flies (midges, gnats, no-see-ums). Outbreaks of HD occur in late summer into the fall; deer can often be found lying dead near water – creeks, streams, lakes, etc. In 2019, we found no evidence of HD on the base. In 2020, we found 22 cases of HD in harvested deer.

Chronic Wasting Disease

In the fall of 2018, a case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was documented in Culpeper County, approximately 15 miles west of the base. In the fall of 2019, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) confirmed a case of CWD in the northwest corner of Fauquier County, approximately 30 miles from the base. As such, all of Fauquier County was included within Disease Management Area (DMA) 2, incorporating Training Areas 9B, 13, 14A, 14B, and 14C.

In collaboration with VDWR and taking a proactive approach, we took CWD samples from a select number of deer this season. The results are still pending and will be released by VDWR in the coming weeks. If your deer tests positive, VDWR will contact you directly. For more information on Chronic Wasting Disease in Virginia, please visit the [VDWR website on CWD](#).

Grassland Project Update

As you may have noticed, some of our open 'field' areas have taller vegetation this year. We have begun a project to restore some of these areas to their natural state as native warm season grasslands. Native grasslands are composed diverse plant communities, providing resources for game and non-game species alike including deer, turkey, quail, and rabbits as well as pollinator species, birds of prey and small mammals. Successful conversion of habitat takes time but continue to watch these areas change over the next few years.

Bear

Sex	Training Area	Weight (lbs)
Female	5A	180
Male	11B*	123

Table 1. Bear harvest on Quantico
*Wounded Warrior

Small Game

Species	Number Harvested
Squirrel	68
Woodcock	161
Rabbit	26
Dove	4
Coyote	6
Red Fox	3
Gray Fox	1

Table 2. Small Game harvest on Quantico

Trapping

Species	Number Killed	Number Released
Coyote		
Raccoon		
Otter		
Red Fox		
Opossum		
Beaver	5	

Table 3. Trapping harvest on Quantico

Fall Turkey

	Male	Female
Adult	1	2
Juvenile		
Totals	1	2

Table 4. Turkey harvest on Quantico

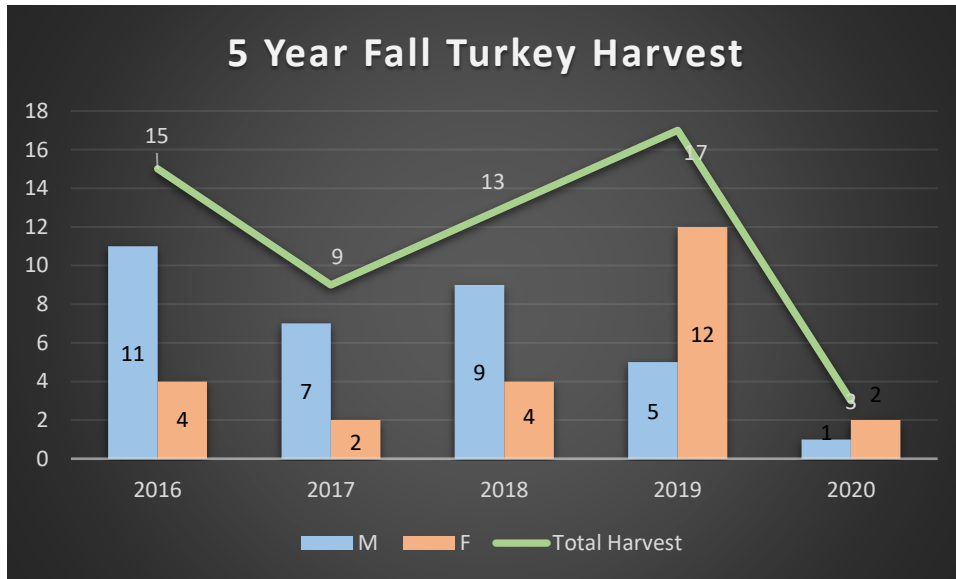


Figure 1. 5 Year fall turkey harvest by sex and total harvest

Waterfowl

Species	Number Harvested
Mallard	45
Wood Duck	36
Goose	26
Hooded Merganser	16
Bufflehead	11
Gadwall	10
Black Duck	10
Ruddy Duck	8
Ring necked Duck	7
Green Winged Teal	7
Common Merganser	5
Lesser Scaup	4
Greater Scaup	1
Total Geese	26
Total Ducks	160

Table 5. Waterfowl harvest on Quantico by species.

	Blind or TA	Ducks Harvested	Geese Harvested
Chopawamsic Creek	Blind 1	2	
Chopawamsic Creek	Blind 2	2	
Chopawamsic Creek	Blind 3	7	6
Chopawamsic Creek	Blind 4	10	2
Chopawamsic Creek	Blind A	7	1
Chopawamsic Creek	Blind C	17	1
Chopawamsic Creek	DV/WW*	2	2
Quantico Creek	Blind 5	13	
Quantico Creek	Blind 6	6	2
Quantico Creek	Blind 7	4	
Quantico Creek	Blind 8	2	1
Quantico Creek	Blind E	1	
Quantico Creek	Hospital Point	2	
Potomac River	DV/WW*	18	2
Smith Lake	Blind 16	3	1
Smith Lake	Blind 17	1	2
Dalton Pond	Dalton Pond	19	1
Jump shooting	5A	2	
Jump shooting	7B	4	3
Jump shooting	9C	1	2
Jump shooting	9D	18	
Jump shooting	10A	4	
Jump shooting	10C	3	
Jump shooting	11A	3	
Jump shooting	14B	2	
Jump shooting	17A	3	
Jump shooting	DV/WW*	4	
Totals		160	26

Table 6. Waterfowl harvest on Quantico by Blind or TA

*DV/WW: Distinguished Visitor / Wounded Warrior

Deer

	Buck	Doe
Adult (2.5+)	104	52
Yearlings (1.5)	49	20
Fawn (0.5)	11	7
Totals	164	79
	243	

Table 7. Deer harvest on Quantico by Age Class and Sex

Number of trips to kill 1 deer:	36
---------------------------------	----

Area	Buck	Doe	Total
MS	14	10	24
2	--	5	5
3	3	1	4
4	2	--	2
TDSA	6	2	8
5A	8	5	13
5B	9	5	14
5C	4	1	5
6A	2	--	2
6B	5	2	7
6C	5	2	7
7A	3	1	4
7B	8	3	11
7C	7	3	10
8A	3	6	9
8B	--	5	5
9B	4	1	5
9C	1	--	1
9D	10	3	13
10A	4	2	6
10B	4	2	6
10C	5	--	5
11A	3	--	3

Table 8. Deer harvest on Quantico by Sex and Training Area

Area	Buck	Doe	Total
11B	4	--	4
12A	--	--	--
12B	7	2	9
13	1	--	1
14A	3	--	3
14B	1	2	3
14C	--	2	2
15A	2	1	3
15B	7	1	8
15C	4	1	5
16A	5	4	9
16B	1	1	2
16C	2	1	3
16D	1	--	1
16E	--	--	--
16F	1	--	1
16G	1	--	1
17A	2	--	2
17B	8	--	8
17C	2	--	2
17UP	2	5	7
Totals	164	79	243
% of Harvest	67%	33%	

Total Deer Harvested By Training Area

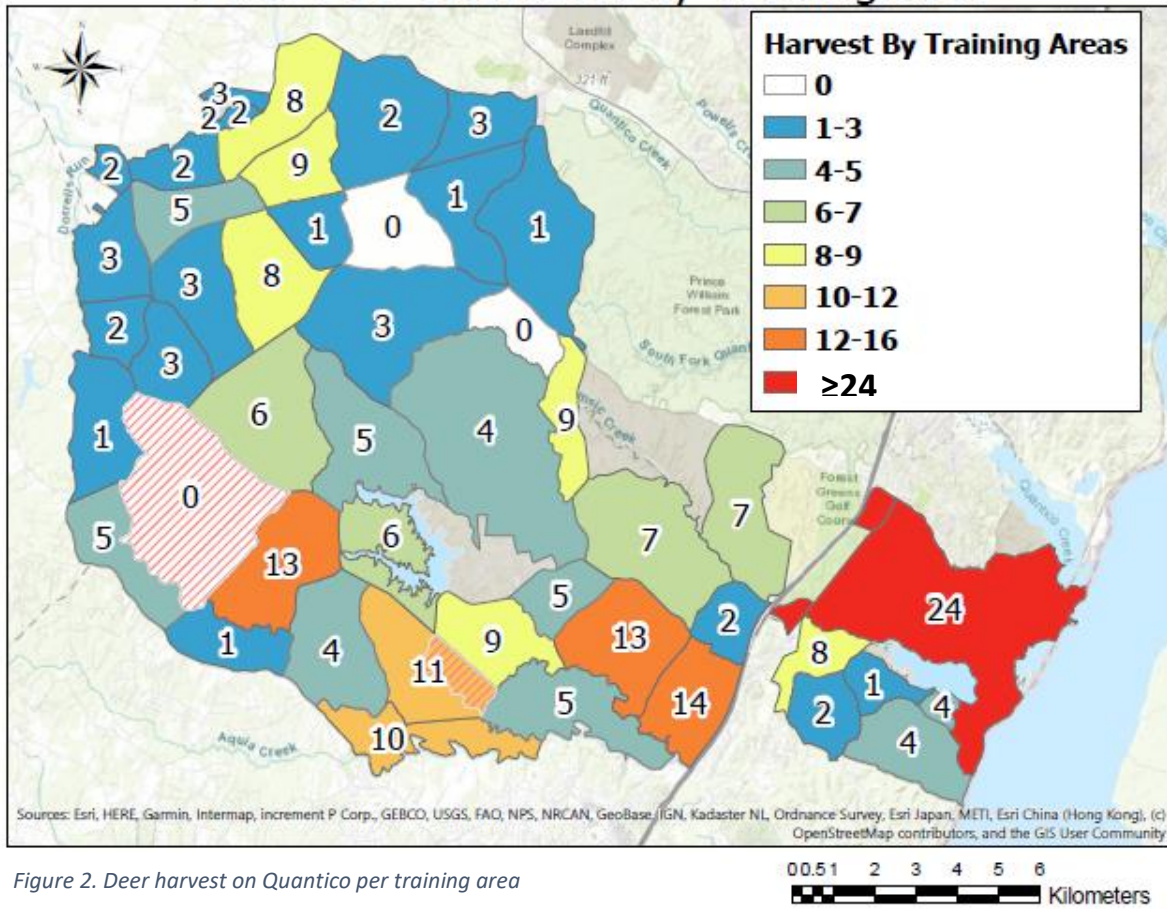


Figure 2. Deer harvest on Quantico per training area