

2023 Fall Hunting Summary

Marine Corps Base Quantico
Natural Resources Section



Purpose

This report summarizes results from annual surveys and species harvest data relevant to hunters, and includes harvest summaries for bear (Table 1), small game (Table 2), trapping (Table 3), turkey (Table 4, Fig. 1), waterfowl (Table 5), and deer (Tables 7, 8, and 9 Fig. 2).

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. In 2023, the acorn mast crop was poor overall for white oaks and above average for red oaks. This comes after a significant low for both white and red oaks during 2022. Although average crops are most common, both red and white oak crops are cyclical, occasionally resulting in bumper crops or failures. During mast failures, wildlife must seek out other sources of food such as grasses, forbs, and soft mast, often relying on fields and road edges. In this instance, wildlife may have turned to red oak crop and alternate food sources during 2023 in lieu of a strong white oak crop.

Hemorrhagic Disease

Hemorrhagic Disease, a general term used to describe one of the various strains of either epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) or blue tongue virus (BTV), is a common disease that occurs annually to some degree in the Southeastern United States. This disease is transmitted by tiny biting flies such as midges, gnats, and no-see-ums. Outbreaks of hemorrhagic disease are highly variable and occur in late summer into the fall. Deer can often be found lying dead near bodies of water such as creeks, streams, or lakes. No cases of hemorrhagic disease have been found on base since one case in 2021 following the 22 cases recorded in 2020.

Chronic Wasting Disease

In 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. Consequently, the entirety of Fauquier County was included within Disease Management Area (DMA) 2, incorporating all Trainings Areas in that fall within the county lines. In 2022, a case of CWD out of Fairfax County resulted in all neighboring counties being added to the management area, including Prince William County that makes up about one third of the base. As of 2023, all Training Areas in Fauquier and Prince William Counties were incorporated into DMA2.

Taking a proactive approach, and in collaboration with VDWR, we again removed CWD samples from a select number of deer during the 2023 hunting 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](#).

Bear

Table 1. 2023 Bear Harvest at Quantico

Sex	Training Area	Weight (lbs)
Male	16D	238D
Male	12A	136W

Small Game

Table 2. 2023 Small Game Harvest at Quantico

Species	Number Harvested
Squirrel	315
Woodcock	16
Rabbit	28
Dove	20
Coyote	7
Red Fox	2
Gray Fox	0

Trapping

Table 3. 2023 Trapping Harvest at Quantico

Species	Number Taken	Number Released
Raccoon	2	0
Opossum	1	1
Beaver	3	0

Fall Turkey

Table 4. 2023 Fall Turkey Harvest at Quantico

	Male	Female
Adult	2	0
Juvenile	0	2
Unknown	0	0
Total	2	2

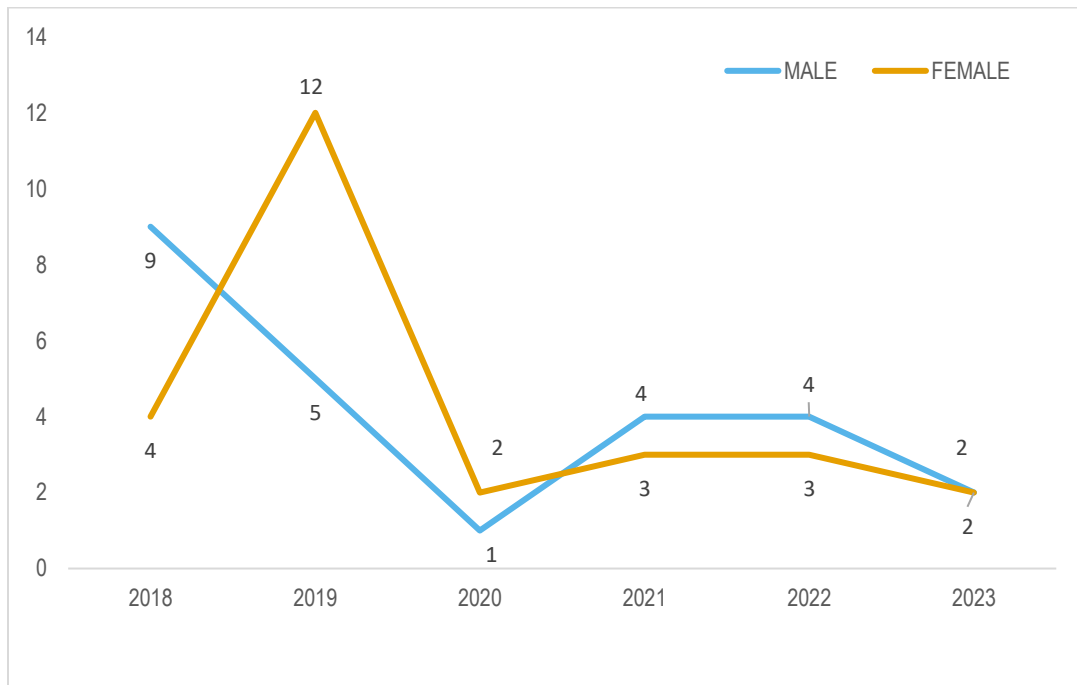


Figure 1. Six-year fall turkey harvest by sex at Quantico.

Waterfowl

Table 5. 2023 Waterfowl Harvest at Quantico by Species

Species	Harvest
Canada Goose	39
Tundra Swan	0
Wood Duck	59
Blue-winged Teal	6
Green-winged Teal	4
Gadwall	2
Northern Shoveler	3
American Wigeon	0
Mallard	38
American Black Duck	22
Northern Pintail	1
Canvasback	3
Redhead	0
Lesser Scaup	3
Greater Scaup	0
Ring-necked Duck	9
Common Goldeneye	0
Bufflehead	18
Hooded Merganser	23
Common Merganser	1
Red-breasted Merganser	1
Ruddy Duck	17
American Coot	3
Total	252

Deer

Table 7. 2023 Quantico Deer Harvest by Sex and Age Class

Age Class	Buck	Doe
Adult (2.5+)	115	48
Yearlings (1.5)	76	10
Fawn (0.5)	1	10
Unknown	3	1
Totals	195	69

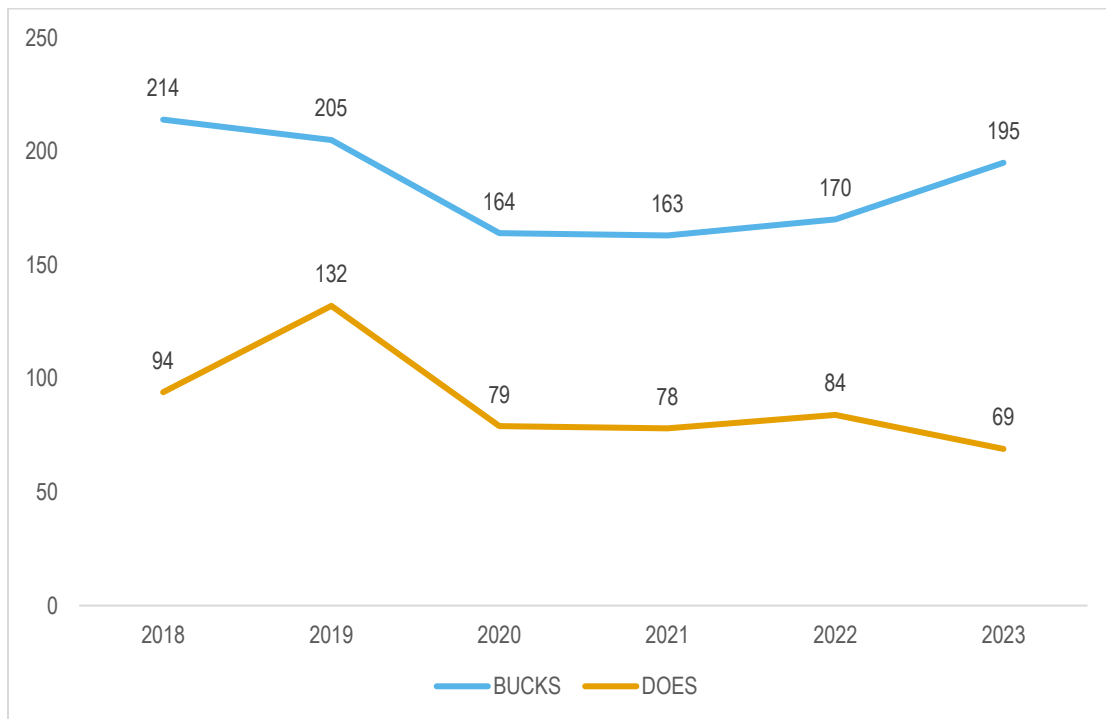


Figure 2. Five-year deer harvest by sex at Quantico.

Table 8. 2023 Quantico Deer Harvest by Sex and Training Area

Training Area	Bucks	Does	Total
CAMP UPSHUR	4	3	7
OCS 2B	1	0	1
OCS 3	7	2	9
OCS 4	1	1	2
P1	0	2	2
P2	0	0	0
P3	5	2	7
P4	2	2	4
P5	0	0	0
P6	0	1	1
P7	4	0	4
P8	2	1	3
P9	0	1	1
TA 05A	3	0	3
TA 05B	7	1	8
TA 05C	5	3	8
TA 06B	5	1	6
TA 06C	7	1	8
TA 07A	3	1	4
TA 07B	5	5	10
TA 07C	10	1	11
TA 08A	7	5	12
TA 08B	4	4	8
TA 09B	3	1	4
TA 09C	2	2	4
TA 09D	13	4	17
TA 10A	5	0	5
TA 10B	4	1	5
TA 10C	5	2	7
TA 11A	4	3	7
TA 12B	2	1	3
TA 13	6	0	6
TA 14A	7	2	9
TA 14B	5	0	5
TA 14C	4	1	5
TA 15A	1	0	1
TA 15B	5	1	6
TA 15C	3	1	4
TA 16A	9	2	11
TA 16B	7	1	8
TA 16C	3	1	4
TA 16D	3	0	3
TA 16E	1	0	1
TA 16F	1	2	3
TA 16G	8	0	8
TA 17A	4	3	7
TA 17B	7	0	7

TA 17C	1	3	4
TDSA	0	1	1
WOUNDED WARRIOR	4	6	10
Total	195	69	264