

**Executive Summary 2008**  
**Evaluation of the Decoy-Only Hunting Unit in the**  
**Lower Oahe Waterfowl Hunting Access Area**  
**HD-1-09.AMS**

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**Professional assistance with this evaluation project was provided by:**  
Tim Withers.....goose trailer registration

# Executive Summary

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- 2008 marked the second highest use of the decoy-only, Sheehan waterfowl unit in the Lower Oahe Waterfowl Hunting Access Area over its 11 years of operation (1998 – 2008) (Figure 1).
- An estimated total of 2,991 Canada geese were harvested at the decoy-only unit; the highest in its 11 years of operation (Figures 2 and 3).
- Mean satisfaction was relatively similar for the first five-year period (1998 – 2002) with 2003 through 2008 being significantly higher (Figure 4). The percent of satisfied hunters ranged around the 80% mark for the last six years (2003 – 2007) (Figure 5).
- **Recommendation.** This special goose-hunting unit provided a significant amount of satisfying recreational opportunity for public decoy-geese hunting in central South Dakota. Based on the information collected in this survey it is recommended that this hunting opportunity be continued.

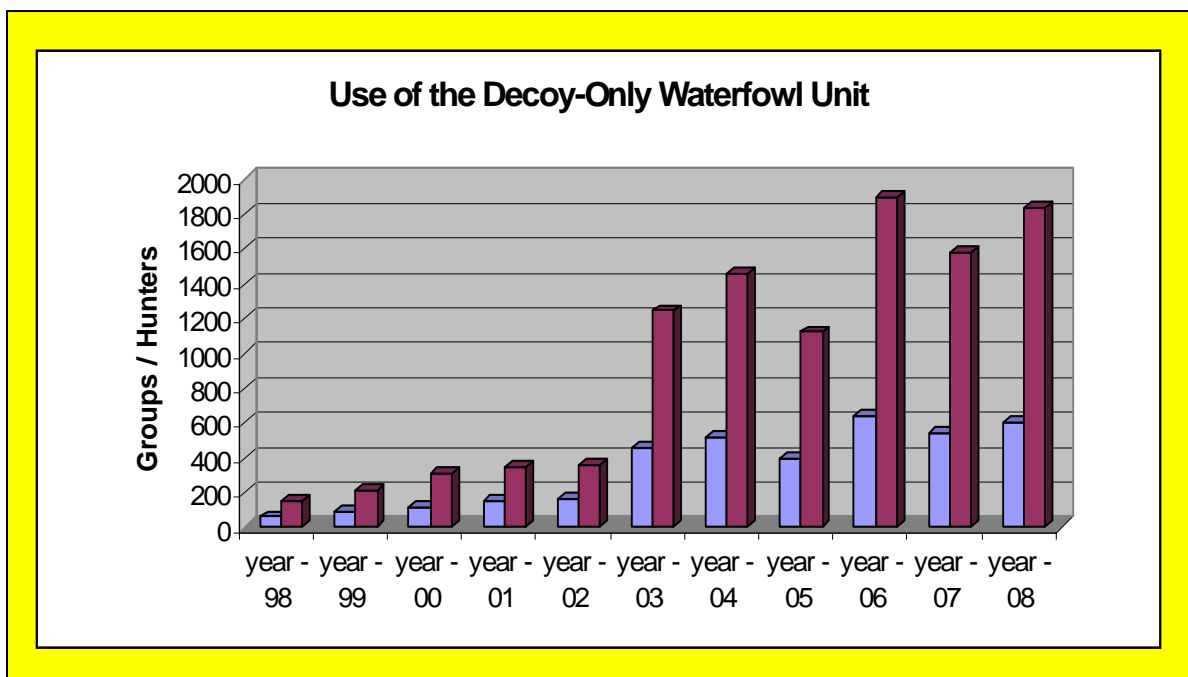


Figure 1. Use of the decoy-only waterfowl unit (1998 – 2008).

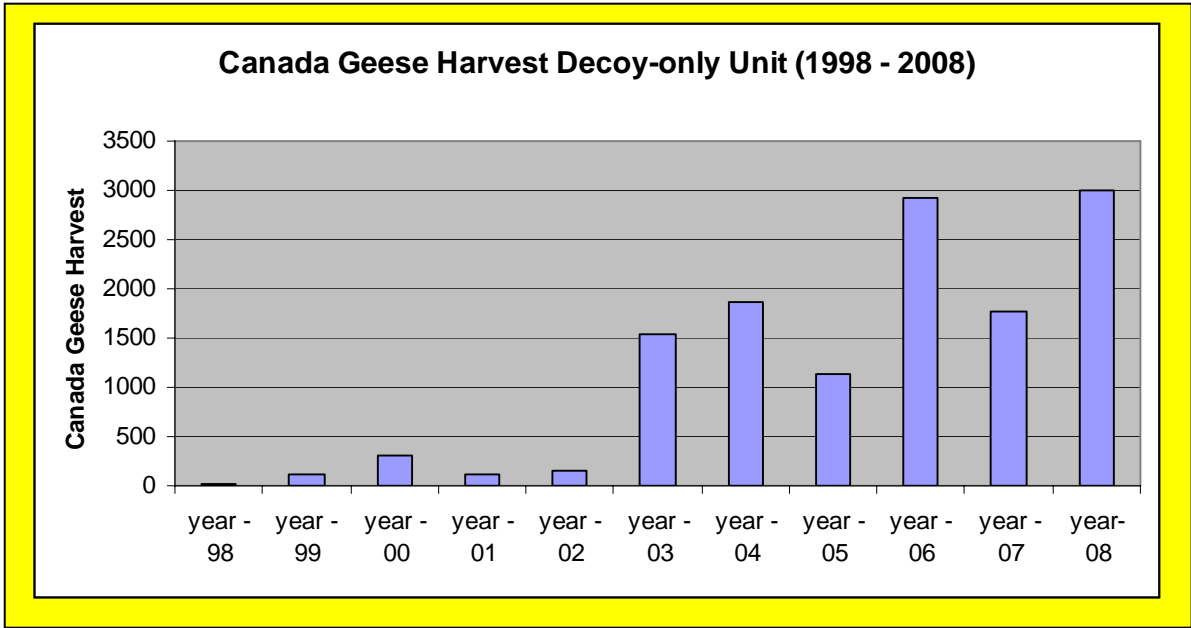


Figure 2. Canada geese harvested from the decoy-only waterfowl unit (1998 – 2008).

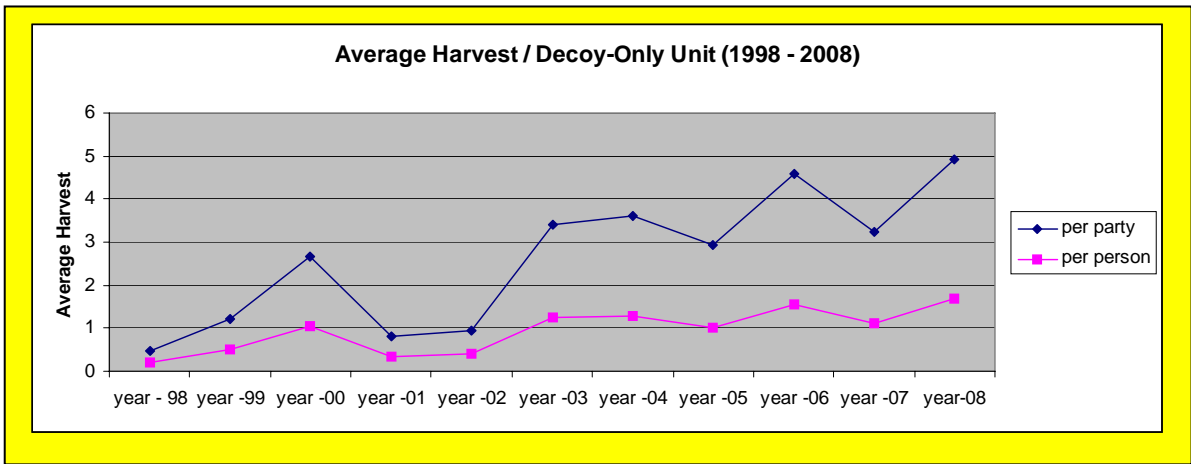


Figure 3. Average number of Canada geese harvested (per party and per person) from the decoy-only waterfowl unit (1998 – 2008).

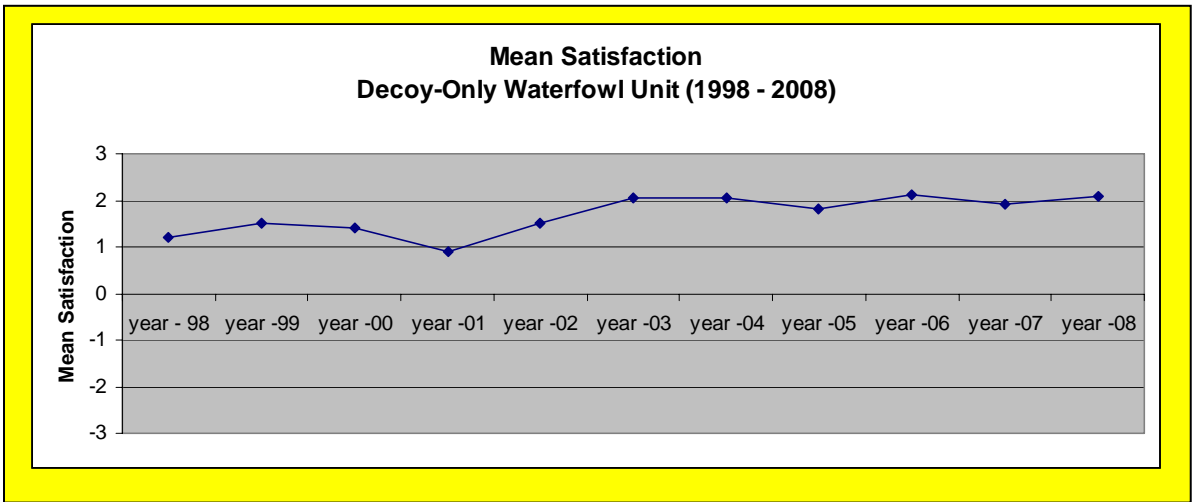


Figure 4. Mean satisfaction of hunters using the decoy-only waterfowl unit (1998 – 2008). Scale: Very Satisfied=3, Moderately Satisfied=2, Slightly Satisfied=1, Neutral=0, Slightly Dissatisfied=-1, Moderately Dissatisfied=-2, and Very Dissatisfied=-3.

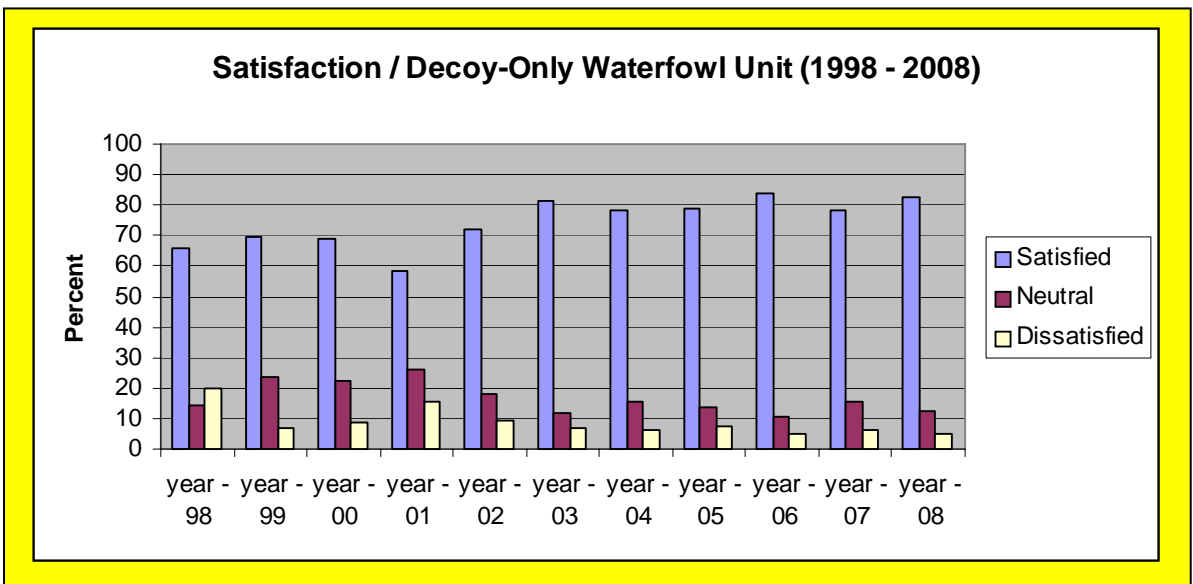


Figure 5. Satisfaction level of hunters using the decoy-only waterfowl unit (1998 – 2008).



A copy of the complete report can be found on the GFP web-page at:

<http://stage.sdgfp.info/Publications/Index.htm>

Listed under the sub-heading **Opinion Surveys:**

**Lower Oahe Decoy-Only Unit 2008 (full report)**