

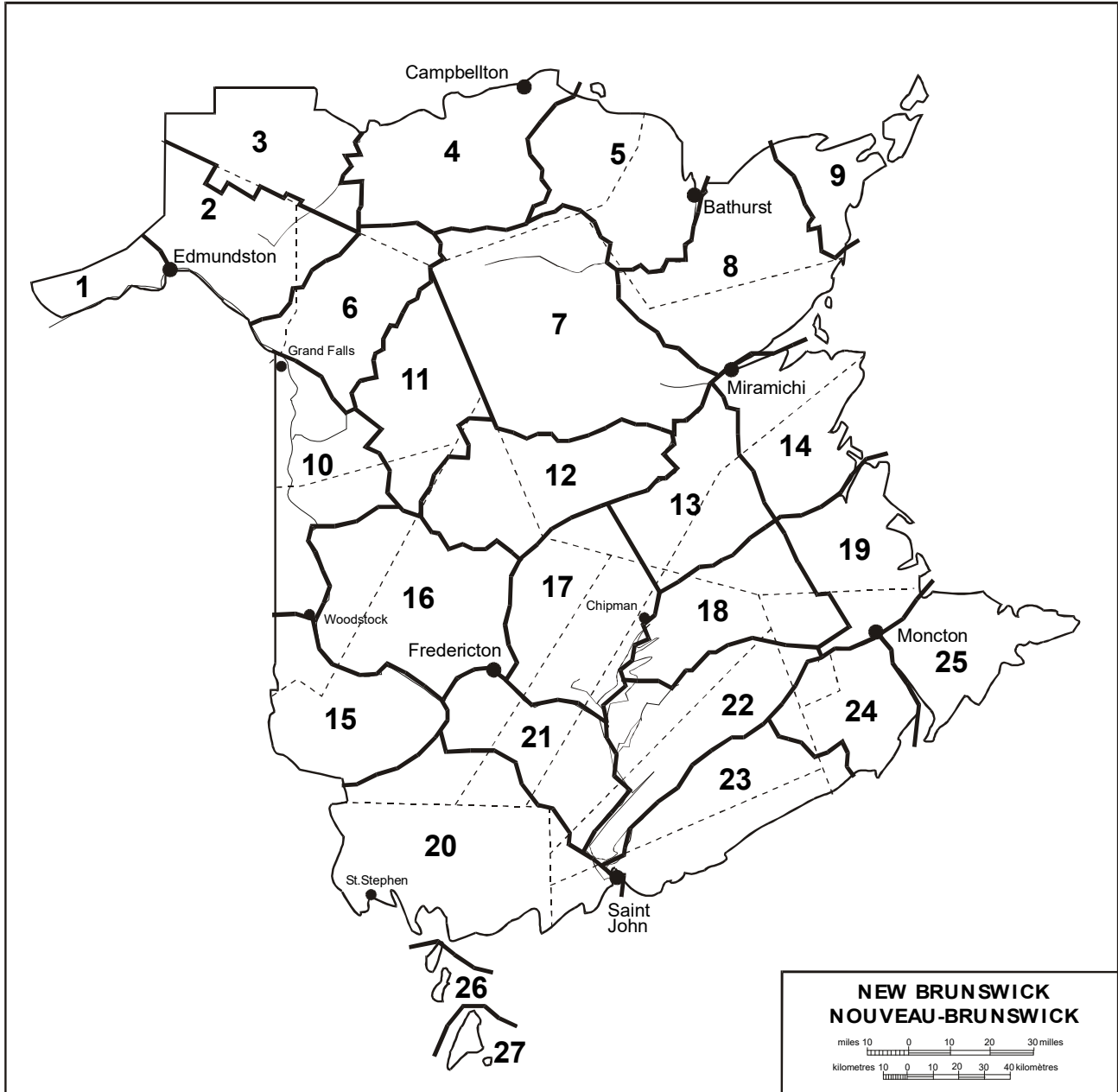
# New Brunswick Wild Turkey Harvest Report 2023



Fish and Wildlife Branch  
Natural Resources and Energy Development

[www.gnb.ca/fishwildlife](http://www.gnb.ca/fishwildlife)

# Wildlife Management Zones Zones d'Aménagement de la Faune



# 2023 Wild Turkey Harvest Report

## Summary

The 2023 wild turkey hunting season was the third wild turkey hunting season in New Brunswick. The 12-day wild turkey hunting season was open to residents of New Brunswick, took place from May 8<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup> and was a limited-entry hunt where individuals were required to enter a lottery to be drawn for a licence. Prior to entering the wild turkey draw, applicants were required to complete an on-line Wild Turkey Hunting Course. Over 8,700 individuals have completed the on-line Wild Turkey Hunting Course; 6,784 prior to last year's season and an additional 1,702 this year.

The number of licenses made available for the 2023 Wild Turkey License Draw increased by 100 licenses over 2022 to a total of 550 wild turkey licenses. An additional 25 licenses were made available in Wildlife Management Zones (WMZ) 10, 15, 16, and 20. The application period for the draw was from March 13<sup>th</sup> to April 7<sup>th</sup>. In 2023, 4,004 residents applied for one of the 550 available licences across WMZs 10, 15, 16, 20, 22, and 23. This is a 9.6% increase (352) in applicants over last year. Overall, the chances of being drawn for a licence was 13.7% (Table 1), up from 12.3% last year. Of the 550 licences drawn, 488 (88.7%) wild turkey licences were purchased (Table 2). Licence holders were limited to the harvest of one male (bearded) wild turkey.

**Table 1. Number of Draw Applicants and Wild Turkey Licences Available by Wildlife Management Zone for 2023**

WMZ	10	15	16	20	22	23	Total
Applicants	877	427	839	1,304	370	187	4,004
Licences	100	100	100	150	50	50	550
Draw Success (%)	11.4	23.4	11.9	11.5	13.5	26.7	13.7

**Table 2. Number of 2023 Wild Turkey Licences Purchased by Wildlife Management Zone**

WMZ	Wild Turkey Hunting Licences		
	# Allocated	# Purchased	% Purchased
10	100	88	88.0
15	100	92	92.0
16	100	89	89.0
20	150	130	86.7
22	50	46	92.0
23	50	43	86.0
<b>Total/Overall</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>88.7</b>

Each of the 488 hunters who purchased a wild turkey hunting licence were required to submit a mandatory wild turkey harvest report; 417 (85%) wild turkey harvest reports were submitted by individuals who purchased their 2023 wild turkey hunting license. From the submitted reports, **190 wild turkeys** were reported harvested during the 12-day hunt (Table 3); 75 wild turkeys (39%) were harvested on the first day of the season and 149 wild turkeys (78%) were harvested during the first week of the season (Figure 1). The 2023 harvest was an 8% (+14 birds) increase over the 2022 harvest (Table 4). The overall success rate was 47% which is a decrease from the success rate of 50% in 2022.

Overall, 100 more wild turkey licenses were available in 2023 compared to 2022, 112 more licenses were purchased, and 14 more wild turkey were harvested. It should be noted there are still 71 outstanding reports yet to be received; however, it is believed the reported harvest would not significantly increase if the outstanding reports were submitted.

**Table 3. Reported Number of hunters and wild turkey harvest by Wildlife Management Zone for 2023**

WMZ	Hunted			Reported Harvest	Estimated Success Rate %
	Yes	No	N/A		
10	70	3	15	35	50.0
15	69	3	20	37	53.6
16	74	2	13	47	63.5
20	122	1	7	53	43.4
22	36	1	9	11	30.6
23	33	3	7	7	21.2
<b>Total/Overall</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>47.0</b>

**Table 4. Wild Turkey Licenses allocated and purchased by WMZ with harvest from 2021 to 2023**

WMZ	2021			2022			2023		
	Allocated	Purchased	Harvest	Allocated	Purchased	Harvest	Allocated	Purchased	Harvest
10	75	67	27	75	67	39	100	88	35
15	75	64	21	75	68	35	100	92	37
16	75	66	29	75	72	36	100	89	47
17	50	41	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	125	111	47	125	102	49	150	130	53
22	0	0	0	50	35	11	50	46	11
23	0	0	0	50	32	7	50	43	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>190</b>

Wild turkey hunters spent an average of 17 hours hunting wild turkeys during the 2023 season. Successful hunters spent an average of 10 hours hunting (range of < 15 minutes to 80 hours) and unsuccessful hunters spent an average of 23 hours hunting (range of 1 to 100 hours).

Wild turkey hunters spent an estimated minimum of 6,825 total hours hunting wild turkey and had observed a minimum of 6,764 wild turkeys throughout the season. This results in a minimum of 0.98 turkeys observed per hour of hunting (Table 5). Overall, wild turkey hunters saw an average of 16.8 wild turkeys while hunting. Successful hunters saw an average of 19 turkeys while hunting, while unsuccessful hunters saw an average of 14 turkeys while hunting.

**Table 5. Number of wild turkeys observed per hunter and per hour while hunting wild turkeys from 2021 to 2023.**

WMZ	2021	2022	2023
-----	------	------	------

	# of Turkeys Observed Per Hunter	# of Turkeys Observed Per Hour of Hunting	# of Turkeys Observed Per Hunter	# of Turkeys Observed Per Hour of Hunting	# of Turkeys Observed Per Hunter	# of Turkeys Observed Per Hour of Hunting
<b>10</b>	19.1	0.87	14.2	0.96	16.8	1.04
<b>15</b>	14.4	0.74	17.1	1.04	16.6	1.16
<b>16</b>	9.1	0.44	11.6	0.72	15.1	0.76
<b>17</b>	1.75	0.07	n\a	n\a	n\a	n\a
<b>20</b>	20.9	1.17	21.7	1.37	24.1	1.43
<b>22</b>	n/a	n/a	5.5	0.28	6.4	0.35
<b>23</b>	n/a	n/a	7.9	0.41	6.6	0.27
<b>Overall</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>0.98</b>

