

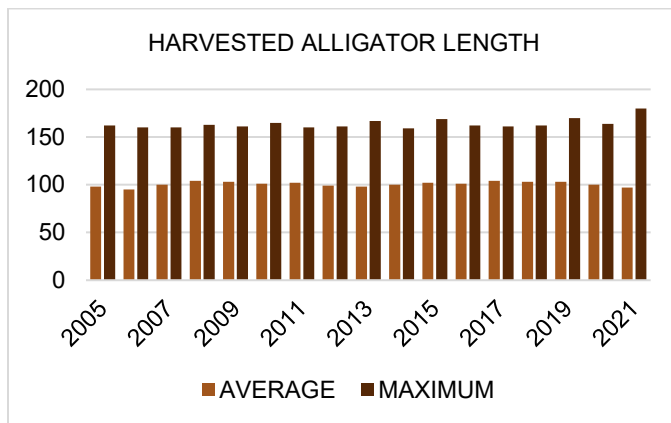
Alligator Program Highlights

FY 2021-2022



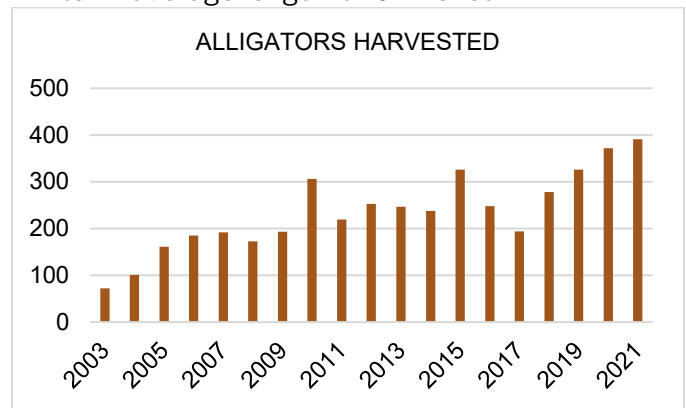
An alligator basks in the marsh on Ossabaw Island.

- There were 1,030 alligator hunters drawn for the quota hunt. Georgia hunters harvested 391 alligators, a record number, continuing the trend of increased success for the 5th year in a row. Successful hunters averaged 3.6 nights on the water and most were accompanied by 2 assistants.



Length of alligators harvested.

- Average length of harvested alligators was 97.1 inches, slightly lower than the long-term average of 100 inches. The longest alligator harvested in 2021 was 180 inches. Alligator length is reported by the hunter, and this is the longest alligator reported since hunting began in the state. The long-term average length is 161 inches.

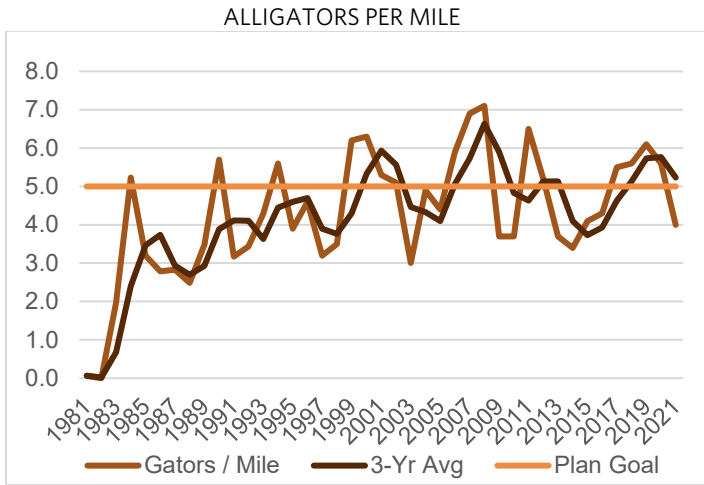


Number of alligators harvested between 2003-2021.

- Georgia WRD staff surveyed 279 miles of rivers, coastal areas and reservoir shorelines and counted 1,129 alligators, for a 2021 population index of 4 alligators per mile. This year's index brings the 3-year average to 5.23 alligators per mile, which is slightly above the alligator management plan's goal of 5 alligators per mile for the statewide average. Annual spotlight surveys are the best method to determine alligator population trends, however in 2021, with the assistance of Dr. Lora Smith of the Jones Center, we have begun to examine survey methodology to look for ways to improve data collection.

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Georgia Alligator population data from 1981 to 2021.