

6-8	12	11	8	9	6	11	9	8	14	9
8-10	0	1	5	0	0	1	6	2	6	2
10-12	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Unknown	30	18	25	13	8	11	17	26	26	13
Total	71	64	60	47	38	38	56	62	75	46
Total known legal harvest size	30	23	27	25	13	18	27	23	33	24
Avg total nightly count = 56					Avg known legal nightly count = 24					

VII. Determination of Effects:

A. Explanation of effects of the action on species and critical habitats in item V. B (attach additional pages as needed):

SPECIES/ CRITICAL HABITAT	IMPACTS TO SPECIES/CRITICAL HABITAT
Wood stork	No nesting colony of wood storks has been found at Banks Lake NWR and hunting would generally occur outside of the nesting season. Banks Lake is within 75 miles of several colonies in Georgia and north Florida. Wood storks may be disturbed from feeding areas and roost sites on occasion from hunting activity. This would be sporadic and no different than being disturbed by other recreational users.
American Alligator	The Georgia DNR has determined that the population of American Alligators can sustain limited harvest at Banks Lake NWR. Initially, greater numbers of hunters will hunt the refuge due to being a new area and easy access but with a limited number of large alligators, interest is expected to lessen, resulting in fewer alligators taken. Sightings may decrease as alligators become more wary of humans.

B. Explanation of actions to be implemented to reduce adverse effects:

SPECIES/ CRITICAL HABITAT	ACTIONS TO MITIGATE/MINIMIZE IMPACTS
Wood Storks	The time and place of disturbance will be highly variable which will minimize the impacts. No mitigation is necessary.