MANAGEMENT OF HUNTING AND HUNTING FUND (A CASE STUDY)

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Abstract: *Hunting is done in hunting groups in order to preserve optimum numbers of animals and at pre-established times depending on the type of game – with feathers or hair. Hunting is a potential ecological risk and its triggering, duration and results depend on both objective and subjective factors. Managing game and hunting funds aims at preserving habitats and managing factors limiting game numbers aims at preserving biodiversity.*

Keywords*: hunt, hunting fund, management*

INTRODUCTION

Hunting has been a current presence in the lives of local communities in the areas of game funds we analysed. According to laws and regulations, hunting is organised in hunting groups and under the supervision of a hunting range. Hunting groups consist of local and established hunters [1,7,9].

Hunters speculate this state of facts and, using baits such as maize cobs (in wild boars), hunting dogs and improvised traps, they manage to capture nature's gifts. This supposes perseverance, insistence, personal plans and, of course, debatable morality.

Hunting is a potential ecological risk whose triggering, duration and results depend on numerous objective and subjective factors [3,5].

Hunting birds supposes the same procedure and the existence of a hunting license. The rhythmicity of this activity is correlated with the daily movements (flights in the morning and at sunset), with group formation behaviour (by daytime, at feeding lots on the crops, by night, at passing the night in the marshes), with shedding periods, with chick dispersion, with seasonal migration periods (spring and autumn), etc [2,4, 10].

Managing the game, hunting funds and hunting activities are carried out mainly according to traditions. Reasons and opportunities have diversified, which makes increasingly uncontrollable the satisfaction of this ancestral passion. **Until now, there are no visible trends of ecologisation of these activities, of searching hunting game in close concordance with trophic resources and habitat opportunities, of ecological values, as well as of factors limiting game numbers** (diseases, competition between species, chemisation, intensive agriculture, lack of education, etc.) [6, 8, 11].

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The study regarding game management and hunting funds was carried out at Becicherecu Mic, Timiș County, where we analysed the game numbers over a period of five years and the quotas that need to be removed to preserve optimum numbers as well as the measures to take to reduce pests that can have a negative influence on optimum ratio in the habitat.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Spring game numbers (per years), acknowledged quotas to be removed and harvests per hunting seasons in different species (numbers) in the area of Becicherecu Mic are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Spring game numbers on the hunting fund of Becicherecu Mic, Timiş County, Romania

Species	Specification	2013	2014
Roebuck	Number	130	134
	Quota	12	12
	Harvest	12	
Wild boar	Number	3	4
	Quota	3	3
	Harvest	3	
Rabbit	Number	1105	1120
	Quota	150	160
	Harvest	150	
Fox	Number	25	25
	Quota	20	20
	Harvest		
Jackal	Number	1	1
	Quota	1	1
	Harvest	1	
Muskrat	Number	10	10
	Quota	5	5
	Harvest		

Table 2

Dynamics of game numbers in the last five years on the hunting fund of Becicherecu Mic, Timiş County, Romania

Species	Optimum number	Game numbers per years				
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Roebuck	130	131	130	131	130	134
Wild boar	0	6	3	3	3	4
Rabbit	1100	1140	1105	1120	1105	1120
Pheasant	700	755	725	730	710	725
Partridge	300	35	39	42	42	40

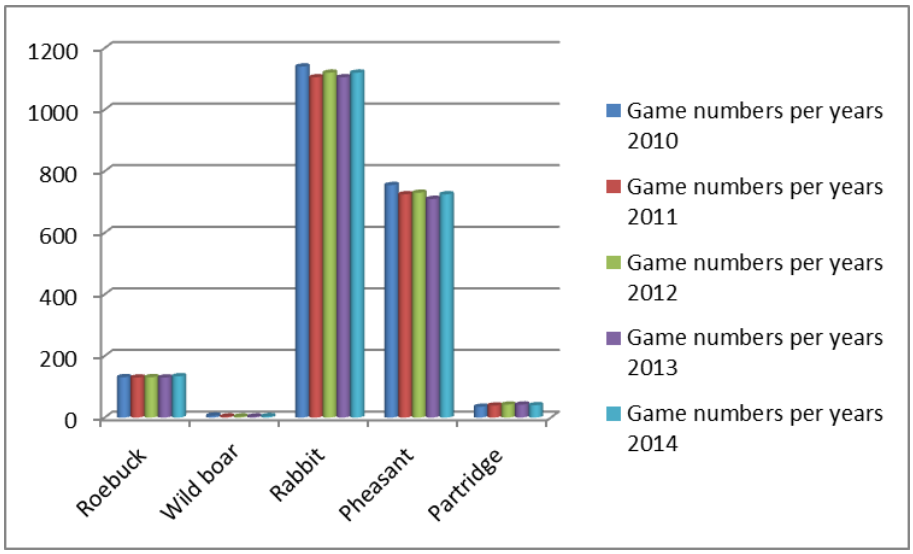

Figure 1. Dynamics of game numbers in the last five years on the hunting fund of Becicherecu Mic, Timiş County, Romania

Table 3

Ratio between optimum and real game numbers on the hunting fund of Becicherecu Mic, Timiş County, Romania

Species	Optimum game number	Real game number	Real game number/Optimum game number
	130	134	1.03
Roebuck	0	4	0
Wild boar	1100	1120	1.01
Rabbit	700	725	1.03
Pheasant	300	40	0.13
Partridge			

We can see that there are no significant differences between optimum and real game numbers, with a ratio of 1: 1 in the main game species except for partridge, a species almost inexistent (mainly because of the chemicals used in agriculture and of the destruction of the biota specific to this species) with no significant increase and below the optimum number.

Harvest quotas acknowledged for the hunting season 2013-2014 were reached in all hunting species except for fox, muskrat, crow and magpie because hunting time was not over at the time of reporting (hunting season was open in crow and magpie until March 31, 2014, in muskrat until April 2014, and in fox, over the entire year).

Table 4

Spring game numbers per years, quotas acknowledged and harvests per hunting season in birds (pieces) on the hunting fund of Becicherecu Mic, Timiş County, Romania

Species	Specification	2013	2014
Pheasant	Number	710	725
	Quota	110	150
	Harvest	110	
Partridge	Number	42	40
	Quota	0	0
	Harvest	0	0

Table 5

Analysis of bird harvesting on the hunting fund of Becicherecu Mic, Timiş County, Romania

	Harvesting quotas 2013/2014	
	Acknowledged	Achieved
Big duck	200	200
Small duck	0	0
Small snipe	0	0
Pheasant	296	150
Partridge	0	0
Dove	150	150
Ring dove	100	100
Quail	100	100
Lesser white-fronted goose	0	0

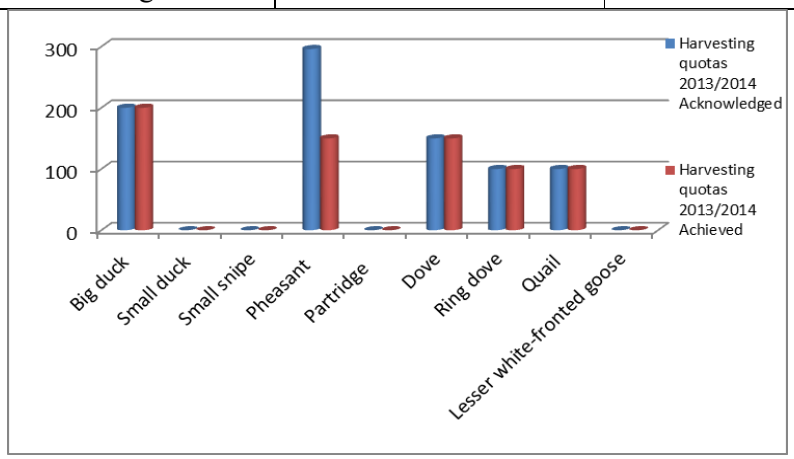

Figure 2. Analysis of bird harvesting on the hunting fund of Becicherecu Mic, Timiş County, Romania

Table 6

Harvested pests (no quotas) on the hunting fund of Becicherecu Mic, Timiş County, Romania

Species	Specification	2013
Crow	Harvest	100
Hooded crow	Harvest	100
Magpie	Harvest	150
Jay	Harvest	0
Stray dogs	Harvest	21
Stray cats	Harvest	4

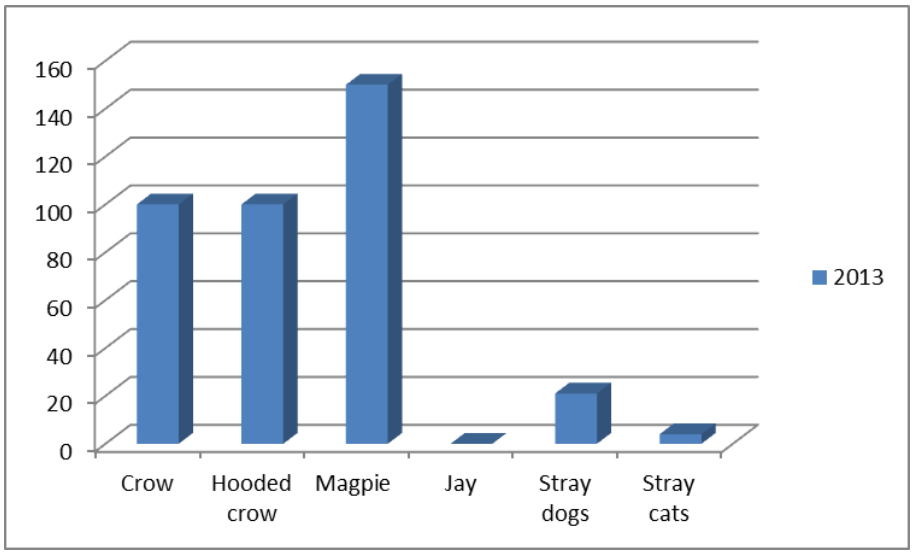

Figure 3. Harvested pests (no quotas) on the hunting fund of Becicherecu Mic, Timiş County, Romania

CONCLUSIONS

The ratio between optimum and real game numbers being close to one in the main game species we analysed, it is clear that there are no significant differences between optimum and real except for partridge whose numbers are very low.

The decrease of the game numbers are due mainly to the negative effect of the chemicals used in agriculture and to the destruction of the biota specific to partridge. In the other species of hunting interest, there are no significant increases (they keep the optimum level). In pest species, the hunting quotas were not reached because the hunting time was not over at the time of reporting.

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