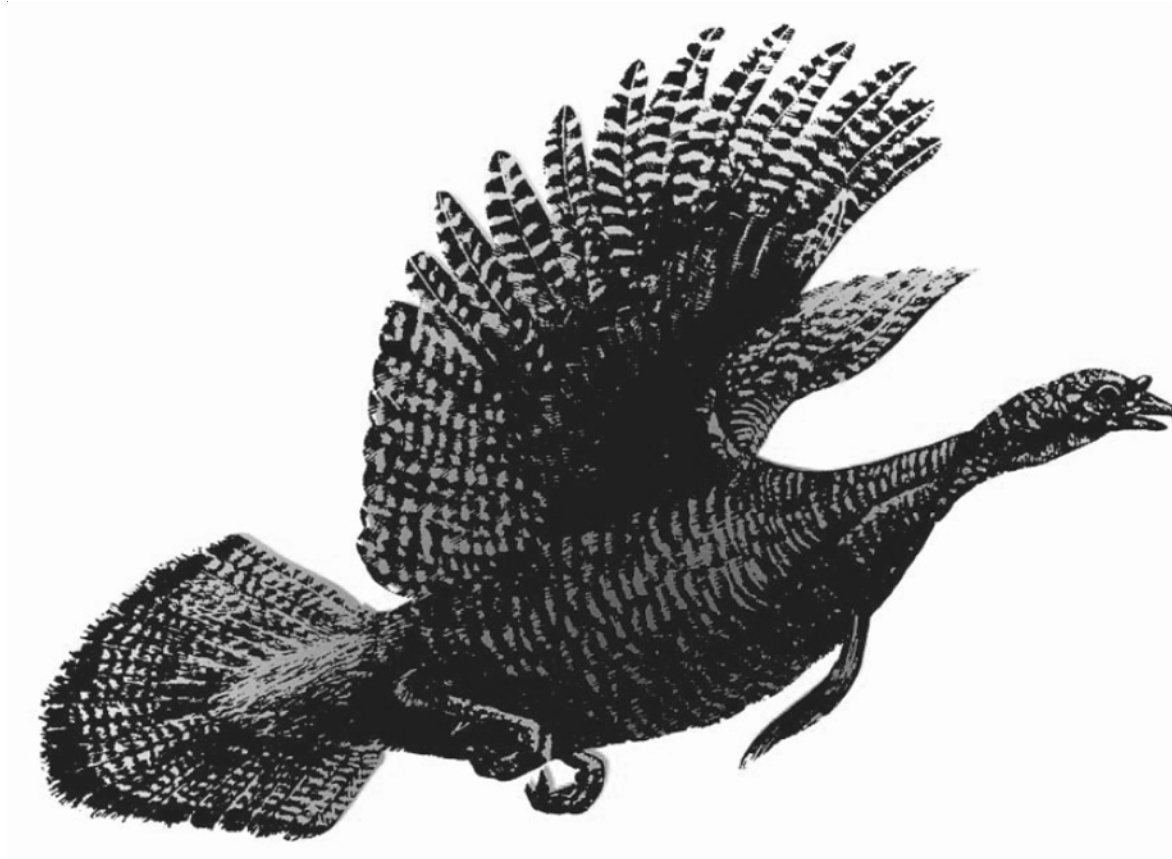


Spring Turkey Hunting Incident Rate Report 1983 through 2005



Introduction

A hunting-related shooting incident is defined as any occurrence when a person is injured as the result of the discharge of a firearm or bow and arrow during actual hunting or trapping activities. Often these incidents result from failing to follow some very basic safety rules. While one such incident is one too many, the marked decline of shooting incidents can be attributed to the success of hunter education training and mandatory use of fluorescent orange clothing.

Records dating back to 1915 have been kept by the Pennsylvania Game Commission in order to track these incidents. For comparative purposes, the Game Commission tracks trends in hunting-related shooting incidents by measuring the accident rate per 100,000 participants. In Pennsylvania, hunting-related shooting incidents have declined by nearly 80% since hunter education training began in 1959.

Included in this report are a series of charts, graphs and related data that compare historical data for spring turkey-hunting incidents with spring turkey hunter participation for the years 1983 through 2005. Data on hunter participation for the years 1998 and 2004 are not included. The hunter participation data set for 1998 was not included in this analysis because its validity is questioned. The low values reported during this year may have been caused by inadvertently not including the TMA map on the 1998-1999 survey instructions. Additionally, no hunter participation data is available for 2004 because no Game Take Survey was conducted.

HRSI DATA

Between 1983 and 2005, there were a total of 217 spring turkey HRSI's, of which 7 were reported as fatal. A total of five fatalities were the result of the victim being shot for game. During this time period, 1991 and 1995 witnessed the highest recorded number of spring incidents (each with 16 total incidents, 0 fatalities). The average rate of incidents per 100,000 spring turkey hunters has remained relatively unchanged since the institution of mandatory fluorescent orange usage regulations during the 1993 spring turkey season.

Turkey Hunting Data for 1983 through 2006

SPRING										
Year	# of Incidents	# of SFG Incidents	# of Hunters	# Hunter Days	Average Hunter Days	SFG Rate /100,000 Hunters	Rate/100,000 Hunters	Rate/100,000 Hunter Days	Fatal HRSIs (SFG)	
1983	7	6	255,982			2.34	2.74		0	
1984	6	5	209,717			2.38	2.86		0	
1985	8	4	214,331			1.87	3.73		1	
1986	10	5	246,039			2.03	4.06		0	
1987	8	7	206,039			3.4	3.88		0	
1988	8	5	226,008			2.21	3.54		0	
1989	4	4	224,138			1.79	1.79		1	
1990	8	7	191,442	861,086	4.5	3.66	4.18	0.93	1	
1991	16	16	179,202	781,499	4.36	8.93	8.93	2.05	0	
1992	8	5	186,738	799,621	4.28	2.68	4.28	1	0	
1993*	5	5	201,060	843,987	4.2	2.49	2.49	0.59	0	
1994	9	6	224,405	1,003,939	4.47	2.67	4.01	0.9	1	
1995	16	8	239,521	1,084,725	4.53	3.34	6.68	1.48	0	
1996	12	10	241,613	1,103,556	4.56	4.14	4.97	1.09	0	
1997	12	8	233,287	1,019,546	4.37	3.43	5.14	1.18	0	
1998	10	10	SUSPECT: DATA NOT USED							0
1999	14	8	237,984	1,023,988	4.3	3.36	5.88	1.37	0	
2000	13	12	231,860	995,472	4.29	5.18	5.61	1.31	0	
2001	7	3	230,115	1,025,011	4.45	1.3	3.04	0.68	0	
2002	9	8	218,931	964,575	4.41	3.65	4.11	0.93	1	
2003	9	6	246,820	1,069,299	4.33	2.43	3.65	0.84	0	
2004	9	9	NO SURVEY TAKEN							0
2005	9	7	247,304	1,038,280	4.2	2.83	3.64	0.87	0	
2006	5	3								

Total = 217	Total = 167	Avg. 235,989	Avg. 1,029,966	Avg. 4.36	Avg. 3.15	Avg. 4.51	Avg. 1.03	Total = 5
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Total Fatalities 1983 - 2005 = 7

Average Rate Prior to Orange Regulation/100,000 Hunters = 3.129

Total SFG* Fatalities 1983 - 2005 = 5

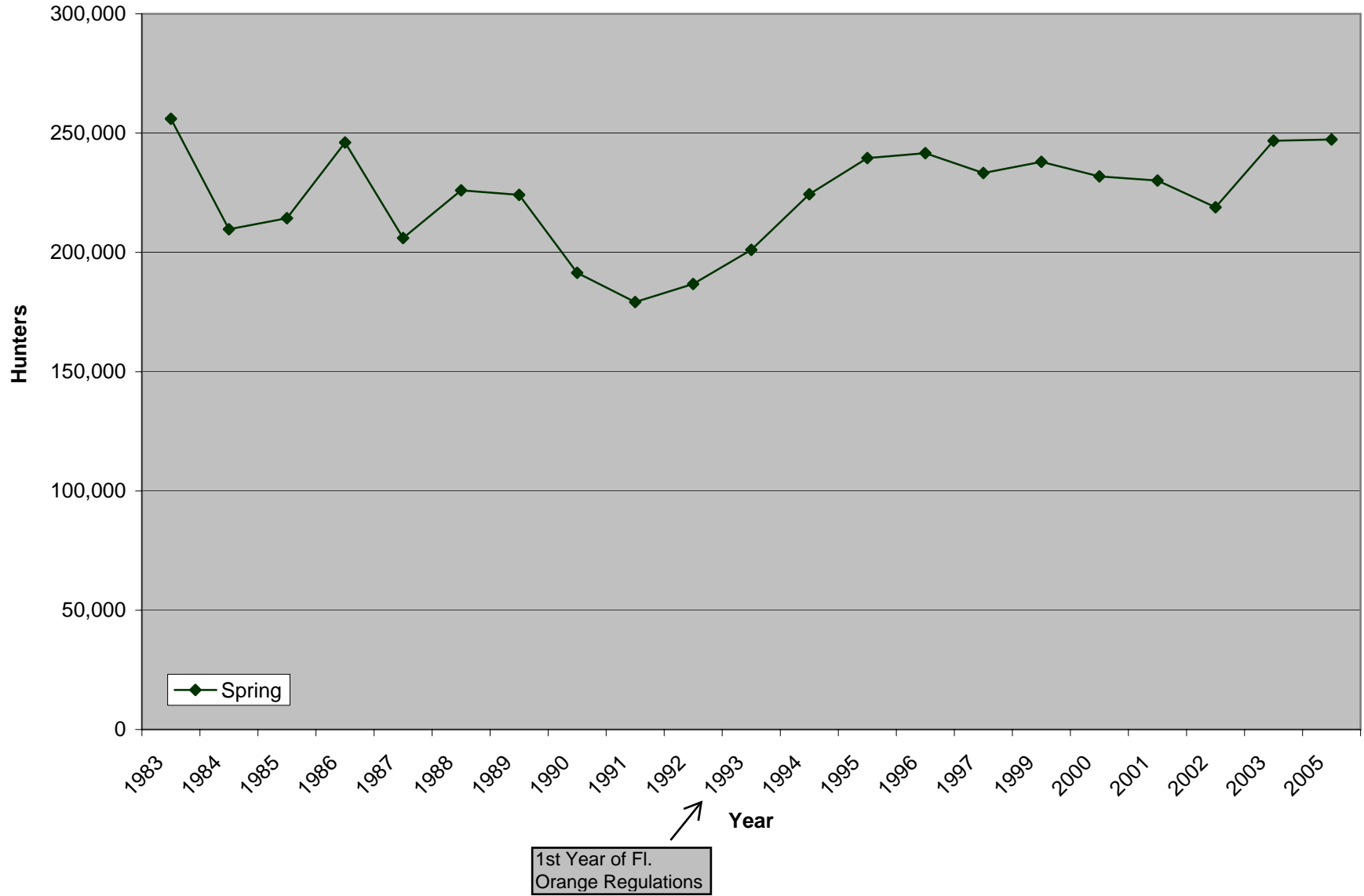
Average Rate After Orange Regulation/100,000 Hunters = 3.165

Percent of Total Incidents that are SFG* = 77%

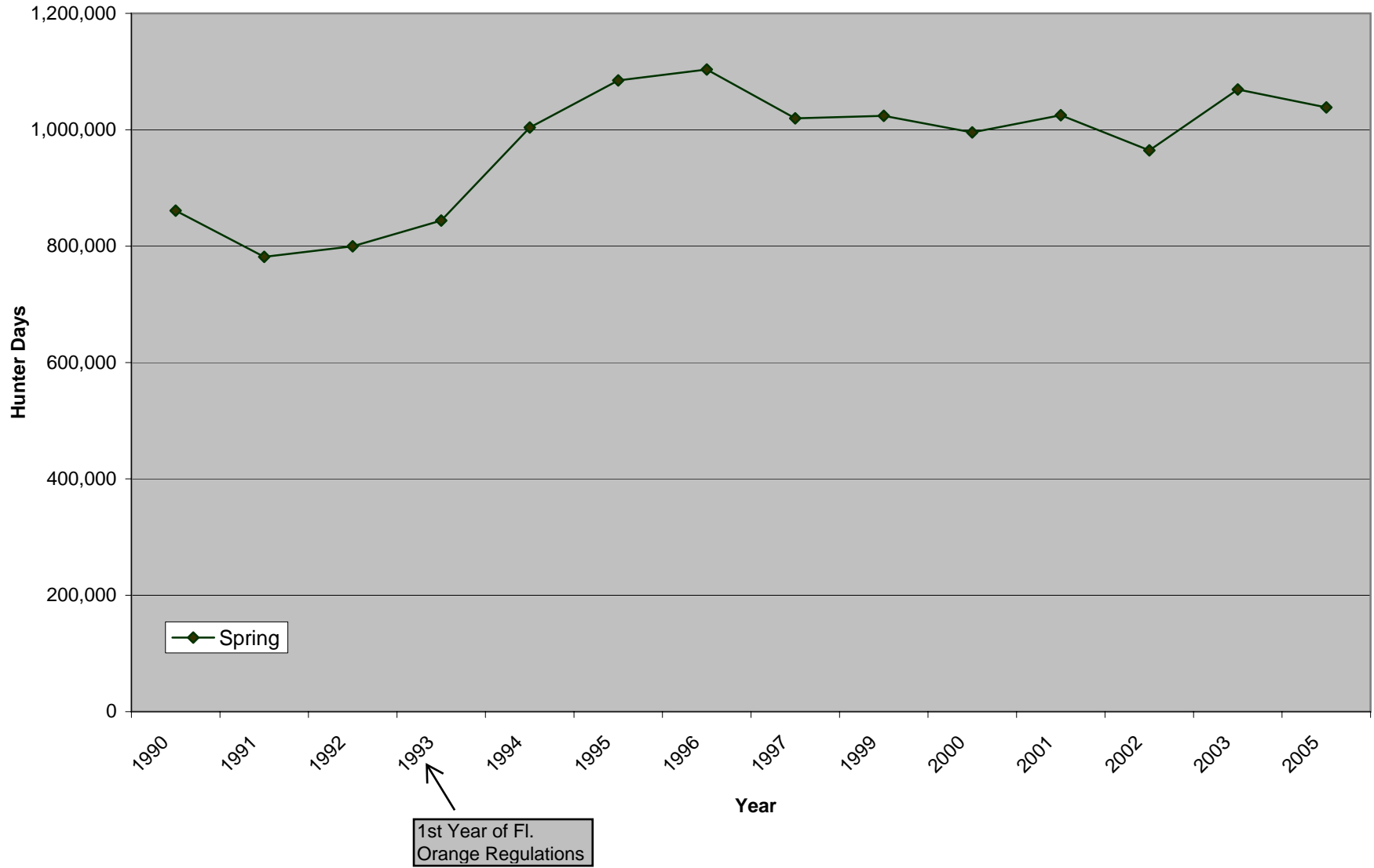
*(SFG = Shot For Game incidents)

*1993 was the 1st year that Fluorescent Orange regulations were established.

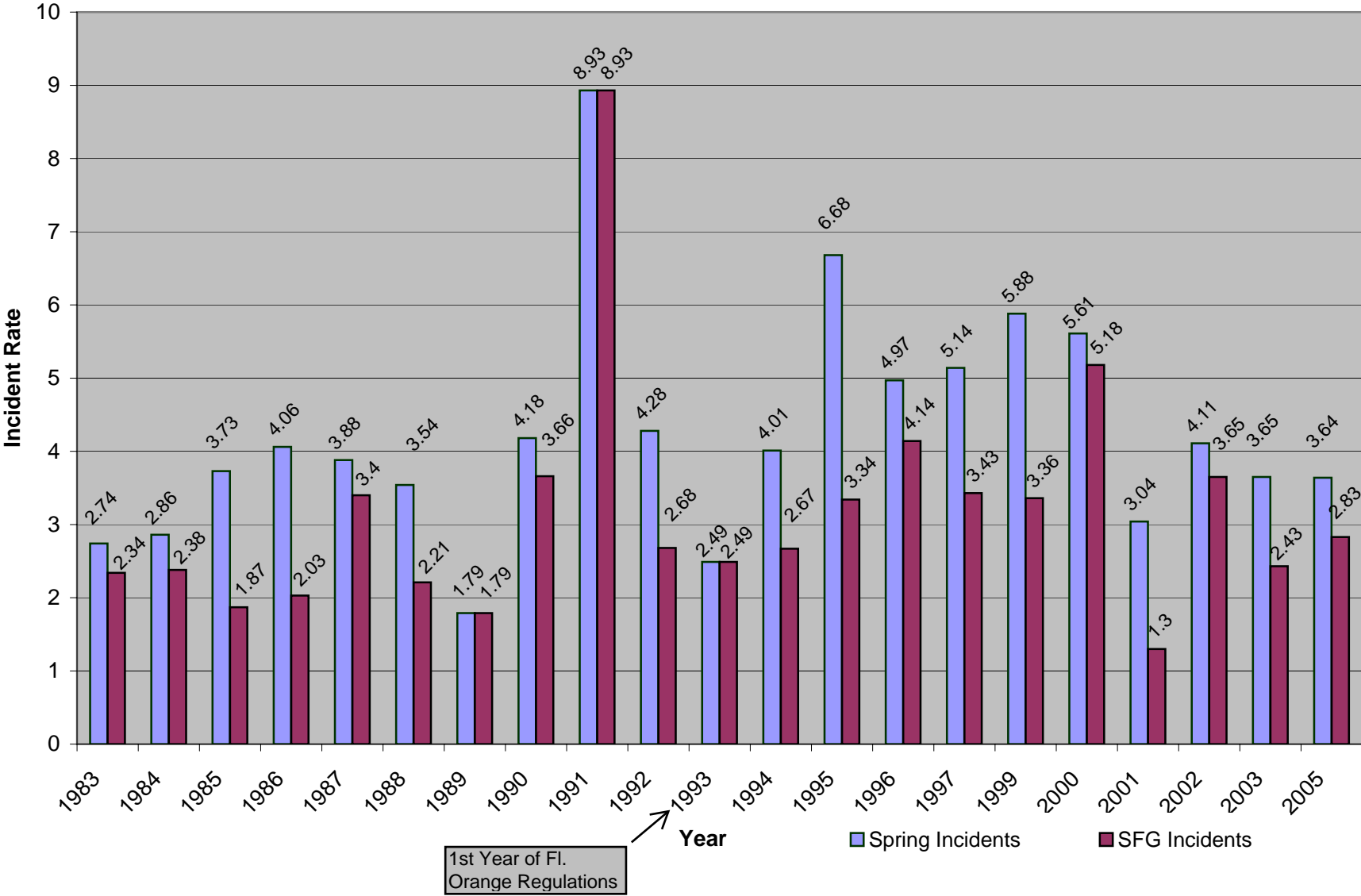
Turkey Hunters 1990 through 2005



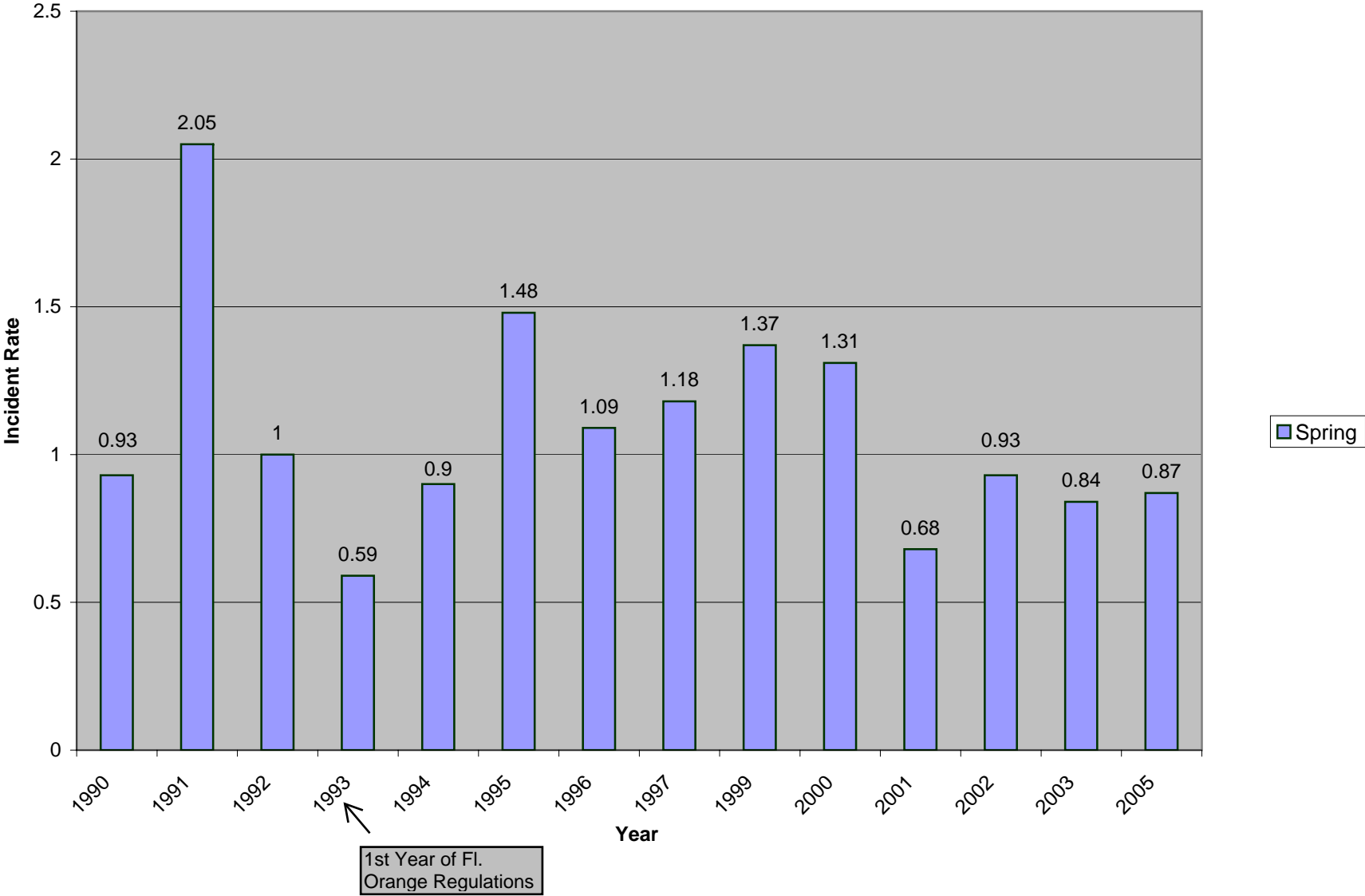
Turkey Hunter Days 1990 through 2005



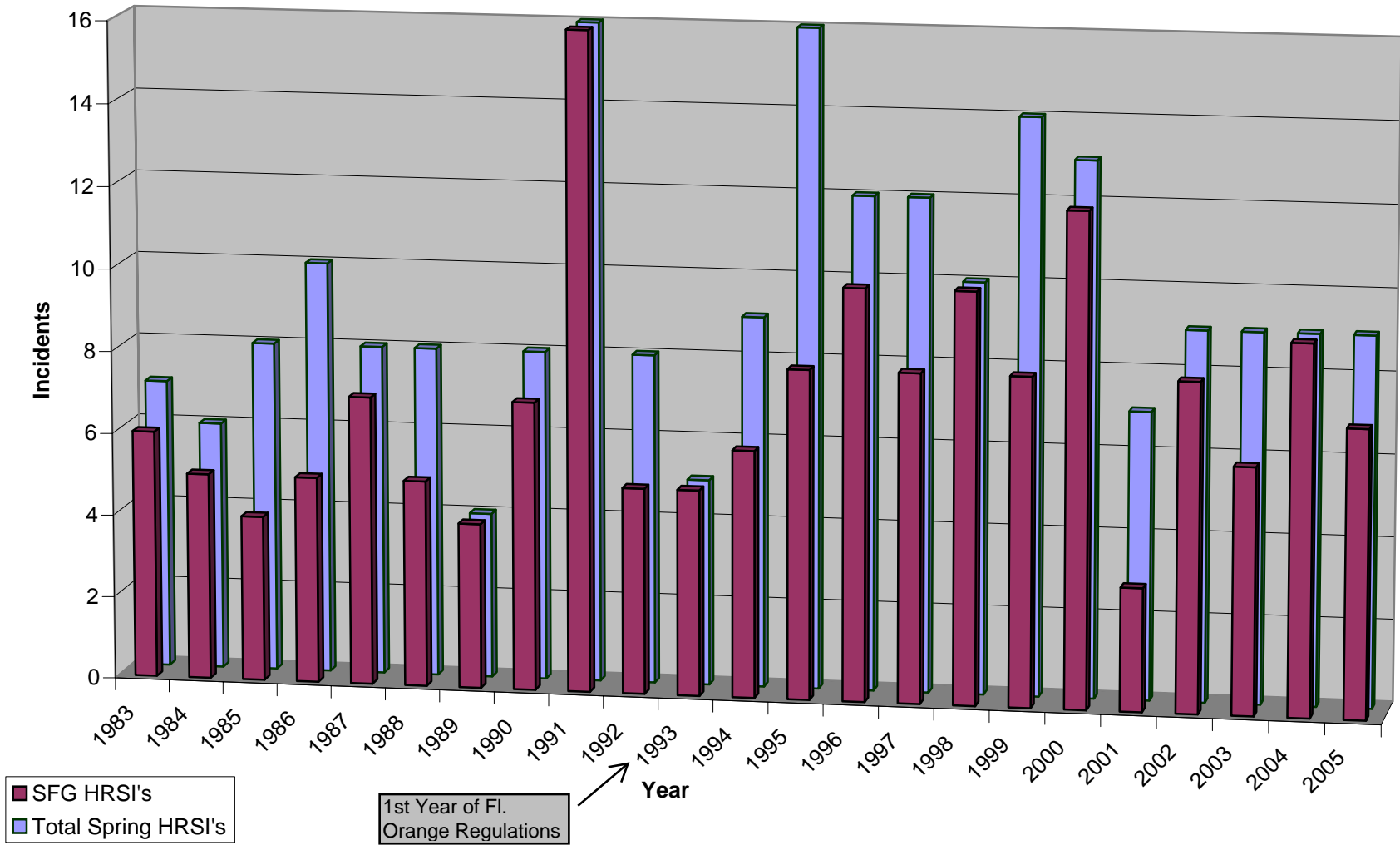
Turkey HRSI Rate per 100,000 Hunters 1983 through 2005
 (Total Spring Incidents vs. Spring Shot For Game Incidents)



Turkey HRSI Incident Rate per 100,000 Hunter Days
1990 through 2005



Turkey Hunting HRSI's: Total vs. Shot For Game HRSI's
1983 through 2005



Spring Turkey Fatal HRSIs (Victim Shot For Game - SFG)

