Analysing wild boar hunting bag in Flanders, northern Belgium

In Flanders, since 2008 a harvest report is mandatory for each wild boar shot as well as keeping the lower jaws. The Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) analyses these reports and collected jaws to monitor the numbers harvested, the age distribution of the harvest and its geographical distribution. The collected information is also used to describe several population dynamic characteristics of the Flemish population.

In Flanders, wild boars were shot for the first time outside of their restricted usual range in 2006. Since then, the number of municipalities in which wild boar are hunted increased, along with the number of animals shot per municipality.

After a strong increase in both hunting bag and distribution since their reappearance in Flanders, both statistics now seem to stabilise. It is unclear whether this a true reflection of the population trend or if it is biased by changing hunting legislation (temporally ban on night hunting) or by diminishing efforts by the Flemish administration to collect the harvest reports.