
Population monitoring and management

Roe deer hunting between facts, traditions and beliefs

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European roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) is the most widespread wildlife species in Germany and therefore a subject of hunting in nearly all habitats. Due to its importance, forest owners and hunters are interested in successful hunting regimes, which depend on their respective objectives. However, objectives of forest owners and hunters are not always in accordance and sometimes even oppositional. Hunters are often confused by old traditions and beliefs. Furthermore, hunting regimes often contradict current scientific knowledge of wildlife biology and ecology – as well as the hunters' objectives. In addition, most forest owners are not educated in forest sciences and thus do not have sufficient knowledge of silviculture, forest products, and forest damage in their ownership. The goal of this contribution is to compare different trials of hunting regimes taking into account recent scientific studies and to present conclusions for wildlife management and roe deer hunting.