



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



RODNEY A. STOKES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: April 11, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Beaver Island Deer Antler Point Restriction
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 12 of 2011
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

This amendment would establish an antler point restriction (APR) for Deer Management Unit (DMU) 115 that would require all antlered deer taken to have at least three antler points one or more inches in length on one side. This request was made on behalf of the Beaver Island Conservation Club (BICC) and Beaver Island Wildlife Club (BIWC) during the February 10, 2011 Natural Resources Commission (NRC) Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries. Afterwards, the NRC requested that Wildlife Division staff arrange for a meeting to be held on Beaver Island to gather additional public input on this proposal. This meeting is scheduled to occur on April 11, 2011. Input received at this meeting will be an important additional consideration that may suggest a need to modify or withdraw the proposed amendment.

Members of the BICC and BIWC have been building support within the deer hunting community on Beaver Island for adoption of an APR. A 2003 survey conducted by BIWC of islanders and visitors showed 98% support for adopting an APR. An APR of three or more antler points on one side or even more restrictive regulations were desired by 83% of respondents to a survey conducted in 2010. The efforts of BIWC and BICC have led to a unanimous resolution of support by both of the township governments on Beaver Island (Peaine Township and St. James Township), a resolution of support by Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce (which represents more than 120 island businesses), and a letter of support from State Senator Howard Walker and State Representative Greg MacMaster.

The intent of the groups advocating for adoption of the APR is for the change to increase the number of bucks in the population and to work in conjunction with adequate doe harvest to increase the buck to doe ratio. Available check station data indicate approximately 80 percent of yearling bucks and 25 percent of 2 ½ year-old bucks would be protected by an APR requiring at least three antler points one or more inches in length on one side. This restriction along with establishment of appropriate antlerless license quotas should help to achieve these objectives.

Beaver Island Deer Antler Point Restriction
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 12 of 2011
Page 2
April 11, 2011

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's May 2011 calendar and may be eligible for approval on June 9, 2011.

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest Management Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

Kelley D. Smith, Ph.D., Chief
Fisheries Division

Mindy S. Koch, Deputy Director
Resource Management

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rodney A. Stokes, Director

Date

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 12 of 2011

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective June 10, 2011, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.101d Deer hunting in deer management units 045, 115, and 122 antler restriction.

Sec. 3.101d Notwithstanding any other provisions of this order, in deer management units 045, 115, and 122, a person shall not take an antlered deer unless the deer has at least 1 antler with 3 or more antler points each 1 or more inches in length.

Issued on this 9th day of June, 2011.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Timothy L. Nichols, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rodney A. Stokes
Director