

Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on
Wildlife and Fisheries

May 12, 2016



Proposed Orders

- For Information - NRC
 - Furbearer Regulations (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 8 of 2016)
 - Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish and Lake Herring Regulations (Fisheries Order 200)
- For Action - NRC
 - Fall Turkey Regulations (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 6 of 2016)
 - Chronic Wasting Disease Response Measures (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 7 of 2016)



NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
- Fisheries Regulations
- Wildlife Chief Update
- Furbearer Regulations
- Deer Hunter Retention Update
- Deer Management Plan Update
- Cormorant Report Update
- White-Nose Syndrome Update





Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division

Chief's Update

Jim Dexter

May 12, 2016

Great Lakes Salmon & Trout



Steelhead



Chinook salmon



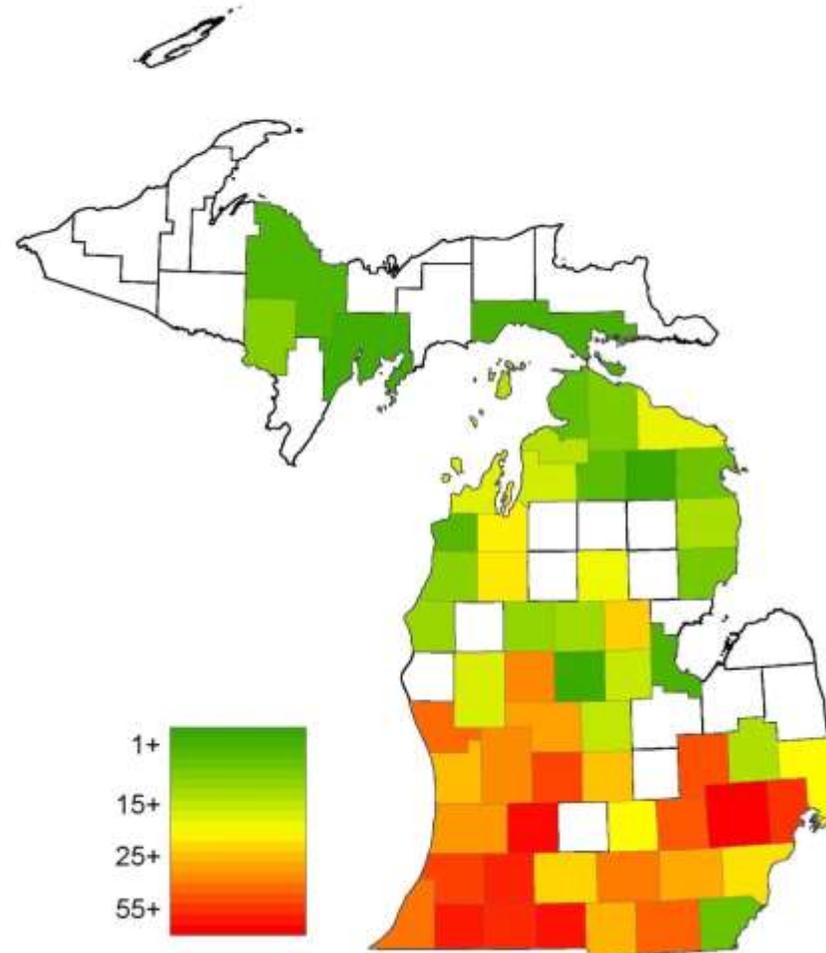
R/V *Tanner*



Michigan Fishing Tournament Information System

Nearly 1600
tournaments
registered so far!

Number of Fishing Tournaments Schedules 1/2016 - 12/2016





Questions?



Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Order 200
For Information

Nick Popoff

May 12, 2016

Fisheries Order 200

- Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish, Lake Herring, and Smelt Regulations
- Chumming discussed at the December 2015 NRC meeting
 - One quart limit was considered
 - Direction to FD to consider other regulatory options



What is Chumming?

- The practice of luring fish by throwing bait into the water
- Fish commonly chummed: catfish, carp, whitefish, trout, steelhead
- Materials:



The Issue



Regulations

- MI: chumming is not regulated
 - Fish eggs are legal to use as bait (aid to take)
- Other states: prohibited in MN, NY & WI in addition to many western states
- Fisheries Division does not currently consider chumming with eggs as a biological threat



Chumming Options

- Option 1: Status quo, no changes
- Option 2: Prohibit chumming with organic material in Type 3 streams
- Option 3: Prohibit chumming with organic material in Type 1, 2, 3 & 4 streams



Option 2 – 60
streams total

Lowest stream
sections with
anadromous
runs



2016 Inland Salmon and Trout Type 3 Regulations

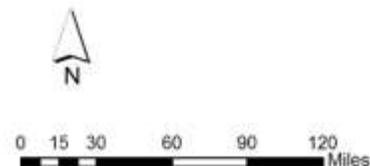
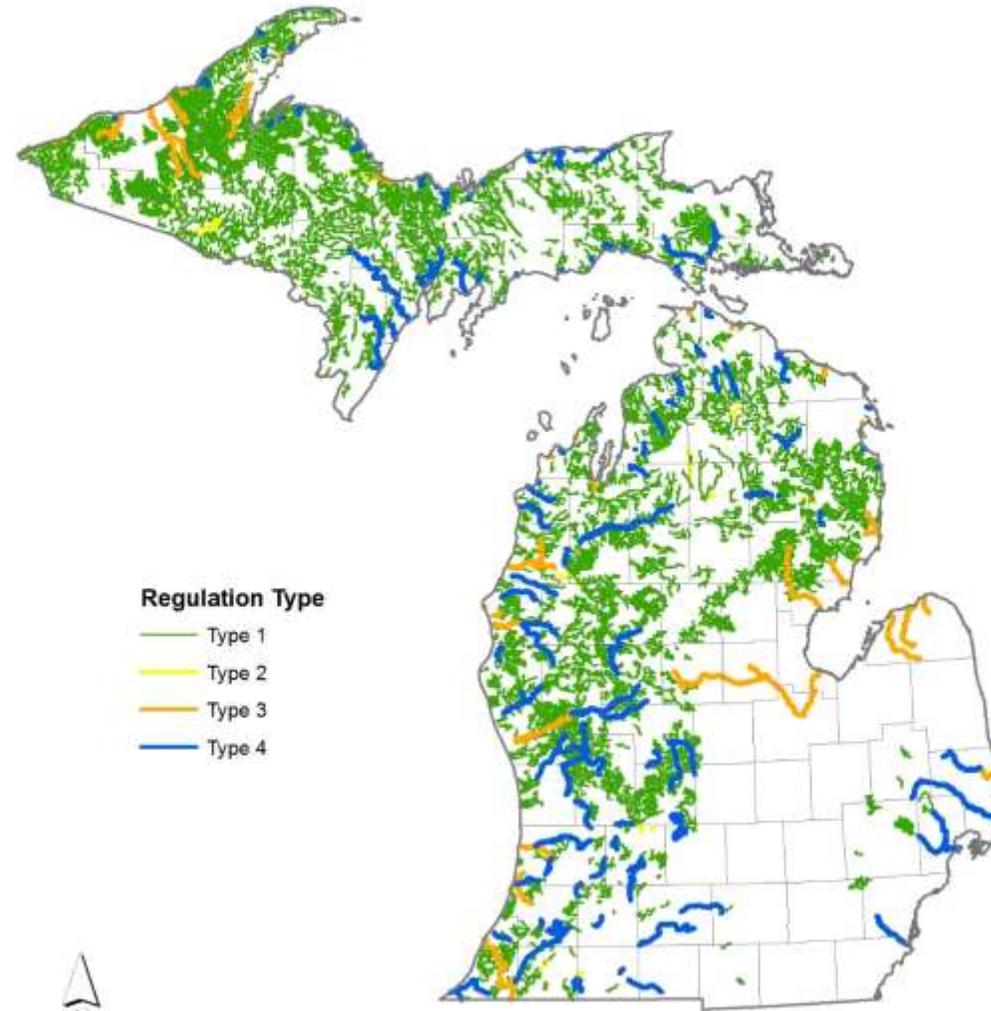


Option 3 ~
1600 streams

All designated
trout streams



2016 Inland Salmon and Trout Type 1, 2, 3, and 4 Regulations



Option 3 ~
closeup

All designated
trout streams





Thank you!

Questions?

Wildlife Chief Update

Russ Mason
Chief
Wildlife Division



Wildlife Chief Update

- Chronic Wasting Disease Response Measures (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 7 of 2016)
 - Disease Control Permits
- Other Topics



Thank You

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Furbearer Regulations

Adam Bump
Furbearer Specialist



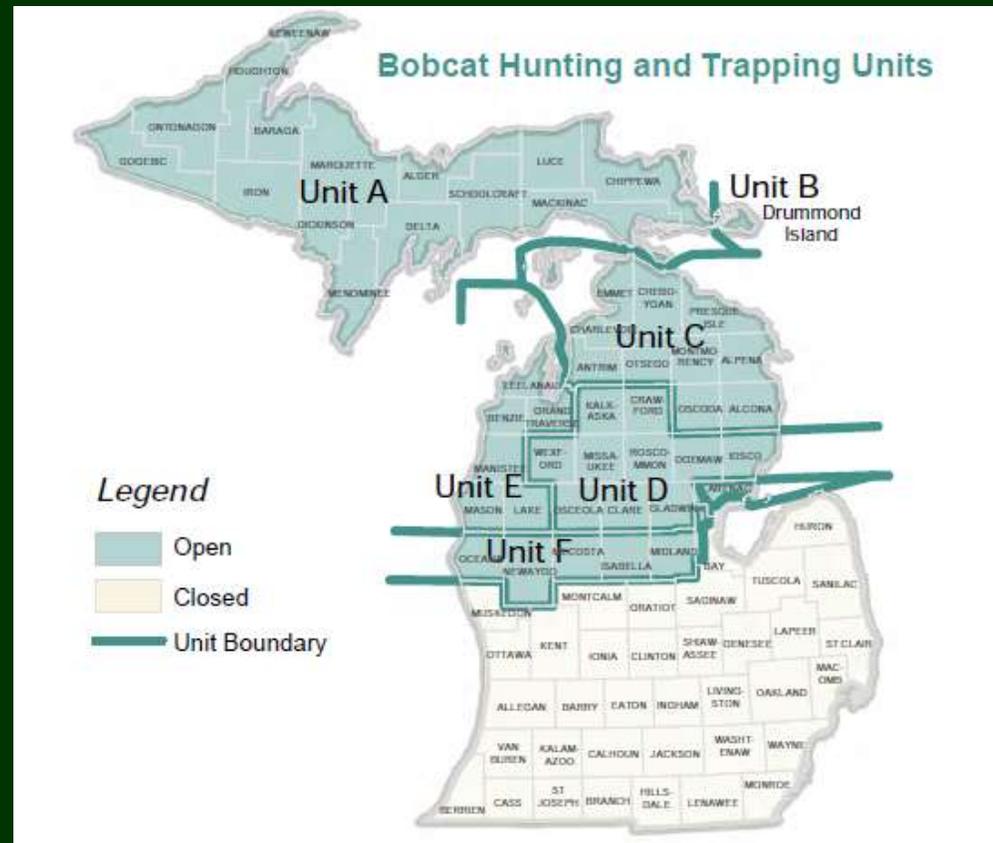
Furbearer Regulations Process

- 2 year cycle- even years
- Selected issues from running list in late 2014
- Issues selected based on interest, data availability, capacity
- Multiple levels of review, discussion



Selected Issues

- Cable Restraints
- Badger Season
- Floating Colony Traps
- License End Date
- Review of Raccoon Regulations
- Bobcat Trapping Opportunity in C&D



No Recommendation for Change

– Cable Restraints

- NRC, Trapper, Houndsmen small group
- No consensus

– Badger Season

- No management need
- Limited interest

– Floating Colony Traps

- No management need
- Limited interest



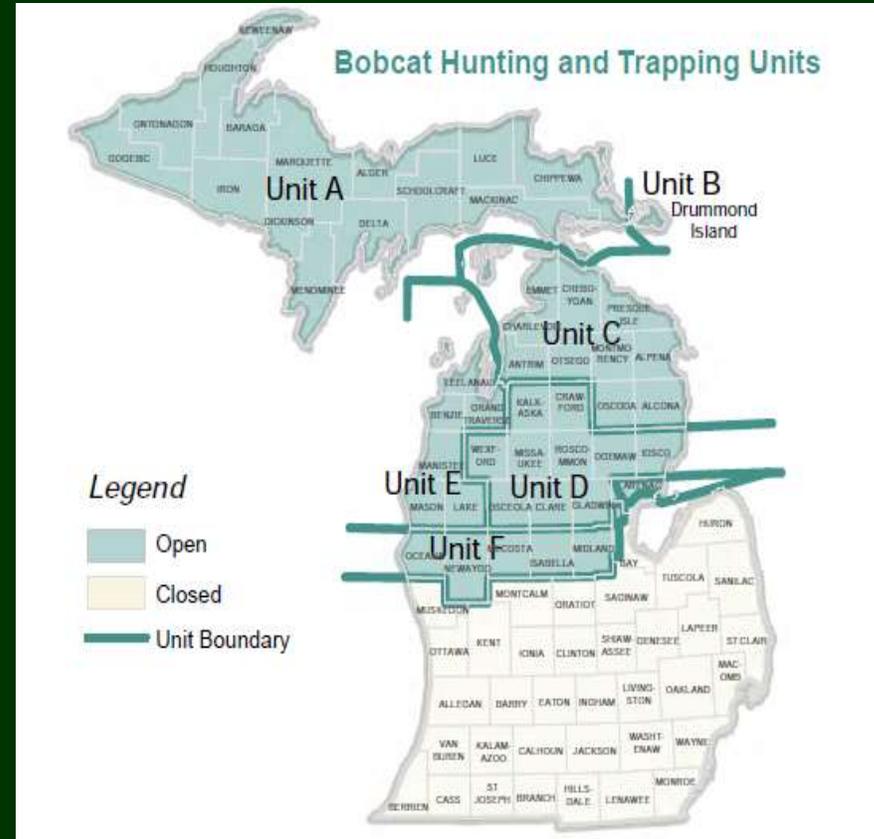
Review Raccoon Harvest Regulations

- Reduce, simplify regulations
 - Most input internally/externally was that things were about right
 - Nighttime regulations confusing (addressed last month)
- Changes
 - Make trapping seasons the same statewide: Oct 15-March 1
 - Start and end with earliest and latest trapping seasons
 - Nonresidents = residents
 - .22 or **smaller** rimfire exception for capacity
 - Trap check language- non-lethal sets
 - Clean up (alter language but not regulations)



Bobcat Season- Units C&D

- Evaluate potential to increase trapping opportunity
 - Some hound groups were unsupportive, some hound groups were ok with public land but asked for additional restrictions
 - Trapping groups were supportive and wanted both season extension and public land trapping but were most supportive of public land opportunity



Population Information

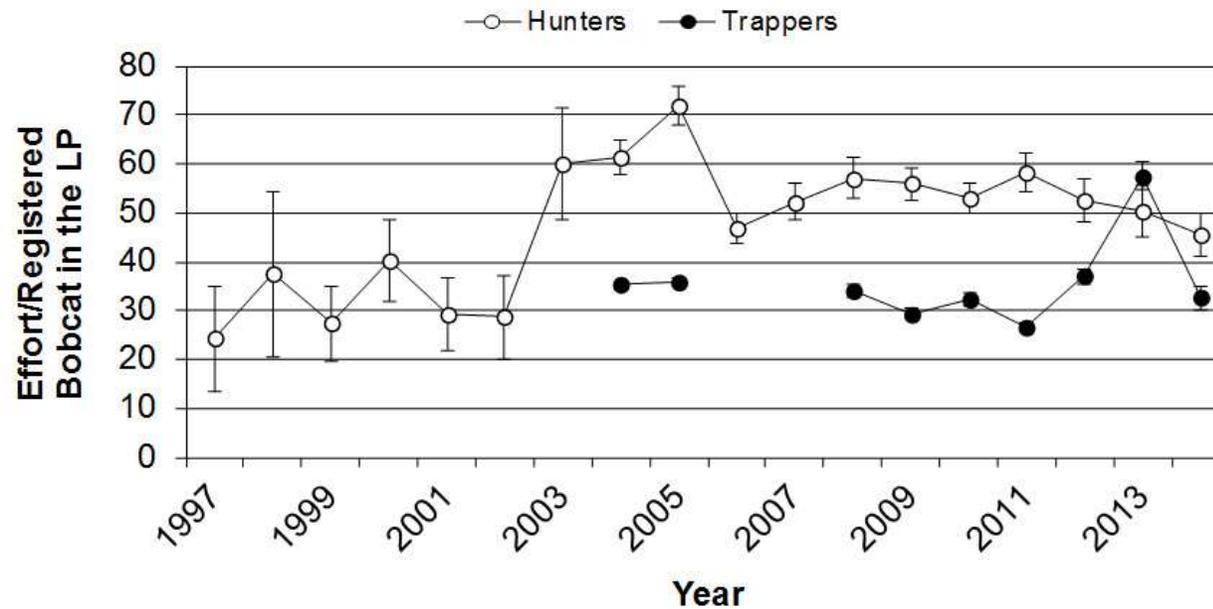


Figure 7. Estimated number of days of effort per bobcat registered in Michigan by hunters and trappers for the 1997-2014 seasons, summarized by region. Vertical error bars represent the 95% CL. Bobcat could be harvested by trappers in portions of the LP during 2004-2005 and 2008-2014 only.

Population Information

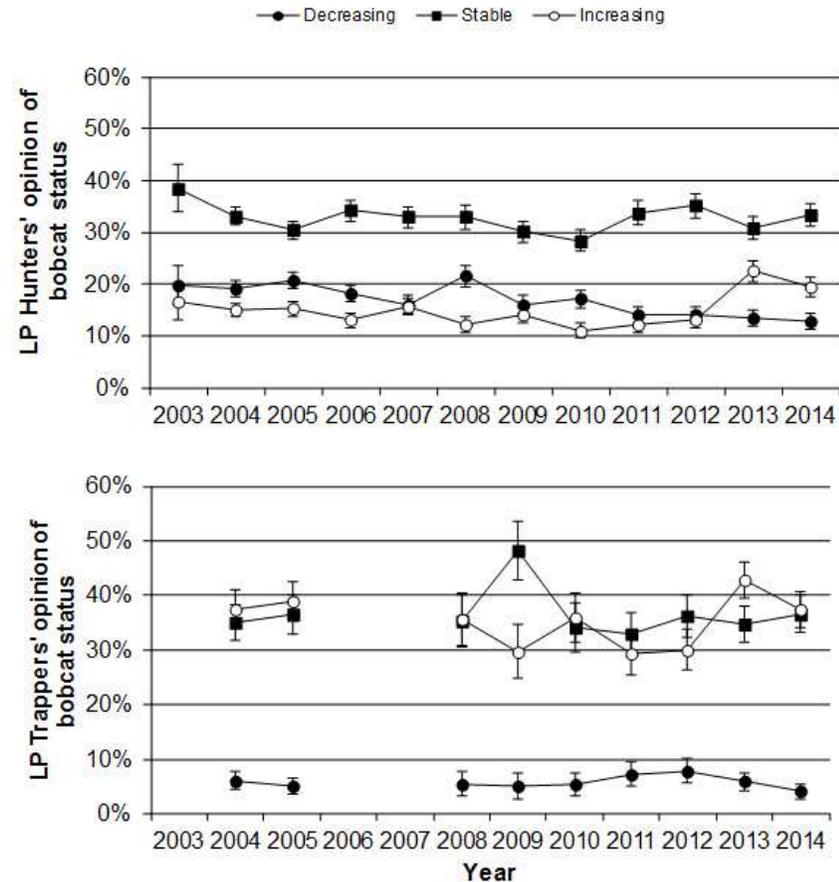
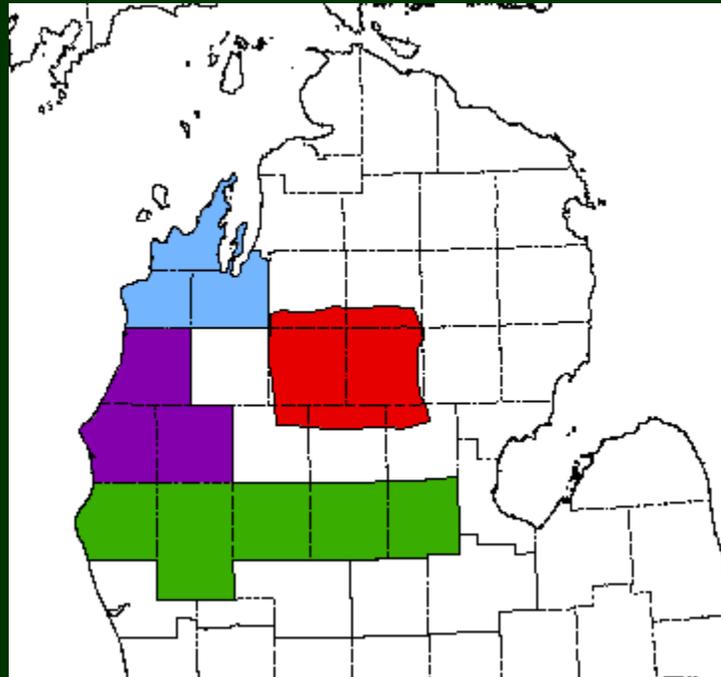


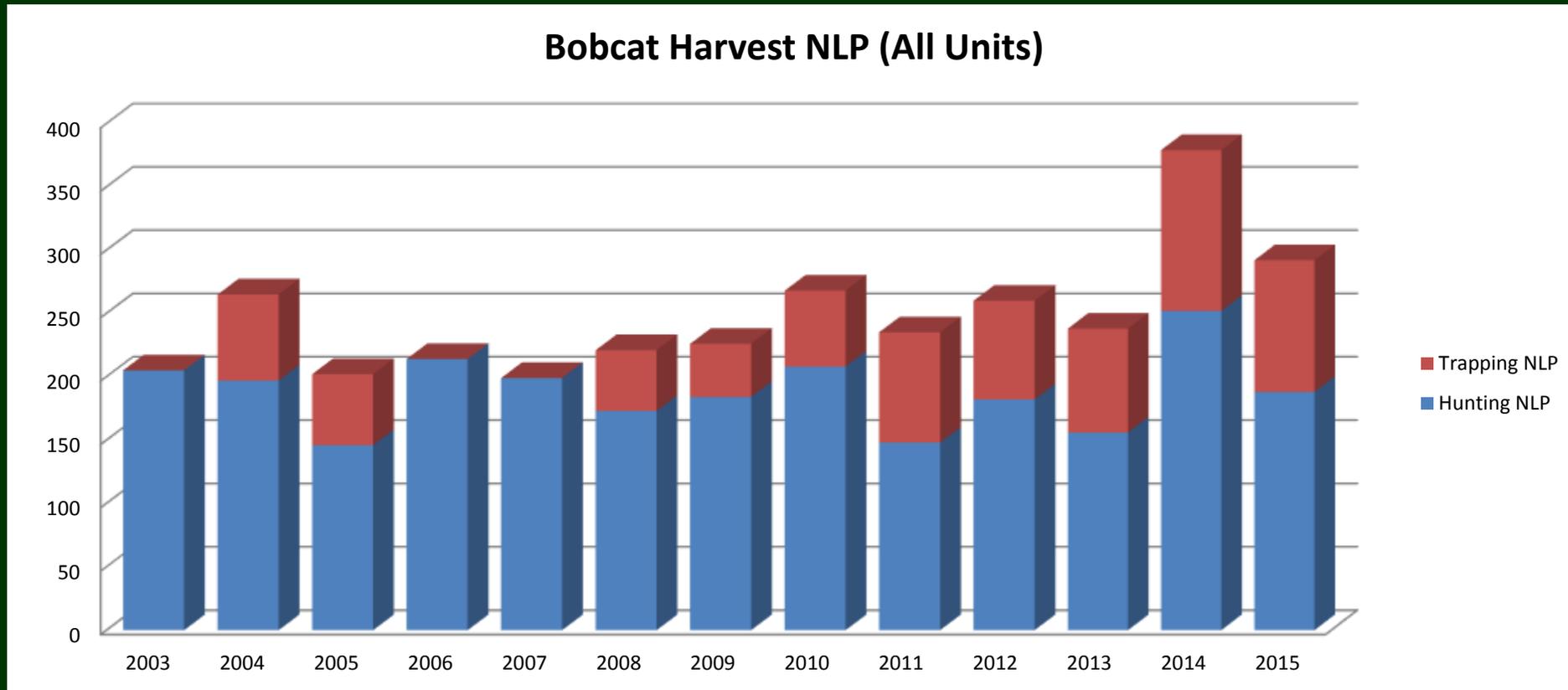
Figure 5. Status of bobcat population in Michigan as described by bobcat hunters and trappers in the Lower Peninsula, 2003-2014. Vertical bars represent the 95% CL. Bobcat could be harvested by trappers in portions of the LP during 2004-2005 and 2008-2013 only.

Population Information: Occupancy

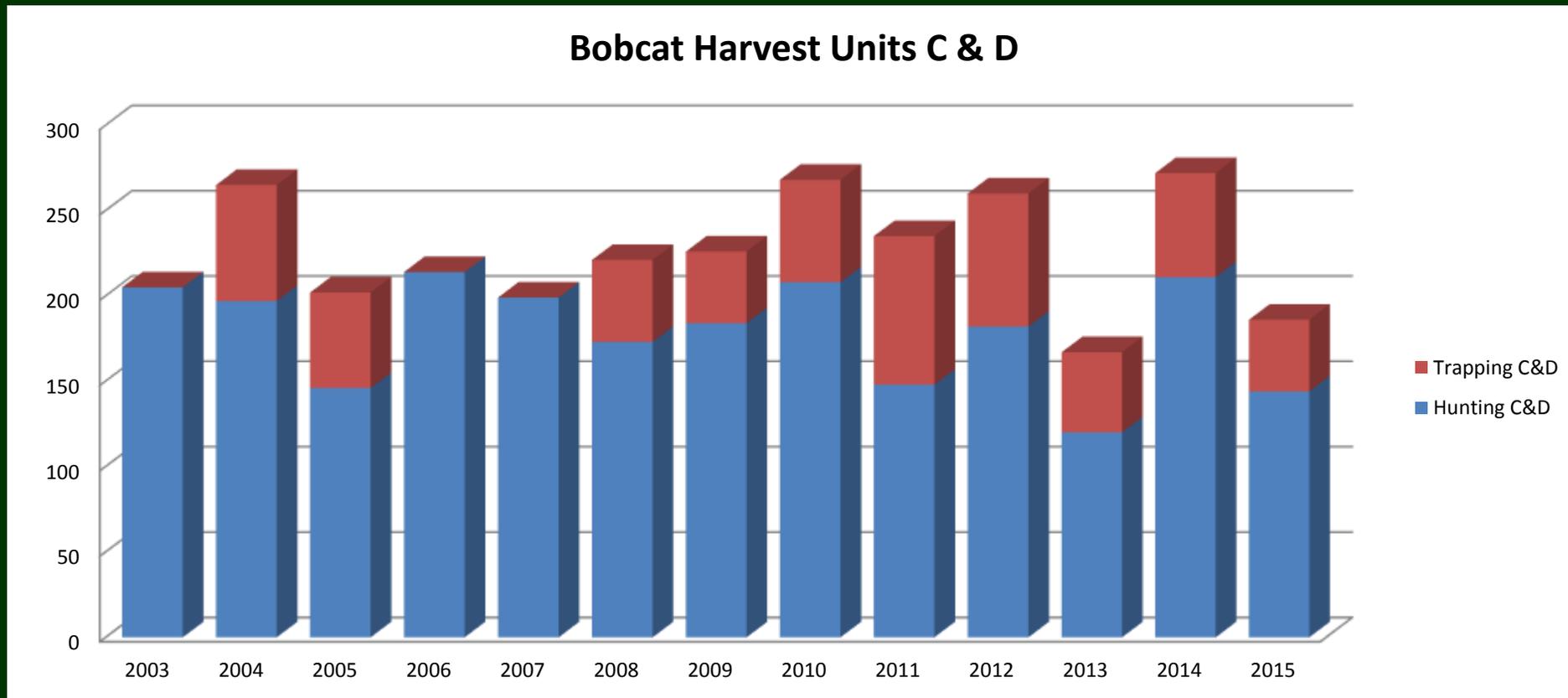
AREA	2003-2006	2011-2012
HARVEST	0.71 (0.53-0.84)	0.95 (0.84-0.99)
NON-HARVEST	0.22 (0.10-0.41)	0.69 (0.53-0.82)



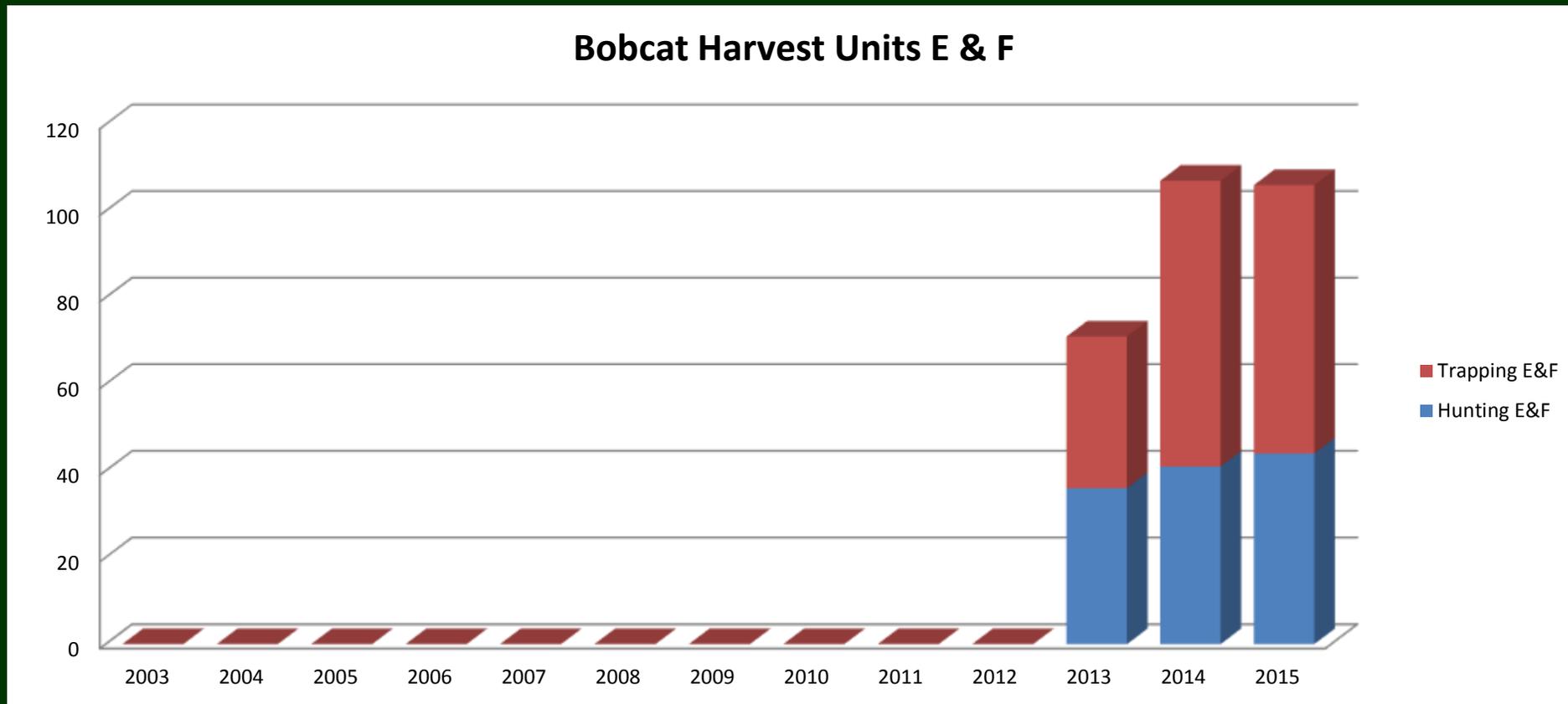
Harvest Trends



Harvest Trends



Harvest Trends



Successful Trapper Residence Statistics

- Majority of trappers in all 4 NLP units reside in the unit they trap
- Non-unit residents have declined in Unit D since E&F were opened
- Non-unit resident trappers in E&F similar to C&D despite public land trapping in E&F



2 Bobcats and 2 Peninsulas

- Avg. 109 people registered 2 bobcats a season ('04-'14)
 - Avg. 6/year registered 1 cat in EACH peninsula
 - Avg. 9/year LP residents registering 2 cats in UP



Kill Tag/License Acquisition

- In 2014, 42% of bobcat kill tags were acquired after Nov 30
- 14% of furharvester licenses acquired after Nov. 30
 - 2,107 people also get kill tag



Unit Land Ownership Comparison

- Units C, D, and E have roughly the same public: private land ratio
- Trapping harvest in Units E and F proportional to land ownership
- Hunters take higher proportion of bobcats on public land



Recommendation

- Allow trapping in C&D on public lands
 - Data suggests stable to increasing population in NLP
 - Unlikely to increase harvest significantly
 - Increase opportunity without negatively impacting population
- No change to bobcat limit
 - Extremely low rate of crossover in peninsula registrations
 - Not relevant to C&D trapping issue



Kill Tag Recommendation

- Restrict bobcat kill tag availability (through November 30)
 - Address stakeholder request
 - May reduce some illegal activity/harvest
 - Could reduce opportunity if change is missed



Furharvester License/Kill Tags

- Reduce confusion with season/license/kill tag dates
 - Recommend changing furharvester license validity/availability to May 1- April 30
 - Season and license year align, one license to trap the entire season year
 - All kill tags available beginning May 1
 - Increased acquisition opportunity
 - No overlap between kill tags and license year
- Still requires base license purchase prior to March 1



Furbearer Issues

- Review Existing List
- Selection for 2018 Cycle
 - Marten/Fisher
 - UP Bobcat
 - ?



Furbearer Issues

- BEAVER/OTTER- POSSIBILITY THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE CHANGES AFTER A BROADER REVIEW OF RIPARIAN ISSUES
- MINK SNARING
- RIPARIAN RIGHTS- ABILITY TO ANCHOR A FLOATING SET ON PRIVATE BOTTOMLANDS
- 48 HR CHECK- POSSIBLE FOR LP
- EQUITY OF EXISTING NLP BOBCAT SEASON (TRAPPING LENGTH AND PUBLIC LAND)
- OPEN FISHER SEASON ON DRUMMOND ISLAND
- INCREASE OTTER BAG LIMIT IN UP (EUP)
- BOBCAT IN NLP- SAME SEASON AS HUNTING (LENGTH AND ACCESS)



Furbearer Issues

- USE INCIDENTAL PELTS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE AND PUT UP FUR TO RAISE MONEY FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES (**PROBABLY NON REGULATORY**)
- FLYBAIT (**THE ISSUE IS ILLEGAL USE TO POISON RACCOONS**)
- QUOTA SYSTEM FOR LIMITED TAKE SPECIES
- CONSIDER ALLOWING INCIDENTAL BOBCAT TAKEN IN OCT-NOV TO BE RETAINED BY TRAPPERS
- REMOVE RESTRICTIONS ON FURBUYERS HARVESTING BEAVERS
- CABLE RESTRAINTS
- INCREASE OTTER LIMIT IN LP



Furbearer Issues

- INCREASE RACCOON SEASON TO ANY OPEN WATER SEASON
- LOWER BOBCAT LIMIT TO 1 STATEWIDE
- WOULD LIKE TO HAVE STATE LAND AVAILABLE FOR DOG EVENTS
- LIMIT PURCHASE OF LICENSES TO DEC. 1ST
- INCLUDE TRAPPING IF THERE IS A HARVEST ON WOLVES
- LEGALIZE FLOATING COLONY TRAPS
- EXPAND BADGER SEASON (AREA OPEN/BAG LIMIT- REQUIRE KILL TAG)
- DOG TRAINING FACILITIES
- EXPAND BEAVER SEASON IN LP TO APRIL 30



Furbearer Issues

- INCREASE MARTEN/FISHER BAG LIMIT
- ALLOW TAKE OF BOBCAT AT NIGHT
- ALLOW “SNARING” OF BOBCATS
- COYOTE SEASON LENGTH – EQUITABILITY
- NEW ITEMS???



Furbearer Issues: New Items Added at 3/12/16 Meeting

- CENTERFIRE AT NIGHT FOR COYOTES
- BACKGROUND INFO ON BOUNTIES FOR COYOTES
- REGULATING GUIDING PRESSURE (AFTER GUIDING DEFINED)
- FISHER SEASON- HUNTING WITH DOGS
- WOULD LIKE A WAY TO KEEP TRACK OF # OF DOGS CAUGHT IN TRAPS
- TRAP BOBCATS DURING DEER SEASON
- PROVIDE CITES AND SURVEY AHEAD OF TIME AND MAIL IN DATA. TURN IN SKULLS AT CONVENIENT TIME
- **FURHARVESTER VALIDITY DATES**



Thank You

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Deer Hunter Retention Research

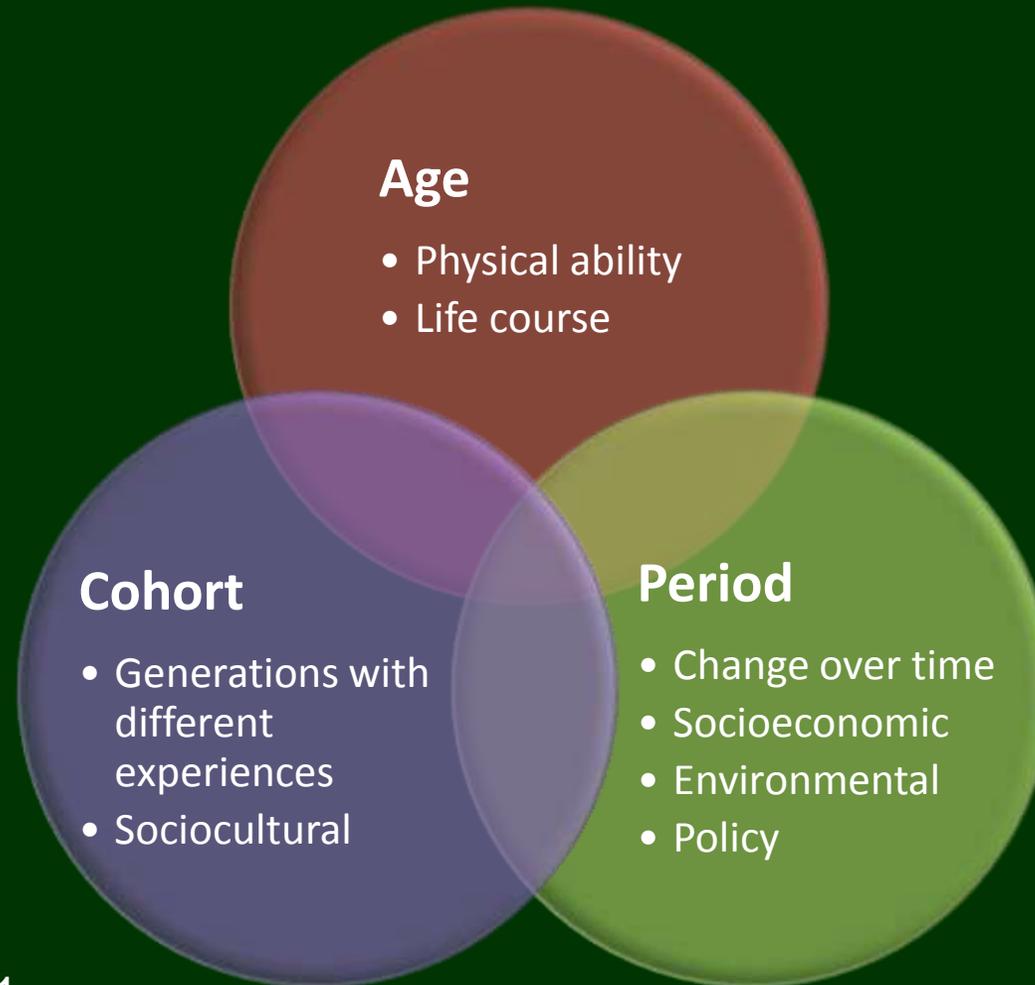


MICHIGAN DEPT. OF CONSERVATION

Brent Rudolph
Wildlife Research Specialist
May 12, 2016



Demographics of Hunting Participation



Research Stage 1



FY 14–16



Hunting Decline: Causes & Opportunities

- Assess underlying causes of hunter “drop out” among distinct cohorts
- Identify potential opportunities & barriers to recruitment

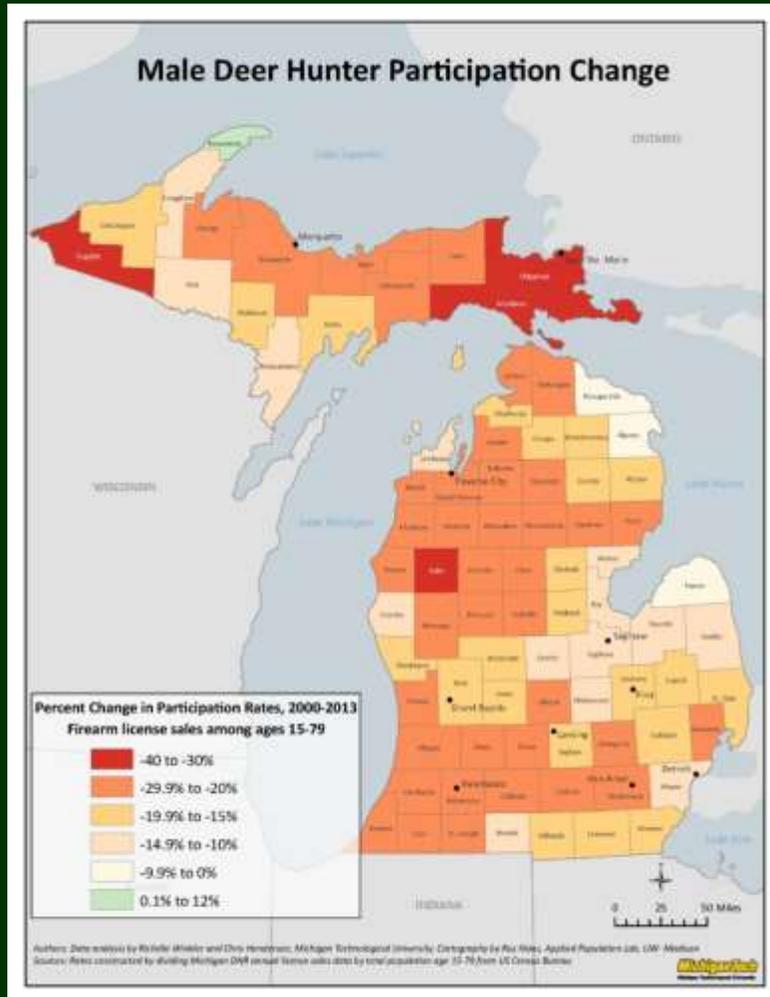
Research Stage 2



FY 15–19

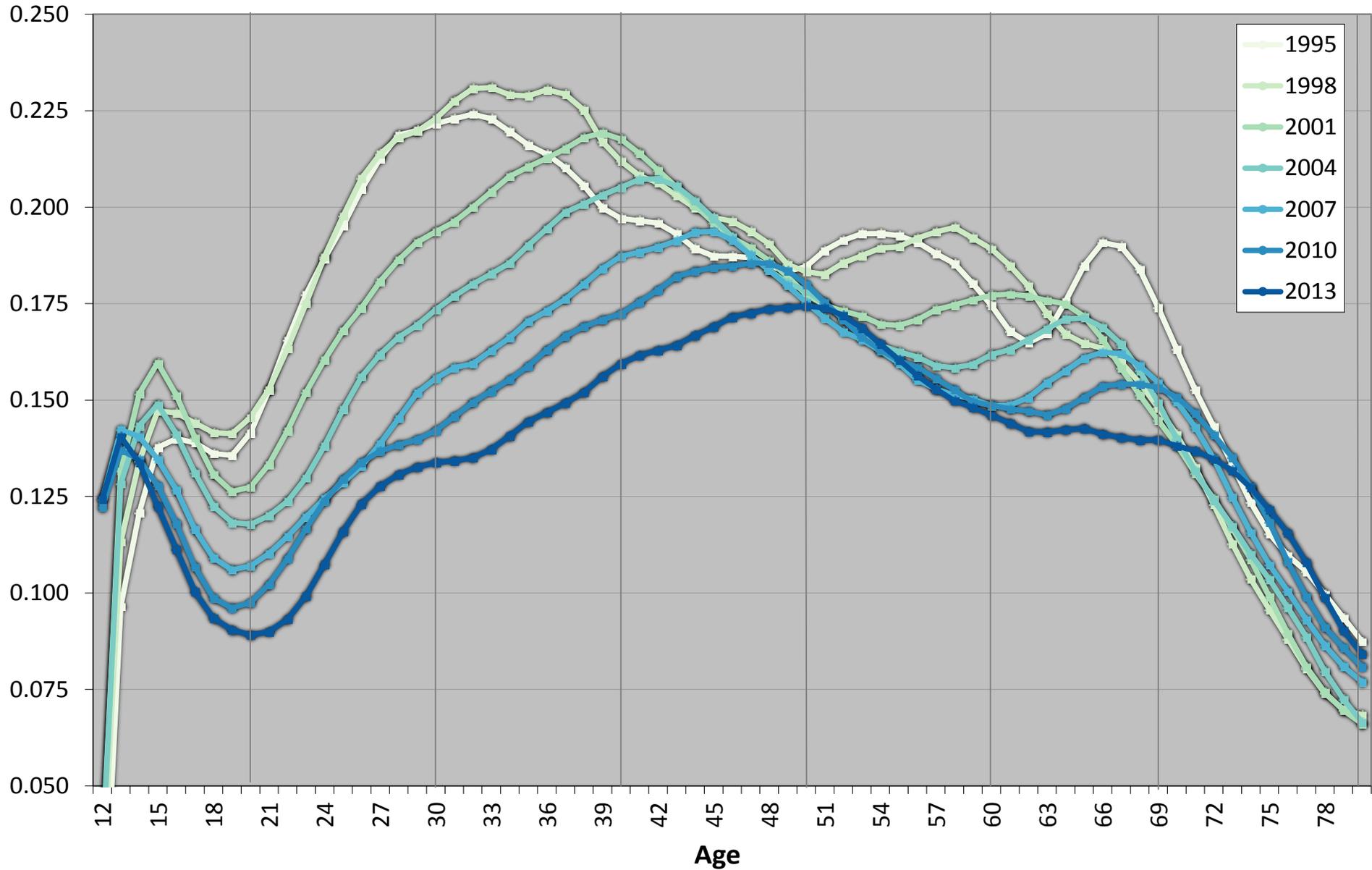


Demographics: Findings



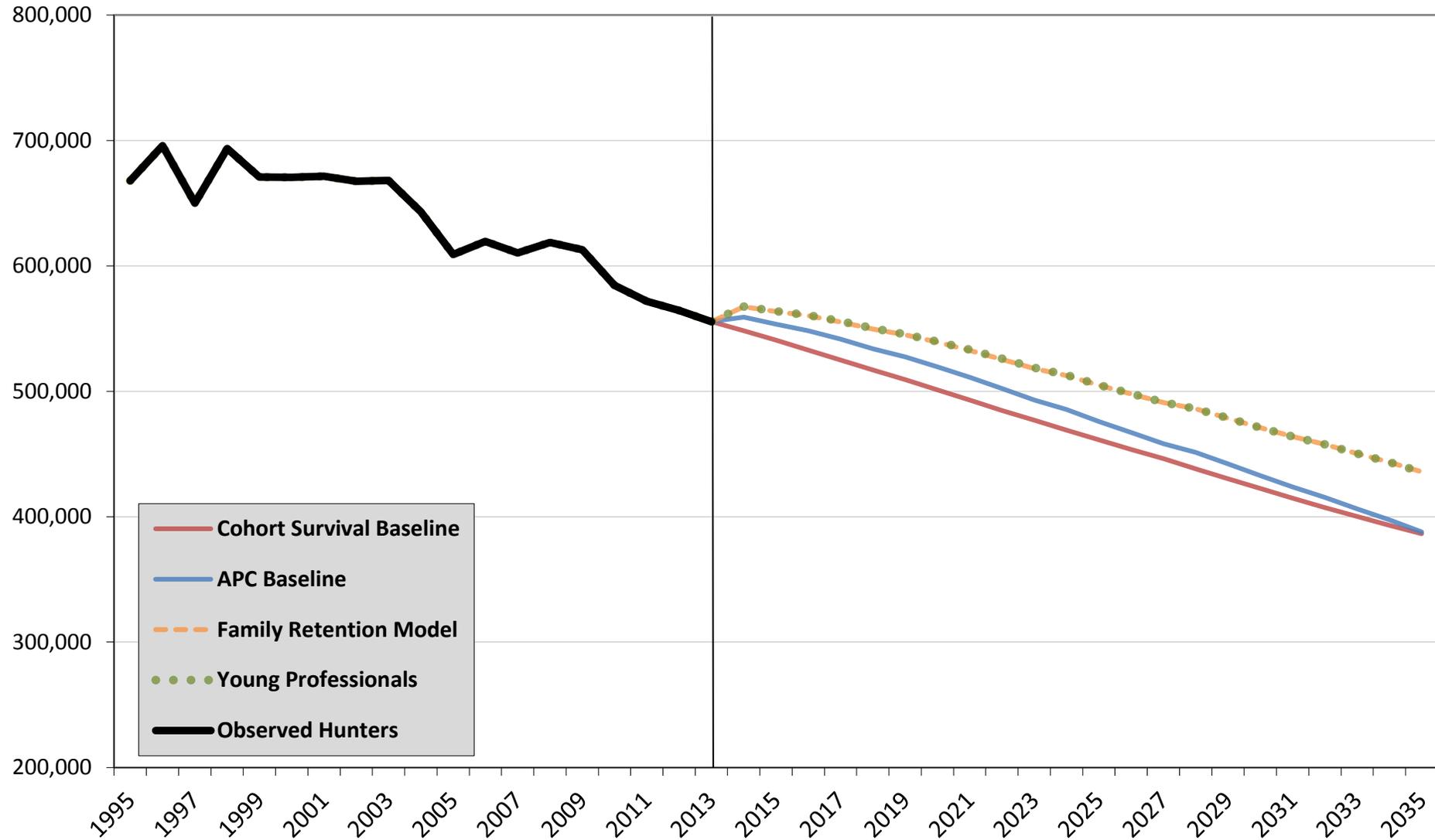
- Male participation declined
 - Period: slow, consistent decline
 - Cohort: strong effects
 - Males born in 1960s most likely to hunt
 - Age: drop out age 60-70
 - Not yet reached by “Baby Boomers”
- Female participation increased

Male Gun Hunter Participation Rates, 1995-2013



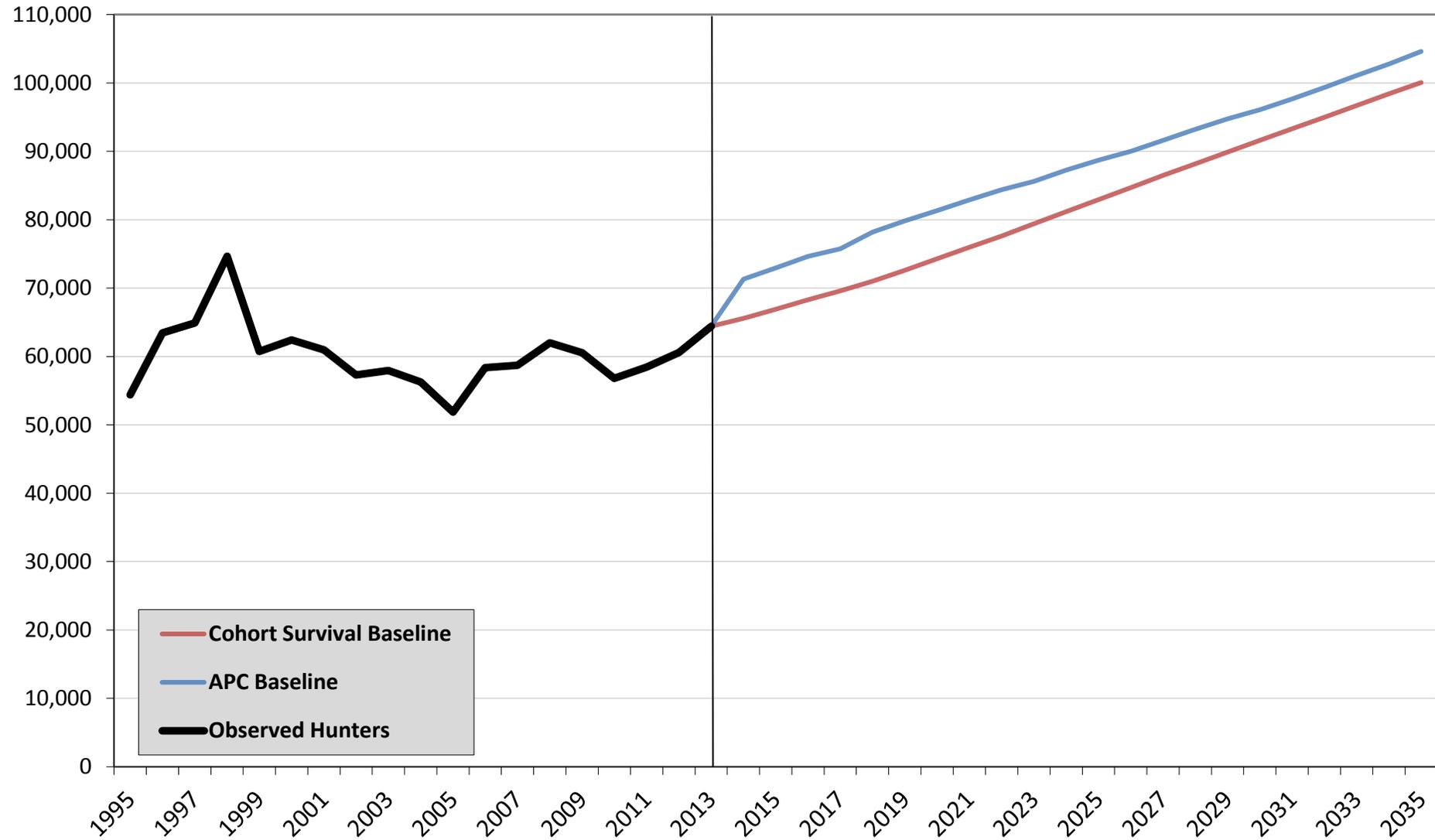
Firearm Deer Hunter Projection: 1995-2035

Includes Males only Age 12 and over

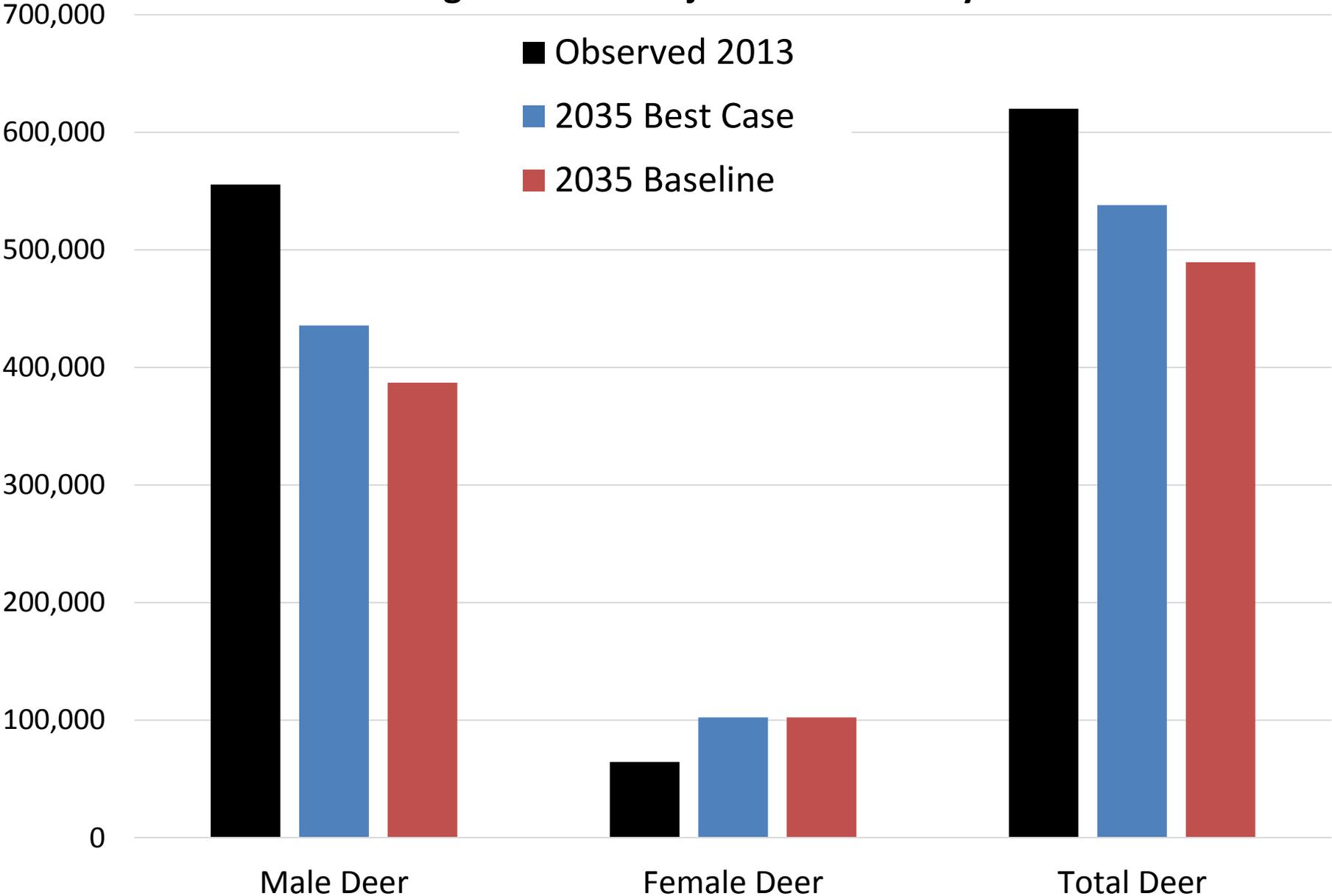


Firearm Deer Hunter Projection: 1995-2035

Includes Females only Age 12 and over



Michigan Hunter Projections Summary



Hunting Decline: Causes & Opportunities

- Assess hunting participation decisions among key demographic groups
 - Young adult males (age 18-28)
 - Females
- Identify beneficial regulations changes, marketing campaigns, educational efforts, etc.



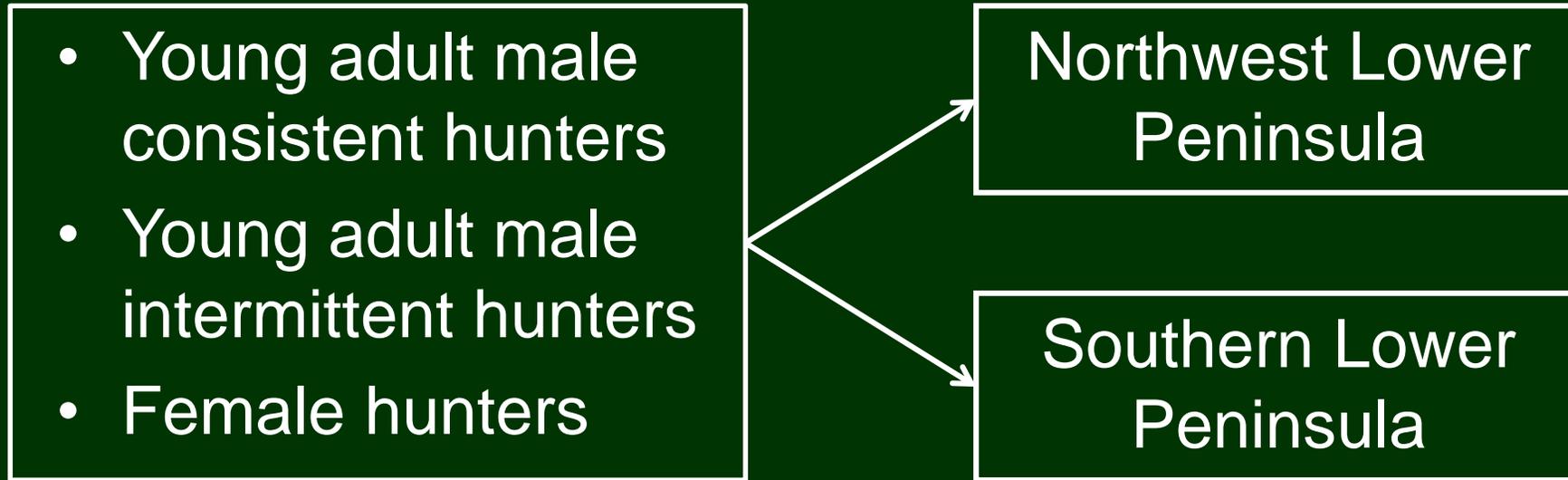
Research Stage 2a



May 2016-February 2017



Hunter Retention Project Focus Groups



Total = 6 Focus Groups

Research Stage 2a



May 2016-February 2017



Hunter Retention Project DRAFT Timeline

- July-Aug 2016: conduct focus groups
- Aug-Sept 2016: focus group report & proposed interventions
- Fall 2016: statewide survey to evaluate interventions
- Feb 2017: final report
- Mar-June 2017: consideration for 2017-2019 deer season

Research Stage 2a

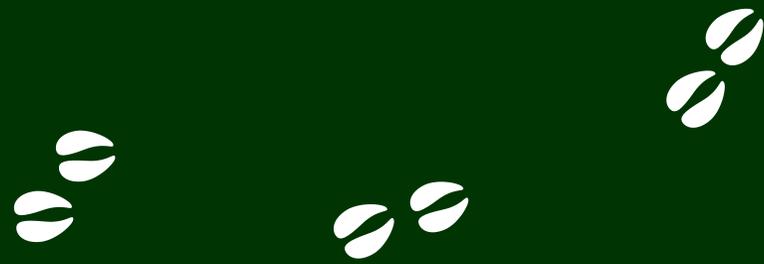


May 2016-February 2017



Thank You

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Deer Plan Update Process



Chad Stewart
Deer Management Specialist
May 12, 2016



2010 Deer Management Plan

- Current Plan Approved in 2010
 - Involved extensive public engagement
 - Still relevant
 - Update process began in 2015
 - Include input from
 - Deer Advisory Teams
 - UP Sportsmen's Coalition Members
 - Tribal Biologists
 - Staff
 - Public

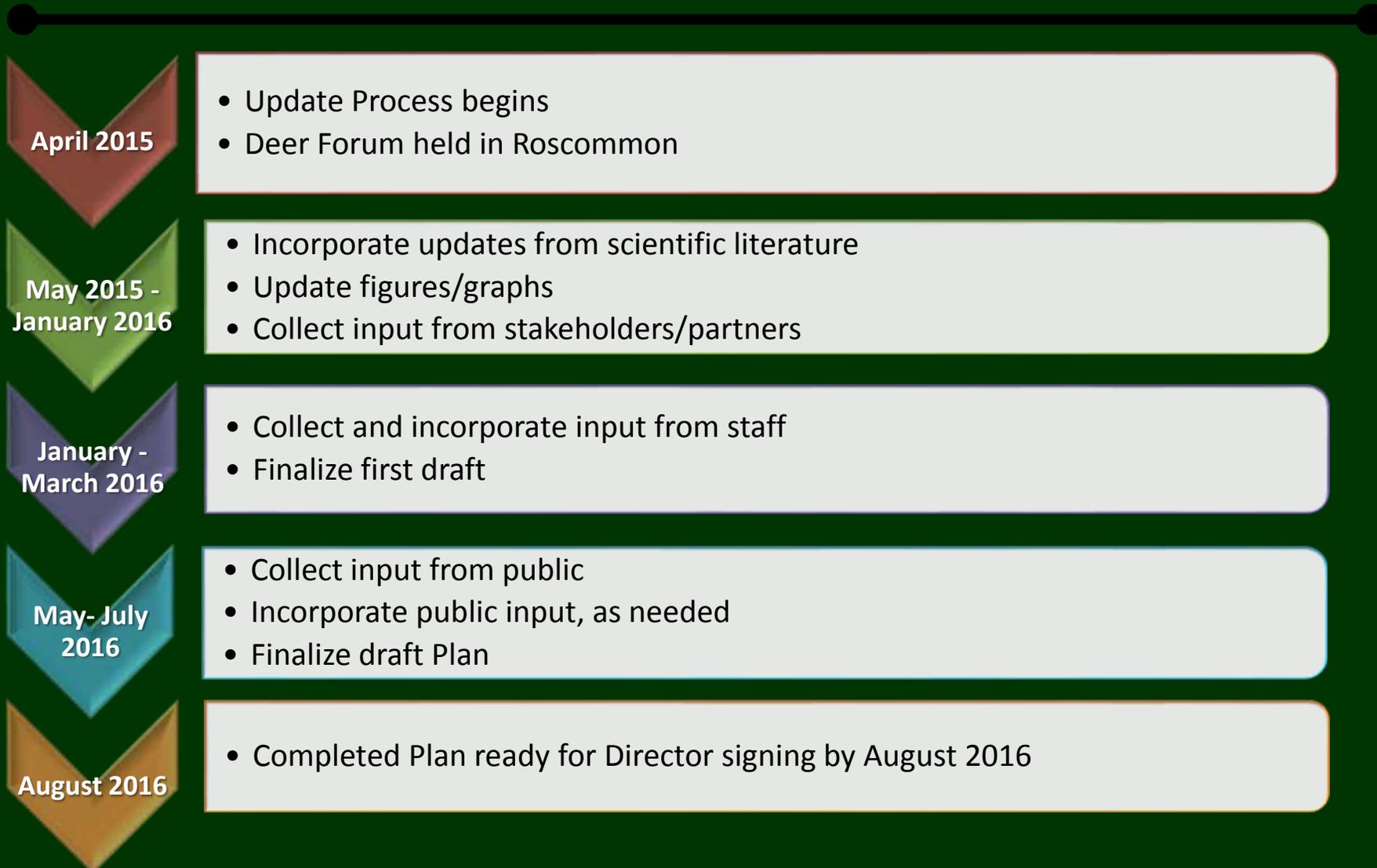


Deer Plan Update

- Update, not a revision
 - Maintain 2010 direction, focus
 - No changes to goals
 - Update to reflect:
 - Current practices
 - Recent data
 - Clarifications



Timeline



Thank You

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Double-crested Cormorant Management Status in Michigan

Karen T. Cleveland
All-Bird Biologist
May 12, 2016



Public Resource Depredation Order

- Created in 2003 by USFWS
- Allows take to address damage to public resources
 - Public fisheries
 - Vegetation on public lands
 - Impacts on wildlife
- Restrictions on authorized agencies and amount of take



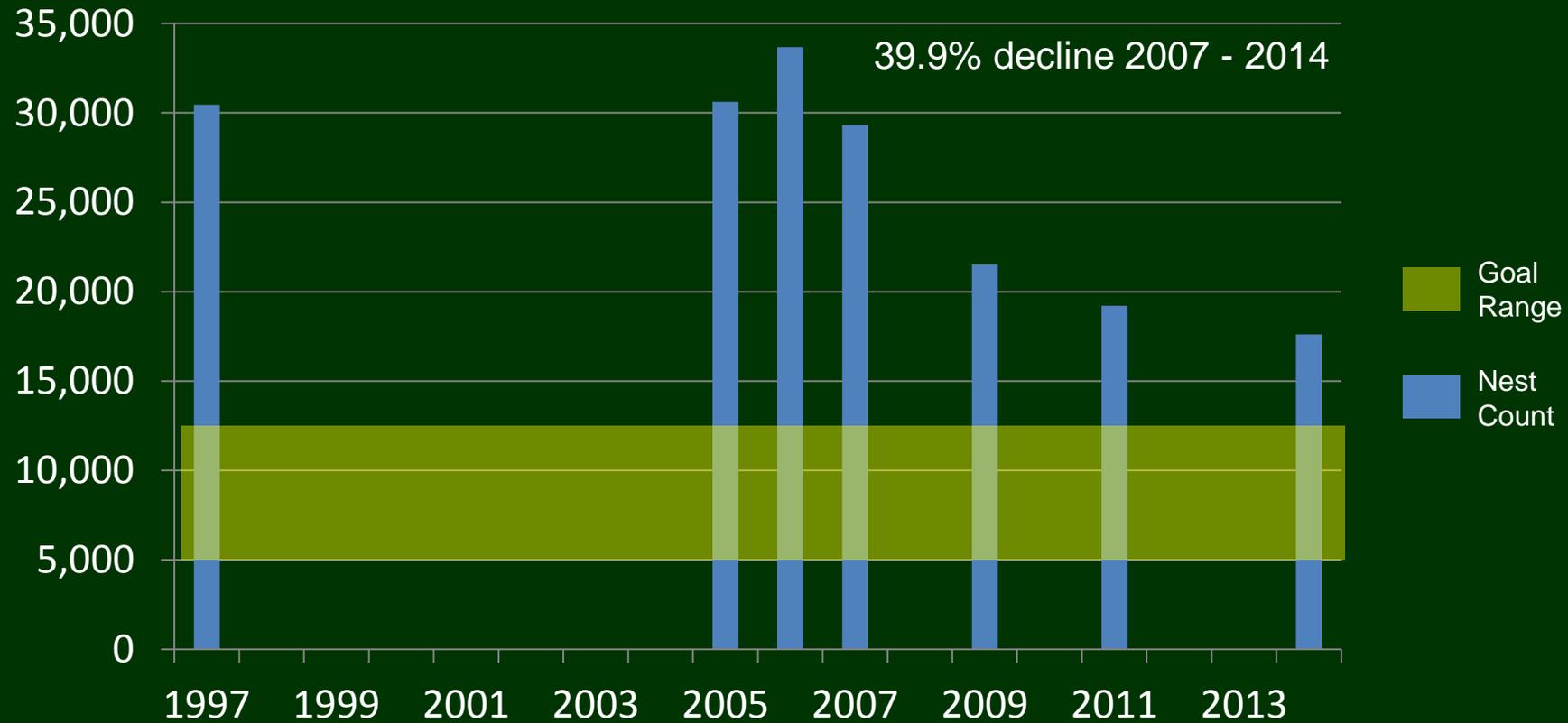
Michigan Interagency Cormorant Coordination Group

- Agencies authorized to manage cormorants
 - Department of Natural Resources
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - State Tribal representatives
 - Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority
 - Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
 - Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
 - Bay Mills Indian Community
 - Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe



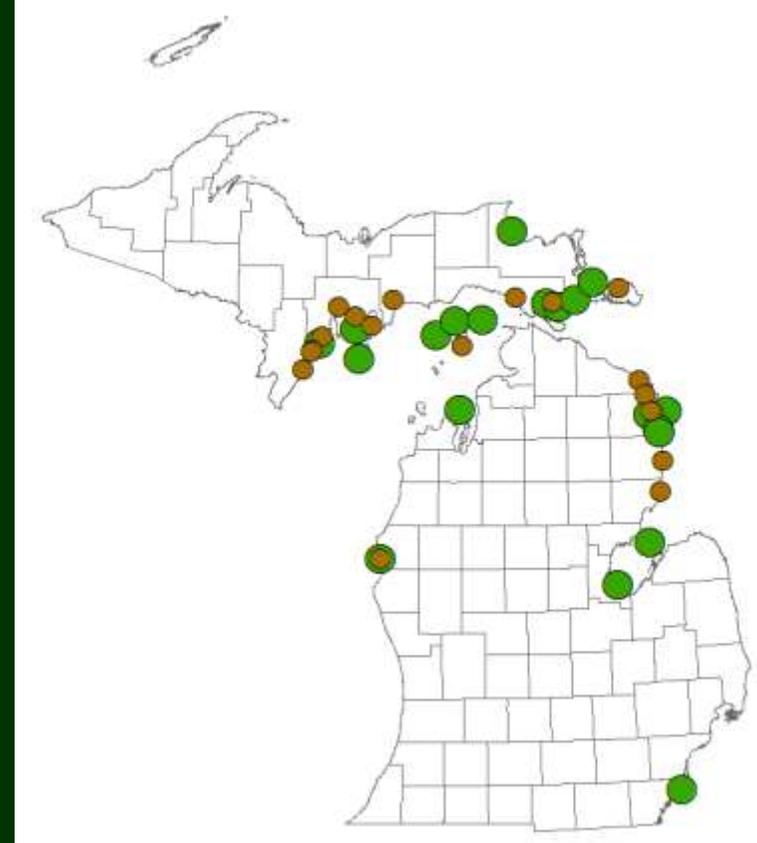
Population Trends

Nest count



2015 Management Actions

- Colony management
 - 3,522 birds killed
 - 1,970 nests oiled or destroyed
- Harassment
 - 2,753 birds killed



2016 Anticipated Activities

- Recommendations include
 - Continuation of 2015 projects
 - Maintenance of reduced breeding colony size at Ludington Pumped Storage Facility
 - Further reduction of breeding colony size at Les Cheneaux Islands, Thunder Bay, Beaver Island Archipelago, Bays de Noc, and Saginaw Bay
 - Protection of black-crowned night-herons at Pte. Mouillee SGA
 - Protection of herons and egrets at Crow Island SGA
 - Protection of spawning and stocked fish
 - Development of harassment plan at Ludington Pumped Storage Facility



PEER complaint

- Legal challenge to extension of the PRDO
 - Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
- Seeks revocation of PRDO extension
- Judge found in favor of PEER in late March
- Impact on management unknown at this time



Thank You



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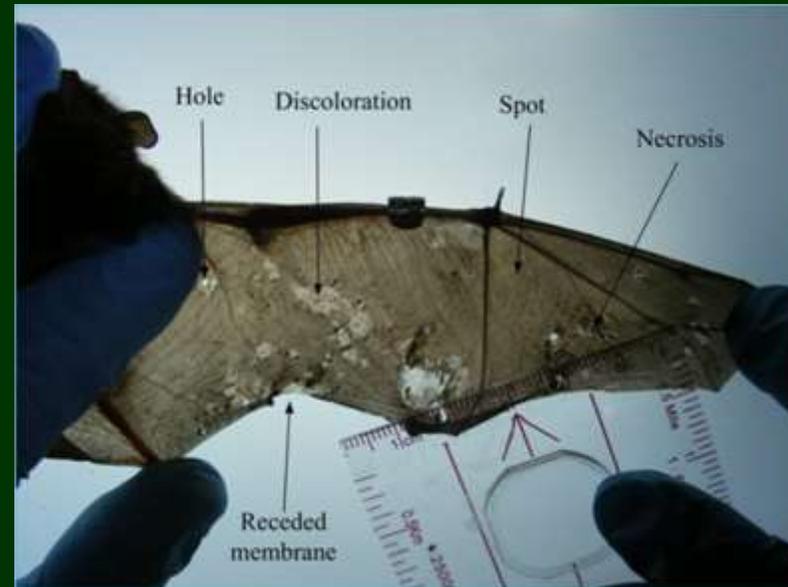
White-Nose Syndrome Update

John DePue
Wildlife Biologist



What is White-Nose Syndrome?

- Cold thriving fungus
- *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*
- Results energy depletion
- Impacts whole suite of cave bat species



Impacts of White-Nose Syndrome

- 90-100% mortality
- Cause of northern long-eared bat (NLEB) declines
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the NLEB as a threatened species and finalized a 4(d) rule



4(d) Rule

- Exempts certain activities from “take”
 - Forest management
 - Utility rights-of-way maintenance
 - Tree removal
- Does not exempt from “take”
 - Activities within 0.25 mile of hibernacula
 - Cutting or destroying known roost trees June-July



White-Nose Syndrome in Michigan

- Michigan in 3rd year of Infection
- All hibernacula have presence of WNS
- 26 mines surveyed in 2016
- Survey data show 35-50% decline



White-Nose Syndrome Impacts in Michigan



What is MI DNR Doing to Combat White-Nose Syndrome?

- Annual monitoring
- Gate mine openings
- Treatment trials
- Research
- Bat Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)





Thank You

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