

Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on
Wildlife & Fisheries

April 14, 2016



Proposed Orders

- For Information - NRC
 - Fall Turkey Regulations and License Quotas (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 6 of 2016)
 - Chronic Wasting Disease Response Measures (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 7 of 2016)



Proposed Orders

- For Action – NRC

- Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons; Managed Wetland Area Regulations (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2016)
- Elk Regulations and License Quotas (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 3 of 2016)
- Coyote and Nighttime Predator Hunting Regulations (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2016)
- Bear Harvest Allocation in Newberry and Red Oak Bear Management Units; Red Oak Bear Management Unit Bow and Arrow Only Season (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2016)
- Fish Disease Control (Fisheries Order 245.16)

- For Action – Director

- Order to Regulate State Wildlife and Game Areas (Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 2 of 2016)
- Order to Regulate Certain State-owned Lands, Gladwin, Arenac, Bay, Midland, and Ogemaw Counties, Feral Swine Research Area, Defined, Prohibited Conduct (Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 4 of 2016)



NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
- Wildlife Chief Update
- Fall Turkey Regulations
- Chronic Wasting Disease Response Measures
- Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations
- Spinning Wing Decoy Evaluation for Harsens Island
- Bovine TB Surveillance Report
- Wildlife Division Strategic Plan: Guiding Principles and Strategies
- Wildlife Annual Report





Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division

Chief's Update

Jim Dexter

April 14, 2016

2016 Egg-Takes

Steelhead



Walleye



50th Anniversary of Salmon in the Great Lakes



Chinook Salmon Crossroads

- Lakes Superior, Huron & Michigan
- Public discussions





Questions?

Wildlife Chief Update

Russ Mason
Chief
Wildlife Division



Wildlife Chief Update

- Winter Severity Update for the Upper Peninsula
- Turkey Tracts
- Turkey Season starts next week
- Draft Deer Management Plan



Dedication at Allegan SGA of the first Turkey Tracts



Thank You



Fall Turkey Regulations



Al Stewart, Upland Game Bird Program Leader
Wildlife Division
April 14, 2016

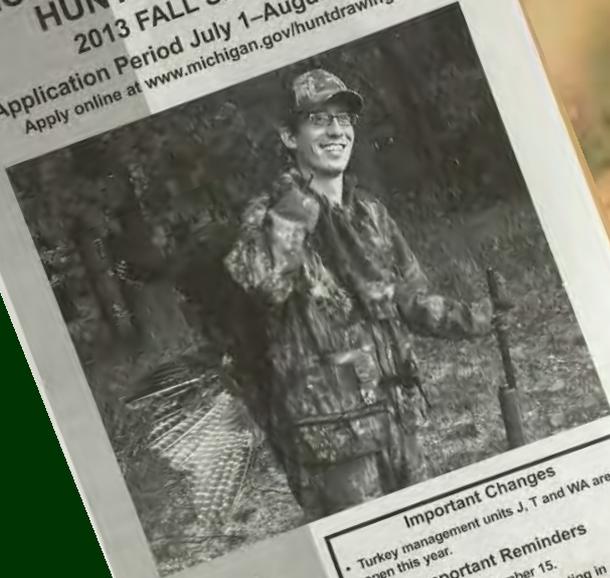


Proposed Fall Turkey Regulations

MICHIGAN WILD TURKEY HUNTING DIGEST

2013 FALL SEASON
Application Period July 1–August 1, 2013

Apply online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings



Important Changes

- Turkey management units J, T and WA are open this year.

Important Reminders

- Season opens September 15.
- Unit YY is for private-land hunting in southern Michigan and on Beaver Island.
- Beginning August 26, hunters may purchase one license per day until quotas are met.

2014

MICHIGAN FALL TURKEY DIGEST

Application Period: July 1 - Aug. 1, 2014



Major Changes

- **NEW!** A base license is required for every resident and nonresident who hunts in Michigan. Hunters may purchase their fall turkey license only after they have obtained a base license for the year.

Drawing
Visit www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings



Report All Poaching: 800-292-7800
Visit us online at michigan.gov/turkey

2015

MICHIGAN FALL TURKEY DIGEST

Application Period: July 1 - Aug. 1, 2015

REMINDERS

- A base license is required for every resident and nonresident who hunts in Michigan. Hunters may purchase their fall turkey license only after they have obtained a base license for the year.

Drawing results posted Aug. 10
Visit www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings

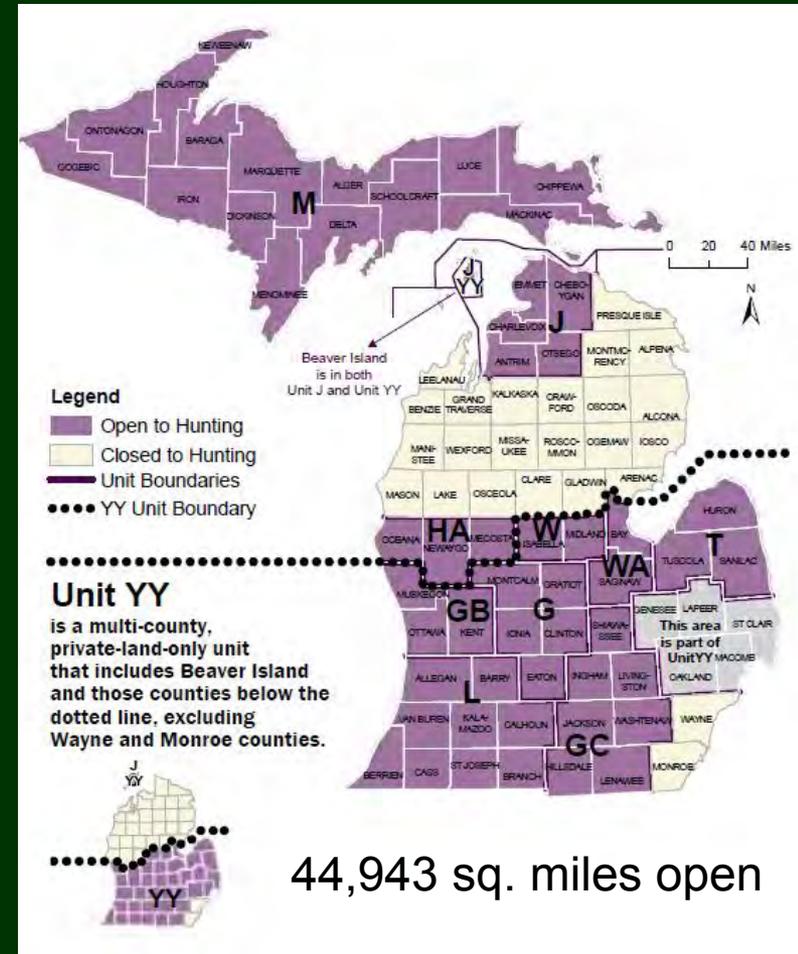


Report All Poaching: 800-292-7800
Visit www.michigan.gov/turkey



Proposed Fall Turkey Regulations

- Total of 51,350 licenses available
- Total of 4,650 general licenses available for TMU's G, GB, GV, J, L, M, T, WA, and W
- Maintain existing license quotas
 - TMU T: 200 licenses
 - TMU WA: 100 licenses
 - TMU J: 1,500 licenses
 - TMU M: 1,500 licenses



Proposed Fall Turkey Regulations

- Reducing quota for general licenses for TMU L from 1,000 licenses to 500 licenses
- Maintain a private land quota of 1,700 licenses for TMU HA
- Maintain a private land only license quota of 45,000 licenses for TMU YY
- No changes to the application process for limited-quota hunt TMUs or leftover license sales
- Maintain the one-license-per-day per hunter purchase limit for leftover licenses when available



Thank You



Recommended Changes to Manage Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)



Chad Stewart
Deer, Elk, and Moose Specialist, Wildlife Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources



History of CWD in Michigan

- On May 20, 2015, the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab received confirmation a skinny six year old whitetail doe was infected with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).
- Six additional positives have been detected since intensive surveillance began last year.
- CWD positives to date:
 - 4 deer in Meridian Township (Ingham County)
 - 1 deer in Dewitt Township (Clinton County)
 - 2 deer in Watertown Township (Clinton County)



Surveillance Results to Date

Deer Tested for CWD Since Detection of Positive Deer

As of April 12, 2016

	Targeted Deer	Roadkill Deer / Deer Found Dead	Disease Control Permits	Culled by Wildlife Services	Hunter Harvested	CWD + Deer	Total
CWD Core Area (9 TWP)	25	738	359	686	1,218	5	3,026
CWD Management Zone (3 County)	34	208	44	49	1,040	2	1,375
Remainder of State	140	115	3	63	357		678
Total	199	1,061	406	798	2,615	7	5,079



CWD Management Zone

- Clinton, Ingham, and Shiawassee counties
 - Open for early antlerless deer season
 - Ban on baiting and feeding
 - Increased license quotas
 - Reduced antlerless license fees (40%)



DMU 333: Core CWD Area

- Incident township and 8 surrounding townships
- Additional modifications include:
 - Mandatory deer check
 - Carcass transportation restrictions
 - No antler point restrictions on combo license
 - Antlerless deer with a license/combo
 - Prohibit the take of roadkill deer



Proposed Changes to DMU 333

- Expand to include the following townships:

Clinton County

- Watertown
- Eagle
- Westphalia
- Riley
- Olive
- Victor

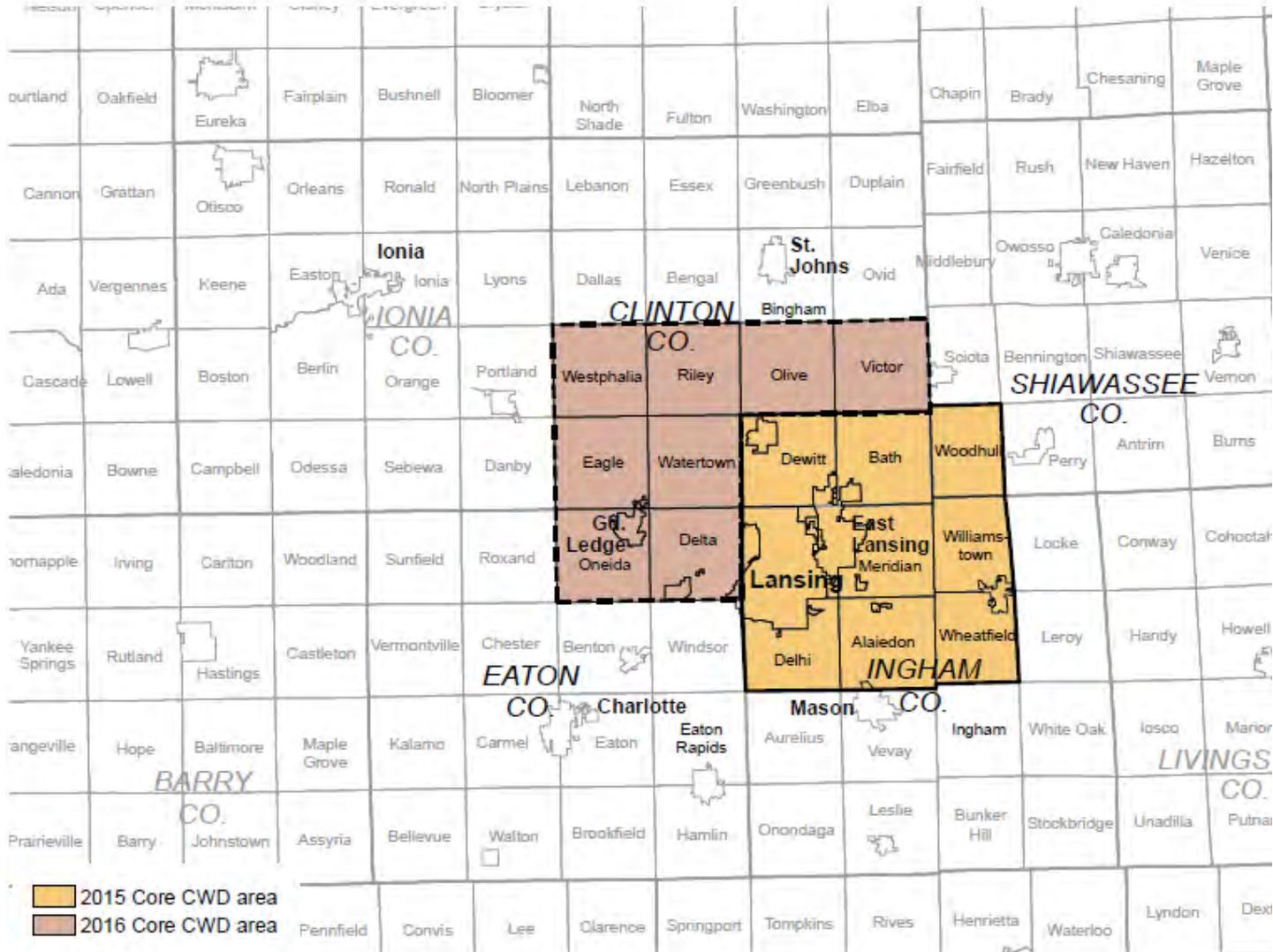
Eaton County

- Oneida
- Delta

Unlimited quotas and daily/season purchase limits



Core CWD Area Expansion (DMU 333)



2015 Core CWD area
 2016 Core CWD area

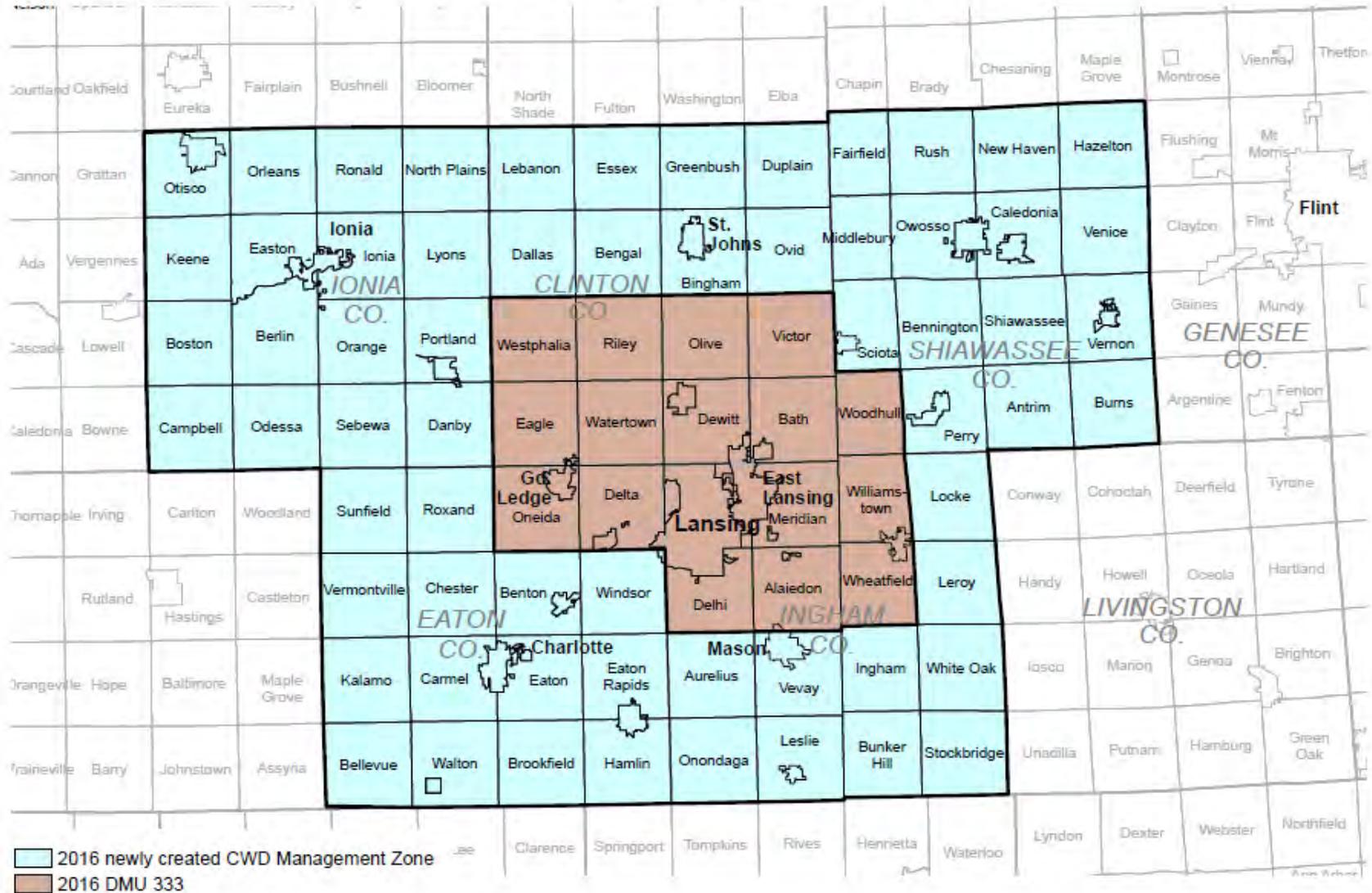


Proposed CWD Management Zone: DMU 419

- Creation of DMU 419
 - All of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, and Shiawassee County not associated with DMU 333
 - Private land antlerless quota of 40,000
 - Public land antlerless quota of 2,000



CWD Management Zone (DMU 419)



Additional Proposed Changes

- Remove DMU 308 (Barry – Calhoun – Eaton)

Reinstitute DMU 008
(Barry County)

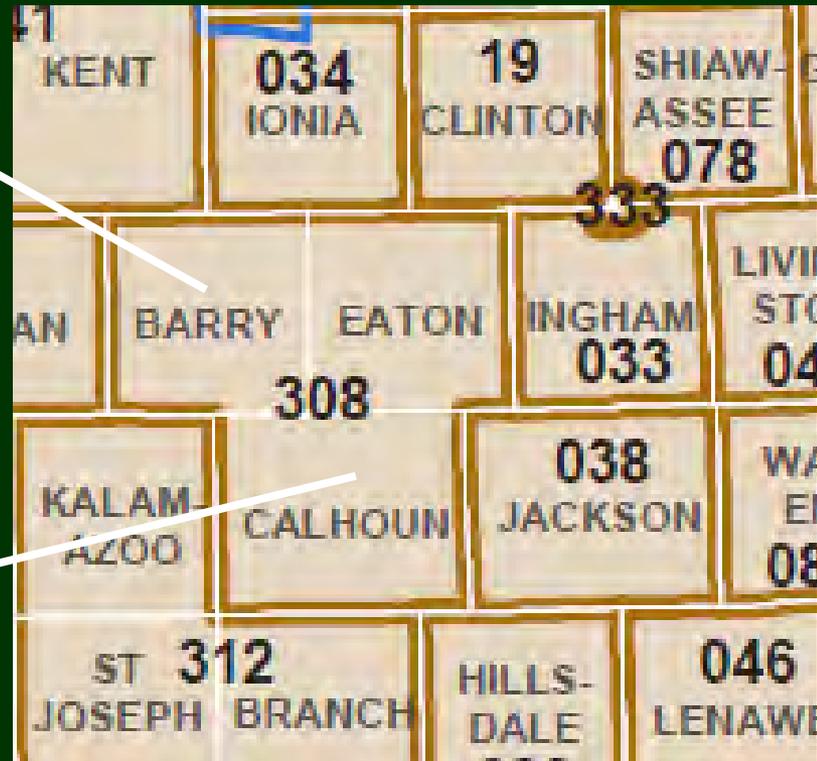
Private land antlerless quota of
7,500

Public land antlerless quota of
1,000

Reinstitute DMU 013
(Calhoun County)

Private land antlerless quota of 7,500

Public land antlerless quota of 100



Additional Proposed Changes

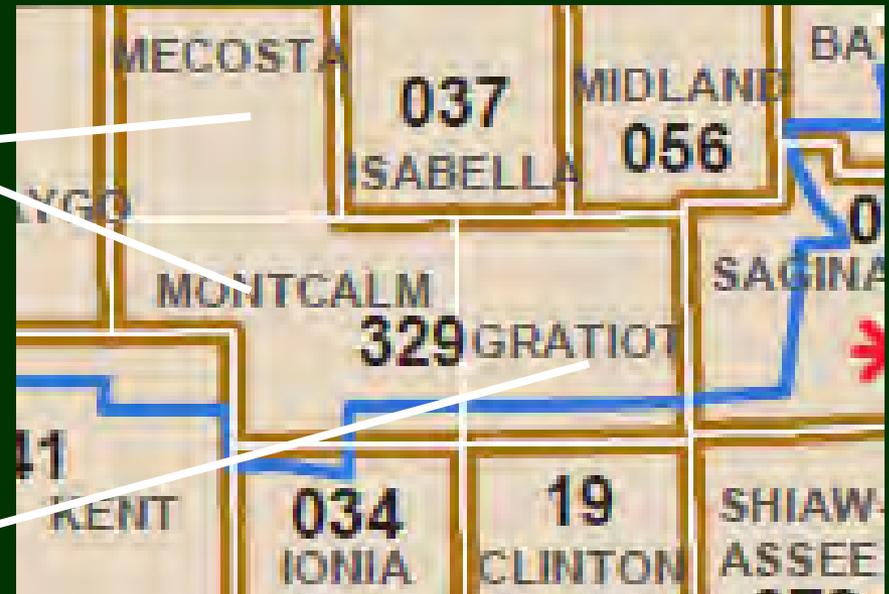
- Remove DMU 329 (Mecosta – Montcalm – Gratiot)

Reinstitute DMU 354
(Mecosta – Montcalm)

Private antlerless quota of 20,000
Public antlerless quota of 1,200

Reinstitute DMU 029
(Gratiot County)

Private antlerless quota of 9,000
Public antlerless quota of 2,000



Additional Proposed Changes

- Allow road killed deer in the DMU 333 to be kept when issued a salvage tag
 - Heads would still be required to be submitted for testing
- For hunters hunting in DMU 333
 - If remaining in DMU 333, head to be presented
 - If transported outside DMU 333, entire carcass must be presented



Wildlife Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation of deer within DMU 419/333 is prohibited
- Deer outside of DMU 419/333 cannot be taken to a rehabilitator within DMU 419/333
- Licensed rehabilitators north of limited firearm zone (LFZ) line cannot accept deer from south of the LFZ line.
 - All deer rehabilitated south of the LFZ line must be released to their county of origin



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/CWD



Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations

Barbara Avers
Waterfowl and Wetlands
Specialist



Minor Changes

- Light goose, White-fronted goose, and Brant dates and bag limits
 - Different final frameworks than anticipated
 - Maximize overlap with Canada goose seasons
- Saginaw County and Tuscola-Huron GMUs
 - Cannot be eliminated this year
 - Same season dates as South Zone
- Motion-winged decoy ban clarification for Shiawassee River and Harsens Island
 - Only restrict “winged” motion



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/dnr



St. Clair Flats (Harsens Island) Managed Waterfowl Area Spinning Wing Decoy (SWD) Ban

Joe Robison
Southeast Lower
Peninsula Field
Operations Manager



Harsens Island Managed Waterfowl Area Background Information

- Ban effective from 2013-2015
- All SWD's were banned including both mechanical and wind powered decoys
- SWD's have the potential to negatively impact the hunting experience of other hunting parties nearby



Harsens Island Waterfowl Hunters Association (HIWHA) Member Surveys

- HIWHA members voted on the SWD ban in 2013
 - 57.5% voted to ban SWD
 - 40% voted to keep SWD legal
 - 2.5% abstained
 - Total of 80 members voting



Harsens Island Waterfowl Hunters Association (HIWHA) Member Surveys

- HIWHA surveyed members after the 2015 hunting season
 - 58% surveys were returned
 - 77% of members were in favor of the ban
 - 23% were against it
- Increase in the number of those in favor of the ban over the course of its implementation



2015 Waterfowl Hunter Opinion Survey

- 62% indicated there should be no change in the “Hunting equipment restrictions” for Harsens Island Managed Waterfowl Area
 - 20% indicated there should be a decrease in equipment restrictions
- 75% indicated that there should be no change in the “Number of area specific regulations and rules” for Harsens Island Managed Waterfowl Area
 - 10% indicated there should be a decrease in equipment restrictions



Harsens Island Managed Waterfowl Area Harvest and Hunter Trip Data

- Duck harvest was up 4% from the previous four year average
- Hunter trips were up 17% from the previous four year average
- Total number of parties in drawings were up 22% from the previous four year average
- During the SWD ban the duck harvest was distributed across more zones versus when MWD's were allowed.



Harsens Island Managed Waterfowl Area Staff Interactions with Hunters

- DNR staff questioned hunters at the area headquarters and check station
- Staff estimated an 80% approval rate for the SWD ban after talking with approximately 150-200 hunters over the course of the 2015 waterfowl season



Recommendation

- Remove the sunset on the ban of SWD at Harsens Island Managed Waterfowl Area
- Broaden language to restrict motion-winged decoys at Harsens Island Managed Waterfowl Area



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/dnr



2015 Bovine TB Surveillance

Dan O'Brien DVM PhD
Steve Schmitt DVM
Wildlife Disease Lab
MDNR



Photo: D. Kenyon, MDNR



Michigan White-tailed Deer TB Surveillance

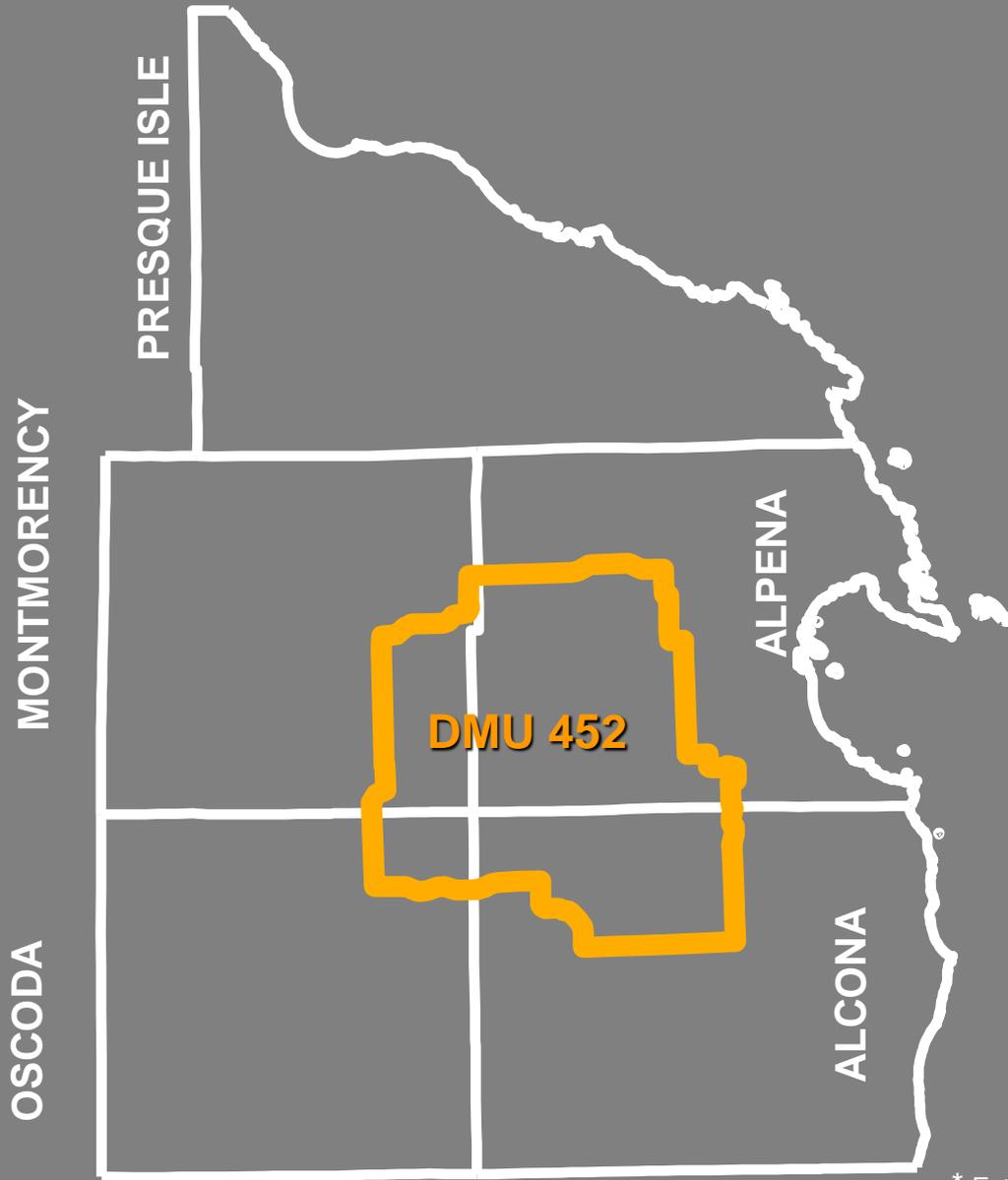


Year	Positive	Total Deer Tested
1975 & 1994	2	2
1995	18	403
1996	56	4,966
1997	73	3,720
1998	78	9,057
1999	58	19,499
2000	53	25,855
2001	61	24,278
2002	51	18,100
2003	32	17,307
2004	28	15,131
2005	16	7,364
2006	41	7,914
2007	27	8,316
2008	37	16,309
2009	31	5,723
2010	24	4,974
2011	17	6,026
2012	23	4,721
2013	21	5,868
2014	12	4,256
2015	34	8,442
Grand Total	794	218,275

Updated March 28, 2016



Apparent TB Prevalence in White-tailed Deer



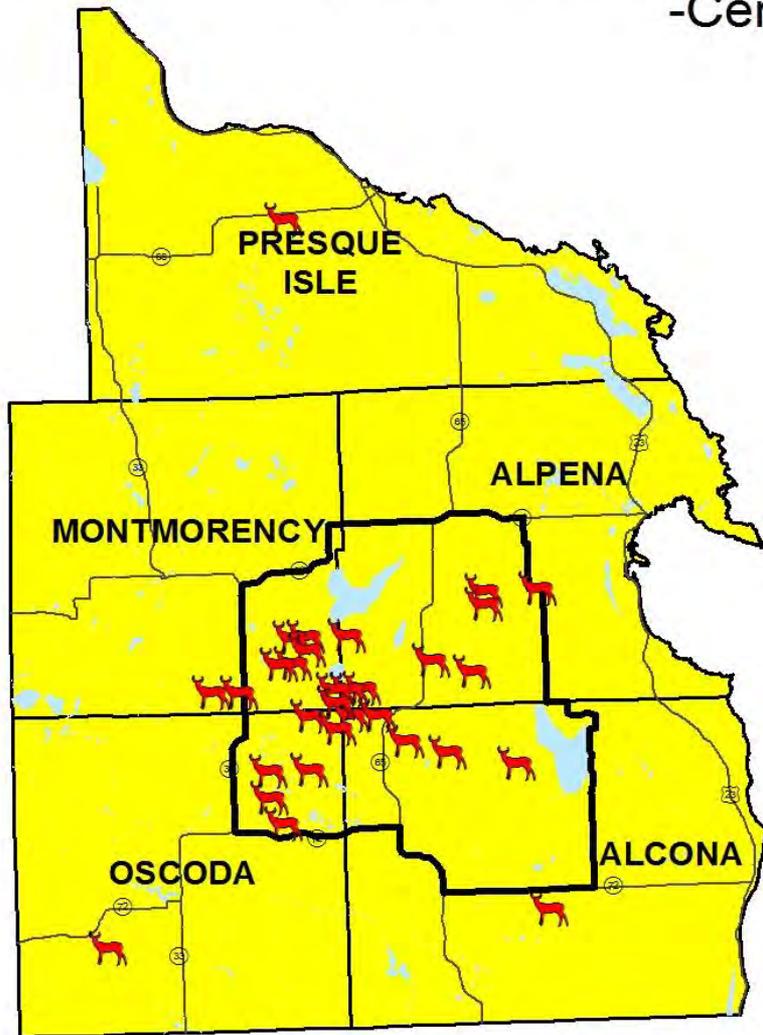
Year	Inside DMU452	5-County Outside DMU452
1995	4.9%	(no testing)
1996	2.5%	0.2%
1997	4.7%	0.4%
1998	2.7%	0.3%
1999	2.4%	0.2%
2000	2.5%	0.4%
2001	2.3%*	0.5%
2002	2.6%	0.5%
2003	1.7%	0.2%
2004	1.7%	0.2%
2005	1.2%	0.1%
2006	2.3%	0.3%
2007	1.4%	0.2%
2008	1.9%	0.3%
2009	1.9%	0.4%
2010	1.8%	0.2%
2011	1.2%	0.1%
2012	1.7%	0.3%
2013	1.7%	0.2%
2014	1.0%	0.2%
2015	2.7%	0.3%

* Extrapolated from head-only apparent prevalence; Mandatory head testing.



2015 Bovine Tuberculosis Survey Results

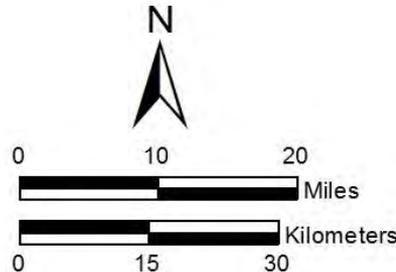
-Cervids-



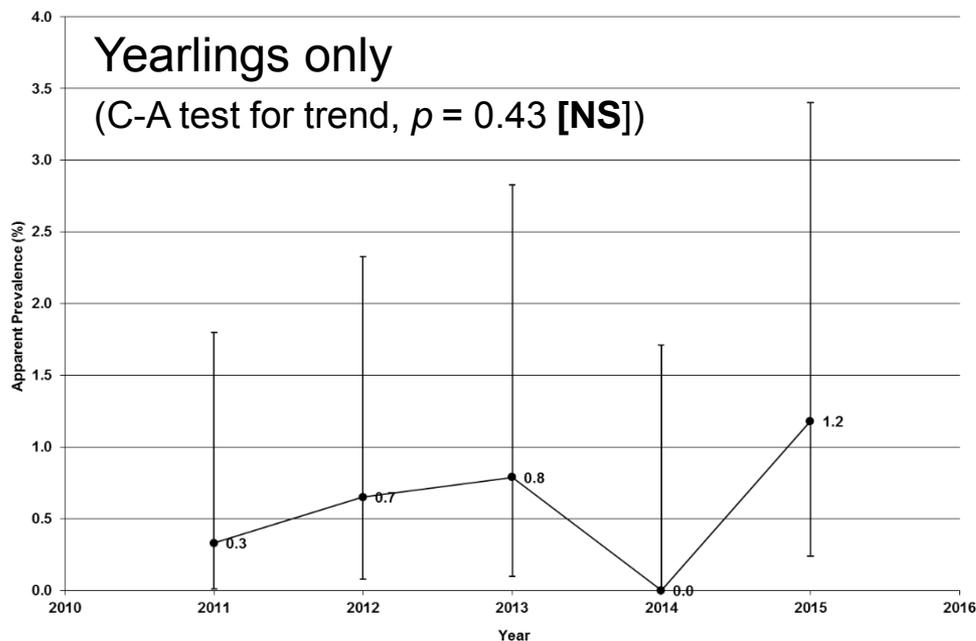
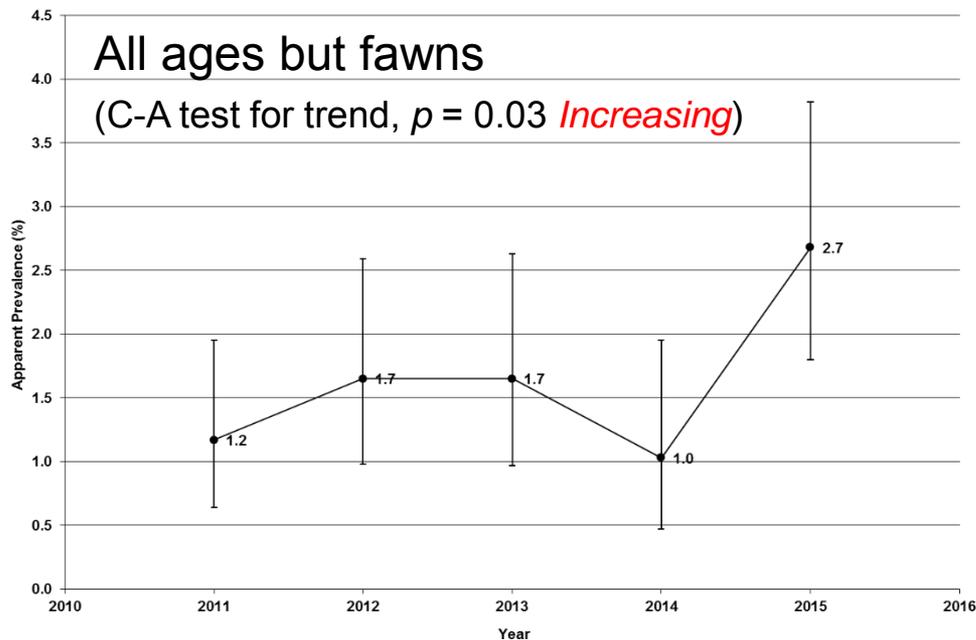
Legend

- Location of TB Positive Deer
- DMU 452
- County with Positive Deer 1975-2015
- County Line
- Water
- Highway

Total Positive Deer
34

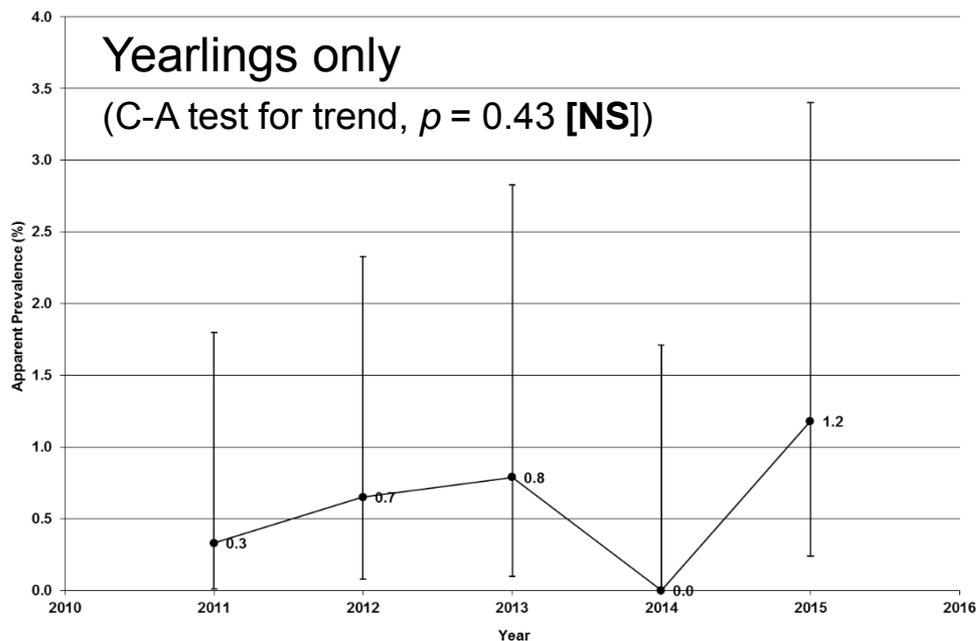
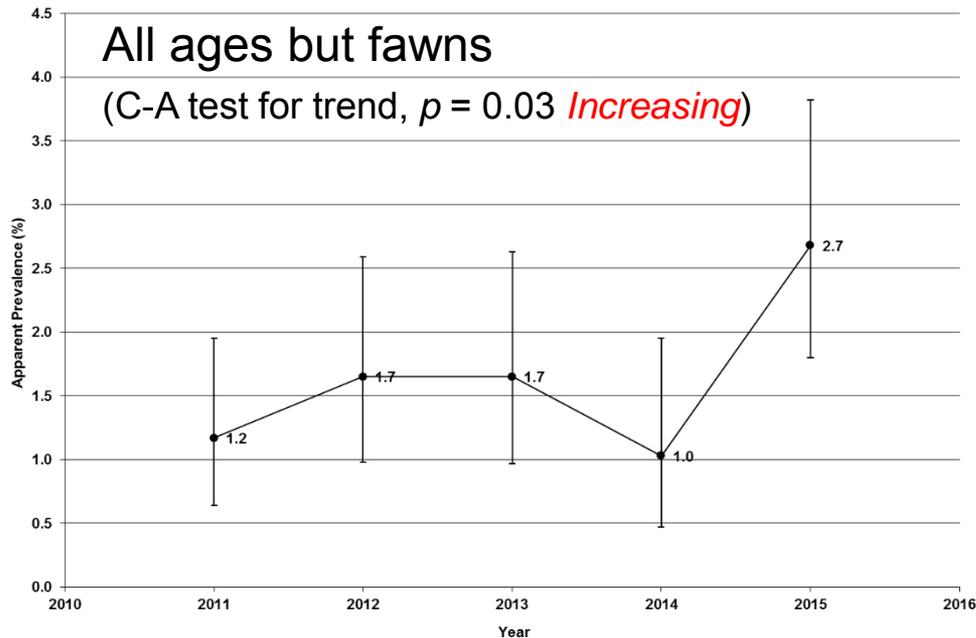


Apparent TB Prevalence DMU 452, 2011-2015



- One of the metrics in DNR's MOU with MDARD, USDA-VS
- 1st significant trend since started keeping track; 3 consecutive years of ↑ prompts USDA review
- Yearling prevalence is our best measure of TB transmission (**incidence**) rate
- Only 4 of 34 (**12%**) positive deer were yearlings (**avg. 17%**)

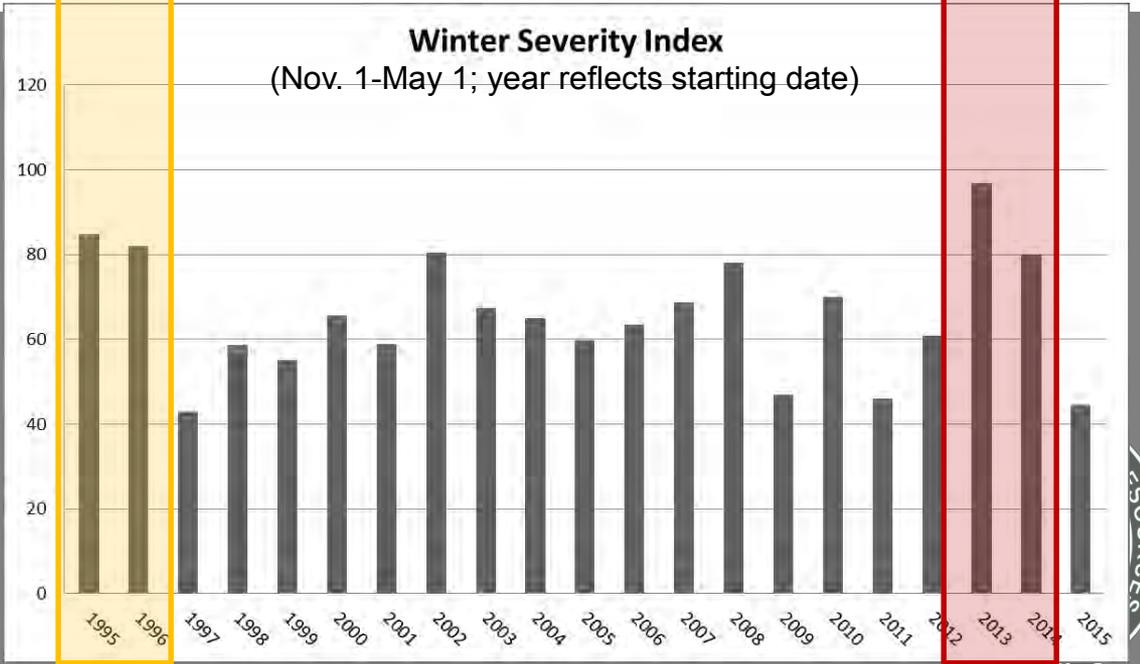
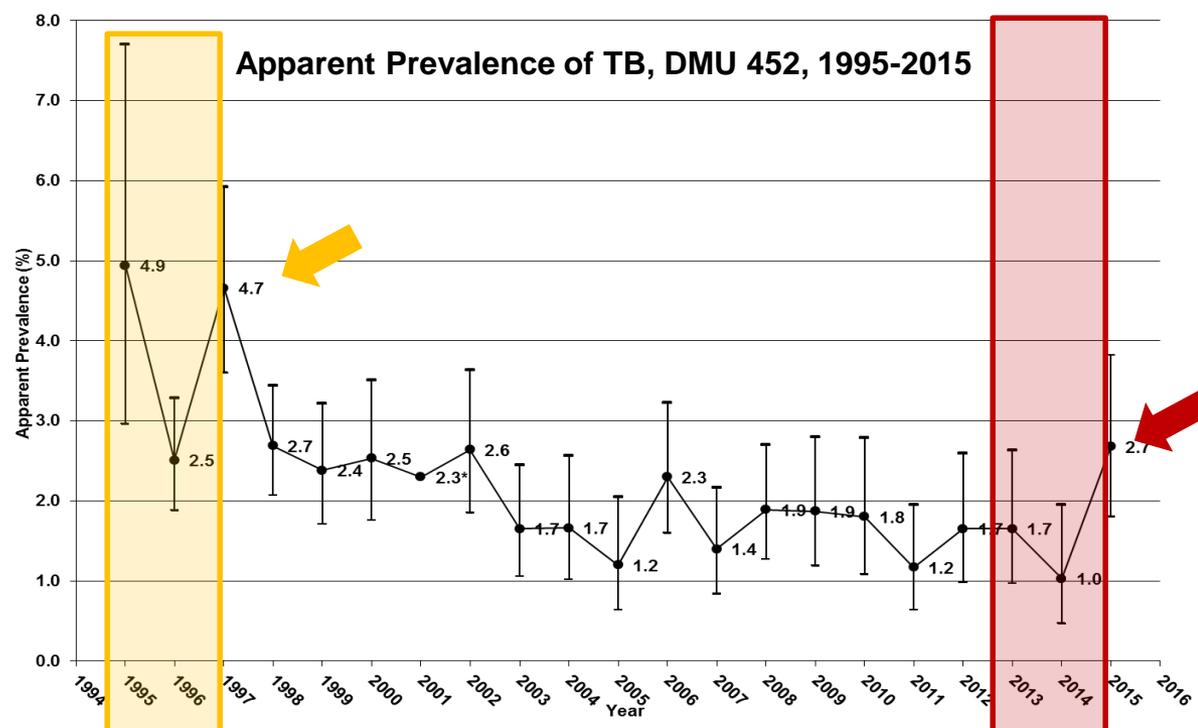
Apparent TB Prevalence DMU 452, 2011-2015



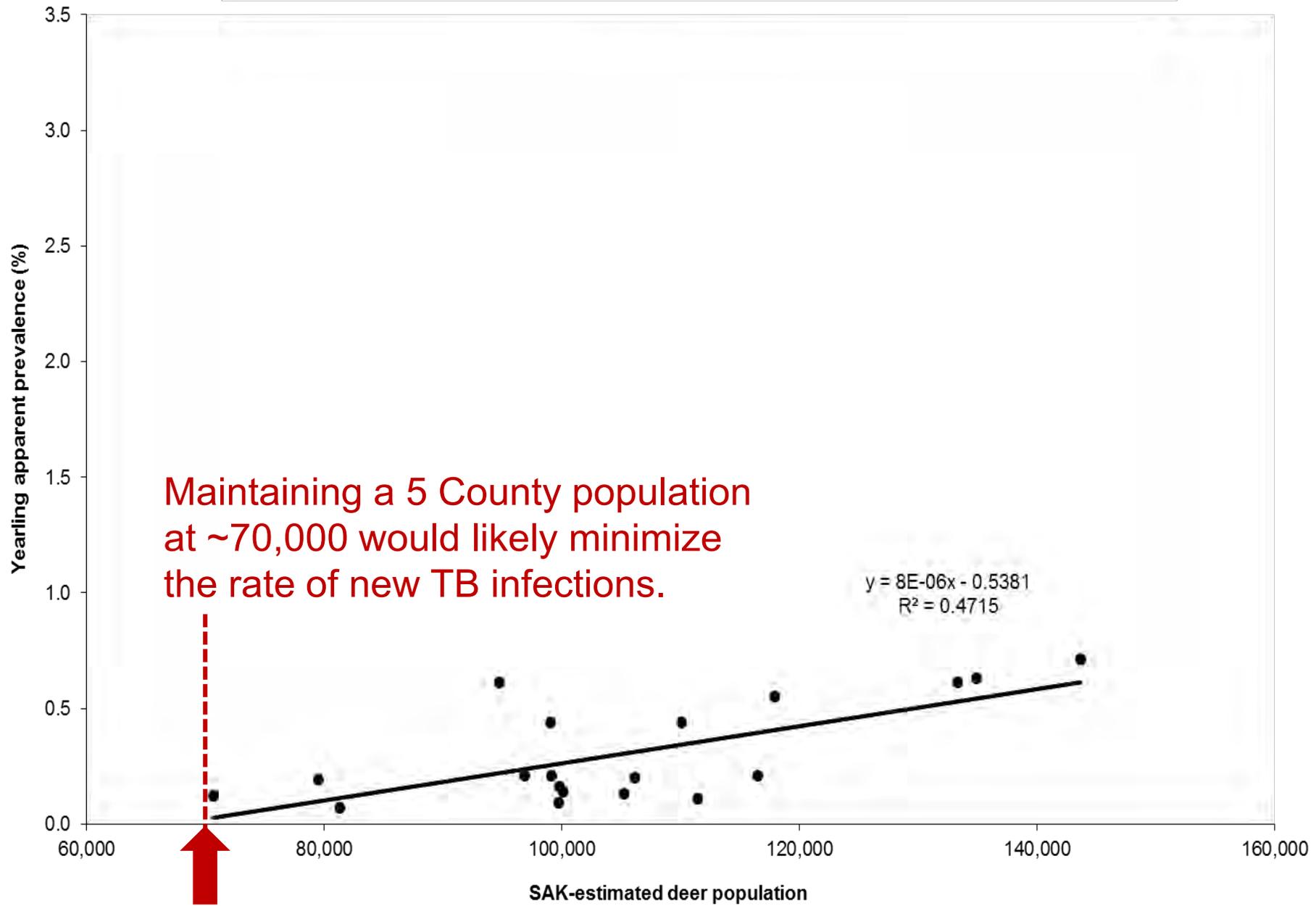
- Increase in prevalence in 2015 was disproportionately due to infection in older animals
- Lowest rate (18%) of extracranial infection yet recorded (avg. 36%), i.e., disease less severe
- These factors point to activation of latent (i.e. dormant) infections rather than across ages \uparrow in overall TB transmission rate

TB & winter stress?

- Activation of latent disease typically due to **stress**
- Two winters preceding 2015 were the two most severe consecutive winters in last two decades
- Second most severe consecutive winters preceded jump in prevalence in 1997



Apparent TB Prevalence, 5 Co. Yearlings, vs. 5 Co. Sex-Age Kill Estimated Deer Population, 1996-2014



Maintaining a 5 County population at ~70,000 would likely minimize the rate of new TB infections.

$y = 8E-06x - 0.5381$
 $R^2 = 0.4715$

In summary

- TB prevalence in 2015 was 2.7%; highest since 1998
- Five year prevalence trend is now significantly increasing; if continues 2 more years, would trigger USDA review
- Increase in prevalence *may* have been due to stress activation of latent cases
- Twenty years of surveillance show strong linear relationship between 5 county population size & rate of new TB infections



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases



Michigan's Bovine Tuberculosis Program



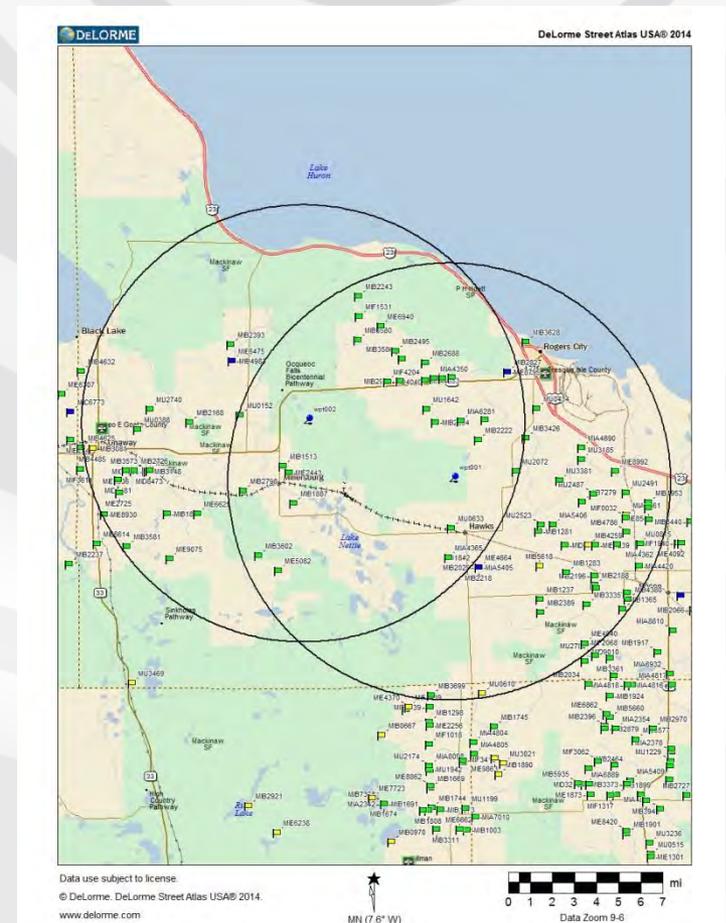
Michigan Department of Agriculture
and Rural Development

Dr. Rick Smith



Circle Testing In Presque Isle - 2015

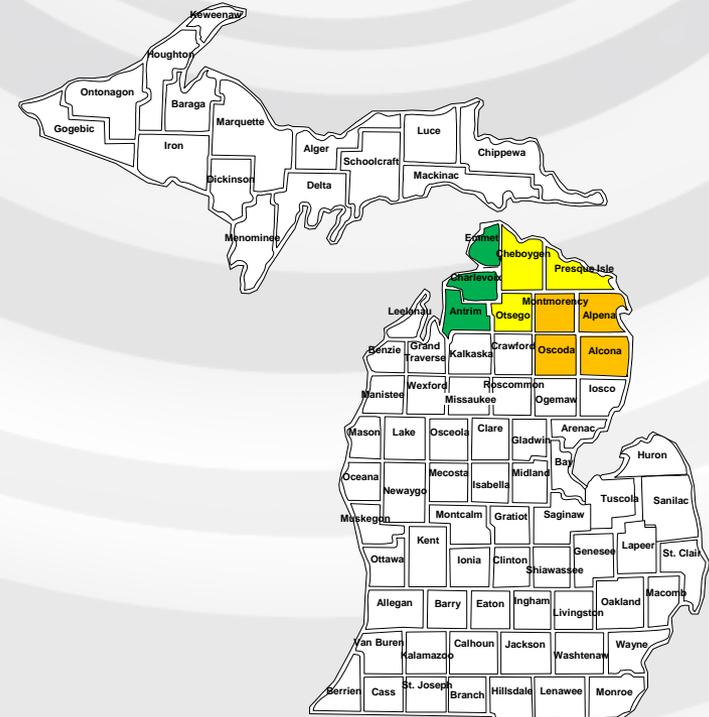
- 2 ten mile circles in Presque Isle in 2015
 - 58 herds tested
 - 1,427 head
- No disease discovered





New MOU - 2016-2017

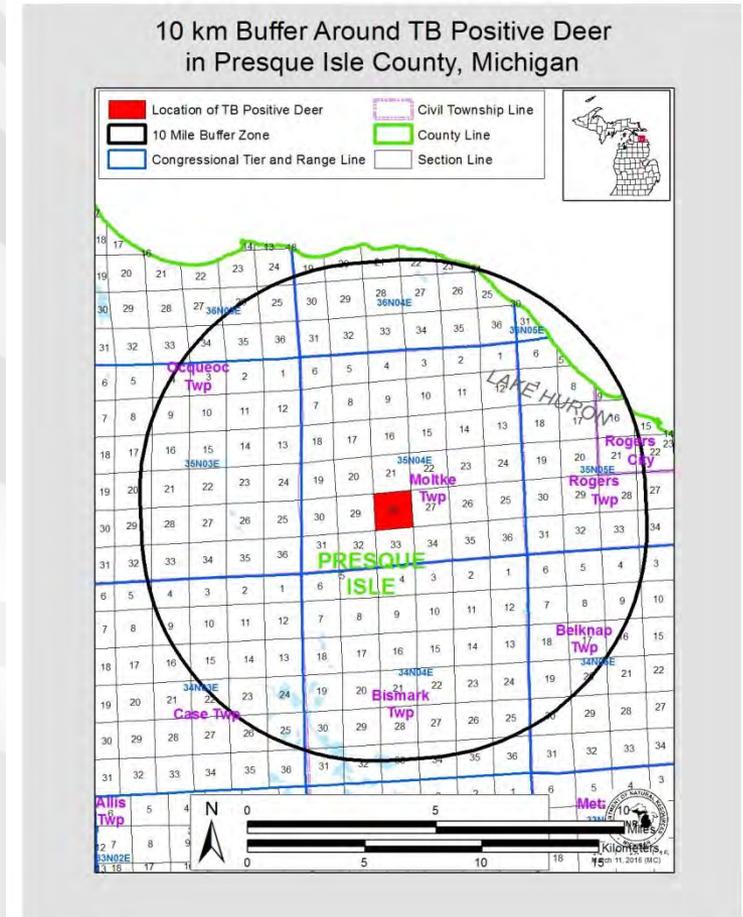
- No change for MAZ (orange)
- Area TB testing & WRM discontinued in Emmet, Charlevoix and Antrim counties (green)
- Herds that did not do whole herd test since April 1, 2014 in Presque Isle, Cheboygan, Otsego counties will test in 2016-2017 - WRM continues (yellow)
- 10 km cattle circle around TB infected free-ranging white-tailed deer





Circle Test in Presque Isle - 2016

- One 10 km circle in Presque Isle in 2016
 - 20 herds to TB test
 - ~ 400 head



Questions?

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

the GPS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIES



Wildlife Division Strategic Plan 2016-2020

Update Approved March 1, 2016

the GPS

GPS Update Team

- Amy Derosier
- Sarah Cummins
- Katie Keen
- Mike Donovan
- Chris Hoving
- Sherry MacKinnon
- Barb Avers
- Jerimiah Heise
- Keith Kintigh
- Dusty Arsnoe
- Chad Fedewa
- Jesse Bramer

GPS Update Team



- Wildlife Division Staff
- NRC Commissioners
- Stakeholders

The Update Process & Finish Line

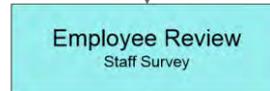
Completed ✓



Completed ✓



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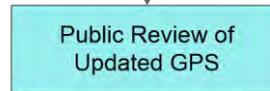
Completed ✓



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Completed ✓



Completed ✓



- Worked with NRC
- Held 2 stakeholder meetings
- Reached out to over 500 stakeholders
- 132 comments from public

the GPS

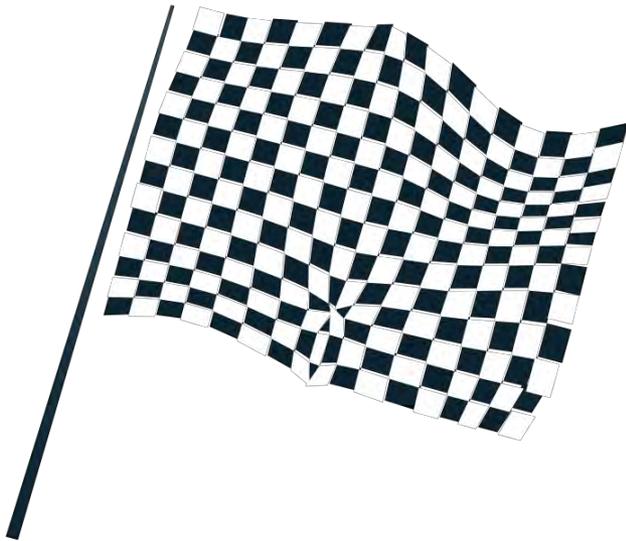
New GPS Goals

1. Manage for healthy and sustainable populations of wildlife
2. Manage habitat for sustainable wildlife populations and wildlife-based recreation
3. Administer and promote effective stewardship of lands for wildlife habitats and wildlife-based recreation
4. Enhance sustainable wildlife recreation use and enjoyment
5. Improve public communication and maintain strong relationships and partnerships
6. Foster and adopt effective business practices
7. Develop and implement systems that lead to continuous improvement in how we work

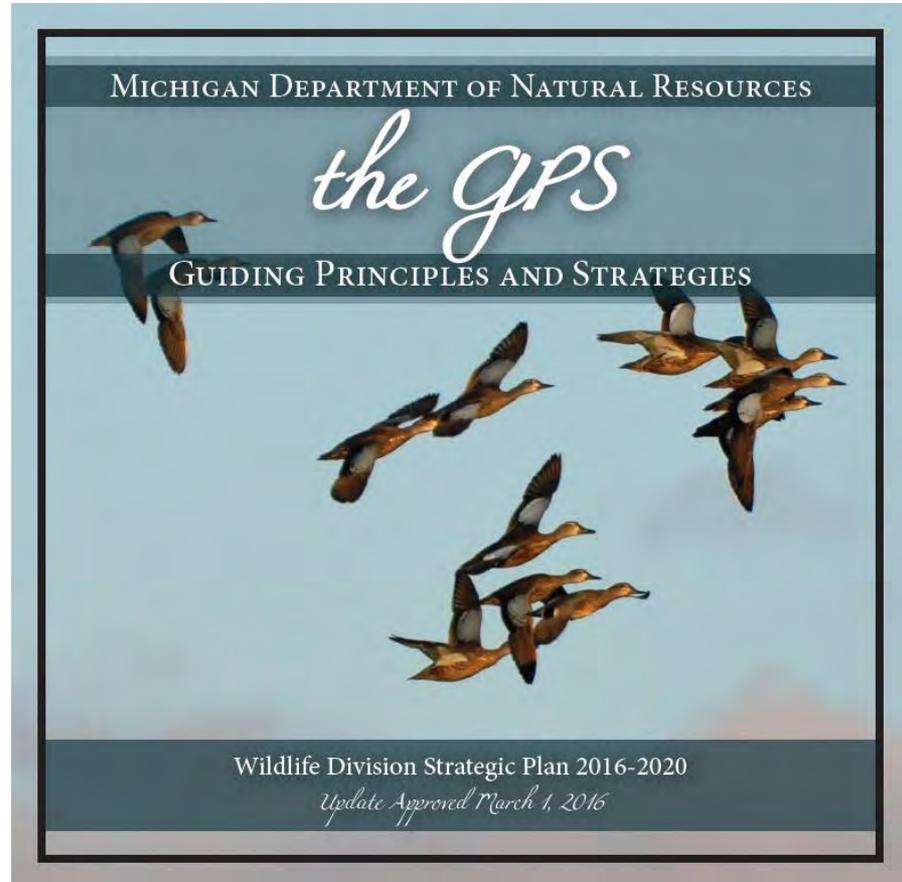
Continuing Our Journey

- Commitment to implement plan
 - Fulfilling common vision
- 
- Routes and destination for next leg of journey
 - Five-year review cycle: 2021

Thank You!



Questions?



the GPS



Wildlife Division Annual Report

Fiscal Year October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015 • mi.gov/dnr