Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife & Fisheries

January 14, 2016

Proposed Orders

- For Information- NRC
  - Use of Suppressors in the Taking of Game (Wildlife Conservation Order No.1 of 2016)
- For Information- Director
  - Definitions, Exemptions, and Enclosure Requirements (Captive Wildlife Animal Order No. 1 of 2016)

NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
- Wildlife Chief Update
- Captive Game Order
- Use of Suppressors in Hunting

Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division

Chief's Update

Jim Dexter

January 14, 2016

Black Lake Sturgeon Fishery

- February 6 (5-day season)
- Population est. at 1,090
- Fishing exploitation set at 1.2%
- Approved 2016 harvest = 14 fish
  - 7 State; 7 Tribe
- SOM self-imposed harvest = 6 fish

Thank you!

Questions?

Wildlife Chief Update

Russ Mason,
Wildlife Chief

Deer Update

- CWD Positive Deer
  - 5 confirmed: 3 in Meridian Township, Ingham County,1 in Dewitt Township, Clinton County, and 1 in Watertown Township, Clinton County
  - Public meeting took place in Dewitt on Jan. 12th
  - The Department will review CWD Deer Regulations in May/June

Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative Accomplishments

Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative Accomplishments

- Coalition Midpoint Accomplishments handout in folder
- Total of 8,760 Grassland Acres Enhanced or Restored
- Total of 5,363 Acres of Food Plots Planted
- Total of 287,554 acres enrolled in Federal Farm Bill Programs
- Wildlife Habitat Grant Projects Total: $1,152,710 awarded; 3,265 acres improved
- 10 Pheasant Co-operatives
- 917 total acres purchased for State Game Area Land Acquisition
- Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentive Program: Total of $2,164,299
- 2015 HAP Enrollment: 170 properties; 20,089 acres

December 2015 Preliminary Elk Season Summary

- Hunt 2; December 5-13
- Unseasonably warm weather
- License Quota: 50
  - 15 any elk
  - 35 antlerless only elk
- Due to the success in the fall and December hunts, there will not be a January hunt this season.
- Success rates have been increasing

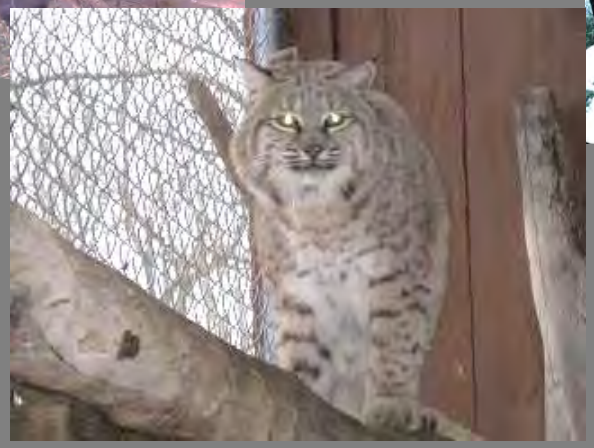
Elk Harvest- Hunt Period 2

- State hunter harvest: 46 legally harvested elk
  - 13 antlered elk (bulls)
  - 33 antlerless elk
  - Tribal hunters took one bull and three cows. These are preliminary numbers, as the tribes have not yet all reported take.
  - A total of 50 elk were taken legally
- Illegal harvest
  - One spike bull was taken on an antlerless tag
  - Hunter harvested a second antlerless elk

Thank You

www.michigan.gov/elk

Captive Wild Animal (Game) Order



Sarah Cummins, Legislative and Regulatory Specialist
Casey Reitz, Permit Specialist
Wildlife Division
January 1, 2016

Background: History

- Permit for possessing captive-sourced game
  - **Cannot be taken from the wild**
- Last updated in 2005
- Considered during review:
  - Animal housing recommendations
  - Institutional recognitions
  - Agency authorities and redundant programs
  - Administrative practices

Background: Lawful Possession

- Public Act 451 of 1994
  - Shooting Preserve License
  - Falconry Permit
  - Scientific Collector's Permit
  - Wildlife Rehabilitator's Permit
  - **Permit to Hold Wildlife in Captivity**

- Additional authorities with federal and state agencies

Recommendations

- Propose Name Change: **"Captive Game Order"**
  - Per 1994 PA 451, only game animals permitted under this order
- Define "exhibitor," "waterfowl," and "veterinarian"
- Include scientific names of permitted species
- Propose exemption for USDA APHIS exhibitors
- Propose that no new permits for black bear will be issued under the authority of this permit
- Edit for clarity and consistent formatting

Thank You

www.michigan.gov/dnr

HUNTING WITH SUPPRESSORS

Natural Resources Commission Meeting
January 14, 2016

Presented by: Chief Gary Hagler

Recommendation

- Allow the possession and/or use of a suppressor on a firearm while hunting as long as the suppressor does not have the capability of a decibel reduction greater than 30 decibels as provided by the manufacturer's specifications.
- Allow the possession and/or use of ammunition that when fired its velocity exceeds 1,126 feet per second, as provided by the manufacturer's specifications, while hunting with a suppressor.

Recommendation

- Based on independent research and manufacturer testing, most suppressors have a decibel reduction in the high 20s to low 30s.
- In our team's testing of suppressors it found those tested reduced peak impulse noise 12-28 dB
- Lobariñas, E. and Le Prell, C.G. (2014). Impulse noise produced by weapons: Implications for hearing conservation. University of Florida ("…suppression generally decreased unsuppressed peak levels by 5-20 dB…")
- The American Suppressor Association states on their website suppressors "reduce a gunshot an average 20-35 dB"

Recommendation

- There are several suppressor manufacturers across the U.S.
- Any Class 3 firearms dealer can sell suppressors to approved residents
- Many of the suppressors on the market are advertised as reducing the noise up to 30 dB.
- Some higher-end suppressors claim to reduce the noise 35, 40, and even more decibels

Recommendation

- One of the primary goals of a suppressor is hearing protection/preservation
- In most cases a 20-30 dB reduction will drop the peak impulse noise below the 140 dB maximum threshold recommended for unprotected hearing by OSHA
- There are many suppressors commercially available that have a peak reduction of 30 dBs or less

Recommendation

- Why 1,126 feet per second or greater?
  - Speed of sound
  - Above this you can still hear the "sonic boom"
  - Suppressors have no influence on the projectile once it leaves the barrel and is in flight

Recommendation

- There are a variety of commercially manufactured ammunitions
- Subsonic and supersonic
- Most have muzzle velocities marked on the box
- Manufacturers' websites have additional information on ammunition velocities

WINCHESTER
SUPER X
DEER
BUCKSHOT
12 GAUGE | 2 3/4 INCHES | 1325 VELOCITY | 9 PELLETS | 00 BUCK

12 GAUGE | 2 3/4 LENGTH | 2 3/4 DR.EQ. | 1 1/8 OZ SHOT | 7 1/2 SHOT
VELOCITY 1145 FPS
STS12L7
Premier® STS® Light Target
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WORLD CLASS #1 PERFORMANCE

POWER-SHOK
FEDERAL AMMUNITION
12 GA BUCKSHOT
2 3/4 INCH MAX.
MUZ VEL 1325 FPS
27 PELLETS - 4 BUCK F127 4B

WINCHESTER
DUAL BOND
BONDED DUAL JACKET SABOT SLUGS
WITH 12-SEGMENT EXPANSION
20 GAUGE | 2 3/4 INCHES | 1800 VELOCITY | 260 GRAIN

Hornady
#80975
308 WIN
168 gr BTHP
TAP PRECISION®

Muzzle	100 yds	200 yds	300 yds	400 yds	500 yds
2700 fps	+2.3"	0.0"	-8.9"	-25.8"	-52.2"

Lot # 3100492
Made in USA
0 90255 80975 6

Hornady
MATCH
#81170
30-06
M1 GARAND
168 gr A-MAX

Muzzle	100 yds	200 yds	300 yds	400 yds	500 yds
2700 fps	+2.3"	0.0"	-8.7"	-24.9"	-49.8"

Lot # 3120097
Made in USA
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Summary

Questions?

Thank you!