



Celebrating 100 years

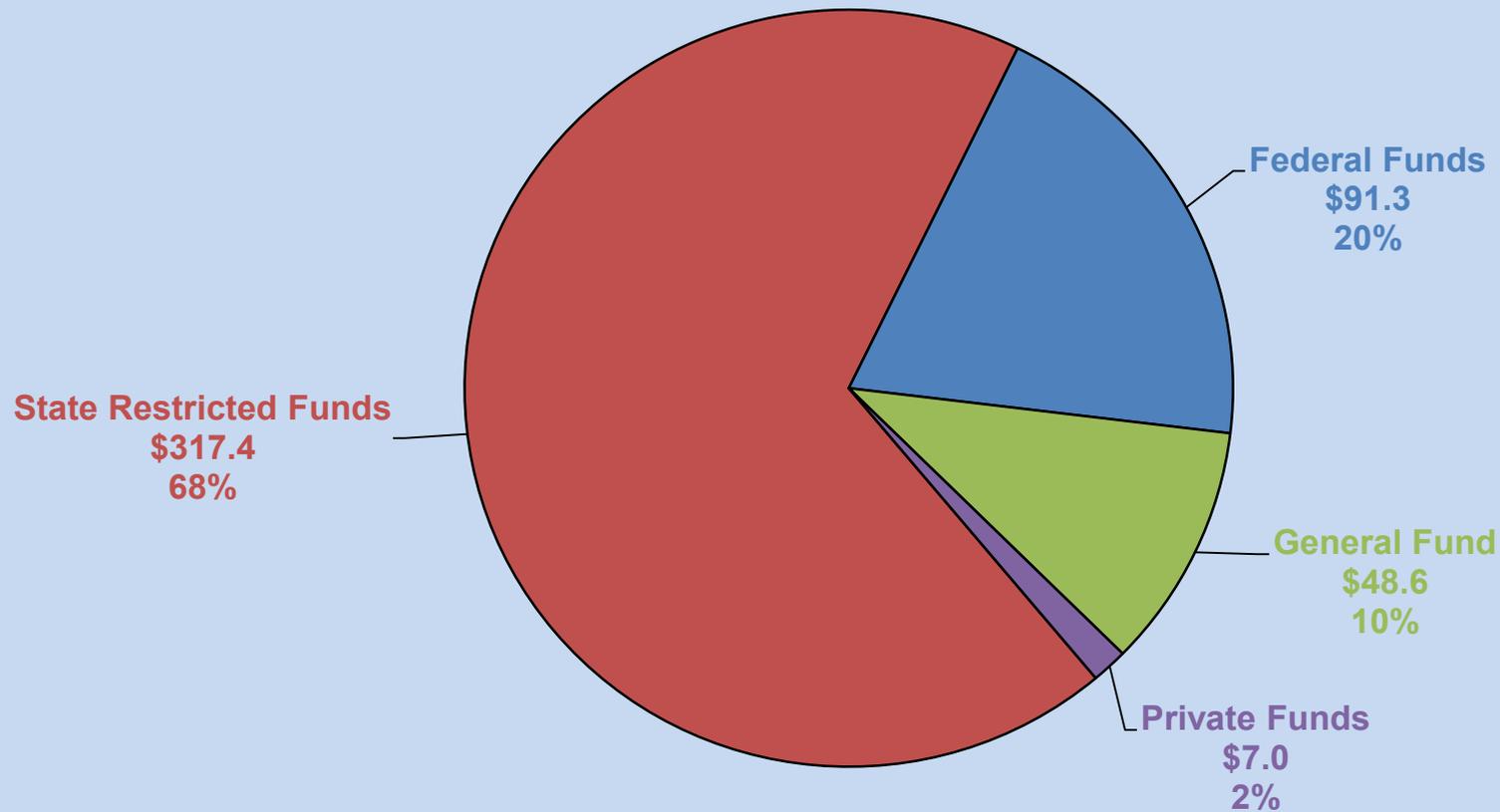
# FY 2022 DNR Budget Overview

Chief Budget Officer  
Erik Eklund

Oct. 14, 2021



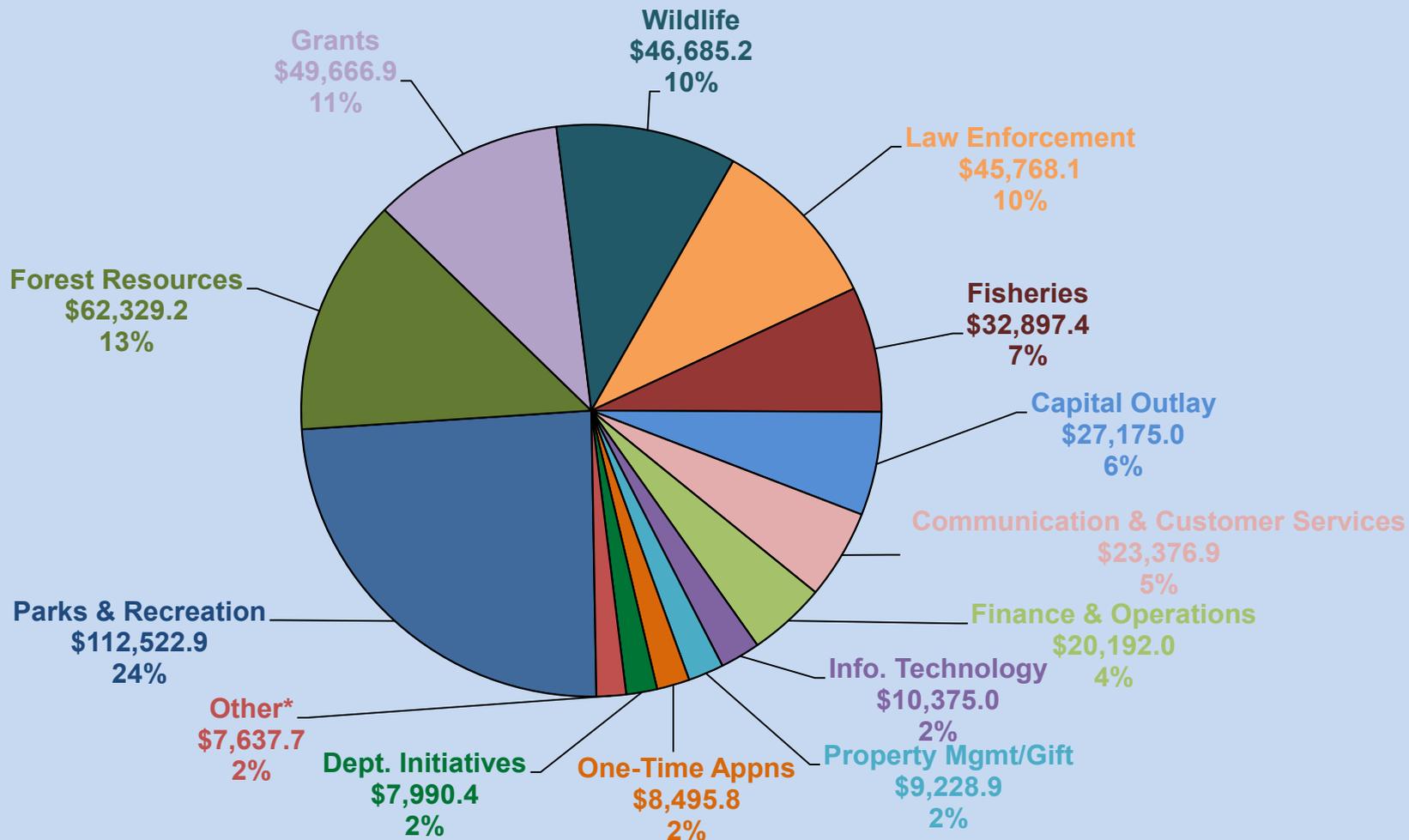
# FY 2022 DNR Budget by Fund Type



**Total Funding: \$464.3**

(Figures in millions)

# FY 2022 DNR Budget by Program

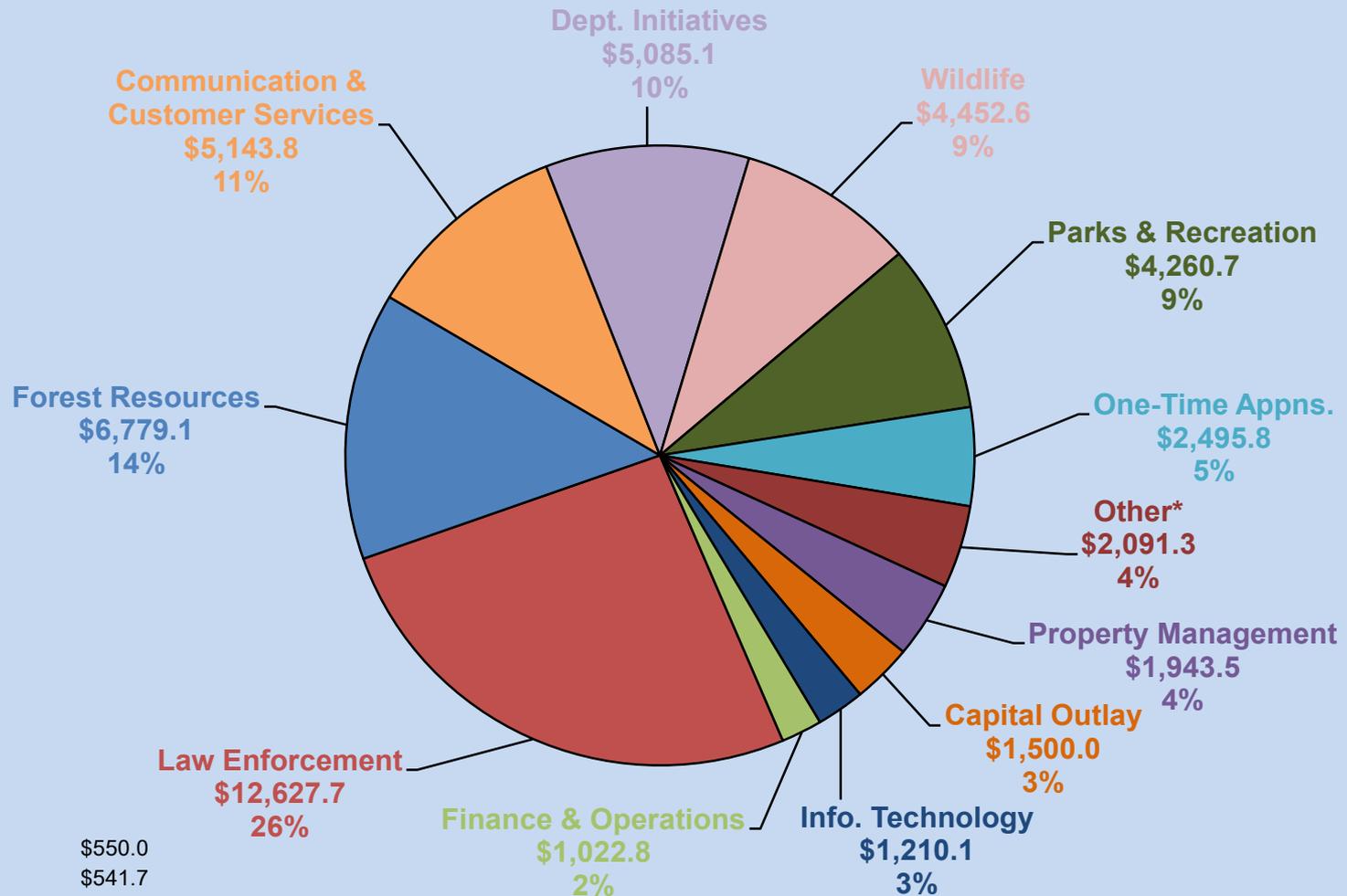


*Other	
Executive	\$3,209.6
Mackinac Island	\$2,197.7
Accounting Service Center	\$1,555.1
Legal Services	\$675.3

**Total Appropriations: \$464,341.4**

(Figures in thousands)

# FY 2022 DNR General Fund Budget



**Total General Fund Appropriations: \$48,612.5**

(Figures in thousands)

*Other	
Grants	\$550.0
Fisheries	\$541.7
Mackinac Island	\$413.3
Executive	\$300.2
Accounting Service Center	\$192.6
Legal Services	\$93.5

# Ongoing Investments

- Land and Water Conservation Fund: \$7 million increase from federal funds
- State Park Operations: \$2.7 million increase from restricted funds
- Snowmobile Trail Easements: \$1.5 million increase from restricted funds
- Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvements: \$1 million increase from restricted funds
- Recreational Search Software: \$320,000 increase (includes \$250,000 one-time) from restricted funds

# Ongoing Reductions

- Local Marine Patrol Grants: \$1.75 million  
General Fund
- Deer Habitat Improvement Grants: \$245,800  
General Fund (maintains \$200,000 from  
restricted funds)

# One-Time Investments

- Fish Hatchery Energy Efficiencies: \$2 million from General Fund
- Chronic Wasting Disease Testing: \$500,000 from General Fund
- Kalamazoo River Watershed Improvements: \$6 million from settlement proceeds

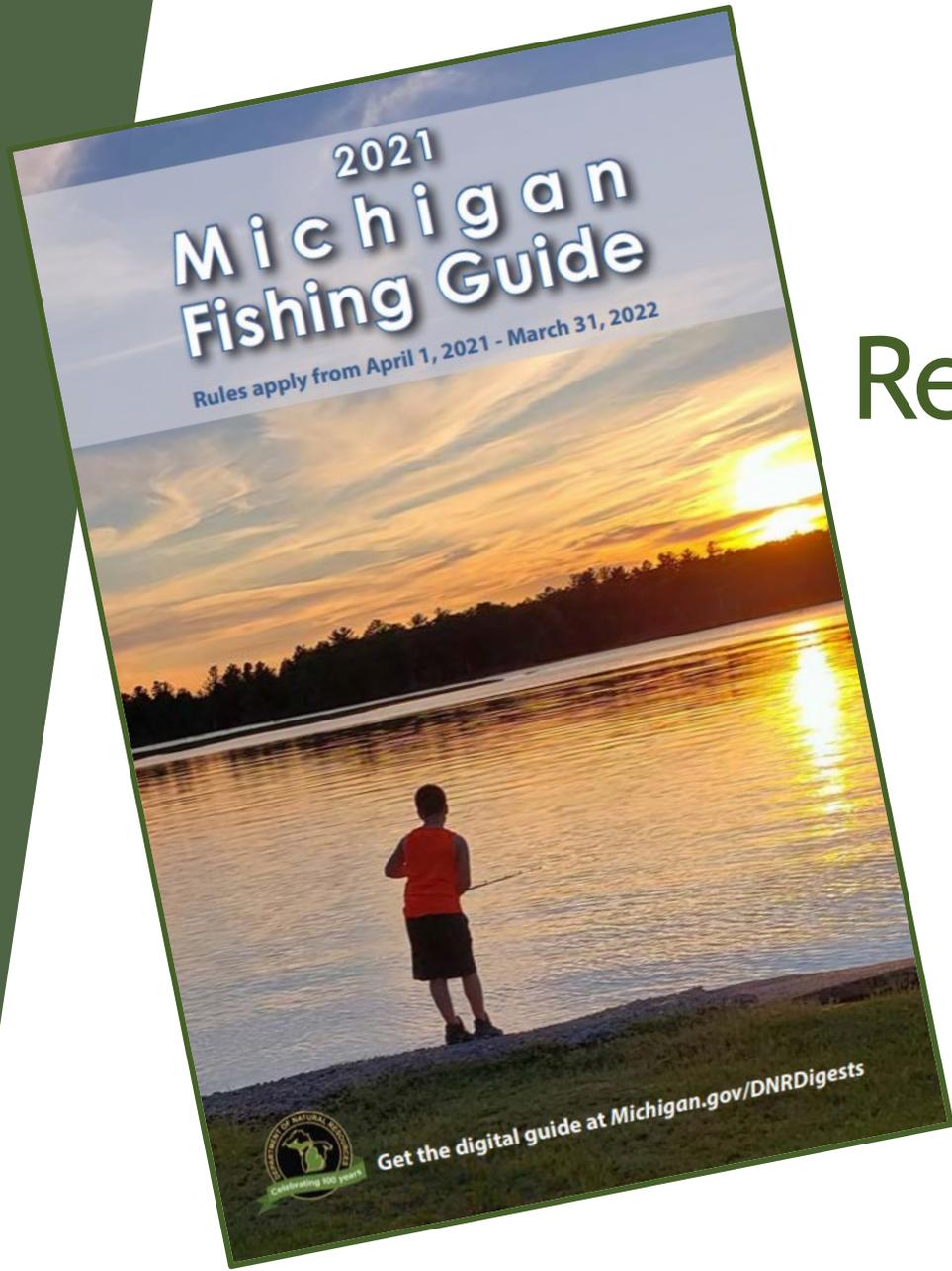
# Boilerplate Changes

- Sec. 507. Antlerless Deer License Discounts
  - Revised to direct any unused funds from this section by February 1 to Deer Habitat Improvement Grants
- Sec. 1201. Chronic Wasting Disease Testing
  - Added to require the DNR to have a check station or drop box in certain areas before the 2022 deer hunting season



# Questions?

Learn more about outdoor recreation opportunities  
at [Michigan.gov/DNR](https://Michigan.gov/DNR).



# Recommendations for Fisheries Orders

Fisheries Division

Seth Herbst, Ph.D.

Regulatory Affairs Unit Manager

Oct 14, 2021

# Fisheries Orders

*For Information*

- FO-202: Special hook size regulations
- FO-204: Spawning closures
- FO-206: Special fishing regulations for warmwater species on select waters



# Fisheries Order 202.22

## *For Information*

- Torch River (Antrim and Kalkaska Counties)
  - Currently spawning Muskellunge are protected via a spawning closure in FO-204.21
  - Interested in allowing angling opportunities for other species while also maintaining protection for spawning Muskellunge
  - Recommend seasonal gear restriction
    - Single-pointed unweighted hook measuring  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or less from point to shank
    - Effective May 1 – July 1



# Fisheries Order 204.22

## *For Information*

- Torch River (Antrim and Kalkaska Counties)
  - Protection for spawning Muskellunge via FO-202.22
  - Recommend removing spawning closure
- Little Manistee River (Manistee Co.)
  - Need for clearly defined downstream boundary
  - Enforcement and public safety concerns
  - Recommend defining downstream boundary as the powerline crossing downstream of Stronach Road Bridge (also referred to as Water Street on some maps)
  - Also relevant to FO-200.22



# Fisheries Order 206.22

## *For Information*

- Silver Lake (Oceana Co.) – Northern Pike Regulations
  - Low abundance in recent survey
  - Recommend 2 fish daily poss. limit, all  $\geq$  24 inches
- Increase angling opportunities and unify the fishing season across special regulation lakes
  - Jones Lake and Wakeley Lake (Crawford Co.)
  - Recommend extending the fishing season; new season would be the last Saturday in April – September 30

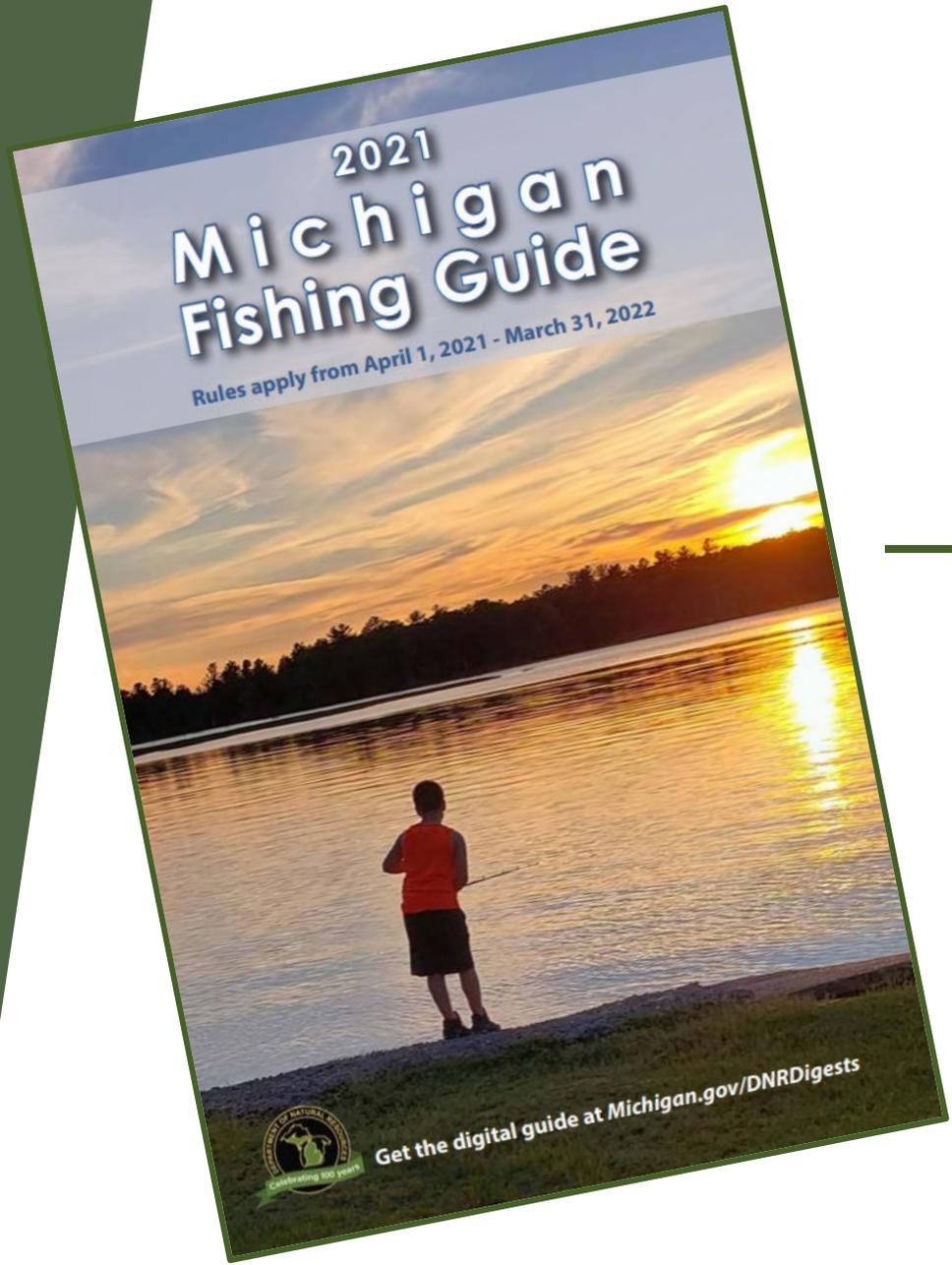


# Fisheries Orders

## Reminders:

- FO-200.22 – *For action* this month
  - Need for clearly defined downstream boundary for Type 4 regulation on Little Manistee River
  - Same boundary as recommended for FO-204.22
- FO-206.21 – *For action* this month
  - Includes recommendations discussed at August NRC meeting
  - Recommendations from public meeting regarding Walleye and Northern Pike regulations for Lake Gogebic





# Thank You!

---

## Questions?

Seth Herbst, Ph.D.  
ASRA Unit Manager  
Herbsts1@Michigan.gov

# Saginaw Bay Fisheries Management Framework and Status

Presentation to the Natural Resource Commission October 14, 2021

Randy Claramunt - Lake Huron Basin Coordinator, Fisheries Division





# Background on Fisheries Management in Saginaw Bay



 **STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Number 29 August 2004

**Strategy and Options for Completing the Recovery of Walleye in Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron**

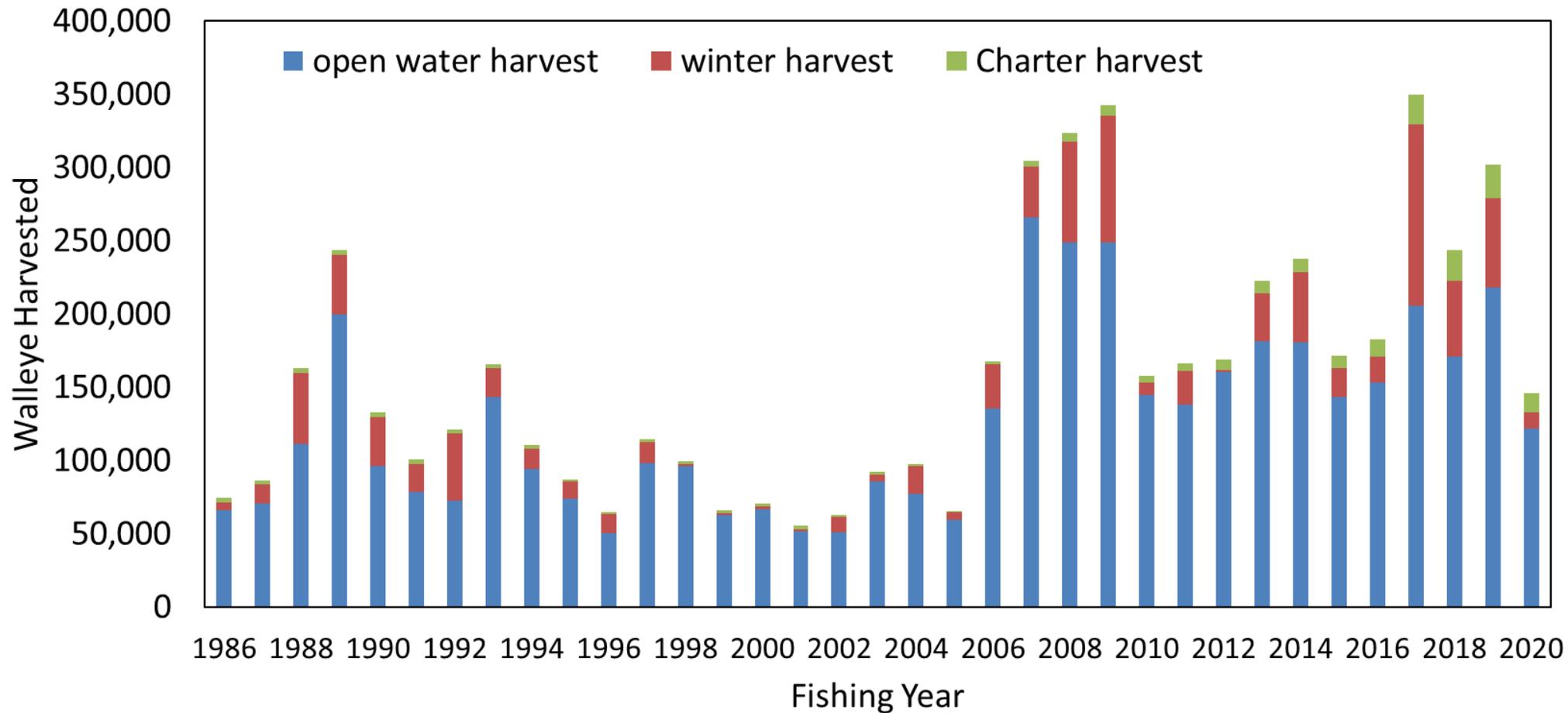
David G. Fielder  
and  
James P. Baker

  
NASA Photo

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) **FISHERIES DIVISION**  
**SPECIAL REPORT**

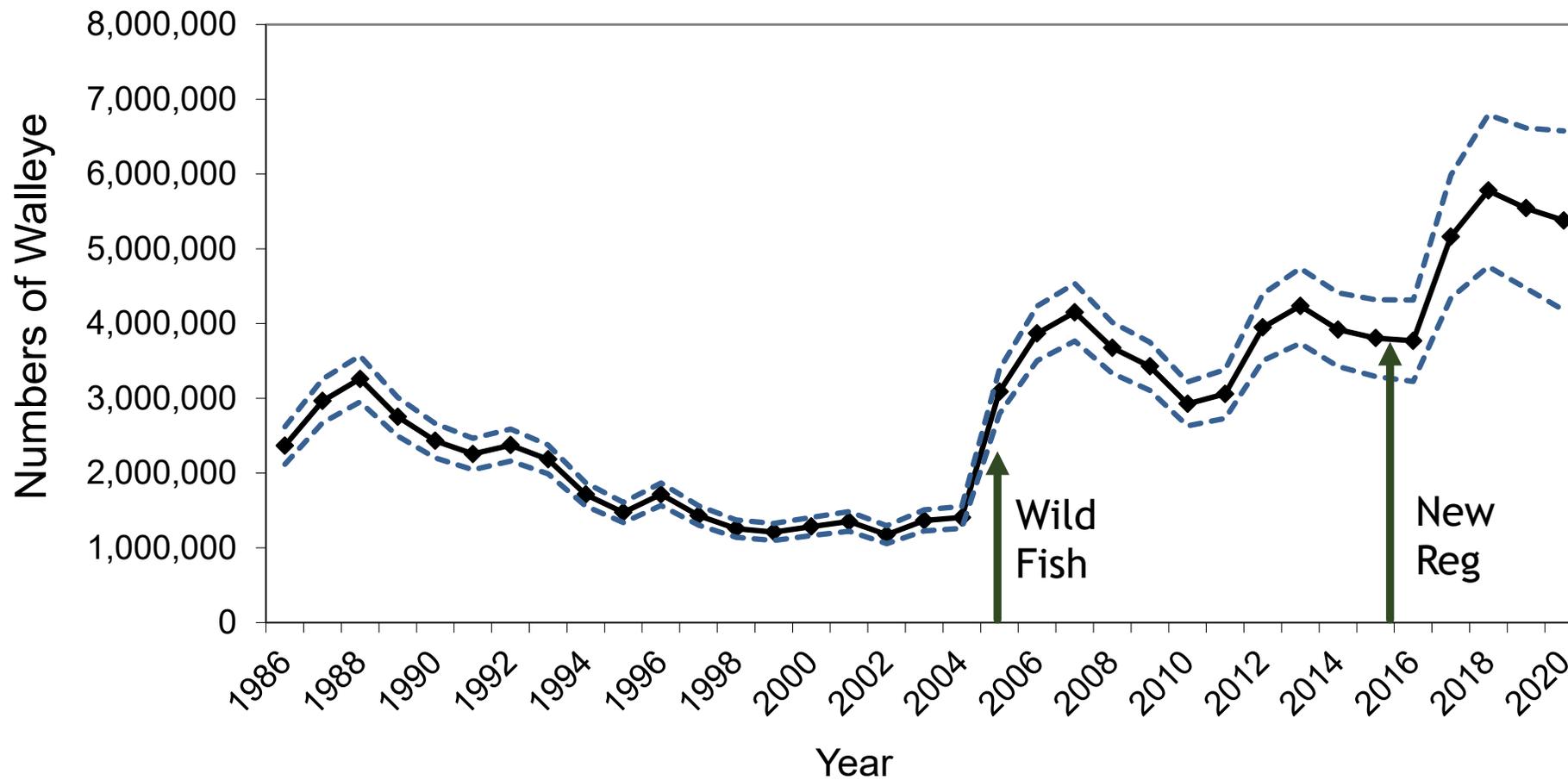


# Trends in Walleye Angler Harvest





# Walleye Abundance



# Recent Management Approaches

- ▶ Several management actions taken in 2015 including:
  - ▶ Reducing yellow perch bag limit
  - ▶ Reintroduction of cisco
  - ▶ Shifting commercial fishing licenses
  - ▶ Liberalizing walleye (8 fish, 13" MSL)
  - ▶ Coreyon Reef Restoration
- ▶ Tenets of the walleye regulation
  - ▶ To better balance walleye recovery with prey fish and yellow perch populations
  - ▶ Increase harvest opportunities
  - ▶ Ability to scale back easily if needed

## NOTE 3 - Walleye:

- **L. Huron waters of MH-4 (see p. 20) including Saginaw Bay and Saginaw R. upstream to Center St. (Douglas G. Schenk) Bridge:** The daily possession limit for walleye is 8 with a 13" minimum size limit. Any changes will be announced on the DNR website ([Michigan.gov/Fishing](http://Michigan.gov/Fishing)) and in a pre-recorded message at 888-367-7060.





# Current Management Issues

1. If walleye abundance remains high, can we **increase angler opportunity** further by opening portions of the Saginaw River during the spawning closure?
2. If walleye abundance is declining, should we **reduce the fishing pressure** and if so, by how much (e.g., decrease possession limit or increase size limit)?
3. How can we **streamline the regulation process** so that walleye trends and population model output (available in June) can inform regulatory changes the following year?



# Stakeholder Input

Purpose is to develop an angler-driven vision for the Saginaw Basin (bay and rivers) walleye and yellow perch recreational fishery to incorporate into DNR management processes and decisions.

## Workgroup

## Road Map

4 virtual meetings

NEW: Address concerns raised by 2020 research data

Value and Vision Document

Community survey

Work Group will review beforehand

MI DNR develops management plan with measurable objectives and strategies

MI DNR recommends management actions based on plan

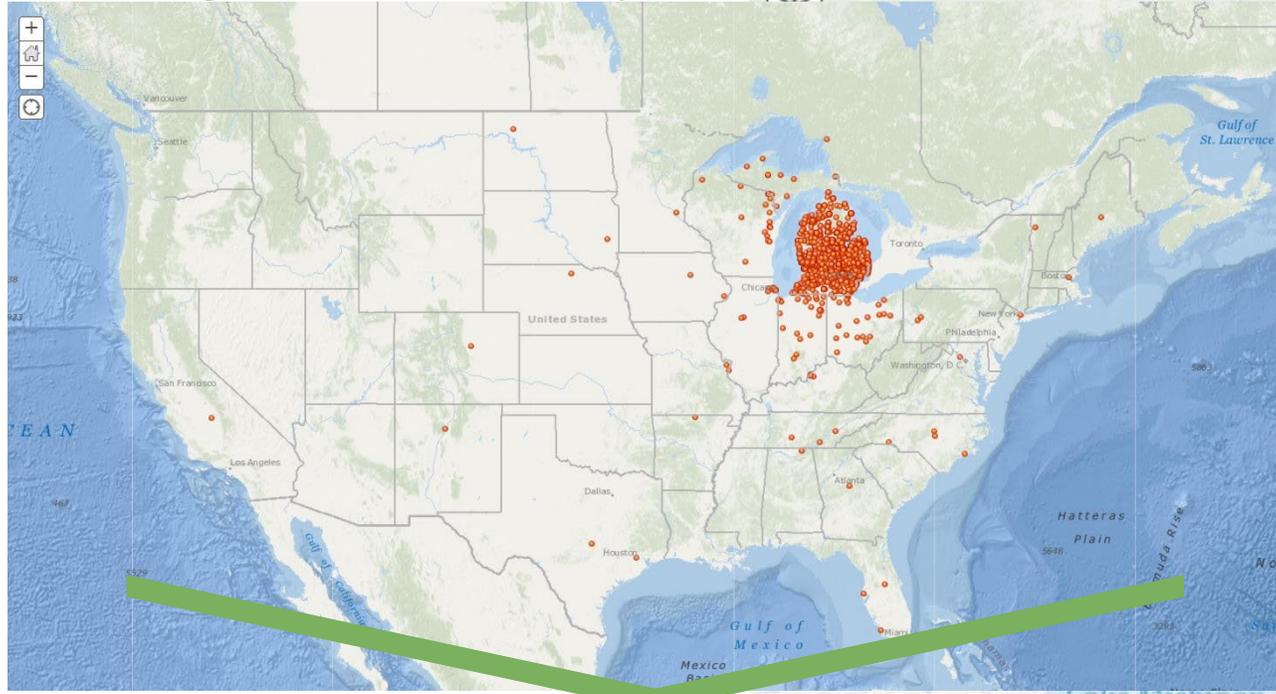
Share plan with Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, MI DNR and external partners

## SAGINAW BAY WALLEYE AND YELLOW PERCH WORKGROUP

**AUGUST 2021 UPDATE**  
PRESENTATION LINK: <https://bit.ly/3jmsH8X>

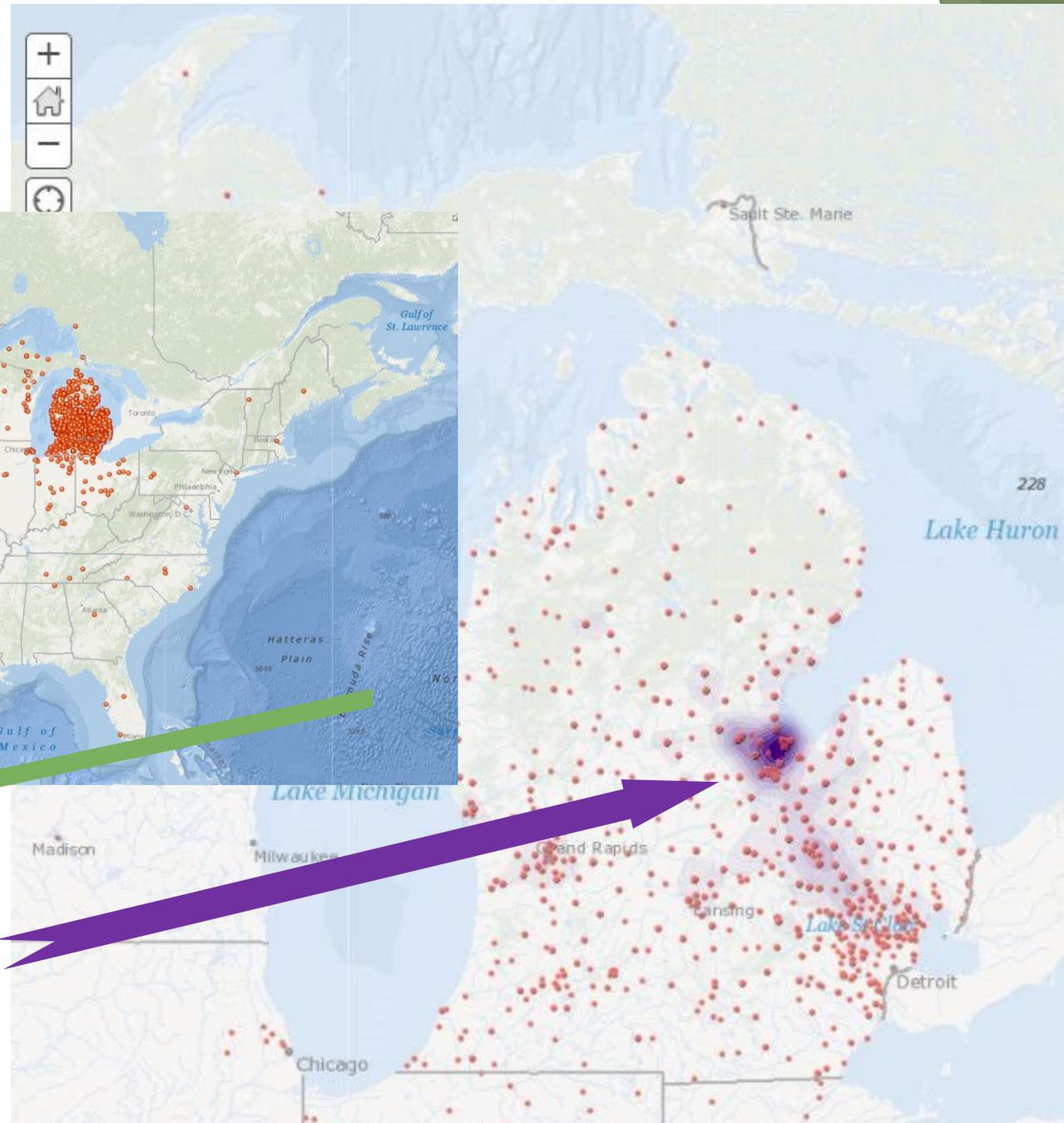


# Saginaw Bay Angler Survey

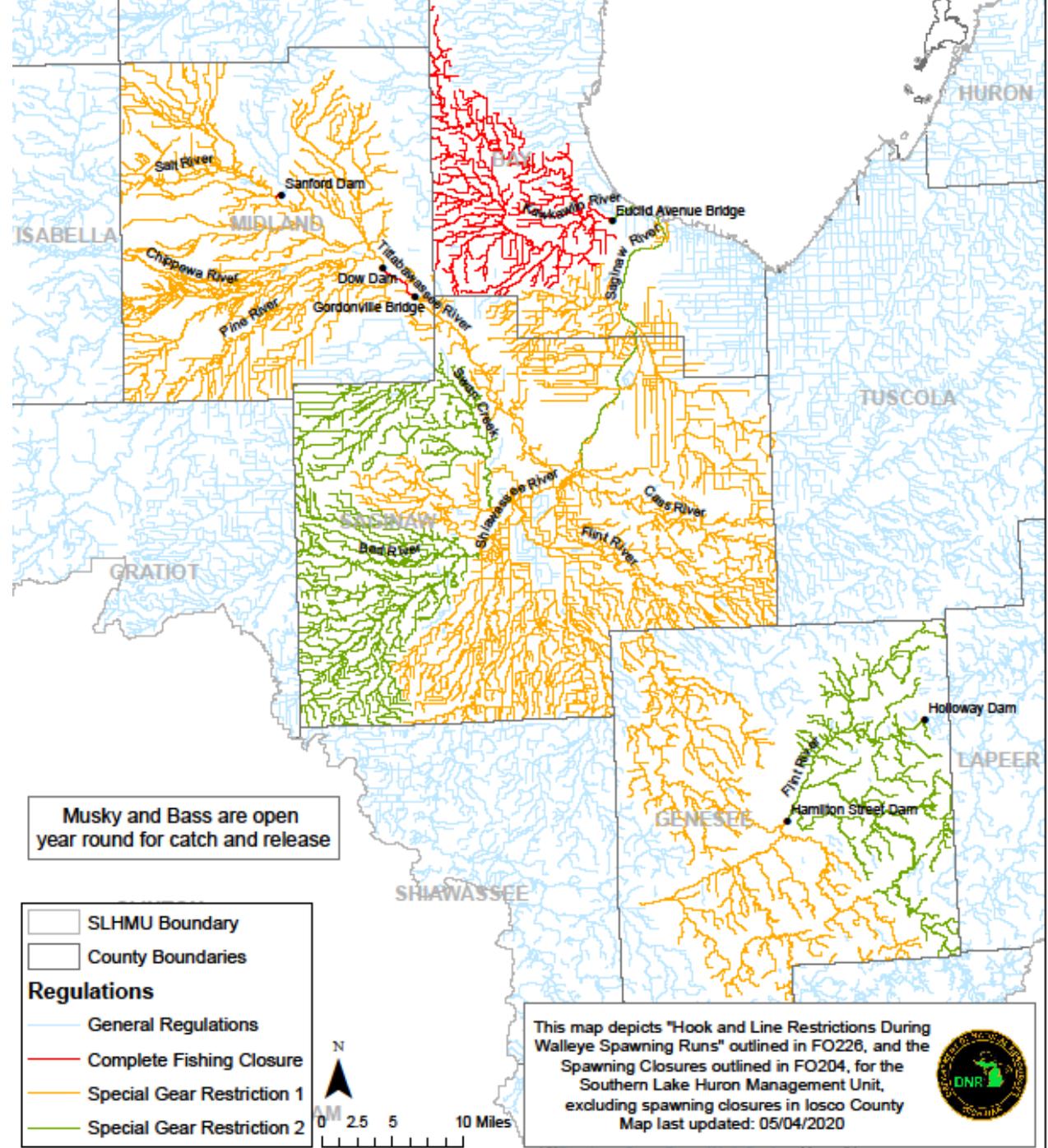
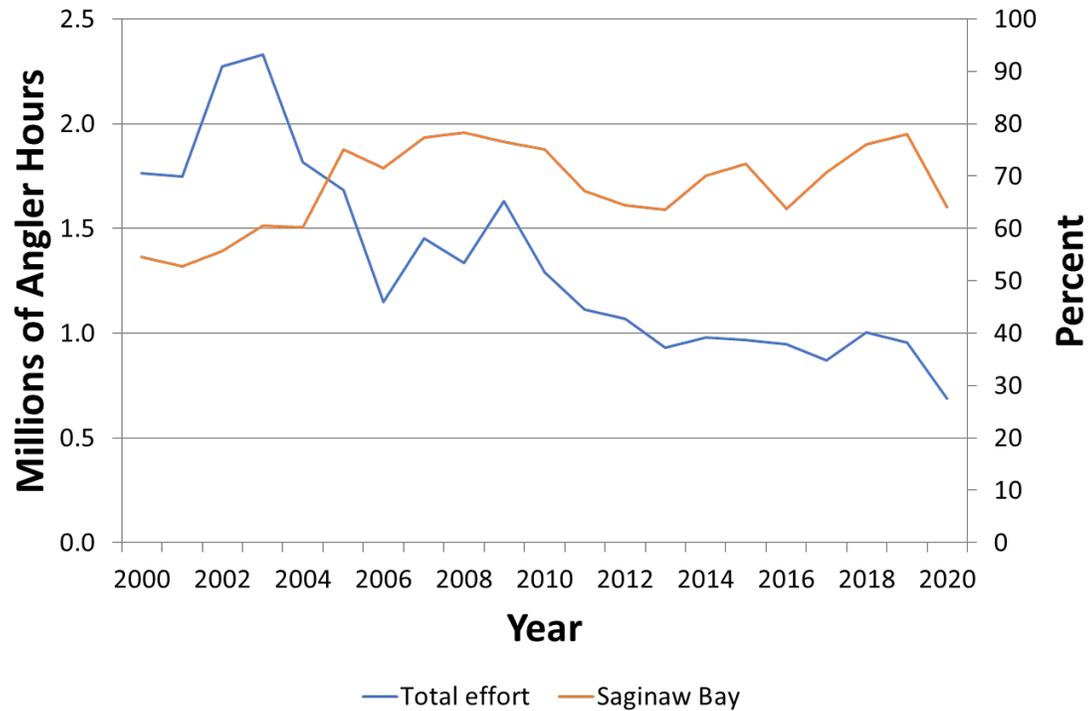


National Participation

*Saginaw Bay Anglers targeting YEP & WAE more regionally*

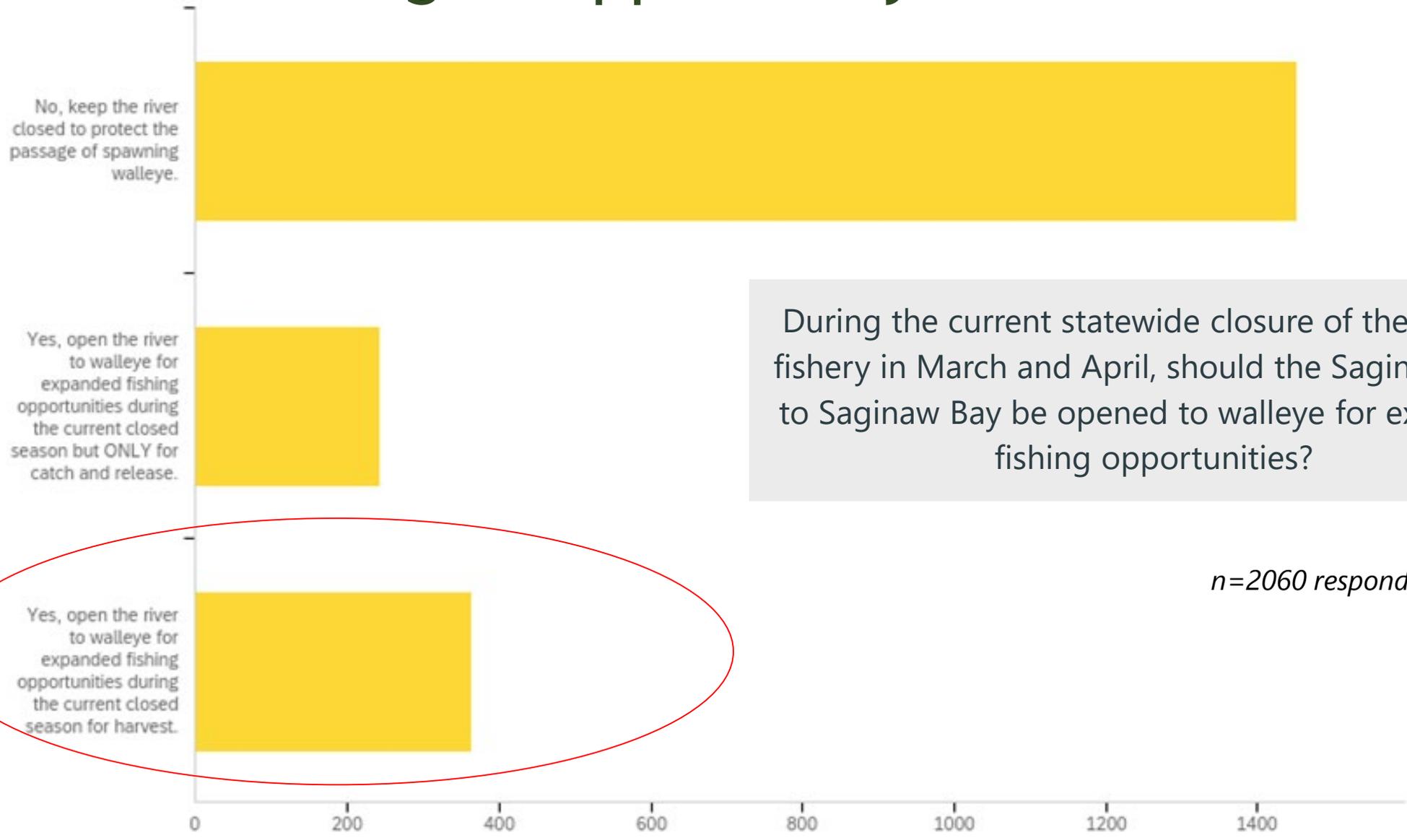


# Increase Angler Opportunity?





# Increase Angler Opportunity?



During the current statewide closure of the walleye fishery in March and April, should the Saginaw River to Saginaw Bay be opened to walleye for expanded fishing opportunities?

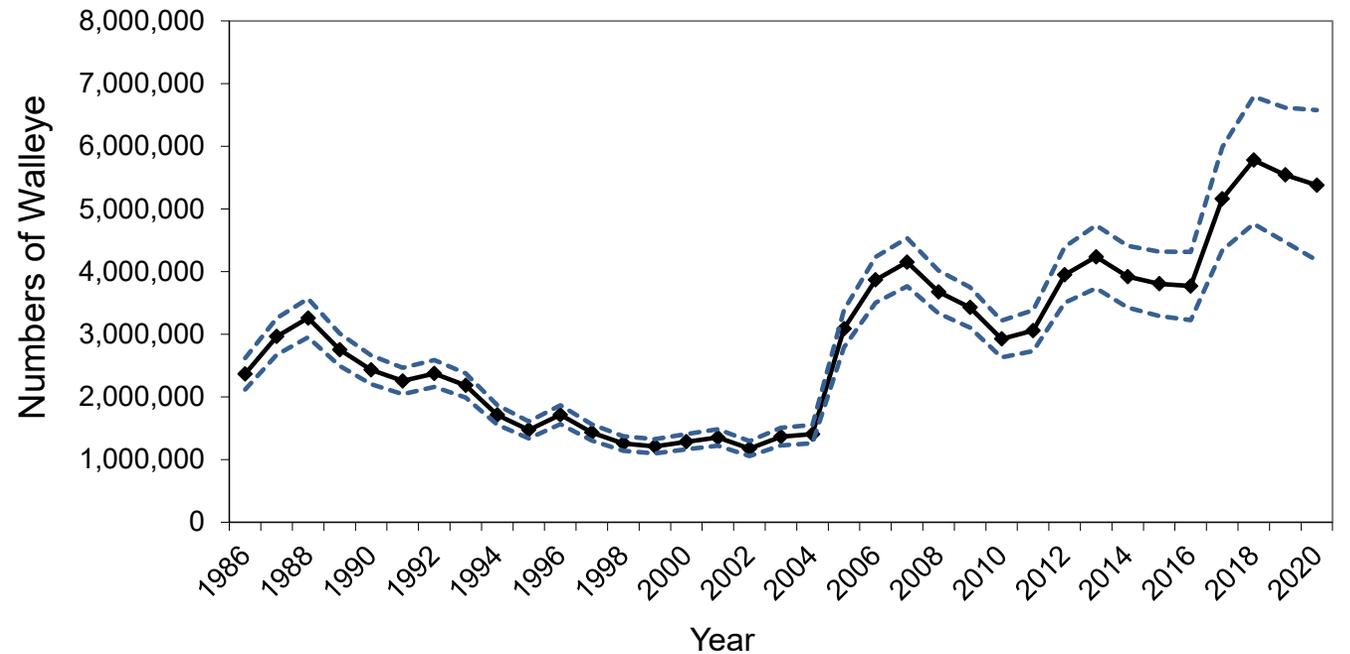
*n=2060 respondents*





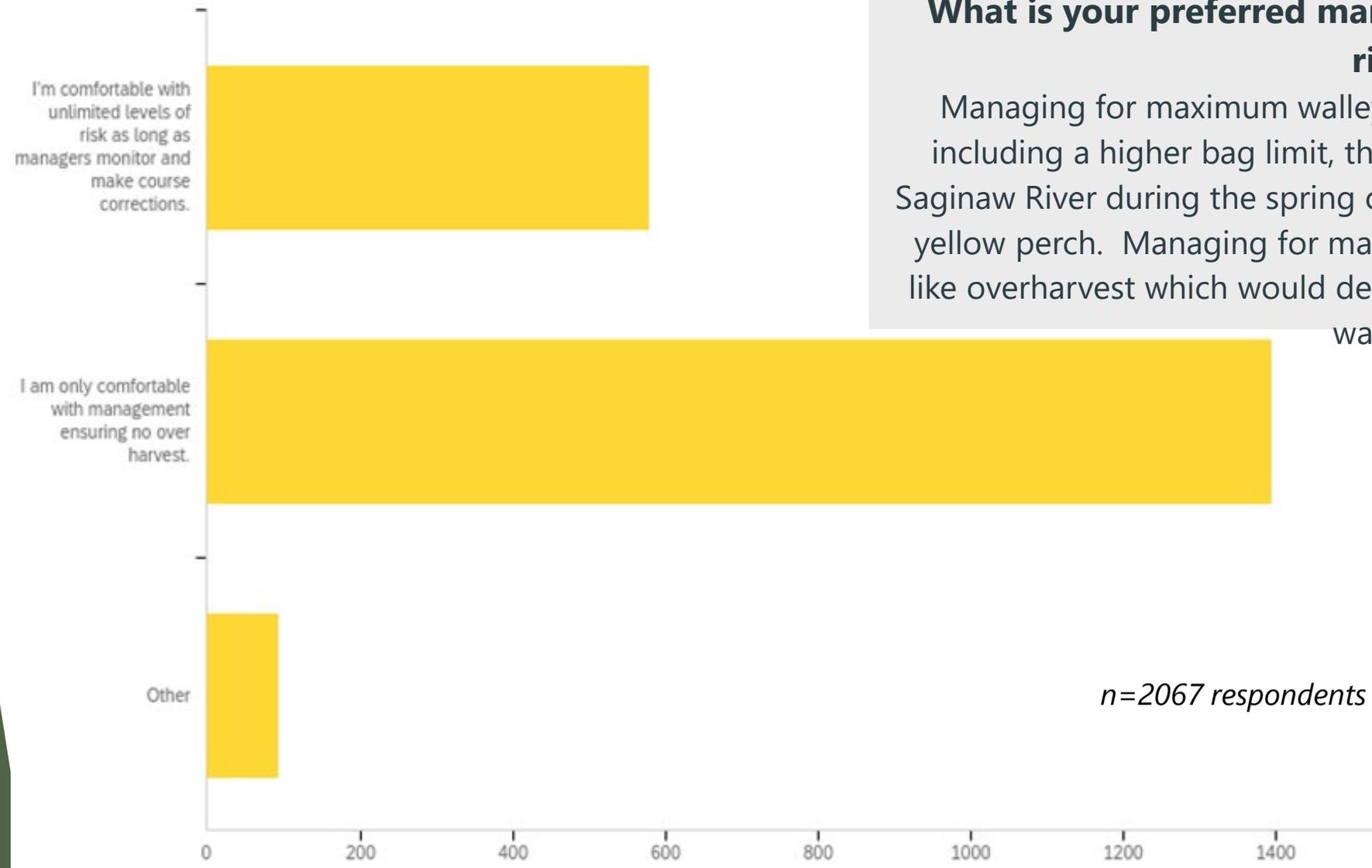
# Reduce Fishing Pressure?

- ▶ What options should be considered for walleye in Saginaw Bay?
  - ▶ 8 fish and 13" MSL (current regulation; >5.5mil?)
  - ▶ 7 fish and 13" MSL; 4-5.5mil?
  - ▶ 6 fish and 13"; 2.5-4mil?
  - ▶ 5 & 15" (Statewide default walleye regulation); <2.5 mil?
  - ▶ Others





# Reduce Fishing Pressure?



**What is your preferred management style in relation to risk?**

Managing for maximum walleye harvest has potential benefits including a higher bag limit, the ability to harvest walleye in the Saginaw River during the spring closure and decreased predation on yellow perch. Managing for maximum harvest might include risks like overharvest which would decrease the spawning population of walleye.

*n=2067 respondents*



# Streamlined Regulation Process?

## *Year 1 (2021)*

*May/June:* model updates and survey analysis

*June/July:* meeting between research and managers

*August-April (2022):* consultation with stakeholders

## *Year 2 (2022)*

*April 15:* proposal to ASRA due

*May/June:* Multi-Divisional Fisheries Regulation Review Committee

*June:* Chief review

*July:* NRC review and decision

*Fall/Winter:* printing deadline

## *Year 3 (2023)*

*April 1:* Regulation implemented



# Streamlined Regulation Process?

*May/June:* model updates and survey analysis

*June/July:* meeting between research, managers, and Chief

*August:* consultation with stakeholders

Sept or October: NRC review and decision

*Fall/Winter:* printing deadline

April 1 (following year):  
Regulation implemented

## NOTE 3 - Walleye:

- **L. Huron waters of MH-4 (see p. 20) including Saginaw Bay and Saginaw R. upstream to Center St. (Douglas G. Schenk) Bridge:** The daily possession limit for walleye is 8 with a 13" minimum size limit.

Regulation  
implemented  
one year earlier.



# Acknowledgements

- Dave Fielder
- Andrew Briggs
- Jeff Jolley
- Jason Gostiaux
- Tracy Claramunt
- Tom Goniea
- Michigan Sea Grant
- SLHMU crew & creel clerks
- USGS-GLSC
- AFRS staff
- LSCFR staff



# Sandhill Crane Status

---

Barbara Avers

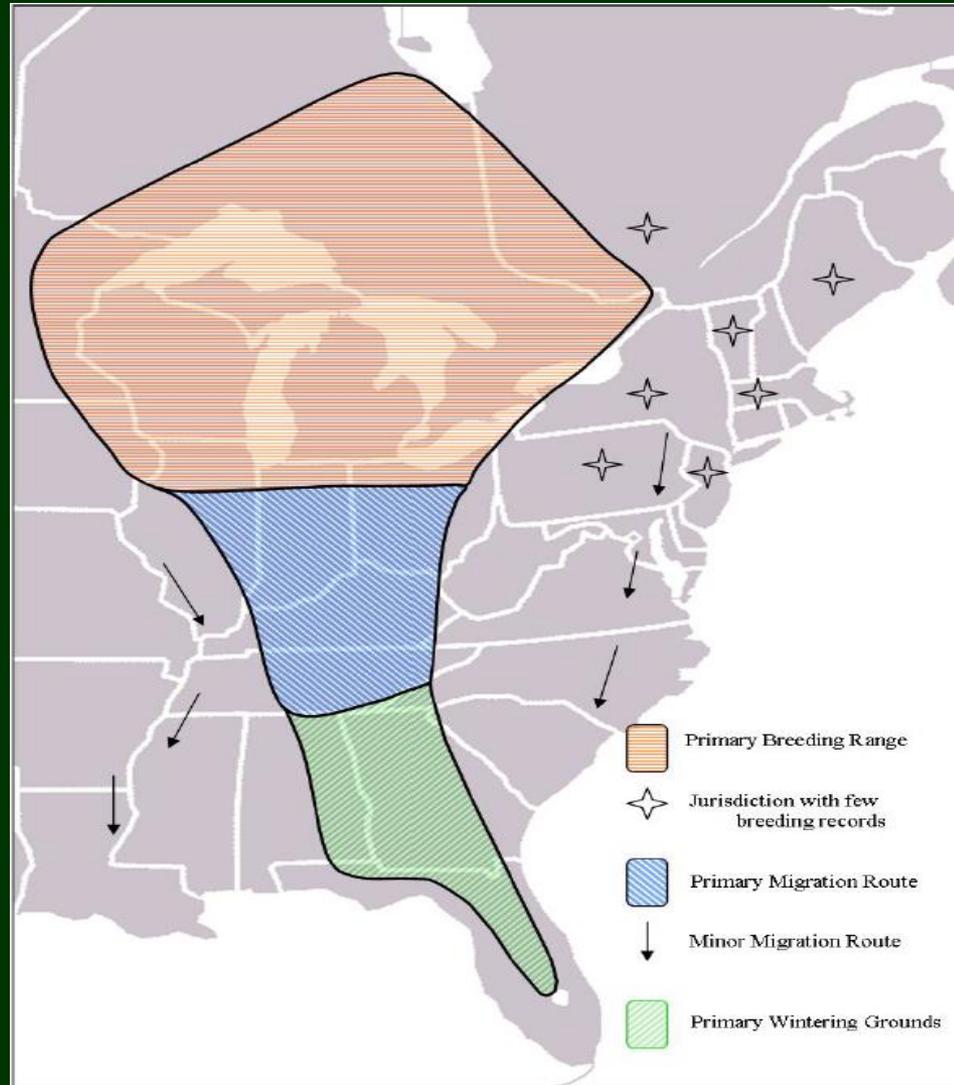
Waterfowl & Wetlands Specialist

Natural Resources Commission Meeting

October 14, 2021



# Eastern Population Sandhill Cranes

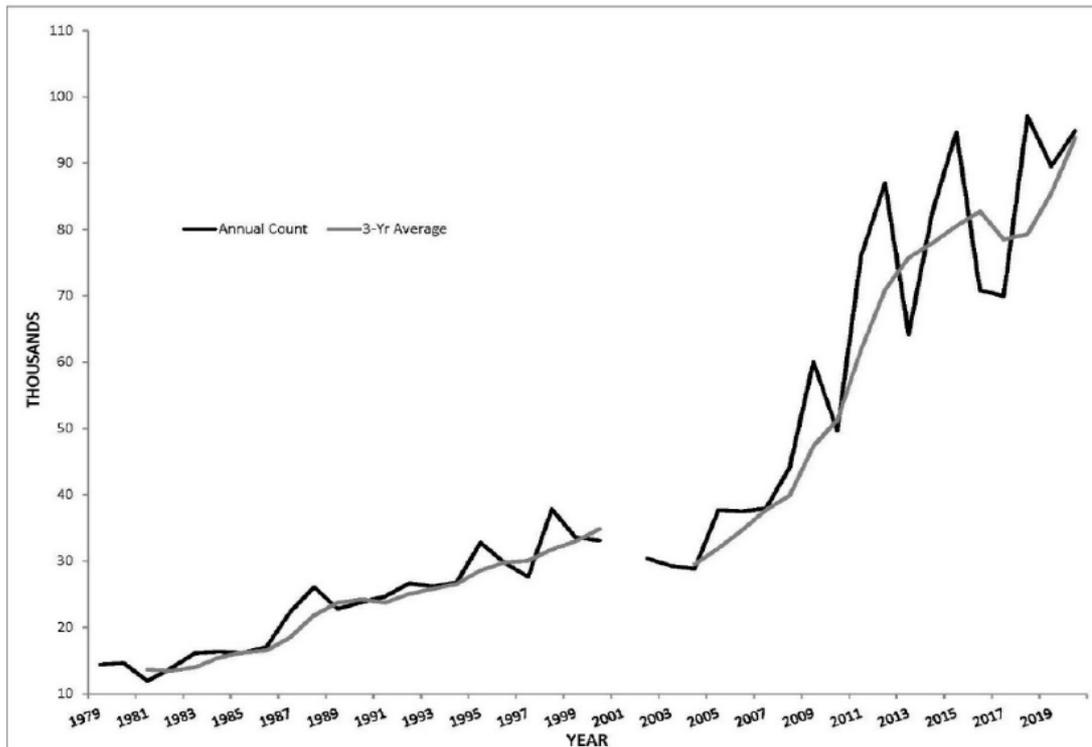


Adapted from Walkinshaw (1973), Jones et al. (2005), King (2008), Melvin (2008), Sutherland and Crins (2008), and International Crane Foundation unpublished data.



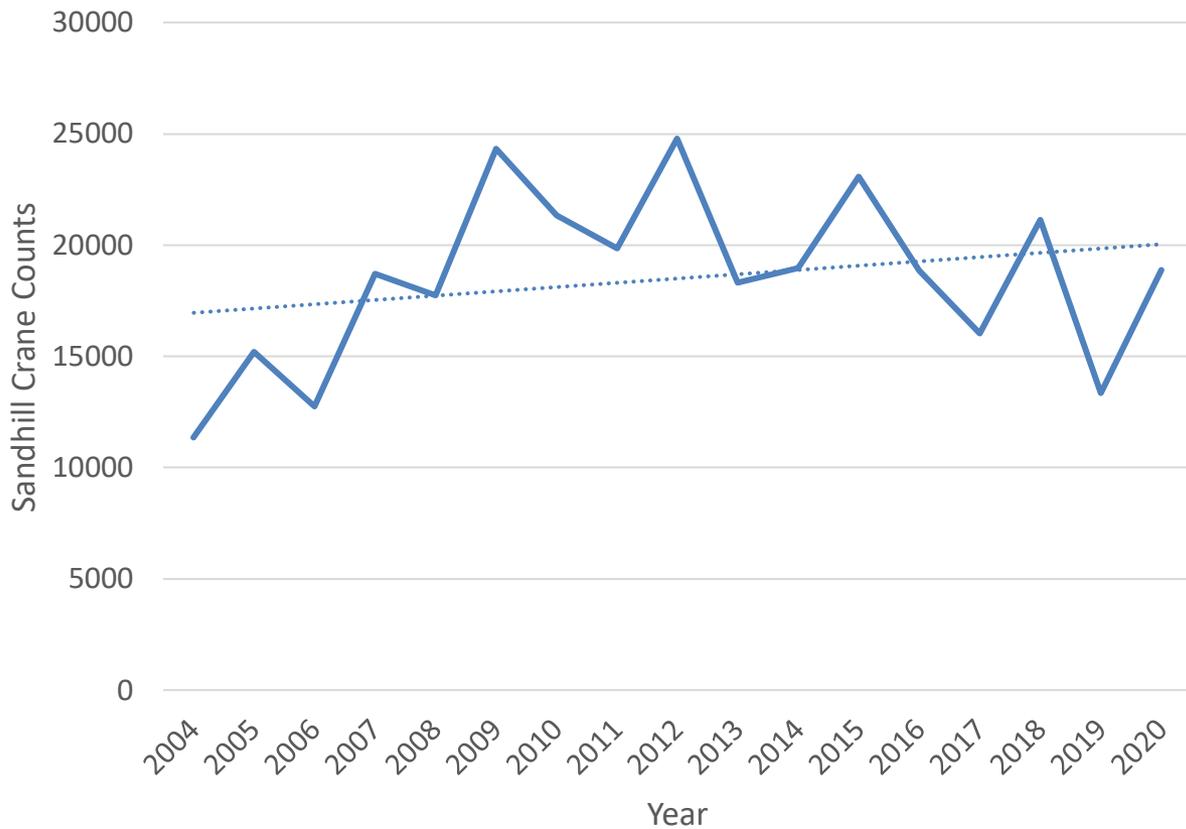
# Population Status – USFWS Fall Index Survey

Figure 1. Total number of Eastern Population sandhill cranes counted, 1979 – 2020.

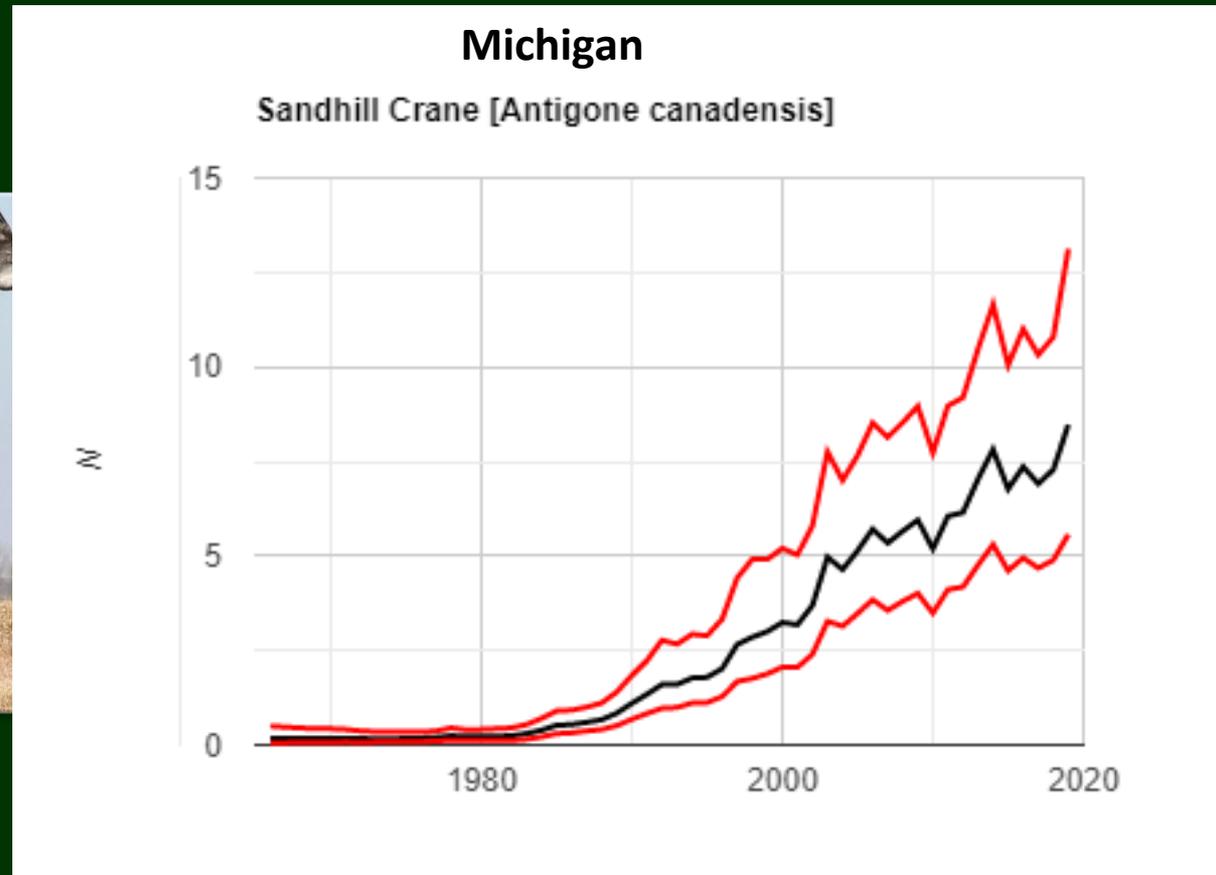


# Population Status – USFWS Fall Index Survey

Sandhill Crane Counts During the USFWS Fall Staging Survey of Sites in Michigan



# Population Status – North American Breeding Bird Survey, 1966-2019



U.S. Geological Survey's, North American Breeding Bird Survey, 1966-2019 (Sauer et al. 2020). Red lines above and below the black index represent the 95% confidence intervals.



# Federal Agricultural Damage Permits



Year	# Permits Issued	# Cranes Authorized	# Cranes Killed
2006	13	206	130
2007	13	193	81
2008	10	160	76
2009	12	223	93
2010	21	395	243
2011	65	1,717	843
2012	76	1,810	1,136
2013	85	2,002	1,216
2014	85	1,955	1,101
2015	74	1,675	913
2016	91	1,620	NA
2017	120	2,268	NA
2018	132	2,515	NA
2019	121	2,370	NA
2020	122	2,596	NA
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>21,705</b>	<b>5,832</b>

# Steps to Establish a Hunting Season



- Name sandhill cranes a game species (NRC or Legislature)
- Establish hunting license, set fee, & allow application (Legislature)
- Develop hunt plan (DNR)
- Establish first hunt in regulations (NRC or Legislature)
- Set up lottery system for permits (DNR)
- Obtain FWS approval through Mississippi Flyway process (DNR)
  - Hunting season proposal



# EP Sandhill Crane Federal Guidelines

- Guidelines for harvest provided 3-year average FWS fall survey index is above 30,000 cranes
- Provides for coordination of harvest among Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway states and provinces to ensure sustainable, science-based harvest
- Allows for initial maximum harvest permit issuance of 10% of the 3-year average of the USFWS fall survey index
  - FWS fall survey is an index and underestimate of the total population
  - Not all permits will likely be issued and not all permits will result in harvest
- 3 states have initiated hunting seasons
  - KY, TN, AL



# EP Sandhill Crane Harvest

Table 14. Estimated harvest and number of permits sold for Eastern Population sandhill cranes.

YR	KY		TN		AL		TOTAL	
	Harvest	Tags Issued <sup>1</sup>	Harvest	Tags Issued <sup>1</sup>	Harvest	Tags Issued <sup>1</sup>	Harvest	Permits Issued
2011	50	534	No Season		No Season		50	534
2012	92	570	No Season		No Season		92	570
2013	87	570	350	1,200	No Season		437	1,770
2014	96	704	393	1,200	No Season		489	1,904
2015	75	694	161	1,200	No Season		236	1,894
2016	171	672	586	1,200	No Season		757	1,872
2017	119	660	830	2,319	No Season		949	2,979
2018	60	1,432	555	2,711	No Season		615	4,143
2019	96	1,237	746	2,958	291	1,200	1,133	5,395
2020	65	1,035	630	2,700	391	1,200	1,086	4,935
<b>Average</b>	91	811	531	1,936	341	1,200	584	2,600

<sup>1</sup>Each tag allows a hunter to take one crane.

From USFWS 2021 Status and Harvests of Sandhill Cranes Report (Seamans 2021).



# Thank You



# 2021 Preliminary Fall Elk Season Results



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



# 2021 Preliminary Elk Season Summary

- Hunt Period 1:
  - Aug. 31-Sep. 3, Sep. 17-20, Oct. 1-4
- Overall favorable weather
- License Quota: 100
  - 30 any elk
  - 70 antlerless only elk



# Elk Harvest – Early Season

- Hunt Period 1 Harvest  
(98 hunters)



Photo by Scott Connell

- State hunter harvest: 73 legally harvested elk
  - 29 antlered elk (bulls)
  - 44 antlerless elk (4 calves)
  - 75% success
- 3 bulls by Pure Michigan Hunters
- Tribal harvest: 8 elk
  - 1 antlered elk, 7 antlerless elk



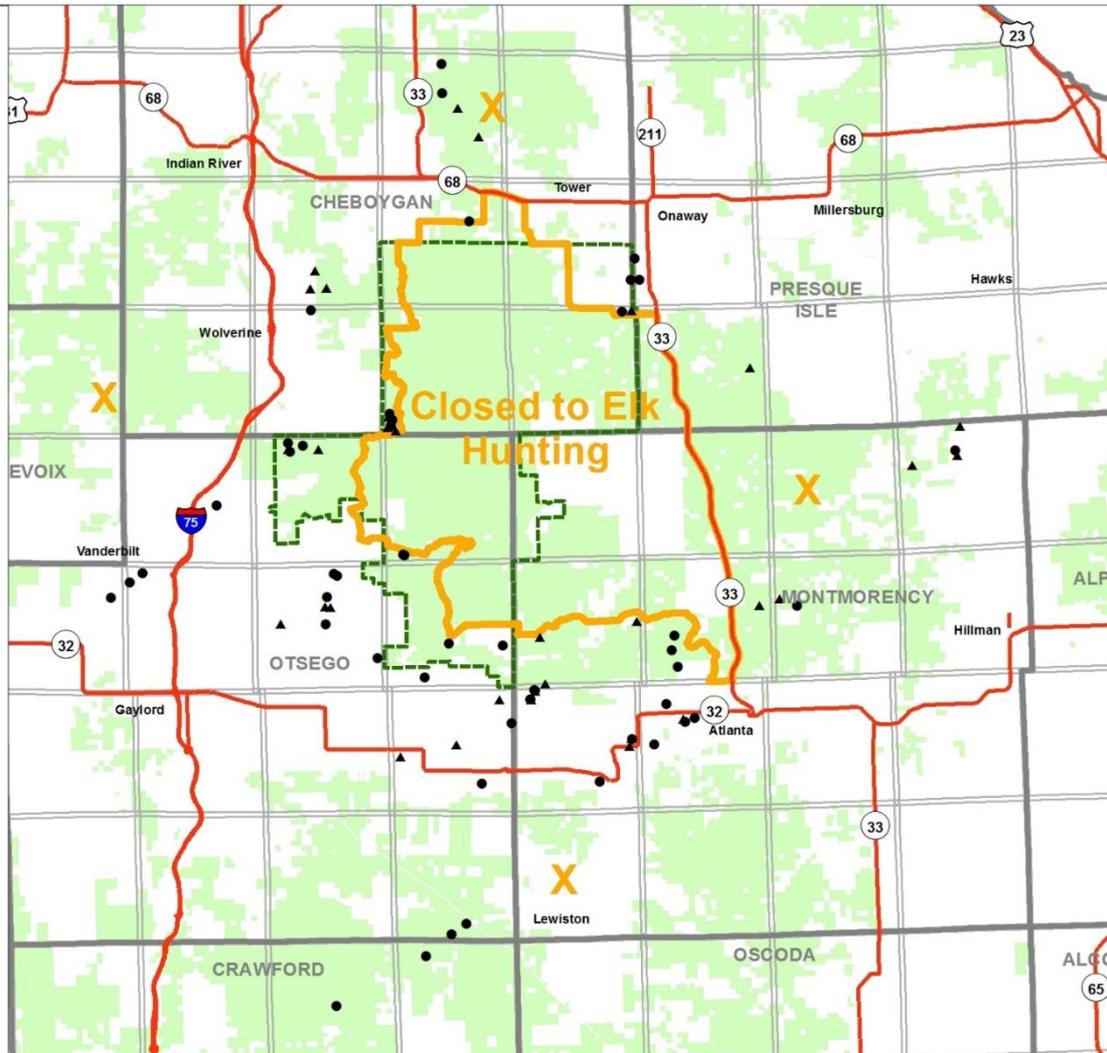
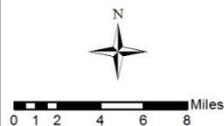
# Elk Harvested Fall 2021

## Elk Harvested Fall 2021



### Legend

- ▲ Bull
- Antlerless
- Elk Hunt Unit Boundary
- Pigeon River Country Boundary NO ORVs
- ▭ Counties
- ▭ Cities
- Highway
- Lakes and Rivers
- ▭ Township
- ▭ State Land



# Elk Harvest – Hunt Period 2

- Hunt Period 2
  - Includes H, I, and X
  - December 11-19
  - Quota is 160 elk
    - 50 any elk
    - 110 antlerless only



# Questions?



Photo by Scott Connell

[www.Michigan.gov/elk](http://www.Michigan.gov/elk)

