

# **2021 Wildlife Division Annual Report and Pure Michigan Hunt Winners**

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Holly Vaughn  
Public Outreach and Engagement  
Unit Manager



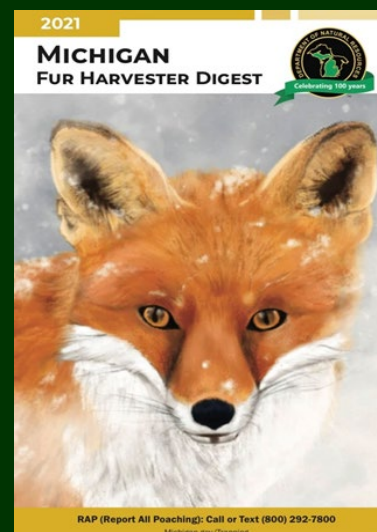
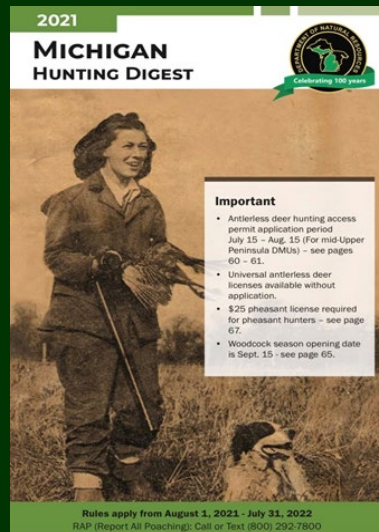
# Pure Michigan Hunt Winners

- David Pruden of Okemos
- Chris Boyce of Holland
- Jeffrey Shembarger of Berrien Center
- Each \$5 application sold helps fund habitat restoration and management.
- 72,334 applications sold in 2021.



# 2021 Annual Report Highlights

- Celebrated 100 years of the Michigan DNR.
- Overhauled hunting and fur harvesting digests – Question and Answer format for ease of use, special illustrated covers.



# 2021 Annual Report Highlights #2

- Added a new state game area – 640-acre “Crystal Waters” in Monroe County.
- Banded 4,271 Canada geese, 3,860 mallards and 1,995 wood ducks.





# 2021 Annual Report Highlights #3

- Ongoing work on 18 research projects through university partnerships.
- Successfully administered drawings and lotteries through new Retail Sales System.



# 2021 Annual Report Highlights #4

- Developed and implemented a new policy and procedure for annual wildlife disease surveillance.
- Examined 731 animals for cause of death. Tested over 10,500 deer for TB and CWD.



# 2021 Annual Report Highlights #5

- Updated our Wildlife Division Strategic Plan – The GPS: Guiding Principles and Strategies.
- GPS Commitments to Change will position division for the future of wildlife conservation.



# Thank You

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# Furbearer Regulations

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Adam Bump  
Furbearer Specialist





# Furbearer Regulation Process Overview

- 2 Year Cycle
- Internal Workgroup
- External User Group
- “Running List” of Issues
- For 2022- One User Group Meeting-  
September



# Selected Issues

- Selected on need, interest, limitations
- Select issues by species
- Bobcat
  - UP trapping season timing, bag limit, season length
  - NLP: cage traps, season length, expansion, consolidation
- Raccoon
  - Expand season length



# Raccoon Season

- Recommend expanding both trapping and hunting seasons
  - New seasons would be the same length and same timing
  - More opportunity, may help resolve raccoon issues
  - Low pelt prices likely reduce harvest
  - Objective to maintain or increase harvest
  - Supported by hunting and trapping groups



# Bobcats: Cage Traps in LP

- Recommend allowing use of cage traps for bobcats in all LP units
- Allowed in UP
- Clarification of use
- Anticipate low use and no impact on harvest
- Additional tool for specific situations



# UP Bobcat Regulations

- No recommended change
- Reviewed moving timing of trapping season
  - Trappers have requested season start Oct 25 (historical start date)
- Considered trapping season length
  - Trappers requested longer season
- Considered bag limit
  - Trappers requested increase in bag limit



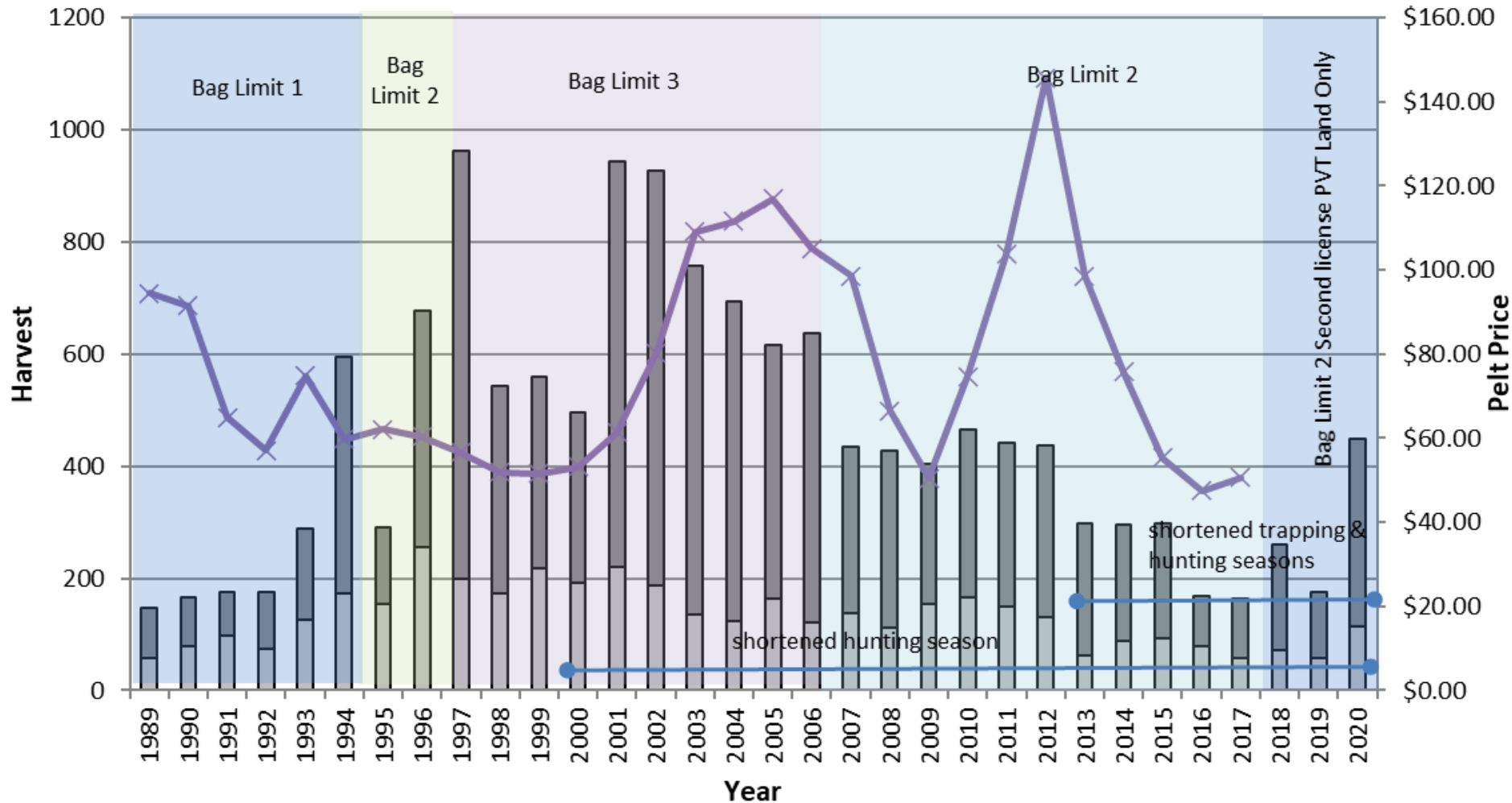


# UP Bobcat Evaluation

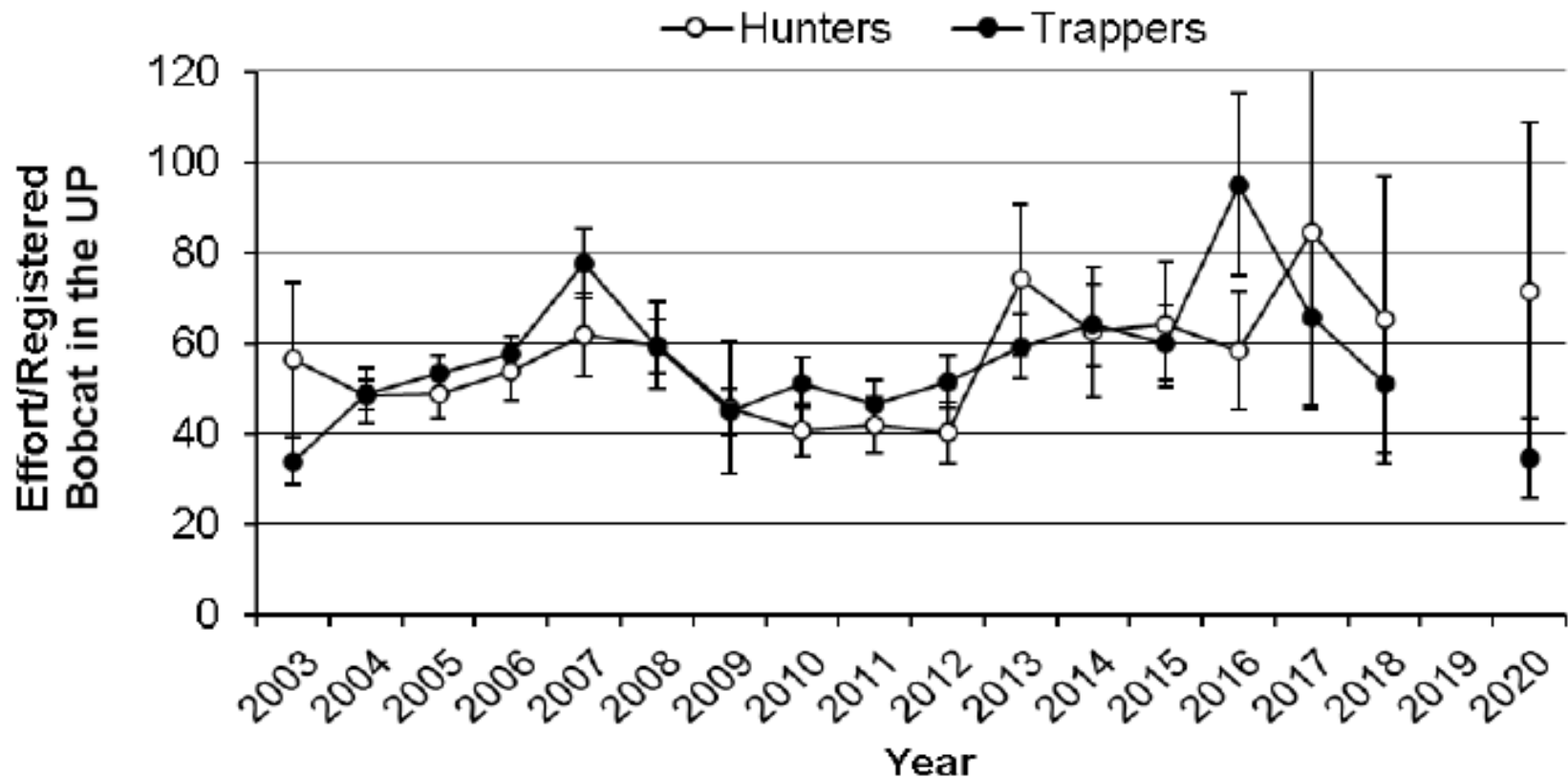
- Population stable – short term
- Lack of support/agreement with hunting groups on population and opportunity
- Season length/bag limit increases not supported internally
- Management objective is stable to increasing populations
- No increase in harvest opportunities best option, altering timing of season ok



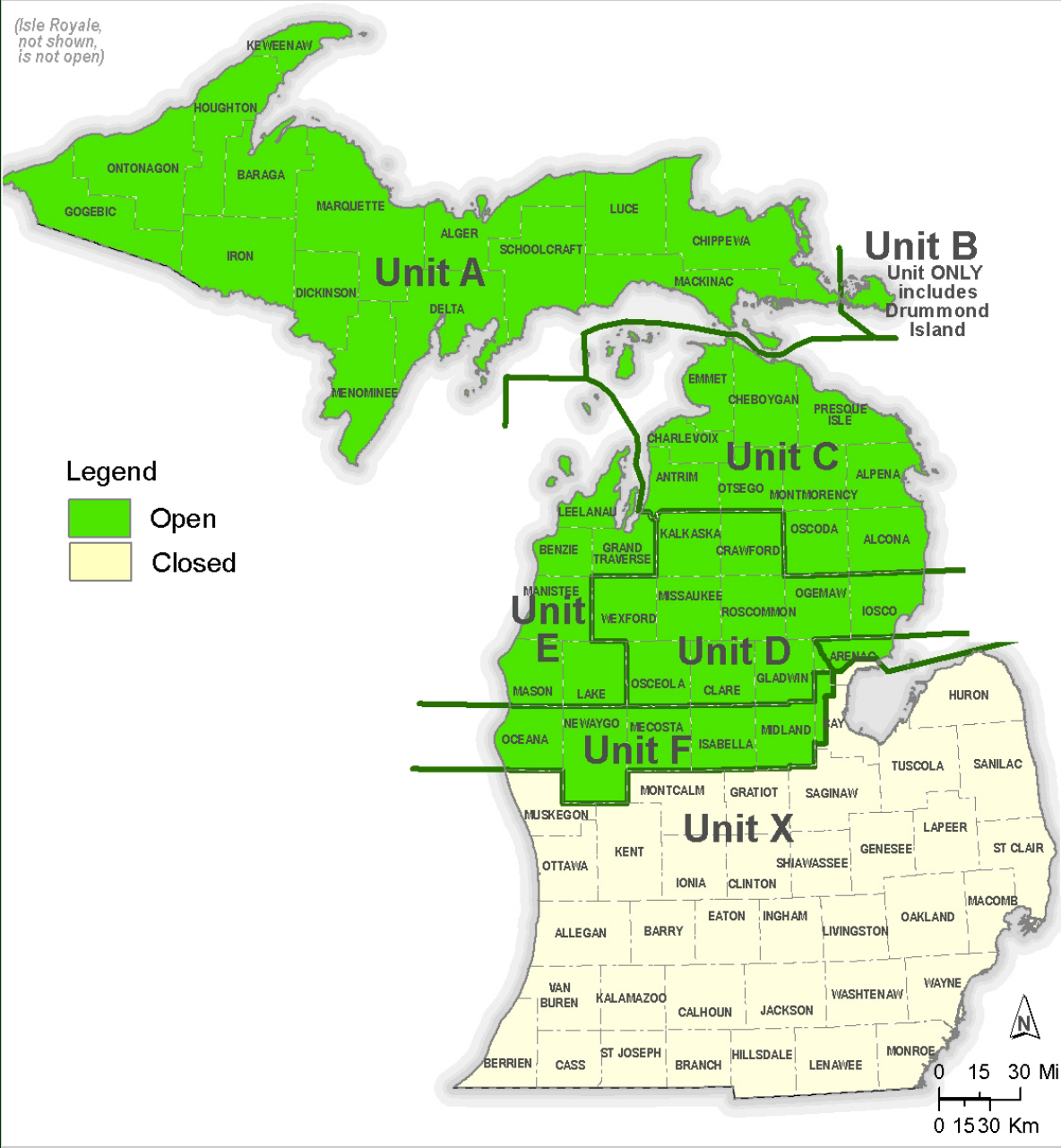
# UP Bobcat Harvest



# Days of Effort per Bobcat Registered in the UP



# LP Bobcat Regulations



# Bobcat: NLP Seasons

- Recommend extending bobcat trapping season in all NLP units
  - Current: 11 days (Dec 10-Dec 20)
  - Recommended: 20 days (Dec 10- Dec 29)
- Recommend extending bobcat hunting season in NLP units E and F
  - Current: 11 days (Jan 1-Jan 11)
  - Recommended: 20 days (Jan 1- Jan 20)
  - NO CHANGE to hunting seasons in C&D





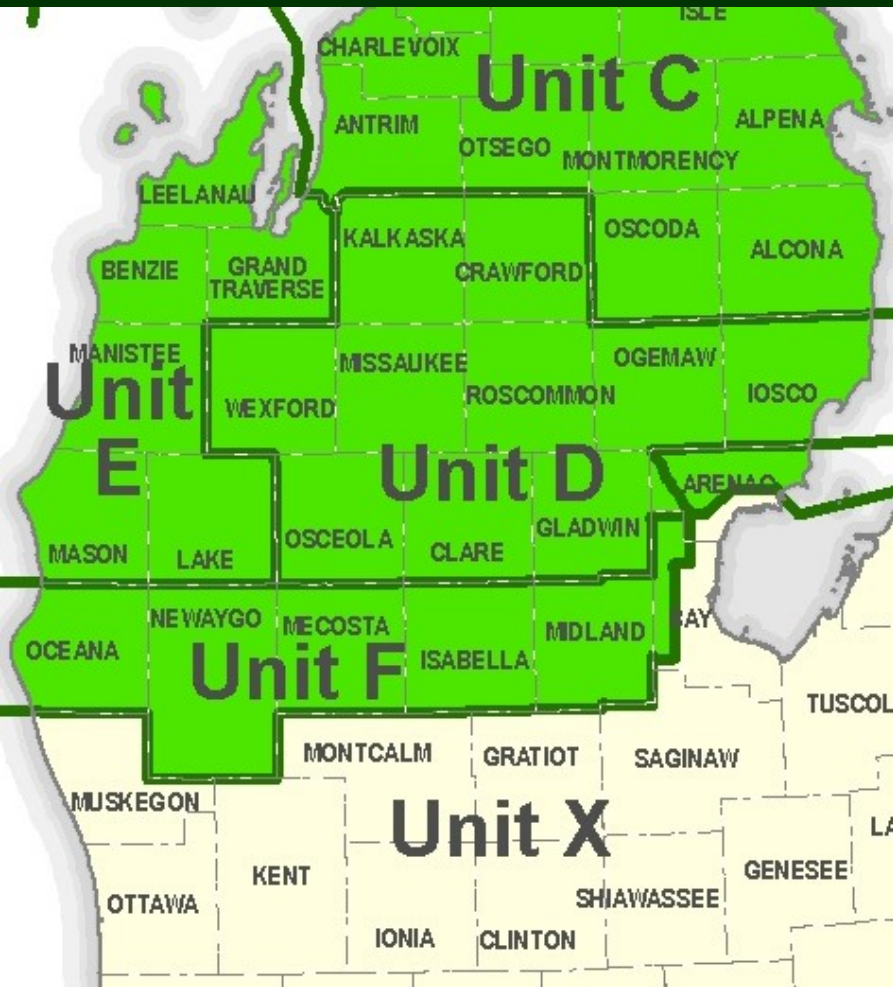
# Bobcat: LP Expansion/Unit Consolidation

- Recommend Combining E and F
  - Rename to G
  - Clean up Arenac (Unit D) and Bay (Unit G) counties
- Recommend New Unit H
  - Would include 9 additional counties
  - Seasons
    - Trapping: Dec 10-20 (11 days)
    - Hunting: Jan 1-11 (11 days)

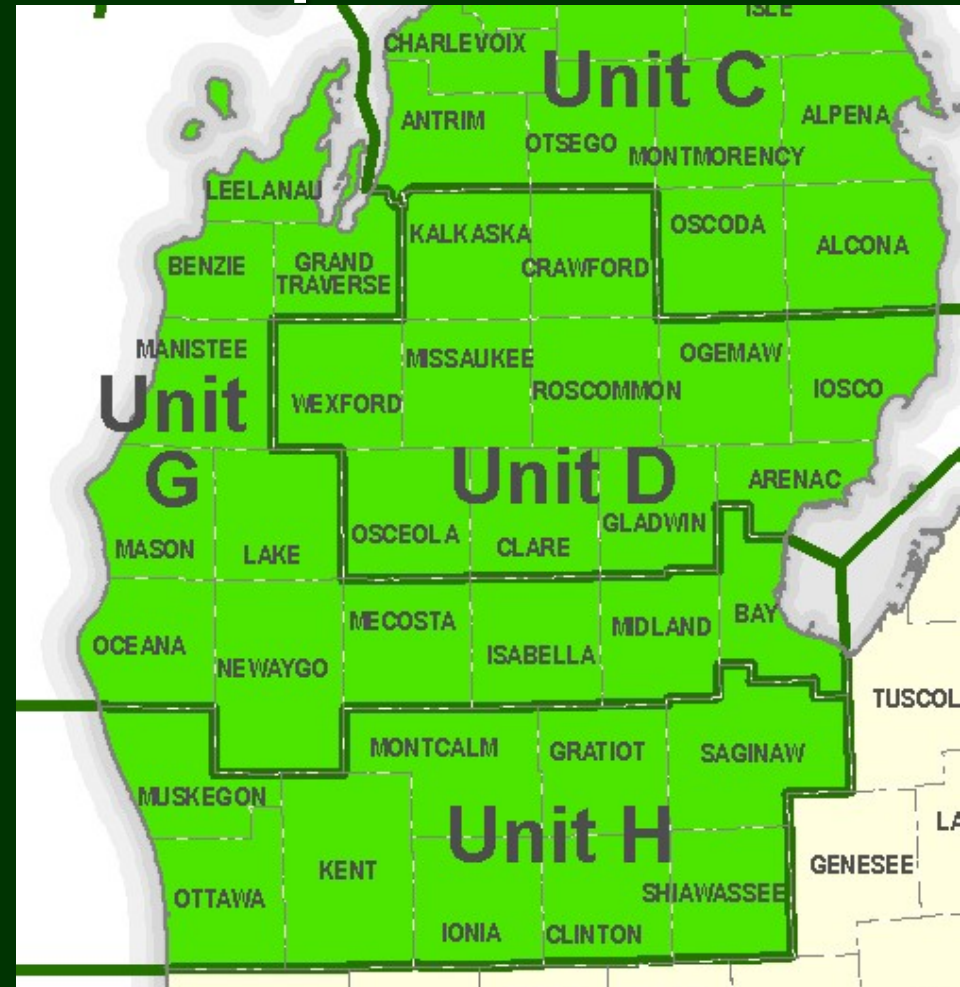


# Bobcat Unit Comparison

## Current Units



## Proposed Units

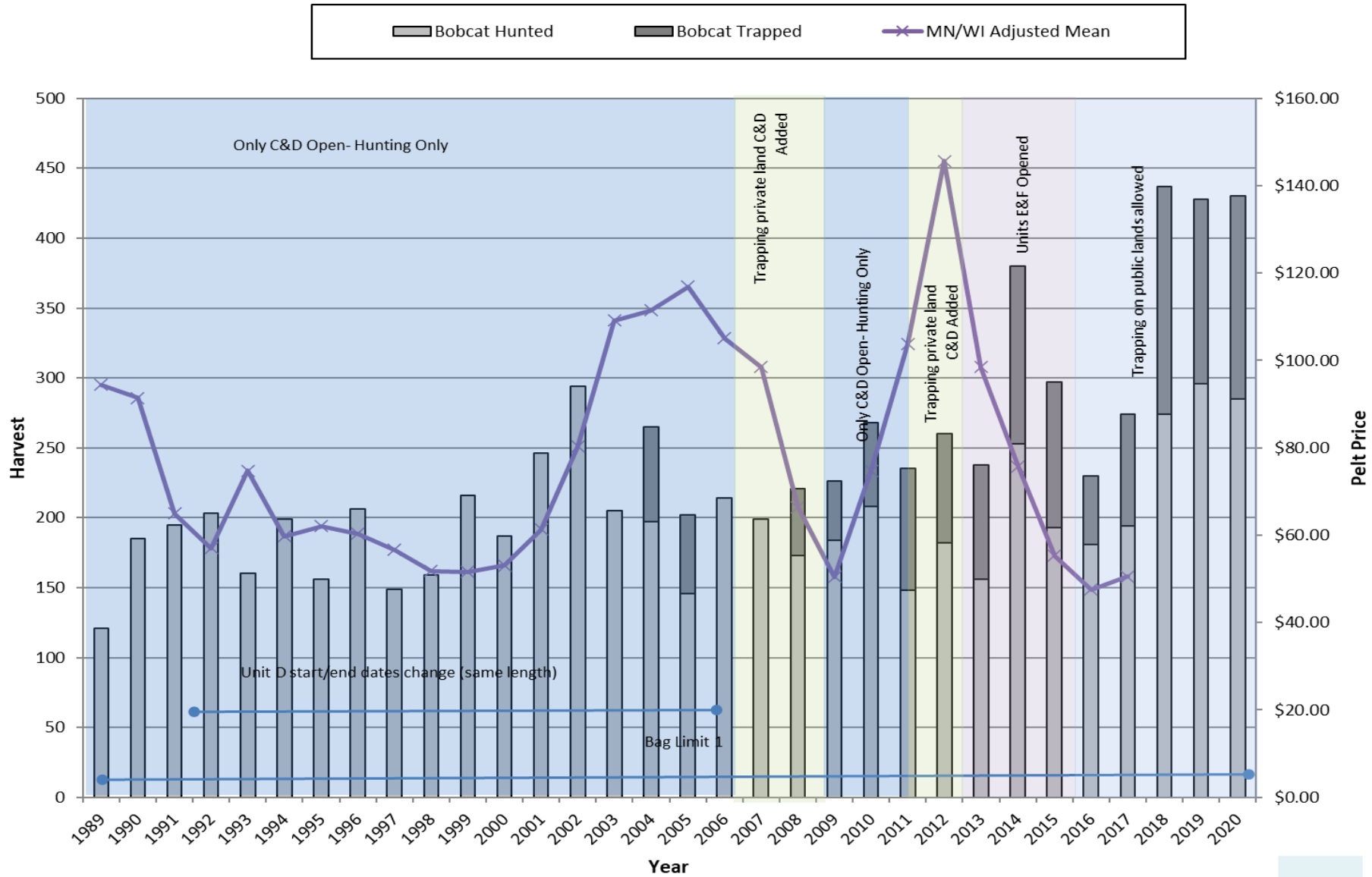


# Bobcat: LP Evaluation

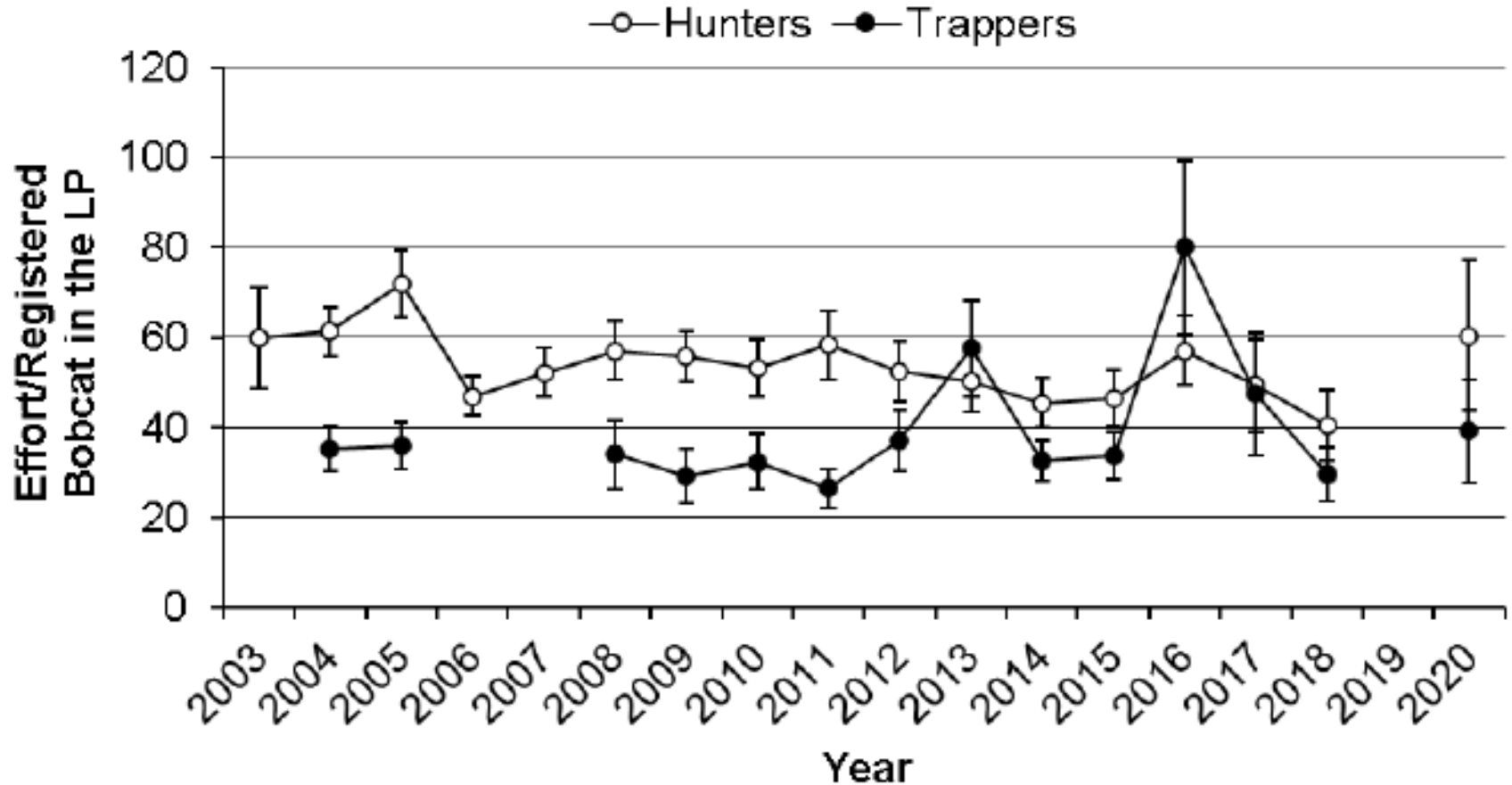
- Trappers requested increase in season length
- Population stable
- Supported by hunting organizations, internally
- Management objective to maintain or increase populations, enhance recreational opportunities
- Slow expansion of opportunities has shown population resiliency, expansion spreads out harvest over larger area, same population



# NLP Bobcat Harvest



# Days of Effort per Bobcat Registered in the NLP





# Thank You

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# 2022-23 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons



Randy Knapik, Wetland Habitat Biologist



# Topics for Information

- Waterfowl regulation process and schedule
- Canada goose population status, Federal frameworks, and recommendations
- Duck population status, Federal frameworks, and recommendations
- Managed waterfowl area and administrative changes



# Schedule

- Dec. 8, 2021 = Waterfowl Workgroup
- \*Dec. 10, 2021 = Proposed Frameworks
- Jan. 8, 2022 = CWAC
- Feb. 10, 2022 = NRC for Information
- \*Feb. 25, 2022 = Final Frameworks
- March 10, 2022 = NRC for Action
- April 30, 2022 = Season Selections Due



# 2022 Goose Population Status and Federal Frameworks



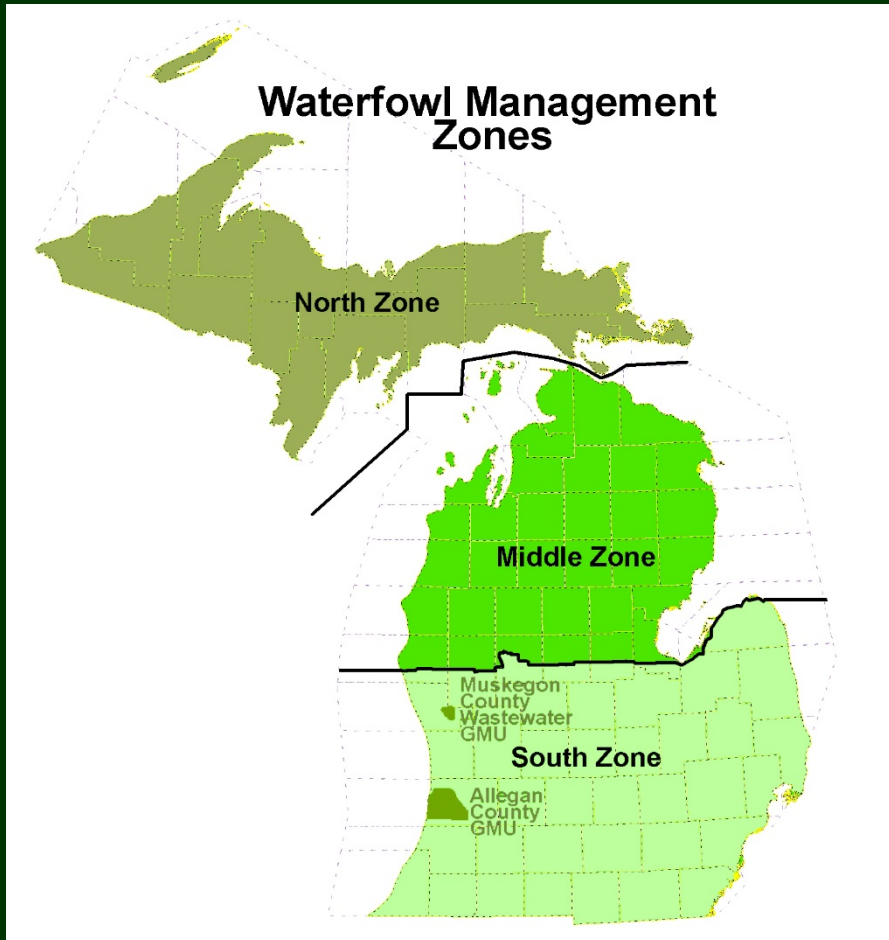
# Canada Goose Population Status

- Mississippi Flyway temperate-breeding geese long-term increasing trend
- Michigan Canada geese at top of goal range
- Subarctic-nesting geese stable but variable



# 2022 Goose Federal Frameworks

## Seasons



- Season length and outside dates
  - Maximum 107 days
  - Between Sept. 1 - Feb. 15
- 4 segments allowed





# 2022 Goose Federal Frameworks

## Daily Limits

- Canada daily limits:
  - Maximum 5 birds
- White-fronted daily limits:
  - Maximum 5 birds in aggregate with dark geese
- Brant daily limits:
  - Maximum 1 bird in aggregate with dark geese
- Snow, blue, Ross' daily limits:
  - Maximum 20 birds

Possession limits 3X daily limit

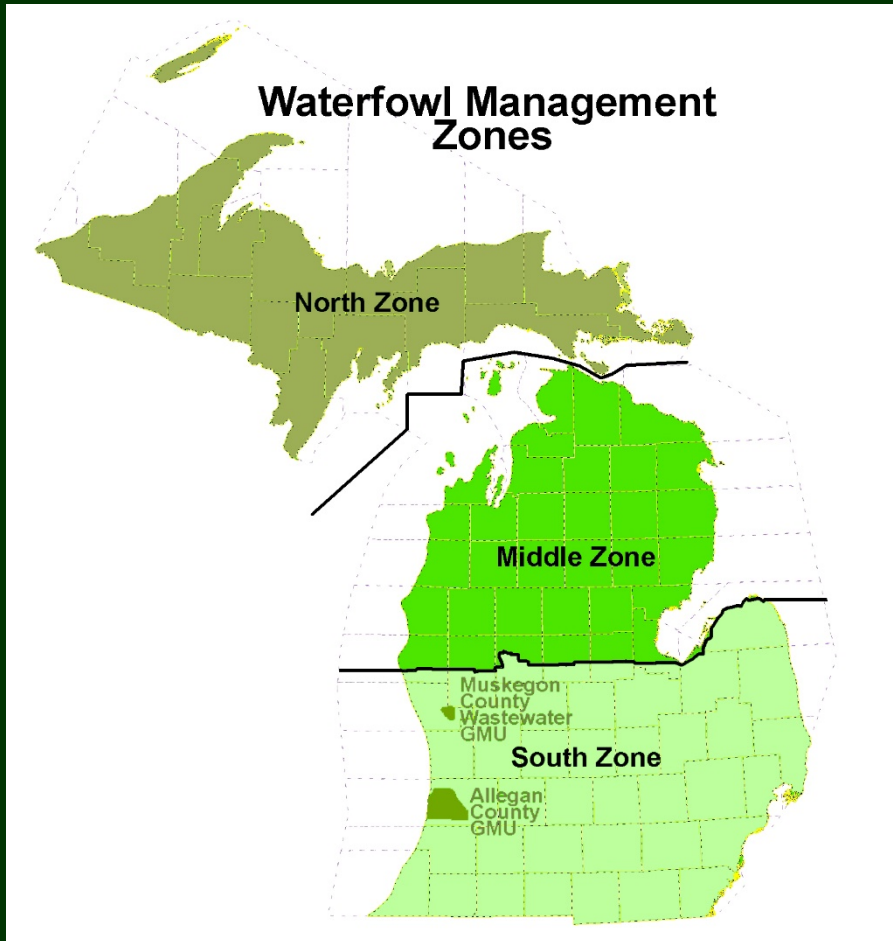




# 2022 Michigan Goose Season Recommendations



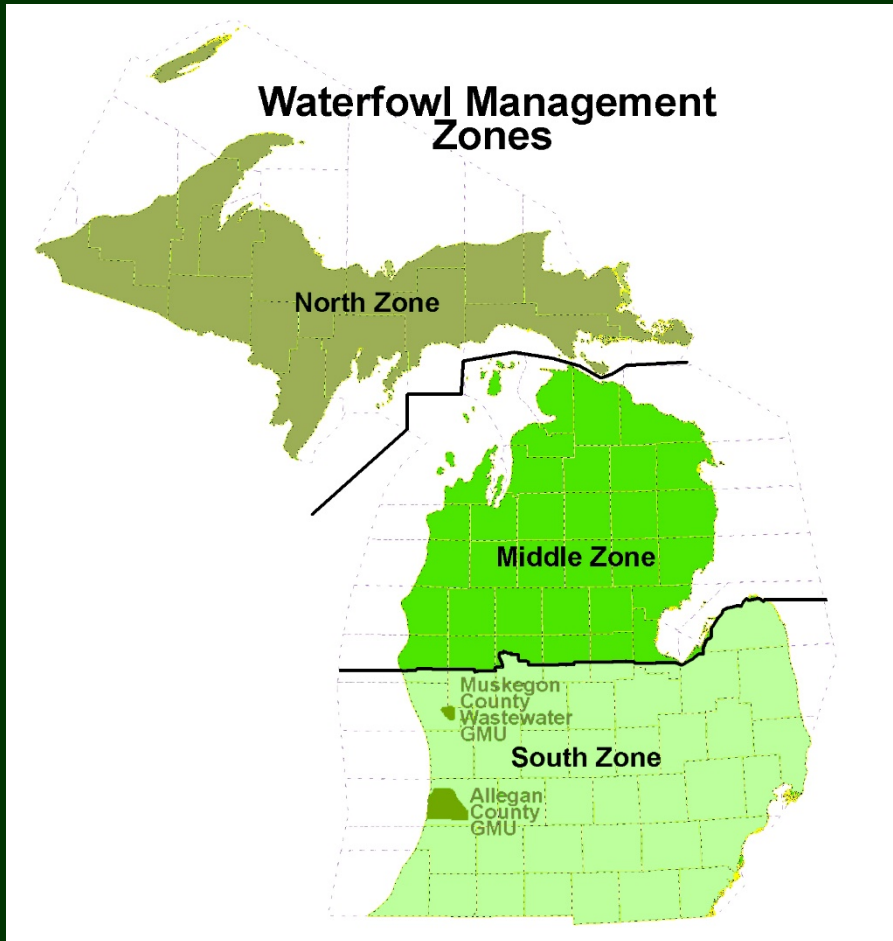
# 2022 Goose Season Date and Bag Limit Recommendations North Zone



- Sept. 1 – Dec. 16
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



# 2022 Goose Season Date and Bag Limit Recommendations Middle Zone

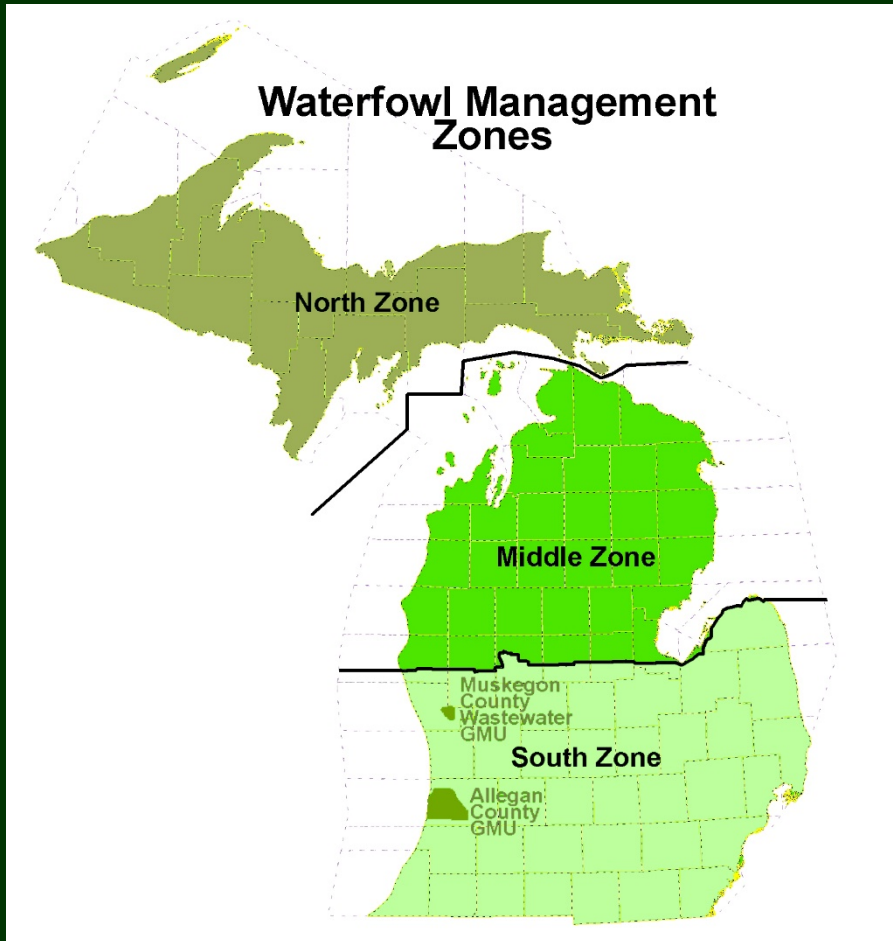


- Sept. 1 – 30 and Oct. 8 – Dec. 23
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



# 2022 Goose Season Date and Bag Limit Recommendations

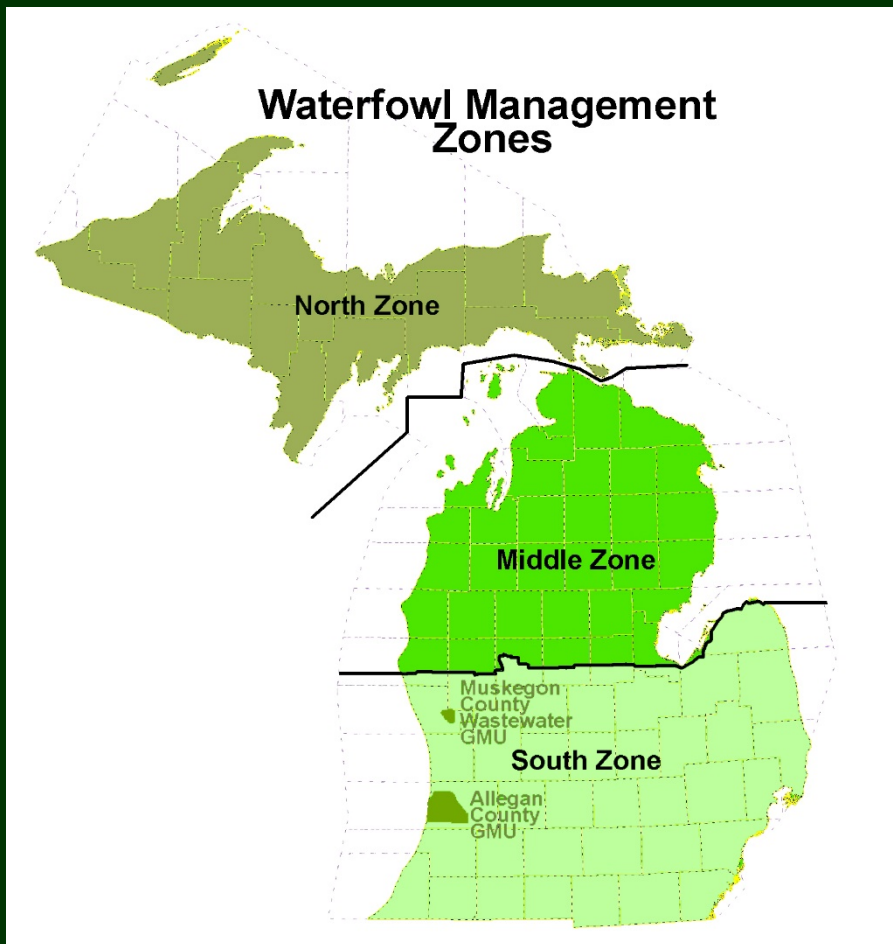
## South Zone



- Sept. 1-30; Oct. 15 – Dec. 11; Dec. 31 – Jan. 8, 2023; and Feb. 4 – 13, 2023
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



# 2022 Goose Season Recommendations – GMUs Allegan County

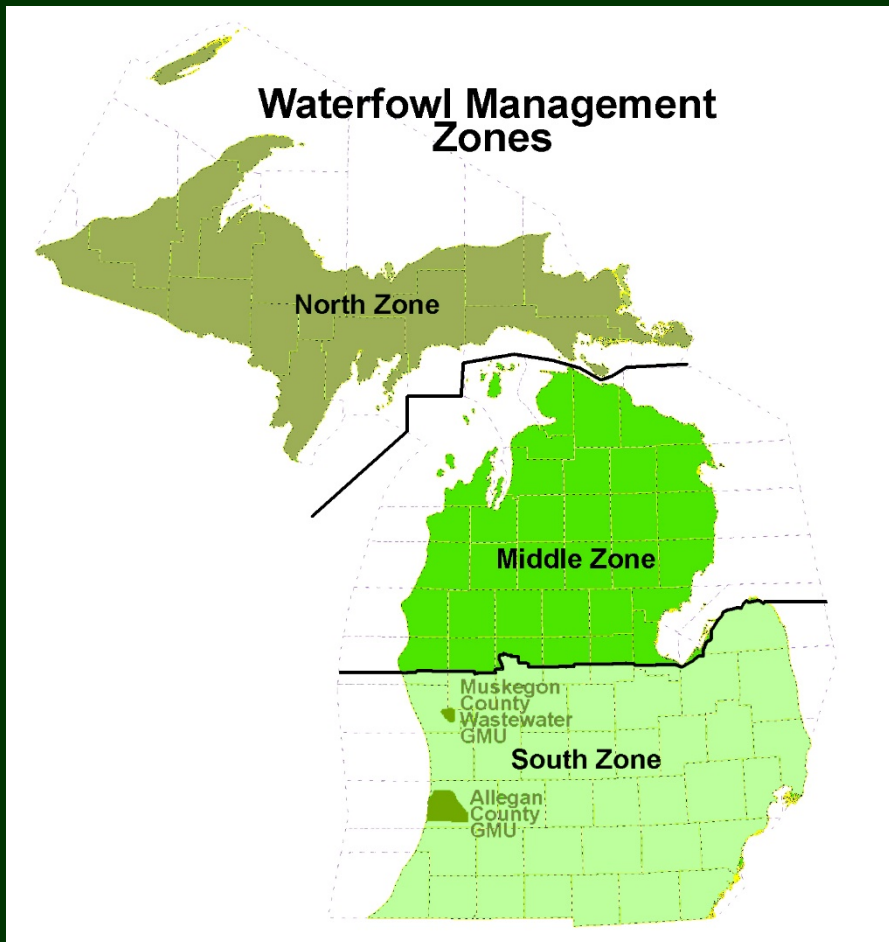


- Sept. 1-30; Nov. 5-13; Nov. 26-Dec. 4; and Dec. 17-Feb. 13, 2023
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20





# 2022 Goose Season Recommendations – GMUs Muskegon County Wastewater



- Oct. 15 – Dec. 22
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



# 2022 Duck Population Status and Federal Frameworks



# Duck Population Status

- 2021 Waterfowl Breeding Population & Habitat Survey cancelled
  - No 2021 midcontinent survey estimates for use in Adaptive Harvest Management process
- Michigan conducted state-specific breeding waterfowl survey
  - Excellent wetland conditions
  - 2021 estimate of total ducks was greater than 2019





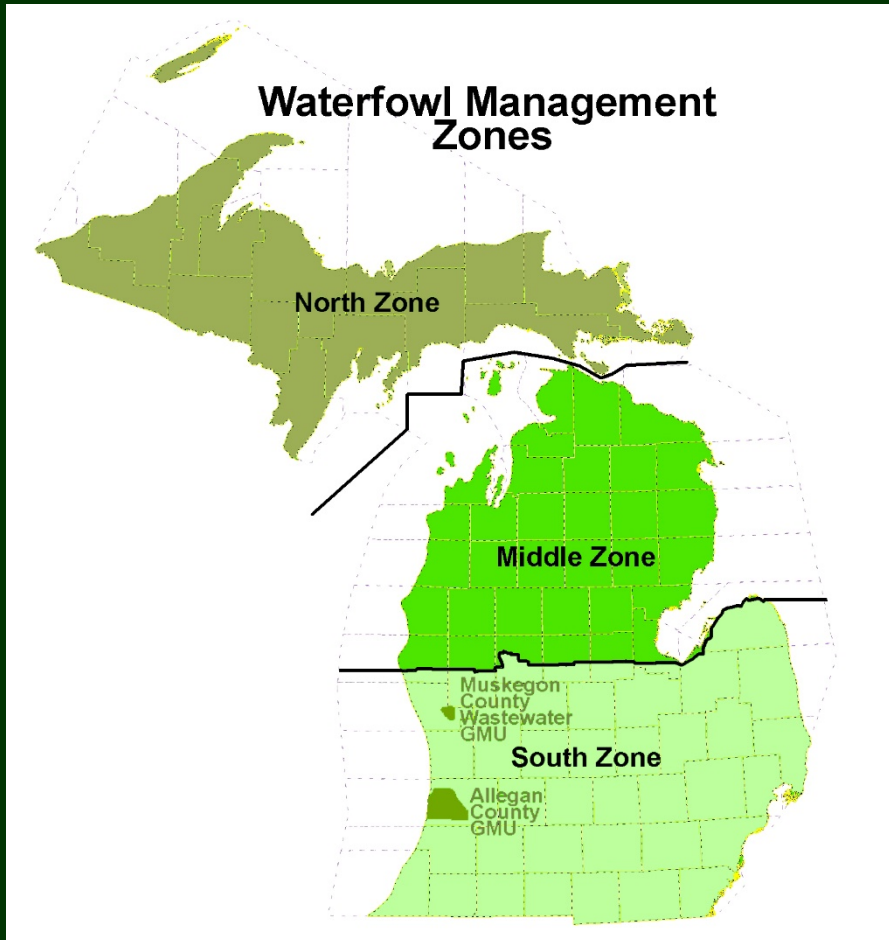
# Approach to Framework without WBPBS Estimates

- AHM incorporated available data to generate model predictions of breeding populations and habitat conditions.
- WBPBS cancellation coincided with drought in breeding areas for North American ducks
- Overall, high confidence in models because of ancillary data available and long-term datasets.



# 2022 Duck Federal Frameworks

## Seasons

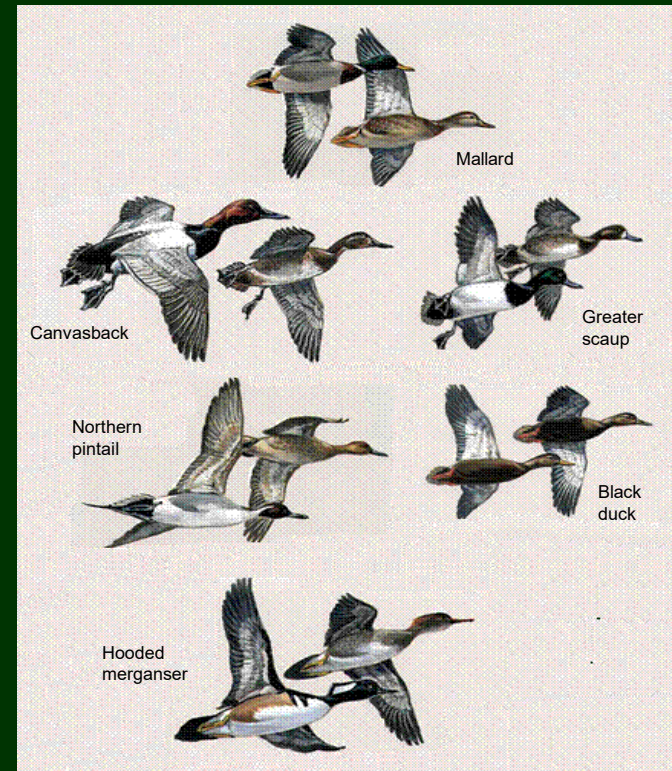


- Liberal season
  - Maximum 60 days
  - Between Saturday nearest Sept. 24 and January 31
  - Maximum 6 birds per day
- Possession limit 3X daily limit
- Seasons set by Zone
- One split per Zone

# 2022 Duck Federal Frameworks

## Daily Limits

- 6 ducks combined
  - Mallard
    - Maximum 4 birds (maximum 2 hens)
  - Wood duck
    - Maximum 3 birds
  - Redhead, Canvasback, & American black duck
    - Maximum 2 birds
  - Scaup
    - 2 for 45 days and 1 for 15 days
  - Northern pintail
    - Maximum 1 bird
  - All other ducks
    - 6 birds
- 5 mergansers combined
  - Maximum 2 hooded mergansers

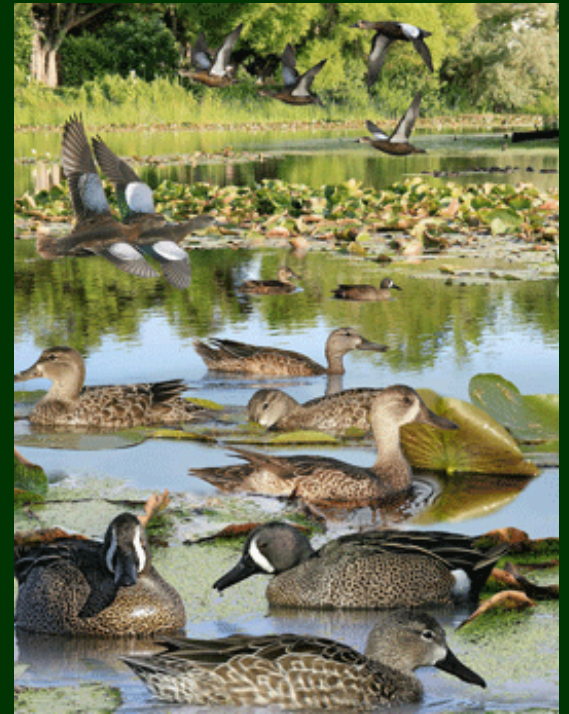


# 2022 Michigan Duck Season Recommendations



# 2022 Early Teal Season Recommendations

- Sept. 1 – 16 Statewide
- Daily limit 6 teal
- Possession 3X
- Hunting hours begin at sunrise





# 2022 Youth Season Recommendations

- Remain 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in September (Sept. 17-18)
- Daily and possession limits same as regular waterfowl seasons





# 2022 Veterans and Active-Duty Waterfowl Hunt Recommendations

- Hold concurrently with Youth Season (September 17-18)
- Bag limits for Youth Season apply







# 3-Year Stable Opening Dates

## North Zone:

- 2022 = Sept. 24
- 2023 = Sept. 30
- 2024 = Sept. 28

## Middle Zone:

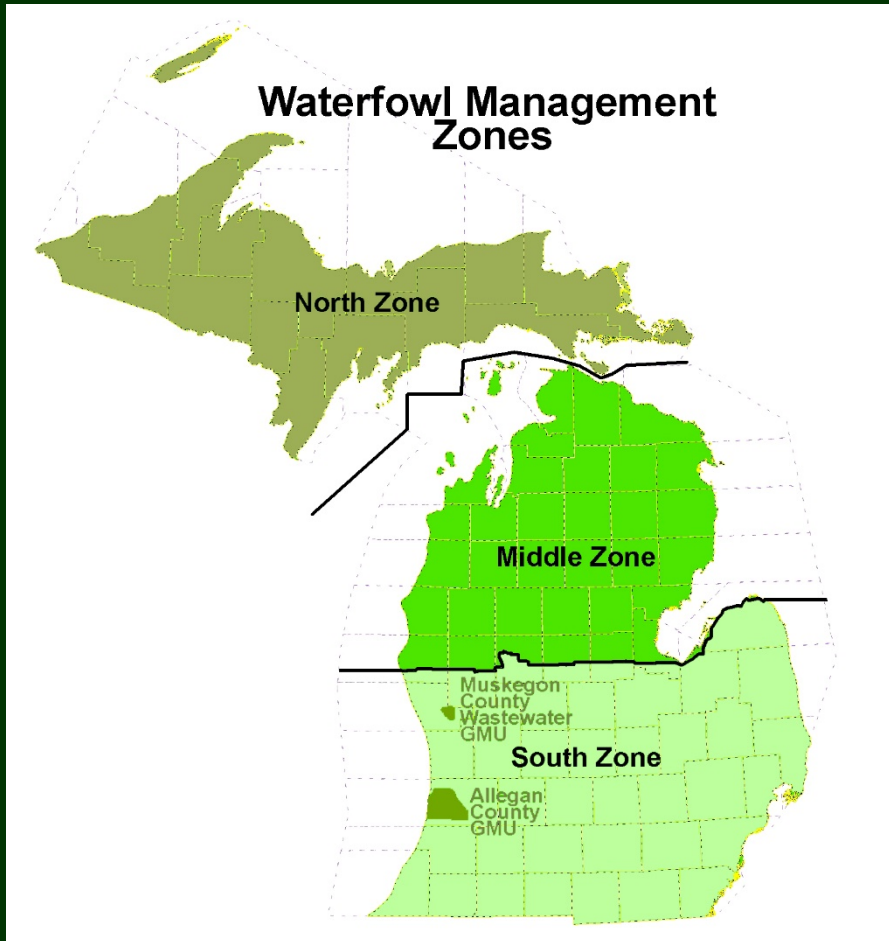
- 2022 = Oct. 8
- 2023 = Oct. 7
- 2024 = Oct. 5

## South Zone:

- 2022 = Oct. 15
- 2023 = Oct. 14
- 2024 = Oct. 12



# 2022 Duck Season Recommendations – Dates



- North Zone
  - Sept. 24 – Nov. 20
  - Nov. 26 – 27
- Middle Zone
  - Oct. 8 – Dec. 4
  - Dec. 17 – 18
- South Zone
  - Oct. 15 – Dec. 11
  - Dec. 31 – Jan. 1





# 2022 Duck Season

## Recommendations – Daily Limits

- Maximum allowed under Federal Frameworks
- Scaup:
  - North Zone: September 24 to November 7 (two-bird limit); November 8 to November 20 and November 26 to November 27 (one-bird limit)
  - Middle Zone: October 8 to October 23 (one-bird limit); October 24 to December 4 and December 17 to December 18 (two-bird limit)
  - South Zone: October 15 to October 30 (one-bird limit); October 31 to December 11 and December 31 to January 1 (two-bird limit)





# 2022-23 Falconry Season Recommendations

- Same dates as regular duck season
- Additional days for ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens (common gallinule):
  - Jan. 2 – Jan. 15, 2023
  - Feb. 24 – Mar. 10, 2023
- No change to daily bag limits
- Possession limits 3X daily limit





# St. John's Marsh Refuge Dates

- Closure restricts access to the areas for unauthorized purposes to reduce disturbance to waterfowl and other wildlife
- Change wildlife refuge season date closure from September 1 to the end of the waterfowl season to September 1 to November 30
- Provides clear refuge closure dates to improve enforcement
- Opening the refuge on December 1 will provide additional hunting opportunities





# Migratory Bird Name Changes

- USFWS revised the list of migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Included changing some migratory game bird names to conform to accepted use
- Common snipe now Wilson's snipe
- Common moorhen now common gallinule
- Department will continue communications and customer service related to the name changes





# Administrative Changes

- USFWS made administrative changes to certain parts of the Code of Federal Regulations that refer to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- Changes are administrative only
- WCO references sections of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Update references in WCO to align with new administrative changes to the Code of Federal Regulations





# Thank You



# Michigan perspectives on wolves and wolf management: Preliminary results

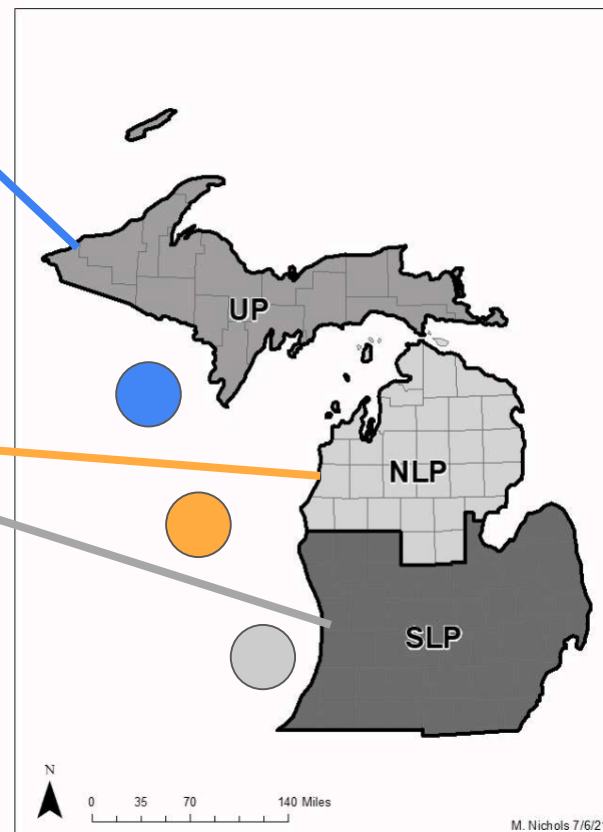


**Shawn J. Riley, Professor of Wildlife Management**  
Megan Cross, Research Associate



# Characteristics of sampling strata

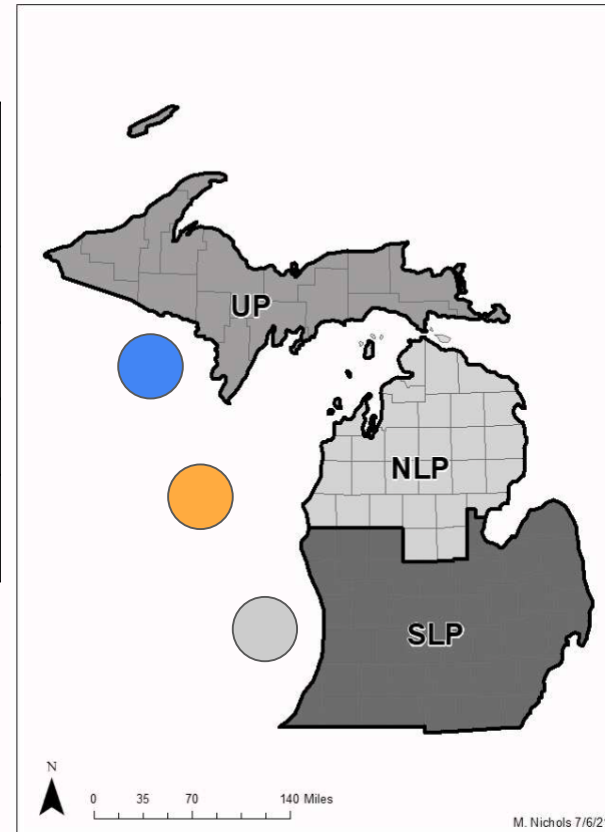
Population	% of Michigan's population	% of study sample respondents
<b>UP</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>43.2%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marquette County</li> </ul>		3.9%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-Marquette County</li> </ul>		39.5%
<b>NLP</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>30.7%</b>
<b>SLP</b>	<b>89.0%</b>	<b>26.1%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detroit metro (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb)</li> </ul>		3.4%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-Detroit metro</li> </ul>		22.6%
<b>State</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



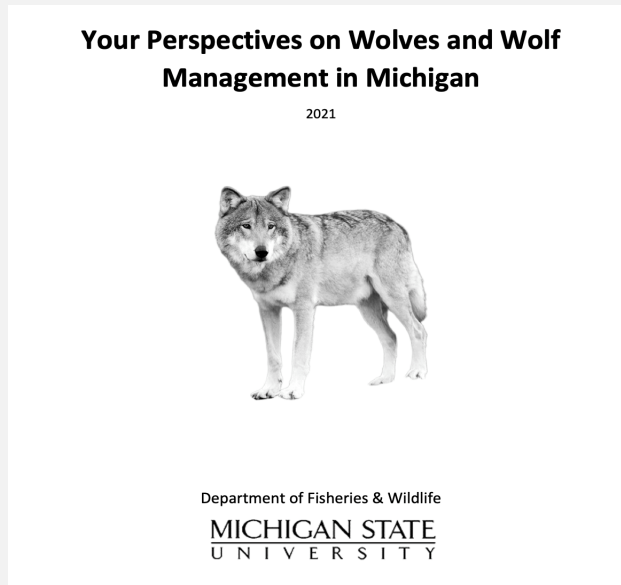
# Response to questionnaires

Population	% of individuals surveyed	Response rate
UP	33.3% (n = 5,000)	27.05%
NLP	33.3% (n = 5,000)	19.56%
SLP	33.3% (n = 5,000)	14.72%
General public overall	100% (n = 15,000)	20.26%

\* Response rates adjusted for undeliverable addresses, deceased individuals, and refusals

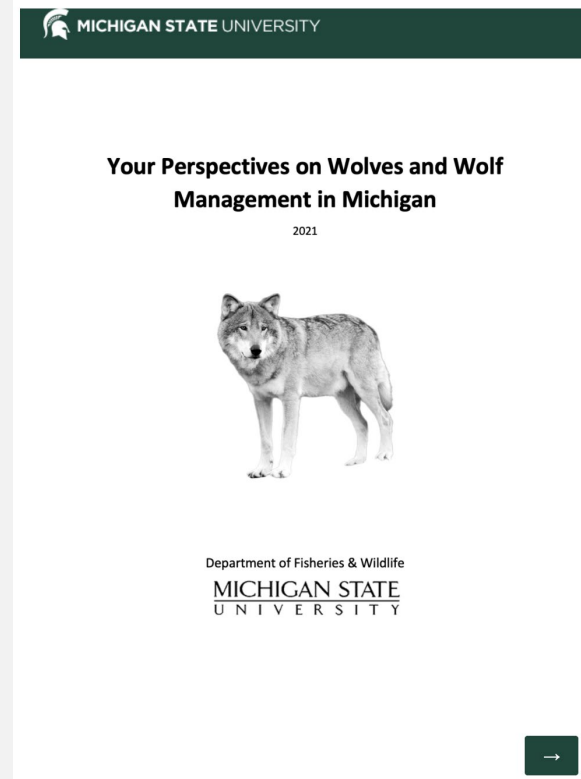


## MAIL SURVEY



- Individuals contacted via letter 4x:
- 2x received letter with access questionnaire online
- 2x received letter with access to questionnaire online and a paper copy to mail back

## WEB SURVEY



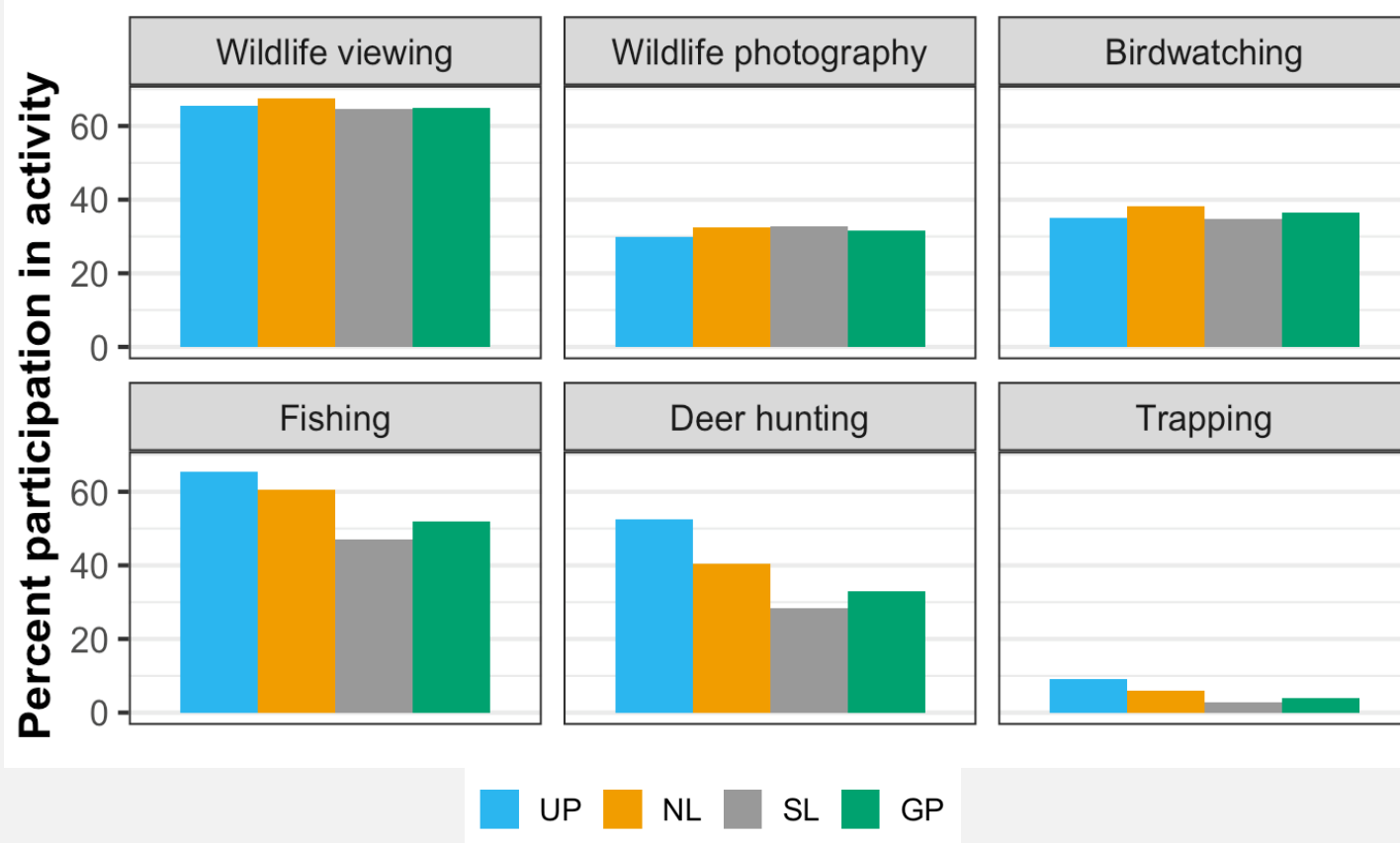
- Web survey included same questions as the mail questionnaire

# Demographics of respondents

		Average age*	% Male	% White	% receive income from farming	Farmers who raise livestock
General population		60	64.5%	87%	7.69%	36.63%
-	UP	60	67.2%	88%	7.19%	41.18%
-	NL	61	59.9%	88%	8.09%	37.97%
-	SL	59	65.4%	84%	8.08%	28.00%

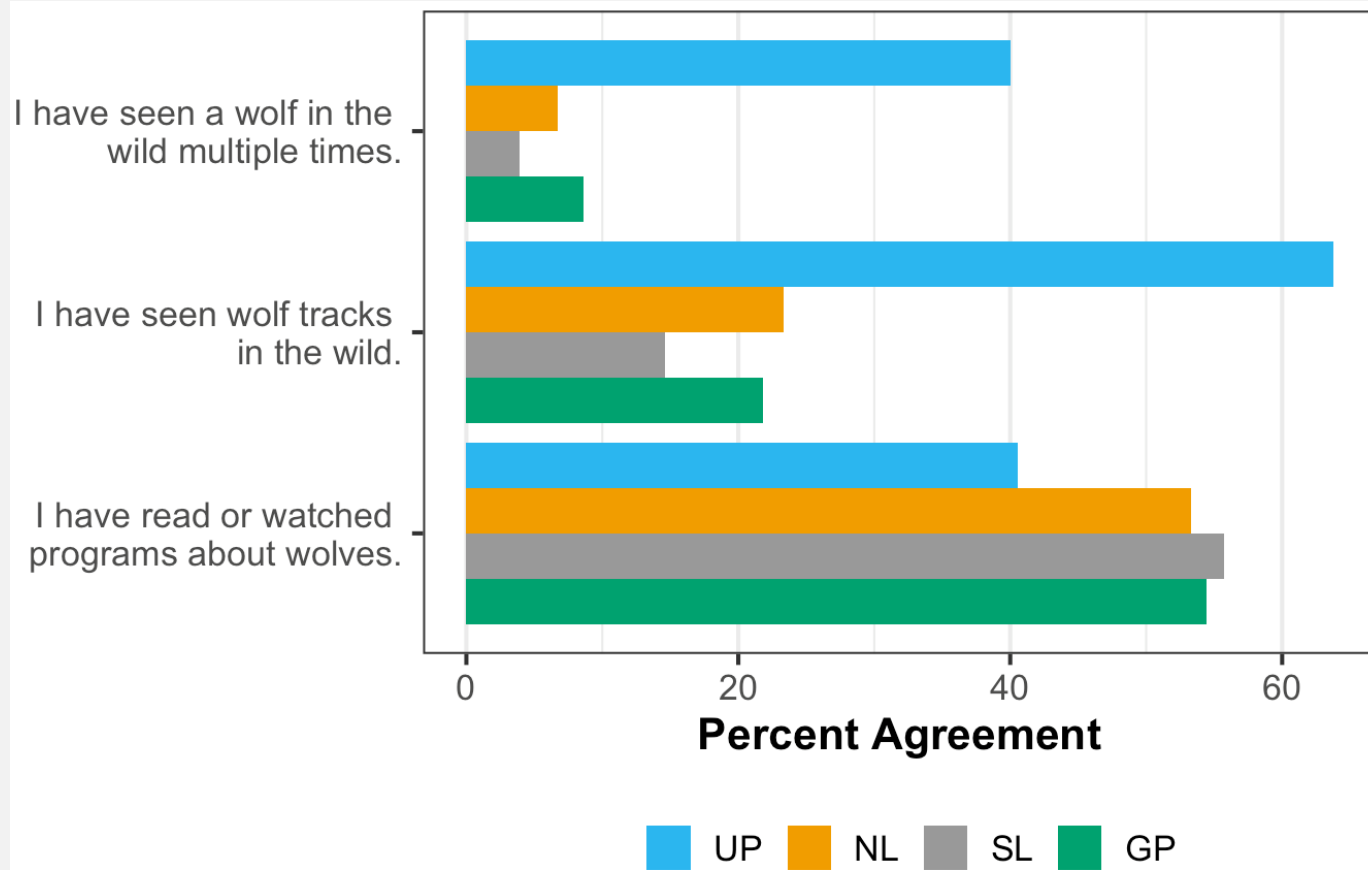
\*Outliers removed due to inaccuracies in self report

# Outdoor recreations activities in Michigan?

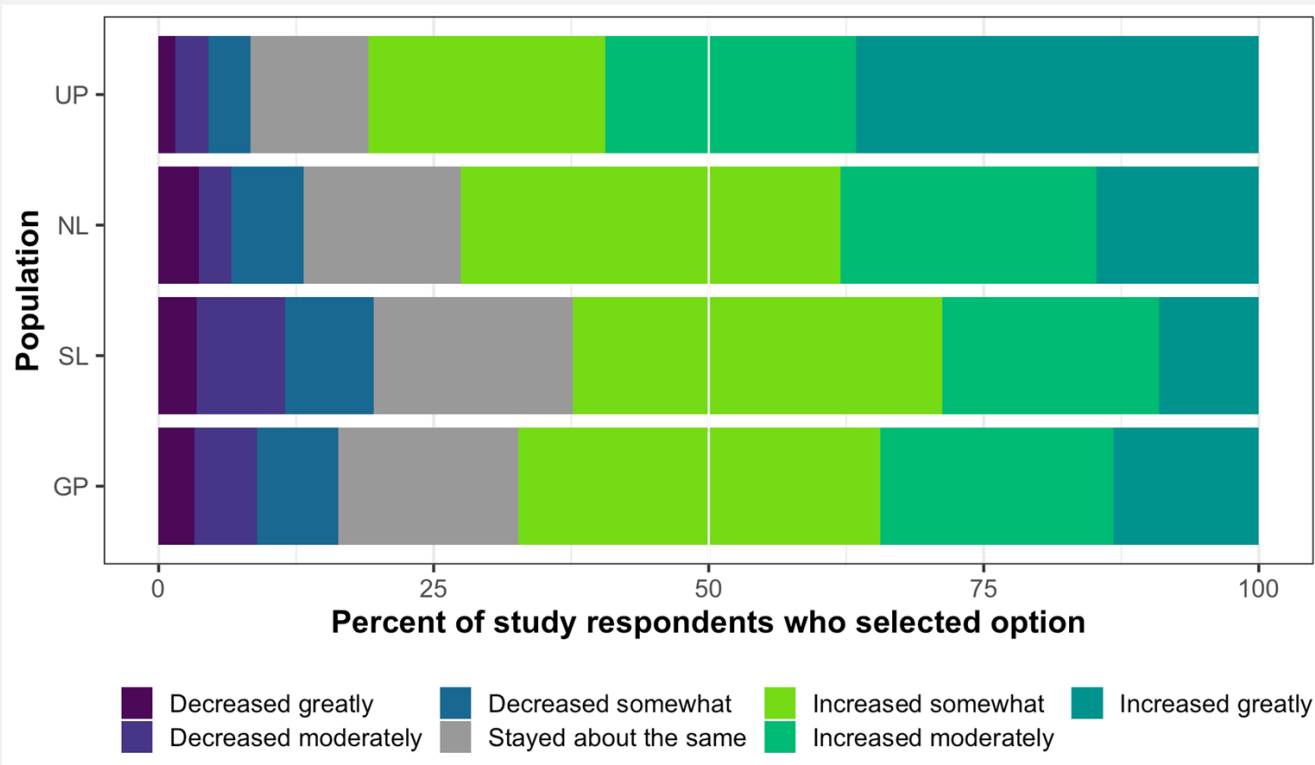




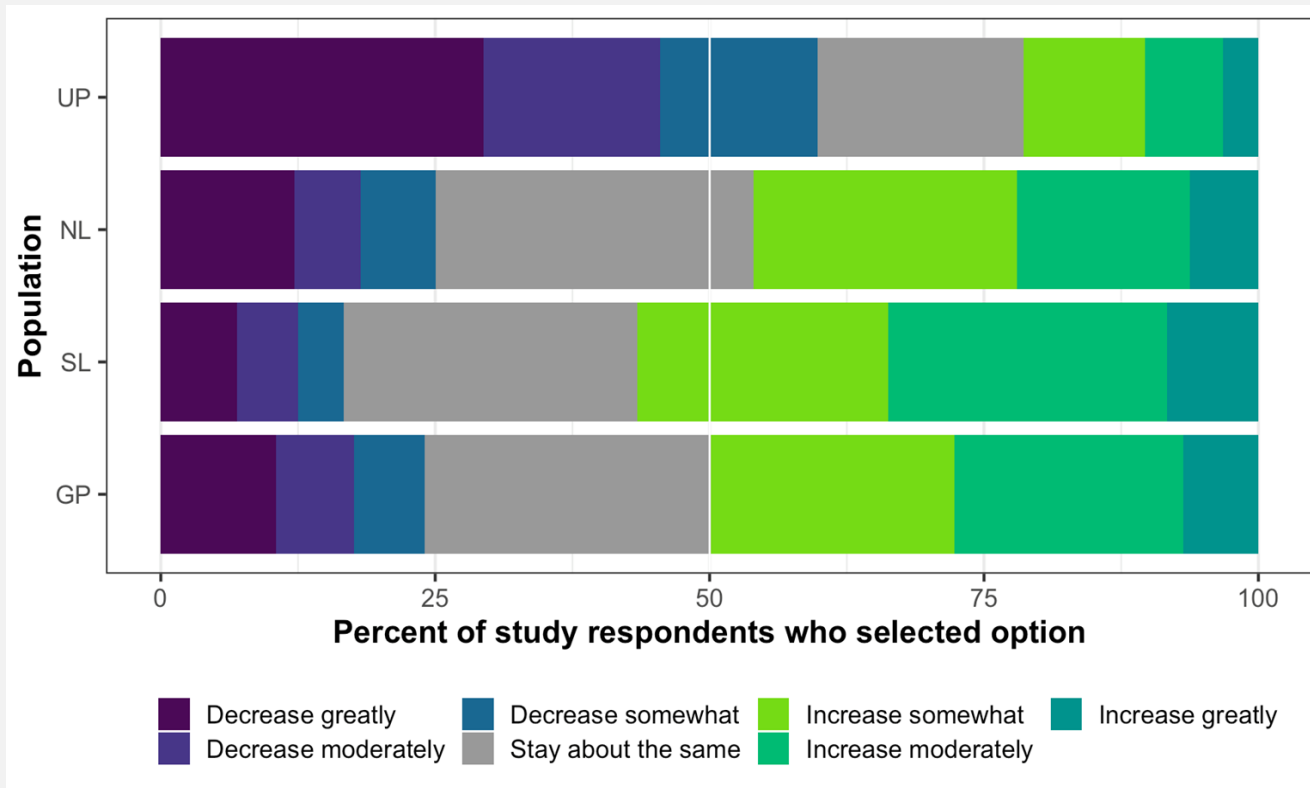
## Personal experiences with wolves



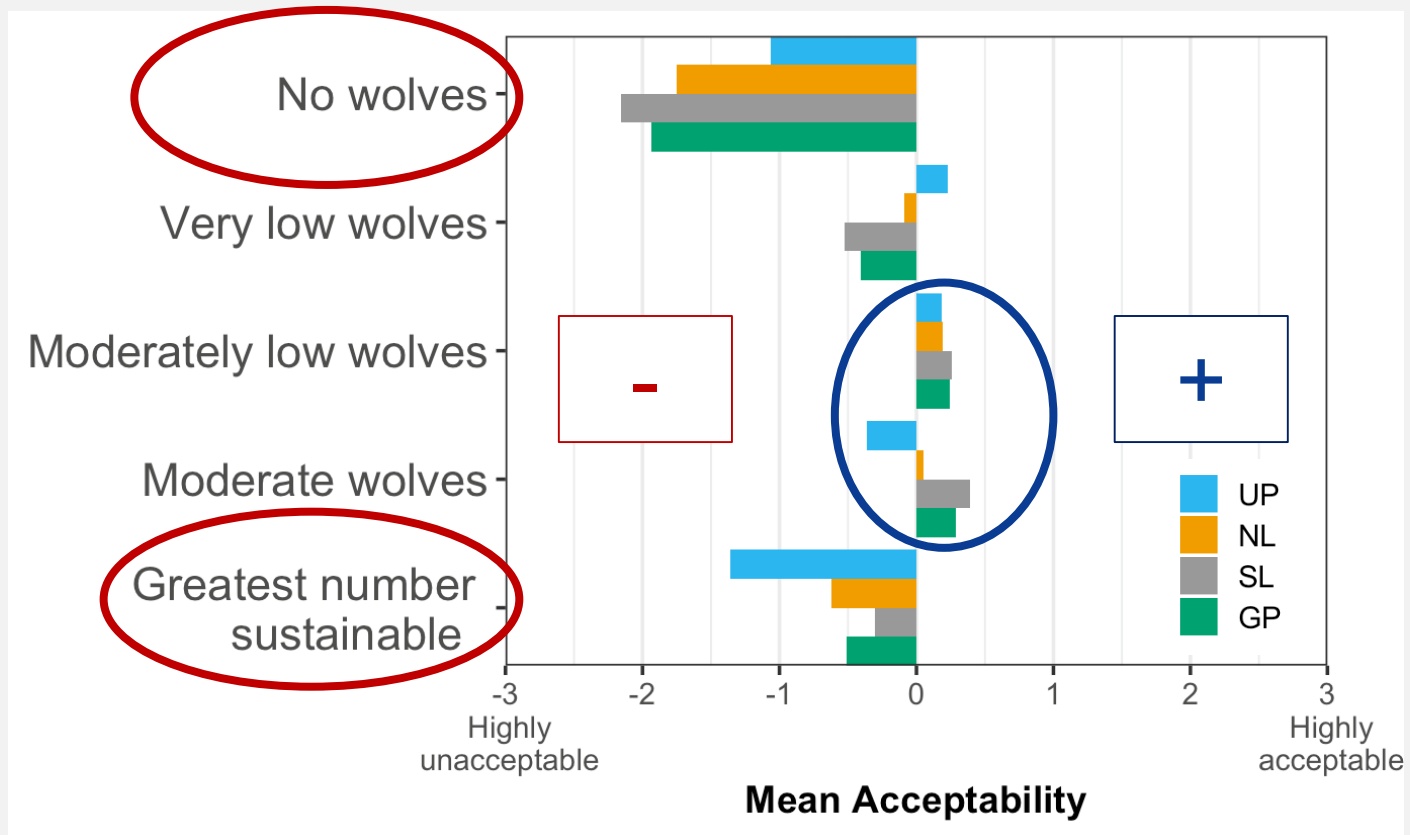
# How has the wolf population changed during the last five years?



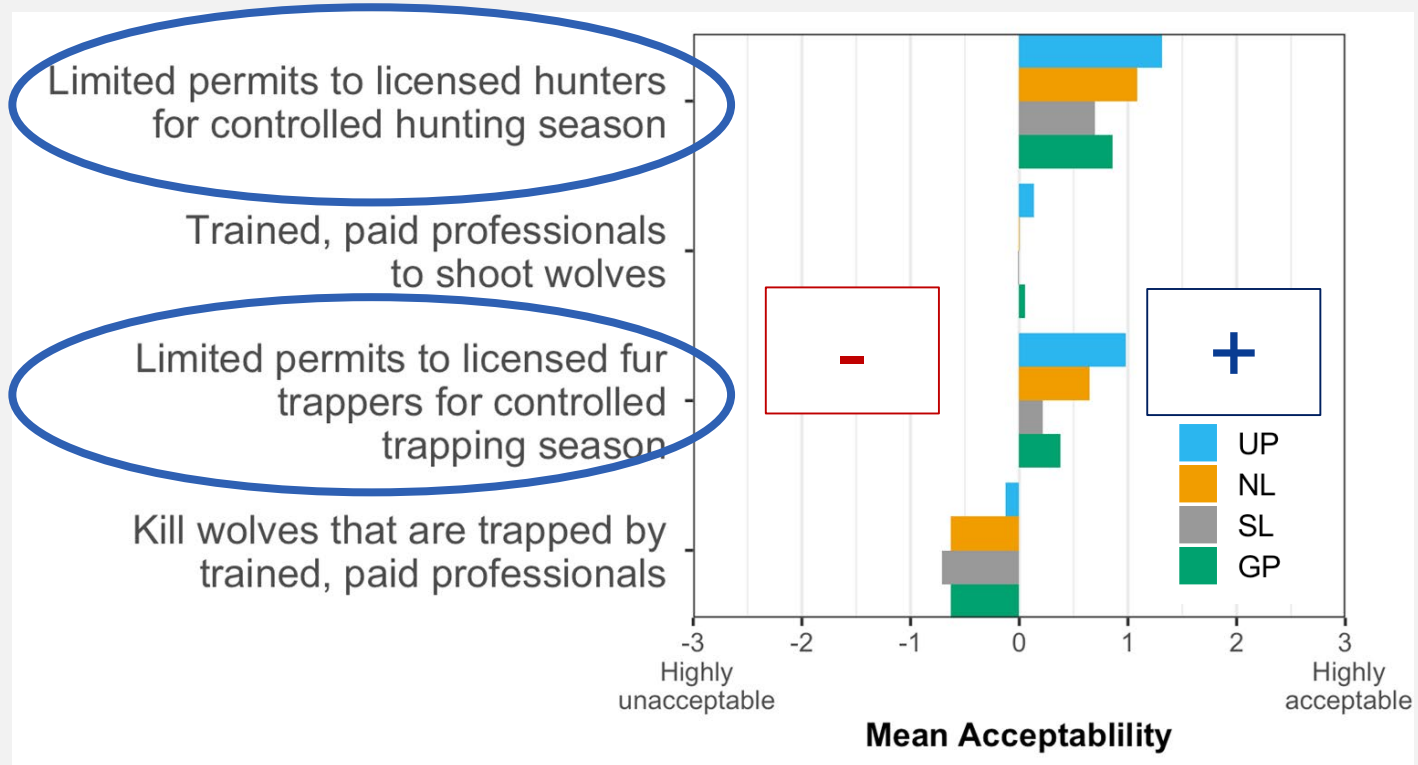
# How would you like the wolf population to change during next five years?



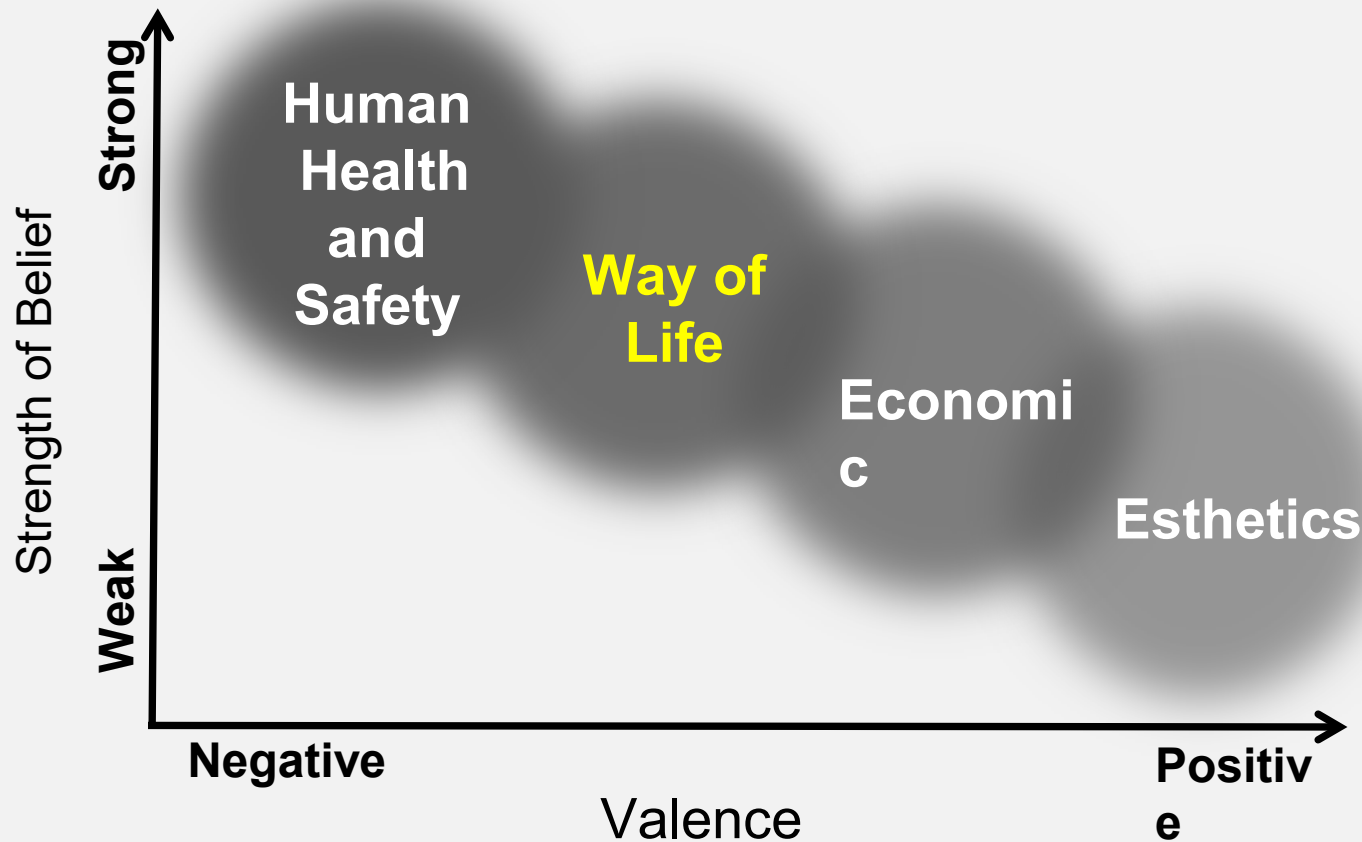
# How acceptable are each of the following scenarios of wolf population?



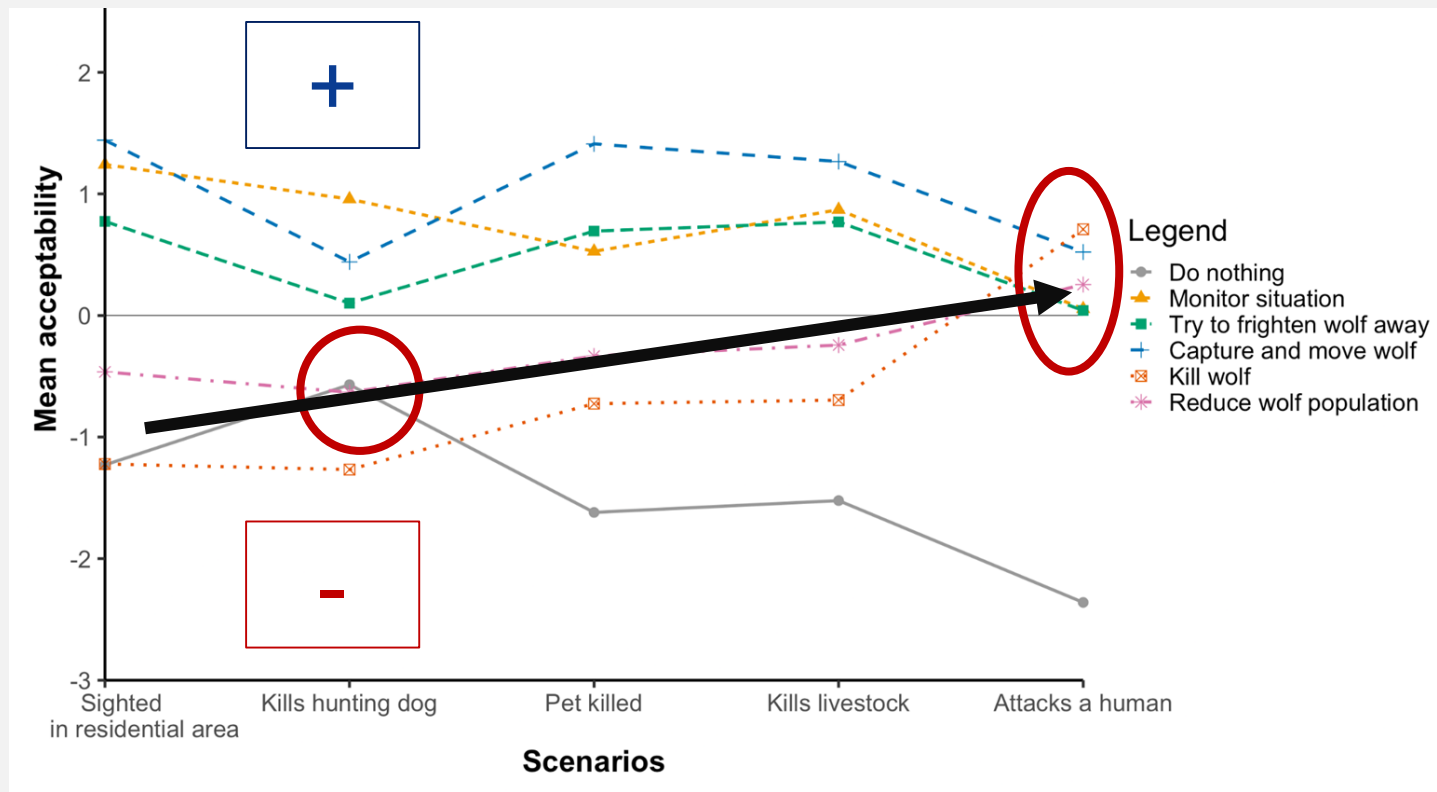
# Acceptability of possible removal methods if necessary to remove wolves



# Response to perceived risks from human-wildlife interactions

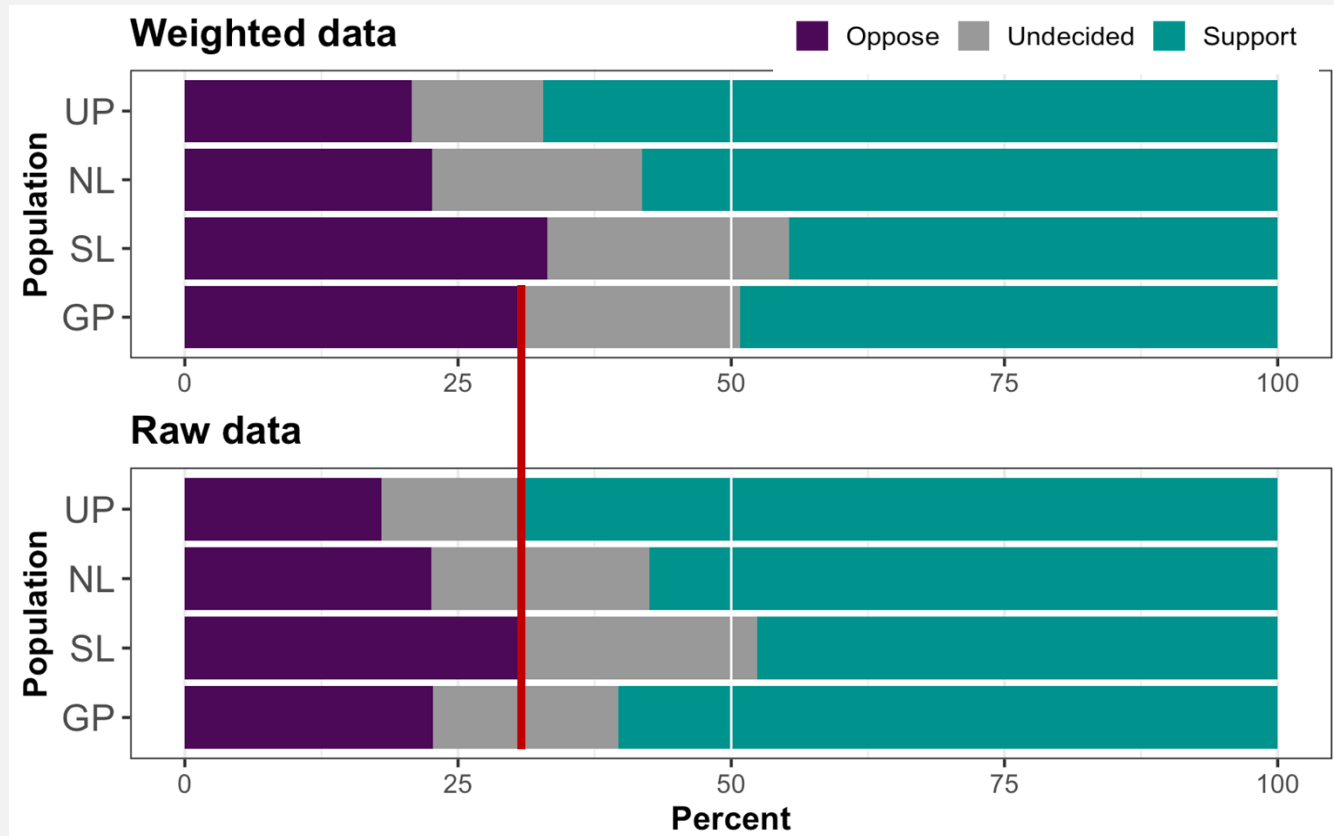


# General public acceptability for wolf management methods given scenarios related to wolf behavior

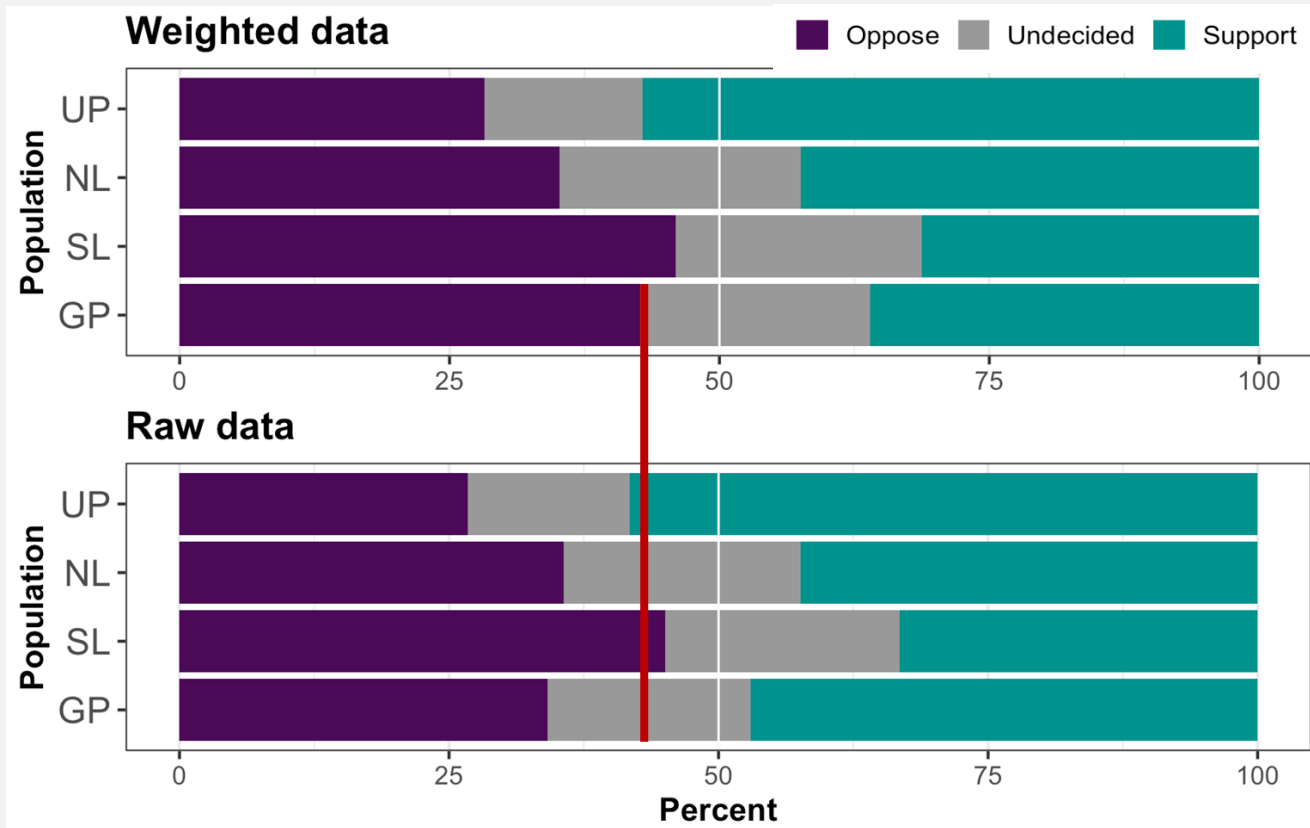




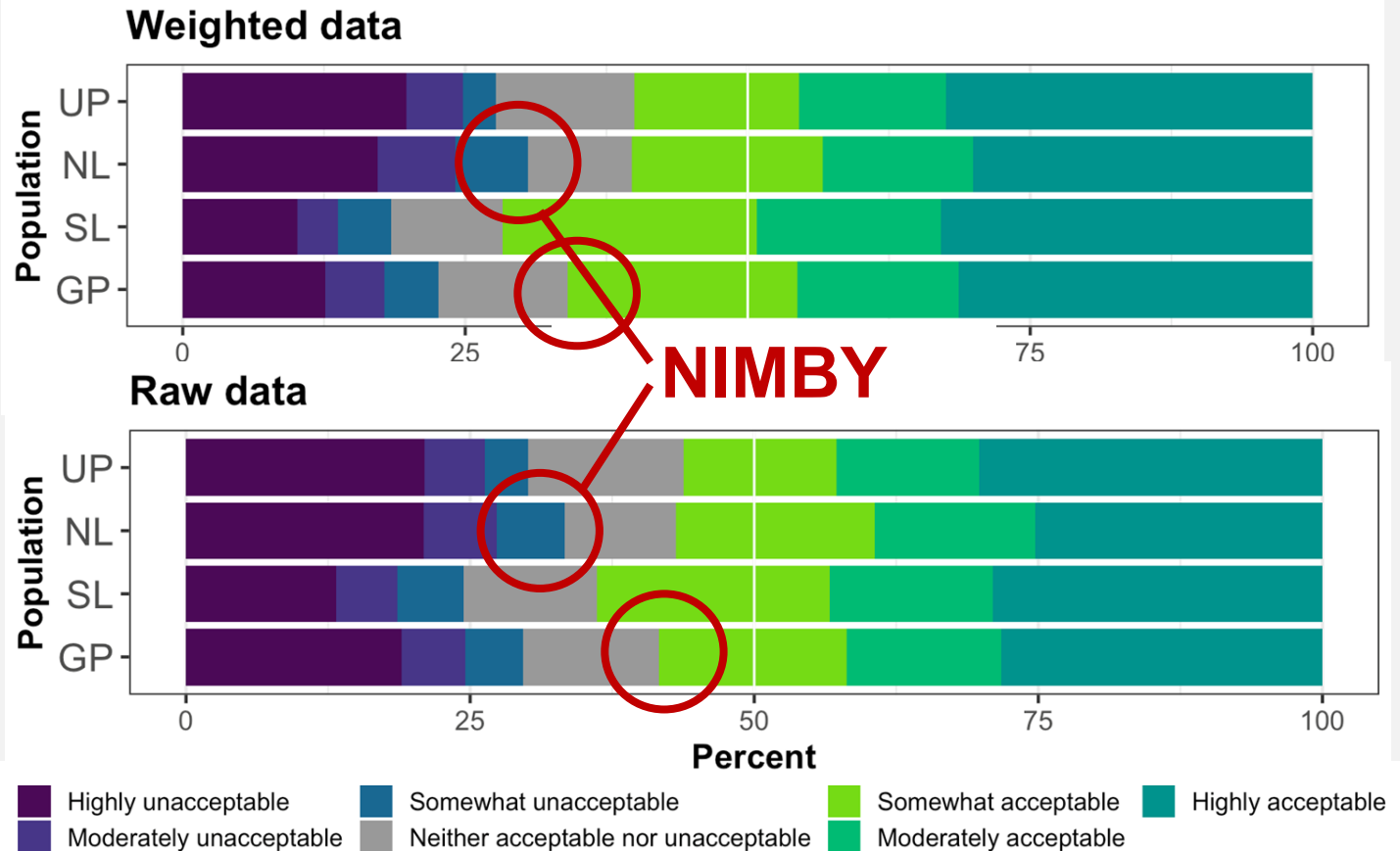
# How acceptable is a legal, recreational wolf hunting season in Michigan?



# How acceptable is a legal, recreational wolf trapping season in Michigan?



# Acceptability of wolves establishing a population in the Northern Lower Peninsula?



## **Where we go from here...**

- Analyze additional questionnaire data for insights into Michigan perspectives;
- Modeling to determine specific factors affecting acceptance of wolves and wolf management approaches;
- Compare with similar research elsewhere;
- Your questions...

# Thank You

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