Proposed Deer Regulations for 2021

Wildlife Conservation Order #5 of 2021

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May 13, 2021

Muzzleloader Season Change in Muskegon County

- Technical Correction
  - Allow all legal firearms in Muzzleloader season in Muskegon County

Zone 3 Late Antlerless Season Change

- Remove the exemption that allows muzzleloaders to be used in Zone 3 on public lands during the late antlerless season for any deer
- 2020 biological data unavailable at this time
- Regulation doesn't align with goals to simplify regulations

Zone 3 Late Antlerless Season Change-feedback

- “Many of the contacts I encountered did NOT give positive feedback on the use of public land-muzzleloaders during the late antlerless season.”
- “Everyone thought it was confusing, so much so, they would tell me that they were not even going to do it in fear of doing something wrong.”
- “The biggest problem that I experienced with this is the total confusion it caused at first.”
- “…the regulation change was not well received.”
- “…hunters were a little confused.”
- “All the hunters I talked with did not like the state land exemptions for muzzleloader late antlerless season to say the least.”
- “…confusing to every single hunter I spoke to.”
- ‘’…most were mad about it.”
- “I did talk to a few hunters that were happy to have the additional opportunity to get out and hunt.”

Current Cervid Urine Use Regulations

- Since 2018, only natural urine approved by the Archery and Trade Association (ATA) through their Deer Protection Program can be used in Michigan
  - More stringent standards ensuring the lowest-risk urine can be used
  - Easily identifiable marker on packaging
- Program transferred to Responsible Hunting Scent Association (RHSA) in 2020

Proposed Cervid Urine Use Regulations

- Department recommends banning natural urine and other body fluids used as attractants in Michigan
  - Urine has lower levels of prion occurrence than other fluids (saliva, feces, blood)
  - Most commercial urine collection techniques includes other materials (ex. saliva, feces)
  - AFWA CWD BMP's recommend prohibiting sales/use of products of cervid origin
  - Synthetic urine able to be used as attractant and cover scent

Cervid Urine Use in Other States/Provinces

- Multiple states and provinces currently prohibit the sale and/or use of cervid urine-based products
  - AL, AK, AR, AZ, ID, NJ, NM, NV, OR, RI, SC, VA, VT, MB, NS, ON, YT
  - NY has proposed ban in their draft Deer Management Plan
  - MN, ND, PA prohibit use in disease areas
  - LA, MS, MT, TN restrict natural urine use

Michigan Hunter Attitudes Towards Cervid Urine Use*

- Use of urine-based scents
  - 24% (mail survey); 37% (online)

Urine Use	Natural	Synthetic	Both Natural and Synthetic	Not Sure
Statewide hunters (mail)	35%	6%	22%	36%

- Banning the use of attractants made from natural deer urine
  - 36% acceptable vs. 31% unacceptable (mail)
  - 45% acceptable vs. 35% unacceptable (online)

*Michigan CWD Survey (Frawley et al 2017)

Thank You

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