

Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on
Wildlife & Fisheries

June 12, 2014



Proposed Orders

- NRC – For Information
 - Migratory Game Bird Regulations; Early Seasons, Managed Waterfowl Area Regulations (WCO Amendment No. 8 of 2014)
 - Antlerless Deer License Quotas 2014-2016 (WCO Amendment No. 9 of 2014)
 - Deer Management Assistance Permit Regulations (WCO Amendment No. 10 of 2014)
 - Fall Turkey Management Unit Technical Change (WCO Amendment No. 11 of 2014)



Proposed Orders

- NRC – For Action
 - Open/Closed DMUs; Limited Firearm Deer Zone; Deer Baiting and Feeding; Hunters with Disabilities; Muzzle-loading Season; Early and Late Antlerless Seasons; UP and DMU 487 Hunter’s Choice; DMU Boundaries; Crossbow Stamp (WCO Amendment No. 6 of 2014)
 - Furbearer Regulations (WCO Amendment No. 7 of 2014)



NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
- Wildlife Division Update
 - UP Habitat Workgroup
 - Migratory Game Bird Regulations; Early Seasons
 - Deer Harvest Survey Report 2013 Seasons
 - Antlerless Deer License Quotas





Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division

June 2014 NRC Meeting

AIS Landing Blitz

- June 6 & 7
- 12 boat landings throughout state
- Demonstrated boat cleaning techniques
- Awareness!



Free Fishing Weekend

- June 7 & 8
- 48 official events occurred throughout the state
- Thousands of people went fishing!



Grand American Fish Rodeo

- June 12-14
- Inaugural event held in Lansing
- DNR part of Educational Tent full of hands-on activities



Golden Lotus – impoundment draw-down

- Began in May
- Followed by dam removal and river channel/fish passage restoration
- Will cause discoloration on Pigeon River



Kalamazoo River

- Dept. of Community Health has listed river as safe
 - Via health assessment
- Clean-up continues





Wildlife Chief Update

**Russ Mason, Chief
Wildlife Division
June 12, 2014**

Turkey

- Technical Change to Fall Turkey Management Unit
 - Add Beaver Island back in
- Spring Turkey License Sales
 - 104,000 in 2013
 - 89,000 in 2014



Trapping On Dams

- Furbearer Regulations (WCO Amendment No. 7 of 2014)
- Additional method for use on beaver dams or lodges per May NRC Meeting:
 - Body gripping or conibear type trap less than 8 inches above the ground at the highest point
 - No bait, lure, or attractant
 - Between 5 and 6^{1/2} inches as measured inside the jaw hinges
 - May be set above the water



DMAP Regulations

- Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 10 of 2014
 - Recommend holding over for information in July as well
 - Allow for more discussion



UP Regional Deer Advisory Team (RDAT)

- Three-year period complete
- Transitioning to county-level groups
 - More frequent meetings
 - Less travel
 - Myriad topics related to habitat



Thank You

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Hunting Regulations for Early Waterfowl Season Dates

Barbara Avers
Waterfowl and Wetland
Specialist, Wildlife Division
June 12, 2014



Regulations Schedule

Early Seasons

- February/March
 - Mississippi Flyway Council
 - Citizen's Waterfowl Advisory Committee (CWAC)
- June
 - Regulations for information at NRC
 - USFWS Regulations Committee
 - Set early season framework
- July
 - Regulations for action at NRC Meeting
 - Early Season Selections Due to USFWS

Regular Seasons

- July
 - Regulations for information at NRC
 - Mississippi Flyway Council
 - USFWS Regulations Committee
 - Set late season framework
- August
 - CWAC Meeting
 - Regulations for action at NRC
 - Late Season Selections Due to USFWS



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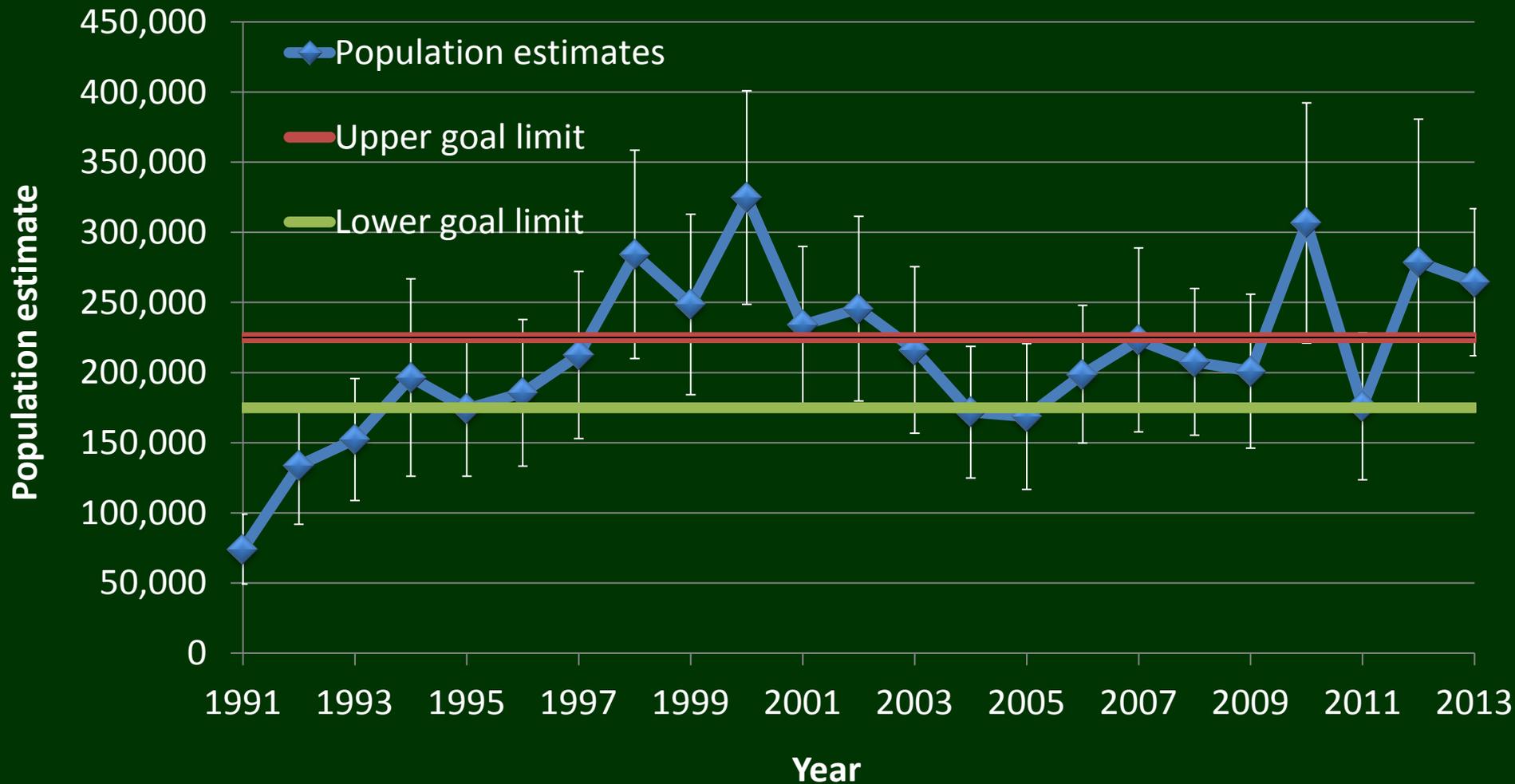


Experimental Early Teal Season

- Department recommendations
 - September 1 to September 7
 - Daily limit 6, possession limit 18
 - Hunting hours begin at sunrise
- Federal requirements
 - 3-year evaluation for take of non-target species



Michigan Canada Goose Population Estimates, 1991-2013



Early Canada Goose Season

- No Change Proposed
 - September 1-10 (UP, Saginaw, Tuscola, and Huron Counties)
 - September 1-15 (NLP and SLP)
 - Daily bag limit of 5



Proposed Regular Canada Goose Season First Split Dates

North Zone	Sept. 11 – Dec. 11					
Middle Zone	Sept. 20-28	TBD				
South Zone, excluding GMUs listed below in the table	Sept. 20-22	TBD	TBD			
Tuscola/Huron GMU	Sept 20-28	TBD	TBD			
Saginaw County GMU	Sept 20-22	TBD	TBD			
Allegan County GMU			TBD			
Muskegon W.W. GMU		TBD	TBD			
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb



Youth Waterfowl Season

- No changes proposed
 - 2nd weekend in September
 - Sept. 13 & 14, 2014



Woodcock Possession Limit

- Align with USFWS frameworks
 - Increase possession limit to three times the daily limit: 9 woodcock



Nayanquing Point Wildlife Area and Fish Point Wildlife Area Managed Deer Hunting

- Proposal to allow managed deer hunting during waterfowl season
 - Increasing deer numbers and crop damage
 - By permit only
 - When circumstances make the area functionally unavailable to waterfowl hunting
 - For example, ice coverage
 - Local Support





Pointe Mouillee State Game Area Hunting by Permit Only

Legend

Red – Refuge closed to all use and occupancy
Sept 1st – Dec 15th

Yellow – Current managed hunting for
waterfowl by permit Sept 1st – Dec 15th

Blue – Proposed addition to managed hunting
for waterfowl by permit Sept 1st – Dec 15th

Green – Anything NOT outlined in Red,
Yellow, or Blue is Open Hunting every day for
any open season

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

Recommendation to include DRIWR to the list of wildlife refuge exceptions where duck or goose hunting may be authorized by permit issued by the USFWS or the Department.





Thank You

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Estimates for the 2013 Deer Hunting Seasons

Brian Frawley
Wildlife Division
June 12, 2014

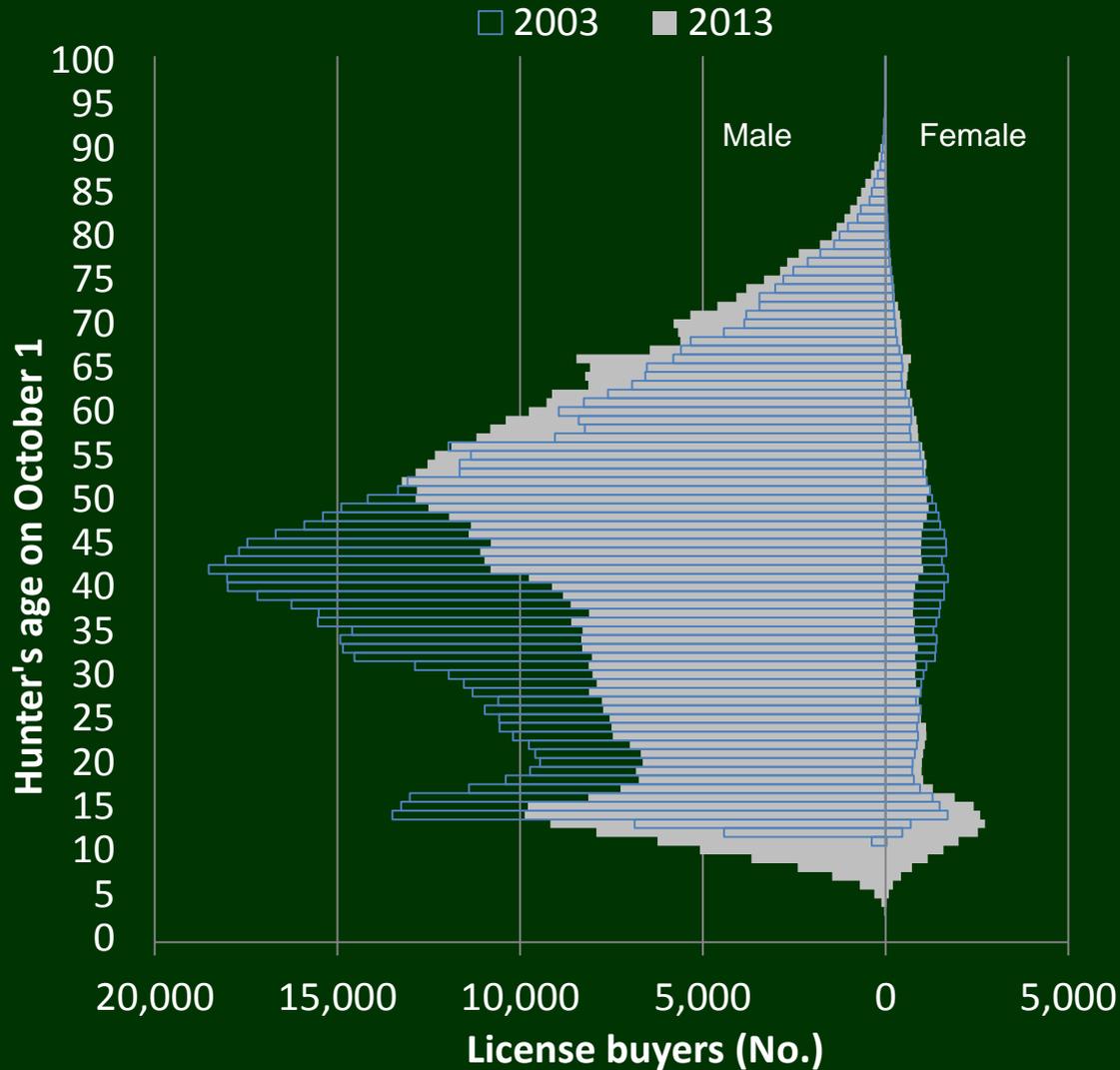


Number of Michigan Deer Harvest Tags Purchased, 2011-2013

Harvest Tags	Number purchased			Change (%) 2012 and 2013
	2011	2012	2013	
Firearm	264,946	264,755	263,905	0%
Archery	55,559	57,202	54,788	-4%
Combination	738,670	746,000	762,174	2%
Antlerless	462,343	434,156	427,219	-2%
Mentored Youth	NA	20,722	24,768	20%
Total Harvest Tags	1,521,518	1,522,835	1,532,854	1%

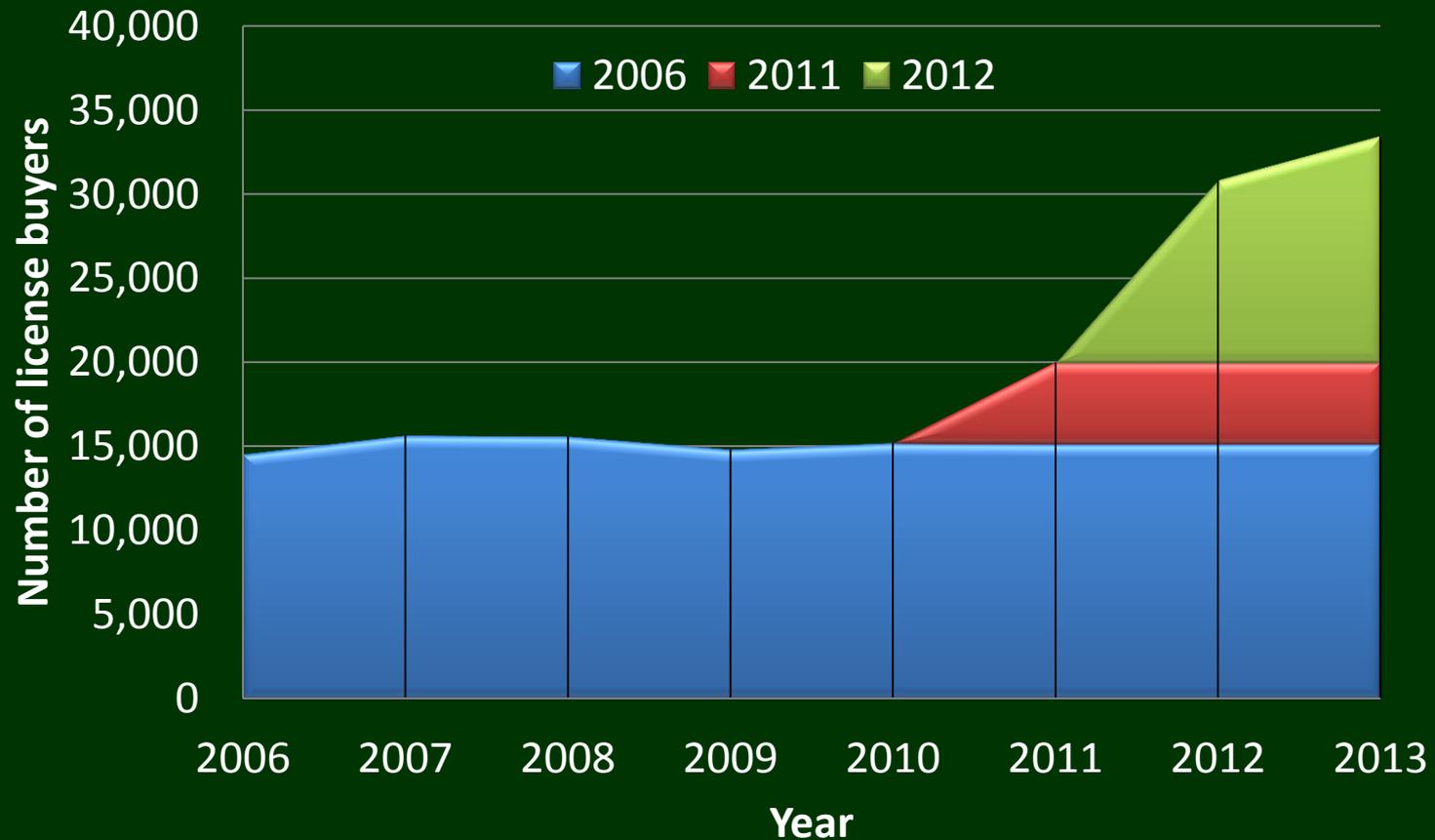


Number of deer hunting license buyers in Michigan by age and sex during 2003 and 2013 hunting seasons. Deer hunting licenses were purchased by 787,951 people in 2003 and 712,404 people in 2013 (9.6% decline).



The number of additional youth deer hunting license buyers as a result of lowering the minimum age requirement during 2006-2013.

Additional youth deer hunting license buyers

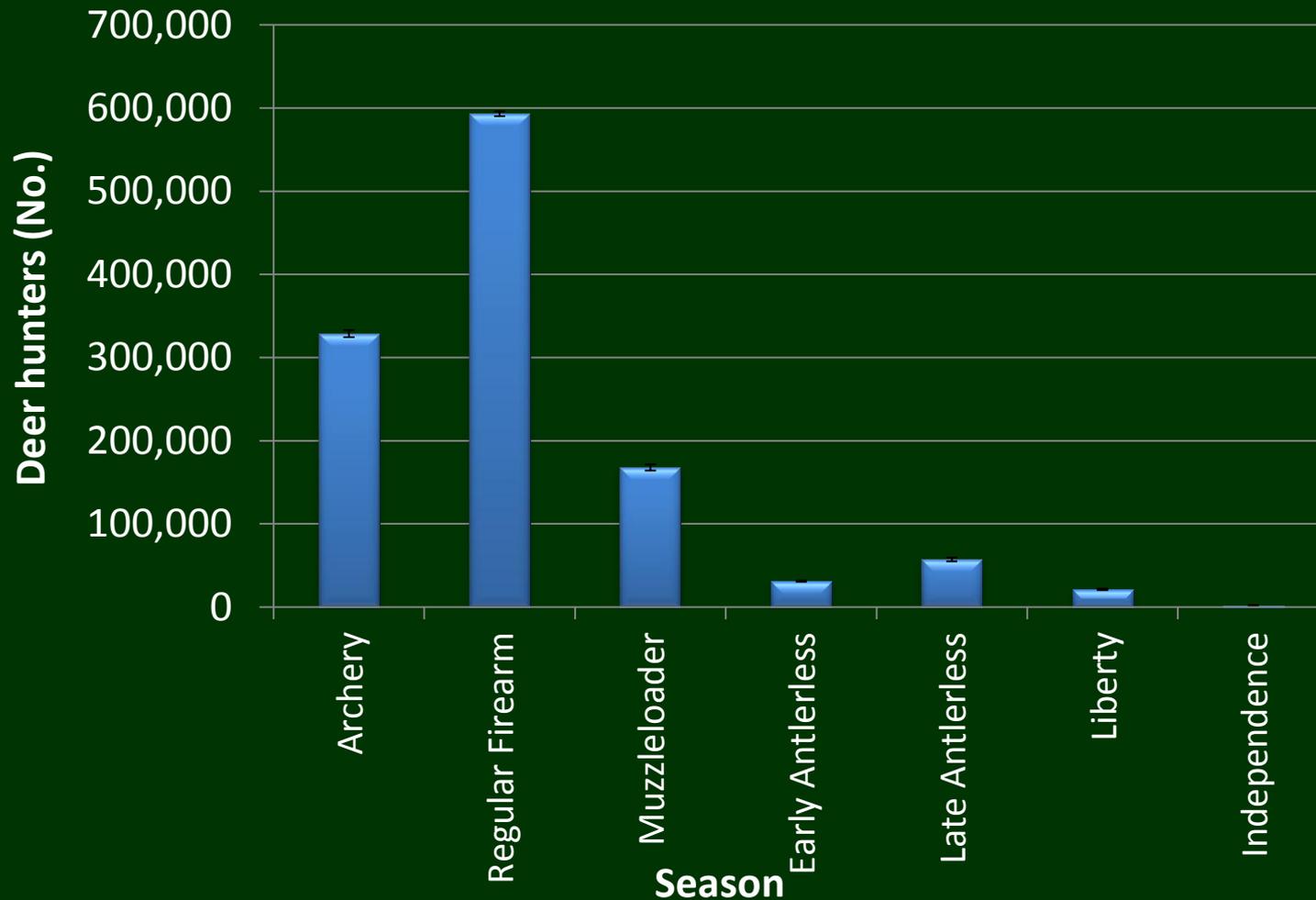


2013 Deer Harvest Survey

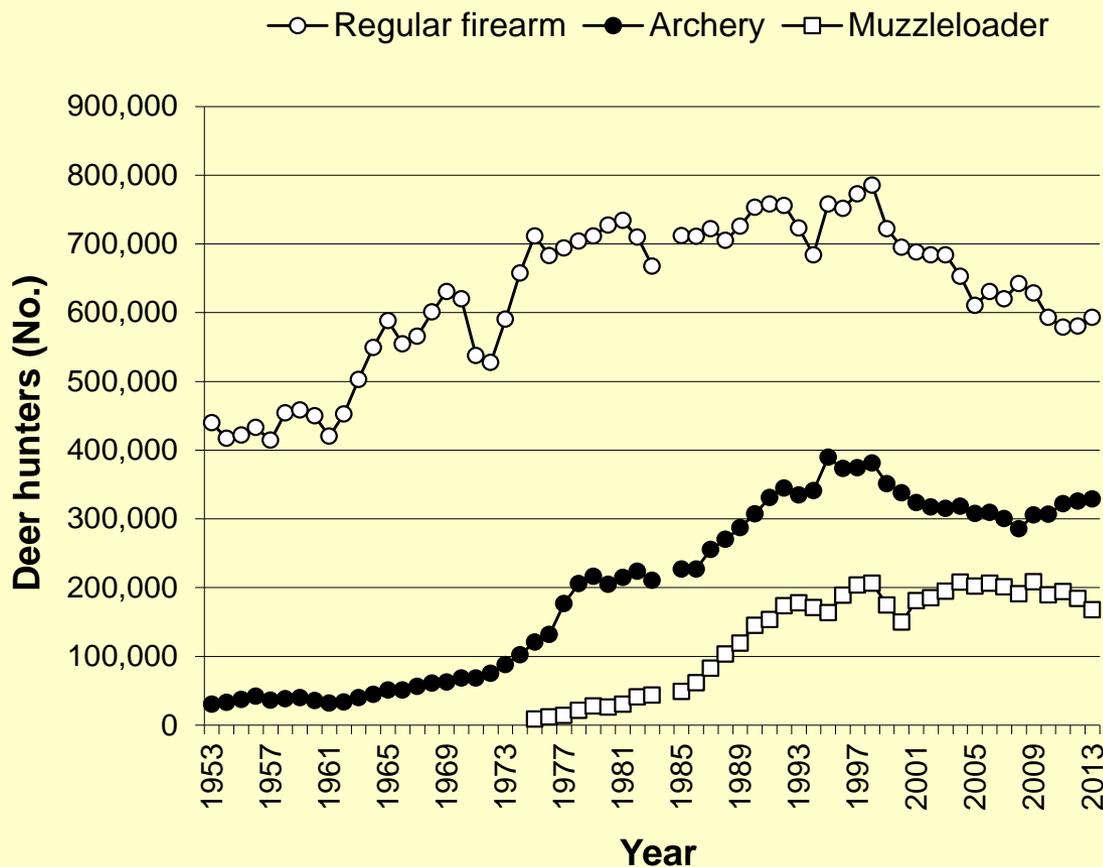
- 712,404 people purchased a license
- 3,772 people provided answers via the internet
- Questionnaires delivered to 54,277 deer license holders
- 51% responded (27,834 people)
- Estimates standardized to be comparable with estimates from previous years



Estimated Number of People Hunting Deer in Michigan, Summarized by Season



Estimated Number of People Hunting Deer in Michigan, Long-term Trends (1953-2013)



- Significantly greater number of people hunted during the regular firearm season (2%).
- Archery season unchanged.
- Significantly fewer people hunted during the muzzleloader (-10%).



Estimated Number of People Hunting Deer During All Seasons, 2011-2013, Summarized by Region

Region	Number of hunters			Change (%) Between 2012 and 2013
	2011	2012	2013	
Statewide	648,127	654,122	661,788	1.2%*

*Statistically significant change.



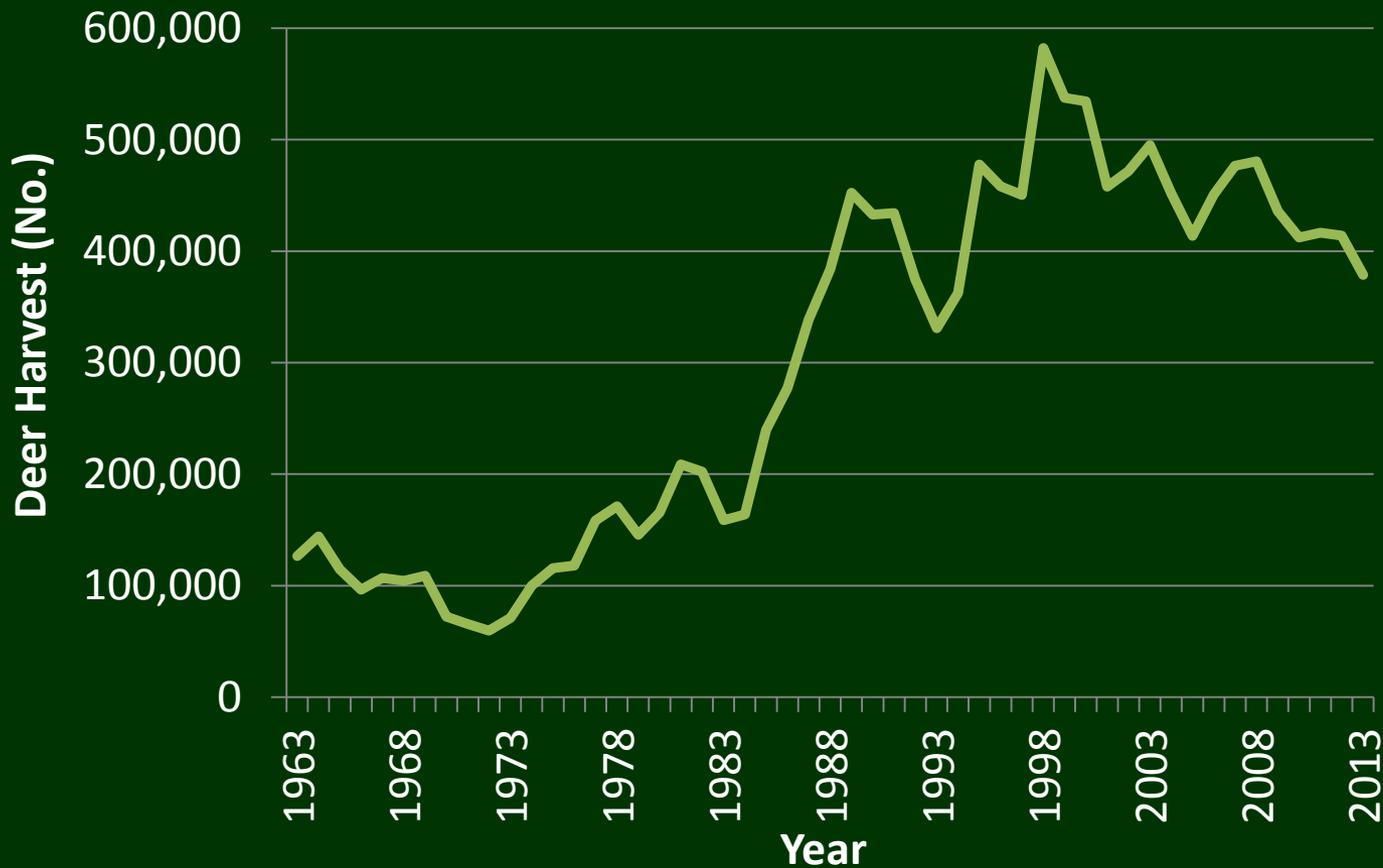
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Region	Number of hunters			Change (%) Between 2012 and 2013
	2011	2012	2013	
Statewide	648,127	654,122	661,788	1.2%*
Upper Peninsula (UP)	97,971	100,377	103,937	3.5%
Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP)	271,567	285,531	289,262	1.3%
Southern Lower Peninsula (SLP)	346,439	340,006	334,502	-1.6%

*Statistically significant change.



Estimated Number of Deer Harvested in Michigan, Long-term Trends (1963-2013)



Estimated Number of Deer Harvested in Michigan, 2011-2013, Summarized by Season & Type of Deer

Season or permit	Type of deer	2011	2012	2013	Change from 2012 to 2013
All Seasons	Antlerless	209,223	197,577	182,245	-8%*
	Antlered bucks	212,791	222,640	203,057	-9%*

^aDeer Management Assistance (DMA) permits. These permits could be used during any deer hunting season.

*Statistically significant change.



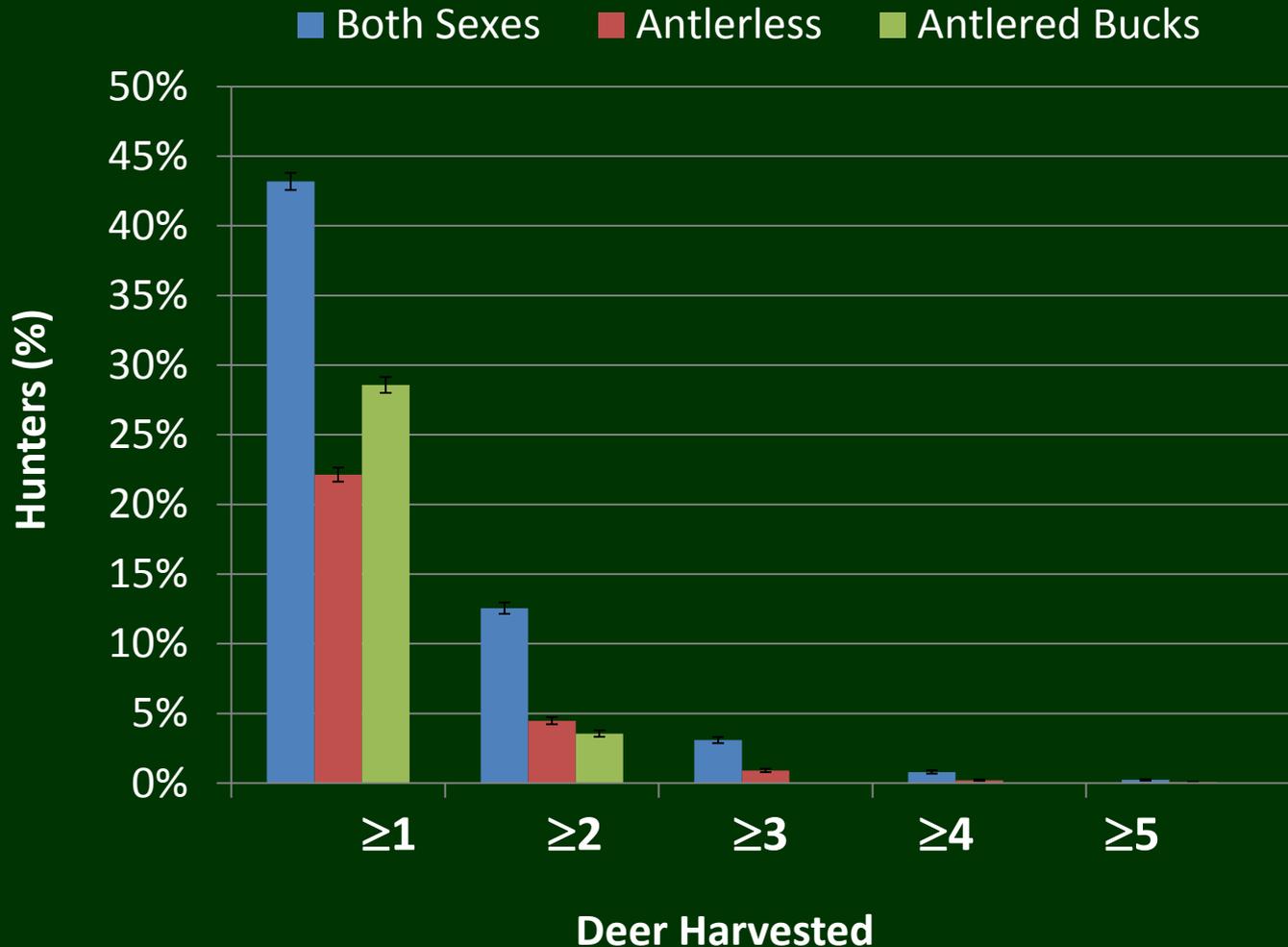
Estimated Number of Deer Harvested in Michigan, 2011-2013, Summarized by Season & Type of Deer

Season or permit	Type of deer	2011	2012	2013	Change from 2012 to 2013
All Seasons	Antlerless	203,930	191,364	175,737	-8%*
	Antlered bucks	212,791	222,640	203,057	-9%*
Archery	Antlerless	61,466	58,933	53,890	-9%
	Antlered bucks	70,148	68,348	62,933	-8%
Regular firearm	Antlerless	86,697	85,978	82,693	-4%
	Antlered bucks	127,373	137,280	125,625	-9%*
Muzzleloader	Antlerless	23,838	17,901	19,311	8%*
	Antlered bucks	10,418	9,034	9,020	0%
Early antlerless	Antlerless	10,892	6,045	5,820	-4%
Late antlerless	Antlerless	17,345	17,498	11,228	-36%*
Liberty (Youth)	Antlerless	2,736	4,846	2,696	-44%*
	Antlered bucks	4,634	7,857	5,285	-33%*
DMA permits ^a	Antlerless	5,293	6,213	6,508	5%

^aDeer Management Assistance (DMA) permits. These permits could be used during any deer hunting season.

*Statistically significant change.

Estimated Percentage of Hunters Harvesting a Deer in Michigan



Estimated Hunter Success During Michigan Deer Hunting Seasons, Summarized by Hunting Season, 2011-2013

Season	Hunter success (%)			Difference between 2012 and 2013
	2011	2012	2013	
Archery	34	33	31	-2*
Regular firearm	32	34	32	-2*
Muzzleloader	16	14	16	2*
Early firearm	29	21	18	-3*
Late firearm	19	22	19	-3*
Liberty	32	36	40	4*
All seasons	45	46	43	-3*

*Statistically significant change.



Estimated Hunter Success During the Michigan Deer Hunting Seasons, Summarized by Region, 2011-2013

Region	Hunter success (%)			Difference between 2012 and 2013
	2011	2012	2013	
Statewide	45	46	43	-3*

*Statistically significant change.



Estimated Hunter Success During the Michigan Deer Hunting Seasons, Summarized by Region, 2011-2013

Region	Hunter success (%)			Difference between 2012 and 2013
	2011	2012	2013	
Statewide	45	46	43	-3*
Upper Peninsula	38	42	34	-8*
Northern Lower Peninsula	38	40	38	-2*
Southern Lower Peninsula	46	45	44	-1

*Statistically significant change.



Proportion of hunters satisfied with the number of deer seen, deer harvested, and their overall deer hunting experience, 2012-2013

Satisfaction variable	2012	2013	Difference between 2012 and 2013
Number of deer seen	36	33	-3%*
Number of antlered deer (bucks) seen	25	22	-3%*
Overall deer hunting experience	47	45	-3%*
Number of deer harvested	32	29	-3%*

*Statistically significant change.



Estimated Proportion of Hunters Supporting the Antler Point Restrictions In the UP, Summarized by Hunt Area

Preferred Hunt Area	Level of support (%)		
	Support	Oppose	Not sure
Statewide	53	22	25
Upper Peninsula	59	30	11
Northern Lower Peninsula	51	23	26
Southern Lower Peninsula	53	18	28



Estimated Proportion of Hunters Supporting the Antler Point Restrictions In DMU 487, Summarized by Hunt Area

Preferred Hunt Area	Level of support (%)		
	Support	Oppose	Not sure
Statewide	45	20	35
Upper Peninsula	36	18	46
Northern Lower Peninsula	47	23	30
Southern Lower Peninsula	46	19	36



Estimated numbers of archers using a crossbow, hunter success, and deer harvested with a crossbow during 2013 archery season, summarized by region.

Region	Archers using crossbow		Hunter success	Deer harvested
	%	Total		
Statewide	50	162,728	32	58,772



Estimated numbers of archers using a crossbow, hunter success, and deer harvested with a crossbow during 2013 archery season, summarized by region.

Region	Archers using crossbow		Hunter success	Deer harvested
	%	Total		
Statewide	50	162,728	32	58,772
Upper Peninsula	54	14,586	31	4,820
Northern Lower Peninsula	54	58,311	32	19,991
Southern Lower Peninsula	47	76,761	33	28,977
Unknown	45	13,070	31	4,985



Statewide Overview

- Greater number of license buyers (2%) and greater number of harvest tags sold (1%)
- Greater number of hunters went afield (1%)
- Lower hunting success (43% versus 46%)
- Fewer deer harvested (8% decline)
- Lower satisfaction with the number of deer seen, the number of bucks seen, overall hunting experience, and deer harvested (all declined by 3 percentage points)



Statewide Overview

- 55% of hunters statewide and 58% of UP hunters supported UP buck harvest restrictions (slightly higher than last year)
- 45% of hunters statewide and 49% of NELP hunters supported DMU 487 buck harvest restrictions (slightly higher than last year)
- 50% of archers used a crossbow during the archery season, and they harvested 58,772 deer (archers using crossbows increased by 15% but their harvest was nearly unchanged)



Thank You

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2014 – 2016 Deer Regulations



Brent Rudolph, Deer and Elk Program Leader
Ashley Autenrieth, Deer Biologist
Wildlife Division
June 12, 2014



Deer Regulations Overview

- May 8th presentation corrections & update
- Feedback on deer management narratives
- 2014 – 2016 quota recommendations

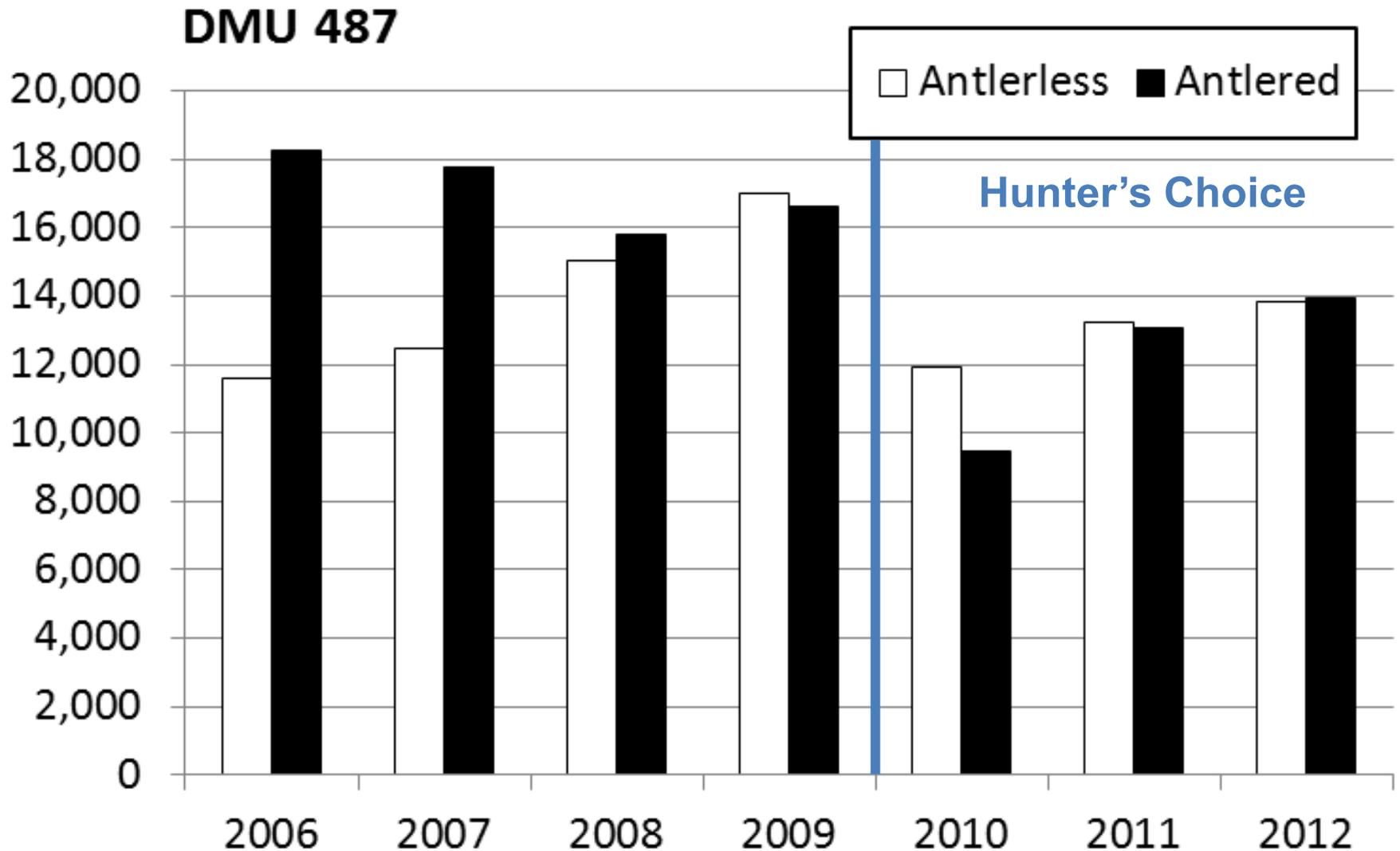


UP Hunter's Choice General Public Input (Corrected)

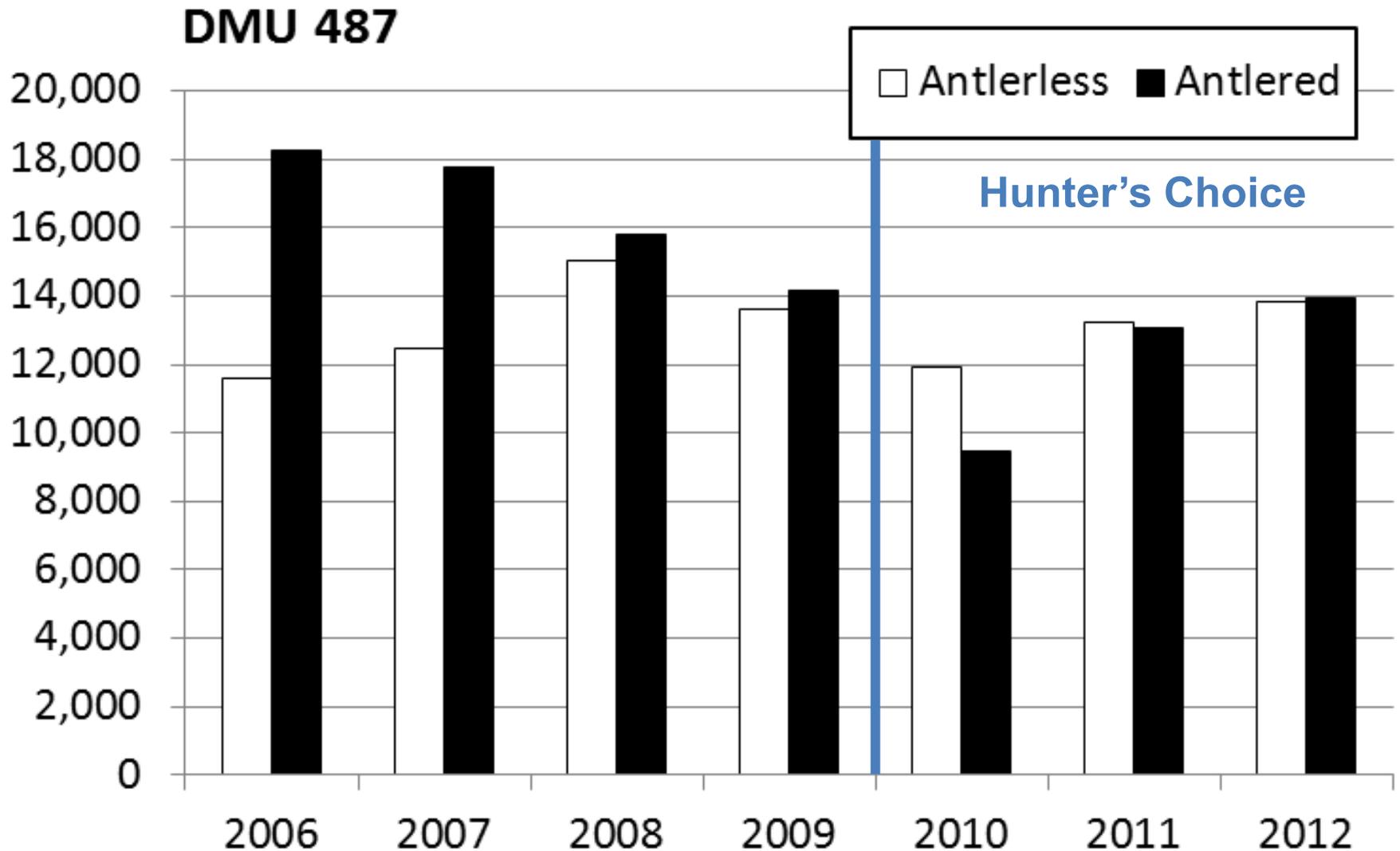
Open House Location	2 Pt APR	3 Pt APR	(HC w/single tag modif)	(pre-2008)	Other
All Combined (217)	16	27	63	68	43
Sault Ste Marie	3	3	4	8	2
Ironwood	4	1	12	5	6
Iron Mountain	3	15	11	13	12
Marquette	2	2	8	5	4
Munising	3	0	13	5	4
Baraga	0	1	8	8	3
Newberry	0	4	2	3	4
Escanaba	1	1	5	21	8



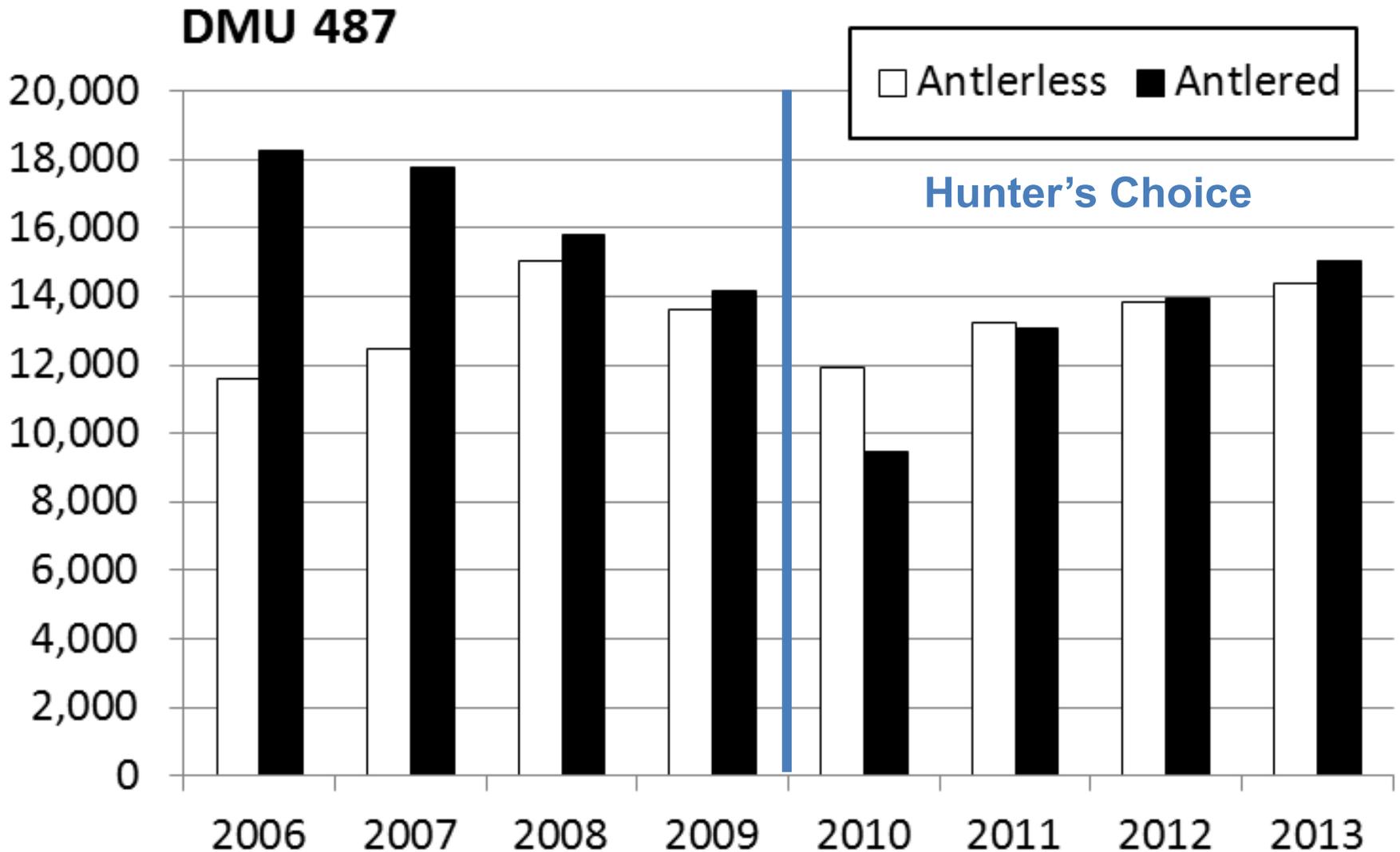
Deer Harvest: DMU 487



Deer Harvest: DMU 487 (CORRECTED)



Deer Harvest: DMU 487 (CORRECTED & UPDATED)



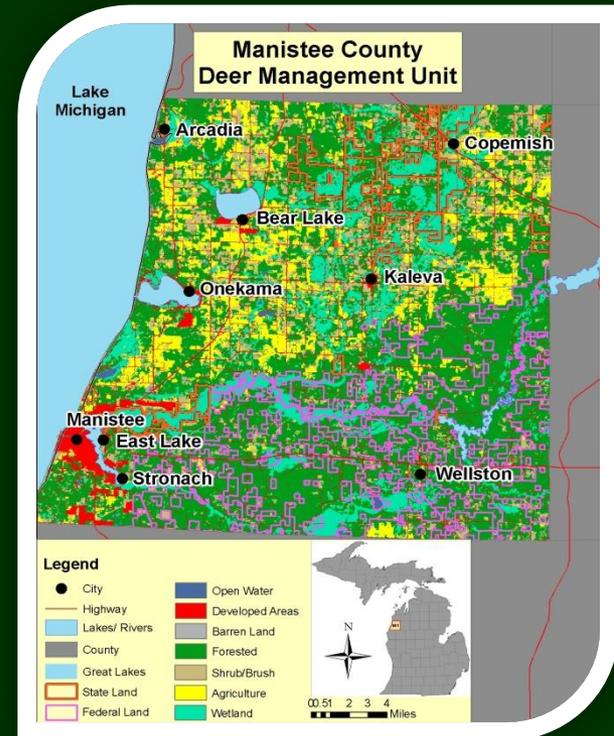
Deer Management Narratives

- Document prepared for each DMU
- Field staff preparation with support from deer program staff
- Generally consistent format with some variation by Management Region



DMU Narratives

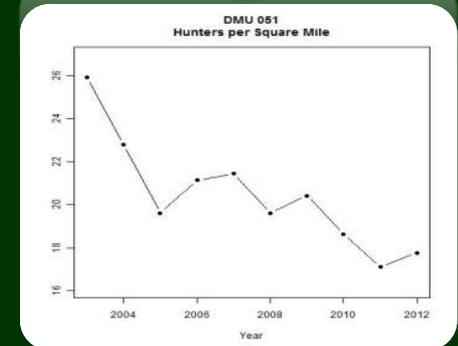
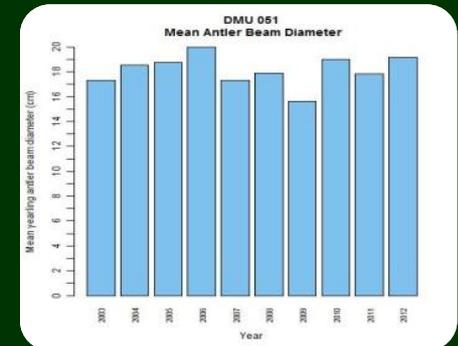
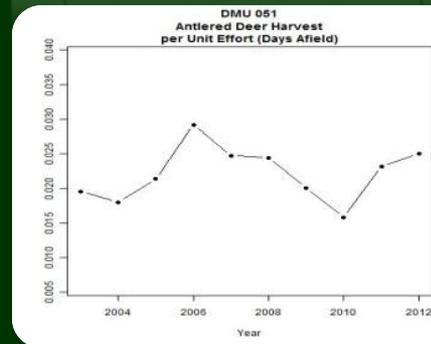
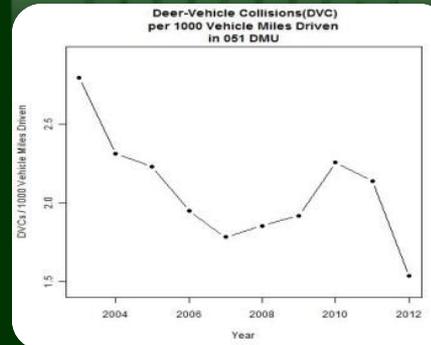
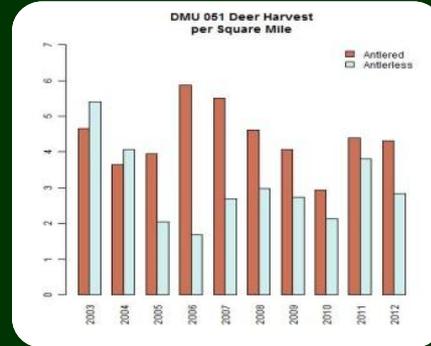
- Summaries of each Deer Management Unit in Michigan
 - Habitat maps
 - Area Descriptions
 - Management Guidance
 - Population Indicators-
 - 10 year trends
 - Management Recommendations
- Goal: to summarize how biologists make informed antlerless quota recommendations



DMU Narratives

Population Indicators:

- Harvest Estimates
- Antler Beam Diameters
- Deer Vehicle Collisions
- Hunter Numbers
- Antlered Deer Harvest per Unit Effort



Quota Recommendations

- Upper Peninsula: Decrease quota 70%
 - Close all but 3 of 22 DMUs (June Action)
- Northern Lower Peninsula: Decrease quota 3%
 - Decrease 16 public & 9 private quotas
 - Increase 1 public & 4 private quotas
- Southern Lower Peninsula: Decrease quota 10%
 - Decrease 7 public & 9 private quotas (including new DMU)
 - Increase 1 public quota



Recent Regional Harvest and Quotas

Upper Peninsula

	2012	2013	CHANGE
Buck Harvest	35,966	28,907	-19.6%*
Antlerless Harvest	13,482	11,325	-16.0%
Antlerless Quotas	27,150	23,300	-14.2%

* Statistically significant change.



Population Trend and Management Needs

Upper Peninsula

- Winter of 2013-14 resulted in high snow depths and harsh winter conditions
- Expected low over-winter survival & productivity
- Regionally, recommendations decrease:
 - Private land quota to 7,000 (18,800 in 2013)
 - No public land quota (4,500 in 2013)



Recent Regional Harvest and Quotas

Northern Lower Peninsula

	2012	2013	CHANGE
Buck Harvest	79,571	70,734	-11.1%*
Antlerless Harvest	67,291	66,912	-0.6%
Antlerless Quotas	127,900	155,000	+21.2%

* Statistically significant change.



Population Trend and Management Needs

Northern Lower Peninsula

- Across the NLP, impacts of winter will vary depending on local conditions.
 - “Snow belt” will see greater declines
- Regionally, recommendations decrease:
 - Private land quota to 117,900 (119,100 in 2013)
 - Public land quota to 32,300 (35,900 in 2013)
- Increases recommended in Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Osceola
 - 1,900 additional licenses



Recent Regional Harvest and Quotas

Southern Lower Peninsula

	2012	2013	CHANGE
Buck Harvest	107,103	103,416	-3.4%
Antlerless Harvest	110,591	97,499	-11.8%*
Antlerless Quotas	553,600	375,650	-32.1%

* Statistically significant change.



Antlerless License Proposed Changes

Southern Lower Peninsula

- Decreased or stabilized deer population trends over past decade
- Repeated EHD outbreaks (widespread in 2012)
- Recommend reducing quotas, particularly in SWR, to stabilize or slow decline
- Regionally, recommendations reduce:
 - Private land quota to 310,100 (345,500 in 2013)
 - Public land quota to 27,600 (30,150 in 2013)



2014 – 2016 Recommendations

- All recommendations intended to stabilize regulations
- May 2015: notification of any recommended 2015 quota changes
- 2017 – 2019 DMU narrative updates and complete regulations recommendations



Thank You



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