

# Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on  
Wildlife & Fisheries

May 8, 2014



# Proposed Orders

- NRC – For Information
  - 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
  - Fisheries Multi-Year Regulations
- Wildlife Division Update
  - Cormorant Report
  - Furbearer Regulations
  - Deer Regulations





**Fisheries Division  
Update  
May 8, 2014  
Jim Dexter, Chief**



**Department  
of  
Natural  
Resources**

# Resource Accolades

- B.A.S.S. top 100
  - Gr. Traverse Bay
  - Lake St. Clair
  - Burt Lake
  - Thunder Bay Lake Huron
  - Mullet Lake
  - Lake Charlevoix



# Crucial Conversations

- Bass regulations



# Thank you!

[www.michigan.gov/fishing](http://www.michigan.gov/fishing)





# Department of Natural Resources

## **Fisheries Order Consolidation & Regulation Cycle**

**May 8, 2014  
Nick Popoff  
Fisheries Division**

# Fisheries Orders

- 32 Separate Fisheries Orders
  - About 200 pages of regulations
- Division Review
  - Content and Organization
  - Clean-up
  - Move non-regulatory to Policy



# Fisheries Conservation Order

- Develop Definitions
  - Bag Limit, Harvest, etc.
- Chapters with numbered sub-chapters – similar to WCO
- Improved organization with Chapter structure



# Fisheries Conservation Order (FCO)

- Chapter 1 – General Provisions
  - Title, Definitions
- Chapter 2 – Species Specific
  - Steelhead, trout, bass
- Chapter 3 – Geographical
  - closures, research areas
- Chapter 4 – Gear and Bait
  - Hook restrictions



# FCO Status

- Collaboration with LED and Legislative and Legal Affairs Office
  - Definitions, edit, and finalize
- Move non-regulatory to Policy
- Draft FCO for review in July
- Regulation Cycle begins in August



# Regulation Cycle

- Two year Fishing Digest – 2015 & 2016

2014

- Regulations-Info/Action in Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov.

2015

- Review FCO
- ASRA assign sections
- NRC consult
- Advisory, public...

2016

- Regulation-Info/Action in Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov.



# Special Situations

- Shared Resources
  - Lake Erie Walleye
  - Treaty Area Lake Trout
- Emergencies
  - Betsie River Closure



# Thank you!

[www.michigan.gov/fishing](http://www.michigan.gov/fishing)





# Wildlife Chief Update

---

**Russ Mason, Chief  
Wildlife Division  
May 8, 2014**

# Updates

- On-the-Ground Initiative
- Operation Freedom Outdoors
- Prescribed Burning on SGAs
- MAFWA Private Lands Conference
- NLP Newsletter



# Spring Turkey Season

- Feedback and reports show turkeys fared harsh winter reasonably well



# LEAN Crop Damage Permit Procedures

- Common permit documents
- Reduced processing time
- Streamlined reporting
- Fast-tracked renewals
- Order for Information in June
  - Firearm use during archery season



# Thank You

---

[www.michigan.gov/wildlife](http://www.michigan.gov/wildlife)



# Double-crested Cormorant Management Status in Michigan

Karen T. Cleveland  
All-Bird Biologist  
May 8, 2014



# Public Resource Depredation Order

- Created in 2003, expires June 2014
- Allows take to address damage to public resources
  - Public fisheries
  - Vegetation on public lands
  - Impacts on wildlife
- Restrictions on authorized agencies and amount of take



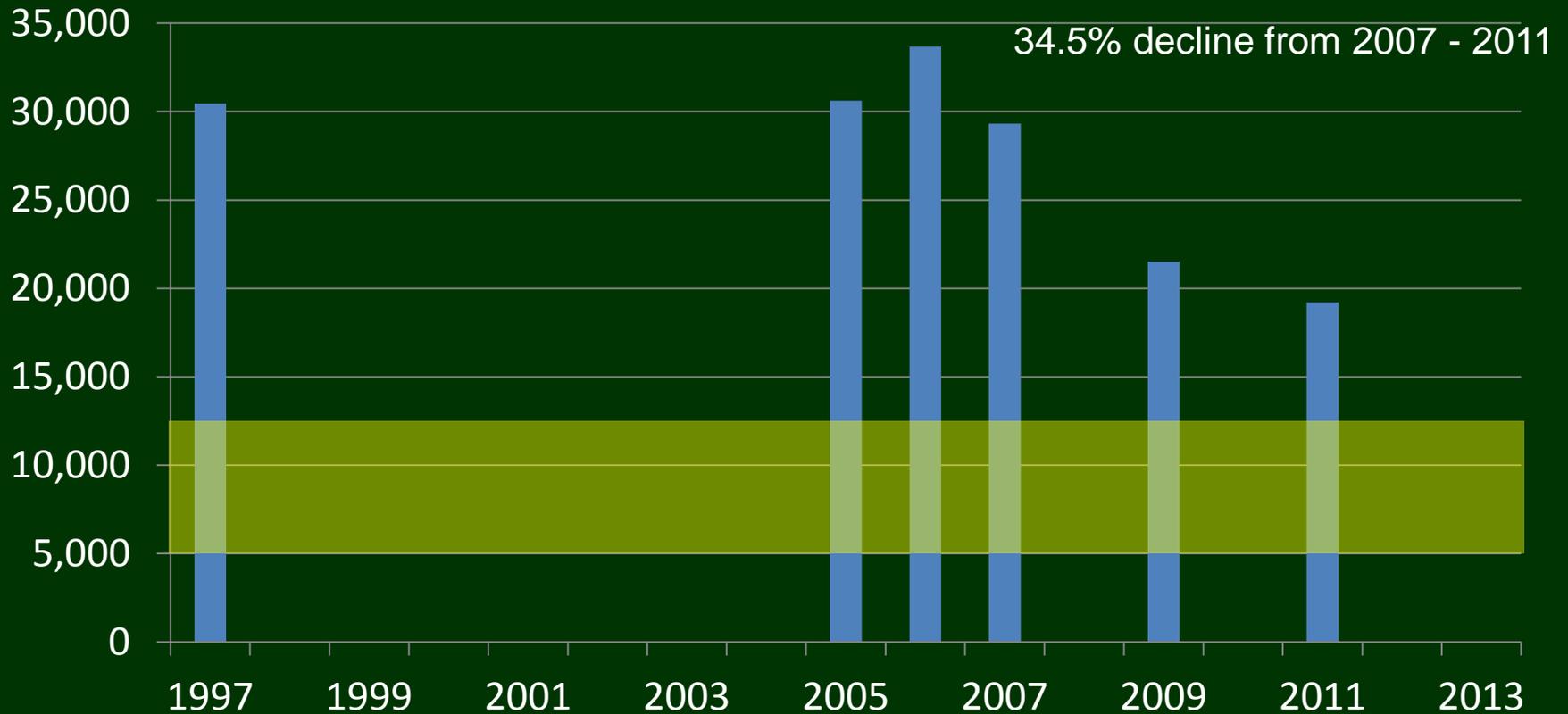
# Michigan Interagency Cormorant Coordination Group

- Agencies authorized to manage cormorants
  - Department of Natural Resources
  - U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - State Tribal representatives
    - Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority
    - Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
    - Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
    - Bay Mills Indian Community



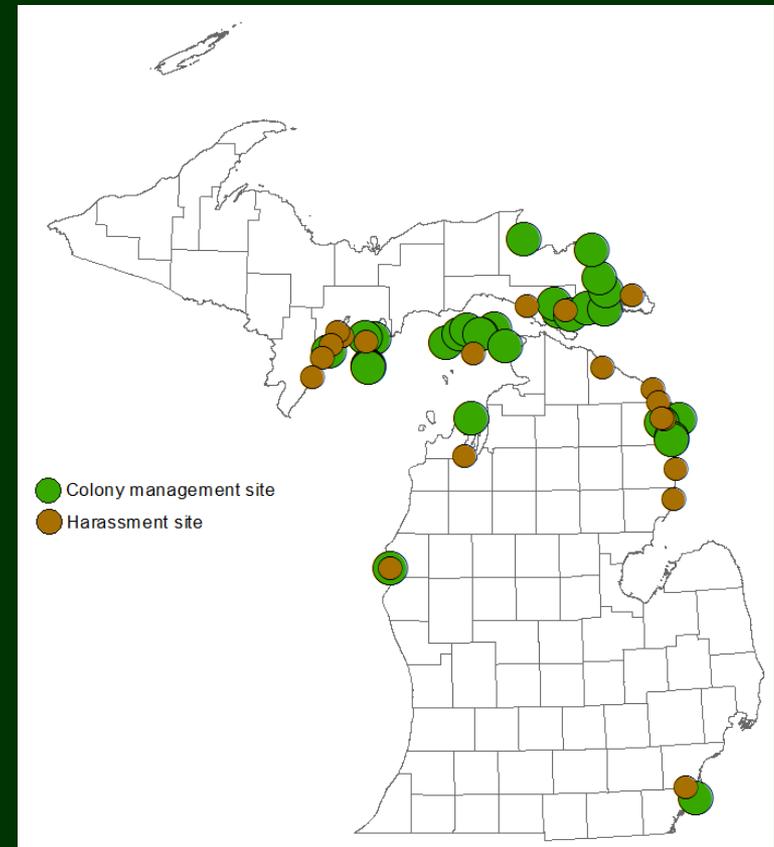
# Population Trends

## Nest count



# 2013 Management Actions

- Colony management
  - 7,520 birds killed
  - 1,167 nests oiled or destroyed
- Harassment
  - 2,646 birds killed



# 2014 Anticipated Activities

- Recommendations include
  - Continuation of 2013 projects
  - Maintenance of reduced breeding colony size in Les Cheneaux Islands and Ludington Pumped Storage Facility
  - Further reduction of breeding colony size at Thunder Bay, Beaver Island Archipelago, and Bays de Noc
  - Protection of black-crowned night-herons at Pte. Mouillee SGA
  - Protection of spawning and stocked fish
  - Diet study in Saginaw Bay
  - Protection of herons and egrets at Crow Island SGA



# National EIS Review

- Final Environmental Impact Statement drafted in 2003
- EIS currently under review
- Deadline will likely be extended and current regulations stay in place until review is complete



# Thank You



---

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)



# Furbearer Regulations

Adam Bump  
Bear & Furbearer Specialist  
May 8, 2014



# Regulatory Cycle

- Beginning this cycle, reviewed on even years
- Resolve timing issues with bear information and the bear management process
- Two topics reviewed



# Live Traps

- Request to expand the use of cage traps
- No significant social or biological concerns
- “Live Traps” to “Live-Restraining Cage Traps”
- Propose use in season regardless of distance from dwellings



# Beaver Dams



# Looking Forward

## (Potential Discussion Items)

- Dogs:
  - Have state-land available for dog events
  - Dog training facilities
- Raccoons:
  - Flybait (illegal to use to poison)
  - Increase season to any open water season
- Badger
  - Expand season and require kill tag
- Beaver and Otter
  - Possible changes after review of riparian issues.
- Beavers
  - Remove restrictions
  - Use of dog proof traps on beaver dams and lodges above water level
- Otters
  - Increase bag limit in UP (EUP)
  - Increase bag limit in LP
- Mink / Colony Traps
  - Snaring
  - Allow incidental take of mink in colony traps (limited number?)
  - Legalize floating colony traps
- Fisher
  - Open season for Drummond Island
  - Combined bag limit of 2 for fisher/marten



# Looking Forward

## (Potential Discussion Items)

- Bobcat
  - Equity of existing season
  - Same season as hunting (length and access)
  - Lower limit to 1 statewide
  - Allow incidental bobcat to be retained by trappers in Oct-Nov
- Other:
  - Use incidental pelts for educational purposes and put up fur to raise money for educational purposes
  - 48 hour check possible for Lower Peninsula
  - Quota systems for limited take species
  - Cable restraints
  - Increase opportunities for cage traps
  - Limit purchase of licenses to Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Include trapping of wolves



# Thank You

---

[www.michigan.gov/wildlife](http://www.michigan.gov/wildlife)



# Deer Regulations: Open/Closed DMU...

**Brent Rudolph**  
Deer and Elk Program Leader

**Ashley Autenrieth**  
Deer Biologist

**May 8, 2014**



# Deer Regulations: 2014 – 2016

- Deer Management Unit (DMU) Boundary Changes
- Antlerless Licenses Open/Closed Status
- Early and Late Antlerless Seasons
- Muzzleloader Season Dates
- “Hunter’s Choice” Regulations
- Deer Baiting and Feeding



# Deer Regulations: 2014 – 2016

- Shotgun, Handgun, Black-powder Firearms Only Area
- Elimination of Crossbow Stamp
- APR Applicability to Hunters with Disabilities
- Pure Michigan Hunt Transfers



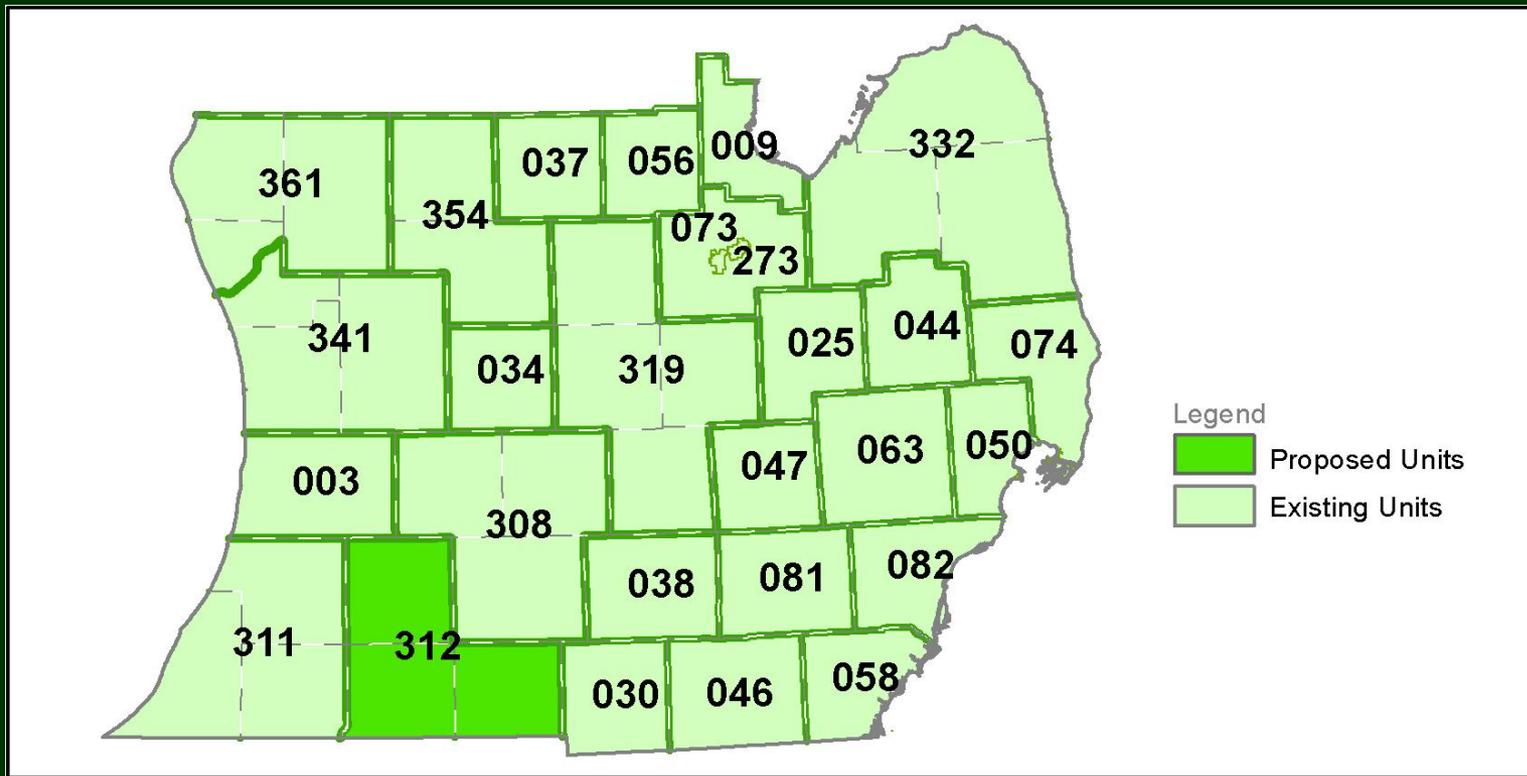
# Deer Management Narratives

- Document prepared for each DMU
- Habitat maps and summaries
- Multi-year figure for key indices: status of deer and management issues
- Field staff preparation with support from deer program staff



# DMU Boundary Change

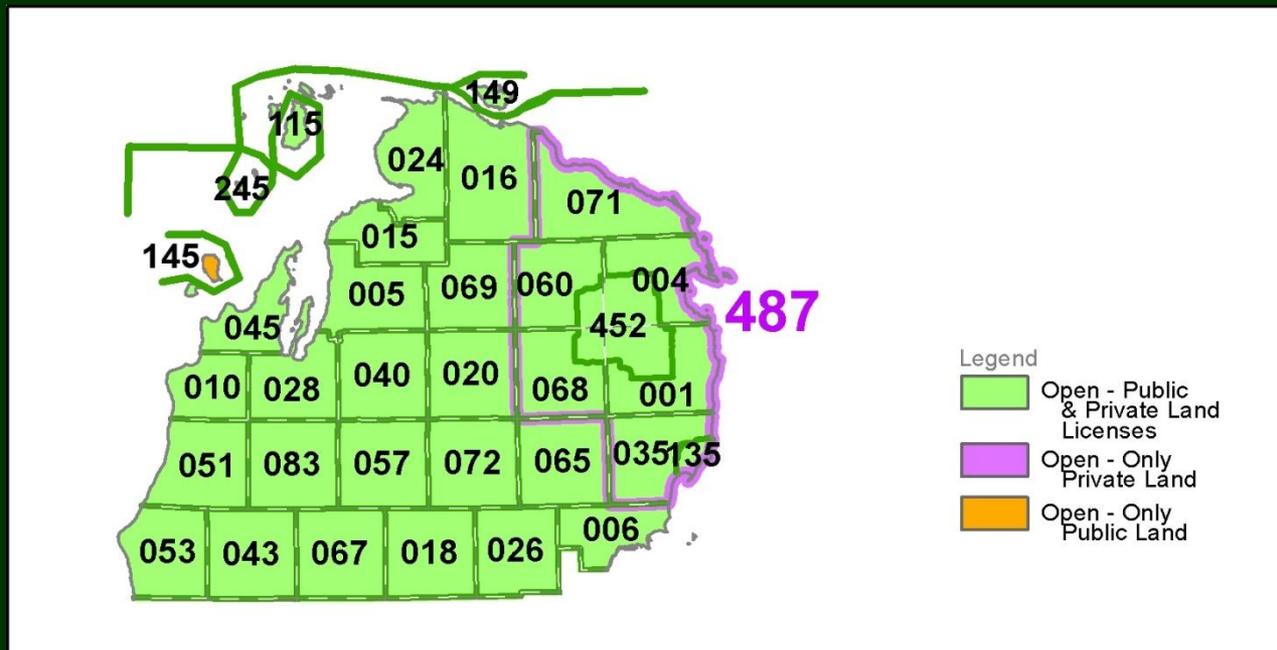
- 312 (Sherwood Unit – Branch, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties).





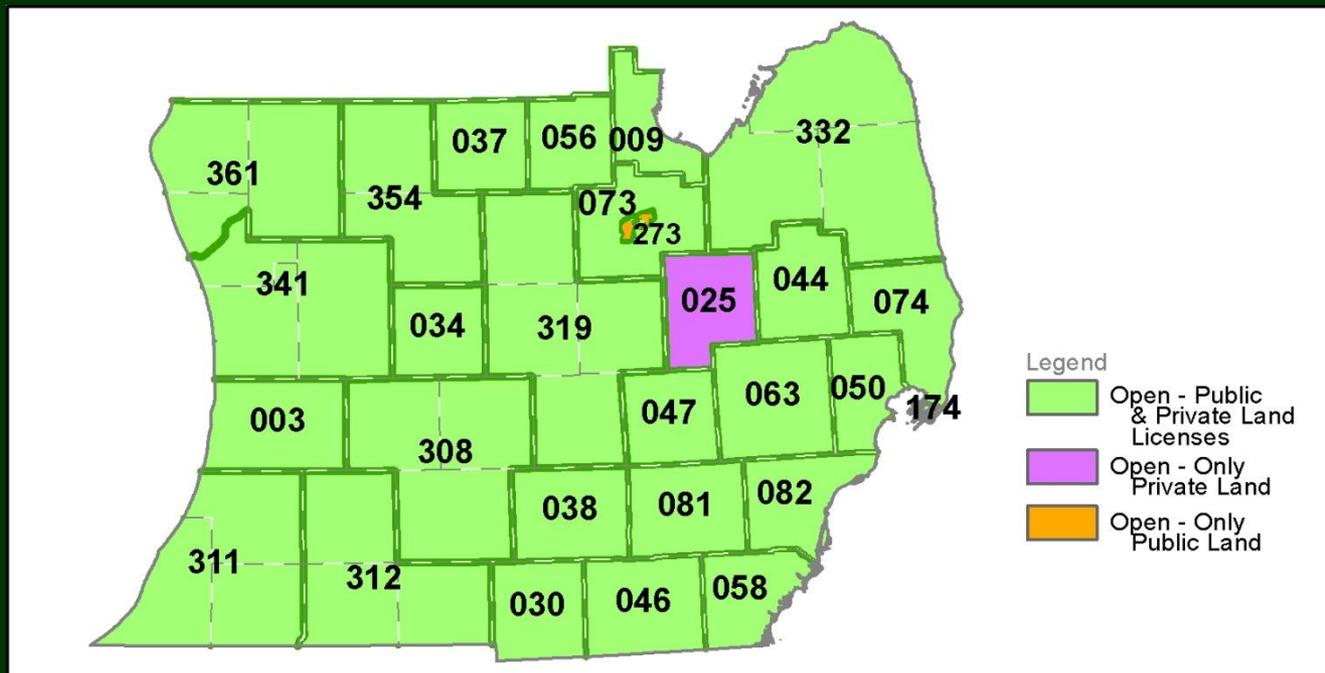
# NLP Recommended Antlerless License Status (2014-2016)

- All units open on private and public land
  - Exceptions:
    - 145 (North Manitou Island) Closed on private
    - 487, public land licenses through 001, 004, 035, 060, 068, 071, 135, 452

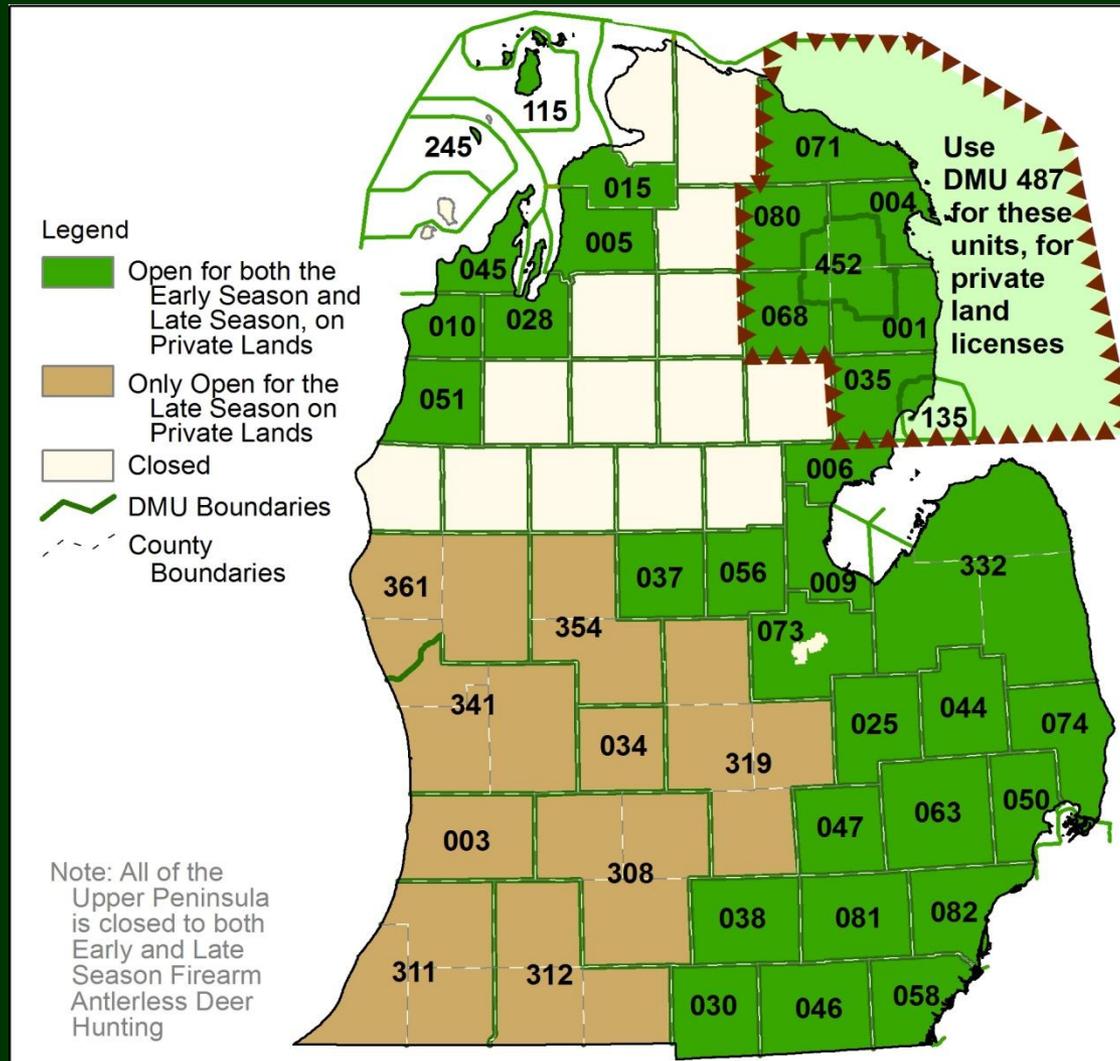


# SLP Recommended Antlerless License Status (2014-2016)

- All units open on private and public land
  - Exception: 025 (Genesee County); no public land available



# Areas Open for Early and/or Late Antlerless Seasons



# Muzzle-loading and Black-Powder Firearms only Season

- Uniform opening dates in all Hunting and Trapping Zones
- Zone 3 (southern Lower Peninsula) continue to remain open longer than other Zones



# UP and DMU 487 “Hunter’s Choice” regulations

The Department has prepared two options for NRC consideration:

- Retaining the “Hunter’s Choice” regulations
- Removing restrictions and returning to prior regulations



# UP “Hunter’s Choice” Evaluation

- Some protection of yearling cohorts may be occurring
- Winter severity has complicated assessment
- Number of UP license purchasers has been stable
  - ~5,500 fewer tags sold in years since adoption
  - (\$82,500/year)
- Support for “Hunter’s Choice” has been stable (53-59%)



# UP Deer Advisory Team Input

Organization	(One Buck)	(2 Pt APR)	(3 Pt APR)	(HC as-is)	(HC w/single tag modif)	(pre-2008)
Eastern UPCAC					1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	
Hiawatha Sportsmans Club				1 <sup>st</sup> Choice		
At Large Member (Luce County)					1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	
UP Whitetails Assoc Inc				1 <sup>st</sup> Choice		
Northwoods Chapter SCI				2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice		1 <sup>st</sup> Choice
Wildlife Unlimited of Dickinson County				1 <sup>st</sup> Choice		
Western UPAC				1 <sup>st</sup> Choice		
UP Sportsmens Alliance				1 <sup>st</sup> Choice		
MI Crossbow Federation				1 <sup>st</sup> Choice		
At-Large Member (Delta County)				1 <sup>st</sup> Choice		
At-Large member (Baraga County)						1 <sup>st</sup> Choice



# General Public Input

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



# DMU 487 Regulations

---

- Antlerless deer: firearm hunters use any license
- Antlered deer: min 3 antler points OR 1 buck
  - shift harvest pressure from young bucks to antlerless deer (to reduce the population)
  - do not constrain harvest of older bucks (more likely to be TB positive)
- Assessments will consider:
  - Short-term success: increasing antlerless deer harvest over last 4 seasons?
  - Long-term success: decreasing TB prevalence, population size?

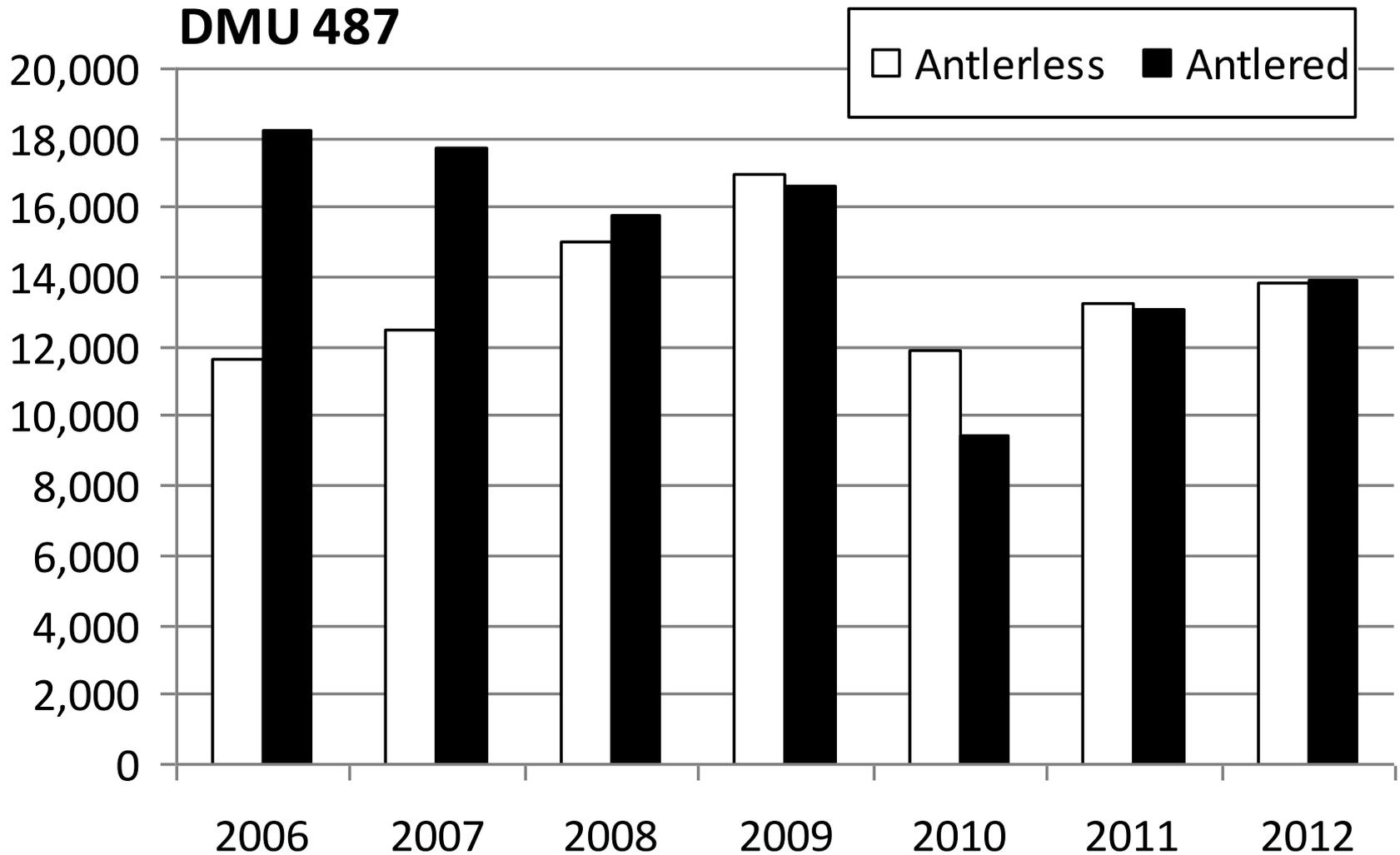


# DMU 487 “Hunter’s Choice” Evaluation

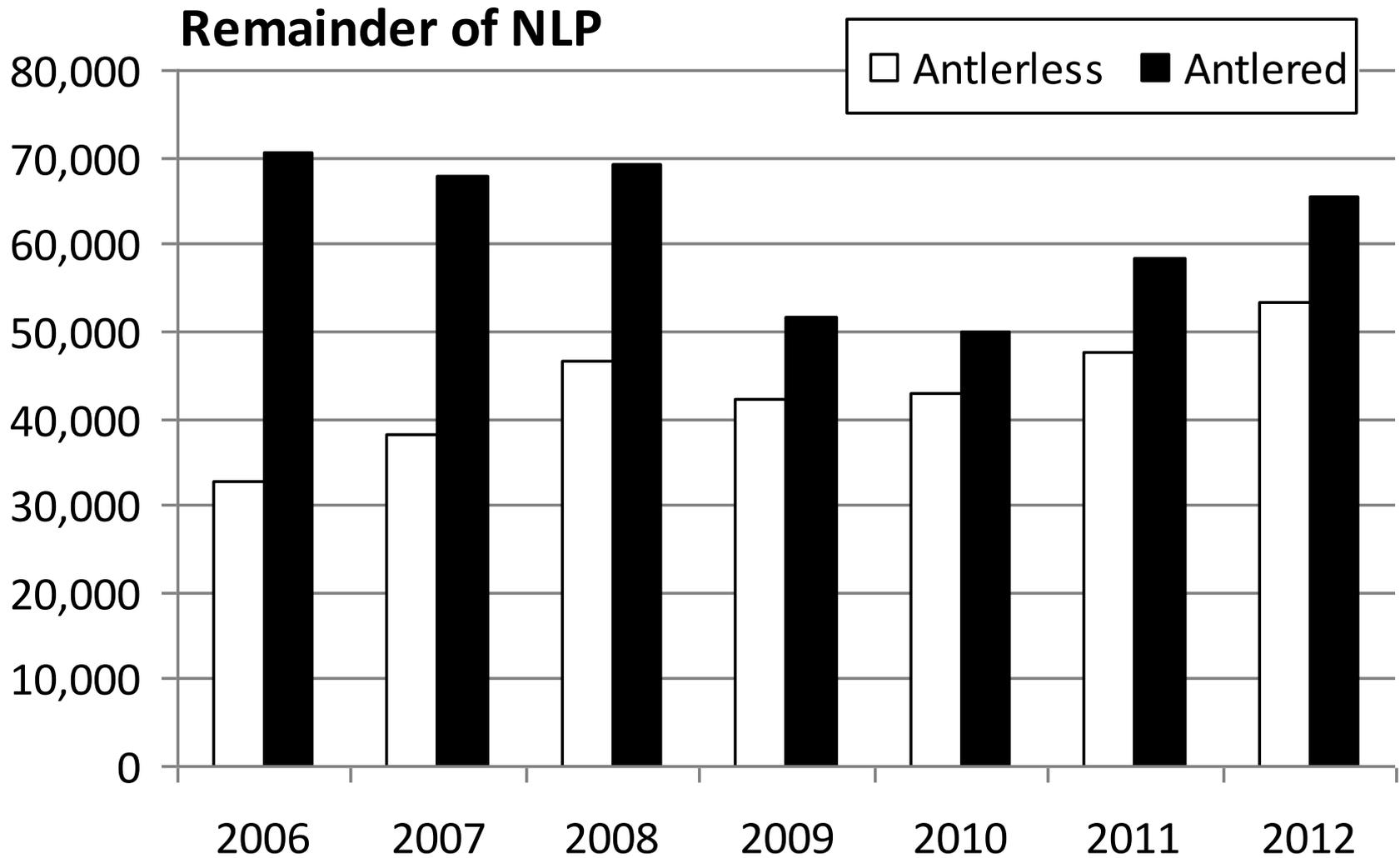
- Harvest declined in 2010, increased afterwards
- Elsewhere in the Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP), harvest was stable in 2010, increased afterwards
- Support for regulations has increased, but is <50%



# Deer Harvest: DMU 487



# Deer Harvest: Remainder of NLP



# Deer Baiting and Feeding

- Current baiting and feeding regulations expire on June 9, 2014. The Department Recommends:
  - Retaining current baiting and feeding conditions
  - Continuing deer baiting prohibition in Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties.
  - Continuing deer and elk feeding prohibition in DMU 487.
  - Changing the opening date for legal baiting from October 1 to September 15



# Shotgun, Handgun, Black-powder Firearms Only Area

- Allow for the use of .35 caliber or larger rifles capable of using certain traditional pistol cartridges. Straight-walled cartridges have a minimum case length of 1.16 inches and a maximum case length of 1.80 inches
- Allow for the use of a .35 caliber or larger air rifle or pistol charged only from an external high compression power source (external hand pump, air tank, or air compressor)
- Renaming the “Shotgun, Handgun, Black-powder Firearms Only Area” as the “Limited Firearm Deer Zone”



# Crossbow Stamp Technical Change

- Remove requirement for a free stamp to hunt with a crossbow
- Stamp has proven ineffective at tracking participation
- Reliable crossbow participation and harvest estimates available through harvest surveys



# APR Applicability to Hunters with Disabilities

- Remove antler point restrictions for participants during Liberty Hunt and Independence Hunt regardless of DMU



# Pure Michigan Hunt Transfers

- Recommend creating a hunt transfer opportunity for the Pure Michigan Hunt winners



# Thank You

---

[www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer)

