

# Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on  
Wildlife & Fisheries

December 10, 2015



# Proposed Orders

- For Information
  - None
- For Action
  - None



# NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
- Climate Change and Potential Effects on Michigan's Fisheries
- Chumming
- Wildlife Chief Update
- Preliminary Firearm Deer Season Results and CWD Update



# Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division

Chiefs Update

Jim Dexter

December 10, 2015



# Another State Record!

- Greg Gasciel
- 9.33 pounds, 24.5 inches
- Hubbard Lake, Alcona Co.



- RV Tanner build
- Lake Erie Recruitment
  - Walleye ↑
  - Yellow Perch ↑



Thank you!

Questions?



# Climate Change and Potential Effects on Michigan Fisheries

Natural Resource Commission Meeting

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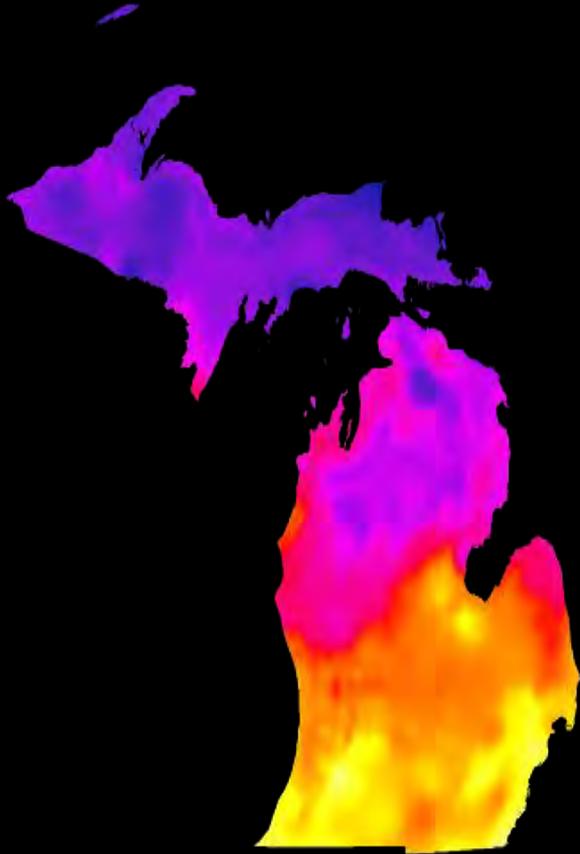
Lansing



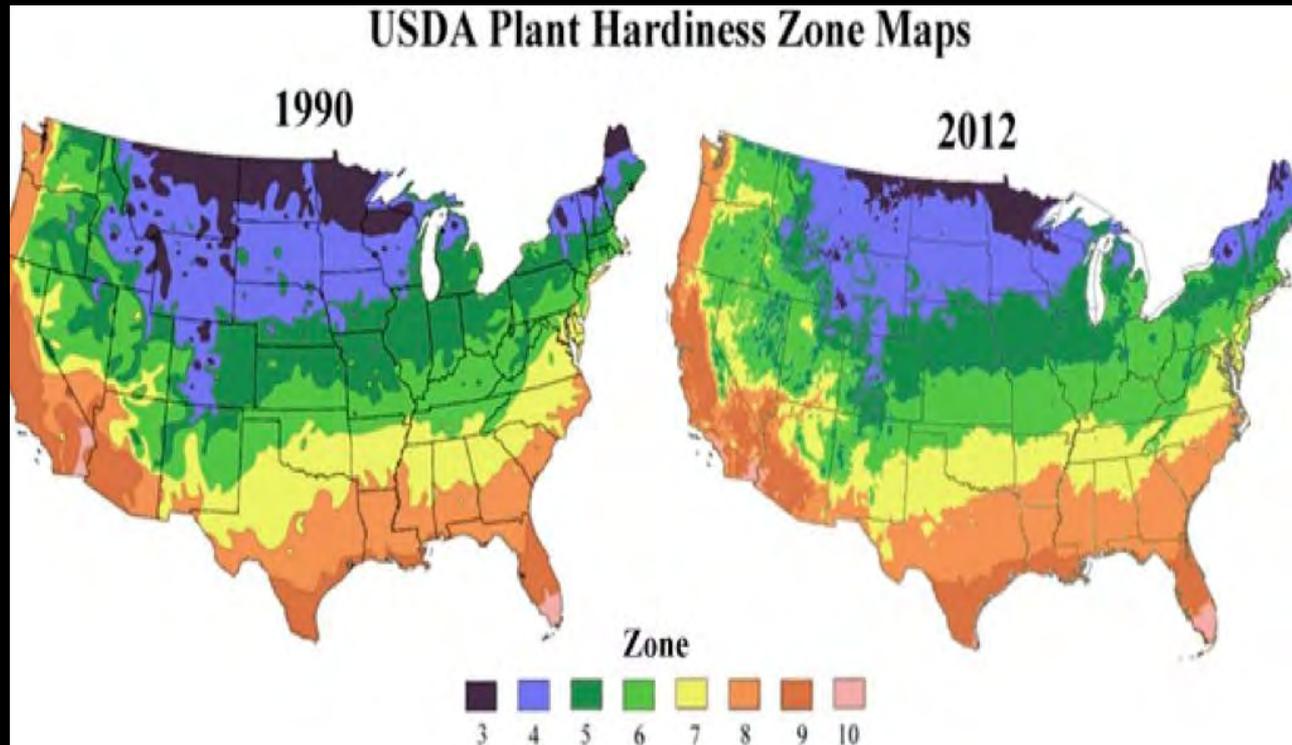
Kevin Wehrly

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

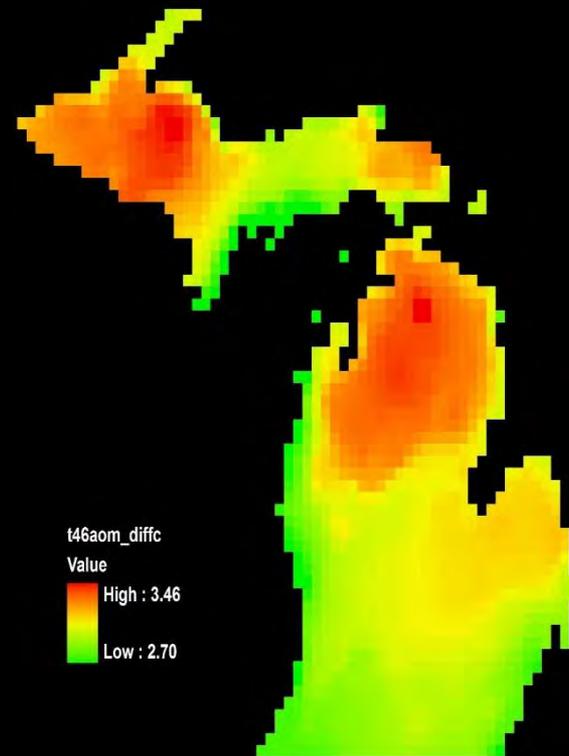
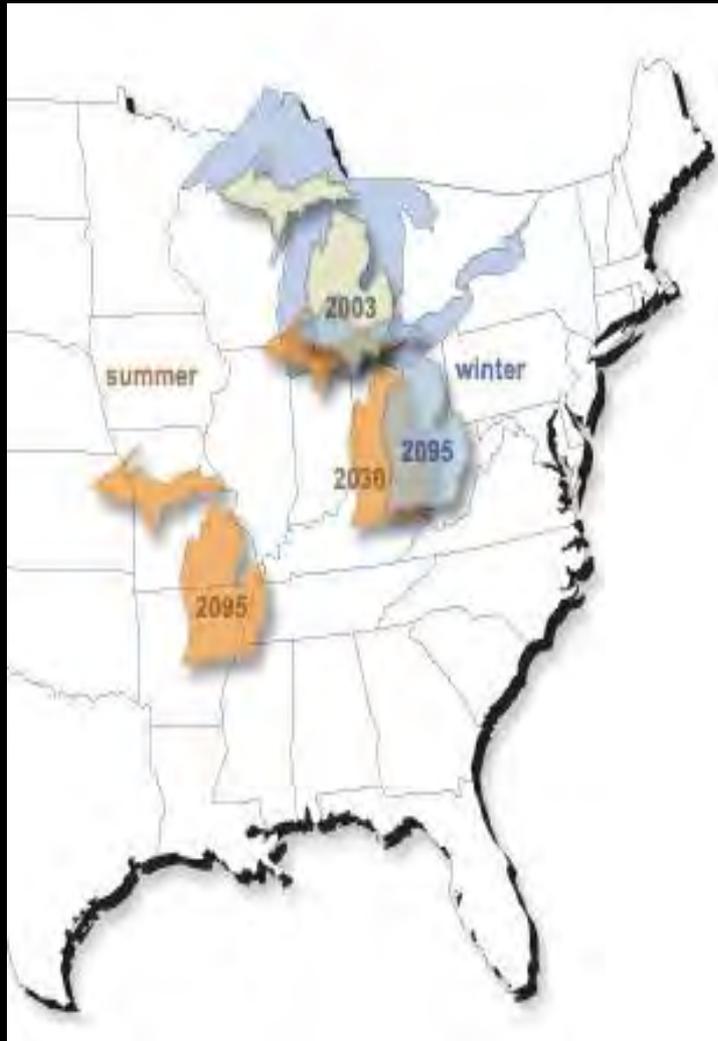
# Climate and Fishes



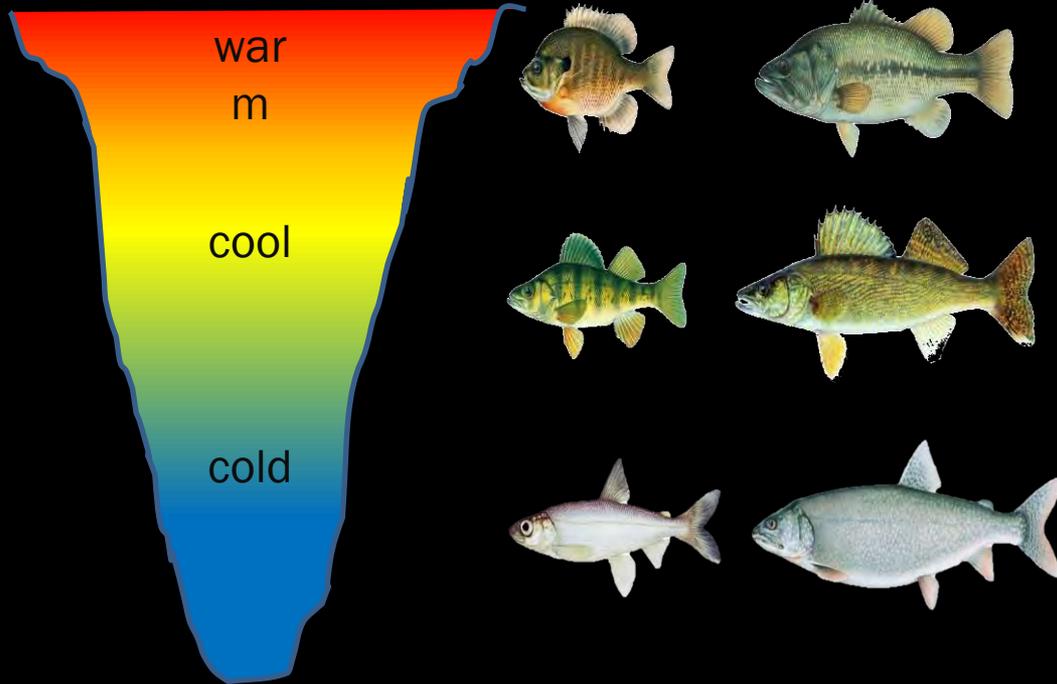
# Recent Climate Change



# Future Climate Change

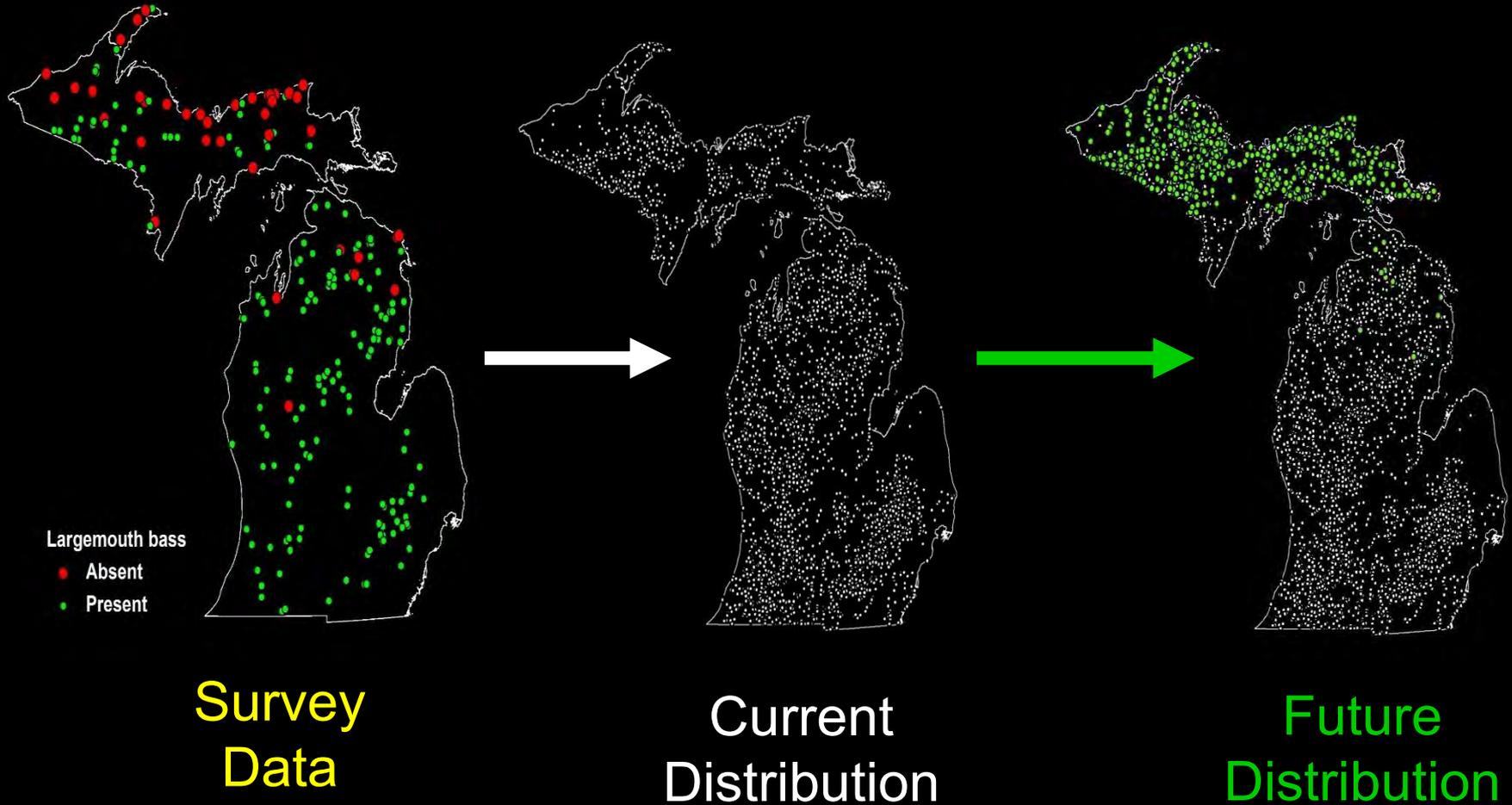


# Potential Effects



- Habitat suitability
- Growth
- Spawning
- Ice cover

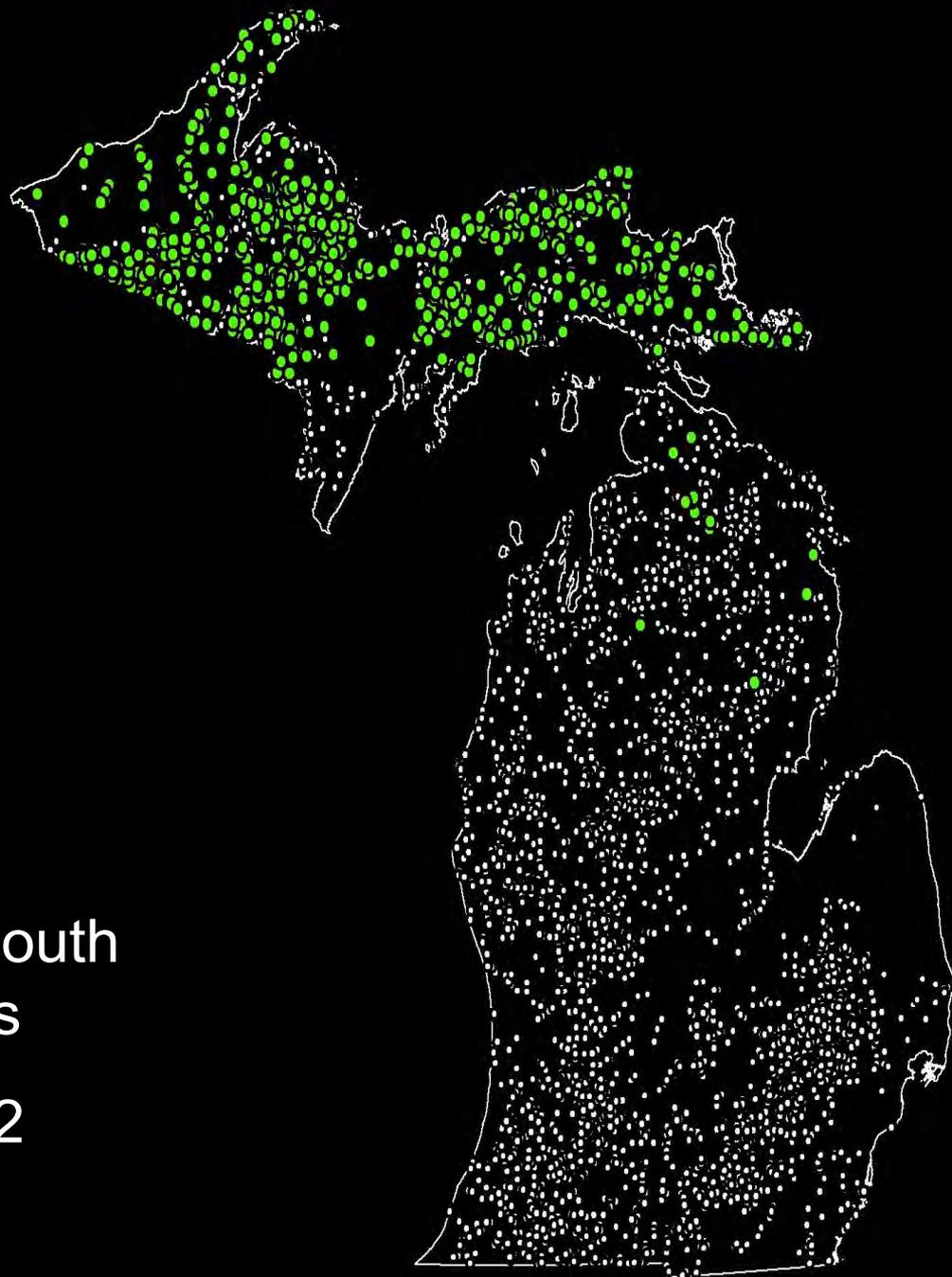
# Estimating Future Climate Effects



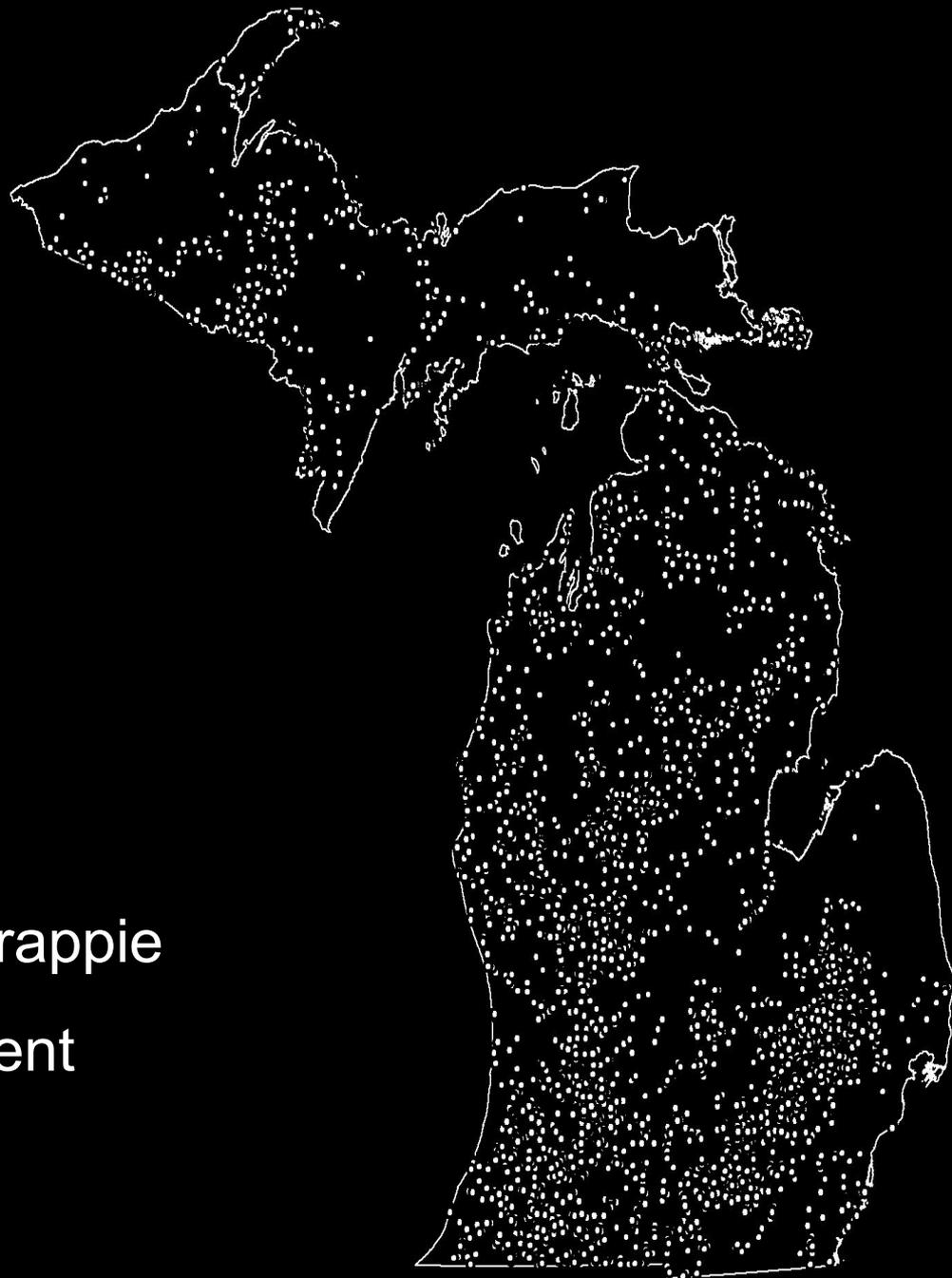
Largemouth  
bass  
Current



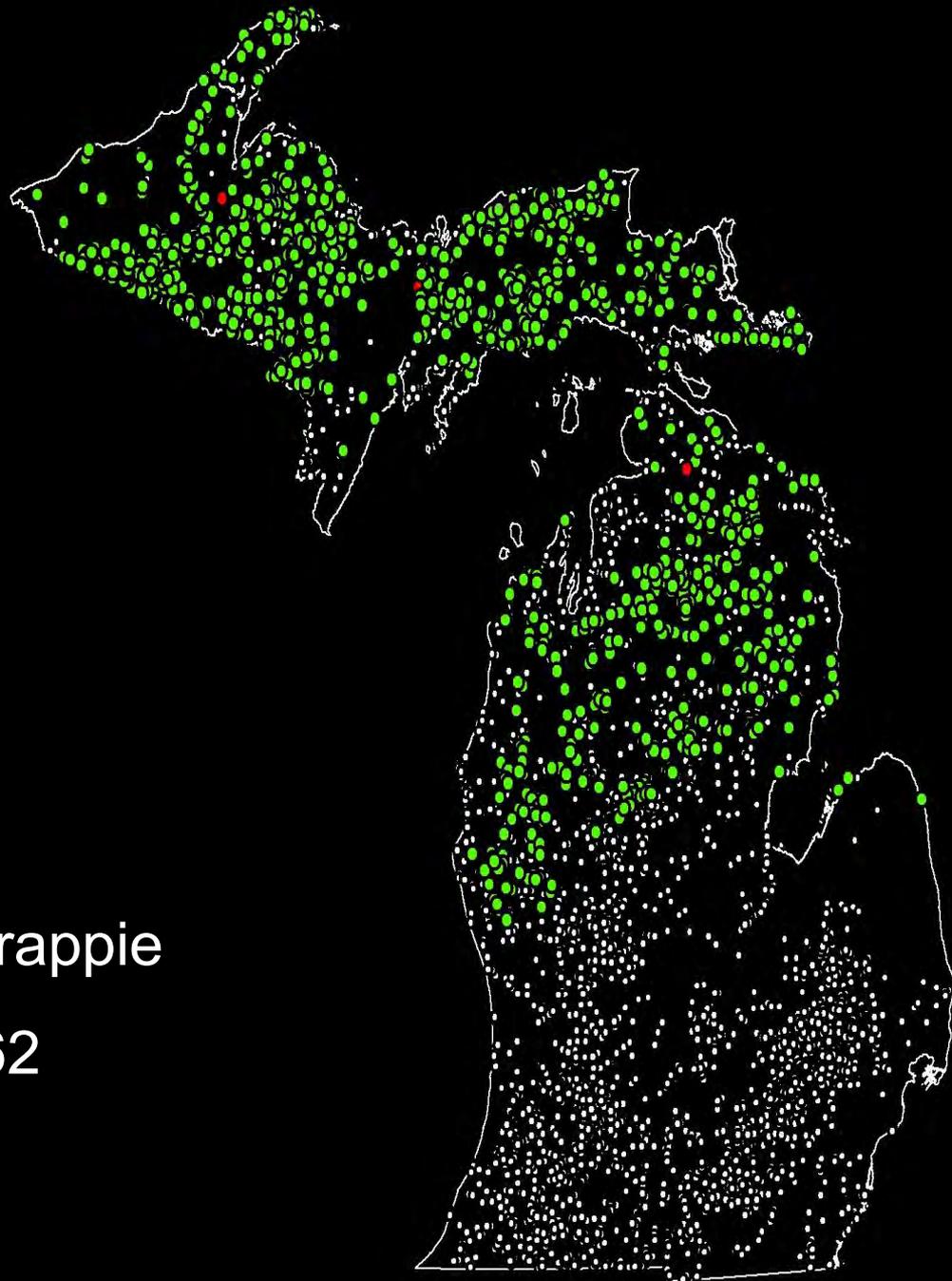
Largemouth  
bass  
2062



Black Crappie  
Current



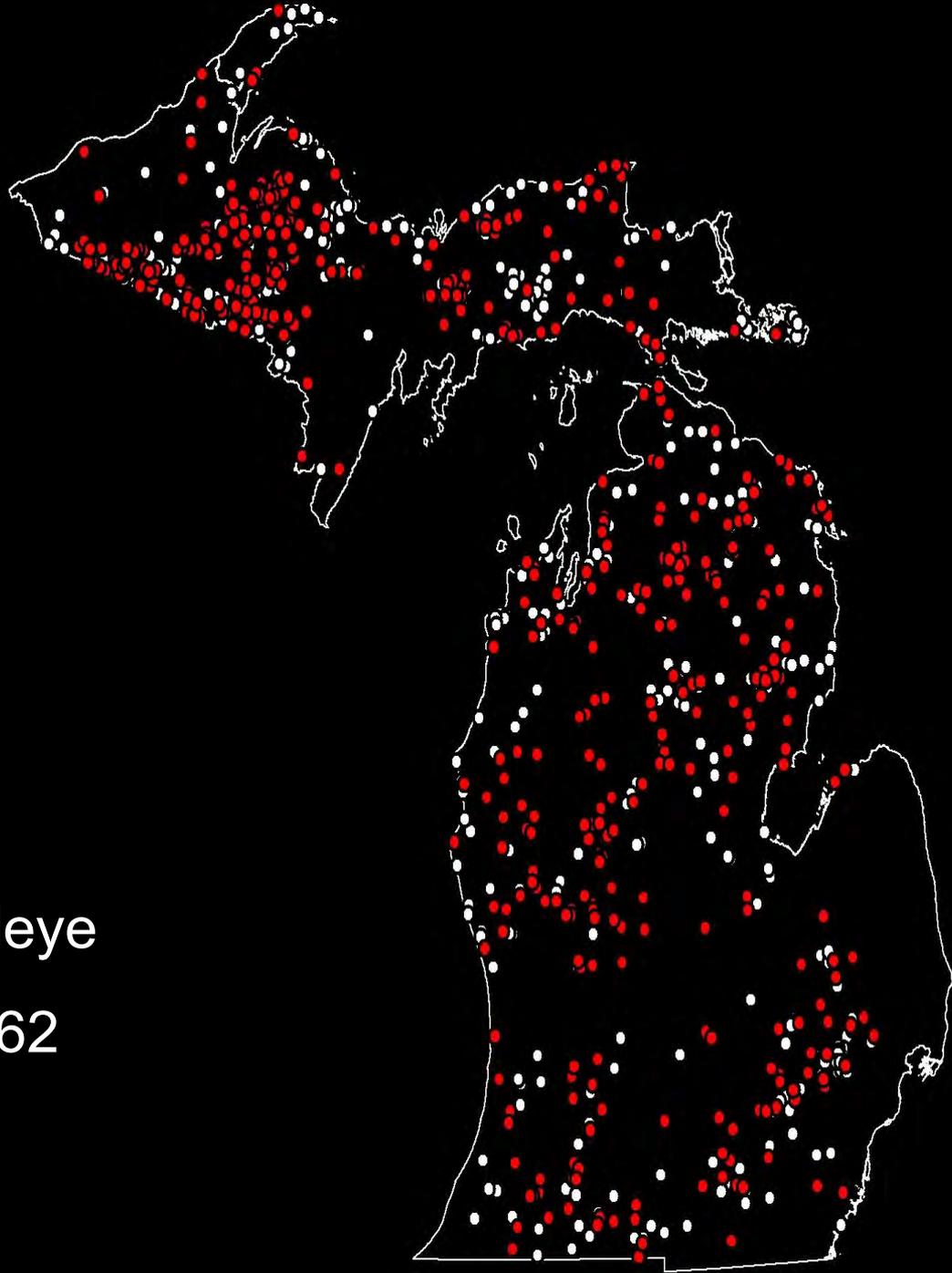
Black Crappie  
2062



Walleye  
Current



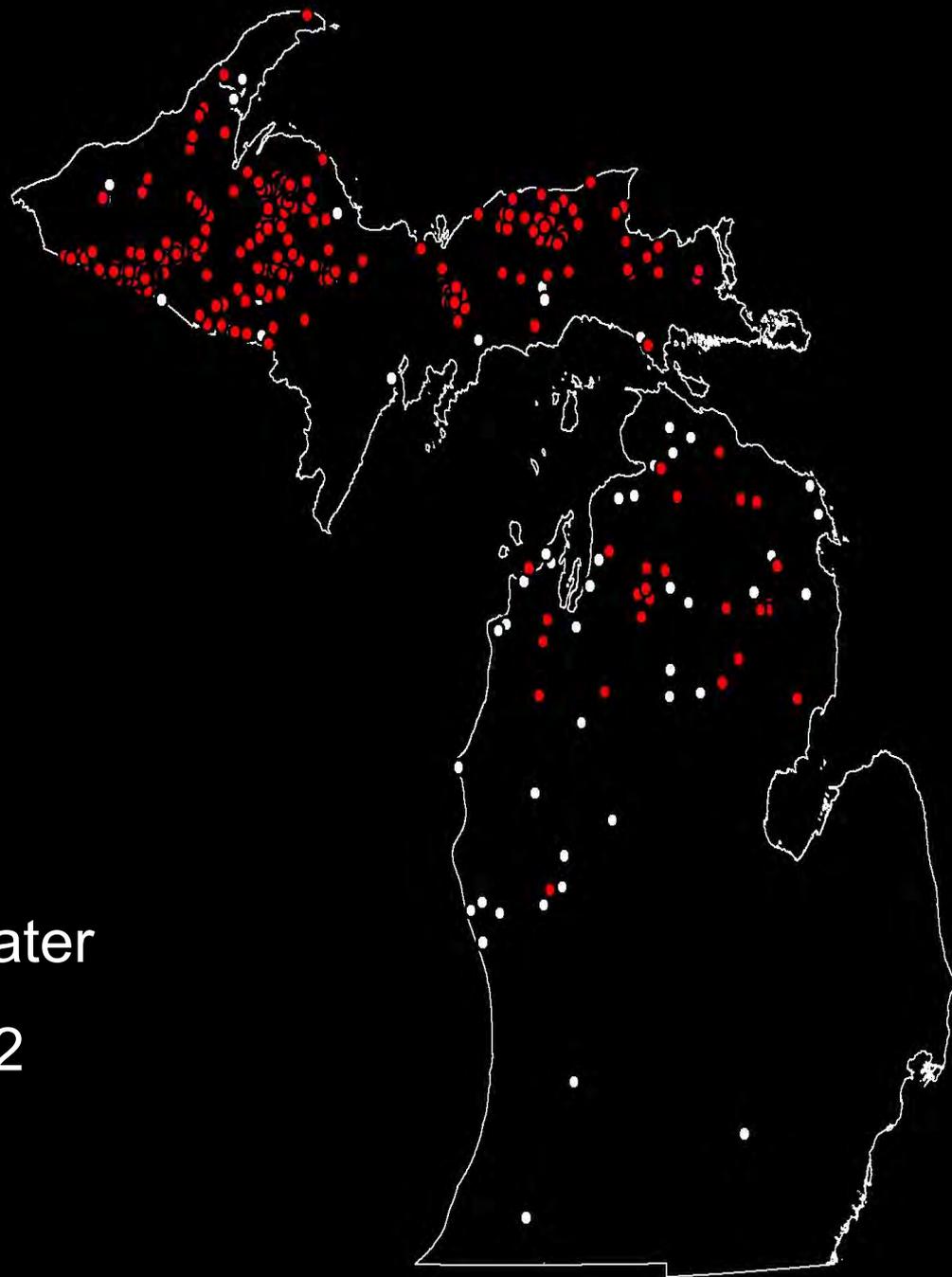
Walleye  
2062



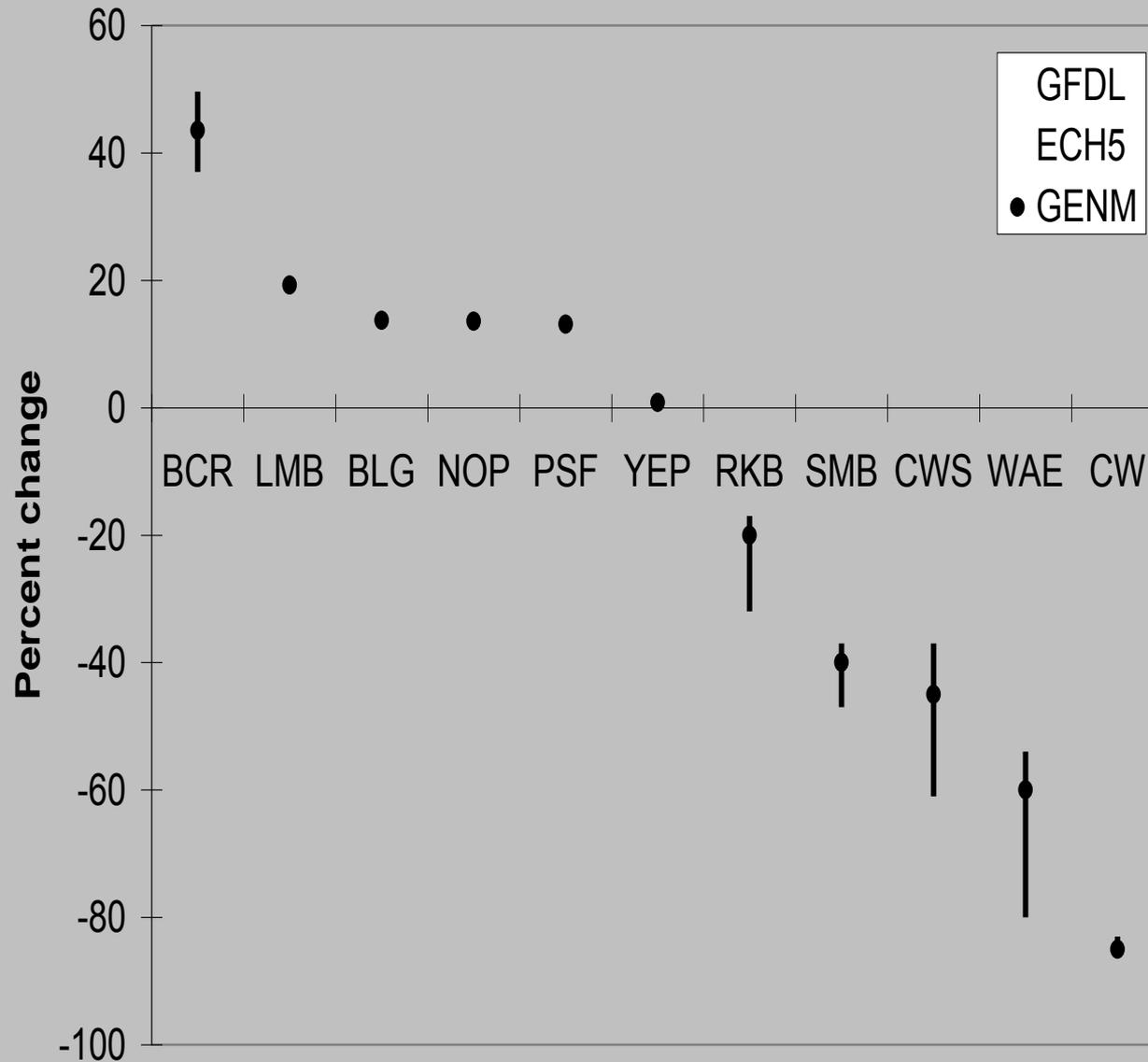
Coldwater  
Current



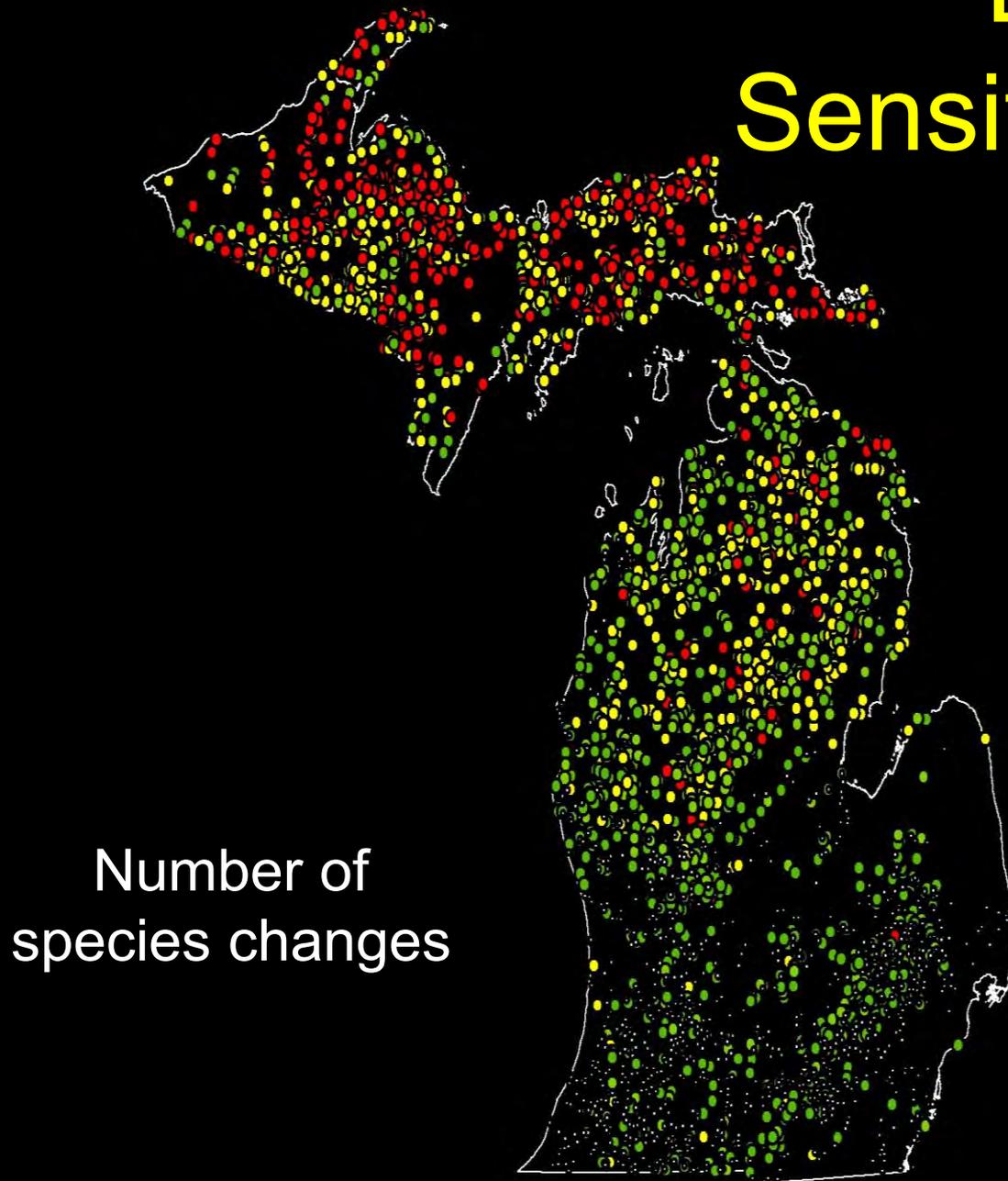
Coldwater  
2062



# Species Sensitivity



# Lake Sensitivity



# Preliminary Findings

- Warm water species—15 to 40% increase
- Cool water species—20 to 80% decrease
- Cold water species—85% decrease
- Lakes—75% vulnerable to change

# What are we doing?

- Monitoring for change
- Building better models
- Assessing streams and Great Lakes



# Questions ?



# Department of Natural Resources

## Fisheries Division Update on Chumming

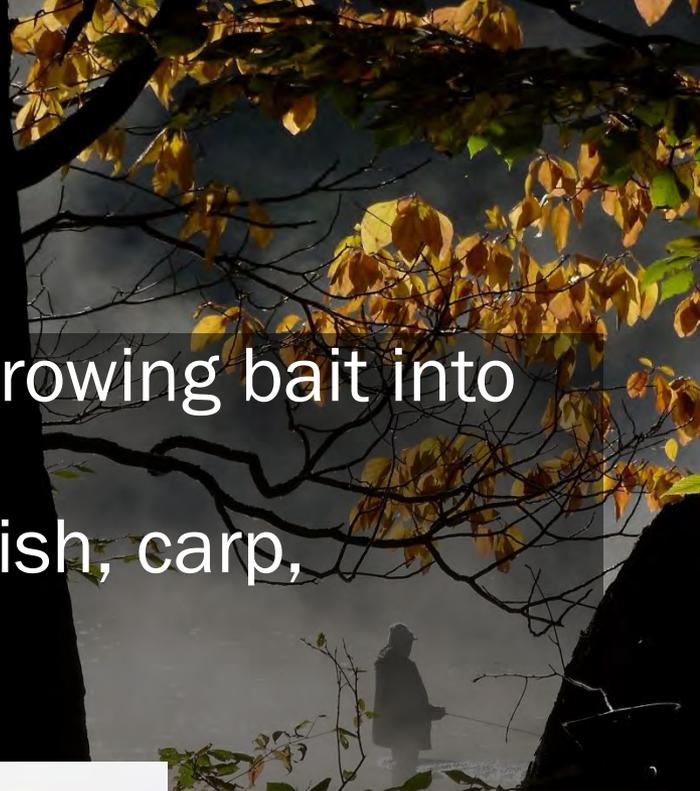
Nick Popoff

December 10, 2015



# What is Chumming?

- The practice of luring fish by throwing bait into the water
- Fish commonly chummed: catfish, carp, whitefish, trout, steelhead
- Materials:



# The Issue



# History of the Issue

- Trout regulations modified in 2000
  - Bait banned in certain stream types
  - Ban of chumming with fish eggs was debated
- Viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHS)
  - Detected in 2005
  - Fish Disease Order established in 2007 banned broadcasting fish eggs
  - 2012 – updated science – DNR lifted ban except in waters with bait restrictions



# Regulations

- MI: chumming is not regulated
  - Fish eggs are legal to use as bait (aid to take)
  - Unlawful to dispose offal in waters
  - Offal: waste parts from animal processing
- Other states: prohibited in MN, NY & WI in addition to many western states



# Biological Concern?

- Fish eggs are a natural component
- What about macro-chumming?
- Extremely limited information:
  - One OR study looked at egg cures
  - Catch rates? No information...
- Fisheries Division does not currently consider chumming with eggs as a biological threat



# Recent Events: 2014-2015

- Complaints persisted (Muskegon River)
- Subcommittee established:
  - Coldwater Resources Steering members, anglers-at-large, & fishing guides.
    - Muskegon and Pere Marquette Rivers
    - Excessive chumming a concern
    - “alters fish behavior, higher harvest rates while chumming, economic loss, unsporting...”



# Recent Events: 2014-2015

- Nine public meetings across the state
- One quart limit per angler discussed
  - Other than Onekama and Newaygo, chumming was not important – “no need to regulate it”
  - Fishing guides generally wanted elimination or regulation to one quart
  - Other anglers expressed concern over any regulation on chumming



# In Conclusion

- Social/ethical concern since the late 1990s
- No apparent biological concern
- Specific areas of concern with specific angling types



Thank you!

Questions?





# Wildlife Chief Update

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December 10, 2015

# WLD Changes

- Doug Reeves,  
– Assistant Chief



- Welcome, Steve Chadwick!



# Deer Update

- CWD positive deer in Dewitt Township, Clinton County
  - ~8 miles from 3 Meridian Township, Ingham County, positive deer
  - Not genetically related to other positive deer
  - No regulatory changes for this season
  - Targeted surveillance planned for January



# Tribal Bear Harvest

- 2007 Inland Consent Decree
  - Tribes may authorize up to 10% of the harvest in each BMU
  - May increase harvest up to 12.5% if 10% is met in previous year



**Thank You**



# Preliminary Firearm Deer Season Results



Chad Stewart, Deer Management Specialist  
Wildlife Division  
December 10, 2015



# Evaluation of 2015 Season

- License sales (As of 11/30/2015)
  - Unique deer license buyers down 1.5%
  - Number of deer kill tags down 1.5%
- Check station data
  - Collected voluntarily at 62 check stations statewide
  - Data represents a small percentage of actual harvest
    - Limited inferences in regards to estimating final harvest
    - Comparisons between years based on check stations operated similarly both years



# Evaluation of 2015 Season

- Firearm deer check data:

Deer checked as of 12/3 (compared to 2014)

UP: -18.6%

NLP: +16.3%

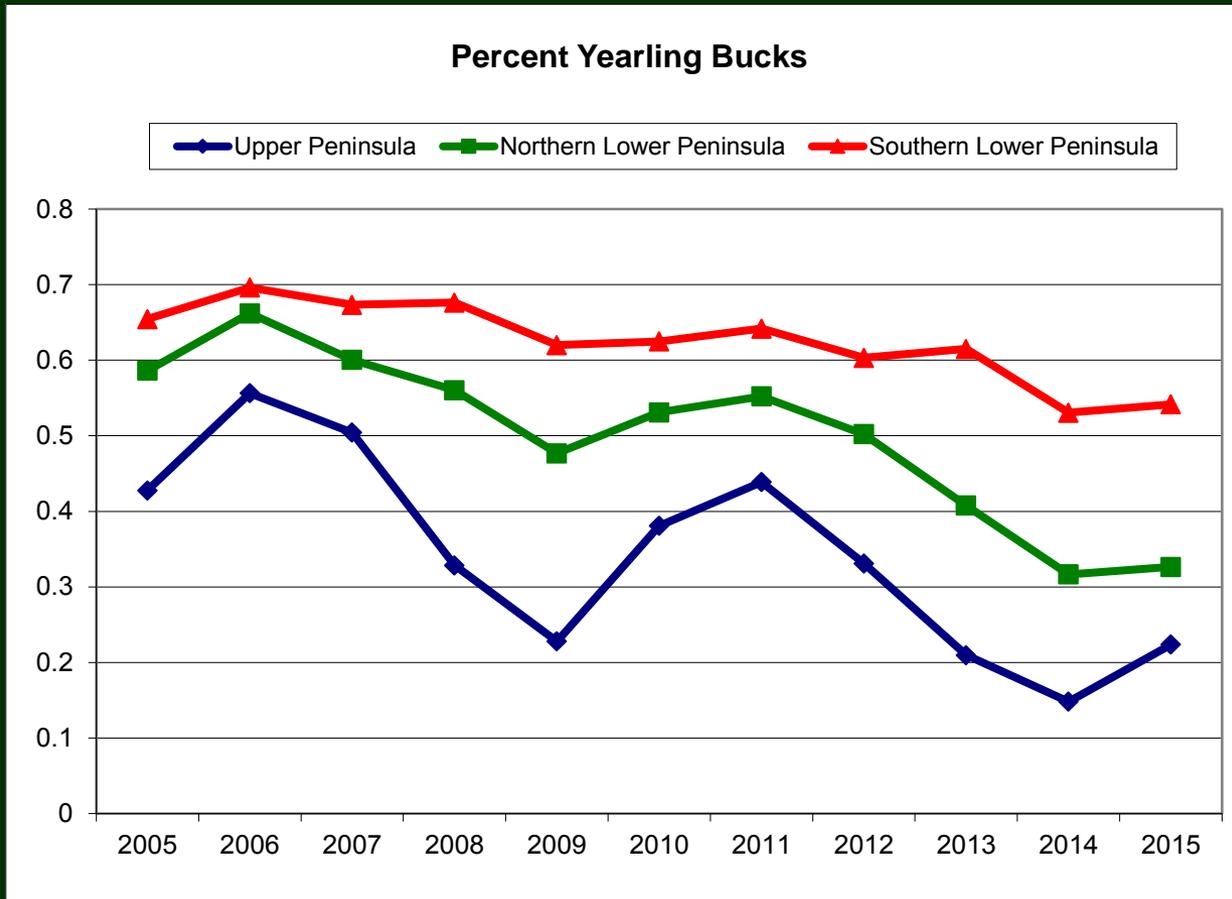
SLP: +17.1%

Statewide: +13.4%

- Both Wisconsin and Minnesota seeing increases in deer harvests this year



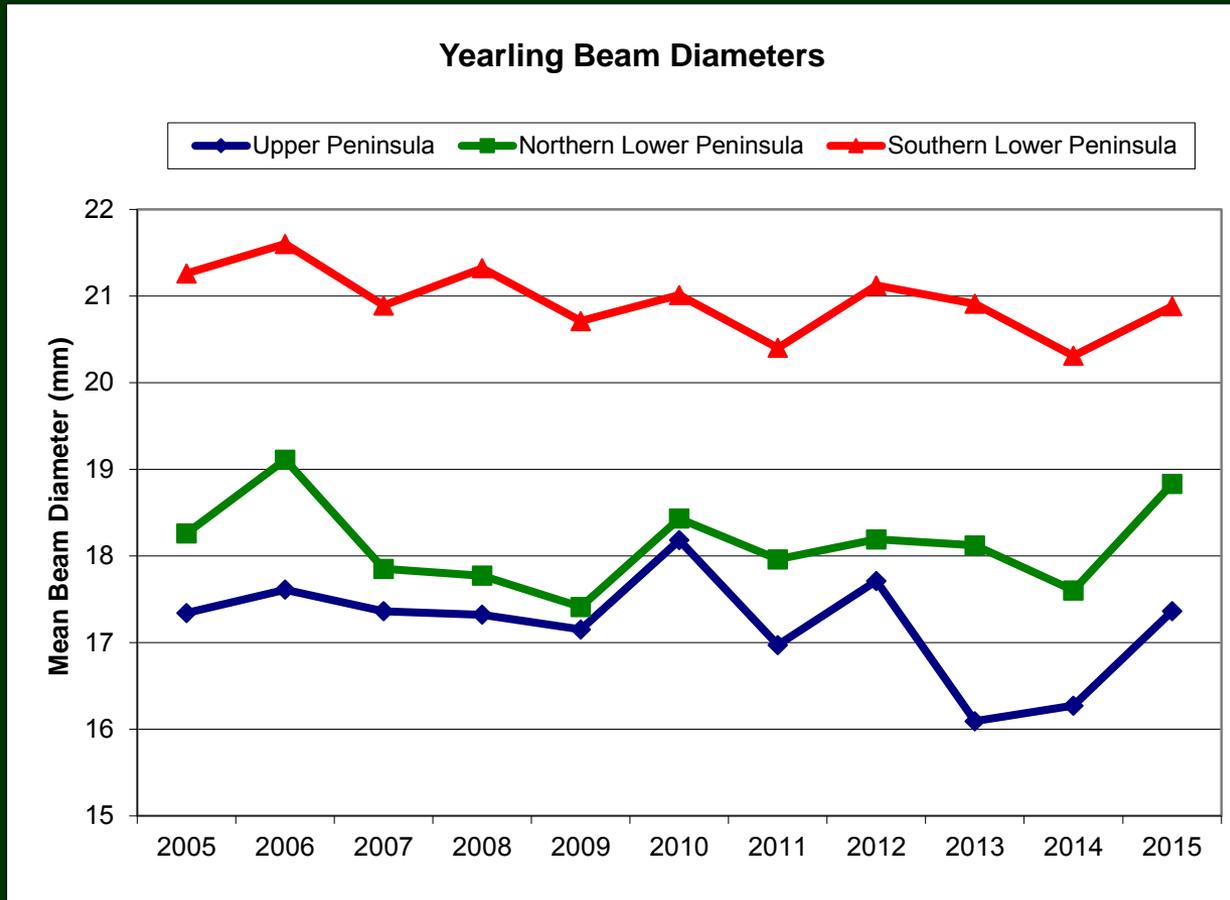
# 2015 Firearm Deer Check Data



Deer checked as of 12/3



# 2015 Firearm Deer Check Data



Deer checked as of 12/3



# Preliminary Firearm Season Harvest Estimates

- Upper Peninsula: decreased perhaps by 20% or slightly more
- Northern Lower Peninsula: increased between 15-20%
- Southern Lower Peninsula: increased between 15-20%



# Final Firearm Season Estimates

- Mail survey sample of licensed hunters
- All licensed hunters may report online
  - Questionnaire will be at [www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer)
  - Submit after all 2015 hunting



# CWD Update

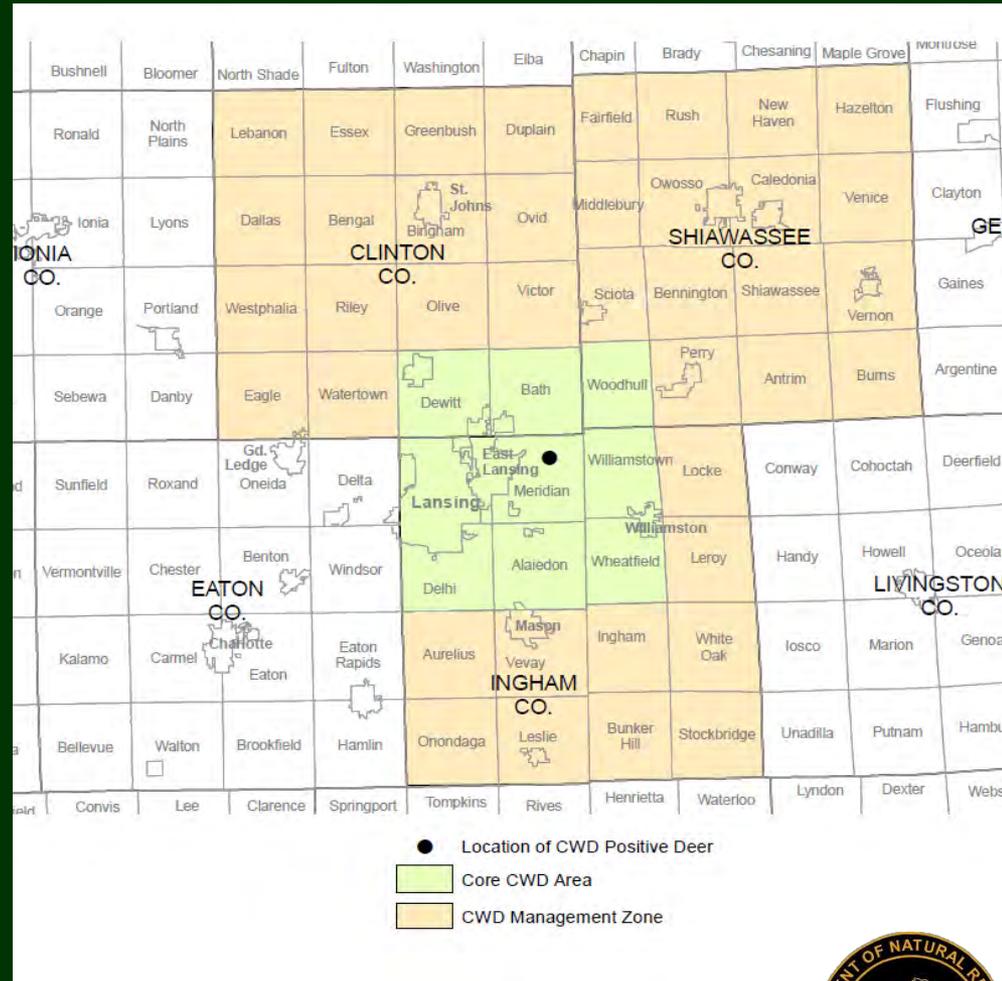
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Chad Stewart, Deer Management Specialist  
Wildlife Division  
December 10, 2015



# DMU 333: Core CWD Area

- Incident township and 8 surrounding townships
- Additional restrictions
  - Mandatory deer check
  - Carcass transportation restrictions
  - No salvage of road-killed deer
  - No Antler Point Restriction on second buck license



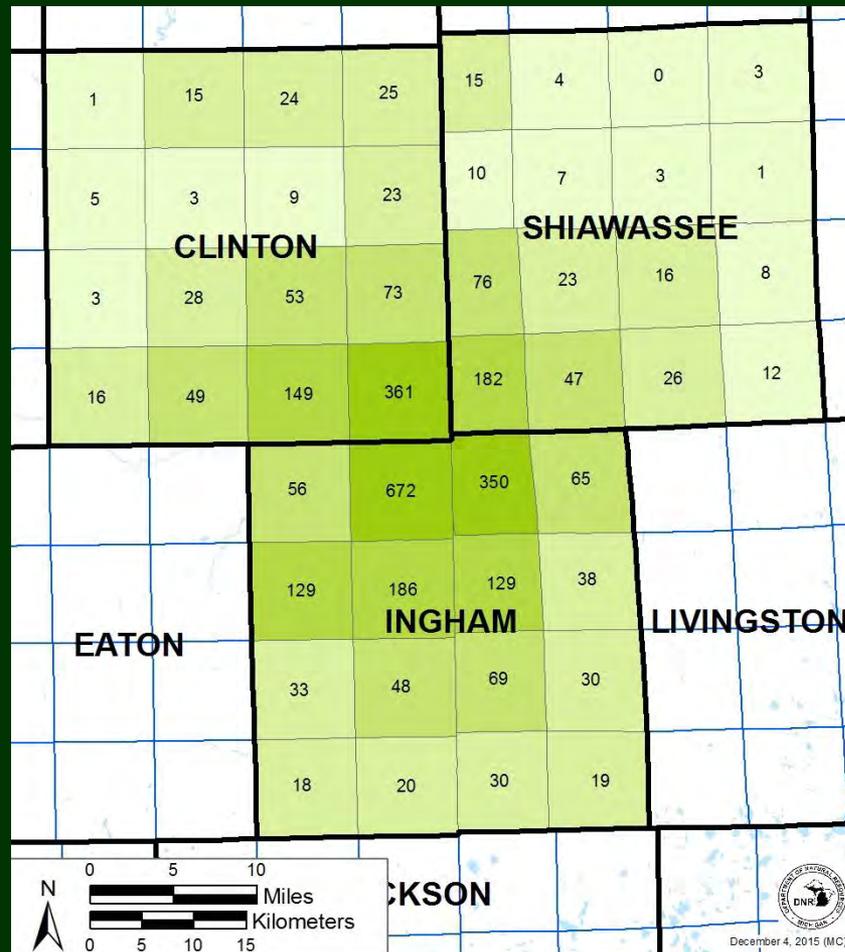
# Current Status

## Deer Tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (As of 12/3/2015)

	Roadkill or Found Dead	Hunter Harvested Deer	All Other Deer	Total	<b>CWD Positive Deer</b>
CWD Core Area	398	1,032	769	2,199	<b>4</b>
CWD Management Zone	84	834	44	949	<b>0</b>
Remainder of State	33	250	64	347	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Tested</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>2,116</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>3,495</b>	



# Samples to Date



As of 12/4/2015



# Testing Results

- Four positive, free-ranging deer:
  - 1 index deer taken by Meridian Township LE
  - 2 additional deer taken this summer via intensive surveillance
  - 1 hunter harvested deer confirmed from DeWitt Township, Clinton County
- Eaton County hunters urged to voluntarily check deer and cease baiting and feeding of deer



# Summary

- Hunter participation thus far has been exceptional
- Continued hunter and landowner cooperation is needed
  - Clinton, Ingham, Shiawassee, and Eaton counties
- Intensive surveillance will resume this winter
- Possible proposed changes to CWD Management Zone and Core next year



# CWD Concerns for the UP

- New captive POC ~25 miles away from UP border
  - No regulatory action taken
  - Likely enhanced surveillance
- Concerns for feeding and baiting in the West UP



Courtesy USGS



# Thank You

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

