

# **Natural Resources Commission Meeting**

Policy Committee on  
Wildlife and Fisheries

December 13, 2018

# Proposed Orders

- For Information – NRC
  - Pure Michigan Hunt Name Change (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 1 of 2019)
  - Deer Feeding Exception on Beaver Island (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2019)

# Proposed Orders

- Orders for Action – NRC
  - Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish, Lake Herring and Smelt Regulations (FO 200.19)
- Orders for Action – Director
  - Public Act 288 of 2016; Forest Road Inventory in Upper Peninsula and the Southern Lower Peninsula (Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 7 of 2018)
  - Order to Regulate the Poweshiek Skipperling at the Holly State Recreation Area (Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 9 of 2018)

# **NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries**

- Fisheries Chief Update
  - Fisheries Hatchery and Planting Strategy
- Wildlife Chief Update
  - Preliminary Firearm Deer Season Results
  - January Disease Management Hunt
  - Deer Feeding Exception on Beaver Island

# **Department of Natural Resources**

## **Fisheries Division**

Chief's Update

Jim Dexter, Chief

December 13, 2018

# Fisheries Order 200

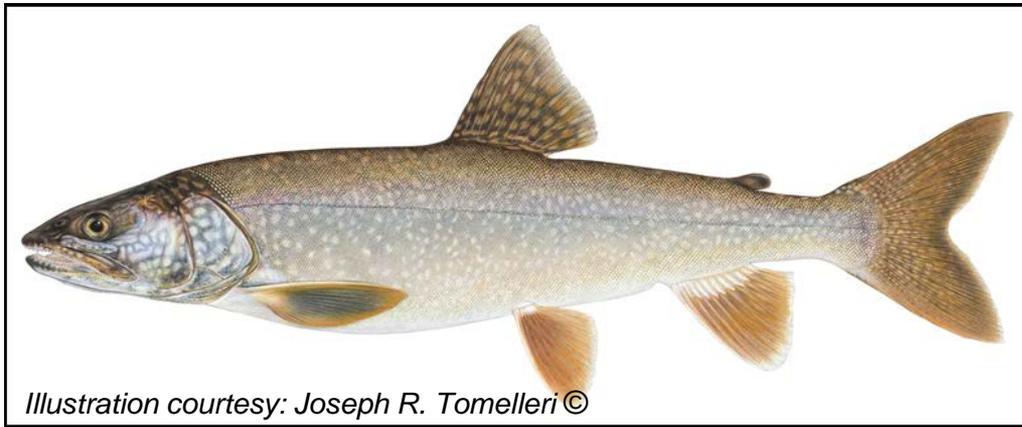
- Northern Lake Huron Lake Trout
- MH-1: changing 3 fish daily possession limit to 2 fish
- MH-2: change 3 fish daily possession limit to 4 fish?



# Ramifications for MH-2

- Biological

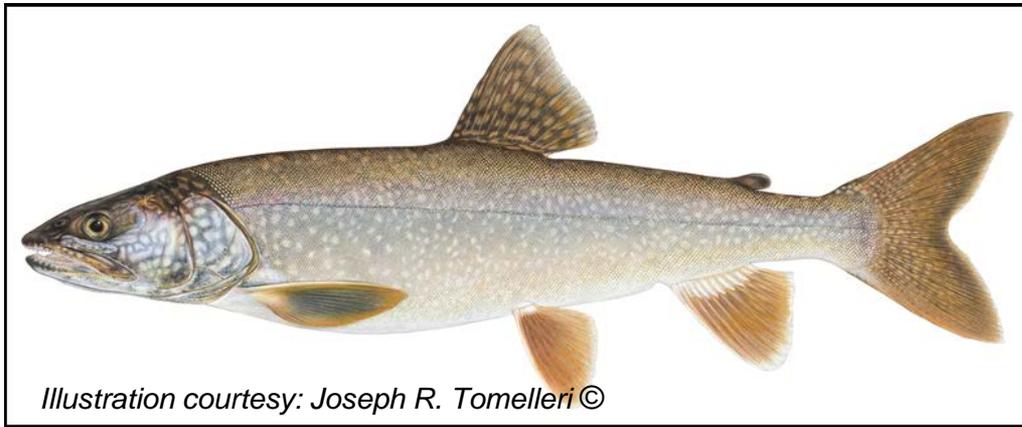
- Increased harvest of Lake Trout
- Will not offset MH-1 reduction in harvest
- One population moving toward recovery



*Illustration courtesy: Joseph R. Tomelleri ©*

# Ramifications for MH-2

- Tribal Relationships
  - 2020 Consent Decree negotiations
  - Difficult relationship already
  - Reduced future cooperative management



*Illustration courtesy: Joseph R. Tomelleri ©*

# Alternatives for MH-2

- Full evaluation of a 4 fish daily possession limit
- Vet the proposal through normal process
  - Staff evaluation
  - Stakeholder & agency consultation
  - Provide recommendation, Fall 2019
- Do not pursue any further

**Thank you!**

# Michigan DNR Fish Production Program

Why We Rear Fish  
Where We Do

Ed Eisch  
Fish Production Program Manager

# Why Do We Stock Fish?

Provide ecosystem balance

- Pacific salmon introduction to control alewives
- Predators to control stunted panfish

Provide diverse fishing opportunities

- Inland trout stocking

Rehabilitate depressed fish populations

- Walleyes in Saginaw Bay

Reintroduce extirpated species

- Lake sturgeon in Ontonagon River
- Arctic Grayling reintroduction initiative

# Species Reared

## Coldwater species at all six hatcheries

Atlantic salmon

Brook trout

Brown trout

Coho salmon

Chinook salmon

Lake trout

Rainbow trout (domestic)

Rainbow trout (steelhead)

Splake

## Coolwater species at three facilities

Walleye

Great Lakes strain muskellunge

Lake sturgeon (streamside facilities)

# What factors into rearing assignment decisions?

## Primary Factors

Water temperature

Fish health considerations

Water Quality

## Secondary Factors

Transportation logistics

Hatchery logistics

# Salmonid Temperature Requirements

Very Coldwater Group - 40<sup>0</sup>- 50<sup>0</sup> F

Brook Trout

Lake Trout

Splake

Coldwater Group – 45<sup>0</sup>- 55<sup>0</sup> F

Brown Trout

Rainbow Trout

Not quite As Cold Group - 50<sup>0</sup> F to 55<sup>0</sup> F

Chinook salmon

Coho salmon

Steelhead

Atlantic salmon



# What gets raised at...

## Marquette

10,500 gpm of mostly surface water

Temp range 34°-51°

No ability to manipulate temperature

Brook trout, lake trout and splake



## Thompson

3,100 gpm, including two geothermal wells

Temp range 46°-56°

Flexibility to manipulate rearing temperature

Steelhead, Chinook salmon and walleye

Muskellunge and expansion of walleye in 2020

# What gets raised at...

## Oden

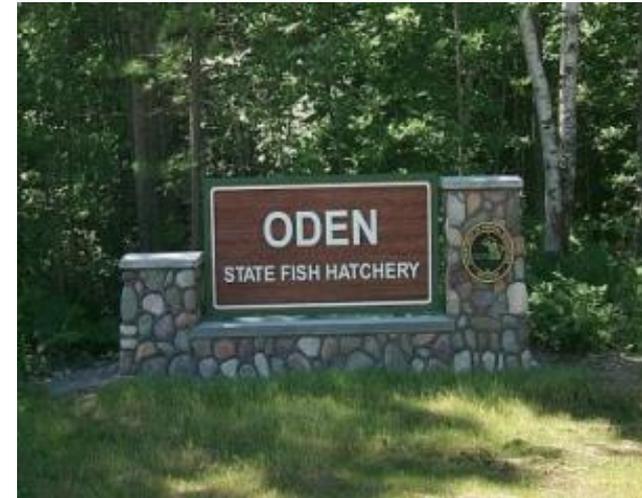
5,000 gpm groundwater

Temperature of 46°

Minimal ability to change temperature

Brown trout and rainbow trout brood and production

Photoperiod manipulation



## Platte River

20,000 gpm of surface water available

Temp range 34°-60°

Some ability to manipulate temperature

Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon and walleye incubation



# What gets raised at...

## Harrietta

4,000 gpm of groundwater

Temperature 48°

No temperature manipulation

Brown trout, rainbow trout and  
Atlantic salmon

## Wolf Lake

2,500 gpm well water

Temperature 52°

Some temperature manipulation

Steelhead, Chinook salmon,  
walleye and muskellunge



# Challenges

Aging infrastructure and inadequate maintenance funding

- Facilities range from 16 to nearly 50 years old

- Lack of adequate funding has us putting out fires in place of preventative maintenance

Effluent Limitations

Pathogens

- EEDv at Marquette

- BKD

# Any Questions?



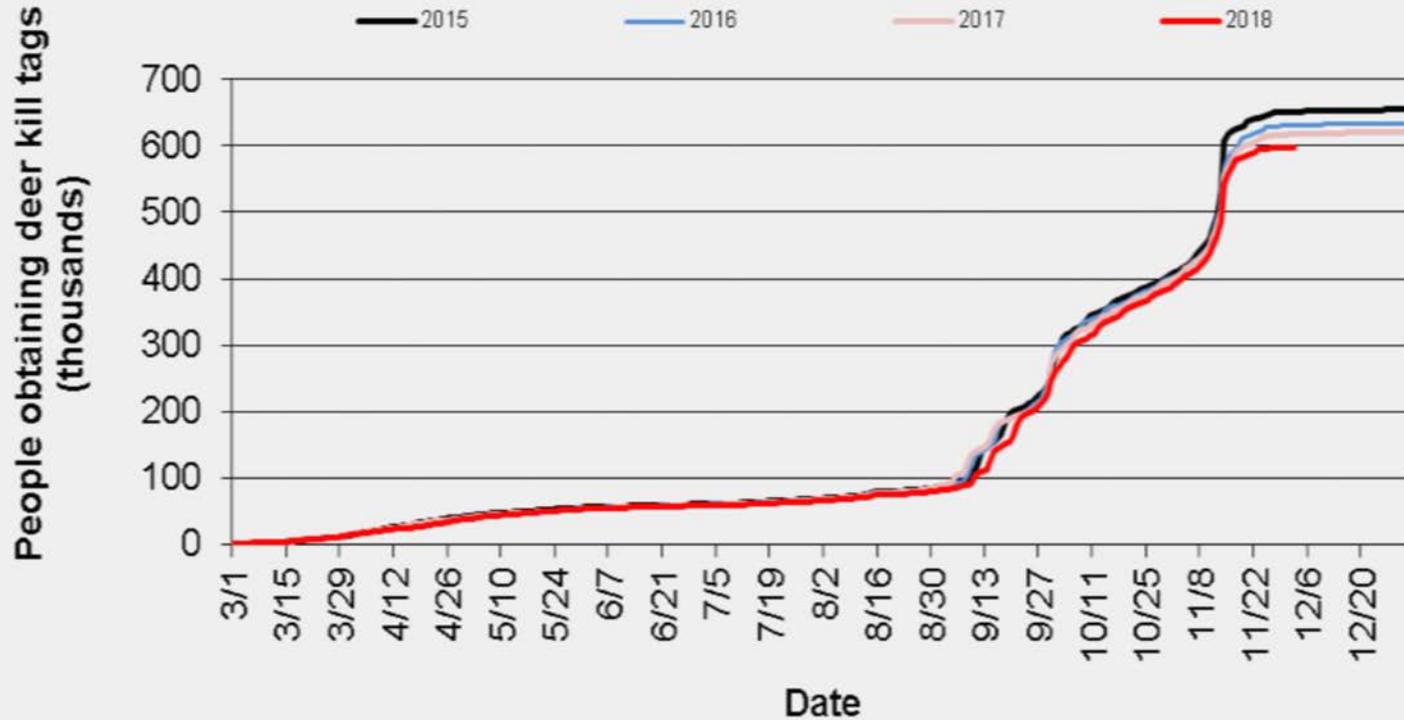
JULIE A. CHRISTIANSEN

# **Wildlife Chief Update**

**Russ Mason**

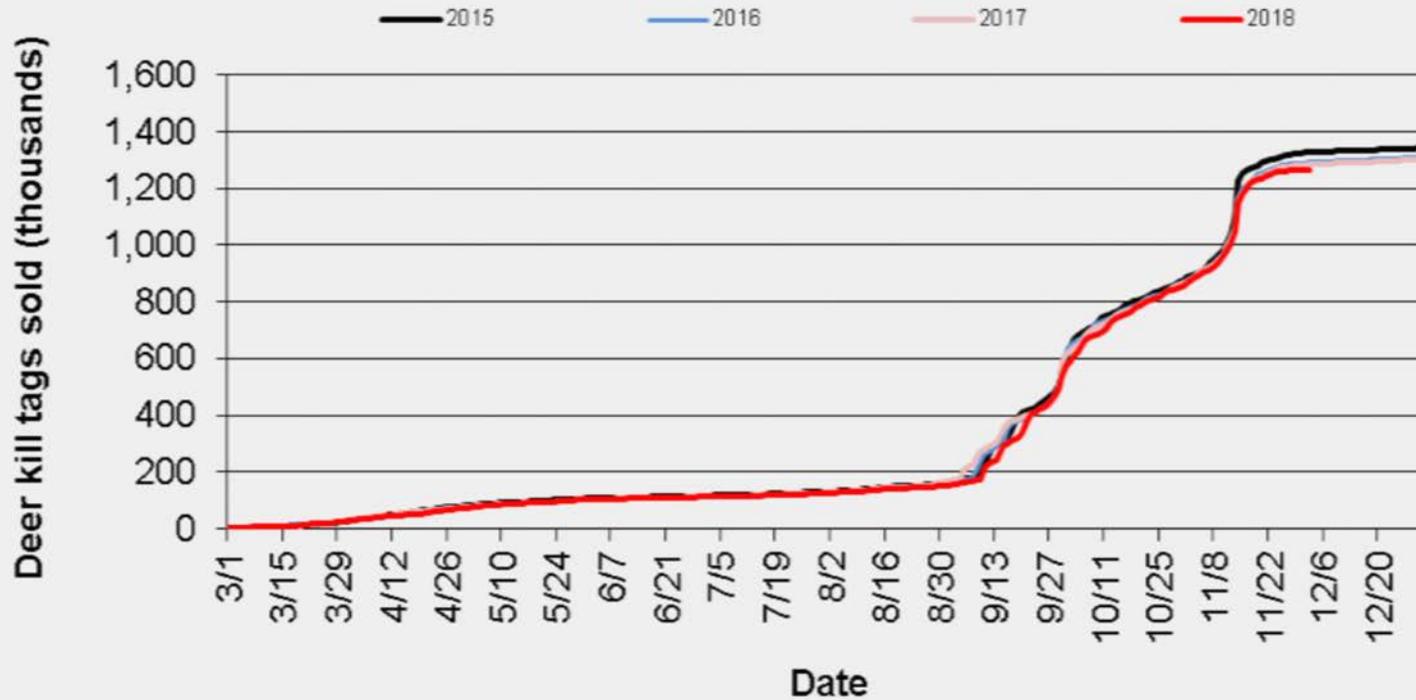
# Wildlife Chief Update

Cumulative number of people obtaining a deer kill tag in Michigan, summarized by year and date (597,527 people; 3.1% decrease from 2017 thru 11-30-2018)



# Wildlife Chief Update

Cumulative number of deer kill tags sold  
in Michigan, summarized by year and date  
(1,266,147 tags; 1.1% decrease from 2017 thru 11-30-2018)



# Wildlife Chief Update

- Adopt-a-Game-Area Program Event at Maple River
- Pure Michigan Hunt Update
  - Up 59% in sales compared to 2017
  - 35,073 applications sold YTD
  - \$175,380 sales revenue YTD
  - \$526,140 PR match YTD
  - \$701,520 total generated YTD

**Thank You**

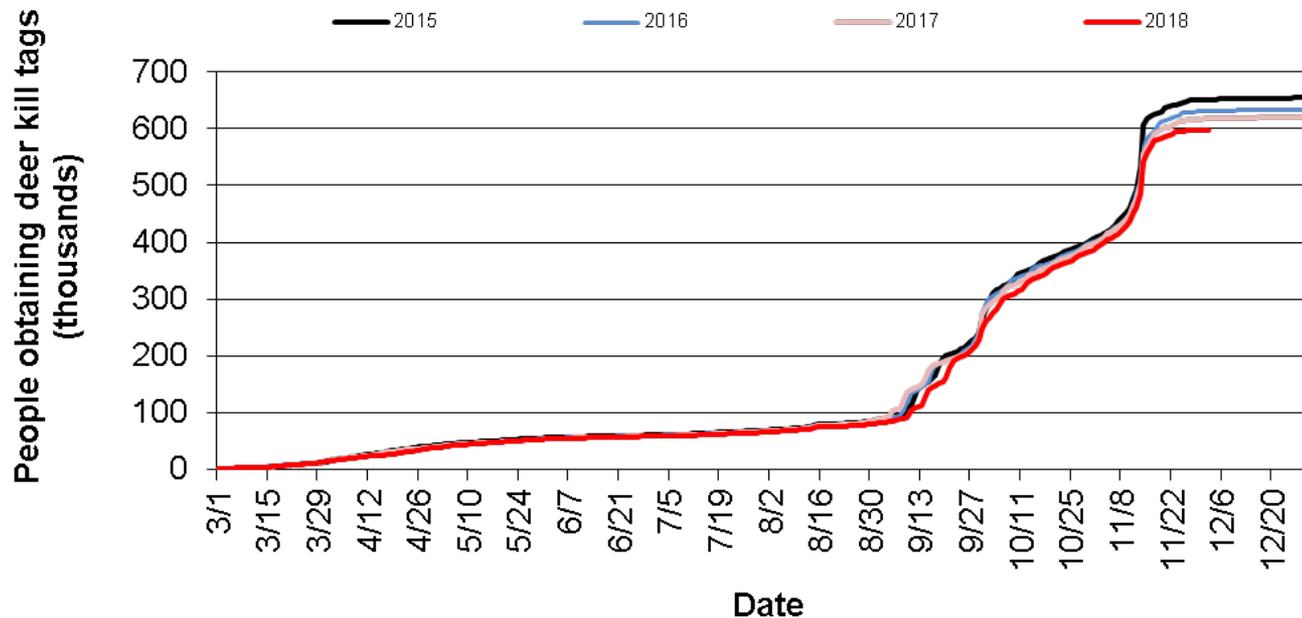
# Preliminary 2018 Firearm Deer Season Results



Chad Stewart and Sarah Mayhew  
Wildlife Division  
December 13, 2018

# Evaluation of 2018 Season

- License sales (As of 11/30/2018)
  - Unique deer license buyers down 3.1%
  - Number of deer harvest tags down 1.1%

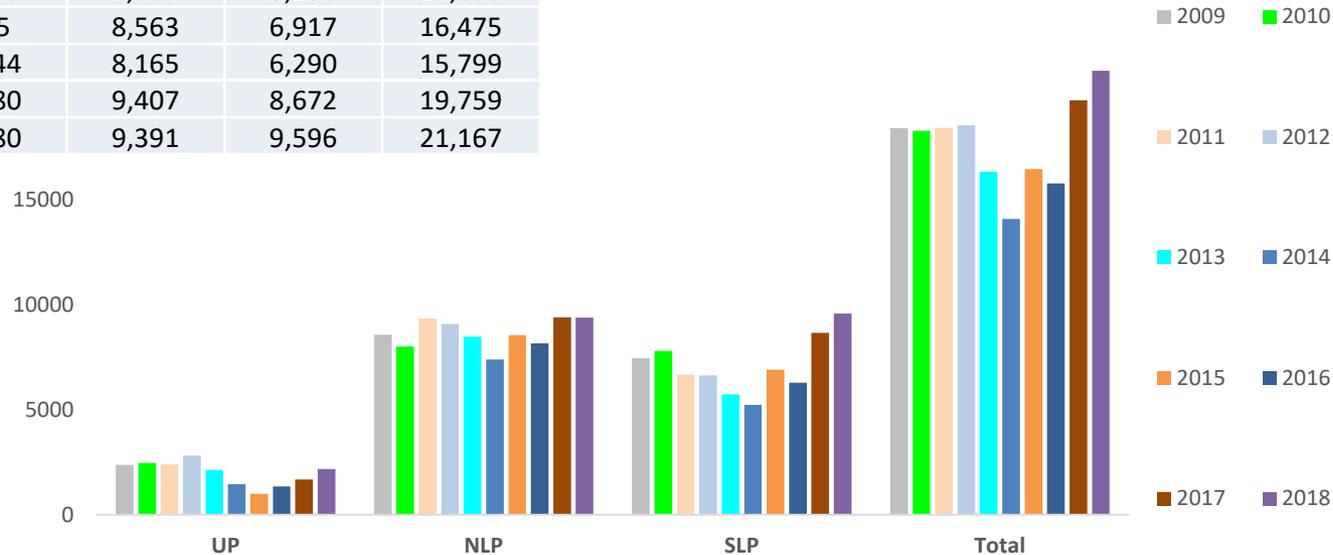




# All Check Station Data: Regular Firearms Season

Check Station Data as of December 4, 2018

	UP	NLP	SLP	Total
2009	2,382	8,584	7,459	18,425
2010	2,467	8,021	7,813	18,301
2011	2,415	9,351	6,681	18,447
2012	2,821	9,098	6,642	18,561
2013	2,136	8,482	5,737	16,355
2014	1,455	7,404	5,236	14,095
2015	995	8,563	6,917	16,475
2016	1,344	8,165	6,290	15,799
2017	1,680	9,407	8,672	19,759
2018	2,180	9,391	9,596	21,167



# CSC Check Station Data: Regular Firearms Season

## All Deer Checked

	UP	NLP	SLP	Total
<b>2009</b>	1,345	2,048	1,417	4,810
<b>2010</b>	1,479	1,845	1,335	4,659
<b>2011</b>	1,577	2,115	1,248	4,940
<b>2012</b>	1,915	2,044	1,226	5,185
<b>2013</b>	1,461	1,808	1,093	4,362
<b>2014</b>	921	1,581	913	3,415
<b>2015</b>	713	1,708	850	3,271
<b>2016</b>	955	1,578	761	3,294
<b>2017</b>	1,225	1,442	689	3,356
<b>2018</b>	1,383	1,433	868	3,684

## All Antlered Deer Checked

	UP	NLP	SLP	Total
<b>2009</b>	1,088	1,372	743	3,203
<b>2010</b>	1,204	1,202	719	3,125
<b>2011</b>	1,191	1,393	701	3,285
<b>2012</b>	1,505	1,299	686	3,490
<b>2013</b>	1,124	993	635	2,752
<b>2014</b>	630	833	522	1,985
<b>2015</b>	610	1,098	521	2,229
<b>2016</b>	790	1,064	463	2,317
<b>2017</b>	1,005	880	457	2,342
<b>2018</b>	925	845	587	2,357

Check Station Data as of December 4, 2018

# CSC data from 2018 Season

- Firearm deer check data:

Deer checked as of 12/4 (compared to 2017)

UP: +12.9%

NLP: -0.6%

SLP: +26.0%

Statewide: +9.8%

Bucks checked as of 12/4 (compared to 2017)

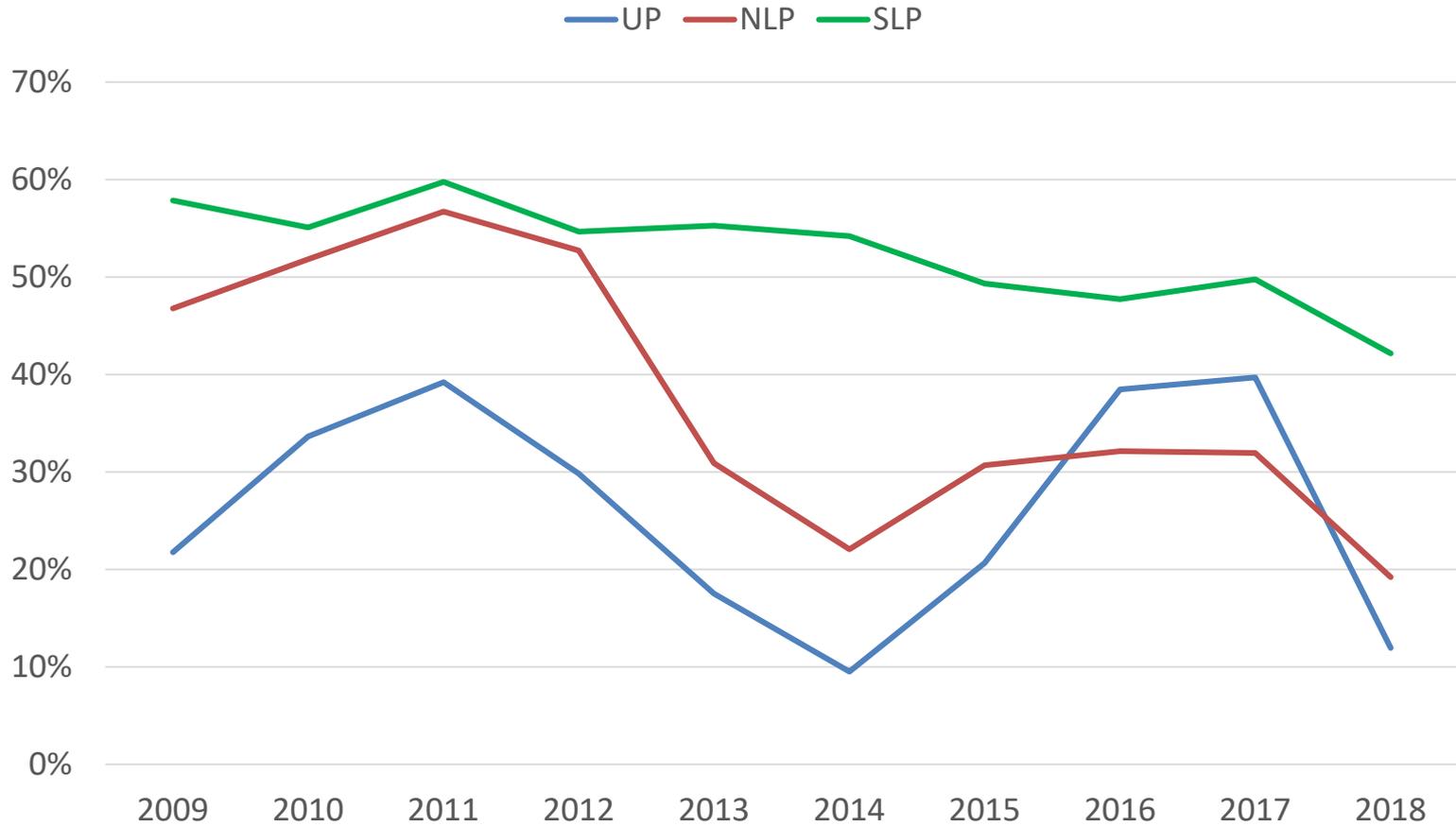
UP: -8.0%

NLP: -4.0%

SLP: +28.4%

Statewide: +0.6%

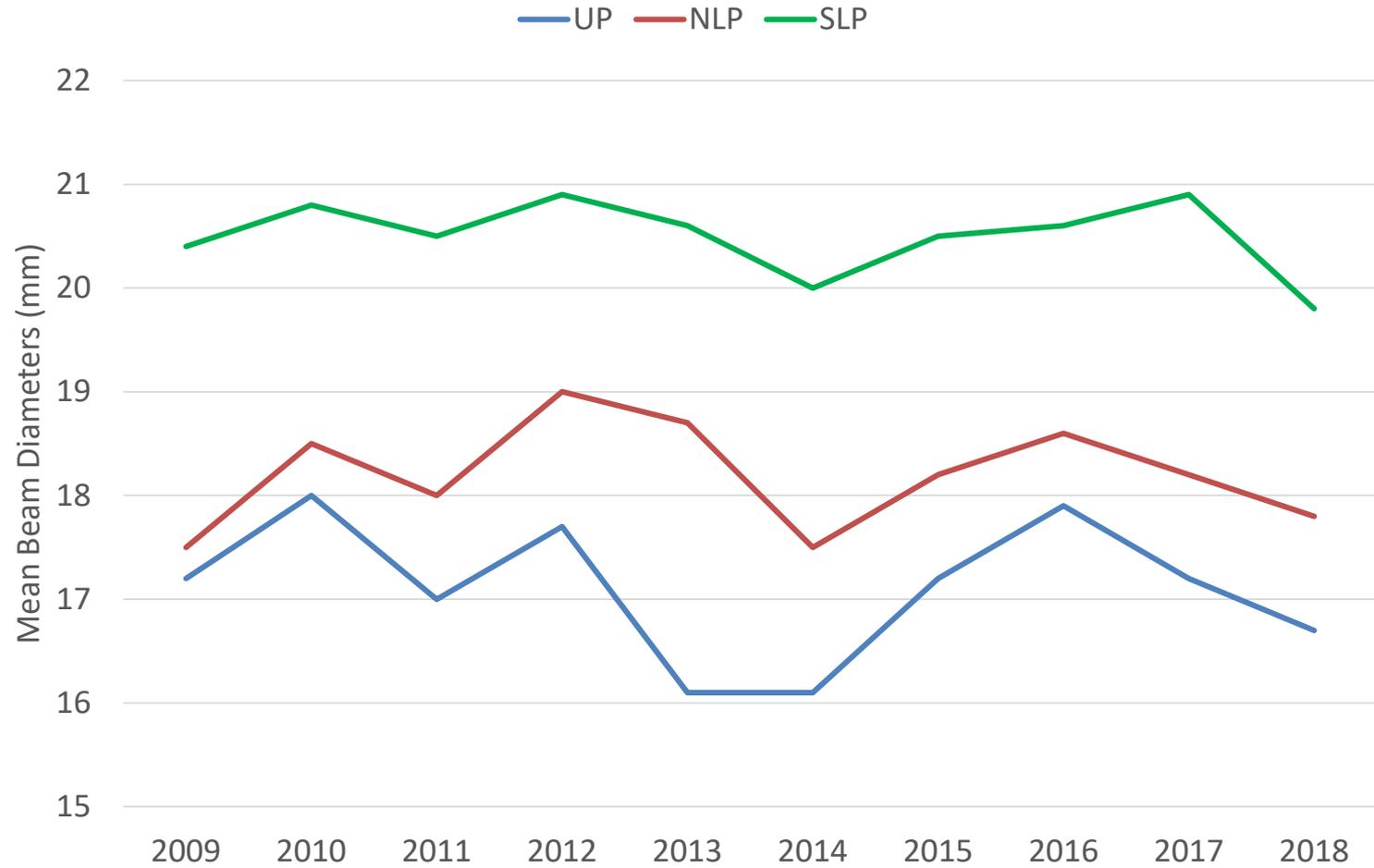
# Yearling Bucks Harvested



Deer checked as of 12/4



# Yearling Beam Diameters



Deer checked as of 12/4

# 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)
    - Take Harvest Survey
  - Submit after all 2018 hunting is complete



**Thank You**

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

# Proposed January Disease Management Hunt



Chad Stewart, Deer Management Specialist

Wildlife Division

December 13, 2018

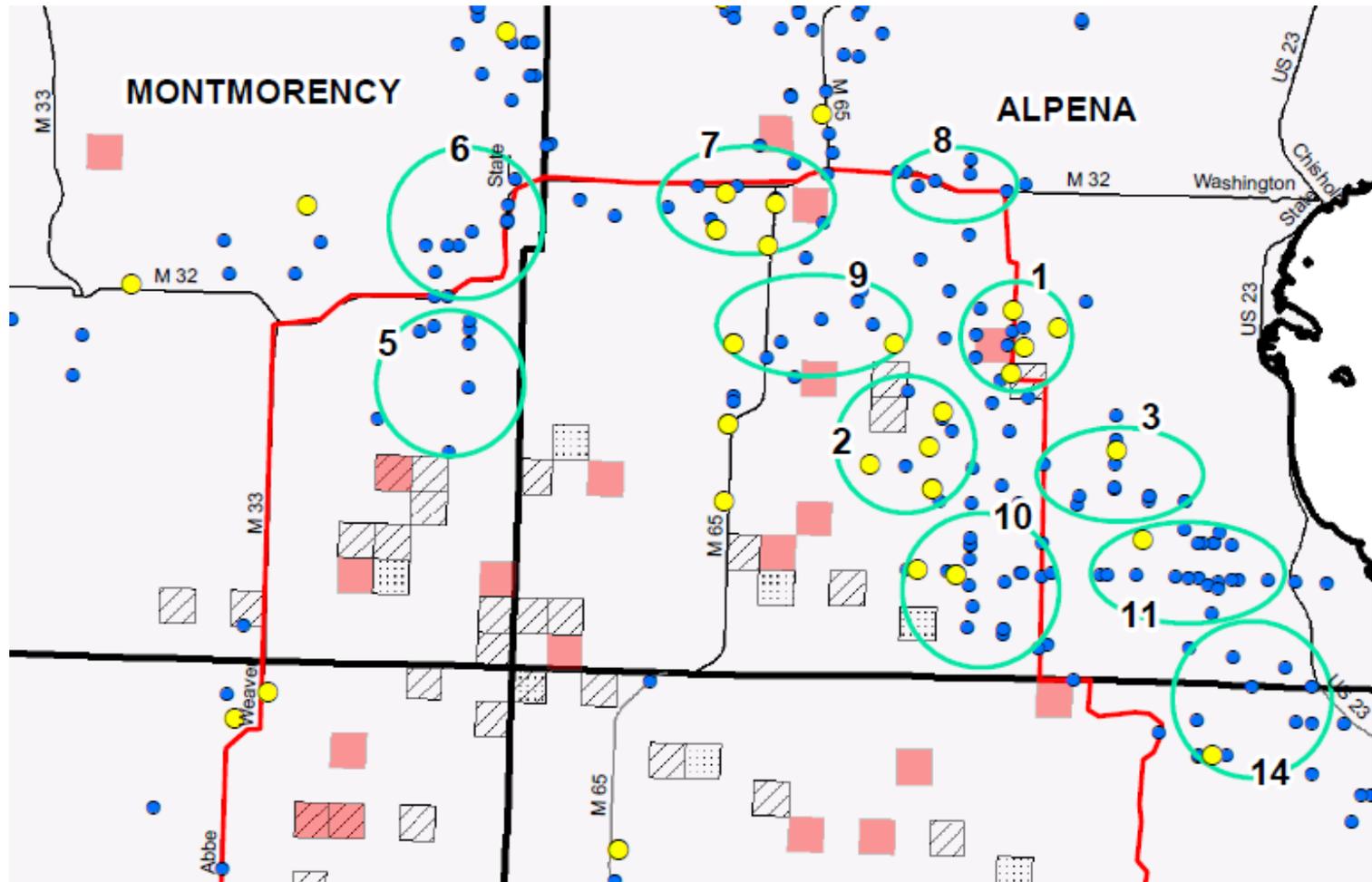
# Background

- Per WCO 3.101(11)
  - The Director may authorize a disease management hunt lasting no longer than nine days... where additional harvest is deemed necessary to meet disease management objectives

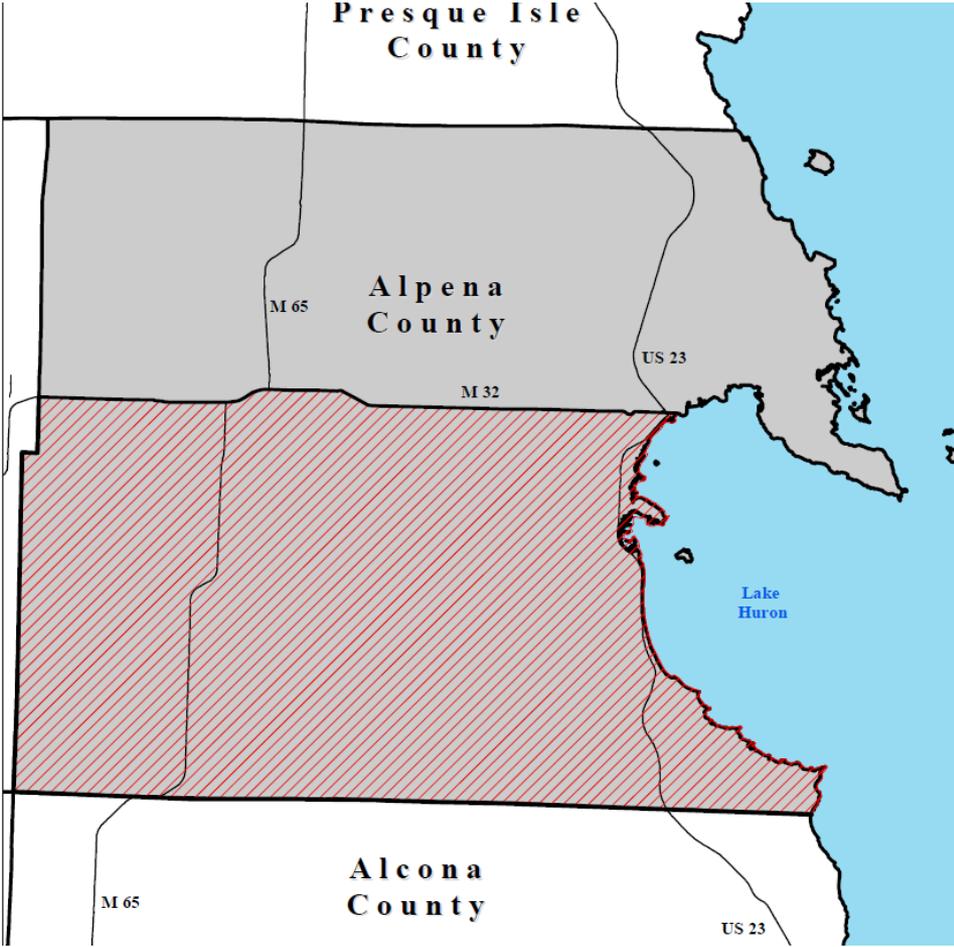
# January Hunt in Alpena



# Cattle Herd Clusters (Defined 2017)



# January Alpena Hunt Area



# Alpena Hunt

- Objectives:
  - Expand our Hunter Access Program
  - Identify landowners to partner with in Southern Alpena County
  - Facilitate hunter access to critical properties along the wildlife/livestock interface
  - Promote antlerless harvest to attempt to reduce likelihood of interactions with cattle

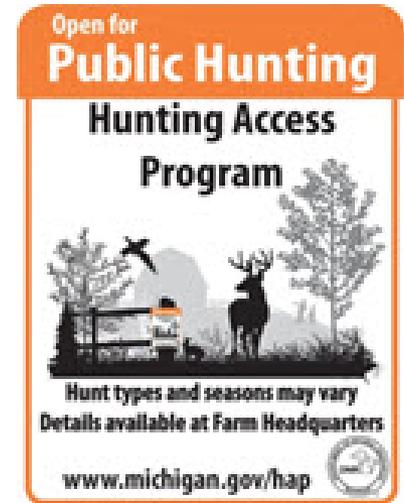


# Alpena Hunt

- Two four-day hunts
  - January 3-6, 10-13, 2019
  - Alpena County, South of M-32
  - Held on private land
  - Antlerless deer
  - Unused and newly purchased licenses eligible to be used
    - Deer license, combo license, and DMU specific antlerless licenses

# Alpena HAP

- 2018
  - 18 parcels enrolled
  - 11 landowners
  - >2,200 acres opened for deer hunting
  - 102 hunters participating
  - HAP reported harvest: 33
    - 107 estimated for season



**Thank You**

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

# **Beaver Island Feeding Exception**

Chad Stewart, Deer Management Specialist

Wildlife Division

December 13, 2018

# Background

- Per WCO 3.100 (a)
  - Effective January 31, 2019, it shall be unlawful for a person to engage in deer and elk feeding within zone 2 and zone 3.
  - Request from Beaver Island Wildlife Club and Beaver Island hunters for an exception to the rule

# Beaver Island (DMU 115)

- Located ~30 miles offshore of Charlevoix County
- ~27 sq. miles of public land (~1/3 acreage on island)
- Between ~200-400 hunters/yr (2013-2017)
  - Antlered harvest range 59-126
  - Antlerless harvest range 4-61
- MNFI document notable browse impacts
- >70 year history working with Beaver Island Wildlife Club

# Surveillance Plan

- Continued deer checks on the island
- Continued collection of deer heads for testing
- Notification to hunters and transportation services to discourage carcass movement
- Information distributed to hunters regarding proper carcass disposal methods
- Increased understanding of origin of feed
- Encourage hunters not to use deer urine

# Feeding: Recreational vs. Supplemental

- Recreational feeding
  - Not done more than 100 yards from a residence
  - At least 100 yards from any area accessible to livestock
  - Scattered directly on the ground
  - Does not exceed 2 gallons per residence at any time

# Feeding: Recreational vs. Supplemental

- Supplemental feeding (only available in UP)
  - Permission received from landowner
  - Permitted by Department
  - Feed is placed  $>1/4$  mile from nearest paved public highway
  - Feed is placed  $>1$  mile from livestock, agriculture and nursery plantings
  - Feed consists of grains, alfalfa/clover, pellets not to exceed 3 inches on the ground
  - Report on quantity/type/dates/duration

# Departmental Response

- Department has no objections to allowing feeding to occur on the island

**Thank You**

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