Natural Resources Commission Meeting

Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

May 9, 2019
Proposed Orders

• For Information – NRC
  – Antlerless Deer License Quotas in the Upper Peninsula (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 6 of 2019)
  – Chronic Wasting Disease Regulations (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 7 of 2019)

• For Action – NRC
  – Fall Turkey Regulations (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 6 of 2019)
NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

• Fisheries Chief Update
• Wildlife Chief Update
  – USDA-Veterinary Services Memorandum of Understanding
  – Thumb APR Survey Results
  – Antlerless Deer License Quotas in the Upper Peninsula & Chronic Wasting Disease Regulations
Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division
Chiefs Update
Jim Dexter, Chief
May 9, 2019
Capital Outlay Updates

• Contracts approved for both projects
  ◦ Contractors mobilizing to sites soon
  ◦ Short term closures of site necessary at LMW
  ◦ Timber clearing at Thompson site nearly done
UV Installation at Oden

• Contract is in place
• Currently reviewing equipment submittals
• Tight timeline and equipment delivery could be problematic
Spring Egg Take Operations

• Walleye and steelhead egg takes went well
• All MDNR and out-of-state needs met
Thank You
Wildlife Chief Update

Russ Mason
Wildlife Chief Update

- DNR/MDARD POC/CWD Improvements
- Dedication of the Sears Michigan Swampbuster Wetlands Mitigation Site
Thank You
2019 Bovine Tuberculosis Memorandum of Understanding

Natural Resources Commission Update
May 9, 2019

Kelly Straka DVM MPH
State Wildlife Veterinarian
Wildlife Disease Laboratory
History of the MOU

9 CFR § 77.7 - Accredited-free States or zones.

§ 77.7 Accredited-free States or zones.


(b) The following are accredited-free zones:

(1) All of the State of Michigan except for the zone that comprises those counties in Michigan described in § 77.11(b)(1).

§ 77.11 Modified accredited States or zones.

(a) The following are modified accredited States: None.

(b) The following are modified accredited zones:

(1) A zone in Michigan that comprises Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda Counties.
Recent History of MOU

Began negotiations for revised MOU in late 2016

Final MOU signed by all parties April 12, 2019
Current MOU

Surveillance requirements
- 4-county MAZ (yellow-no change)
- 7 surrounding counties (orange-increase)
- Circle testing (pastel bonanza-size change)

Annual reporting requirements

Important metrics (monitor for increases)
- Apparent prevalence all ages except fawns
- Apparent prevalence yearlings
- Age-specific force of infection
Apparent TB Prevalence in White-tailed Deer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>DMU452</th>
<th>5-Co.Outside DMU452</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>(no testing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2.3%*</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 2018 Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Surveillance in Free-Ranging White-tailed Deer, Michigan

## Legend
- Deer Management Unit 452
- County Lines

## I. ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE
(Hunters voluntarily submit heads for examination)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Testing Zone</th>
<th>Sample Goals</th>
<th>Samples Tested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>3,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>2,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Blue</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Pink</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28,965</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**  
5,230        35,585

## II. PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE
(Hunters may submit deer carcasses with TB chest lesions from anywhere in the state. Hunters are educated through information and color pictures of TB lesions in the Hunting and Trapping Guide and TB brochure.)
Current MOU

**IF** the 300 deer/county quotas are not met

**OR**

**2 or more cases** of TB are found in free-ranging deer in any one of the six (not PI) surrounding counties,

State of Michigan (DARD) must perform increased cattle testing in the affected county as described in the MOU
Current TB events

Surveillance is ongoing in both deer and cattle
- To date in 2019, over 900 deer have been tested for bovine TB across the state

In cattle:
- Per the MOU, all cattle producers in Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity area must allow USDA-WS access to conduct targeted deer removal on their farm
  - ~125 active commercial herds in this area
  - Requirement waived if selling directly to slaughter
- Two additional TB-positive herds have been found for a total of 75 infected herds
Thank You! Questions?
ANTLER POINT RESTRICTIONS
SURVEY IN THE DEER
MANAGEMENT UNITS OF THE
THUMB AREA

May 9, 2019
Brian Frawley, Survey Specialist
Wildlife Division
APR Proposal

• The Thumb Hunters for Antler Point Restrictions (APRs) submitted a proposal to modify deer harvest regulations in Huron, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties (Thumb Area).

• Proposed APRs aimed to protect most 1½-year-old bucks from harvest. This would be achieved by requiring all bucks taken in this area to have at least four points on one antler.

• People that were currently exempt from APRs would continue to be exempt.
APR Evaluation Process

• The NRC requested that the DNR develop a process to review proposed APR regulations, and these guidelines were reviewed and endorsed by the NRC.
• Evaluation process developed jointly by the DNR and an APR workgroup made up of representatives from several organizations and members of the deer hunting community.
• At least 66% of hunters in the affected area must support mandatory APRs.
• Recommended a scientifically designed survey to evaluate support for APR.
APR Survey Process

• Randomly select sample.
• Sent a cover letter with an enclosed questionnaire and postage-paid return envelope via first-class mail.
• Initial mailing was followed by two additional questionnaires to nonrespondents.
APR Survey Process

• Question asked “Do you support this proposed antler-point restriction?”

• The percentage of support was measured by dividing the number of “yes” responses by the sum of those responses indicating “yes” or “no.”

• At least 50% of people receiving the survey had to reply in order to accept the results of the survey.
Table 1. The estimated number of hunters in the 5-county Thumb Area and the number of hunters selected to receive the opinion survey about mandatory APR regulations in Thumb Area, Michigan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of hunters&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Number of people included in sample&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Number of questionnaires that were undeliverable</th>
<th>Number of questionnaires returned</th>
<th>Response rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55,617</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1,641</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> Estimated number of people that hunted deer in the 5-county Thumb Area in 2017 (Frawley 2018).
Table 2. Proportion of hunters supporting proposed antler point restrictions in the 5-county Thumb Area, Michigan, in 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage of hunters a</th>
<th>95% CL b</th>
<th>Responses (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes (Supported mandatory APR regulations)</td>
<td>55.1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Yes, 44.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No (Did not support mandatory APR regulations)</td>
<td>44.9</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>No, 55.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

aPercentage of hunters that hunted deer in the 5-county Thumb Area; hunters that failed to provide an answer (<1%) were not used to measure support for mandatory APRs.
b95% confidence limits.
Recommendations

Support from hunters did not meet the 66% target to trigger a recommendation to implement the proposed antler point restrictions in the 5-county Thumb Area.
Thank You
Proposed Antlerless Quota Changes in the UP

Chad Stewart, Deer and Elk Management Specialist
Wildlife Division
May 9, 2019
Winter Impacts

SNODAS Daily UP Snow Depth Averages by Day and Winter Year (Nov-April)

- Average 2004-2018
- 12 inch snow depth: The depth at which deer mobility is hampered
- 2014
- 2019
Proposed Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>022</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>055</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>7,350</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>255</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1,125</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>1,875</td>
<td>10,350</td>
<td>12,225</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>12,100</td>
<td>14,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Recent Antlered Harvest Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DMU</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>022</td>
<td>3,450</td>
<td>1,976</td>
<td>1,867</td>
<td>1,672</td>
<td>2,753</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>055</td>
<td>4,111</td>
<td>4,380</td>
<td>4,016</td>
<td>3,860</td>
<td>6,111</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>1,002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>802</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155</td>
<td>1,180</td>
<td>1,354</td>
<td>1,024</td>
<td>957</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>255</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>918</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You

www.michigan.gov/dnr
Deer/CWD Regulations

Chad Stewart, Deer Management Specialist
Wildlife Division
May 9, 2019
Moving the Liberty Hunt

• Completion of changes originally brought forward during Bear Regulations
  – Would move Liberty hunt from Saturday following September 15 to the second Saturday in September
  – 2019: September 14-15
  – Department does not anticipate a biological impact from this move
Redefining bait

• Previous definition:
  – Any substance composed of grain, mineral, salt, fruit, vegetable, hay, or other food material used to lure, entice, or attract deer

• Proposed definition
  – Intent for consumption
  – Excludes scents
Upper Peninsula Recommendations
Proposed Baiting/Feeding Ban
Proposed Baiting/Feeding Ban

- CWD Response/Surveillance Plan
- Recommended by UP CWD Working Group at March 21 meeting
- Consistent timeline with previous CWD detections
  - 3 county ban in 2015
- Exceptions available for hunters with disabilities during Liberty/Independence hunts
Antlerless Archery Options

• Reinstate antlerless option during archery season in areas open to antlerless hunting
  – Archery hunters hunting in select DMUs would be able to resume pursuing antlerless deer using their deer/combo licenses
  – DMU 022 (if approved in antlerless order), 055, 121, 122, 155, 255
Lower Peninsula
Recommendations
Expansion of CWD Management Zone

• Add Barry, Lenawee, and Midland Counties
  – Counties within 10 miles of known CWD positive animals
  – Expectation to reevaluate CWD Management Zone in 2020
Antler Point Restrictions in CWD Core Zone

• Propose 4 point antler point restriction on deer/combo license in Mecosta, Montcalm, and Ionia counties
  – Result of research project requested in August 2018
• Project would evaluate impact of APRs on deer herd dynamics
• Project would sunset in March 2022*

*Unless clear and negative impacts are seen prior to completion
Administrative Changes

• Identification on constructed ground blinds on public land
• Licenses valid for early/late antlerless seasons in disease management areas
• Deer rehabilitation
• Intrastate transportation of cleaned skulls
Thank You

www.michigan.gov/dnr