

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



	Muskegon River Walleye	Bay de Noc Walleye	Little Manistee River Steelhead
Days in Operation	3	2	4
Eggs Taken	32.2 Million	19.3 Million	4.74 Million
Destination	WLSFH, PRSFH	TSFH	WLSFH, TSFH, OH, IN

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.

[CFR](#)

[Table of Popular Names](#)

[prev](#) | [next](#)

§ 77.7 Accredited-free States or zones.

(a) The following are accredited-free States: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

(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.

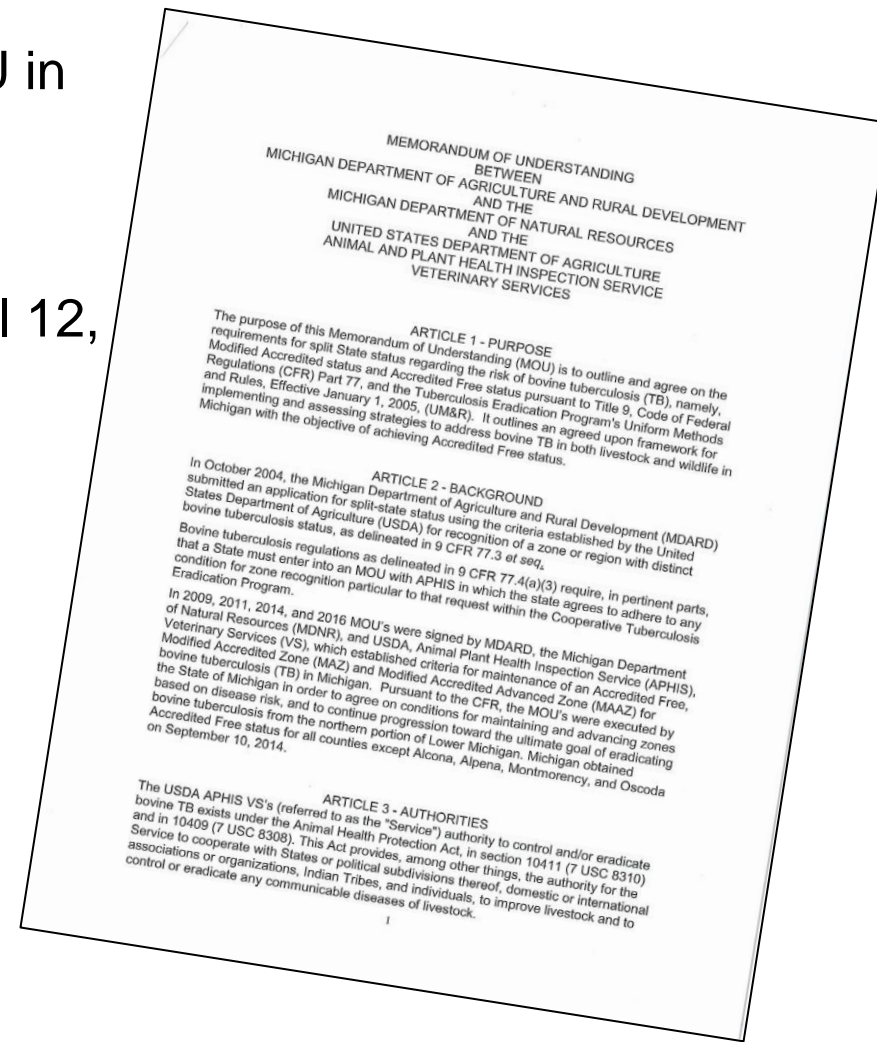
(b) The following are modified accredited zones:

(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

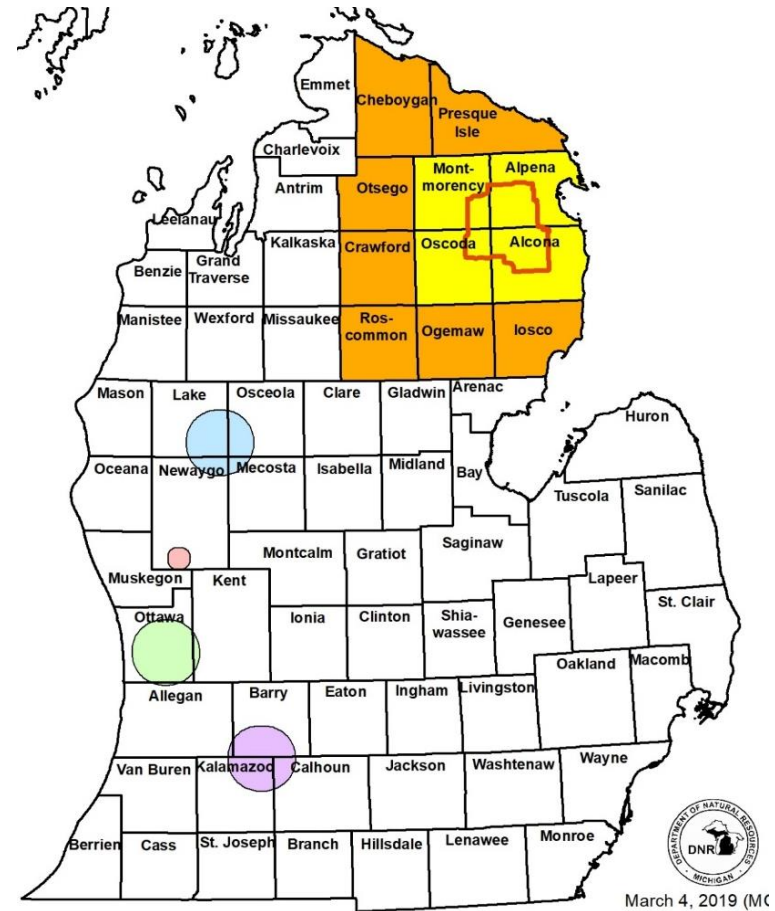
Surveillance requirements

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

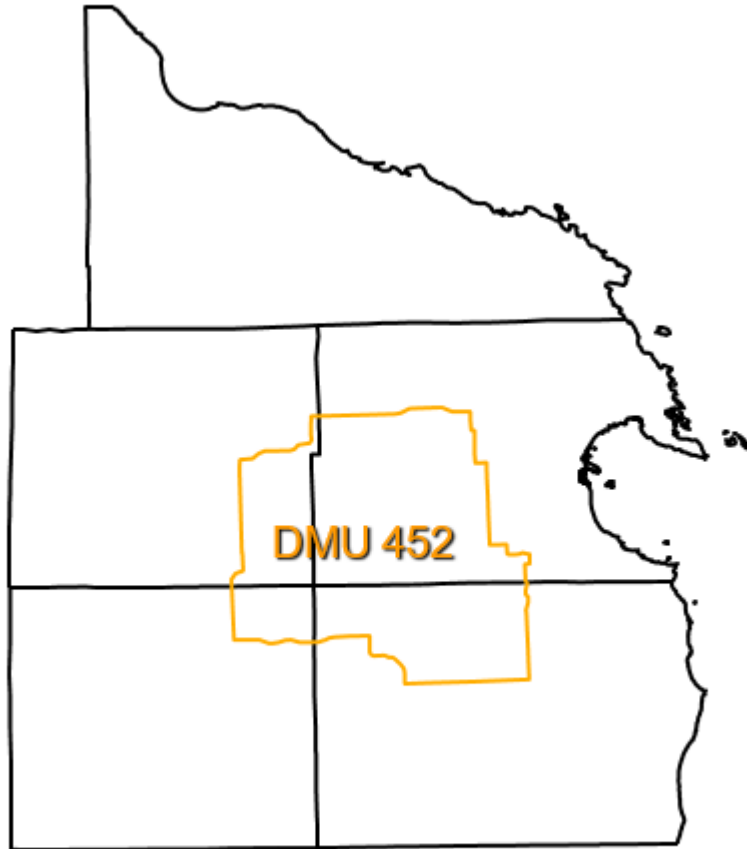
Annual reporting requirements

Important metrics (monitor for increases)

- Apparent prevalence all ages except fawns
- Apparent prevalence yearlings
- Age-specific force of infection



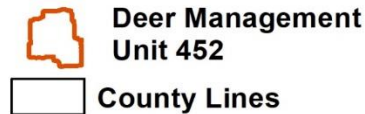
Apparent TB Prevalence in White-tailed Deer



Year	DMU452	5-Co.Outside DMU452
1995	4.9%	(no testing)
1996	2.5%	0.2%
1997	4.7%	0.4%
1998	2.7%	0.3%
1999	2.4%	0.2%
2000	2.5%	0.4%
2001	2.3%*	0.5%
2002	2.6%	0.5%
2003	1.7%	0.2%
2004	1.7%	0.2%
2005	1.2%	0.1%
2006	2.3%	0.3%
2007	1.4%	0.2%
2008	1.9%	0.3%
2009	1.9%	0.4%
2010	1.8%	0.2%
2011	1.2%	0.1%
2012	1.7%	0.3%
2013	1.7%	0.2%
2014	1.0%	0.2%
2015	2.7%	0.3%
2016	2.0%	0.3%
2017	2.3%	0.6%
2018	2.1%	0.1%

2018 Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Surveillance in Free-Ranging White-tailed Deer, Michigan

Legend



I. ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

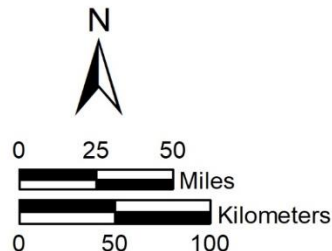
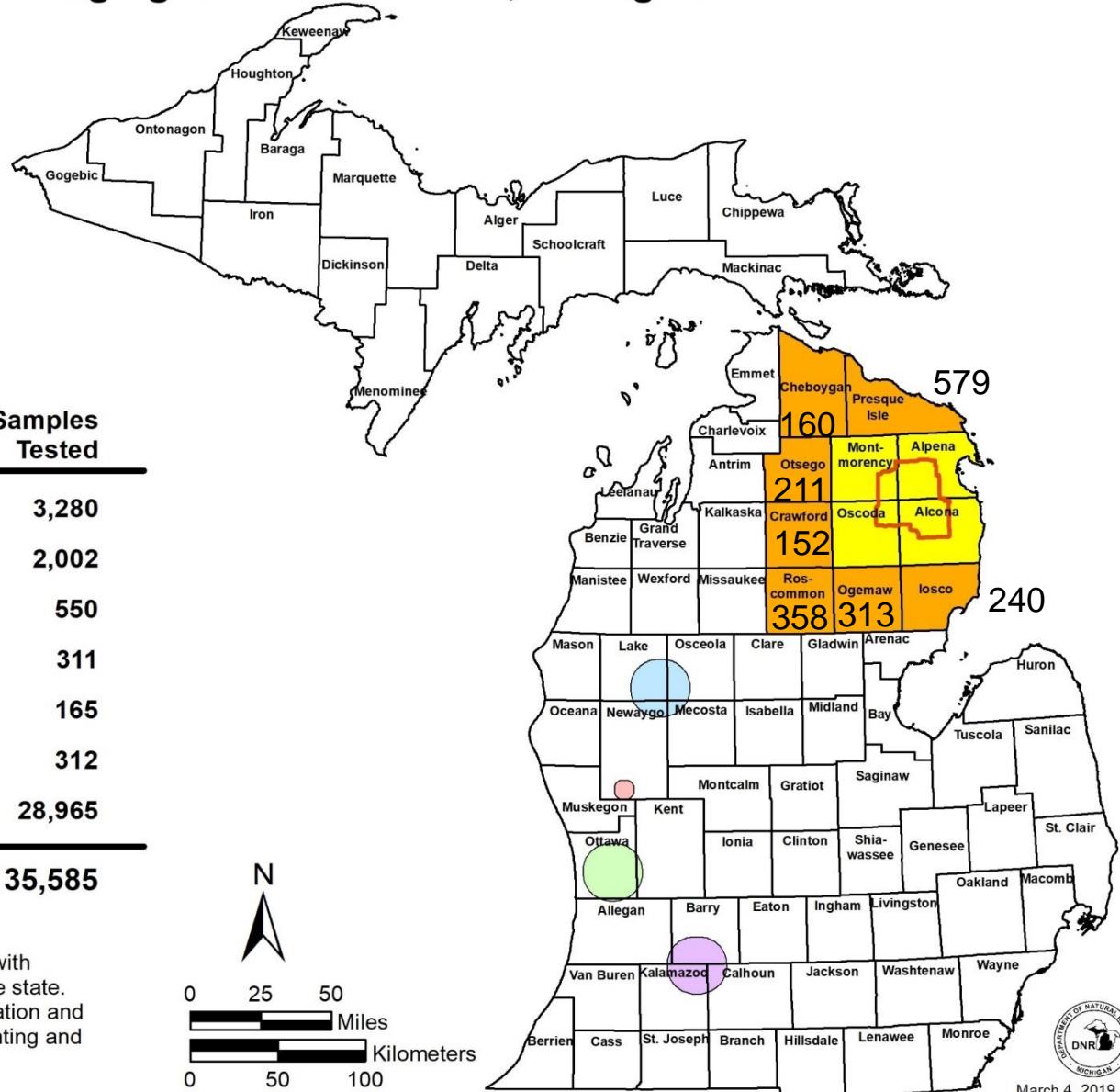
(Hunters voluntarily submit heads for examination)

Testing Zone	Sample Goals	Samples Tested
	2,800	3,280
	1,500	2,002
	300	550
	300	311
	300	165
	30	312
	0	28,965

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.)



March 4, 2019 (MC)

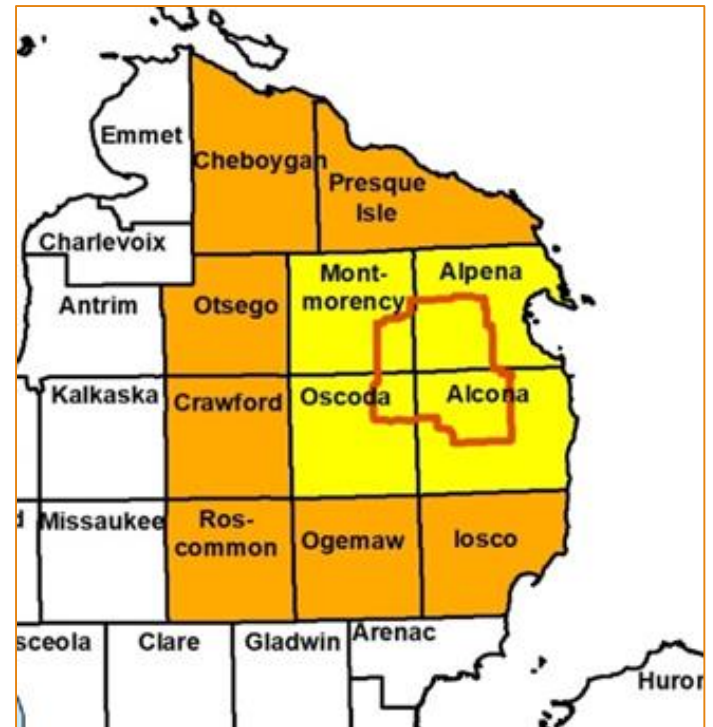
Current MOU

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.

APR Survey Summary

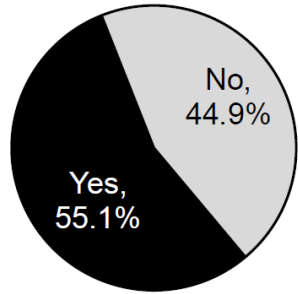
Table 1. The estimated number of hunters in the 5-county Thumb Area and the number of hunters selected to receive the opinion survey about mandatory APR regulations in Thumb Area, Michigan.

Total number of hunters ^a	Number of people included in sample ^a	Number of questionnaires that were undeliverable	Number of questionnaires returned	Response rate (%)
55,617	2,100	29	1,641	79

^aEstimated number of people that hunted deer in the 5-county Thumb Area in 2017 (Frawley 2018).

APR Survey Summary

Table 2. Proportion of hunters supporting proposed antler point restrictions in the 5-county Thumb Area, Michigan, in 2019.

Response	Percentage of hunters ^a	95% CL ^b	Responses (%)
Yes (Supported mandatory APR regulations)	55.1	2.5	
No (Did not support mandatory APR regulations)	44.9	2.5	

^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

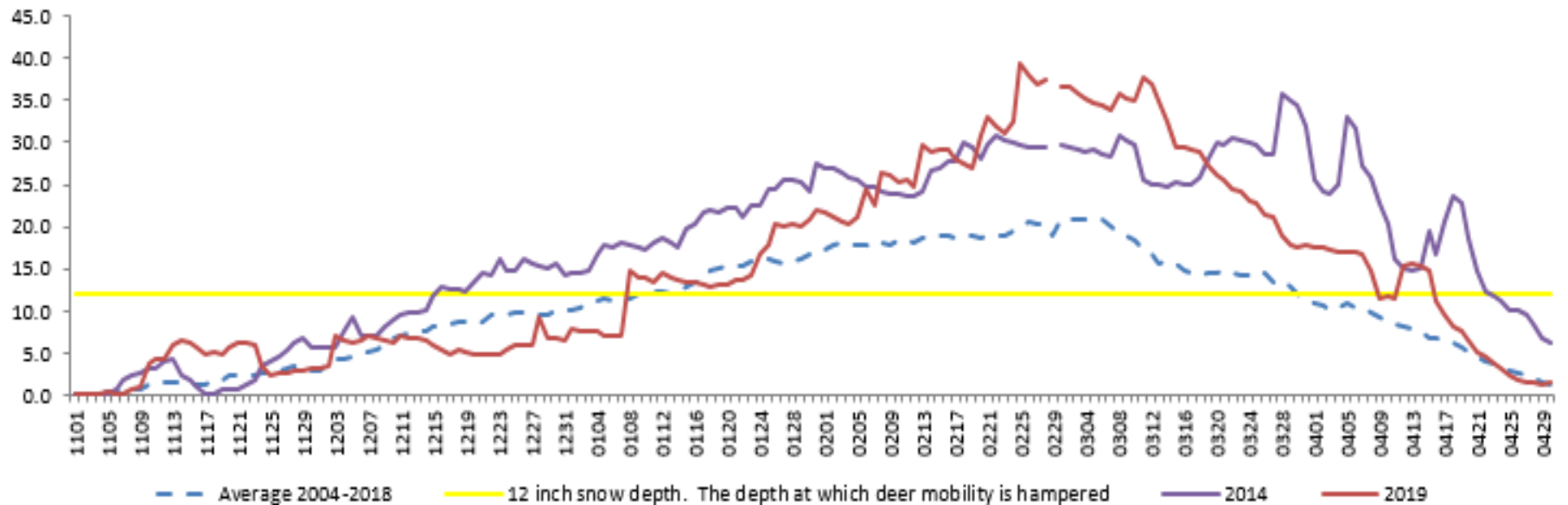
Chad Stewart, Deer and Elk Management Specialist

Wildlife Division

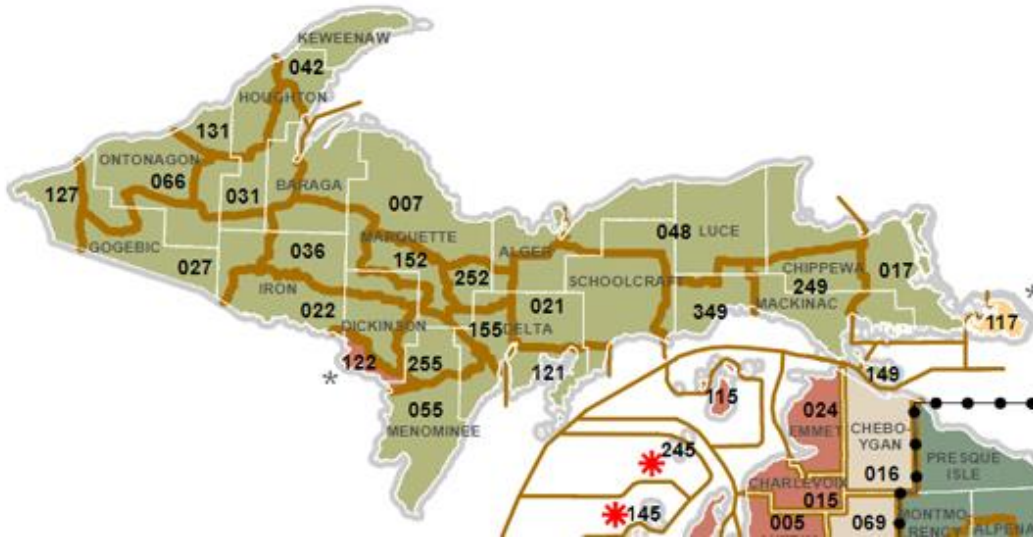
May 9, 2019

Winter Impacts

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

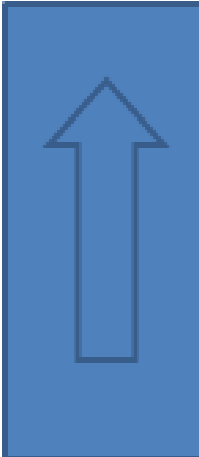


Proposed Changes



UP Antlerless Deer License Quota Recommendations						
	2018			2019		
DMU	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total
022	0	0	0	200	500	700
055	850	6,500	7,350	1,000	7,000	8,000
121	300	600	900	400	800	1,200
122	100	850	950	200	1,000	1,200
155	250	1,650	1,900	300	1,800	2,100
255	375	750	1,125	500	1,000	1,500
Totals	1,875	10,350	12,225	2,600	12,100	14,700

Recent Antlered Harvest Trends

DMU	Antlered Harvest					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
022	3,450	1,976	1,867	1,672	2,753	
055	4,111	4,380	4,016	3,860	6,111	
121	833	484	658	790	1,002	
122	374	434	580	837	802	
155	1,180	1,354	1,024	957	1,600	
255	812	576	684	700	918	

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

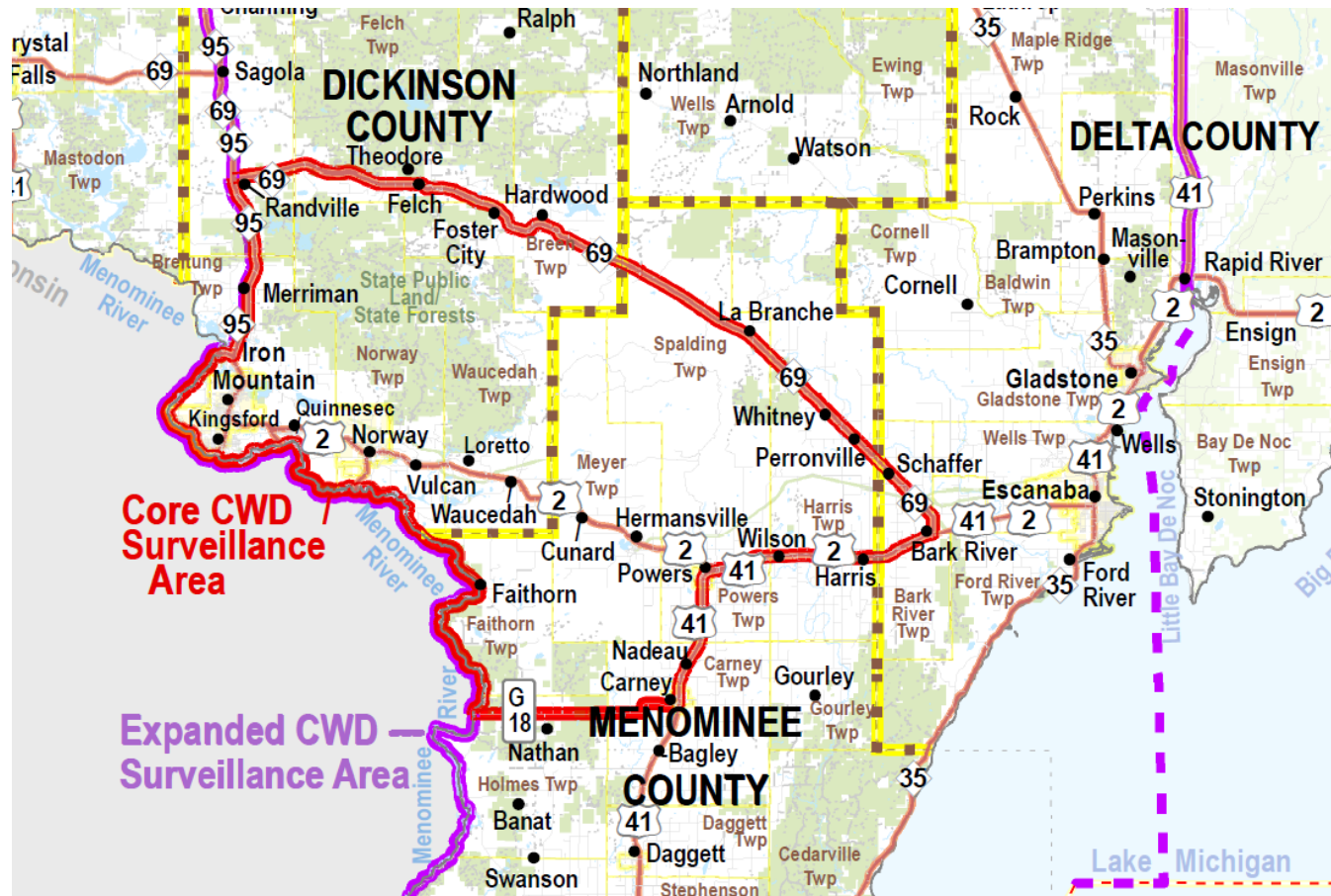
- Previous definition:
 - Any substance composed of grain, mineral, salt, fruit, vegetable, hay, or other food material used to lure, entice, or attract deer
- Proposed definition
 - Intent for consumption
 - Excludes scents



Photo courtesy Wildlife Research Center

Upper Peninsula Recommendations

Proposed Baiting/Feeding Ban

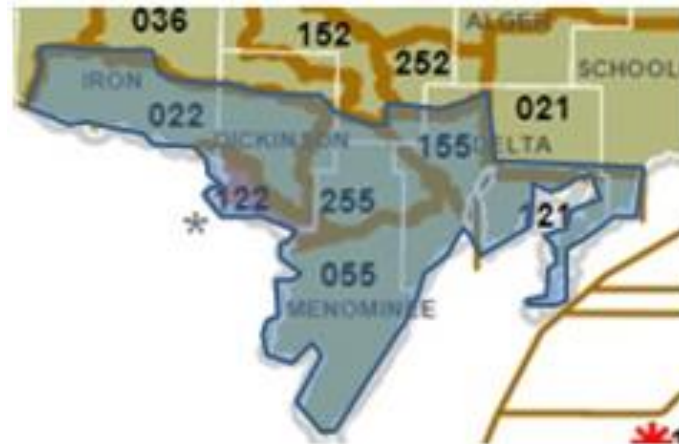


Proposed Baiting/Feeding Ban

- 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

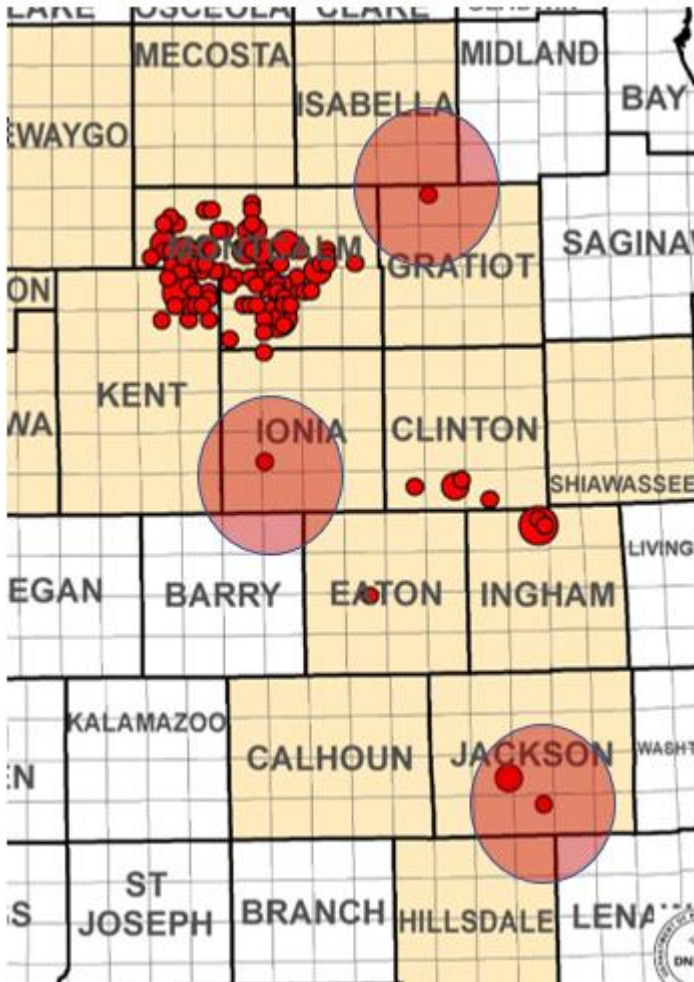
Antlerless Archery Options

- Reinstatement 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