

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – MARCH 21, 2012

Acting Chairman Jeffrey Plummer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Chairman and Vice-Chairman Selections (Commission Members)

- Acting in their capacity as Nominations Committee, Commissioner Gulbrandsen reported that Commissioner Bonomo and Commissioner Gulbrandsen contacted most of the current and former Commission members about the nominations for Chairman. Commissioner Plummer's name was advanced as new Chairman for the Commission and Commissioner Compton indicated a willingness to serve as Vice-Chairman.
- Commissioner Gulbrandsen mentioned that Commissioner Bonomo suggested that it is important to have a diversity leadership, not just demographically but in points of view. Also that member should have the desire, experience, and availability to serve as vice-chair.
- Motion:
 1. Hearing no other nominations, Commissioner Gulbrandsen motion on behalf of the Nominations Committee, Commissioner Plummer for Chairman and Commissioner Compton for Vice-Chairman.
 2. Commissioner Rodney seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from February 15, 2012 Meeting

- The February 15th meeting minutes were distributed to the Commission prior to the meeting.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen motioned to approve the February 15th meeting minutes.
 2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for the March 21, 2012 Meeting Agenda

- The March 21, 2012 meeting agenda was submitted to the Commission.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Compton motioned to accept the March 21, 2012 Meeting Agenda.
 2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

2012-2013 Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits Proposals – Presentation given by Pete Jayne, Associate Director, Wildlife and Heritage Service.

- Mr. Jayne mentioned that, with rare exception hunting regulations are reviewed on a two-year cycle except for migratory game birds, which are done annually.
- Mr. Jayne introduced Bill Harvey, Game Bird Section Leader, Harry Spiker, Game Mammal Section Leader, Brian Eyler, Deer Project Leader, and George Timko, Assistant Deer Project Leaders to the Commission.
- The Commission received a synopsis of the Hunting Season Regulation Proposals for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 that was presented at the two public meetings [ATTACHMENT A].
- Mr. Jayne presented the Hunting Season Regulation Proposals in a Power Point presentation in [ATTACHMENT B].
 1. Proposal: Change the crossbow regulation to allow a cocked, but unloaded crossbow to be placed in, on or against a vehicle. The Department's recommendation is to move this proposal forward to become a regulation. The Department will continue encouraging individuals to not leave a cocked but unloaded crossbow in, on or against a vehicle.

- a. Commissioner Compton reiterated his comments from the February 15th, 2012 meeting. Commissioner Compton expressed his firm opposition to this regulation proposal. The Department is relaxing safety standards that an industry should be addressing. Commissioner Compton explained that crossbow users have to release an arrow that has an expensive bolt on it into the ground, which has a financial loss to the crossbow users and this regulation is not an actual safety factor. Commissioner Compton indicated if the crossbows are that unsafe then the Department should not have allow crossbows to be a legal hunting tool.
- b. Motion:
 - i. Commissioner Compton motioned to reject the proposal to change the crossbow regulation.
 - ii. Commissioner Boyles Griffin seconded.
 - iii. Discussion: There was further discussion on giving people the information about safety requirements and letting people make their own informed decisions.
 - iv. Motion failed with 2 supports and 3 nays. DNR's proposal moved forward as presented.
2. Furbearers: Reopen a trapping season for river otters in Garrett & Allegany counties with a bag limit of 1. The Department's recommendation is to move this proposal forward to become a regulation.
 - a. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked, once someone is targeting a beaver and he or she takes an otter what is the requirement for avoiding another otter.
 - i. The trapper makes the decision whether to change his or her sets or location.
 - ii. If it is a nuisance wildlife issue than maybe another trapper could handle the issue.
 - b. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked in any of those areas is there any emphasis at all to attempt to resolve beaver conflicts with something else besides trapping. Commissioner Boyles Griffin expressed that this may not solve the problem permanently because the animals will re-colonize areas so emphasis on something that is permanent may be a better solution. In addition, this would avoid the bycatch of otter. Commissioner Boyles Griffin understood that staff will be using the honor system and that people will do the right thing but hoped that Department would monitor to ensure trappers are doing the right thing.
 - c. Commissioner Compton recalled that the trappers will be required to check-in otter with the Department. This will give staff a chance to inform trappers and is a biological research opportunity with the data from these animals.
 - d. Chairman Plummer asked what the penalty is for someone who takes a second otter.
 - i. The fine is \$250.00 for illegal take of an otter.
 - e. Motion:
 - i. Commissioner Gulbrandsen motioned to accept the proposal to reopen the otter season in Garrett and Allegany Counties.
 - ii. Commissioner Compton seconded.
 - iii. Motion passed with 4 supports and 1 nay. DNR's proposal moved forward as presented.
3. Red and Gray Fox Proposal: Extend the fox season by two weeks but for shooting only.
 - a. Commissioner Rodney read an email dated March 19, 2012 from Butch Glenn, President of Maryland Fur Trappers Inc. in support of extending the proposal to include both hunting and trapping. The majority of hunters and trappers that harvest foxes are doing so because of the pelts and because foxes are nuisance predators. Commissioner Rodney recommended that this proposal to extend the fox season by two weeks should be granted to both of the user groups, hunters and trappers.

- b. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked when is the extension and what are season dates now.
 - i. The two weeks will be added to the end of the fox season.
 - ii. The Fox Season dates are August 1st - July 31st in Charles and Dorchester Counties, November 15th – January 31st is that portion of the state **east** of the Chesapeake Bay and Susquehanna River except Dorchester County, November 1st – January 19th is that portion of the state **west** of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River except Charles County.
- c. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked if by any chance these foxes will have kits during the time period of this extension.
 - i. These animals should not have kits during this time period.
 - ii. There are two counties that have year-round take of foxes and there is no lack of foxes in these counties.
- d. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked how likely is it that a trapper targeting foxes unintentionally takes another species that may not be in season during that extra two weeks.
 - i. An experienced trapper is remarkably selective in what he or she is trapping because it is an issue of efficiency.
 - ii. It is fairly uncommon for a trapper who is trapping fox to catch another species but it could happen.
- e. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked about one of the Power Point slides from the February 15th meeting that highlighted that the general intent of this change is not necessarily to take foxes but to increase the coyote take.
 - i. This is not the sole intent but it is one of the sources of input that staff received prior to proposing this.
- f. Commissioner Boyles Griffin commented on the general idea that this is the method that is being used to try to suppress the coyote population as a means of conflict resolution. Commissioner Boyles Griffin took strong exception to it because there is every piece of scientific evidence in the world that suggest that the more we kill coyotes the quicker the coyotes will rebound via compensatory reproduction and coyotes have been doing this in the west, which is one of the reasons for them expanding to the eastern states. Commissioner Boyles Griffin strongly suggested that DNR to reevaluate the notion that killing more is not necessarily going to bring about a smaller coyote population and resolve conflicts.
 - i. This is another tool for landowners and hunters to use.
- g. Motion:
 - i. Commissioner Gulbrandsen motioned to accept to extend the fox season by two weeks but for shooting only.
 - ii. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
 - iii. Motion carried with 3 supports and 2 nays.
- 4. Hunter Orange – require bowhunters who are bowhunting deer in the bear hunting zone to wear hunter orange while the bear season is open.
 - a. Motion:
 - i. Commissioner Rodney motioned to accept the proposal to require bowhunters who are bowhunting deer in the bear hunting zone wear hunter orange while the bear season is open.
 - ii. Commissioner Compton seconded.
 - iii. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 5. Sika Deer – institute a branched-antler requirement for stags. Spike sika deer would not be legal for harvest. Department's recommendation is to drop this proposal.

- a. Chairman Plummer requested that staff highlight the concerns from the public on this proposal.
 - i. Sika deer tend to be nocturnal. Majority of shooting opportunity for sika either happens in the last 15 minutes of legal hunting hours or the first 15 minutes of legal hunting hours for sika deer hunting.
 - ii. During this time there is still light to be able to identify the target but a spike sika deer could have spikes that are only one inch tall. Therefore, it can be difficult to see those spikes under certain hunting conditions.
 - iii. Sika tend to be in phragmites, which is a common invasive wetland plant and has the tendency to grow in dense stands.
 - iv. Some of the comments related to identifying the target, which is rule number #1 in hunting. Staff are not saying that hunters cannot do that but if staff move forward with this proposal, it would make it harder for hunters to identify as to whether it is a legal sika deer or illegal sika deer.
 - b. Motion:
 - i. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to support DNR's recommendation to drop sika deer proposal.
 - ii. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
 - iii. Motion carried with 4 supports and 1 nay.
6. White-tailed Deer: Combine the Region A and Region B buck bag limits into one statewide limit of three bucks (one per weapon season). This is consistent with DNR's deer management goals. DNR's recommendation is to keep this proposal as-is but add 1 bonus buck for Region B that would allow hunters to select which season they could use the bonus buck tag in.
- a. Chairman Plummer expressed concerned about the impact on antlerless harvest. Chairman Plummer indicated that there is a problem with hunters checking in "ghost does", which means that some of the hunters are checking-in does when they actually do not have the deer to check-in.
 - i. Staff described that the average hunter takes 1.9 to 2 deer a year so most hunters are not taking two does, let alone checking in two illegally and that the bonus buck tag purchase data does not demonstrate any widespread problem with illegal check-in.
 - ii. Staff suggested that this may enhance the doe harvest by allowing hunters to take two does in any given white-tailed deer season from September 15th through January 30th.
 - iii. Game Program would like to present to the Commission data on the "ghost doe" check-in as an agenda item for a future meeting.
 - b. Motion:
 - i. Commissioner Compton motioned to accept the proposal to combine the Region A and B buck bag limits into one statewide limit of 3 bucks (one per weapon season) and add one bonus buck for Region B.
 - ii. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
 - iii. Chairman Plummer attended the Annapolis public meeting on the Regulation Concepts and Chairman Plummer explained that this is the best compromise for the Department and public.
 - iv. Motion carried with all in favor.
7. White-tailed Deer – Expand the current unlimited antlerless bag limit for bow season in the Suburban Archery Zone to all of Region B.
- a. Motion:
 - i. Commissioner Compton motioned to expand the current unlimited white-tailed deer antlerless bag limit for the bow season to all of Region B.
 - ii. Commissioner Rodney seconded.

- iii. Motion carried with 4 supports and 1 nay.
- 8. White-tailed Deer - Extend Deer Bow Season to open on September 5th in both Regions A and B (September 6th when September 5th is a Sunday).
 - a. Commissioner Boyles Griffin outlined three categories of comments on this proposal. Commissioner Boyles Griffin reviewed several forums about this proposal. Accuracy was one discussion point on the forums. There are arguments by non-hunters, anti-hunters and hunters, even though there are more days to take the deer, there are still the same hunters that would go out on September 15th are now going to go out on September 5th and not necessarily going to take more deer. Commissioner Boyles Griffin indicated that from the wildlife prospective she really does not see how this is going to achieve any of the deer management objectives for DNR related to increasing the harvest of deer.
 - b. Commissioner Boyles Griffin mentioned another problem from the animal welfare prospective is that there are individuals who are still uncomfortable with the season opening on the September 15th because it is still very warm outside and there are a lot of leaves on the trees. Commissioner Boyles Griffin highlighted that she does a lot of deer darting, tranquilizing, and immunocontraceptive treatment afield during that time of the year and there is going to be a lot of dense vegetation. When Commissioner Boyles Griffin darts an animal, there is a GPS transmitter attached to that dart, this animal can be tracked by radio telemetry equipment. It is amazing to Commissioner Boyles Griffin that every time she has to do this the animal was never where she thought the animal would be. Commissioner Boyles Griffin expressed that she has to be right on the animal to see the animal; even then it is still a challenge even with using the radio telemetry equipment. Commissioner Boyles Griffin stressed that she has to believe that with the whole month of September and even October this is going to be an issue no matter how good a hunter is. This has nothing to do with proficiency of an archer but it is the logistic of the situation and so a hunter may have an animal that cannot be recovered, or if recovered, a hunter may not be able to use the meat.
 - c. Commissioner Boyles Griffin's final point is that as stewards of wildlife this Commission is not sending a good message to the public as to what the Commission values.
 - d. Commissioner Compton addressed Commissioner Boyles Griffin's concerns on the accuracy/recovery component. Commissioner Compton pointed out it is not as necessary to increase the take as it is to provide recreational opportunity and a better degree of recruitment and retention. A lot of the older bow hunters would much rather hunt during the early season. In response to the foliage issue, being afield during the early bow season there is foliage sometimes until late October to the early part of November. Hunters are shooting at closer range during this time period.
 - e. Commissioner Boyles Griffin expressed that she has a group that she is representing here. Commissioner Boyles Griffin outlined that the benefits do not out weigh the risk.
 - i. Staff responded to the recovery issue, it is a big difference in recovering a chemically immobilized animal vs. one that is being recovered based on an archery trail that is being tracked. There are shining leaves available with the ability to reflect light and the tracking job is much easier. In fact, in many cases at night under the circumstances that Commissioner Boyles Griffin described, it would be easier to recover an animal than later in the season when leaves are less reflective when tracking at night.
 - f. Mr. Coppen commented that the increase of hunter's participation would likely increase the harvesting of deer. During this time period, normally deer are pretty pattern oriented so it is likely that hunters with good woodsmen skills would be successful. Mr. Coppen added that he thought this was a great proposal for Maryland.
 - g. Dr. Lamp reported that this issue came up at the Stakeholders Meeting in Owings Mills,

Maryland. Dr. Lamp explained that this is a lightning rod issue in the animal welfare community of Maryland especially because of the very nature of bowhunting. Bowhunting is one of the forms of hunting that is looked upon as not very positive for a variety of reasons. Dr. Lamp informed the Commission that this proposal has reawakened the issue about this type of hunting and this proposal poses a problem in the animal welfare community.

- h. Clarification from staff:
 - i. This proposal was presented to the Stakeholders Meeting by some of the stakeholders. It was not one of the Department's original proposals.
 - ii. This is the first that the Department has heard of potential recovery problems during the bow season even though there is no evidence to support that concern. This would require the Department to conduct a study on this. Unfortunately, with the current budget restraints that the Department has this is not possible without more funding.
 - iii. Staff tried to seek common ground between the animal welfare community and the bowhunting community.
- i. Discussion ensued regarding a compromise to restrict the early bowhunting season to private lands only and the need to collect recovery results.
- j. Motion:
 - i. Commissioner Gulbrandsen motioned to support the Department's recommendation on extending the Deer Bow Season to open on September 5th in both Regions A and B (September 6th when September 5th is a Sunday).
 - ii. Commissioner Compton seconded.
 - iii. Motion carried with 4 supports and 1 nay.
 - iv. Further discussion occurred shortly thereafter and, in order to avoid overlap with Labor Day holiday weekend and provide a consistent opening day structure similar to what occurs in other seasons, the Commission unanimously endorsed a compromise proposal to open deer bow season on the first Friday after Labor Day.
- 9. Chronic Wasting Disease – allow hunters to take deer harvested in the CWD Management Area (CWDMA) to approved taxidermists outside the CWDMA.
 - a. Motion:
 - i. Commissioner Gulbrandsen motioned to support to permit the hunters to take deer harvested in the CWD Management Area (CWDMA) to approved taxidermists outside the CWDMA
 - ii. Commissioner Boyles Griffin seconded.
 - iii. Motion carried with all in favor.
- 10. Chronic Wasting Disease – Allow hunters to transport whole deer quarters and front shoulders from the CWD Disease Management Area (CWDMA).
 - a. Motion:
 - i. Commissioner Rodney motioned to support the CWD change to allow hunters to transport whole deer quarters and front shoulders from the CWD Disease Management Area.
 - ii. Commissioner Boyles Griffin seconded.
 - iii. Motion carried with all in favor.

Break 11:05 am to 11:15 am

2012 WAC Working Agenda – WAC Review and Approval

- Chairman Plummer reminded the Commission that the November meeting date has to be determined. Ms. Spencer received responses from most of the members about the November 14th

date as an option. The Commission decided to move the November meeting to November 14th.

- The Finalize Selections of the 2012-2014 Season and Bag Limit agenda item was done at this meeting. Therefore, there is no need to have it on the April 18th meeting date. Commission decided to move the April meeting to May 16th. Therefore, the Commission will be meeting in May, June, July, and August.
- The July 25th meeting is highlighted because it is the 4th Wednesday of the month instead of the normal third Wednesday of the month. This is to allow for staff to gather the information from the Atlantic Flyway Council meeting for the proposed development of the waterfowl seasons and bag limits.
- 2012 WAC Working Agenda was approved by consensus. [ATTACHMENT B]

Explore Bowhunting Program

- Commissioner Compton introduced Mr. Jorge Coppen, President of the Traditional Bowhunters of Maryland. Mr. Coppen approached the Maryland Bowhunters Society about advancing the Explore Bowhunting Program – it is a basic program to introduce bowhunting skills.
- Mr. J. Coppen highlighted details about the Explore Bowhunting Program through a Power Point presentation [ATTACHMENT C].
- Mr. Coppen pointed out that there is a decline of youth connecting to outdoor recreational activities. This disconnect with nature is a great challenge for conservation groups.
- Mr. Coppen emphasized that Explore Bowhunting Program is a conservation program – it teaches ethics, responsibility, and it focuses on the interaction between people and wildlife.
- Mr. Coppen indicated that there are several states that have successfully implemented this program.
- The contact information for ATA's Explore Bowhunting Program is listed in the Power Point if anyone is interested in implementing this program in schools, 4-H groups, scouts, etc.
- The Maryland Bowhunters Society (MBS) and the Traditional Bowhunters of Maryland (TBM) are committed to supporting the Explore Bowhunting Program in Maryland.
- Commissioner Compton concluded that the reason for the presentation was to ask the Department to adopt this program into the Information and Education Program with the assistance of MBS and TBM. There is no cost to get the Explore Bowhunting Program. However, there is a cost that would be related to the equipment.
 1. Staff recognizes that this may be an important program but the Department would need funding for equipment and staff to oversee this effort and neither is available in the current budget.
- Commissioner Compton emphasized this is another reason for HB 1419 to pass.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – Presentation given by Kurt Fuchs, Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Government Relations Assistant Director

- Mr. Fuchs provided an update on the Doe Harvest Challenge. This is the third year of this program, which encourages hunters to harvest and donate the does. There were less than 50 entries than last year numbers. However, there was an increase in doe donations. Around 83,000 pounds of venison that translated to 332,000 meals that were given to local shelters and food banks just in the counties that have the Doe Harvest Challenge.
- Mr. Fuchs mentioned that the MFB is tracking around 240 bills. This year, MFB did not take positions on a lot of Natural Resources related bills. MFB supports the various Sunday hunting bills on private lands.

DNR Legislative Session Update – Presentation given by Paul Peditto, Director, Wildlife and

Heritage Service

- Mr. Peditto highlighted the wildlife-related bills to the Commission.
- The Commission received a list of the wildlife related bills. [ATTACHMENT D].
 1. There are several Sunday hunting bills such as HB 129, HB 134 HB 321, HB 809, HB 877, and some of these are cross-filed with Senate bills, SB 105, SB 346, and SB 390.
 2. HB 1419 Natural Resources – Hunting Licenses and Stamps – this bill will increase fees for hunting licenses and stamps for residents and nonresidents. Chairman Plummer testified on this bill as a representative from the Maryland Waterfowlers Association.

Natural Resources Police (NRP) Update – no report.

New Business

- Chairman Plummer requested that the WAC Operational Guidelines be added to the March Meeting Packet so that the new members of the Commission will have copies of the protocols for serving on the Commission.
 1. Action Item for the Commission: Chairman requested that the members review the guidelines and bring any questions to the May 16th meeting.
 2. The guidelines were recently revised to the current version of the WAC Operational Guidelines.
- Chairman Plummer recommended that the Commission members should visit the different forums to help the members become well-informed on both sides of the issues along with trying to make the stakeholders meetings and public meetings.
- Director Peditto explained the process for the Conservationist, Farmer, and Employee of the Year. One of the functions of the Commission is to serve as the selection committee for each one of these categories. The MFB provides the nominees for the Farmer of Year and the award is presented at the MFB Annual Event. The Conservationist of the Year may come from anyone – these are individuals who have served the community of wildlife conservation and management. The Employee of the Year may be nominated by anyone – this award is presented at the WHS Annual Meeting. At the May meeting, the Commission will see the packet of nominees for each category.
 1. Ms. Spencer will be sending the notices about this via email with an April 6th deadline to the Commission.
 2. Chairman Plummer added that this process of selecting the Conservationist, Farmer, and Employee of the Year is one of the rewarding things that he gets to participate in as a member of the Commission.

Public Comment

- Dr. Lamp highlighted that he is concerned about expanding the bowhunting season in Maryland. Dr. Lamp indicated that bowhunting is a very controversial issue. Dr. Lamp explained that he is trying to do everything he can to get the non-consumptive user to support the DNR. Dr. Lamp reported that 80% of WHS budget is from the hunting community. Dr. Lamp reminded the Commission that DNR and the non-hunting community could not come to a compromise at the meeting on this issue and this issue was only designed to increase recreational usage. Dr. Lamp said, “Does not know what is going to happen as a result of the Commission making this decision to extend the bowhunting season.” Dr. Lamp added that this was a time period that the non-hunting community and the hunting community were trying to come together and what has happened at this meeting has driven a farther wedge with the non-consumptive users. There is a small group of hunters in Maryland fewer than 3% and the Department’s budget is going down.

Dr. Lamp stated that the Department cannot continue to go to the hunters to help fund WHS. Dr. Lamp emphasized that if the Department does not bring the non-consumptive users on board, he does not know what WHS is going to do and WHS is needed.

- Mr. Coppen disagreed with Dr. Lamp's comments. Mr. Coppen reminded the Commission that the citizens of the State own the wildlife. Mr. Coppen pointed out, if the Department only allows private landowners to hunt from September 5th and not the public that is not going to sit well with the majority of hunters that pay the fees and the licenses to hunt on public lands. Mr. Coppen commented that the hunters would question the reason of the compromise to allow only private landowners to hunt the early season, which does not allow the other hunters to gain access to the wildlife during the early season.
- Director Peditto mentioned that on WHS' website there is a button to click to contact us and to contact the Wildlife Advisory Commission. Director Peditto reminded the members that policy questions for WAC are forwarded to the Commission for the Commission to discuss. However, if emails are about technical wildlife issues, they would go to the staff specialists.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, J. Plummer, and C. Rodney
Guests:	J. Coppen, K. Fuchs, and J. Lamp
Staff:	B. Eyler, B. Harvey, L. Ingerson, P. Jayne, J. McKnight, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, and G. Timko
Absent:	J. Bonomo and G. Fratz



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
John R. Griffin, Secretary
Joseph P. Gill, Deputy Secretary

HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATION PROPOSALS

For 2012-13 and 2013-14

(All dates inclusive.)

The public comment period will end at 4:00 pm on March 15, 2012.

Thank you for your interest!

**Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building E-1
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401**

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Seasons, bag limits and possession limits for migratory game birds must conform to regulations and season frameworks adopted by the Secretary of the Interior. To provide additional opportunity for public involvement in this process, the Department presents the following proposals for selected migratory species with the understanding that they may change to comply with forthcoming Federal frameworks.

NO PROPOSED CHANGES FOR WATERFOWL

Proposed Early Waterfowl Seasons & Bag Limits 2012-2013 and 2013-2014

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Early Resident Canada Goose Eastern Zone	2012* Sept 1 -15 2013* Sept 2 -14	Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia State line.	8 per day	16
Early Resident Canada Goose Western Zone	2012* Sept 1- 25 2013* Sept 2- 25	Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington counties and that part of Anne Arundel County west of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia State line.	8 per day	16
Teal **	To be determined when May breeding survey data is available	Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia State line.	4 teal (blue-winged or green-winged teal) singly, or in aggregate	8

* Special Hunting Methods for Resident Canada Geese during the September Season Only: Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells may be used to take Resident Canada geese and the shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

** Shooting hours for teal during the September season are from sunrise to sunset.

NO PROPOSED CHANGES FOR WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Proposed Webless Migratory Game Bird Seasons & Bag Limits 2012-2013 and 2013-2014

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Woodcock	2012-13 Oct 26 – Nov 23 Jan 11 – Jan 26 2013-14 Oct 31– Nov 29 Jan 11– Jan 25	All counties	3 per day	6
Mourning Dove	2012-13 Sep 1 – Oct 6 Nov 3 – Nov 23 Dec 22– Jan 3 2013-14 Sep 2 – Oct 5 Nov 6 – Nov 29 Dec 21 – Jan 1	All counties	15 per day	30
Clapper & King Rails	2012 Sep 1 – Nov 9 2013 Sep 2– Nov 9	All counties	10 per day (no more than 1 King Rail)	20
Sora & Virginia Rails	2012 Sep 1 – Nov 9 2013 Sep 2– Nov 9	All counties	25 per day	25
Common Snipe	2012-13 Sep 25 – Nov 23 Dec 11 – Jan 26 2013-14 Sep 25 - Nov 29 Dec 16 - Jan 25	All counties	8 per day	16

NO PROPOSED CHANGES FOR UPLAND GAME

Proposed Upland Game Seasons and Bag Limits 2012-2013 and 2013-2014

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	2012-13 Nov 3 - Feb 28 2013-14 Nov 2 - Feb 28	All counties	4 per day	8
Snowshoe Hare	CLOSED SEASON			
Crow	2012-13 and 2013-14 Aug 15 - Mar 15 Wed - Sat Only	All counties	No Limit	No Limit
Pheasant (male only)	2012 Nov 3 - Dec 31 2013 Nov 2 - Dec 31	All counties	1 per day	2
Quail	2012-13 Nov 3 - Jan 15 2013-14 Nov 2 - Jan 15	Lands owned or managed by DNR – excluding Garrett and Allegany counties	6 per day No more than 3 on lands owned or managed by DNR	12
Quail	2012-13 Nov 3 - Jan 15 2013-14 Nov 2 - Jan 15	Private lands west of I-83 from PA south to I-695 to I-95 south to VA. ; excluding Garrett and Allegany counties		
Quail	2012-13 Nov 3 - Feb 15 2013-14 Nov 2 - Feb 15	Private lands east of I-83 from PA south to I-695 to I-95 south to VA		
Quail	CLOSED SEASON	Garrett and Allegany counties		

**Proposed Falconry Upland Game Seasons and Bag Limits
2012-2013 and 2013-2014**

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit (falconry) Quail (falconry)	2012-13 Nov 1 - Mar 31 2013-14 Nov 1 - Mar 31	All counties	4 per day	8
Pheasant - either sex (falconry)	2012-13 Nov 1 - Mar 31 2013-14 Nov 1 - Mar 31	All counties	1 per day	2

**Proposed Falconry Forest Game Seasons & Bag Limits
2012-2013 and 2013-2014**

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Ruffed grouse (falconry)	2012-13 Oct 1 - Mar 31 2013-14 Oct 1 - Mar 31	All counties	2 per day	4
Squirrel – Gray, Eastern Fox, Red or Piney* (falconry)	2012-13 Sep 1 - Mar 31 2013-14 Sep 1 - Mar 31	All counties	6 per day * no limit for Red or Piney	12 * no limit for Red or Piney

NO PROPOSED CHANGES FOR FOREST GAME (except deer)

Proposed Forest Game Seasons & Bag Limits 2012-2013 and 2013-2014

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Black Bear	2012 Oct 22 – Oct 27 Dec 3 – Dec 8 2013 Oct 21 - Oct 26 Dec 9 - Dec 14 Permit Required	Allegany and Garrett counties	1 per day with no more than 1 per permitted bear hunting team	1 per season with no more than 1 per permitted bear hunting team
Wild Turkey, fall season, either sex	2012 Oct 27 - Nov 3 2013 Oct 26 - Nov 2	Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties	1	1 per season
Wild Turkey, spring season, Junior Hunt*	2013 April 13 2014 April 12	All counties	1 bearded turkey	2 bearded turkeys per season
Wild Turkey	2013 and 2014 Apr 18 - May 23	All counties	1 bearded turkey	
Squirrel - Gray & Eastern Fox	2012-13 Sep 1 - Feb 28 2013-14 Sep 7 - Feb 28	All counties	6 per day	12
Squirrel - Red or Piney	2012-13 Sep 1 - Feb 28 2013-14 Sep 7 - Feb 28	All counties	No Limit	No Limit
Delmarva Fox Squirrel	CLOSED SEASON	All counties		
Ruffed grouse	2012-13 Oct 6 - Jan 31 2013-14 Oct 5 - Jan 31	All counties	2 per day	4

* Hunters age 16 or younger only; must be accompanied by a licensed (or exempt from license requirement) unarmed adult age 21 or older.

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR FURBEARERS

River Otter

1. Reopen a trapping season for river otters in Garrett and Allegany counties with a bag limit of one otter per season. All other counties in Maryland currently have an open season for otters.

Rationale/Goal: to provide a limited opportunity for trappers to take river otters in these counties. This will allow trappers that are targeting beavers more latitude to trap in areas where catching an otter in a beaver set is a possibility. Federal law requires all otter pelts to be tagged by DNR staff so we will gain valuable data on capture locations. We also would require trappers to surrender the carcass of any otters trapped in these counties to provide population data not otherwise available to DNR.

Comments: otters are present in most of the suitable habitat in Garrett and Allegany counties due to a successful reintroduction project conducted in the early to mid 1990's. Since that time, otter sightings have become increasingly common in Allegany and Garrett counties. Within the past few years, multiple otters have been reported in most sub-watersheds throughout the two-county region.

Red and Gray Fox

1. Extend fox season by two weeks, but for shooting only. This would include hunting during the night and day.

Rationale/Goal: this would afford additional recreational opportunities to predator hunters that are otherwise hunting coyotes at this time. It is expected that this proposal would have a minimal impact on fox populations across the state but should result in an increased take of coyotes. Currently, there are two management zones for foxes, the season would be extended by two weeks in both zones. The opening dates would remain unchanged as would the season in Charles and Dorchester counties (Aug. 1 – July 31).

Proposed Furbearer Seasons & Bag Limits 2012-2013 and 2013-2014

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Beaver Closed to Nonresidents	2012-13 Dec 15 - Mar 15 2013-14 Dec 14- Mar 15	All counties	No Limit	No Limit
Bobcat	CLOSED SEASON	All counties		

Coyote Firearms, Bow and Crossbow only.	Coyotes may be hunted in all counties year-round during daylight hours (1/2 hr. before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset) except Sunday.	No Limit	No Limit
	2012-13 and 2013-14 Oct 15 - Mar 15	Coyotes may be hunted in all counties day and night, except Sundays	No Limit
Coyote Trapping	2012-13 Nov 1 – Jan 19	In that portion of the State WEST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit
	2013-14 Nov 1 – Jan 18		
	2012-13 and 2013-14 Nov 15 –Jan 31	In that portion of the State EAST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit
Fox (Red and Gray) Firearms, Bow, Crossbow and Trapping	2012-13 Nov 1 – Jan 19	Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and Washington counties	No Limit
	2013-14 Nov 1 – Jan 18		
	2012-13 and 2013-14 Nov 15 –Jan 31	Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties	No Limit
	2012-13 and 2013-14 Aug 1 - Jul 31	Charles and Dorchester counties	No Limit
Fox (Red and Gray) Firearms, Bow and Crossbow only.	2012-13 Jan 21 – Feb 4	Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and Washington counties	No Limit
	2013-14 Jan 20 – Feb 3		
Fox (Red and Gray) Firearms, Bow and Crossbow only.	2012-13 and 2013-14 Feb 1 – Feb 15	Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties	No Limit
Fisher	2012-13 Nov 1 – Jan 19	All counties	2 per day
	2013-14 Nov 1 – Jan 18		
Nutria	2012-13 and 2013-14 Aug 1 - Jul 31	All counties*	No Limit

Muskrat and Mink	2012-13 and 2013-14 Nov 15 - Feb 15	Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard and Washington counties	No Limit	No Limit
	2012-13 Dec 15 - Mar 15 2013-14 Dec 14- Mar 15	Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset and Worcester counties	No Limit	No Limit
	2013 and 2014 Jan 1 - Mar 15	Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Talbot and Wicomico counties	No Limit	No Limit
Otter Closed to Nonresidents	2012-13 Dec 15 - Mar 15	In Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Washington counties	2 per day	2 per season
	2013-14 Dec 14 - Mar 15	In all other counties (except Allegany and Garrett counties)	10 per day	10 per season
		Allegany and Garrett counties	1 per day	1 per season
Raccoon and Opossum Chasing No Kill	2012-13 and 2013-14 Aug 1 - Oct 14 Mar 16 - Jul 31	All counties		
Raccoon and Opossum Firearms, Bow, Crossbow and Dog	2012-13 and 2013-14 Oct 15 - Mar 15	All counties	No Limit	No Limit
Raccoon and Opossum Trapping	2012-13 and 2013-14 Nov 1 - Mar 15	In that portion of the State WEST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
	2012-13 and 2013-14 Nov 15 - Mar 15	In that portion of the State EAST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
Skunk and Long - Tailed Weasel	2012-13 Nov 1 – Jan 19 2013-14 Nov 1 – Jan 18	In that portion of the State WEST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
	2012-13 and 2013-14 Nov 15 –Jan 31	In that portion of the State EAST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit

*On lands owned or controlled by DNR in Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties only leaseholders or their appointees can hunt or trap furbearers and nutria between Nov 15 and Mar 15.

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR DEER

NOTE: Current Maryland law prohibits DNR from amending Sunday hunting restrictions through the regulatory process without prior approval from the Maryland Legislature. However, DNR has supported legislative efforts to expand Sunday hunting for deer in recent years.

General Deer Changes

1. To allow a cocked, but unloaded crossbow to be placed in, on or against any vehicle. The change would still prohibit a loaded crossbow from being in, on or against any vehicle. A loaded crossbow is one with a bolt or arrow in the shooting position.

Rationale/Goal: to drop the requirement that a crossbow be shot (or otherwise uncocked) before being transported in a vehicle.

Comments: a regulation currently requires hunters to uncock all crossbows before placing them in a vehicle. This typically requires a crossbow to be shot (i.e. uncocked) at the end of the hunting period. This activity is arguably more dangerous than having an unloaded, cocked crossbow in a vehicle since it often means a crossbow is shot when other hunters may be in (or approaching) the area, in the dark, etc.

2. Require persons that are bowhunting deer in the bear hunting zone to meet the hunter orange requirements while the bear season is open.

Rationale/Goal: to improve the safety of the bear season by requiring bowhunters to wear hunter orange.

Comments: currently, bowhunters must wear orange when the deer muzzleloader and firearm season are in but not when bear season is open. While there are a variety of hunters that do not need to wear orange, this change would result in the majority of hunters to be wearing orange during the bear season in the bear hunting zone.

White-tailed Deer

1. Create a STATEWIDE bag limit for antlered deer (bucks) and reduce the overall buck bag limit to three per year, one per weapon season (i.e. bow season, muzzleloader season and firearm season). The buck bag limit would be three per year for Deer Management Regions A and B combined.

Rationale/Goal: this change would simplify our regulations and is anticipated to result in a modest reduction in buck harvest. Limiting hunters to one buck per weapon season would remove the requirement for hunters to take two antlerless deer before taking a second buck (in Region B) and remove the need to purchase a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp.

Comments: this change is based on hunter input stating that our current statewide bag limit for bucks is too high at nine per year (combined total for Region A and Region B).

While this Concept would not change the buck bag limit for Region A, it would remove the option for hunters to take a buck in Region B and then one in Region A during the same weapon season, or vice versa.

2. Extend the archery season for white-tailed and sika deer to open on September 5 (or the Monday thereafter when the 5th is a Sunday).

Rationale/Goal: To continue using biologically and culturally sound opportunities to harvest more deer of both species and provide recreation. Opening on the 5th will avoid conflicts with the traditional opening of dove season. The season ending date will remain January 31.

3. Expand the current unlimited antlerless bag limit for bow season in the Suburban Zone to all of Deer Management Region B.

Rationale/Goal: to simplify regulations by dropping the current Suburban Zone bow season bag limit and making it apply to all of Region B.

Comments: the Suburban Zone formerly had special opportunities for crossbow hunting and a separate bag limit for antlerless deer during bow season. The crossbow opportunities were expanded to statewide in 2010, this would expand the unlimited bag limit to Region B, making the Suburban Zone obsolete.

4. To permit the transportation of a deer carcass or part taken in the CWD Management Area (CWDMA) to an approved taxidermist.

Rationale/Goal: a regulation currently allows a person to transport a deer carcass or part taken in the CWDMA to an approved deer processor outside of the CWDMA. Currently, there is no provision for taking the carcass or parts to a taxidermist outside the CWDMA. This Proposal would allow that.

Comments: WHS would work with local taxidermists to train them on CWD management issues and develop a means for the proper disposal of any waste remaining after an item is mounted.

5. To allow a person to remove deer front and hind leg quarters from the CWDMA.

Rationale/Goal: to broaden the current limitation on the removal of deer parts from the CWDMA to include 'leg quarters'. Leg quarters could include the bones, meat and hide of the legs, but no portion of the spinal column may be attached.

Comments: a regulation currently requires that all meat be removed from the bone before being transported out of the CWDMA. It is more reasonable to allow hunters to remove the deer leg quarters and backstraps with no portion of the spine attached – which still meets the basic requirements of avoiding the high risk areas of the carcass.

2012-13 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits

Antlered Deer – Statewide

One antlered white-tailed deer may be taken during each weapon season (Bow, Muzzleloader and Firearm) for a **total of 3 antlered deer per year statewide** (Region A and Region B combined). An antlered white-tailed deer is a deer with two or more points to one antler, or a deer with one antler three or more inches long, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Season	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Bow	<p>Sep 5 - Oct 17 Oct 21^a Oct 22 - Nov 23 Dec 10 - Dec 14 Dec 31 - Jan 3 Jan 4 – Jan 5^b Jan 7 – Jan 31</p> <p>^aSunday-see Notes ^bRegion A only – see Notes</p>	1 Antlered	<p>Fluorescent orange requirement: Bowhunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Bowhunters in Allegany and Garrett counties are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Black Bear Season is open.</p> <p>Sunday deer hunting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Allegany, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico & Worcester counties on private lands only – Deer Bow Season is open on Sundays October 14, October 21, October 28, November 4, and November 11, 2012. • Deer bow season is open on Sunday November 4, 2012 in Anne Arundel, Caroline, Cecil, Harford, Kent, Montgomery & Queen Anne's counties on private land only. <p>January 4 & 5: Bow season is open January 4 & 5, 2013 in Region A only. Firearm season is open January 4 & 5 in Region B only. Deer hunters may use archery equipment on these days in Region B but any deer harvested must count towards the firearm season bag limit.</p>
Muzzle-loader	<p>Oct 18 - Oct 20 Dec 15 - Dec 29</p>	1 Antlered	<p>Region A muzzleloader bag limit: Only 1 deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken on either public or private lands in Region A during the October 18 – 20, 2012 muzzleloader season.</p>
Firearm	<p>Nov 24 - Dec 8 Jan 4 - Jan 5^c</p> <p>^cRegion B only – see Notes</p>	1 Antlered	<p>Sunday Deer Hunting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Allegany, Anne Arundel, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico & Worcester counties on private lands only - Deer Firearm Season is open on Sunday November 25, 2012. • In Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties on private lands only - Deer Firearm Season is open on Sundays November 25 and December 2, 2012 <p>January 4 & 5: Firearm season is open January 4 & 5, 2013 in Region B only. Bow season is open January 4 & 5 in Region A only. Deer hunters may use archery equipment on these days in Region B but any deer harvested must count towards the firearm season bag limit.</p>

2012-13 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits

Antlerless Deer – Region A

Allegany, Garrett & Washington (Zone 2) counties

Antlerless white-tailed deer seasons and bag limits remain separate for Region A and Region B. An antlerless white-tailed deer is a female deer or a male deer with no antlers or spike antlers less than three inches in length, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Season	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Bow	Sep 5 - Oct 17 Oct 21 - Nov 23 Dec 10 - Dec 14 Dec 31 - Jan 31	1 Antlerless	Fluorescent orange requirement: Bowhunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Bowhunters in Allegany and Garrett counties are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Black Bear Season is open. Sunday deer hunting: Deer Bow Season is open on Sundays October 14, October 21, October 28, November 4, and November 11, 2012 in Region A on private lands only.
Muzzleloader DNR Public Lands	Dec 29	1 Antlerless	Region A muzzleloader bag limit: Only 1 deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken on either public or private lands in Region A during the October 18 – 20, 2012 muzzleloader season.
Muzzleloader All Other Lands	Oct 18 – Oct 20 Dec 27 – Dec 29		
Firearm DNR Public Lands	Dec 8	1 Antlerless	
Firearm All Other Lands	Dec 7 – Dec 8		

Region A DNR Public Land Antlerless Harvest Restriction: Hunters may harvest up to three antlerless deer per year in Region A (one each during the Bow, Firearm, and Muzzleloader seasons). However, no more than two of the three antlerless deer may be taken on DNR public lands (excluding the Junior Deer Hunt).

Region A DNR public lands include: Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Deep Creek Lake State Park (Designated Areas Only), Green Ridge State Forest, Indian Springs WMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac-Garrett State Forest, Prather's Neck WMA, Rocky Gap State Park (Designated Areas Only), Savage River State Forest, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA, Woodmont NRMA, Youghiogheny Reservoir CWMA and Youghiogheny Scenic Wild River.

2012-13 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits

Antlerless Deer – Region B

Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington (Zone 1), Wicomico & Worcester counties

Antlerless white-tailed deer seasons and bag limits remain separate for Region A and Region B. An antlerless white-tailed deer is a female deer or a male deer with no antlers or spike antlers less than three inches in length, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Season	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Bow	<p>Sep 5 - Oct 17 Oct 21^a Oct 22 - Nov 23 Dec 10 - Dec 14 Dec 31 - Jan 3 Jan 7 – Jan 31</p> <p>^aSunday-see Notes</p>	Unlimited Antlerless	<p>Fluorescent orange requirement: Bowhunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting.</p> <p>Sunday deer hunting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington (Zone 1), Wicomico & Worcester counties on private lands only – Deer Bow Season is open on Sundays October 14, October 21, October 28, November 4, and November 11, 2012. • Deer bow season is open on Sunday November 4, 2012 in Anne Arundel, Caroline, Cecil, Harford, Kent, Montgomery & Queen Anne's counties on private land only.
Muzzleloader	<p>Oct 18 – Oct 27 Dec 15 – Dec 29</p>	10 Antlerless	
Firearm	<p>Nov 24 – Dec 8 Jan 4 – Jan 5</p>	10 Antlerless	<p>Sunday Deer Hunting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Anne Arundel, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington (Zone 1), Wicomico & Worcester counties on private lands only - Deer Firearm Season is open on Sunday November 25, 2012. • In Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties on private lands only - Deer Firearm Season is open on Sundays November 25 and December 2, 2012

2012-13 Junior Deer Hunt Antlered & Antlerless Deer

The Junior Deer Hunt is for hunters age 16 or younger only. Junior hunters must be accompanied by a licensed (or exempt from license requirement) unarmed adult age 21 or older.

Region	Description	Total Bag Limit	Dates	Notes
Region A	White-tailed Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	1 deer	Nov 10 - Nov 11 ^a ^a Sunday-see Notes	Separate Bag Limit: Deer taken by Junior hunters during the Junior Hunt Season do not count towards the regular bow, muzzleloader, or firearm season bag limits.
Region B	White-tailed Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	3 deer, no more than 1 may be antlered		Sunday Deer Hunting: The Junior Deer Hunt is open on Sunday November 11, 2012 on private lands only in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico & Worcester counties.
Region B Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico & Worcester counties	Sika Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	1 deer		
				Antlered sika deer: For Junior hunters an antlered sika deer is a sika deer with at least one antler visible above the hairline. There is no branched antler requirement for Junior hunters.

2013-14 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits

Antlered Deer – Statewide

One antlered white-tailed deer may be taken during each weapon season (Bow, Muzzleloader and Firearm) for a **total of 3 antlered deer per year statewide** (Region A and Region B combined). An antlered white-tailed deer is a deer with two or more points to one antler, or a deer with one antler three or more inches long, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Season	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Bow	<p>Sep 5 - Oct 16 Oct 20^a Oct 21 - Nov 29 Dec 16 - Dec 20 Jan 6 - Jan 9 Jan 10 – Jan 11^b Jan 13 – Jan 31</p> <p>^aSunday-see Notes ^bRegion A only – see Notes</p>	1 Antlered	<p>Fluorescent orange requirement: Bowhunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Bowhunters in Allegany and Garrett counties are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Black Bear Season is open.</p> <p>Sunday deer hunting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Allegany, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico & Worcester counties on private lands only – Deer Bow Season is open on Sundays October 13, October 20, October 27, November 3, and November 10, 2013. • Deer bow season is open on Sunday November 3, 2013 in Anne Arundel, Caroline, Cecil, Harford, Kent, Montgomery & Queen Anne's counties on private land only. <p>January 10 & 11: Bow season is open January 10 & 11, 2014 in Region A only. Firearm season is open January 10 & 11 in Region B only. Deer hunters may use archery equipment on these days in Region B but any deer harvested must count towards the firearm season bag limit.</p>
Muzzle-loader	<p>Oct 17 - Oct 19 Dec 21 – Jan 4</p>	1 Antlered	<p>Region A muzzleloader bag limit: Only 1 deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken on either public or private lands in Region A during the October 17 – 19, 2013 muzzleloader season.</p>
Firearm	<p>Nov 30 - Dec 14 Jan 10 - Jan 11^c</p> <p>^cRegion B only – see Notes</p>	1 Antlered	<p>Sunday Deer Hunting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Allegany, Anne Arundel, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico & Worcester counties on private lands only - Deer Firearm Season is open on Sunday December 1, 2013. • In Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties on private lands only - Deer Firearm Season is open on Sundays December 1 and December 8, 2013 <p>January 10 & 11: Firearm season is open January 10 & 11, 2014 in Region B only. Bow season is open January 10 & 11 in Region A only. Deer hunters may use archery equipment on these days in Region B but any deer harvested must count towards the firearm season bag limit.</p>

2013-14 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits

Antlerless Deer – Region A

Allegany, Garrett & Washington (Zone 2) counties

Antlerless white-tailed deer seasons and bag limits remain separate for Region A and Region B. An antlerless white-tailed deer is a female deer or a male deer with no antlers or spike antlers less than three inches in length, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Season	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Bow	Sep 5 - Oct 16 Oct 20 - Nov 29 Dec 16 - Dec 20 Jan 6 - Jan 31	1 Antlerless	Fluorescent orange requirement: Bowhunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Bowhunters in Allegany and Garrett counties are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Black Bear Season is open. Sunday deer hunting: Deer Bow Season is open on Sundays October 13, October 20, October 27, November 3, and November 10, 2013 in Region A on private lands only.
Muzzleloader DNR Public Lands	Jan 4	1 Antlerless	Region A muzzleloader bag limit: Only 1 deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken on either public or private lands in Region A during the October 17 – 19, 2013 muzzleloader season.
Muzzleloader All Other Lands	Oct 17 – Oct 19 Jan 2 – Jan 4		
Firearm DNR Public Lands	Dec 14	1 Antlerless	
Firearm All Other Lands	Dec 13 – Dec 14		

Region A DNR Public Land Antlerless Harvest Restriction: Hunters may harvest up to three antlerless deer per year in Region A (one each during the Bow, Firearm, and Muzzleloader seasons). However, no more than two of the three antlerless deer may be taken on DNR public lands (excluding the Junior Deer Hunt).

Region A DNR public lands include: Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Deep Creek Lake State Park (Designated Areas Only), Green Ridge State Forest, Indian Springs WMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac-Garrett State Forest, Prather's Neck WMA, Rocky Gap State Park (Designated Areas Only), Savage River State Forest, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA, Woodmont NRMA, Youghiogheny Reservoir CWMA and Youghiogheny Scenic Wild River.

2013-14 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits

Antlerless Deer – Region B

Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington (Zone 1), Wicomico & Worcester counties

Antlerless white-tailed deer seasons and bag limits remain separate for Region A and Region B. An antlerless white-tailed deer is a female deer or a male deer with no antlers or spike antlers less than three inches in length, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Season	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Bow	<p>Sep 5 - Oct 16 Oct 20^a Oct 21 - Nov 29 Dec 16 - Dec 20 Jan 6 - Jan 9 Jan 13 – Jan 31</p> <p>^aSunday-see Notes</p>	Unlimited Antlerless	<p>Fluorescent orange requirement: Bowhunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting.</p> <p>Sunday deer hunting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington (Zone 1), Wicomico & Worcester counties on private lands only – Deer Bow Season is open on Sundays October 13, October 20, October 27, November 3, and November 10, 2013. • Deer bow season is open on Sunday November 3, 2013 in Anne Arundel, Caroline, Cecil, Harford, Kent, Montgomery & Queen Anne's counties on private land only.
Muzzleloader	<p>Oct 17 – Oct 26 Dec 21 – Jan 4</p>	10 Antlerless	
Firearm	<p>Nov 30 – Dec 14 Jan 10 – Jan 11</p>	10 Antlerless	<p>Sunday Deer Hunting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Anne Arundel, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington (Zone 1), Wicomico & Worcester counties on private lands only - Deer Firearm Season is open on Sunday December 1, 2013. • In Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties on private lands only - Deer Firearm Season is open on Sundays December 1 and December 8, 2013.

2013-14 Junior Deer Hunt Antlered & Antlerless Deer

The Junior Deer Hunt is for hunters age 16 or younger only. Junior hunters must be accompanied by a licensed (or exempt from license requirement) unarmed adult age 21 or older.

Region	Description	Total Bag Limit	Dates	Notes
Region A	White-tailed Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	1 deer	Nov 16 - Nov 17 ^a ^a Sunday-see Notes	Separate Bag Limit: Deer taken by Junior hunters during the Junior Hunt Season do not count towards the regular bow, muzzleloader, or firearm season bag limits.
Region B	White-tailed Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	3 deer, no more than 1 may be antlered		Sunday Deer Hunting: The Junior Deer Hunt is open on Sunday November 17, 2013 on private lands only in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico & Worcester counties
Region B Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico & Worcester counties	Sika Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	1 deer		
				Antlered sika deer: For Junior hunters an antlered sika deer is a sika deer with at least one antler visible above the hairline. There is no branched antler requirement for Junior hunters.

Sika Deer

1. Extend the archery season for white-tailed and sika deer to open on September 5 (or the Monday thereafter when the 5th is a Sunday).

Rationale/Goal: to continue using biologically and culturally sound opportunities to harvest more deer of both species and provide recreation. Opening on the 5th will avoid conflicts with the traditional opening of dove season. The season ending date will remain January 31.

2. Institute a branched-antler requirement for stags (males) during all sika deer seasons except the Junior Deer Hunt. Antlered sika deer would need at least one branched antler to be legal for harvest. Junior hunters would be exempt during all seasons.

Rationale/Goal: yearling sika stags (1½ year old males) are almost exclusively spikes. The majority of the sikas harvested each year are yearling stags. A branched antler requirement would protect this age/sex class from harvest and shift harvest to hinds (females), helping us meet our management goals for this population (maintain them at the current density in the current geographic range). It would also improve the age structure of the stags.

2012-13 Sika Deer Seasons and Bag Limits Antlered & Antlerless Deer

Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico & Worcester counties

An antlered sika deer is a deer with two or more points to at least one antler. An antlerless sika deer is a female deer or male deer with no antler visible above the hairline. Spike sika deer (deer with no branched antlers) with at least one antler visible above the hairline are not eligible for harvest (excluding Junior hunters). Junior hunters (16 yrs old or younger) may harvest spike sika deer as part of their regular antlered bag limit.

Season	Description	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Bow	Antlered or Antlerless	Sep 5 - Oct 17 Oct 21 ^a Oct 22 - Nov 23 Dec 10 - Dec 14 Dec 31 - Jan 3 Jan 7 - Jan 31 ^a Sunday-see Notes	2 deer, no more than 1 antlered	Fluorescent orange requirement: Bowhunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Sunday deer hunting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico & Worcester counties on private lands only – Deer Bow Season is open on Sundays October 14, October 21, October 28, November 4, and November 11, 2012. • Deer bow season is open on Sunday November 4, 2012 in Caroline County on private land only.
Muzzleloader	Antlered or Antlerless	Oct 18 – Oct 20	2 deer, no more than 1 antlered	Sika Deer Muzzleloader Bag Limit: Only 1 sika deer (antlered or antlerless) may be taken October 18 – 20, 2012; only 1 antlerless sika deer may be taken October 22 – 27, 2012.
	Antlerless Only	Oct 22 - 27		
	Antlered or Antlerless	Dec 15 – Dec 29		
Firearm	Antlered or Antlerless	Nov 24 – Dec 8 Jan 4 – Jan 5	2 deer, no more than 1 antlered	Sunday Deer Hunting: Sika Deer Firearm Season is open on Sunday November 25, 2012 in Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico & Worcester counties on private lands only.

2013-14 Sika Deer Seasons and Bag Limits Antlered & Antlerless Deer

Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico & Worcester counties

An antlered sika deer is a deer with two or more points to at least one antler. An antlerless sika deer is a female deer or male deer with no antler visible above the hairline. Spike sika deer (deer with no branched antlers) with at least one antler visible above the hairline are not eligible for harvest (excluding Junior hunters). Junior hunters (16 yrs old or younger) may harvest spike sika deer as part of their regular antlered bag limit.

Season	Description	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Bow	Antlered or Antlerless	Sep 5 - Oct 16 Oct 20 ^a Oct 21 - Nov 29 Dec 16 - Dec 20 Jan 6 - Jan 9 Jan 13 - Jan 31 ^a Sunday-see Notes	2 deer, no more than 1 antlered	Fluorescent orange requirement: Bowhunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Sunday deer hunting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico & Worcester counties on private lands only – Deer Bow Season is open on Sundays October 13, October 20, October 27, November 3, and November 10, 2013. • Deer bow season is open on Sunday November 3, 2013 in Caroline County on private land only.
Muzzleloader	Antlered or Antlerless	Oct 17 – Oct 19	2 deer, no more than 1 antlered	Sika Deer Muzzleloader Bag Limit: Only 1 sika deer (antlered or antlerless) may be taken October 17 – 19, 2013; only 1 antlerless sika deer may be taken October 21 – 26, 2013.
	Antlerless Only	Oct 21 – 26		
	Antlered or Antlerless	Dec 21 – Jan 4		
Firearm	Antlered or Antlerless	Nov 30 – Dec 14 Jan 10 – Jan 11	2 deer, no more than 1 antlered	Sunday Deer Hunting: Sika Deer Firearm Season is open on Sunday December 1, 2013 in Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico & Worcester counties on private lands only.

Regulation Proposals: **2012-13 and 2013-14 Hunting Seasons**



Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife and Heritage Service

1. Started as Concepts in January/February:

- Presented to Internal Stakeholders (WHS/NRP).
- Presented to External Stakeholders.
- Presented to the Wildlife Advisory Commission in February.

2. Reviewed input and dropped, added or modified Concepts into more formal Proposals in late February.

- Sent out as a Press Release.
- Put on DNR Website with the option to comment online (~ 1000).
- We held 2 Public Meetings (~ 185 attendees).
- Emails, letters, faxes, phone calls.
- Also participated in 3 private online forums – read hundreds of posts.

3. Now are reviewing input and refining the Proposals into the final versions.

- Presenting to the WAC today for input.
- Final versions sent to Maryland Register.
- There is a public comment option via that process as well.

4. Go over the Proposals with you.

- Very brief explanation of intent of the Proposal.
- Short summary of Public Comment to date.
- Present the WHS Recommendation on each one.
- Get the position of the Commission on each one.
- We view the Commission as the ultimate Public Input.

Progress Update



Crossbows

Proposal: Change the crossbow regulation to allow a cocked, but **UNLOADED** crossbow to be placed in, on or against a vehicle.

- Unloading a crossbow at the end of a hunting trip can be dangerous.
- This Proposal would treat crossbows in a manner similar to muzzleloaders.
- Muzzleloaders may be placed in, on or against a vehicle if the cap, primer or primer powder has been removed.
- The current regulation prohibits cocked crossbows on ATV's.



Crossbows

Proposal: Change the crossbow regulation to allow a cocked, but UNLOADED crossbow to be placed in, on or against a vehicle.

Public Input: Mixed. Positive input from crossbow hunters, esp those that are disabled – or ‘less-abled’. Negative input based on safety concerns.

Recommendation: Move forward to become a regulation.



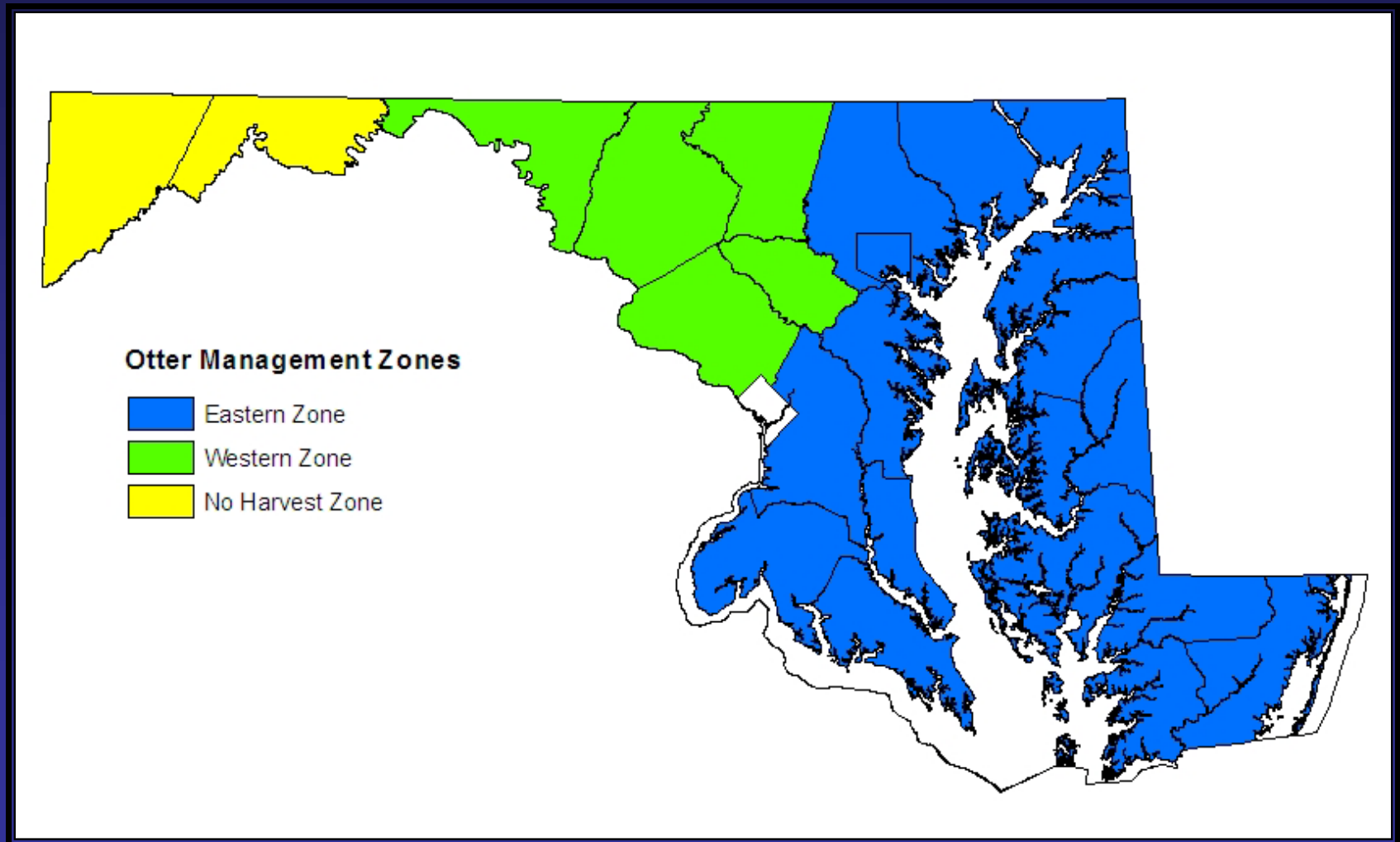
Furbearers

Proposal: Reopen a trapping season for river otters in Garrett & Allegany counties with a bag limit of 1.



River Otter

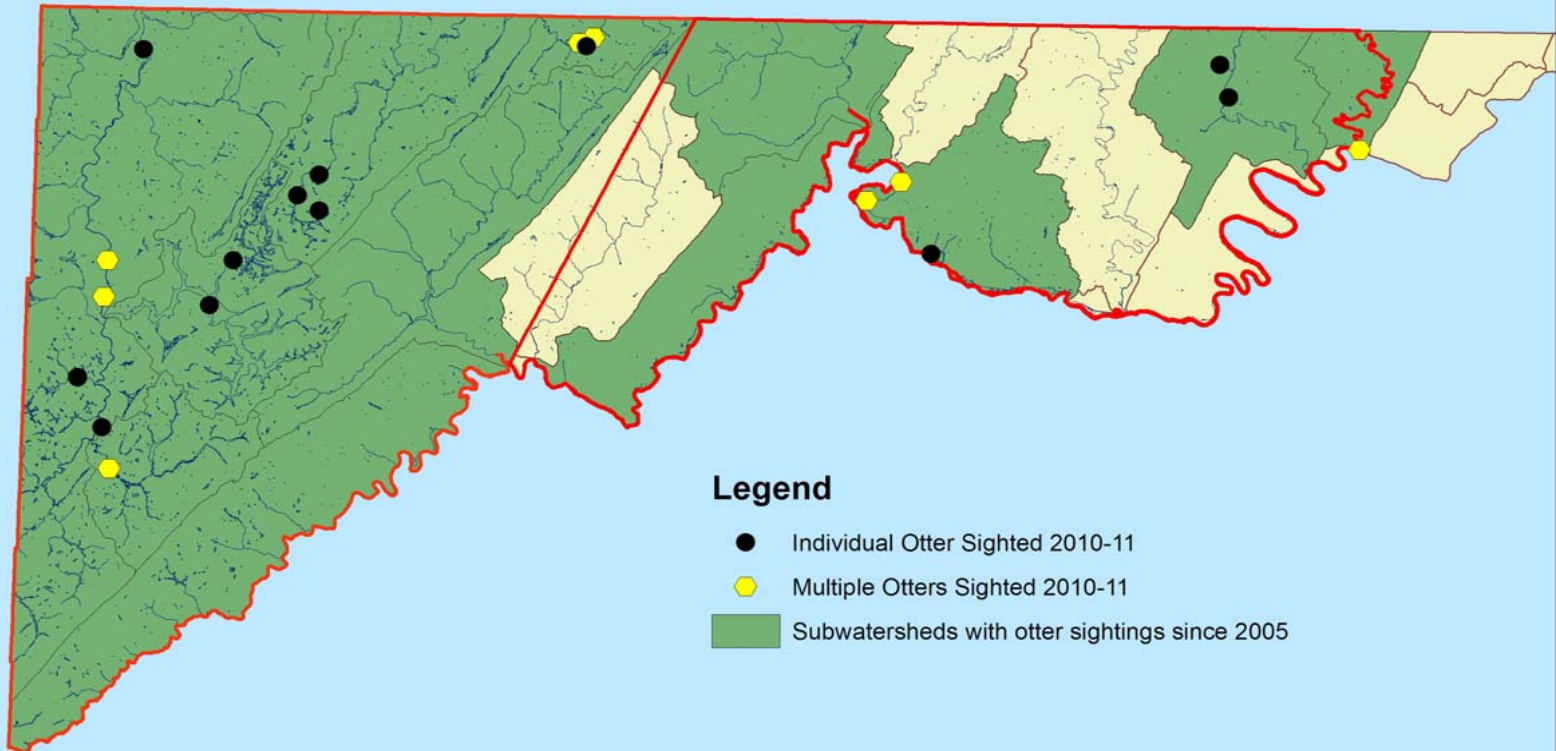
Currently there are three Management Zones for otters.



River Otter

An otter relocation project was conducted in the early to mid 1990s. Since that time, otter sightings have become increasingly common in Garrett & Allegany counties.

Otter Sightings in Garrett & Allegany Counties



Proposal: Reopen a trapping season for river otters in Garrett & Allegany counties with a bag limit of 1.

- All other Maryland counties currently have an open trapping season for river otters.
- The current closed otter season limits beaver trapping efforts. Allowing a limited otter harvest will increase opportunities for landowners to address beaver damage.
- Valuable population information can be obtained by requiring trappers to surrender the otter carcasses.
- This is a popular request from western Maryland trappers.



River Otter

Proposal: Reopen a trapping season for river otters in Garrett & Allegany counties with a bag limit of 1.

Public Input: All positive.

Recommendation: Move forward to become a regulation.



Red and Gray Fox

Proposal: Extend fox season by two weeks, but for shooting only.

- Is in response to widespread and frequent requests from our constituents.
- Will allow coyote hunters the option to take foxes during this period.
- Trapping not included since most other terrestrial furbearer trapping seasons are closed during this time.
- Will have a very limited impact on fox populations statewide.



Red and Gray Fox

Proposal: Extend fox season by two weeks, but for shooting only.

Public Input: Mixed, both positive and negative. Some input was to add trapping to the season extension.

Recommendation: Move forward as a regulation without adding trapping.



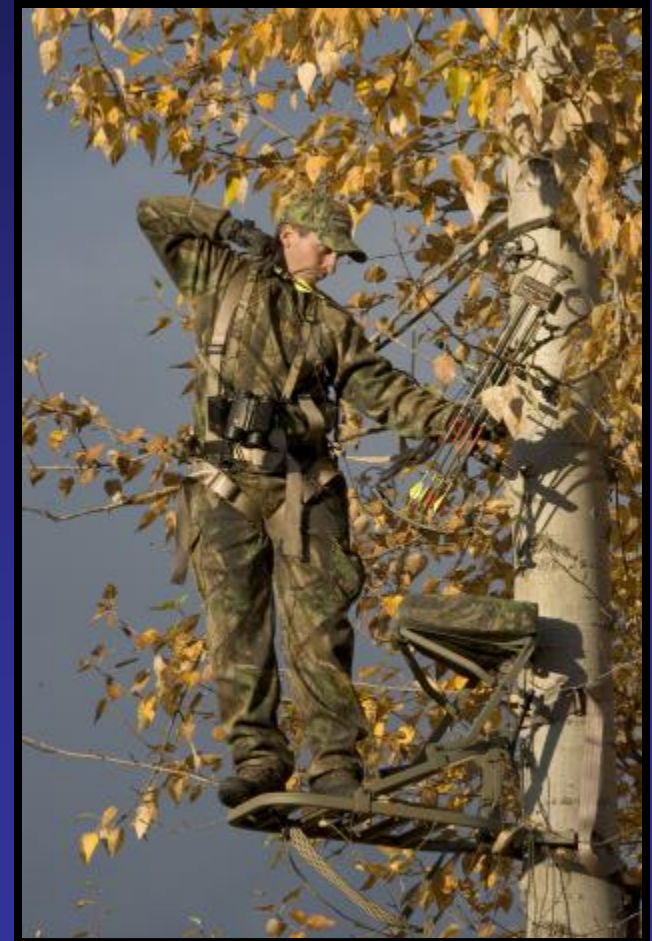
Hunter Orange

Proposal: Require bowhunters who are bowhunting deer in the bear hunting zone to wear hunter orange while the bear season is open.

- Proposal will improve upon the safety of the bear season by increasing the visibility of bowhunters.
- Currently, bowhunters must wear orange while hunting during the muzzleloader, firearm, and junior hunter deer seasons.

Public Input: All positive.

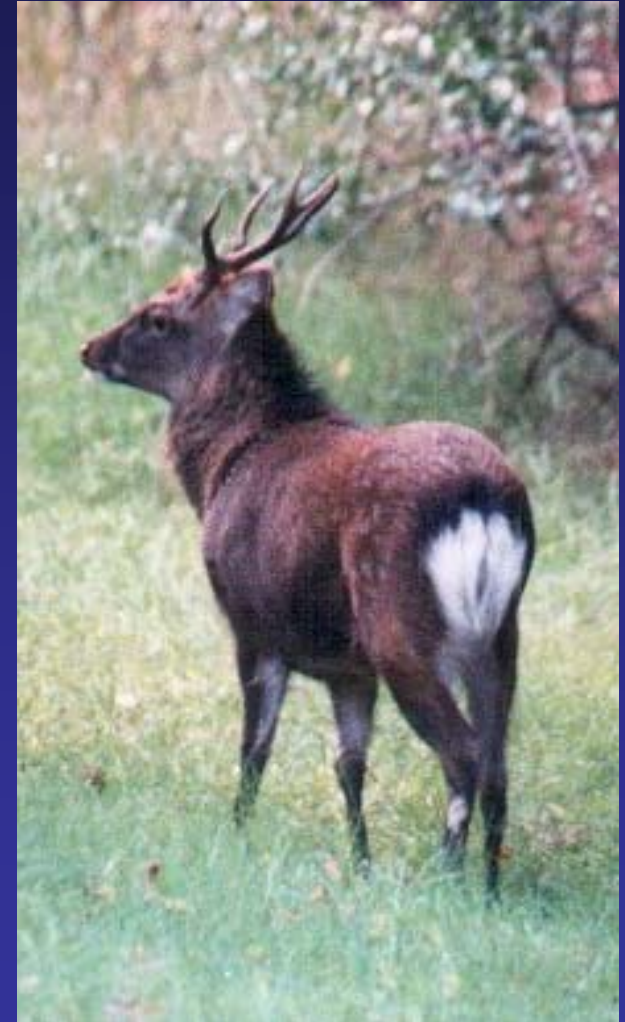
Recommendation: Move forward to become a regulation.



Sika Deer

Proposal: Institute a branched-antler requirement for stags. Spike sika deer would not be legal for harvest.

- Yearling sika stags are almost exclusively spike-antlered and comprise approximately 20-30% of the total annual sika harvest and 40-50% of the annual antlered sika harvest.
- Proposal would shift some harvest pressure to hind (female) sika deer and aid with maintaining the population at current levels and geographic distribution.



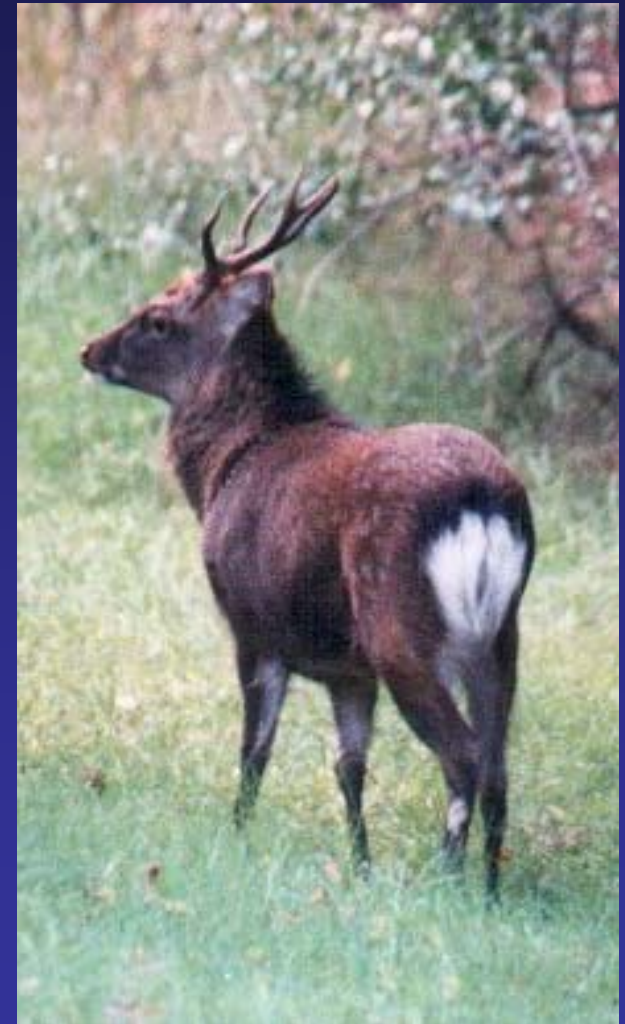
Sika Deer

Proposal: Institute a branched-antler requirement for stags. Spike sika deer would not be legal for harvest.

Public Input: Mixed, nearly evenly positive and negative.

The negative input won out for us – the pro antler restriction folks could still do that voluntarily. The input against this raised good points on the difficulty of identifying small spikes in typical hunting conditions.

Recommendation: Drop this Proposal.



White-tailed Deer

Proposal: Combine the Region A & B buck bag limits into one statewide limit of three bucks (one per weapon season).

- Proposal would reduce the current statewide limit of 9 bucks to 3 bucks.
- This Proposal is due to hunter requests, it is NOT necessary from a deer management standpoint – but IS consistent with our goals.
- The bag limit of 1 per weapon season would encourage hunters to CHOOSE to wait for an older (larger) buck.
- Survey and harvest data suggest the change will have little impact on antlerless harvest rates or hunter success.



White-tailed Deer

Proposal: Combine the Region A & B buck bag limits into one statewide limit of three bucks (one per weapon season).

Public Input: Very active! Lots of support for a reduced, statewide bag limit, but not for this strict of a change (i.e. only 1 deer per weapon).

Most input requested an option for one BONUS buck in one season in Region B (total of 4).

Recommendation: Keep the Proposal as is, but add one BONUS buck for Region B – would be hunter's choice which weapon season it could be used in.

- would require a Bonus Antlered Deer tag for second buck (\$25*).
- would require two antlerless deer to be taken before the second buck during any weapon season.

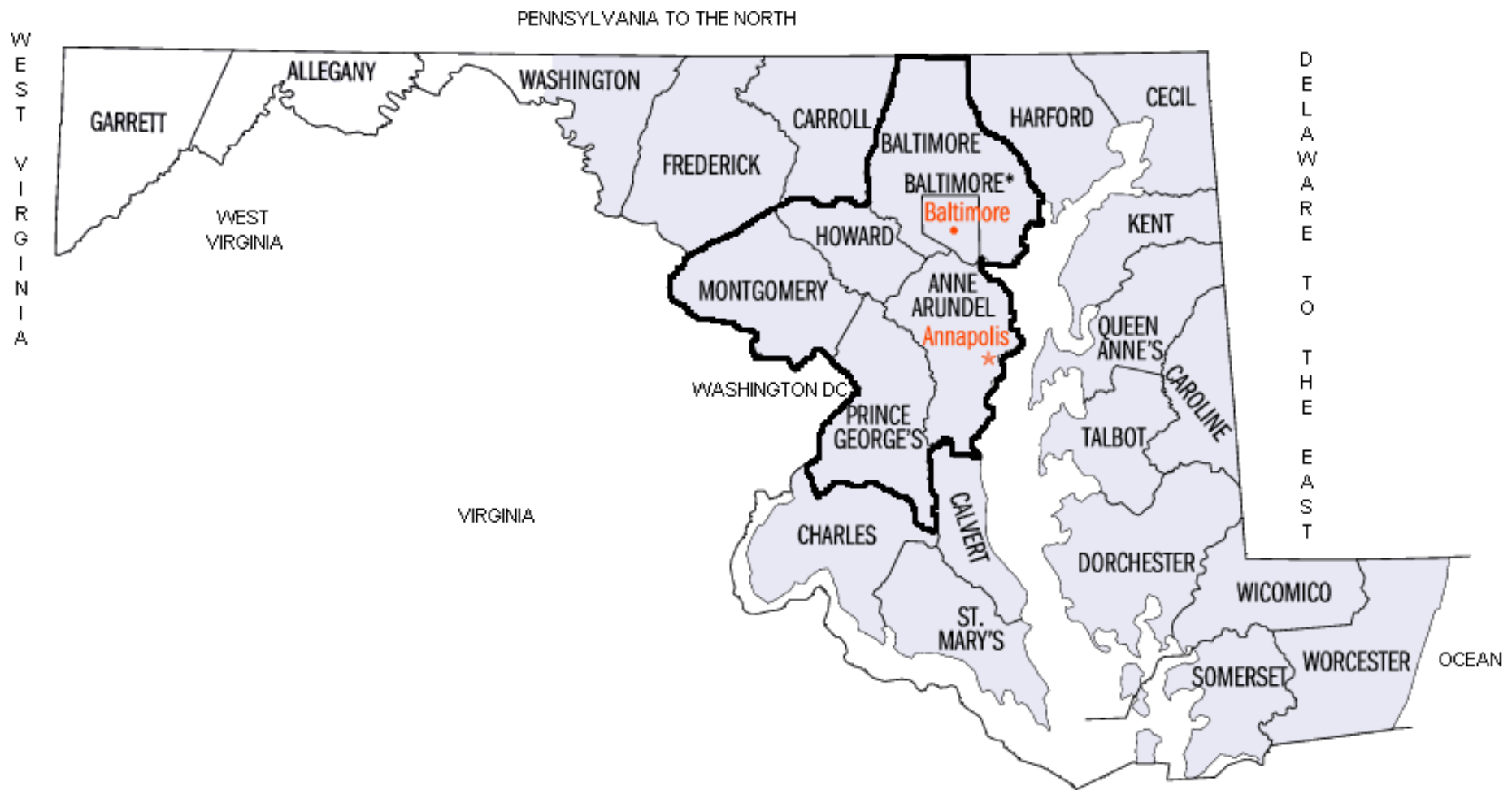


White-tailed Deer

Proposal: Expand the current unlimited antlerless bag limit for bow season in the Suburban Archery Zone to all of Region B.



White-tailed Deer



White-tailed Deer

Proposal: Expand the current unlimited antlerless bag limit for bow season in the Suburban Archery Zone to all of Region B.

- Proposal would simplify regulations regarding the Suburban Archery Zone and minimize confusion to hunters.
- Bag limit currently is the only difference between the Suburban Archery Zone and the rest of Region B (“Unlimited” vs. 10).

Public Input: Nearly all positive, a small minority were against this.

Recommendation: Move forward to become a regulation.



Archery Deer Season

Proposal: Extend Deer Bow Season to open on September 5 in both Regions A and B (Sept 6 when the 5th is a Sunday).

- Ending date would not be changed.
- Would be for both white-tailed and sika deer.
- Will allow more recreation.
- Opening on Sept 5 will minimize conflicts with dove hunters.



Archery Deer Season

Proposal: Extend Deer Bow Season to open on September 5 in both Regions A and B (Sept 6 when the 5th is a Sunday).

Public Input: Became a lightning rod for comments from hunters and non-hunters. Hundreds of comments on this one topic. Became an online shouting match, that has continued after the end of the public comment period.

Concerns were based on:

- conflicts with other outdoor users (hikers, bikers, etc).
- safety issues due to longer season.
- many didn't feel bowhunting was appropriate at any time.

Recommendation: Move forward to become a regulation.



Chronic Wasting Disease

Proposal: Permit hunters to take deer harvested in the CWD Management Area (CWDMA) to approved taxidermists outside the CWDMA.

- Hunters in the CWDMA currently can transport whole deer to approved processors outside the CWDMA. This Proposal would allow hunters to also take them to approved taxidermists for mounting purposes.
- Proposal would make it easier for hunters who want to get a deer mounted - difficult for hunters to cape deer and otherwise prepare them for mounting themselves.
- WHS will work with taxidermists to train them on proper disposal of waste from deer taken in the CWDMA.

Public Input: All positive.

Recommendation: Move forward to become a regulation.



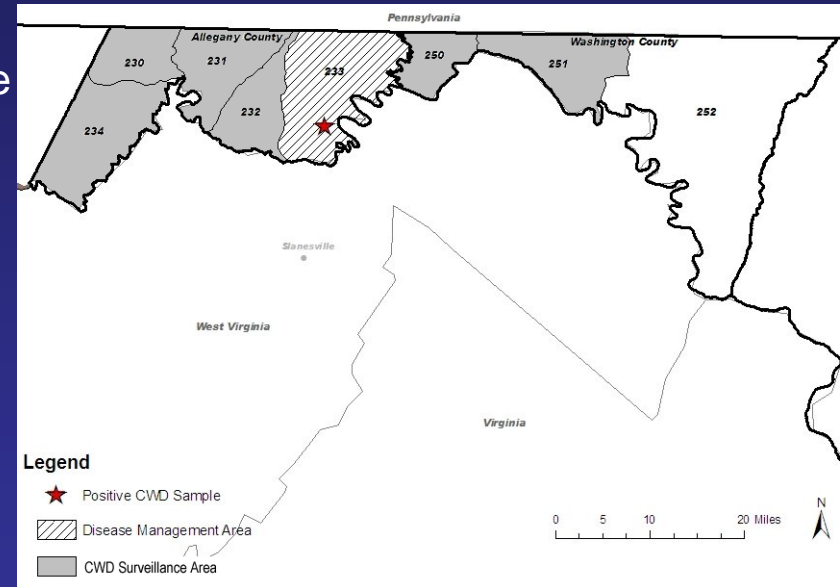
Chronic Wasting Disease

Proposal: Allow hunters to transport whole deer quarters and front shoulders from the CWD Disease Management Area (CWDMA).

- Successful hunters in the CWDMA currently are required to completely debone deer before transporting the meat out of the zone (leaving waste in dumpsters or other designated disposal areas within CWDMA).
- Proposal would allow hunters to “quarter” their deer and transport quarters and shoulders from the CWDMA without deboning them first.

Public Input: All positive.

Recommendation: Move forward to become a regulation.



Regulation Proposals: **2012-13 and 2013-14 Hunting Seasons**



Maryland Department of Natural Resources

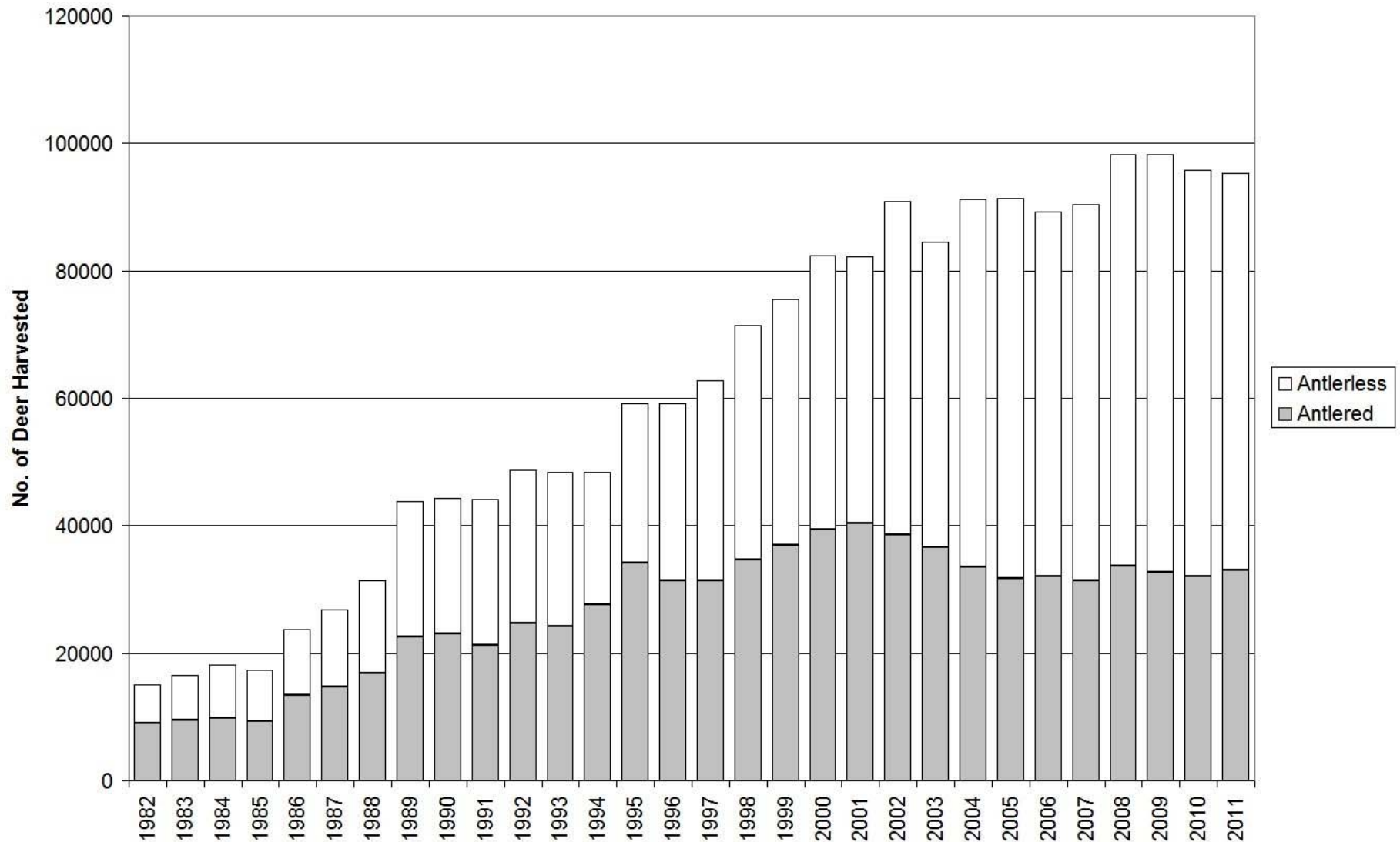
Wildlife and Heritage Service

White-tailed Deer



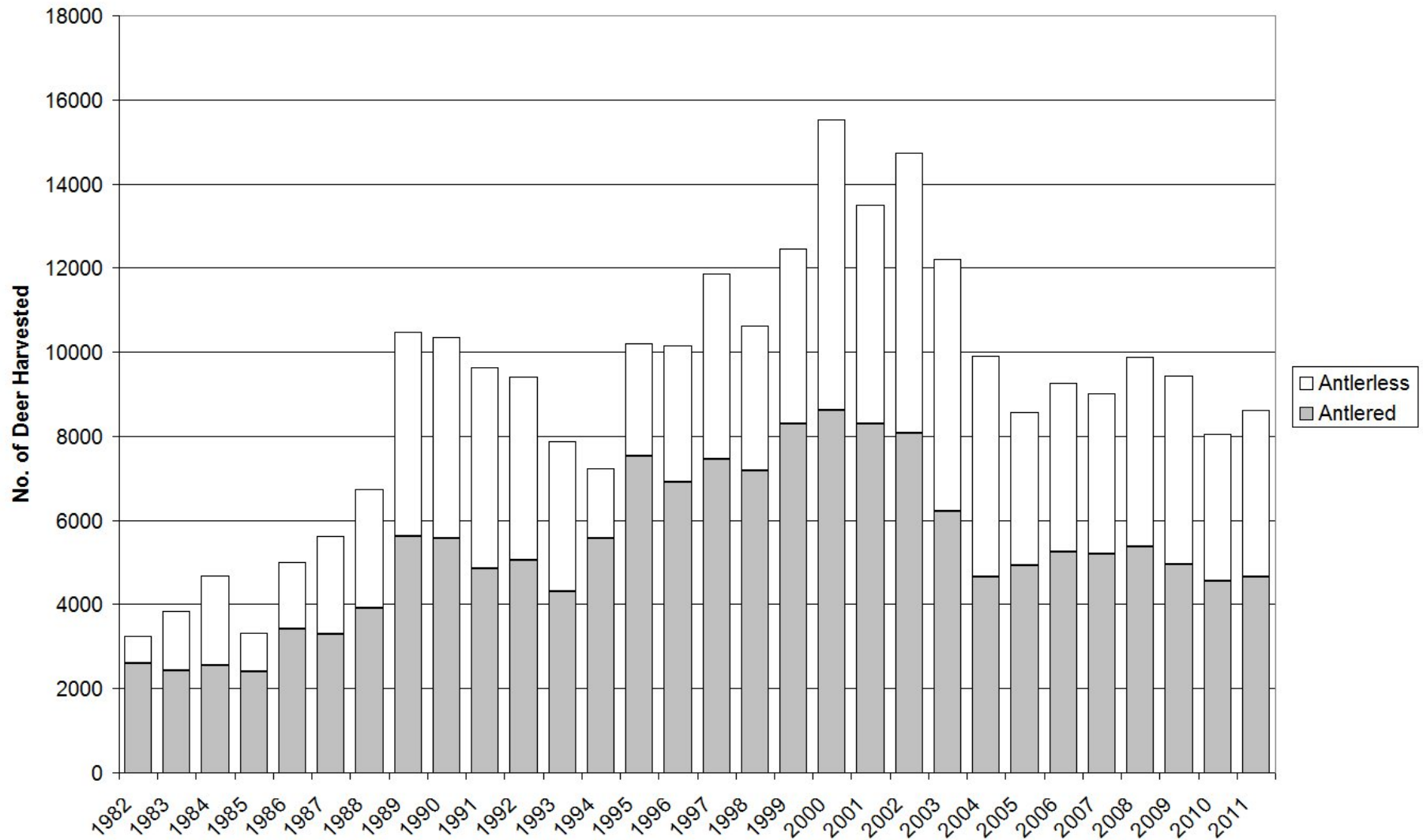
White-tailed Deer

Maryland 30-Year White-tailed Deer Harvest



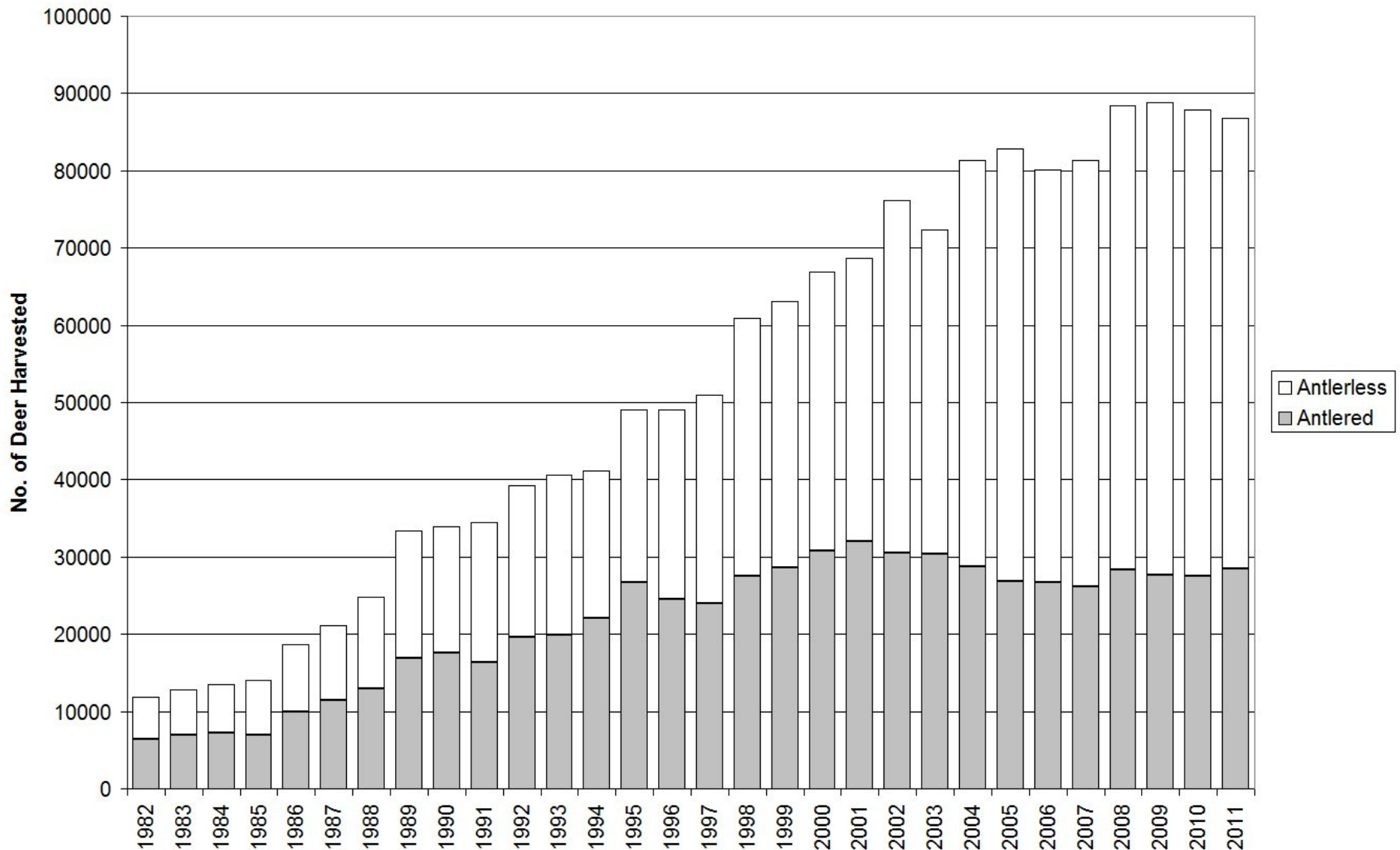
White-tailed Deer

Garrett-Allegany 30-Year White-tailed Deer Harvest



White-tailed Deer

Region B (including western Washington) 30-Year White-tailed Deer Harvest



Hunter Request: Reduce Pressure on Antlered Bucks

Reducing the harvest of yearling (1½ yr) bucks is a popular topic with deer hunters – including in Maryland.

- Allows some bucks to survive to older age classes.
- Improves buck to doe ratios.
- Can also encourage higher antlerless (doe) harvests.

All of these are consistent with our deer management goals.



White-tailed Deer

We reviewed three options to do this in Maryland:

- Point Restrictions: create regulations requiring bucks to have some minimum number of points (e.g. 3 per side or 4 per side).
- Antler Spread Restrictions: create regulations requiring bucks to have some minimum outside spread (e.g. 14" or 15").
- Reduce Buck Bag Limit: create regulations to limit the number of antlered bucks a hunter may take.



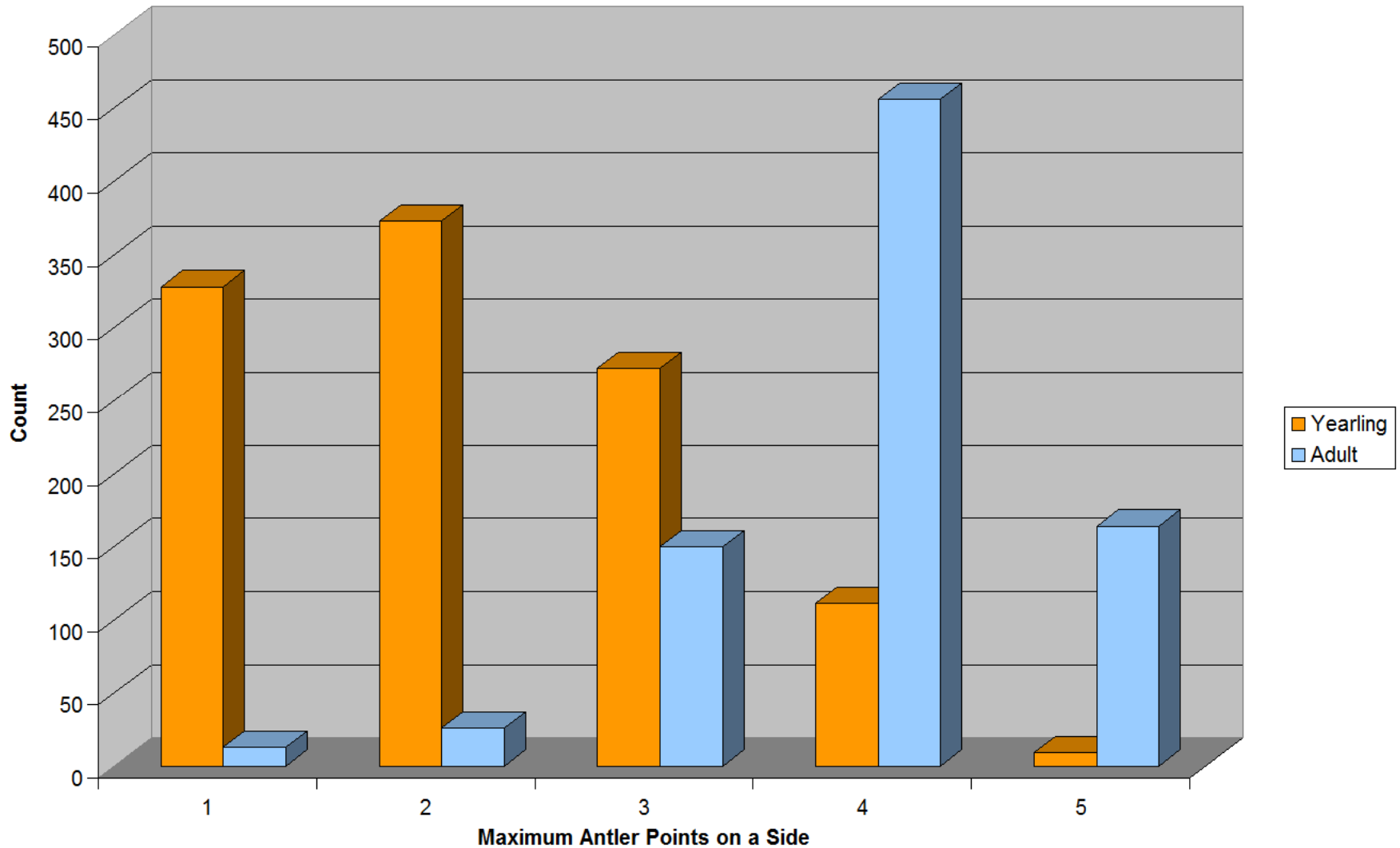
Antler Point Restrictions:

General approach is to protect yearling bucks by imposing a mandatory minimum number of antler points on one side.

- A 3 points or a 4 points on a side rule is typical.
- Roughly 36% of yearlings in Maryland would still be legal with a 3 point on a side minimum.
- Would be about 11% with a 4 point minimum.
- Some bucks would not be legal to harvest and we will continue to rely on self-reporting via the Telecheck system.
- Hunter survey results indicate there are still significant numbers of hunters against mandatory restrictions for white-tailed deer.
- Complicates existing deer hunting regulations.

White-tailed Deer

Frequency Distribution of Yearling and Adult Antler Points



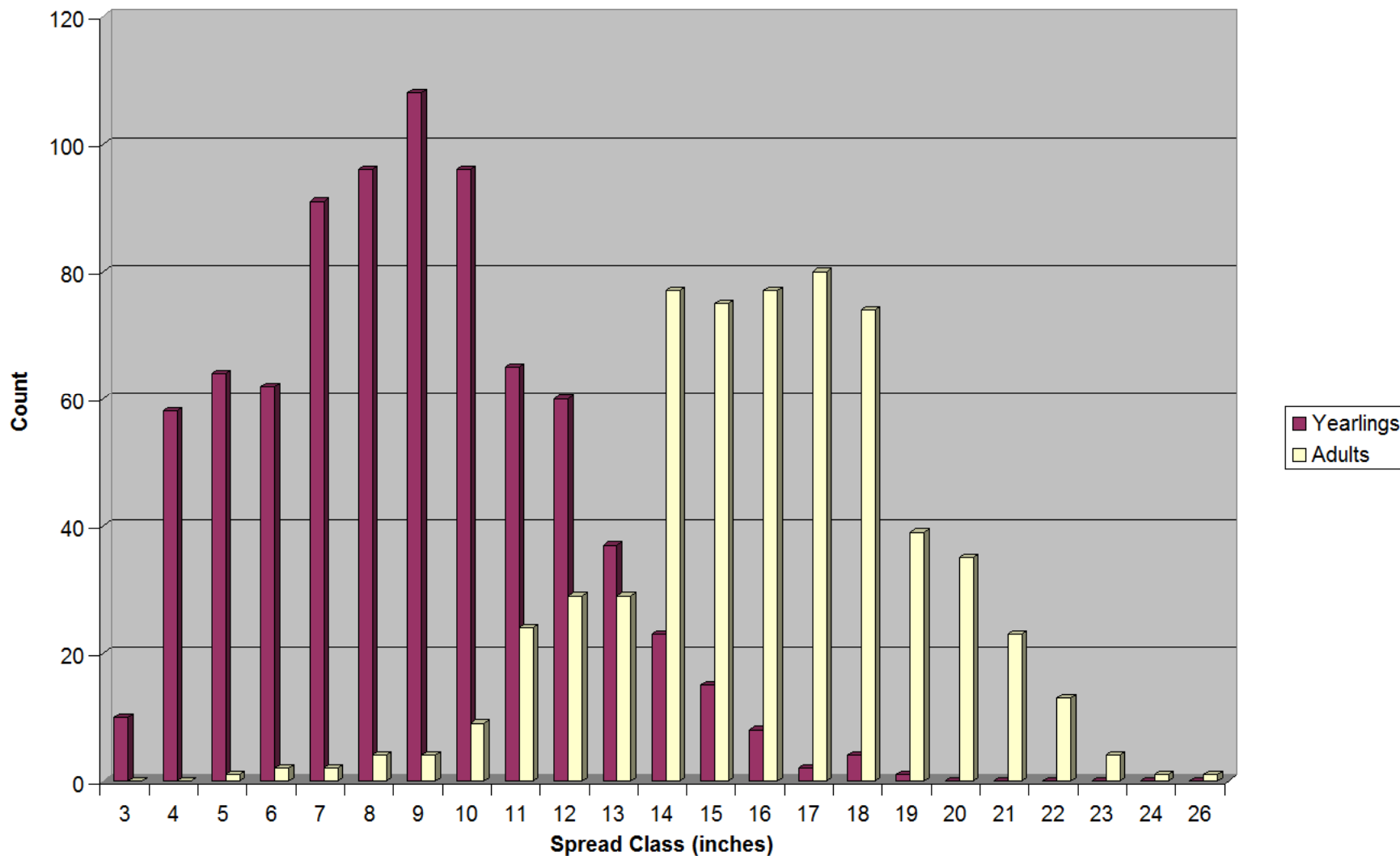
Antler Spread Restrictions:

General approach is to protect yearling bucks by imposing a mandatory minimum antler spread.

- Roughly 93% of yearling bucks would be protected with a 14" minimum.
- Roughly 96% would be protected with a 15" minimum.
- Antler spread is difficult to determine accurately in hunting conditions.
- Some bucks would not be legal to harvest and we will continue to rely on self-reporting via the Telecheck system.
- Hunter survey results indicate there are still significant numbers of hunters against mandatory restrictions for white-tailed deer.
- Complicates existing deer hunting regulations.

White-tailed Deer

Frequency Distribution of Yearling and Adult Antler Spreads



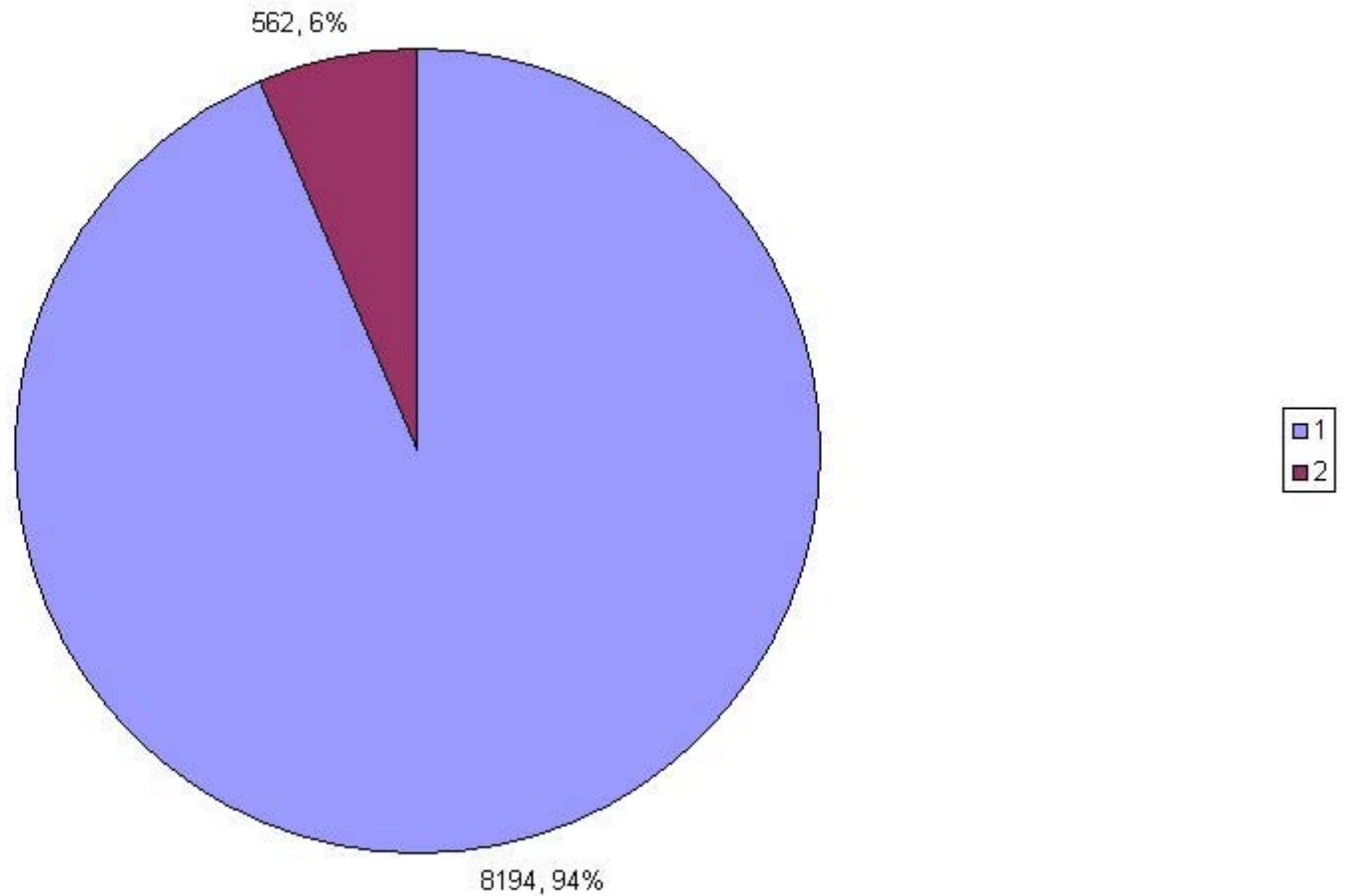
Reduce the Statewide Buck Bag Limit:

General approach is to reduce overall harvest with smaller bag limit AND create an incentive for some hunters to voluntarily pass up yearling bucks.

- One buck per weapon season would reduce harvest in Region B.
- Would also reduce harvest by those that take bucks in both Regions during one weapon season.
- A limit of one antlered buck would encourage hunters to CHOOSE to pass on smaller bucks – if that is their preference.
- All bucks would be legal.
- Hunter survey results indicate there is not wide-spread support for a state-wide limit.
- Simplifies existing deer hunting regulations.

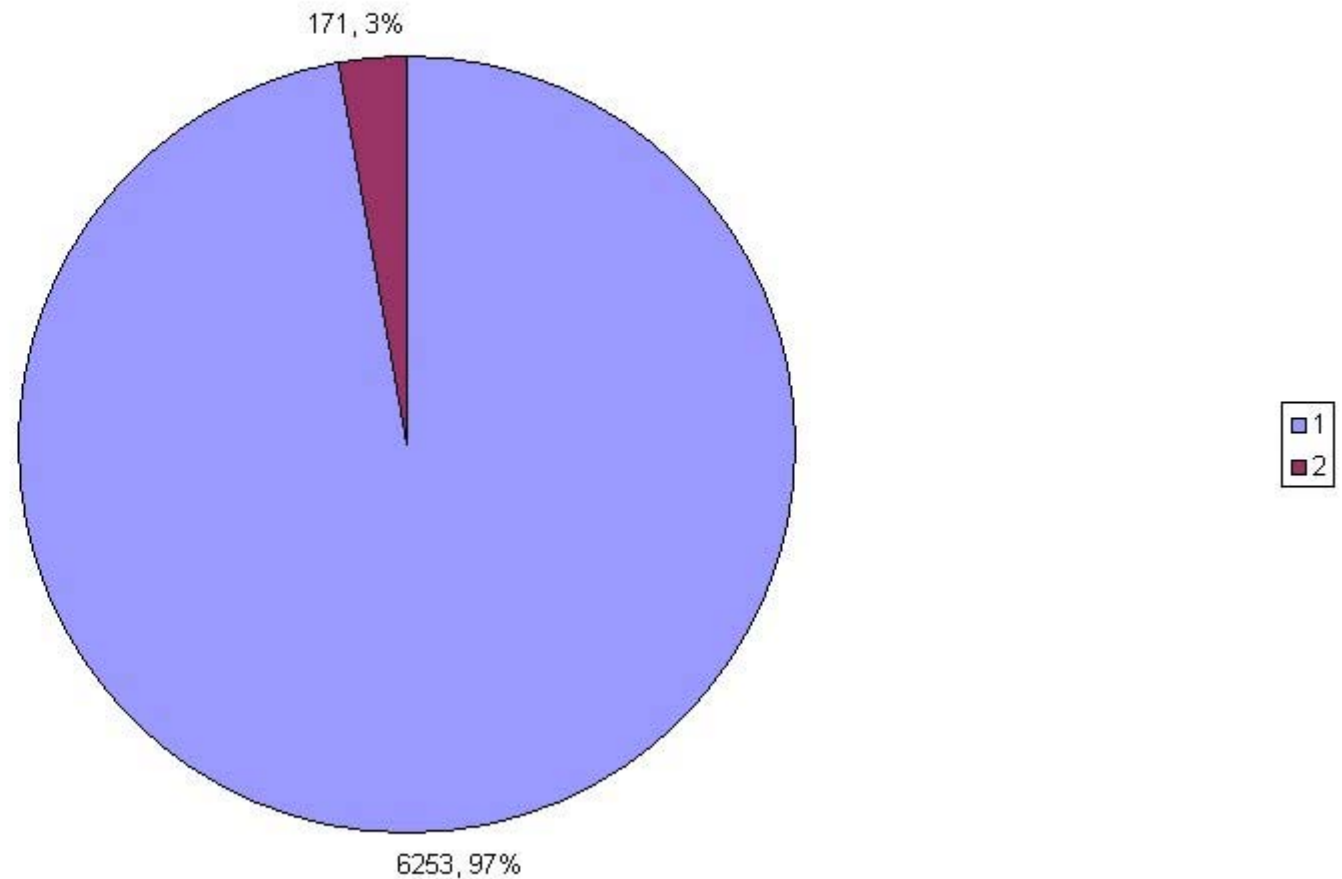
White-tailed Deer

Bowhunters Who Harvested One or Two Bucks During the 2010-11 Maryland Season



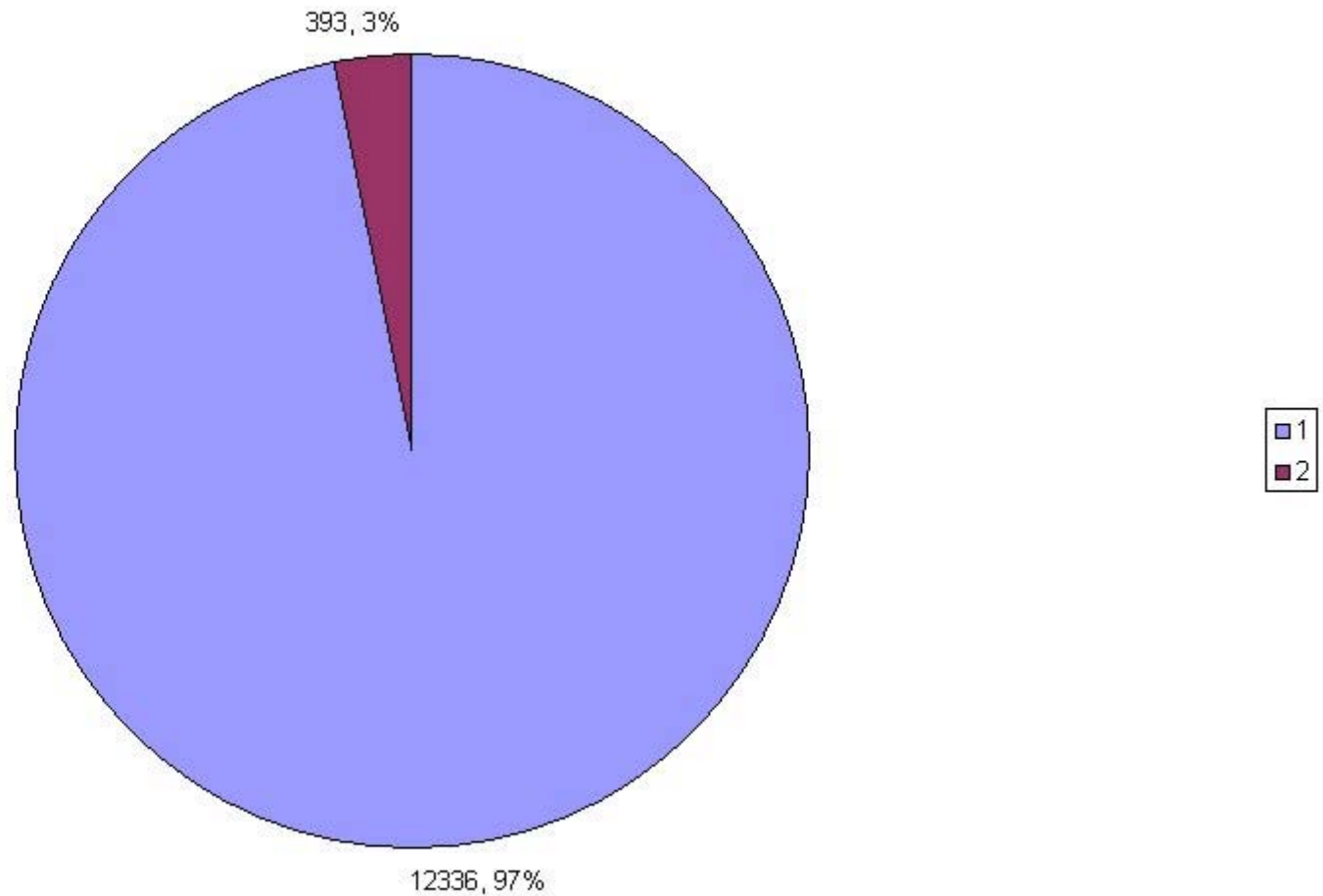
White-tailed Deer

Muzzleloader Hunters Who Harvested One or Two Bucks During the 2010-11 Maryland Season



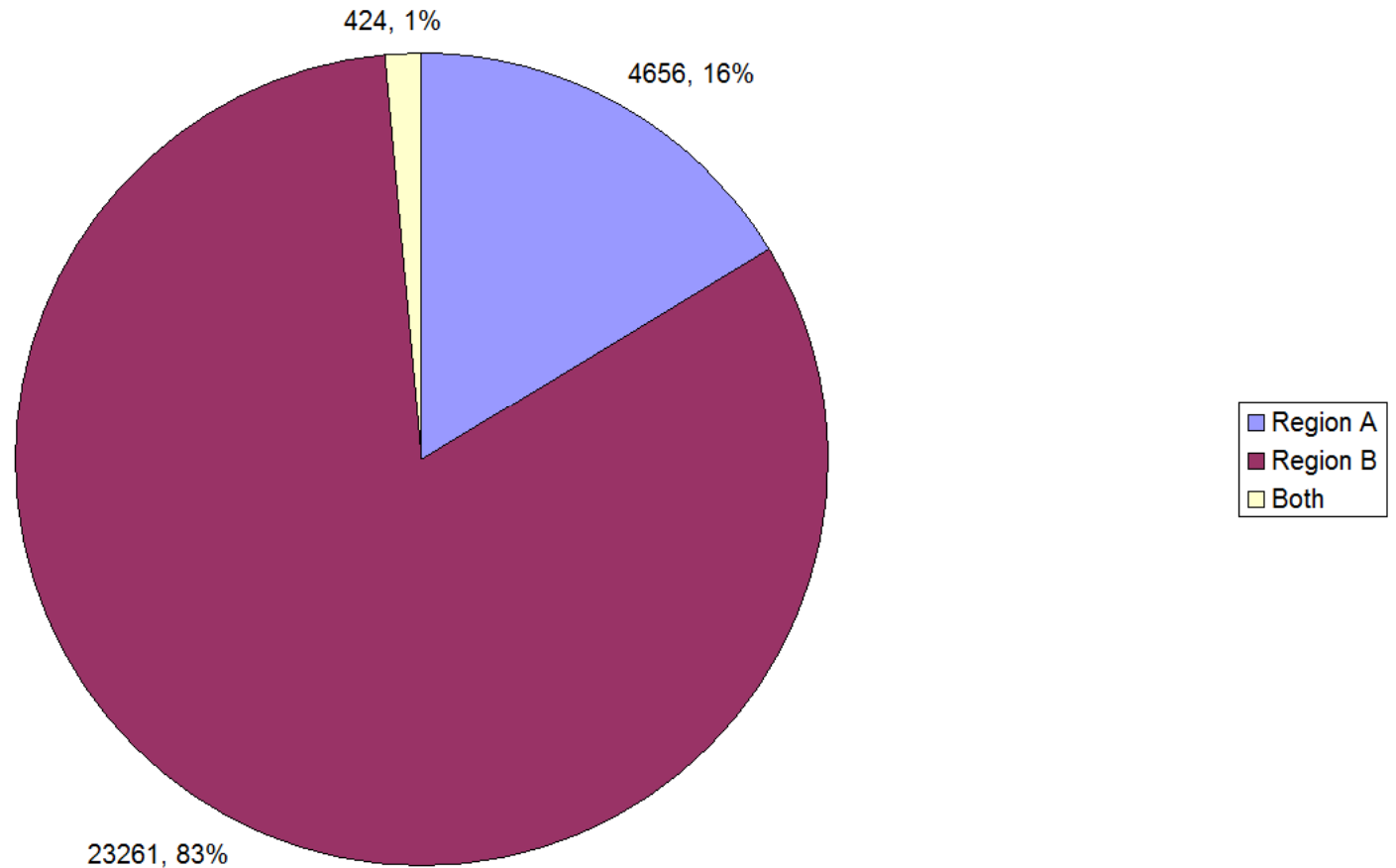
White-tailed Deer

Firearm Hunters Who Harvested One or Two Bucks During the 2010-11 Maryland Season



White-tailed Deer

Hunters Who Harvested At Least One Buck in Region A, Region B, or Both



Other Species or Regulations

No proposed changes for other species:

- migratory game birds,
- turkeys,
- squirrels, rabbits, grouse and other small game, or
- bears.

Also have some minor fixes to our CWD Management Area:

- they are in your handout,
- but will skip them now in the interests of time.

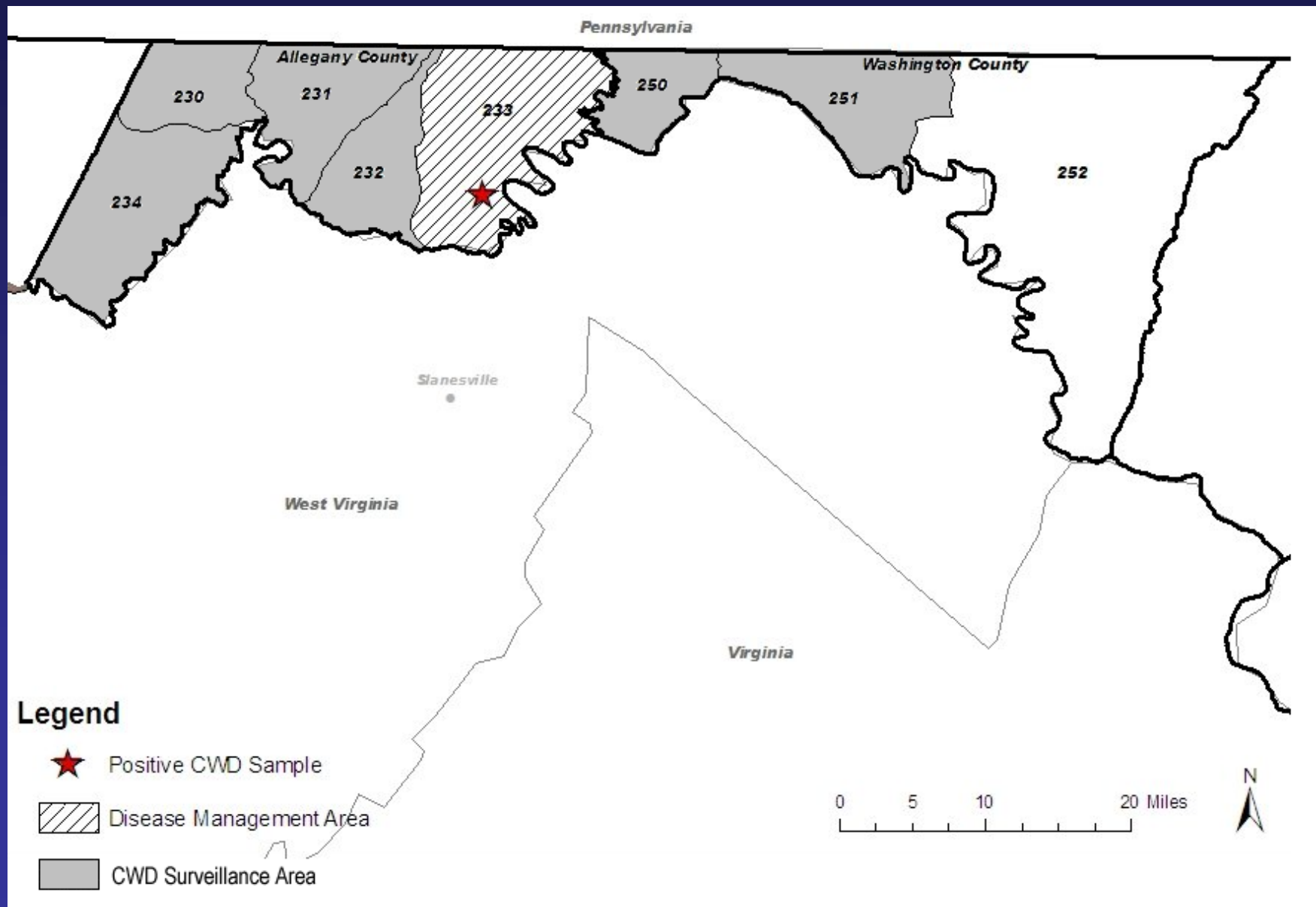
We will be glad to talk about these during the break out discussions...

Chronic Wasting Disease

Proposal: Permit hunters to take deer harvested in the CWD Management Area (CWDMA) to approved taxidermists outside the CWDMA.

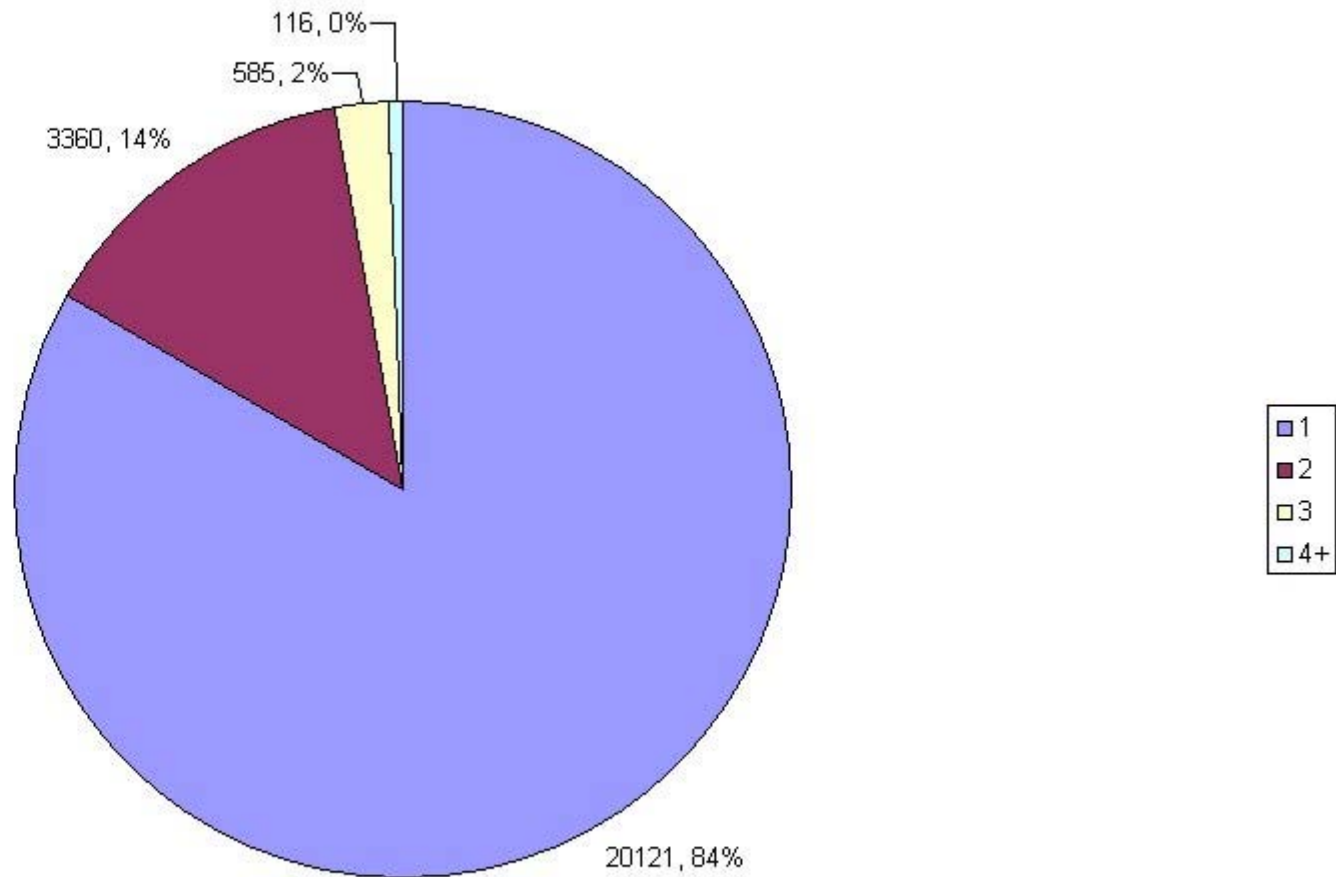


Chronic Wasting Disease



White-tailed Deer

Number of Hunters Who Harvested One, Two, Three, or Four Or More Bucks During the 2010-11 Maryland Season



White-tailed Deer

Proposal: Combine the Region A & B buck bag limits into one statewide limit of three bucks (one per weapon season).

- The bag limit of 1 per weapon season would encourage hunters to CHOOSE to wait for an older (larger) buck.
- Survey and harvest data suggest the change will have little impact on antlerless harvest rates or hunter success.
- Many counties already have moderate harvest rates (~60%) on yearling bucks.



M Regulation change**Butch Glenn**

Mon, Mar 19, 2012 at 10:59 AM

To:

Mr. Rodney,

I am writing you on behalf of the Maryland Fur Trappers Inc. board of directors concerning an important proposed Maryland hunting regulation change. Fox season is proposed to be extended two weeks for hunting only. Our organization feels as though this proposal should include trapping also. MFTI thinks extending the season should benefit all user groups and not just one group.

As a member of the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission, we are asking for your support in extending the proposal to include hunting and trapping. MFTI would like for you to share our concerns with your colleagues at your next meeting on March 21, 2012. We appreciate your time and understanding on this matter.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Butch Glenn
MFTI President

**WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
2012 – AGENDA CHART**

JANUARY 2012 – NO MEETING SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 15, 2012

- Introductions: New Members
- Transition/Certificates
- 2012-2014 Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits Regulations Concepts (Pete Jayne)
- 2012 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto and Glenn Therres)

MARCH 21, 2012

- 2012-2014 Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits Proposals (Pete Jayne)
- 2012 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto)
- Explore Bowhunting Program (Commissioner Compton)
- Selecting a November Meeting Date (Group Discussion)
- 2012 Working Agenda – WAC Review and Approval

APRIL 18, 2012 - NO MEETING SCHEDULED

MAY 16, 2012

- 2012 Legislative Session Outcome (Paul Peditto)
- Wildlife and Heritage Service FY12 and FY13 Budget Update (Glenn Therres)
- WHS Administration Update (Glenn Therres)

JUNE 20, 2012

- Natural Heritage Program Update (Jonathan McKnight)
- Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee (Jonathan McKnight and Committee Chairperson)
- WAC Legislative Concepts Finalized (Group Discussion)

JULY 25, 2012

- Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee Report (Migratory Game Bird Committee and Larry Hindman)
- 2012 – 2013 Waterfowl Season Proposals (Larry Hindman)

AUGUST 15, 2012

- Finalize Selections of 2012-2013 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons (Larry Hindman and Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee)
- WHS Information and Education Program Update (Patricia Allen)

SEPTEMBER 2012 – NO MEETING SCHEDULED


OCTOBER 17, 2012

- Presentation of 2011 Conservationist of the Year Award (Paul Peditto)
- WHS Regional Operations Program Update (Karina Stonesifer)

NOVEMBER 14, 2012

- WHS Game Program Update (Pete Jayne and staff)

DECEMBER 2012 – NO MEETING SCHEDULED

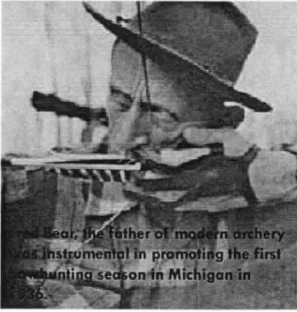


TAKE THEM OUTSIDE
THE CLASSROOM.
WAY OUTSIDE.


Monday a white-tailed deer hooted across a wild
country. That's Explore Bowhunting. Take time to
a weekend hunt or go out at the week. See Q&A:
Bury momentous. That's Explore Bowhunting.
It's about the hunt. It's about the outdoors.
It's about the outdoors.

Explore Bowhunting gives you
a chance to see nature in a new way.
It's not just killing them.
It's about the hunt. It's about the outdoors.
It's about the outdoors.





“NO CHILD CAN TRULY KNOW OR VALUE
THE OUTDOORS IF THE NATURAL WORLD
REMAINS UNDER GLASS, SEEN ONLY
THROUGH LENSES, SCREENS OR
COMPUTER MONITORS.” – RICHARD
LOUV, AUTHOR OF “LAST CHILD IN THE
WOODS”



Explore Bowhunting is...





- “Explore Bowhunting” was developed by the Archery Trade Association (ATA).
- The ATA supports many others to help young people connect with nature through archery as a mainstream outdoor recreation activity.







Get the Curriculum...

- The ATA developed Explore Bowhunting for state wildlife agencies and other groups. The ATA not only plans to give Explore Bowhunting to states, but also provide the resources required to implement it.
- Groups adopting the curriculum can name it whatever they'd like. The ATA's hope is that it will have a broad reach by being implemented as after-school programs, in-school programs or part of recreational programs.






Challenges to our heritage



“The biggest single threat to conservation in America is the growing disconnect of our people with the outdoors.”

Ken Salazar, U.S. Secretary of the Interior







EXPLORE BOWHUNTING

Challenges to our heritage

- Our hunting heritage is on the decline and our young people are increasingly disconnected from nature.
- This “disconnect” with the outdoors has been cited in published literature as the greatest challenge facing the conservation community.
- This disconnect undermines the motivation to preserve wildlife and wild places, and causes the public to undervalue the goods and services provided by a healthy environment.
- This has implications for policy decisions, financial support, and the willingness of landowners to participate in conservation programs.

EXPLORE BOWHUNTING



Explore Bowhunting is...

...is an outdoor conservation education program focusing on interactions with people and wildlife.

...teaches students how to relate with the natural world by developing basic skills used to bowhunt which focus on getting close to animals.



The perfect fit for...

- Schools
- Parks and Recreation Depts.
- Game camps
- Recreation programs
- Scouts, 4-H
- Summer camps

EXPLORE BOWHUNTING


- Explore Bowhunting gives students the knowledge, skills and abilities to become active participants in the outdoors and conservation through the life long sport of bowhunting.
- The curriculum promotes physical fitness, self confidence and woodsmanship thanks to hands-on experiences and personal interaction with the environment.
- The curriculum helps build students' appreciation for wildlife and the woods.





EXPLORE BOWHUNTING



Explore Bowhunting is...

- An outdoor education program for educators working with students ages 11 to 17.
- A curriculum that can be used start to finish to teach students basic bowhunting skills.
- An activity guide with individual lessons to teach specific concepts.
- A method to teach students problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Appropriate to be taught by formal (school teachers) or informal (outdoor educators, Scout leaders, camp counselors and others) educators.
- An innovative and interactive program designed to introduce young adults to the fun, excitement and challenge of using archery equipment to interact with their physical environment.






☐ Explore Bowhunting has been "Field Tested."
☐ Proven success in urban and suburban areas and rural environments.
☐ Engaging activity-based lessons covering animal behavior, use of the senses, tracking, and animal interaction.
☐ Develops valuable decision-making and problem-solving skills.
☐ Bowhunting gets young people outside and active and provides lifestyle KSAs that promote vitality and self image that can be carried over into adult life.

Gear up with professionally produced educational tools:

- ☐ A comprehensive teacher's curriculum (22 activities)
- ☐ An equipment book
- ☐ DVD's
- ☐ Audio CD
- ☐ Commercial quality board game
- ☐ Student handbook
- ☐ Technical Support



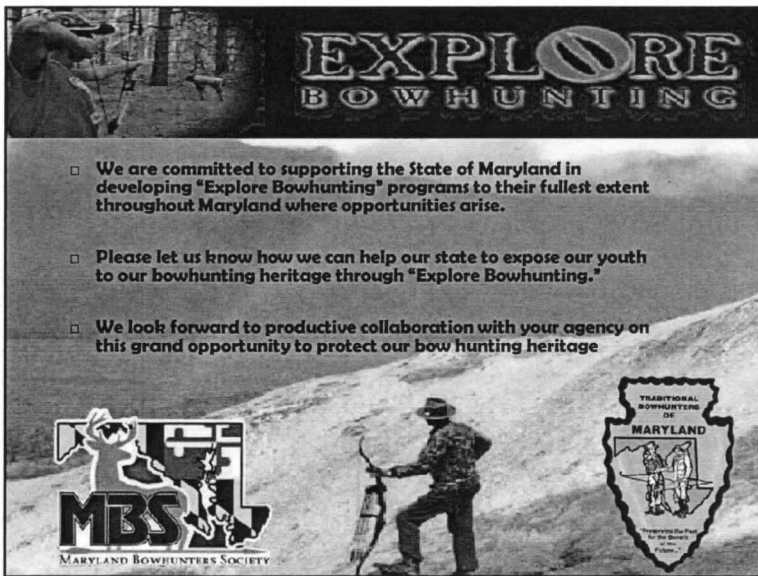

☐ Here is a link to the ATA's "Explore Bowhunting" brochure:
http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/Education/pdf/ATA_EB_PromoBrochure_4pageExplore_BOW.pdf
☐ For more information about Explore Bowhunting visit:
<http://www.archerytrade.org/news/press-releases/360.html>
☐ For more information about Michigan's Explore Bowhunting,
http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10369_55049---00.html
☐ For more information about Kentucky's Explore Bowhunting program visit,
<http://fw.ky.gov/explorebowhunting.asp>
☐ For more information about Arizona's Explore Bowhunting program visit,
http://www.azgfd.gov/i_e/edits/explore_bowhunting.shtml




☐ If you are interested in or would like more information about Explore Bowhunting, contact Emily Beach at (866) 266-2776 ext. 4 or emilybeach@archerytrade.org
☐ You need JavaScript enabled to view it ; or contact Kelly Kelly at (866) 266-2776 ext. 6 or kellykelly@archerytrade.org


"It's the best thing I've done because, we like, get to do hands-on stuff." — (Explore Bowhunting student)






**EXPLORE
BOWHUNTING**

- We are committed to supporting the State of Maryland in developing "Explore Bowhunting" programs to their fullest extent throughout Maryland where opportunities arise.
- Please let us know how we can help our state to expose our youth to our bowhunting heritage through "Explore Bowhunting."
- We look forward to productive collaboration with your agency on this grand opportunity to protect our bow hunting heritage



MBS
MARYLAND BOWHUNTERS SOCIETY



TRADITIONAL
BOWHUNTING
OF
MARYLAND
"Preserving Our Past
for the Benefit
of Future"

**Summary of 2012 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of March 21, 2012)**

HB 35 **Status as of March 12, 2012: Bill is in the House - Unfavorable Environmental Matters**
Private Property Rights - Regulatory Infringement - Compensation
House: *Environmental Matters*

HB 129 **Status as of March 9, 2012: Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs**
Caroline County - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays
House: *Environmental Matters* Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs*

HB 134 **Status as of March 2, 2012: Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs**
Carroll County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone
House: *Environmental Matters* Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs*

HB 144 **Status as of March 2, 2012: Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs**
Caroline County and Dorchester County - Turkey Hunting on Private Property - Sundays
House: *Environmental Matters* Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs*

HB 321 **Status as of March 12, 2012: Bill is in the House - Unfavorable Environmental Matters**
Harford County - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays
House: *Environmental Matters*

HB 733 **Status as of February 15, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Economic Matters**
Public Utility Companies - Generating Stations - Wind
House: *Economic Matters* (Heard: March 15, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

HB 739 **Status as of February 8, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Judiciary**
Bow Hunting - Possession of Handguns for Protection
House: *Judiciary* (Heard: February 21, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

HB 750 **Status as of March 12, 2012: Bill is in the House - Unfavorable Environmental Matters**
Public Health - Importation, Release, and Disposal of Wildlife - Prohibition
House: *Environmental Matters*

HB 809 **Status as of February 9, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters**
Prince George's County - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays PG 304-12
House: *Environmental Matters*

HB 877 **Status as of March 17, 2012: Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs**
Cecil County - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays
House: *Environmental Matters* Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs*

HB 1045 **Status as of March 14, 2012: Bill is in the House - Withdrawn Environmental Matters**
The Maryland Native Plants and Wildflower Preservation Act
House: *Environmental Matters*

HB 1052 Status as of March 17, 2012: Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs

Wildlife Poaching Prevention Act

House: *Environmental Matters* Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs*

HB 1419 Status as of March 6, 2012: Bill is in the House - Re-referred Environmental Matters

Natural Resources - Hunting Licenses and Stamps

House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: March 16, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

HB 1431 Status as of March 21, 2012: Bill is in the House - Favorable Environmental Matters

Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties - Turkey Hunting on Private Property - Sundays

House: *Environmental Matters*

HB 1446 Status as of March 20, 2012: Bill is in the House - Re-referred Environmental Matters

Somerset and Worcester Counties - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays

House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: March 23, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

HB 1448 Status as of March 20, 2012: Bill is in the House - Re-referred Environmental Matters

Queen Anne's County - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays

House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: March 23, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

SB 105 Status as of March 12, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters

Caroline County and Dorchester County - Turkey Hunting on Private Property - Sundays

Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs* House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: March 30, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

SB 346 Status as of March 12, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters

Harford County - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays

Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs* House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: March 30, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

SB 390 Status as of March 12, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters

Caroline County - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays

Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs* House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: March 30, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

SB 588 Status as of March 13, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Judiciary

Bow Hunting - Possession of Handguns for Protection

Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs* House: *Judiciary* (Hearing: March 27, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

SB 662 Status as of March 12, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters

Carroll County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone

Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs* House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: March 30, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

SB 771 Status as of February 27, 2012: Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Finance

Public Utility Companies - Generating Stations - Wind

Senate: *Finance* (Hearing: March 20, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

SB 819 Status as of March 19, 2012: Bill is in the Senate - Unfavorable Judicial Proceedings

Private Property Rights - Regulatory Infringement - Compensation

Senate: *Judicial Proceedings*