

Maryland Annual Big Game Report 2023-2024

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RECOGNIZING MARYLAND'S FINEST



White-tailed & Sika Deer

Introduction

Maryland deer hunters harvested 72,642 deer during the 2023-2024 season (Table 1, Figure 1). The statewide harvest included 30,025 antlered and 38,511 antlerless white-tailed deer; and 1,912 antlered and 2,194 antlerless sika deer. The combined species antlerless harvest consisted of 35,780 does or antlerless bucks and 4,925 button bucks (Table 2, Figure 2). The overall harvest was 5 percent lower than the 2022-2023 total of 76,687 deer.

The harvest in deer management Region A decreased 4%, from 9,552 deer last year to 9,169 this year. Hunters in the western counties reported 5,678 antlered and 3,491 antlerless deer.

Deer hunters in Region B harvested 63,473 deer, down 6% from 67,135 deer harvested last year. A total of 26,259 antlered and 37,214 antlerless deer were reported in this region.

Frederick County had the highest reported harvest with 6,549 deer reported. Carroll 5,729 and Dorchester 5,520 counties had the second and third highest reported harvest, respectively. Garrett and Baltimore rounded out the top five with 5,108 and 4,550, respectively.

Hunters harvested 7,074 deer on Sundays (Table 3). Sunday deer hunting opportunities are available in 20 of Maryland's 23 counties. Opportunities vary by county and are only permitted during certain weeks of the deer hunting season (Table 4).

Archery Season Summary

Each year, archery season in Maryland opens the Friday after Labor Day (September 6 in 2023-2024) and closes on January 31 (unless January 31 is a Sunday and is closed to hunting on Sunday). Resident and non-resident hunters purchased approximately 51,892 and 11,887 archery stamps respectively in 2023-2024. The average Maryland hunter who hunts deer with a vertical bow each year (approximately 18,000 hunters) normally does so for about 8-10 days each season; and 23 percent of these hunters take at least one deer each year with their bow. Approximately 20,000 hunters currently hunt deer with a crossbow in Maryland. The average crossbow hunter hunts with a crossbow for 8-10 days each year and 30-40 percent are successful in taking at least one deer per year with the weapon.

In 2023-2024:

- The reported archery harvest (vertical and crossbow) decreased 5 percent from 25,982 deer in 2022-2023 to 24,789 in 2023-2024 (Table 1, Figure 3).
- There were 12,366 antlered deer (49 percent of the total archery harvest) and 12,423 antlerless deer harvested with crossbows and vertical bows.
- The antlered archery harvest increased 3 percent and the antlerless harvest (11,135 does or antlerless bucks and 1,288 button bucks) decreased 11 percent from the previous year.
- Archery hunters took 2,125 deer (1,117 antlered, 1,008 antlerless) on Sundays open to archery hunting (Table 3).
- Archery hunters took 34 percent of all deer harvested in Maryland, the same percentage as the last two seasons. (Figure 3).
- 85 percent of the archery harvest was on private lands.
- Crossbow hunters took 7,602 antlered deer and 7,130 antlerless deer during the archery season (Table 5).
- The crossbow harvest (14,732 deer) represented 59 percent of the total archery season harvest in 2023-2024 – slightly lower than the 60 percent in 2022-2023 (Figure 4).

Table 1
Maryland Reported Antlered and Antlerless Deer Harvest for the Archery, Firearm, and Muzzleloader
Hunting Seasons by County, 2023-2024

COUNTY	Archery			Firearms			Muzzleloader			Total		
	Antlered	Antlerless	SubTotal	Antlered	Antlerless	SubTotal	Antlered	Antlerless	SubTotal	Antlered	Antlerless	TOTAL
Allegany	513	313	826	1006	515	1521	305	300	605	1824	1128	2952
Anne Arundel	368	448	816	287	347	634	95	179	274	750	974	1724
Baltimore	1126	1272	2398	527	933	1460	246	446	692	1899	2651	4550
Calvert	272	316	588	225	367	592	87	134	221	584	817	1401
Caroline												
Whitetail	306	308	614	473	1067	1540	131	291	422	910	1666	2576
Sika	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Carroll	942	922	1864	1283	1871	3154	245	466	711	2470	3259	5729
Cecil	544	672	1216	491	907	1398	142	265	407	1177	1844	3021
Charles	458	472	930	437	642	1079	155	269	424	1050	1383	2433
Dorchester												
Whitetail	198	172	370	424	775	1199	117	191	308	739	1138	1877
Sika	511	585	1096	662	893	1555	505	487	992	1678	1965	3643
Frederick	1052	930	1982	1537	2090	3627	354	586	940	2943	3606	6549
Garrett	1001	533	1534	1685	900	2585	466	523	989	3152	1956	5108
Harford	566	751	1317	431	811	1242	150	361	511	1147	1923	3070
Howard	444	584	1028	247	460	707	104	215	319	795	1259	2054
Kent	414	300	714	568	1029	1597	218	344	562	1200	1673	2873
Montgomery	738	929	1667	429	849	1278	149	268	417	1316	2046	3362
Prince George's	318	346	664	225	295	520	106	137	243	649	778	1427
Queen Anne's	375	411	786	511	1048	1559	142	330	472	1028	1789	2817
Somerset												
Whitetail	171	180	351	364	689	1053	97	189	286	632	1058	1690
Sika	7	10	17	10	5	15	1	0	1	18	15	33
St. Mary's	437	427	864	302	479	781	130	210	340	869	1116	1985
Talbot	268	272	540	330	765	1095	121	172	293	719	1209	1928
Washington	779	711	1490	1168	1072	2240	326	362	688	2273	2145	4418
Wicomico												
Whitetail	253	290	543	548	976	1524	120	228	348	921	1494	2415
Sika	44	49	93	75	76	151	48	36	84	167	161	328
Worcester												
Whitetail	250	202	452	616	1163	1779	112	234	346	978	1599	2577
Sika	11	18	29	21	21	42	17	13	30	49	52	101
Total	12,366	12,423	24,789	14,882	21,045	35,927	4,689	7,237	11,926	31,937	40,705	72,642

Figure 1
Maryland Reported Antlered and Antlerless Deer
Harvest, 2014-2015 through 2023-2024

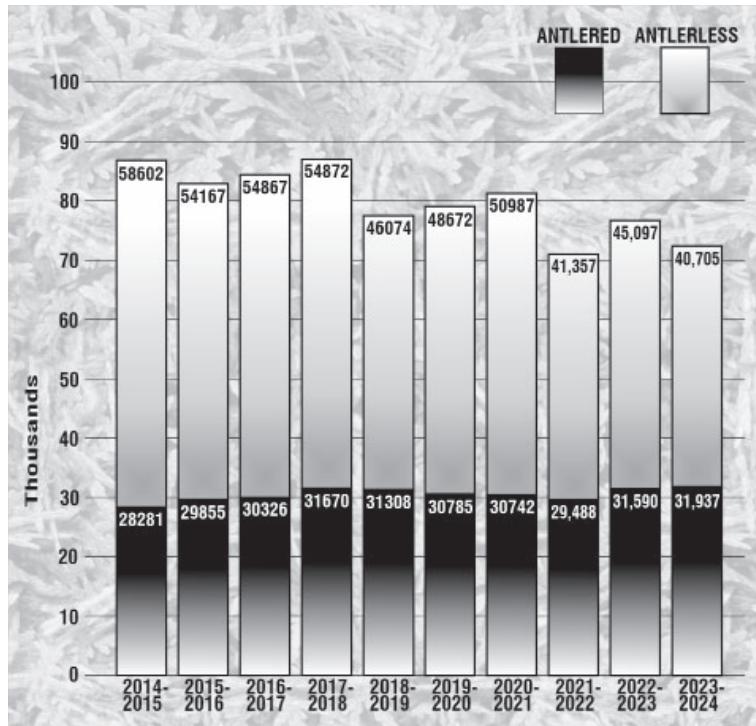


Figure 2
Maryland Reported Button Buck and Doe Harvest,
2014-2015 through 2023-2024

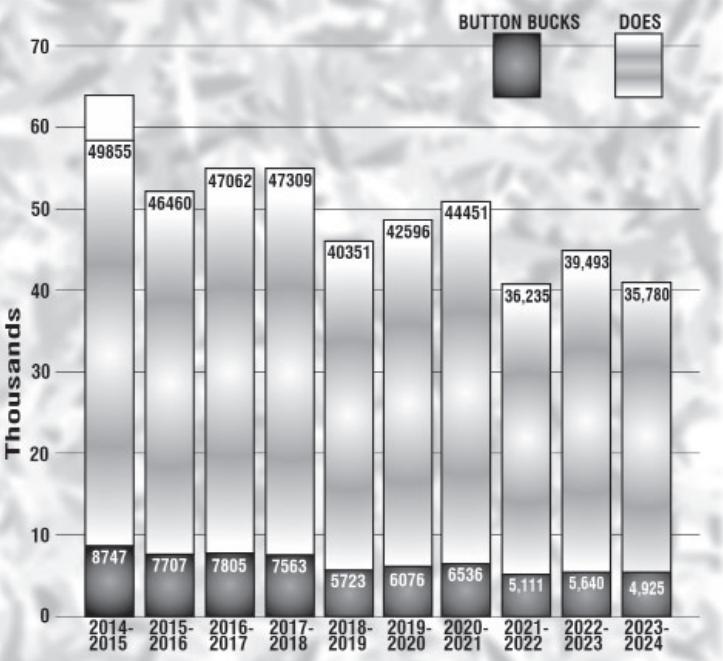


Table 2
Maryland Reported Buttonbuck Harvest
by County, 2023-2024

COUNTY	Buttonbuck	Female or Antlerless	Total	Percent Buttonbuck
Allegany	99	1,029	1,128	8.78
Anne Arundel	131	843	974	13.45
Baltimore	286	2,365	2,651	10.79
Calvert	114	703	817	13.95
Caroline				
Whitetail	246	1,420	1,666	14.77
Sika		1	1	0.00*
Carroll	439	2,820	3,259	13.47
Cecil	203	1,641	1,844	11.01
Charles	157	1,226	1,383	11.35
Dorchester				
Whitetail	186	952	1,138	16.34
Sika	96	1,869	1,965	4.89
Frederick	358	3,248	3,606	9.93
Garrett	192	1,764	1,956	9.82
Harford	264	1,659	1,923	13.73
Howard	163	1,096	1,259	12.95
Kent	196	1,477	1,673	11.72
Montgomery	215	1,831	2,046	10.51
Prince George's	103	675	778	13.24
Queen Anne's	234	1,555	1,789	13.08
Somerset				
Whitetail	151	907	1,058	14.27
Sika	1	14	15	6.67*
St. Mary's	186	930	1,116	16.67
Talbot	199	1,010	1,209	16.46
Washington	225	1,920	2,145	10.49
Wicomico				
Whitetail	239	1,255	1,494	16.00
Sika	9	152	161	5.59*
Worcester				
Whitetail	225	1,374	1,599	14.07
Sika	8	44	52	15.38*
Total	4,925	35,780	40,705	12.10

*Small sample size

Figure 3
Maryland Reported Deer Harvest for the Archery, Firearm, and Muzzleloader Seasons, 2014-2015 through 2023-2024

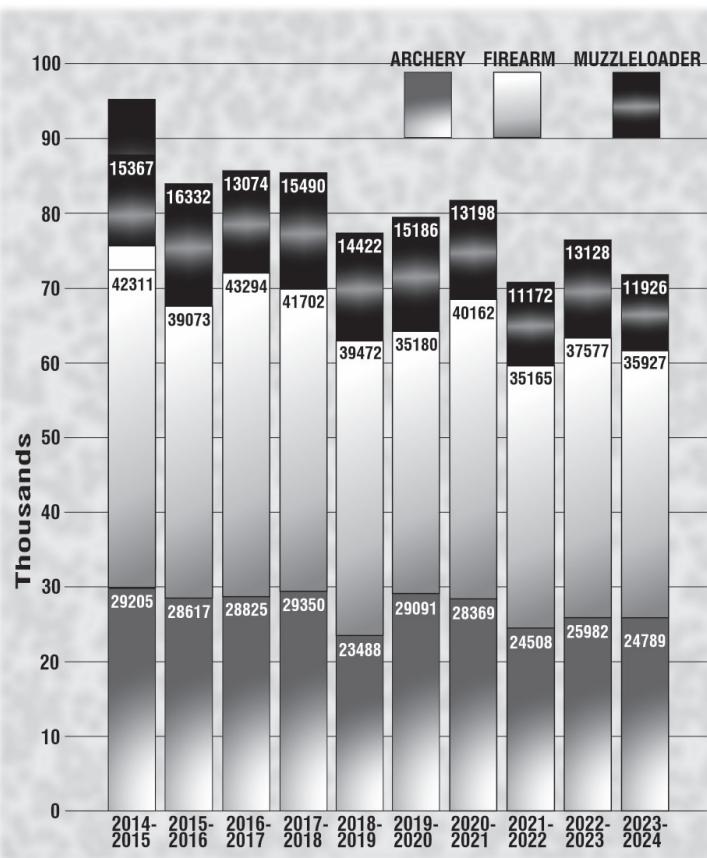
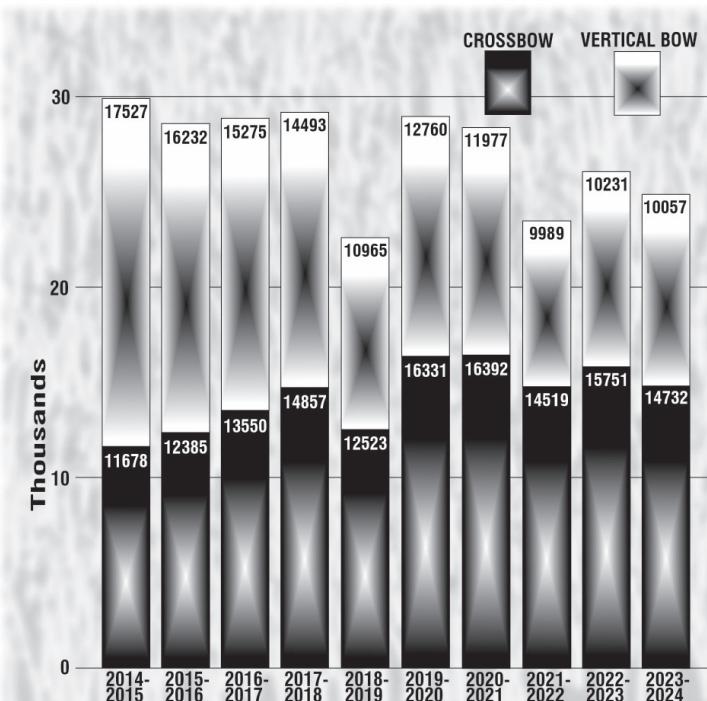


Figure 4
Maryland Reported Crossbow and Vertical Bow Deer Harvest during the Designated Archery Season, 2014-2015 through 2023-2024



- Approximately 10,438 different hunters harvested a deer with a crossbow during archery season (compared to 10,802 in 2022-2023).
- Archery hunters harvested 33 deer during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days, February 1-3 (Table 11).

Firearm Season Summary

- The statewide firearm season begins the Saturday after Thanksgiving and runs for the following two weeks. In Region B, hunters have an additional two or three days of firearm hunting in early January depending on whether Sunday hunting is allowed in the county where they are hunting. Deer taken during managed hunts outside the normal deer seasons are also counted as firearm kills. Approximately 45,000 - 55,000 hunters hunt deer with a firearm each year in Maryland. The average firearm hunter spends 5-6 days each year pursuing deer and approximately 35-45 percent of firearm hunters bag at least one deer each year.

In 2023-2024:

- The statewide firearm harvest decreased 4.5 percent from 37,577 deer in 2022-2023 to 35,927 deer (Table 1, Figure 3).
- The firearm harvest included 14,882 antlered deer (41 percent of the total firearm harvest) and 21,045 antlerless deer.
- The antlered harvest slightly increased by 0.19 percent, and the antlerless harvest (18,260 does or antlerless bucks and 2,785 button bucks) decreased 8 percent from 2022-2023.
- The majority (79 percent) of the firearm harvest occurred during the two-week season that began the Saturday after Thanksgiving (Table 6).
- Firearm hunters took 49 percent of all deer harvested in Maryland for the second consecutive season. (Figure 3).
- The majority (89 percent) of the firearm harvest was taken on private property.
- Firearm hunters bagged 3,961 deer (1,605 antlered and 2,356 antlerless) on the Sundays open during the two-week and January firearm seasons; and junior deer hunters harvested 842 deer (567 antlered and 275 antlerless) on the Junior Deer Hunt Sunday (Table 3).

Table 3
Maryland Reported Sunday Hunting Deer Harvest by County, 2023-2024

COUNTY ¹	Archery			Firearms			Junior Hunt			Muzzleloader			Grand Total
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	
Allegany	55	34	89	97	0	97	50	13	63	1	0	1	250
Anne Arundel	7	4	11	15	19	34	7	0	7	0	0	0	52
Calvert	29	35	64	36	56	92	6	5	11	2	2	4	171
Caroline	38	35	73	56	151	207	13	17	30	1	2	3	313
Carroll	112	104	216	173	269	442	38	28	66	2	11	13	737
Cecil	71	92	163	50	129	179	18	12	30	3	8	11	383
Charles	44	40	84	53	86	139	16	7	23	8	6	14	260
Dorchester													
Whitetail	24	26	50	37	120	157	18	5	23	3	5	8	238
Sika	53	43	96	84	132	216	7	3	10	4	8	12	334
Frederick	117	96	213	170	302	472	81	34	115	8	19	27	827
Garrett	116	76	192	194	0	194	110	51	161	2	0	2	549
Harford	45	43	88	53	130	183	8	7	15	0	0	0	286
Kent	54	44	98	64	116	180	15	9	24	2	6	8	310
Montgomery	55	55	110	31	44	75	11	9	20	4	7	11	216
Queen Anne's	41	40	81	63	157	220	12	4	16	0	3	3	320
Somerset													
Whitetail	17	17	34	56	94	150	18	14	32	0	2	2	218
Sika	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
St. Mary's	54	46	100	28	69	97	9	6	15	1	6	7	219
Talbot	33	17	50	42	60	102	9	3	12	0	2	2	166
Washington	86	94	180	149	119	268	53	22	75	5	9	14	537
Wicomico													
Whitetail	28	34	62	56	126	182	36	13	49	0	2	2	295
Sika	2	8	10	11	13	24	2	0	2	1	0	1	37
Worcester													
Whitetail	35	24	59	86	164	250	30	13	43	0	1	1	353
Sika	1		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1,117	1,008	2,125	1,605	2,356	3,961	567	275	842	47	99	146	7,074

* Sunday hunting was not open during this season in this county.

¹ See Table 4 for the Sundays that were open for deer hunting in each county in 2023-2024.

Sunday deer hunting opportunities are available on private lands and designated public lands. The public lands, shooting hours, and dates vary by county to county. See Table 4 for more information.

SUNDAY DEER HUNTING 2023-2024 (FOR WHITE-TAILED AND SIIKA DEER)

Sunday deer hunting is open with these restrictions, in these counties and locations on these dates.

Table 4
Maryland Sunday Deer Hunting Dates by County, 2023-2024

COUNTY	Lands Open	Archery Season												Firearms Season						Muzzleloader Season		
		Sept 10	Sept 17	Sept 24	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Dec. 31	Jan. 7	Jan. 14	Jan. 21	Jan. 28	Nov. 12 (if-1-Hunt)	Nov. 26	Dec. 3	Jan. 7	Dec. 17
ALLEGANY	Private & Designated Public ¹	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open													
ANNE ARUNDEL	Private Only																					
BALTIMORE	None																					
CALVERT	Private Only	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²
CAROLINE	Private Only	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²
CARROLL	Private Only																					
CECIL	Private & Designated Public ¹	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open													
CHARLES	Private Only	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²
DORCHESTER	Private Only	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²											
FREDERICK	Private Only																					
GARRETT	Private & Designated Public ¹	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open													
HARFORD	Private Only																					
HOWARD	None																					
KENT	Private Only	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open													
MONTGOMERY	Private Only	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²													
PRINCE GEORGE'S	None																					
QUEEN ANNE'S	Private Only	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²				
ST. MARY'S	Private & Designated Public ¹	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open													
SOMERSET	Private & Designated Public ³	Open ²	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²											
TALBOT	Private Only	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²										
WASHINGTON REGION A	Private & Designated Public ¹	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open													
WASHINGTON REGION B	Private Only	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open													
WICOMICO	Private & Designated Public ¹	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²						
WORCESTER	Private & Designated Public ¹	Open ²	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open											

¹Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany (Bluemont-Belle Grove WMA, Diani's Mountain WMA, Green Ridge River SF, McCoole Run, Warrior Mountain WMA), Carroll (Sister's Island SF, Savage River SF, St. Mary's (Sister's Island SF, Saint Inigoes SF), Washington (Indian Springs WMA, Prather's Neck WMA, Suddling Hill WMA), Wicomico (Ellis Bay WMA, Pocomoke SF, Pocomoke River WMA, Suddling Hill WMA), Worcester (Cecil (Edenwelle WMA, CED Canal Lands, Grove Farm WMA, Old Bremerton WMA), Garrett (Currituck Swamp WMA, Gamest SF, Melford WMA, Potomac SF, Potomac River SF, Wicomico WMA), and Wicomico (Ellis Bay WMA, Wicomico WMA, Wicomico River WMA, Suddling Hill WMA).

²Legal shooting hours for deer are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30am on this Sunday (applies only where footnoted).

- Junior deer hunters bagged a total of 2,226 deer (1,531 antlered and 695 antlerless) during the Junior Deer Hunt weekend; 8 percent more than the 2,063 deer taken in 2022-2023.(Table 7).
- Deer hunters reported 4,277 deer (77.5 percent antlerless) for the three-day January firearm season (Table 8).

Muzzleloader Season Summary

The 2023-2024 statewide antlered muzzleloader season included three days in October (October 19 - 21) and two weeks beginning in mid-December (December 16 – December 30). Region A antlerless muzzleloader season also included the same three days in October (October 19 - 21) and allowed muzzleloader hunting on all other lands for three days in December (December 28 - 30), but only allowed antlerless deer to be taken by muzzleloader on DNR Public Lands for one day (December 30). Region B antlerless muzzleloader continued with a nine-day antlerless-only muzzleloader season (October 19 - 28) in addition to the two weeks in December (December 16-30) to provide for additional deer population management through antlerless deer harvest. The October muzzleloader season is set annually to begin the first Thursday after the 15th of the month.

Resident and non-resident hunters purchased approximately 45,609 and 8,733 muzzleloader stamps respectively in 2023-2024. The stamps are required to hunt deer during the muzzleloader season. It is estimated that 20,000-30,000 hunters actually hunt during this season. Those that pursue deer with a muzzleloader do so for 1-3 days for each of the early and late seasons. Approximately 20-25 percent of muzzleloader hunters are successful in harvesting at least one deer in any given year.

In 2023-2024:

- The muzzleloader harvest totaled 11,926 deer compared to 13,128 deer in 2022-2023, a 10 percent decrease (Table 1, Figure 3).
- There were 4,689 antlered deer and 7,237 antlerless deer harvested with muzzleloaders. Antlerless deer represented 61 percent of the total muzzleloader harvest.
- The antlered harvest decreased 0.5 percent

and the antlerless harvest (6,385 does or antlerless bucks and 852 button bucks) decreased 14 percent from the previous year.

- Muzzleloader hunters took 16 percent of all deer harvested in Maryland, the slightly lower than the 17 percent last season. (Figure 3).
- The October muzzleloader harvest was 6,314 deer (2,965 antlered and 3,349 antlerless); a 17 percent decrease from the previous year's harvest of 7,626 deer (Table 9).
- The December muzzleloader harvest totaled 5,278 deer (1,658 antlered and 3,620 antlerless); a slight 0.15 percent increase from the previous year's harvest of 5,270 deer (Table 10).
- The October muzzleloader season accounted for 53 percent of the total muzzleloader harvest for the year.
- Muzzleloader hunters took 87 percent of their total harvest on private lands.
- Muzzleloader hunters harvested 334 deer with primitive flint lock or percussion sidelock muzzleloaders during the Primitive Hunt Days, February 1 – 3 (Table 11)

Public Property Deer Management

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides assistance to local governments, communities, and publicly owned properties that choose to address deer management issues. Public entities that desire to conduct hunts outside of the regional deer hunting season framework may do so with prior approval from DNR. Managed hunts are used to help control deer populations under special conditions on properties where stricter control of hunters is required. This allows each facility to manage deer hunting to complement their mission. Military bases, airports, and agricultural research facilities, as well as state, county, and municipal parks, have developed deer hunting programs in conjunction with DNR.

To improve opportunities for the public to qualify for managed hunts, DNR cooperates with organizations and shooting ranges that offer a shooter qualification program. This program provides public access to shooting ranges where hunters can become certified in the standards required to apply for managed hunts held

Table 5
Maryland Reported Crossbow Deer Harvest
by County, 2023-2024

COUNTY	Archery Season			Muzzleloader/Firearm Seasons			Grand Total
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	
Allegany	362	202	564	9	12	21	585
Anne Arundel	217	260	477	29	34	63	540
Baltimore	641	672	1,313	92	109	201	1,514
Calvert	165	206	371	16	26	42	413
Caroline	195	154	349	5	20	25	374
Carroll	544	505	1,049	29	51	80	1,129
Cecil	319	371	690	24	44	68	758
Charles	275	298	573	17	33	50	623
Dorchester							
Whitetail	126	96	222	1	1	2	224
Sika	292	360	652	10	24	34	686
Frederick	640	494	1,134	23	56	79	1,213
Garrett	724	352	1,076	15	12	27	1,103
Harford	371	416	787	35	38	73	860
Howard	247	376	623	28	64	92	715
Kent	234	151	385	4	12	16	401
Montgomery	446	536	982	44	60	104	1,086
Prince George's	174	194	368	29	34	63	431
Queen Anne's	209	219	428	14	33	47	475
Somerset							
Whitetail	112	122	234	5	15	20	254
Sika	5	7	12	1		1	13
St. Mary's	301	261	562	18	35	53	615
Talbot	177	172	349	9	16	25	374
Washington	495	391	886	21	27	48	934
Wicomico							
Whitetail	168	177	345	3	18	21	366
Sika	26	25	51	2	2	4	55
Worcester							
Whitetail	133	102	235	6	9	15	250
Sika	4	11	15	1		1	16
Grand Total	7,602	7,130	14,732	490	785	1,275	16,007

Table 6
Maryland Reported 2-Week
Firearm Season Deer Harvest
by County, 2023

COUNTY	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Allegany	856	486	1,342
Anne Arundel	202	225	427
Baltimore	444	733	1,177
Calvert	186	304	490
Caroline	398	848	1,246
Carroll	1,064	1,463	2,527
Cecil	407	718	1,125
Charles	360	507	867
Dorchester			
Whitetail	341	625	966
Sika	431	531	962
Frederick	1,220	1,594	2,814
Garrett	1,409	808	2,217
Harford	331	592	923
Howard	175	323	498
Kent	466	779	1,245
Montgomery	308	452	760
Prince George's	186	238	424
Queen Anne's	414	821	1,235
Somerset			
Whitetail	301	563	864
Sika	8	5	13
St. Mary's	255	385	640
Talbot	280	658	938
Washington	979	875	1,854
Wicomico			
Whitetail	437	805	1,242
Sika	62	53	115
Worcester			
Whitetail	507	893	1,400
Sika	1		1
Total	12,028	16,284	28,312

Table 7
Maryland Reported
Junior Deer Hunt Harvest
by County, 2023

COUNTY	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Allegany	150	29	179
Anne Arundel	11	2	13
Baltimore ¹	30	11	41
Calvert	16	10	26
Caroline	32	39	71
Carroll	121	63	184
Cecil	40	24	64
Charles	43	20	63
Dorchester			
Whitetail	39	17	56
Sika	18	14	32
Frederick	195	82	277
Garrett	276	92	368
Harford	22	15	37
Howard ¹	12	10	22
Kent	50	26	76
Montgomery	44	31	75
Prince George's ¹	7	8	15
Queen Anne's	45	17	62
Somerset	35	19	54
St. Mary's	27	22	49
Talbot	28	20	48
Washington	143	52	195
Wicomico			
Whitetail	81	34	115
Sika	3		3
Worcester	63	38	101
Total	1,531	695	2,226

¹Saturday only.

Table 8
Maryland Reported 3-Day
January Firearm Season Deer Harvest
by County, 2024

COUNTY	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Anne Arundel	16	38	54
Baltimore	38	141	179
Calvert	23	53	76
Caroline	43	180	223
Carroll	98	345	443
Cecil	44	165	209
Charles	31	100	131
Dorchester			
Whitetail	32	127	159
Sika	95	171	266
Frederick	122	414	536
Harford	41	157	198
Howard	24	67	91
Kent	41	209	250
Montgomery	33	106	139
Prince George's	25	43	68
Queen Anne's	52	210	262
Somerset			
Whitetail	28	107	135
Sika	2		2
St. Mary's	18	69	87
Talbot	22	87	109
Washington	46	145	191
Wicomico			
Whitetail	30	137	167
Sika	10	23	33
Worcester			
Whitetail	46	222	268
Sika	1		1
Total	961	3,316	4,277

Table 9
Maryland Reported
Early Muzzleloader Season Deer Harvest
by County, 2023

COUNTY	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Allegany	223	136	359
Anne Arundel	41	77	118
Baltimore	140	189	329
Calvert	41	56	97
Caroline			
Whitetail	83	148	231
Sika		1	1
Carroll	165	227	392
Cecil	94	124	218
Charles	68	113	181
Dorchester			
Whitetail	78	80	158
Sika	335	275	610
Frederick	229	287	516
Garrett	315	229	544
Harford	86	153	239
Howard	59	93	152
Kent	170	141	311
Montgomery	67	106	173
Prince George's	47	64	111
Queen Anne's	92	152	244
Somerset	69	103	172
St. Mary's	70	78	148
Talbot	82	70	152
Washington	211	163	374
Wicomico			
Whitetail	77	120	197
Sika	30	21	51
Worcester			
Whitetail	79	130	209
Sika	14	13	27
Total	2,965	3,349	6,314

Table 10
Maryland Reported
Late Muzzleloader Season Deer Harvest
by County, 2023-2024

COUNTY	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Allegany	82	128	210
Anne Arundel	54	98	152
Baltimore	104	238	342
Calvert	44	78	122
Caroline	47	128	175
Carroll	79	228	307
Cecil	48	139	187
Charles	85	154	239
Dorchester			
Whitetail	38	101	139
Sika	152	180	332
Frederick	118	274	392
Garrett	149	265	414
Harford	63	197	260
Howard	43	118	161
Kent	48	194	242
Montgomery	71	146	217
Prince George's	58	68	126
Queen Anne's	48	167	215
Somerset			
Whitetail	27	83	110
Sika	1		1
St. Mary's	59	128	187
Talbot	38	96	134
Washington	109	190	299
Wicomico			
Whitetail	42	106	148
Sika	17	14	31
Worcester			
Whitetail	31	102	133
Sika	3		3
Total	1,658	3,620	5,278

across the state. When they have successfully passed the program, they receive a statewide shooter qualification card. Appendix II provides a summary of the total deer taken on Maryland public lands during the 2023-2024 hunting seasons. Some of these public lands are part of the managed hunting programs described here.

Suburban Deer Management

Deer management in suburban areas ranks as one of the most difficult challenges facing wildlife agencies throughout the country. DNR is charged with managing deer across the state's varied landscape for a diverse public that has different opinions on how deer should be managed. This includes the large urban/suburban corridor in the midsection of the state.

As development continues in Maryland, the conversion of forested and agricultural lands into housing developments can actually improve habitat conditions for deer. Developed areas provide more than adequate food resources and they often offer refuge from hunting. As a result, deer numbers can increase rapidly in these areas. High deer numbers lead to a greater number of negative interactions with suburban residents, decreasing the residents' tolerance of deer and increasing the demand on the department to somehow regulate the population.

Safety concerns and social considerations in urban areas often prevent the use of common lethal deer population control measures (i.e., hunting). Non-lethal control measures, such as fencing and repellants, can help reduce deer problems, but they do not eliminate them.

Increasing deer-vehicle collisions, damage to ornamental plants and gardens, and damage to natural habitats are some of the problems that persist when the deer population is not directly managed and reduced. Oftentimes, when public tolerance levels have been surpassed, lethal control methods are considered as a last resort. At this point, DNR provides its professional opinion as to what, if any, lethal method (e.g., managed hunt, professional sharp-shooting, etc.) is feasible for a particular scenario. Often, a

Table 11
 Maryland Reported
 Primitive Deer Hunt Days Harvest
 by County, 2024

COUNTY	Archery Season			Muzzleloader Season			Total		
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Allegany	0	0	0	0	36	36	0	36	36
Anne Arundel	1	2	3	0	4	0	1	6	7
Baltimore	4	4	8	2	19	0	6	23	29
Calvert	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
Caroline	0	4	4	1	15	16	1	19	20
Carroll	1	1	2	1	11	0	2	12	14
Cecil	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	3	4
Charles	1	0	1	2	2	0	3	2	5
Dorchester									
Whitetail	0	1	1	1	10	11	1	11	12
Sika	0	4	4	18	32	50	18	36	54
Frederick	0	0	0	7	25	32	7	25	32
Garrett	0	0	0	2	29	31	2	29	31
Harford	0	3	3	1	11	12	1	14	15
Howard	0	0	0	2	4	6	2	4	6
Kent	0	0	0	0	9	9	0	9	9
Montgomery	0	0	0	11	16	27	11	16	27
Prince George's	1	1	2	1	5	6	2	6	8
Queen Anne's	0	0	0	2	11	13	2	11	13
Somerset	0	0	0	1	3	4	1	6	7
St. Mary's	0	2	2	1	4	5	1	3	4
Talbot	0	1	1	1	6	7	1	7	8
Washington	0	0	0	6	9	15	6	9	15
Wicomico									
Whitetail	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	2	3
Sika	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	2
Worcester	0	0	0	2	2	4	2	2	4
Total	9	24	33	66	268	334	75	292	367

combination of non-lethal and lethal techniques is recommended to help resolve the problem. DNR will continue to evaluate any new deer management techniques as they are created and promote effective methods that help reduce deer-human conflicts.

Non-Hunting Mortality

Factors that cause mortality in deer other than hunting include disease, fawn predation (from bears, coyotes, bobcats, fishers, feral dogs, etc.), collisions with vehicles, harvest using Deer Management Permits, and harvest via sharp-shooting.

To monitor deer mortality due to deer-vehicle collisions, DNR primarily uses data provided by State Farm Insurance Company. State Farm estimates total animal-vehicle collisions based on its share of the insurance business for each state and the number of accidents reported by their clients. In 2022-2023, they projected there were between 35,000-40,000 (38,365) deer-vehicle collisions in Maryland annually.

Negative impacts to farmland are also of concern when deer populations are not managed or reduced. Farmers and landowners can obtain a Deer Management Permit from DNR when deer are causing damage to commercial crops. Deer Management Permits allow farmers to harvest antlerless deer on their property outside of the regular state hunting seasons and bag limits. In 2023, 9,867 deer were taken with Deer Management Permits compared 9,716 deer in 2022 (Table 12). Significantly higher planting costs continue to cause farmers to control deer more intensely than they have in the past. While regulated hunting remains the most effective way to control deer statewide, Deer Management Permits are a valuable tool for farmers protecting their livelihood.

In areas where lethal control of deer via regulated hunting is not feasible due to urbanization or security issues (i.e., military bases), public and private landowners may obtain a Deer Cooperator Permit. Sharp-shooting deer via a Deer Cooperator Permit is a viable, lethal alternative for controlling deer numbers. A limited num-

ber of farmers also use the permit at night in particularly problematic areas to reduce deer damage to their crops. Permittees must pass written and shooting exams in order to obtain the permit and must submit an Operational Plan for approval. The majority of these permits are limited to the months of February and March. During 2023, 1,459 deer were harvested under authority of these permits in Maryland. County and/or federal officials, as well as a few private groups, remove the majority of deer taken with this method.

Over the past decade, there has been increased concern about predation on deer in the United States. These concerns often are focused on coyotes, and particularly in the southeastern part of the country. In Maryland, these concerns are more pronounced in the western counties, where bears and coyotes are more abundant. Currently, reproductive data that the Deer Project collects does not indicate coyotes or bears are having a significant impact on the deer population in Maryland. In some counties, fawn recruitment, based on the annual hunter harvest, has declined to relatively low numbers during some years, but the deer population remains stable. While the deer population is significantly lower than it was 20 years ago, the decline can be largely attributed to the relatively high percentage of antlerless deer taken during the hunting season.

While there is no doubt that coyotes and bears are predating fawns, Maryland's long-term deer data, along with research and experience from nearby states, indicate that their effect is minimal. The vast majority of white-tailed deer give birth to fawns within a two- to four-week period in May and June, which overwhelms predators like coyotes and bears. During that time, there are far more fawns on the ground than can be consumed by predators, thus ensuring that an adequate number will survive to reproduce in coming years. The Deer Project will continue to monitor fawn recruitment rates, as well as coyote and bear populations, in Maryland, and will develop alternative management strategies as the need arises.

Table 12
Maryland Deer Management Permit Statistics by County, 2023-2024

COUNTY	No. Permits Issued	No. Shooters Authorized	No. Successful Shooters	No. Deer Authorized to Harvest	Whitetail Males Harvested	Whitetail Females Harvested	Sika Males Harvested	Sika Females Harvested	Total Harvested	Tags Utilized %
Allegany	45	263	75	402	14	216	0	0	230	57
Anne Arundel	27	194	29	815	11	117	0	0	128	16
Baltimore	92	887	106	1,702	46	453	0	0	499	29
Calvert	18	105	25	525	6	52	0	0	58	11
Caroline	39	235	61	660	24	245	0	0	269	41
Carroll	195	1,251	235	4,595	94	848	0	0	942	21
Cecil	34	325	50	745	40	183	0	0	223	30
Charles	47	266	42	1,580	16	147	0	0	163	10
Dorchester	76	655	142	1,965	35	458	22	320	835	42
Frederick	116	660	208	2,080	64	749	0	0	813	39
Garrett	445	2,537	594	4,400	184	1,571	0	0	1,755	40
Harford	68	673	77	1,284	41	231	0	0	272	21
Howard	43	298	76	900	26	212	0	0	238	26
Kent	42	325	73	835	44	258	0	0	302	36
Montgomery	49	410	77	1,235	29	311	0	0	340	28
Prince George's	26	179	45	920	17	175	0	0	192	21
Queen Anne's	47	311	94	805	24	353	0	0	377	47
St. Mary's	50	373	46	1,640	14	165	0	0	179	11
Somerset	43	379	54	871	28	172	0	0	200	23
Talbot	61	364	101	1,130	67	392	0	0	459	41
Washington	113	571	147	1,730	49	517	0	0	566	33
Wicomico	77	496	84	1,389	45	291	0	12	348	25
Worcester	86	603	108	1,776	39	443	0	0	482	27
Total	1,839	12,360	2,549	33,984	957	8,559	22	332	9,870	29

Deer Population

Maryland's white-tailed deer population prior to the 2023-2024 hunting season was estimated at 237,000 deer, approximately 5 percent higher than the previous 5-year average of 226,000 deer. Trends in deer abundance are commonly monitored using harvest estimates and the age structure of the deer herd. These methods work well in areas where hunters have access to most of the land but are much less reliable for urban/suburban deer populations where hunting occurs sporadically.

Liberal antlerless regulations have slowed or halted deer population growth in many areas outside the Washington D.C. to Baltimore suburban corridor. In some rural counties, the deer population has declined. The Department of Natural Resources is currently investigating additional ways to control deer in the suburban corridor where hunting is limited by a lack of access to land.

Chronic Wasting Disease

In 2023, the DNR sampled 1,080 deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and detected 52 deer carrying the disease. Forty-nine of the positives were from within the existing CWD Management Area, while three were outside (one in Baltimore County and two in Montgomery County). In response, the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area has been expanded to include all of Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery and Washington counties.

Maryland first detected CWD in November 2010 in Green Ridge State Forest near an area where chronic wasting disease is present in West Virginia. To date, the DNR has detected the disease in 223 deer out of more than 14,394 tested.

CWD is a disease of the brain and nervous system that causes death in cervids (members of the deer family). The disease is classified as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy and attacks the brain of cervids, producing small lesions that eventually result in death. CWD was historically a western U.S. disease, but since 2001 it has been detected in numerous states east of the Mississippi River, including the mid-Atlantic states of Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. To date, 35

states and four Canadian provinces in North America have documented CWD in their deer, elk, or moose populations (free-ranging, captive, or both). The disease has also been detected in Finland (free-ranging moose), Norway (free-ranging reindeer), South Korea (captive elk from Canada), and Sweden (free-ranging moose).

Concerns over CWD should not stop hunters from enjoying the hunting season or any venison they may acquire. CWD has not been shown to be transmissible to humans. However, it is recommended that hunters field-dressing or butchering deer take the same precautions as they might to protect against other pathogens or diseases. Additional information on the proper handling of harvested deer and chronic wasting disease management can be found in Appendix I.

DNR continues to cooperate with various research institutions concerning CWD. Currently, staff are participating in a multistate effort coordinated by Cornell University to identify the most effective surveillance strategies for the disease.

Deer Research and Data Use

In 2023-2024 department staff and volunteers examined 4,068 deer at butcher shops across the state during the muzzleloader and firearm seasons. At the butcher shops, sex and age of the deer were determined and antler measurements were recorded for bucks. Deer were also checked for evidence of illness or disease. The yearly sample of harvested deer provides valuable information that is used to estimate deer population numbers and to detect any changes in the deer herd reproductive potential. It is also used to monitor the overall health of deer and the effects of changes to seasons and bag limits made to better manage deer populations.

Staff and volunteers determine the age of each deer by the wear and replacement of its teeth. As young deer get older, their milk teeth are replaced with permanent teeth. As adult deer age, their permanent teeth begin to wear down. This wear enables biologists to reliably categorize deer as fawns (less than one year old), yearlings (approximately 1.5 years old) or adults (two years and older). The proportions of deer in each age class and their gender are then used

in reconstruction models to develop and follow trends in the state's deer population.

The antler beam circumference measurements of yearling bucks that are brought to butcher shops are used as indicators of the reproductive potential and health of the deer herd. Yearling males in good habitat with moderate deer numbers will have larger antler beam diameters than those in higher populations or poorer habitat. Abundant food and modest competition translates into more energy available for antler growth. This is most evident in the yearling age class. Trends in these measurements can indicate deer herd overpopulation and habitat degradation.

Overall, Maryland's long-term data for these indicators show healthy, productive deer populations across the state. The percentage of yearling bucks in the harvest remains very healthy and has shown a positive declining trend in recent years. However, the average number of antler points and the average antler beam diameter for yearling bucks have also been declining. These data will continue to be monitored closely in the coming years, but the declining trend may be an artifact of the sampling that now occurs at butcher shops.

Deer examined at the butcher shops are also examined for evidence of hemorrhagic disease (HD); a viral disease spread by biting midges. HD, or "blue-tongue," commonly appears in late summer and early fall. Deer that have survived hemorrhagic disease and are harvested will exhibit hooves with sloughing or peeling tissue. These deer are still suitable for human consumption. Hemorrhagic disease occurs yearly in Maryland, although it varies in intensity. The results of this annual statewide examination are reported to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study in Athens, Georgia as part of a nationwide survey. This study is one of the oldest and most complete nationwide wildlife disease investigations in the country.

Significant HD outbreaks typically occur every three to five years and may affect 10-20 percent, or more, of a local deer population. There were no significant HD outbreak reported in 2023-2024.

Additionally, we have noted a localized increase in deer exhibiting clinical Chronic Wasting

Disease, and samples have been collected for testing, at this time we do not have results for 2024.

The Department of Natural Resources will continue to monitor for HD in the coming years.

Archery Hunter Survey

The annual Archery Hunter Survey was continued for 2022-2023 (survey data from the 2023-2024 season are currently being analyzed and were not ready for this report). Archery hunters reported 19.51 bucks and 41.4 does per 100 hours in 2022-2023. Likewise, they observed 2.12 adult does for everyone adult buck and 0.70 fawns for every one adult doe in 2022-2023.

The Archery Hunter Survey provides observational data about furbearers, deer and other wildlife. Archery hunters record the number of animals observed during each hunt, number of hours they hunt, county of hunt and other specific details about each hunt. If you are an archery hunter and would like to participate, contact Brent Evans at 443-786-3656 or by email at brent.evans@maryland.gov Forms are also available on the DNR website, at dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/bhsurvey.aspx.

Regulatory and Legislative Changes for the Coming 2024-2025 Season

Legislatively, Sunday hunting was expanded in Wicomico and Worcester counties. The safety zone for archery hunting is now 50 yards in Wicomico and Worcester counties. Additionally, the safety zone is now 50 yards for anybody in Howard County operating under the authority of a Deer Management Permit or participating in a Managed Hunter Program administered by the county. Additionally, hunting and trapping license, stamp, and permit fees increased. In 2023-2024, a Sika Deer Stamp was required for the first time; 13,180 stamps were sold to those hoping to take advantage of the sika resource (approximately 9,912 and 3,131 stamps purchased by resident and non-resident hunters). Hunters should consult the 2024-2025 Guide to Hunting and Trapping for more information on these regulatory and legislative changes.

Appendix I
Chronic Wasting Disease in Deer

The following common-sense precautionary measures are recommended for the safe handling, field-dressing and home processing of venison:

- Avoid shooting or handling a deer that appears sick.
- Wear latex or rubber gloves when field-dressing or butchering deer.
- Remove all internal organs.
- Remove the meat from the bones and spinal column if home processing a deer.
- Do not use household knives or utensils when field-dressing or home processing a deer.
- Avoid cutting through bones or the spinal column (backbone).
- Never eat a deer's brain, eyeballs, spinal cord, spleen or lymph nodes.
- If you saw off antlers or through a bone, or if you sever the spinal column with a knife, be sure to disinfect these tools prior to using them for the butchering or removal of meat.
- Remove all fat, membranes and connective tissue from the meat. Note that normal field-dressing and trimming of fat from meat will remove lymph nodes.
- Always wash hands and instruments thoroughly after dressing and processing game meat.
- Use a 50/50 solution of household chlorine bleach and water to disinfect tools and work surfaces. Wipe down counters and let them dry; soak knives for one hour.

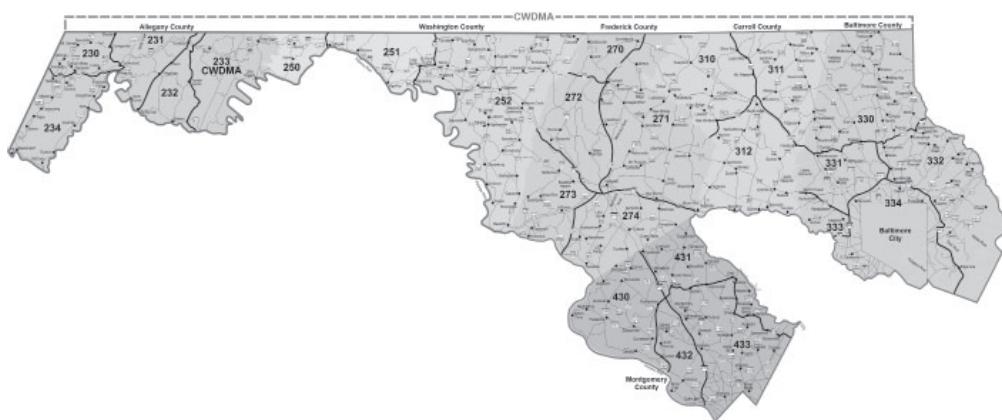
**The Chronic
Wasting Disease
Management
Area includes
all of Allegany,
Baltimore,
Carroll, Frederick,
Montgomery
and Washington
counties.**

Chronic Wasting Disease Management

Due to the detection of chronic wasting disease in Montgomery and Baltimore counties, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has implemented several measures that are intended to prevent the unintentional spread of chronic wasting disease to other locations in Maryland or to other states. The changes outlined below apply only to the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area (CWDMA), which is currently defined as all of Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery and Washington counties.

Whole deer carcasses or deer parts cannot be transported out of the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area unless they are transported to an approved processor or taxidermist (https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/CWD_in_Maryland.aspx), apart from the following exceptions:

- Meat with no part of the spinal column, backbone, or head attached,
- Hind quarters and front shoulders with no spinal column or backbone attached, (hunters MUST have checked in their deer and obtained a confirmation number to transport a quartered deer)
- Cleaned hide with no head attached,
- Skull plate cleaned of all meat and brain tissue,
- Antlers with no meat or soft tissue attached,
- Finished taxidermy mounts or tanned hides,



Appendix I -continued-
Chronic Wasting
Disease in Deer

- Whole deer carcasses or parts being transported directly to the meat processors or taxidermists, or to the landfill located within Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery, or Washington counties.

Please check the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website, at https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/CWD_in_Maryland.aspx, for updates on chronic wasting disease surveillance and management. Hunter assistance and cooperation is essential to the department's efforts to monitor and manage chronic wasting disease.

Carcass Importation Ban

The primary objective in the management of CWD is to prevent or slow its spread into new areas. One possible mode of disease transmission is by the movement and disposal of infected carcasses. To minimize the risk for disease spread, Maryland, along with many other states, has adopted regulations that prohibit the importation of whole carcasses and certain carcass parts of deer, moose and elk harvested from states that have CWD.

A person may bring only the following parts of a dead deer, elk, or moose into Maryland from another state or province's designated CWD containment, surveillance, or management area, unless the final destination of the carcass is within the Maryland Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area or with a chronic wasting disease-approved Maryland processor or taxidermist:

- Meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
- Hindquarters and front shoulders with no spinal column or backbone attached.
- Cleaned hide with no head attached.
- Skull plate cleaned of all meat and brain tissue.
- Antlers with no meat or soft tissue attached.
- Upper canine teeth, also known as buglers, whistlers or ivories.
- Finished taxidermy mount or tanned hides.

Importation of whole deer, elk, moose or carcasses of other members of the deer family, cervidae, is prohibited from CWD positive areas identified within the United States and Canadian provinces. The latest information on CWD positive areas in the United States and Canada can be found on the USGS website.

Any person who imports or possesses a cervid carcass or part of a cervid that was tested for chronic wasting disease in another state or province and is notified that the cervid tested positive, must report the test results to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources within 24 hours of receiving such notification by telephone at 301-334-4255 or by email to: jonathan.trudeau@maryland.gov.

If you hunt deer, elk, moose or other cervids in other states and/or provinces, particularly those in which CWD has been detected, check with the respective fish and wildlife agencies regarding special regulations or specific advice for hunters. Also check with your home state fish and wildlife agency to ensure that animals lawfully killed elsewhere may be imported and possessed in your state. Additional information can be found at the CWD Alliance website www.cwd-info.org

Taking Deer Carcasses out of Maryland

Because Maryland is considered a CWD positive state, deer hunters must follow carcass importation regulations in other states when they transport a deer carcass out of Maryland (see www.cwd-info.org). The surrounding states of Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia each have specific regulations as to whether they will allow whole deer carcasses or only parts of carcasses to enter from Maryland. Likewise, the regulations for each of these states vary as to whether they apply to deer from anywhere in Maryland, or just to deer taken within the CWDMA. Hunters are strongly encouraged to check state regulations before transporting deer carcasses. Travelers may pass through Maryland with cervid carcasses, provided that no parts are disposed of or remain in the state.

Appendix II
Statewide Reported Antlered and Antlerless Deer Harvest by Public Hunting Area and County, 2023-2024

County/Public Land	Antlered	Antlerless
Allegany		
Belle Grove WMA	4	2
Billmeyer WMA	10	4
Dan's Mountain WMA	72	34
Green Ridge SF	256	167
Rocky Gap SP	18	4
Sideling Hill WMA	5	2
Warrior Mountain WMA	59	51
Anne Arundel		
Anne Arundel County Managed Hunts	38	37
Crownsville CWMA	2	5
Davidsonville Receiver Station	6	9
Fort Meade-Pautuxent	22	40
Fort Meade Army Installation	4	5
Patapsco Valley SP	4	8
Sandy Point SP	3	7
Severn Run NEA	3	5
Smithsonian	21	43
Baltimore		
Gunpowder SP	38	45
Gwynnbrook WMA	5	4
Liberty Watershed	18	35
Loch Raven Watershed	85	125
North Point SP	5	7
Patapsco SP	19	31
Pretty Boy Watershed	99	133
Soldiers Delight NEA	17	41
Calvert		
Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm CWMA	1	1
Calvert Cliffs SP	4	4
Hall Creek	4	1
Huntingtown Area	12	13
Parkers Creek WMA	18	20
Caroline		
Chesapeake Forest Lands	6	7
Idylwild WMA	47	72
Tuckahoe SP	5	13

County/Public Land	Antlered	Antlerless
Carroll		
Avondale WMA	9	5
Farver CWMA	0	1
Hahn CWMA	3	3
Hanover Watershed	13	19
Liberty Watershed	70	102
Maring CWMA	3	6
Morgan Run SP NRMA	24	31
Patapsco SP	23	30
Sawmill-Speigel CWMA	18	26
Woodbrook CWMA	15	14
Cecil		
Bohemia River SP	8	12
C&D Canal	12	8
Earlville WMA	5	12
Elk Neck SF	21	27
Elk Neck SP	12	11
Fair Hill NRMA	37	78
Grove Farm WMA	20	18
Old Bohemia WMA	5	9
Charles		
Blossom Point Field Test Facility	4	18
Cedar Point WMA	14	17
Cedarville SF	5	10
Chapel Point SP	9	27
Chapman State Park	5	2
Chicamuxen WMA	1	3
Doncaster SF or Tayloes Neck	3	5
Indian Creek NRMA	5	10
Indian Head Naval Ordnance Area	15	29
Myrtle Grove WMA	18	45
Nanjemoy NRMA	2	1
Nanjemoy Creek WMA	6	3
Popes Creek WMA	6	17
Riverside WMA	1	3

County/Public Land	Antlered	Antlerless
Dorchester		
Blackwater NWR		
whitetail	27	15
sika	273	367
Chesapeake Forest Lands		
whitetail	71	79
sika	68	53
Fishing Bay WMA		
whitetail	6	4
sika	76	113
LeCompte WMA		
whitetail	4	7
sika	11	12
Linkwood WMA		
whitetail	5	7
sika	1	3
Taylor's Island WMA		
whitetail	2	0
sika	13	11
Frederick		
Cunningham Falls SP, Thurmont Watershed	45	35
Emmitsburg Watershed	6	9
Fort Detrick	5	6
Frederick City Watershed	53	76
Heaters Island WMA	7	17
Monocacy NRMA	26	34
South Mountain SP	19	23
Urbana FMA	1	4

Appendix II -continued-
Statewide Reported Antlered and Antlerless Deer Harvest by Public Hunting Area and County, 20232024

County/Public Land	Antlered	Antlerless
Garrett		
Cunningham Swamp WMA	6	4
Deep Creek Lake SP	16	9
Frostburg Watershed	24	19
Garrett SF	107	87
Mount Nebo WMA	46	33
Potomac SF	61	34
Sang Run SP	5	9
Savage River SF	297	164
Wolf Den Run SP	1	4
Youghiogheny NEA	7	3
Youghiogheny Reservoir	5	3
4H Center	3	2
Harford		
Aberdeen Proving Grounds	76	78
Gunpowder SP	9	26
Rock SP	15	24
Stoney Forest	1	6
Susquehanna SP	9	32
Howard		
Howard County Parks & Recreation Hunts	51	99
Hugg-Thomas WMA	9	11
Patapsco SP	34	40
Patuxent River SP	54	109
Tridelphia/Rocky Gorge (WSSC)	36	37
Kent		
Eastern Neck NWR	13	20
Millington WMA	39	60
Sassafras NRMA	36	29
Montgomery		
Cherrington CWMA	10	18
Islands of the Potomac WMA	6	19
McKee-Beshers WMA	34	41
Montgomery County MNCPPC Lands	82	498
Patuxent River SP	44	82
Seneca - Schaeffer Farm	86	94
Seneca Creek SP	10	13
Strider WMA	8	5
Tridelphia/Rocky Gorge (WSSC)	11	13

County/Public Land	Antlered	Antlerless
Prince George's		
Aquasco Farms Coop	8	17
Belt Woods NEA	7	12
Beltsville	33	39
Billingsly Tract (Patuxent River Park)	0	5
Brandywine Receiver Station	6	2
Cheltenham WMA	2	1
Gardner Road Park CWMA	1	3
Marlboro Natural Area CWMA	8	7
Merkle NRMA	24	40
Mill Town Landing NRMA	3	13
Nottingham	1	4
Patuxent WRC (Central & South Tracts)	9	13
Queen Anne Bridge Road CWMA	5	2
Rosaryville SP	6	3
Spice Creek (Patuxent River) NRMA	5	7
Tridelphia/Rocky Gorge (WSSC)	1	2
Queen Anne's		
Browns Branch WMA	13	13
Tuckahoe SP	8	10
Wye Island NRMA	24	34
St. Mary's		
Elms' CWMA	5	
Greenwell SP	3	4
Historic St. Mary's City CWMA	1	
Myrtle Point Park CWMA	0	2
Newtowne Neck SP	9	15
Patuxent Naval Air Station	13	22
Point Lookout SP (Jacobs Property)	5	8
St. Inigoes SF	1	8
St. Mary's SP	24	27

County/Public Land	Antlered	Antlerless
Somerset		
Cedar Island WMA	0	0
Chesapeake Forest Lands		
whitetail	40	93
sika	2	0
Deal Island WMA		
whitetail	8	19
sika	1	0
Fairmount WMA		
whitetail	1	7
sika	1	0
Maryland Marine Properties WMA	1	7
Pocomoke Sound WMA	0	4
South Marsh Island WMA	7	3
Wellington WMA	0	6
Talbot		
Seth SF	6	4
Washington		
Ft. Frederick SP	1	3
Greenbrier SP	16	19
Hagerstown Watershed	2	5
Indian Springs WMA	61	34
Maryland Correctional Training Center	10	20
Prather's Neck WMA	5	4
Sideling Hill WMA	9	6
South Mountain SP	44	50
Woodmont	16	10

Appendix II -continued-
Statewide Reported Antlered and Antlerless Deer Harvest by Public Hunting Area and County, 2023-2024

County/Public Land	Antlered	Antlerless
Wicomico		
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge		
whitetail	1	1
sika	2	5
Chesapeake Forest Lands		
whitetail	75	122
sika	13	7
Ellis Bay WMA		
whitetail	4	5
sika	8	8
Johnson WMA	1	4
Nanticoke WMA		
whitetail	17	42
sika	14	23
Wetipquin WMA		
whitetail	1	1
sika	0	2
Wicomico SF		
whitetail	11	13
sika	3	3
Worcester		
Assateague NS		
whitetail	1	12
sika	40	44
Assateague SP		
whitetail	2	1
sika	5	8
Chesapeake Forest Lands		
whitetail	51	77
sika	0	0
E.A. Vaughn WMA		
whitetail	10	36
sika	0	0
Hickory Point WMA		
whitetail	0	0
sika	1	0
Isle of Wight WMA	0	0
Pocomoke River WMA	7	8
Pocomoke SF		
whitetail	48	71
Osika		0

CFL- Chesapeake Forest Land

CWMA- Cooperative Wildlife Management Area

FMA- Fishery Management Area

MNCPPC- Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

NEA- Natural Environment Area

NRMA- Natural Resources Management Area

NS- National Seashore

NWR- National Wildlife Refuge

SF- State Forest

SP- State Park

WMA- Wildlife Management Area

WRC- Wildlife Research Center

WSSC- Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

Wild Turkey

Introduction

Wild turkeys are an important game bird in Maryland, providing recreation and enjoyment for many hunters, wildlife enthusiasts and citizens. Although turkey populations were dangerously low less than a century ago, conservation efforts have brought the species back from the brink of extinction. Maryland DNR uses a variety of survey and hunting data to monitor wild turkeys in the state to ensure that the population remains healthy.

Following a period of population stabilization in the 2000s, the statewide wild turkey population has increased and likely numbers over 40,000. Much of the increase can be attributed to recent growth of the central and southern region's turkey population. In many suburban counties that previously contained low densities of turkeys, data suggest that populations have grown significantly. However populations in the western region and portions of the eastern shore have either stabilized or declined from their previous high densities. Densities vary considerably across the state and within regions due to differences in habitat quality and trends in reproduction. Reproductive success in the summer of 2023 was moderate throughout much of the state.

Approximately 10,000 hunters annually pursue turkeys in the spring, fall or winter hunting seasons in Maryland. In the 2024 spring season, hunters reported harvesting 4,959 turkeys, the second highest number on record. An above average number of 2 and 3-year old gobblers likely contributed to the increase. The 2023 fall turkey harvest of 75 was lower than the prior year and follows the trend of declining hunter participation during the fall season. A total of 36 turkeys were reported harvested during the three-day statewide winter turkey season.

More detailed information about wild turkey populations, hunting statistics and surveys can be found in the following report.

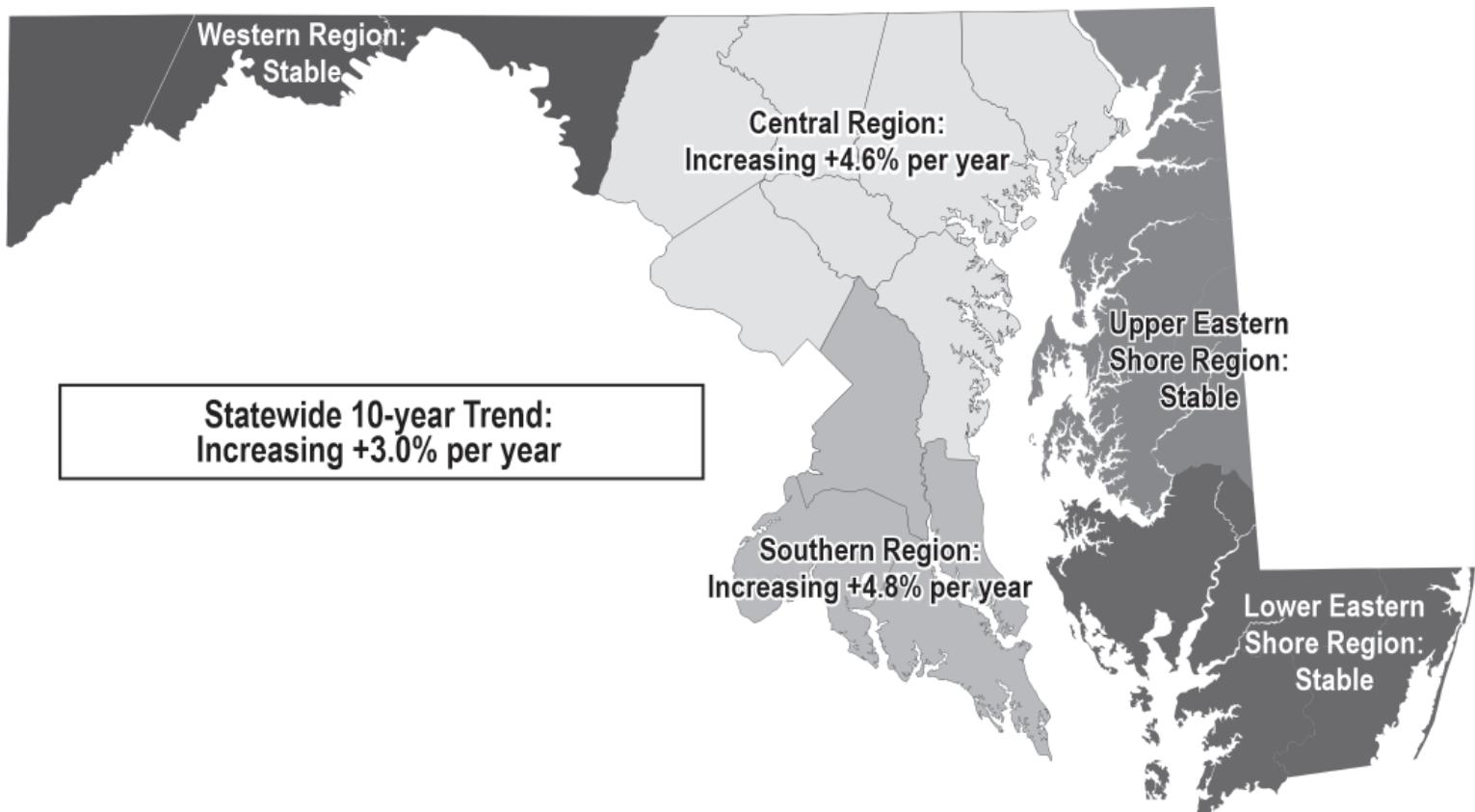


Population Status

Maryland's estimated wild turkey population has increased in some regions and remained stable in other regions over the past 10 years (Figure 1). Declines have been noted in some counties within regions. The most rapid growth has occurred in the central and southern regions, where populations have increased at an estimated 4-5 percent per year. Populations in the eastern and western regions have remained stable. Density indices (2022-24 average spring turkey kill per forested mi²) are categorized as high in 16 counties (>1 kill/mi²), moderate in six counties (0.5-1.0 kill/mi²), and low in the remaining county (<0.5 kill/mi², Table 1, Figure 2). The highest densities of turkeys are still found in the western mountains, the eastern region and portions of the southern region, but densities continue to increase in non-traditional areas.

The summer wild turkey observation survey estimated moderate reproductive success in summer of 2023 with a statewide index of 2.2 pouls observed per hen (Figure 3). Regionally, the index was still above 2 pouls per hen in most regions, which can be considered a general threshold where production should be adequate to replace annual adult turkey losses. The lowest poult per hen ratios were observed in the Lower Eastern Shore region and the Central region. A detailed summary can be found here: https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/wt_observe_survey.pdf.

Figure 1
Maryland Estimated 10-Year Wild Turkey Population Trends by Region,
Based on Spring Turkey Harvest, 2015-2024



Spring Season

Maryland hunters harvested 4,959 wild turkeys during the 2024 spring regular and junior turkey seasons (Table 1, Figure 4). This was 7 percent lower than the record harvest set in spring of 2023, but still surpassed the harvest totals from previous seasons. Much of the increase can be attributed to favorable weather during the season and abundant turkey populations in many areas. DNR summer surveys documented average to excellent reproductive success in many regions during the summers of 2021 and 2022, resulting in a good number of 2- and 3-year-old gobblers available this spring. Adult gobblers comprised 87 percent of the total harvest, well above the long-term average (Figure 5). Garrett County reported the highest harvest with 546 turkeys, followed by Charles County (472) and Washington County (442). Four counties produced record harvests: Charles, Queen Anne's, Wicomico, and Worcester.

Table 1
Maryland Reported Spring Gobbler Season Harvest, 2018-2024

COUNTY	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 2023-2024	10-year average	Average kill/sq. mi. 22-24
Allegany	250	278	286	266	282	483	345	-28.6	304	1.19
Anne Arundel	49	74	81	64	85	136	106	-22.1	76	0.66
Baltimore	55	56	65	53	82	101	89	-11.9	64	0.44
Calvert	76	68	82	58	72	99	107	8.1	76	0.86
Caroline	135	152	180	149	168	174	151	-13.2	159	1.71
Carroll	103	73	93	104	94	132	125	-5.3	97	1.11
Cecil	69	89	94	80	67	95	86	-9.5	80	0.65
Charles	336	348	369	353	334	445	472	6.1	350	1.54
Dorchester	212	221	211	197	170	180	211	17.2	223	1.06
Frederick	313	304	348	281	343	391	322	-17.6	319	1.56
Garrett	412	429	387	374	436	579	546	-5.7	440	1.21
Harford	105	124	88	104	91	128	105	-18.0	108	0.73
Howard	36	33	34	35	51	61	40	-34.4	36	0.68
Kent	168	166	206	151	160	184	130	-29.3	168	2.19
Montgomery	149	135	162	154	164	206	150	-27.2	145	1.23
Prince George's	76	105	109	99	115	164	135	-17.7	107	0.74
Queen Anne's	115	145	144	120	144	170	191	12.4	156	1.70
Somerset	145	129	171	180	176	199	202	1.5	168	1.02
St. Mary's	191	188	226	187	204	253	226	-10.7	206	2.11
Talbot	80	87	95	80	84	96	95	-1.0	87	1.46
Washington	459	414	439	345	400	515	445	-13.6	419	2.53
Wicomico	139	155	193	181	193	215	238	10.7	183	1.50
Worcester	188	229	240	295	293	350	442	26.3	270	1.49
State	3861	4002	4303	3910	4208	5356	4959	-7.4	4242	1.25

Figure 2
Maryland Wild Turkey Density Indices Based on Average Spring Turkey Harvest
per Square Mile of Forest, 2022-2024.

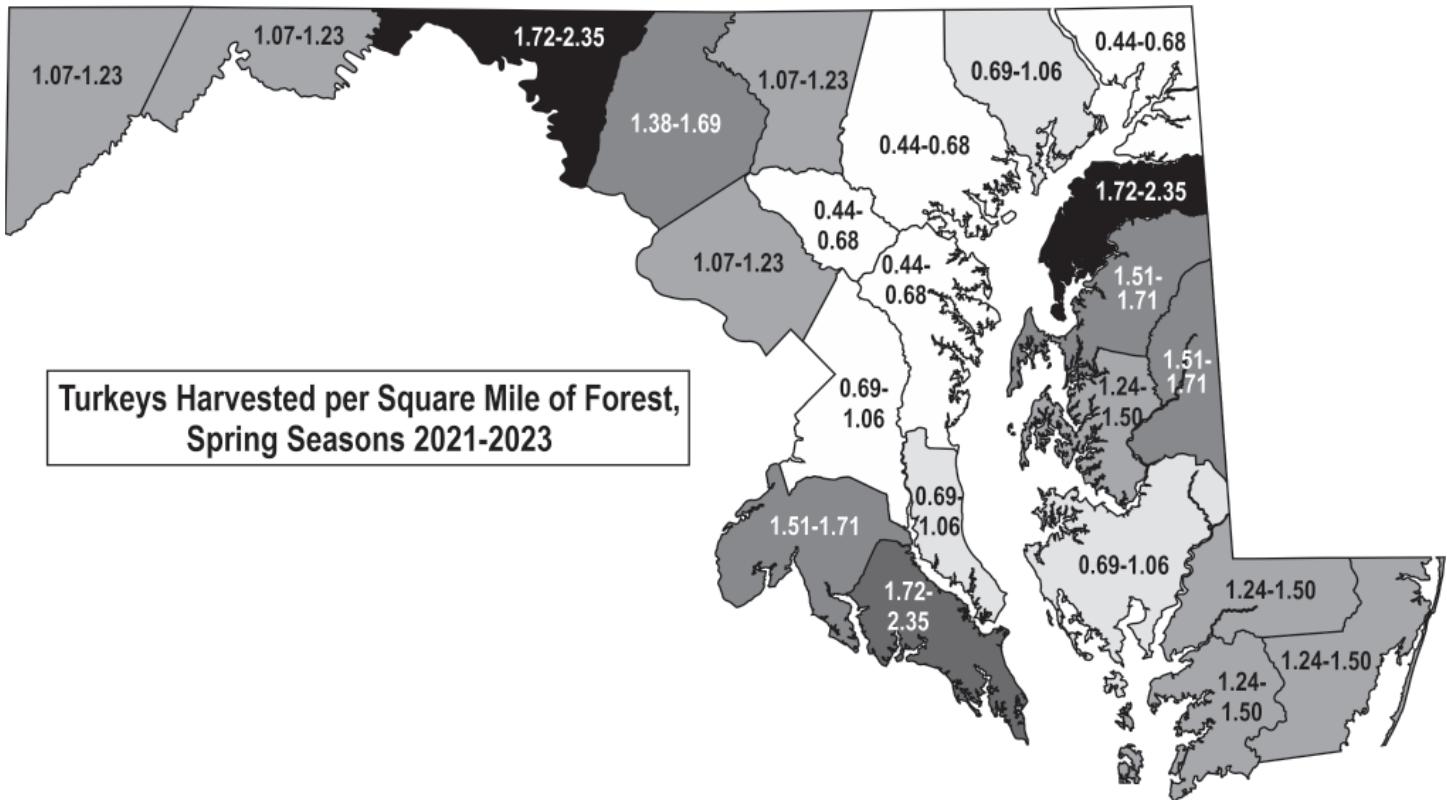


Figure 3
Average Number of Poulets per Adult Hen Observed by Participants in Summer Wild Turkey Observation Survey, 2007-2023. Error Bars Represent a 95% Confidence Interval.

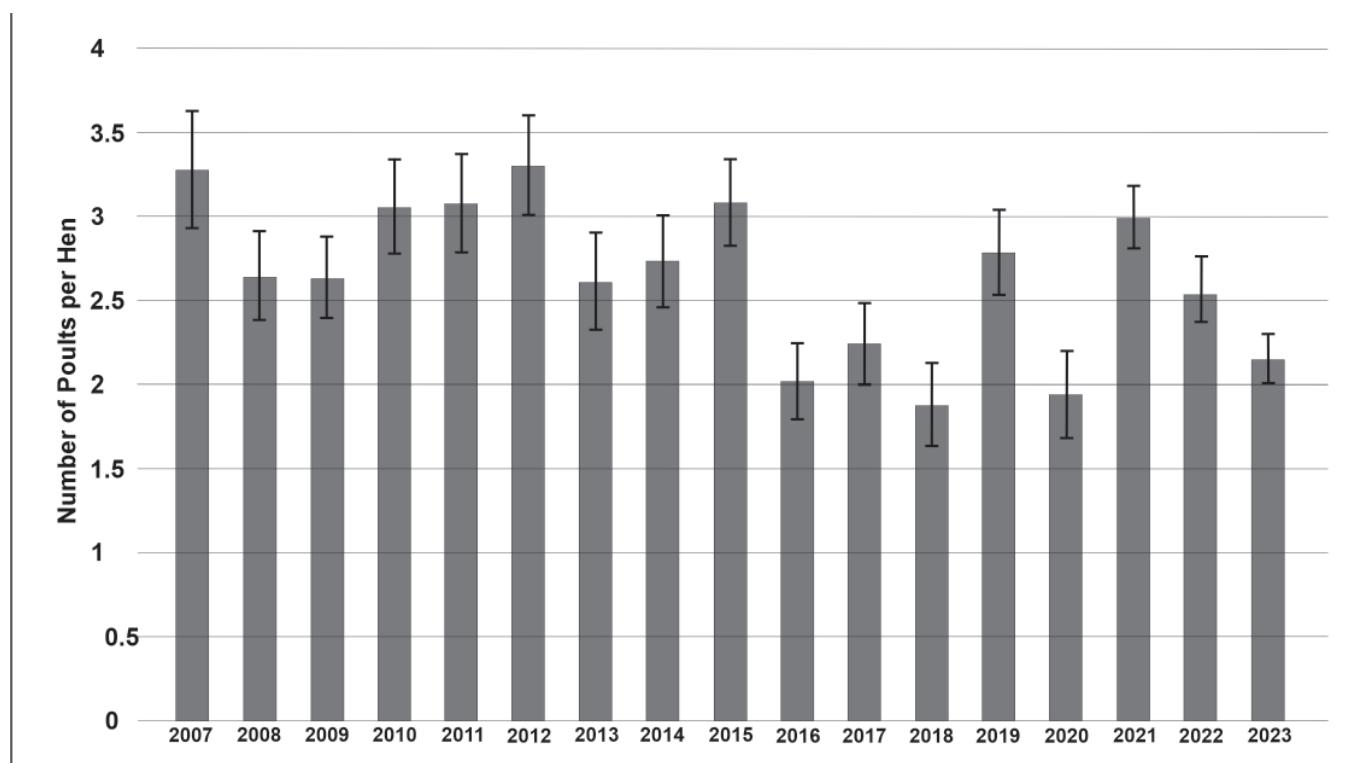
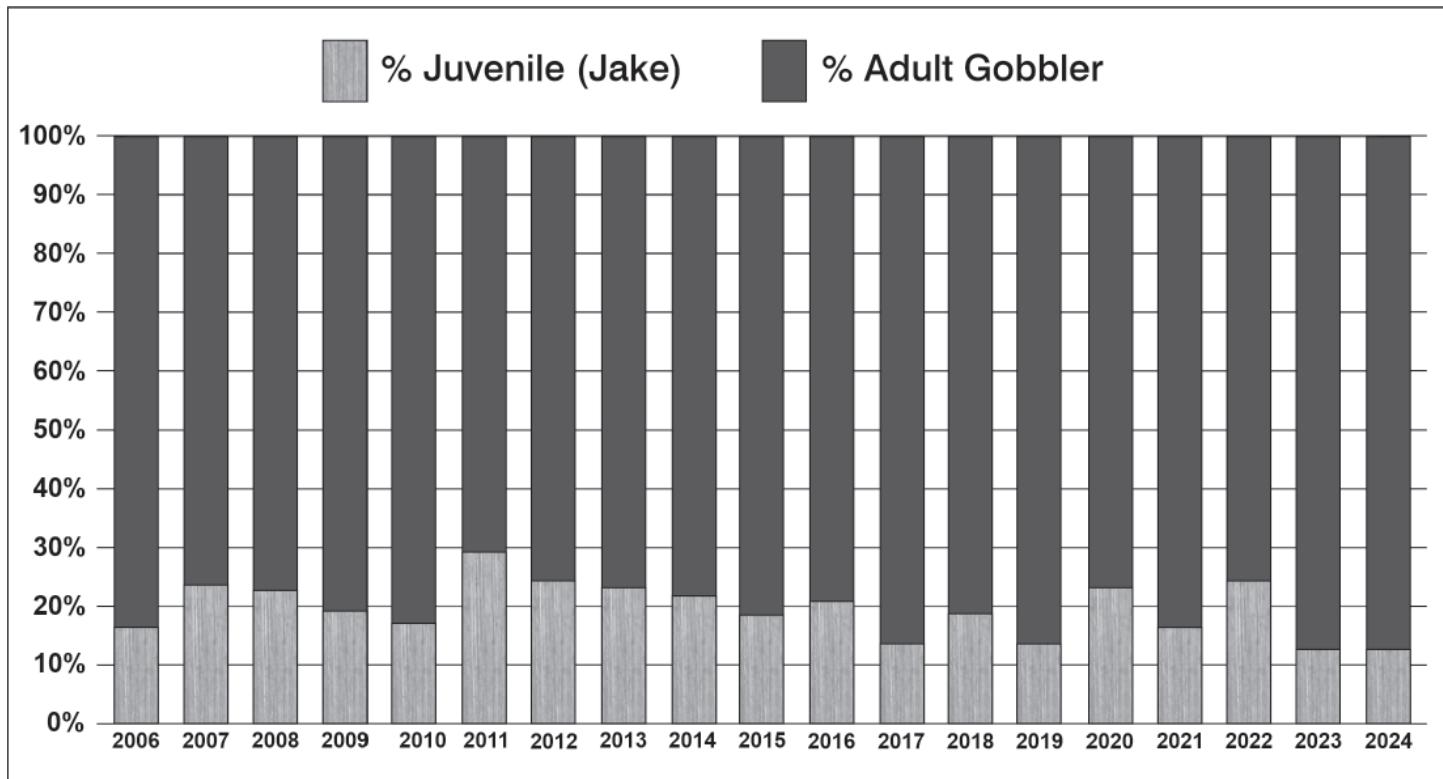


Figure 4
Percentage of Juvenile and Adult Gobblers Reported Harvested in Spring Turkey Seasons, 2006-2024.



Fall Season

Turkey hunters reported taking 75 wild turkeys during the 9-day 2023 fall season. The harvest was lower than the 2022 fall season harvest of 99 and the 10-year average (Table 2, Figure 4). The fall season is limited to the three westernmost counties in Maryland.

Table 2
Maryland Reported Fall Turkey Season Harvest, 2017-2023.

COUNTY	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	%Change 2022-2023	10-year average
Allegany	24	31	22	36	33	38	18	-52.6	33
Garrett	55	50	53	32	30	34	40	17.6	45
Washington	26	16	16	16	18	27	17	-37.0	23
Total	105	97	91	84	81	99	75	-24.2	100

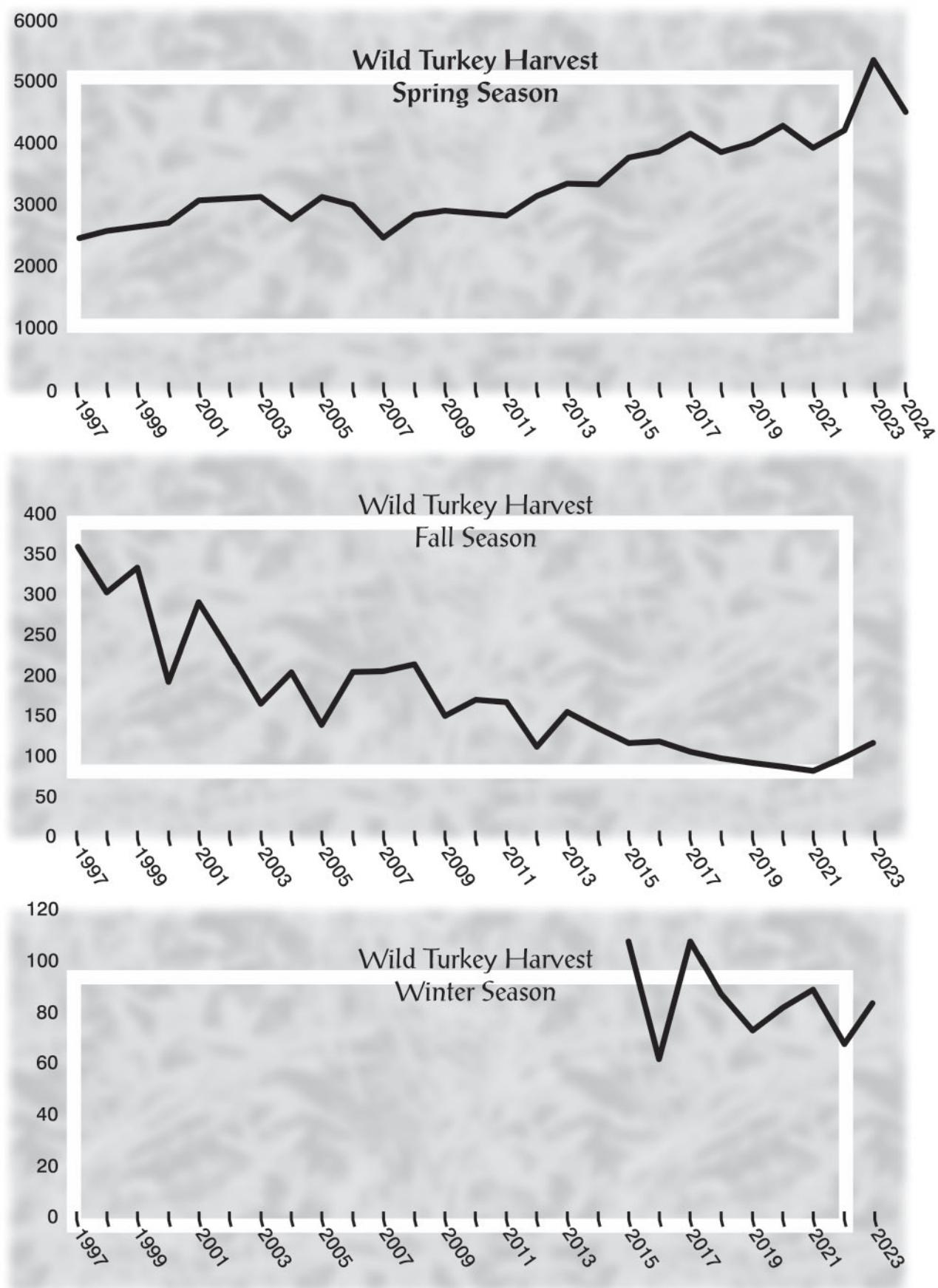
Winter Season

Hunters reported taking 36 wild turkeys during the 2024 winter turkey season that was open January 19-21 statewide (Table 3, Figure 4). The harvest was well-below the 2023 total and the average, likely a result of poor weather during the season. Adult males comprised 47 percent of the harvest with the remainder females and juveniles. The winter turkey season was established in 2015 to provide hunters additional turkey hunting opportunities while minimizing conflicts with other hunting seasons.

Table 3
Maryland Reported Winter Wild Turkey Season Harvest, 2018-2024.

COUNTY	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average
Allegany	6	4	2	4	4	10	2	5
Anne Arundel	4	2	2	0	4	7	2	3
Baltimore	1	1	1	3	7	3	1	3
Calvert	1	1	2	0	0	3	0	1
Caroline	2	1	5	4	5	1	2	4
Carroll	3	2	5	1	3	5	0	2
Cecil	2	3	3	4	2	1	0	2
Charles	4	3	1	8	0	7	3	4
Dorchester	8	6	3	6	1	3	1	6
Frederick	6	7	3	12	3	9	2	6
Garrett	8	7	9	7	4	4	4	7
Harford	2	1	0	5	3	3	0	2
Howard	1	1	1	0	4	0	1	1
Kent	4	3	6	2	0	0	0	2
Montgomery	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	2
Prince George's	0	2	5	7	1	0	0	2
Queen Anne's	5	6	4	3	1	1	2	4
Somerset	2	4	6	3	4	3	1	3
St. Mary's	10	6	13	6	9	6	4	7
Talbot	2	0	4	3	0	0	1	2
Washington	8	7	3	5	3	7	1	6
Wicomico	3	3	1	3	4	3	1	3
Worcester	3	2	2	0	3	6	6	3
Total	87	73	82	89	67	84	36	80

Figure 5
Reported Maryland Wild Turkey Harvest in Spring, Fall and Winter Seasons, 1997-2024.



Hunter Participation

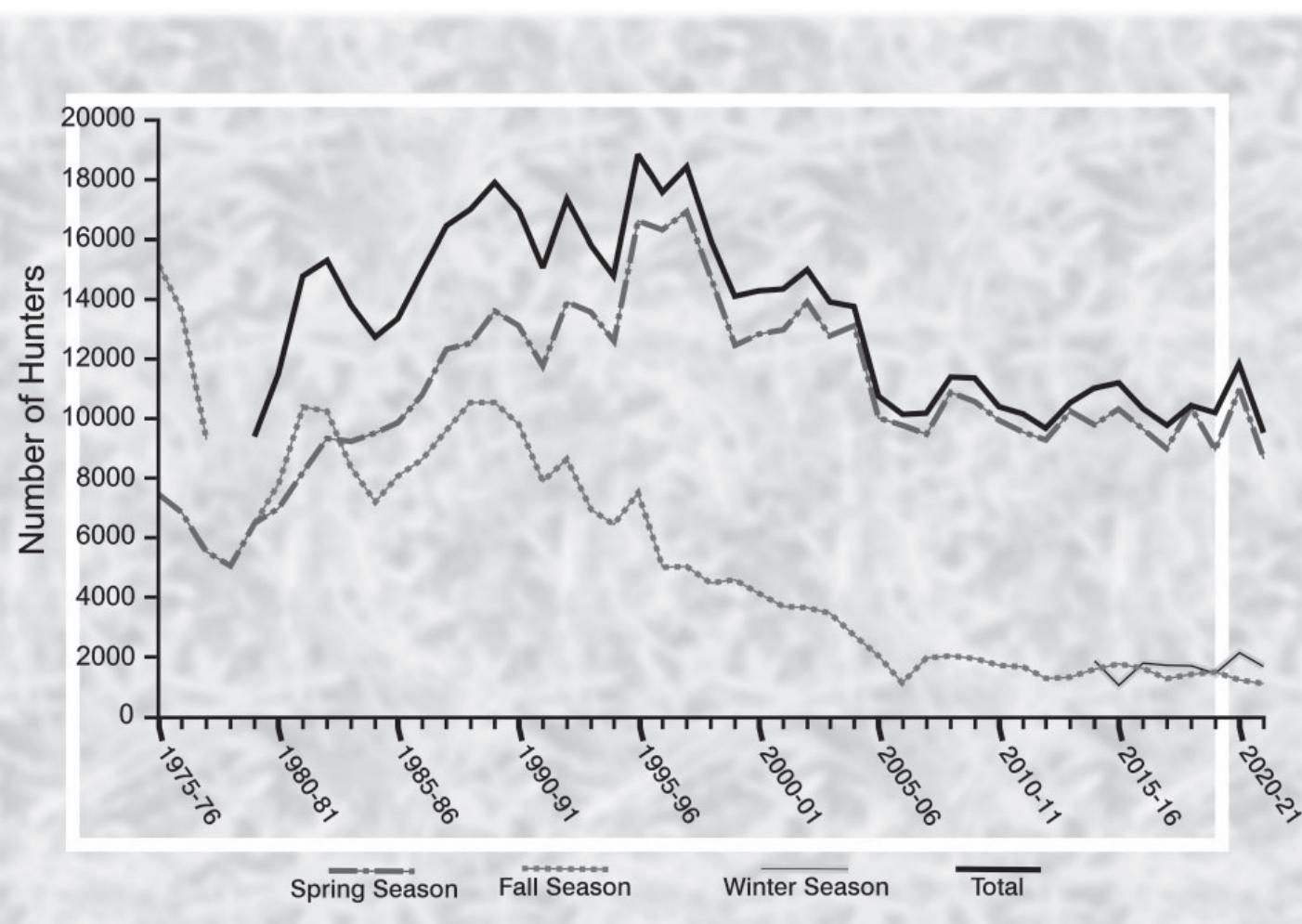
The annual hunter mail survey estimates that the total number of turkey hunters in Maryland is lower than in the 1980s and 90s, but has remained generally stable over the last 15 years (Figure 6) at about 10,000. Participation in fall turkey hunting has declined by over 80 percent. The most recent hunter mail survey (2021) estimated about 1,100 fall turkey hunters spent 2,700 days afield. Success rate in the fall season is typically about 10 percent. Spring turkey hunting participation peaked in the mid-1990s when the season was opened statewide. In 2021, an estimated 9,000 spring turkey hunters hunted 41,000 days. About 30 percent of spring hunters are typically successful in taking at least one turkey. An estimated 1,600 hunters spent 2,500 days pursuing turkeys during the winter season statewide.

Wild Turkey Research

Beginning in winter 2023, MD DNR began a 3-year research project in collaboration with various university, state and federal agencies, and non-profit partners in the Mid-Atlantic region. Objectives include assessing the impact of weather, predators, habitat, and disease on turkey survival and reproduction. Gobblers are leg-banded to estimate harvest rates as well. During the first two years, 531 turkeys were captured. A total of 135 hens were radio-tagged and 251 gobblers were leg-banded. Preliminary data indicate hen survival and nesting success at the study areas was low during 2023 but improved significantly in 2024. Predation was the primary cause of both adult hen and nest losses.

Figure 6

Estimated Number of Maryland Wild Turkey Hunters, for the Turkey Seasons of 1975-76 to 2021-22.



Black Bear

Introduction

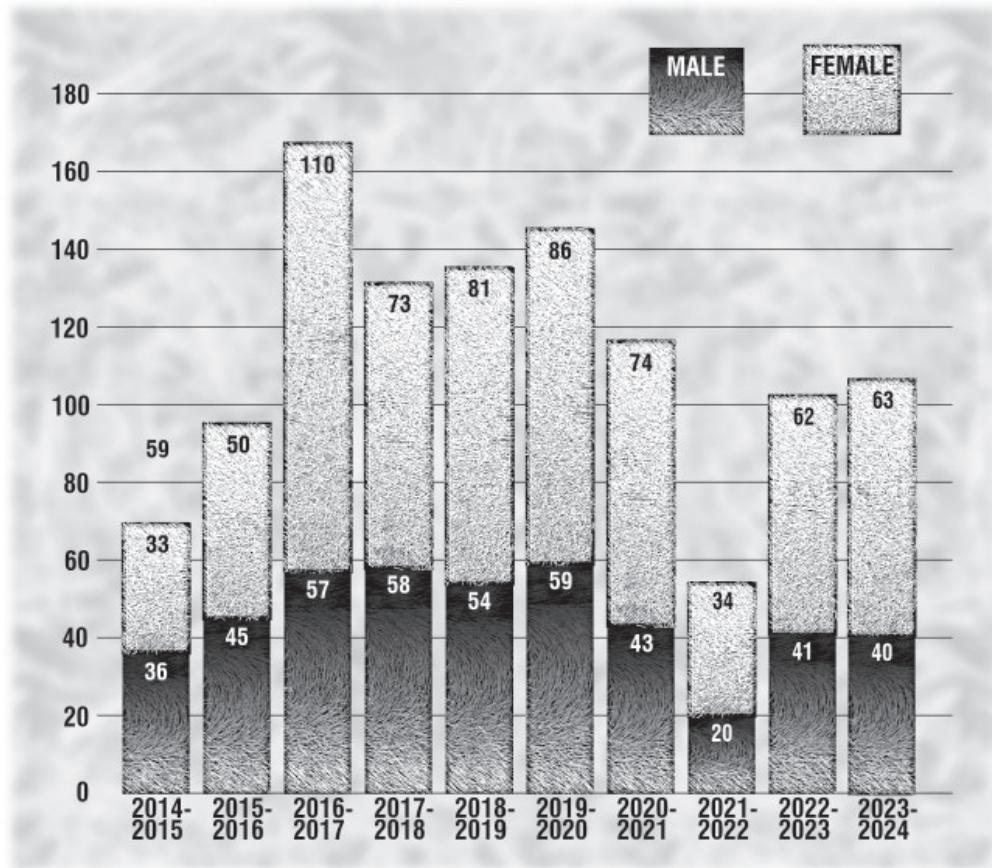
Maryland bear hunters harvested 103 bears during the 2023-2024 6-day season (Figure 5), which was identical to the total harvest during the 2022-2023 season. Hunters harvested 78 bears in Garrett County, 8 bears in Allegany County, 12 bears in Washington County, and 5 bears in Frederick County.

In 2023-24:

- The harvest was comprised of 40 male bears and 63 female bears.
- The heaviest bear taken was a male that weighed 643 pounds (estimated live weight).
- Male bears had a mean estimated live weight of 170 pounds and female bears had a mean estimated live weight of 163 pounds.
- The vast majority of the harvest (93 bears) were taken with rifles.
- Thirty-six of the bears were harvested on public land and the other 67 were harvested on private land.

Figure 1

Maryland Reported Male and Female Black Bear Harvest, 2014-2015 through 2023-2024



Black Bear Management

Black bears are predominantly located in Maryland's four western counties (Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington). However, the population continues to expand, and bear sightings east of the occupied range are not uncommon. While most of these reported sightings are young bears that are dispersing, there have been several reports of sows with cubs outside of the western counties. As the bear population expands and occupies additional counties, the department will adjust management practices accordingly.

The DNR Bear Project manages black bears using a mix of lethal and non-lethal techniques under guidance of a bear management plan. Along with the annual bear hunt in the four western counties, the department conducts extensive public outreach about living with black bears, and uses non-lethal aversion techniques for problematic bears whenever possible. Agricultural damage permits are also available for farmers experiencing crop damage from bears. These permits allow farmers suffering bear damage to lethally remove one bear from the affected property annually.

The Bear Project uses multiple methods to monitor Maryland's bear population status. The population has been periodically directly estimated using DNA mark-recapture techniques. The department also uses several indices to monitor population trends, including the number of bears killed annually on Maryland roadways and by other non-hunting causes (Figure 6), and a scent station monitoring survey (Figure 7). These indices suggest Maryland's bear population remains healthy and is expanding eastward.

Figure 2
Maryland Black Bear Roadkill and Other Non-Hunting Mortality, 1993-2023.

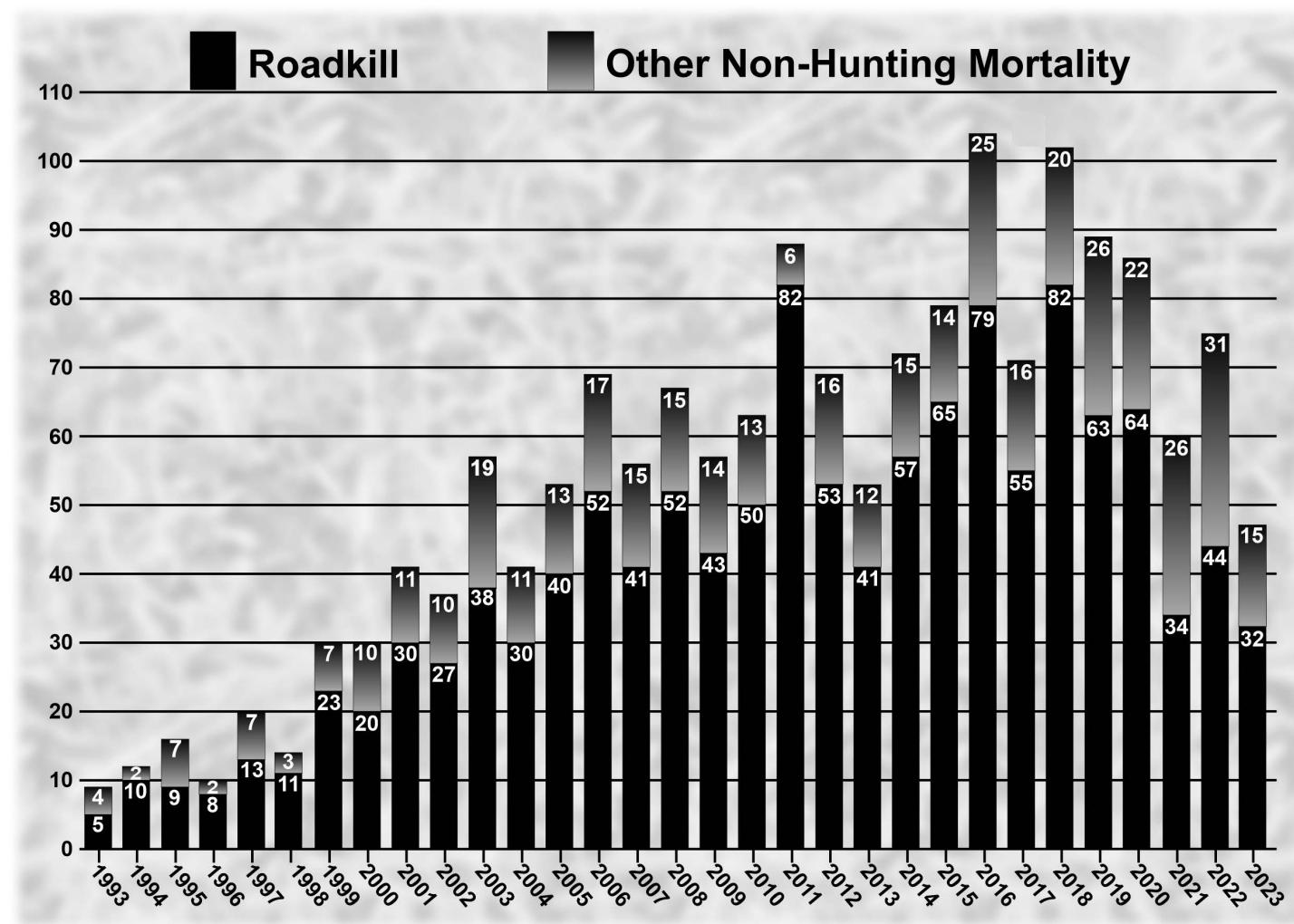
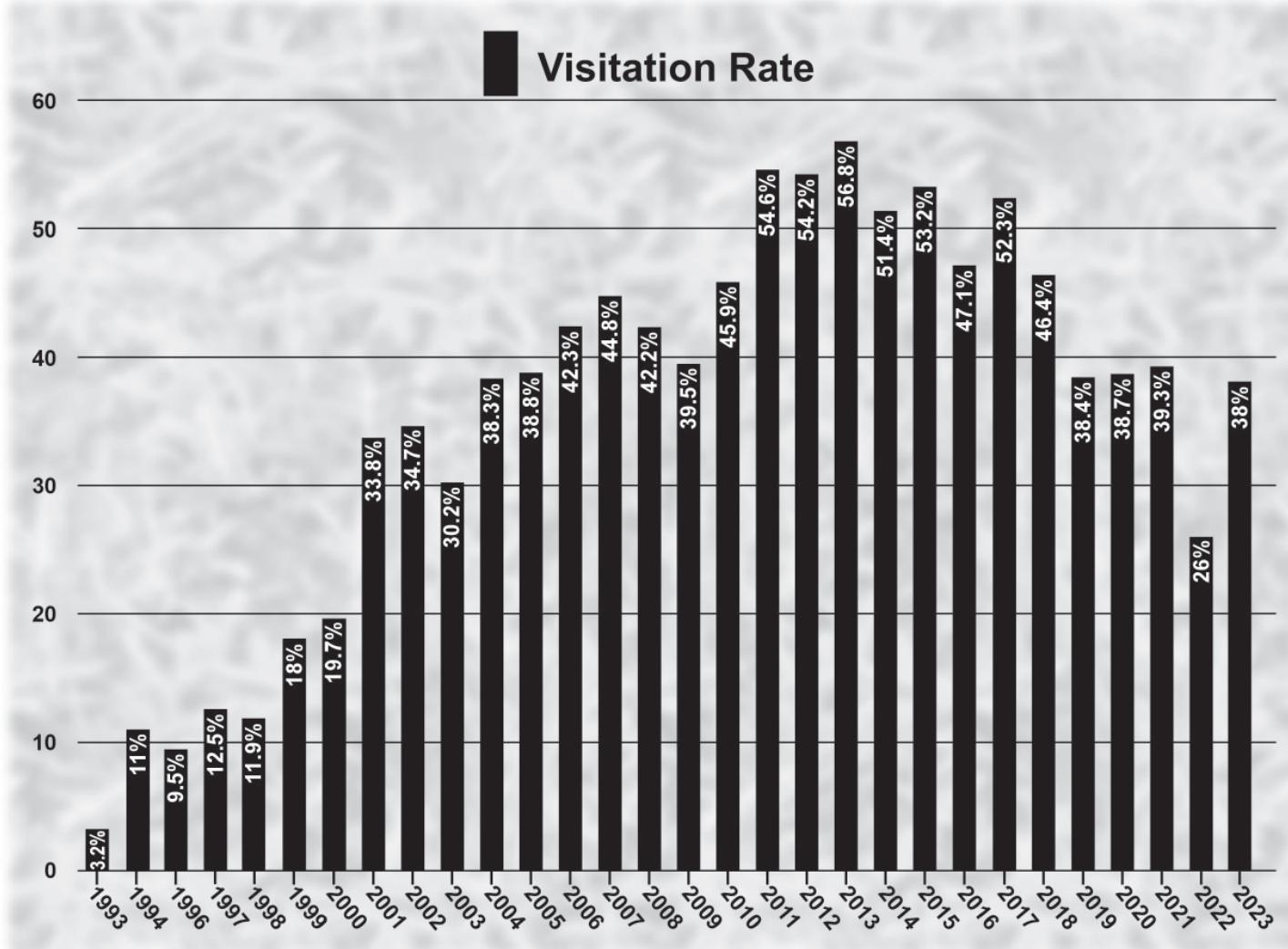


Figure 3
Maryland Black Bear Scent Station Visitation by Percent, 1993-2023





RECOGNIZING MARYLAND'S FINEST

Beginning in 2021, Bucks-Bears-Stags (BBS) became the official record keeper of Boone & Crocket scores for outstanding Maryland white-tailed deer, sika deer, and black bear. The department would like to sincerely thank Tinker Johnson and the Trophy Deer Contest for many years of diligence and hard work maintaining deer records and hosting scoring events prior to 2021. To find out more information about Bucks-Bears-Stags, or to arrange official scoring of a deer or bear, visit www.bucks-bears-stags.com. Bucks-Bears-Stags records from the 2023-24 season will be included in the 2024-25 Big Game Report.

The Following Listings are
Provided by
Bucks-Bears-Stags.
The Official Record-Keeper
for Outstanding Maryland
Deer and Bear.

Maryland's Finest Bear Standings

Black Bear, Adult Hunter, 2022 & 2023				
Name	County	Net Score	Method	Date
Lynn Brenneman	Garrett	22 1/8	Picked Up	2022
Robert H. McMillan, III	Garrett	20 11/16	Picked Up	1/1/2023
Kyle Heppner	Garrett	20 9/16	Firearm	10/28/2022
Derrick Steirer	Garrett	20 3/8	Firearm	9/23/2022
Larry Nesline	Garrett	19 1/2	Firearm	10/25/2022
AJ Fleming	Garrett	17 5/16	Picked Up	3/1/2022
Ashley Moreland	Alleghany	16 7/8	Firearm	10/25/2022

State Record Top Ten Black Bear				
Name	County	Net Score	Year	Method
Lacie Ashby	Garrett	22 8/16	2016	Pickup
Lynn Brenneman	Garrett	22 1/8	2022	Pickup
Albert Lankford	Garrett	22 1/16	10/24/12	Firearm
Coty Jones	Garrett	21 10/16	10/22/07	Firearm
Robert H. McMillan, III	Garrett	20 6/8	01/01/23	Pickup
Kyle Heppner	Garrett	20 5/8	10/28/22	Firearm
Eric Andrews	Garrett	20 9/16	10/25/04	Firearm
Derrick Steirer	Garrett	20 3/8	09/23/22	Firearm
Carl Lee	Garrett	19 5/8	10/21/19	Firearm
Larry Nesline	Garrett	19 4/8	10/25/22	Firearm

Maryland's Finest Deer Standings for 2022

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Typical Antlers, Firearms, Adult Hunter

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Mel Boysen	Queen Anne's	177 3/8	165 3/8	11/27/2022
Mike Mormile	Cecil	163 4/16	157	11/26/2022
Thomas Hosselrode	Prince George's	152 8/16	148 3/8	12/8/2022
Kiley Spiker	Garrett	147 3/8	142 6/8	11/12/2022
Casey Lytle	Garrett	144 7/8	140 6/8	11/12/2022
Sommer Newton	Kent	141 4/16	127 4/8	11/12/2022
Charlie Long	Charles	134 2/8	125 7/8	11/26/2022
Cameron Edwards	Wicomico	132 1/8	125 5/8	11/12/2022
Zane Mazeska	Charles	130 2/16	125 4/8	1/8/2022
Paige Miller	Kent	127 5/8	118 7/8	11/13/2022

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Typical Antlers, Firearms, Youth Male Hunter

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Jared Warnick	Garrett	144 7/8	140 6/8	11/12/2022
Hunter Johnson	Charles	134 4/16	125 7/8	11/26/2022
Charlie Long	Wicomico	132 2/16	125 5/8	11/12/2022
Cameron Edwards	Charles	130 1/8	125 4/8	1/8/2022
Nathan Mastronardi	Garrett	123	118	12/9/2022

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Typical Antlers, Firearms, Youth Female Hunter

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Kiley Spiker	Garrett	147 3/8	142 3/4	11/12/2022
Sommer Newton	Kent	141 2/8	127 1/2	11/12/2022
Paige Miller	Kent	127 5/8	118 7/8	11/13/2022

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Non-Typical Antlers, Firearms, Adult Hunter

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Steve Johnson	Charles	177 3/8	174 5/8	12/5/2022

Maryland's Finest Deer Standings for 2022

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Typical Antlers, Traditional And Compound Bow, Adult Male Hunter

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score
Todd Wood	Charles	145 1/8	139
Corey Thomas	Cecil	143 3/8	132 7/8
Brian Brown	Queen Anne	140 6/8	135
Kyle Donaldson	Anne Arundel	139	134 6/8
Daniel Dudzinski	Cecil	138 5/8	128 1/8
James Hudson	Carroll	138	131 3/8
Connor Mcdonough	Somerset	137 5/8	120
Thomas Kody	Charles	136 6/8	132 3/8
Steven Barnes	Howard	136 4/8	134
Jose Pablador	St. Mary's	136 4/8	133 4/8
Austin Roebuck	Howard	133 6/8	129 5/8
Branden Carroll	Kent	131 3/8	119 2/8
Jason Rudden	Anne Arundel	130 7/8	123 5/8
Chad Wilson	St. Mary's	128 4/8	125
Joseph Hering	Calvert	127 7/8	125 6/8
Steve Brown	Calvert	126	121 6/8
David Roberts	Montgomery	125 1/8	120 4/8
Charles Wilcox	St. Mary's	119 5/8	118

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Non-Typical Antlers, Traditional & Compound Bow, Adult Male Hunter

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Robert Bartoshesky	Wicomico	164 3/8	156 1/8	11/23/2022
Ronald E. Fansler, II	Calvert	160 3/8	155 2/8	11/13/2022
Belmont Thompson	Calvert	162 4/8	152 4/8	11/25/2022
Steven Abbey	Harford	148 5/8	142 6/8	9/30/2022
Roberto Ienzi	Montgomery	147	136	9/24/2022

Maryland's Finest Deer Standings for 2022

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Typical Antlers, Crossbow, Adult Hunter				
Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Hayley Tanner	Charles	164 5/8	149 7/8	1/11/2022
Derrick Steirer	Queen Anne's	163 4/8	145 6/8	1/26/2022
Bradley Trunnell	Montgomery	147 4/8	142 3/8	9/14/2022
Marcus Flowers	Dorchester	147 3/8	134	10/7/2022
Richard Bartlett	Garrett	142 6/8	117 7/8	9/24/2022
Keith Griffith	Queen Anne's	142 5/8	131	1/18/2022
Brian Rader	Calvert	142 2/8	137 5/8	2022
Sarah Boteler	Prince George's	139 7/8	136 1/8	11/26/2022
Greg Colbourne	Caroline	138 7/8	131 7/8	9/9/2022
Andrew Milller	Prince George's	135 2/8	130 3/8	11/12/2022
Elijah Fleming	Garrett	135	128 6/8	9/10/2022
Andrew Mitchell	Prince George's	134 2/8	133 2/8	11/14/2022
Jake Gerczak	Cecil	133 3/8	123 3/8	9/17/2022
Richard Bartlett	Garrett	129 2/8	127 4/8	11/13/2022
Paul Webster, Jr.	Cecil	128 2/8	124 1/8	10/26/2022
Robert "Bobby" Hutton	Garrett	126	122 4/8	9/28/2022
Tracy Kellett	Cecil	124 7/8	119 1/8	10/7/2022

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Typical Antlers, Crossbow, Youth Hunter				
Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Amelia Bolden	Garrett	151 2/8	141	10/7/2022
Bodie Butler	Garrett	130 1/8	119 6/8	9/28/2022
Easton Sines	Garrett	130 1/8	119 6/8	9/28/2022
Mylana Stevens	Baltimore	122 4/8	120	10/26/2022

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Non-Typical Antlers, Crossbow, Adult Hunter				
Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
William Hill	Calvert	185 6/8	182 4/8	10/1/2022
Justin Spies	Queen Anne's	193 6/8	182 4/8	10/4/2022
Claude Clevenger	Charles	183	171 6/8	11/10/2022
James Perry	Cecil	181 3/8	162 6/8	9/10/2022
Michael Biscoe	St. Mary's	162 5/8	155 6/8	11/16/2022
Pablo Sanchez	St. Mary's	150	143 4/8	12/4/2022
Daniel Fogel	St. Mary's	152 4/8	138 4/8	11/5/2022
Robert Stewart	Charles	146 2/8	135 2/8	9/21/2022

Maryland's Finest Deer Standings for 2022

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Typical Antlers, Muzzleloader, Adult Hunter

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Jacob McCullough	Garrett	149 3/8	143 5/8	10/22/2022
Carl Lee	Garrett	142 6/8	139 2/8	12/17/2022
Michael Wade Zyski	Harford	144 6/8	132 3/8	10/22/2022
Nathan Mastronardi	Dorchester	138 6/8	130 3/8	10/20/2022

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Typical Antlers, Muzzleloader, Youth Hunter

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Nathan Mastronardi	Dorchester	138 6/8	130 3/8	10/20/2022
Thomas Wenger	Dorchester	138 6/8	130 3/8	10/20/2022

2022 and 2023 White-Tailed Deer, Non-Typical Antlers, Muzzleloader, Adult Hunter

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Ronald Williams	Cecil	157 4/8	146 3/8	10/21/2022
Derek Tranter	Dorchester	147 6/8	142	1/6/2023

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Traditional or Vertical Bow in Velvet

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Thomas M. Kody	Charles	162	140	9/15/2022
Ryan Woerner	Cecil	145 7/8	138 7/8	9/9/2022
Marcus Tracy	Baltimore	151 5/8	137 6/8	9/9/2022
Darren G. Minor	Charles	142 3/8	134 2/8	9/9/2022

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Crossbow in Velvet

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Greg Colbourne	Caroline	138 7/8	131 7/8	9/9/2022

2022 White-Tailed Deer, Typical Antlers, Antlers Picked Up

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Nathan Hibshman	Garrett	175 3/8	169 7/8	5/2/2022
Philip Liedlich, III	Harford	155 3/4	150 1/4	12/18/2022

White-Tailed Deer, Non-Typical Antlers, Antlers Picked Up

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Chris-Malloy	Charles	204 7/8	196 3/4	12/11/2022
John-McDonough	Somerset	177 1/4	170 7/8	11/27/2022
Dalton-Brown	Caroline	177 1/4	161 3/8	7/23/2022

Maryland's Finest Deer Standings for 2022

2022 Sika Deer, Firearms, Adult Hunter				
Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Jeff Oberdorf	Dorchester	76 1/4	79 3/8	2022
Daniel Mastronardi	Dorchester	65 7/8	67 1/8	12/5/2022
Codi Calloway	Wicomico	62 1/4	67 1/2	11/29/2022
Tyler Arthur	Dorchester	62	64 5/8	11/29/2022

2022 Sika Deer, Muzzleloader, Adult Hunter				
Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Scott Reagan	Dorchester	76 3/4	78 3/8	12/18/2022
David Handy	Wicomico	73 3/8	76 3/4	10/20/2022
Arthur Tripp	Dorchester	71 7/8	74 3/4	10/21/2022
Charles Niemeyer, Jr.	Wicomico	67 3/4	70 7/8	10/21/2022
Steve Shiloh	Dorchester	65 3/8	66 7/8	10/21/2022
Frank Perry	Dorchester	64 7/8	65 3/4	10/22/2022
Scott Green	Wicomico	61 1/4	63 1/4	12/31/2022
Nick Pritchett	Dorchester	60 3/4	66 1/4	12/26/2022
Rachelle Gertz-Shifflett	Dorchester	53 1/2	59 5/8	2022

2022 Sika Deer, Vertical Bow, Adult Hunter				
Name	County	Net Score	Harvest Date	
Bill Bollhorst	Dorchester	66 3/4	10/20/2022	
Guy Edgar	Dorchester	66 5/8	10/20/2022	

2022 Sika Deer, Crossbow, Adult Hunter				
Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Adam Higgs	Wicomico	72 7/8	69 7/8	1/13/2022
Cameron Edwards	Dorchester	63	61 5/8	10/5/2022
Matthew Luck	Dorchester	60 7/8	59 1/8	10/11/2022
Reid Austin	Dorchester	58	56 1/4	1/6/2023

2022 Sika Deer, Firearm Youth Division				
Name	County	Net Score	Harvest Date	
Nathan Mastronardi	Dorchester	63 1/4	11/26/2022	
Nathan Sutton	Dorchester	53	1/8/2023	

Maryland's State Record White-tailed Deer Standings

Typical Antlers, Firearms

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Kevin Miller	Kent	201 6/8	194	2003

Non-Typical Antlers, Firearms

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
William Crutchfield Jr.	Charles	274 4/8	269 6/8	11/27/2006

Typical Antlers, Traditional & Compound Bow

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Petey Councill	Talbot	188 1/8	183 3/8	11/11/1994

Non-Typical Antlers, Traditional & Compound Bow

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Jordan Duhamell	Cecil	236 2/8	223 3/8	12/27/2013

Typical Antlers, Crossbow

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Charlie Wallace	St. Mary's	186 7/8	172 3/8	9/28/2016

Non-Typical Antlers, Crossbow

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Stephen Whitelock	Wicomico	214 5/8	211 2/8	9/23/2013

Typical Antlers, Muzzleloader

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
John Gweadowski	Baltimore	Unknown	178 6/8	1/2/1994

Non-Typical Antlers, Muzzleloader

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Robert Brookman	Anne Arundel	Unknown	229 6/8	10/20/2012

Typical Antlers, Antlers Picked Up

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Nathan Hibshman	Garrett County	175 3/8	169 7/8	5/2/2022

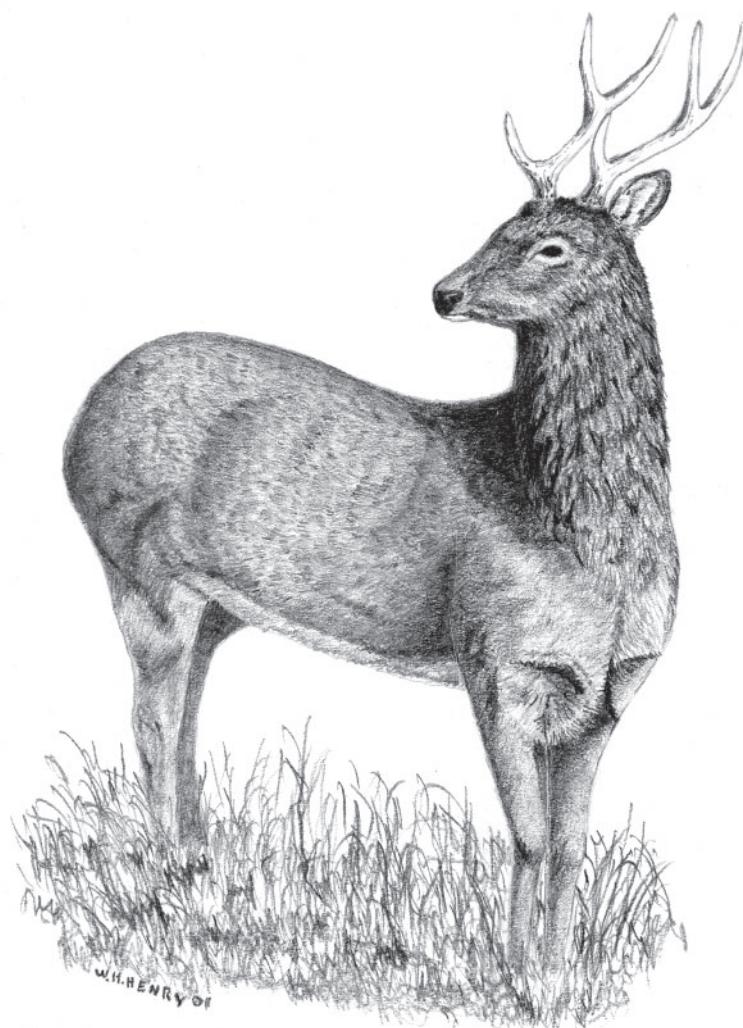
Non-Typical Antlers, Antlers Picked Up

Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Harvest Date
Luke Blatherwick	Dorchester	267 3/8	254 1/8	3/1/2005

Maryland's State Record Sika and Fallow Deer Standings

State Record Sika Deer					
Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Method	Harvest Date
Tim Krauss	Wicomico	Unknown	77 1/8	Firearm	12/6/2013
Robert Bartoshesky	Wicomico	82 1/8	76 7/8	Picked Up	7/14/1905
Scot Reagan	Dorchester	78 3/8	76 6/8	Muzzleloader	12/18/2022
Boyd Stuart	Dorchester	76 1/8	74 6/8	Vertical Bow	12/20/2007
John Callahan (Jay Pippin)	Dorchester	75 5/8	75 4/8	Crossbow	10/10/2012

State Record Fallow Deer				
Name	County	Gross Score	Net Score	Method
Patrick A. Akins	Prince George's	Unknown	176 7/8	Firearm
Michael Cavanah	Prince George's	Unknown	202 1/8	Bow
Jody LeCompte	Talbot	Unknown	134 7/8	Crossbow
Bill McCready	Talbot	Unknown	128 1/8	Muzzleloader



Retirement of a Great Biologist

After 30+ years of working for Wildlife and Heritage Service, 29 of which were with the Deer Project, George Timko has retired from state service. George was most recently the Deer Project Co-leader but served in every position within the Deer Project during his time in state service. During his tenure, George worked tirelessly to ensure Maryland's deer population was managed with sound science and public involvement. One of George's greatest accomplishments was being someone anybody could go to get advice from or express a concern to. George provided presentations on deer management in just about every county across the state, directly impacting the way countless Maryland residents view deer management. In addition to his ability to communicate deer management to a wide variety of stakeholders, George

was an expert on deer diseases and assisted in the development of our current monitoring programs for diseases like Chronic Wasting Disease and Hemorrhagic Disease. Beyond these accomplishments, George was instrumental in the development of many county deer management programs. Words cannot express how appreciative we, and many others, are of all that George did during his career to further Maryland's deer management programs. We hope he enjoys his retirement and continues to share his passion for deer with those around him.

Thank you, George



We also want to thank Wade Henry, Wildlife and Heritage Service's Graphic Specialist. Wade will be retiring in the fall of 2024. Wade has provided immense assistance in the publication of this, and countless other reports for many years. Not only has Wade helped publish the report, but he also lent his artistic eye and abilities to this report by designing many of the cover images.

Thank you, Wade for all that you have done and enjoy your retirement.