

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 16, 2016

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Announcements: Chairman Compton moved Natural Resources Police (NRP) Update given by Lieutenant Steve Muse to the first order of business to accommodate Lt. Muse' conflict with another meeting at 10:00 am.

Natural Resources Police (NRP) Update – Presentation given by Lieutenant Steve Muse.

- Corporal David Bailey also will be attending the Wildlife Advisory Commission meetings in the future.
- There are 27 new officers and their field training has started. The new officers will be concentrated in Central, Eastern, and Southern Regions.
- The black bear hunt was successful with two additional counties added Frederick and Washington Counties. There were ten baiting cases...officers obtained written confessions on most of them but there was one that officers had to use the "aiding and abetting" law.
- There were four officers who graduated from the Cadet Program. Now, there are seven individuals in the Cadet Program, so when the next academy starts the seven cadets will go to the academy. There are eight individuals that NRP has vetted; these eight individuals have been put on hold due to the budget cuts.
- Lieutenant Muse will check into the Poaching Prevention Act training for NRP and provide an update to the Commission at the next meeting.

Approval for the November 16, 2016 Meeting Agenda

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Weinberg moved to approve the November 16th Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
 2. Commissioner Schroyer seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from July 20, 2016 Meeting

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to approve the July 20th meeting minutes as presented.
 2. Commissioner Goetze seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Presentation of 2015 Conservationist of the Year Award – Presentation given by Director Peditto and Chairman Compton.

- Director Peditto announced the Maryland Bowhunter's Society (MBS) as the honored recipient of the 2015 Conservationist of the Year Award. The MBS was founded in 1977. In 2017, the MBS will be in existence for 40 years.
- Director Peditto mentioned that what is striking with organizations like the MBS was the longevity because there have been organizations similar to MBS that have stayed around for a just few years. The MBS' staying power has been the element that truly distinguishes this year's recipient from nearly every other organization in Maryland regionally. Director Peditto added that he has always admired Chairman Compton's capacity to find common ground and strike a reasonable chord in even the most complex dialogue. Director Peditto added that Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) and MBS are great partners due to that of Chairman Compton's leadership and of those

who lead MBS in previous years.

- Director Peditto thanked Chairman Compton and members of the Maryland Bowhunter's Society and presented them with an original art certificate with an antlered white-tailed deer.
- Chairman Compton commented that MBS consists of many different people around the State and MBS obtains a lot of support from DNR, the many associated sportsmen's organizations and Maryland's Hunting Coalition and other supporters around the State. Chairman Compton thanked Kevin Compton for his assistance along with Steve Keithley of Southern Maryland, who is a strong and influential supporter of the MBS, enabling the MBS to accomplish a number of key efforts during his tenure. Steve Keithley was the president of MBS in the 80's. The longevity of the MBS that Director Peditto was talking about keeps the MBS doing what it needs to do for the future of hunting in the state – specifically the youth of the State. MBS supports the Maryland Archery in the Schools Program along with the different legislative and regulatory issues that the MBS have dealt with over the years. Chairman Compton thanked the Commission and the Wildlife and Heritage Service team.

WHS Game Program Update – Introductions given by Associate Director Peter Jayne.

- Migratory Game Bird Section Leader Bill Harvey provided a summary of Canada Goose Management in the Atlantic Flyway. [ATTACHMENT A]
- Assistant Deer Section Leader George Timko presented the Chronic Wasting Disease Update to the Commission. [ATTACHMENT B]
 1. The codes in the CWD Surveillance and Management Area are habitat management units.
 2. Staff members collect data from meat processors, road kill, and sick deer.
 3. The lab cost for each sample is currently \$45.00. Currently, samples go to Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory.

Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Update – Presentation given by MFB Government Relations Director Colby Ferguson.

- Mr. Ferguson pointed out that the MFB is in the final policy development stages. The MFB just completed the subcommittee report that included submitted policies from the counties. At the December MFB Annual Convention, the subcommittee report will be reviewed and discussed for further action.
- Mr. Ferguson also mentioned that wildlife related issues (from bear to deer to beaver) continue to be a problem for farmers.
- Montgomery County Delegation will be submitting four bills during the 2017 General Assembly, which will include an increase in Sunday hunting, reduce archery safety zone to 50 yards with no elevation requirement, extend the deer hunting season through February, and add another week to the deer firearms season. The MFB supports a statewide Sunday hunting provision.
- The lower eastern shore counties along with other counties are having issues related to beavers. Mr. Ferguson had a discussion with Associate Director Pete Jayne about the beaver issue that farmers are having – a likely solution is already in place.
- Allegany County farmers are having problems with black bears in regards to beehives.
- Crop damage due to deer continues to be a big problem. Deer are doing the damage during the months of April through September. Mr. Ferguson also added that we must do more “managed hunts”. In doing so, it would allow the sharpshooters to come in and thin out the deer herd.
- Director Peditto mentioned that he has had this discussion with lawmakers and hunters about managing deer. Director Peditto suggested to Mr. Ferguson that the MFB needs to try to shift gears from reactive to targeting deer when the deer are eating the crops to a systematic approach

that the deer need to be killed during the period when there are individuals that are willing to take the deer – i.e. during deer hunting season.

- Discussion ensued about the usage of crop damage permits along with the weapons used.
 1. Commissioner Michael requested that his statement be put in the record: “Director Peditto is missing the point when you say putting the pressure on a vulnerable field at the appropriate time reduces crop damage. The time is not in October and November but it is in April when a farmer loses X number of bushels because the deer ate the young crops. This is when the pressure needs to be applied; it is when the crops are vulnerable and that will push the deer back maybe to another field. Tell the hunters to go out in the field in April when the farmers need the pressure on the deer. There are hunters willing to hunt deer during the months of April and May.”
 2. Chairman Compton deferred the discussion on crop damage permits to another meeting.
- Mr. Ferguson highlighted a situation of a hunter that was helping a farmer out that was having problems with groundhog. The hunter did not have a hunting license and did not have fluorescent orange on at the time in a field. The NRP officer issued a warning related to not having a hunting license and \$250.00 fine for not wearing fluorescent orange. Baltimore and Frederick counties have the requirement that a person must have a hunting license when taking groundhogs. Fluorescent orange is a requirement for hunting groundhogs. Noting that the actual landowner is exempt from wearing fluorescent orange.

2017 Wildlife Advisory Commission Annual Schedule and Draft Monthly Agenda

- Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits Concepts added to January 18, 2017.
- Feral Cat Discussion was moved to the February 15, 2017 meeting agenda.
- Drone Demonstration and Discussion was moved to the February 15, 2017 meeting agenda.
- Deer Management Permits was added to the March 15, 2017 meeting agenda.
- Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits Final added to the April 19, 2017 meeting agenda.
- The Commission will have a field day scheduled for September 20, 2017 meeting agenda.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Michael moved to work with MFB and others to form a workgroup to develop solutions related to deer management permits and bring those solutions to the Commission.
 2. Commissioner Weinberg seconded.
 3. Discussion: The interest group will have two members of the Commission (Commissioner Michael and Commissioner Gulbrandsen), Mr. Ferguson (MFB), NRP officer, Director Peditto and other staff as needed/named by Director Peditto.
 4. All in favor. Motion passed
 5. The interest group will report to the Commission on March 15, 2017.

Public Comment

- The Commission received a letter related to the bear hunt.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Michael motioned that Chairman Compton compose a letter for the Commission consistent with the Commission’s mission -- if a response from the Commission is necessary.
 2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
 3. The Commission rarely receives communication from the public but the Commission will provide a response when it necessary.
 4. In many cases, the Commission will receive an email/letter that is really directed to the Department, and staff members have already provided a response.

5. Commissioner Boyles-Griffin would like to help in compiling the letter if necessary.
 6. All in favor. Motion passed.
- The Commission also received customer service email about feral cats. The feral cat email will be discussed at the February 15, 2017 meeting.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.
The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, M. Goetze, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, J. Michael, J. Schroyer, and R. Weinberg
Absent:	T. Gregor
Guest:	C. Ferguson, D. Bradford, E. Hovermale, B. Miles, A. Ellis, and K. Compton
Staff:	B. Eyler, S. Muse, B. Harvey, E. Muriel, P. Jayne, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, G. Timko



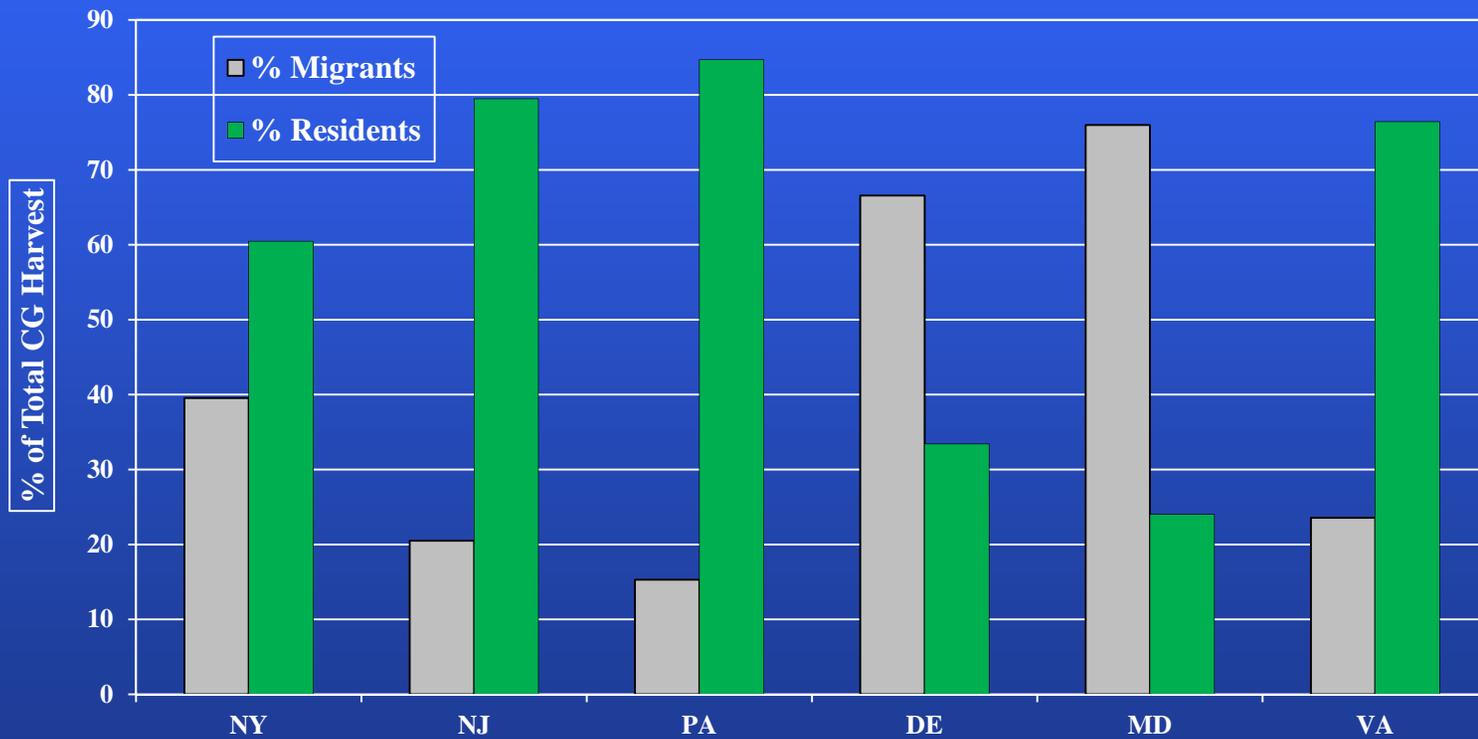
Canada Goose Management In The Atlantic Flyway

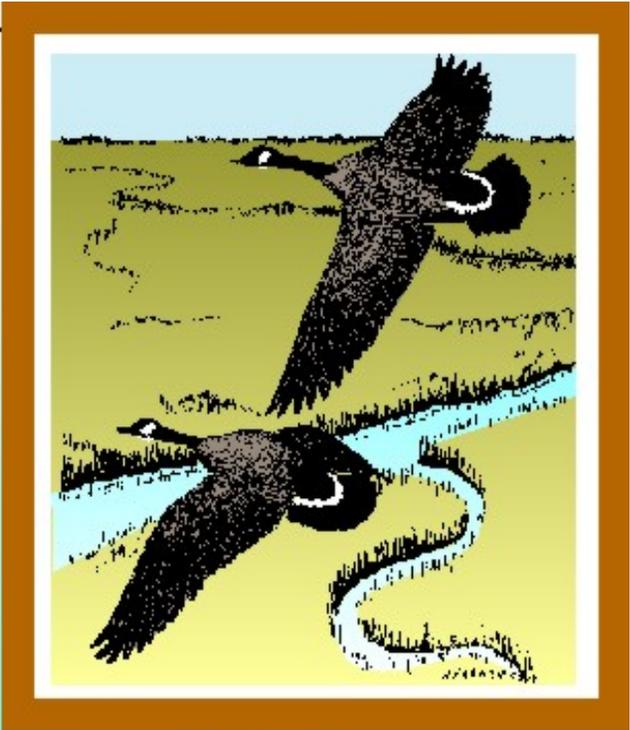
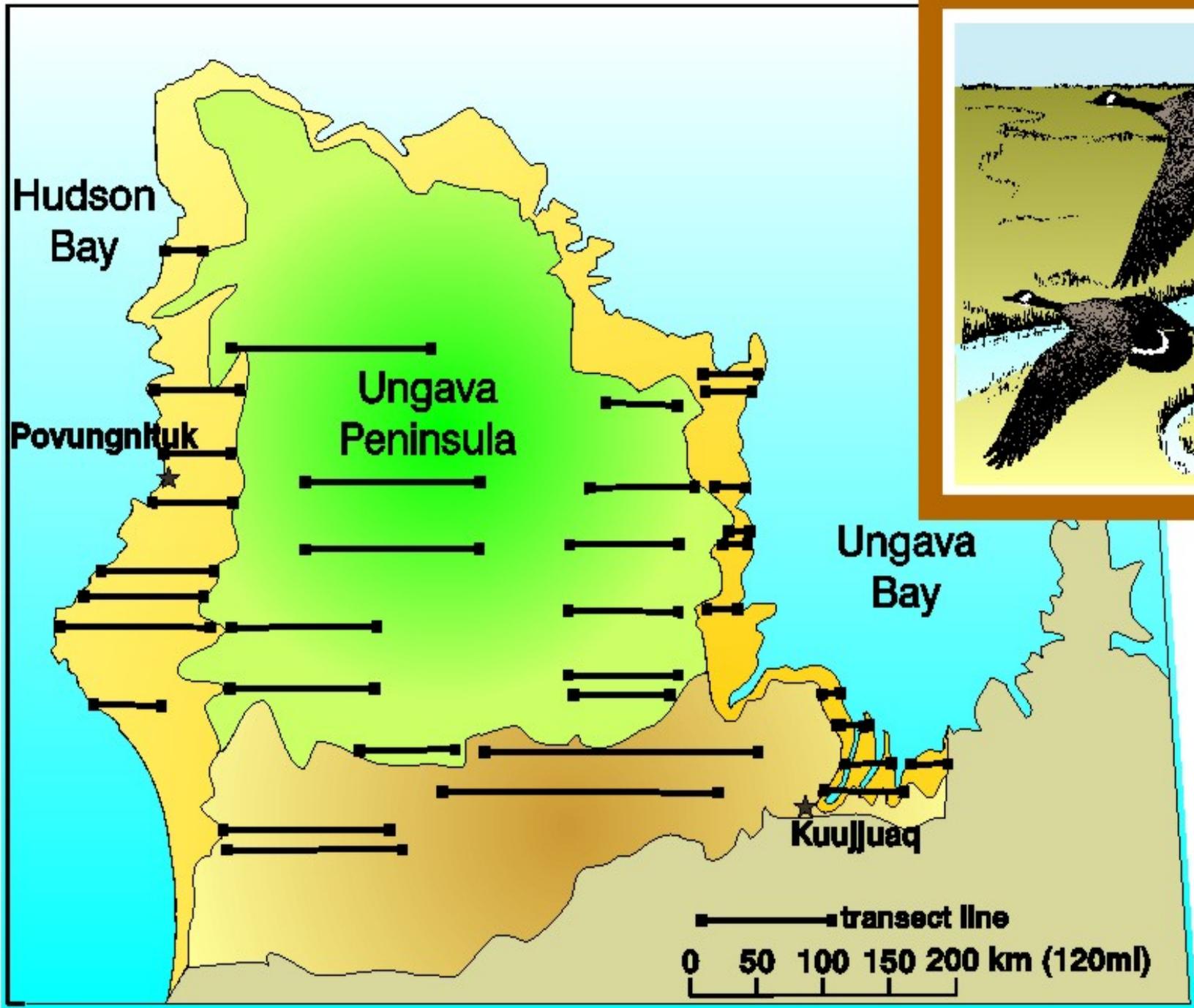
Canada Goose Populations in the Atlantic Flyway

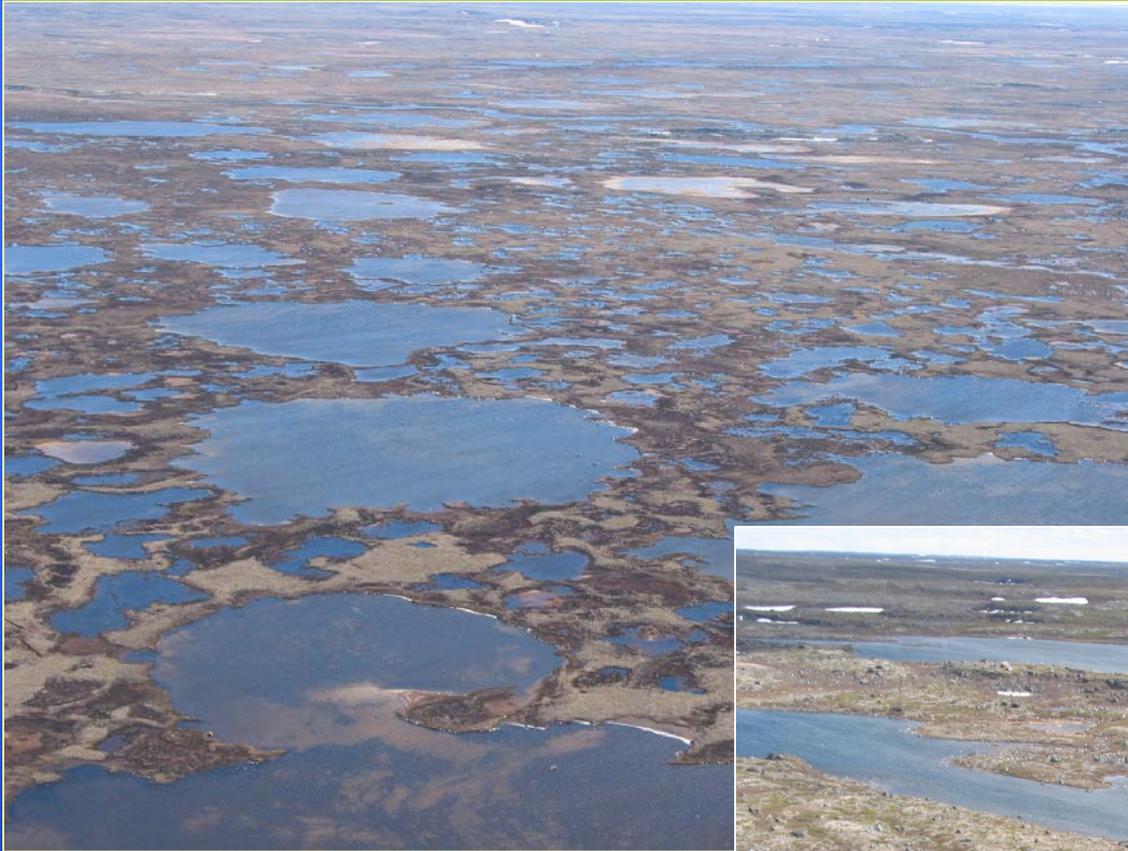
- **Migrant Populations**
 - Atlantic
 - North Atlantic
 - Southern James Bay
- **Resident**

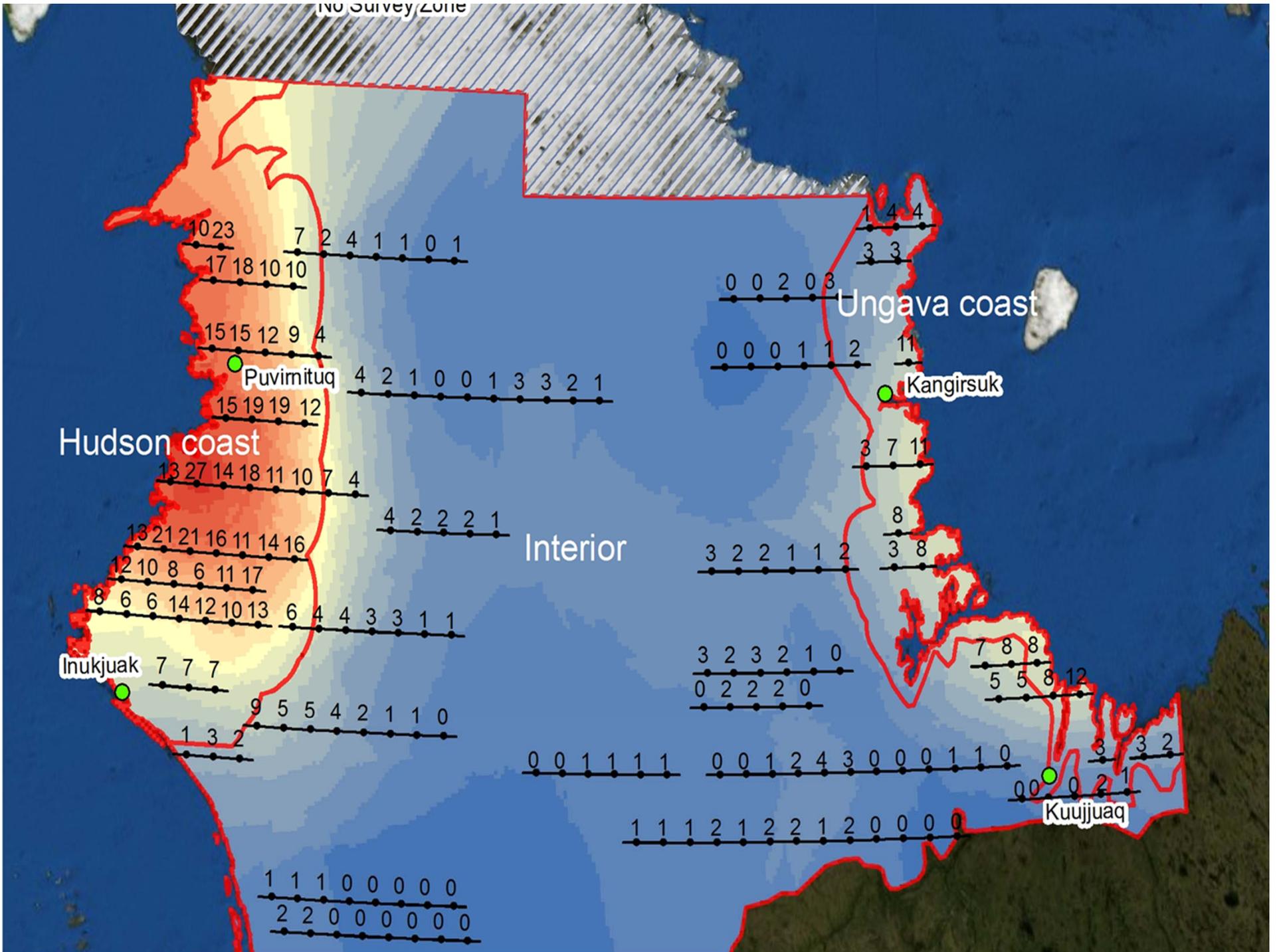


Composition of Canada Goose Harvest









No Survey Zone

Hudson coast

Ungava coast

Interior

Inukjuak

Puvimittuq

Kangirsuk

Kuujjuaq

10 23
7 2 4 1 1 0 1

17 18 10 10

15 15 12 9 4

15 19 19 12

13 27 14 18 11 10 7 4

13 21 21 16 11 14 16

12 10 8 6 11 17

8 6 6 14 12 10 13 6 4 4 3 3 1 1

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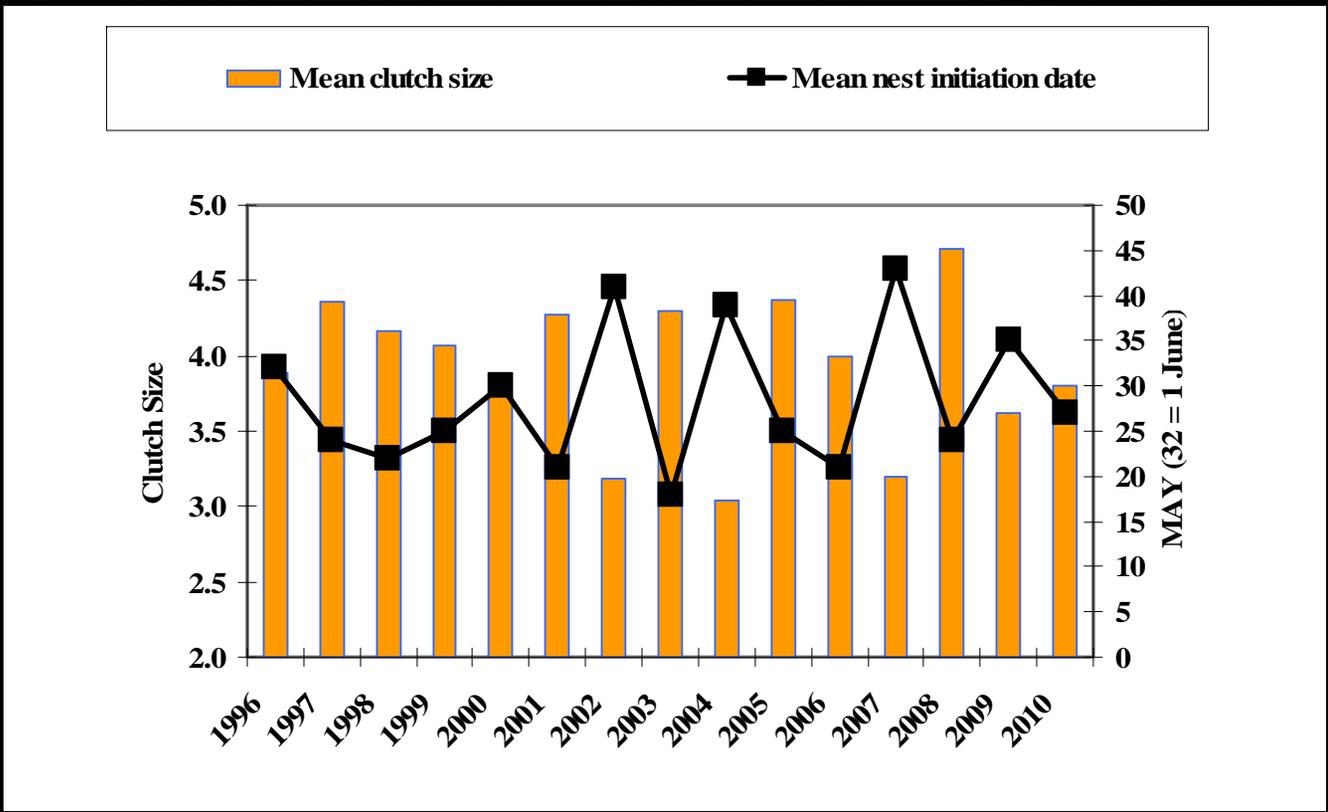
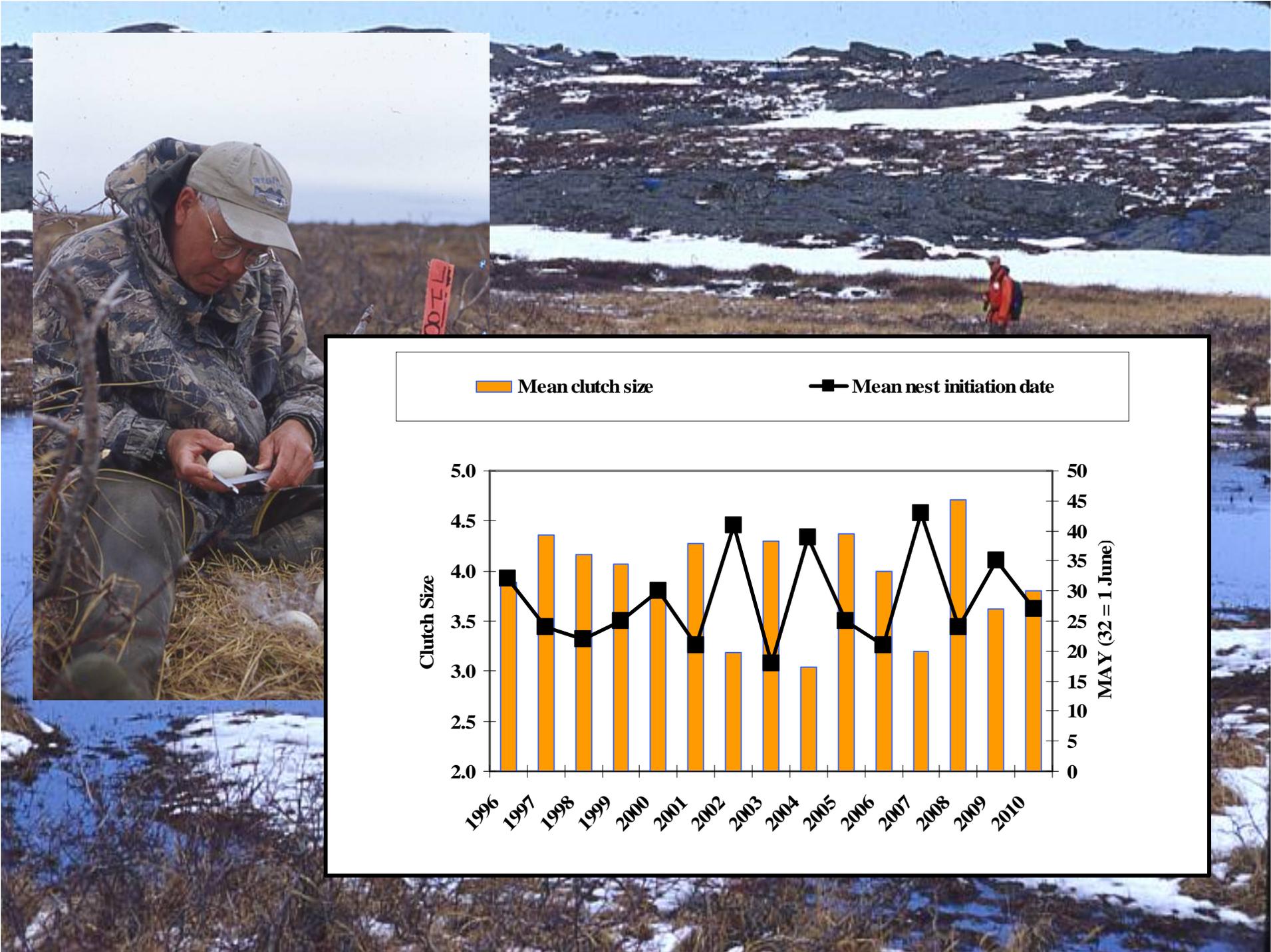
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3 3 2

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Snow Cover May 30, 2016

AP Goose production is usually determined by the timing of the Spring thaw.



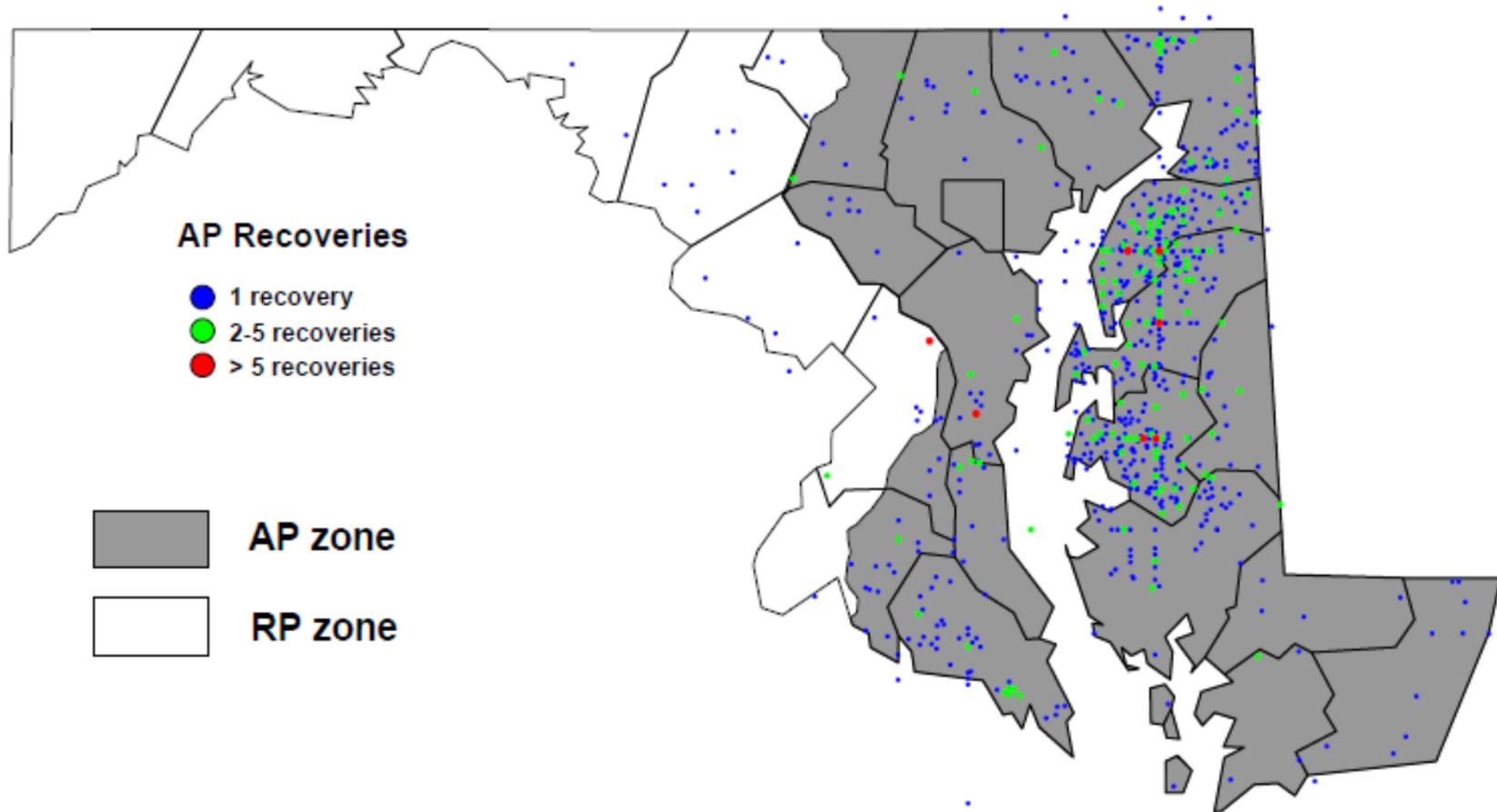




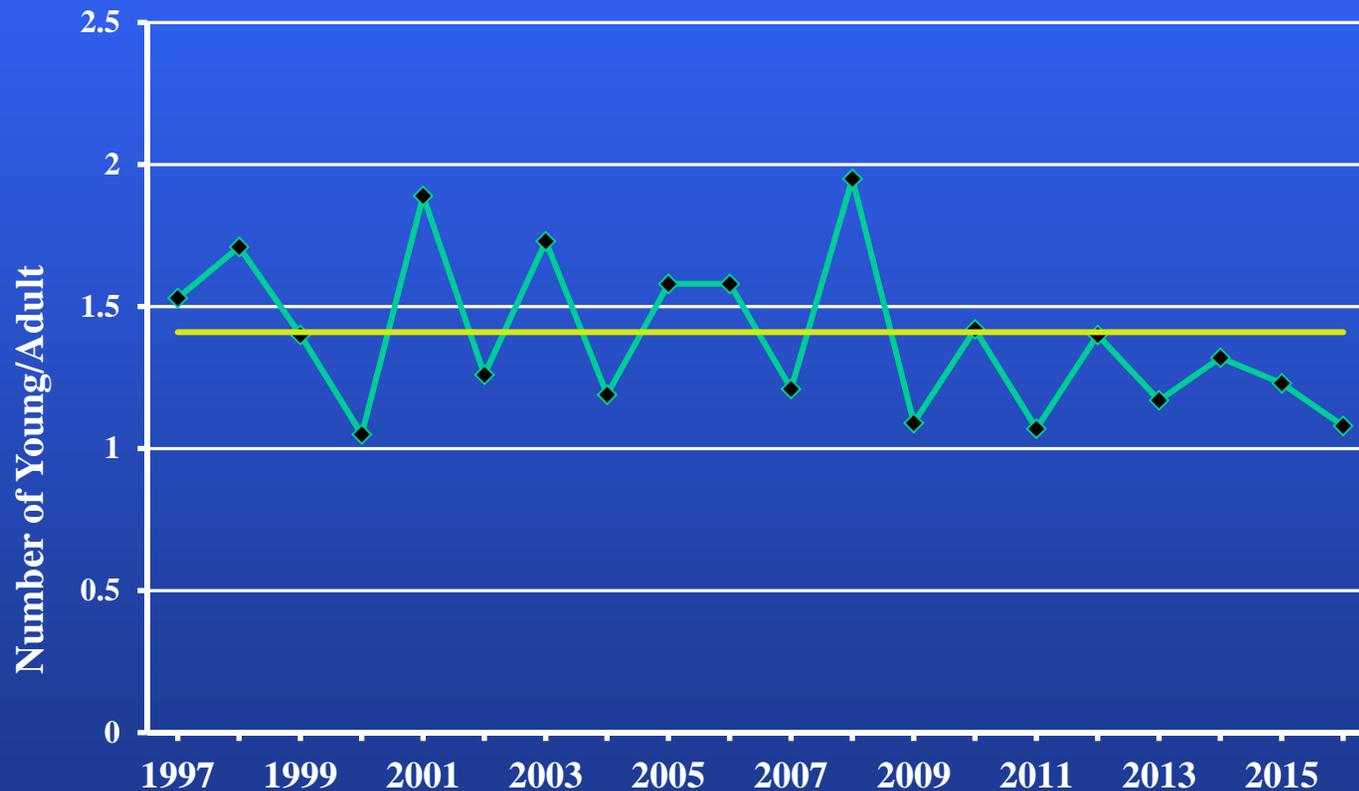
AP Canada Goose Band Recoveries

2012 - 2014

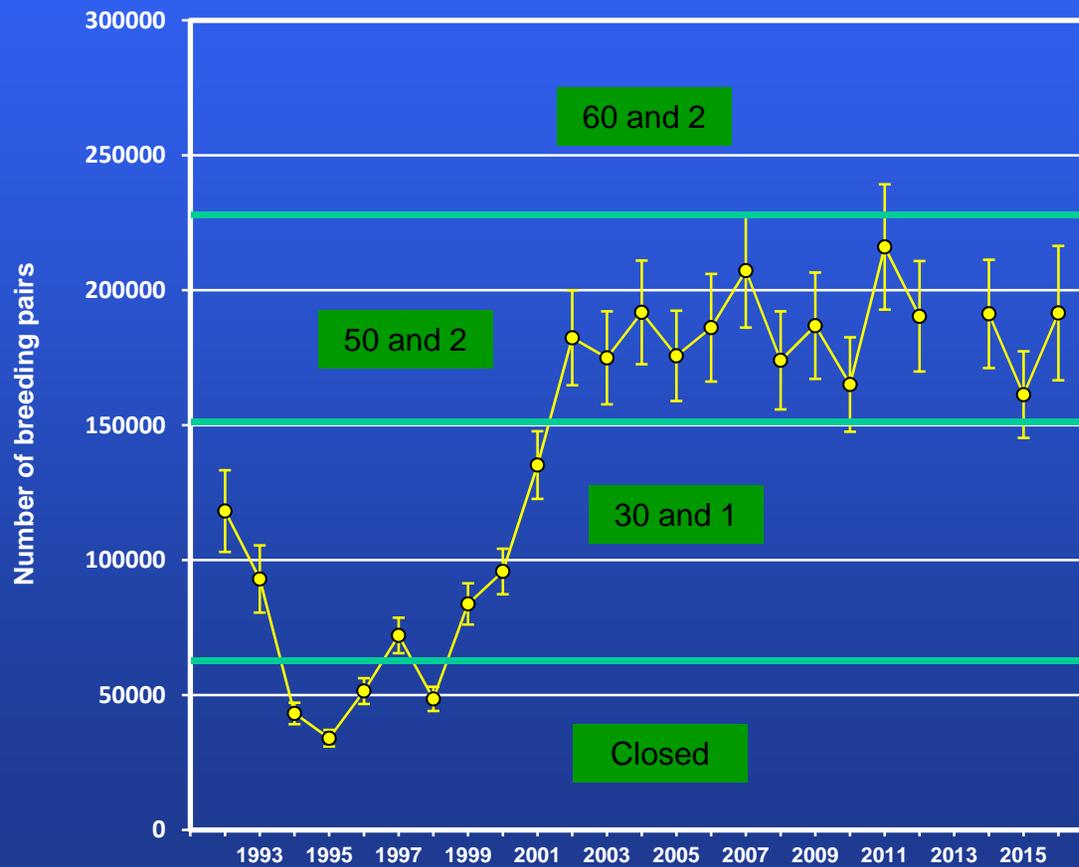
Maryland



Number of Young/Adult in Ungava Goose Captures



AP Breeding Pair Survey And AP Harvest Strategy



Can we hunt AP geese later? (currently the ending framework is February 5)

- Warmer winters**
- Later migration**
- Changes in agriculture**
- Resident CG seasons go later**

Latitude Within Existing Framework

- **We choose to close the regular duck and goose seasons during the two-week deer firearm season**
- **Could shift days from the week of Thanksgiving to beginning of late AP goose segment**



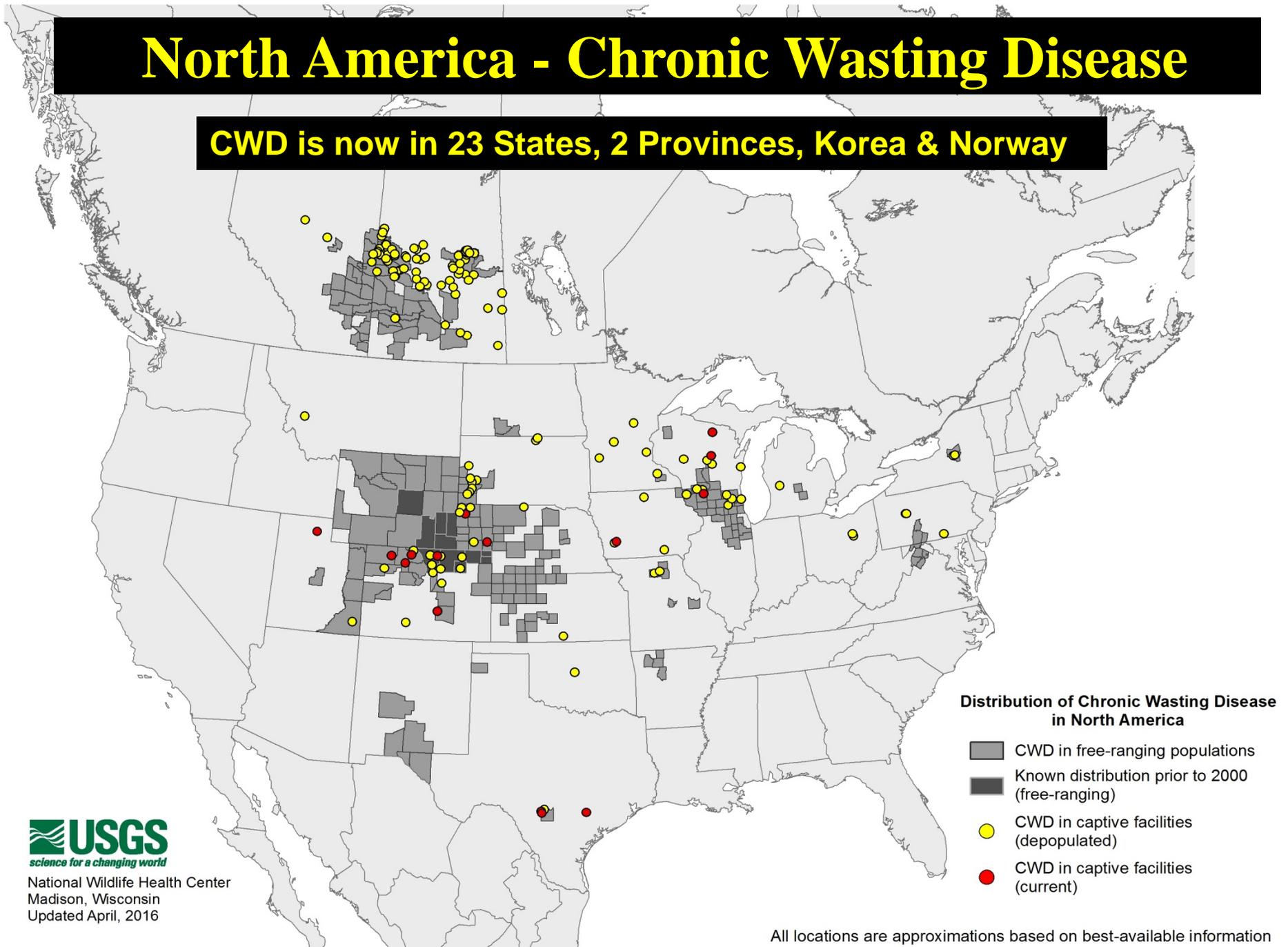
ATTACHMENT B

Chronic Wasting Disease Update 2016



North America - Chronic Wasting Disease

CWD is now in 23 States, 2 Provinces, Korea & Norway

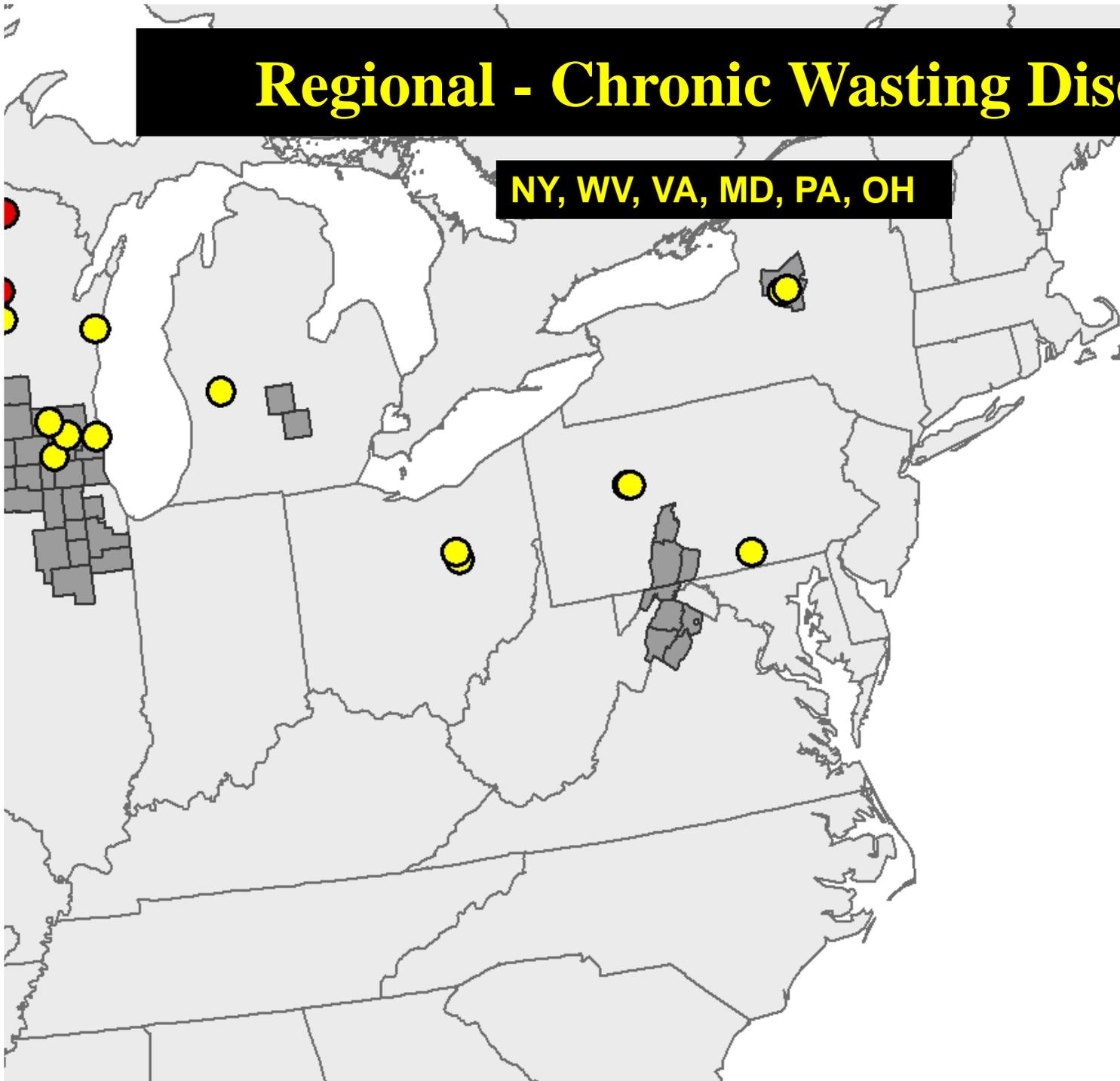


National Wildlife Health Center
Madison, Wisconsin
Updated April, 2016

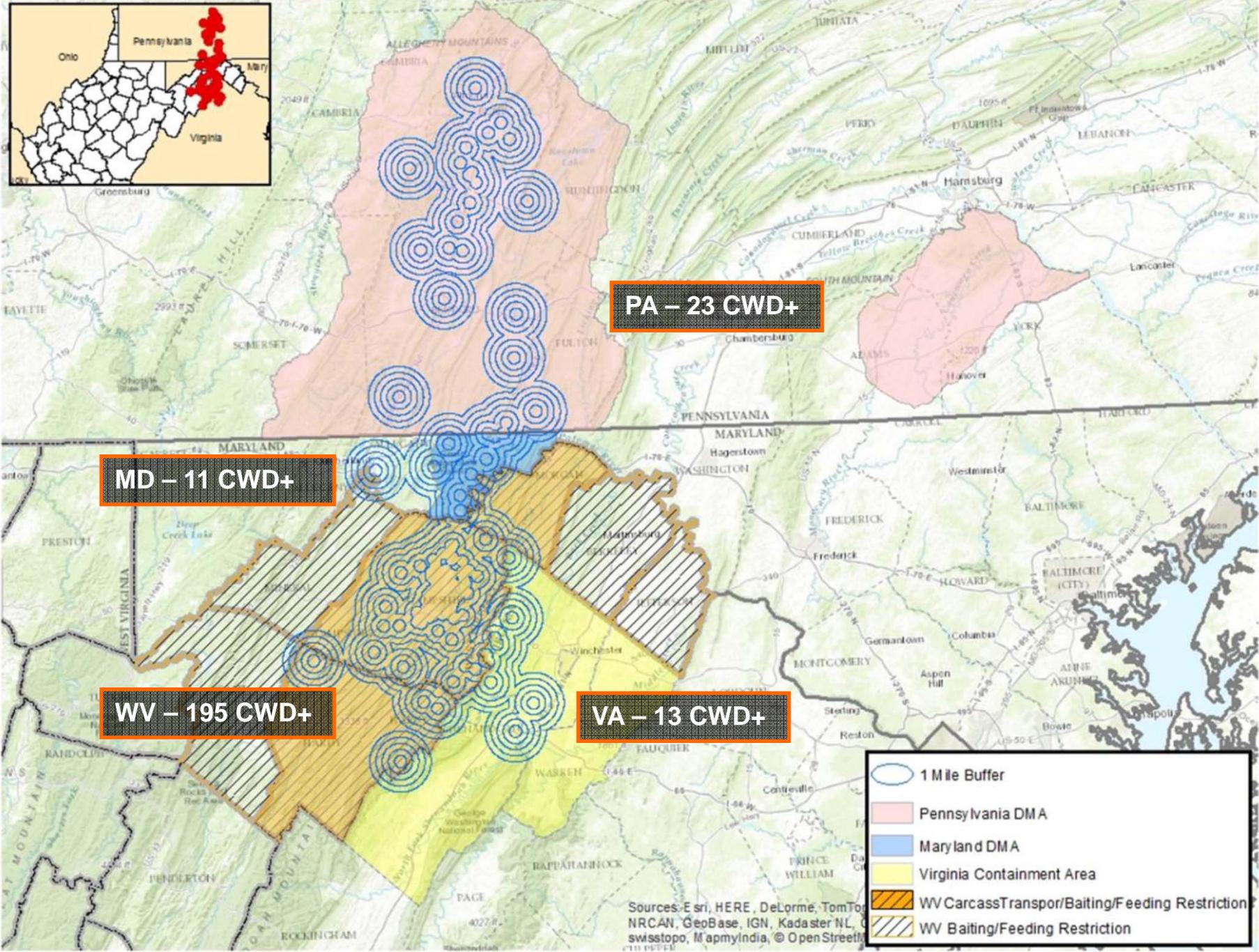
All locations are approximations based on best-available information

Regional - Chronic Wasting Disease

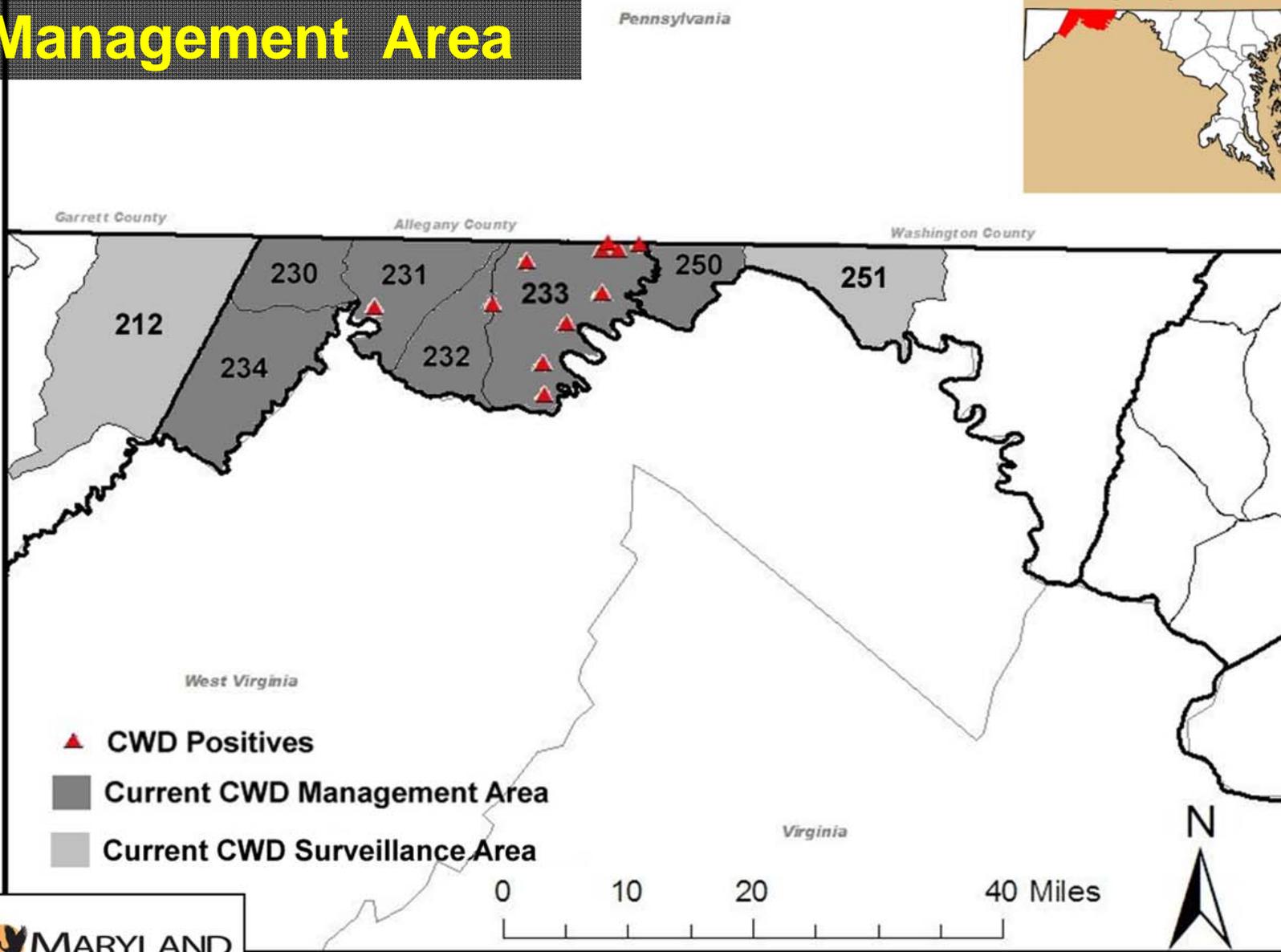
NY, WV, VA, MD, PA, OH



Regional CWD Management Areas



CWD Surveillance & Management Area



Status of CWD in Maryland

- **First positive detected in 2010**
- **Eleven infected deer detected to date**
 - **Ten from within HMU 233 (original CWDMA)**
 - **One from within HMU 231 (new area)**
 - **All positives were from hunter-harvested deer**
 - **All appeared healthy**
 - **Eight were bucks**
 - » **All from HMU 233**
 - **Three were does**
 - » **Two from HMU 233**
 - » **One from HMU 231**

CWD Sampling in Maryland

- **Obex & RPLN sampled**
 - Placed in formalin & uniquely labeled
 - Samples delivered to PADLS, Harrisburg
 - IHC testing is done
 - » Results can take weeks to months

- **Sample Sources**
 - Majority of samples from hunter-harvested deer (75%)
 - Some roadkills (10%)
 - Some farmer-killed (<10%)
 - Few target animals (<5%) submitted
 - Very few captives (<1%) submitted

CWD Sampling in Maryland

- **DNR has tested 8,547 samples for CWD since 1999**
 - **More intensive sampling starting 2002**
 - **Northern tier sampling: 2002**
 - **Statewide sampling: 2003-2009**
 - **Focused sampling: 2010-present**
 - » **First MD CWD positive sample detected in 2010**
 - » **Allegany County, near WV CWD outbreak**

Summary of MD CWD samples collected by year



Year	# Submitted Statewide	# Submitted Allegany Co.	# Positives Detected
2002	304	50	0
2003	542	50	0
2004	872	50	0
2005	999	125	0
2006	982	120	0
2007	983	90	0
2008	997	132	0
2009	1,130	108	0
2010	369	231	1
2011	305	269	0
2012	278	220	0
2013	261	226	1
2014	230	189	4
2015	295	134	5
Totals	8,547	1,994	11

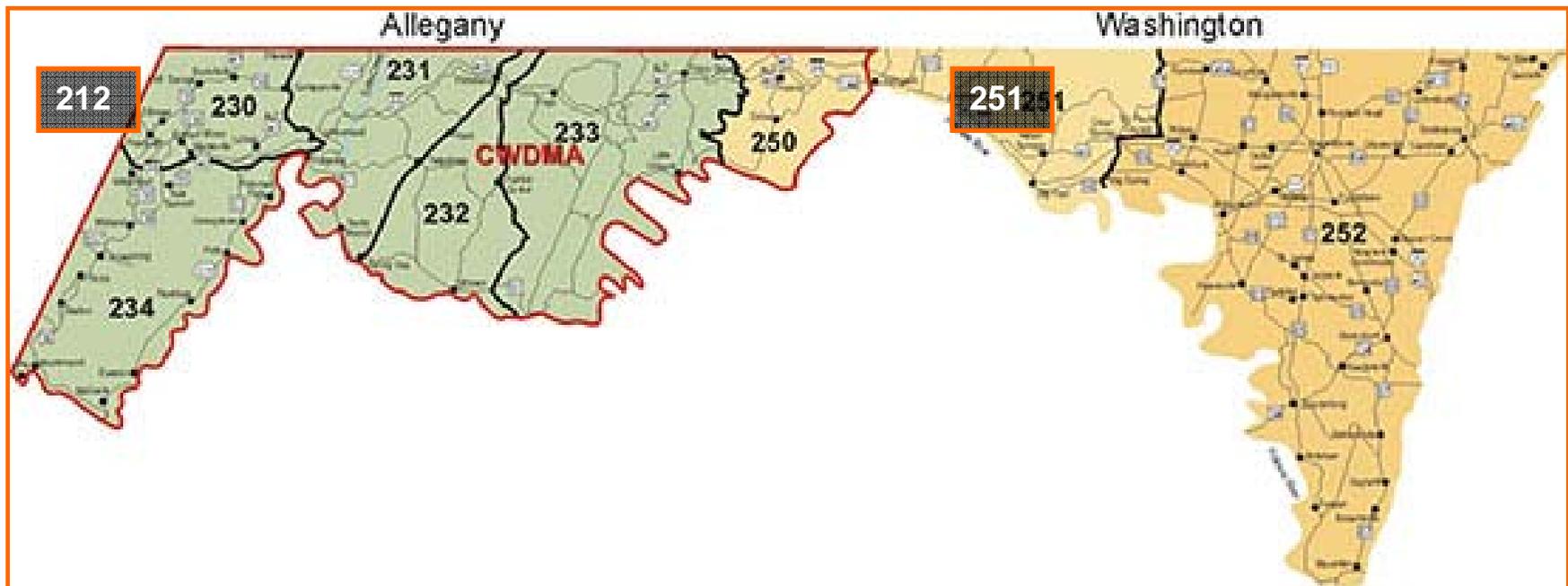
What's New - CWD in Maryland

CWDMA Expanded

- Originally just HMU 233
- Now includes HMU 233, 231, 230, 232, 234 (All of Allegany Co) & HMU 250 (western Washington Co)

CWD Surveillance Area Expanded

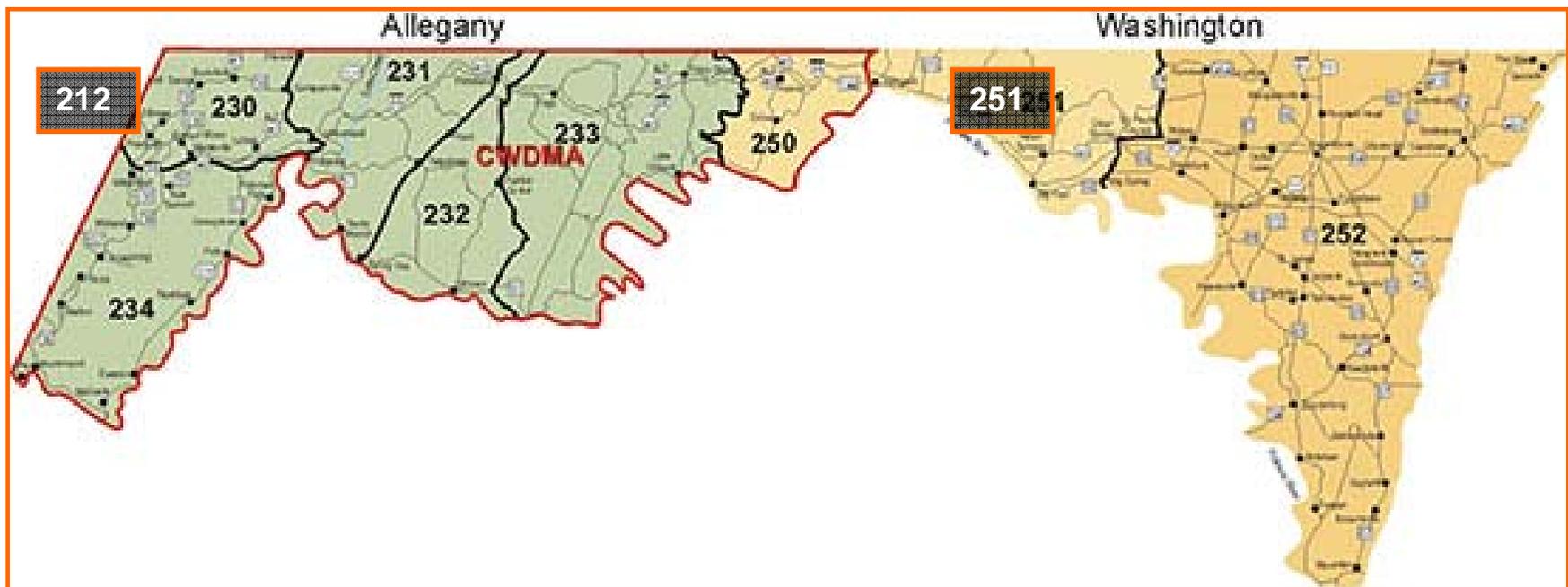
- HMU 212 (Garrett Co), and
- HMU 251 (Washington Co)



What's New - CWD in Maryland

Baiting Prohibition Repealed for 2016

- DNR prohibited baiting in the Disease Management Area after first case
- Goal was to reduce concentrating deer and slow spread of disease
- We now allow baiting to help hunters keep deer numbers stable
 - Keeping density at current levels will help reduce the spread of this disease
 - Good hunter harvest should outweigh benefits of baiting ban



Chronic Wasting Disease Update 2016

