

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission

**Will Meet at 10:30 AM
On Wed., February 15, 2023
C-1 Conference Room
Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building**

Meeting Agenda:

Approval for February 15, 2023, Meeting Agenda

Approval for Minutes from January 18, 2023 Meeting

Sika Deer Hunter Opinion Survey Results (Dr. Scott Knoche from Morgan State University)

2023 Legislative Session Update (Director Paul Peditto and Associate Director Brian Eyler)

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (Colby Ferguson)

Natural Resources Police Update (Captain Shawn Garren)

Old Business:

- **WHS Regulations Status (Paul Peditto)**
- **Hunter Education Programming (WAC Members' Discussion)**
- **Future Hunting License and Stamp Model (WAC Members' Discussion)**
- **Blood Tracking Dogs Regulation (WAC Members' Discussion)**

New Business:

- **2023 Oklahoma New Hard Cards Released (Chair Wagner)**

Public Comment:

Adjourn

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

**The Proposed Schedule for the 2023 meetings
Of the Wildlife Advisory Commission is as follows:**

January 18th	Google Meet
February 15th	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
March 15th	Google Meet
April 19th	Google Meet
May 17th	No Meeting
June 21st	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
July 19th	No Meeting
August 16th	Google Meet
September 20th	TBD - Google Meet or No Meeting or Field Day
October 18th	Google Meet
November 15th	Google Meet
December 15th	No Meeting

***PLEASE NOTE THAT MEETING DATES ARE HELD
ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH***

Note: Unless notified otherwise, all meetings will be held via Google Meeting. When meeting in person, the meetings will be held in the C-1 Conference Room Department of Natural Resources - Tawes State Office Building beginning at 10:30 am. Available parking is located at the Navy Stadium Parking Lot.

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2023

Chairman Carl Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. This was a virtual and in-person meeting. Chairman Wagner asked for a roll call of individuals on the “call.” Unfortunately, because of the anonymity of Google Meet callers, it was impossible to determine the identity of every participant.

Approval for February 15, 2023, Meeting Agenda

- Motion to Approve the Agenda:
 1. Commissioner Showalter moved to accept February 15, 2023, Commission Meeting Agenda.
 2. Commissioner Cole seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from January 18, 2023, Meeting

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Cole moved to accept January 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes.
 2. Commissioner Schroyer seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Sika Deer Hunter Opinion Survey Results - Guest Speaker: Dr. Scott Knoche from Morgan State University

- Dr. Scott Knoche introduced the Morgan State PEARL Team:
 1. Kaitlynn Ritchie, Senior Research Assistant at Morgan State Pearl Lab, was instrumental in designing the Sika Deer Hunter Opinion Survey and data analysis.
 2. For two summers, Kate Delph, Morgan State PEARL Undergrad Student Interim, helped develop the Sika Deer Hunter Opinion Survey.
 3. Abubakar Ringim, a Ph.D. from Morgan State University, doctoral research on Sika deer management.
 4. Kehinde Ojo, an Associate Scientist at the Morgan State PEARL, will be helping with black bear management.
- Dr. Scott Knoche presented the Sika Deer Hunter Opinion Survey Results via a PowerPoint Presentation [**ATTACHMENT A**]
 1. One of the issues faced is that a person does not need a stamp to hunt Sika deer; therefore, the survey had to ask if a hunter had ever hunted Sika deer in the past.
 2. APR in the slides means Antler Point Restriction.
 3. From the survey, hunters seemed to be happy with how things are currently regulated; however, hunters might be more satisfied if there were some Sika deer regulations changes.
 4. Both resident and non-resident hunters want quality stags.
 5. WTP means “Willingness to Pay” and is based on the annual fee in the slide.
 6. Nonresidents are negative towards APR and not so negative about a reduction in the stag bag limit based on the survey.
- Q&A Section
 1. Commissioner Showalter asked about scenarios 1-3 on slide 14, are those coordinated with biological data to suggest that those management actions would result in the stag harvest probability increase, or are they just identified variables for the hunters to react to? Commissioner Showalter added, in other words, is there information that suggests if Maryland adopts APR restriction, reduces the harvest level, and quality stag harvest probability, does it increase to 20%?
 - a. Dr. Knoche commented that it is more of a respective relationship. There is no actual relationship well-refined there. All Sika deer, quality stag, not a quality stag, and hinds are in that annual harvest probability. Some substitute efforts could increase harvest probability when hunters see more deer due to certain standards.

- b. Associate Director Brian Eyer added that these two things are the most common items requested by hunters (antler point restrictions and reducing the stag bag limit). Therefore, it was essential to include those items in the survey. The nice thing about Sika deer compared to white-tailed deer is that 100% of Sika deer yearlings are spikes. It is unlike white-tailed deer, where a yearling could have 8 points. Therefore, if Maryland decides to institute, for example, a two-point antlered point restriction on Sika, staff will probably see that harvest increase. Sika deer would go up more than white-tailed deer.
2. Commissioner Jenkins asked if the trip expenditures include land leases and feed purchased for the deer.
 - a. Dr. Knoche replied that the survey did not ask for a land lease; it included lodging, gas, and food. However, another field was left to the hunter's discretion to determine what was considered other, but a land lease was not asked for. The survey asked for trip-specific expenditures. A lease is a yearly expenditure and not a trip specific. If a hunter has only gone out once, a hunter may consider the land lease a trip expenditure in the other category.

2023 Legislative Session Update – Brian Eyer, Associate Director

- Associate Director Eyer outlined the list of the 36 bills, with some being cross-filed, that Wildlife and Heritage Service is monitoring on the Summary of 2023 Proposed Legislation as of February 14, 2023. [ATTACHMENT B]
- The Commission members can track the bills online at the Maryland General Assembly website at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/>.
- Chair Wagner mentioned that as Associate Director Eyer summarized the bills, the Commission should consider if they would support or reject a bill. Chair Wagner expressed that he thinks it is part of the Commission's mission to voice the Commission's opinion based on the stakeholders and the hunting community.
- Discussion ensued on the bills.
- Chair Wagner suggested that the Commission vote on the bills for the record.
- Q&A Section in House Bills
 1. Chair Wagner asked which funding source will pay for HB0874 and SB0611 Office of the Attorney General Environment and Natural Resources Monitoring Unit – Establishment.
 - a. General Funds will likely fund this if the bill passes.
 2. Commissioner Showalter asked about the Department's position on HB1085 Boating – Migratory Waterfowl Season – Prohibited Acts.
 - a. This bill will close a number of waterways in Dorchester County to the passage of any boat during the waterfowl hunting season when hunting is occurring at a blind or blindsite.
 - b. The Department's position was not available at this time.
 3. Commissioner Jenkins asked why is HB1119 Dorchester County – Hunting Fur-Bearing Mammals submitted to allow the hunting of fur-bearing mammals all year round.
 - a. Staff thinks this bill was intended to authorize the hunting of coyotes all year round, which is technically already allowed in law.
 4. Commissioner Showalter asked if a letter from the Commission on this vote would go to the legislative committees.
 - a. Chair Wagner replied that a letter to the committees is acceptable; however, the vote would let the members of the Commission approach delegates and senators on behalf of the Wildlife Advisory Commission as to bills that the Commission support and does not support. In addition, it puts the Commission on record as to what the Commission views are on these House Bills.
- Motion
 1. Commissioner Parks moved to accept that the Commission had favorable opinions on all House Bills except HB0934, HB0954, HB1085, and HB1119.
 2. Commissioner Showalter seconded.

3. All in favor.

- Associate Director Eyler summarized the Senate Bills on [ATTACHMENT B].
- Motion
- Commissioner Parks moved to oppose SB0001, SB0086, SB0779, and SB0118, with no opinion on SB0526, and support the others cross-filed with the House Bills, except the Senate Bills that were cross-filed the Commission opposed.
- Commissioner Showalter seconded.
- All in favor.
 1. Commissioner Parks asked for a copy of Senator Elfreth's Testimony in Favor of SB0327 Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation – Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps.
 2. Chair Wagner requested a copy of Senator Elfreth's Testimony in Favor of SB0327 Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation – Funding, Promotion, Management, License, Permits, and Stamps be a part of the meeting minutes. [ATTACHMENT C]

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – No Report

Natural Resources Police Update – Captain Garren gave a presentation.

- Captain Garren mentioned that Natural Resources Police (NRP) is still waiting for a Colonel to be appointed.
- Captain Garren outlined the 2023 Natural Resources Police stats as of January 1 as a total of 1660: 1229 warnings, 427 citations, and 4 SERO (Repair Orders).
- There were 34% wildlife violations, 12% boating, 13% public lands, 12% fisheries, and 29% traffic violations.
- NRP recently had a graduation class of 14 cadets. As part of their requirements to use e-tickets, the cadets must write 50 traffic violations to be able to use the e-tickets system; that is the reason for the increase in traffic violations for February and most likely for March.

Old Business

- WHS Regulations Status – Director Peditto pointed out that these regulations that expand the time window for the Deer Cooperator Shooter Permit have moved to the Maryland Register. It will allow the Deer Cooperator Permit Holders to shoot from January 15 to April 15. The deadline for comments with the Maryland Register is February 27.
 1. Chair Wagner expressed that the previous Commission members rejected this proposal.
 2. Staff will review any public comments once the regulations move out of the Maryland Register. Then, the staff will be tasked with adopting the proposal; if there is no substantial public comment, the team will move to adopt the proposal.
 3. Commissioner Schroyer expressed that the compromise pending the Maryland Register may be good because the extension went from a proposed six months to three months.
 4. The Office of the Attorney General has expressed concerns about the statutory authority to issue Deer Cooperator Permits. The suggestion was to adopt legislation similar to the Deer Management Permits.
 5. Chair Wagner concluded that the April end date is a better compromise than the July date.
 6. The Commission decided to leave comments on these regulations to the individual Commission members.
- Hunter Education Programming – Chair Wagner indicated that this topic must be revisited.
- Future Hunting License and Stamp Model Discussion will continue at the March 15 WAC meeting since the SB0327 was scheduled to be heard at the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee.
- Blood Tracking Dogs Regulation – The Commission will discuss this at a future WAC meeting.

New Business

- 2023 Oklahoma New Hard Cards – Chair Wagner mentioned that he hunts in other states and

receives notifications to renew hunting licenses. In addition, Oklahoma created a new thing that is like a credit card, and it automatically renews every year; the person's licenses are on the card. Chair Wagner added that Oklahoma also does excellent marketing, which Chair Wagner discussed with Director Peditto.

1. Chair Wagner suggested to the Commission that this concept is something the Commission should discuss.
2. Director Peditto recognized that auto-renewals of hunting and fishing licenses increase enrollment. The technology is there, but the Department keeps getting roadblocks. A new COMPASS product will be released in the next two years.

Chair Wagner requested to add this topic, Hunting License Automatic Renewal, to the March 15, 2023, WAC meeting agenda.

Chair Wagner requested a Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3) Program Update at every other WAC meeting because it is something that the Commission needs to focus on going forward – particularly if SB 327 passes.

Chair Wagner announced that Ducks Unlimited, Maryland Sportsmen Foundation, and Delta Waterfowl sponsored a youth hunt on February 4, 2023, with the assistance of WHS' Information and Education Manager Chris Markin. There were over 51 in attendance and 27 youth hunters that never hunted or only hunted for a minimal time. Mentors from Ducks Unlimited, Maryland Sportsmen Foundation, and Delta Waterfowl were there. Hopefully, there will be some pictures available online for people to see. It was a great success.

Public Comment –

- There were no public comments.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, using Google Meet.

Attendance

Members:	M. Cole, T.J. Jenkins, J. Parks, K. Rossignuolo, J. Schroyer, R. Showalter, and C. Wagner
Absent:	B. Alder and S. Keithley
Guest:	S. Boyles-Griffin, K. Delph, S. Knoche, K. Ojo, K. Ritchie, and A. Ringim
Staff:	B. Eyler, S. Garren, J. McKnight, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, H. Spiker, K. Stonesifer, G. Timko, J. Trudeau

HUNTER OPINIONS AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH SIKA DEER HUNTING AND MANAGEMENT



MORGANTM

PATUXENT ENVIRONMENTAL AND AQUATIC RESEARCH LABORATORY

The Morgan State PEARL Team

Dr. Scott Knoche

Kaitlynn Ritchie

Katie Delph

Abubakar Ringim



For this Presentation...

1) Survey Methods

2) Sika Deer Hunter Acceptance of Regulations

- Antler Point Restrictions
- Bag Limits

3) Sika Deer Hunting Scenario Choice Experiment

- Preferences for Attributes (Harvest, Regulations, Fees)
- Willingness to Pay for Sika Hunting Scenario

4) Sika Deer Hunting Trip Expenditures

5) Private Land and Public Land

6) Key Takeaways

Survey Methods

- Web-based email survey
- **Sample frame:** Hunters who had purchased a resident or nonresident, regular or senior license
- Two email contacts
 - First email on February 25, 2022
 - Second email on March 4, 2022
- Asked hunters to participate if they had previously hunted for sika deer in Maryland
- 4,209 unique survey responses received
- 3,655 valid surveys (hunters reporting having previously hunted sika deer)



Are you a sika deer hunter? If yes – please complete this survey!

The [sika deer](#) is a popular game species on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore that attracts interest from resident and nonresident hunters. Understanding sika deer hunter perspectives is critical to the effective management of this game species. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Morgan State University have developed a sika deer hunter survey to obtain this understanding.

If you have ever hunted sika deer in Maryland, no matter how long ago, please complete this survey.

By taking a few minutes to complete this survey you will be helping state managers to enhance Maryland hunting opportunities.

If you have ever hunted sika deer in Maryland, your input is essential to ensure the accuracy of our results. Your answers are strictly confidential. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

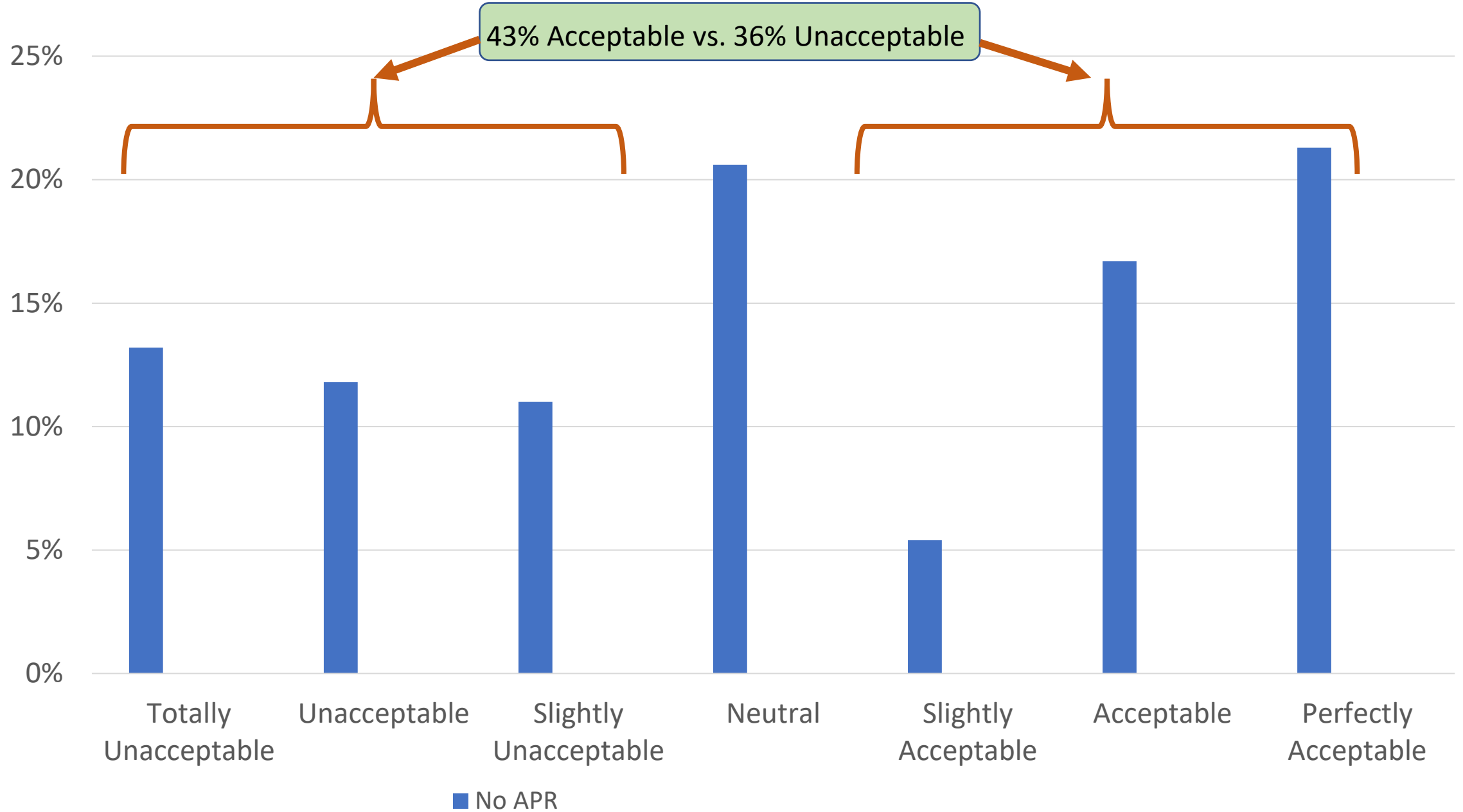
[Please click here to take the survey.](#)

If you have any questions, please email sikadeersurvey.dnr@maryland.gov.

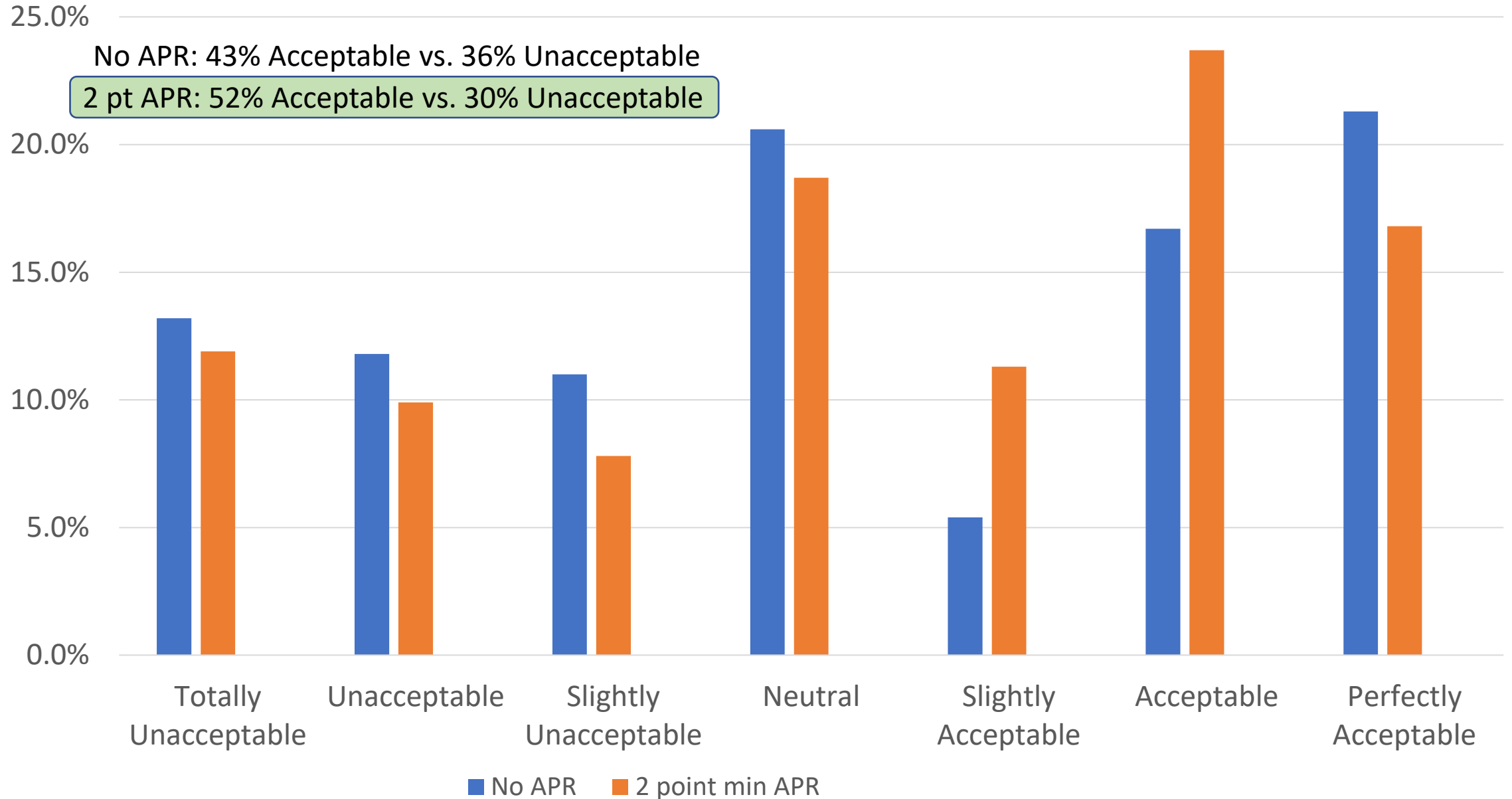
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Morgan State University

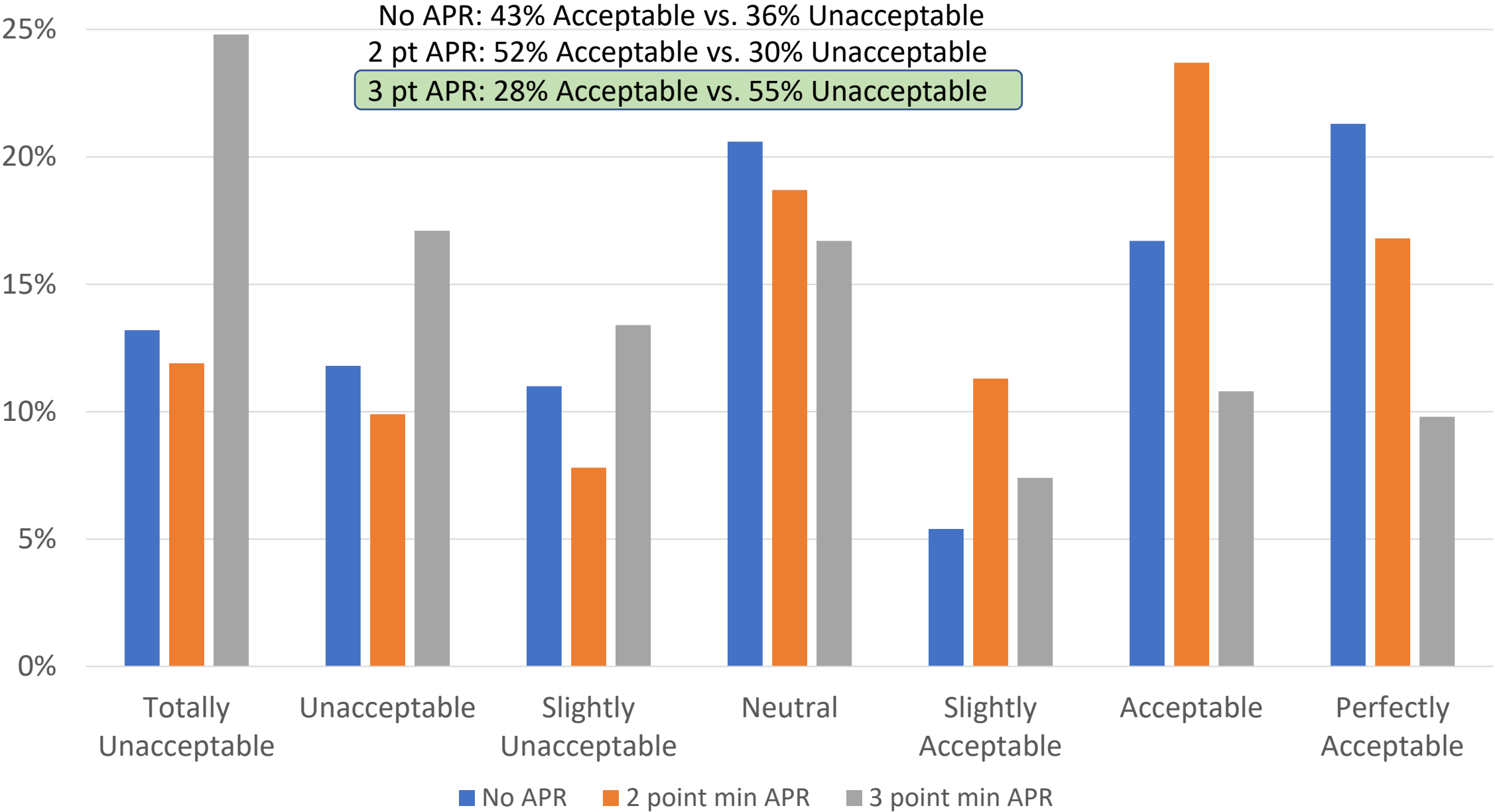
Acceptance of Antler Point Restrictions – No APR



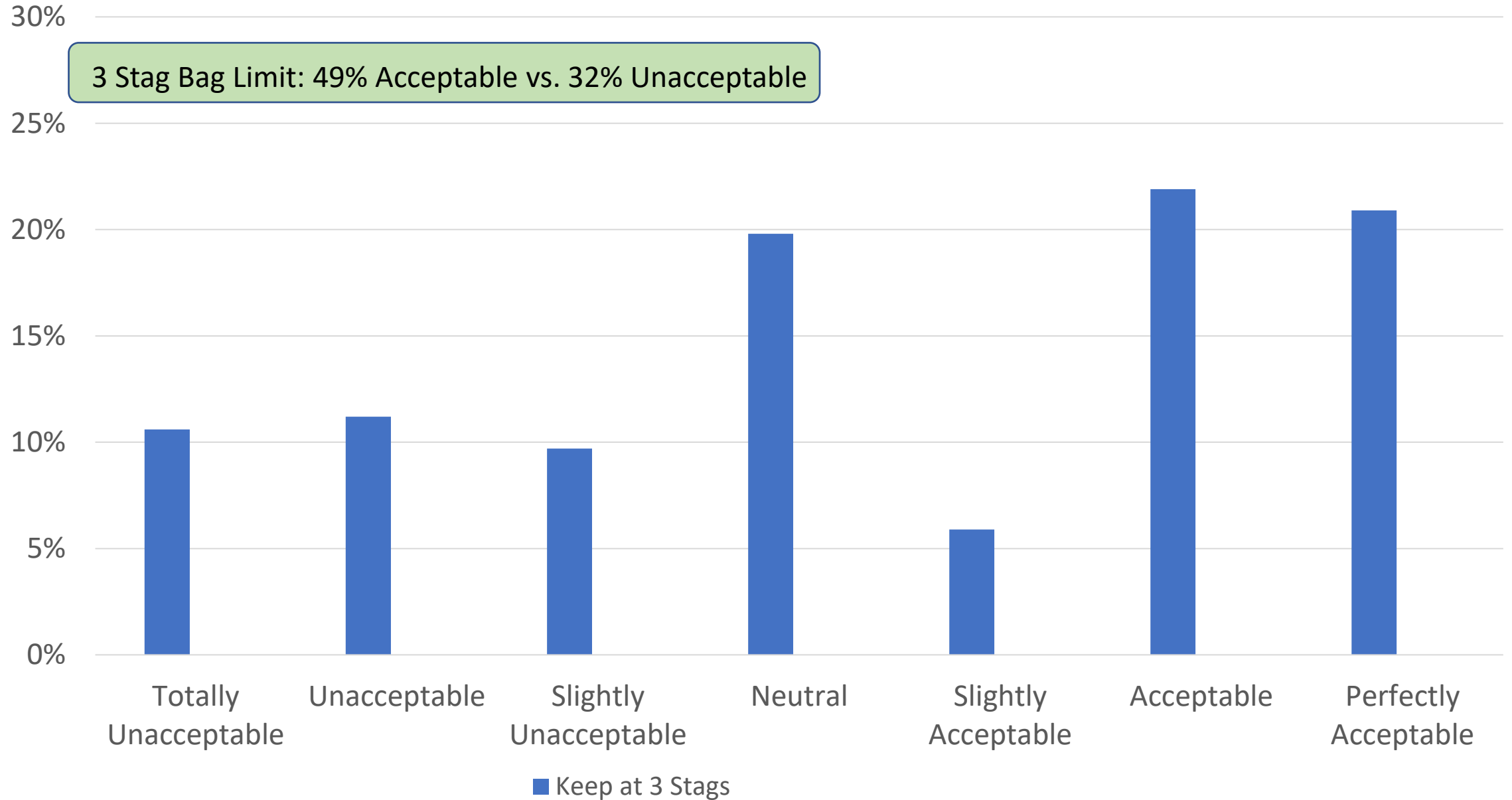
Acceptance of Antler Point Restriction



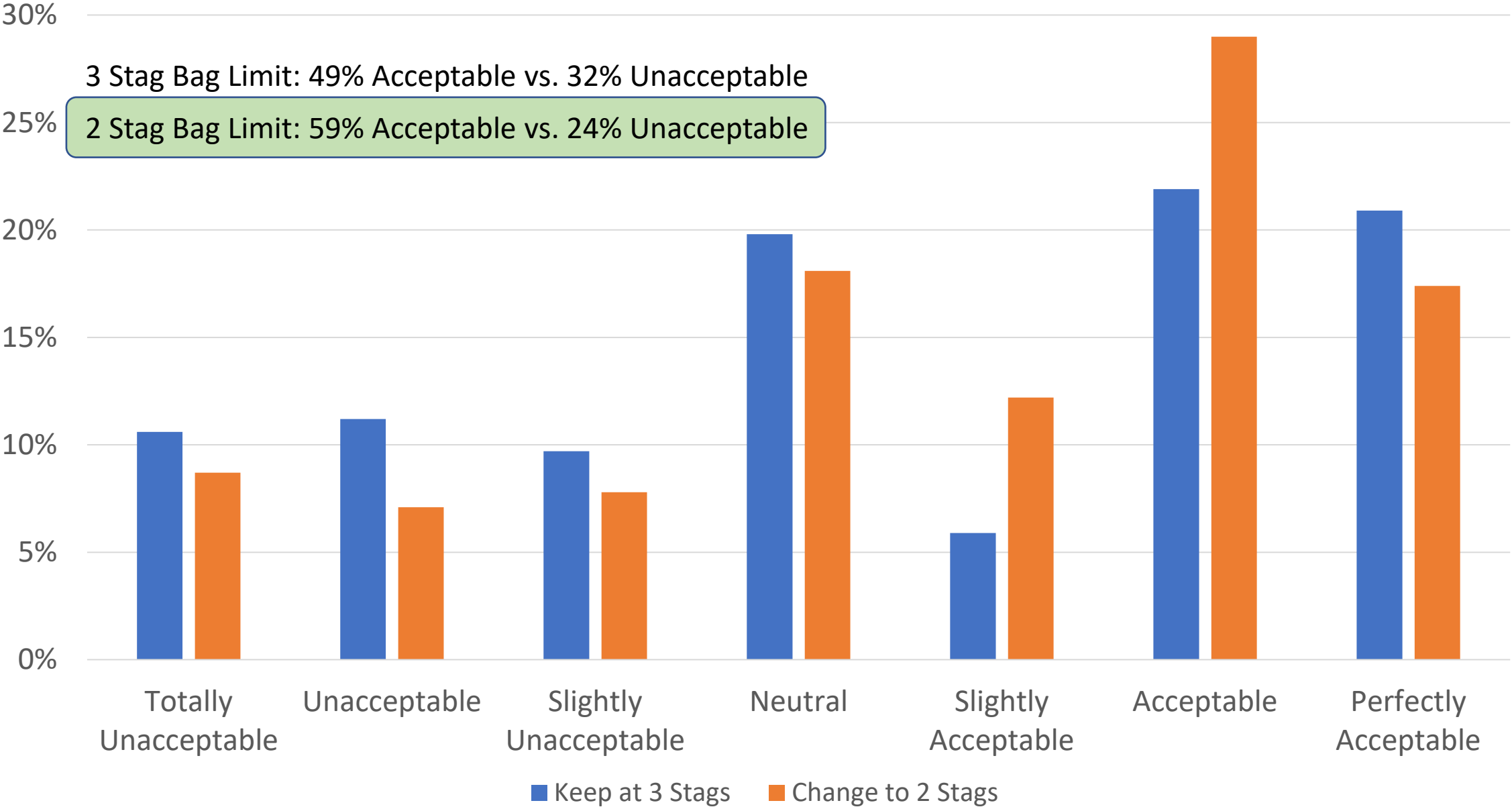
Acceptance of Antler Point Restriction



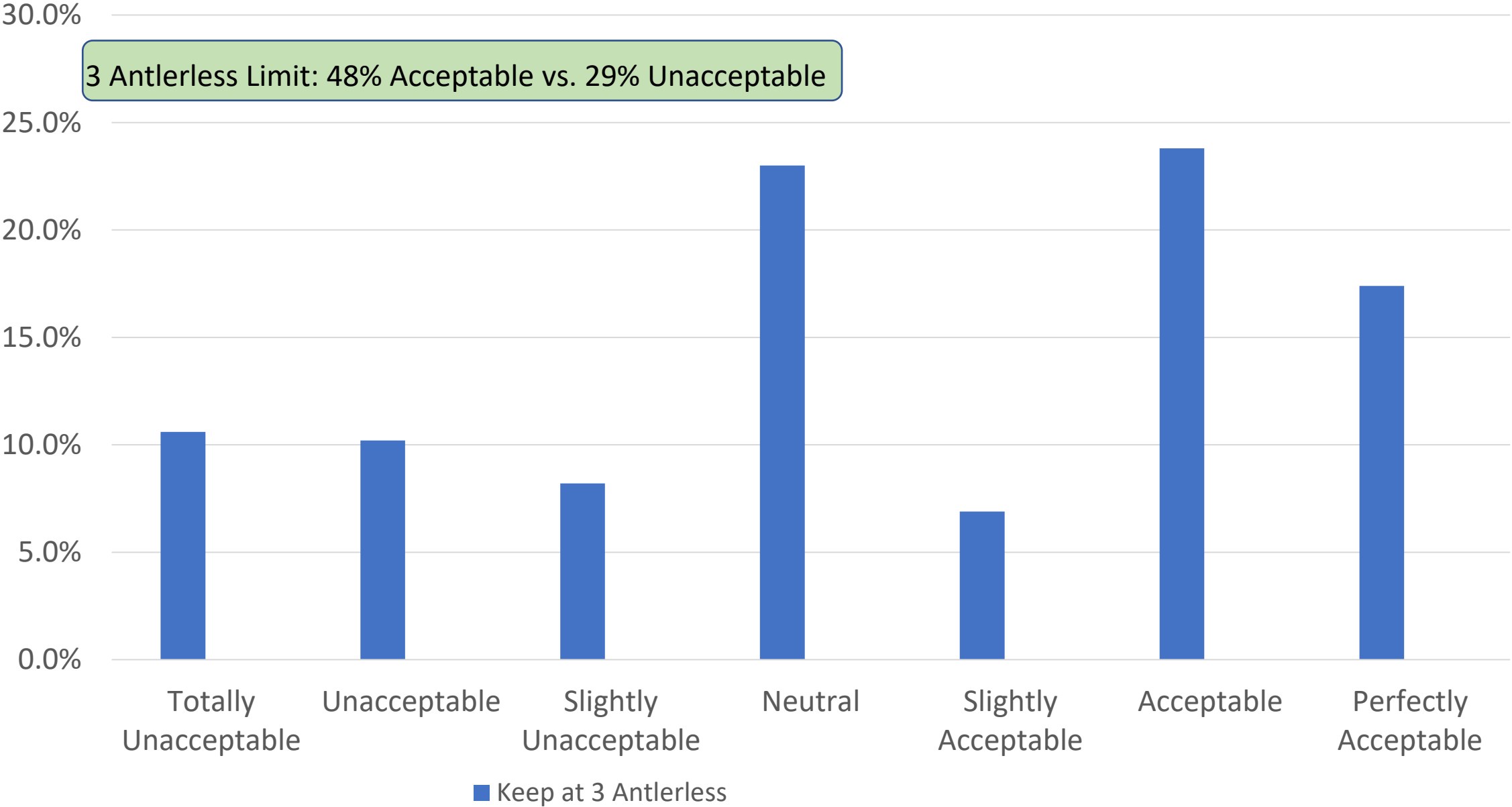
Acceptance of Combined Weapon Season Stag Limit



Acceptance of Combined Weapon Season Stag Limit



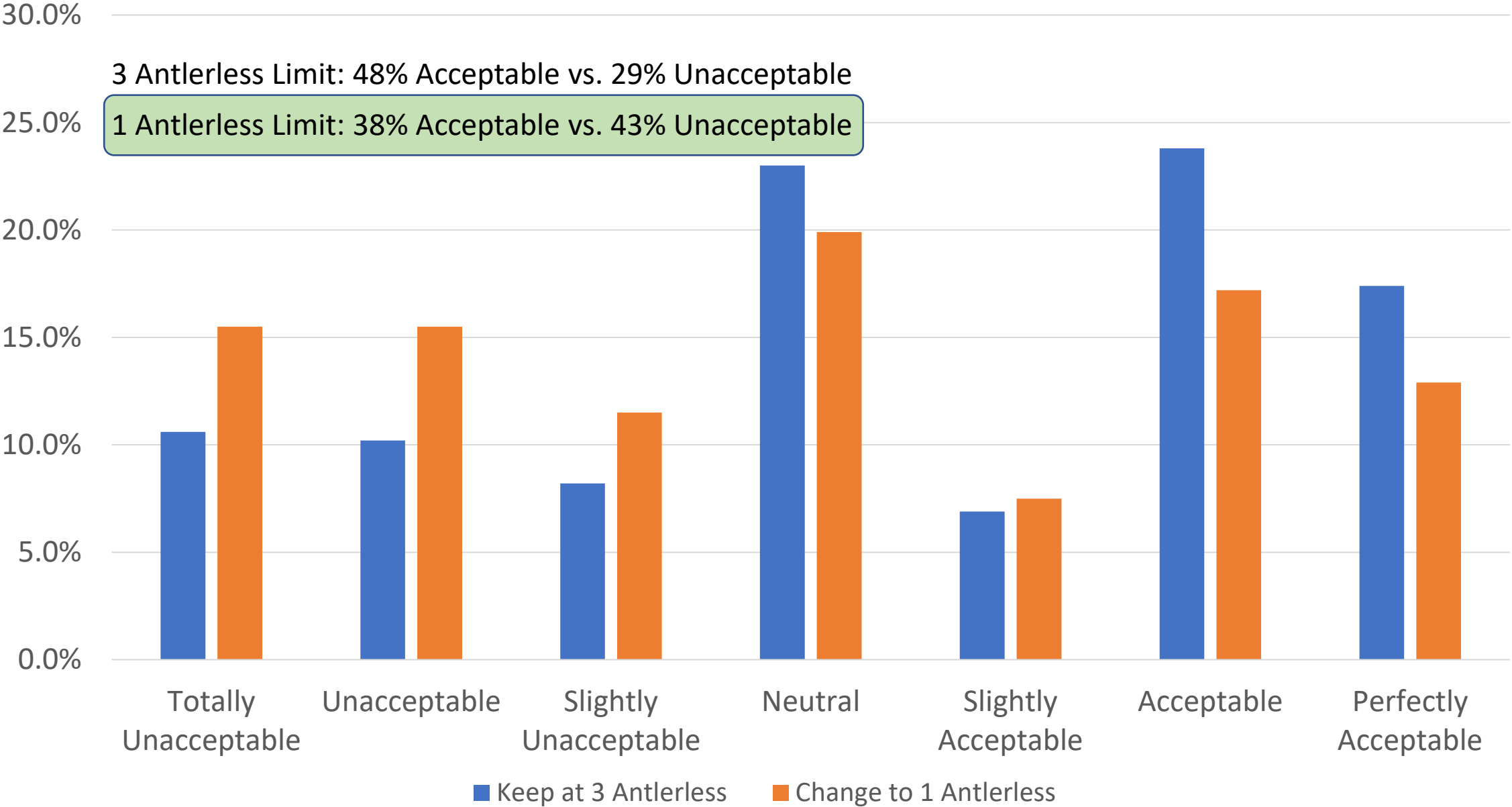
Acceptance of Single Weapon Season Antlerless Limit



3 Antlerless Limit: 48% Acceptable vs. 29% Unacceptable

■ Keep at 3 Antlerless

Acceptance of Single Weapon Season Antlerless Limit



Choice Experiment – Examining Preferences for the Sika Deer Hunting Experience

- Premise – Sika Deer hunters receive utility (benefits) associated with aspects of the sika deer hunting experience
- Utility is a function of a wide range of sika deer hunting attributes
 - Examples include harvest probabilities, regulations, and license/permit fees

Procedure

- 1) Hunters compare different sika deer hunting scenarios
- 2) Hunters identify their preferred hunting scenario

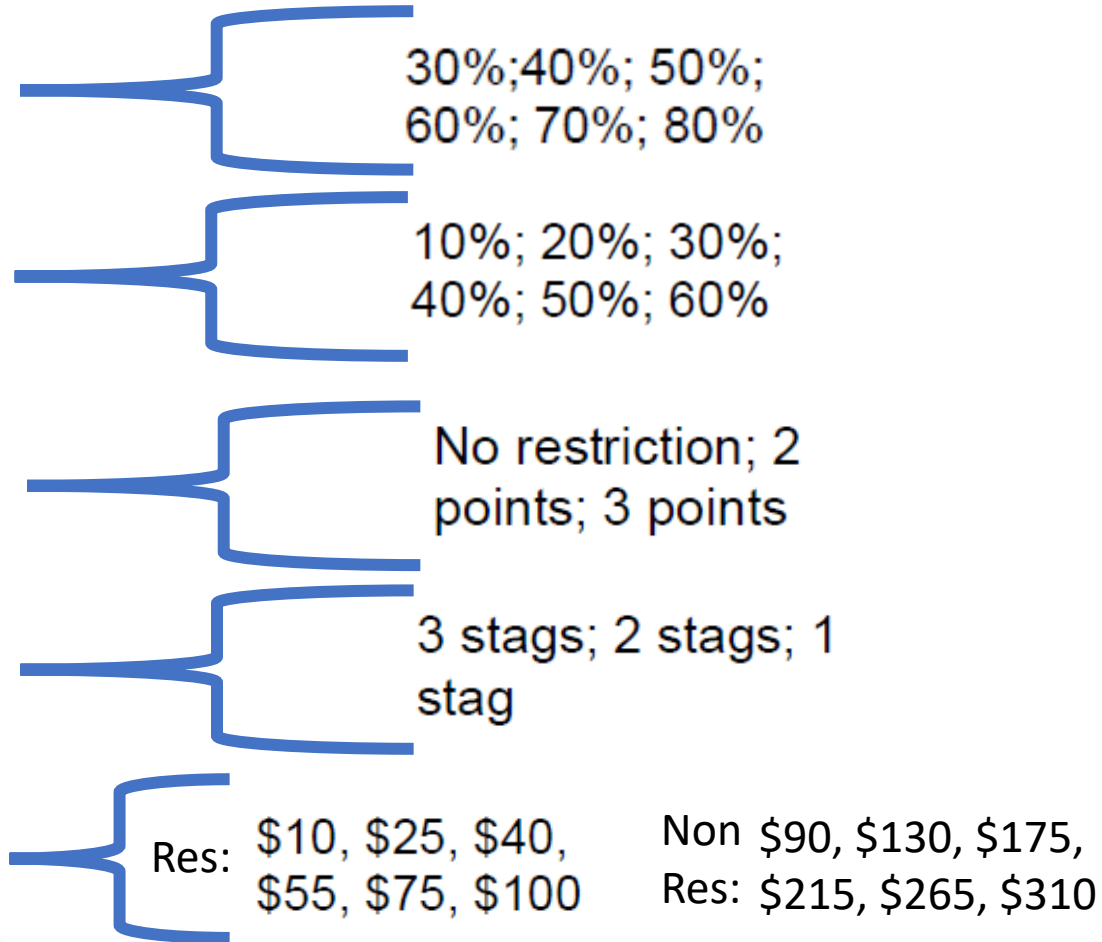
Then...

- 3) We can identify hunter preferences for attributes and willingness to pay for a sika deer hunting scenario

Choice 1: Which Sika Deer Hunting Scenario do you most prefer?

SIKA DEER HUNTING CHARACTERISTICS	Scenario A	Scenario B
Annual Hunter Success		
% harvesting at least 1 sika deer (antlered or antlerless)	40%	80%
% harvesting at least 1 quality stag (3 points or more on 1 antler)	10%	60%
Antlered Regulations		
Antler Point Restriction (min. points on 1 antler, all stags)	None	2 points
Combined Weapon Season Antlered Bag Limit	2 stags	1 stag
Annual Fees		
Licenses, Stamps, & Permits	\$40	\$55

Attribute Levels



	Resident	Non-Resident
ANNUAL HUNTER SUCCESS		
% harvesting at least 1 sika deer	+*	+*
% harvesting at least 1 quality stag	+*	+*
ANTLER POINT RESTRICTIONS		
2 points (relative to no APR)	+*	-*
3 points (relative to no APR)	+	-*
COMBINED WEAPON STAG LIMIT		
2 stags (relative to 3 stags)	+*	+
1 stag (relative to 3 stags)	-*	-*
ANNUAL FEES		
Licenses, Permits, & Stamps	-*	-*

- Annual Hunter Success impt (positive) for residents and non-residents
- Annual Fees impt (negative) for residents and non-residents
- Residents better off with moderate regulations change
- Key Difference: Non-Residents negative about both APRs; Residents positive about 2 pt APR
- Key Similarity: 1 stag bag limit viewed negatively by both residents and nonresidents

* = 5%
Stag.
Sig

WTP for
Maryland
Resident

WTP for
Non-
Resident

WTP Refers to the Economic
Value of a hunting scenario to
an average hunter

Current Scenario

Annual Sika Deer Harvest Probability = 50%
Annual Quality Stag Harvest Probability = 10%
APR = None
Combined Weapon Season Stag Limit = 3

\$58.07

\$157.67

Alternative Scenario 1

Annual Sika Deer Harvest Probability = 55%
Annual Quality Stag Harvest Probability = 20%
APR = 2 points min on 1 side
Combined Weapon Season Stag Limit = 3

\$79.83

\$178.51

Alternative Scenario 2

Annual Sika Deer Harvest Probability = 55%
Annual Quality Stag Harvest Probability = 20%
APR = None
Combined Weapon Season Stag Limit = 2

\$81.07

\$207.14

Alternative Scenario 3

Annual Sika Deer Harvest Probability = 55%
Annual Quality Stag Harvest Probability = 20%
APR = 2 points min on 1 side
Combined Weapon Season Stag Limit = 2

\$88.23

\$188.61

Caveat: WTP is derived from
annual fees; this could be
interpreted in terms of annual
license fees and sika deer
specific permits

Approach: By examining the
change in WTP across two
scenarios, we can identify WTP
associated with changes in sika
deer hunting attributes

Alternative 3 Example: 2 new
regs, +5% deer & +10% quality
stag harvest



~\$30 increase in WTP for avg.
res and non-res hunter

Sika Deer Hunting Trip Expenditures

	Archery	Muzzle-loader	Firearm	Total
Avg. Hunting Days	5.4	2.7	3.5	11.6
Avg. Days per Trip	2.6	2.5	2.3	--
Avg. Trips	2.1	1.1	1.5	4.7
Avg. Spending per Trip	\$568	\$462	\$351	
Avg. Annual Trip Spending	\$1,188	\$502	\$528	\$2,218

\$2,218 avg. trip
spending * 3937 (from
2021-2022 Hunter
Mail Survey)

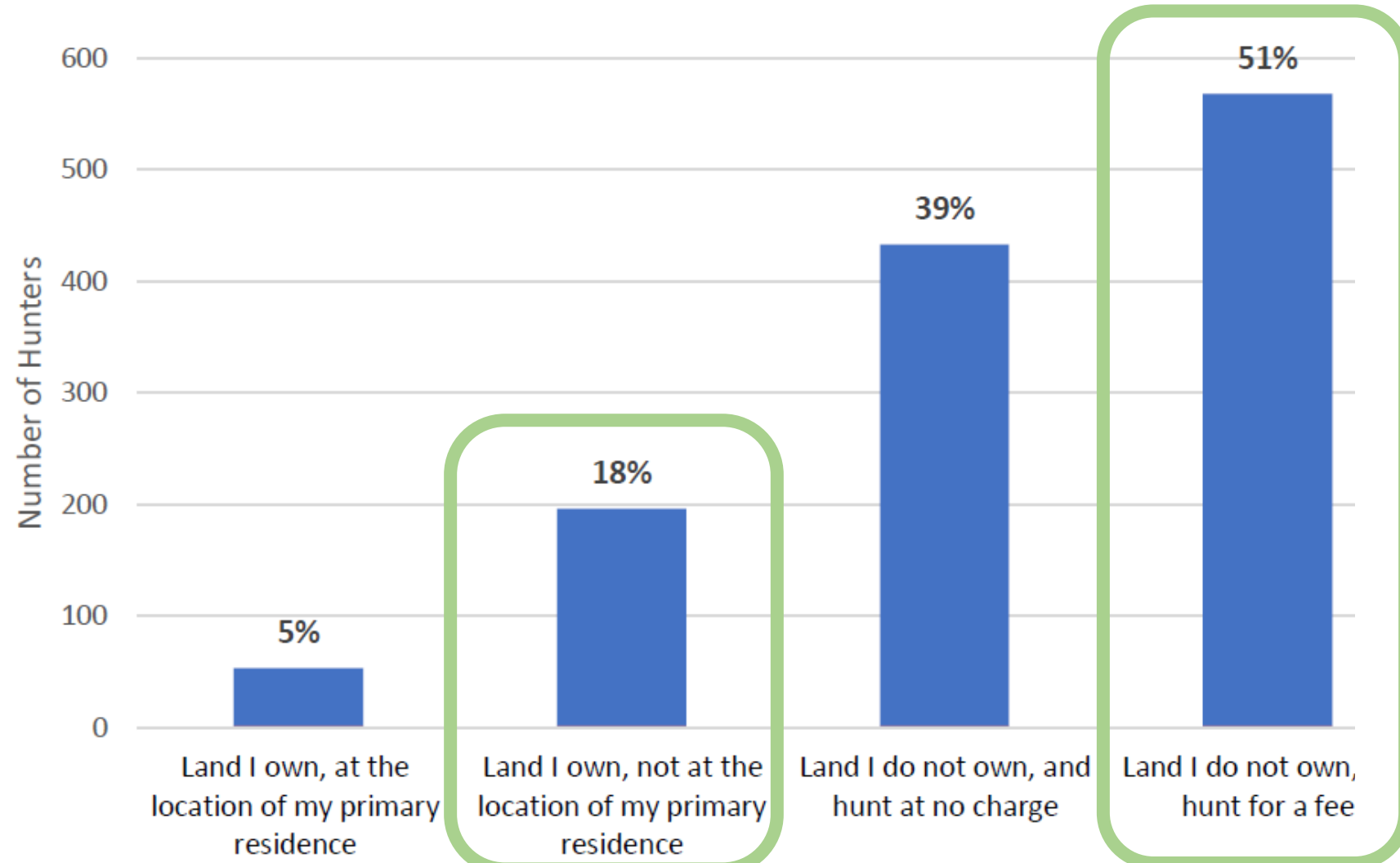


**Estimated \$8.7 million in
trip spending annually**

**\$5.7 million spent in
the county hunted**

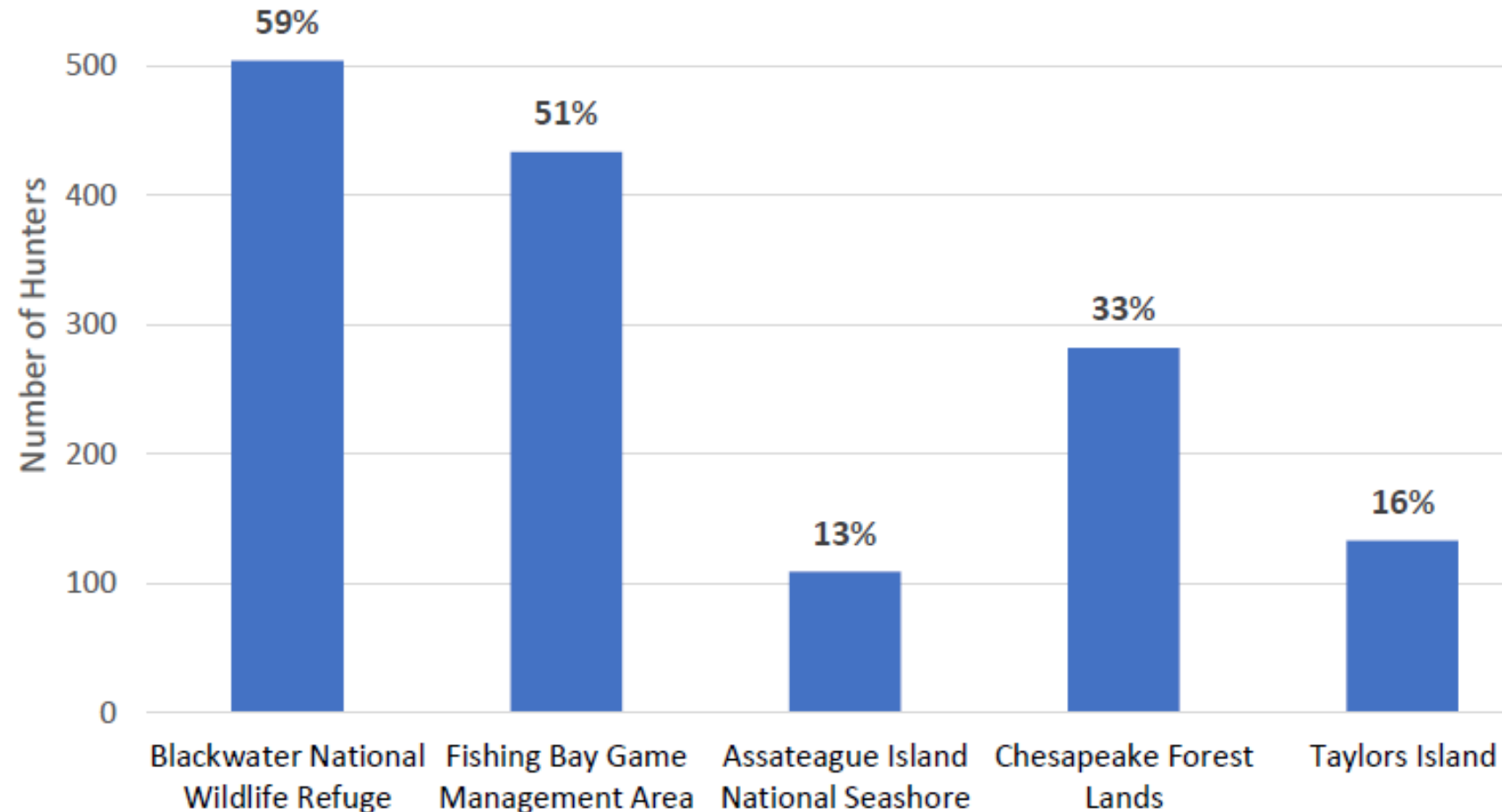
Private Land

- 53% of respondents hunted Private Land in last 3 years
- Graph to right examines type of land hunted



Public Land

Major Types of Public Land for Sika Deer Hunting



- Nearly one-half of respondents reported hunting Public Land in last 3 years
 - One-third hunted public land in 2021-2022
- Graph to right examines public land hunted

Key Takeaways

- Evidence that more hunters prefer new restrictions (2 point minimum APR, 2 Stag Bag limit) relative to status quo
 - Approximately 10% increase in acceptance with 2 point APR and 2 stag limit
 - Notable exception is that non-residents negative regarding 2 point minimum APR in Choice Experiment
- 2021-2022 spending on sika deer hunting trips = ~ \$9 million
 - Computed using estimate of sika deer hunter produced by Hunter Mail Survey
 - This does not include multiplier effects – re-spending in the region
- Evidence of other regional economic benefits
 - About one-half of private land hunters report hunting land for a fee
 - About one out five hunters report hunting land they own, that is not at primary residence

Thank You!!!



Acknowledgements

- Maryland DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service – Especially Brian Eyler, Jonathan Trudeau, and Paul Peditto
- Maryland Outdoor Recreation Economics Commission
- TJ Jenkins, Muddy Marsh Outfitters & Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission

**Summary of 2023 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 14, 2023)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 36	Title	Primary Sponsor	Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates
HB0188 (SB0320)	Natural Resources - Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership	Delegate Palakovich Carr	In the House - Hearing 2/08 at 1:30 p.m.	Environment and Transportation	Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate - Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m.
HB0378 (SB0310)	Natural Resources - Black Bear Conflict Reduction and Damage Reimbursement Fund - Uses	Delegate Love	In the House - Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation	Budget and Taxation Education, Energy, and the Environment Hearing 2/08 at 1:00 p.m. (Budget and Taxation)
HB0406 (SB0275)	Hunting - Snares, Traps, and Other Similar Devices - Identification Requirement	Delegate Love	In the House - Hearing 2/17 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation	Education, Energy, and the Environment Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m.
HB0449 (SB0323)	Calvert County – Sunday Hunting – Repeal of Time Restrictions	Delegate Morgan, T.	In the House - Hearing 2/24 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation	Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate - Hearing 3/08 at 1:00 p.m.
HB0466 (SB0824)	Worcester County - Natural Resources - Hunting	Delegate Otto	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation	Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.
HB0467	Worcester County - Turkey Hunting - Sundays	Delegate Otto	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation	
HB0683 (SB0091)	Natural Resources – Apprentice Hunting License – Alterations	Delegate Morgan, T.	In the House - Hearing 2/22 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation	Education, Energy, and the Environment Hearing 01/25 at 1:00 p.m.
HB0723 (SB0526)	Natural Resources – Forest Preservation and Retention	Delegate Love	In the House - Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation	Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate - Hearing 3/02 at 1:00 p.m.
HB0874 (SB0611)	Office of the Attorney General - Environment and Natural Resources Monitoring Unit - Establishment	Delegate Stewart	In the House - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation and Appropriations In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.

**Summary of 2023 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 14, 2023)**

HB0934 (SB0779)	Natural Resources - Female Deer Hunting Contests - Authorization	Delegate Hutchinson	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation	Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.
HB0950 (SB0836)	Maryland Native Plants Program	Delegate Stein	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation	Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate - Hearing 3/02 at 1:00 p.m.
HB0954	Natural Resources - Hunting - Tundra Swans	Delegate Hornberger	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation	
HB0983 (SB0327)	Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation - Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps	Delegate Allen	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation	Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate - Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m.
HB1005 (SB0096)	Howard County – Archery Hunting – Safety Zone and Position of Archery Hunter Ho. Co. 15–23	Howard County Delegation	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation	Education, Energy, and the Environment First Reading Education, Energy, and the Environment
HB1085	Boating - Migratory Waterfowl Season - Prohibited Acts	Dorchester County Delegation	In the House - Hearing 3/03 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation	
HB1087 (SB0796)	Wicomico County - Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones	Wicomico County Delegation	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation	Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.
HB1118 (SB0777)	Middle Shore Counties - Sunday Hunting - Repeal of Time Restrictions	Delegate Hutchinson	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation	Education, Energy, and the Environment In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.
HB1119	Dorchester County - Hunting - Fur-Bearing Mammals	Dorchester County Delegation	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation	
SB0001	Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)	Senator Waldstreicher	Hearing 2/07 at 1:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings	
SB0086	Rifles and Shotguns – Possession – Age Requirement (Raise the Age Act of 2023)	Senator Waldstreicher	Hearing 2/07 at 1:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings	
SB0091 (HB0683)	Natural Resources – Apprentice Hunting License – Alterations	Senator Bailey	Hearing 01/25 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation

**Summary of 2023 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 14, 2023)**

					In the House - Hearing 2/22 at 1:00 p.m.
SB0096 (HB1005)	Howard County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone and Position of Archery Hunter	Senator Hester	In the Senate - Withdrawn by Sponsor	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation
SB0118	Criminal Law – Prohibitions on Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms	Senator Lee	In the Senate - First Reading Judicial Proceedings	Judicial Proceedings	
SB0155	Prince George's County - Natural Resources - Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones	Senator Jackson	In the Senate - Hearing 3/08 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	
SB0275 (HB0406)	Hunting - Snares, Traps, and Other Similar Devices - Identification Requirement	Senator Bailey	In the Senate - Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation Hearing 2/17 at 1:00 p.m.
SB0310 (HB0378)	Natural Resources - Black Bear Conflict Reduction and Damage Reimbursement Fund - Uses	Senator West	In the Senate - Hearing 2/08 at 1:00 p.m. (Budget and Taxation)	Budget and Taxation Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m.
SB0320 (HB0188)	Natural Resources - Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership	Senator Brooks	In the Senate - Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation Hearing 2/08 at 1:30 p.m.
SB0323 (HB0449)	Calvert County - Sunday Hunting - Repeal of Time Restrictions	Calvert County Senators	In the Senate - Hearing 3/08 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation In the House - Hearing 2/24 at 1:00 p.m.
SB0327 (HB0983)	Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation - Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps	Senator Elfreth	In the Senate - Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation
SB0526 (HB0723)	Natural Resources - Forest Preservation and Retention	Senator Elfreth	In the Senate - Hearing 3/02 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation In the House - Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.
SB0611 (HB0874)	Office of the Attorney General - Environment and Natural Resources Monitoring Unit - Establishment	Senator Bailey	In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation and Appropriations In the House - First Reading Environment

**Summary of 2023 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 14, 2023)**

					and Transportation and Appropriations
SB0777 (HB1118)	Middle Shore Counties - Sunday Hunting - Repeal of Time Restrictions	Senator Mautz	In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation
SB0779 (HB0934)	Natural Resources - Female Deer Hunting Contests - Authorization	Senator Mautz	In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation
SB0796 (HB1087)	Wicomico County - Sunday Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones	Senator Carozza	In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation
SB0824 (HB0466)	Worcester County - Natural Resources - Hunting	Senator Carozza	In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation
SB0836 (HB0950)	Maryland Native Plants Program	Senator Brooks	In the Senate - Hearing 3/02 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Environment and Transportation In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH
Legislative District 30
 Anne Arundel County



James Senate Office Building
 11 Bladen Street, Room 104
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 410-841-3578 · 301-858-3578
 800-492-7122 Ext. 3578
 Fax 410-841-3156 · 301-858-3156
 Sarah.Elfreth@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety,

Transportation, and Environment

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
 Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area

Chair, Joint Subcommittee on
 Program Open Space/Agricultural
 Land Preservation

February 15th, 2023

Testimony in Favor of SB0327
Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation - Funding, Promotion,
Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps

Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, & members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 327, which updates our hunting and preservation laws with the intended goal of expanding hunting opportunities, controlling deer populations, and preserving land. I am proud of the work and the variety of stakeholders that this legislation has engaged over the past few months, and I am hopeful that this Committee sees this legislation as a thoughtful, well-balanced approach.

On community outreach for hunting and conservation this legislation codifies the current Wildlife Conservation, Education, and Outreach program within DNR. This newly codified program will provide outreach to communities that have historically not had access to hunting and conservation programs as well as further engage veterans as it relates to these activities. (Page 3 Lines 23-28 and Page 4 Lines 1-16)

On hunting license/stamp fees this legislation will, at the request of the hunting community, take a measured approach in increasing the fees to purchase a hunting license/stamp – which have not been raised since 1989. These increases not only keep us on par with our neighboring States but also, by way of Federal Pittman-Robertson Funds, generate approximately an additional \$8 million more Federal dollars to our State. This legislation will also grant non-resident students attending in State schools the resident price for the differing licenses/stamps. The increases will still keep Maryland competitive when compared to our neighboring states - Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia all have an average resident cost of

\$67.08 while this legislation proposes an average resident cost of \$53.50. (Page 8 Lines 22-31 and Page 9 Lines 1-20)

On the increased federal funds the State will receive this legislation will:

1. Authorize the use of the increased federal funds to be transferred to the Heritage Conservation Fund to be used to purchase lands that can be used by the General Public for hunting. (Page 3 Lines 21-22 and Page 12 Lines 22-24)
2. Create 8 new pins in the Wildlife Conservation, Education, and Outreach Program to further support their outreach efforts. (Page 12 Lines 25-28)
3. Authorize the use of funds to be spent on migratory game bird habitat restoration in Canada – which 36 other States currently do. The legislation will also require a report on the effectiveness of any such expenditures to the General Assembly. (Page 10 Lines 27-30 and Page 11 Lines 4-9)
4. Require DNR to report on any suitable uses for the increased federal funding. (Page 12 Lines 13-14)

On deer and the impact that they continue to have on Marylanders and our farmers this legislation will:

1. Require DNR, in consultation with MDA, to develop a plan to address the overpopulation of deer in the State – including the feasibility of a closure strategy on State parks, State lands, and local lands consultation with our local partners to mitigate deer populations. (Page 12 Lines 1-17)
2. Creates, for the first time, a stamp to hunt Sika Deer (Various pages)

On the liability of private landowners who allow specific individuals, rather than the public at large to hunt on their property this legislation will further clarify CH523 (2022) to ensure that nothing may be construed to:

1. Require a landowner to allow the general public access to the land owners land; and
2. Prohibit a landowner from limiting or posting the landowner's land against entry.

On Sunday hunting for migratory game birds this legislation, as drafted, would authorize the hunting of migratory game birds on Sundays. It is important to note that, based on the seasons for geese and ducks, this would only account for 8 to 10 Sundays a year. However, appreciating that counties and communities are different and after meeting with the Maryland Horse Council, I am proposing the following as a potential amendment that will give our Counties 3 options with regards to this:

1. A County may opt out of this all together and lose that day for the hunting season.
2. A County may choose to only offer Sunday hunting for migratory game birds from 30 minutes before sunrise to 12:00PM.

3. If not explicitly listed as opting out or for a 12:00PM end time, then the County would be granting full Sunday hunting.

This is obviously an omnibus piece of legislation. While there is still work to be done to finesse the Sunday hunting piece, I look forward to working with the Horse Council and local delegations to determine which counties would like to opt-in or opt-out of Sunday hunting of waterfowl.

Once again, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 327 – and I look forward to hearing from the Committee.

Sincerely,

Sarah Elfreth