

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 15, 2012

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

Introductions: New Members

- Director Peditto welcomed the new members on behalf of Governor O'Malley and Secretary Griffin to the Wildlife Advisory Commission.
- Ms. Stephanie Boyles Griffin is a Wildlife Scientist for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Ms. Boyles Griffin has been in the field of wildlife conservation and management for about fifteen years. Most of the work that Ms. Boyles Griffin deals with for the HSUS is focused on wildlife conflict and resolution along with human dimension. Ms. Boyles Griffin tries to help people solve issues related to wildlife damage to properties and crops by means of non-lethal methods when possible and when lethal is necessary, it is done in the most humane way as possible.
- Ms. Tina Gregor is a stay at home mother. Ms. Gregor is involved in hunting and fishing. Ms. Gregor is a member of Becoming Outdoor Women (BOW). Also, Ms. Gregor has been involved with National Wild Turkey Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Maryland Crossbow Federation. Ms. Gregor really enjoys the outdoors.
- Mr. Erik Gulbrandsen is from Kent County. Mr. Gulbrandsen is a life long hunter and a fisherman. Mr. Gulbrandsen works in non-profit public relations. Mr. Gulbrandsen has been very active with Ducks Unlimited and other conservation organizations.

Approval for the February 15, 2012 Meeting Agenda

- The February 15, 2012 meeting agenda was submitted to the Commission.
- The February 15, 2012 agenda was adopted by consensus.

Approval for Minutes from November 16th Meeting

- The November 16th meeting minutes were distributed to the Commission prior to the meeting.
- The November 16th meeting minutes were adopted by consensus.

Certificates and Transition – Presentation given by Paul A. Peditto, Director, Wildlife and Heritage Service

- Director Peditto highlighted by law the Commission has nine standing members. This is the first time in 11 years as director and 23 years with the Department that we had new members and the departing members attend the same meeting. This is a rare opportunity for both the Commission and the Department. This allows the Department to recognize those members who are departing from the Commission and equally important for the new members to get a feel for how the Commission operates and the transition of officers.
- Director Peditto added that the Commission agenda is geared to keeping the Commission informed on topics and issues through-out the year. Occasionally, the Commission receives inquiries or comments from the public from a link on the DNR website. Usually, the emails are questions for the species/subject matter specialist in the Department and not the Commission.
- Presentation of Certificates:
 1. Director Peditto presented the first Certificate of Service to Commissioner Fry for five years of service on the Wildlife Advisory Commission. Commissioner Fry is a member of the fox chasing community. For years the Wildlife Advisory Commission was lacking representation from the fox chasing community, which Commissioner Fry filled. Beyond that he represented farmers, landowners, and waterfowl hunters. Commissioner Fry is well informed on the legislative process and on wildlife conservation topics. Commissioner Fry commented that it

has been a privilege as citizen to be a representative on this Commission. Commissioner Fry added that the most pleasing thing for him during the last five years is the diversity that has been added to the Commission, which was something that the Commission struggled with.

2. Director Peditto presented the second Certificate of Service to Chairman Freeland for eleven years of service. Director Peditto mentioned that there were some discussions as to what to put on Chairman Freeland's certificate. Director Peditto recalled several conversations he had with Chairman Freeland and the tales of Chairman Freeland and the young members of his family chasing gobblers on the family farm. Director Peditto expressed appreciation for the extraordinary effectiveness Chairman Freeland brought to the role of managing the Commission's affairs. Chairman Freeland indicated it is an honor to receive Wade Henry's original print. He added that it has been a pleasure to work with the Wildlife and Heritage Service. Chairman Freeland indicated that WHS staff does a great job in managing our outdoors, our wildlife and our stakeholders.
 3. Director Peditto presented the third Certificate of Service to Commissioner Lamp for seventeen years of service. Commissioner Lamp has been a remarkable member of the Commission with his dedication and attention to detail. Commissioner Lamp's input has been valuable to the operation of the Commission and to informing a diverse dialogue with the body. Commissioner Lamp highlighted that he has seen over the years many of these certificates completed by Wade Henry. Commissioner Lamp expressed that he will treasure it and it is a wonderful award. Commissioner Lamp thanked the Wildlife and Heritage Service staff for the work that they do for the resources. Commissioner Lamp thanked former Governor Parris N. Glendening and Secretary John Griffin who both collectively had the foresight to realize that there was another perspective on wildlife management that should be considered.
- Transition: As Vice-Chairman Plummer took over the meeting as Vice Chairman. The existing members introduced themselves to the new members of the Commission.
 1. Commissioner Charles Rodney is from Prince George's County. Commissioner Rodney is a rabbit hunter. Commissioner Rodney has tried other game species but Commissioner Rodney really enjoys rabbit hunting. Commissioner Rodney is a retired federal employee.
 2. Commissioner Gary Fratz is from Garrett County. Commissioner Fratz is a farmer. Commissioner Fratz mostly hunts deer but in the past Commissioner Fratz had hunted small game. Commissioner Fratz highlighted that hunting with his family is a social event that he enjoys.
 3. Commissioner Bonomo is State Director of the Audubon Society D.C.; it is one of 23 state programs of the National Audubon Society. In Maryland, the Audubon Society does a couple of things from handling environmental education centers on the Eastern Shore and inner-cities of Baltimore. Along with that, Commissioner Bonomo is involved with managing a statewide program designating the most significant bird areas in Maryland. This information is used to inform land use decisions and conservation initiatives with the State of Maryland as a partner. Commissioner Bonomo has been involved with conservation efforts for 27 years.
 4. Vice Chairman Plummer is from Southern Maryland. Vice Chairman Plummer is also involved with multiple conservation groups, such as the Maryland Waterfowler's Association. Vice Chairman Plummer was president of the Maryland Waterfowler's Association for two terms. Vice Chairman Plummer is also involved with the Wounded Warrior Program.
 5. Commissioner Compton is serving as president to the Maryland Bowhunter Society (MBC); he has been president for twelve years. Commissioner Compton is a certified Maryland hunter safety instructor. Commissioner Compton has been serving as a hunter safety instructor for three years. Commissioner Compton just retired from the Maryland Division of Corrections after 25 years of service. Commissioner Compton is now working with the National Archery

in School Program.

New Chairman for WAC Discussion – Group Discussion

- Commissioner Bonomo is volunteered to work with another Commissioner to identify nominees interested in serving as Chair of WAC.
- Vice Chairman Plummer mentioned it would be a good idea to collect information from the current and former Commission members about the attributes of former Chairman Freeland and what the members would like to see in a Chairman. These comments should be shared among the Commission before a decision is made.
- Director Peditto commented that it is reasonable to have a Nomination Committee of members who are not looking to serve as Chairman to have conversations with the other members and report to the Commission the results by the next meeting on March 21st.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Bonomo motioned, for the purposes of conducting business, to have Vice Chairman Plummer assume the responsibilities as Acting Chairman until one is appointed and work with another Commissioner in gathering feedback and nominees for a Chairman.
 2. Commissioner Compton seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Commissioner Gulbrandsen agreed to assist Commissioner Bonomo on this task.

Regulation Concepts: 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 Hunting Seasons – Presentation given by Pete Jayne, Associate Director, Wildlife and Heritage Service

- Mr. Jayne mentioned that, with rare exception hunting regulations are reviewed on a two-year cycle except for migratory game birds, which are done annually.
- Mr. Jayne introduced Bill Harvey, Game Bird Section Leader, Harry Spiker, Game Mammal Section Leader, Brian Eyler, Deer Project Leader, and George Timko, Assistant Deer Project Leaders to the Commission.
- The Commission received a synopsis of the Hunting Season Regulation Concepts for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 in [ATTACHMENT A].
- Mr. Jayne presented the Hunting Season Regulation Concepts in a Power Point presentation in [ATTACHMENT B].
 1. Big Game Harvest Record – Drop the requirement to fill out the Harvest Record before moving a deer or turkey from the place of kill. Staff dropped this concept because of the law enforcement concerns raised at the internal stakeholders meeting with NRP.
 - a. Commissioner Bonomo asked if it is the lack of compliance related to completing the harvest record period or completing the harvest record in the field. The regulation requires a hunter to fill-in the harvest record prior to moving the animal and to complete that task once the hunter has called in to obtain a confirmation number that needs to be recorded on the harvest record. Compliance is better when completing the check-in process and confirmation; however, filling-in the harvest record at the place of kill is often overlooked.
 - b. Commissioner Compton indicated there were some discussions at the External Stakeholders Meeting about duplicating work with the field tag and the harvest record. Commissioner Compton added that DNR is paying a lot of money to get these field tags printed. During these economic times, is it necessary to have this level of duplication – the hunters are doing two things at the harvest site. DNR should get rid off the field tag and just use the harvest record since it comes with the license as a requirement. Commissioner Compton suggested that the DNR should put the responsibility on the butchers and taxidermists; butchers and taxidermists are required to obtain information from the hunters

anyway. It seems redundant to have this process continue the way it is. Commissioner Compton suggested DNR delete the field tag and put emphasis on the harvest record then DNR will get the compliance and DNR will save some money in the process. Staff response:

- i. The field tag is important because it forces a hunter to claim that animal. The field tag remains with the species until the species is processed and it is the only tool that assigns the species to the hunter.
 - ii. The harvest record stays with the hunter.
 - iii. It costs \$7,000 for the field tags to be produced and this amount is considerably low compared to the cost in the past.
 - iv. The redundancy makes it an effective law enforcement tool when there is compliance.
 - v. These field tags are a direct link to game management. When staff collects data at the processors those tags provide the location of kill, etc. for deer age data and CWD sampling to staff. If staff were required to obtain that from the processors or butchers that data would not be constant.
 - vi. The confirmation number is not required to be recorded at the harvest site. A hunter has 24-hours to obtain a confirmation number.
 - vii. Staff reminded hunters to fill-in the harvest record and field tag at the harvest site by means of press releases and it is in the hunting guide. Staff recognized that there is no easy answer to this issue.
2. Crossbows: Change the crossbow regulation to allow a cocked, but unloaded crossbow to be placed in, on or against a vehicle.
- a. Commissioner Compton reiterated his comments from the External Stakeholders Meeting that cocked crossbow holds a lot of energy even with the bolt removed from it – this has the potential to create more accidents. Commissioner Compton emphasized that it is more dangerous to allow a cocked, but unloaded crossbow to be placed in, on or against a vehicle than to discharge a bolt at the end of a hunt. Commissioner Compton pointed out that if this is a complaint from the crossbow community then the crossbow community needs to address this with the industry because crossbow manufactures should be obligated to provide safeties appropriate for transporting this weapon
 - b. Acting Chairman Plummer agreed with Commissioner Compton that safety is more important than convenience and this proposal sounds like it is being submitted based on convenience. Acting Chairman Plummer is not in favor of this proposal.
 - c. Commissioner Gulbrandsen suggested distinguishing the transporting of the cocked crossbow as opposed to simply resting it on or in a vehicle, suggesting putting it on your tailgate.
 - i. The cocked but unloaded crossbow will not be a requirement but an option for the crossbow hunters. There are also hunters moving from vehicle to a stand or stand to another stand or stand to vehicle or ATV, these hunters must un-cock the crossbow before putting it in a vehicle.
3. Furbearers – Reopen a trapping season for river otters in Garrett & Allegany counties with a bag limit of 1.
- a. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked if there is any indication that the otter would be targeted as a species or whether the otter would be more of “bycatch”.
 - i. There will be some trappers who may harvest otter as a targeted species.
 - b. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked what are the chances of a hunter harvesting more than one otter even if beaver are the targeted species.
 - i. Yes, it is possible that this could happen. However, now it is illegal to take an otter in Garrett and Allegany Counties.

- ii. This would allow one otter for harvest and the hunter may decide whether to continue trapping for beavers at that location.
 - c. Commissioner Bonomo commented some beaver trapping is being done related to animal damage control and some is being done for recreational purposes. This regulation would make it legal for a trapper to take an otter in Garrett and Allegany counties if a trapper found one in a trap that is for beaver.
 - i. As part of the regulation, DNR is required to seal the tag on each otter pelt, and trappers are required to surrender the carcass of any otters trapped.
 - ii. There are trappers that will target otter because of the value of otter pelt and the uniqueness of the experience. The trappers in Garrett and Allegany counties have not been able to trap otter since the relocation of the species.
 - iii. Most trappers will probably travel eastward because the otter bag limit is 10 and the species and habitat is more abundant.
- 4. Red and Gray Fox – Extend fox season by two weeks, but for shooting only. This would include hunting during the night and day.
 - a. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked when would the fox season end.
 - i. The fox season end date would be two weeks from the current date.
 - b. Commissioner Bonomo asked for clarification about when a concept is from the public as a recommendation rather than generated by staff as being proactive.
 - i. Some of our regulation changes are management concern; for example, scientific data supports that there is a need to restrict an activity because of a concern for a species. At times, data supports that a species can withstand a more liberalized season while allowing sustainable take of that species.
 - ii. The regulation concepts are a mixture of both from the public and staff recommendations.
 - iii. The red and gray fox – extending fox season by two weeks regulation was one of our staff’s recommendations two cycles ago. Because of public input, staff decided to table this recommendation for the prior regulatory cycle. During this stakeholder meeting, staff received very little opposition for this proposal.
- 5. Cottontail rabbit and squirrels – adjust the rabbit daily bag limit to remain at 4, but limit it to no more than 2 taken on public lands.
 - a. Commissioner Rodney supports this concept because it would limit early harvest pressure to maximize recreational opportunities on public lands throughout the season. Currently, if a hunter goes hunting at the end of the rabbit season, it may be a challenge to find some rabbits.
 - i. This concept received mixed support but the majority indicated that it is not needed.
 - ii. A suggestion was made to open public lands for rabbit hunting during different times of the season to give the hunters that feel of opening day on a new tract. Staff may do this by means of management of State lands and not by regulations.
- 6. Hunter Orange – require bowhunters who are bowhunting deer in the bear hunting zone to wear hunter orange while the bear season is open.
 - a. No comments from the Commission.
- 7. Black Bear – No Concept Proposed.
 - a. No comments from the Commission.
- 8. Doves, Rails, Snipe, and Woodcock – No proposed changes.
 - a. No comments from the Commission.
- 9. Sika Deer – institute a branched-antler requirement for stags. Spike sika deer would not be legal for harvest. Youth would be exempt.
 - a. Acting Chairman Plummer asked what the sika deer population trend is. Acting Chairman

- Plummer is concerned about the Department going in the direction of trophy deer with some of these regulations. This may prevent other people from joining sika deer hunting.
- i. The sika population is increasing.
 - ii. The sika bag limit is 2 deer and no more than 1 antlered deer per weapon season.
 - iii. The sika deer population is located mostly in the southern part of Dorchester County. Sika can be located in Caroline, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.
- b. Commissioner Compton supported this concept because it produces an older age class for a healthier herd. It still allows youth participation. Commissioner Compton indicated this is a step in the right direction.
 - c. Commissioner Bonomo asked if this would help staff reach the management objectives with this species and is staff getting the kind of harvest results under the current regulation.
 - i. This should allow staff to reach management objectives without increasing the bag limit, which would be more controversial.
 - ii. Trend data from other states demonstrate that white-tailed deer antler restrictions do help with increasing doe harvest.
10. White-tailed Deer: Hunter request to reduce pressure on antlered bucks. The concept is to combine the Region A and B buck bag limits into one statewide limit of three bucks (one per weapon season). This is in line with DNR deer management goals. It would eliminate the bonus antlered deer in Region B.
- a. Commissioner Bonomo asked for clarity on the bullet related to “This Concept is due to hunter requests, it is not necessarily from a deer management standpoint.”
 - i. By reducing the antlered bag limit, this would not have adverse affect on the deer population. Staff members reviewed the number of hunters that are currently taking two bucks: bowhunting is at 6%, firearms are at 3%, and muzzleloader is at 3%.
 - b. Commissioner Compton indicated that the youth days’ bag limit remains separate from the regular seasons and bag limits.
 - c. Acting Chairman Plummer outlined that this concept prevents a hunter from taking a second buck during the same weapon season, which reduces hunter opportunity. With all the negative comments from the hunting websites, Acting Chairman Plummer suggested to compromise with maybe having a floating buck stamp that a hunter could used to take a second buck during one of the three weapon seasons – and still require the hunter to take two antlerless deer before the seconded buck.
 - d. Commissioner Gulbrandsen expressed that this concept may cause a decline in hunter participation because a hunter would not have that opportunity to take a second buck, which may cause an economic loss.
 - e. Commissioner Bonomo understood that this is a nuanced issue; however, from an ecological perspective Commissioner Bonomo would not be in favor of any attempt to decrease the amount of deer that could be taken in terms of impacts on forest regeneration, vegetation, and biodiversity.
 - f. Commissioner Compton explained the benefit of this concept would hopefully increase the hunting pressure on doe so that staff may effectively manage the deer herd.
 - i. Staff would not want this to reduce our deer harvest overall.
 - ii. One of our goals, a hunter may choose not to take that young buck and wait until older one comes along. Staff could not generate numbers of how many hunters would do this – this would be the data gleaned from trying this option in the field.
 - iii. This option will help developed an older age class deer herd.
11. Archery Deer Season – Extend Deer Bow Season to open on September 5th in both Regions A and B (September 6th when the 5th is a Sunday).
- a. No comments from the Commission.

12. Chronic Wasting Disease – Permit hunters to take deer harvested in the CWD Management Area (CWDMA) to approved taxidermists outside the CWDMA.
 - a. Commissioner Plummer asked if there is a time limited to transport a deer from CWDMA to a taxidermist.
 - i. Staff has not considered a time limit; however, generally, staff would recommend 24 hours to get the deer to approved taxidermists.
 - b. Commissioner Compton suggested increasing the time limit to 48 hours because it takes time to debone a deer.
13. Chronic Wasting Disease – Allow hunters to transport whole deer quarters and front shoulders from the CWD Disease Management Area (CWDMA).
 - a. No comments from the Commission.
14. Turkey and Upland Game Birds – No proposed changes.
 - a. No comments from the Commission.
15. Doe Harvest Increase in Region A.
 - a. Commissioner Fratz suggested increasing doe harvest in Region A.
 - i. Staff report that some hunters want to decrease doe harvest in Region A, especially Allegany county.
 - ii. Staff members are not trying to increase the doe harvest in Region A.

DNR Legislative Session Update – Presentation given by Glenn Therres, Associate Director, Wildlife and Heritage Service

- Mr. Therres highlighted the wildlife-related bills to the Commission.
- The Commission received a list of the wildlife related bills. [**ATTACHMENT C**].
- The Maryland General Assembly website is <http://mlis.state.md.us/>. The Commission members may visit the website to get up to date information on wildlife related bills.
- There are several Sunday hunting bills such as HB 129, HB 134 HB 321, HB 809, HB 877, and some of these are cross-filed with Senate bills, SB 105, SB 346, and SB 390.
- HB 750 Public Health – Importation, Release, and Disposal of Wildlife Prohibition – prohibits the importation and release of wildlife into the State or prohibits any dead wildlife imported into the State.
 1. Commissioner Boyles Griffin pointed out that this has implications related to rehabbers.
 2. There are laws that prohibit importation and releasing of some diseased mammals. Currently, a person cannot move or import raccoons, foxes, and skunks in Maryland.
 3. This bill would prohibit any reintroduction of any species into Maryland – including import native species.
- HB 1052 Natural Resources – Suspension of Hunting Licenses and Privileges – this bill would give the Department administrative authority to revoke hunting licenses and privileges for conviction of hunting violations.
 1. Commissioner Compton commented that this is the bill that the Commission reviewed seriously last year. The Commission supported this bill.
- Motion
 1. Commissioner Compton motioned that the Commission to send a letter of support for HB 1052 because the hearing date on this is March 7th.
 - a. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
 - b. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Natural Resources – Hunting Licenses and Stamps – this bill will increase fees for hunting licenses and stamps for residents and nonresidents. The landowner that hunts on his or her land is still exempt from hunting license requirement. Former prisoners of war and 100 % service-connected

disabled veterans are still exempt. The base junior and senior licenses will have no change. The short version is, if a resident hunter purchased the typically \$55.00 or \$60.00 suite of hunting license and stamp items that resident hunter would pay an additional \$2.46 per day in a typical year. Nonresidents would pay \$5.00 per day. It may take about two years for the complete package of changes to take affect because the bill has two tiers to ease the transition.

1. Commissioner Compton asked how this bill is marrying with the concepts.
 - a. The way the bill was written, it has provisions that would anticipate and eliminate the different options of stamps for deer. Most likely, the bill will have a deer stamp for \$30.00 and the Department would have the ability to make the necessary changes to the stamps to coincide with the regulation changes in the future.
 - b. The last time the resident hunting license was changed was in 1989 when the hunting license became \$24.50. It has been 22 years since this license has been altered. In fact, when that change was made 96% of the hunters were buying the \$24.50 license and that remains the case today.
2. Acting Chairman Plummer indicated that the push back is about the stamps because the stamps have been raised since 1989. Brief discussion on need for this legislation:
 - a. The bottom line is that WHS has experienced personnel cuts in the past two years. The cost of doing business continues to go up and WHS is a special funded unit that does not enjoy increased funding to cover those increased cost.
 - b. Farmers and Hunters Feeding Hungry (FHFH) Program donations will no longer be allocated from hunting dollars because it is a diversion of hunting dollars; this is a result of a federal audit.
 - c. WHS tried to obtain funding from the non-consumptive users several years ago; this failed because it was interpreted as a tax.
3. Commissioner Compton asked for an overview of WHS budget especially related to general funds.
 - a. WHS receives about 1% to 2% of general funds. The remaining portion of WHS budget comes from special funds and federal grants.
4. Acting Chairman Plummer briefly highlighted some of the comments push back from the hunting community. Of course, no one wants a fee increase; the hunting community is upset not so much with the Department, but that the general funds have declined over the years. The additional cost outside of the license such as tolls and gas tax to hunt along with a lot of people are on fixed income and this is the push back from most of the people from the hunting community. Acting Chairman Plummer commented that to Director Peditto's credit, Director Peditto has been addressing some of these concerns on the hunting community's websites.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – no report.

Natural Resources Police (NRP) Update – Presentation given by Captain Lloyd Ingerson, Natural Resources Police.

- Captain Ingerson handed out the summary of the unusual hunting related incidents from December 2011 through January 2012. [ATTACHMENT D]
- NRP will be arranging another class with about 15 cadets. It takes a long time to get these cadets ready for field work once each one has completed and graduated NRP training.

New Business

- Director Peditto mentioned that the 2012 Proposed WAC Agenda for the year. [ATTACHMENT E]
 1. Director Peditto requested that the Commission review the 2012 Proposed WAC Agenda and

bring any changes to the March 21st meeting.

2. Director Peditto also requested the Commission set a date for the November meeting date.
3. Acting Chairman Plummer requested that Ms. Spencer solicit dates via email to the Commission.

Public Comment

- Mr. Tyler Johnson mentioned the hunting license increase is around 40%. Mr. Johnson indicated that Director Peditto did not outline the actual prices so Mr. Johnson is estimating that the price increase, for example a nonresident hunting license will be around \$200.00. Mr. Johnson expressed that this is a high increase for hunters and that Maryland will see less hunter participation.
- Director Peditto indicated that a nonresident hunting license will not be \$200.00. The vast majority of nonresident hunters come from Pennsylvania and they are mostly firearms deer hunters. Director Peditto provided an example of a nonresident from Pennsylvania coming to Maryland to hunt deer during firearms season; the nonresident hunting license estimated cost is going to be around \$160.00.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

Attendance

Members:	J. Bonomo, L. Compton, G. Fratz, E. Fry, W. Freeland, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, J. Lamp, J. Plummer, and C. Rodney
Guests:	M. Guilfoyle, T. Johnson, and B. Vosburgh
Staff:	B. Eyler, B. Harvey, L. Ingerson, P. Jayne, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, G. Therres, and G. Timko
Absent:	

**Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife and Heritage Service
February 15, 2012**

Hunting Season Regulation Concepts for 2012–13 and 2013–14

Big Game Harvest Record:

Delete the requirement for a hunter to fill out the big game harvest record before moving a deer or turkey from the place of kill. A hunter would still have to fill out the big game harvest record, including recording the confirmation number, when checking in the animal. We do NOT plan to move this to a Proposal.

Rationale/Goal: the requirement to complete the big game harvest record when field tagging a deer or turkey has been difficult to communicate to hunters and compliance remains very low. WHS efforts to stress this requirement via press releases and clear language in the Guide to Hunting and Trapping have not resulted in satisfactory hunter compliance. The harvest record would still be used to keep track of deer and turkeys checked in and would remain part of a hunter's license and thus available for inspection by the Natural Resources Police. The field tagging requirements would remain unchanged.

Crossbow Regulation:

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

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

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

River Otter:

Reopen a trapping season for river otters in Garrett and Allegany counties with a bag limit of one otter per season. All other counties in Maryland currently have an open season for otters. We plan to move this to a Proposal.

Rationale/Goal: to provide a limited opportunity for trappers to take river otters in these counties. This will allow trappers that are targeting beavers more latitude to

trap in areas where catching an otter in a beaver set is a possibility. Federal law requires all otter pelts to be tagged by DNR staff so we will gain valuable data on capture locations. We also would require trappers to surrender the carcass of any otters trapped in these counties to provide population data not otherwise available to DNR.

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

Red and Gray Fox (new concept):

Extend fox season by two weeks, but for shooting only. This would include hunting during the night and day. We plan to move this to a Proposal.

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

Cottontail Rabbit:

Keep the daily bag limit for rabbits at four, but limit it to no more than two rabbits per day may be taken on lands owned or controlled by DNR (public lands). We do NOT plan to move this to a Proposal.

Rationale/Goal: to maximize the recreational opportunities for rabbit hunters on public lands by spreading harvest out over a longer period of time.

Comments: this concept was requested by rabbit hunters who report that their rabbit hunting opportunities on public land decrease rapidly soon after the season opens. They feel this is due in part to high harvests by hunters early in the season.

Hunter Orange Addition:

Require persons that are bowhunting deer in the bear hunting zone to meet the hunter orange requirements while the bear season is open. We plan to move this to a Proposal.

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

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

Sika Deer:

Institute a branched-antler requirement for stags (males) during all sika deer seasons. Antlered sika deer would need at least one branched antler to be legal for harvest. Youth hunters would be exempt. We plan to move this to a Proposal.

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

White-tailed Deer:

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

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

Comments: this change is based on hunter input stating that our current statewide bag limit for bucks is too high at nine per year (combined total for Region A and Region B). While this Concept would not change the buck bag limit for Region A, it would remove the option for hunters to take a buck in Region B and then one in Region A during the same weapon season, or vice versa.

White-tailed Deer:

Expand the current unlimited antlerless bag limit for bow season in the Suburban Zone to all of Deer Management Region B. We plan to move this to a Proposal.

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

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

White-tailed and Sika Deer (new concept):

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

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

CWD Regulation:

To permit the transportation of a deer carcass or part taken in the CWD Management Area (CWDMA) to an approved taxidermist. We plan to move this to a Proposal.

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

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

CWD Regulation:

To allow a person to remove deer front and hind leg quarters from the CWDMA. We plan to move this to a Proposal.

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

Comments: a regulation currently requires that all meat be removed from the bone before being transported out of the CWDMA. This requires a significant amount of work for hunters that intend to leave the CWDMA soon after harvesting a deer. Conversely, it would be much quicker to remove the deer leg quarters and backstraps with no portion of the spine attached – which still meets the basic requirements of avoiding the high risk areas of the carcass.

Regulation Concepts: 2012-13 and 2013-14 Hunting Seasons



Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife and Heritage Service

Regulation Cycle

Address our resident game hunting season regulations every 2 years.

- Season dates, bag limits, legal weapons, etc.

Involves an extensive public participation component.

- Discussions within the Game Program – result in regulation CONCEPTS.
- Presented CONCEPTS to a meeting of Internal Stakeholders (2/1).
- Presented CONCEPTS to a meeting of External Stakeholders (2/8).
 - Includes reps from organized groups and outdoor media.
- Presenting CONCEPTS to Wildlife Advisory Committee.
 - Not asking for a vote today, just input, suggestions, questions.

After today, we'll formalize the Concepts into PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS:

- Are still flexible, but less so than Concepts.
- Will go out to public via a press release, public meetings and an internet forum.
- We will weigh pros and cons of input and drop or modify them to become our final set of Proposals.
 - WAC will be asked to vote to accept or reject the final Proposals.
 - WHS will develop them for submission to Register to become regs.

Big Game Harvest Record

Concept: Drop the requirement to fill out the Harvest Record before moving a deer or turkey from the place of kill.

- Hunter compliance remains low, making this provision of little value.
- Past efforts by WHS to increase hunter awareness of this provision have not worked.

Comments: mixed pro and con, but NRP input is this will limit their enforcement options.

We plan to drop this Concept for that reason.



Crossbows

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

- Unloading a crossbow at the end of a hunting trip can be dangerous.
- This Concept would treat crossbows in a manner similar to muzzleloaders.
- Muzzleloaders may be placed in, on or against a vehicle if the cap, primer or primer powder has been removed.

Comments: mixed comments, most concerns are with hunter safety, not wildlife conservation or enforcement. We plan to present this as a Proposal.



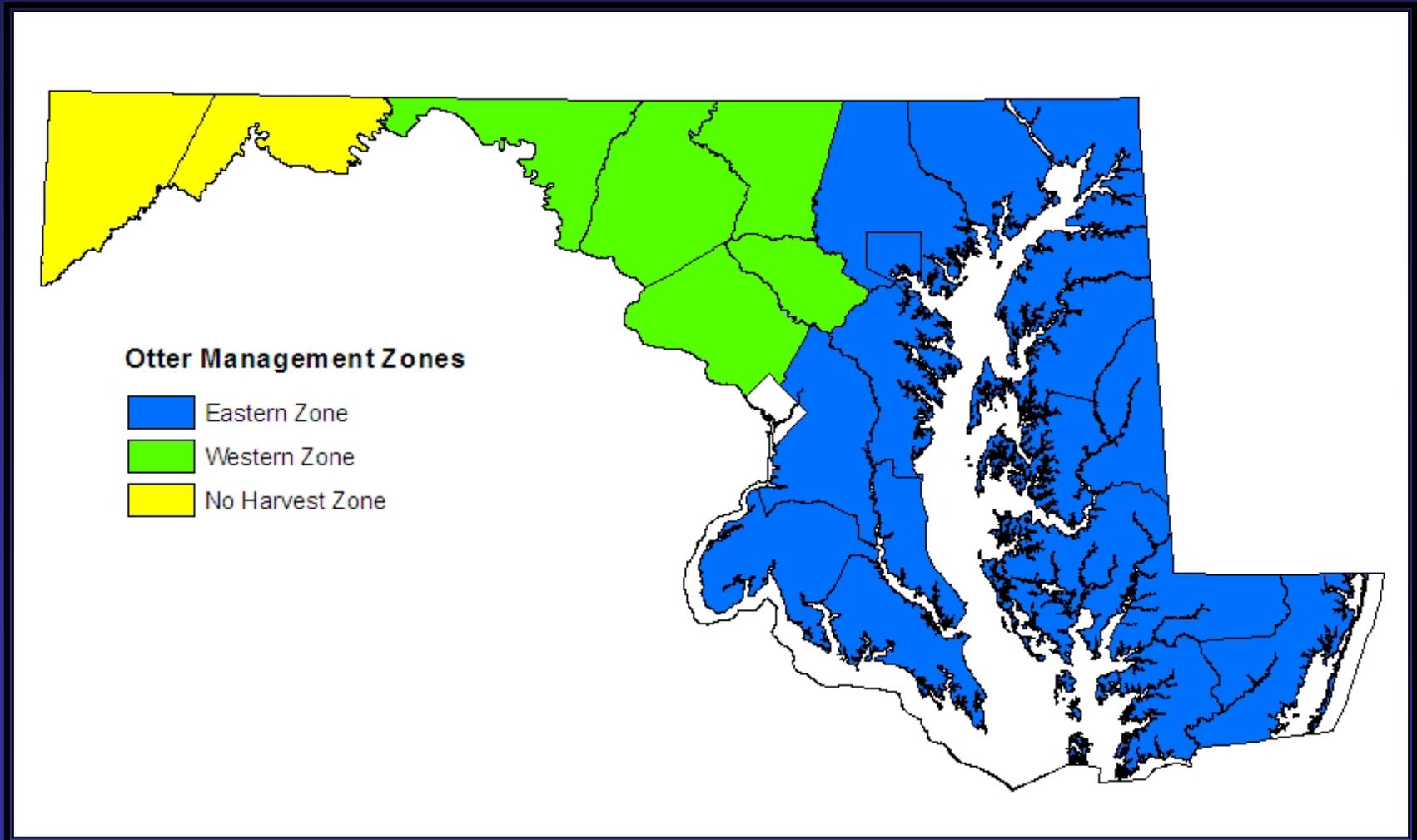
Furbearers

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



River Otter

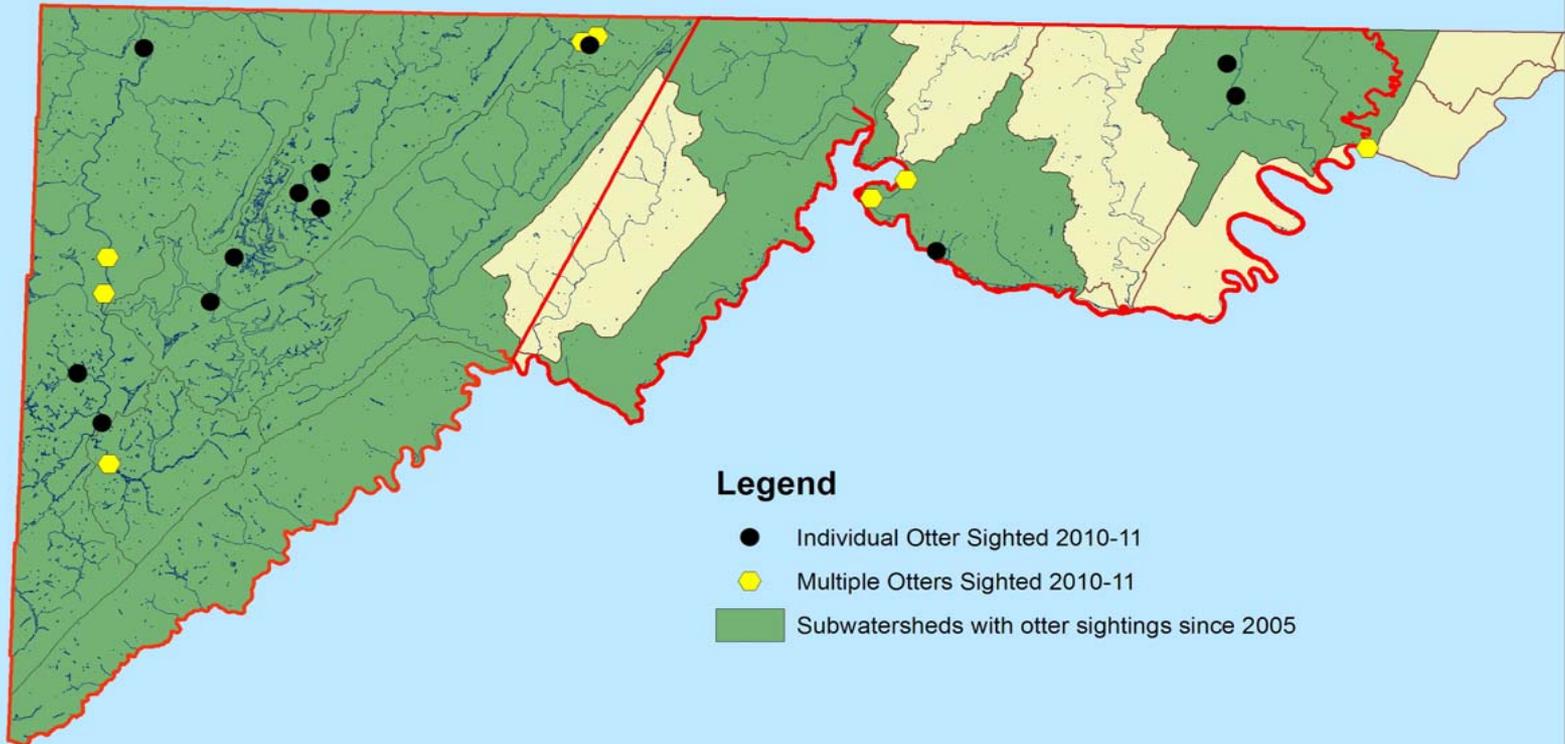
Currently there are three Management Zones for otters.



River Otter

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

Otter Sightings in Garrett & Allegany Counties



River Otter

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

- The current closed otter season limits beaver trapping efforts. Allowing a limited otter harvest will free landowners to address beaver damage.
- Valuable population information can be obtained by requiring trappers to surrender the otter carcasses.

Comments: all positive thus far. We plan to present this as a Proposal.



NEW CONCEPT

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

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

Comment: new Concept, has been a source of consistent input this year. We plan to present this as a Proposal.

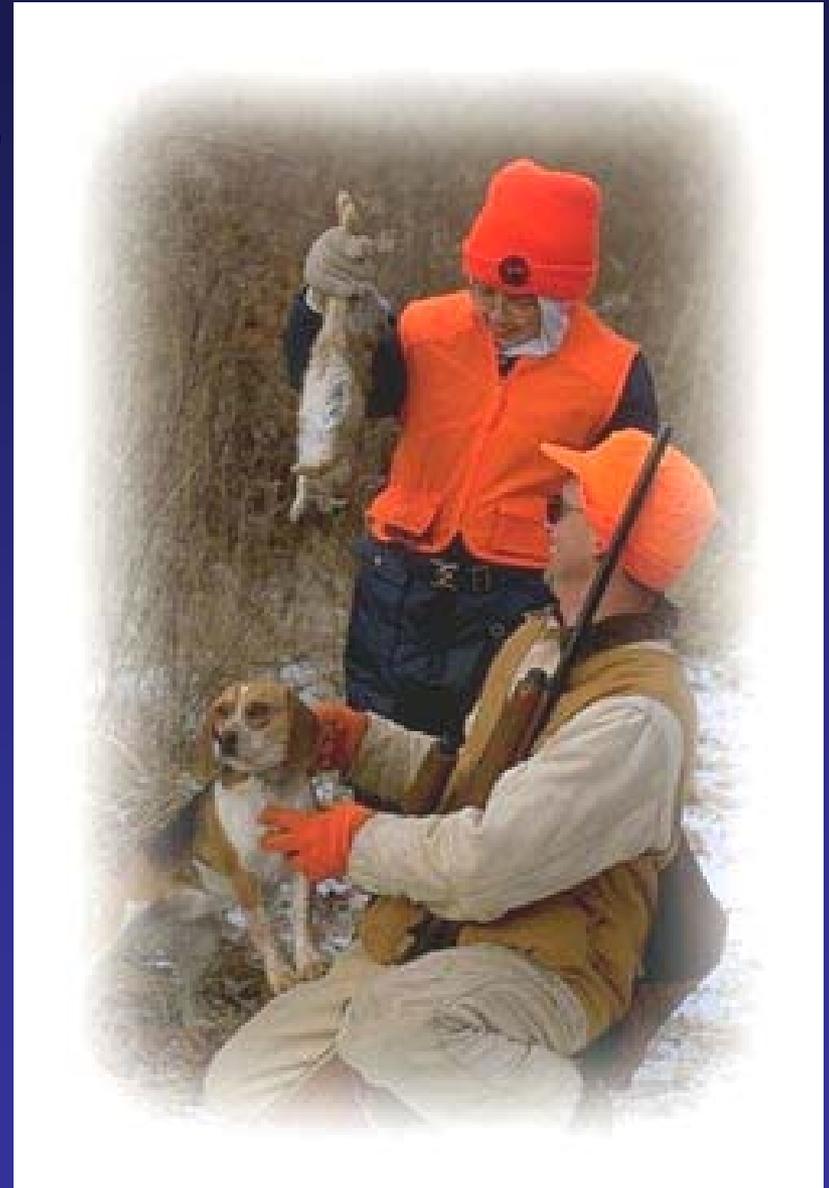


Cottontail Rabbit & Squirrels

Concept: Adjust the rabbit daily bag limit to remain at 4 rabbits, but limit it to no more than 2 taken on public lands.

- Concept addresses the allocation of the resource; not a biological issue.
- Would limit 'early' harvest aimed at maximizing recreational opportunities on public lands.
- Concept was presented to DNR by rabbit hunting constituents.

Comments: mixed, but the strong majority opinion is this Concept is not needed. Our plan is to drop this Concept.

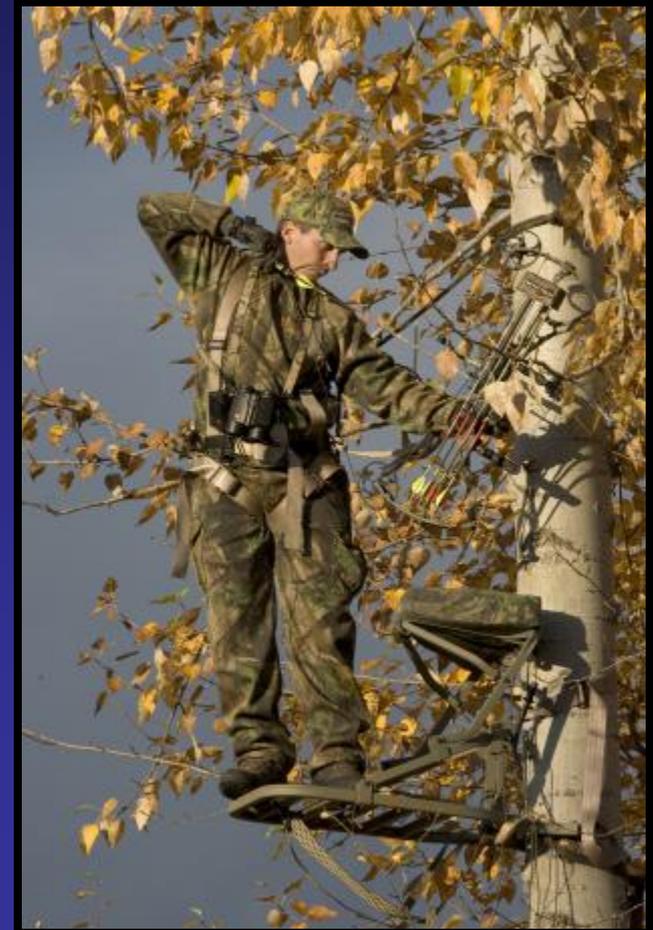


Hunter Orange

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

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

Comments: nearly all are positive.
We plan to present this as a
Proposal.



Black Bear

Concept: None Proposed

Comments: a few, but not related to regulations. No plans to present any Proposals.

Lottery Changes: we are exploring our ability to issue a pre-determined percentage of bear permits to residents of the bear hunting zone (Garrett and Allegany counties). Should not require reg changes.



Doves, Rails, Snipe, and Woodcock

No proposed changes for:

- Doves
- Rails
- Snipe
- Woodcock

Comment: no compelling input,
no plans to add any Proposals.



Waterfowl

No proposed changes for:

- Ducks
- Canada geese
- Light geese
- Other waterfowl

Comment: no compelling input, no plans to add any Proposals.

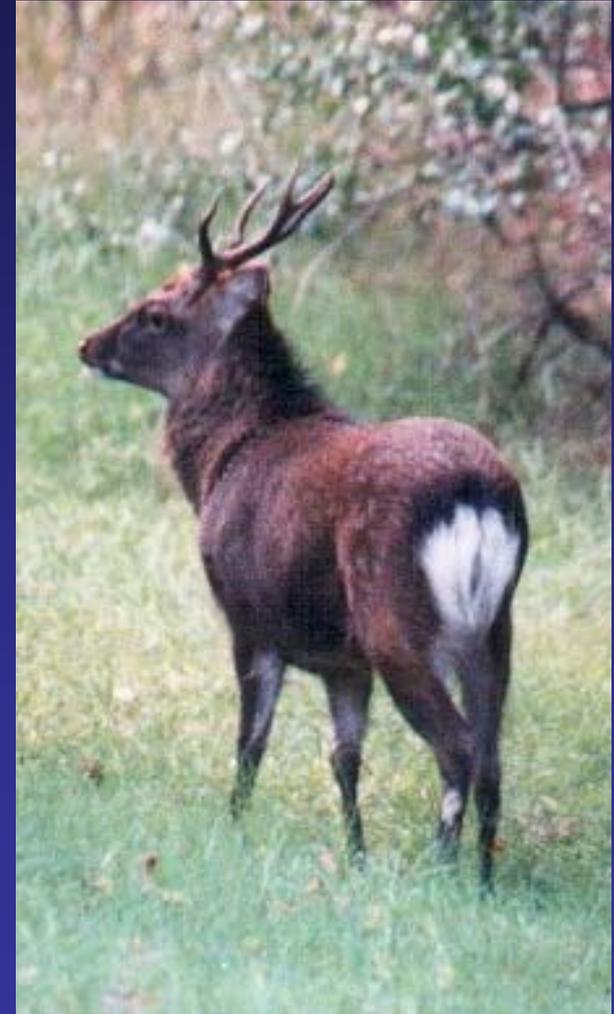


Sika Deer

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

- Concept would shift some harvest pressure to female sika deer and aid with maintaining the population at current levels and geographic distribution.
- Concept would increase the proportion of branched-antlered (i.e., older) stags in the population.
- In response to input from multiple stakeholders.

Comments: mostly positive, but with some strong negative input. We plan to present this as a Proposal and watch input carefully.



Hunter Request: Reduce Pressure on Antlered Bucks

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

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



White-tailed Deer

We reviewed three options to do this in Maryland:

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



White-tailed Deer

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

- Concept would reduce the current statewide limit of 9 bucks to 3 bucks.
- This Concept is due to hunter requests, it is NOT necessary from a deer management standpoint.
- Would eliminate the Region B bonus antlered deer and associated requirement of taking two antlerless deer prior to a second buck.
- Would eliminate hunters taking bucks in both Regions in one weapon season.



White-tailed Deer

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

Comments: very active and mixed. We plan to present this as a Proposal and watch input carefully.



White-tailed Deer

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

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

Comments: very little, nearly all positive. We plan to present this as a Proposal.



Archery Deer Season

NEW CONCEPT

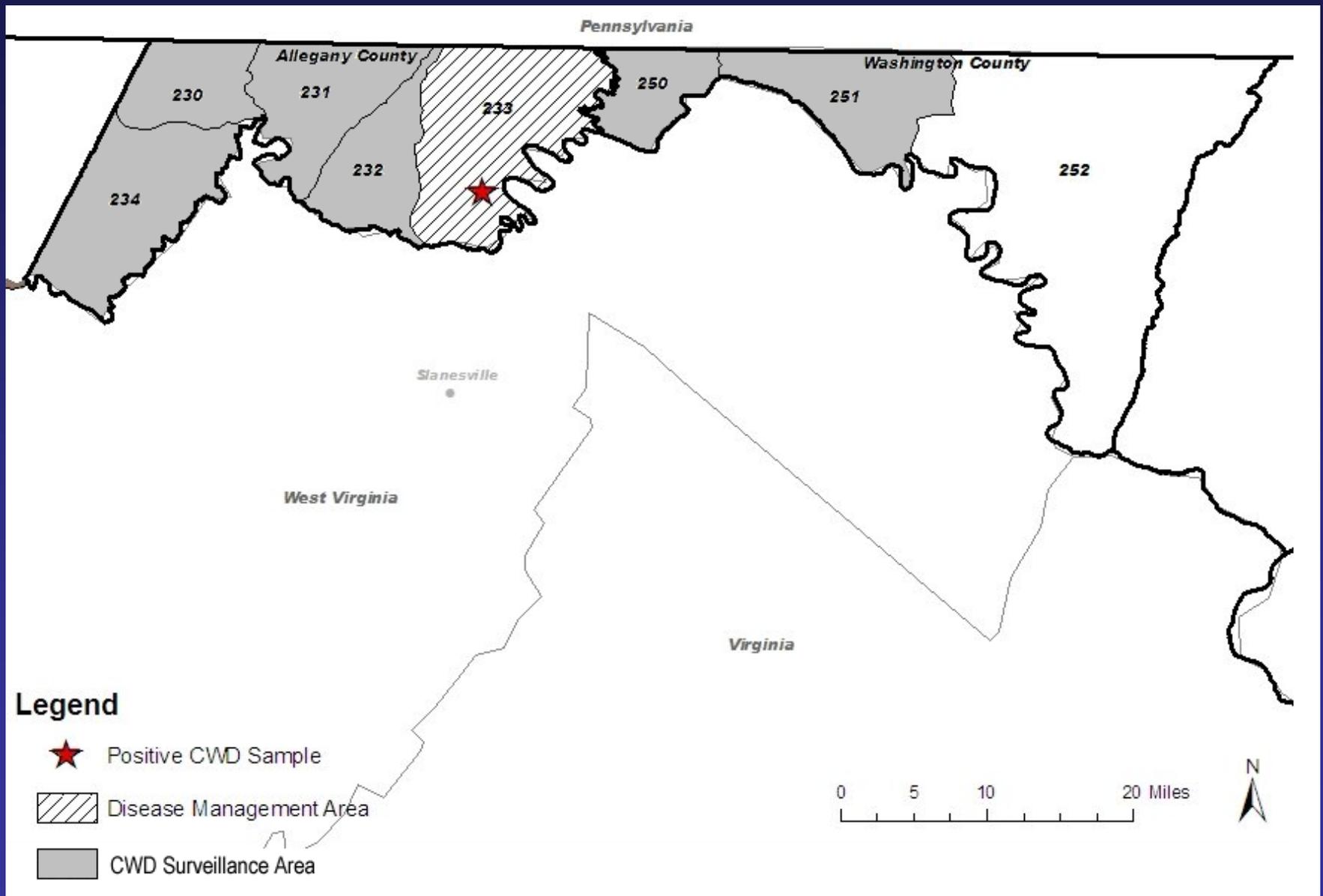
Concept: Extend Deer Bow Season to open on September 5 in both Regions A and B (Sept 6 when the 5th is a Sunday).

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

Comment: new Concept, has been a source of serious input this year. We plan to present this as a Proposal.



Chronic Wasting Disease



Chronic Wasting Disease

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

- Hunters in the CWDMA currently can transport whole deer to approved processors outside the CWDMA. This concept would allow hunters to also take them to approved taxidermists for mounting purposes.
- WHS will work with taxidermists to train them on proper disposal of waste from deer taken in the CWDMA.

Comments: all positive. We plan to present this as a Proposal.



Chronic Wasting Disease



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

- Hunters in the CWDMA currently are required to completely debone deer before transporting the meat out of the zone.
- Concept would allow hunters to “quarter” their deer and transport quarters and shoulders from the CWDMA without deboning them first.
- Relatively low-risk probability of CWD transmission via shoulders/quarters.

Comments: all positive. We plan to present this as a Proposal.

Turkey / Upland Game Birds

No proposed changes for:

- Wild turkey
- Bobwhite quail
- Ruffed grouse
- Pheasant

Comment: we strongly considered input for a longer fall turkey season, but have decided to not present that as a Proposal this year.



Regulation Concepts: 2012-13 and 2013-14 Hunting Seasons



Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife and Heritage Service

White-tailed Deer



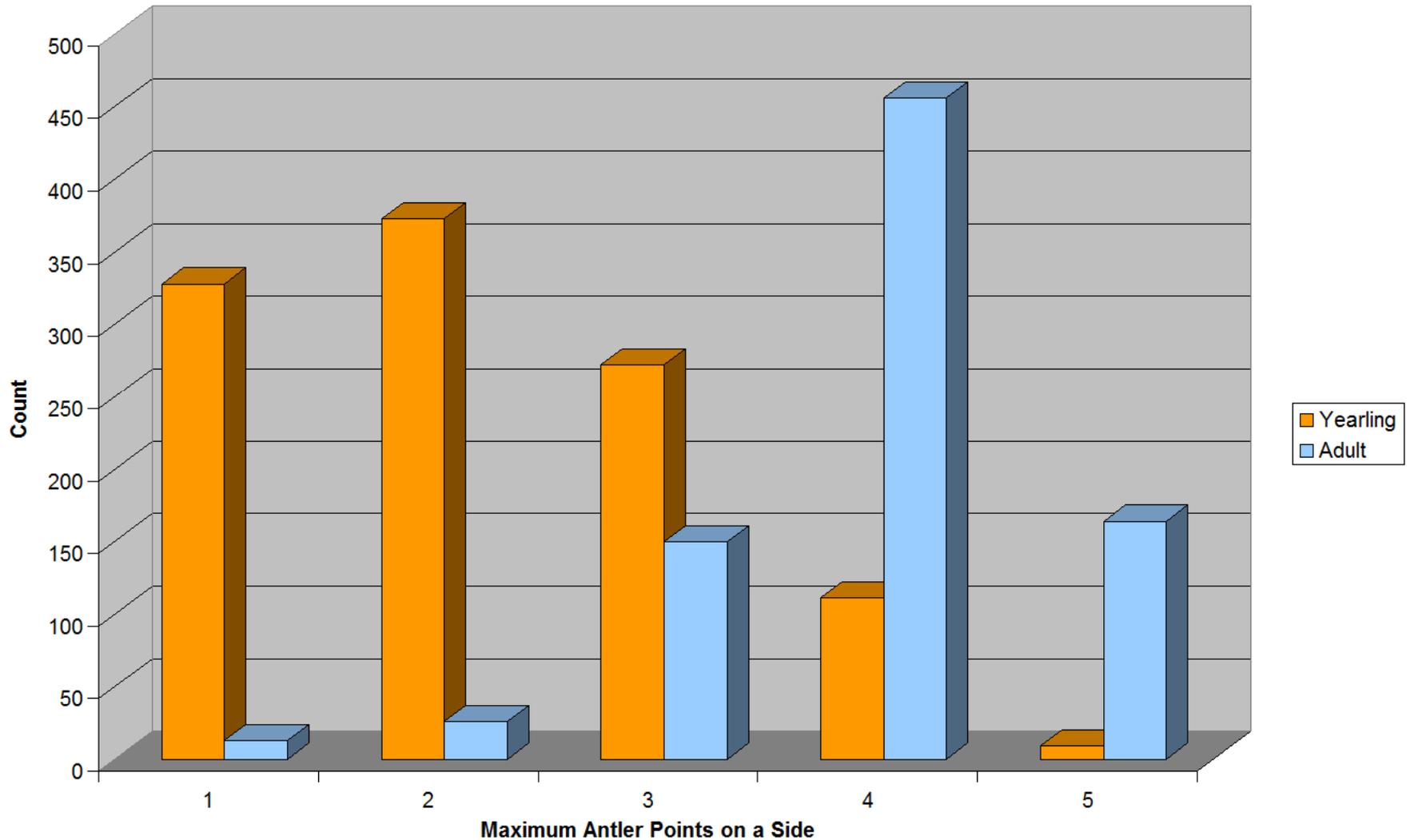
Antler Point Restrictions:

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

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

White-tailed Deer

Frequency Distribution of Yearling and Adult Antler Points



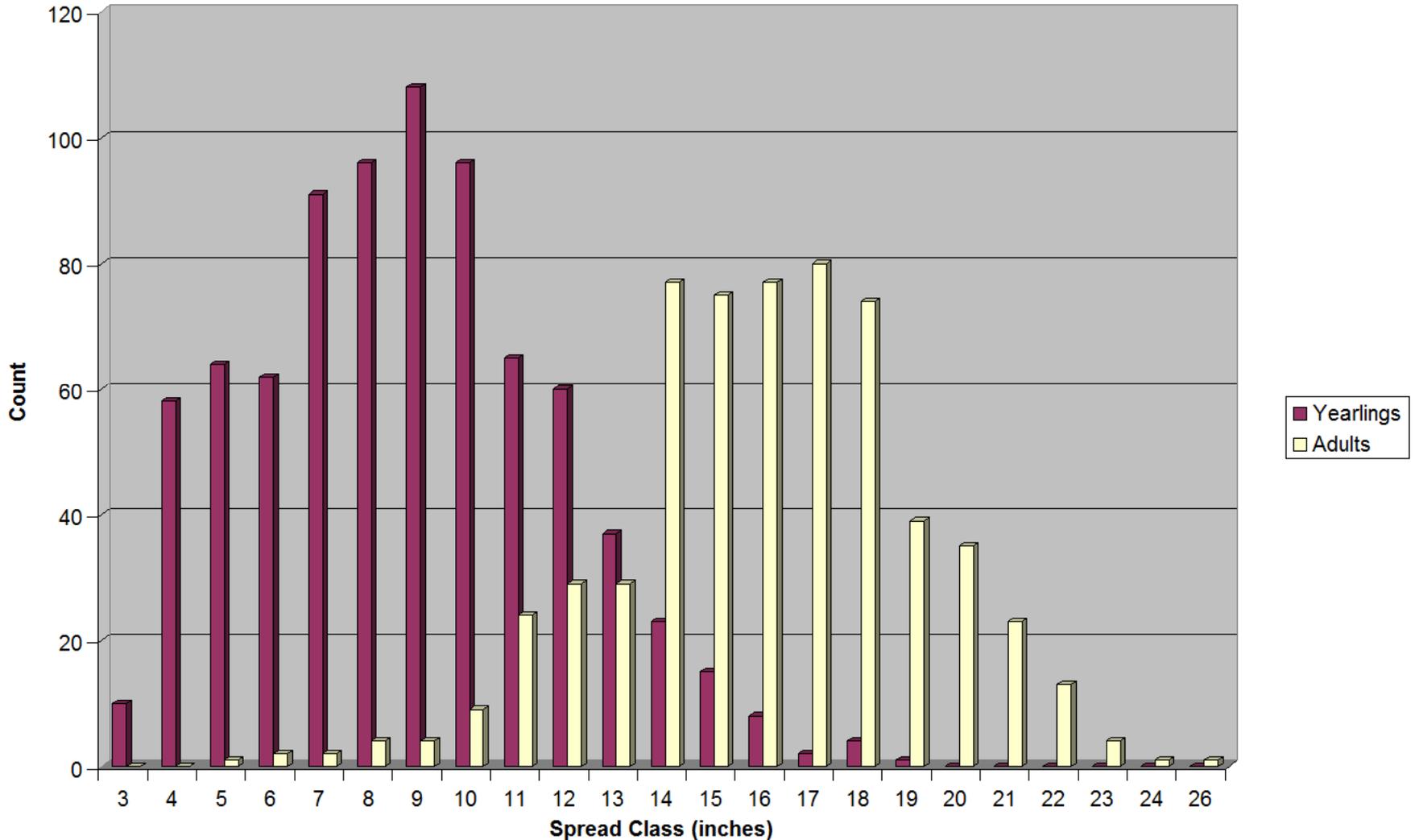
Antler Spread Restrictions:

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

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

White-tailed Deer

Frequency Distribution of Yearling and Adult Antler Spreads



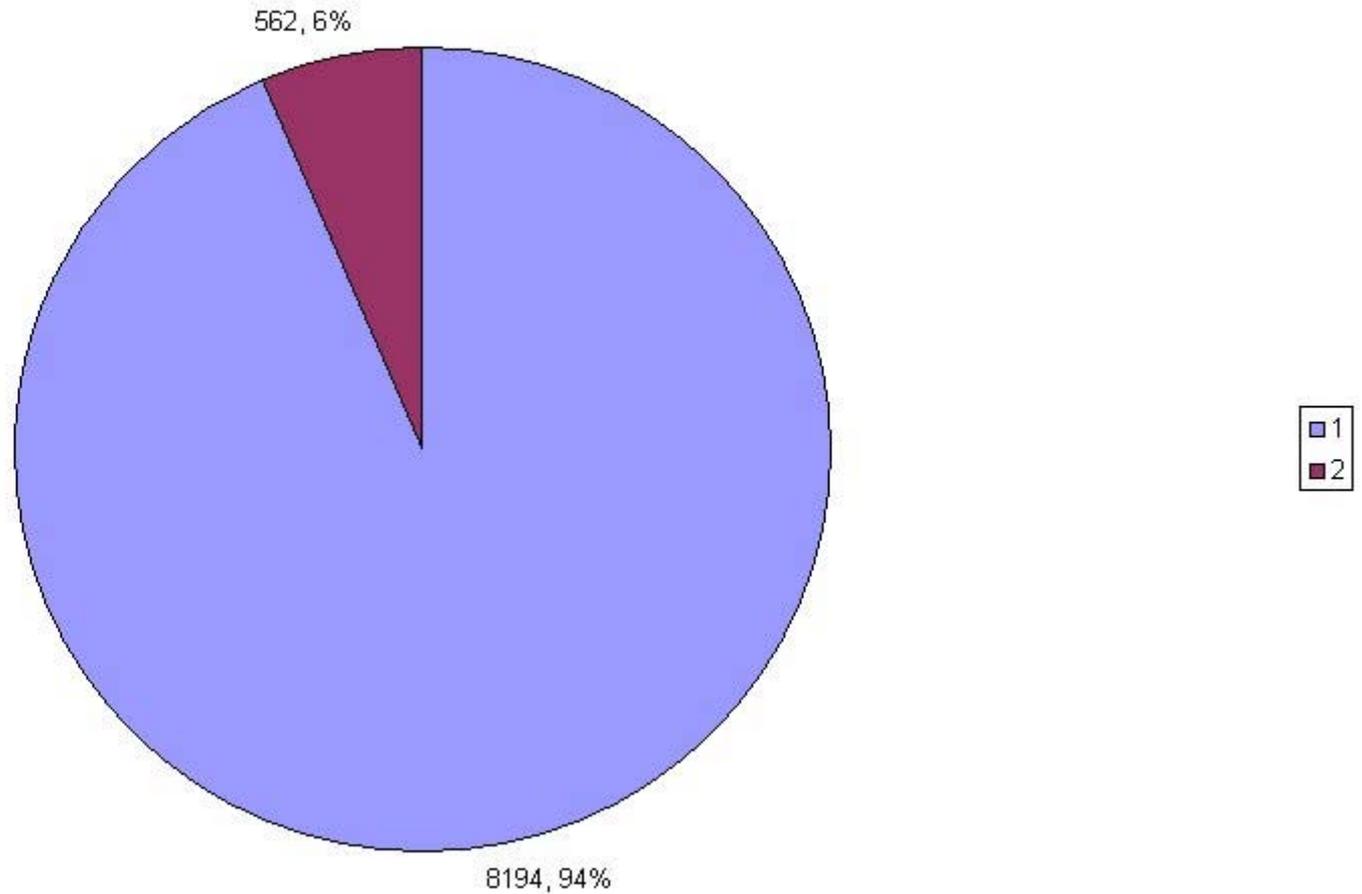
Reduce the Statewide Buck Bag Limit:

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

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

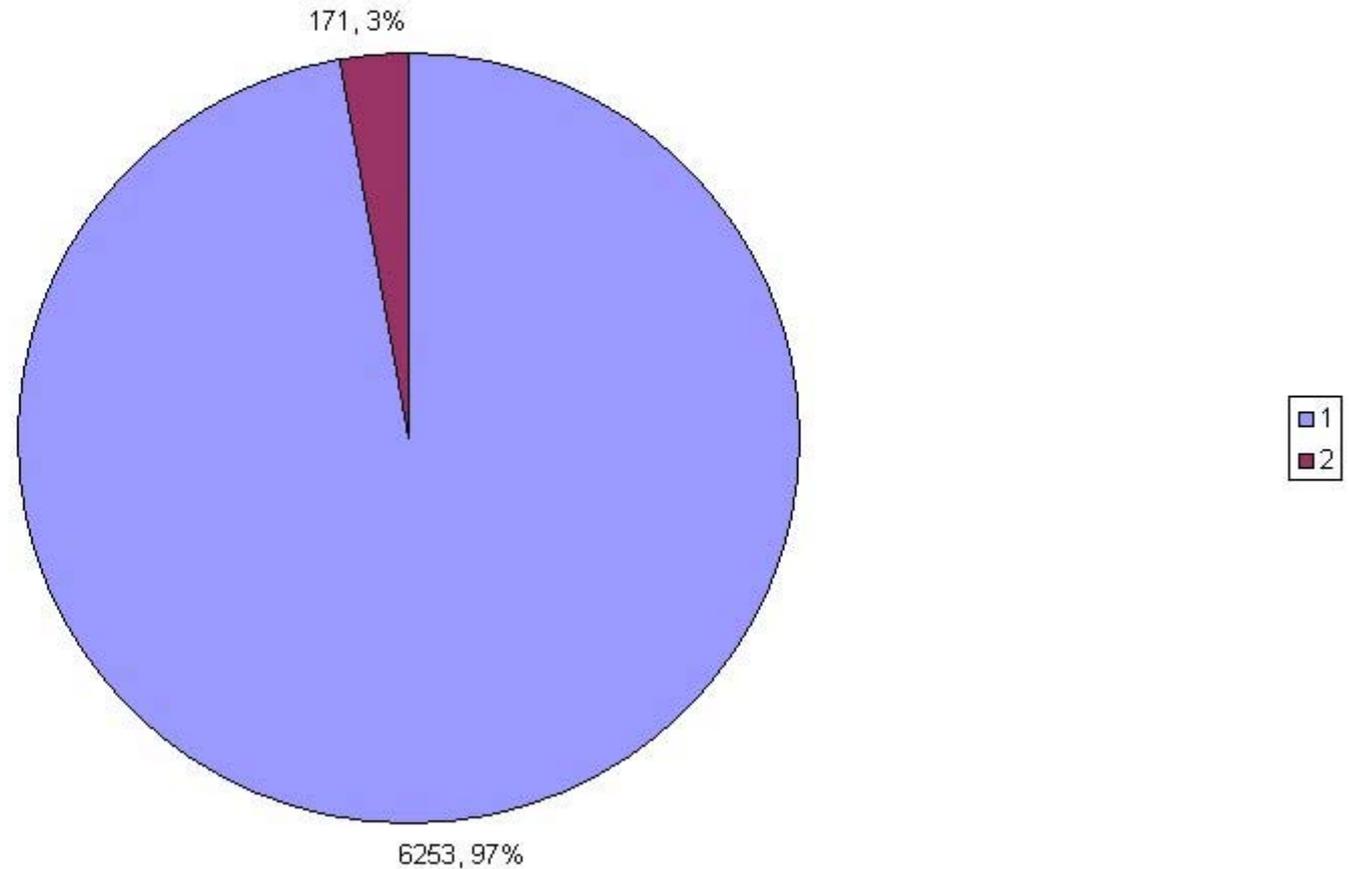
White-tailed Deer

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



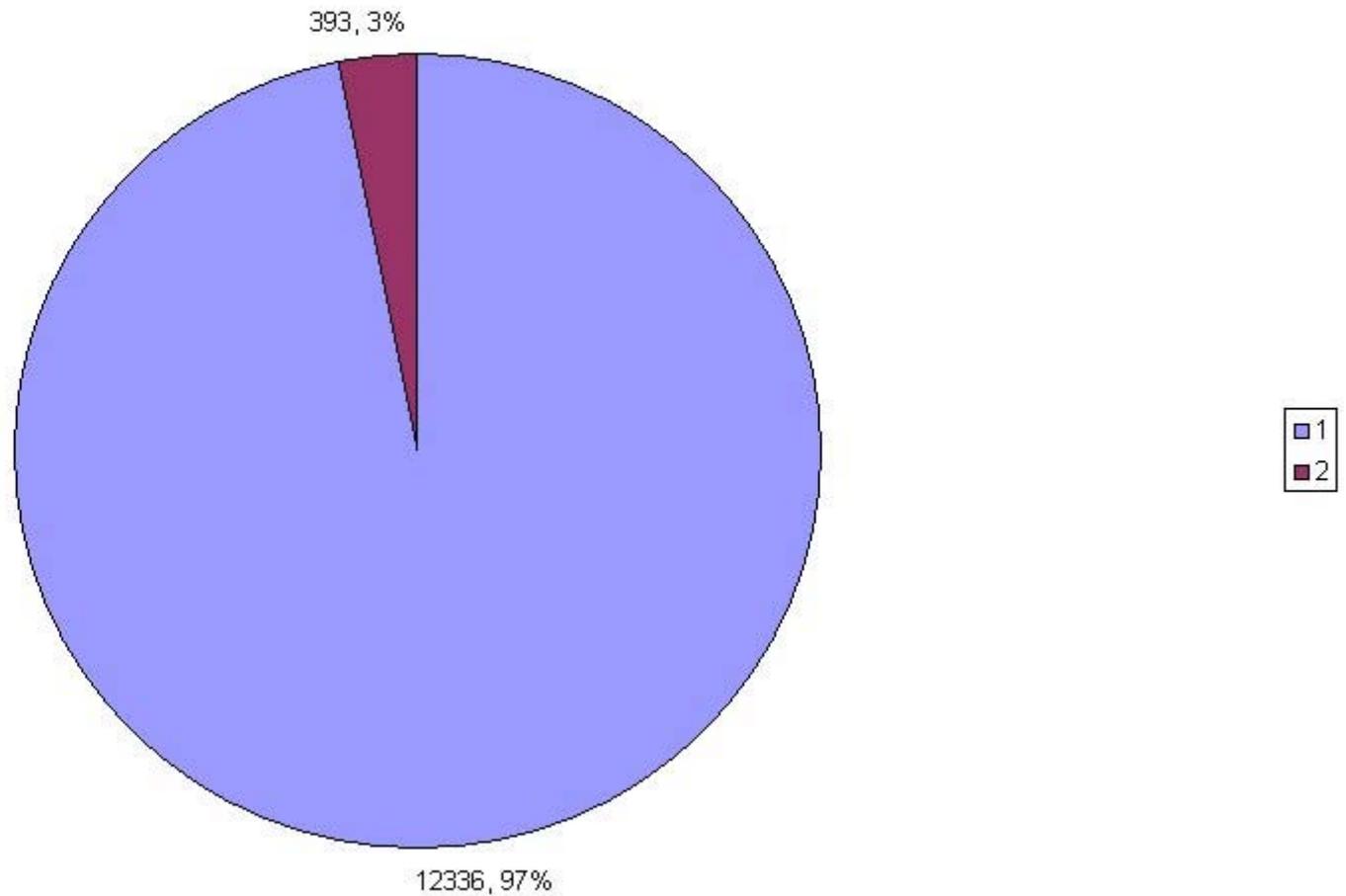
White-tailed Deer

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



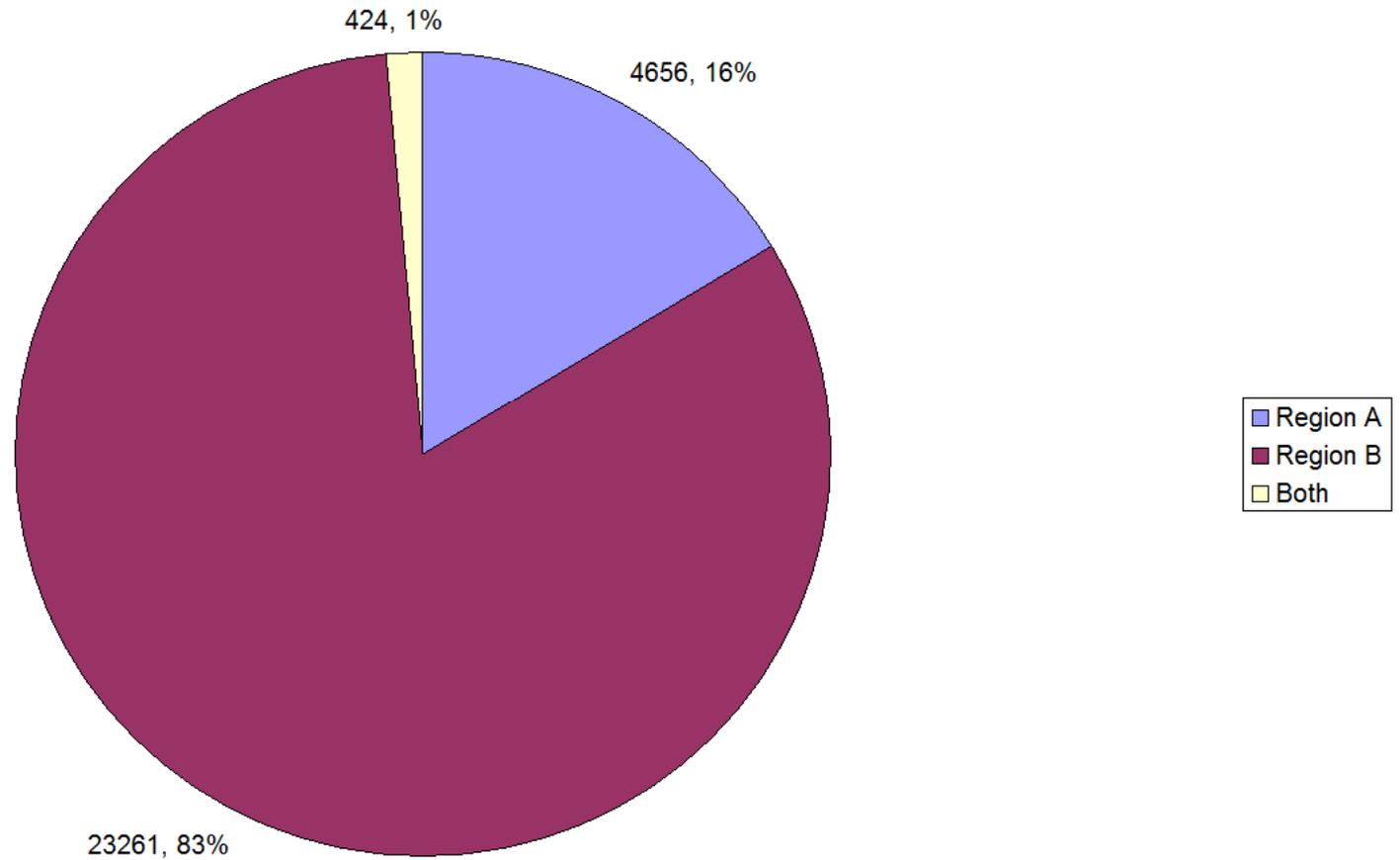
White-tailed Deer

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



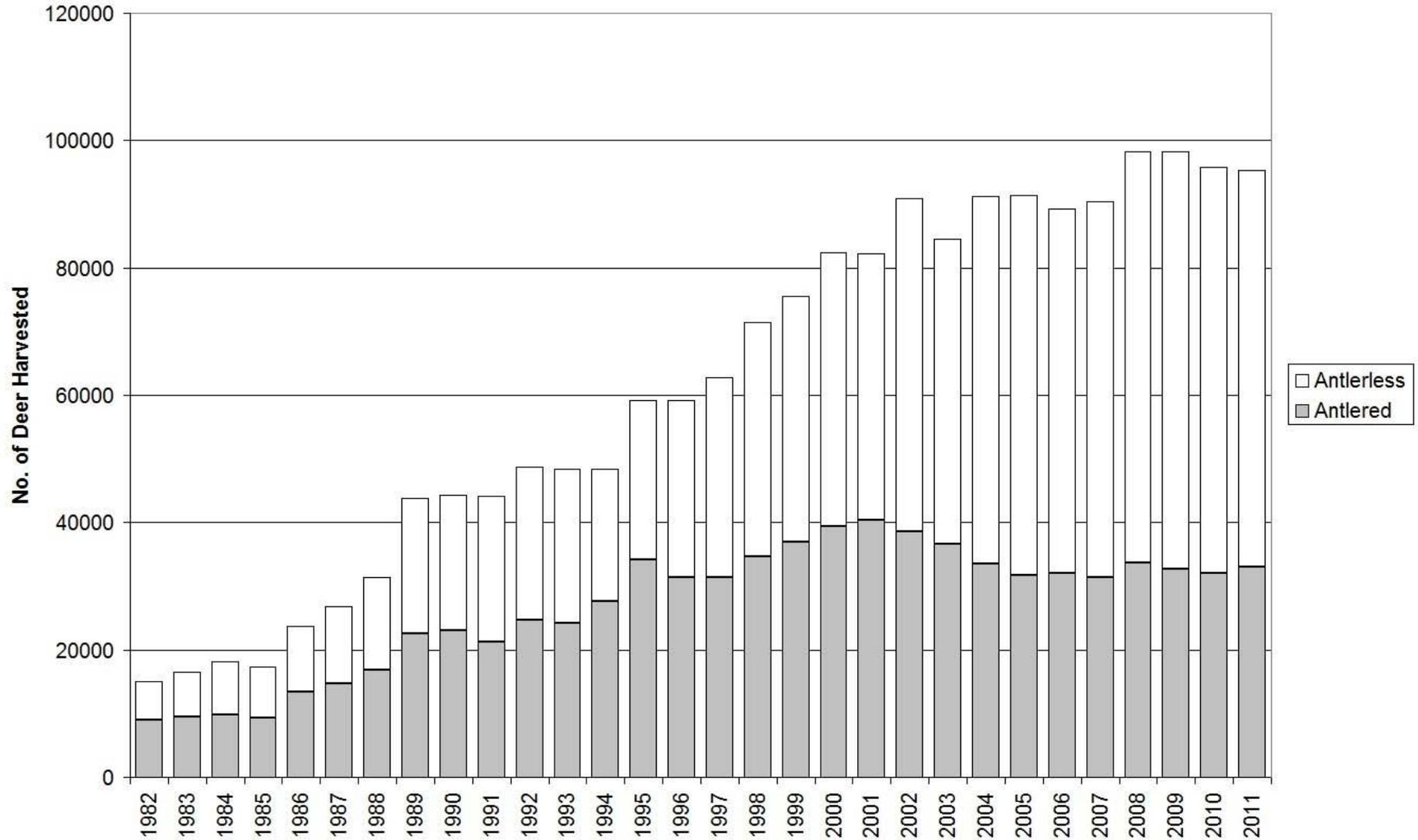
White-tailed Deer

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



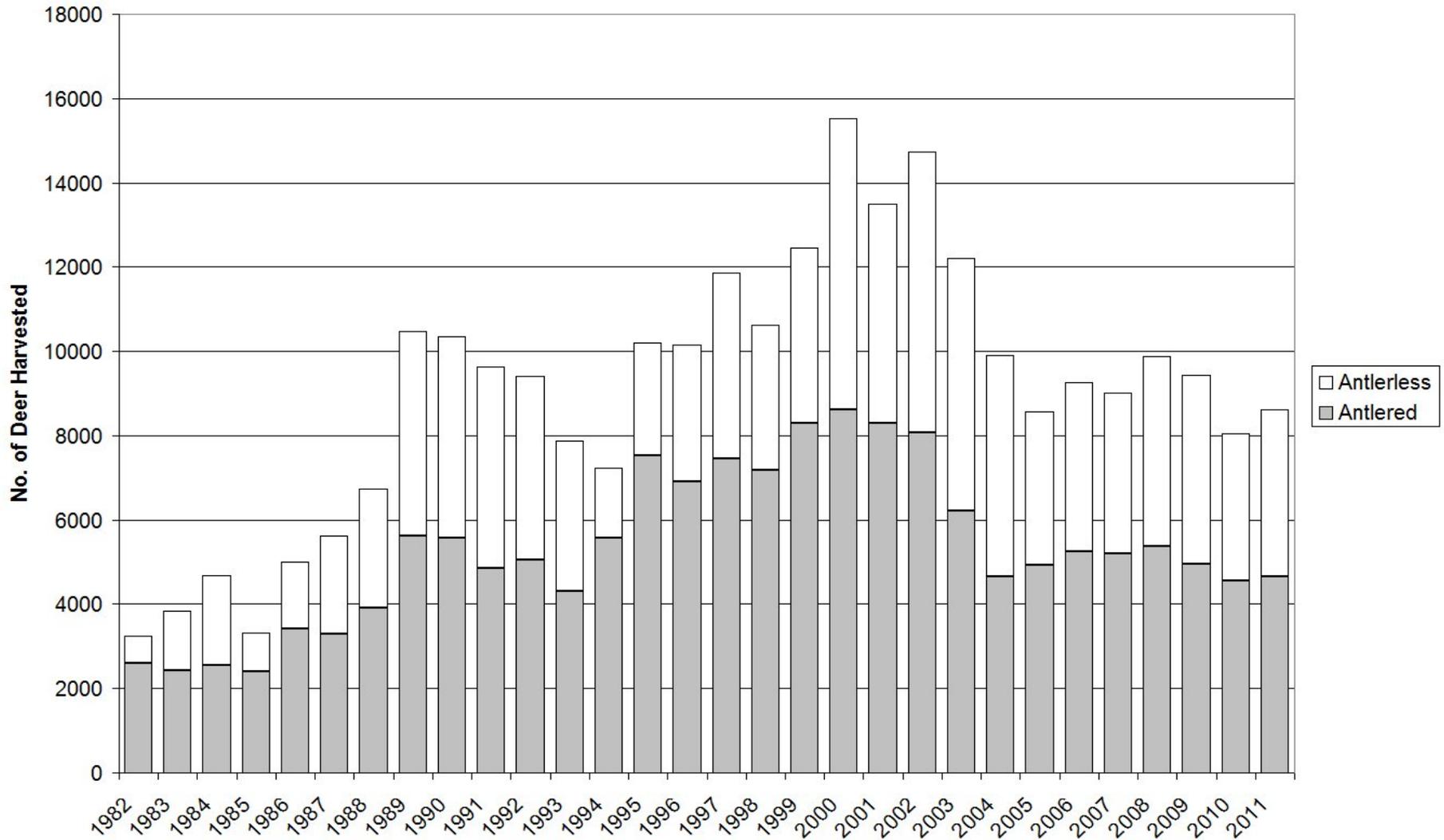
White-tailed Deer

Maryland 30-Year White-tailed Deer Harvest



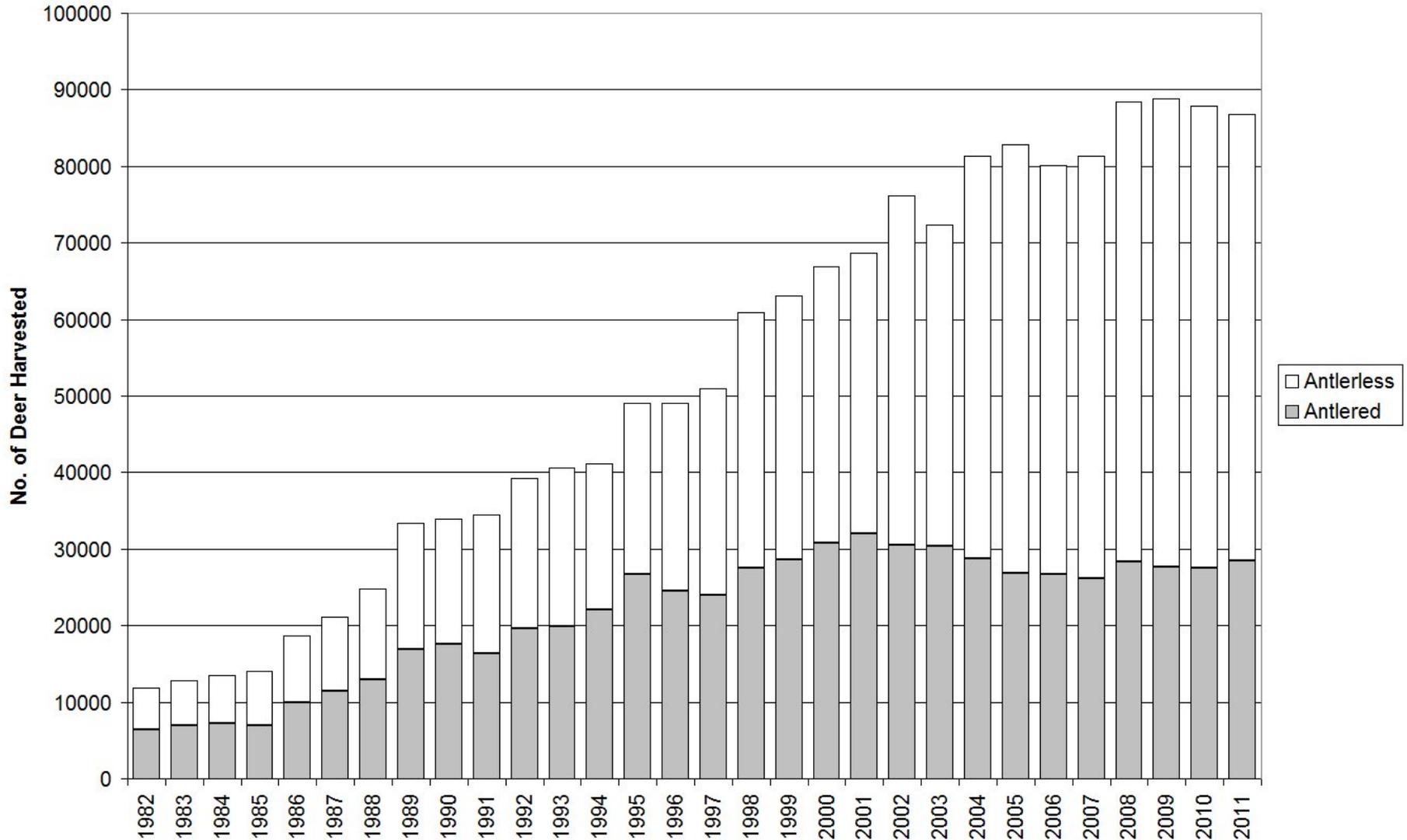
White-tailed Deer

Garrett-Allegany 30-Year White-tailed Deer Harvest

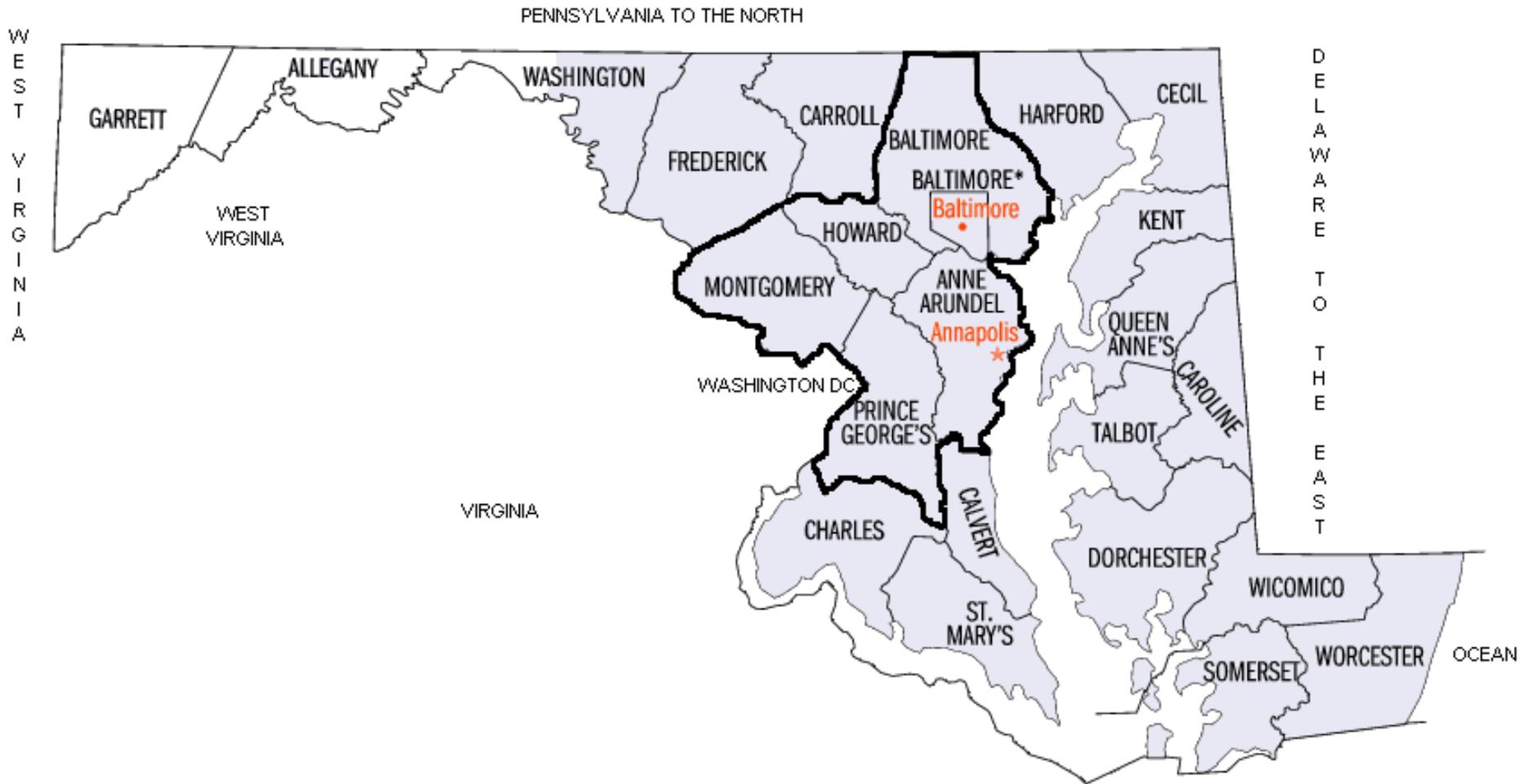


White-tailed Deer

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

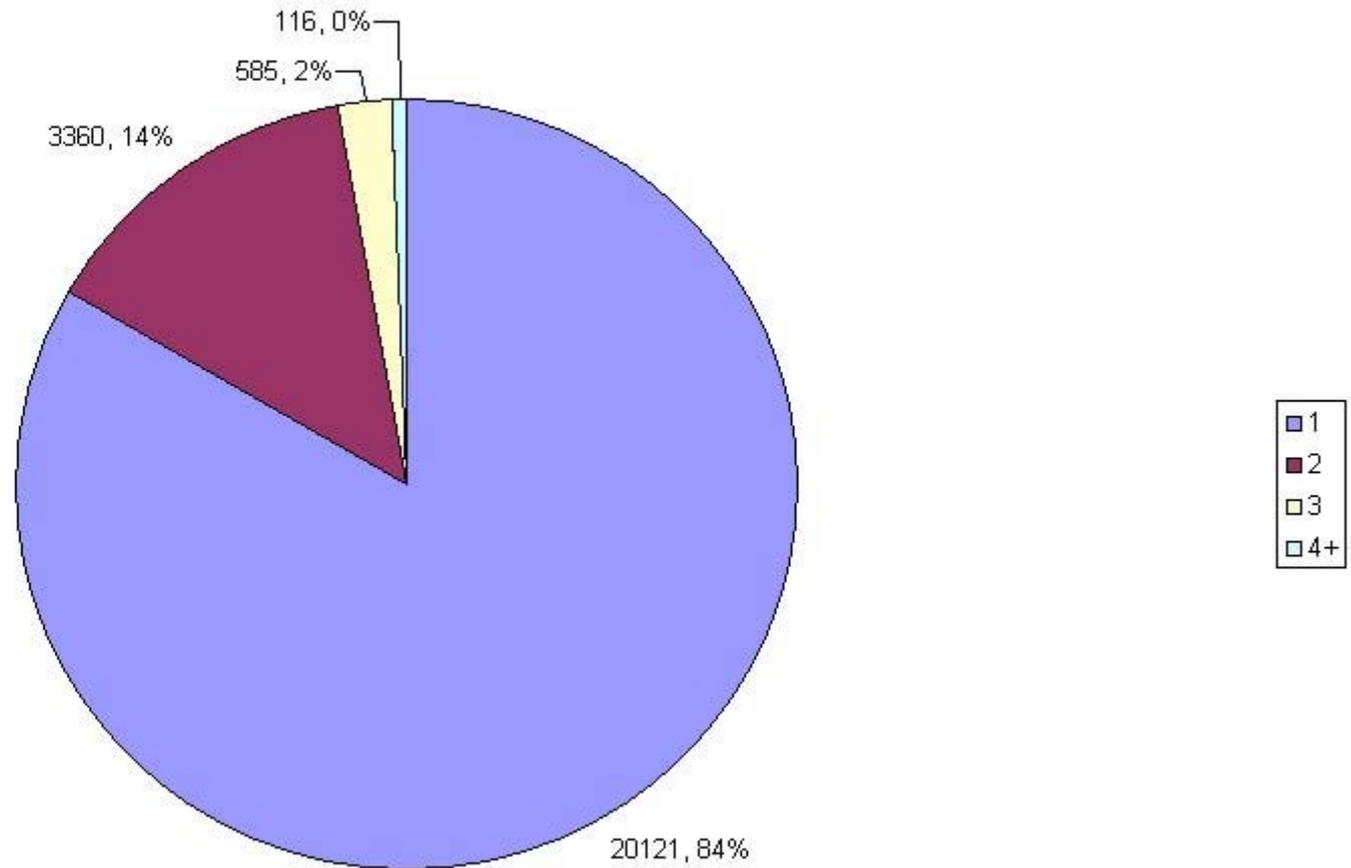


White-tailed Deer



White-tailed Deer

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



**Summary of 2011 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 14, 2012)**

- HB 35** **Status as of February 1, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters**
Private Property Rights - Regulatory Infringement - Compensation
House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: February 23, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)
- HB 129** **Status as of February 3, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters**
Caroline County - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays
House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: February 22, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)
- HB 134** **Status as of January 30, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters**
Carroll County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone
House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: February 15, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)
- HB 144** **Status as of February 1, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters**
Dorchester County - Turkey Hunting on Private Property - Sundays
House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: February 8, 2012, 1:30 p.m.)
- HB 321** **Status as of January 30, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters**
Harford County - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays
House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: February 15, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)
- HB 739** **Status as of February 8, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Judiciary**
Bow Hunting - Possession of Handguns for Protection
House: *Judiciary* (Hearing: February 21, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)
- HB 750** **Status as of February 8, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters**
Public Health - Importation, Release, and Disposal of Wildlife - Prohibition
House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: February 29, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)
- HB 809** **Status as of February 9, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters**
Prince George's County - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays PG 304-12
House: *Environmental Matters*
- HB 877** **Status as of February 13, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters**
Cecil County - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays
House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: March 7, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)
- HB 1045** **Status as of February 13, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters**
The Maryland Native Plants and Wildflower Preservation Act
House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: March 13, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)
- HB 1052** **Status as of February 13, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters**
Natural Resources - Suspension of Hunting Licenses and Privileges
House: *Environmental Matters* (Hearing: March 7, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

SB 105 Status as of February 10, 2012: Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters

Caroline County and Dorchester County - Turkey Hunting on Private Property - Sundays
Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs* House: *Environmental Matters*

SB 346 Status as of February 1, 2012: Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs

Harford County - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays
Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs* (Hearing: February 21, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

SB 390 Status as of February 1, 2012: Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs

Caroline County - Deer Hunting on Private Property - Sundays
Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs* (Hearing: February 21, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

SB 588 Status as of February 8, 2012: Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs

Bow Hunting - Possession of Handguns for Protection
Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs* (Hearing: February 28, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

SB 662 Status as of February 8, 2012: Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs

Carroll County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone
Senate: *Education Health and Environmental Affairs* (Hearing: February 28, 2012, 1:00 p.m.)

**WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
2012 – AGENDA CHART**

JANUARY 2012 – NO MEETING SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 15, 2012

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

MARCH 21, 2012

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

APRIL 18, 2012

- 2012 Legislative Session Outcome (Paul Peditto)
- Finalize Selections 2012-2014 Season and Bag Limit (Pete Jayne)
- Wildlife and Heritage Service FY12 and FY13 Budget Update (Glenn Therres)

MAY 16, 2012 - NO MEETING SCHEDULED

JUNE 20, 2012

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

JULY 25, 2012

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

AUGUST 15, 2012

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

SEPTEMBER 2012 – NO MEETING SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 17, 2012

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

NOVEMBER: TBD

- WHS Game Program Update (Pete Jayne and staff)
- WHS Administration Update (Glenn Therres)

DECEMBER 2012 – NO MEETING SCHEDULED