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Report Back Provided to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife



Report Back On: Antlerless Deer Permit System Recommendations

Provided By: The Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Date: January 10, 2022

Introduction

Good morning Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and honorable members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Nathan Bieber, deer specialist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW). I am here to provide a report back on antlerless deer permit system recommendations resulting from discussions related to carry over bill, LD 116, *An Act To Allow the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Authorize the Hunting of Antlerless Deer without a Permit in Certain Areas*. This was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 130th Maine Legislature with the request that IFW convene a stakeholder group to assist in reviewing the antlerless deer permit system and report back with recommendations for how to improve the Department's ability to meet deer management objectives while providing a transparent, fair, and equitable system for allocating antlerless harvest opportunity. Additionally, IFW was asked to examine methods of generating revenue with the system to be used to fund efforts to protect and manage deer wintering areas.

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Background

Since 1986, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) has regulated doe harvest (and white-tailed deer population growth) through the issuance of any-deer permits (ADP), which allow hunters to take either an antlered or antlerless deer in a designated area. While initially an effective management tool, we are no longer able to achieve desired levels of doe harvest with ADP. Doe harvests have been on average 21.9% below objective each year over the last decade. In response to under-harvest of does, specifically in Wildlife Management Districts (WMDs) that are at or above population objectives, IFW will recommend increased issuance of permits in the following year. After over a decade of under-harvests and compensatory permit increases, the number of permits issued each year has greatly increased, and further permits issued are increasingly subject to diminishing returns. To improve our ability to achieved desired levels of doe harvest, IFW's system for allocating antlerless harvest opportunity needs to be re-evaluated.

System Review

In May 2021, in response to three bills related to Maine's antlerless permit system, the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife voted unanimously to carry over LD 116, *An Act To Allow the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Authorize the Hunting of Antlerless Deer without a Permit in Certain Areas* and requested that IFW convene a stakeholder group to examine the antlerless deer permit system and report back with recommendations in January 2022 (Appendix 1).

IFW assembled and convened a stakeholder group, which held two meetings on June 19th, 2021 and September 30th, 2021, respectively. Attending one or both stakeholder meetings were representatives of IFW, Maine State Legislature, IFW Advisory Council, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, National Deer Association, Maine Professional Guides Association, Maine Woodland Owners, Maine Farm Bureau, Maine Forest Products Council, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, and the Maine Deer Hunters Facebook group. Other stakeholder groups that were unable to attend either meeting include the Maine Bowhunters Association and additional representatives of the Maine Professional Guides Association.

The purpose of the first meeting was to generate consensus on principles guiding review of the antlerless deer permit system and begin to develop ideas. A document with supporting information and statistics was provided prior to this meeting to inform discussions (Appendix 2). Attributes were identified as common to any proposed solutions. Any proposed solutions should:

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- Improve ability to meet doe harvest objectives;
- Not limit hunters' ability to pursue bucks;
- Not create major shifts in hunting effort;
- Not add complicated management system components and not change system components that are already working well and understood;
- Create a fair and equitable system for allocating antlerless harvest opportunity;
- Improve our ability to recruit, retain, and reactivate (R3) Maine deer hunters.

After the first stakeholder group meeting, IFW reviewed feedback, discussed solutions, and developed a list of proposed changes for consideration by the stakeholder group. The purpose of the second meeting was to review the list of proposed changes and discuss further refinement. A compilation of notes from the stakeholder meetings may be found in Appendix 3.

As charged by the Committee, methods of generating revenue via the antlerless deer permit system to support the acquisition and management of deer wintering habitat were also explored. Throughout the stakeholder process, there appeared to be consensus on most of the proposals that were developed. The exception was the proposal to impose a fee for antlerless permits, which generated some disagreement about whether it is necessary to charge for a permit that is currently free, whether charging for a permit would improve our ability to get permits to hunters likely to use them, and whether an increase to hunting licenses might be better than creating a new fee.

Recommendations

Recommendations were developed to address current system shortcoming with these solution attributes in mind. These recommendations are grouped into five categories below: methods for achieving doe harvest objectives, permit lottery, permit fees, Youth Day, and archery and crossbow hunting. The archery and crossbow hunting recommendations will segue into further recommendations regarding the use of crossbows for hunting in Maine relating to review of Public Law Chapter 98 (LD 27) - *An Act To Allow the Use of a Crossbow for a Limited Duration during the Archery Season on Deer and the Fall Season on Wild Turkey.*

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Methods for Achieving Doe Harvest Objectives

Proposal: Allocate permitted antlerless harvest opportunity by issuing antlerless permits instead of ADP, statewide.

Explanation and Rationale: Currently, antlerless harvest opportunity is provided by issuance of ADP and bonus permits through a lottery. The initial lottery round distributes most permits as ADP and remainders are distributed as bonus permits, which allow for the take of an additional antlerless deer. ADP allow a hunter to use their regular hunting license to take an antlered deer anywhere in the state or an antlerless deer in a designated area, whereas a hunter with only their regular license may take only an antlered deer. Hunters possessing an ADP (and no bonus permits) must choose between taking a buck or an antlerless deer. Eliminating ADP and issuing antlerless permits would eliminate the situation where a hunter must choose between taking a buck or an antlerless deer, which will very often result in a buck or no deer being taken. This would result in increased willingness to take antlerless deer and a higher permit fill rate. Hunters that have not applied for an ADP in the past might be more willing to apply for a permit if it allows for an additional deer.

Proposal: Grant the Department authority to designate WMDs as open to either-sex hunting on a regular license.

Explanation and Rationale: Just over 50% of our Maine deer hunters participate in the permit lottery, which leaves many hunters without any authority to take an antlerless deer. In WMDs that are already saturated with permits and with hunters possessing 3 and 4 permits apiece, a lottery-based solution is unlikely to be effective. The Department would designate these WMDs as open to either-sex hunting with a regular hunting license, which would allow the large number of hunters that did not participate in the lottery to take a buck or antlerless deer regardless of lottery participation. While their lack of participation in the lottery suggests that antlerless hunting is not their priority, some would be willing to take an antlerless deer if given the opportunity by default. This authority will not be exercised until impacts of other proposed changes are more clearly identified. Hunters in these districts would still be eligible for additional antlerless deer permits that would be issued through the lottery system or over the counter.

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Permit Lottery

Proposal: Limit lottery applicants to selecting two preferred WMDs or subunits for their permit.

Explanation and Rationale: Currently, hunters applying for permits in the deer permit lottery may select three WMD or deer management subunit areas in which to receive an ADP and two areas in which to receive a bonus permit. Through the lottery process, selected applicants are granted permits for WMDs or subunits in order of preference so long as permits are available in those areas. Limiting applicants to two areas will decrease the likelihood of applicants selecting areas in which they are unlikely to hunt.

Proposal: Eliminate permit swaps and transfers.

Explanation and Rationale: Permit swaps and transfers currently represent a significant administrative and law enforcement burden. Swaps and transfers may be used in undesirable ways allowing individuals to accumulate more permits than they are likely to use or acquire permits intending to try and exchange them for others in more desirable areas. Elimination of transfers and swaps will relieve these administrative and law enforcement burdens and decrease the likelihood of hunters obtaining permits with little intention or likelihood of using them.

Proposal: Allocate 2.5% of permits to Superpack applicants in WMDs with 2,000 or more permits.

Explanation and Rationale: The overall number of permits issued will be lower with the transition from ADP to antlerless permits. This change will ensure that the same WMDs that currently have Superpack deer permits will continue to have them.

Permit Fees

Proposal: Charge a \$12 fee for each permit received via the lottery, plus a \$2 agent fee.

Explanation and Rationale: Charging hunters for permits will reduce the number of hunters applying for antlerless permits with little intent to use them to take antlerless deer. This fee will place an appropriate value on the opportunity to take an additional deer. Revenue generated may contribute to the Deer Management Fund to be used in efforts to acquire and manage deer wintering habitat or otherwise as specified by that fund.

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Proposal: Distribute excess permits “over the counter” for \$12 (plus \$2 agent fee) rather than distributing them as bonus permits through additional rounds in the permit lottery.

Explanation and Rationale: In addition to those points mentioned above, selling permits remaining after the first lottery round over the counter will provide opportunities to obtain a permit for hunters that are not successful in the lottery, that have already used the permits they won in the lottery, or that did not participate in the lottery but are interested in taking an antlerless deer.

Youth Day

Proposal: Allow the Department to designate which WMDs will allow either-sex hunting without a permit during Youth Day rather than coupling this with the issuance of permits. Initially, Youth Day antlerless harvest with or without a permit would be allowed on a statewide basis.

Explanation and Rationale: This change would prioritize youth hunting opportunity while simplifying regulations and would eliminate situations where a small number of permits must be issued in order to allow youth hunters to harvest antlerless deer on Youth Day in some WMDs.

Archery and Crossbow Hunting

Proposal: Equate crossbows with vertical bows, following a full review of this issue in 2023.

Explanation and Rationale: More information on this recommended change may be found in the report back related to Public Law Chapter 98 (LD 27).

Proposal: Allow the Department to designate which WMDs will allow either-sex hunting without a permit during October archery rather than coupling this with the issuance of permits. Initially, WMDs 12, 13, 15-18, 20-26, and 29 would allow antlerless harvest without a permit.

Explanation and Rationale: In some WMDs, Youth Day and October Archery antlerless harvest alone commonly exceed doe harvest objectives, and this will be increasingly common with increased crossbow use. It will be necessary to designate WMDs open to antlerless harvest without a permit during October Archery to avoid this. The initial recommended WMD designations are consistent with those WMDs that currently allow a 2nd week of muzzleloader season while allowing October Archery antlerless harvest without a permit for crossbow hunters in WMDs where we have historically struggled to achieve doe harvest objectives.

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Required Statute and Rule Changes

Statutes

- §10264 (Maine Deer Management Fund)
- §10952 (Open seasons for hunting with bow and arrow and crossbow)
- §10953 (Open seasons for hunting with crossbow)
- §11109 and §11109-A (Licenses and Fees) and (Super pack license)
- §11110 (Transfer of hunting areas or zones)
- §11152, 1-A, 2-A, 5, and 5-A (Antlerless deer; regulation and authority to issue permits)

Rules

- 16.07, 1C and 1D4 (Exception to Regular Archery-Only Deer Hunting Season for years 2020, 2021 and 2022...) and (Youth Deer Hunting Day, Deer that May be Taken on this Day)
- 16.07, 2 (Antlerless Deer Hunting Restrictions)
- 16.07, 3A1 and 3E (WMD Selection and Assignment)
- 16.07, 4 and 4E (Any-Deer Permit Allocations by WMD or portion of WMD) and (Bonus Antlerless-Only Deer Permits)
- 16.07, 6 (Bonus Antlerless only Deer Permit Provisions)

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List of Appendices

Appendix 1. Letter to IFW on LD 116.

Appendix 2. Antlerless Permit System Review- Stakeholder Group Supporting Info.

Appendix 3. Stakeholder Meeting Agendas and Notes.

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Appendix 1. Letter to IFW on LD 116.

<p>SENATE</p> <p>JAMES F. DILL, DISTRICT 5, CHAIR GLENN "CHIP" CURRY, DISTRICT 11 RUSSELL BLACK, DISTRICT 17</p> <hr/> <p>JON CLARK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFLA RACHEL OLSON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST LINDA LACROIX, COMMITTEE CLERK</p>	The Seal of the State of Maine, featuring a moose and a fisherman on either side of a central shield with a pine tree and a star.	<p>HOUSE</p> <p>H. SCOTT LANDRY, JR., FARMINGTON, CHAIR JOHN L. MARTIN, EAGLE LAKE ROLAND DANNY MARTIN, SINCLAIR ROBERT W. ALLEY, SR., BEALS ALLISON HEPLER, WOODLWICH TIMOTHY S. THERIAULT, CHINA PETER A. LYFORD, EDDINGTON LESTER S. ORDWAY, STANDISH RICHARD G. MASON, LISBON CATHY R. NADEAU, WINSLOW</p>
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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

14 May 2021

Judy Camuso, Commissioner
Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
41 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0041

Dear Commissioner Camuso:

During our work session on March 3, 2021, the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife voted unanimously to carryover LD 116, *An Act To Allow the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Authorize the Hunting of Antlerless Deer without a Permit in Certain Areas* and to send a letter to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife requesting that the Department form a stakeholder group to review the antlerless deer permit system. In reviewing the antlerless deer permit system, the stakeholder group should consider recommending changes that will allow the Department to continue to meet deer management objectives while also providing a transparent system that has some predictability and equitable access for hunting opportunities. The stakeholder group may also consider recommending changes that will allow for increased participation in deer hunting by specific groups, such as youth hunters.

In addition, during the committee's work on LD 404, the committee voted unanimously to include in this letter a request that the stakeholder group also examine restructuring the antlerless deer permit system to identify potential revenue sources to fund efforts to protect deer wintering areas, including potentially charging applicants for doe permits in the same manner applicants for moose permits are charged and increasing the fee for awarded permits.

Please provide a report to the Committee by January 15, 2022, that includes a list of stakeholders that participated in discussions, a summary of the process, and any recommendations, including any proposed statutory changes, if needed.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

<p>Sen. James F. Dill Senate Chair</p>	<p>Rep. H. Scott Landry, Jr. House Chair</p>
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cc: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

100 STATE HOUSE STATION, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0100 TELEPHONE 207-287-1327

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Appendix 2. Antlerless Permit System Review- Stakeholder Group Supporting Info.

Review of MDIFW’s System for Allocating Antlerless Harvest Opportunity: Supporting Information



Stakeholder Group
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

July 2021

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Current Statutory Authorities

§11152. Antlerless deer; regulation and authority to issue permits

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not hunt antlerless deer as authorized in this section unless that person has a valid permit issued under this section.

A. Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed. [PL 2007, c. 463, §3 (AMD).]

B. [PL 2007, c. 463, §3 (RP).]

[PL 2007, c. 463, §3 (AMD).]

1-A. Antlerless deer in wildlife management districts with no permits issued. Except as otherwise provided in this Part, a person may not hunt or possess an antlerless deer in a wildlife management district or a portion of a wildlife management district that does not have permits issued. A person may possess in one of those districts an antlerless deer that has been lawfully registered in another district where permits have been issued.

A person that violates this subsection commits a Class D crime for which a minimum fine of \$1,000 must be imposed, and the court shall impose a sentencing alternative involving a term of imprisonment of at least 3 days, none of which may be suspended.

[PL 2017, c. 205, §8 (AMD).]

2. Authority to regulate taking of antlerless deer. The commissioner may regulate the taking of antlerless deer within an area of the State as necessary to maintain deer populations in balance with available habitat if the demarcation of each area follows recognizable physical boundaries such as rivers, roads and railroad rights-of-way. This subsection does not apply to a person with a special antlerless deer permit under subsection 7.

A. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §120 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §120 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2005, c. 142, §1 (AMD).]

2-A. Authority to regulate taking of antlerless deer in certain areas within wildlife management districts where no permits are issued. The commissioner may by rule issue permits in a designated geographical area within a wildlife management district where no antlerless deer permits are issued to maintain balanced deer populations. A designated geographical area under this subsection may consist of an entire town or other area but must have a demarcation of the area that follows recognizable physical boundaries such as rivers, roads and railroad rights-of-way.

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[PL 2017, c. 205, §9 (NEW).]

3. Rulemaking. The commissioner may adopt rules necessary for the administration, implementation, enforcement and interpretation of this section, except that the commissioner is not authorized to establish an antlerless deer permit system unless otherwise specified in this section. The commissioner may appoint clerks or agents under section 10801 to process applications for permits issued under this section. A clerk or agent appointed by the commissioner to process applications shall charge a fee of \$2 for each application processed by that clerk or agent under this section. Rules adopted by the commissioner that provide for permits to be issued to nonresident hunters must provide that:

A. [PL 2011, c. 533, §3 (RP).]

B. No more than 15% of the antlerless deer permits issued in any one district or in any one zone may be issued to nonresident hunters. [PL 2017, c. 427, §10 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in [Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A](#).

[PL 2017, c. 427, §10 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

4. Landowner consideration. An antlerless deer permit system adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section may include a provision giving special consideration to landowners who keep their lands open to hunting by the public. As part of the special consideration to those landowners, the commissioner shall provide at least 25% of the available antlerless deer permits in a wildlife management district to eligible landowners that apply for an antlerless deer permit in that district. Any 2 or more areas of land owned by the same person that are open for hunting and that would be contiguous except for being divided by one or more roads are considered contiguous for the purposes of determining landowner eligibility for special consideration under this subsection.

[PL 2007, c. 492, §4 (AMD).]

5. Hunter permit transfers. A resident may take an antlerless deer if another resident who holds a valid antlerless deer permit transfers the permit to that resident by identifying the name and address of the transferee on the permit as well as any other information reasonably requested by the commissioner and then returns the permit to the department prior to the start of the firearm season on deer. A nonresident may take an antlerless deer if another nonresident who holds a valid antlerless deer permit transfers the permit to that nonresident by identifying the name and address of the transferee on the permit as well as any other information reasonably requested by the commissioner and then returns the permit to the department prior to the start of the firearm season on deer. The commissioner shall record a transfer under this subsection and return the permit to the

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transferee. A valid permit must be in the possession of the transferee in order for the transferee to take an antlerless deer.

[RR 2015, c. 1, §7 (COR).]

5-A. Permit transfer to junior hunter. Notwithstanding subsection 5, a junior hunter may take an antlerless deer if another person who holds a valid antlerless deer permit transfers that permit to that junior hunter by identifying the name and address of the transferee on the permit as well as any other information reasonably requested by the commissioner and then returns the permit to the department at least 48 hours prior to the junior hunter's hunting antlerless deer. Upon transfer of the antlerless deer permit to a junior hunter, the transferor may not hunt an antlerless deer pursuant to the transferred permit but remains eligible, unless otherwise prohibited, to take a deer other than an antlerless deer in accordance with this Part.

The commissioner shall record a transfer under this subsection and return the permit to the transferee. A valid permit must be in the possession of the transferee in order for the transferee to take an antlerless deer.

[PL 2019, c. 324, §2 (AMD).]

6. Transfer of antlerless deer permit to person with ambulatory disabilities.

[PL 2013, c. 322, §2 (RP).]

7. Special antlerless deer permit. The commissioner shall issue a special antlerless deer permit to an eligible person who has lost all or part of one or more lower limbs, not including a partial foot amputation, or is suffering from the permanent loss of use of both lower limbs. The commissioner shall issue a permit upon application and after the applicant verifies that person's ambulatory disability with a letter signed by a physician confirming the person's condition. A person who is issued a special antlerless deer permit under this subsection may take an antlerless deer in any part of the State open to the taking of antlerless deer pursuant to subsection 3.

[PL 2013, c. 538, §23 (AMD).]

8. Junior hunter consideration. An antlerless deer permit system adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section may include a provision giving special consideration to persons with a valid junior hunting license. As part of the special consideration to junior hunters, the commissioner shall provide at least 25% of the available antlerless deer permits in a wildlife management district to persons with a valid junior hunting license who apply for an antlerless deer permit in that district.

[PL 2013, c. 213, §3 (NEW).]

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What Maine Does



Bag Limit Info

A hunter possessing a big game hunting license is permitted to take one antlered deer anywhere in the state. Antlerless deer may be harvested as season and management unit allow or as permits allow. Permits allowing the take of antlerless deer are available through a lottery. One additional antlered deer and unlimited antlerless deer may be harvested by permit during the expanded archery season.

Seasons Structure

Maine offers five different structured hunting seasons: Expanded Archery, Regular Archery, General Firearms, and two Muzzleloader seasons. Maine also holds an annual 1-day Youth Day.

Youth Hunting

Maine's Youth Day deer hunt lasts for one Saturday, and participants are allowed to harvest one antlered deer in any Wildlife Management District (WMD) or one antlerless deer if hunting in a WMD where Any-deer permits are issued at the WMD level.

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Regulating Antlerless Harvest

In WMDs where Any-deer Permits (ADP) are issued, Youth Day hunters and Regular Archery hunters may harvest an antlerless deer without a permit. Unlimited antlerless deer may be harvested by permit in the expanded archery areas. Antlerless harvest is allowed in designated WMDs or in portions of WMDs by permit, and permits are available through a lottery.

Antlerless Permit Fees

Applying in the ADP lottery is free, and hunters receiving an ADP or bonus permit(s) receive permit numbers at no charge. Expanded archery hunters may purchase one expanded archery antlered permit for \$32 and unlimited expanded archery antlerless permits for \$12 each.

Lottery Info

Either-sex permits called Any-deer Permits are issued by lottery.

- Lottery drawing is broken into stages:
 - o Stage 1: Superpack license holders receive up to 2.5% of the permits available in WMD's with at least 3,500 permits. These superpack deer permits are for a second deer which must be an antlerless deer. Any unallocated permits will be transferred to the regular ADP lotteries.
 - o Stage 2: Landowners who qualify for the landowner ADP drawing will receive up to 25% of the ADP available in each WMD. Any landowner permits which have not been allocated to landowners will be distributed to regular ADP lotteries.
 - o Stage 3: Junior hunters will receive up to 25% of the ADP available in each WMD. Any junior hunter permits which have not been allocated to junior hunters will be distributed in the regular lottery (4th Stage).
 - o Stage 4: The remaining ADP after the superpack, landowner, and junior hunter drawings are allocated to the regular lottery. If any permits remain after this lottery they are transferred to the bonus lottery.
 - o Stage 5: Bonus antlerless only deer permit lottery is used to distribute bonus permits to those applicants who have indicated on their applications that they are interested in receiving one.
- When permit numbers exceed applicant numbers, remaining permits may be distributed as bonus permits, which allow a hunter to harvest an additional antlerless deer in the specified WMD.
- Applicants may choose 3 preferred WMDs in which to apply for an ADP and 2 WMDs or subunits in which to apply for a bonus permit (if any are available).

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- A resident who has been issued an any-deer, junior, landowner, bonus deer, or superpack deer permit can transfer the permit to another resident. A nonresident who has been issued an any-deer, junior, landowner, or bonus deer permit can transfer the permit to another nonresident. A resident permit may only be transferred to another resident, and a nonresident permit may only be transferred to another nonresident.
 - o Only one transfer or swap per permit is allowed.
 - o Permit transfers must be completed online in late October.
 - o There is no fee to transfer a permit.

- An any-deer, junior, landowner, bonus deer, or superpack deer permit winners will be allowed to swap their permit with another permit winner in order to swap hunting districts. Only one swap or transfer per permit is allowed. Permits may only be swapped for same type permits. Residents can only swap with residents, and nonresidents can only swap with nonresidents.

- No more than 15% of the total number of permits allocated to each WMD shall be issued to non-residents if sufficient non-residents apply.

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Other Northeast Jurisdictions

New Hampshire



Bag Limit Info

- One by archery; one by muzzleloader or other firearms; additional as allowed by permit

Seasons Structure

- Archery: mid-Sept to mid-Dec; Youth weekend: late Oct.; Muzzleloader: late Oct. – early Nov.; general Firearms: mid-Nov. – late Nov. or early Dec.
- Season dates and allowable harvest vary depending on mgmt. unit

Youth Hunting

- Statewide 2-day youth weekend open to any-deer

Regulating Antlerless Harvest

- Any-deer days in each season that vary by season; archery and youth any-deer; by permit

Antlerless Permit Info and Fees

- Special Archery Deer Permit (one additional antlerless deer), \$26
- Unit L Antlerless Deer Permit, \$26 (one additional antlerless deer in Unit L)
- Unit M Antlerless Deer Permit, \$32 (two additional antlerless deer tags in Unit M)
- Unit M permits sold first come, first served; Unit L permits distributed by lottery

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Vermont



Bag Limit Info

- Four deer per year with only one antlered (excluding antlered deer taken during youth hunt)

Seasons Structure

- Archery: early Oct. – mid-Dec.; Youth and novice weekend: late Oct.; antlerless Muzzleloader: late Oct.; general Firearms: mid-Nov. – late Nov.; Muzzleloader: early to mid-Dec.

Youth Hunting

- Statewide 2-day youth weekend open to any-deer

Regulating Antlerless Harvest

- Some mgmt. units open to antlerless during archery; any-deer youth weekend; by permit during the muzzleloader seasons

Antlerless Permit Info and Fees

- Muzzleloader antlerless permits distributed by lottery, no charge

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New Brunswick



Bag Limit Info

- One deer per year

Seasons Structure

- Archery: early Oct. - late Nov.; general Firearms: late Oct. – mid-Nov
- Exact dates vary depending on management unit
- Some mgmt. units entirely closed to deer hunting

Youth Hunting

- N/A

Regulating Antlerless Harvest

- By lottery-drawn permit

Antlerless Permit Info and Fees

- Lottery application fee, \$4
- Applicants may select one mgmt. unit

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Quebec



Bag Limit Info

- Two deer per year, each from a different mgmt. unit (excepting a few zones)

Seasons Structure

- Archery: Oct. or Nov.; Archery+Shotgun+Primitive: Oct. – Nov.; All Weapons: Nov.
- Season dates and allowable harvest vary depending on management unit

Youth Hunting

- N/A

Regulating Antlerless Harvest

- Any-deer days in each season that vary by mgmt. unit

Antlerless Permit Info and Fees

- N/A

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Massachusetts



Bag Limit Info

- Two antlered deer per year; as many antlerless deer as permits allow

Seasons Structure

- Archery: early Oct. – late Nov.; Youth Day: early Oct.; Paraplegic hunt: late Oct.; Shotgun: late Nov. – mid-Dec.; Muzzleloader: mid-Dec. – late Dec.
- Archery dates vary depending on management unit

Youth Hunting

- Statewide 1-day youth hunt open to any-deer

Regulating Antlerless Harvest

- Any-deer Youth Day; by permit

Antlerless Permit Info and Fees

- Antlerless Deer Permit, \$5 fee (proposed increase to \$20 in 2021)
- Antlerless Deer Permits first available by application; permits unclaimed during application period are sold over-the-counter

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Rhode Island



Bag Limit Info

- Two antlered deer per year (excepting one mgmt. unit); as many antlerless deer as mgmt. unit allows

Seasons Structure

- Archery, Muzzleloader, and Shotgun seasons
- Season dates highly variable depending on mgmt. unit and whether land is private

Youth Hunting

- 2-day Youth Archery and 2-day Youth Muzzleloader hunts
- Dates variable depending on mgmt. unit

Regulating Antlerless Harvest

- Antlerless harvest opportunity available to all hunters

Antlerless Permit Info and Fees

- N/A

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Connecticut



Bag Limit Info

- Four deer per year with only two antlered; additional two deer during private lands hunt with only one antlered

Seasons Structure

- Archery, Muzzleloader, and general Firearms seasons
- Complex regulations with season dates and allowable harvest varying depending on mgmt. unit and land ownership
- Several "Lottery" hunts available for state lands and controlled hunt areas

Youth Hunting

- Statewide 2-day youth weekend open to any-deer

Regulating Antlerless Harvest

- Any-deer days in each season that vary by season, archery and youth any-deer, and by permit

Antlerless Permit Info and Fees

- Lottery hunt deer permits first available by lottery; permits unclaimed during lottery are sold over-the-counter
- Lottery hunt permits, \$19 fee

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New York



Bag Limit Info

- Variable depending on licenses and permits purchased

Seasons Structure

- Archery, Muzzleloader, Youth Firearms, and general Firearms seasons
- Season dates vary depending on management unit

Youth Hunting

- Statewide 3-day youth hunt open to any-deer

Regulating Antlerless Harvest

- Antlerless harvest opportunity available to all hunters in some counties; antlerless muzzleloader and antlerless archery permits; Deer Management Permits (DMPS; antlerless permits) by application

Antlerless Permit Info and Fees

- Applicants may apply for two DMPs in one or two mgmt. units
- DMP application, \$10 fee

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Pennsylvania



Bag Limit Info

- One antlered deer per year; as many antlerless deer as season and mgmt. unit allows

Seasons Structure

- Archery: mid-Sept. or early Oct. - mid-Nov. or mid-Jan.; *Special Firearms: mid-Oct.; general Firearms: late Nov. – mid-Dec.; Flintlock: late Dec. – mid-Jan.; late general Firearms: late Dec. – late Jan.: late Oct.
- Season dates and allowable harvest vary depending on season and management unit

Youth Hunting

- 3-day *Special Firearms antlerless season for youth, senior, mentored youth, active-duty military, and some disabled hunters

Regulating Antlerless Harvest

- Special Firearms season; antlerless licenses by application; Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permits; may take antlerless deer on regular hunting license during Flintlock season

Antlerless Permit Info and Fees

- Antlerless Deer Licenses first available by application; permits unclaimed during application period are sold over-the-counter
- Antlerless Deer License, \$6.97 fee

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New Jersey



Bag Limit Info

- One antlered deer per season per year (except that 2 may be taken during 6-day Firearms); as many antlerless deer as season and mgmt. unit allows

Seasons Structure

- Archery, Muzzleloader, Youth Firearms, Shotgun, and general Firearms seasons
- Season dates highly variable depending on mgmt. unit

Youth Hunting

- 1-day youth hunt open to any-deer in most mgmt. units

Regulating Antlerless Harvest

- Antlerless harvest opportunity available to all hunters during some seasons and in some mgmt. units

Antlerless Permit Info and Fees

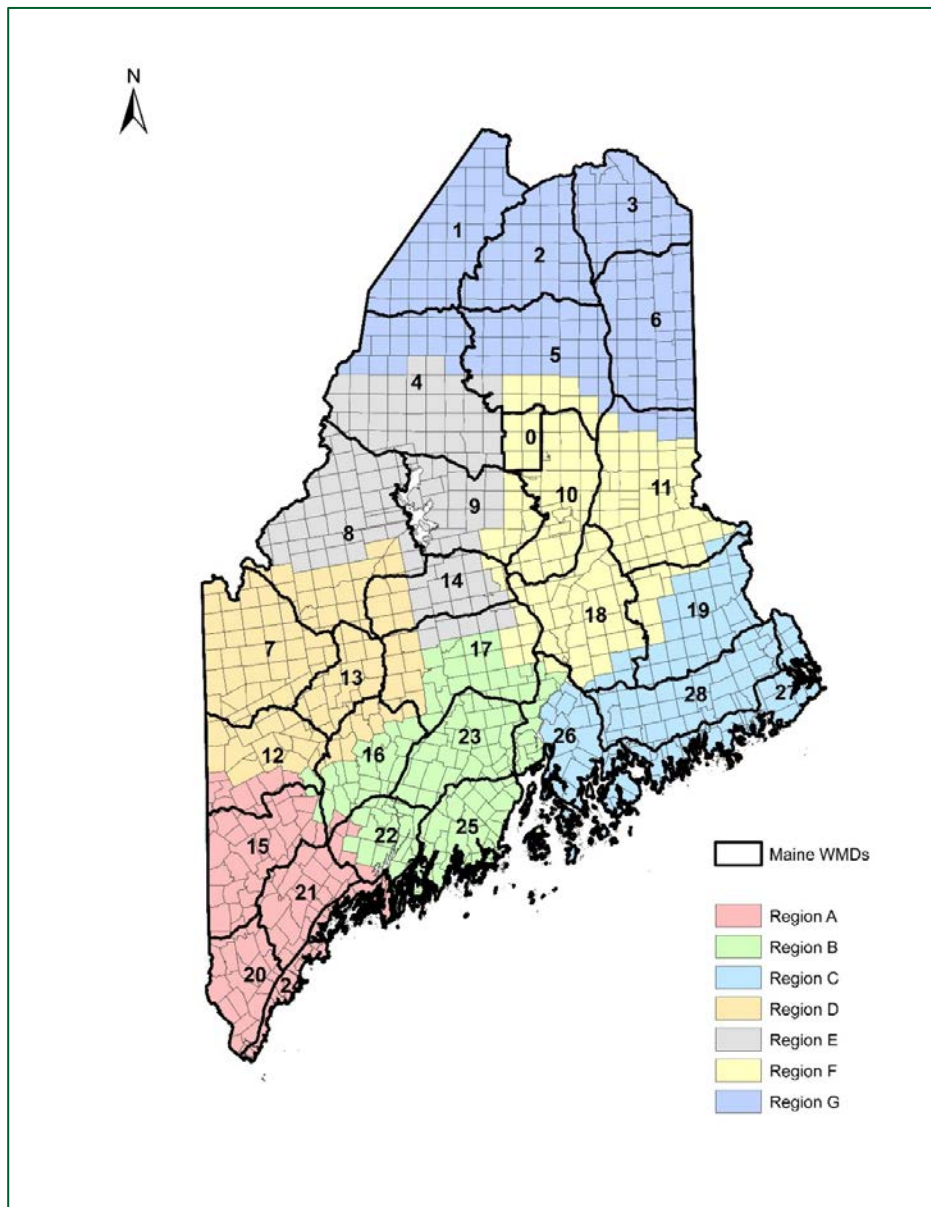
- N/A

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Supporting Information

MDIFW Regions and Wildlife Management Districts Map



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Statewide ADP Applicants

Number of ADP applicants statewide in Maine, 2003-2020.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Applications</u>
2003	89,260
2004	88,067
2005	85,451
2006	80,879
2007	80,579
2008	66,475
2009	59,673
2010	64,681
2011	67,157
2012	67,632
2013	71,157
2014	64,812
2015	65,742
2016	75,111
2017	78,393
2018	85,601
2019	77,209
2020	87,397

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Percent of 1st Choice ADP Applicants by WMD that were Non-Residents

Percent of ADP applicants that were non-resident hunters and that indicated that a given WMD was their preferred choice for a permit. For example, of hunters that indicated that WMD 29 was their preferred WMD for an ADP in 2020, 3.9% were non-residents.

<u>WMD</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
1	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	11.0%	9.6%	13.0%	9.4%
3	5.3%	3.5%	2.0%	3.7%	3.0%
4	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-
6	3.7%	3.7%	3.3%	4.4%	2.9%
7	21.3%	18.5%	20.9%	-	22.6%
8	-	18.0%	20.4%	20.3%	18.5%
9	-	11.0%	11.6%	11.8%	14.0%
10	-	-	-	-	6.6%
11	-	-	-	-	8.7%
12	8.4%	9.0%	9.0%	-	8.3%
13	10.9%	9.8%	9.5%	-	10.8%
14	13.0%	14.2%	14.8%	16.2%	13.7%
15	9.7%	9.6%	9.5%	9.9%	9.5%
16	4.0%	4.4%	3.8%	4.8%	4.1%
17	9.7%	8.9%	9.1%	9.7%	9.0%
18	6.6%	6.0%	6.6%	7.6%	6.4%
19	-	-	-	-	9.2%
20	6.3%	6.1%	6.7%	7.2%	6.4%
21	2.2%	1.9%	2.0%	2.4%	1.9%
22	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	2.3%	2.1%
23	7.0%	6.7%	6.6%	7.2%	6.8%
24	2.6%	2.9%	2.5%	2.8%	3.0%
25	4.0%	3.7%	4.0%	4.0%	3.9%
26	2.9%	3.0%	3.3%	3.4%	3.1%
27	-	2.1%	2.6%	3.5%	3.1%
28	-	-	-	5.3%	6.0%
29	3.8%	3.9%	3.7%	3.7%	3.9%

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Hunters Harvesting Multiple Deer in a Season

Percentage of hunters that took 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5+ deer during the 2020 deer hunting seasons in Maine.

2020 Deer Harvest

<u># Deer Taken</u>	<u>% of Hunters</u>
1	89.48%
2	8.72%
3	1.33%
4	0.3%
5+	0.17%

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Number of successful hunters in each WMD that harvested 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5+ deer. For example, of hunters that took a deer in WMD 29, there were 381 that took 1 deer in that WMD, 116 hunters that took 2 deer, 21 hunters that took 3 deer, 12 hunters that took 4 deer, and 13 hunters that took 5 or more deer.

of Hunters Harvesting Given # of Deer in WMD

<u>WMD</u>	<u>1 Deer</u>	<u>2 Deer</u>	<u>3 Deer</u>	<u>4 Deer</u>	<u>5+ Deer</u>
1	73	0	0	0	0
2	74	0	0	0	0
3	88	0	0	0	0
4	55	0	0	0	0
5	31	0	0	0	0
6	316	0	0	0	0
7	279	0	0	0	0
8	223	0	0	0	0
9	78	0	0	0	0
10	74	0	0	0	0
11	262	0	0	0	0
12	634	0	0	0	0
13	464	0	0	0	0
14	197	0	0	0	0
15	2,183	18	1	0	0
16	2,524	43	3	0	0
17	3,852	23	0	0	0
18	492	1	0	0	0
19	213	0	0	0	0
20	1,983	64	3	0	1
21	1,935	271	19	5	3
22	2,049	397	31	5	2
23	2,854	432	20	2	1
24	1,040	232	47	10	5
25	2,202	520	106	12	5
26	1,768	59	13	3	3
27	812	0	0	0	0
28	403	0	0	0	0
29	381	116	21	12	13

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Deer Killed in WMD by Resident of Same WMD

Deer killed during the 2020 deer hunting seasons in Maine by Maine residents in the same WMD in which the hunter resides. The 2019 (pre-pandemic) numbers are very similar, so they have not been included.

Killed in Residence WMD

<u>WMD</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% Yes</u>	<u>WMD</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% Yes</u>
1	40	6	46	13.00%	16	719	1,693	2,412	70.20%
2	35	18	53	34.00%	17	984	2,397	3,381	70.90%
3	21	51	72	70.80%	18	103	317	420	75.50%
4	21	1	22	4.50%	19	80	77	157	49.00%
5	19	6	25	24.00%	20	325	1,419	1,744	81.40%
6	58	244	302	80.80%	21	705	1,718	2,423	70.90%
7	90	65	155	41.90%	22	697	2,073	2,770	74.80%
8	92	27	119	22.70%	23	1,136	2,289	3,425	66.80%
9	54	6	60	10.00%	24	718	844	1,562	54.00%
10	33	32	65	49.20%	25	735	2,491	3,226	77.20%
11	78	108	186	58.10%	26	288	1,514	1,802	84.00%
12	200	320	520	61.50%	27	170	575	745	77.20%
13	151	211	362	58.30%	28	202	166	368	45.10%
14	83	63	146	43.20%	29	461	225	686	32.80%
15	513	1,280	1,793	71.40%	Total	8,811	20,236	29,047	69.70%

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Achieved Expansion Factors and Hypothetical Antlerless Expansion Factors

Recent achieved expansion factors for Maine WMDs and hypothetical expansion factors for 2021 if we had used antlerless permits.

<u>WMD</u>	<u>Achieved Expansion Factors</u>					<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Method*</u>
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	
1	-	-	-	-	-	2	Avg. of Nearby WMDs
2	-	3.3	2.5	5	2.9	2	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
3	2.8	2.9	5.6	3.1	7.5	2.5	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
4	-	-	-	-	-	2.7	Avg. of Nearby WMDs
5	-	-	-	-	-	1.8	Avg. of Nearby WMDs
6	2.5	2.5	1.9	2	3.1	1.4	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
7	6.4	10.5	5.3	-	5	3.2	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
8	-	11.3	6.1	2.5	4.2	2.5	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
9	-	6.7	3.8	3.1	4.2	2.6	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
10	-	-	-	-	3.6	2.1	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
11	-	-	-	-	0.9	0.5	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
12	5.7	8.3	3.5	-	6.5	3.5	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
13	5.8	6.3	3.5	-	5.3	3	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
14	3.8	5.6	3.6	1.7	4	2.2	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
15	7.1	8	6.5	9.8	11.5	4.9	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
16	6.5	9.2	7	11	13.1	7.7	Bonus Permit Exp. Factor
17	6.1	7.5	6.8	8.7	10.5	4.6	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
18	3.4	4.3	3.7	3.3	4	2.2	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
19	-	-	-	-	1.1	0.6	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
20	16	17.7	11.4	12.8	15.7	6.4	Bonus Permit Exp. Factor
21	16.8	17.9	11.4	17.5	16.1	7.8	Bonus Permit Exp. Factor
22	11.6	12.7	10.2	13.5	13.8	7.4	Bonus Permit Exp. Factor
23	10.5	11.6	10.7	13	13.9	7	Bonus Permit Exp. Factor
24	21.3	17.5	17	12.4	13	11.6	Bonus Permit Exp. Factor
25	13.5	9.9	8	11.7	13.2	8.1	Bonus Permit Exp. Factor
26	0.8	1	1.2	1.2	2.3	0.7	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
27	-	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
28	-	-	-	1	0.9	0.5	2016-20 Avg. x 0.575
29	7.2	6	6.4	5.9	4.9	5	Bonus Permit Exp. Factor

*- excludes apparent outliers

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Regular Archery Harvest- Bow and Crossbow

Harvest during the 2017-2020 October/Regular Archery seasons in Maine by weapon type, sex, and age class. Crossbows were made widely legal for use beginning in 2020 and at least through the 2022 season.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Adult Buck</u>	<u>Adult Doe</u>	<u>Buck Fawn</u>	<u>Doe Fawn</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Total</u>
2017*	Bow	215	230	24	15	4	488
2017*	Crossbow	11	21	1	2	0	35
2018	Bow	320	283	28	14	0	645
2018	Crossbow	25	36	4	3	0	68
2019	Bow	318	207	15	6	0	546
2019	Crossbow	28	28	2	1	0	59
2020	Bow	285	385	30	19	0	719
2020	Crossbow	166	230	27	11	0	434

Note- Figures not corrected for errors in assigning sex and age.

* 2017 Regular Archery season- Additional 8 deer taken with no weapon recorded

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Fee Structures- Hypothetical Funds Generated

All Applicants Fee

Avg. Applicants/Year

75,000

<u>Proposed Fee (\$)</u>	<u>Fee Precedent</u>	<u>Funds Generated (\$)</u>
\$2	-	\$150,000
\$3	-	\$225,000
\$4	NB Lottery Fee	\$300,000
\$5	-	\$375,000
\$6	-	\$450,000
\$7	-	\$525,000
\$8	-	\$600,000
\$9	-	\$675,000
\$10	NY DMP App. Fee	\$750,000

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Over-the-Counter (OTC) Fee

Statewide Antlerless Permits 65,000

<u>Fee Structure</u>	<u>Fee Amount</u>	<u>Fee Precedent</u>	<u>Funds Generated</u>
Fee for All Permits	\$5	MA A-less Permit*	\$325,000
Fee for All Permits	\$7	PA A-less License	\$455,000
Fee for All Permits	\$12	ME Exp. Archery	\$780,000
Fee for All Permits	\$19	CT Lottery Permit	\$1,235,000
Fee for All Permits	\$26	NH Spec. Archery	\$1,690,000
Sell 5% OTC**	\$5	MA A-less Permit*	\$16,250
Sell 5% OTC**	\$7	PA A-less License	\$22,750
Sell 5% OTC**	\$12	ME Exp. Archery	\$39,000
Sell 5% OTC**	\$19	CT Lottery Permit	\$61,750
Sell 5% OTC**	\$26	NH Spec. Archery	\$84,500
Sell 10% OTC**	\$5	MA A-less Permit*	\$32,500
Sell 10% OTC**	\$7	PA A-less License	\$45,500
Sell 10% OTC**	\$12	ME Exp. Archery	\$78,000
Sell 10% OTC**	\$19	CT Lottery Permit	\$123,500
Sell 10% OTC**	\$26	NH Spec. Archery	\$169,000
Sell 25% OTC**	\$5	MA A-less Permit*	\$81,250
Sell 25% OTC**	\$7	PA A-less License	\$113,750
Sell 25% OTC**	\$12	ME Exp. Archery	\$195,000
Sell 25% OTC**	\$19	CT Lottery Permit	\$308,750
Sell 25% OTC**	\$26	NH Spec. Archery	\$422,500
Sell 50% OTC**	\$5	MA A-less Permit*	\$162,500
Sell 50% OTC**	\$7	PA A-less License	\$227,500
Sell 50% OTC**	\$12	ME Exp. Archery	\$390,000
Sell 50% OTC**	\$19	CT Lottery Permit	\$617,500
Sell 50% OTC**	\$26	NH Spec. Archery	\$845,000

* MA proposed increase to \$20 for 2021

** Could sell a % OTC in all districts or just in some districts

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Percent of Applicants that are Successful- Some Hypothetical Scenarios

These scenarios are laid out to get some idea of what permit applicant odds would be given different methods and configurations for permit distribution. There are seemingly countless scenarios to look at; only a few are presented here to illustrate how chances to win permits may change given different choices. The following scenarios make many assumptions to simplify things somewhat. In all scenarios:

- Overall permit applicant number is 75,000.
- Applicants are only able to select one preferred WMD on their application.
- Distribution of 1st choice for WMDs on applications mirrors distribution in 2020.
- Permit numbers reflective of 5-year average doe harvest objective for each WMD.
- ADP expansion factors reflective of 5-year average of achieved expansion factor for each WMD as seen in section "Achieved Expansion Factors and Hypothetical Antlerless Expansion Factors," excluding apparent outliers. Antlerless permit expansions factors estimated as specified in same section.
- Expansion factors in WMDs that haven't had permits are estimates considering nearby WMDs.
- Distinction between resident and non-resident applicants does not apply.
- We will not decrease the % of permits available to regular applicants beyond current levels.

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Scenario 1: baseline for comparison

- Statewide ADP
- Same lottery configuration as current

<u>WMD</u>	<u>ADP</u>	<u>Change to Win- Superpack</u>	<u>Chance to Win- Landowner</u>	<u>Chance to Win- Junior</u>	<u>Chance to Win- Regular</u>
1	0	-	-	-	-
2	41	-	57%	42%	6%
3	77	-	31%	41%	9%
4	0	-	-	-	-
5	0	-	-	-	-
6	201	-	33%	26%	8%
7	495	-	100%	100%	24%
8	230	-	66%	100%	14%
9	77	-	100%	75%	9%
10	27	-	25%	16%	3%
11	14	-	3%	4%	1%
12	444	-	37%	54%	11%
13	339	-	25%	44%	10%
14	257	-	38%	67%	11%
15	5,330	39%	100%	100%	53%
16	8,449	77%	100%	100%	83%
17	13,112	64%	100%	100%	80%
18	211	-	23%	30%	6%
19	4	-	3%	3%	1%
20	9,937	56%	100%	100%	90%
21	16,189	94%	100%	100%	100%
22	13,574	100%	100%	100%	100%
23	15,858	100%	100%	100%	100%
24	8,777	100%	100%	100%	100%
25	13,553	100%	100%	100%	100%
26	727	-	46%	54%	11%
27	29	-	11%	5%	2%
28	19	-	13%	13%	2%
29	1,266	-	100%	100%	100%

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Scenario 2: statewide antlerless permits

- Statewide antlerless permits
- Same lottery configuration as current

<u>WMD</u>	<u>Antlerless Permits</u>	<u>Change to Win- Superpack</u>	<u>Chance to Win- Landowner</u>	<u>Chance to Win- Junior</u>	<u>Chance to Win- Regular</u>
1	0	-	-	-	-
2	24	-	33%	25%	4%
3	44	-	18%	23%	5%
4	0	-	-	-	-
5	0	-	-	-	-
6	117	-	19%	15%	4%
7	283	-	62%	92%	13%
8	134	-	38%	59%	8%
9	45	-	59%	43%	5%
10	16	-	15%	9%	2%
11	8	-	2%	2%	0%
12	259	-	22%	31%	6%
13	196	-	14%	25%	5%
14	153	-	23%	40%	6%
15	3,037	22%	94%	100%	29%
16	6,921	63%	100%	100%	67%
17	7,635	37%	100%	100%	46%
18	125	-	14%	18%	4%
19	2	-	1%	2%	0%
20	4,326	24%	100%	100%	38%
21	7,942	46%	100%	100%	75%
22	8,167	87%	100%	100%	94%
23	9,328	70%	100%	100%	84%
24	6,285	100%	100%	100%	100%
25	9,715	78%	100%	100%	100%
26	392	-	25%	29%	6%
27	14	-	5%	3%	1%
28	9	-	6%	6%	1%
29	1,038	-	100%	100%	100%

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Scenario 3: ADP and antlerless used as appropriate

- *ADP in WMDs 1-14, 18-19, 26-28
- *Antlerless permits in WMDs 15-17, 20-25, 29
- Same lottery configuration as current

<u>WMD</u>	<u>Permits*</u>	<u>Change to Win-Superpack</u>	<u>Chance to Win-Landowner</u>	<u>Chance to Win-Junior</u>	<u>Chance to Win-Regular</u>
1	0	-	-	-	-
2	41	-	57%	42%	6%
3	77	-	31%	41%	9%
4	0	-	-	-	-
5	0	-	-	-	-
6	201	-	33%	26%	8%
7	495	-	100%	100%	24%
8	230	-	66%	100%	14%
9	77	-	100%	75%	9%
10	27	-	25%	16%	3%
11	14	-	3%	4%	1%
12	444	-	37%	54%	11%
13	339	-	25%	44%	10%
14	257	-	38%	67%	11%
15	3,037	22%	94%	100%	29%
16	6,921	63%	100%	100%	67%
17	7,635	37%	100%	100%	46%
18	211	-	23%	30%	6%
19	4	-	3%	3%	1%
20	4,326	24%	100%	100%	38%
21	7,942	46%	100%	100%	75%
22	8,167	87%	100%	100%	94%
23	9,328	70%	100%	100%	84%
24	6,285	100%	100%	100%	100%
25	9,715	78%	100%	100%	100%
26	727	-	46%	54%	11%
27	29	-	11%	5%	2%
28	19	-	13%	13%	2%
29	1,038	-	100%	100%	100%

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Scenario 4: ADP and antlerless used as appropriate w/ some OTC permit sales

- *ADP in WMDs 1-14, 18-19, 26-28 and antlerless permits in WMDs 15-17, 20-25, 29
- Same lottery configuration as current
- 10% of permits in WMDs w/ antlerless permits (15-17, 20-25, 29) sold OTC

<u>WMD</u>	<u>*Permits</u>	<u>Change to Win- Superpack</u>	<u>Chance to Win- Landowner</u>	<u>Chance to Win- Junior</u>	<u>Chance to Win- Regular</u>
1	0	-	-	-	-
2	41	-	57%	42%	6%
3	77	-	31%	41%	9%
4	0	-	-	-	-
5	0	-	-	-	-
6	201	-	33%	26%	8%
7	495	-	100%	100%	24%
8	230	-	66%	100%	14%
9	77	-	100%	75%	9%
10	27	-	25%	16%	3%
11	14	-	3%	4%	1%
12	444	-	37%	54%	11%
13	339	-	25%	44%	10%
14	257	-	38%	67%	11%
15	3,037	22%	94%	100%	26%
16	6,921	63%	100%	100%	60%
17	7,635	37%	100%	100%	41%
18	211	-	23%	30%	6%
19	4	-	3%	3%	1%
20	4,326	24%	100%	100%	34%
21	7,942	46%	100%	100%	68%
22	8,167	87%	100%	100%	85%
23	9,328	70%	100%	100%	75%
24	6,285	100%	100%	100%	100%
25	9,715	78%	100%	100%	100%
26	727	-	46%	54%	11%
27	29	-	11%	5%	2%
28	19	-	13%	13%	2%
29	1,038	-	100%	100%	100%

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Appendix 3. Stakeholder Meeting Agendas and Notes.

Meeting 1, June 19th, 2021

Sportsman's Alliance of Maine HQ
205 Church Hill Road
Augusta, Maine 04330

List of attendees available upon request.

Agenda

- Attendee introductions
- Meeting introduction
- Overview of issues and ideas
- Discussion of issues and ideas
- Summary and next steps

Notes

- Meeting begins by introducing the purpose of gathering the group, process, and agenda for the meeting.
- Attendees went around the room and made personal introductions.
- IFW presented the shared powerpoint outlining talking points and potential pros and cons to several options.
- Several members brought up the importance of communications.
 - o Critical to message that harvest is distinctly different in southern Maine vs. northern Maine WMDs
 - o Many species benefit from DWA management.
 - o DWA management is a long-term process and may not see population impacts from positive DWA management for decades.
 - o The biological reasoning to harvest does.
 - o What the fees are being used for (e.g., deer management or DWA fund, etc..)
 - o Change stigma that hunters must kill big bucks, and doe harvest is for poor hunters.
 - o Tie increase in seasons/bag limits to hunter satisfaction, herd health, and public health
- Important for any solution to account for regional variability.
- How to increase permit use or create additional opportunities?
 - o Some discussion for true antlerless permit
 - o Increase bag limit to at least 2 in some WMDs.
 - o Maybe a doe-only season
 - o With any season changes, need to consider how that impacts buck only hunters

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- With an increase in bag-limit, we need have caution or build in flexibility for potential increase in harvest or changes in expansion factors.
- Bonus permits good for several WMDs?
- Access to land in southern Maine is an issue
 - Create a program to link up hunters and willing landowners
 - Create a program to “certify” trustworthy hunters
 - Maybe create landowner tags or a DMAP system
 - Transfer of depredation permits from landowners to willing hunters
- Increase funding for deer habitat and management
 - Create a “habitat” stamp
 - Fees should go to sportsman’s access in addition to DWA management
 - Need \$\$ for management not only acquisition.
- Ensure that any change is consistent with Dept. R3 initiatives or builds in options to promote R3 initiatives
 - Mentoring permits
 - Keep permit prices the same for residents and non-residents
 - Engage with adult onset hunters
 - And increasing mentoring
- Some Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) discussion. One participant worries this would give too much power to landowners. Then discussed old “BLIP” program and other options for matching landowners up with responsible hunters.
- Some discussion of whether our approach should start with a pilot WMD or cover all WMDs initially.
- Survey Hunters about reasons they aren’t using bonus permits
- Decline in the amount of deer processing facilities
- Adding additional Commissioner authority to be able to modify seasons, bag limits, etc... through rule making rather than statute.

Meeting 2, September 20th, 2021

Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine HQ
205 Church Hill Road
Augusta, Maine 04330

List of attendees available upon request.

Agenda

- Review of 1st meeting and list of proposed changes

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- Next steps

Notes

- May be good to include in lottery a disclaimer that applicants are not required to select 2 districts. This might help limit the number of applicants that apply in districts they don't intend to hunt.
- If there's a fee to get the permit, this may also help limit people applying in districts they aren't going to hunt.
- Some discussion of DMAP programs. IFW has discussed DMAP programs in the past but are not currently working on this.
- Discussion of hunters selling their permits. Currently legal to sell deer permits, not moose.
- Transfers only from resident to resident currently. If we allowed resident to nonresident, things could be significantly worse than they are currently.
- One participant on transfers and swaps:
 - o Why would we limit adult to youth transfers?
 - o If it's going to be youths, should we include family members also? A response, complicated to verify family memberships and don't want people funneling permits from kids that may not even hunt to adults and guardians.
 - o How does this help us take the number of does we want? In response, allows us to continue providing extra opportunity to youth hunters and prevents some hunters from collecting several permits with a low likelihood that they'll be used.
- One group strongly supports committing all permit fee funds to be put in a dedicated fund for DWA acquisition and management.
- Participant expressed belief that Legislative Committee is likely to support putting funds all towards DWA efforts.
- A note on charging for permits, a participant pointed out that IFW used to charge for bonus permits but no longer do.
- Advisory Council will be getting lots of outreach about these proposals. A participant expressed that fees will be viewed very unfavorably since they've been free for so long. If we're trying to take more antlerless deer, public will view fees attached to permits as counterproductive. He thinks a general increase to license would be better. Will we lose a high enough percentage of the public doing this that it will hurt our ability to harvest enough does? Paraphrasing: "People these days don't follow the dots and listen to the reasons... they will just see permit cost and be upset since it's always been free. Issue is the fee, not the size of it."
- We're going to need to "hammer home" the reasons why these fees are being implemented. If people are educated about the "why," it will sell much easier.
- Will any imposed fees impact the over 70 year old licenses?

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- Do we want to allocate funds differently to habitat management vs. predator management within the deer management fund?
- All participants expressed support for over-the-counter sales of some permits.
- Crossbow law current sunset is a year out. If we want to change things with crossbows now, will that timeline work with our permit system revisions?
- We should make the archery proposals super general to make sure it doesn't slow us down.
- From one participant, a paraphrase: "...crossbows are archery equipment. They should just be treated as archery equipment generally like bows."
- Another participant expressed that their Bureau would likely be supportive of equating crossbows and bows.
- Crossbows are a good recruitment tool for people that aren't proficient with bows, don't like guns, or are not able to use bows.
- On either-sex WMDs, paraphrasing: "...they did it once in the 80's where they had a zone that was either-sex and surrounding areas were buck-only and there was a ton of hunter migration into that either-sex area. May be less of an issue if surrounding areas had a lot of permits."
- Will document areas where there is not consensus in our report back.
- Next steps, participants asked to poll their greater group memberships if they have any sort of polling options. While we can't use informal polls to guide policy, we'd still be interested in the feedback.