

LEGISLATIVE

Late March saw 3 Senate bills introduced which would amend the current penalties for the conviction of the illegal killing, possessing, purchasing, or selling of game or protected animals. These bills at the time of this writing are currently in the Committee of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism. These bills are also tie barred – meaning one cannot become law unless all three become law.

Senate bill 0244 primary sponsor Phil Pavlov (R) dist 25, amends section 324.40119 of the Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL) to increase penalties on conviction of the illegal killing, possessing, purchasing, or selling of game or protected animals, in whole or in part to: \$5,000 for Elk and Moose, \$3,500 for Bear and \$1,500 for Eagle. Sets Waterfowl as well as amends the current MCL section to include language for additional penalties for a conviction concerning Elk similar to white-tailed deer at \$250 a point for antlered Elk with at least 8 points not more than 10 to an antlered Elk with 8 but not more than 10 points, 11 or more points \$500 for each point.

Also amends to include any conviction for illegal killing, possessing, purchasing, or selling of an antlered Moose an additional restitution of \$5,000. As well as on conviction to set at \$1,000 restitution for bearded Turkey.

Senate bill 0245 primary sponsor Dale Zorn (R) dist 17, amends section 324.40118 of the MCL to increase penalties and have a tier penalty set for first and second convictions to read; First offense individual not secure or possess a hunting license of any kind for an additional 2 years to the established remainder of the year and next 3 succeeding calendar years. Second offense individual not secure or possess a hunting license of any kind for an additional 7 years in addition to previous penalties imposed. This bill also increases the penalties already set for the convictions of illegal taking or possession of Elk and/or Moose to First offense individual not secure or possess a hunting license of any kind for the remainder of the year convicted and the next 15 years. Second offense individual not secure or possess a hunting license of any kind for the remainder of their life.

Senate Bill 0246 primary sponsor Jim Marleau (R) dist 12, This bill updates references to the sentencing guidelines currently in place to add language from Senate Bills 244 & 245.

Drone Bills SB 054 & 055. Passed both houses and was ordered enrolled on March 26, 2015. Once signed by Governor Snyder, the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or an unmanned submersible vehicle to obstruct, interfere with or harass an individual who is lawfully taking an animal or fish would be prohibited. As well these bills also prohibit an individual from taking game using an unmanned aerial vehicle.

MDNR

Upper Peninsula Antlerless Deer Management issue. As an update to the April report, organizations in the Upper Peninsula concerned about the dwindling deer herd in some areas want to eliminate the option of antlerless deer being taken in many areas during the early archery season. The reason this is proposed is because of (1) lack of habitat which enables

deer to survive better, (2) heavy predation, (3) the increased utilization and efficiency of equipment like the crossbow harvesting too many antlerless deer, (4) back to back harsh winters, - hinder the already low numbers of the deer herd in areas of the Upper Peninsula at risk of rebounding.

Some areas of the Upper Peninsula have not had antlerless permits available for a few years. In 2014 there were no public antlerless permits available, and only 7,000 allocated for private land only split between the western part of Delta (1,500 permits), Southern part of Dickinson (500

2014 UPPER PENINSULA ANTLERLESS DEER PERMITS				
U.P. County	Antlerless permits allocated	Applicants	Drawn	Leftover
Menominee	5,000	976	976	4,024
Western Delta (Gladstone unit)	1,500	584	584	916
Southern Dickinson (Norway unit)	500	250	250	250
TOTAL	7,000	1810	1810	5,190

permits) and the bulk in Menominee (5,000) counties.

The antlerless permit allocations does not include the Deer Management

Assistance Permits (DMAP) which are issued to private landowners/farmers in the U.P in which they can utilize firearms in the first 2 weeks of October to fill those tags thanks to a decision made by the NRC in 2013.

MBH agrees the Upper Peninsula deer herd is a hard issue that needs to be addressed. One point being why a bow hunter who utilizes a longbow, recurve or compound penalized because of the efficiency of a tool like the crossbow in the Upper Peninsula. With this in mind and the low amount of applicants for and permits drawn in the available areas, the MBH proposes to the NRC, that no Antlerless Deer be harvested for all seasons, including archery, firearm, and muzzle loader, until the herd recovers in Zone 1. Everyone should shoulder the burden – not just a bow hunter on public land where no antlerless permits are issued.

What were done with your license fees for 2014?

Many wonder what the MDNR accomplished as far as goals set from the use of funds generated from the restructured licenses and increased fees of 2014, enter this web site address to the MDNR web site into your computer browser

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-65134_65145-345533--,00.html click on any or all of the named folders and you'll learn of the outcomes from the increased fees, objectives reached, their cost, as well as investments in fisheries settlements, Deer Range Improvement Program (DRIP) and the Turkey sub fund.