

MARYLAND ANNUAL DEER REPORT

2017-2018

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE SERVICE





Larry Hogan, Governor



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INTRODUCTION

The 2017-2018 Maryland deer season concluded with a total harvest very similar to the previous three seasons. The recent trends in the annual harvest, while lower than the record harvests a decade ago, strongly suggests that deer numbers remain healthy across the state. As presented previously, hunters in Maryland have harvested over 80,000 deer per year for nearly the past two decades. A relatively short 25 years ago, deer hunters harvested only half as many deer each year.

Numerous factors contribute to the annual deer harvest. Fewer deer in the population, in many areas, is without a doubt responsible for some of the reduced harvest in recent years. Likewise, warmer weather has become more common during the deer season. This also influences the harvest to some degree, as does mast availability from year to year, paired with many hunters using bait. Lastly, a major influence on the harvest is hunter effort, which fluctuates from year to year based on the economy and other factors.

While hunter effort changes to a small degree from year to year, overall, it is down considerably in Maryland over the long term. In recent years, survey data indicate that hunters have spent about 900,000 total "days" a year deer hunting in Maryland. This is significantly less than the peak in 1994 of 1,736,000 days. However, while effort is down, success is up (owing to Maryland's very healthy deer population). In 1994, deer hunters were taking on average one deer for every 20 days of effort. Today, deer hunters take one deer for every 12-13 days of effort.

As mentioned in prior reports and above, warm weather, bait and mast availability (primarily acorns) can alter deer movements significantly. Many deer hunters find that they observe numerous deer on their trail cameras, but more (especially adult bucks) are photographed at night than during legal shooting hours. This is probably more common in states such as Maryland, where deer baiting is allowed. Ample food in the form of bait and acorns, combined with milder weather, reduces overall deer movement and increases nocturnal activity. These changed movements make it appear as though there are fewer deer in the population than there really are and they negatively impact the harvest.

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to wisely managing Maryland's deer population to ensure it is neither over-exploited nor under-exploited. Hunting seasons and bag limits will be adjusted, as needed, to ensure the population remains healthy. The department thanks all deer hunters in Maryland for their continued interest in deer hunting and contributing to the effective management of the deer population for all citizens of the state.

2017-2018 SEASON RECAP

The 2017-2018 deer harvest increased approximately two percent from 85,193 in 2016-2017 to 86,542 this season. The harvest was approximately two percent below the previous five-year average of 87,900 deer. The overall harvest included 83,382 white-tailed deer (30,247 antlered and 53,135 antlerless) and 3,160 sika deer (1,423 antlered and 1,737 antlerless). The whitetail antlered harvest increased four percent and the antlerless harvest decreased less than one percent.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

The Department of Natural Resources sampled 749 deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) during the 2017-2018 deer season in Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties and CWD was detected in ten deer. All of the infected deer were harvested within the current Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area (CWDMA). Five of the infected deer came from Harvest Management Unit (HMU) 233, while one came from HMU 231 and four came from HMU 250. A total of 27 deer with chronic wasting disease have now been detected in Maryland (from Allegany and Washington counties). The first positive was a yearling buck taken by a hunter in November 2010 in Green Ridge State Forest, near an area where chronic wasting disease is present in West Virginia. To date, the department has tested over 9,600 Maryland deer for the disease.

Chronic wasting disease is a disease of the brain and nervous system that causes death in cervids. Chronic wasting disease is classified as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) and attacks the brain of cervids, producing small lesions that eventually result in death. Chronic wasting disease, historically, was a disease of the west, but since 2001 it has been detected in numerous states east of the Mississippi River, including the Mid-Atlantic states of Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Currently, there are over 20 states and two Canadian provinces in North America that have documented chronic wasting disease in their deer, elk or moose populations (free-ranging, captive, or both). The disease has also been detected in Finland (free ranging moose), Norway (free ranging reindeer) and South Korea (captive elk from Canada).

Concerns over chronic wasting disease should not stop hunters from enjoying the hunting season or any venison they may acquire. Chronic wasting disease has not been shown to be transmissible to humans. However, it is recommended that hunters field-dressing or butchering deer should take the same precautions as they might to protect against other pathogens or diseases. Additional information on the proper handling of harvested deer and chronic wasting disease management can be found on the following pages.

CWD RESEARCH IN MARYLAND

The department is currently cooperating with Penn State University on a deer genetics and chronic wasting disease project. A PhD candidate is collecting genetic samples from hunter-harvested deer to study dispersal patterns in the four-state area (Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia). Gaining insight into the dispersal characteristics of deer in areas with chronic wasting disease will provide managers a better understanding of how to manage for the disease as it relates to deer populations.

THE DEER PROJECT

The Department of Natural Resources Deer Project is responsible for managing native white-tailed deer and non-native sika deer. The Deer Project utilizes broad-based deer management techniques, under guidance from the current ten-year deer management plan. The current 2009-2018 plan has five major goals:

- Population Goal: Use diverse and progressive methods to ensure the long-term viability of Maryland's white-tailed deer population through comprehensive research, efficient monitoring, public outreach, trained staff and effective management.

THE PROPER HANDLING OF HARVESTED DEER AND CWD MANAGEMENT

The following common-sense precautionary measures are recommended for the safe handling, field-dressing and home processing of venison:

- Avoid shooting or handling a deer that appears sick.
- Wear latex or rubber gloves when field-dressing or butchering deer.
- Remove all internal organs.
- Remove the meat from the bones and spinal column if home processing a deer.
- Do not use household knives or utensils when field-dressing or home processing a deer.
- Avoid cutting through bones or the spinal column (backbone).
- Never eat a deer's brain, eyeballs, spinal cord, spleen, or lymph nodes.
- If you saw off antlers or through a bone, or if you sever the spinal column with a knife, be sure to disinfect these tools prior to using them for the butchering or removal of meat.
- Remove all fat, membranes and connective tissue from the meat. Note that normal field-dressing and trimming of fat from meat will remove lymph nodes.
- Always wash hands and instruments thoroughly after dressing and processing game meat.
- Use a 50/50 solution of household chlorine bleach and water to disinfect tools and work surfaces. Wipe down counters and let them dry; soak knives for one hour.

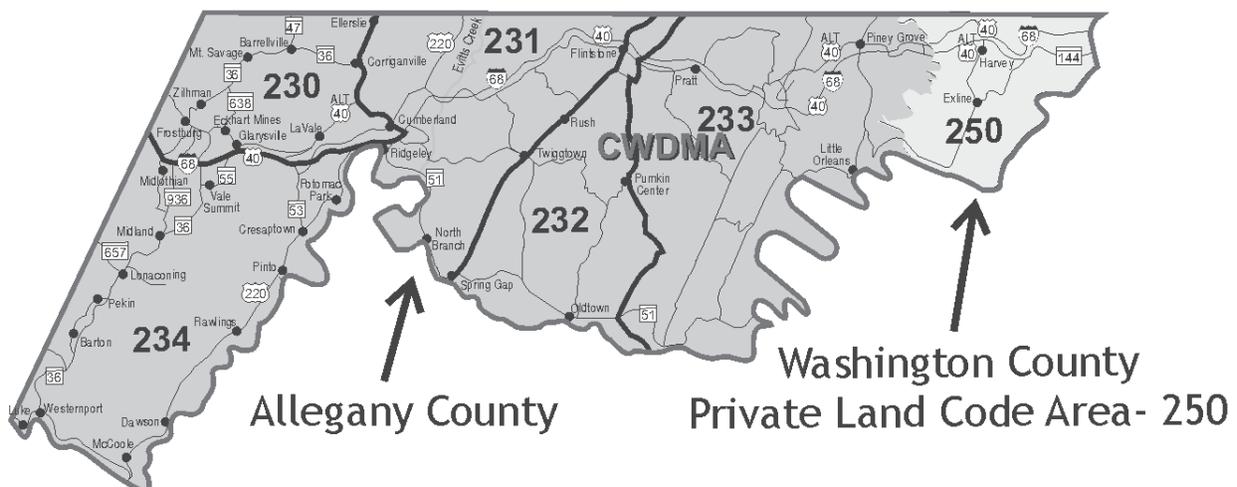
CWD MANAGEMENT

Due to the detection of chronic wasting disease in Allegany and Washington counties, the Department of Natural Resources has implemented a number of measures that are intended to prevent the unintentional spread of chronic wasting disease to other locations in Maryland or to other states. The changes outlined below apply only to the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area, which is currently defined as all of Allegany County and Harvest Management Unit 250 in western Washington County.

Whole deer carcasses or deer parts cannot be transported out of the CWDMA, except for:

- Meat with no part of the spinal column, backbone, or head attached.
- Hind quarters and front shoulders with no spinal column or backbone attached.
- Cleaned hide with no head attached.
- Skull plate cleaned of all meat and brain tissue.
- Antlers with no meat or soft tissue attached.
- Finished taxidermy mounts or tanned hides.
- Upper canine teeth, also known as buglers, whistlers, or ivories.
- Whole deer carcasses or parts being transported directly to approved meat processors, taxidermists, or lined landfills within Allegany, Frederick or Washington counties.

Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area



Please check dnr.maryland.gov for updates on chronic wasting disease surveillance and management. Hunter assistance and cooperation is essential to the department's efforts to monitor and manage chronic wasting disease.

CARCASS IMPORTATION BAN

The primary objective in the management of chronic wasting disease is to prevent its spread into new areas. One possible mode of disease transmission is by the movement and disposal of infected carcasses. In an effort to minimize the risk for disease spread, Maryland, along with many other states, has adopted regulations that restrict the importation of whole carcasses and certain carcass parts of deer, moose and elk harvested from states that have chronic wasting disease.

A person may not import the whole carcass of a dead deer, elk or moose into Maryland from another state or province's designated chronic wasting disease containment, surveillance or management area, unless the final destination of the carcass is within the Maryland Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area or with a chronic wasting disease-approved Maryland processor or taxidermist. Travelers may pass through any part of Maryland with whole carcasses from other state/province chronic wasting disease areas if the carcasses will not remain in the state for more than 24 hours and no parts are disposed of or remain in the state.

A person may import only the following parts of a carcass into Maryland if the final destination is within the state but outside the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area and not with an approved processor or taxidermist:

- Meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
- Hind quarters and front shoulders with no spinal column or backbone attached.
- Cleaned hide with no head attached.
- Skull plate cleaned of all meat and brain tissue.
- Antlers with no meat or soft tissue attached.
- Upper canine teeth, also known as buglers, whistlers, or ivories.
- Finished taxidermy mount or tanned hides.

Please consult the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance website at cwd-info.org for a complete list of state and province chronic wasting disease containment, surveillance and management areas.

Any person who imports or possesses a cervid carcass or part of a cervid that was tested for chronic wasting disease in another state or province and is notified that the cervid tested positive, must report the test results to the Department of Natural Resources within 24 hours of receiving such notification- by telephone at 301-842-0332; or by FAX 301-842-1026; or by email to brian.eyler@maryland.gov.

If you hunt deer, elk, moose or other cervids in other states and/or provinces, particularly those in which chronic wasting disease has been detected, check with the respective fish and wildlife agencies regarding special regulations or specific advice for hunters. Also check with your home state fish and wildlife agency to ensure that animals lawfully killed elsewhere may be imported and possessed in your state. Additional information can be found at cwd-info.org and dnr.maryland.gov.

TAKING DEER CARCASSES OUT OF MARYLAND

Because Maryland is considered a chronic wasting disease-positive state, deer hunters must follow carcass importation regulations in other states when they transport a deer carcass out of Maryland. The surrounding states of Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia each have specific regulations as to whether they will allow whole deer carcasses or only parts of carcasses to enter from Maryland. Likewise, the regulations for each of these states vary as to whether they apply to deer from anywhere in Maryland or just to deer taken within the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Area. Hunters are strongly encouraged to check state regulations before transporting deer carcasses.

- Education Goal: Educate Maryland citizens on all aspects of deer biology, including management tools, disease issues, economic aspects and recreational opportunities.
- Recreation Goal: Provide the opportunity for all citizens to safely, fairly and ethically enjoy diverse deer-related recreational experiences and traditions consistent with established deer population trend goals.
- Damage Goal: Identify and actively address the negative impacts the deer population has on human interests and the ecosystem in a manner consistent with the long term viability of the deer population in Maryland.
- Operational Resources Goal: Ensure that all necessary resources are available to support the proper management of white-tailed deer in Maryland.

The 2009-2018 deer plan is available for download at: dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2009-2018MarylandWTDeerPlan.pdf. The department is currently revising the deer plan, which will be finalized in 2019.

During the last several decades, the primary focus of the Deer Project has been to slow and, ultimately, reduce a rapidly growing deer population. While hunting remains the most cost-effective and efficient population control mechanism available in most Maryland landscapes, continued urbanization has necessitated the development and use of additional techniques where hunting is not practical or acceptable. Therefore, the Deer Project employs a blend of hunting-related deer management methods and proven lethal and non-lethal deer management techniques to manage deer.

To remain up-to-date on current deer management techniques and methods, Maryland Deer Project staff are members of the Northeast Deer Technical Committee and Southeast Deer Study Group. Staff routinely meet and share information with deer biologists and managers from other eastern states and Canadian provinces, as they relate to current deer management and biology.

MARYLAND PUBLIC ATTITUDES REGARDING DEER MANAGEMENT

The majority of the Maryland public recognizes the value of deer hunting as an effective management tool. A 2007 survey by Responsive Management found that 36 percent of the Maryland general public were strongly in favor of deer hunting, 25 percent were somewhat in favor, 19 percent were neutral or had no opinion, 10 percent were somewhat opposed to deer hunting and 10 percent were strongly opposed. Similarly, 76 percent of the general public agreed or strongly agreed that deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy population. The survey found that 44 percent of the general public felt population control was the most important reason for deer hunting, 24 percent thought hunting for the meat was most important, 14 percent for sport/recreation, 10 percent no good reason, five percent do not know and one percent thought to be with family/friends was most important.

Overall, when asked how they prefer the deer population to be managed in their area, the top three responses by the Maryland general public were: 45 percent for legal, recreational hunting, 33 percent for birth control/immunocontraception and 16 percent indicated they preferred professional removal via sharpshooters.

DEER HUNTING ECONOMICS

Along with the positive recreational benefits and population management that deer hunting provides, it also provides significant economic benefits to Maryland. A 2011 survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that deer hunting generated \$221 million annually for the Maryland economy (retail sales plus multiplier effect). Deer hunting in Maryland supports over 2,400 jobs and generates \$69 million in salaries, wages and business owner's income, \$17.5 million in state and local tax revenue and \$19 million in federal tax revenue.

WHITE-TAILED DEER HISTORY

Prior to the arrival of European immigrants, white-tailed deer inhabited all of Maryland and eastern North America. Native Americans hunted deer during all seasons. In Maryland, wolves and mountain lions preyed on all age classes and sexes of white-tailed deer.

The first European settlers in Maryland found ample white-tailed deer populations. Deer meat and hides provided them with food and clothing and venison recipes from those early settlers have been passed down through generations.

As the colony prospered and human populations multiplied, unregulated market hunting and the destruction of habitat (deforestation) caused deer populations to decline drastically throughout the 1700s. Market hunters sold deer meat to colonists and shipped deer hides to supply England's booming leather industry. With settlements expanding across the state during the 1800s, deer populations continued to drop and mountain lions and wolves were exterminated. By 1900, white-tailed deer only inhabited limited sections of far western Maryland.

Since the birth of modern wildlife management in the early 1900s, Maryland's deer population has expanded dramatically to fill all available habitats. State wildlife biologists, working hand-in-hand with private citizens, re-established white-tailed deer in all counties in the state. Some native deer were trapped in western Maryland and released into unoccupied habitat elsewhere. A few deer were obtained from other states and released across Maryland. The majority of deer relocated after World War II came from a large population inhabiting Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Harford County. Deer relocation efforts ended in the early 1960s when most areas of the state supported self-sustaining deer herds.

Early hunting seasons of the 1930s and 1940s prohibited the taking of antlerless deer to allow for the continued growth and expansion of relocated deer herds. As deer numbers climbed and all deer habitat became populated, deer seasons and bag limits became more liberal. Across Maryland today, the current deer seasons and bag limits encourage the harvest of antlerless deer in order to manage deer populations. At the same time, these regulations encourage hunters to be more selective when harvesting an antlered buck.

Since white-tailed deer thrive in habitat that is composed of woods and openings, the expansion of housing developments into forests or onto farms provides excellent whitetail habitat. Community open spaces and home sites created in wooded areas produce habitat preferred by white-tailed deer. Open farm fields become better deer habitat as new homeowners plant trees and shrubs on their property. Deer populations have escalated in these suburban landscapes where exceptional habitat is available and hunting becomes limited. Effectively addressing these suburban deer herds remains a significant challenge for Maryland deer managers.

SIKA DEER HISTORY

Maryland sika deer are originally from Yakushima Island in southern Japan and can be found in the marshes, swamps, wet woodlands and agricultural fields in portions of the lower Eastern Shore. Populations exist mainly in Dorchester County and on Assateague Island in Worcester County. However, harvest data and reported sightings indicate that sika deer are slowly expanding into similar, but more limited, marshy habitat in portions of Wicomico, Caroline and Somerset counties.

Sika deer became established on the lower Eastern Shore after being released by Clement Henry on James Island (Dorchester County) and by Dr. Charles Law on Assateague Island (Worcester County) during the early 1900s. Exactly how they initially made their way from Japan to the Eastern Shore is unknown, but genetic research indicates there may have been several generations in the United Kingdom. The small number of sika deer in the original stock (approximately six individuals) has resulted in relatively low genetic variability within the population today. However, Maryland sika deer display no ill effects from the small founder population and appear as healthy, or healthier, than native white-tailed deer. Currently, the Department of Natural Resources sika deer management goal is to maintain this non-native species at population levels observed during the late 1990s and early 2000s so that hunting opportunities are balanced with agricultural depredation and whitetail competition issues across the lower Eastern Shore.

Sika deer hunting is very popular in Dorchester County and on Assateague Island. Nonresidents and hunters from other areas of Maryland now travel to the lower Eastern Shore with hopes of taking a trophy sika stag with six points or more. Professional guide services are available that cater exclusively to sika deer hunters. Recent survey figures indicate that 3,000 - 5,000 hunters annually pursue sika deer for over 30,000 hunter days per year.

Past biological data collected by the department indicate that the average field-dressed weight of a 1.5 year-old male sika deer is 53 pounds, while 3.5+ year-old males top 80 pounds. Sika stags that were 3.5+ years of age averaged 5.5 antler points, while 2.5 year-old deer had 4.1 points. Field-dressed yearling (1.5 years old) females averaged 45 pounds with 3.5+ year-old females weighing about 60 pounds.

Sika deer tend to use different habitats than native white-tailed deer that share the same area. Although home range sizes are similar between the two species, sika deer use forested wetlands, marshes and the interface between these two habitats much more than white-tailed deer. Sika deer do not appear to rely on agricultural lands to the extent that white-tailed deer do. It is unknown whether sika deer prefer the forested wetlands and marshes of Dorchester County or if competing white-tailed deer relegate them there.

Previous research directed by the Department of Natural Resources confirmed that sika deer have a lower annual reproductive output than white-tailed deer. Sika females tend to bear a single calf while whitetail females over 1.5 years old frequently bear two fawns. However, sika deer tend to be longer-lived than white-tailed deer and probably produce as many, or more, calves in their lifetime, as do female white-tailed deer. Tagged individuals from previous research studies have been harvested or observed 10+ years after they were initially captured. Numerous sika deer aged by the department have teeth worn below the gum line indicating significant age. Several female sika deer have been confirmed to be over 20 years old either by using the cementum annuli aging technique or by looking at when they were originally tagged. The longer life span of sika deer may result from their use of habitat that is more difficult to hunt, thus, not as many are harvested each year as compared to white-tailed deer.

The department will continue to monitor sika deer closely and promote research to learn more about this unique species on the Eastern Shore. Recently, a study completed by the University of Delaware examined sika genetics and the possible consequences of competition between sika deer and native white-tailed deer. Results of that study are available at:

udspace.udel.edu/handle/19716/17498.



RESULTS OF LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CHANGES FOR THE 2017-2018 DEER SEASON

Several regulatory and legislative changes went into effect for the 2017-2018 deer season, including the establishment of minimum standards for air guns (including those that shoot either a bullet/ball or an arrow/bolt). Minimum energy requirements were set for these weapons which made them eligible to be used for deer hunting during the firearm season. These weapons are enjoyed by a limited number of hunters and it is not expected that they will significantly change deer harvest patterns.

Legislatively, in Montgomery County, the archery safety zone was changed to 50 yards when hunting from a tree stand and 100 yards when hunting from the ground. While it is difficult to ascertain what impact these reduced zones have on the total deer harvest, they without a doubt provide additional access for deer hunting. Also, Sunday hunting was expanded in Kent and Montgomery counties. Hunters harvested 306 and 257 deer in these counties on Sundays, respectively (Table 2).

Lastly, the newly created Apprentice License was made available to residents and non-residents who never held a Maryland hunting license. Approximately 2,000 of these licenses were sold for the 2017-2018 season, many presumably for deer hunting.

REGULATORY AND LEGISLATIVE CHANGES FOR THE COMING 2018-2019 SEASON

Two deer-related pieces of legislation were passed during the 2018 legislative session and are effective for the 2018-2019 season:

- In Montgomery County, archery hunters will no longer be required to specifically use a tree stand when hunting, but instead must be in an elevated position when hunting within 50 – 100 yards of any building or camp occupied by humans.
- Hunters will have the option of wearing daylight fluorescent pink if they were otherwise required to wear daylight fluorescent orange.

The department also conducted its biennial spring regulatory process in 2018, which included stakeholder and public input, to develop and implement new deer regulations and/or modify existing regulations. Regulations pending approval that will go into effect for 2018-2019 include:

- The statewide combined total antlered white-tailed bag limit for archery, muzzleloader and firearms seasons was reduced to two deer. Hunters in Region B will be eligible to take a third antlered deer with the purchase of a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp.
- Hunters will only be able to harvest one antlered white-tailed deer per day within the prescribed bag limit.
- Hunters will be permitted to harvest one antlered white-tailed deer, within the prescribed bag limit, that does not meet the requirement of having at least three points on one antler. Junior hunters and apprentice license holders, 16 years of age or younger, will be exempt from this requirement.
- Hunters in Region B will no longer be required to harvest two antlerless white-tailed deer before using the Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp.

- Hunters in Region A will be permitted to harvest either an antlerless or an antlered white-tailed deer during the early muzzleloader season on public land.
- The Region B archery season antlerless white-tailed bag limit was changed from unlimited to fifteen (15).
- Additional Sunday hunting opportunities for archery hunters were added in Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Kent, Montgomery, Garrett and Washington counties.

Additional information regarding these legislative and regulatory changes will be available in the 2018-2019 Guide to Hunting and Trapping that comes with the hunting license.

2017-2018 DEER HARVEST

Maryland deer hunters harvested 86,542 deer in 2017-2018, a two percent increase from the 85,193 deer reported in 2016-2017 (Table 1, Figure 1). The harvest was comprised of 31,670 antlered deer (30,247 white-tailed deer and 1,423 sika deer) and 54,872 antlerless deer (53,135 white-tailed deer and 1,737 sika deer; Figure 2). The antlerless harvest included 47,309 does or antlerless bucks and 7,563 button bucks (Table 3, Figure 3). The antlered harvest increased four percent and the antlerless harvest increased less than one percent compared to the 2016-2017 season.

In Deer Management Region A (Garrett, Allegany and western Washington counties), hunters reported taking 10,003 deer this year, an 18 percent increase from the 8,490 deer harvested in 2016-2017. The antlered harvest increased 23 percent from 5,067 deer last year to 6,237 this year and the antlerless harvest increased 10 percent from 3,423 to 3,766 deer.

The reported harvest in Region B decreased slightly from 76,703 deer last year to 76,539 deer this year. The antlered harvest increased less than one percent from 25,259 deer to 25,433 deer and the antlerless harvest decreased less than one percent from 51,444 deer last year to 51,106 deer. Frederick County led the harvest totals again this year with 7,354 deer, followed by Carroll County with 5,896 and Baltimore County at 5,559. Garrett and Montgomery counties rounded out the top five with 5,349 and 4,783 deer, respectively. (Table 1).

Following the statewide trend, the deer harvest in Maryland's suburban counties (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's counties) increased one percent for the 2017-2018 season. Hunters in these counties reported 18,136 deer compared to 17,907 deer reported the previous year. The Department of Natural Resources will continue with liberal antlerless harvest regulations in these counties in an effort to address the impacts that high deer populations have on Maryland's suburban landscape and residents.

Sunday deer hunting in Maryland continues to be an important aid to deer management. A total of 7,204 deer (8 percent of the total harvest) were taken on Sundays during the 2017-2018 season. (Table 2). Sunday hunting is permitted in 20 of 23 counties with up to 13 Sundays open in some counties, predominantly on private lands only.

Table 1
Maryland Reported Antlered and Antlerless Harvest for the Archery, Firearm, and Muzzleloader Hunting Seasons by County, 2017-2018

COUNTY	Archery			Firearms			Muzzleloader			Total		
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total									
Allegany	487	371	858	1167	584	1751	424	328	752	2078	1283	3361
Anne Arundel	508	1034	1542	329	625	954	141	342	483	978	2001	2979
Baltimore	948	1977	2925	551	1146	1697	255	682	937	1754	3805	5559
Calvert	259	459	718	221	464	685	78	207	285	558	1130	1688
Caroline												
Whitetail	194	388	582	454	1111	1565	108	325	433	756	1824	2580
Sika	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	2
Carroll	746	1235	1981	1080	1964	3044	290	581	871	2116	3780	5896
Cecil	472	860	1332	605	1175	1780	184	407	591	1261	2442	3703
Charles	487	830	1317	502	995	1497	177	421	598	1166	2246	3412
Dorchester												
Whitetail	150	282	432	405	885	1290	123	315	438	678	1482	2160
Sika	387	531	918	567	744	1311	352	347	699	1306	1622	2928
Frederick	814	1261	2075	1453	2613	4066	399	814	1213	2666	4688	7354
Garrett	977	631	1608	1759	896	2655	599	487	1086	3335	2014	5349
Harford	551	1095	1646	457	878	1335	203	493	696	1211	2466	3677
Howard	366	855	1221	259	565	824	113	269	382	738	1689	2427
Kent	385	580	965	564	1209	1773	207	481	688	1156	2270	3426
Montgomery	662	1436	2098	555	1323	1878	240	567	807	1457	3326	4783
Prince George's	378	697	1075	289	534	823	161	329	490	828	1560	2388
Queen Anne's	398	698	1096	593	1463	2056	198	540	738	1189	2701	3890
St. Mary's	373	759	1132	332	732	1064	140	356	496	845	1847	2692
Somerset												
Whitetail	141	280	421	402	991	1393	106	269	375	649	1540	2189
Sika	1	5	6	0	0	0	1	2	3	2	7	9
Talbot	212	419	631	328	1048	1376	131	363	494	671	1830	2501
Washington	618	827	1445	1177	1225	2402	340	406	746	2135	2458	4593
Wicomico												
Whitetail	242	455	697	586	1391	1977	124	429	553	952	2275	3227
Sika	17	27	44	43	35	78	25	21	46	85	83	168
Worcester												
Whitetail	188	388	576	720	1673	2393	162	417	579	1070	2478	3548
Sika	7	2	9	18	17	35	4	5	9	29	24	53
Total	10968	18382	29350	15416	26286	41702	5286	10204	15490	31670	54872	86542

Table 2
Maryland Reported Sunday Hunting Deer Harvest by County, 2017-2018

COUNTY	Archery			Firearms			Junior Hunt			Muzzleloader			Grand Total
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	
Allegany ⁵	33	24	57	115	*	115	41	24	65	6	*	6	243
Anne Arundel ¹	13	10	23	21	42	63	7	3	10	*	*	*	96
Calvert ³	13	26	39	33	94	127	4	4	8	*	*	*	174
Caroline ³ Whitetail	13	27	40	84	225	309	14	20	34	*	*	*	383
Sika	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	0
Carroll ⁴	50	111	161	148	297	445	40	15	55	6	26	32	693
Cecil ¹	14	8	22	58	105	163	27	22	49	*	*	*	234
Charles ³	24	33	57	90	201	291	23	12	35	*	*	*	383
Dorchester ² Whitetail	3	15	18	46	133	179	14	9	23	*	*	*	220
Sika	15	14	29	60	73	133	5	4	9	*	*	*	171
Frederick ⁴	61	104	165	183	425	608	52	25	77	10	29	39	889
Garrett ⁵	76	45	121	209	*	209	94	43	137	12	*	12	479
Harford ³	33	53	86	63	138	201	6	6	12	*	*	*	299
Kent ⁷	35	42	77	68	123	191	12	10	22	3	13	16	306
Montgomery ⁸	31	51	82	40	78	118	30	15	45	6	6	12	257
Queen Anne's ³	24	37	61	93	248	341	19	23	42	*	*	*	444
St. Mary's ³	23	42	65	50	100	150	16	5	21	*	*	*	236
Somerset ³ Whitetail	9	13	22	61	176	237	21	12	33	*	*	*	292
Sika	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	0
Talbot ²	14	22	36	53	103	156	6	9	15	*	*	*	207
Washington ⁶	39	47	86	112	98	210	36	26	62	6	11	17	375
Wicomico ² Whitetail	13	14	27	65	150	215	33	28	61	*	*	*	303
Sika	1	3	4	9	4	13	0	1	1	*	*	*	18
Worcester ³ Whitetail	13	23	36	117	286	403	31	31	62	*	*	*	501
Sika	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	*	*	*	1
Total	550	764	1314	1779	3099	4878	531	347	878	49	85	134	7204

* Sunday hunting was not open during this season in this county.

1 Archery season was open on Sunday November 5, 2017 on private lands only. Firearm season was open on Sunday November 26, 2017 on private lands only. The Junior Hunt was open on Sunday November 12, 2017 on private lands only.

2 Archery season was open on Sundays October 15, 22, & 29 and November 5 & 12, 2017 on private lands only. Firearm season was open on Sunday November 26, 2017 on private lands only. The Junior Hunt was open on Sunday November 12, 2017 on private lands only.

3 Archery season was open on Sundays October 15, 22, & 29 and November 5 & 12, 2017 on private lands only. Firearm season was open on Sundays November 26 and December 3, 2017, and January 7, 2018 on private lands only. The Junior Hunt was open on Sunday November 12, 2017 on private lands only.

4 Archery season was open on Sundays October 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 and November 5, 12, & 19, 2017 on private lands only. Firearm season was open on Sundays November 26 and December 3, 2017, and January 7, 2018 on private lands only. The Junior Hunt was open on Sunday November 12, 2017 on private lands only. Muzzleloader season was open Sundays December 17 & 24, 2017 on private lands only.

5 Archery season was open on Sundays October 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 and November 5, 12, & 19, 2017 on private and designated public lands only. Firearm season was open on Sundays November 26 and December 3, 2017, on private and designated public lands only. The Junior Hunt was open on Sunday November 12, 2017 on private and designated public lands only. Muzzleloader season was open Sundays December 17 & 24, 2017 on private and designated public lands only.

6 Archery season was open on Sundays October 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 and November 5, 12, & 19, 2017 on private and designated public lands only. Firearm season was open on Sundays November 26 and December 3, 2017, on private and designated public lands only in Zone 2. Firearm season was open on Sundays November 26 and December 3, 2017, and January 7, 2018 on private lands only in Zone 1. The Junior Hunt was open on Sunday November 12, 2017 on private and designated public lands only. Muzzleloader season was open Sundays December 17 & 24, 2017 on private and designated public lands only.

7 Archery season was open on Sundays October 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 and November 5, 12, & 19, 2017 on private lands only. Firearm season was open on Sundays November 26 and December 3, 2017, and January 7, 2018 on private lands only. The Junior Hunt was open on Sunday November 12, 2017 on private lands only. Muzzleloader season was open Sundays December 17 & 24, 2017 on private lands only. Legal hunting hours ended at 10:30am on December 3, 2017 and January 7, 2018.

8 Archery season was open on Sundays October 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 and November 5, 12, & 19, 2017 on private lands only. Firearm season was open on Sundays November 26 and December 3, 2017, and January 7, 2018 on private lands only. The Junior Hunt was open on Sunday November 12, 2017 on private lands only. Muzzleloader season was open Sundays December 17 & 24, 2017 on private lands only. Legal hunting hours ended at 10:30am on all Sundays except November 5, 12, & 26, 2017.

Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties were: Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Garrett SF, Green Ridge SF, Indian Springs WMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Prather's Neck WMA, Savage River SF, Sideling Hill WMA, and Warrior Mountain WMA.

Figure 1
Maryland Reported Deer Harvest for the Archery, Firearm, and Muzzleloader Seasons, 2008-2009 through 2017-2018

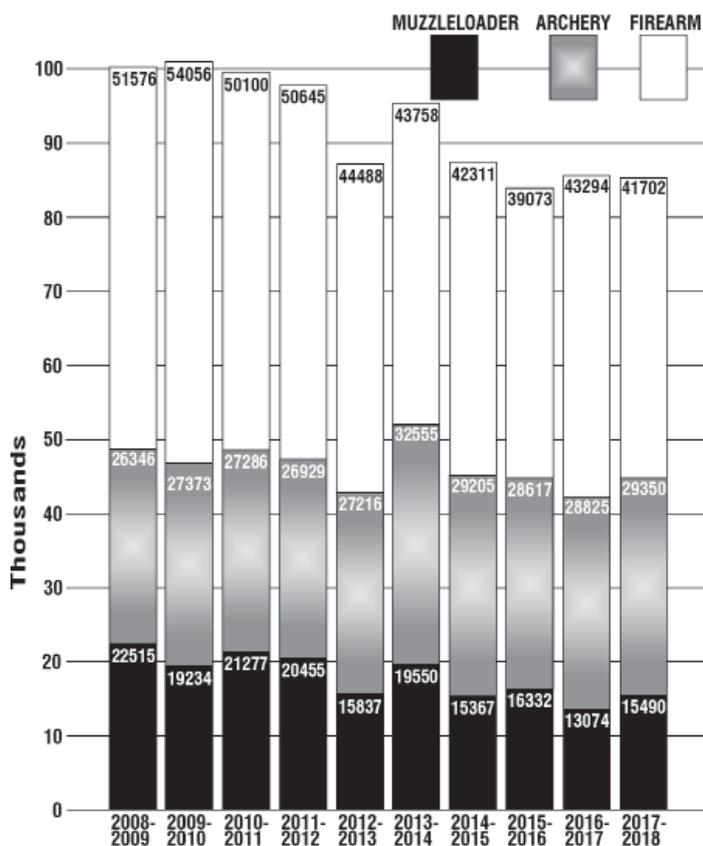


Figure 3
Maryland Reported Button Buck and Doe Harvest, 2008-2009 through 2017-2018

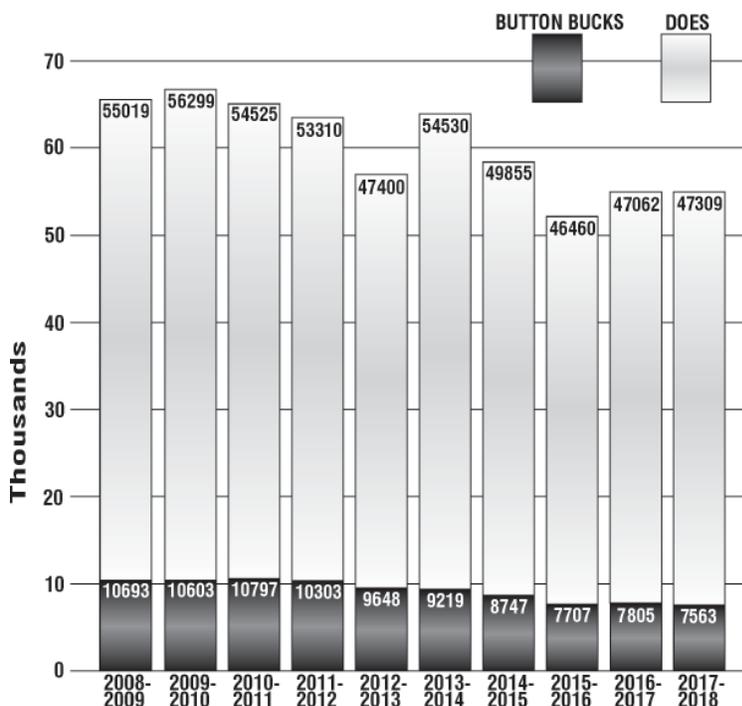


Figure 2
Maryland Reported Antlered and Antlerless Deer Harvest, 2008-2009 through 2017-2018

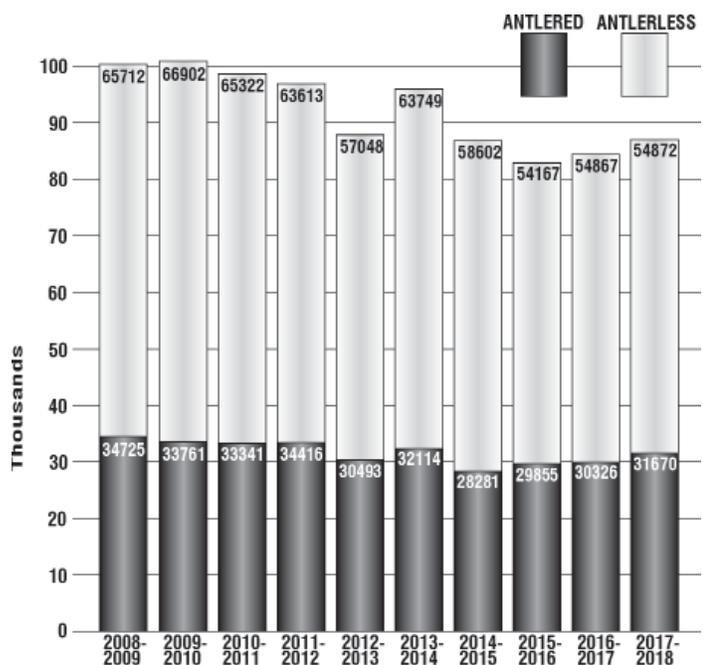
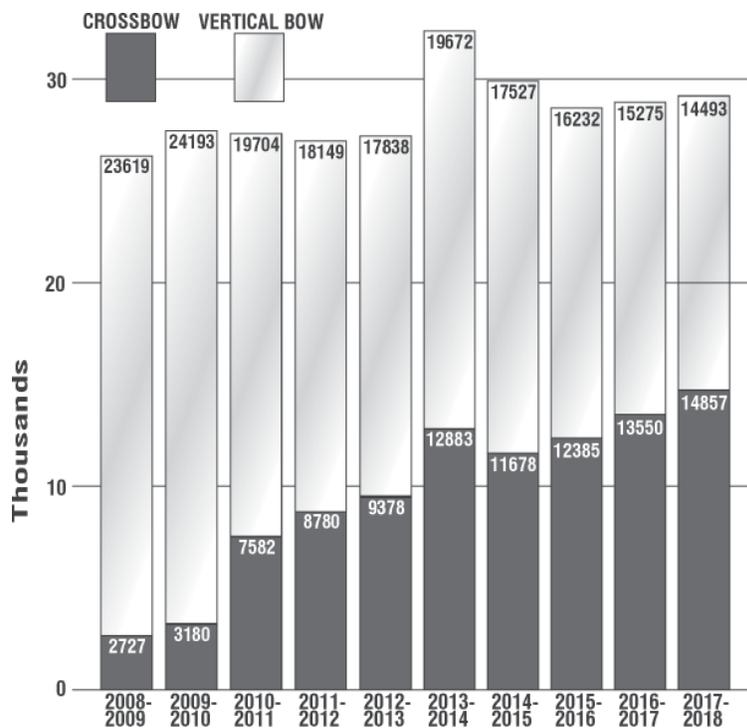


Figure 4
Maryland Reported Crossbow and Vertical Bow Deer Harvest during the Designated Archery Season, 2007-2008 through 2017-2018



ARCHERY SEASON

Archery season in Maryland opens the Friday after Labor Day (Sept. 8 in 2017-2018) and closes on Jan. 31 (unless Jan. 31 is a Sunday). Resident and non-resident hunters purchased approximately 55,000 and 10,000 archery stamps, respectively, in 2017-2018. The average Maryland hunter that deer hunts with a vertical bow each year (approximately 20,000-25,000 individuals) normally does so for about 10-15 days each season and 25-35 percent of these hunters take one deer or more each year with their bow. Approximately 15,000-20,000 hunters currently hunt deer with a crossbow in Maryland. The average crossbow hunter hunts with a crossbow for 10-11 days each year and approximately 35-45 percent are successful in taking one or more deer per year with the weapon.

In 2017-2018:

- The reported archery harvest (vertical and crossbow) increased two percent from 28,825 deer in 2016-2017 to 29,350 deer in 2017-2018 (Table 1).
- There were 10,968 antlered deer (37 percent of the total archery harvest) and 18,382 antlerless deer harvested with crossbows and vertical bows.
- The antlered archery harvest increased one percent and the antlerless harvest (16,385 does and 1,997 button bucks) increased two percent from the previous year.
- Crossbow hunters took 5,898 antlered deer and 8,959 antlerless deer during the archery season (Table 4).
- The crossbow harvest (14,857 deer) represented 51 percent of the total archery season harvest in 2017-2018 – slightly higher than the 47 percent that it was in 2016-2017 and the first time it has exceeded the vertical bow harvest (Figure 4).
- Approximately 9,200 different hunters harvested a deer with a crossbow during archery season (compared to 8,400 in 2016-2017).
- 87 percent of the archery harvest was on private lands.
- Archery hunters took 1,314 deer (550 antlered, 764 antlerless) on Sundays open to archery hunting (Table 2).

FIREARM SEASON

The statewide firearm season begins the Saturday after Thanksgiving and runs for the following two weeks. In Region B, hunters have an additional two or three days of firearm hunting in early January. Deer taken during managed hunts outside the normal deer seasons are also counted as firearm kills. Approximately 45,000 - 55,000 hunters pursue deer with a firearm each year in Maryland. The average deer hunter spends 5-6 days each year pursuing deer with a firearm and approximately 40-45 percent of firearm hunters bag at least one deer each year.

In 2017-2018:

- The statewide firearm harvest decreased four percent from 43,294 deer in 2016-2017 to 41,702 deer (Table 1).
- The firearm harvest was comprised of 15,416 antlered deer (36 percent of the total firearm harvest) and 26,286 antlerless deer.
- The antlered harvest decreased less than one percent and the antlerless harvest (22,178 does or antlerless bucks and 4,108 button bucks) decreased 5percent from 2016-2017.

Table 3
Maryland Reported Buttonbuck Harvest
by County, 2017-2018

COUNTY	Buttonbuck	Female or Antlerless	Total	Percent Buttonbuck
Allegany	146	1137	1283	11.4
Anne Arundel	300	1701	2001	15.0
Baltimore	470	3335	3805	12.4
Calvert	166	964	1130	14.7
Caroline				
Whitetail	327	1497	1824	17.9
Sika	1	0	1	*
Carroll	480	3300	3780	12.7
Cecil	347	2095	2442	14.2
Charles	304	1942	2246	13.5
Dorchester				
Whitetail	283	1199	1482	19.1
Sika	104	1518	1622	6.4
Frederick	545	4143	4688	11.6
Garrett	225	1789	2014	11.2
Harford	348	2118	2466	14.1
Howard	236	1453	1689	14.0
Kent	292	1978	2270	12.9
Montgomery	470	2856	3326	14.1
Prince George's	228	1332	1560	14.6
Queen Anne's	423	2278	2701	15.7
St. Mary's	305	1542	1847	16.5
Somerset				
Whitetail	273	1267	1540	17.7
Sika	0	7	7	*
Talbot	345	1485	1830	18.9
Washington	249	2209	2458	10.1
Wicomico				
Whitetail	321	1954	2275	14.1
Sika	4	79	83	*
Worcester				
Whitetail	370	2108	2478	14.9
Sika	1	23	24	*
Total	7563	47309	54872	13.8

*Small sample size

Table 4
Maryland Reported Crossbow Deer Harvest
by County, 2017-2018

COUNTY	Archery Season			Muzzleloader/Firearm Seasons			Grand Total
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	
Allegany	320	210	530	4	7	11	541
Anne Arundel	260	516	776	20	57	77	853
Baltimore	464	880	1344	61	147	208	1552
Calvert	156	240	396	10	30	40	436
Caroline	102	175	277	6	16	22	299
Carroll	371	555	926	21	58	79	1005
Cecil	238	407	645	15	27	42	687
Charles	265	415	680	14	38	52	732
Dorchester							
Whitetail	75	158	233	3	5	8	241
Sika	206	261	467	7	5	12	479
Frederick	399	586	985	8	25	33	1018
Garrett	616	361	977	12	12	24	1001
Harford	282	492	774	26	66	92	866
Howard	188	378	566	30	61	91	657
Kent	189	228	417	1	14	15	432
Montgomery	348	752	1100	54	118	172	1272
Prince George's	180	326	506	23	35	58	564
Queen Anne's	200	339	539	8	35	43	582
St. Mary's	222	444	666	15	37	52	718
Somerset							
Whitetail	83	151	234	5	9	14	248
Sika	0	1	1	0	1	1	2
Talbot	133	229	362	6	18	24	386
Washington	353	402	755	12	25	37	792
Wicomico							
Whitetail	141	260	401	4	17	21	422
Sika	7	11	18	0	0	0	18
Worcester							
Whitetail	97	182	279	5	13	18	297
Sika	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
Grand Total	5898	8959	14857	370	876	1246	16103

Table 5
Maryland Reported 2-Week
Firearm Season Deer Harvest by
County, 2017

COUNTY	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Allegany	1055	534	1589
Anne Arundel	247	474	721
Baltimore	491	1004	1495
Calvert	185	370	555
Caroline	385	946	1331
Carroll	929	1693	2622
Cecil	516	991	1507
Charles	387	814	1201
Dorchester			
Whitetail	307	759	1066
Sika	384	446	830
Frederick	1246	2248	3494
Garrett	1504	789	2293
Harford	381	717	1098
Howard	181	340	521
Kent	468	991	1459
Montgomery	416	801	1217
Prince George's	239	432	671
Queen Anne's	485	1240	1725
St. Mary's	250	605	855
Somerset	318	859	1177
Talbot	281	939	1220
Washington	1038	1098	2136
Wicomico			
Whitetail	463	1199	1662
Sika	37	28	65
Worcester			
Whitetail	571	1413	1984
Sika	3	5	8
Total	12767	21735	34502

- The majority (83 percent) of the firearm harvest occurred during the two-week season that begins the Saturday after Thanksgiving (Table 5).
- Firearm hunters took 48 percent of all deer harvested in Maryland compared to 51 percent last season. (Figure 1).
- The majority (89 percent) of the firearm harvest was taken on private property.
- Firearm hunters bagged 4,878 deer (1,779 antlered and 3,099 antlerless) on the Sundays open during the 2-week and January firearm seasons and juniors harvested 878 deer (531 antlered and 347 antlerless) on the Junior Deer Hunt Sunday (Table 2).
- Junior deer hunters bagged a total of 2,465 deer (1,501 antlered and 964 antlerless) during the Junior Deer Hunt weekend; slightly more than the 2,444 deer taken in 2016-2017. (Table 6).
- Deer hunters reported 3,385 deer (76 percent antlerless) for the 3-day January firearm season (Table 7).

MUZZLELOADER SEASON

The 2017-2018 statewide, either-sex muzzleloader season included three days in October (Oct. 19-21) and two weeks during late December (Dec. 16-30). Region B continued with a six day antlerless-only muzzleloader season (Oct. 23-28) to provide for additional deer population management through antlerless deer harvest. The October muzzleloader season is set annually to begin the first Thursday after the 15th of the month.

Resident and non-resident hunters purchased approximately 54,000 and 8,000 muzzleloader stamps, respectively, in 2017-2018. The stamps are required to hunt deer during the muzzleloader season. It is estimated that 30,000-35,000 hunters actually hunt during the season. Those that do hunt pursue deer for 3-5 days for each of the early and late seasons. Approximately 30-35 percent of muzzleloader hunters are successful in harvesting at least one deer in any given year.

In 2017-2018:

- The muzzleloader harvest totaled 15,490 deer compared to 13,074 deer in 2016-2017, a 19 percent increase (Table 1).
- There were 5,286 antlered deer and 10,204 antlerless deer harvested with muzzleloaders. Antlerless deer represented 66 percent of the total muzzleloader harvest.
- The antlered harvest increased 34 percent and the antlerless harvest (8,746 does or antlerless bucks and 1,458 button bucks) increased 12 percent from the previous year.
- The October muzzleloader harvest was 9,381 deer (3,612 antlered and 5,769 antlerless); a 30 percent increase from the previous year's harvest of 7,216 deer (Table 8).
- The December muzzleloader harvest totaled 6,109 deer (1,674 antlered and 4,435 antlerless); a four percent increase from the previous year's harvest of 5,858 deer (Table 9).
- The October muzzleloader season accounted for 61 percent of the total muzzleloader harvest for the year.
- Muzzleloader hunters took 88 percent of their total harvest on private lands.

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DEER PLAN

Maryland's first statewide 10-Year White-tailed Deer Management Plan was created in 1998 and has guided all phases of deer management in Maryland since that time. The plan was revised in 2009 and provides information on deer biology and management in Maryland and outlines the responsibilities and goals of the Deer Project team. The plan and supporting documents are available on the Department of Natural Resources website at dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2009-2018MarylandWTDeerPlan.pdf.

The department is currently revising the deer plan, which will be finalized in 2019. At the time of printing, the Deer Project had met with a stakeholder group to solicit opinions and suggestions for inclusion in the next plan and were actively working with a professional public opinion survey company to develop a statewide survey regarding attitudes regarding deer and deer management. During the summer of 2018, public meetings will be held across the state to solicit additional opinions regarding deer. Additional meetings will also be held with the stakeholder group. The next deer plan will be a 15-year plan and run through 2034.

DEER RESEARCH AND DATA USE

In 2017-2018, 5,209 deer were examined at butcher shops across the state during the muzzleloader and firearm seasons. At the butcher shops, sex and age of the deer were determined and antler measurements were recorded for bucks. Deer were also checked for evidence of illness or disease. The yearly sample of harvested deer provides valuable information that is used to estimate deer population numbers and to detect any changes in the deer herd reproductive potential. It is also used to monitor the overall health of deer and the effects of changes to seasons and bag limits made to better manage deer populations.

Staff and volunteers determine the age of each deer by the wear and replacement of its teeth. As young deer get older their milk teeth are replaced with permanent teeth. As adult deer age, their permanent teeth begin to wear down. This enables biologists to reliably categorize deer as fawns (less than one year old), yearlings (approximately 1.5 years old) or adults (two years and older). The proportions of deer in each age class and their gender are then used in reconstruction models to develop and follow trends in the state's deer population.

The antler beam circumference measurements of yearling male deer that are brought to butcher shops are used as indicators of the reproductive potential and health of the deer herd. Yearling males in good habitat with moderate deer numbers will have larger antler beam diameters than those in higher populations or poorer habitat. Abundant food and modest competition translates into more energy available for antler growth. This is most evident in the yearling age class. Trends in these measurements can indicate deer herd over-population and habitat degradation.

Overall, Maryland's long-term data for these indicators show healthy, productive deer populations across the state (Table 10). The percentage of yearling bucks in the harvest remains very healthy at 48 percent and has shown a positive declining trend. However, the average number of antler points for yearling bucks and the average antler beam diameter for yearling bucks have also been declining. These data will continue to be monitored closely in the coming years.

Table 6
Maryland Reported Junior Deer Hunt Harvest
by County, 2017

COUNTY	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Allegany	112	50	162
Anne Arundel	15	10	25
Baltimore¹	26	9	35
Calvert	12	13	25
Caroline	40	41	81
Carroll	90	46	136
Cecil	61	41	102
Charles	69	42	111
Dorchester			
Whitetail	41	35	76
Sika	20	8	28
Frederick	141	85	226
Garrett	255	107	362
Harford	21	20	41
Howard¹	12	12	24
Kent	40	39	79
Montgomery	57	29	86
Prince George's¹	13	5	18
Queen Anne's	62	57	119
St. Mary's	37	32	69
Somerset	56	42	98
Talbot	27	26	53
Washington	123	68	191
Wicomico			
Whitetail	88	71	159
Sika	1	1	2
Worcester			
Whitetail	82	74	156
Sika	0	1	1
Total	1501	964	2465
¹ Saturday only.			

Table 7
Maryland Reported 3-Day January Firearm Season
Deer Harvest by County, 2018

COUNTY	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Anne Arundel	19	55	74
Baltimore	26	86	112
Calvert	24	81	105
Caroline	29	124	153
Carroll	61	225	286
Cecil	26	108	134
Charles	46	134	180
Dorchester			
Whitetail	28	71	99
Sika	92	180	272
Frederick	66	280	346
Harford	28	89	117
Howard	21	50	71
Kent	25	137	162
Montgomery	32	88	120
Prince George's	30	70	100
Queen Anne's	46	166	212
St. Mary's	39	92	131
Somerset	28	90	118
Talbot	20	83	103
Washington	16	59	75
Wicomico			
Whitetail	35	121	156
Sika	5	6	11
Worcester			
Whitetail	65	182	247
Sika	1	0	1
Total	808	2577	3385

Table 8
Maryland Reported Early Muzzleloader Season
Deer Harvest by County, 2017

COUNTY	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Allegany	332	147	479
Anne Arundel	72	185	257
Baltimore	152	361	513
Calvert	48	118	166
Caroline			
Whitetail	60	210	270
Sika	1	1	2
Carroll	222	339	561
Cecil	135	237	372
Charles	107	234	341
Dorchester			
Whitetail	79	231	310
Sika	266	202	468
Frederick	288	492	780
Garrett	443	218	661
Harford	136	273	409
Howard	70	142	212
Kent	140	252	392
Montgomery	135	278	413
Prince George's	79	184	263
Queen Anne's	127	297	424
St. Mary's	83	207	290
Somerset			
Whitetail	77	173	250
Sika	1	2	3
Talbot	77	218	295
Washington	267	223	490
Wicomico			
Whitetail	80	264	344
Sika	20	16	36
Worcester			
Whitetail	111	261	372
Sika	4	4	8
Total	3612	5769	9381

Table 9
Maryland Reported Late Muzzleloader Season
Deer Harvest by County, 2017

COUNTY	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Allegany	92	181	273
Anne Arundel	69	157	226
Baltimore	103	321	424
Calvert	30	89	119
Caroline	48	115	163
Carroll	68	242	310
Cecil	49	170	219
Charles	70	187	257
Dorchester			
Whitetail	44	84	128
Sika	86	145	231
Frederick	111	322	433
Garrett	156	269	425
Harford	67	220	287
Howard	43	127	170
Kent	67	229	296
Montgomery	105	289	394
Prince George's	82	145	227
Queen Anne's	71	243	314
St. Mary's	57	149	206
Somerset	29	96	125
Talbot	54	145	199
Washington	73	183	256
Wicomico			
Whitetail	44	165	209
Sika	5	5	10
Worcester			
Whitetail	51	156	207
Sika	0	1	1
Total	1674	4435	6109

Table 10
Maryland Yearling White-tailed Deer Buck (1 1/2 Year
Old) Vital Statistics by County, 2017-2018

COUNTY	%YearlingBuck	AveragePoints	BeamDiameter(mm)
Allegany	57	3.5	17.5
Anne Arundel	40	3.8	16.8
Baltimore	46	3.8	18.7
Calvert	47	4.8	20.6
Caroline	47	3.8	18.4
Carroll	47	3.8	18.2
Cecil	50	4.5	19.7
Charles	33	2.9	16.8
Dorchester	42	3.3	16.7
Frederick	47	4.1	18.3
Garrett	63	4.5	20.0
Harford	71	4.5	18.0
Howard	52	3.7	18.1
Kent	34	4.3	20.1
Montgomery	43	4.0	18.5
Prince George's	31	3.4	17.6
Queen Anne's	39	4.4	19.3
St. Mary's	40	4.0	17.8
Somerset	50	3.3	16.6
Talbot	53	3.7	17.5
Washington	59	4.2	18.8
Wicomico	40	3.3	15.6
Worcester	43	2.9	15.0
Statewide	48	3.9	18.1

Deer examined at the butcher shops are also examined for evidence of hemorrhagic disease; a viral disease spread by biting midges. Hemorrhagic disease (HD), or “blue-tongue,” commonly appears in late summer and early fall. Deer that have survived hemorrhagic disease, and are harvested, will exhibit hooves with sloughing or peeling tissue. These deer are still suitable for human consumption. Hemorrhagic disease occurs yearly in Maryland, although it varies in intensity. The results of this yearly, statewide examination are reported to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) in Athens, Georgia as part of a nationwide survey. This study is one of the oldest and most complete nationwide wildlife disease investigations in the country.

Significant hemorrhagic disease outbreaks typically occur every three to five years and may affect 10 -20 percent or more of a local deer population. The 2017-2018 season saw a significant outbreak of hemorrhagic disease in Maryland, as the disease was reported across various counties and multiple deer were confirmed with the disease through necropsy procedures. The department received a large number of reports in Dorchester and Talbot counties. Some areas experienced heavy localized mortality that resulted in reduced deer harvests during the hunting season. However, it is projected that the disease will have little long-term impact on the white-tailed deer population. The department will continue to monitor for HD in the coming years.

RESEARCH BY THE QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Maryland State Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) continued their annual reproductive monitoring of white-tailed deer in Maryland during 2017-2018. QDMA staff and volunteers examined the reproductive tracts of 112 female deer harvested during the season and found that 87 percent of adult females (1.5 years and older) were pregnant. Two eight month old females were also pregnant. Of the pregnant adult females, 44 percent were carrying one fetus, 54 percent carried two fetuses and three percent were carrying more than two fetuses. The sex ratio of the 107 known-sex fetuses (eight unknown) was 55 percent male. As in previous years, peak breeding occurred during the first three weeks of November, with 76 percent bred during that period. Approximately 58percent were bred during the first two weeks of November. A total of three deer were bred after Nov. 30 and four deer were bred prior to Nov. 1 in late October. Late October and early November are typically when bucks will be most actively looking for receptive females to breed.

Dressed weights were also collected for harvested deer. Female fawns averaged 47 pounds in weight, female yearlings 72 pounds and female adults weighed an average of 88 pounds.

Information concerning white-tailed deer reproductive rates and population densities in urban areas are important components for effective management of deer in Maryland. For further information on these studies, visit the Maryland Quality Deer Management Association website at marylandqdma.com.

ARCHERY HUNTER SURVEY

The annual Archery Hunter Survey was continued for 2016-2017 (survey data from the 2017-2018 season are currently being analyzed and were not ready for the report). Archery hunters reported 17.50 bucks per 100 hours and 41.06 does per 100 hours

in 2016-2017. Likewise, they observed 2.35 adult does for every one adult buck and 0.63 fawns for every one adult doe in 2016-2017. The full report is available online at dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/bhsurvey.aspx.

The Archery Hunter Survey provides observational data about furbearers, deer and other wildlife. Archery hunters record the number of animals observed during each hunt, number of hours they hunt, county of hunt and other specific details about each hunt. If you are an archery hunter and would like to participate, contact Brent Evans at 443-786-3656 or brent.evans@maryland.gov. Forms are also available on the Department of Natural Resources website at the web address listed above.

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MARYLAND COUNTIES COOPERATIVE DEER MANAGEMENT

Since 1994, the department has promoted cooperative deer management relationships with Maryland counties. Montgomery County and Howard County both developed their own deer management units, manned by professional staff. The department works closely with both counties regarding their deer management efforts. Both counties have implemented non-lethal and lethal deer management programs while maintaining majority public support. The department participates in county deer management workshops, reviews and advises on county deer management plans and issues appropriate state permits for deer management activities at the county level. Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Prince George's counties have also developed similar deer management programs within their jurisdictions with department assistance.

Reservoir watersheds are areas of largely undeveloped land that protect Maryland water supplies. These areas are often managed by municipal staff. Unregulated deer numbers are known to affect the watershed habitat and water quality and can also affect neighboring residents. Among others, the Deer Project works with Frederick County, Baltimore City and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to manage the deer on their respective watershed lands. These entities permit public hunting on suitable areas of their watershed properties in order to regulate deer numbers. Through these cooperative relationships with the Department of Natural Resources, hunters fill a valuable role in helping to manage deer numbers. Annually, hunters remove hundreds of deer from watershed properties during the regulated deer hunting seasons.

The department continues to work with various county and municipal government agencies on deer management issues and encourages others to follow the lead of the aforementioned entities to develop deer management programs in cooperation with the department. Interested entities should contact George Timko, Department of Natural Resources Assistant Deer Project Leader, at 301-478-2314.

SUBURBAN DEER MANAGEMENT

Deer management in suburban areas ranks as one of the most difficult challenges facing wildlife agencies throughout the country. Maryland's Deer Project is charged with managing deer across the state's varied landscape for a diverse public that has different opinions on how deer should be managed. This includes the large urban/suburban corridor in the midsection of the state.

As development continues in Maryland, the conversion of forested and agricultural lands into housing developments can actually improve habitat conditions for deer. Developed areas provide more than adequate food resources and they often offer refuge from hunting. As a result, deer numbers can increase rapidly in these areas. High deer numbers lead to a greater number of negative interactions with suburban residents, decreasing the residents' tolerance of deer and increasing the demand on the department to somehow regulate the population.

Safety concerns and social considerations in urban areas often prevent the use of common lethal deer population control measures (i.e., hunting). Non-lethal control measures, such as fencing and repellants, can help reduce deer problems, but they do not eliminate them. They also do not address the deer overpopulation itself.

Increasing deer-vehicle collisions, damage to ornamental plants and gardens and damage to natural habitats are some of the problems that continue to persist when deer numbers are not directly reduced. Oftentimes, when public tolerance levels have been surpassed, lethal control methods are considered as a last resort. At this point, the department must provide its professional opinion as to what, if any, lethal method (i.e., managed hunt, professional sharp-shooting, etc.) is feasible for a particular scenario. Often, a combination of non-lethal and lethal techniques is recommended to help resolve the problem. The Deer Project will continue to evaluate any new deer management techniques as they are created and promote effective methods that help reduce deer-human conflicts.

DEER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

A section of the Department of Natural Resources website is devoted to public education on deer and deer management options. Information on nonlethal and lethal methods is provided at: dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/deerdamage.aspx.

Further information and assistance can be obtained from George Timko, Department of Natural Resources Assistant Deer Project Leader at 301-478-2314.

PUBLIC PROPERTY DEER MANAGEMENT

The Department of Natural Resources provides assistance to local governments, communities and publicly owned properties that choose to address deer population issues. Public entities that desire to conduct hunts outside of the regional deer hunting season framework may do so with prior approval from the department. Managed hunts are used to help control deer populations under special conditions on properties where stricter control of hunters is required. This allows each facility to manage deer hunting to complement their mission. Military bases and agricultural research facilities, as well as state, county and municipal parks, have developed deer hunting programs in conjunction with the department.

To improve opportunities for the public to qualify for managed hunts, the Assistant Deer Project Leader guides the statewide Shooter Qualification Card program. This program provides public access to shooting ranges where hunters can become certified at the standards required to apply for managed hunts held across the state. Appendix II provides a summary of the total deer taken on Maryland public lands during the 2017-2018 hunting seasons.

DEER POPULATION

Maryland's deer population prior to the 2017-2018 hunting season was estimated at 222,000 deer, up slightly from the 2016-2017 estimate of 216,000. Trends in deer abundance are commonly monitored using harvest estimates and the age structure of the deer herd. These methods work well in areas where hunters have access to most of the land, but are much less reliable for urban/suburban deer populations, where hunting occurs sporadically.

Liberal antlerless regulations have slowed or halted deer population growth in many areas outside the Washington D.C. to Baltimore suburban corridor. In some rural counties, the deer population has declined. The Department of Natural Resources is currently investigating additional ways to control deer in the suburban corridor where hunting is inhibited by lack of access to land.

NON-HUNTING MORTALITY

Factors that cause mortality in deer, other than hunting, include disease, fawn predation (from bears, coyotes, bobcats, fishers, feral dogs, etc.), collisions with vehicles, harvest using Deer Management Permits and harvest via sharp-shooting. Data concerning deer killed by vehicles (Table 11) is reported to the Department of Natural Resources by a broad spectrum of agencies (county police, state police, sheriff's deputies, city police, park rangers, county roads and state roads staff etc.). Because of its many and varied sources, deer-vehicle collision data tend to vary from year to year depending on the effort put forth by the various agencies who report them. Therefore, these data should be used with caution when looking at trends over time and should be considered minimum estimates for a given year.

Besides deer-vehicle collision data obtained from the various state agencies of Maryland, State Farm Insurance Company also estimates total deer vehicle collisions based on its share of the insurance business for each state and the number of accidents reported by their clients. They project there have been an average of 31,800 deer-vehicle collisions in Maryland during each of the last five years.

Farmers and landowners can obtain a Deer Management Permit from the department when deer are causing damage to commercial crops. Deer Management Permits allow farmers to harvest antlerless deer on their property outside of the regular state hunting seasons and bag limits. In 2017, 8,941 deer were taken with Deer Management Permits compared to 7,957 deer in 2016 (Table 12), an increase of 12 percent. Significantly higher planting costs continue to cause farmers to control deer more intensely than they have in the past. While regulated hunting remains the most effective way to control deer statewide, Deer Management Permits are a valuable tool for farmers protecting their livelihood.

In areas where lethal control of deer via regulated hunting is not feasible due to urbanization or security issues (i.e., military bases), sharp-shooting deer is a viable lethal alternative for controlling deer numbers. During 2017, 1,999 deer were harvested via sharp-shooting in Maryland. Sharp-shooting is performed by deer cooperators who are licensed by the department. County and/or federal officials and a few private groups remove deer using this method.

Table 11
Maryland Reported Deer Vehicular Mortality by
County, 2017¹

COUNTY	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Allegany	59	74	24	157
Anne Arundel	55	42	736	833
Baltimore	141	78	704	923
Calvert	40	24	186	250
Caroline	11	21	3	35
Carroll	313	525	98	936
Cecil	25	50	24	99
Charles	42	66	121	229
Dorchester	21	18	4	43
Frederick	98	285	248	631
Garrett	51	175	33	259
Harford	190	367	49	606
Howard	216	409	773	1,398
Kent	9	17	0	26
Montgomery	6	13	3,345	3,364
Prince George's	406	404	0	810
Queen Anne's	3	3	11	17
St. Mary's	39	61	25	125
Somerset	3	16	0	19
Talbot	85	90	13	188
Washington	72	44	8	124
Wicomico	16	40	7	63
Worcester	2	2	29	33
Total	1,903	2,824	6,441	11,168
¹ Estimates vary from year to year depending on effort put forth by various agencies who collect the data. Total numbers should be considered minimum estimates for a given year.				

Table 12
Maryland Reported Crop Damage Mortality
by County, 2017

COUNTY	Male	Female	Total
Allegany	29	196	225
Anne Arundel	17	129	146
Baltimore	38	272	310
Calvert	11	88	99
Caroline	31	195	226
Carroll	100	529	629
Cecil	33	180	213
Charles	14	143	157
Dorchester			
Whitetail	34	362	396
Sika	26	269	295
Frederick	62	574	636
Garrett	142	1057	1199
Harford	45	268	313
Howard	12	205	217
Kent	35	257	292
Montgomery	35	426	461
Prince George's	19	188	207
Queen Anne's	14	164	178
St. Mary's	42	267	309
Somerset	10	267	277
Talbot	62	374	436
Washington	41	260	301
Wicomico			
Whitetail	35	499	534
Sika	2	8	10
Worcester			
Whitetail	56	426	482
Sika	1	1	2
Other	111	280	391
Total	1057	7884	8941

In recent years, hunters have become increasingly concerned about coyote and bear predation on deer in western Maryland. Coyotes have increased in number in Washington, Allegany and Garrett counties over the last five years. In the spring, very young fawns can be a food source for predators. Likewise, the black bear population is expanding and population numbers are at record highs for recent times. Studies in other states indicate that bears have been shown to be equally or even more effective at predating fawns than coyotes.

Currently, reproductive data that the Deer Project collects does not indicate coyotes or bears are having a significant impact on the deer population in Maryland. In Garrett County, fawn recruitment, based on the annual hunter harvest, has declined in recent years to relatively low numbers, but the deer population remains stable to growing there. While the deer population is significantly lower in western Maryland than it was ten years ago, the decline can be largely attributed to the relatively high percentage of antlerless deer taken during hunting season. While there's no doubt that coyotes and bears are predating fawns, Maryland's long-term deer data along with research and experience from nearby states indicate that their effect is minimal. The vast majority of white-tailed deer give birth to fawns within a two- to four-week period in May and June, which overwhelms predators like coyotes and bears. During that time, there are far more fawns on the ground than can be consumed by predators, thus ensuring that an adequate number will survive to reproduce in coming years.

The Deer Project will continue to monitor fawn recruitment rates, as well as coyote and bear populations in Maryland, and develop alternative management strategies as the need arises. As part of this monitoring, the department recently worked with the University of Delaware on a research project in Allegany and Garrett counties to examine predator abundance and fawn recruitment. Results of their research indicated varying densities of predators across the region and suggested that they are not significantly impacting fawn recruitment rates in western Maryland. The thesis will be available online via University of Delaware in the near future.

TROPHY DEER CONTEST

Each year the Maryland Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association and the Department of Natural Resources cosponsor the Maryland Trophy Deer Contest. This contest recognizes hunters who have harvested trophy bucks and promotes quality Maryland deer through wise management. The goal of quality deer management is to produce deer numbers that are in balance with the available habitat and have deer that reach maturity and are in good health.

A primary goal of the department deer management program is to maintain the quality of Maryland's deer herd. By encouraging antlerless deer harvest and restraining antlered buck harvest, populations can reach appropriate levels compatible with the surrounding dominate land use. A secondary benefit for hunters is the improved potential for mature antlered buck survival.

The 2018 Maryland Trophy Deer Contest, for bucks taken in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 hunting seasons, was held during the 73rd National Outdoor Show at the South Dorchester School. The Boone and Crockett system was used to score antlers and both whitetail and sika entries were accepted. Results of the 2018 contest are listed on the following pages.

MARYLAND ALL TIME TROPHY RECORDS

Maryland's quality habitat has produced some impressive trophy deer, with record deer coming from across the state. The attached table indicates the scores of the top three bucks per weapon (hunting implement), which county it was taken in and the name of the hunter who took it. This list is compiled from information collected by Walter "Tinker" Johnson, chairman and record-keeper for the Maryland Trophy Deer Contest.



MARYLAND ALL TIME TROPHY DEER RECORDS

Score	County	Name
White-tailed Deer, Firearms, Typical Antlers		
194 0/8	Kent	Kevin Miller
185 7/8	Queen Anne's	Walter Lachewitz
184 0/8	St. Mary's	Larry Day
White-tailed Deer, Firearms, Non-Typical Antlers		
268 1/8	Charles	William Crutchfield, Jr.
248 7/8	Charles	Donza Watson
228 4/8	Montgomery	Jack Poole
White-tailed Deer, Bow, Typical Antlers		
183 3/8	Talbot	Petey Council
178 1/8	Harford	Mark Rogowski
177 0/8	Baltimore	Richard Traband
White-tailed Deer, Bow, Non-Typical Antlers		
223 3/8	Cecil	Jordan Duhamell
220 2/8	Prince George's	Yates Claggett
208 7/8	Anne Arundel	Robert Gertz
White-tailed Deer, Muzzleloader, Typical Antlers		
178 6/8	Baltimore	John Gweazdowski
171 3/8	Dorchester	Mark Bronder
170 1/8	Talbot	Kara Gowe
White-tailed Deer, Muzzleloader, Non-Typical Antlers		
229 6/8	Anne Arundel	Robert Brookman
200 4/8	Dorchester	Greg Glos
199 3/8	Talbot	William Shields
White-tailed Deer, Crossbow, Typical Antlers		
166 3/8	Baltimore	Wayne Wipfield
164 4/8	Kent	Douglas C. Wood
162 7/8	St. Mary's	Lawrence Copsey
White-tailed Deer, Crossbow, Non-Typical Antlers		
211 2/8	Wicomico	Steve Whitelock
195 3/8	Kent	Albert H. Piasecki
185 6/8	Calvert	Mark A. Yetter
Sika Deer, Firearms		
77 1/8	Wicomico	Tim Krauss
75 7/8	Dorchester	James Howdysshell
72 5/8	Dorchester	David King, Jr.
Sika Deer, Bow		
74 1/8	Dorchester	Samuel King
72 3/8	Dorchester	Bryan Spath
69 6/8	Dorchester	Lenny Hyre
Sika Deer, Muzzleloader		
74 4/8	Dorchester	Henry Williams, Jr.
73 4/8	Dorchester	John Eger
72 7/8	Dorchester	Milton Kern
Sika Deer, Crossbow		
75 4/8	Dorchester	Jay Pippin
67 4/8	Dorchester	David King
66 6/8	Dorchester	Ronald C. Taylor
Fallow Deer, Firearms		
176 7/8	Prince George's	Patrick A. Akins
Fallow Deer, Muzzleloader		
128 1/8	Talbot	Bill McCready
Fallow Deer, Bow		
202 1/8	Prince George's	Michael Cavanaugh

RESULTS FROM THE 2018 MARYLAND TROPHY DEER CONTEST FOR THE 2015-2016 AND 2016-2017 DEER HUNTING SEASONS

Sponsored by the Maryland Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association and the
Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service.

Submitted by Walter 'Tinker' Johnson, Chairman of the Maryland Trophy Deer Contest, held at the
73rd National Outdoor Show, South Dorchester School, Church Creek, MD, 2/23/18 and 2/24/18

White-tailed Deer Firearms Season, Typical Antlers

Score	County	Name
172 5/8	Wicomico	Tom Wingate

White-tailed Deer Firearms Season, Non-Typical Antlers

Score	County	Name
188 1/8*	Kent	Brian Miller
180 7/8	Kent	Kevin Weaver
177 5/8	Dorchester	Lloyd Lipin
170 1/8	Worcester	Charles Nichols

* Historical

White-tailed Deer Archery Season, Typical Antlers

Score	County	Name
161 6/8	Wicomico	Christopher Bowden
157 3/8	Baltimore	Matthew Pappas
142 6/8	Montgomery	Mark Shaw
141 7/8	Howard	Brad Schroen
140 6/8**	Talbot	Justin Firth
138 0/8	Somerset	Brian K. Wink
132 2/8	Saint Mary's	Charles Wilcox
122 3/8	Prince George's	William Shearer, III
117 4/8*	Montgomery	Steve Johnson
116 7/8*	Saint Mary's	Walter Denny
112 5/8**	Saint Mary's	Daniel Fogel
107 0/8	Prince George's	William Shearer, III

**Crossbow *Historical

White-tailed Deer Archery Season, Non-Typical Antlers

Score	County	Name
No Entries		

White-tailed Deer Muzzleloader Season, Typical Antlers

Score	County	Name
151 0/8	Caroline	Scott Lane
142 5/8*	Caroline	Scott Lane
134 6/8	Kent	Kevin Weaver
109 5/8*	Saint Mary's	Walter Denny

*Historical

White-tailed Deer Muzzleloader Season, Non-Typical Antlers

Score	County	Name
No Entries		

Sika Deer, Archery Season

Score	County	Name
69 0/8	Dorchester	Todd Dove
64 5/8**	Dorchester	Scott Bowden

**Crossbow

Sika Deer, Muzzleloader Season

Score	County	Name
63 7/8	Dorchester	Matt Mueller
48 2/8	Dorchester	Bradley Schatz

Sika Deer, Firearms Season

Score	County	Name
67 2/8*	Dorchester	Scott A. Omahne
56 6/8	Dorchester	Todd Dove

*Historical

Fallow Deer, Archery Season

Score	County	Name
No Entries		

Appendix I

Statewide Reported Antlered and Antlerless Deer Harvest by Public Hunting Area and County, 2017-2018

County/PublicLand	Antlered	Antlerless
Allegany		
Belle Grove WMA	1	1
Billmeyer WMA	23	6
Dan's Mountain WMA	118	59
Green Ridge SF	315	139
McCoole FMA	1	0
Rocky Gap SP	28	12
Sideling Hill WMA	3	1
Warrior Mountain WMA	90	53
Anne Arundel		
Anne Arundel County Managed Hunts	24	29
Crownsville CWMA	3	7
Davidsonville Receiver Station	2	31
Fort Meade	38	84
Smithsonian	17	34
Baltimore		
Gunpowder SP	22	122
Gwynnbrook WMA	10	8
Liberty Watershed	24	76
Loch Raven Watershed	79	170
Patapsco SP	19	53
Pretty Boy Watershed	110	208
Soldiers Delight NEA	15	26
Calvert		
Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm CWMA	0	1
Calvert Cliffs SP	5	21
Flag Pond CWMA	1	1
Hall Creek	2	4
Huntingtown Area	17	26
Parkers Creek WMA	7	8
Caroline		
Chesapeake Forest Lands	10	14
Idylwild WMA	27	64
Tuckahoe SP	12	17

County/PublicLand	Antlered	Antlerless
Carroll		
Avondale WMA	4	10
Hahn CWMA	0	3
Hanover Watershed	15	37
Liberty Watershed	54	117
Maring CWMA	3	4
Morgan Run SP NRMA	11	35
Patapsco SP	22	73
Sawmill-Speigel CWMA	20	30
Woodbrook CWMA	9	18
Cecil		
C&D Canal	14	35
Earlville WMA	5	10
Elk Neck SF	29	64
Elk Neck SP	25	47
Fair Hill NRMA	14	84
Grove Farm WMA	14	24
Old Bohemia WMA	7	14
Charles		
Cedar Point WMA	9	24
Cedarville SF	13	30
Chapel Point SP	2	17
Chapman State Park	4	14
Chicamuxen WMA	3	5
Doncaster SF or Tayloes Neck	5	15
Indian Creek NRMA	5	7
Indian Head Naval Ordnance Area	7	51
Myrtle Grove WMA	21	47
Nanjemoy NRMA	7	7
Nanjemoy Creek WMA	1	2
Riverside WMA	1	8

County/PublicLand	Antlered	Antlerless
Dorchester		
Blackwater NWR		
whitetail	55	40
sika	149	224
Chesapeake Forest Lands		
whitetail	38	85
sika	51	47
Fishing Bay WMA		
whitetail	4	16
sika	99	100
LeCompte WMA		
whitetail	1	6
sika	2	1
Linkwood WMA		
whitetail	2	6
sika	0	2
Taylor's Island WMA		
whitetail	0	1
sika	10	13
Frederick		
Cunningham Falls SP, Thurmont Watershed	31	45
Emmitsburg Watershed	2	14
Frederick City Watershed	92	125
Heaters Island WMA	4	2
Monocacy NRMA	28	61
South Mountain SP	11	25

Appendix I -continued-
Statewide Reported Antlered and Antlerless Deer Harvest by Public Hunting Area and County, 2017-2018

County/PublicLand	Antlered	Antlerless
Garrett		
Cunningham Swamp WMA	2	3
Deep Creek Lake SP	14	14
Frostburg Watershed	10	7
Garrett SF	127	69
Mount Nebo WMA	40	27
Potomac SF	58	38
Savage River SF	307	160
Youghiogheny Reservoir	4	4
Harford		
Aberdeen Proving Grounds	90	165
Gunpowder SP	3	18
Rock SP	9	17
Stoney Forest	5	7
Susquehanna SP	14	40
Howard		
Howard County Parks & Recreation Hunts	32	126
Hugg-Thomas WMA	8	26
Patapsco SP	17	53
Patuxent River SP	47	123
Tridelphia/Rocky Gorge (WSSC)	45	130
Kent		
Eastern Neck NWR	31	60
Millington WMA	19	74
Sassafras NRMA	16	31
Montgomery		
Cherrington CWMA	10	30
Islands of the Potomac WMA	8	17
Mckee-Beshers WMA	52	75
Montgomery County M-NCPPC Lands	39	470
Patuxent River SP	65	116
Seneca - Schaeffer Farm	11	25
Seneca Creek SP	57	115
Strider WMA	11	18
Tridelphia/Rocky Gorge (WSSC)	27	55

County/PublicLand	Antlered	Antlerless
Prince George's		
APHIS Property	1	0
Aquasco Farms Coop	9	21
Belt Woods NEA	1	10
Beltville	76	159
Billingsly Tract (Patuxent River Park)	1	9
Brandywine Receiver Station	7	23
Cheltenham WMA	3	10
Gardner Road Park CWMA	0	2
Mill Town Landing NRMA	2	11
Nottingham	1	2
Patuxent WRC (Central & South Tracts)	13	33
Rosaryville SP	11	22
Spice Creek (Patuxent River) NRMA	4	12
Tridelphia/Rocky Gorge (WSSC)	2	12
Queen Anne's		
Tuckahoe SP	8	12
Wye Island NRMA	24	54
St. Mary's		
Elms' CWMA	3	10
Greenwell SP	3	8
Historic St. Mary's City CWMA	2	3
Myrtle Point Park CWMA	1	7
Newtowne Neck SP	12	26
Patuxent Naval Air Station	19	30
Point Lookout SP (Jacobs Property)	6	3
St. Inigoes SF	2	3
St. Mary's SP	16	40

County/PublicLand	Antlered	Antlerless
Somerset		
Cedar Island WMA	0	0
Chesapeake Forest Lands		
whitetail	46	122
sika	0	2
Deal Island WMA	12	16
Fairmount WMA		
whitetail	4	7
sika	0	1
Maryland Marine Properties WMA	0	1
Pocomoke Sound WMA	3	3
South Marsh Island WMA	0	1
Wellington WMA	2	3
Talbot		
Seth SF	2	6
Washington		
Ft. Frederick SP	0	14
Greenbrier SP	12	49
Hagerstown Watershed	1	7
Indian Springs WMA	89	40
Maryland Correctional Training Center	5	20
Prather's Neck WMA	5	2
Sideling Hill WMA	25	3
South Mountain SP	31	44
W. Maryland Ag Research Station (B)	1	19
Woodmont	18	14

Appendix I -continued-
Statewide Reported Antlered and Antlerless Deer Harvest by Public Hunting Area and County, 2017-2018

County/PublicLand	Antlered	Antlerless
Wicomico		
Chesapeake Forest Lands		
whitetail	64	162
sika	9	9
Ellis Bay WMA		
whitetail	1	6
sika	2	3
Johnson WMA		
Nanticoke WMA		
whitetail	10	21
sika	5	9
Wetipquin WMA		
Wicomico SF		
whitetail	22	29
sika	1	0
Worcester		
Assateague NS		
whitetail	2	4
sika	26	16
Assateague SP		
whitetail	0	1
sika	1	5
Chesapeake Forest Lands		
whitetail	57	96
sika	0	1
E.A. Vaughn WMA		
Hickory Point WMA		
Isle of Wight WMA		
Pocomoke River WMA		
Pocomoke SF		

APHIS- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
 CFL- Chesapeake Forest Land
 CWMA- Cooperative Wildlife Management Area
 FMA- Fishery Management Area
 MNCPPC- Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
 NEA- Natural Environment Area
 NRMA- Natural Resources Management Area
 NS- National Seashore
 NWR- National Wildlife Refuge
 SF- State Forest
 SP- State Park
 WMA- Wildlife Management Area
 WRC- Wildlife Research Center
 WSSC- Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

