2023 NEW HAMPSHIRE

WILDLIFE HARVEST SUMMARY

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT • HUNTNH.COM

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FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT
11 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2461
huntnh.com

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You are the key to wildlife restoration success in New Hampshire!

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WHITE-TAILED DEER

New Hampshire's 2023 deer season resulted in a total harvest of 13,136 deer, and represented the fifth-highest harvest in the state's history going back to 1922. This was a decrease of 7% from 14,082 in 2022. The adult buck (antlered males age 1.5+) kill decreased slightly from 8,339 in 2022 to 8,295 in 2023. This total represents the second-highest adult buck harvest the state has seen. The antlerless harvest (does and fawns) decreased 16% from 5,743 in 2022 to 4,841 in 2023. The Department has generated an annual Winter Severity Index (WSI) since the winter of 1964-65. This index assesses the duration of snow depths in excess of 18 inches and minimum temperatures below 0°F from December through April and provides an indication of potential winter impacts on the deer population. The statewide average WSI for the winter of 2022-23 was below the long-term average and department biologists have documented little to no mortality during their annual deer wintering area surveys over the last 3 years. Additional winters of average to below-average severity should help increase deer numbers towards population objectives in the few management units that remain below objective and may allow increased antlerless hunting opportunity in units that are near or above objective.

The total male kill in 2023 including male fawns was 8,895, and the total female kill including female fawns was 4,241. The 2023 general season framework, unit-specific either-sex hunting opportunities, and a map of Wildlife Management Units (WMUs), are provided in a subsequent figure in this report.

The kill during the special youth weekend hunt was 249, a decrease of 36% from the total kill of 387 in 2022. Archery hunters took 4,062 deer (31% of total harvest) in 2023, down 10% from 4,498 in 2022. The muzzleloader kill in 2023 was 1,871 (14% of total harvest), a decrease of 12% from 2,133 taken in 2022, while "regular" firearm hunters took 6,954 deer (53% of total harvest) in 2023, down 2% from 7,064 in 2022. Subsequent tables give additional details on the harvest by season, sex, and WMU.

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Biological information was again collected during 2023 at select deer registration stations to monitor the physical condition of New Hampshire's deer and assess harvest age structure. In 2023, a total of 760 deer were checked (481 males, 279 females). Average yearling (age 1.5) antler beam diameter was 16.9 millimeters, below the 5-year average of 17.7 millimeters. Yearling male field-dressed weight averaged 109.5 pounds, below the 5-year average of 112.9 pounds. The statewide yearling male fraction, the percentage of adult (antlered) bucks consisting of yearlings, for the 2023 harvest was 40.7%, lower than the 47.6% in 2022 and the 5-year average of 42.0%. This indicates that greater than half of adult males taken in New Hampshire in 2023 continue to be 2.5 years old or older. The distribution of older antlered bucks at biological check stations was 29.3% at 2.5 years old, 19.6% at 3.5 years, 6.1% at 4.5 years, and 4.3% at 5.5+ years old. Mature bucks at 4.5 years old averaged 171 pounds dressed weight with an average of 9.1 antler points (≥1"), while bucks 5.5+ years old averaged 192.3 pounds and 8.8 points.

Deer population management efforts in the near future will remain primarily focused on achieving WMU-specific deer population objectives as provided by the New Hampshire Game Management Plan.

DEER POPULATION OBJECTIVES BY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT

Deer management decisions are based on our existing 2016-2025 Game Management Plan, and the population abundance objectives of this plan are summarized in the following table. The objective is the desired average annual antlered buck kill, which is largely the same as adult buck kill and serves as an index of population abundance. A negative (-) value under "Desired % Change" indicates a need to decrease the population to achieve the objective while a positive value reflects a need to increase the population. The current level is the actual 2-year average antlered buck kill. The 2-year average is less sensitive to annual variation due to factors other than deer numbers, such as bad weather, snow conditions, etc.

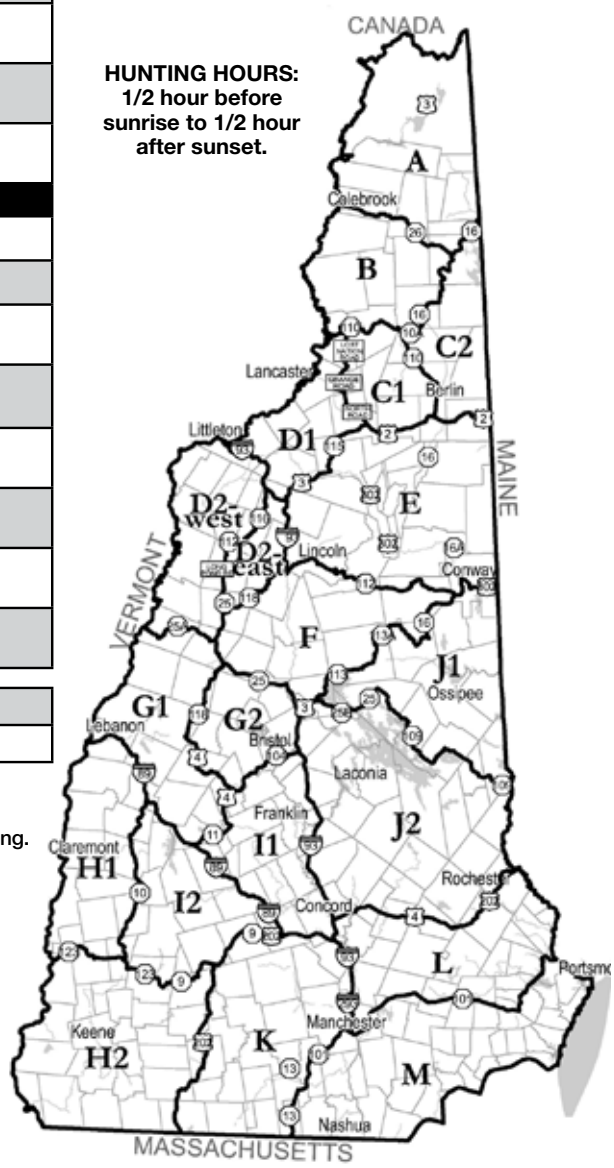
	EXPRESSED AS ADULT (ANTLERED) BUCK KILL		
WMU	OBJECTIVE	CURRENT LEVEL*	DESIRED % CHANGED
A	300	283	+6%
B	125	125	0%
C1	65	58	+12%
C2	90	93	-3%
D1	170	165	+3%
D2E	20	25	-20%
D2W	360	508	-29%
E	80	104	-23%
F	105	137	-23%
G1	340	438	-22%
G2	100	124	-19%
H1	460	549	-16%
H2	675	828	-18%
I1	215	311	-31%
I2	260	295	-12%
J1	310	434	-29%
J2	940	1167	-19%
K	675	826	-18%
L	525	778	-33%
M	535	1074	-50%
TOTAL	**6350**	**8317**	**-24%**

*2-year running average of adult (antlered) buck kill.

2023 N.H. DEER SEASON

TYPE	INCLUSIVE DATES	WILDLIFE MGMT. UNITS
ARCHERY		
Any Deer	Sept. 15 – Dec. 8	A
Any Deer	Sept. 15 – Dec. 15	B – M
YOUTH WEEKEND*		
Any Deer	Oct. 21 – Oct. 22	STATEWIDE
MUZZLELOADER		
Antlered Only	Oct. 28 – Nov. 7	A, B, C1, C2, D1, D2E
Any Deer Antlered Only	Oct. 28 Oct. 29 – Nov. 7	E, F, G2, I2
Any Deer Antlered Only	Oct. 28 – Oct. 29 Oct. 30 – Nov. 7	I1
Any Deer Antlered Only	Oct. 28 – Oct. 30 Oct. 31 – Nov. 7	H1, J1, K
Any Deer Antlered Only	Oct. 28 – Oct. 31 Nov. 1 – Nov. 7	D2W, H2, J2
Any Deer Antlered Only	Oct. 28 – Nov. 1 Nov. 2 – Nov. 7	G1
Any Deer	Oct. 28 – Nov. 7	L, M
FIREARM		
Antlered Only	Nov. 8 – Nov. 26	A
Antlered Only	Nov. 8 – Dec. 3	B, C1, C2
Any Deer Antlered Only	Nov. 8 Nov. 9 – Dec. 3	D1, D2E, E, F
Any Deer Antlered Only	Nov. 8 – Nov. 9 Nov. 10 – Dec. 3	G2, I1, I2
Any Deer Antlered Only	Nov. 8 – Nov. 10 Nov. 11 – Dec. 3	J1
Any Deer Antlered Only	Nov. 8 – Nov. 11 Nov. 12 – Dec. 3	H1, H2, J2, K
Any Deer Antlered Only	Nov. 8 – Nov. 12 Nov. 13 – Dec. 3	D2W, G1
Any Deer Antlered Only	Nov. 8 – Nov. 17 Nov. 18 – Dec. 3	L, M
BAITING**	Oct. 18 – Nov. 15	A – L
	Sept. 15 – Dec. 15	M

HUNTING HOURS:
1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.



DEFINITIONS –

Antlered Deer: A deer with at least one antler three (3) inches long.

Antlerless Deer: A deer without antlers or with antlers less than 3 inches long.

Any Deer: All deer regardless of sex or age.

* Nonresident youth hunters may participate provided N.H. youth can hunt during youth deer hunts in their state of residence.

****Further restrictions apply.** A full list of rules regarding baiting wildlife in N.H. can be found in the Fis 300 section of the N.H. Code of Administrative Rules or go online at www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state_agencies/fis.html.

2024 FIREARM OPENING DAY: NOVEMBER 13, 2024

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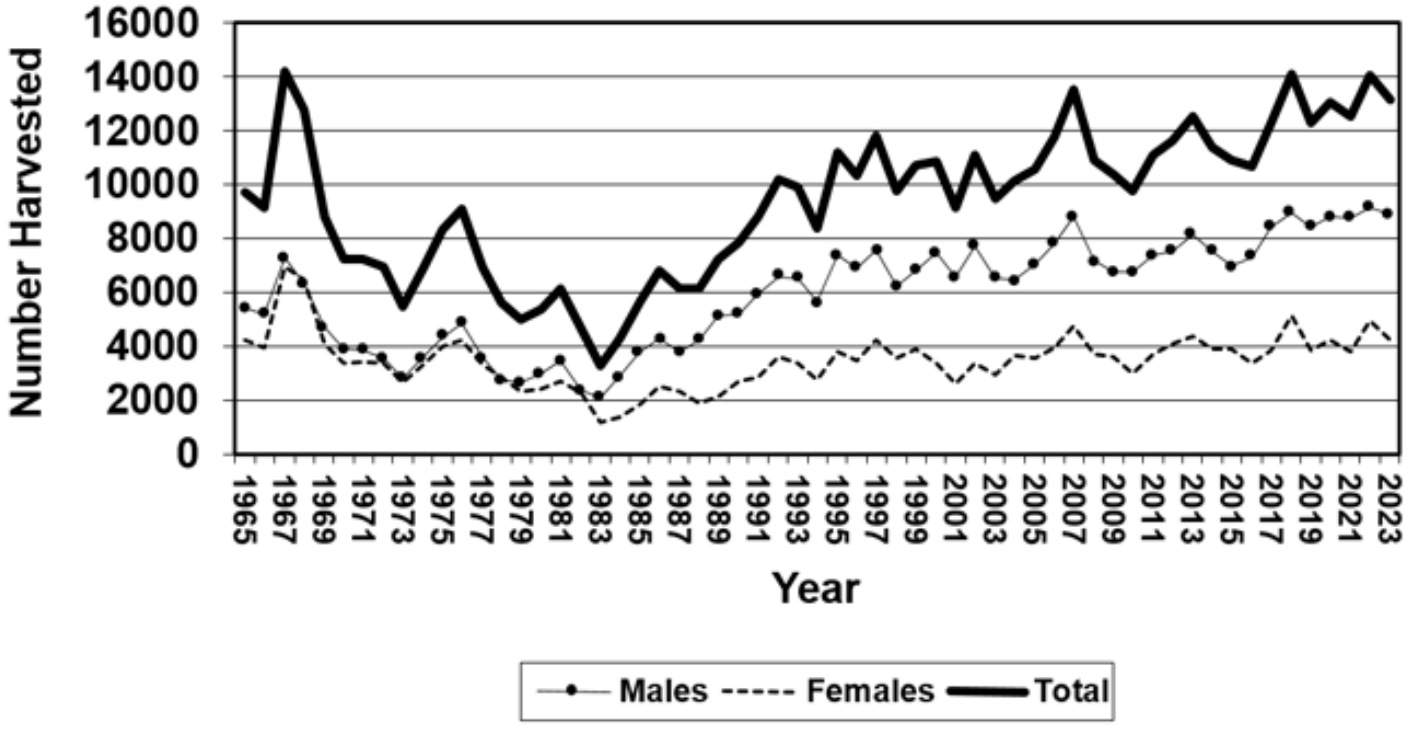
TOTAL AND SEX-SPECIFIC DEER HARVEST FOR THE 1965–2023 HUNTING SEASONS

The graph below shows the number of male, female, and total deer harvested from 1965 through 2023. The highest total harvest (14,204 deer) occurred in 1967, the second highest (14,113) in 2018, and the lowest (3,280) in 1983. Harvest during 1965-1982 contained nearly equal portions of males and females and were the result of very liberal either-sex hunting seasons. High female harvest rates, combined with severe winter weather, caused the state's deer population to decrease from the late 1960s until the early 1980s. In 1983, the Department dramatically reduced the number of either-sex hunting days in most areas of the state to allow populations to begin to increase. Since then, female kill has been consistently lower than the male kill.

The graph below shows a highly variable deer harvest over the past 6 decades. Many factors can affect the number of deer harvested in any given year including deer population density, habitat availability and productivity, hunter density and access, weather severity (all seasons), natural food production, and the opportunity for antlerless harvest. The department adjusts opportunities for antlerless harvest depending on how the population in each WMU compares with the objective (with respect to the Game Management Plan). All of the above factors have changed with time and will continue to change in years to come. In addition to hunting, winter severity will continue to play a major role in deer population status in New Hampshire.



DEER KILL BY SEX, SEASON, AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT IN 2023

The following tables give the deer kill for the archery season, youth weekend, muzzleloader season, and the regular firearm season. The WMU-specific and overall deer kill per square mile (KPSM) reported in these tables are based on estimates of square miles of deer habitat. These estimates were derived as part of the New Hampshire Game Management Plan that will guide deer management from 2016 to 2025.

MALE KILL BY SEASON AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT DURING 2023

	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT (WMU)																				
SEASON	**A**	**B**	**C1**	**C2**	**D1**	**D2E**	**D2W**	**E**	**F**	**G1**	**G2**	**H1**	**H2**	**I1**	**I2**	**J1**	**J2**	**K**	**L**	**M**	**ALL**
ARCHERY	36	14	12	10	23	4	97	9	16	113	13	125	147	69	68	59	257	229	250	480	2031
YOUTH	4	0	1	1	2	0	21	1	0	5	1	8	18	6	2	3	9	10	5	3	100
MUZZL.	38	9	6	6	24	2	74	5	19	50	16	91	106	44	43	66	221	113	200	223	1356
FIREARM	209	99	46	84	124	24	337	83	105	294	87	374	571	221	208	316	750	538	424	514	5408
TOTAL	**287**	**122**	**65**	**101**	**173**	**30**	**529**	**98**	**140**	**462**	**117**	**598**	**842**	**340**	**321**	**444**	**1237**	**890**	**879**	**1220**	**8895**
KPSM	0.52	0.37	0.33	0.44	0.8	0.29	1.56	0.14	0.31	1.18	0.53	1.61	1.31	1.06	0.9	1.02	1.7	1.56	2.29	2.67	1.11

FEMALE KILL BY SEASON AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT DURING 2023

	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT (WMU)																				
SEASON	**A**	**B**	**C1**	**C2**	**D1**	**D2E**	**D2W**	**E**	**F**	**G1**	**G2**	**H1**	**H2**	**I1**	**I2**	**J1**	**J2**	**K**	**L**	**M**	**ALL**
ARCHERY	47	12	6	13	28	2	134	12	13	117	22	107	152	79	51	69	247	226	258	436	2031
YOUTH	6	1	1	2	6	0	31	2	1	12	1	15	20	1	6	5	21	7	8	3	149
MUZZL.	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	1	0	29	1	26	38	10	5	10	54	35	99	168	515
FIREARM	0	0	1	1	13	1	145	2	0	104	7	94	142	24	17	39	221	136	241	358	1546
TOTAL	**53**	**13**	**8**	**16**	**47**	**3**	**349**	**17**	**14**	**262**	**31**	**242**	**352**	**114**	**79**	**123**	**543**	**404**	**606**	**965**	**4241**
KPSM	0.1	0.04	0.04	0.07	0.22	0.03	1.03	0.02	0.03	0.67	0.14	0.65	0.55	0.35	0.22	0.28	0.75	0.71	1.58	2.11	0.53

TOTAL KILL BY SEASON AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT DURING 2023

	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT (WMU)																				
SEASON	**A**	**B**	**C1**	**C2**	**D1**	**D2E**	**D2W**	**E**	**F**	**G1**	**G2**	**H1**	**H2**	**I1**	**I2**	**J1**	**J2**	**K**	**L**	**M**	**ALL**
ARCHERY	83	26	18	23	51	6	231	21	29	230	35	232	299	148	119	128	504	455	508	916	4062
YOUTH	10	1	2	3	8	0	52	3	1	17	2	23	38	7	8	8	30	17	13	6	249
MUZZL.	38	9	6	6	24	2	113	6	19	79	17	117	144	54	48	76	275	148	299	391	1871
FIREARM	209	99	47	85	137	25	482	85	105	398	94	468	713	245	225	355	971	674	665	872	6954
TOTAL	**340**	**135**	**73**	**117**	**220**	**33**	**878**	**115**	**154**	**724**	**148**	**840**	**1194**	**454**	**400**	**567**	**1780**	**1294**	**1485**	**2185**	**13136**
KPSM	0.61	0.41	0.38	0.5	1.02	0.32	2.59	0.17	0.34	1.84	0.67	2.26	1.86	1.41	1.13	1.3	2.45	2.26	3.87	4.79	1.64

ADULT (ANTLERED) BUCK KILL BY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT (1965–2023)

Adult buck kill is New Hampshire's most consistent index of total deer population on a historical basis. While either-sex hunting seasons have varied widely through time, adult buck seasons have remained relatively constant, and the adult buck kill provides an accurate and consistent index to change in population levels within a WMU. Adult buck kill figures prior to 1987 (the first year we have good data on a WMU basis) are estimated based on town of kill and current WMU boundaries. Since the number of deer killed in any given year can vary significantly as a result of snow cover, weather, and natural food production, we use 2-year averages to assess population status relative to our management efforts and population objectives.

	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT (WMU)																				
YEAR	**A**	**B**	**C1**	**C2**	**D1**	**D2E**	**D2W**	**E**	**F**	**G1**	**G2**	**H1**	**H2**	**I1**	**I2**	**J1**	**J2**	**K**	**L**	**M**	**TOTAL**
1965	301	207	87	167	205	44	283	236	107	326	180	228	244	158	160	399	355	225	128	69	**4172**
1966	240	168	67	137	170	29	280	201	152	289	151	215	277	147	199	406	402	241	150	75	**3996**
1967	310	278	109	177	268	61	439	234	192	329	162	286	371	184	236	523	596	374	209	123	**5461**
1968	353	232	99	163	240	55	355	245	178	278	179	236	322	139	180	467	494	234	195	75	**4719**
1969	235	200	82	137	175	43	330	166	183	313	159	182	210	101	141	371	262	124	122	46	**3582**
1970	215	134	63	102	139	38	250	164	146	215	139	133	156	84	93	313	260	88	138	64	**2934**
1971	166	85	55	65	112	32	264	121	119	198	119	133	186	84	106	332	337	108	216	69	**2907**
1972	143	79	58	72	141	40	312	150	99	169	112	113	139	86	75	295	294	100	150	71	**2698**
1973	138	53	42	36	84	18	238	90	85	130	57	99	107	60	49	270	288	88	137	41	**2110**
1974	113	47	41	52	102	26	270	95	101	156	79	128	162	87	76	353	402	122	207	89	**2708**
1975	116	61	54	60	132	30	308	121	106	186	108	169	237	111	96	360	526	140	243	116	**3280**
1976	141	83	65	80	155	49	266	126	133	192	84	180	272	140	132	363	613	211	253	145	**3683**
1977	109	63	49	56	127	27	206	103	98	131	80	168	221	94	104	255	441	132	170	90	**2724**
1978	43	28	18	25	83	17	129	41	41	71	51	151	174	85	109	170	398	125	174	117	**2050**
1979	22	19	10	12	70	13	95	24	45	86	42	152	176	93	103	216	403	139	208	92	**2020**
1980	73	41	26	39	56	11	100	47	46	72	41	154	234	93	118	220	428	130	217	125	**2271**
1981	94	46	23	40	91	14	147	54	46	89	45	180	256	100	142	228	459	211	255	138	**2658**
1982	82	39	13	26	56	9	88	28	25	61	19	137	173	71	85	139	323	130	169	114	**1787**
1983	79	36	15	20	38	7	81	20	34	86	55	130	149	58	94	112	280	123	161	92	**1670**
1984	155	63	24	25	83	6	168	41	33	88	51	143	231	78	97	191	372	149	209	143	**2350**
1985	190	56	32	54	91	7	154	69	48	117	56	171	327	112	130	257	494	244	288	202	**3099**
1986	190	65	25	42	73	6	150	52	42	123	57	221	363	132	147	328	571	255	320	228	**3390**
1987	189	82	18	44	79	8	183	37	36	112	32	204	340	127	128	231	499	252	265	276	**3144**
1988	279	71	32	38	87	6	143	44	47	111	58	196	369	131	151	245	527	296	397	332	**3559**
1989	270	90	45	51	106	12	217	66	63	137	85	204	443	165	176	260	655	410	448	384	**4287**
1990	328	102	40	60	93	8	187	66	62	163	64	221	457	141	151	248	618	388	428	410	**4234**
1991	248	122	54	58	128	15	246	68	74	236	73	329	535	187	185	303	713	464	474	414	**4926**
1992	221	93	40	40	119	17	268	79	74	235	107	358	611	248	225	331	906	482	484	496	**5433**
1993	212	99	38	45	133	12	276	68	74	237	107	320	595	237	254	318	874	489	473	488	**5348**
1994	213	82	24	38	125	6	245	70	53	199	87	327	486	234	210	257	772	429	445	489	**4790**
1995	388	152	48	85	169	24	346	92	81	268	108	412	599	220	265	343	939	539	502	546	**6125**
1996	315	106	43	47	159	17	370	72	66	284	81	348	590	220	218	317	960	487	475	564	**5740**
1997	382	138	59	81	209	14	451	89	75	309	80	349	575	199	249	374	899	580	536	657	**6305**
1998	306	118	45	67	195	13	416	73	69	232	77	263	491	157	126	253	714	450	447	615	**5127**
1999	421	142	50	62	182	17	416	62	74	279	95	273	478	155	157	292	714	466	579	724	**5642**
2000	428	169	77	98	199	24	490	74	89	338	89	335	550	195	196	319	816	600	593	863	**6554**
2001	306	119	66	81	166	14	388	53	85	291	64	333	601	186	185	287	799	581	543	828	**5981**
2002	387	128	71	106	169	10	450	62	85	337	80	375	642	234	288	308	969	714	597	827	**6855**
2003	355	141	55	70	148	9	453	43	53	273	58	392	562	181	169	219	762	605	576	691	**5828**
2004	264	98	48	68	97	7	370	69	66	252	88	331	506	149	179	263	856	565	499	746	**5537**
2005	294	99	56	92	137	13	435	52	92	305	67	400	598	209	230	254	842	626	567	761	**6127**
2006	280	122	67	96	144	15	573	87	111	351	117	419	665	231	270	259	924	645	561	741	**6678**
2007	260	193	74	112	225	13	666	91	128	376	132	487	730	257	313	343	1091	789	581	806	**7667**
2008	244	134	50	87	164	23	537	74	76	371	92	451	646	201	256	241	749	698	475	821	**6390**
2009	167	100	52	76	172	18	466	61	87	357	83	455	572	191	256	243	767	625	473	719	**5940**
2010	310	116	40	67	148	11	412	71	95	335	80	409	561	195	215	275	775	608	497	795	**6015**
2011	237	91	44	73	124	19	429	61	88	382	105	375	588	213	232	283	1046	714	601	844	**6549**
2012	302	120	49	63	107	9	397	58	91	435	76	392	514	201	208	273	1030	713	709	912	**6659**
2013	333	138	61	94	152	8	423	79	115	422	109	440	664	198	239	333	1091	692	669	911	**7171**
2014	272	130	64	87	147	9	414	104	92	459	88	409	604	180	222	311	892	659	685	915	**6743**
2015	194	109	40	49	122	15	395	72	115	420	69	380	557	194	189	263	849	621	711	789	**6153**
2016	271	104	61	85	128	16	423	79	109	466	89	400	580	200	198	354	956	629	643	824	**6615**
2017	253	116	34	67	141	14	500	98	140	495	126	437	711	273	254	422	1011	768	783	1065	**7708**
2018	339	127	64	102	160	20	559	119	141	515	116	468	675	289	277	461	1078	728	739	1053	**8029**
2019	214	96	57	69	156	14	542	65	103	524	121	464	797	277	269	379	1084	814	765	1060	**7870**
2020	146	70	33	48	103	15	469	93	128	453	127	461	814	319	294	420	1184	867	806	1136	**7986**
2021	212	93	60	72	145	17	490	100	130	450	121	487	839	327	322	428	1168	819	723	1100	**8103**
2022	284	129	54	86	166	21	525	111	134	433	134	529	846	303	285	429	1152	820	794	1104	**8339**
2023	281	121	62	100	163	29	491	97	139	442	114	569	809	319	305	438	1181	831	761	1043	**8295**

MALE KILL BY SEASON AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT DURING 2023

Harvest varies widely by day during the hunting season. Changes are primarily influenced by differences in hunting pressure and weather conditions. The typical distribution of harvest includes high kills during the first few days of the muzzleloader and firearms seasons and on weekends for both seasons. The Thanksgiving holiday can also produce high harvests. The number of males listed in this table is the total male kill (including fawns), thus the numbers are somewhat larger than those in the previous table for adult bucks.

ARCHERY SEASON (15 SEPTEMBER – 15 DECEMBER)

	A	B	C1	C2	D1	D2E	D2W	E	F	G1	G2	H1	H2	I1	I2	J1	J2	K	L	M	TOTAL
ALL	**36**	**14**	**12**	**10**	**23**	**4**	**97**	**9**	**16**	**113**	**13**	**125**	**147**	**69**	**68**	**59**	**257**	**229**	**250**	**480**	**2031**

YOUTH WEEKEND (21 – 22 OCTOBER)

DATE	A	B	C1	C2	D1	D2E	D2W	E	F	G1	G2	H1	H2	I1	I2	J1	J2	K	L	M	TOTAL
10/21	2	0	0	1	1	0	10	0	0	1	1	3	7	3	0	0	4	4	1	1	39
10/22	2	0	1	0	1	0	11	1	0	4	0	5	11	3	2	3	5	6	4	2	61
ALL	**4**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**21**	**1**	**0**	**5**	**1**	**8**	**18**	**6**	**2**	**3**	**9**	**10**	**5**	**3**	**100**

MUZZLELOADER SEASON (28 OCTOBER – 7 NOVEMBER)

DATE	A	B	C1	C2	D1	D2E	D2W	E	F	G1	G2	H1	H2	I1	I2	J1	J2	K	L	M	TOTAL
10/28	3	1	1	1	1	0	9	0	1	8	1	20	22	6	4	10	35	12	37	38	210
10/29	2	1	0	1	1	0	22	0	2	10	2	15	16	6	5	14	32	12	28	26	195
10/30	5	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	1	5	3	0	1	2	9	11	7	6	57
10/31	2	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	2	4	0	7	11	6	8	4	26	5	17	14	113
11/1	3	1	1	0	5	0	2	0	0	4	0	4	4	2	1	3	9	5	14	21	79
11/2	4	1	2	0	2	0	4	0	2	3	3	6	3	3	2	5	13	10	16	17	96
11/3	5	1	0	1	1	0	5	0	2	2	4	9	9	6	4	2	11	10	11	19	102
11/4	6	1	2	0	5	0	11	1	5	9	2	11	9	5	8	8	35	14	28	30	190
11/5	5	1	0	2	1	0	7	1	2	6	2	12	15	5	4	10	30	21	20	24	168
11/6	2	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	8	3	2	3	9	9	12	15	73
11/7	1	0	0	1	2	0	4	2	1	3	1	2	6	2	4	5	12	4	10	13	73
ALL	**38**	**9**	**6**	**6**	**24**	**2**	**74**	**5**	**19**	**50**	**16**	**91**	**106**	**44**	**43**	**66**	**221**	**113**	**200**	**223**	**1356**

REGULAR FIREARM SEASON (8 NOVEMBER – 3 DECEMBER)

DATE	A	B	C1	C2	D1	D2E	D2W	E	F	G1	G2	H1	H2	I1	I2	J1	J2	K	L	M	TOTAL
11/5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1*	1
11/8	7	4	1	0	15	1	29	4	7	32	8	56	56	22	25	39	107	69	36	36	554
11/9	8	6	1	1	7	1	30	2	8	27	8	38	38	22	20	14	76	38	19	14	378
11/10	16	3	3	2	7	4	23	10	7	16	6	30	54	8	8	20	75	73	29	41	435
11/11	15	2	1	1	6	2	34	5	4	21	8	32	68	10	14	21	80	60	41	51	476
11/12	9	4	3	3	3	1	24	5	7	23	5	11	34	16	13	30	36	27	38	58	350
11/13	5	4	4	4	7	0	6	7	1	4	4	6	13	5	4	7	15	9	16	7	128
11/14	11	2	0	0	3	3	9	5	3	9	1	4	13	3	9	8	20	6	10	12	131
11/15	7	2	0	3	1	0	9	1	2	8	2	7	19	10	9	2	7	10	17	16	132
11/16	11	3	0	2	9	0	7	3	3	5	1	5	14	8	3	13	15	14	14	14	144
11/17	5	3	2	1	4	0	14	0	4	6	1	8	11	8	10	10	23	20	23	20	173
11/18	6	5	4	2	13	1	12	6	9	7	10	21	21	8	11	11	27	19	18	27	238
11/19	18	5	2	4	1	0	18	4	3	19	3	23	42	14	9	18	48	29	34	28	322
11/20	15	5	3	3	7	1	4	2	3	8	3	8	11	5	2	8	14	10	3	15	130
11/21	16	4	3	4	1	0	6	4	0	4	2	8	15	3	4	8	15	14	10	12	133
11/22	23	8	3	10	5	2	10	6	7	16	3	11	30	11	11	18	21	12	12	7	226
11/23	11	3	3	6	3	1	14	2	7	10	3	16	24	4	7	12	27	19	13	23	208
11/24	10	2	0	6	5	2	18	2	8	16	2	17	27	8	11	25	23	15	17	25	239
11/25	6	2	1	8	4	0	14	1	4	13	2	11	16	19	7	13	23	22	10	23	199
11/26	9	4	2	2	3	2	7	1	5	4	7	20	12	7	7	9	27	18	17	25	188
11/27	0	10	1	3	7	0	7	3	4	6	0	6	10	5	2	5	10	5	9	7	100
11/28	0	3	3	2	2	0	3	2	2	4	3	8	9	4	1	2	9	10	4	5	76
11/29	0	3	1	4	2	0	7	2	0	7	1	3	4	2	4	0	13	6	4	6	69
11/30	0	4	2	3	2	1	5	0	1	4	0	9	1	4	4	3	2	4	3	6	58
12/1	0	4	2	6	2	2	7	0	1	6	2	2	12	6	1	1	14	9	3	12	92
12/2	0	1	1	3	1	0	11	1	2	13	1	7	9	5	7	9	13	11	14	13	122
12/3	0	3	0	1	4	0	9	5	3	6	1	7	8	4	5	10	10	9	10	10	105
12/5	1*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
ALL	**209**	**99**	**46**	**84**	**124**	**24**	**337**	**83**	**105**	**294**	**87**	**374**	**571**	**221**	**208**	**316**	**750**	**538**	**424**	**514**	**5408**

***illegal kills taken out of season**

ALL SEASONS COMBINED

	A	B	C1	C2	D1	D2E	D2W	E	F	G1	G2	H1	H2	I1	I2	J1	J2	K	L	M	TOTAL
ALL	**287**	**122**	**65**	**101**	**173**	**30**	**529**	**98**	**140**	**462**	**117**	**598**	**842**	**340**	**321**	**444**	**1237**	**890**	**879**	**1220**	**8895**

YEARLING ANTLER BEAM DIAMETER BY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT (2019–2023)

The antler beam diameter (ABD) of yearling (age 1.5) males is used to assess the quality of deer habitat. The biological maximum average yearling ABD on excellent range is around 24 mm. This maximum is not reached anywhere in New Hampshire because of our relatively unproductive soils and harsh winters. ABDs in the 17-19 mm range indicate deer are in good to excellent health that can easily be sustained on available habitat. Average ABDs below 16 mm on a consistent basis indicate deer densities may be nearing the carrying capacity of the WMU. In the following table, the number in parentheses following each average is the number of deer measured.

	YEAR					5-YEAR AVERAGE
WMU	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	
A	18.7 (7)	18.7 (13)	18.9 (9)	16.6 (8)	17.7 (12)	18.1 (49)
B	19.5 (2)	20.0 (2)	18.5 (2)	22.0 (1)	. (0)	19.7 (7)
C1	. (0)	22.0 (1)	. (0)	16.0 (1)	. (0)	19.0 (2)
C2	. (0)	18.3 (3)	18.4 (5)	17.3 (3)	. (0)	18.1 (11)
D1	. (0)	. (0)	19.0 (1)	. (0)	. (0)	19.0 (1)
D2E	. (0)	. (0)	. (0)	20.0 (1)	. (0)	20.0 (1)
D2W	17.7 (15)	19.2 (18)	18.4 (17)	16.9 (15)	17.1 (16)	17.9 (81)
E	16.3 (3)	. (0)	. (0)	. (0)	24.0 (1)	18.3 (4)
F	. (0)	18.0 (2)	. (0)	. (0)	. (0)	18.0 (2)
G1	16.4 (10)	17.8 (13)	18.3 (10)	18.3 (10)	14.8 (4)	17.5 (47)
G2	. (0)	17.0 (1)	18.0 (1)	. (0)	. (0)	17.5 (2)
H1	. (0)	18.5 (17)	18.4 (15)	. (0)	16.0 (24)	17.4 (56)
H2	16.2 (21)	18.1 (19)	16.0 (9)	17.4 (25)	16.2 (30)	16.8 (104)
I1	15.3 (10)	17.1 (21)	20.0 (12)	17.9 (9)	18.2 (11)	17.7 (63)
I2	15.2 (6)	19.3 (4)	18.4 (9)	17.4 (14)	16.3 (11)	17.2 (44)
J1	15.1 (11)	15.6 (14)	18.3 (6)	18.3 (11)	17.3 (17)	16.8 (59)
J2	15.5 (16)	17.0 (30)	18.8 (24)	18.0 (30)	16.2 (26)	17.2 (126)
K	16.5 (30)	16.9 (39)	18.8 (33)	18.5 (42)	16.5 (40)	17.5 (184)
L	18.7 (10)	17.3 (21)	19.8 (14)	19.6 (16)	16.5 (17)	18.2 (78)
M	19.2 (23)	19.2 (34)	18.1 (17)	18.8 (58)	18.1 (56)	18.7 (188)
ALL	**16.9 (164)**	**17.8 (252)**	**18.6 (184)**	**18.2 (244)**	**16.9 (265)**	**17.7 (1109)**

YEARLING MALE FRACTION BY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT (2019–2023)

The yearling male fraction (YMF) is the percentage of harvested adult males that are yearlings (age 1.5). The YMF reflects the average annual mortality rate of all adult males in the population by estimating the percentage lost to all causes on an annual basis (about half of annual mortality in New Hampshire is from the hunting seasons). In any given year, a high YMF may also reflect good fawn production 2 years previous and/or good fawn survival the previous winter. Based on 2023 statewide biological check station data, 40.7% of harvested adult (age 1.5+) males were yearlings, 29.3% were 2.5 years old, and 30% were 3.5 years or older. The number in parentheses following each yearling male fraction is the total number of yearling and older bucks in the aged sample.

	YEAR					5-YEAR AVERAGE
WMU	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	
A	35.0 (20)	65.0 (20)	42.9 (21)	44.4 (18)	37.5 (32)	44.1 (111)
B	66.7 (3)	50.0 (4)	66.7 (3)	33.3 (3)	0.0 (1)	50.0 (14)
C1	. (0)	100.0 (1)	. (0)	33.3 (3)	. (0)	50.0 (4)
C2	0.0 (2)	60.0 (5)	62.5 (8)	50.0 (6)	0.0 (2)	47.8 (23)
D1	. (0)	0.0 (1)	100.0 (1)	. (0)	. (0)	50.0 (2)
D2E	0.0 (1)	. (0)	. (0)	100.0 (1)	. (0)	50.0 (2)
D2W	41.7 (36)	64.3 (28)	51.5 (33)	27.8 (54)	44.2 (43)	43.3 (194)
E	60.0 (5)	0.0 (2)	0.0 (5)	0.0 (1)	25.0 (4)	23.5 (17)
F	. (0)	50.0 (4)	. (0)	. (0)	0.0 (1)	40.0 (5)
G1	55.0 (20)	46.4 (28)	40.7 (27)	30.3 (33)	44.4 (9)	41.9 (117)
G2	0.0 (2)	100.0 (1)	100.0 (1)	. (0)	. (0)	50.0 (4)
H1	. (0)	48.6 (35)	42.9 (35)	. (0)	53.3 (45)	48.7 (115)
H2	38.9 (54)	30.6 (62)	18.8 (48)	25.8 (97)	35.1 (94)	30.1 (355)
I1	38.5 (26)	65.6 (32)	46.2 (26)	37.5 (24)	55.0 (20)	49.2 (128)
I2	27.3 (22)	44.4 (9)	33.3 (27)	48.3 (29)	45.8 (24)	39.6 (111)
J1	30.0 (40)	43.8 (32)	26.1 (23)	42.3 (26)	44.7 (38)	37.7 (159)
J2	36.4 (44)	50.8 (59)	63.2 (38)	35.6 (87)	36.5 (74)	42.4 (302)
K	43.1 (72)	42.9 (91)	40.2 (82)	32.1 (134)	41.7 (96)	39.2 (475)
L	42.9 (28)	45.7 (46)	43.8 (32)	40.0 (40)	48.6 (35)	44.2 (181)
M	54.2 (48)	48.6 (72)	52.9 (34)	49.2 (118)	55.8 (104)	51.9 (376)
ALL	**40.7 (423)**	**47.6 (532)**	**41.9 (444)**	**36.5 (674)**	**44.1 (622)**	**42.0 (2695)**

NEW HAMPSHIRE TROPHY DEER PROGRAM

Beginning in 1999, the New Hampshire Antler and Skull Trophy Club (NHASTC) assumed responsibility for New Hampshire's trophy deer program. The program annually recognizes hunters who take deer with a weight of 200 pounds or more by each of three hunting methods (archery, muzzleloader, and regular firearms). To qualify, deer must weigh at least 200 pounds completely field-dressed (with all internal organs including heart, lungs, and liver removed). Information and an application form can be found in the Hunting Digest published annually by Fish and Game, at license agents, or on-line at *www.eregulations.com/newhampshire/hunting/trophy-deer-program*. The following tables provide the overall historical top 10 and those for the 2023 season. For a complete listing of this year's registry or information on trophy deer, moose, and black bear, contact James Smith, Jr., President of NHASTC, at 61 Alexander Ave, Newport NH 03773 or call 603-252-9011. The information below was generously provided by NHASTC.

ALL METHODS OVERALL

YEAR	NAME	RESIDENCE	WEIGHT	COUNTY
1985	Arnold Girroir	W. Newbury, MA	289	Coos
1998	Mike Kenyon	Bradford, VT	284	Grafton
1998	Scott Magoon	Topsham, VT	277	Coos
1984	Dave Alonzo	Berlin, NH	273	Coos
1984	William Robinson	Northfield, NH	273	Coos
1985	Bradley Frizzell	Pittsburg, NH	272	Coos
2020	Mark Evans	Wentworth, NH	270	Grafton
1980	Robert Neil	Gorham, NH	267	Coos
1994	Steven Young	Beecher Falls, VT	267	Coos
2016	Justin Vien	Berlin, NH	266	Coos

*Could not be verified that this was field-dressed weight.

2023 ALL METHOD TOP 10

NAME	RESIDENCE	WEIGHT	COUNTY
Lloyd Gifford, Sr.	Rochester, NH	248	Strafford
Tyler Hoisington	Piermont, NH	247	Grafton
Cody Patch	Lebanon, NH	246	Grafton
Nathaniel Bennett	Worcester, MA	242	Belknap
Jeramy McClay	Rumney, NH	239	Belknap
David Gilbert	Shelburne, NH	236	Coos
Shannon Ingerson	Jefferson, NH	235	Coos
Bruce Ota	Nashua, NH	235	Hillsborough
Danny Knapp	Bridgton, ME	231	Carroll
Samuel Durfee	Contoocook, NH	230	Merrimack
Evan Dickson	Errol, NH	230	Coos

REGULAR FIREARM OVERALL

YEAR	NAME	RESIDENCE	WEIGHT	COUNTY
1985	Arnold Girroir	W. Newbury, MA	289	Coos
1998	Mike Kenyon	Bradford, VT	284	Grafton
1984	Dave Alonzo	Berlin, NH	273	Coos
1985	Bradley Frizzell	Pittsburg, NH	272	Coos
1980	Robert Neil	Gorham, NH	267	Coos
1995	Lawrence Gonyer	Bow, NH	265	Coos
1986	Joe Daley Jr	Brentwood, NH	265	Rockingham
1983	Perry Taylor	Moultonboro, NH	262	Coos
2020	James Marr	E.Conway	262	Carroll
1994	Howard Fields Jr	Saline, MI	261	Coos

2023 REGULAR FIREARM TOP 10

NAME	RESIDENCE	WEIGHT	COUNTY
Nathaniel Bennett	Worcester, MA	242	Belknap
David Gilbert	Shelburne, NH	236	Coos
Danny Knapp	Bridgton, ME	231	Carroll
Samuel Durfee	Contoocook, NH	230	Merrimack
Evan Dickson	Errol, NH	230	Coos
Benjamin Hardwick	Francestown, NH	229	Merrimack
John Tyle	Peterborough, NH	229	Cheshire
Timothy Millette	Springfield, VT	228	Grafton
Ian Ladd	Tuftonboro, NH	228	Carroll
Rick Kidder	New London, NH	227	Coos

NEW HAMPSHIRE TROPHY DEER PROGRAM, cont.

ARCHERY OVERALL

YEAR	NAME	RESIDENCE	WEIGHT	COUNTY
2007	Rick Pescinski	Sanbornton, NH	255	Belknap
2002	Jeremiah Donaldson	Albany, NH	252	Carroll
2002	Rodger Matthewman	Meredith, NH	252	Belknap
2022	Peter Paris*	Sharon, NH	250	Hillsborough
2007	Dennis L. Faulkenham	Stark, NH	243	Coos
2009	Patric J. Laughy	Sanbornton, NH	243	Belknap
2002	Dave Lufkin	Lancaster, NH	243	Coos
2012	Scott Kenison	Laconia, NH	242	Grafton
2021	Corey Mason	Groveton, NH	242	Coos
2023	Lloyd Gifford, Sr.*	Rochester, NH	248	Strafford

2023 ARCHERY TOP 10

NAME	RESIDENCE	WEIGHT	COUNTY
Lloyd Gifford, Sr.*	Rochester, NH	248	Strafford
Bruce Ota	Nashua, NH	235	Hillsborough
Tyler Leroux	Belmont, NH	223	Belknap
Peter Rich Jr	Canaan, NH	219	Grafton
Christopher Cummings	Center Barnstead, NH	217	Belknap
Wesley Thomas	Meredith, NH	217	Belknap
Christopher Mack-enna	Springfield, NH	210	Sullivan
James Colbath	Farmington, NH	209	Strafford
Donald Swift	Milford, NH	208	Hillsborough
Christopher Geras	Derry, NH	208	Rockingham

*Crossbow Harvest

MUZZLELOADER OVERALL

YEAR	NAME	RESIDENCE	WEIGHT	COUNTY
1998	Scott Magoon	Topsham, VT	277	Coos
1984	William Robinson	Northfield, NH	273	Coos
2020	Mark Evans	Wentworth, NH	270	Grafton
1994	Steven Young	Beecher Falls, VT	267	Coos
2016	Justin Vien	Berlin, NH	266	Coos
2016	Michael Merrill	Washington, VT	265	Coos
2001	Larry Miles	North Conway, NH	261	Coos
2018	Tobias Schroeder	Melrose, MA	260	Hillsborough
1994	Dennis McLaughlin	Barre, VT	257	Coos
2018	Eric Hodgman	Winchester, NH	256	Cheshire

2023 MUZZLELOADER TOP 10

NAME	RESIDENCE	WEIGHT	COUNTY
Tyler Hoisington	Piermont, NH	247	Grafton
Cody Patch	Lebanon, NH	246	Grafton
Jeramy McClay	Rumney, NH	239	Belknap
Shannon Ingerson	Jefferson, NH	235	Coos
R. Andrew Robertson	Deerfield, NH	228	Rockingham
Bruce Truell II	Newport, NH	227	Sullivan
Garrett Laperle	Randolph, VT	225	Grafton
Chayce Renfors	Sanbornton, NH	221	Belknap
Dennis Lufkin	Glen, NH	221	Carroll
John Mazza	Canaan, NH	220	Cheshire

DEER KILL BY TOWN AND SEX DURING 2023

This is an alphabetical listing of New Hampshire towns with reported deer harvest in 2023. It includes the WMUs that the town overlaps, as well as the deer kill by sex and per square mile. The kill per square mile for towns in this table is calculated based on total land area. Towns not listed had no registered deer harvest in 2023.

TOWN	WMUs IN TOWN	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	KILL/SQ.MI.
ACWORTH	(H1)	53	12	65	1.67
ALBANY	(E/F/J1)	13	2	15	0.2
ALEXANDRIA	(G2/I1)	21	3	24	0.55
ALLENSTOWN	(L)	16	12	28	1.38
ALSTEAD	(H1/H2)	53	14	67	1.73
ALTON	(J2)	101	40	141	2.22
AMHERST	(K/M)	44	39	83	2.46
ANDOVER	(G1/I1)	34	4	38	0.95
ANTRIM	(H2/I2/K)	28	7	35	0.99
ASHLAND	(F/G2/J2)	11	5	16	1.42
ATKINSON	(M)	32	14	46	4.12
ATKINSON & GIL. AC. GR.	(A)	3	0	3	0.16
AUBURN	(L/M)	38	30	68	2.68
BARNSTEAD	(J2)	81	40	121	2.84
BARRINGTON	(J2/L)	64	65	129	2.78
BARTLETT	(E)	13	3	16	0.22
BATH	(D2W)	89	75	164	4.35
BEDFORD	(K/L/M)	31	41	72	2.2
BELMONT	(J2)	55	24	79	2.63
BENNINGTON	(H2/K)	14	2	16	1.43
BENTON	(D2E/D2W)	17	7	24	0.49
BERLIN	(C1/C2)	8	3	11	0.18
BETHLEHEM	(D1/D2W/E)	45	5	50	0.55
BOSCAWEN	(I1)	26	5	31	1.26
BOW	(I1/K/L)	45	22	67	2.39
BRADFORD	(I2)	19	4	23	0.66
BRENTWOOD	(L/M)	52	43	95	5.66
BRIDGEWATER	(G2)	12	7	19	0.88
BRISTOL	(G2/I1)	14	7	21	1.25
BROOKFIELD	(J1/J2)	21	6	27	1.18
BROOKLINE	(K/M)	32	19	51	2.57
CAMBRIDGE	(B/C2)	10	1	11	0.22
CAMPTON	(F)	37	3	40	0.77
CANAAN	(G1/G2)	64	26	90	1.69
CANDIA	(L/M)	58	30	88	2.91
CANTERBURY	(I1/J2)	59	22	81	1.85
CARROLL	(D1/E)	9	0	9	0.18
CENTER HARBOR	(J1/J2)	17	7	24	1.81
CHARLESTOWN	(H1)	50	22	72	2.02
CHATHAM	(E)	19	0	19	0.34
CHESTER	(M)	46	40	86	3.31
CHESTERFIELD	(H2)	55	23	78	1.71
CHICHESTER	(J2/L)	36	20	56	2.67
CLAREMONT	(H1)	71	27	98	2.29
CLARKSVILLE	(A)	34	11	45	0.75

DEER KILL BY TOWN AND SEX DURING 2023, cont.

TOWN	WMUs IN TOWN	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	KILL/SQ.MI.
COLEBROOK	(A/B)	34	6	40	0.99
COLUMBIA	(B)	37	3	40	0.66
CONCORD	(I1/J2/K/L)	71	40	111	1.75
CONWAY	(E/F/J1)	48	18	66	0.95
CORNISH	(H1)	86	30	116	2.77
CROYDON	(H1/I2)	22	10	32	0.87
DALTON	(D1)	25	3	28	1.02
DANBURY	(G1/G2/I1)	20	6	26	0.69
DANVILLE	(M)	20	21	41	3.53
DEERFIELD	(L)	90	52	142	2.79
DEERING	(K)	36	9	45	1.49
DERRY	(M)	53	36	89	2.52
DIXVILLE	(A/B)	2	0	2	0.04
DORCHESTER	(G1/G2)	12	0	12	0.27
DOVER	(L)	55	63	118	4.42
DUBLIN	(H2)	28	8	36	1.29
DUMMER	(B/C1/C2)	51	12	63	1.31
DUNBARTON	(K)	52	21	73	2.5
DURHAM	(L)	69	58	127	5.68
EAST KINGSTON	(M)	40	33	73	7.39
EASTON	(D2E/D2W)	17	2	19	0.61
EATON	(J1)	13	2	15	0.62
EFFINGHAM	(J1)	41	10	51	1.31
ELLSWORTH	(F)	1	0	1	0.05
ENFIELD	(G1/H1)	74	23	97	2.41
EPPING	(L/M)	63	31	94	3.65
EPSOM	(J2/L)	54	37	91	2.67
ERROL	(A/B/C2)	26	3	29	0.48
EXETER	(L/M)	40	40	80	4.08
FARMINGTON	(J2)	68	26	94	2.59
FITZWILLIAM	(H2)	58	30	88	2.54
FRANCESTOWN	(K)	41	21	62	2.09
FRANCONIA	(D1/D2E/D2W/E)	18	3	21	0.32
FRANKLIN	(I1)	32	19	51	1.86
FREEDOM	(J1)	59	26	85	2.47
FREMONT	(M)	28	17	45	2.61
GILFORD	(J2)	40	11	51	1.32
GILMANTON	(J2)	82	28	110	1.92
GILSUM	(H2)	22	4	26	1.57
GOFFSTOWN	(K)	77	29	106	2.87
GORHAM	(C1/C2/E)	12	0	12	0.38
GOSHEN	(H1/I2)	17	9	26	1.16
GRAFTON	(G1/G2)	18	10	28	0.67
GRANTHAM	(G1/H1/I2)	21	12	33	1.22
GREENFIELD	(K)	22	14	36	1.36
GREENLAND	(M)	36	23	59	5.57
GREENVILLE	(K)	11	4	15	2.19
GROTON	(G1/G2)	14	1	15	0.37
HAMPSTEAD	(M)	18	8	26	1.95
HAMPTON	(M)	12	11	23	1.77
HAMPTON FALLS	(M)	22	13	35	2.9

DEER KILL BY TOWN AND SEX DURING 2023, cont.

TOWN	WMUs IN TOWN	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	KILL/SQ. MI.
HANCOCK	(H2/K)	28	10	38	1.27
HANOVER	(G1)	94	83	177	3.61
HARRISVILLE	(H2)	14	8	22	1.17
HART'S LOCATION	(E)	2	0	2	0.1
HAVERHILL	(D2W)	94	68	162	3.17
HEBRON	(G2)	14	0	14	0.84
HENNIKER	(I2/K)	37	11	48	1.15
HILL	(I1)	11	1	12	0.45
HILLSBOROUGH	(H2/I2/K)	40	4	44	1.02
HINSDALE	(H2)	40	20	60	2.93
HOLDERNESS	(F/G2/J1/J2)	14	3	17	0.56
HOLLIS	(M)	64	35	99	3.13
HOOKSETT	(K/L)	54	19	73	2.03
HOPKINTON	(I1/I2/K)	55	23	78	1.89
HUDSON	(M)	32	26	58	2.05
JACKSON	(E)	8	0	8	0.12
JAFFREY	(H2/K)	59	22	81	2.11
JEFFERSON	(C1/D1/E)	43	12	55	1.1
KEENE	(H2)	28	14	42	1.14
KENSINGTON	(M)	43	35	78	6.54
KILKENNY	(C1)	1	0	1	0.04
KINGSTON	(M)	31	30	61	3.12
LACONIA	(J2)	17	8	25	1.26
LANCASTER	(C1/D1)	61	22	83	1.66
LANDAFF	(D2E/D2W)	23	7	30	1.06
LANGDON	(H1/H2)	20	8	28	1.73
LEBANON	(G1/H1)	99	56	155	3.86
LEE	(L)	44	37	81	4.09
LEMPSTER	(H1/I2)	33	19	52	1.61
LINCOLN	(D2E/E/F)	2	0	2	0.02
LISBON	(D2W)	53	54	107	4.08
LITCHFIELD	(M)	21	14	35	2.36
LITTLETON	(D1/D2W)	57	33	90	1.8
LONDONDERRY	(M)	52	41	93	2.22
LOUDON	(J2)	71	56	127	2.76
LYMAN	(D2W)	52	33	85	2.99
LYME	(G1)	83	58	141	2.62
LYNDEBOROUGH	(K)	39	18	57	1.91
MADBURY	(L)	49	25	74	6.4
MADISON	(F/J1)	35	11	46	1.19
MANCHESTER	(K/L/M)	23	18	41	1.25
MARLBOROUGH	(H2)	35	11	46	2.25
MARLOW	(H1/H2/I2)	29	7	36	1.4
MASON	(K)	31	19	50	2.1
MEREDITH	(I1/J2)	42	21	63	1.57
MERRIMACK	(M)	56	70	126	3.9
MIDDLETON	(J2)	22	6	28	1.55
MILAN	(B/C1/C2)	31	4	35	0.55
MILFORD	(K/M)	27	16	43	1.71
MILLSFIELD	(A/B)	5	0	5	0.11
MILTON	(J2)	48	18	66	2

DEER KILL BY TOWN AND SEX DURING 2023, cont.

TOWN	WMUs IN TOWN	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	KILL/SQ. MI.
MONROE	(D2W)	48	31	79	3.53
MONT VERNON	(K)	23	17	40	2.38
MOULTONBORO	(J1/J2)	49	26	75	1.26
NASHUA	(M)	9	8	17	0.56
NELSON	(H2)	18	9	27	1.23
NEW BOSTON	(K)	89	47	136	3.19
NEW CASTLE	(M)	3	4	7	8.88
NEW DURHAM	(J2)	54	17	71	1.72
NEW HAMPTON	(G2/I1/J2)	31	6	37	1.01
NEW IPSWICH	(K)	57	17	74	2.27
NEW LONDON	(G1/I1/I2)	18	5	23	1.04
NEWBURY	(I2)	32	7	39	1.09
NEWFIELDS	(L)	13	6	19	2.68
NEWINGTON	(M)	42	29	71	8.71
NEWMARKET	(L)	42	30	72	5.71
NEWPORT	(H1/I2)	60	29	89	2.06
NEWTON	(M)	28	15	43	4.4
NORTH HAMPTON	(M)	31	25	56	4.04
NORTHFIELD	(I1/J2)	44	26	70	2.45
NORTHUMBERLAND	(B/C1/D1)	24	4	28	0.78
NORTHWOOD	(J2/L)	45	23	68	2.42
NOTTINGHAM	(L)	58	49	107	2.29
ODELL	(B)	4	0	4	0.09
ORANGE	(G1/G2)	7	5	12	0.52
ORFORD	(D2W/G1)	53	24	77	1.66
OSSIPEE	(J1)	43	16	59	0.84
PELHAM	(M)	43	32	75	2.89
PEMBROKE	(L)	33	27	60	2.68
PETERBOROUGH	(H2/K)	54	10	64	1.7
PIERMONT	(D2W)	28	20	48	1.24
PITTSBURG	(A)	174	28	202	0.72
PITTSFIELD	(J2)	57	30	87	3.67
PLAINFIELD	(H1)	108	39	147	2.82
PLAISTOW	(M)	12	5	17	1.61
PLYMOUTH	(F/G2)	10	4	14	0.5
PORTSMOUTH	(M)	19	21	40	2.56
RANDOLPH	(C1/E)	5	1	6	0.13
RAYMOND	(L/M)	51	20	71	2.46
RICHMOND	(H2)	40	12	52	1.39
RINDGE	(H2/K)	53	28	81	2.19
ROCHESTER	(J2/L)	107	55	162	3.66
ROLLINSFORD	(L)	31	16	47	6.43
ROXBURY	(H2)	7	0	7	0.58
RUMNEY	(F/G1/G2)	20	3	23	0.55
RYE	(M)	33	30	63	5.04
SALEM	(M)	36	15	51	2.06
SALISBURY	(I1)	23	5	28	0.71
SANBORNTON	(I1/J2)	49	23	72	1.52
SANDOWN	(M)	10	6	16	1.15
SANDWICH	(F/J1)	37	2	39	0.43
SEABROOK	(M)	15	12	27	3.04

DEER KILL BY TOWN AND SEX DURING 2023, cont.

TOWN	WMUs IN TOWN	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	KILL/SQ. MI.
SECOND COLL GRANT	(A)	12	0	12	0.29
SHARON	(K)	13	6	19	1.22
SHELBURNE	(C2/E)	16	0	16	0.33
SOMERSWORTH	(L)	12	8	20	2.06
SOUTH HAMPTON	(M)	28	20	48	6.09
SPRINGFIELD	(G1/I2)	27	6	33	0.76
STARK	(B/C1)	10	0	10	0.17
STEWARTSTOWN	(A)	29	8	37	0.8
STODDARD	(H2/I2)	29	7	36	0.71
STRAFFORD	(J2)	76	32	108	2.22
STRATFORD	(B)	26	2	28	0.35
STRATHAM	(L/M)	36	43	79	5.23
SUCCESS	(C2)	5	0	5	0.09
SUGAR HILL	(D1/D2W)	18	8	26	1.53
SULLIVAN	(H2)	10	7	17	0.92
SUNAPEE	(G1/I2)	35	10	45	2.15
SURRY	(H2)	17	6	23	1.49
SUTTON	(I1/I2)	37	11	48	1.14
SWANZEY	(H2)	57	23	80	1.8
TAMWORTH	(F/J1)	29	0	29	0.49
TEMPLE	(K)	30	8	38	1.72
THORNTON	(F)	27	3	30	0.6
TILTON	(I1/J2)	11	2	13	1.17
TROY	(H2)	37	18	55	3.15
TUFTONBORO	(J1/J2)	70	15	85	2.1
UNITY	(H1)	47	24	71	1.92
WAKEFIELD	(J1/J2)	64	26	90	2.28
WALPOLE	(H1/H2)	51	36	87	2.47
WARNER	(I1/I2)	35	5	40	0.73
WARREN	(D2E/D2W/F)	27	3	30	0.62
WASHINGTON	(I2)	31	7	38	0.84
WEARE	(K)	93	46	139	2.46
WEBSTER	(I1)	41	9	50	1.8
WENTWORTH	(D2W/F/G1)	19	6	25	0.6
WESTMORELAND	(H2)	43	34	77	2.15
WHITEFIELD	(D1)	23	3	26	0.76
WILMOT	(G1/I1)	15	2	17	0.58
WILTON	(K)	35	13	48	1.89
WINCHESTER	(H2)	61	25	86	1.57
WINDHAM	(M)	34	21	55	2.07
WINDSOR	(I2)	6	0	6	0.73
WOLFEBORO	(J1/J2)	63	17	80	1.67
WOODSTOCK	(D2E/F)	6	0	6	0.1
WINDSOR	(I2)	4	2	6	0.73
WOLFEBORO	(J1/J2)	73	15	88	1.83
WOODSTOCK	(D2E/F)	11	0	11	0.19
TOTAL		**8895**	**4241**	**13136**	**1.47**

DEER KILL BY COUNTY, SEX, AND HUNTER RESIDENCY DURING 2023

Note: The kill per square mile by county in the rightmost column of this table is calculated based on total land area.

	NH RESIDENTS		NON-RESIDENTS		TOTAL		GRAND	TOTAL KILL
COUNTY	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	PER SQ. MI.
BELKNAP	495	193	31	17	526	210	736	1.84
CARROLL	491	150	136	30	627	180	807	0.87
CHESHIRE	690	309	154	57	844	366	1210	1.72
COOS	479	112	241	14	720	126	846	0.47
GRAFTON	1006	522	306	157	1312	679	1991	1.17
HILLSBOROUGH	1074	570	75	49	1149	619	1768	2.04
MERRIMACK	992	438	35	11	1027	449	1476	1.6
ROCKINGHAM	1216	862	94	60	1310	922	2232	3.22
STRAFFORD	621	378	78	48	699	426	1125	3.08
SULLIVAN	572	216	109	48	681	264	945	1.76
TOTAL	**7636**	**3750**	**1259**	**491**	**8895**	**4241**	**13136**	**1.47**

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF DEER KILL BY SEX AND SEASON FOR 1989–2023

	MALE KILL AND % OF MALE KILL				FEMALE KILL AND % OF FEMALE KILL				TOTAL
YEAR	ARCHERY	YOUTH	MUZZLE.	FIREARM	ARCHERY	YOUTH	MUZZLE.	FIREARM	KILL
1989	248 (5%)	0 (0%)	814 (16%)	4061 (79%)	241 (11%)	0 (0%)	526 (25%)	1348 (64%)	7238
1990	238 (5%)	0 (0%)	817 (16%)	4118 (80%)	246 (9%)	0 (0%)	592 (22%)	1861 (69%)	7872
1991	353 (6%)	0 (0%)	889 (15%)	4686 (79%)	380 (13%)	0 (0%)	740 (26%)	1749 (61%)	8797
1992	592 (9%)	0 (0%)	1178 (18%)	4815 (73%)	610 (17%)	0 (0%)	1007 (28%)	2013 (55%)	10215
1993	441 (7%)	0 (0%)	1375 (21%)	4685 (72%)	437 (13%)	0 (0%)	994 (29%)	1957 (58%)	9889
1994	432 (8%)	0 (0%)	967 (17%)	4243 (75%)	469 (17%)	0 (0%)	975 (36%)	1293 (47%)	8379
1995	718 (10%)	0 (0%)	1474 (20%)	5208 (70%)	863 (23%)	0 (0%)	1364 (36%)	1580 (42%)	11207
1996	729 (11%)	0 (0%)	2015 (29%)	4152 (60%)	733 (21%)	0 (0%)	1203 (35%)	1531 (44%)	10363
1997	829 (11%)	0 (0%)	1841 (24%)	4915 (65%)	929 (22%)	0 (0%)	1201 (28%)	2085 (49%)	11800
1998	727 (12%)	0 (0%)	1653 (27%)	3840 (62%)	822 (23%)	0 (0%)	1471 (41%)	1272 (36%)	9785
1999	946 (14%)	41 (1%)	1803 (26%)	4029 (59%)	1035 (27%)	54 (1%)	1457 (38%)	1338 (34%)	10703
2000	968 (13%)	89 (1%)	1814 (24%)	4601 (62%)	1002 (30%)	104 (3%)	1095 (32%)	1186 (35%)	10859
2001	797 (12%)	84 (1%)	1631 (25%)	4035 (62%)	780 (30%)	119 (5%)	630 (24%)	1067 (41%)	9143
2002	925 (12%)	101 (1%)	1862 (24%)	4839 (63%)	929 (28%)	159 (5%)	1049 (31%)	1225 (36%)	11089
2003	882 (13%)	138 (2%)	1564 (24%)	3953 (60%)	959 (32%)	196 (7%)	766 (26%)	1034 (35%)	9492
2004	1001 (16%)	120 (2%)	1336 (21%)	4000 (62%)	1157 (31%)	192 (5%)	858 (23%)	1469 (40%)	10133
2005	910 (13%)	139 (2%)	1582 (22%)	4421 (63%)	1061 (30%)	187 (5%)	967 (27%)	1328 (37%)	10595
2006	1452 (19%)	301 (4%)	1605 (21%)	4470 (57%)	1526 (39%)	367 (9%)	879 (22%)	1166 (30%)	11766
2007	1765 (20%)	296 (3%)	1766 (20%)	4997 (57%)	2043 (43%)	346 (7%)	1021 (22%)	1325 (28%)	13559
2008	1219 (17%)	153 (2%)	1910 (27%)	3912 (54%)	1416 (38%)	188 (5%)	830 (22%)	1288 (35%)	10916
2009	1233 (18%)	139 (2%)	1628 (24%)	3772 (56%)	1445 (40%)	224 (6%)	770 (21%)	1173 (32%)	10384
2010	1023 (15%)	175 (3%)	1559 (23%)	4024 (59%)	961 (32%)	217 (7%)	660 (22%)	1140 (38%)	9759
2011	1371 (19%)	180 (2%)	1400 (19%)	4445 (60%)	1416 (38%)	295 (8%)	851 (23%)	1151 (31%)	11109
2012	1429 (19%)	148 (2%)	2069 (27%)	3882 (52%)	1722 (42%)	240 (6%)	963 (24%)	1159 (28%)	11612
2013	1830 (22%)	190 (2%)	1806 (22%)	4335 (53%)	2107 (48%)	293 (7%)	845 (19%)	1134 (26%)	12540
2014	1440 (19%)	197 (3%)	1842 (25%)	4037 (54%)	1701 (44%)	201 (5%)	823 (21%)	1154 (30%)	11395
2015	1401 (20%)	176 (3%)	1299 (19%)	4107 (59%)	1774 (45%)	215 (5%)	813 (21%)	1110 (28%)	10895
2016	1208 (17%)	111 (2%)	1690 (23%)	4292 (59%)	1379 (41%)	146 (4%)	750 (22%)	1089 (32%)	10665
2017	1474 (17%)	111 (1%)	1882 (22%)	4970 (59%)	1628 (42%)	159 (4%)	780 (20%)	1305 (34%)	12309
2018	1828 (20%)	160 (2%)	1758 (20%)	5206 (58%)	2134 (41%)	233 (5%)	947 (18%)	1847 (36%)	14113
2019	1759 (21%)	143 (2%)	2578 (31%)	3972 (47%)	1636 (42%)	143 (4%)	850 (22%)	1225 (32%)	12306
2020	1777 (20%)	132 (2%)	2241 (25%)	4650 (53%)	2008 (47%)	163 (4%)	925 (22%)	1148 (27%)	13044
2021	1760 (20%)	124 (1%)	1681 (19%)	5184 (59%)	1756 (46%)	173 (5%)	693 (18%)	1180 (31%)	12551
2022	2156 (24%)	145 (2%)	1303 (14%)	5545 (61%)	2342 (47%)	242 (5%)	830 (17%)	1519 (31%)	14082
2023	2031 (23%)	100 (1%)	1356 (15%)	5408 (61%)	2031 (48%)	149 (4%)	515 (12%)	1546 (36%)	13136

BLACK BEAR

New Hampshire's 2023 bear season concluded with a harvest of 712 bears. The 2023 harvest was 31% below the 5-year average (1,034 bears) and 38% below the 2022 level (1,156 bears). The harvest consisted of 392 males and 320 females resulting in an overall harvest sex ratio of 1.2 males per female. During 2023, hunters took approximately 11% of the estimated statewide bear population (6,300), which aligns closely with the long-term average of 12%. This harvest rate can be highly variable from year to year depending on food availability, which directly translates to vulnerability to harvest. The lower than average bear harvest during the 2023 season is a reflection of the strong fall mast crops, most notably beechnuts which were available across the New Hampshire landscape. Current management efforts focus on increasing the overall harvest rate to better align densities with regional population goals and objectives as outlined in the Department's current Game Management Plan: 2016-2025.

At the statewide level, the estimated New Hampshire bear population density (0.7 bears/mi²) is above objective (0.52 bears/mi²) therefore the required management action is to reduce the bear population by approximately 26% through 2025 (remainder of the current management plan). This decrease will focus primarily on lowering density in three of the six management regions including the White Mountains, Southwest-2, and Southeast Regions, where a decrease in bear density is required given continued human population growth. Bear seasons were recently liberalized in multiple regions in an effort to move regional populations toward formulated regional objectives. This approach is having a positive impact and helping wildlife managers maintain these populations at socially desired levels. In an effort to bring the bear population in the White Mountains Region closer to goal, bear hunters will have the ability to purchase an additional bear tag in 2024. This additional tag will only be valid for the White Mountains Region. Season dates and methods of take remain unchanged for the additional tag.

Long-term bear harvest data clearly indicates that the annual vulnerability of bears to hunter harvest varies, often dramatically, due to the diverse production and distribution of natural foods from one year to the next. Mast surveys,

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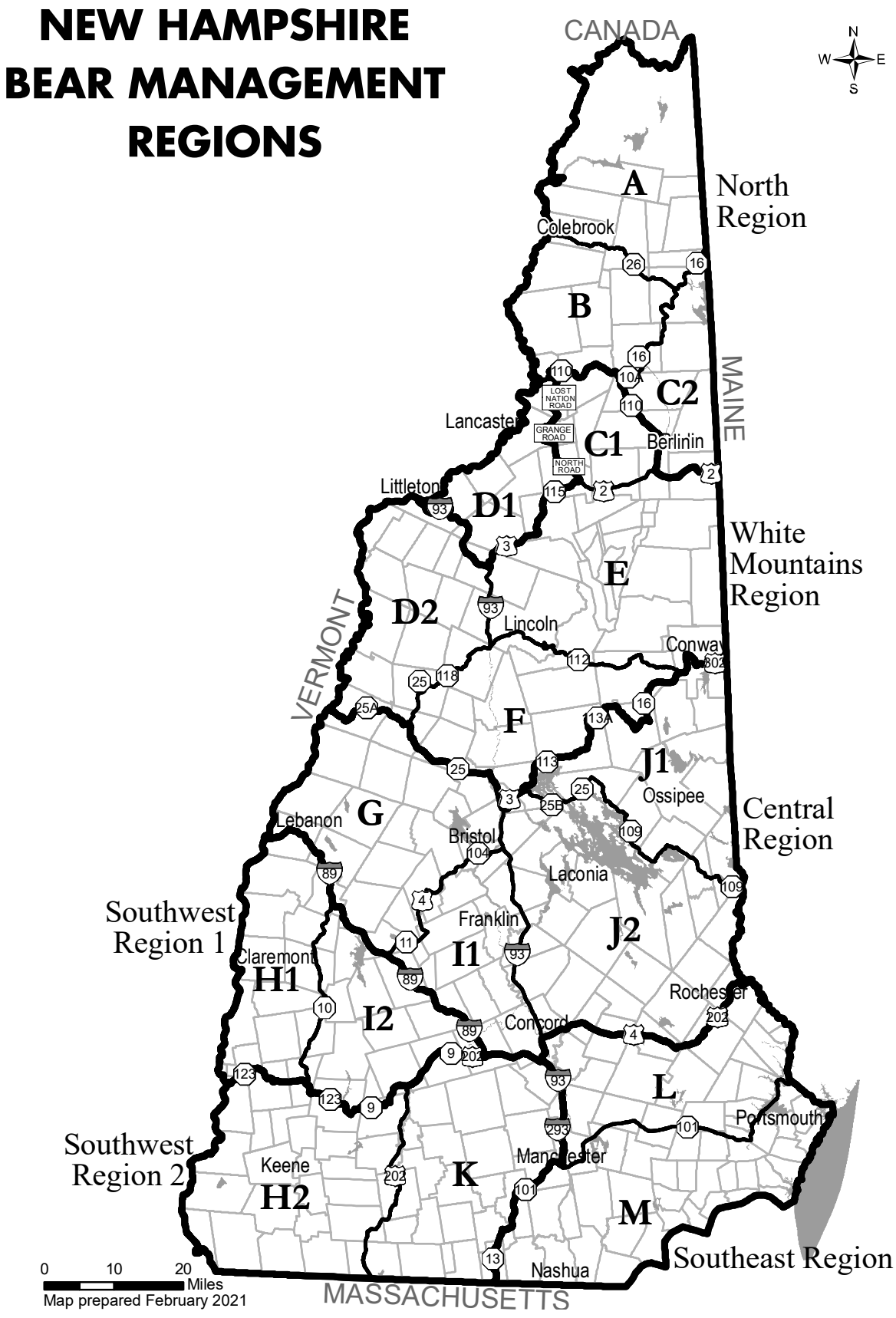
which measure production of ten important bear foods, conducted by biologists, foresters, and select volunteers indicated that fruit/nut production was above average for most species (6 of 10) during 2023. Most notably apple, beaked hazelnut, American cherry, mountain ash, and beechnut production was above average last fall, while other species (e.g., oak and chokecherry) experienced below average production. As a result, bears were able to take advantage of ample food resources without traveling long distances, thus making them less susceptible to hunter harvest. The increased fall foods available to bears this past season, coupled with mild late season conditions, meant bears were active later into the fall than they would be on a poor food year. As we typically see in this scenario, opportunistic deer hunters took a higher proportion of the overall harvest.

Bear population management activities will continue to focus on maintaining regional bear densities at levels consistent with regional population management objectives as defined in the Department's Game Management Plan. Keeping population growth in check will help ensure that the state's bear population is consistent with public expectation and desire, held at a socially acceptable level and appreciated by the residents and visitors of the state.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Map prepared February 2021
MASSACHUSETTS

REGIONAL BEAR POPULATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

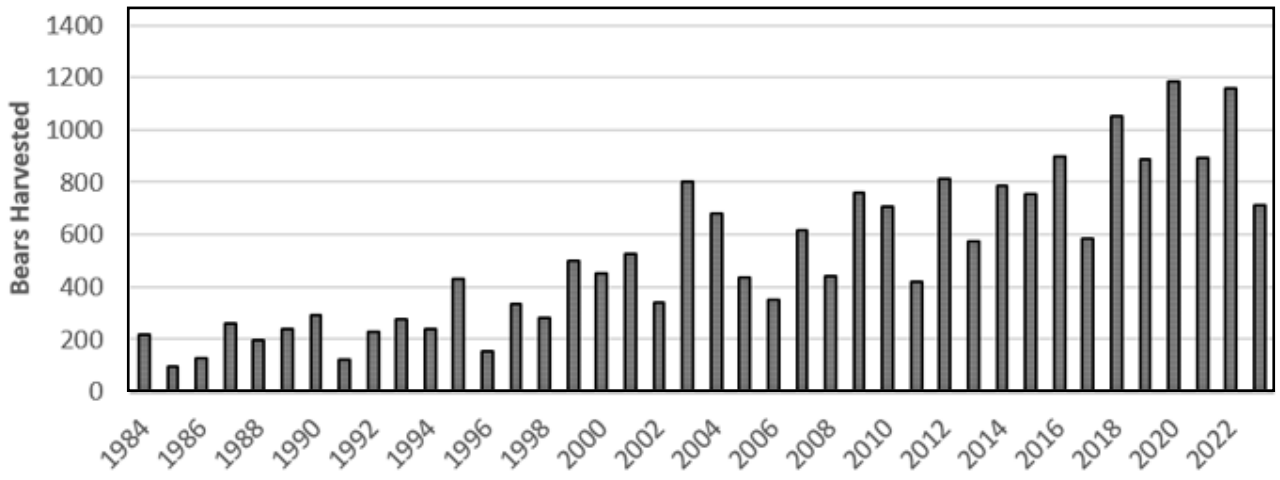
Black bear management decisions through 2025 will be based on our current Game Management Plan goals, derived through a detailed public input process. The population objectives and current status are summarized in the following table, where objectives and estimates are expressed in terms of density (bears per square mile).

REGION	2016–2025 OBJECTIVE	2022 LEVEL[1]	MANAGEMENT ACTION REQUIRED[2]
NORTH	0.6	0.64	Stabilize
WHITE MOUNTAINS	0.8	1.43	Decrease
CENTRAL	0.5	0.55	Stabilize
SOUTHWEST-1	0.5	0.48	Stabilize
SOUTHWEST-2	0.5	0.6	Decrease
SOUTHEAST	0.05	0.17	Decrease
STATEWIDE	**0.52**	**0.7**	**Decrease**

[1]2023 data were not available for inclusion in this estimate when this report was written.
[2]If the "Current Level" is ±12.5% of the 2016-2025 objective, no management action is considered necessary.

TOTAL BEAR HARVEST FOR THE 1984–2023 HUNTING SEASONS

Total bear harvest is the combined take of bait, hound, and still hunters. As illustrated in the graph below, bear harvest has increased notably during the past 2 decades. Periodic drops in harvest generally occur during abundant mast years. Such circumstances prompt less bear movement while foraging, which decreases the vulnerability of bears to hunting. The opposite is true during poor food years. Historic highs in bear harvest reflect: 1) a strong bear population in all management regions, 2) increasing interest and participation in bear hunting, 3) longer seasons due to more recent liberalization, and 4) changes in method-specific hunter effort. The growing popularity of hunting bears with bait has resulted in higher hunter success rates thereby increasing harvest levels.



BEAR HARVEST BY METHOD (2004–2023)

A total of 712 bears were harvested during the 2023 season, 31% below the 5-year average (1,034 bears) and 38% below the 2022 harvest (1,156 bears). Harvest by method in recent years has averaged 28% by still hunters, 61% by bait hunters, and 11% by hound hunters. During 2023, these rates were generally similar but showed slight deviation from previous levels with 23% by still hunters, 66% by bait, and 11% by hound hunters. Continued increased participation in bait hunting has been evident for several years and has resulted in a declining percentage of the annual harvest taken via still hunting. Still hunting was the predominant bear hunting method in New Hampshire until approximately 2004; however, harvest percentage by this method has since declined. The harvest by hound hunters in 2022 and 2023 (69 and 79 bears), was low compared with the 10-year average of 106 bears.

The number of bears taken during the November deer season, which serves as an index to fall food abundance, varies on an annual basis and is affected by many factors. Fall food conditions and the corresponding impact on denning phenology likely has the greatest influence. However, season length and the degree of overlap between the bear and deer season also play a significant role. During strong food years, bears delay den entry and remain active later into fall, resulting in a greater percentage of bears being harvested during the deer season. Conversely, during poor food years, bears den earlier and therefore are less vulnerable to opportunistic harvest by deer hunters. Statewide, 42% of the still hunter harvest occurred during the gun portion of the deer season in 2023, including 25% and 17% taken during the muzzleloader and regular firearms deer seasons, respectively. This percentage was much higher than that achieved in 2022 when 12% of the still hunter harvest occurred during this same period. The difference between the 2 years was not unexpected given differences in fall mast abundance. This level of still hunter harvest during the latter part of the season suggests that bears were active well into November, taking advantage of widely available fall foods, most notably beechnuts. Bear seasons have become more liberalized in recent years in an effort to curb population growth in select management regions. All six bear management regions were open to bear hunting during the muzzleloader season and three were open (for 23 days) during the regular firearms season.

	HUNTING METHOD			
YEAR	STILL	BAIT	HOUND	TOTAL
2004	343	244	92	679
2005	190	179	65	434
2006	149	152	51	352
2007	277	278	60	615
2008	209	176	55	440
2009	295	372	91	758
2010	252	373	83	708
2011	155	193	70	418
2012	283	430	99	812
2013	164	309	99	572
2014	261	408	117	786
2015	265	379	110	754
2016	300	486	112	898
2017	158	322	107	587
2018	368	594	91	1053
2019	270	472	144	886
2020	314	756	113	1183
2021	245	531	116	892
2022	348	739	69	1156
2023	165	468	79	712

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF BEAR HARVEST (2004–2023)

Regional harvest tallies were similar and highest in the Central, North, and White Mountains Regions with 206 (29%), 168 (24%), and 165 bears (23%) respectively. This regional harvest distribution has remained consistent for the past several years and coincides well with current harvest objectives. During 2023, over half (52%) of the statewide harvest came from the Central and White Mountains regions where the season structure was intended to focus additional harvest pressure given the objective to reduce density. Regional harvest percentages for Southwest-1 and 2 (9% and 13%, respectively) remained consistent with recent averages (10% for both regions). Harvest in the Southeast remained low (3%). However, the 2023 harvest of 18 bears in the Southeast Region represents a new record.

Annual differences in regional bear harvest distribution are generally caused by many factors including bear density. However, the most significant factors appear related to regional differences in food abundance, hunter access, fluctuations in hunter effort, and the degree by which different hunting methods are employed from one region to the next.

	MANAGEMENT REGION						
YEAR	NORTH	WT-MTS	CENTRAL	S-WEST(1)	S-WEST(2)	S-EAST	TOTAL
2004	158	227	177	88	27	2	679
2005	126	148	112	35	9	4	434
2006	65	108	99	49	23	8	352
2007	165	200	180	42	23	5	615
2008	113	136	137	35	18	1	440
2009	198	249	229	57	25	0	758
2010	183	233	227	52	13	0	708
2011	65	128	147	46	30	2	418
2012	185	229	264	76	57	1	812
2013	108	168	186	70	36	4	570
2014	160	234	268	62	56	6	786
2015	151	215	255	92	38	3	754
2016	164	282	293	89	69	1	898
2017	99	169	207	64	46	2	587
2018	198	300	326	109	111	9	1053
2019	143	266	298	98	74	7	886
2020	218	362	363	114	117	9	1183
2021	178	273	258	72	98	13	892
2022	243	314	342	115	129	13	1156
2023	168	165	206	61	94	18	712

BEAR HARVEST BY REGION, WMU, AND METHOD DURING 2023

This table summarizes the 2023 bear harvest by region, wildlife management unit (WMU), and hunting method. The decision to manage on a regional rather than WMU basis is driven in part by the sample size of harvested bears necessary for reliable data analysis. At the individual WMU level, our samples are not large enough to allow for a meaningful assessment of local bear populations.

The popularity and impact of different bear hunting methods varies regionally in New Hampshire. Regional bear hunting preferences are documented from harvest statistics and are a result of tradition, landscape, and access. Traditionally, bait hunting for bear was most popular in the North and White Mountains and still hunting was most prevalent in the more southern management regions. More recently, due to the popularity and increased success associated with baiting, it has become the most prevalent method of harvest throughout the state. Hound hunters account for the smallest percentage of the overall annual bear take, and their harvest has become more evenly distributed across all regions where this method is allowed.

		METHOD OF HARVEST			
REGION	**WMU**	**STILL**	**BAIT**	**HOUND**	**TOTAL**
	A	0	58	0	58
	B	7	34	9	43
NORTH	C2	3	7	6	16
	D1	6	32	6	44
	ALL	**16**	**131**	**21**	**168**
	C1	2	16	4	22
	D2	18	40	6	64
WHITE MTNS	E	6	30	8	44
	F	7	25	3	35
	ALL	**33**	**111**	**21**	**165**
	G	20	56	11	87
	I1	11	26	10	47
CENTRAL	J1	7	19	6	32
	J2	11	27	2	40
	ALL	**49**	**128**	**29**	**206**
	H1	7	21	3	31
SOUTHWEST-1	I2	8	17	5	30
	ALL	**15**	**38**	**8**	**61**
	H2	26	35	-	61
SOUTHWEST-2	K	12	21	-	33
	ALL	**38**	**56**	**-**	**94**
	L	12	4	-	16
SOUTHEAST	M	2	0	-	2
	ALL	**14**	**4**	**-**	**18**
STATEWIDE	**TOTAL**	**165**	**468**	**79**	**712**

BEAR HARVEST SEX RATIOS (2004–2023)

Since 2004, the bear harvest sex ratio (HSR) has averaged 1.2 males per female (m:f). Higher mortality rates for males result in females being more abundant than males in our bear population, but this is rarely apparent in our harvest data. During poor mast years, female harvest tends to increase relative to male harvest, with the result being that females can approach or exceed males in the harvest (e.g., 2010, 2022). During years with average or abundant mast, males are more vulnerable than females to harvest and therefore account for a larger percentage of the harvest.

The HSR in 2023 of 1.2 m:f was on track with the long-term average. During years of abundant food, males are more susceptible to harvest than females due to their larger home ranges and greater movements. During poor food years, females travel greater distances to acquire food and become equally susceptible to harvest. In regions where the management goal is to lower the population, HSRs below 1.3 m:f appear to be advantageous in reducing density. Conversely, in regions where bear densities are at goal, HSRs leaning heavier to males (1.4+ m:f) correspond well with population management objectives in those areas.

YEAR	FEMALE	MALE	MALE : FEMALE RATIO	TOTAL
2004	313	366	1.2	679
2005	190	244	1.3	434
2006	139	213	1.5	352
2007	262	353	1.3	615
2008	192	248	1.3	440
2009	344	414	1.2	758
2010	345	363	1.1	708
2011	172	246	1.4	418
2012	376	436	1.2	812
2013	231	341	1.5	572
2014	357	429	1.2	786
2015	314	440	1.4	754
2016	417	481	1.2	898
2017	270	317	1.2	587
2018	508	545	1.1	1053
2019	410	476	1.2	886
2020	575	608	1.1	1183
2021	417	475	1.1	892
2022	585	571	1.0	1156
2023	320	392	1.2	712

BEAR HARVEST BY METHOD AND SEX DURING 2023

Harvest sex ratios (HSRs) play a role in management decision making due to the impact that female harvest has on bear populations. HSRs in New Hampshire vary slightly by year but often vary substantially among hunting methods. Bait and still hunters typically harvest more males than females, and hound hunters generally take more females than males. This is seemingly due to more extensive movements by males that predispose them to increased harvest (and other mortality); however, hunter selectivity does play a significant role. During 2023, bait and still hunters harvested more males than females while hound hunters harvested a greater number of females.

METHOD	FEMALE	MALE	MALE : FEMALE RATIO	TOTAL
STILL	194	274	1.4	468
BAIT	49	30	0.6	79
HOUND	77	88	1.1	165
TOTAL	**320**	**392**	**1.2**	**712**

BEAR HARVEST BY REGION AND SEX DURING 2023

Harvest sex ratios (HSRs) in five of six regions were generally consistent with or greater than New Hampshire's long-term statewide average of 1.2 males per female (2004-2023) reflecting greater harvest vulnerability of males. Annual and regional variation in HSRs are expected, further reiterating the importance of monitoring trend data over time.

Multiple factors influence HSRs across management regions and from one year to the next. Food conditions, and the resulting impact on differential vulnerability to harvest between sexes, can vary by region in any given year. Other factors, including the age and sex structure of the population, the preferred method of harvest in a given region, and hunter selectivity can also influence HSRs at the local level.

REGION	FEMALE	MALE	MALE : FEMALE RATIO	TOTAL
NORTH	83	85	1.0	168
WHITE MTN	74	91	1.2	165
CENTRAL	90	116	1.3	206
SOUTHWEST-1	23	38	1.6	61
SOUTHWEST-2	45	49	1.1	94
SOUTHEAST	5	13	2.6	18
TOTAL	**320**	**392**	**1.2**	**712**

AVERAGE AGE OF HARVESTED BEARS (2010–2022)

Age data derived from premolars collected during bear registration are the backbone of New Hampshire's bear management program. We use harvest sex and age data to estimate sex-specific harvest rates. Knowing these rates allows us to back-calculate a statewide population estimate from annual harvest data. Regional sighting rates derived from hunter surveys, coupled with knowledge of the amount of bear habitat in each management region, allows us to partition the population across six management regions. The New Hampshire bear management recipe is quite complex and places heavy reliance on bear age and sex data.

AVERAGE AGE IN YEARS OF HARVESTED BLACK BEARS (2010-2022*)

	YEARS												
SEX	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
FEMALES	5.6	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.6	5.0	6.1	5.0	5.9	5.3
MALES	3.4	4.6	3.2	4.2	3.6	4.0	3.3	4.2	3.1	4.3	3.2	3.8	3.1

*2023 age data were not available for inclusion when this report was written.

NEW HAMPSHIRE HEAVYWEIGHTS

The following table summarizes record weights (actual dressed weights) for black bears harvested in New Hampshire through 2023. It is important to note that not all harvested bears are weighed. However, it is likely that a high percentage of large bears are weighed due to hunter interest. The heaviest bear taken in 2023 was a male that weighed 480 pounds, taken in WMU C2 in the town of Shelburne via bait hunting. Also noteworthy was a sow taken in Pittsburg (WMU A) that weighed 260 pounds. Although these bears did not make the top ten list, they represent impressive New Hampshire bruins nonetheless.

TWELVE* HEAVIEST BEARS HARVESTED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

RANK	WEIGHT	AGE	METHOD	WMU	TOWN	YEAR
1	552	9.5	HOUND	F	WARREN	2007
2	540	12.5	BAIT	C2	SHELBURNE	2010
3	535	11.5	HOUND	J1	WOLFEBORO	2016
4	532	N/A	STILL	D1	BETHLEHEM	2005
5	520	17.5	HOUND	J1	TAMWORTH	2014
6	505	20.5	HOUND	J1	WOLFEBORO	2017
7	504	7.5	BAIT	F	WAT. VALLEY	2020
8	501	5.5	STILL	H2	KEENE	2021
9	494	17.5	HOUND	E	BARTLETT	1997
9	494	10.5	HOUND	J1	SANDWICH	2001
9	494	12.5	HOUND	D1	BETHLEHEM	2002
9	494	10.5	BAIT	C2	SHELBURNE	2015

*Typically this list included the top ten bears. Twelve bears have been included because four bears are tied in the 9th position.
**All the bears in this table are male.

BEAR HARVEST BY TOWN, WMU, AND SEX DURING 2023

The following table summarizes the 2023 bear harvest by town. Towns where no bears were killed are excluded from this table.

TOWN	WMUs IN TOWN	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
ACADEMY GRANT	A	3	0	3
ACWORTH	H1	1	3	4
ALBANY	E/F/J1	1	2	3
ALEXANDRIA	G/I1	2	5	7
ALLENSTOWN	L	0	1	1
ALSTEAD	H1/H2	3	2	5
ALTON	J2	2	3	5
ANDOVER	G/I1	5	5	10
ANTRIM	H2/I2/K	4	5	9
ATKINSON & GIL. AC. GR.	A	0	1	1
AUBURN	L/M	1	0	1
BARTLETT	E	1	6	7
BATH	D2	2	5	7
BEDFORD	K/L/M	0	2	2
BENNINGTON	H2/K	1	2	3
BENTON	D2	2	5	7
BERLIN	C1/C2	1	0	1
BETHLEHEM	D1/D2/E	9	6	15
BOSCAWEN	I1	2	2	4
BOW	K/L	1	1	2
BRADFORD	I2	5	1	6
BRIDGEWATER	G	1	2	3
BRISTOL	G/I1	1	0	1
BROOKFIELD	J1/J2	1	3	4
BROOKLINE	K/M	0	1	1
CAMBRIDGE	B/C2	1	0	1
CANAAN	G	1	4	5
CANDIA	L/M	1	0	1
CANTERBURY	I1/J2	0	1	1
CARROLL	D1/E	2	5	7
CENTER HARBOR	J1/J2	1	0	1
CHARLESTOWN	H1	0	2	2
CHESTERFIELD	H2	1	3	4
CHICHESTER	J2/L	0	1	1
CLAREMONT	H1	1	0	1
CLARKSVILLE	A	6	2	8
COLEBROOK	A/B	2	3	5
COLUMBIA	B	3	7	10
CONCORD	I1/J2/K/L	1	1	2
CONWAY	E/F/J1	3	3	6
CRAWFORD'S PURCHASE	E	0	1	1
CROYDON	H1/I2	0	4	4
DALTON	D1	6	2	8
DANBURY	G/I1	2	6	8
DEERFIELD	L	0	1	1
DEERING	K	0	2	2
DIX'S GRANT	A	4	3	7
DIXVILLE	A/B	1	2	3
DORCHESTER	G	1	1	2
DUBLIN	H2	0	2	2
DUMMER	B/C1/C2	4	4	8
DUNBARTON	K	1	1	2
EASTON	D2	0	2	2
EATON	J1	0	1	1
EFFINGHAM	J1	3	2	5
ELLSWORTH	F	0	1	1
ENFIELD	G/H1	4	1	5
EPPING	L/M	1	0	1

BEAR HARVEST BY TOWN, WMU, AND SEX DURING 2023, cont.

TOWN	WMUs IN TOWN	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
DUMMER	B/C1/C2	4	4	8
DUNBARTON	K	1	1	2
EASTON	D2	0	2	2
EATON	J1	0	1	1
EFFINGHAM	J1	3	2	5
ELLSWORTH	F	0	1	1
ENFIELD	G/H1	4	1	5
EPPING	L/M	1	0	1
EPSOM	J2/L	0	6	6
ERROL	A/B/C2	0	3	3
FARMINGTON	J2	0	2	2
FITZWILLIAM	H2	2	0	2
FRANCESTOWN	K	4	0	4
FRANCONIA	D1/D2/E	2	1	3
FRANKLIN	I1	0	4	4
FREEDOM	J1	2	0	2
GILFORD	J2	1	1	2
GILMANTON	J2	3	3	6
GORHAM	C1/C2/E	3	6	9
GOSHEN	H1/I2	1	1	2
GRAFTON	G	2	0	2
GRANTHAM	G/H1/I2	2	0	2
GROTON	G	5	2	7
HANCOCK	H2/K	2	1	3
HANOVER	G	4	0	4
HARRISVILLE	H2	0	1	1
HAVERHILL	D2	5	0	5
HEBRON	G	1	2	3
HENNIKER	I2/K	3	2	5
HILL	I1	0	2	2
HILLSBOROUGH	H2/I2/K	0	5	5
HINSDALE	H2	1	2	3
HOLDERNESS	F/G/J1/J2	3	2	5
HOOKSETT	K/L	0	1	1
JACKSON	E	4	1	5
JAFFREY	H2/K	2	2	4
JEFFERSON	C1/D1/E	7	9	16
KEENE	H2	0	2	2
LANCASTER	C1/D1	6	13	19
LANDAFF	D2	4	0	4
LANGDON	H1/H2	1	0	1
LEBANON	G/H1	0	2	2
LEMPSTER	H1/I2	1	0	1
LINCOLN	D2/E/F	1	1	2
LISBON	D2	0	3	3
LITTLETON	D1/D2	3	1	4
LIVERMORE	E	0	2	2
LYMAN	D2	2	1	3
LYME	G	3	10	13
LYNDEBOROUGH	K	1	1	2
MADBURY	L	1	0	1
MADISON	F/J1	2	1	3
MARLOW	H1/H2/12	7	1	8
MEREDITH	I1/J2	0	10	18
MILFORD	K/M	0	1	1
MILLSFIELD	A/B	2	0	2
MILTON	J2	1	1	2
MONROE	D2	6	6	12
MONT VERNON	K	1	1	2
MOULTONBORO	J1/J2	1	2	3
NELSON	H2	0	2	2
NEW BOSTON	K	1	1	2

BEAR HARVEST BY TOWN, WMU, AND SEX DURING 2023, cont.

TOWN	WMUs IN TOWN	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
NEW DURHAM	J2	1	2	3
NEW HAMPTON	G/I1/J2	2	2	4
NEW IPSWICH	K	0	1	1
NEW LONDON	G/I1/I2	3	1	4
NEWPORT	H1/I2	1	5	6
NORTHUMBERLAND	B/C1/D1	1	6	7
NORTHWOOD	L/J2	0	1	1
NOTTINGHAM	L	1	1	2
ODELL	B	0	1	1
ORANGE	G	0	3	3
ORFORD	D2/G	1	2	3
OSSIPEE	J1	3	2	5
PETERBOROUGH	H2/K	0	2	2
PIERMONT	D2	5	2	7
PITTSBURG	A	15	6	21
PLAINFIELD	H1	0	3	3
PLYMOUTH	F/G	1	2	3
RICHMOND	H2	2	1	3
RINDGE	H2/K	0	1	1
ROXBURY	H2	3	0	3
RUMNEY	F/G	3	3	6
SALISBURY	I1	5	2	7
SANBORNTON	I1/J2	1	3	4
SANDWICH	F/J1	7	5	12
SHELBURNE	C2/E	4	3	7
SPRINGFIELD	G/I2	3	4	7
STARK	B/C1	4	6	10
STEWARTSTOWN	A	2	6	8
STODDARD	H2/I2	2	2	4
STRAFFORD	J2	0	1	1
STRATFORD	B	10	7	17
SUCCESS	C2	0	1	1
SUGAR HILL	D1/D2	1	0	1
SULLIVAN	H2	2	0	2
SURRY	H2	3	0	3
SUTTON	I1/I2	1	0	1
TAMWORTH	F/J1	2	2	4
TEMPLE	K	0	2	2
THORNTON	F	0	1	1
TILTON	I1/J2	1	2	3
TROY	H2	1	0	1
TUFTONBORO	J1/J2	4	1	5
UNITY	H1	1	5	6
WAKEFIELD	J1/J2	0	1	1
WALPOLE	H1/H2	0	1	1
WARNER	I1/I2	6	3	9
WARREN	D2/F	1	7	8
WASHINGTON	I2	3	3	6
WATERVILLE VALLEY	F	0	2	2
WEARE	K	1	1	2
WEBSTER	I1	1	1	2
WENTWORTH	D2/F/G	4	5	9
WENTWORTH'S LOCATION	A/C2	1	3	4
WESTMORELAND	H2	2	1	3
WHITEFIELD	D1	1	1	2
WILMOT	G/I1	2	1	3
WILTON	K	1	0	1
WINCHESTER	H2	2	3	5
WINDSOR	I2	1	1	2
WOLFEBORO	J1/J2	0	2	2
WOODSTOCK	D2/F	1	6	7
TOTAL		**320**	**392**	**712**

MOOSE

The 2023 moose hunting season ran nine consecutive days from Saturday, October 21 to Sunday, October 29. There were 33 moose hunting permits issued through the lottery and an additional one permit each donated to the Dream Hunt Program and Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire; in total, 35 permits were issued. All permits were either-sex and there were 7,040 entries in the permit lottery. Hunters took 24 moose and the success rate for lottery-issued permits was 67%. This harvest represents approximately 1–2% of the moose population and allows the population to grow if moose are healthy. For perspective, approximately 2–3% of the moose population is killed each year in vehicle collisions.

MOOSE © CAPPI THOMPSON / DREAMSTIME.COM

Moose hunting is guided by the 2016-2025 New Hampshire Game Management Plan which set an objective level of moose abundance for each moose management region. The objective moose abundance is designed to balance biological factors and social concern, either about too many or too few moose. It also has cut-off levels for most management regions, specifically to address social concerns, which serve as a threshold level where hunting permit issuance is suspended if moose abundance is below the cut-off. Abundance is expressed as moose density, specifically moose/mi². Moose are managed by region partly because this is the size area needed to have reasonably accurate moose density data and partly due to their ability to disperse long distances. Moose hunting permits are issued at the Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) level within a region and distributed based on WMU size and the estimated distribution of moose.

All moose management regions are below objective and some are also below the cut-off level. For those management regions where moose density is above the cut-off, but below objective, a low number of either sex hunting permits are offered. This level of harvest is designed to allow the population to grow if moose are healthy and to offer hunting opportunity.

Regionally, moose populations in the more northern part of the state have remained above the cut-off levels in recent years. During 2023, the Ct. Lakes and North Regions were above the cut-off, which resulted in 11 and 19 permits issued in these regions, respectively. Permits (5) were also issued in the Southeast. This region does not have a cut-off because the management goal is to keep the moose population low to minimize moose-vehicle collisions.

New Hampshire Fish and Game holds a lottery for moose hunting permits as a means to distribute permits in a fair manner. Those who apply but are not selected accrue a bonus point which increases their chance of being drawn in future years; note bonus points are lost if an application is not submitted. The lottery has occurred since the first hunt in 1988. Lottery applications are lower than peak numbers in the mid-2000s, but they have been relatively stable for last few years at approximately 7,000 resident and 2,800 non-resident applications. Resident odds of being drawn in 2023 were 1 in 114 and non-resident odds were 1 in 477. The bonus point system has been in place for 20 years and residents with the maximum number of points (20) received seven of the lottery-issued permits; non-residents with the maximum number of points (20) received two of the lottery-issued permits.

Hunter's receiving an either–sex permit generally prefer to kill a bull, and of the 24 moose taken in 2023, 23 were bulls and 1 was a cow; all were 1 year old and older. Success rates

for moose hunting have been high (>60%) since the inception of the hunt, and the 67% success rate in 2023 was similar to the 10-year average success rate of 71%. For comparison, the average success rate for deer hunting in the U.S. is less than 50%, and in New Hampshire it is typically less than 30%. Weather can play a substantial role in moose behavior, as well as hunter effort and success. The skill and luck of each permittee also vary, and all of these factors influence the success rate. With a relatively short season (9 days) and the small number of moose permits issued, the annual success rate is variable and should not be used to infer population abundance.

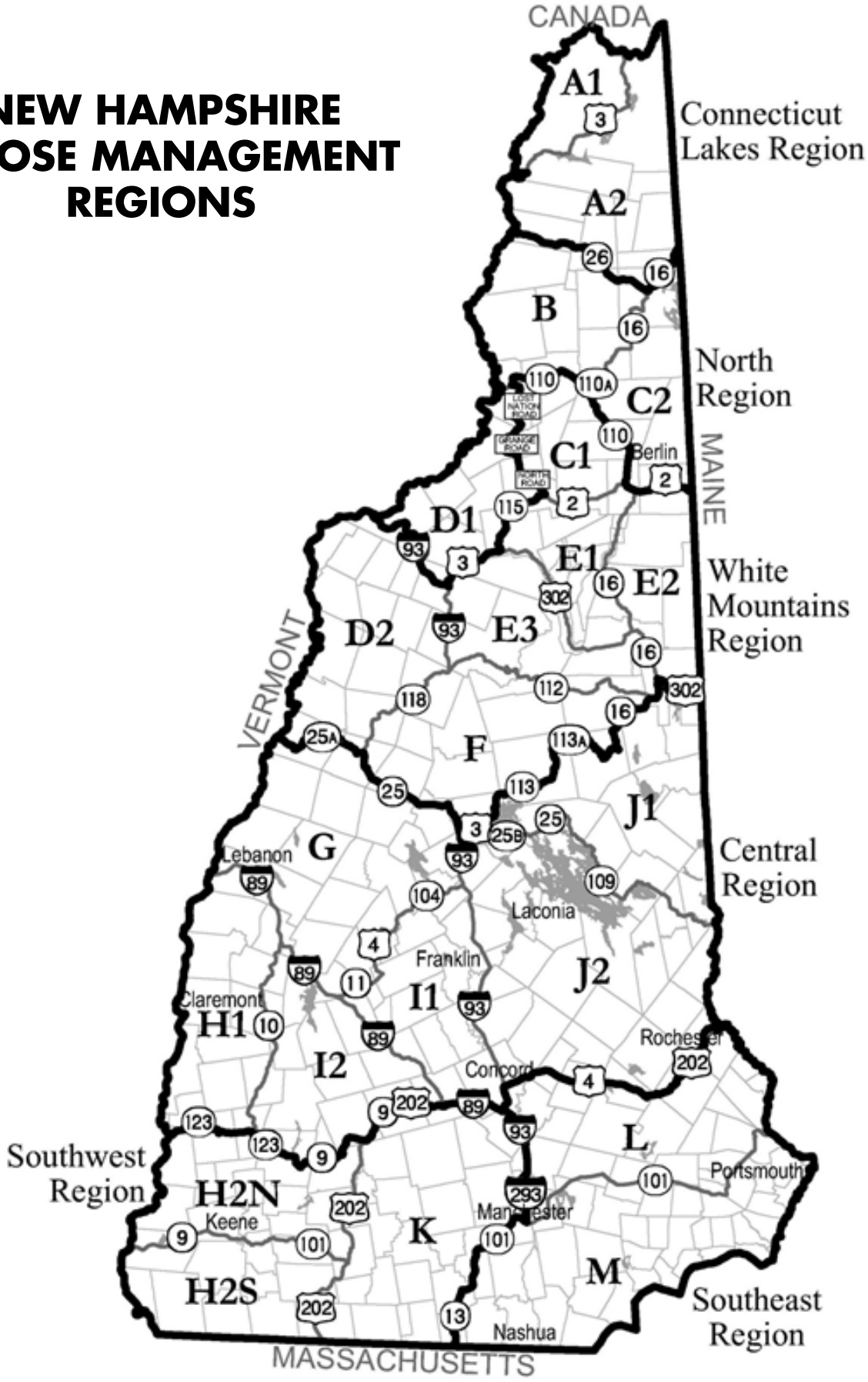
Hunting conditions during the 2023 season were varied with some cool mornings and showery days when moose were active, as well as warm, sunny, and windy days when moose tend to bed for longer periods of time. Most moose (65%) were taken in the first 3 days of the season, which is typical. All moose were taken with a rifle, mostly 30-06, 308, and 300 calibers, except one was taken with a shotgun. Hunters who shot a moose were from throughout New Hampshire as well as Arizona, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, and Ohio. The New Hampshire Wildlife Federation and Northern New Hampshire Guide Services once again sponsored the Dream Hunt for a youth fighting a life-threatening illness. This year's hunter was 8 years old and took a mature, 5-year-old bull. Interestingly, the bull had ear tags indicating it had been part of previous research in New Hampshire. The bull had been marked as a calf in winter 2018 in Dixville and was shot in Millsfield.

Harvested moose must be registered at a biological check station within 24 hours of being killed, and NH Fish and Game staff collect biological data from the moose when it is registered. Data collected in 2023 included weight, age, antler spread, antler points, ovaries from cows, and winter tick counts. Additionally, over 50% of hunters voluntarily collected blood which is used for disease monitoring. This data is used for monitoring physical condition which can help indicate if moose are being affected by disease or poor habitat.

Most of this data is used for long-term comparisons because annual sample sizes are small; however, some general findings for moose harvested in 2023 follow. The heaviest bull and cow dressed weights were 880 and 730 pounds, respectively. The widest bull antler spread (farthest distance between any two points on the rack) was 57.5 inches, and the oldest moose was 11 years old. Winter tick counts from moose in northern New Hampshire (WMUS A1-D1) were moderate and indicate this parasite is continuing to have a substantial influence on the population. Winter tick parasitism is the primary cause of moose population decline over the last 20 years in northern New Hampshire. A variety of factors are limiting the moose population in the rest of the state including lack of young forest, land development/fragmentation, and brainworm infection due to higher deer density.

Although moose populations in New Hampshire have declined since peak numbers in the mid-2000s, moose continue to be an important resource for viewing, hunting, and as a cultural icon. Moose hunting in New Hampshire is designed to be offered as a recreational opportunity only if it will not impact the viability of the moose population. Data collected from harvested moose provides important information for monitoring physical condition of the herd. Additionally, many New Hampshire residents gain a deep appreciation for the resource through moose hunting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE MOOSE MANAGEMENT REGIONS



REGIONAL MOOSE POPULATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The 2016-2025 New Hampshire Game Management Plan specifies regional moose management and has an objective and cut-off level for each management region. The objective is the desired abundance of moose and the cut-off establishes a threshold where permit issuance is suspended if abundance falls below this level. Abundance is measured as moose density (moose/mi²). In 2023, all management regions were below objective, but the Ct. Lake, North, and Southeast were not below the cut-off and light hunting opportunity was offered. Specifically, either sex permits were issued in the Ct. Lakes (11 permits), North (19 permits), Southeast (5 permits) management regions.

MOOSE OBJECTIVES, CURRENT ABUNDANCE, AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES BY REGION 2016-2025

REGION	2016-2025 OBJECTIVE	CUT-OFF	CURRENT LEVEL	2023 HARVEST STRATEGY	EITHER SEX PERMITS
CT. LAKES	2.24	1.09	1.44	LIGHT HARVEST	11
NORTH	1.28	0.68	0.95	LIGHT HARVEST	19
WHITE MOUNTAINS	0.47	0.24	0.17	PERMIT SUSPENSION	0
CENTRAL	0.25	0.20	0.18	PERMIT SUSPENSION	0
S. WEST	0.23	0.20	0.16	PERMIT SUSPENSION	0
S. EAST	<0.10	0.04	0.05	LIGHT HARVEST	5

MOOSE LOTTERY APPLICATIONS, PERMITS, AND ODDS

Demand for moose hunting exceeds permit availability, so a lottery is used to issue permits in a fair manner. Applications (~7,000) and odds of being drawn (resident 1 in 114, non-resident 1 in 477 for 2023) have been mostly stable for the last 5 years. Residents and non-residents with the greatest number of bonus points (20 points) received seven and two of the lottery-issued permits, respectively.

MOOSE LOTTERY APPLICATIONS, PERMITS AND ODDS FROM 1988-2023

YEAR	TOTAL PAID APPS.	PERMITS DRAWN (ISSUED)[1]	RESIDENT LOTTERY APPS.	RESIDENT PERMITS DRAWN	RESIDENT ODDS	NON-RES LOTTERY APPS	NON-RES PERMITS DRAWN	NON-RES ODDS
1988	5,915	75 (75)	4,948	65	1 IN 76	967	10	1 IN 97
1989	5,504	75 (75)	4,700	66	1 IN 71	804	9	1 IN 89
1990	5,707	75 (75)	4,777	66	1 IN 72	930	9	1 IN 103
1991	5,122	100 (100)	4,330	88	1 IN 49	792	12	1 IN 66
1992	8,702	190 (190)	7,398	166	1 IN 45	1,304	24	1 IN 54
1993	10,044	317 (317)	8,397	279	1 IN 30	1,647	38	1 IN 43
1994	11,572	405 (405)	9,475	352	1 IN 27	2,097	53	1 IN 40
1995	14,150	495 (495)	10,992	428	1 IN 26	3,158	67	1 IN 47
1996	14,398	495 (493)	10,905	426	1 IN 26	3,493	69	1 IN 51
1997	15,161	570 (569)	11,310	486	1 IN 23	3,851	84	1 IN 46
1998	15,942	570 (569)	11,890	481	1 IN 25	4,052	89	1 IN 46
1999	13,090	570 (570)	9,323	475	1 IN 20	3,767	95	1 IN 40
2000	13,984	585 (581)	9,543	487	1 IN 20	4,441	98	1 IN 45
2001	14,943	585 (584)	9,762	487	1 IN 20	5,181	98	1 IN 53
2002	14,888	485 (484)	9,536	411	1 IN 23	5,352	74	1 IN 72
2003	14,402	485 (482)	9,318	405	1 IN 23	5,084	80	1 IN 64
2004	15,505	525 (522)	10,112	437	1 IN 23	5,393	88	1 IN 59
2005	15,837	525 (526)	10,409	438	1 IN 24	5,428	87	1 IN 62
2006	16,344	675 (673)	10,236	562	1 IN 18	6,108	113	1 IN 54
2007	16,779	675 (678)	10,283	561	1 IN 18	6,496	114	1 IN 57
2008	16,144	515 (516)	9,576	432	1 IN 22	5,538	83	1 IN 67
2009	15,723	515 (521)	9,461	434	1 IN 22	5,113	81	1 IN 63
2010	15,229	395 (399)	9,060	334	1 IN 27	4,981	61	1 IN 82
2011	15,007	395 (408)	8,640	334	1 IN 26	5,169	61	1 IN 85
2012	14,776	275 (281)	8,426	233	1 IN 36	5,043	42	1 IN 120
2013	13,187	275 (280)	8,316	235	1 IN 35	4,821	40	1 IN 121
2014	11,986	124 (128)	6,222	105	1 IN 59	4,198	19	1 IN 221
2015	11,056	105 (108)	5,630	89	1 IN 63	3,889	16	1 IN 243
2016	9,590	71 (72)	4,522	60	1 IN 75	3,594	11	1 IN 327
2017	8,261	51 (54)	3,722	43	1 IN 87	3,128	8	1 IN 391
2018	6,142	51 (53)	3,270	43	1 IN 76	2,872	8	1 IN 359
2019	7,108	49 (50)	3,144	41	1 IN 77	2,731	8	1 IN 341
2020	7,217	49 (52)	3,261	41	1 IN 80	2,752	8	1 IN 344
2021	7,419	40 (41)	3,315	34	1 IN 98	2,880	6	1 IN 480
2022	7,223	41 (43)	3,160	33	1 IN 96	2,873	7	1 IN 410
2023	7,040	33 (35)	3,087	27	1 IN 114	2,863	6	1 IN 477

*Permits issued may differ from permits drawn due to failure of permittees to meet eligibility requirements, medical or military deferments, and permits issued through the Dream Hunt and Wildlife Heritage Foundation programs.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS AND PERMITS DRAWN BASED UPON POINT STANDINGS FOR THE 2023 NH MOOSE LOTTERY

POINTS	RESIDENTS			NON-RESIDENTS			OVERALL		
	APPS.*	PERMITS DRAWN	PERCENTAGE OF PERMITS	APPS.*	PERMITS DRAWN	PERCENTAGE OF PERMITS	APPS.*	PERMITS DRAWN	PERCENTAGE OF PERMITS
1	842	1	3.70%	676	0	0.00%	1518	1	3.03%
2	378	0	0.00%	349	0	0.00%	727	0	0.00%
3	242	1	3.70%	232	0	0.00%	474	1	3.03%
4	206	0	0.00%	151	0	0.00%	357	0	0.00%
5	148	1	3.70%	108	0	0.00%	256	1	3.03%
6	93	0	0.00%	92	0	0.00%	185	0	0.00%
7	92	4	14.81%	70	0	0.00%	162	4	12.12%
8	74	0	0.00%	102	1	16.67%	176	1	3.03%
9	80	1	3.70%	90	0	0.00%	170	1	3.03%
10	71	0	0.00%	86	0	0.00%	157	0	0.00%
11	95	0	0.00%	80	1	16.67%	175	1	3.03%
12	76	0	0.00%	78	1	16.67%	154	1	3.03%
13	86	2	7.41%	106	0	0.00%	192	2	6.06%
14	92	3	11.11%	82	0	0.00%	174	3	9.09%
15	69	0	0.00%	51	0	0.00%	120	0	0.00%
16	54	5	18.52%	70	0	0.00%	124	5	15.15%
17	58	0	0.00%	66	0	0.00%	124	0	0.00%
18	44	0	0.00%	102	1	16.67%	146	1	3.03%
19	49	2	7.41%	54	0	0.00%	103	2	6.06%
20	238	7	25.93%	218	2	33.33%	456	9	27.27%
ALL	**3087**	**27**	**100.00%**	**2863**	**6**	**100.00%**	**5950**	**33**	**100.00%**

*Excludes “point only” applications.

2023 MOOSE HUNTING PERMIT ISSUANCE AND HARVEST BY MOOSE MANAGEMENT REGION AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT (WMU)

REGION	WMU	PERMITS[1]	BULLS[2]	COWS[2]	MALE CALVES	FEMALE CALVES	TOTAL	SUCCESS RATE
CT LAKES	A1	2	1	0	0	0	1	50%
	A2	9	6	0	0	0	6	63%
	TOTAL	**11**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**60%**
NORTH	B	8	7	0	0	0	7	86%
	C1	3	1	0	0	0	1	33%
	C2	5	3	1	0	0	4	80%
	D1	3	2	0	0	0	2	67%
	TOTAL	**19**	**13**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**14**	**72%**
SOUTHEAST	L	3	2	0	0	0	2	67%
	M	2	1	0	0	0	1	50%
	TOTAL	**5**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**60%**
ALL	**TOTAL**	**35**	**23**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**24**	**67%**

[1] PERMITS were either sex. Includes Dream Hunt and Wildlife Heritage Foundation Auction permits.
[2] BULLS and COWS were 1 year old and older.
[3] Success rates are based on permits issued through the lottery.

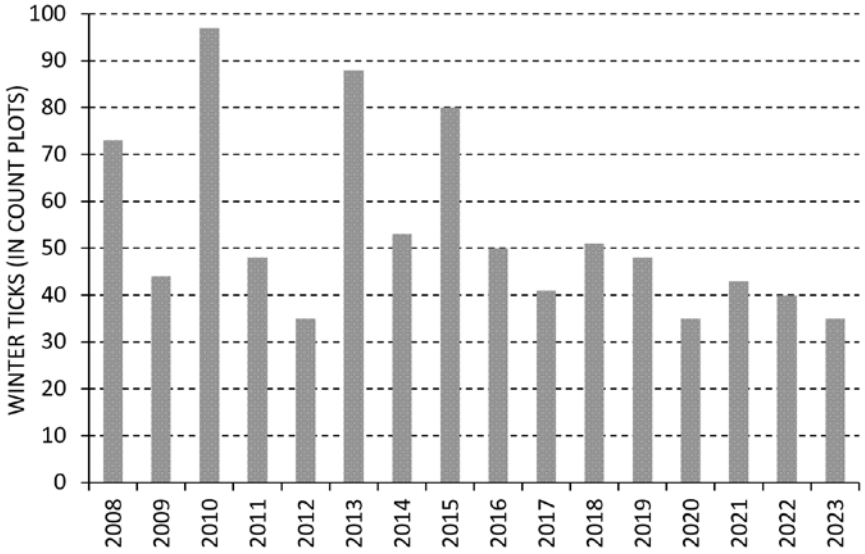
TEN-YEAR MOOSE HUNTER SUCCESS RATES BY MANAGEMENT REGION AND WMU. (LOTTERY-ISSUED PERMITS[1] ARE IN GRAY ROWS)

REGION	WMU	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	MEAN
CT LAKE	A1	75%	50%	100%	100%	50%	100%	100%	100%	66%	50%	75%
		4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	24
	A2	82%	75%	89%	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	88%	63%	85%
		21	16	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	101
	ALL	81%	70%	91%	80%	90%	100%	100%	100%	82%	60%	83%
		25	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	125
NORTH	B	100%	79%	90%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	86%	94%
		14	11	8	5	5	5	5	5	6	7	71
	C1	79%	78%	75%	60%	100%	67%	100%	100%	100%	33%	80%
		12	9	8	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	54
	C2	80%	100%	89%	60%	100%	80%	83%	100%	100%	80%	91%
		10	10	9	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	65
	D1	44%	71%	50%	40%	60%	80%	60%	50%	0%	67%	53%
		10	14	8	5	5	5	5	5	4	3	64
	ALL	78%	82%	79%	65%	100%	83%	89%	83%	79%	72%	80%
		46	44	33	20	18	18	18	18	19	18	254
W. MTN.	D2	38%	40%	75%	100%	100%	100%	50%	50%	0%	N/A	55%
		8	5	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	29
	E1	100%	67%	100%	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	N/A	64%
		2	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	14
	E2	67%	50%	100%	0%	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	N/A	59%
		3	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	17
	E3	67%	33%	50%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	N/A	37%
		3	6	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	19
	F	0%	100%	33%	100%	100%	50%	50%	50%	0%	N/A	55%
		2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	20
	ALL	56%	38%	50%	60%	30%	57%	29%	29%	14%	N/A	54%
		18	21	12	10	10	7	7	7	7	0	99
CENTRAL	G	56%	67%	0%	100%	100%	0%	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	59%
		9	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	17
	H1	50%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	50%
		2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	8
	I1	50%	100%	0%	100%	100%	100%	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	78%
		2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	9
	I2	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%
		4	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	10
	J1	60%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	75%
		5	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	12
	J2	100%	100%	0%	100%	100%	100%	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	78%
		3	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	9
	ALL	68%	90%	50%	100%	83%	50%	67%	N/A	N/A	N/A	87%
		25	10	6	6	6	6	6	0	0	0	54
S. WEST	H2N	100%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A	100%	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	40%
		1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5
	H2S	100%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A	0%	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	20%
		1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5
	K	67%	67%	100%	N/A	N/A	100%	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	82%
		3	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	11
	ALL	80%	40%	60%	N/A	N/A	67%	33%	N/A	N/A	N/A	57%
		5	5	5	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	21
S. EAST	L	50%	0%	67%	0%	33%	67%	67%	0%	33%	67%	36%
		4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	33
	M	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%	50%	18%
		1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	17
	ALL	40%	0%	50%	0%	40%	40%	60%	0%	20%	60%	30%
		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	50
ALL	ALL	72%	69%	72%	69%	77%	76%	75%	73%	63%	67%	71%
		124	105	71	51	51	49	49	40	41	33	614

BIOLOGICAL DATA FROM HARVESTED MOOSE

Biological data collected in 2023 included weight, age, antler spread, antler points, ovaries from cows, winter tick counts, and voluntary collection of blood by hunters. Most of these measurements are used to assess physical condition, but ovaries are used to determine pregnancy and blood is used to screen for diseases, such as brainworm. The data is used for long-term monitoring of change because annual sample sizes for most measure are too small to be used alone. General conclusions from 2023 data are that moose in northern New Hampshire continue to have substantial winter tick infestations, the oldest harvested moose was 11 years old, and the bull with the widest antlers had a 57.5 inch antler spread.

WINTER TICK COUNTS ON HARVESTED MOOSE TAKEN IN WMUs A1-D1 (COUNTS ARE AN INDEX USING TRANSECTS IN FOUR 10 CM X 10 CM PLOTS ON THE MOOSE.)



BIOLOGICAL DATA BY SEAL NUMBER FOR MOOSE HARVESTED IN 2023

SEAL NUMBER	TOWN	WMU	SEX	AGE[1]	DRESSED WEIGHT (LBS)	ANTLER SPREAD (IN)[2]	ANTLER POINTS
0001	DIXVILLE	A2	MALE	3	760	38.5	11
0011	ERROL	A2	MALE	1	473	33.5	6
0012	CAMBRIDGE	C2	MALE	4	667	38.5	13
0013	MILAN	C2	MALE	4	665	38	12
0014	MILAN	C1	MALE	4	730	40	16
0015	ODELL	B	MALE	10	747	44	11
0016	ODELL	B	MALE	7	755	50.5	13
0017	DALTON	D1	MALE	1	438	24.5	9
0018	DUMMER	B	MALE	2	611	35	8
0019	DUMMER	B	MALE	2	729	38.5	9
0020	MILAN	C2	MALE	7	869	57.5	17
0021	ERROL	C2	FEMAILE	9	730	N/A	N/A
0022	DIXVILLE	A2	MALE	3	699	41.5	17
0023	ERROL	A2	MALE	4	752	43	13
0024	WHITEFIELD	D1	MALE	5	666	38	7
0025	MILLSFIELD	B	MALE	7	633	47.5	15
0026	PITTSBURG	A1	MALE	2	N/A	32	11
0027	DUMMER	B	MALE	4	813	48	19
0028	DIXVILLE	A2	MALE	11	N/A	N/A	8
0029	DIXVILLE	A2	MALE	3	550	34	7
0041	HOOKSETT	L	MALE	1	300	10.5	2
0042	ALLENSTOWN	L	MALE	1	470	28.5	7
0043	FREMONT	M	MALE	8	640	49	12
1000	MILLSFIELD	B	MALE	5	880	54	20

[1] Age was determined by Matson's Laboratory using cementum age analysis on a central incisor tooth.
[2] Antler spread is the greatest distance between any antler point on each side of the moose's rack.

Spring 2023 Gobbler Season: The 2023 spring turkey harvest total was 5,580 which included 9 (0.2%) bearded hens, 1,410 jakes (25.3%), and 4,161 toms (74.6%) and resulted in a juvenile to adult gobbler harvest ratio of 0.34:1:00. This included youth weekend with 483 turkeys registered or 8.7% of the overall 2023 spring total.

This season's opening day occurred on a rainy Monday and resulted in 588 male turkeys harvested, or 10.5% of the season total. This was down compared with last year's opening day when 1,293 (22.6%) birds harvested.

As in previous years, harvest rates were highest early in the month and lessened towards the end of the month. This year, the first week (May 1-7) resulted in 2,760 birds taken, representing nearly half (49.5%) of the total spring male harvest. During the second week (May 8-14), 1,169 male turkeys or 21% were registered. The third (May 15-21) and fourth weeks (May 22-28) resulted in 627 (11.3%) male turkeys taken and 393 male birds (7.1%) taken, respectively. The final 3 days of the season, which included the Memorial Day holiday (May 29-31), resulted in 139 (2.5%) male turkeys harvested including 39 birds on the last day of the season.

One-year-old birds comprised 25.3% of the spring male harvest. Two year olds made up the largest portion (35.9%) of the spring harvest, and three year olds comprised 27.7%. As expected, the 4 and 5 year olds accounted for a lower segment of the harvest with 9.4% and 1.7%, respectively. The proportions of gobblers in the five age categories were similar compared with previous years.

The statewide average harvest density for all 18 Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in 2023 was 0.77 turkeys killed/mi² compared with harvest densities of 0.78 and 0.74 during the previous 2 years. This has remained relatively consistent since 2019, the first year when hunters were allowed to take a second spring gobbler in 6 of 18 WMUs. During the 2023 spring season, 1,054 (23.3%) of hunters registered two birds, which was consistent with the average (22-24%) since 2019. Of the 1,054 hunters that took a second spring bird, 968 were adults and 86 were minors (younger than 16).

During the 2023 season, six WMUs equaled or exceeded a kill of 1.0 gobbler/mi². These include units H1 (1.52), H2 (1.04), J2 (1.28), K (1.14), L (1.19), and M (1.10). Management units located in northern parts of the state continue to have the lowest kill/mi² including WMUs: A (0.18), B (0.28), C1 (0.17), C2 (0.15), D1 (0.47), D2 (0.67), E (0.08), and F (0.27). This is not surprising given the more severe and prolonged winter weather combined with less quality turkey habitat that exists in the northern portions of the state.

There were 73 towns throughout the state that had a total kill that equaled or exceeded 1.0 gobbler/mi² during the 2023 spring season. This was down from 84 towns in 2022 but very similar to 71 towns during the 2021 season. The towns with the highest total harvests during spring 2023 were Claremont (79), Alton (77), Plainfield (72), Concord (70), Westmoreland (69), Loudon (68), Gilmanton (67), Newport (67), Cornish (64), and Belmont (62).

Heavy gobblers were fairly numerous during the May 2023 season. There were 20 birds registered weighing 25 pounds or more. This was very similar to last year when 27 birds were 25 pounds or more. The heaviest birds were: 28.25 pounds (Durham), 26.5 pounds (Concord), 26.25 pounds (Grantham), and three birds each weighing 26 pounds (Atkinson, Orford, and Rindge).

Fall 2023 Turkey Seasons: The combined archery and shotgun harvest for fall 2023 was 201, which was significantly lower compared with that of the previous fall (805) and included 106 males (52.7%) and 95 females (47.3%). The decreased fall harvest was likely due to the record rainfall during spring and summer 2023 that resulted in lower recruitment and differences in fall foods from previous years. In terms of age, 79 (39.3%) were adult hens, 87 (43.3%) were adult males, 19 (9.5%) were immature males, and 16 (7.9%) were juvenile hens. Wildlife Management Units with the highest harvests included J2 (36), M (26), and L (22).

Fall 2023 Archery Season: Of the 89 turkeys taken, 46 (51.7%) were males and 43 (48.3%) were females. In terms of age, 40 (45%) were toms, 33 (37.1%) adult hens, 6 (6.7%) jakes, and 10 (11.2%) immature hens. The archery season comprised 44.3% of the total fall harvest.

Fall 2023 Shotgun Season: Of the 112 turkeys taken, 60 (53.6%) were males and 52 (46.4%) were females. This included 47 toms (42%), 46 adult hens (41%), 13 jakes (11.6%), and 6 immature hens (5.4%). The shotgun season comprised 55.7% of the total fall harvest.

Turkey viruses: The Department continues to monitor

two viruses affecting turkeys in the state, specifically avian pox and lymphoproliferative disease virus (LPDV). A total of 32 (23 winter and 9 summer) symptomatic turkeys were reported during the 2023 Online Winter Flock and Summer Brood Surveys. These two viruses continue to be present throughout the state but do not appear to be having a significant impact on the overall turkey population.

SPRING AND FALL TURKEY HARVESTS FROM THE PAST 10 YEARS

YEAR	SPRING HARVEST	CHANGE FROM PRECEDING YEAR	FALL HARVEST
2014	3,911	-14.0%	705
2015	4,006	+2.4%	1,043
2016	3,882	-3.1%	1,101
2017	4,482	+15.5%	450
2018	4,204	-6.2%	1,283
2019*	5,092	+21.1%	352
2020	5,718	+12.3%	584
2021	5,399	-5.58%	584
2022	5,725	+6.04%	805
2023	5,580	-2.5%	201

*2019 was the first year two birds could be harvested during the spring in certain WMUs.

TURKEY © BRUCE MACQUEEN / DREAMSTIME.COM

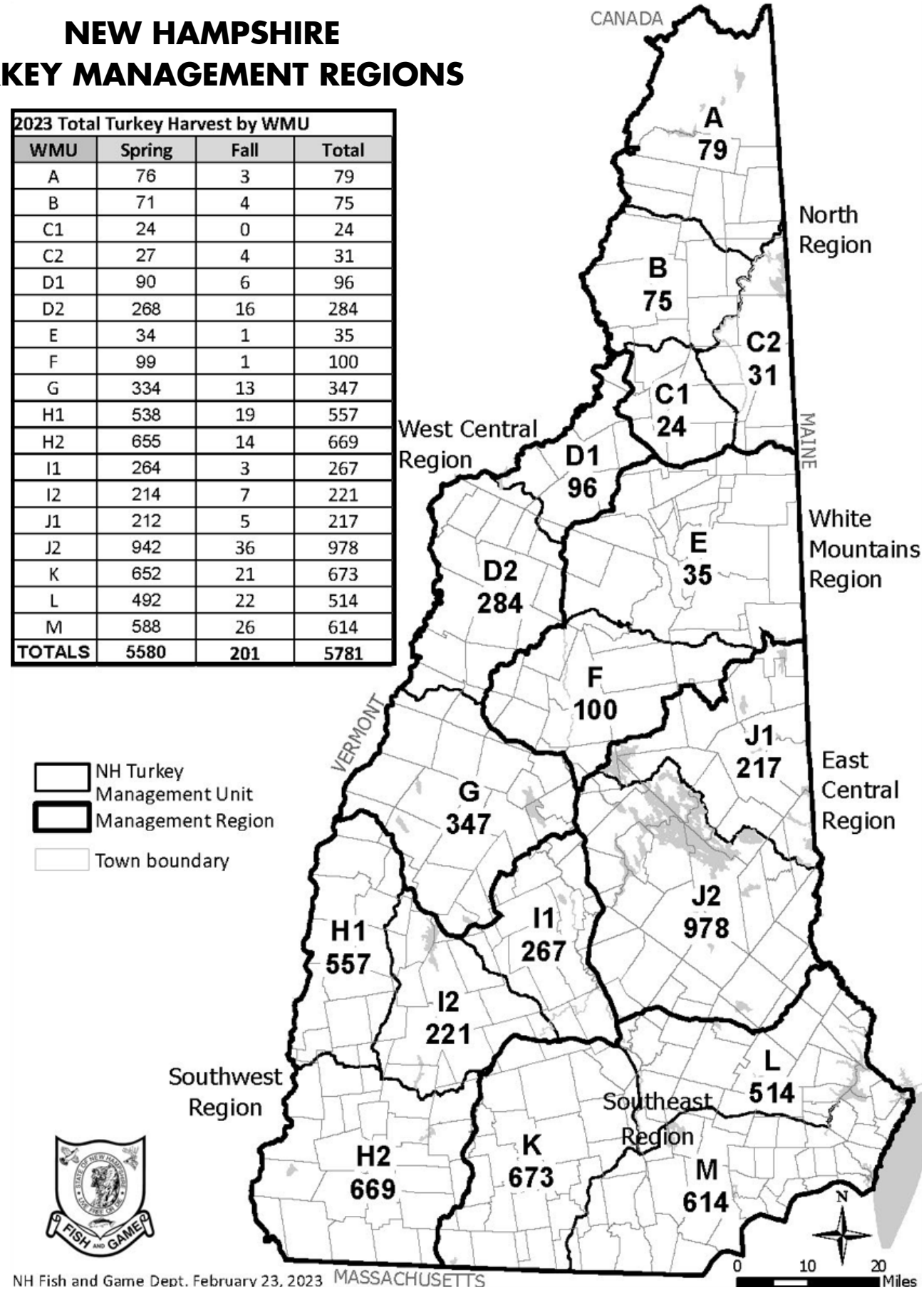
2023 TURKEY POPULATION OBJECTIVES BY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS IN TERMS OF SPRING HARVEST PER SQUARE MILE OF TURKEY HABITAT

WMU	2023 CURRENT LEVEL[1]	2016–2025 OBJECTIVE	HUNTING STRATEGY[2,3,4]
A	0.18	0.20	Conservative
B	0.28	0.20	Conservative
C1	0.17	0.20	Conservative
C2	0.15	0.20	Conservative
D1	0.47	0.60	Conservative
D2	0.67	0.75	Moderate
E	0.08	0.20	Conservative
F	0.27	0.20	Conservative
G	0.60	0.60	Moderate
H1	1.52	1.00	Liberal
H2	1.04	0.75	Liberal
I1	0.83	0.60	Moderate
I2	0.65	0.62	Moderate
J1	0.50	0.50	Moderate
J2	1.28	1.00	Liberal
K	1.14	1.00	Liberal
L	1.19	1.00	Liberal
M	1.10	1.00	Liberal
STATEWIDE	**0.77**	**N/A**	**N/A**

[1]Current level is the spring kill per square mile of turkey habitat for the 2023 season.
[2]Conservative strategies allow spring hunting and a fall archery season.
[3]Moderate strategies allow for spring hunting and a fall archery season. A fall shotgun season is allowed if the spring harvest equals or exceeds 0.5 gobbler kill per square mile.
[4]Liberal strategies allow spring hunting, a fall shotgun season, and a fall archery season. If the spring harvest reaches 0.75 to 1.00 gobbler kill per square mile, a 2-gobbler spring bag limit will be considered.

NEW HAMPSHIRE TURKEY MANAGEMENT REGIONS

2023 Total Turkey Harvest by WMU			
WMU	Spring	Fall	Total
A	76	3	79
B	71	4	75
C1	24	0	24
C2	27	4	31
D1	90	6	96
D2	268	16	284
E	34	1	35
F	99	1	100
G	334	13	347
H1	538	19	557
H2	655	14	669
I1	264	3	267
I2	214	7	221
J1	212	5	217
J2	942	36	978
K	652	21	673
L	492	22	514
M	588	26	614
TOTALS	5580	201	5781



NH Fish and Game Dept. February 23, 2023

FALL 2023 TURKEY HARVEST BY SEASON, SEX, AGE, AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT

SEASON	FALL ARCHERY SEASON HARVEST																		
	A	B	C1	C2	D1	D2	E	F	G	H1	H2	I1	I2	J1	J2	K	L	M	ALL
Imm. Hens	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	10
Adult Hens	1	1	0	1	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	7	4	2	6	33
Total Hens	3	2	0	2	3	3	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	0	9	5	3	6	43
Imm. Males	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	6
Adult Males	0	0	0	2	3	2	0	1	3	1	3	0	1	2	4	4	8	6	40
Total Males	0	2	0	2	3	2	0	1	3	1	4	0	1	2	4	5	8	8	46
TOTAL	**3**	**4**	**0**	**4**	**6**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**5**	**2**	**5**	**0**	**3**	**2**	**13**	**10**	**11**	**14**	**89**

SEASON	FALL SHOTGUN SEASON HARVEST																		
	A	B	C1	C2	D1	D2	E	F	G	H1	H2	I1	I2	J1	J2	K	L	M	ALL
Imm. Hens	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	6
Adult Hens	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	N/A	N/A	3	7	4	2	1	1	9	4	5	5	46
Total Hens	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	N/A	N/A	4	7	4	2	1	1	13	4	5	6	52
Imm. Males	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	2	13
Adult Males	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	N/A	N/A	3	8	5	1	3	2	8	4	4	4	47
Total Males	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	4	10	5	1	3	2	10	7	6	6	60
TOTAL	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**11**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**8**	**17**	**9**	**3**	**4**	**3**	**23**	**11**	**11**	**12**	**112**

SEASON	TOTAL FALL SEASON HARVEST																		
	A	B	C1	C2	D1	D2	E	F	G	H1	H2	I1	I2	J1	J2	K	L	M	ALL
Imm. Hens	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	1	1	16
Adult Hens	1	1	0	1	3	7	1	0	4	8	5	2	3	1	16	8	7	11	79
Total Hens	3	2	0	2	3	8	1	0	6	8	5	2	3	1	22	9	8	12	95
Imm. Males	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	4	2	4	19
Adult Males	0	0	0	2	3	7	0	1	6	9	8	1	4	4	12	8	12	10	87
Total Males	0	2	0	2	3	8	0	1	7	11	9	1	4	4	14	12	14	14	106
TOTAL	**3**	**4**	**0**	**4**	**6**	**16**	**1**	**1**	**13**	**19**	**14**	**3**	**7**	**5**	**36**	**21**	**22**	**26**	**201**

SPRING 2023 TURKEY HARVEST BY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT

WMU	SQ. MI HABITAT	BEARDED HENS	JAKES	TOMS	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL	JUVENILE : ADULT HARVEST RATIO	KPSM*
A	424.44	0	27	49	76	1.4%	0.55:1:00	0.18
B	251.65	0	28	43	71	1.3%	0.65:1:00	0.28
C1	144.62	0	9	15	24	0.4%	0.60:1:00	0.17
C2	177.69	0	6	21	27	0.5%	0.29:1:00	0.15
D1	193.11	0	28	62	90	1.6%	0.45:1:00	0.47
D2	402.46	0	74	194	268	4.8%	0.38:1:00	0.67
E	451.29	0	8	26	34	0.6%	0.31:1:00	0.08
F	372.65	0	14	85	99	1.8%	0.16:1:00	0.27
G	555.15	0	81	253	334	6.0%	0.32:1:00	0.60
H1	353.86	1	146	391	538	9.6%	0.37:1:00	1.52
H2	626.12	1	154	500	655	11.7%	0.31:1:00	1.05
I1	317.97	0	72	192	264	4.7%	0.38:1:00	0.83
I2	327.64	0	34	180	214	3.8%	0.19:1:00	0.65
J1	426.81	0	44	168	212	3.8%	0.26:1:00	0.50
J2	733.4	4	243	695	942	16.9%	0.35:1:00	1.28
K	569.91	0	152	500	652	11.7%	0.30:1:00	1.14
L	412.97	1	146	345	492	8.8%	0.42:1:00	1.19
M	532.39	2	144	442	588	10.5%	0.33:1:00	1.10
TOTALS	**7274.13**	**9**	**1410**	**4161**	**5580**	**100%**	**0.34:1:00**	**0.77**

*Kill per square mile of turkey habitat.

WILD TURKEY

SPRING TURKEY HARVESTS BY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT (2014–2023)

WMU	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	10-YEAR AVERAGE
A	48	48	50	50	47	41	55	49	67	76	53.10
B	25	23	19	29	26	39	40	42	49	71	36.30
C1	22	7	15	13	7	11	22	12	20	24	15.30
C2	28	35	28	35	19	23	37	25	34	27	29.10
D1	102	95	65	70	55	78	85	80	82	90	80.20
D2	234	216	194	242	246	244	268	252	284	268	244.80
E	34	38	40	42	27	24	35	42	39	34	35.50
F	64	74	69	87	76	64	76	88	81	99	77.80
G	257	257	240	307	269	243	253	271	320	334	275.10
H1	295	300	285	347	311	457	456	463	523	538	397.50
H2	361	428	408	454	471	609	636	583	676	655	528.10
I1	159	153	175	205	193	198	261	237	252	264	209.70
I2	176	178	175	224	230	214	211	219	262	214	210.30
J1	166	205	180	225	191	165	199	209	191	212	194.30
J2	600	622	637	681	643	858	985	958	1005	942	793.10
K	490	450	463	548	544	681	768	661	702	652	595.90
L	410	403	411	434	394	511	594	523	543	492	471.50
M	440	474	428	489	455	632	737	685	595	588	552.30
Totals	**3,911**	**4,006**	**3,882**	**4,482**	**4,204**	**5,092**	**5,718**	**5,399**	**5,725**	**5,580**	**4799.90**

TOP GOBBLERS (25+ POUNDS) TAKEN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE DURING 2023 SPRING SEASON

WEIGHT (LBS)	BEARD LENGTH	SPUR LENGTH	WMU	TOWN OF KILL
28.25	5	0.375	L	DURHAM
26.5	5	0.500	J2	CONCORD
26.25	9	1.000	H1	GRANTHAM
26	10.25	1.000	M	ATKINSON
26	9	1.000	G	ORFORD
26	9	0.875	H2	RINDGE
25.75	11.75	1.063	K	BOW
25.5	9.5	1.125	J2	ALTON
25.5	9	1.000	K	WILTON
25.25	10.25	1.000	K	MASON
25.25	10	1.125	J2	CONCORD
25	11	1.000	I1	CONCORD
25	11	0.875	K	LYNDEBOROUGH
25	10.5	1.000	M	RYE
25	10.25	0.875	M	LONDONDERRY
25	10	1.000	M	STRATHAM
25	9.75	0.625	I2	CROYDON
25	9.5	1.000	H1	CHARLESTOWN
25	9	1.125	G	GROTON
25	8.5	1.000	J1	TUFTONBORO

2023 TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND SEASON

TOWN/WMUs	SPRING HEN	SPRING JAKE	SPRING TOM	SPRING MALE TOTAL	SPRING MALE KPSM*	FALL HEN	FALL MALE	FALL TOTAL	FALL KPSM*
ACWORTH (H1)	1	15	30	45	1.25	0	1	1	0.03
ALBANY (E/F/J1)	0	1	3	4	0.07	0	0	0	0.00
ALEXANDRIA (G/I1)	0	6	12	18	0.47	1	0	1	0.03
ALLENSTOWN (L)	0	4	7	11	0.61	0	0	0	0.00
ALSTEAD (H1/H2)	0	15	24	39	1.07	0	1	1	0.03
ALTON (J2)	1	16	60	76	1.33	0	1	1	0.02
AMHERST (K/M)	1	5	20	25	0.89	1	1	2	0.07
ANDOVER (G/I1)	0	8	20	28	0.76	0	0	0	0.00
ANTRIM (H2/I2/K)	0	3	22	25	0.79	1	0	1	0.03
ASHLAND (F/G/J2)	0	4	10	14	1.44	0	0	0	0.00
ATKINSON (M)	0	3	13	16	1.68	0	1	1	0.11
ATKINSON & GIL. AC. GR. (A)	0	2	0	2	0.12	0	0	0	0.00
AUBURN (L/M)	0	7	19	26	1.18	0	0	0	0.00
BARNSTEAD (J2)	0	16	28	44	1.12	1	0	1	0.03
BARRINGTON (J2/L)	0	7	28	35	0.84	1	1	2	0.05
BARTLETT (E)	0	1	6	7	0.12	0	0	0	0.00
BATH (D2)	0	13	33	46	1.29	3	1	4	0.11
BEDFORD (K/L/M)	0	2	6	8	0.31	0	0	0	0.00
BELMONT (J2)	1	11	50	61	2.39	1	0	1	0.04
BENNINGTON (H2/K)	0	1	11	12	1.22	0	0	0	0.00
BENTON (D2)	0	3	14	17	0.43	0	0	0	0.00
BERLIN (C1/C2)	0	0	7	7	0.15	1	1	2	0.04
BETHLEHEM (D1/D2/E)	0	3	8	11	0.15	0	0	0	0.00
BOSCAWEN (I1)	0	1	10	11	0.50	0	0	0	0.00
BOW (I1/K/L)	0	8	17	25	1.11	0	0	0	0.00
BRADFORD (I2)	0	1	22	23	0.72	0	1	1	0.03
BRENTWOOD (L/M)	0	4	17	21	1.47	0	0	0	0.00
BRIDGEWATER (G)	0	1	19	20	0.99	0	0	0	0.00
BRISTOL (G/I1)	0	4	10	14	0.95	0	0	0	0.00
BROOKFIELD (J1/J2)	0	4	21	25	1.16	0	0	0	0.00
BROOKLINE (K/M)	0	5	5	10	0.58	0	0	0	0.00
CAMPTON (F)	0	5	13	18	0.40	0	0	0	0.00
CANAAN (G)	0	10	24	34	0.77	1	1	2	0.05
CANDIA (L/M)	0	8	22	30	1.10	0	0	0	0.00
CANTERBURY (I1/J2)	1	11	29	40	1.00	0	0	0	0.00
CARROLL (D1/E)	0	1	8	9	0.21	0	0	0	0.00
CENTER HARBOR (J1/J2)	0	1	10	11	0.94	0	0	0	0.00
CHARLESTOWN (H1)	0	13	26	39	1.20	0	1	1	0.03
CHATHAM (E)	0	0	5	5	0.10	0	0	0	0.00
CHESTER (M)	0	9	32	41	1.73	0	0	0	0.00
CHESTERFIELD (H2)	0	13	34	47	1.10	0	0	0	0.00
CHICHESTER (J2/L)	0	7	22	29	1.52	1	4	5	0.26
CLAREMONT (H1)	0	13	66	79	2.15	1	2	3	0.08
CLARKSVILLE (A)	0	2	4	6	0.11	0	0	0	0.00
COLEBROOK (A/B)	0	8	22	30	0.97	1	0	1	0.03
COLUMBIA (B)	0	6	15	21	0.41	1	2	3	0.06
CONCORD (I1/J2/K/L)	0	22	48	70	1.46	0	1	1	0.02
CONWAY (E/F/J1)	0	4	16	20	0.32	1	0	1	0.02
CORNISH (H1)	0	14	50	64	1.71	0	1	1	0.03
CROYDON (H1/I2)	0	6	27	33	1.16	2	0	2	0.07

*Kill per square mile of turkey habitat.

2023 TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND SEASON, cont.

TOWN/WMUs	SPRING HEN	SPRING JAKE	SPRING TOM	SPRING MALE TOTAL	SPRING MALE KPSM*	FALL HEN	FALL MALE	FALL TOTAL	FALL KPSM*
DALTON (D1)	0	4	11	15	0.64	0	1	1	0.04
DANBURY (G/I1)	0	2	15	17	0.54	0	1	1	0.03
DANVILLE (M)	0	3	8	11	1.10	0	1	1	0.10
DEERFIELD (L)	0	15	42	57	1.22	0	0	0	0.00
DEERING (K)	0	3	23	26	0.92	0	0	0	0.00
DERRY (M)	0	13	28	41	1.44	0	0	0	0.00
DIX'S GRANT (A)	0	1	0	1	0.06	0	0	0	0.00
DORCHESTER (G)	0	1	8	9	0.24	0	1	1	0.03
DOVER (L)	0	16	28	44	2.21	4	1	5	0.25
DUBLIN (H2)	0	3	16	19	0.78	0	0	0	0.00
DUMMER (B/C1/C2)	0	1	8	9	0.23	0	0	0	0.00
DUNBARTON (K)	0	14	26	40	1.45	0	1	1	0.04
DURHAM (L)	1	7	18	25	1.33	0	2	2	0.11
EAST KINGSTON (M)	0	7	2	9	1.00	0	0	0	0.00
EASTON (D2)	0	1	7	8	0.31	1	0	1	0.04
EATON (J1)	0	1	5	6	0.26	0	0	0	0.00
EFFINGHAM (J1)	0	4	17	21	0.60	0	0	0	0.00
ELLSWORTH (F)	0	0	3	3	0.16	0	0	0	0.00
ENFIELD (G/H1)	0	11	31	42	1.23	0	0	0	0.00
EPPING (L/M)	0	16	21	37	1.65	0	1	1	0.04
EPSOM (J2/L)	0	13	39	52	1.66	0	1	1	0.03
ERROL (A/B/C2)	0	2	7	9	0.20	0	0	0	0.00
EXETER (L/M)	1	1	8	9	0.58	0	0	0	0.00
FARMINGTON (J2)	0	18	26	44	1.32	0	1	1	0.03
FITZWILLIAM (H2)	0	12	17	29	0.97	0	0	0	0.00
FRANCESTOWN (K)	0	14	30	44	1.58	1	0	1	0.04
FRANCONIA (D1/D2/E)	0	1	4	5	0.10	0	0	0	0.00
FRANKLIN (I1)	0	1	12	13	0.55	0	0	0	0.00
FREEDOM (J1)	0	8	15	23	0.73	1	1	2	0.06
FREMONT (M)	0	6	11	17	1.14	0	1	1	0.07
GILFORD (J2)	0	10	37	47	1.42	1	1	2	0.06
GILMANTON (J2)	0	13	54	67	1.26	1	3	4	0.08
GILSUM (H2)	0	1	9	10	0.66	0	0	0	0.00
GOFFSTOWN (K)	0	5	35	40	1.28	1	0	1	0.03
GORHAM (C1/C2/E)	0	1	2	3	0.11	0	0	0	0.00
GOSHEN (I2/H1)	0	4	15	19	0.94	0	0	0	0.00
GRAFTON (G)	0	2	11	13	0.37	0	1	1	0.03
GRANTHAM (G/H1/I2)	0	3	11	14	0.63	0	0	0	0.00
GREENFIELD (K)	0	6	17	23	0.99	2	0	2	0.09
GREENLAND (M)	0	6	13	19	2.22	0	0	0	0.00
GREENVILLE (K)	0	0	6	6	0.99	1	1	2	0.33
GROTON (G)	0	1	11	12	0.34	1	0	1	0.03
HAMPSTEAD (M)	0	1	5	6	0.55	0	0	0	0.00
HAMPTON (M)	0	1	3	4	0.60	0	0	0	0.00
HAMPTON FALLS (M)	0	2	8	10	1.06	0	0	0	0.00
HANCOCK (H2/K)	0	8	23	31	1.16	0	1	1	0.04
HANOVER (G)	0	3	16	19	0.43	1	0	1	0.02
HARRISVILLE (H2)	0	1	14	15	0.88	0	1	1	0.06
HAVERHILL (D2)	0	14	29	43	0.91	0	2	2	0.04
HEBRON (G)	0	2	5	7	0.47	0	0	0	0.00

*Kill per square mile of turkey habitat.

2023 TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND SEASON, cont.

TOWN/WMUs	SPRING HEN	SPRING JAKE	SPRING TOM	SPRING MALE TOTAL	SPRING MALE KPSM*	FALL HEN	FALL MALE	FALL TOTAL	FALL KPSM*
HENNIKER (I2/K)	0	10	23	33	0.83	0	0	0	0.00
HILL (I1)	0	5	9	14	0.57	0	0	0	0.00
HILLSBOROUGH (H2/I2/K)	0	3	30	33	0.84	1	2	3	0.08
HINSDALE (H2)	0	10	12	22	1.22	1	0	1	0.06
HOLDERNESS (F/G/J1/J2)	0	5	17	22	0.81	0	0	0	0.00
HOLLIS (M)	0	4	31	35	1.26	0	0	0	0.00
HOOKSETT (K/L)	0	3	19	22	0.79	1	0	1	0.04
HOPKINTON (I1/I2/K)	0	15	33	48	1.28	0	1	1	0.03
HUDSON (M)	0	6	15	21	1.08	2	0	2	0.10
JACKSON (E)	0	1	1	2	0.03	0	0	0	0.00
JAFFREY (H2/K)	0	7	32	39	1.18	2	2	4	0.12
JEFFERSON (C1/D1/E)	0	12	15	27	0.65	0	0	0	0.00
KEENE (H2)	1	3	23	26	0.88	0	0	0	0.00
KENSINGTON (M)	0	4	15	19	1.75	0	1	1	0.09
KINGSTON (M)	0	2	14	16	0.98	1	0	1	0.06
LACONIA (J2)	0	2	15	17	1.15	1	0	1	0.07
LANCASTER (C1/D1)	0	9	14	23	0.57	2	1	3	0.07
LANDAFF (D2)	0	1	12	13	0.50	0	0	0	0.00
LANGDON (H1/H2)									
LEBANON (G/H1)	0	13	33	46	1.39	1	1	2	0.06
LEE (L)	0	9	12	21	1.23	0	0	0	0.00
LEMPSTER (H1/I2)	0	9	20	29	1.19	2	0	2	0.08
LINCOLN (D2/E/F)	0	0	1	1	0.01	0	0	0	0.00
LISBON (D2)	0	3	12	15	0.63	1	0	1	0.04
LITCHFIELD (M)	0	1	14	15	1.32	0	1	1	0.09
LITTLETON (D1/D2)	0	6	16	22	0.50	2	1	3	0.07
LONDONDERRY (M)	0	9	42	51	1.61	0	0	0	0.00
LOUDON (J2)	0	16	52	68	1.70	2	1	3	0.07
LYMAN (D2)	0	4	13	17	0.63	0	1	1	0.04
LYME (G)	0	14	29	43	0.87	0	1	1	0.02
LYNDEBOROUGH (K)	0	2	28	30	1.05	0	0	0	0.00
MADBURY (L)	0	6	15	21	2.03	1	0	1	0.10
MADISON (F/J1)	0	3	9	12	0.34	0	0	0	0.00
MANCHESTER (K/L/M)	0	2	6	8	0.59	0	0	0	0.00
MARLBOROUGH (H2)	0	8	19	27	1.43	0	2	2	0.11
MARLOW (H1/H2/I2)	0	2	7	9	0.42	1	0	1	0.05
MASON (K)	0	6	20	26	1.14	0	0	0	0.00
MEREDITH (I1/J2)	0	10	17	27	0.77	1	0	1	0.03
MERRIMACK (M)	0	7	21	28	1.16	3	1	4	0.17
MIDDLETON (J2)	0	1	4	5	0.30	1	2	3	0.18
MILAN (B/C1/C2)	0	7	9	16	0.34	1	1	2	0.04
MILFORD (K/M)	0	6	13	19	0.93	1	1	2	0.10
MILLSFIELD (A/B)	0	2	2	4	0.10	0	0	0	0.00
MILTON (J2)	0	5	21	26	0.87	0	0	0	0.00
MONROE (D2)	0	6	16	22	1.06	2	0	2	0.10
MONT VERNON (K)	0	6	11	17	1.09	1	0	1	0.06
MOULTONBOROUGH (J1/J2)	0	3	14	17	0.32	0	0	0	0.00
NASHUA (M)	0	0	3	3	0.25	0	0	0	0.00
NELSON (H2)	0	6	23	29	1.51	0	0	0	0.00
NEW BOSTON (K)	0	13	42	55	1.42	0	1	1	0.03

*Kill per square mile of turkey habitat.

2023 TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND SEASON, cont.

TOWN/WMUs	SPRING HEN	SPRING JAKE	SPRING TOM	SPRING MALE TOTAL	SPRING MALE KPSM*	FALL HEN	FALL MALE	FALL TOTAL	FALL KPSM*
NEW DURHAM (J2)	0	7	34	41	1.08	3	0	3	0.08
NEW HAMPTON (G/I1/J2)	1	6	27	33	0.99	1	1	2	0.06
NEW IPSWICH (K)	0	10	22	32	1.10	1	2	3	0.10
NEW LONDON (G/I1/I2)	0	3	10	13	0.71	0	0	0	0.00
NEWBURY (I2)	0	4	19	23	0.72	0	0	0	0.00
NEWFIELDS (L)	0	1	4	5	0.79	0	0	0	0.00
NEWINGTON (M)	0	0	6	6	1.00	0	0	0	0.00
NEWMARKET (L)	0	7	9	16	1.54	0	1	1	0.10
NEWPORT (H1/I2)	0	23	44	67	1.73	1	1	2	0.05
NEWTON (M)	0	2	5	7	0.83	0	0	0	0.00
NORTH HAMPTON (M)	0	2	8	10	0.91	0	0	0	0.00
NORTHFIELD (I1/J2)	0	8	16	24	0.92	0	0	0	0.00
NORTHUMBERLAND (B/C1/D1)	0	4	8	12	0.41	0	0	0	0.00
NORTHWOOD (J2/L)	0	13	34	47	1.84	0	1	1	0.04
NOTTINGHAM (L)	0	10	21	31	0.73	1	1	2	0.05
ORANGE (G)	0	2	5	7	0.38	1	0	1	0.05
ORFORD (D2/G)	0	11	20	31	0.73	0	1	1	0.02
OSSIPEE (J1)	0	9	24	33	0.53	0	0	0	0.00
PELHAM (M)	0	2	7	9	0.42	0	1	1	0.05
PEMBROKE (L)	0	9	19	28	1.46	0	1	1	0.05
PETERBOROUGH (H2/K)	0	5	31	36	1.12	0	0	0	0.00
PIERMONT (D2)	0	7	11	18	0.49	0	1	1	0.03
PITTSBURG (A)	0	7	12	19	0.08	2	0	2	0.01
PITTSFIELD (J2)	0	13	27	40	1.85	1	0	1	0.05
PLAINFIELD (H1)	0	16	56	72	1.56	2	3	5	0.11
PLAISTOW (M)	0	3	1	4	0.49	1	1	2	0.25
PLYMOUTH (F/G)	0	1	16	17	0.71	1	0	1	0.04
PORTSMOUTH (M)	0	2	2	4	0.51	0	0	0	0.00
RANDOLPH (C1/E)	0	1	1	2	0.05	0	0	0	0.00
RAYMOND (L/M)	0	6	17	23	0.97	0	1	1	0.04
RICHMOND (H2)	0	2	23	25	0.69	0	1	1	0.03
RINDGE (H2/K)	0	7	24	31	1.00	0	0	0	0.00
ROCHESTER (J2/L)	0	16	34	50	1.42	1	1	2	0.06
ROLLINSFORD (L)	0	1	11	12	1.92	0	1	1	0.16
ROXBURY (H2)	0	0	4	4	0.35	0	0	0	0.00
RUMNEY (F/G)	0	3	18	21	0.56	0	0	0	0.00
RYE (M)	0	2	19	21	2.32	0	1	1	0.11
SALEM (M)	0	4	7	11	0.67	2	1	3	0.18
SALISBURY (I1)	0	8	21	29	0.78	0	0	0	0.00
SANBORNTON (I1/J2)	0	11	31	42	0.95	4	0	4	0.09
SANDOWN (M)	0	6	3	9	0.76	1	2	3	0.25
SANDWICH (F/J1)	0	2	14	16	0.20	0	1	1	0.01
SEABROOK (M)	0	3	9	12	2.68	0	0	0	0.00
SHARON (K)	0	0	8	8	0.58	0	1	1	0.07
SHELBURNE (C2/E)	0	4	2	6	0.16	0	0	0	0.00
SOMERSWORTH (L)	0	0	2	2	0.29	0	0	0	0.00
SOUTH HAMPTON (M)	0	0	3	3	0.42	0	0	0	0.00
SPRINGFIELD (G/I2)	0	7	16	23	0.70	0	0	0	0.00
STARK (B/C1)	0	7	6	13	0.27	0	0	0	0.00

*Kill per square mile of turkey habitat.

2023 TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND SEASON, cont.

TOWN/WMUs	SPRING HEN	SPRING JAKE	SPRING TOM	SPRING MALE TOTAL	SPRING MALE KPSM*	FALL HEN	FALL MALE	FALL TOTAL	FALL KPSM*
STEWARTSTOWN (A)	0	7	10	17	0.46	1	0	1	0.03
STODDARD (H2/I2)	0	0	8	8	0.19	0	0	0	0.00
STRAFFORD (J2)	0	16	31	47	1.03	3	1	4	0.09
STRATFORD (B)	0	7	9	16	0.24	0	0	0	0.00
STRATHAM (L/M)	0	6	15	21	1.66	0	0	0	0.00
SUGAR HILL (D1/D2)	0	7	8	15	0.96	0	0	0	0.00
SULLIVAN (H2)	0	6	12	18	1.08	0	0	0	0.00
SUNAPEE (G/I2)	0	1	20	21	1.19	0	1	1	0.06
SURRY (H2)	0	3	10	13	0.90	0	1	1	0.07
SUTTON (I1/I2)	0	8	21	29	0.77	1	1	2	0.05
SWANZEY (H2)	0	8	38	46	1.16	0	2	2	0.05
TAMWORTH (F/J1)	0	4	14	18	0.33	0	0	0	0.00
TEMPLE (K)	0	5	19	24	1.15	0	1	1	0.05
THORNTON (F)	0	2	18	20	0.43	0	0	0	0.00
TILTON (I1/J2)	0	1	4	5	0.55	0	0	0	0.00
TROY (H2)	0	2	17	19	1.18	0	0	0	0.00
TUFTONBORO (J1/J2)	0	4	29	33	0.90	0	1	1	0.03
UNITY (H1)	0	17	27	44	1.29	1	1	2	0.06
WAKEFIELD (J1/J2)	0	9	22	31	0.88	0	0	0	0.00
WALPOLE (H1/H2)	0	18	29	47	1.47	0	0	0	0.00
WARNER (I1/I2)	0	11	16	27	0.54	0	0	0	0.00
WARREN (D2/F)	0	0	6	6	0.13	0	0	0	0.00
WASHINGTON (I2)	0	2	17	19	0.55	0	0	0	0.00
WEARE (K)	0	14	46	60	1.11	0	1	1	0.02
WEBSTER (I1)	0	10	16	26	1.02	0	0	0	0.00
WENTWORTH (D2/F/G)	0	5	15	20	0.55	0	1	1	0.03
WESTMORELAND (H2)	0	19	50	69	2.03	1	0	1	0.03
WHITEFIELD (D1)	0	3	11	14	0.51	0	1	1	0.04
WILMOT (G/I1)	0	2	17	19	0.75	0	1	1	0.04
WILTON (K)	0	7	27	34	1.47	0	0	0	0.00
WINCHESTER (H2)	0	12	38	50	0.99	0	1	1	0.02
WINDHAM (M)	0	3	3	6	0.27	1	0	1	0.04
WINDSOR (I2)	0	2	3	5	0.68	0	0	0	0.00
WOLFEBORO (J1/J2)	0	6	29	35	0.80	0	2	2	0.05
WOODSTOCK (D2/F)	0	0	5	5	0.10	0	0	0	0.00
TOTALS	9	1409	4161	5570	–	95	106	201	-

*Kill per square mile of turkey habitat.

FURBEARERS

During the 2022/23 trapping season, regulated trapping continued to provide valuable benefits to New Hampshire. Under the guidelines of a carefully monitored program, regulated trapping assists with maintaining certain furbearer populations at desired biological and social levels. Data that trappers provide in mandatory trapping reports is used to track changes in furbearer distribution and abundance at both the management unit and statewide level. This information is essential for furbearer management decision making and is used by the Department's Game Management Team to develop management and harvest recommendations.

New Hampshire's furbearer management program is data-driven and utilizes Capture Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) data as an index to population trends. This CPUE data, expressed as the number of animals trapped per 100 trap nights, has varied by species over time and population swings (both declines and increases) represent historic norms. Advancements in survey techniques using wildlife cameras have provided a unique tool to allow managers to validate New Hampshire's use of CPUE to monitor trends in furbearer populations. New Hampshire Fish & Game has contracted with the University of New Hampshire to conduct research to quantify furbearer populations, document habitat use, and measure cause-specific mortality (i.e., fisher). The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department has also implemented hunter surveys (i.e., spring turkey and fall archery) as a secondary means of indexing certain furbearer populations.

Regulated trapping is a management tool used at various levels for population control, population monitoring, data collection, and biological sample collection while providing the public with opportunities to use and appreciate the state's wildlife resources per the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's mission statement. Expertise provided by regulated trapping to state, municipal, and private interests for resolving wildlife-human conflicts represents an invaluable public service.

Public perception, legislation, and loss of habitat continue to represent significant threats towards wildlife and its management. Department staff continue to provide education about regulated trapping, habitat protection, and biological sample collection in an effort to conserve these resources and utilize trapping for managing New Hampshire's furbearing species.

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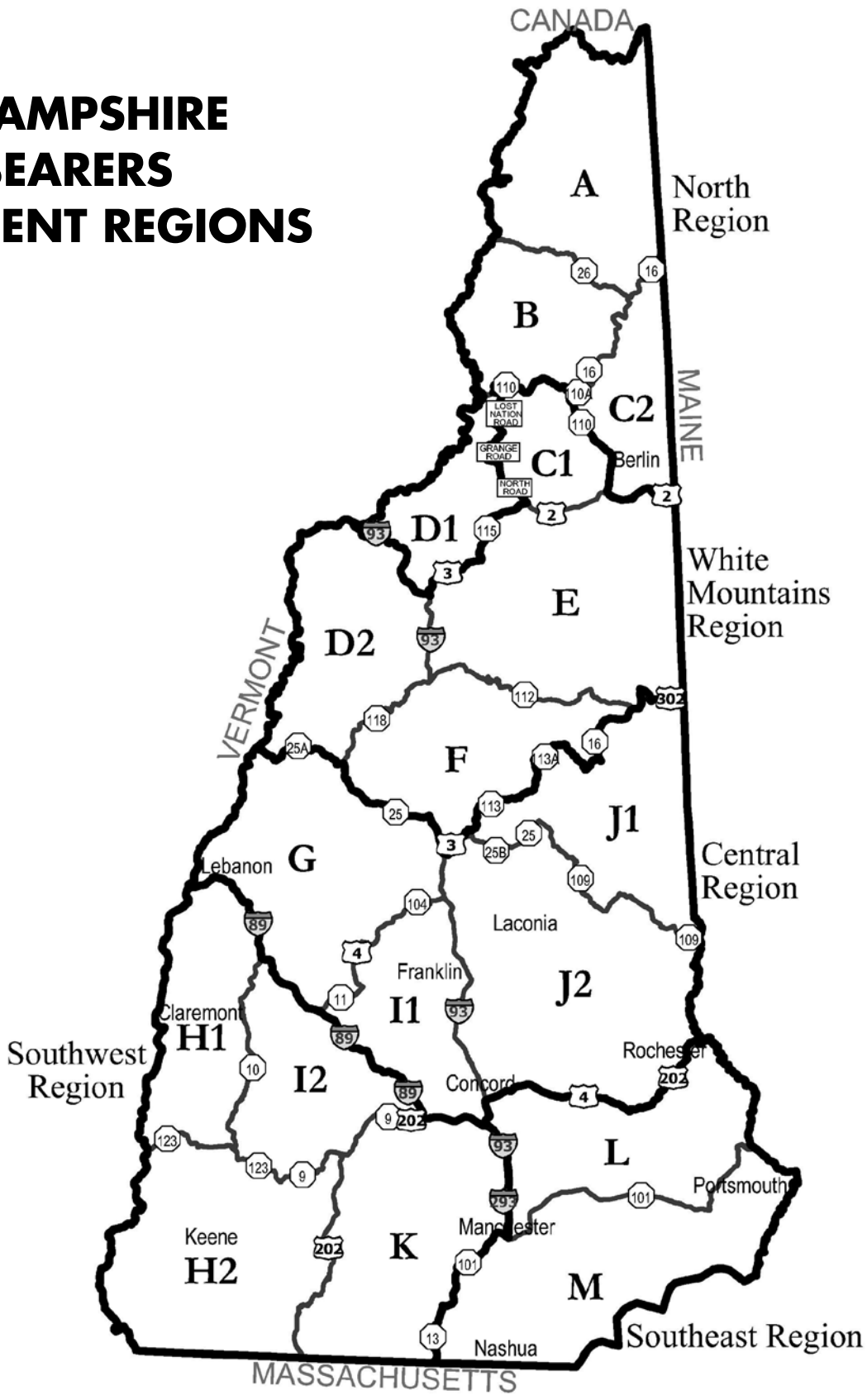
Results from the 2022/23 New Hampshire trapping season are presented in the following tables. A total of 514 trapper licenses were issued for the 2022/23 trapping season, slightly below the 539 licenses issued the previous year. Reported trap nights of effort decreased for beaver, coyote, muskrat, otter, and raccoon. During the 2022/23 trapping season, average pelt values, derived from averaging area states trapping association fur auction prices, increased for some species. The value of the 2022/23 fur harvest was $46,153 based on average pelt values and the total amount of fur harvested in New Hampshire. This was an increase of (65%) from the estimated value of $27,991 for the 2021/22 season.

NEW HAMPSHIRE FURBEARERS MANAGEMENT REGIONS



FURBEARER

NH FURBEARER TRAPPER HARVEST BY SEASON, 2015/16 - 2022/23*.

SEASON	BEAVER	COYOTE	FISHER	GRAY FOX	MINK	MUSKRAT	OTTER	RACCOON	RED FOX
2015-16	2246	501	140	109	174	1452	166	463	180
2016-17	1202	385	90	62	111	554	154	336	115
2017-18	1140	402	44	89	91	528	97	302	156
2018-19	1373	330	45	37	77	585	107	321	135
2019-20	1319	400	43	48	41	384	138	228	176
2020-21	1168	418	37	37	73	419	110	257	115
2021-22	1303	285	23	14	42	344	123	216	55
2022-23	1175	203	19	42	41	226	106	261	80

*Due to late data submissions, the previous year's data may have changed from prior reports.

NH FURBEARER STATEWIDE HARVEST PER 100 TRAP NIGHTS BY SEASON, 2015/16 - 2022/23*.

SEASON	BEAVER	COYOTE	FISHER	GRAY FOX	MINK	MUSKRAT	OTTER	RACCOON	RED FOX
2015-16	4.71	1.06	1.13	0.77	1.47	5.31	1.46	3.41	0.88
2016-17	7.23	1.41	1.73	0.55	1.57	5.70	2.77	1.62	0.83
2017-18	6.92	1.52	1.08	1.02	1.75	6.53	1.65	3.68	1.63
2018-19	8.89	2.17	1.23	1.73	2.05	6.78	3.15	2.95	2.06
2019-20	5.92	1.14	1.00	0.34	1.14	5.87	1.94	1.76	1.22
2020-21	5.54	1.79	1.44	1.39	1.50	10.18	3.07	2.78	1.60
2021-22	7.48	1.98	1.46	0.48	1.49	6.41	2.58	2.77	1.17
2022-23	7.52	1.54	0.96	0.34	1.53	5.19	2.63	4.86	0.67

*Due to late data submissions, the previous year's data may have changed from prior reports.

NH FURBEARER TRAPPER HARVEST BY REGION, 2022/23*

REGION	BEAVER	COYOTE	FISHER	GRAY FOX	MINK	MUSKRAT	OTTER	RACCOON	RED FOX
NORTH	151	42	5	3	0	8	13	43	3
WHITE MTN.	171	51	5	15	21	39	16	61	22
CENTRAL	309	40	8	14	11	87	27	35	27
SOUTH WEST	240	32	0	7	6	20	23	44	16
SOUTH EAST	304	38	1	3	3	72	27	78	12
STATEWIDE	1175	203	19	42	41	226	106	261	80

*Due to late data submissions, the previous year's data may have changed from prior reports.

NH FURBEARER HARVEST PER 100 TRAP NIGHTS BY REGION, 2022/23*

REGION	BEAVER	COYOTE	FISHER	GRAY FOX	MINK	MUSKRAT	OTTER	RACCOON	RED FOX
NORTH	13.96	3.68	3.21	3.33	0.00	3.26	3.27	6.96	5.26
WHITE MTN.	8.51	0.88	1.06	0.19	3.46	17.35	5.39	4.91	0.28
CENTRAL	8.19	1.68	1.24	1.67	1.93	6.67	3.28	3.87	2.10
SOUTH WEST	6.35	2.37	0.00	2.02	0.80	2.30	2.11	3.48	1.96
SOUTH EAST	6.09	1.55	0.23	0.00	0.36	4.06	1.47	5.64	1.54
STATEWIDE	7.52	1.54	0.96	0.34	1.53	5.19	2.63	4.86	0.67

*Due to late data submissions, the previous year's data may have changed from prior reports.

TABLE 5. NH FURBEARER TAKE BY TRAPPERS AND WILDLIFE CONTROL OPERATORS, 2021/22*.

This table reflects data from the prior season due to Wildlife Control Operators (WCO) reporting structure. WCO data for 2022/2023 was not available at the time this report was compiled.

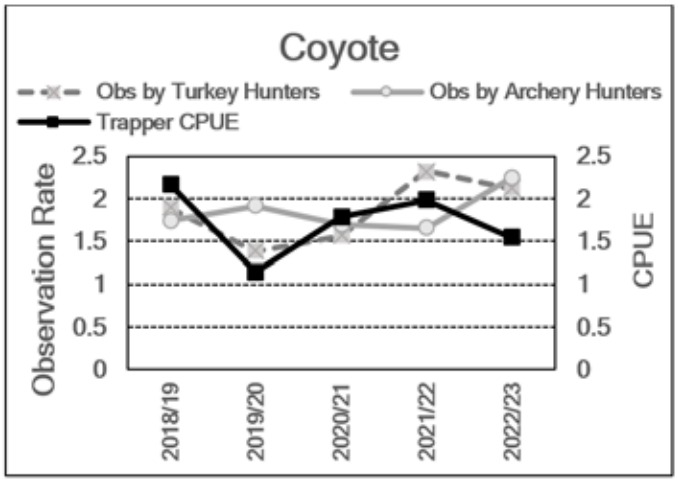
SPECIES	BY TRAPPER*	BY WCO	TOTAL	% BY WCO
BEAVER	1303	1656	2959	56.0
COYOTE	285	16	301	5.3
FISHER	23	2	25	8.0
GRAY FOX	14	7	21	33.3
MINK	42	3	45	6.7
MUSKRAT	344	36	380	9.5
OPPOSSUM	27	101	128	78.9
OTTER	123	36	159	22.6
RACCOON	216	342	558	61.3
RED FOX	55	9	64	14.1
SKUNK	45	465	510	91.2
WEASEL	19	6	25	24.0

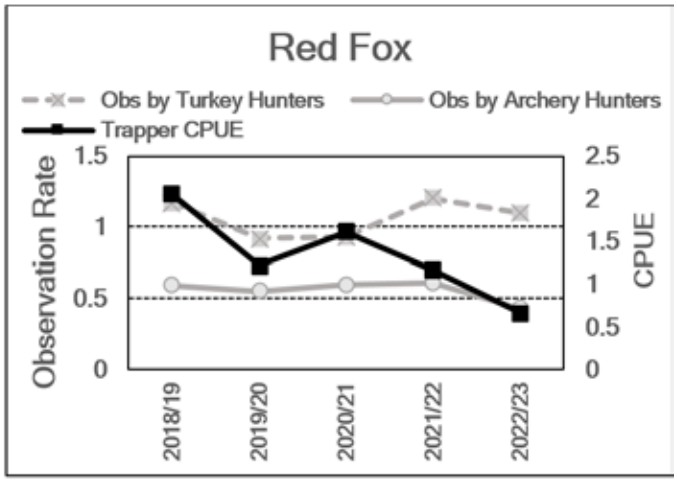
* These data may differ from that of previous reports due to late data submittals.
** Prior season reported due to WCO reporting structure.

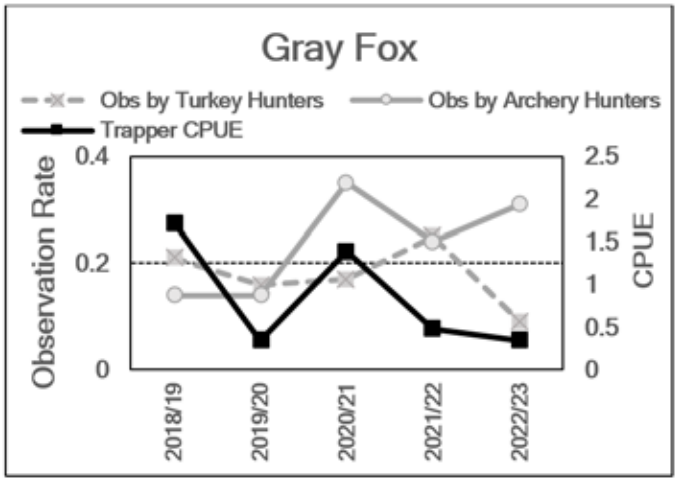
INDICIES USED TO MONITOR RELATIVE ABUNDANCE AND POPULATION TRENDS FOR SELECT FURBEARER SPECIES, 2018/19-2022/23

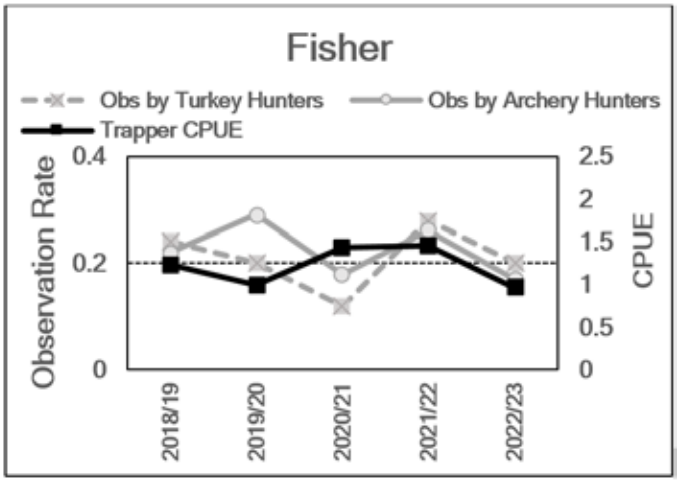
Similar to most jurisdictions, agency wildlife biologists utilize CPUE data to monitor population trends of furbearer species. More recently, the Department has implemented hunter surveys to record furbearer observations rates, specifically by spring turkey hunters and fall archery hunters. Due to the level of participation in these activities, observation data provided by hunters represents an important data set that is used to develop additional indices of furbearer population trends. The strength of this data set will build over time and relies on the willingness of hunters to participate in surveys and provide important data.

The figures below provide observation rates and CPUE for coyote, red fox, gray fox, and fisher. Both observation rates and CPUE are expressed in terms of effort. Observation rates are reported as number of furbearers observed per 100 hunter hours while CPUE is reported as number trapped per 100 trap nights.









NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT'S MISSION:

As the guardian of the state's fish, wildlife, and marine resources, the NH Fish and Game Department works in partnership with the public to:

- Conserve, manage, and protect those resources and their habitats;
- Inform and educate the public about those resources; and
- Provide the public with opportunities to use and appreciate those resources.

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- TIME
- VIOLATION
- TRAVEL DIRECTION
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