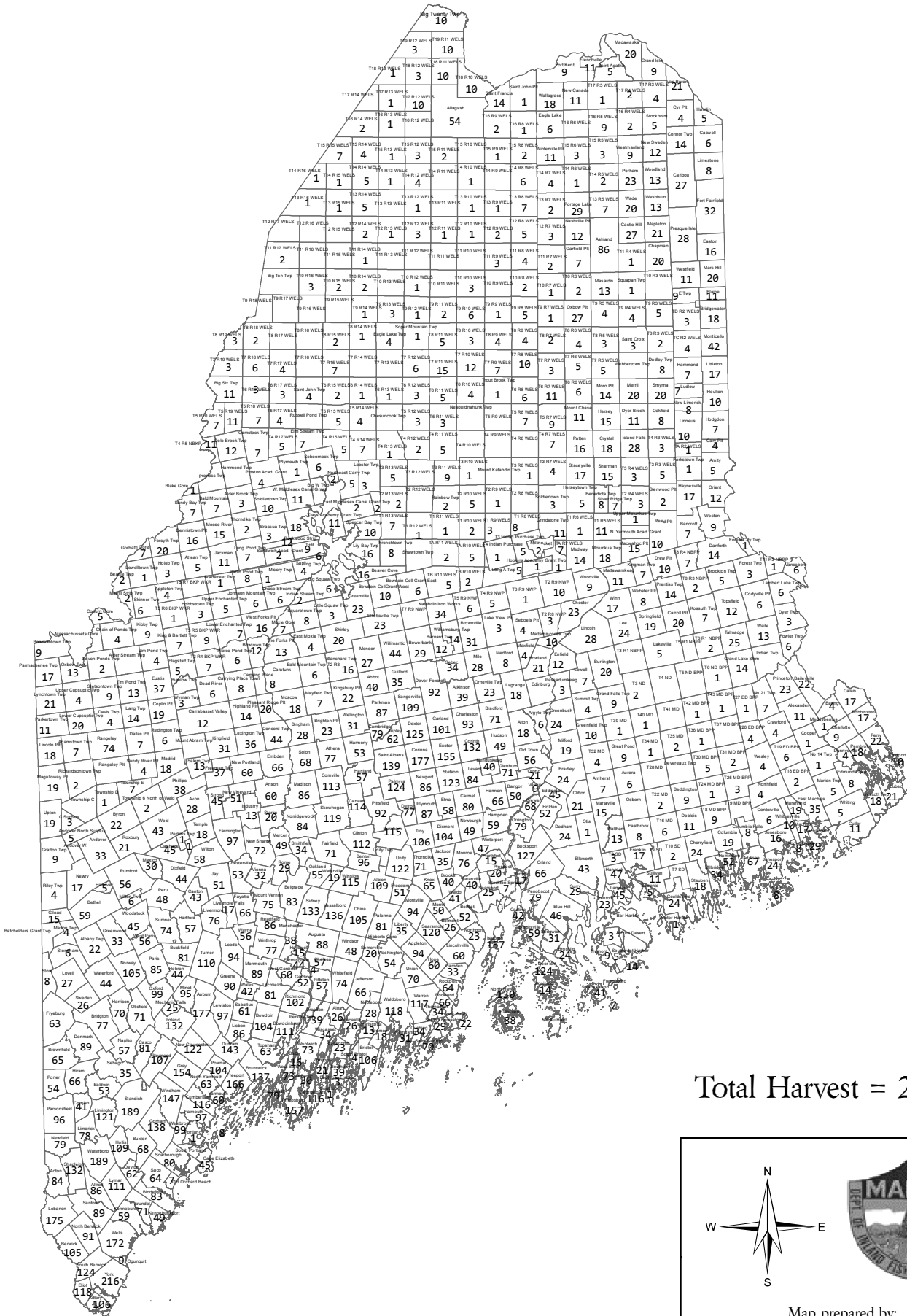


2013 Deer Harvest by Town in Maine



Total Harvest = 24,795

Map prepared by:
Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
April 2, 2014

2013 Maine Deer Harvest

The 2013 deer season marked the 28th season of the Any-deer permit system. Any-deer permits are issued to hunters who are selected in a lottery like system, and are for specific Wildlife Management Districts (WMDs). Only hunters who possess a valid Any-deer permit can legally take an antlerless deer during the general firearms and muzzleloader seasons, with the exception of the youth day hunt. Wildlife biologists regulate the allocation of Any-deer permits to achieve district specific population objectives. This year a total of 46,710 Any-deer permits were issued, including 809 to Superpack license holders, and 7,167 to qualifying landowners. Any-deer permits were allocated to 16 WMDs to achieve district specific doe harvest quotas. Each year, a certain percentage of Any-deer permits are issued to hunters who purchase a Superpack license. These Any-deer permits are allocated from WMDs having 3,500 or more Any-deer permits (WMDs 15, 17, 20, and 21 for 2013).

Antlered bucks (with a 3” minimum antler length) were legal quarry for all hunters during all deer seasons. On Youth Day, youth hunters were allowed to harvest antlerless deer from WMDs that were allocated Any-deer permits. Sundays were closed to all hunting and the opening Saturday of the regular firearms season was reserved for Maine residents-only.

Our expanded archery season targets locations in which deer populations are under-harvested primarily due to firearms discharge bans. The expanded archery season had no limit on antlerless deer (either-sex) and ran for 81 hunting days (Sept. 7th to Dec. 14th). The statewide archery season ran from October 3rd to November 1st.

Overall 24,795 deer were registered during 2013, representing an increase of 15% over the 2012 deer harvest, and placing us within 3% of our projected harvest of 25,700 deer. A total of 1,717 deer were harvested during the Expanded Archery season. This equates to a 12% increase in the Expanded Archery hunting from 2012. The Youth Day harvest of 781 increased from 2012 by 37%. The regular firearms season’s overall harvest of 20,810 was a 15% increase from the previous year. This year’s buck harvest of 16,736 animals represents an increase of 8% over last year. Finally, muzzleloaders also experienced increased success with a slight upsurge over last year taking 1,055 deer.

A harvest quota of 5,700 adult does was set in 2013 to meet our publicly-derived management objectives in Maine’s 29 WMDs. The increases in quotas included anticipated harvests resulting from the either-sex archery and youth-day seasons. Doe quotas ranged from a low of 0 individuals in 13 WMDs (districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-11, 14, 18, 19, 27, and 28), to 1,000 does in WMD 20. Overall, 8,035 antlerless deer (i.e., adult does and/or fawns) were registered by hunters and the statewide adult doe harvest totaled 5,308. The adult doe harvest was 6% below our harvest quota. One reason for the lower than expected doe harvest may be the increased number of bucks on Maine’s landscape this year. The higher number of bucks this year increased the likelihood that hunters could selectively shoot a buck rather than a doe.

The top 5 buck-producing WMDs, for the 2013 hunting season, were (in descending order) districts 24, 29, 21, 22 and 20, which experienced buck harvests, on a per sq. mile basis, of 2.36, 2.12, 2.12, 1.92, and 1.78, respectively. Maine is well known for harvesting larger than average adult white-tailed deer, and the 2013 season was no exception. This year 25% of the 4,235 hunter harvested bucks, on which MDIF&W biologists counted antler points, sported antlers having 8 or more total points. In addition, we recorded a range of weights from a low of 40 pounds to a high of 268 pounds during our sampling process. Note that these numbers come from just the animals we sampled, and thus may not represent the largest deer harvested during the 2013 season.