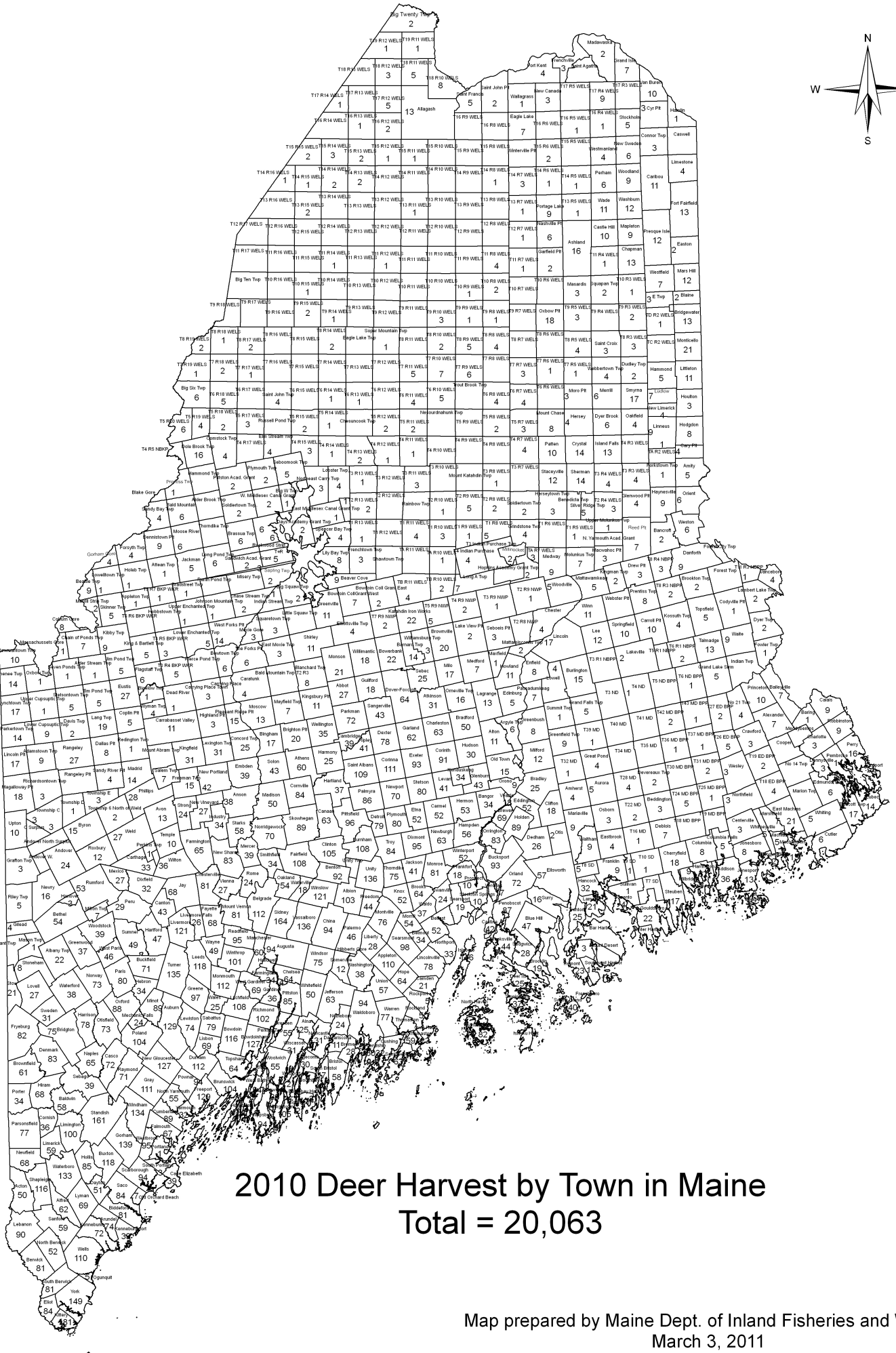

2010 Deer Harvest by Town in Maine
Total = 20,063

Map prepared by Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
March 3, 2011

Maine Deer Harvest Highlights 2010

2010 marked the 25th season of the any-deer permit system. A total of 48,825 any-deer permits were allocated to 13 WMDs, including 1,793 Superpack (bonus) any-deer permits issued in WMDs 15-17, 20-25 and 29 to achieve district specific doe harvest quotas. Of the permits available, 7,663 were issued to qualifying landowners in an early, separate lottery. Any-deer permits are WMD and hunter specific; they may be used during the regular firearms (October 30st-November 27th) and muzzleloader (November 29th -December 11 th) seasons. Superpack licenses were allocated to 2.5 % of the any-deer permits in wildlife districts with 3,500 or more permits as "Bonus Deer" permits. This allowed Superpack license holders to take two deer, one of which must be antlerless.

Although antlered bucks (3" minimum antler length) were legal quarry for all hunters during all deer seasons, only hunters who possessed a valid any-deer or bonus permit license could legally take a doe or a fawn during these firearms seasons. 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 and residential sprawl. The expanded archery season had no limit on antlerless deer (either-sex) and ran for 79 hunting days (Sept. 11 th to Dec. 11 th); the statewide (Special) archery season from September 30th to October 29th.

Overall 20,063 deer were registered during 2010. During the expanded and special archery seasons 1,497 were taken. This equates to a 17% decrease in archery hunting from 2009; the Youth Day harvest of 444 increased from 2009 by 35% considering the prohibitions on taking antlerless deer in bucks only WMDs, Youth hunters achieved a significant increase in success. This rule change for Youth hunters occurred in WMDs that were most recently affected by 2 difficult winters. The regular firearms season's overall harvest of 17,035 was a 15% increase from the previous year. For the fourth year a special license allowed crossbow hunting during the regular firearms season with a harvest of 17 deer. Finally muzzleloaders experienced good success with a slight decrease of 4%, taking 1,070 deer with muzzleloader.

A harvest quota of 5,672 adult does was set in 2010 to meet deer management objectives in Maine's 29 WMDs. These quotas included anticipated harvests resulting from the either-sex archery and youth-day seasons. Doe quotas ranged from 0 in 16 WMDs (districts 1-11, 14, 18, 19, 27, and 28), to 780 does in WMD 23; Any-Deer and Superpack permittees tagged 2,181 fawns, while archers and youth day hunters tagged 445 young of the year. Overall, 7,833 antlerless deer were registered by hunters and the statewide adult doe harvest totaled 5,204 or 12% below pre-season set quotas.

The statewide harvest of antlered bucks (12,272) in 2010 was within 2% of our projected buck harvest. The top 5 buck-producing WMDs (per sq. mi.) during 2010 were (in descending order) districts 29, 24, 21, 22 and 23, all in central and southern Maine. Among the 12,272 antlered bucks taken in 2010, roughly 5,891 (48%) were 1 ½ year-olds (yearlings), while more than 3,313 (27%) were mature bucks (3 ½ to 15 ½ years old). Male fawns are reported with antlerless deer.