**State of Maine: Notice of Agency Rulemaking – April 13, 2022**

**PROPOSALS**

AGENCY: **09-137 – Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW)**

CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: **Ch. 16**, Hunting

TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical

PROPOSED RULE NUMBER: **2022-P047**

BRIEF SUMMARY: The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is proposing several changes to ch. 16 rules which will affect the antlerless deer permit system. These rules, if adopted, will work in conjunction with law changes from the 2nd regular session of the 130th Maine Legislature. The proposed rules include a change in reference from any-deer permits to antlerless deer permits, and these antlerless deer permits will allow hunters to take an additional antlerless deer in a designated Wildlife Management District (WMD) or portion of a WMD. The proposed rule will allow hunters to choose two preferred WMDs or portions of a WMD when applying for the lottery drawing. Lastly, the proposed rule will allow the Commissioner to designate which WMDs will allow hunters to take an antlerless deer without a permit during the youth day and regular archery deer hunting seasons. Youth hunters on youth day will be able to take an antlerless deer without a permit statewide, and archery hunters during the regular archery season will be able to take an antlerless deer without a permit in WMDs 12, 13, 15-18, 20-26, and 29 for the 2022 hunting season. A complete copy of the proposed rule may be requested from the agency contact person.

PUBLIC HEARING: Monday, May 2, 2022 @ 4:00 p.m. – Camden National Bank Ice Vault, 203 Whitten Road, Hallowell, ME

COMMENT DEADLINE: May 12, 2022

CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING / SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT INFORMATION / IFW RULEMAKING LIAISON: Becky Orff, Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, 41 State House Station - 353 Water Street, Augusta, ME 04333. Telephone: (207) 287-5202. Email: Becky.Orff@Maine.gov.

IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES: No fiscal impact is anticipated.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE: 12 MRS §§ 10104, 11152

SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED *(if different)*:

IFW WEBSITE: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/>.

**ADOPTIONS: none this week**