Chronic Wasting Disease Regulations

Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 7 of 2019

For Information Only

April 16, 2019

Summary

The Department and the NRC are focused on achieving specific CWD management goals that include slowing the spread of the disease, reducing or maintaining low prevalence rates, preventing the disease from reaching new areas, and preserving Michigan’s rich hunting history for future generations to enjoy.

**Statewide Regulations**

1. *Bait Definition*

Change the definition of bait to include intended for consumption. Bait will be defined as a substance that is intended for deer consumption. Scents made inaccessible for consumption will be allowed. Attractants that bring deer together but do not provide food for consumption will be allowed.

1. *Bait Ban*

Revise to ban baiting in Zone 2, 3 and the Core CWD Surveillance Area. Baiting is allowed in other areas with restrictions.

3.100 (5) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, it shall be unlawful for a person to make use of bait to aid in the taking of a deer within zone 2, zone 3 and the core CWD surveillance area.

1. *Liberty Hunt Season Dates*

Change to the second weekend of September (from Saturday following September 15) to limit possible conflicts between youth deer hunters and hound bear hunters.

**Upper Peninsula Regulations**

1. *Baiting and Feeding Ban in the Core CWD Surveillance Area*

Per the CWD Surveillance and Response Plan, establish a Core CWD Area with a 10-mile radius around a documented CWD case and implement a baiting ban.

1. *Baiting Exception for Hunters with Disabilities*

Similar to the Lower Peninsula baiting regulations, establish baiting exceptions for hunters with disabilities during the Liberty and Independence Hunts in the (UP) Core CWD Surveillance Area.

1. *Reinstate Antlerless Option During Archery Deer Season*

In 2015 the NRC eliminated taking antlerless deer during archery season. This revision reinstates the antlerless option during archery season for hunting on a deer license or deer combination license in DMUs open to antlerless licenses.(most units are in south-central UP where deer numbers are higher and winter conditions less severe.)

**Lower Peninsula Regulations**

1. *Add Barry, Lenawee, and Midland Counties to the CWD Management Zone.*
2. *Implement a 4-point Antler Point Restriction on Deer License and the Deer Combination License for Mecosta, Montcalm, and Ionia Counties.*

This change is part of 5-county Core CWD study area to look at the effects of APRs on deer numbers, antlerless harvest and the sex and age composition of the deer herd. Control counties of Newaygo and Kent would not have the restriction. This study will sunset in 2022.

1. A DNR survey to measure public support for APRs in the 5-county study area will be reported on at the June 13, 2019 NRC meeting.

**Administrative Changes**

1. *Deer Rehabilitation*

Clarify release of wild fawns in counties with confirmed CWD. Only a licensed rehabilitator in the county can possess a fawn and it must be released with a 10-mile radius of their facility.

1. *Intrastate Transportation of Clean Skulls*

Add skulls that are cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue to allowable carcass parts that can be transported outside of CWD Core and Management Zones.

1. *Hunting Licenses Valid for Early/Late Antlerless Firearm Season*

Clarify what hunting licenses can be used during early and late antlerless firearm season on private land in CWD Core or Management Areas, DMU 452 or DMU 457. Current language states that any valid deer license may be used; it should state that a hunter may only use an antlerless deer license that is valid for the CWD Core or Management Area, DMU 452 or DMU 487.

1. *Carcass Transportation*

Clarify language that a deer taken within the Core CWD Area can be transported out of the area if: It is deboned meat, quarters or other parts of a deer that do not have any part of the spinal column or head attached, antlers, antlers attached to a skull or skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue, hides, upper canine teeth, or a finished taxidermist mount, Or,

The hunter has presented the head at a designated drop off location within 24 hours after killing the deer.

1. *Constructed Ground Blinds*

Require all constructed ground blinds on public lands to have name and address, Michigan driver’s license number or DNR sportcard number permanently attached, etched engraved, or painted on it.

Note: The DNR evaluated a request from the Thumb Area Deer Hunters for APRs in Huron, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties. The results yielded 55% support for APRs which is below the 66% threshold in the DNR guidelines to implement APRs.