

## 2019 Maine Deer Harvest

Deer hunters in Maine harvested 28,323 deer in 2019, a decrease of 12.7% from 2018 when 32,451 deer were taken. This year's buck harvest of 20,093 was an increase of 9.6% from 2018. Most deer were harvested during the general firearms season, which totaled 25 hunting days including Opening Saturday (Residents' Day), November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Overall, Maine offered 79 days on which deer could be hunted spread out over 5 seasons: expanded archery, October archery, general firearms, and two muzzleloader seasons.

In contrast to 2018's rollercoaster of precipitation during the firearms season, conditions were favorable throughout the 2019 firearms season. November temperatures were noticeably cooler than long-term averages. Of note were accumulating snows towards the end of the regular firearms season and early muzzleloader season with snow depths exceeding 10 inches throughout much of northern and western Maine beginning the last week of November.

A survey of Maine hunters examining the amount of time spent in the field during the 2019 firearms season for deer showed that patterns in hunter effort and harvest were typical in 2019 with effort in the field resulting in greater likelihood of harvest. Peaks in hunter effort as well as buck harvest occurred on Saturdays throughout the season. Roughly 13% of all hunting effort during the firearms season occurred on Residents' Day, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 16% of the total buck harvest during the firearms seasons occurred on this day. Buck harvest slowed down on weekdays with 2-4% of the total hunting effort and buck harvest occurring on each weekday.

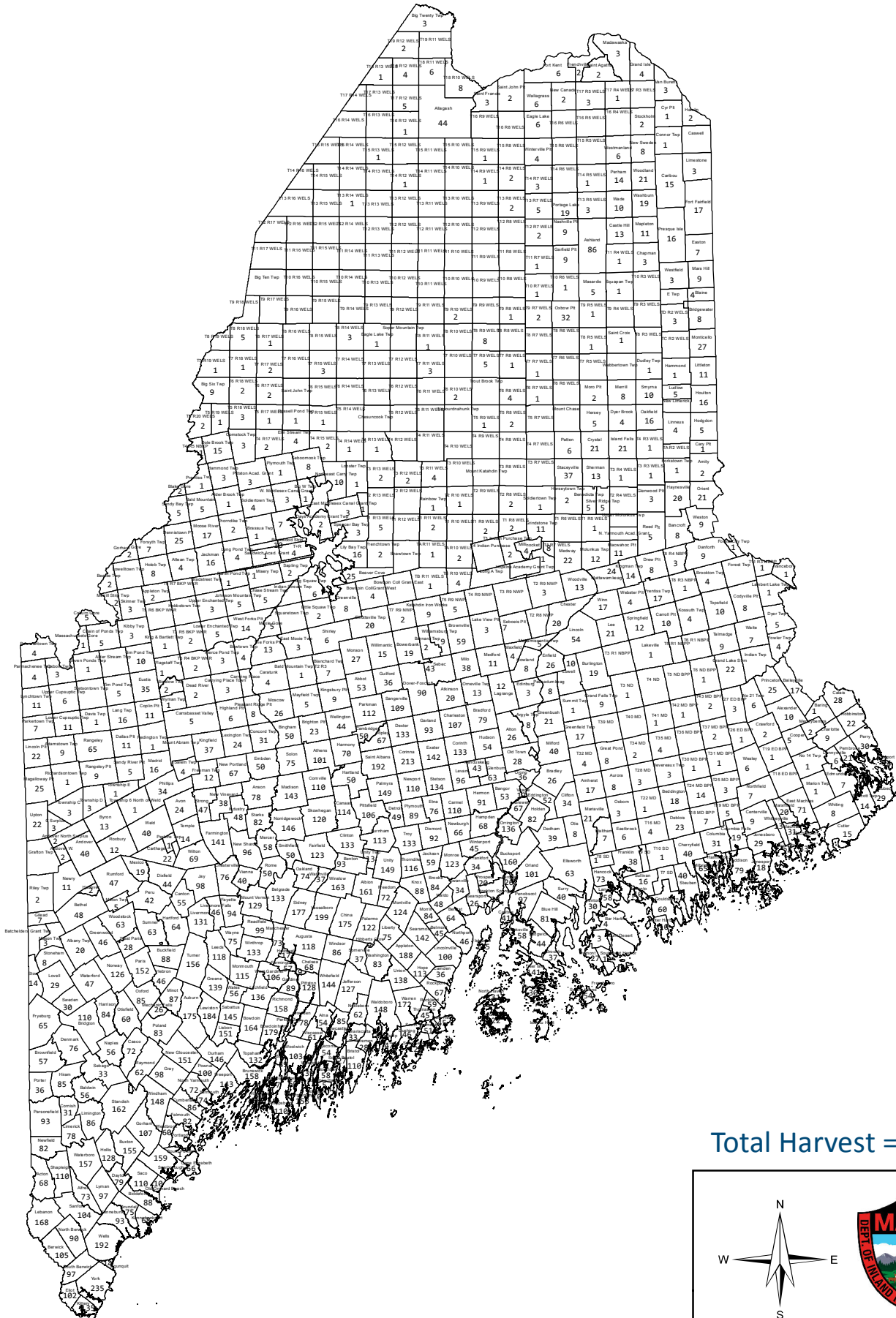
New for the 2019 deer seasons, two deer management subunits were created in wildlife management districts (WMDs) 25 and 26. These units were created to focus additional antlerless harvest pressure on localized areas within the state experiencing high levels of deer-human conflict.

A total of 24,184 deer were harvested during the general firearms season. Additionally, 2,180 deer were harvested during the combined archery seasons, 800 on Youth Day, and 1,159 during the combined muzzleloader seasons. Approximately 93% of harvested deer were taken by resident hunters. A total of 68,145 any-deer permits (ADP) were issued in 20 WMDs and 2 deer management subunits with the aim of achieving an adult doe harvest of 7,966. The actual total doe harvest was 6,200, which was 24.9% lower than our objective for 2019. In addition, 1,019 buck fawns and 1,011 doe fawns were harvested.

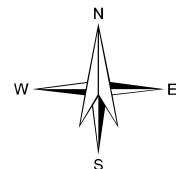
Since 1999, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has collected tissue samples from hunter-killed deer in order to monitor the Maine deer population for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Surveillance efforts are focused on higher risk towns, such as those with captive deer farms and areas where deer are highly concentrated around wintering habitat or feeding. In 2019, 499 samples from white-tailed deer were collected. Additionally, 21 moose samples and 4 samples from escaped captive cervids were collected. Samples were sent to the Colorado State Veterinary Diagnostics Lab for analysis. All samples tested negative for CWD.

All hunters carrying a current Maine hunting license that allowed deer hunting could harvest a buck with an antler at least 3 inches in length. Antlerless deer could only be harvested by hunters who possessed an ADP, apart from Youth Day and archery hunters in WMDs where ADP were issued and expanded archery hunters. As in previous years, Sundays were closed to hunting, and the opening Saturday of the Regular Firearms season was reserved for Maine residents only.

# Maine Deer Harvest by Town (2019)



Total Harvest = 28,323



Map prepared by:  
Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
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