



## 2017 Maine Deer Harvest

Deer hunters in Maine harvested 27,233 deer in 2017, the highest total in the last ten years and an increase of 15% from 2016. This year's buck harvest of 18,280 was an increase of 8% from 2016. Most deer were harvested during the general firearms season, which totaled 25 hunting days including Opening Saturday (Residents' Day), October 28<sup>th</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.

Seasonal conditions were varied with September and October temperatures being 3-6 degrees above average throughout the state, November temperatures 1-5 degrees below average throughout the state, and December temperatures 5-8 degrees below average. The most noteworthy weather event of the season occurred October 29<sup>th</sup> – October 30<sup>th</sup> when a powerful storm swept through much of the state, with powerful winds over 40 mph seen nearly statewide and over an inch of rainfall in many areas. This weather event caused power outages in many parts of the state that took up to a week to resolve. Despite this storm, harvest totals for the first week of the firearms season were not greatly impacted.

Based on hunter effort survey responses from nearly 750 licensed hunters during the 2017 regular firearms deer season, hunters spent ~37 hours hunting deer during the firearms season and an average of 4.3 hours afield on days spent hunting. A total of 23,288 deer were harvested during the general firearms season. Additionally, 2,099 deer were harvested during the combined archery seasons, 876 on Youth Day, and 970 during the combined muzzleloader seasons. Approximately 93% of harvested deer were taken by resident hunters with most non-resident deer harvest occurring in wildlife management districts (WMDs) along the state border.

A total of 66,050 Any-deer permits were issued for the 2017 season with the aim of achieving an adult doe harvest of 6,964. The actual doe harvest was 6,054, which is 13% lower than the desired doe harvest. In addition, 1,549 buck fawns and 1,341 doe fawn were harvested. Nine deer were harvested with no sex recorded.

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 Any-deer permit, apart from youth hunters on Youth Day 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.