



2011 Deer Harvest by Town in Maine

Total = 18,839

Map prepared by Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
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Maine Deer Harvest Highlights 2011

2011 marked the 26th season of the any-deer permit system. A total of 26,390 any-deer permits were allocated to 12 WMDs, including 232 Superpack (bonus) any-deer permits issued in WMD 20 and 21 to achieve district specific doe harvest quotas. Of the permits available, 6,599 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 29th-November 26th) and muzzleloader (November 28th - December 10th) 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. 10th to Dec. 10th); the statewide (Special) archery season from September 29th to October 28th.

Overall 18,839 deer were registered during 2011. During the expanded and special archery seasons 1,928 were taken. This equates to a 29% decrease in archery hunting from 2010; the Youth Day harvest of 537 increased from 2010 by 21% 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 15,467 was a 9% decrease from the previous year. This decrease was entirely seen in the antlerless harvest and reduction of Any Deer Permits to provide maximum growth to deer populations across south-central WMDs. For the fifth year a special license allowed crossbow hunting during the regular firearms season with a harvest of 30 deer. Finally muzzleloaders experienced fair success with a decrease of 23%, taking 822 deer with muzzleloader; again the decrease largely due to the limited number of Any Deer permits and reduced antlerless harvest.

A harvest quota of 2,961 adult does was set in 2011 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 17 WMDs (districts 1-12, 14, 18, 19, 27, and 28), to 630 does in WMD 21; Any-Deer and Superpack permittees tagged 1,430 fawns, while archers and youth day hunters tagged 534 young of the year. Overall, 5,986 antlerless deer were registered by hunters and the statewide adult doe harvest totaled 4,017. Excluding WMD 29, the adult doe harvest was 28% above pre-season set quotas.

The statewide harvest of antlered bucks (12,862) in 2011 was within 5% of our projected buck harvest. The top 5 buck-producing WMDs (per sq. mi.) during 2011 were (in descending order) districts 29, 21, 24, 20 and 22, all in southern Maine. Among the 12,862 antlered bucks taken in 2011, roughly 6,945 (54%) were 1 ½ year-olds (yearlings), while more than 2,701 (21%) were mature bucks (3 ½ to 15 ½ years old). Male fawns are reported with antlerless deer.