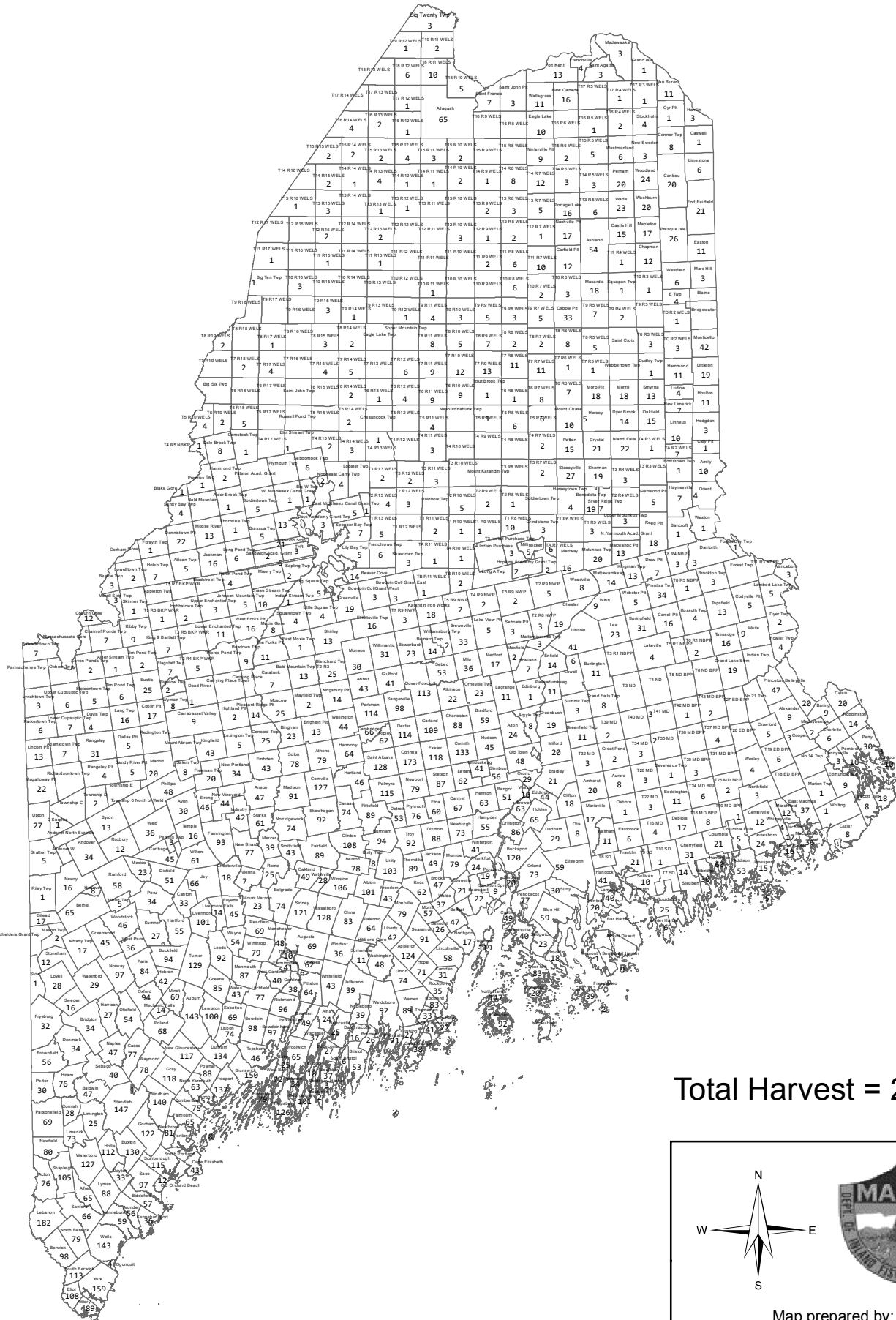


# 2014 Deer Harvest by Town in Maine



Total Harvest = 22,490

Map prepared by:  
Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
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## 2014 Maine Deer Harvest

Overall, 22,490 deer were registered during 2014, representing a decrease of 9% from the 2013 deer harvest. IFW biologists predicted a harvest of around 21,500 deer, which was slightly lower (~ 4%) than the actual harvest. Breaking down the 2014 harvest, 18,510 deer were tagged during the General Firearms season. This was an 11% decrease in deer harvest by firearm hunters in 2013. A total of 1,588 deer were harvested during the Expanded Archery season. This equates to a 7% decrease in the Expanded Archery harvest from 2013. In contrast, during the Regular Archery season 22% more deer were harvested than in 2013. Maine's youth harvested 810 deer, which was 3% above 2013 harvest on Youth Day. Last, but not least, during Maine's Muzzleloader seasons hunters tagged almost the same number of deer as they did in 2013.

This year's buck harvest of 15,986 animals represents a decrease of 4% from last year, but is slightly higher than the projected harvest of 15,000 bucks. Southern Maine is well known for being a highly productive region for the state, in terms of its deer population. As such, it goes in hand that the top 5 buck producing Wildlife Management Districts (WMDs) are also located in the Southern tier of the state. The WMDs with the highest buck harvest were, in order from greatest buck harvest to least, 29, 24, 22, 21, and 20. Despite this, northern Maine's adult bucks are, on the average, slightly larger expressing an average weight of 175 lb and sporting 8 pt racks. In comparison, their more densely populated cousins in the south average approximately 150 lb and have 7 pt racks.

One of the driving forces of Maine's deer population is winter weather. The 2013-14 proved to be severe in nature which often results in a decline in the deer population. To offset potential losses, MDIFW reduced Any-deer permit (ADP) allocations by 20% (37,185), from 2013's total allocation of 46,710 permits. The overall goal of the 2013 ADP allocation was to limit the doe harvest to 4,350 adult does. Overall, Maine hunters harvested 6,484 antlerless deer (i.e., adult does and fawns) of which 4,401 were adult does, placing the harvest within 1% of the state's objective.

Maine offers five different structured hunting seasons providing the state's hunters over 80 days in which to pursue white-tailed deer. In 2014, Maine's regular seasons occurred as follows: 1) The Regular Archery season from Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> to Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, 2) General Firearms season from Nov 1<sup>st</sup> to Nov 29<sup>th</sup>, 3) Muzzleloader Season 1 from Dec 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, and 4) Muzzleloader Season 2 from Dec 8<sup>th</sup> to Dec 13<sup>th</sup>. While increasing opportunity, the Expanded Archery season is primarily used to control deer populations in areas where deer are chronically overabundant and negatively impact themselves and people. The Expanded Archery season generally runs from early September to mid-December.

All hunters carrying a legal Maine hunting license, that allows deer hunting, could harvest a buck provided that it met the 3" minimum required antler length. Antlerless deer (i.e., does, fawns, and bucks with antlers less than 3" in length) could only be harvested by hunters who possessed an Any-deer permit, with the exception of youth hunters on Youth Day. Maine's youth are provided the opportunity, on Youth Day, to harvest antlerless deer in any WMD that receives an allocation of ADPs. Not changing from past years, Sunday remained closed to hunting, and the opening Saturday of the Regular Firearms season was reserved for Maine residents only.