



STATE OF NEW YORK CONSERVATION FUND ADVISORY BOARD
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4750
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Four Hundred and Fifteenth Meeting – May 9, 2023
Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:05AM.

Meeting Adjourned – The meeting was adjourned at 12:06PM.

Roll Call: 9:05am

Voting Board Members Present

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Tim Huss | Region 1 |
| Gordon J Whiting | Region 2 |
| Vacant | Region 3 |
| Tom Williams | Region 4 |
| Jason Kemper | Region 5 |
| Scott L. Faulkner | Region 6 |
| Vacant | Region 7 |
| Marc Osypian | Region 8 |
| Dale Dunkelberger | Region 9 |
| Bill Conners | FWMB |
| Anthony Kordziel | NYSCC |

Voting Board Members

Excused

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Gordon Whiting | Region 1 |
| Dale Dunkelberger | Region 9 |

Voting Board Members

Absent

Abbreviations

CFAB or the Board = Conservation Fund Advisory Board
FWMB = Fish and Wildlife Management Board
DEC or the Department = NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
DFW = Division of Fish and Wildlife
DLE = Division of Law Enforcement

Ex-Officio Members Present

Senate Finance Committee
Senate EnCon Committee
Assembly Ways and Means Committee
Assembly EnCon Committee
Executive Deputy Commissioner

DEC Personnel

Division of Fish and Wildlife:
Katharine Petronis, Deputy Commissioner
Logan Hardy, Legislative Analyst
Michael Schiavone, Assistant Director
Ben Sears, Administrative Unit
Division of Law Enforcement:
Brian Gillis, Major

Guests

Richard Davenport, Guest Region 9
Jeremy Hurst, Guest DFW
Dave Kramer, Guest DFW
Brendan Quirion, Guest DFW

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Correspondence: Deer Harvest Estimate, Trout Stream Access Project Plan and Trout Stream Access Verification FAQ's can be found in the appendix of these minutes.

Minutes of Prior Meeting:

March 2023 CFAB Minutes were approved by Board on May 25, 2023 during a virtual meeting.

Executive Report:

Katharine Petronis, Deputy Commissioner

Logan Hardy, Legislative Analyst

- Katharine Petronis
 - Discussed Budget \$400 million EPF. New York Works is higher than last year - \$70 million part of that is due to the Conklingville Dam (Hadley, Saratoga County, Great Sacandaga Lake) and two other small dams \$90 million, last year was \$75 million.
 - Bond Act - \$75 million.
 - Staffing – 3,313 total cap – increase of 213 department wide positions. 20+ are for F&W – bond act implementation.

- Logan Hardy
 - Discussed Youth Hunt – 2-year extender. The Opt-In option requirement is still in place.
 - Discussed notifying counties of the extender. Discussed if that letter should come from Jacqueline Lendrum, Basil Seggos or Sean Mahar telling the counties to check their local laws and resolutions. (Note: On May 11, 2023, Michael Schiavone sent a letter to the county legislative clerks alerting them to the two-year extender and the need to review their existing county law to determine whether amendment is needed prior to the fall 2024 deer season).
 - General Gun Law – clarifying language included. Adirondacks and Catskills parks are not part of the definition of public parks. In general, they are not included in the “sensitive areas” definition where carrying is prohibited as part of the I gun law, but specific sites within the Parks may be (e.g., churches).
 - Clarifying language included exempting hunter education, marksmanship training, and other events like biathlon, military reenactments, and funerals.
 - Class C Streams – Senate included it in their one house proposal but was not included in the enacted budget.
 - Lead Ammo – Passed the assembly. Bill intends to place a ban on lead ammunition on public and private lands within the New York City Watershed and all state lands.

Division of Fish and Wildlife

Michael Schiavone, Assistant Director

Ben Sears, Administrative Section Head

Jeremy Hurst, Big Game Unit Head

Dave Kramer, Bios Statistician

Brendan Quirion, Biologist

- Michael Schiavone – Discussed the two individuals who were ticketed for spear fishing at Scriba Creek. Not part of the activist group that was going to stage up a protest.
 - Brook Trout Focus Group – Meeting will take place in mid-July. Email was sent out on May 4, 2023 from Steve inviting a number of individuals to be part of that group. As of May 19, 2023, we have 10 confirmed participants.
 - Reynolds Game Farm – Moving forward with trying to buy birds. In the process of soliciting bids as part of the fiscal procurement process. In the bid, it is noted that suppliers have to be National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) certified and meet all biosecurity protocols. Usually release 30,000 – 35, 000, so requested 40,000. Discussion on if there should be a bid for a breeder flock as well.
 - Turkey Calculation process – Post-season survey of turkey permit holders to estimate participation, hunting effort, and harvest. After the spring and fall seasons, random draw of 12,000 Turkey permit holders and send them a paper card that they fill out. It shows where they hunt, how many days they hunt, how many birds they kill. Trying to see if we can move to an online process. The Fall Turkey take was 2,200 birds which is a preliminary assessment. Finalizing that now.
 - Lead Ammo one-year progress report is online (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/48420.html>); they can share it with members and other constituents. Jason asked who the report was sent too, Mike said he will check to see who it was sent too. (After the meeting Logan Hardy confirmed it was sent to the Environmental Committee chairs, bill sponsors, and their staff).
 - Went through staffing numbers and how we get to those numbers. Mike showed slides of how CO and Regional offices are given items.

- Dave Kramer and Brendan Quirion – Presented a powerpoint on deer harvest calculation process and the iPad Pilot program. (copy of the presentation will be appended to the meeting minutes).
 - Jason Kemper suggested having a YouTube video done or some type of quick 3- or 4-minute presentation for the public to see the calculation process.
 - Jeremy Hurst – The Bear harvest report are done almost exactly the same as the deer harvest report just a shorter season with much less volume of data.

Division of Law Enforcement

Brian Gillis, Major

- Brian Gillis – Discussed moving forward with their hiring of another academy class.
 - Discussed hiring 45 from the academy.
 - 2,400 took the exam. Around 800 are doing the physical fitness test, which should be done by the middle of June.
 - Previous director asked for 20 seats in the previous class filled 18

- out of 20 seats available and graduated 18.
- Will probably have to ask for another test right away.
- Discussion on the 20-year bill. Passed by both Senate and the House but the Governor vetoed it at the 11th hour.

Update on DEC’s E-Licensing system and sporting license sales:

DECALS has not experienced any major issues or outages since the last report. The transition to Gordon Darby continues to go relatively smoothly to date, although we are still awaiting approval of the contract reassignment. Gordon Darby is maintaining a subcontract relationship with Kalkomey until reassignment is finalized.

We are currently running a Habitat & Access Stamp promotion, mailing an eastern newt pin and sticker for each stamp purchase during the last two weeks of April. Customers who purchase two or more stamps will also receive a wild turkey pin. We are also again preparing a survey to be posted on social media in early May, which will allow the public to pick the 2023-24 habitat stamp featured species.

Kevin Maloney and Ben Sears attended the annual Town Clerks Association Meeting in Syracuse. They gave a presentation on DECALS, informing the group of upcoming system changes and fielded questions. The presentation was well attended and well received.

Sales picked up in April, as fishing season and spring turkey seasons get underway.

License Year Sales by Item Comparison

Overall Sales:

| <u>Begin</u> | <u>End</u> | <u>Sales</u> | <u>Revenue</u> | <u>% Change (Revenue)</u> |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| August 1, 2022 | April 27, 2023 | 2,057,644 | \$34,352,226 | -3.75% |
| August 2, 2021 | April 27, 2022 | 2,109,812 | \$35,692,381 | |

I Support Conservation Fund:

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------|
| August 1, 2022 | April 27, 2023 | 8,666 | \$38,785 | -2.2% |
| August 2, 2021 | April 27, 2022 | 8,549 | \$39,641 | |

Venison Donation:

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------|
| August 1, 2022 | April 27, 2023 | 5,269 | \$20,244 | -1.7% |
| August 2, 2021 | April 27, 2022 | 5,430 | \$20,589 | |

Habitat & Access Stamp:

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------|-----------|-------|
| August 1, 2022 | April 27, 2023 | 29,035 | \$145,175 | -1.1% |
| August 2, 2021 | April 27, 2022 | 29,331 | \$146,655 | |

Filled Position report: (as of 3/31/2023)

Division of Fish & Wildlife

| <u>Account</u> | <u>Number</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|
| Access Land Acquisition | 0 |
| Habitat Conservation & Access Account | 7 |
| Hazardous Waste Cleanup Account | 1 |
| State Purposes Account | 53.8 |
| Federal Fish & Wildlife Grants Account | 48.8 |
| Conservation Fund (Traditional Account) | 203.45 |
| Environmental Regulatory Account | 3 |
| Natural Resources Damages Account | 0 |
| TOTAL | 317.05 |

Conservation Fund (Main Account)

| <u>Conservation Fund</u> | <u>Number</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Fish & Wildlife | 203.45 |
| General Counsel | 0 |
| Law Enforcement | 0 |
| Operations | 3 |
| Management & Budget Services | 0 |
| Office of Communication Services | 0 |
| Regional Affairs | 3 |
| TOTAL | 209.45 |

Habitat Conservation and Access Account

Funds in the Habitat Conservation and Access Account (HCAA) come from two sources: (1) revenue from the sale of lifetime licenses, up to \$1,500,000, can be deposited annually to the Habitat Conservation and Access Account pursuant to SFL 83 subdivision A, Paragraph 4 from the Fish and Game Trust Account; and (2) the sale of habitat and access stamps and pins.

Roughly 10-15% of the annual revenue for the HCAA comes from the sale habitat stamps and pins. Over the past three years (2019-21), an average of \$216,000 per year was generated from stamp/pin sales. So far in 2022-23, sales are similar to last year at this time (<-1% March 2022 vs. March 2023).

Any revenue that is deposited in to the HCAA in excess of \$1,500,000 is redirected back to the Fish & Game Trust Account.

Currently, there is a balance of about \$3 million in the HCAA. For State Fiscal Year 2023-24, we requested an annual appropriation of \$1.5 million from this account. Of this, about \$925,000 (including fringe and indirect costs) is for 8 staff associated with the Young Forest Initiative. The remaining funds may be spent on habitat and access projects. Currently, DFW staff have identified stream habitat improvement projects in the Battenkill and Ausable drainages as high priority projects but are also exploring other potential projects. Over the next 3 months DFW staff will be developing a process to identify other high priority work for HCAA funding including potential partners.

There will be a more detailed discussion on “habitat stamp” projects and the process used to select projects at the June meeting.

Status of Regulations:

Notice of Proposed Rule Making(s):

6 NYCRR Part 182, Endangered and Threatened Species Mitigation Bank Fund.

The Endangered and Threatened Species Mitigation Fund (Fund) Package is required to implement the new laws that created the Fund to be an alternate method for large scale renewable energy projects to use to meet their mitigation requirements inf they take listed species. The regulation package outlines the intent of the fund, the process for the Department to develop a cost basis for evaluating appropriate payments into the fund, and the general approach on how the Department may utilize the Fund to provide a Net Conservation Benefit to listed species.

- NOPR Drafted and en-route

6 NYCRR Part 182, Endangered and Threatened Species Repromulgation

Package. The Part 182 Repromulgation Package is required as a result of a legal decision stating that the rule change adopted in 2010 did not include a public hearing, and therefore needs to be re-noticed, with a public hearing, to be officially adopted. This package would repost the 2010 language, along with the changes legally adopted in 2021, to ensure that Part 182 in its entirety was adopted correctly.

- NOPR Drafted and en-route

6 NYCRR Part 182 Endangered and Threatened Species. The List Revision Package begins the process of updating the list of endangered and threatened species, a process that has not been done since 1999. The first step in the process is focused on updating the freshwater fish species based on expert review and ensuring that all species listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act are also captured in the regulatory list. The rest of the species will be addressed in subsequent rules over the next three years, with reptile, amphibians, marine species, invertebrates, mammals, and birds to all be addressed by the end of 2025.

- NOPR Drafted and en-route

6 NYCRR Part 664, Freshwater Wetlands Maps and Classification. The legislation contains three fundamental changes to the Freshwater Wetlands Act that will need to be reflected in regulation. First, beginning in January 2025, maps depicting freshwater wetlands will no longer be relied upon to determine DEC's permitting jurisdiction. Under the new legislation, freshwater wetlands maps will continue to be maintained by DEC but will be used for educational purposes. Second, smaller wetlands (less than 12.4 acres) of "unusual importance" will be regulated if they meet one of 11 newly established statutory criteria. Third, the acreage threshold for regulated wetlands will decrease from 12.4 acres to 7.4 acres (3 hectares) in 2028.

- NOPR is in draft stage

6 NYCRR Part 10 Trout Stream Sportfishing Regulations Changes. These regulation changes are proposed on several stream reaches to update and align management consistent with the criteria documented in the Trout Stream Management Plan (TSMP). They include clarification of trout fishing seasons in tidal and inland waters of Nassau and Suffolk counties. Additionally, in response to new biosurvey and angler use information, management category changes are proposed as follows: Camden Creek (Region 5) from *Wild* to *Wild-Quality* and Goose Creek (Region 9) from *Stocked-Extended* to *Stocked*.

- NOPR is in draft stage

6 NYCRR Fishing Tournament Permit and Reporting System. 6 NYCRR Part 10, licensing and reporting of sportfishing (freshwater) tournaments. The Department may propose the creation of a sportfishing (freshwater) tournament registry and reporting system for select fish species. These amendments may require a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis for Small Businesses or a Rural Area Flexibility Analysis.

- NOPR is in draft stage

Fish Hatchery Infrastructure Update

A full update will be discussed and a presentation will be held at the June 13, 2023 CFAB Meeting.

Oneida Lake Walleye Run Update

The run was completed without incident. In early April DLE found two anglers that were Native Americans fishing with spears in Scriba Creek above the hatchery during the closed season. Said anglers, who were unaware of the regulations, were ticketed.

Brook Trout Pond Management Plan Update

The Brook Trout Pond Management Plan Team met on April 5 to develop goals and objectives that will guide our management in the future. More time than originally anticipated is needed to create draft objectives that can be shared with the Focus Group. Another meeting is scheduled to take place on May 9 and 10. During that

meeting we will tour the Brandon Hatchery, who supplies us with Temiscamie Hybrid brook trout eggs.

Given the time it is taking to develop draft objectives, the Focus Group meeting will be postponed until July. An email from Chief Hurst was sent to various organizations asking them to send a representative to participate in the process. Dates and a venue will be established soon. A preliminary list of attending organizations is below. There will also be two anglers unaffiliated with any organization asked to attend the meeting. If possible, we may also invite a brook trout biologist from Maine to provide some outside management perspectives.

As mentioned previously, as part of the planning process we have spent a considerable amount of time documenting what we have learned over the past 40 years and a narrative describing the current state. We anticipate finalizing the Historical Perspective on Brook Trout Management in New York (30 pages) by late May. This report will be shared with Focus Group participants in advance of the Focus Group meeting.

| Preliminary List of Attending Organizations | |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| ADK Council | NYSCC |
| Adirondack Regional Tourism Council | The Nature Conservancy |
| Back-Country Hunters & Anglers | Trout Power |
| Conservation Fund Advisory Board | Trout Unlimited |
| Cornell University | USGS |
| Izaak Walton League | Region 5 Angler |
| Native Fish Coalition | Region 6 Angler |
| NYS Guides Association | Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife |

Pheasant Propagation Program Update

In late March, DEC's Reynolds Game Farm experienced an outbreak of HPAI in its breeder flock of pheasants. DEC worked closely with animal health experts at the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM), Cornell University, and the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services and followed standard protocol for a HPAI outbreak. In addition, AGM and USDA are working jointly on surveillance and testing in areas around the affected flock. A full 120-day quarantine period for the northern portion of the farm is required.

Unfortunately, the Day-old Chick Program, where pheasant chicks are provided to cooperators who raise them to adulthood, will not take place this year due to the quarantine and loss of the brooder flock. However, DEC staff are exploring all options for providing pheasant hunting opportunities for the fall 2023 season, including the possibility of getting birds from private producers for stocking. Such pheasants would come from commercial game bird breeders who follow strict biosecurity protocols and can meet standards for producing high quality birds.

Long-term plans for pheasant propagation and stocking beyond this fall are still being evaluated.

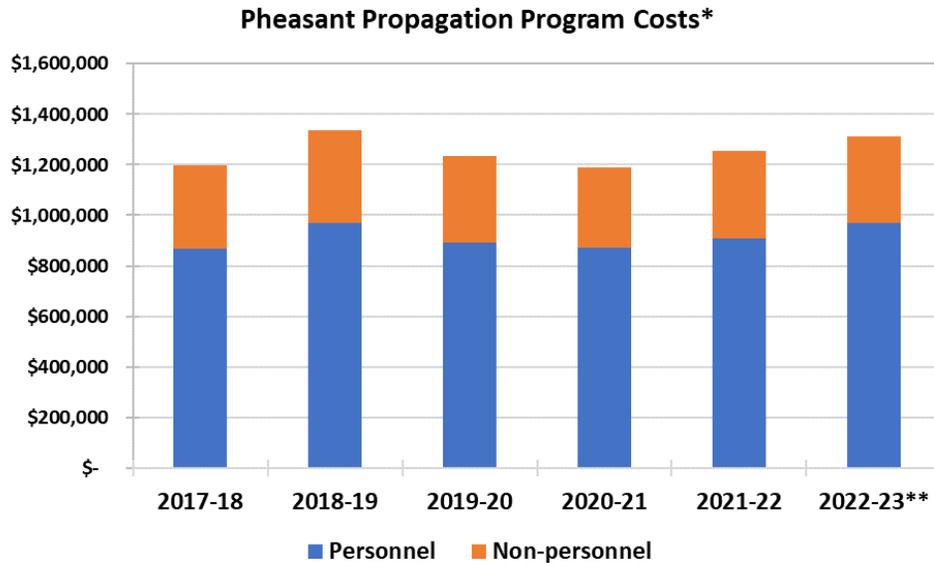


Figure 1. Pheasant propagation costs, state fiscal years 2017-18 through 2022-23. Personnel costs include permanent and seasonal staff at Reynolds Game Farm (about \$735K including fringe and indirect) as well as costs for non-game farm staff to stock pheasants (about \$165K including fringe and indirect). *Program costs do not include investment of NY Works funds to rehabilitate and improve Reynolds Game Farm infrastructure. **Costs for 2022-23 are preliminary as final invoices through March 31 are still being reconciled.

2022 Deer and Wild Turkey Harvest Estimates

White-tailed Deer

Hunters in New York harvested an estimated 231,961 deer during the 2022 hunting seasons, a 10-percent increase from last year.

The 2022-23 estimated deer take included 116,425 antlered bucks and 115,536 antlerless deer. Statewide, this represents a five-percent increase in antlered buck harvest and a 15-percent increase in antlerless deer harvest from last season. Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) affected areas of the Hudson Valley and eastern shores of Lake Ontario in 2020 and 2021, resulting in reduced deer hunting success in these areas. Increases in buck harvest, which DEC tracks as an index of deer population abundance, during the 2022-23 seasons indicate that deer populations in affected areas are recovering.

Hunters also took greater advantage of several new deer hunting opportunities established in 2021. More than 2,000 antlerless deer were taken during the mid-

September antlerless-only season. This is a nine-percent increase from 2021. This season was established to increase harvest of antlerless deer in wildlife management units (WMUs) where deer populations need to be reduced based on DEC's deer population objectives.

Nearly 2,300 deer, a 38-percent increase from 2021, were harvested by youth hunters during the Youth Hunt Weekend. The increase was due in part to increased success of 12- and 13-year-old hunters participating in the second year of a pilot program established by the State Legislature that allows hunters aged 12-13 to hunt deer with a firearm. A summary report of deer hunting by 12- and 13-year-old hunters in 2022 is available on [DEC's website](#).

Lastly, Southern Zone hunters expanded their participation in the Holiday Deer Hunt, a second portion of the late bow and muzzleloader season that spans from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, designed to provide additional hunting opportunity when students are on school break and families are gathered for the holidays. Nearly 4,000 deer, representing an 11-percent increase from 2021, were harvested during the 2021-22 Holiday Hunt. Young hunters also reported taking more deer during the Holiday Deer Hunt than during the traditional portion of the late bow and muzzleloader season.

Across the state, hunters continued to voluntarily pass up young bucks, and about 64 percent of the antlered bucks harvested were 2.5 years old or older. DEC's Let Young Bucks Go and Watch Them Grow educational campaign promotes individual choice and voluntary restraint to shift the age composition of bucks harvested in New York State towards older age classes, while still providing hunters the freedom to harvest any buck they desire. Since the campaign's implementation, DEC has documented a steady increase in the proportion of bucks harvested by hunters that are 2.5 years old or older.

Notable Numbers

- 16.6 and 0.6 - number of deer taken per square mile in the units with the highest (WMU 8R) and lowest (WMU 5F) harvest density.
- 64% - portion of the adult buck harvest that was 2.5 years or older statewide, up from 45 percent a decade ago, and 30 percent in the 1990s.
- 46.4% - portion of successful deer hunters that reported harvest as required by law. This is below the five-year average of 49.3 percent.
- 13,568 - number of hunter-harvested deer checked by DEC staff in 2022 to determine hunter reporting rate and collect biological data (e.g., age, sex, antler characteristics).
- 2,727 - deer tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in 2022-23; none tested positive. DEC has tested 63,012 deer for CWD since 2002.

Deer harvest data are gathered from two main sources-harvest reports required of all successful hunters, and DEC's examination of harvested deer at meat processors and check stations across the state. Harvest estimates are made by cross-referencing these two data sources and calculating the total harvest from the reporting rate for each zone and tag type. DEC's [2022 Deer Harvest Summary report](#) provides tables, charts, and maps detailing the deer harvest around the state and can be found on DEC's website.

Past harvest summaries are also available on DEC's website.

Wild Turkeys

The preliminary estimated fall turkey take was 2,200 birds. This is above the five-year average fall take of 1,800 birds. Traditionally, harvest estimates have been calculated through a post-season mail survey of 12,000 randomly selected turkey permit holders. Game Management staff are completing the 2nd full year of paired online and mailed turkey harvest surveys. They will work with Cornell University Center for Conservation Social Sciences to assess potential biases and whether to transition to online surveys or if more work is needed to maintain long-term trends. If online survey methods prove reliable, the transition away from mail surveys will result in a more efficient and cost-effective process for calculating the turkey harvest.

Lead Ammunition Working Group Update

Since release of the [Minimizing Risks to Wildlife and People from Lead Hunting Ammunition](#) report in April 2022, DEC and partners have taken several steps to implement recommendations in the plan to minimize the risks associated with lead ammunition for hunting.

The recommendations in the report were centered around four main themes:

- *Outreach* - advance strategic educational outreach to increase public understanding of the potential and realized impacts of lead hunting ammunition on wildlife and people and encourage hunters to use non-lead alternatives;
- *Minimization* - develop and disseminate best management practices to hunters, deer processors, and food pantries to minimize the presence of lead on the landscape and in game meat consumed by people;
- *Supply* - work to increase supply, availability, and use of non-lead hunting ammunition;
- *Research* - conduct research to further understand the scope and extent of impacts of lead hunting ammunition on people and wildlife.

Some high priority recommendations from the report either underway or completed include:

- DEC initiated a study with the New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Cornell University, United States Geological Survey, and Conservation Science Global. Research partners will provide rebates to hunters to use non-lead ammunition while measuring ammunition use, hunting effort, and eagle mortalities in the study area to determine the usage rates at which eagle mortality is reduced.
- DEC's Wildlife Health Program is measuring lead levels in furbearers and other scavenging wildlife to evaluate lead exposure. Preliminary results show 44% of 81 fishers and 15% of 40 bobcats analyzed had low but detectable levels of lead; data analyses and additional sample procurement is underway.

- DEC hosted a North American Non-Lead Partnership workshop for Hunter Education staff, leaders of New York hunting organizations, and outdoor writers to demonstrate differences in lead and non-lead bullet performance. Work is underway to provide widespread access to these online educational videos and other outreach materials.
- DEC has posted an educational video produced with Cornell Wildlife Health Lab and Cornell Department of Communication titled: [“Your Choice of Ammunition”](#) featuring hunter’s experience with non-lead ammunition on the DEC YouTube Channel and hunting page, including updated messaging in the annual hunting guide to the benefits of using non-lead ammunition.
- DEC has updated our Hunter Education Program course curriculum and training of instructors to emphasize the risks to wildlife from lead ammunition and the benefits of non-lead ammunition.
- Department of Health (DOH) surveyed food banks on practices related to donation of wild game. DOH also updated their data collection procedures for lead-impacted adults
- to include questions about game consumption and lead ammunition use. DOH continues to develop and update outreach materials for pantry/foodbank employees and patrons and provides [“Health Advice for Harvesting, Preparing, and Eating Wild Game.”](#)

Much of this initial focus has been directed towards information and education and increasing our knowledge of wildlife exposure to lead. There is more to be done to increase hunter awareness.

In 2023, DEC will:

- Revamp and update our web information related to use of non-lead ammunition and provide more extensive access to existing sources of quality information about the topic.
- Begin work on a DEC video/demo with key messages about the benefits to hunters, wildlife, and consumers of game meat of using non-lead ammunition for hunting.
- Increase staff capacity to do educational demonstrations to hunters and others.
- Develop BMPs to reduce lead exposure to people and wildlife when lead-based bullets are used to harvest game through improved meat processing techniques and strategies to prevent scavenger access to offal and carcass remains.
- Work with the Division of Law Enforcement to promote and increase use of non-lead ammunition when responding to sick or injured wildlife.
- Future work will pursue establishment of an incentive-based program (rebates, reduced price coupons, etc.) to encourage hunters to try alternative hunting bullets. We remain convinced, once they do, they will continue to use them. Funding to secure access and incentive to try non-lead ammunition is essential, as is working in partnership with retailers and distributors of these products.

A copy of this progress report is available on the [DEC website](#).

APPENDIX: Deer Harvest Estimate, Trout Stream Access Project Plan and Trout Stream Access Verification FAQ's pdf.



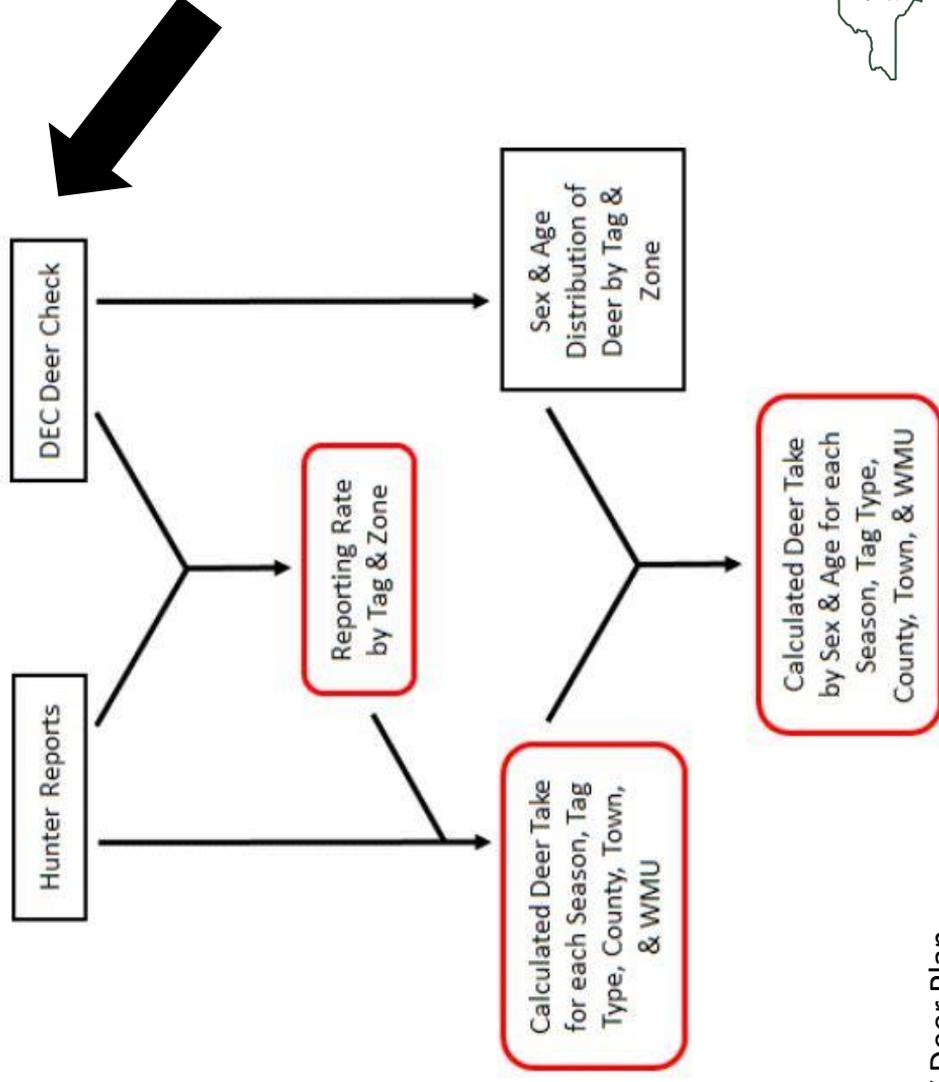
**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

Deer Harvest Calculation

**Dave Kramer (Research Scientist)
Brendan Quirion (Big Game Biologist)**

May 9, 2023

Data Flow



Deer Check

NYSDEC

Carcass Tag Doc #

County of Kill

Town of Kill

Sex of Deer M F O U

Beam (mm) Antler

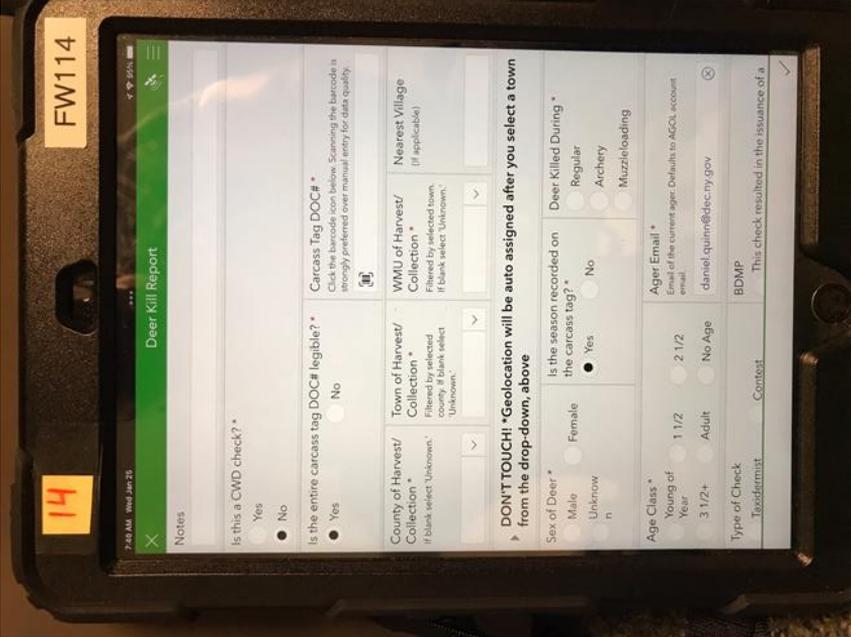
Age Class (check one)
 Young of Year Adult

Age Number

This check result

Remarks

USE NO. 2 BLACK OR B



CWD Weekly Update



no-reply@cwd-data.org(no-reply@cwd-data.org via ser
 To: Miller, Lauren A (DEC); nah88@cornell.edu

Reply Reply All Forward
 Wed 1/18/2023 12:00 PM

If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.
 The actual sender of this message is different than the normal sender. Click here to learn more.
 Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

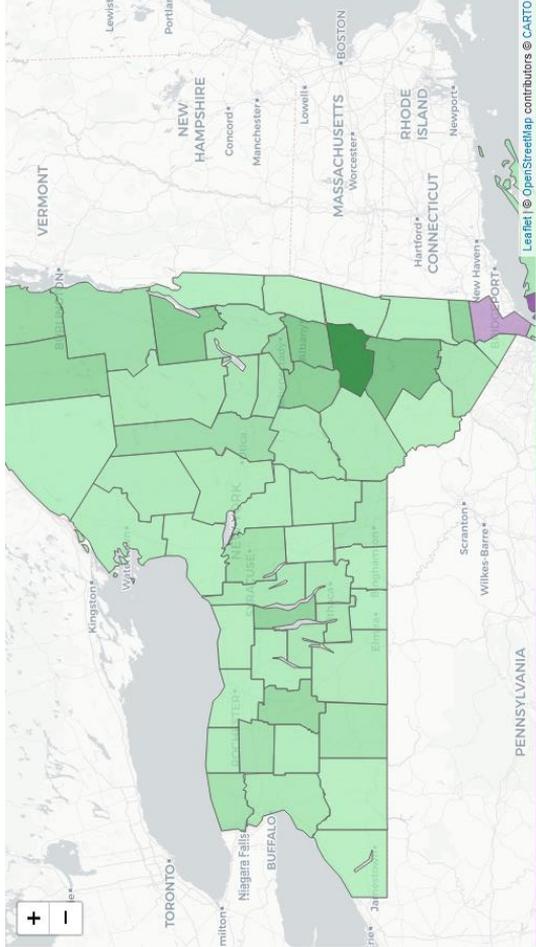
surveillance_activity_points.csv 3 KB
 sample_results.csv 414 bytes

CWD Surveillance Report 2022-23

Visualizations available in the warehouse at cwd-data.org

Surveillance activity points (by sub-administrative area)

| Name | Agency management unit | Surveillance category | Quota | Points | Points needed |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------|--------|-------------------------|
| Nassau County | Region 1 | | 19 | 0 | 19 |
| Suffolk County | Region 1 | | 47 | 36 | 11 |
| - | Region 1 | | 66 | 36 | 30 |
| Bronx County | Region 2 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kings County | Region 2 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New York County | Region 2 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Queens County | Region 2 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Richmond County | Region 2 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| - | Region 2 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dutchess County | Region 3 | | 47 | 52 | Quota exceeded by 5 |
| Orange County | Region 3 | | 163 | 230 | Quota exceeded by 67 |
| Putnam County | Region 3 | | 10 | 21 | Quota exceeded by 11 |
| Rockland County | Region 3 | | 53 | 53.5 | Quota exceeded by 0.5 |
| Sullivan County | Region 3 | | 176 | 180 | Quota exceeded by 4 |
| Ulster County | Region 3 | | 49 | 138.5 | Quota exceeded by 89.5 |
| Westchester County | Region 3 | | 61 | 47.5 | 13.5 |
| - | Region 3 | | 559 | 722.5 | Quota exceeded by 163.5 |
| Albany County | Region 4 | | 25 | 63.5 | Quota exceeded by 38.5 |
| Columbia County | Region 4 | | 42 | 48 | Quota exceeded by 6 |



Far under quota Under quota Quota achieved Quota exceeded

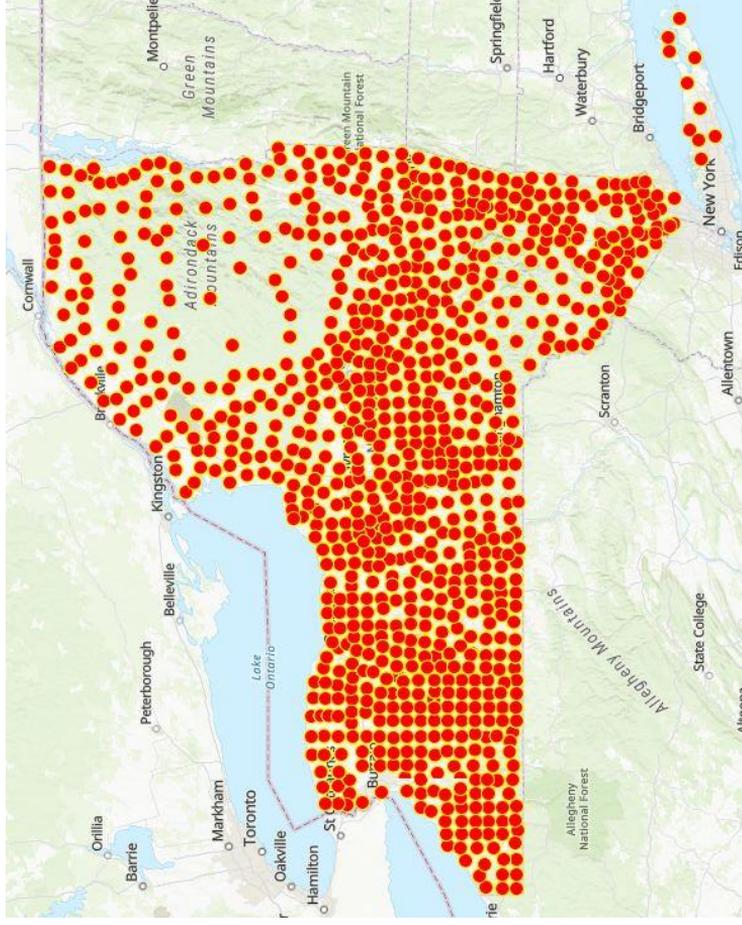
Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors, © CARTO



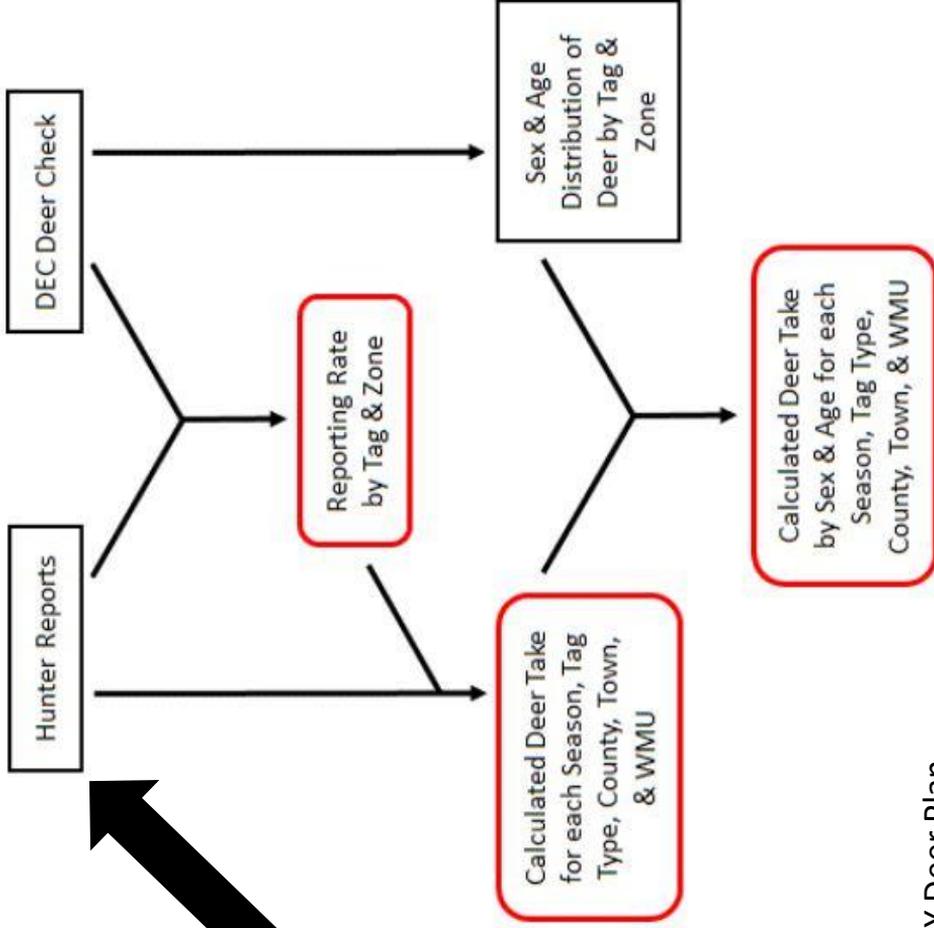
Department of Environmental Conservation

Survey 123 Deer Check 2022

- 13,568 deer checked
- 2,727 CWD samples
- 100+ Wildlife staff



Data Flow



Hunter Reports



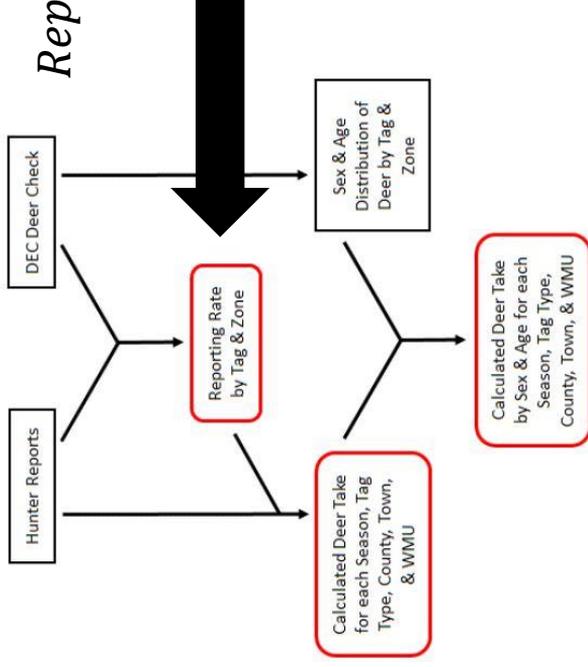
The screenshot shows the 'My Licenses' section of a mobile application. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a hamburger menu icon, a refresh icon, a back/forward icon, and a 'Reportable Tag' indicator. Below the navigation bar, there are four license cards:

- Spring Turkey Tag #1**: Valid 4/15/23 to 5/31/23, Doc #: 22-15-00167929, Status: Active. Includes a turkey icon.
- Spring Turkey Tag #2**: Valid 4/15/23 to 5/31/23, Doc #: 22-16-00167932, Status: Active. Includes a turkey icon.
- Resident Hunting**: Valid 9/1/22 to 8/31/23, Doc #: 22-24-00243711, Status: Active. Includes a circular icon with a diagonal line.
- Res Turkey Permit**: Valid 9/1/22 to 8/31/23, Doc #: 22-24-00243711, Status: Active. Includes a turkey icon.

At the bottom of the screen, there is a navigation bar with icons for 'My Licenses', 'History', and 'Help & Info'.



Reporting Rate



$$\text{Reporting Rate} = \frac{\text{Hunter Reported AND Biologist Checked}}{\text{Biologist Checked Deer}}$$

Using Data from the Northern Zone Regular Big Game Harvest

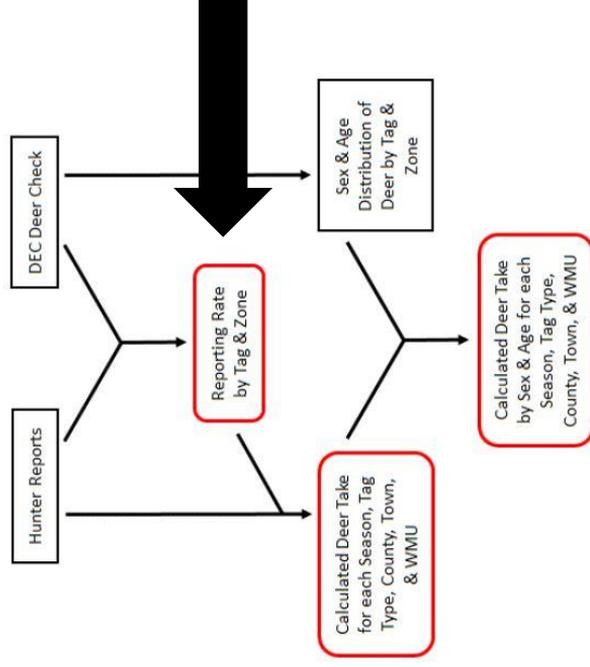
$$46.97\% = \frac{472 \text{ Reported \& Checked Deer}}{1005 \text{ Deer Checked}}$$



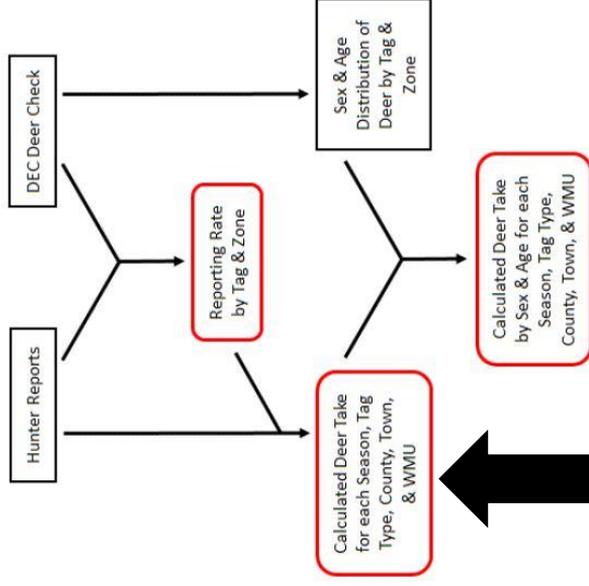
Reporting Rate – Why Bother?

Variation between Zones, Seasons and Years

| Season,Area | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| RBG, Northern | 47.64 | 47.91 | 46.97 |
| RBG, Southeast | 48.55 | 52.55 | 53.26 |
| RBG, Central & West | 47.68 | 47.75 | 49.00 |
| DMP, Southeast | 45.29 | 47.39 | 43.99 |
| DMP, Central & West | 38.83 | 39.02 | 35.77 |
| Archery & Muzz | 42.93 | 54.99 | 50.52 |



Calculating at Scale

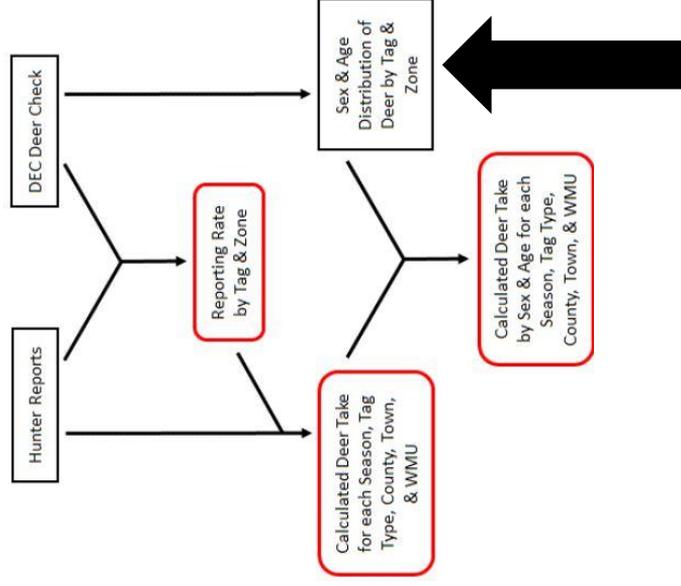


Apply reporting rate at the smallest spatial scale (ex. Town) and sum up for larger areas (County or WMU)

| County | Town | RBG | ARCHER | DMP | MUZZ | DMAZ |
|--------|-------------|-----|--------|------|------|------|
| ALBANY | | 890 | 709 | 1003 | 148 | 77 |
| | ALBANY CITY | 2 | 27 | 39 | 0 | 0 |
| | BERNE | 179 | 58 | 114 | 23 | 3 |
| | BETHLEHEM | 56 | 94 | 100 | 5 | 0 |
| | COEYMANS | 109 | 48 | 85 | 19 | 18 |



Importance of Sex-Age

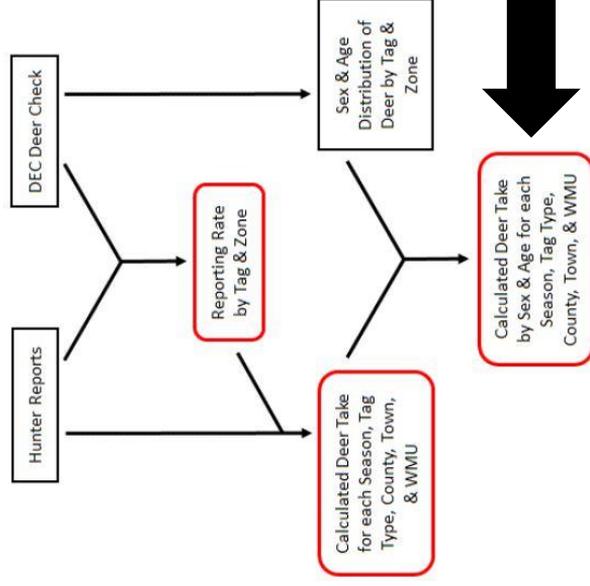


Sex-age distribution derived from biologist check

| SEASON / AREA | MALE | | | FEMALE | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|
| | FAWN (%) | FAWN | ADULT | FAWN (%) | FAWN | ADULT |
| DMP, NZ, Antlerless | 13.89 | 12.78 | 2.78 | 13.89 | 12.78 | 70.56 |
| DMP, SE, Antlerless | 8.96 | 8.15 | 3.38 | 8.96 | 8.15 | 79.51 |
| DMP, CW, Antlerless | 13.84 | 13.34 | 3.03 | 13.84 | 13.34 | 69.79 |



Bringing it all together



Sex-age and calculated take are then reconciled

| WMU | Regular Big Game Tag | | | | | | Either Sex | | | | | | Antlerless Tag | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------|------|------|------|--|--|
| | AdMa | FnMa | AdFe | FnFe | AdMa | FnMa | AdFe | FnFe | AdMa | FnMa | AdFe | FnFe | AdMa | FnMa | AdFe | FnFe | | |
| 1C | 501 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 610 | 10 | 29 | 5 | 13 | 10 | 75 | 12 | | | | | |
| 3A | 530 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 172 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 13 | 12 | 101 | 12 | | | | | | |
| 3C | 508 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 236 | 2 | 21 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 47 | 6 | | | | | | |
| 3F | 220 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 124 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 33 | 3 | | | | | | |



Could We Provide Reported Take?

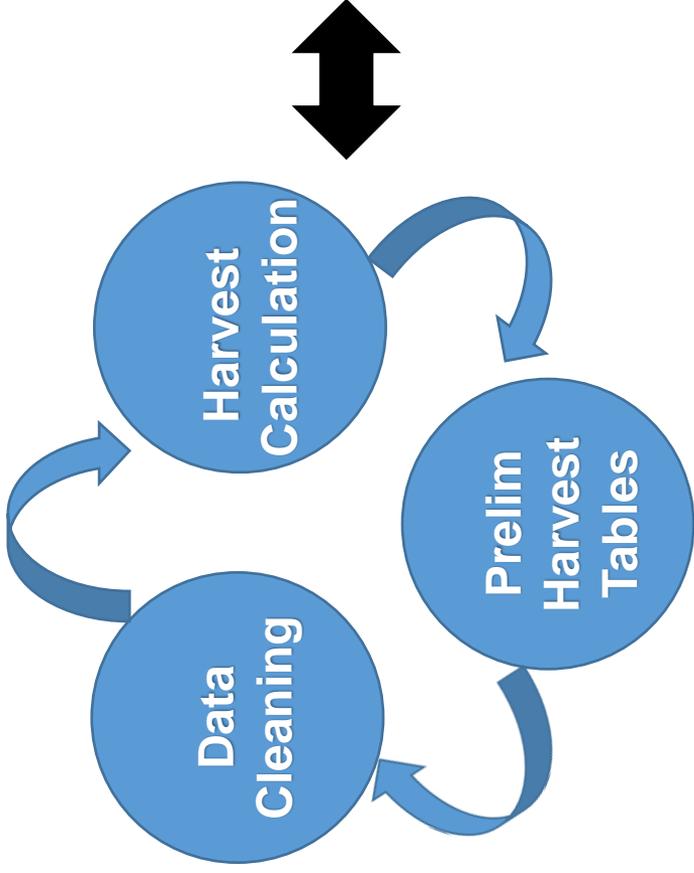
| Year | Hunter Reported | Reporting Rate | Calculated Take |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 2020 | 30,418 | 42.93 | 69,131 |
| 2021 | 28,701 | 54.99 | 51,236 |
| Percent Change | -5.6% | | -25.9% |

Data from Archery/Muzzleloader Harvest

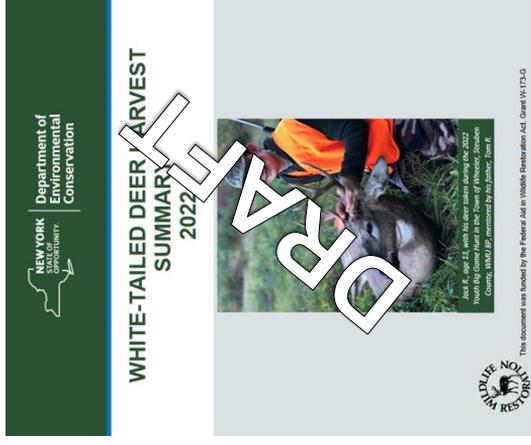


Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Data Preparation



Big Game Team Review



Final Product



NEW YORK
OPPORTUNITY

Department of
Environmental
Conservation

WHITE-TAILED DEER HARVEST SUMMARY 2022



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For Release: Tuesday, May 2, 2023

DEC Announces 2022 Deer Harvest Estimates New York Hunters Harvested More than 231,000 Deer

Hunters in New York harvested an estimated 231,961 deer during the 2022 hunting seasons, a 10-percent increase from last year, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced today.

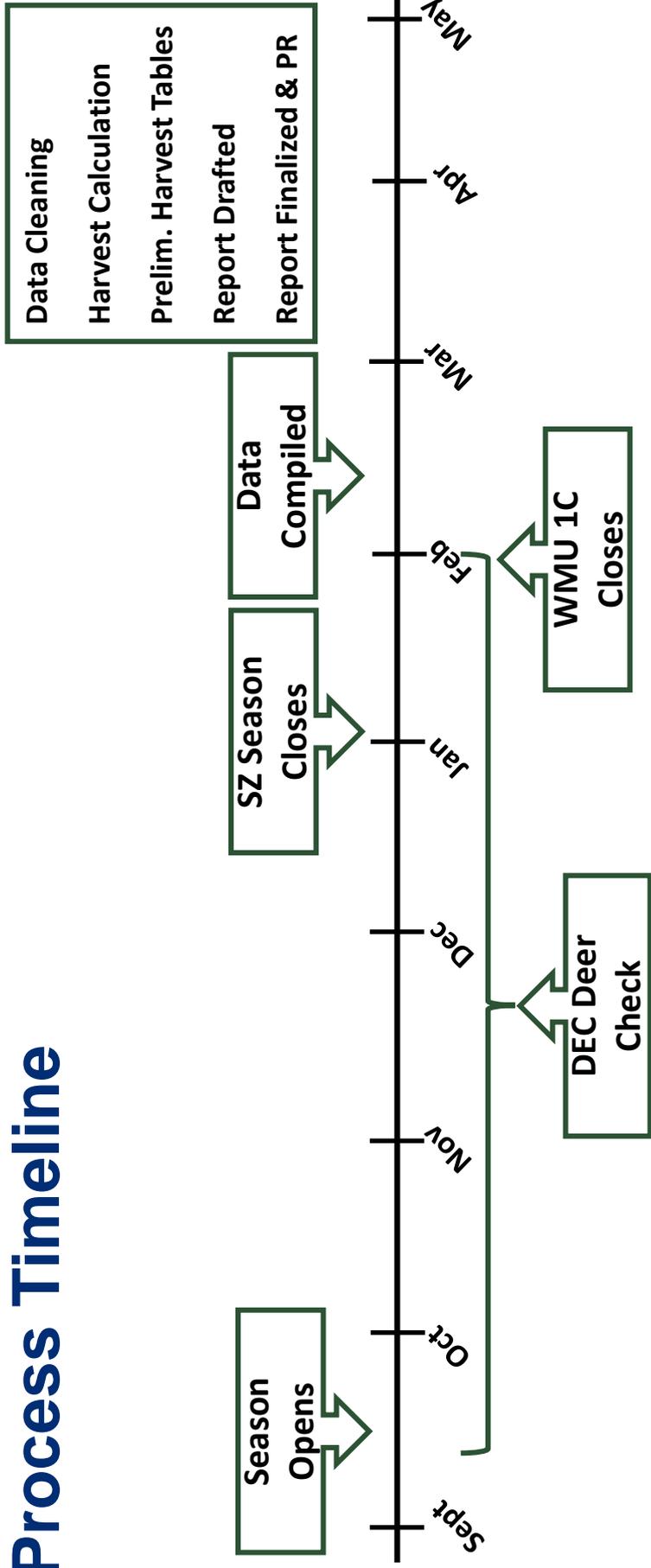
"DEC established several new deer hunting opportunities in 2021 and hunters took greater advantage of these opportunities during the 2022 season, including another safe, successful youth hunt," **said Commissioner Seggos.** "Increased hunter success combined with recovering deer populations contributed to an overall increase in total deer harvest."

The 2022-23 estimated deer take included 116,425 antlered bucks and 115,536 antlerless deer. Statewide, this represents a five-percent increase in antlered buck harvest and a 15-percent increase in antlerless deer harvest from last season. **Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)** affected areas of the Hudson Valley and eastern shores of Lake Ontario in 2020 and 2021, resulting in reduced deer hunting success in these areas. Increases in buck harvest, which DEC tracks as an index of deer population abundance, during the 2022-23 seasons indicate that deer populations in affected areas are recovering.

Hunters also took greater advantage of several new deer hunting opportunities established in 2021. More than 2,000 antlerless deer were taken during the **mid-September antlerless-only season.** This is a nine-percent increase from 2021. This season was established to increase harvest of antlerless deer in wildlife management units (WMUs) where deer populations need to be reduced based on **DEC's deer population objectives.**



Process Timeline



Acknowledgements

- Central Office - Dan Quinn, Renee Perrotte, Jackie Lendrum, Michael Schiavone, Jim Farquhar, Jeremy Hurst
- Big Game Team – Jim Stickle, Ryan Rockefeller, Courtney LaMere, Leslie Lupo, Selinda Brandon, Steve Heerkens, Robin Phenex, JR Russell
- Regional Wildlife Technicians and Staff



Issue:

New York and its partners stocked 952,118 yearling and larger trout into 332 *Stocked* and 62 *Stocked-Extended* reaches in 2022 in accordance with the Trout Stream Management Plan (NYSDEC 2020). Many of these fish are stocked in waters that flow through private land. Many of these stocking policies originated during a time when landowners were more permissive about allowing anglers to fish on their land and under the assumption of open access based on informal “handshake agreements” with Bureau staff. These stockings have continued despite changes in land ownership, or lands became subdivided. Historically, the Bureau of Fisheries protocol was to discontinue stocking at a location where public access is prohibited by means of a written notice, typically a “Posted” sign. However, the Bureau has lacked standards to confirm that unposted property, or properties adjacent to stocking points are unbiasedly accessible to anglers. Given this uncertainty, the Bureau cannot currently identify privately held lands that allow fishing access and cannot assess if stocking policies are commensurate with truly publicly accessible stream miles. An accounting of true public access along *Stocked* and *Stocked-Extended* reaches is needed to ensure that hatchery trout are being stocked into stream reaches that provide a benefit to the angling public. Furthermore, having clearly identified accessible reaches will better serve both landowners and the angling public by reducing occurrences of trespass on stream reaches where anglers are not welcome.

Status of stocked Trout Stream Access Information in 2022

An analysis of 2022 parcel data using GIS revealed the following:

Table 1. Public Accessibility analysis of tax parcels along Stocked and Stocked-Extended trout streams.

| Stocking Category | Number of Tax Parcels | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------|
| | Publicly Accessible | Unknown Access | Total |
| <i>Stocked</i> | 3,598 | 13,442 (79%) | 17,040 |
| <i>Stocked-Extended</i> | 2,300 | 3,661 (61%) | 5,961 |

Table 2. Public accessibility analysis of bank mileage along Stocked and Stocked-Extended trout streams.

| Stocking Category | Miles of Stream Bank | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| | Publicly Accessible Bank Mileage | Unknown Access Bank Mileage | Total Reach Miles* |
| <i>Stocked</i> | 962.9 | 2,110.9 | 1,536.9 |
| <i>Stocked-Extended</i> | 506.5 | 425.9 | 466.2 |

* Available bank mileage is assumed to be double the total reach miles

For the purposes of this plan, lands accessible to public fishing include county and municipal park lands, DEC lands, NY City Dept. of Environmental Protection recreational lands, Federal Recreation lands, lands accessible by agreement, and properties with existing NYS-owned Public Fishing Rights (PFR) easements. Based on this analysis, DEC is stocking many miles of streams with ambiguous access, potentially stocking fish in areas where anglers cannot fish for them. Additionally, this uncertainty limits DEC's ability to manage angler expectations regarding where they can access fishing resources.

Goal:

Trout raised with public funds will only be stocked into stream reaches where public access is available, and anglers can be directed to accessible locations on those reaches by DEC.

Objectives:

1. Determine where the public has fishing access on currently stocked reaches that flow through privately held lands.
2. Ensure that fishing access that is allowed on private lands is verified as open to all anglers.
3. Adjust stocking policies to accurately reflect the actual number of trout needed based on the amount of stream that is publicly accessible.
4. Transparently let anglers know where they have access to trout streams.

Approach:

Due to the magnitude of parcels/stream miles with unknown public access, the Bureau will take an incremental approach in determining where private landowners will continue to allow unrestricted fishing access on trout stream reaches. Access verification during the first pilot year (2022) was limited to one or two counties per DEC Region to allow staff time to work out any unexpected problems encountered during the effort. The schedule for the remaining counties (Table 3) was developed after the first year was completed. For all years, access verification will be completed early enough to allow for any changes in stockings to be implemented the following year (e.g. 2022 results will adjust 2023 stockings). DEC Regions will have until October 15, 2025, to complete the access verification process for all counties and adjust stocking policies for their remaining stocked reaches.

Table 3. Schedule for Access Verification

| DEC Region | Year Planned for Access Verification | Counties | Miles of stocked reaches within county(s) in 2022 | % of Total Regional Mileage |
|------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 | 2022 | Putnam | 24.6 | 7.8% |
| 3 | 2023 | Dutchess, Rockland, Westchester | 124.2 | 39.7% |
| 3 | 2024 | Orange, Ulster | 80.0 | 25.5% |
| 3 | 2025 | Sullivan | 84.5 | 27.0% |
| 4 | 2022 | Montgomery, Schenectady | 4.3 | 1.5% |
| 4 | 2023 | Columbia, Rensselaer, Otsego | 119.2 | 42.3% |
| 4 | 2024 | Albany, Delaware | 80.9 | 28.7% |
| 4 | 2025 | Greene, Schoharie | 77.8 | 27.6% |
| 5 | 2022 | Franklin | 75.1 | 20.2% |
| 5 | 2023 | Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga | 93.3 | 25.1% |
| 5 | 2024 | Clinton, Warren | 69.9 | 18.8% |
| 5 | 2025 | Essex, Washington | 134.0 | 36.0% |
| 6 | 2022 | St. Lawrence | 65.3 | 18.8% |
| 6 | 2023 | Herkimer, Jefferson | 107.7 | 31.1% |
| 6 | 2024 | Lewis, Oneida (partial) | 75.9 | 21.9% |
| 6 | 2025 | Oneida (finish) | 98.0 | 28.3% |
| 7 | 2022 | Tioga | 23.8 | 7.6% |
| 7 | 2023 | Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Oswego | 96.7 | 30.7% |
| 7 | 2024 | Madison, Tompkins | 84.6 | 26.8% |
| 7 | 2025 | Onondaga | 110.1 | 34.9% |
| 8 | 2022 | Steuben | 45.3 | 41.5% |
| 8 | 2023 | Chemung, Schuyler, Seneca, Yates | 35.1 | 32.2% |
| 8 | 2024 | Ontario | 14.0 | 12.9% |
| 8 | 2025 | Genesee, Livingston, Monroe | 14.6 | 13.4% |
| 9 | 2022 | Erie | 21.6 | 8.3% |
| 9 | 2023 | Allegany, Chautauqua | 118.0 | 45.2% |
| 9 | 2024 | Cattaraugus | 80.4 | 30.8% |
| 9 | 2025 | Wyoming | 41.0 | 15.7% |

* Note: reaches that extend into the adjacent county will be done at the same time as the rest of the reach.

Verifying public access

For a parcel to be considered verified access, the landowner must consent to allow the DEC to post the property as open to anglers and allow the DEC to display fishing access in the Tackle Box feature in the HuntFish NY App and DECinfo Locator.

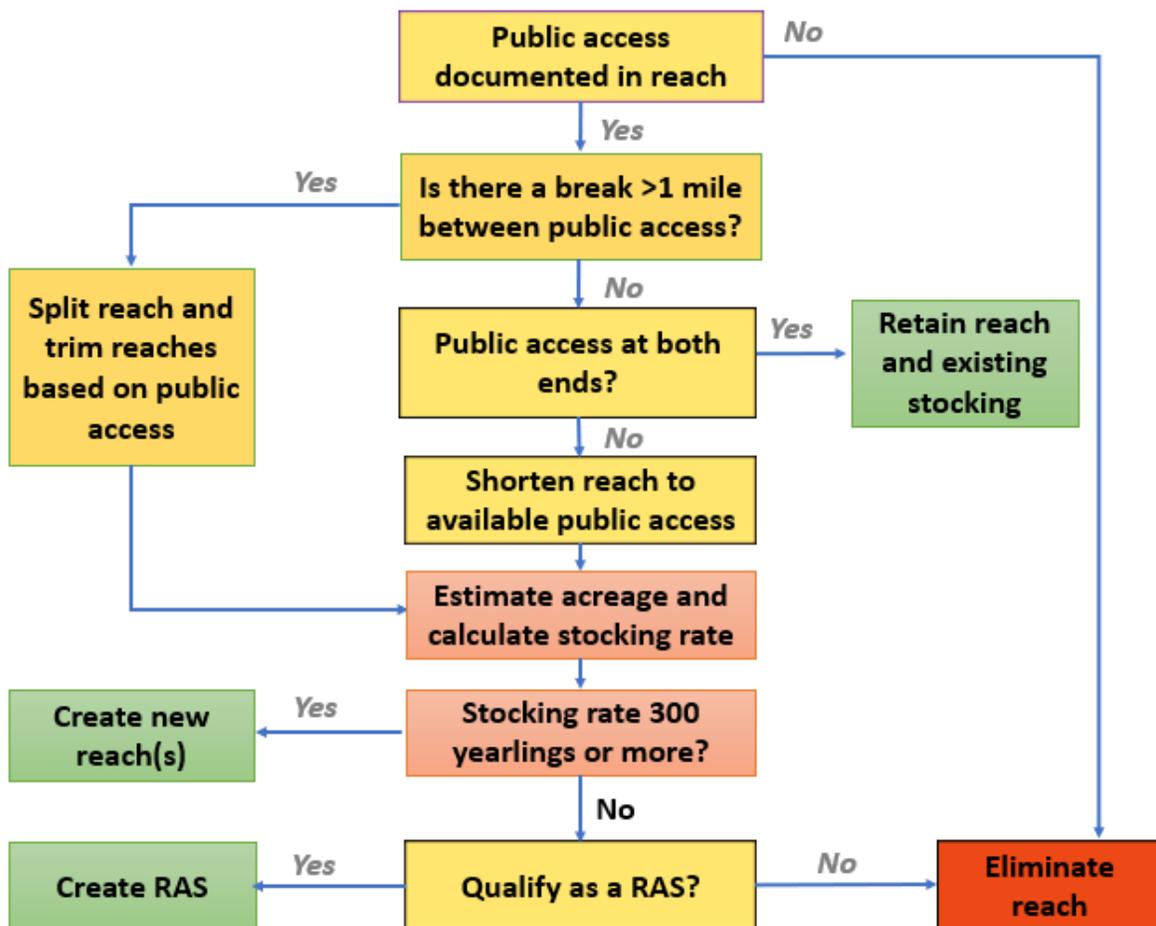
Steps:

1. Letters of inquiry are sent to private landowners at bridge crossings and immediate roadside access. Government entities or large corporations holding multiple parcels will be contacted directly by DEC via email or telephone call.
2. Landowners that do not respond to the first letter will receive a follow up inquiry 4 weeks after the first correspondence.
3. Regional Fisheries Managers will contact all positive replies to explain the program and secure access.

4. Regional Fisheries Staff complete the verification process by confirming the agreement via an email or written correspondence.
5. Regional Fisheries Staff have the option of contacting adjacent landowners or implementing a Road Access Stocking policy (see below) if bridge crossing or immediate roadside access is secured for stream reaches categorized as *Stocked*.
6. All adjacent landowners to verified public access must be contacted along *Stocked-Extended* stream reaches.

Assessment and adjustments of *Stocked* reaches

Once the locations of verified public access have been documented, each *Stocked* reach will be assessed and adjusted. Reaches may remain unchanged, split, shortened or eliminated based on the amount and location of verified public access. The number of fish stocked is predicated on suite of variables, including the stream reach area (acres). The section of stream in consideration must have enough acreage to receive 300 or more yearling trout to be designated as a *Stocked* stream reach. If stocking calculations call for less than 300 fish, a RAS will be considered.



Assessment of *Stocked-Extended* reaches

Verify that the *Stocked-Extended* reach meets the 3 miles or more of public access criterion established in the Trout Stream Management Plan and that reach endpoints are on publicly accessible parcels. If not, make reach adjustment recommendations to the Coldwater Unit Leader. Any *Stocked-Extended* reach adjustments require a regulation change.

Implementing Road Access Stocking (RAS) Policies

“Road Access Stocking” policies are point stockings on a stream that would allow for the stocking of a limited number of trout at both bridge crossings and areas where roadways are immediately adjacent to a stream reach (hereafter termed “roadside parcel”). The intent of this new stocking practice is to provide for short-term, put-and-take fisheries within short sections of pool habitat with access posted as “Fishing Permitted.” Instead of eliminating stockings in reaches with limited public access, RAS policies will provide the public some opportunities to fish on short, sections of private lands deemed publicly accessible.

RAS Rules

The following are a set of rules to aid in the implementation of RAS policies:

- a. These policies can only be implemented within the boundaries of stream reaches currently categorized as *Stocked*. RAS policies cannot be implemented outside of an existing *Stocked* reach.
- b. RAS policies can only be used when either an independent upstream or downstream reach policy exists or when two or more RAS points total at least 300 yearling equivalent trout.
- c. Number of fish stocked at RAS points cannot exceed numbers stocked in previous stocked reach.
- d. At least one landowner on one side of a bridge crossing must consent to allowing access. Standard width highway Right-of-Ways do not constitute sufficient access for use of a RAS.
- e. A RAS Policy can only be implemented if it meets the following criteria:

| RAS Category | Minimum Criteria | Stocking Rate |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Default | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 feet contiguous access to a pool for bridge crossings, or • 150 feet contiguous access to a pool for roadside parcels; and • Access to a pool with a minimum of 750 square feet, have an average water depth of 3' or greater. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 yearlings • 8 12" trout |
| High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 feet contiguous access for bridge crossings • 300 feet contiguous access for roadside parcels • The pool must have a minimum of 1,500 square feet, have an average water depth of 3' or greater. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 yearlings • 15 12" trout |

Posting of verified access locations

Following completion of the access verification initiative in each county, the Regional Fisheries Manager will be responsible for ensuring that all sites with access are posted with “Fishing Permitted” signs (see example to the right). Hatchery staff will be responsible for notifying the Regional Fisheries Manager if Fishing Permitted signs have been removed. Regional Fisheries Manager will follow up on hatchery reports by contacting the landowner to determine the status of access at the site.



Updating angler access on DECinfo Locator and Tackle Box feature in the HuntFishNY App

DEC will update the DECinfo Locator map and the HuntFishNY App annually to show where fishing access is permitted on each stream.

Timeline for 2023-2025

The timeline has been revised from lessons learned from the 2022 pilot year. Dates shown below are for 2023. Dates for 2024 and 2025 will be adjusted slightly (1 or 2 days).

- June 1: 1st round of letters of inquiry sent and Regional direct contacts begin.
- June 29: 2nd round of letters of inquiry sent.
- July 27: 3rd round of letters of inquiry sent.
- August 25: 4th round of letters of inquiry sent.
- October 15: Descriptions of finalized stocking reaches and RASs completed, including calculating the numbers of fish to be stocked in each.
- January 2: Revised reaches, new access polygons, and adjusted stocking numbers available for Regional review.
- January 31: Regional review of revised reaches, new access polygons, and adjusted stocking numbers completed, and all needed corrections sent to CO.
- February 21: Revised reaches, new access polygons, and adjusted stocking numbers finalized by CO.
- March 1: Data ready for submission to DECinfo Locator and Tackle Box feature in the HuntFishNY App.
- March 15: DECinfo Locator and Tackle Box feature in the HuntFishNY App updated with verified access and stocking information.
- March 31: Verified access sites are posted with fishing permitted signs.

Literature cited:

[NYSDEC. 2020. New York State Trout Stream Management Plan](#). Albany, NY: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

NYSDEC. 2023. Stocked Trout Stream Access Project: Year 1 Report. Albany, NY: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (forthcoming).

Trout Stream Access Verification Plan FAQs

Why is the DEC conducting Trout Stream Access Verification?

New York and its partners stocked more than 950,000 yearling and larger trout into streams each year. Many of these fish are stocked in water that flows through private land where we do not have verified public access. Responsible government dictates that hatchery trout, which are the public's resource, are stocked into stream reaches that provide a benefit to the angling public in a transparent and unbiased manner.

What is the goal of the Trout Stream Access Verification Plan?

The goal of the [Trout Stream Access Verification Plan](#) is to ensure that trout raised with public funds are only stocked into stream reaches where public access is available, and anglers can be directed to those accessible fishing opportunities.

What are the objectives of the Trout Stream Access Verification Plan?

The Trout Stream Access Verification Plan has 4 objectives:

1. Determine where the public has fishing access on currently stocked stream reaches that flow through privately held lands.
2. Confirm that fishing access that is allowed on private lands is verified as open to all anglers.
3. Ensure that the number of trout stocked is commensurate with the amount of stream that is publicly accessible.
4. Let all anglers know where they have access to trout streams.

What is the basic approach the DEC is taking to verify access?

The basic approach the DEC is taking to verify access is to contact landowners to determine if they are interested in allowing public access or not. Once public access along a stream reach has been verified, the stocking policy for that reach is reevaluated and, if necessary, adjusted in accordance with the [Trout Stream Management Plan](#). The stream banks within verified accessible locations are posted for public fishing access. Additionally verified access is shown on map-based products such as the Tackle Box module of the HuntFishNY mobile App or the Trout Stream Fishing Map on DECinfo Locator.

Which counties had Trout Stream Access Verification completed in 2022?

Trout Stream Access Verification was conducted in the following counties during 2022:

- Putnam (Region 3)
- Montgomery and Schenectady (Region 4)
- Franklin (Region 5)
- St. Lawrence (Region 6)
- Tioga (Region 7)
- Stueben (Region 8)
- Erie (Region 9)

Which counties are planned to have Trout Stream Access Verification done in 2023?

Due to the magnitude of parcels/stream miles with unverified public access, DEC is taking an incremental approach of verifying access in 1-5 counties annually for each Region through 2025. Trout Stream Access Verification is planned to be conducted in the following counties in 2023:

- Dutchess, Rockland, Westchester (Region 3)
- Columbia, Rensselaer, Otsego (Region 4)
- Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga (Region 5)
- Herkimer, Jefferson (Region 6)
- Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Oswego (Region 7)
- Chemung, Schuyler, Seneca, Yates (Region 8)
- Allegany, Chautauqua (Region 9)

What was the process for contacting landowners?

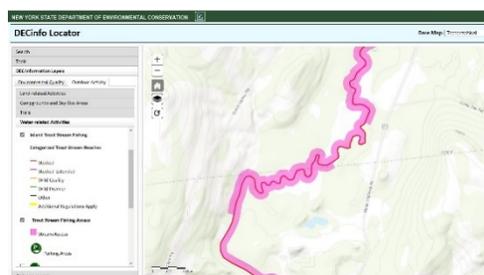
Landowners at potential access points such as bridge crossings or where stream reaches are close to the road will be sent a letter asking if they are interested in continuing to allow the public access to their land for the sole purpose of fishing. Landowners that do not respond will receive a second, follow up letter. Landowners that respond as interested in allowing public access are contacted by Regional Fisheries staff that will explain how and where signs will be posted and let them know that their parcel will be identified as accessible on DEC's "Tackle Box" module of the HuntFishNY App and DECinfo Locator. Once access is verified for a bridge crossing or roadside access parcel, adjacent landowners may be contacted to expand the length of verified public access available to anglers.

What is considered verified public access?

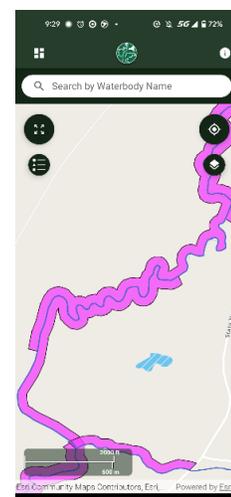
Verified access is when a landowner agrees to allow the DEC to post their property as open to anglers and allow the DEC to display fishing access in the "Tackle Box" App module of the HuntFishNY App and DECinfo Locator.



Posted sign



DECinfo Locator



Tackle Box
(HuntFishNY app)

How can I find where verified access exists on New York's trout streams?

New York has two map-based products that displays verified trout stream access:

- Trout Stream Fishing Map on DECinfo Locator (<https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?cat=WRL>)
- Tackle Box module on the HuntFishNY Mobile App (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96470.html>) available for Apple and Android phones.

Why is there no access shown on some stocked trout streams?

An objective of the Trout Stream Access Verification Plan is to show anglers where they can fish stocked trout streams in New York. Due to the uncertainty surrounding the actual access on private property, we cannot confidently portray stream segments as truly accessible. This effort will ensure that properties are truly accessible and portrayable on our map-based products.

How are trout stream reaches adjusted after public access is verified?

The amount of public access along the reach is evaluated based on criteria established in the Trout Stream Management Plan. A stocked reach must start and end at public access. A reach may be shortened or eliminated if there is insufficient public access along the reach or may be expanded if public access is gained and angler use is sufficient to warrant that expansion. In some cases, a Roadside Access Stocking may be implemented at access points along streams with otherwise limited access to preserve fishing opportunity at that location.

Can additional parcels be added to streams that have existing reaches?

Yes. A new parcel can be added to a stream that already has an established reach or reaches. Depending on the location and length of the parcel it may be added to an existing reach or stand alone as an independent reach. The stocking rate will be adjusted and implemented the following year.

What is a Roadside Access Stocking (RAS)?

“Road Access Stocking” policies (RAS) are point stockings on a stream that allow for the stocking of a limited number of trout at both bridge crossings and areas where roadways are immediately adjacent to a stream reach. The intent of this new stocking practice is to provide for short-term, put-and-take fisheries within short sections of pool habitat with access posted as “Fishing Permitted.” Instead of eliminating stockings in Stocked reaches with limited public access, RAS policies will provide the public opportunities to fish on short, sections of private lands deemed publicly accessible within existing Stocked reaches.

What were the results after reaches were evaluated after the 2022 access verification was completed?

Forty-five reaches were evaluated after access was verified in 2022. The results were:

- 15 Stocked reaches were unchanged
- 10 Stocked reaches were dropped
- 20 Stocked reaches were shortened or split
- 19 Roadside Access Stocking points were created
- 1 Stocked-Extended reach will be converted to a Stocked reach

Where are the trout no longer being stocked going?

For decades DEC has had more trout stocking policies on the books than it had the capacity to raise. While trout streams have been stocked at 100% of policy since the implementation of the NYS Trout Stream Management Plan in 2020, pond stockings have not been able to be stocked at 100%. The trout no longer being stocked will allow DEC to stock remaining trout policies closer to 100%. Additionally, fewer trout raised in fish hatcheries allows the trout to be grown to larger sizes which will help meet the size objectives for stocked trout in the NYS Trout Stream Management Plan.

How many Roadside Access Stocking locations were implemented as a result of the 2022 access verification?

19 Roadside Access Stocking locations were implemented for the 2023 stocking season to preserve fishing opportunity in Stocked reaches with very limited access.

How many miles of stream does DEC stock into Inland Trout Streams?

New York and its partners stocked approximately 2000 miles Inland Trout Streams in 2022 (the start of the Trout Stream Access Plan).

How many miles of streams with private or unknown access did NY stock?

New York calculates access by miles of bank privileges. In 2022 at the start of the Trout Stream Verification Plan, the access status of approximately 2,537 of the 4,000 miles of banks along stocked streams was unknown (63%).

How many miles of stream was verified as truly accessible during the 2022 access verification process?

New York verified access to 164 parcels that were not previously mapped as public access for a total of 46.5 bank miles.

Is the DEC posting land with verified public access?

Yes. To be considered verified public access, permission was granted to allow DEC to post the property as “fishing permitted.”

Does NY have a plan to manage Inland Trout Streams?

Yes. New York implemented the New York State Trout Stream Management Plan in 2020. Information on the plan can be found at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111015.html>.