

Amended Proposal submitted by The Concerned Sportsmen of Michigan

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Chronic Wasting Disease Regulations Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 12 of 2018 FOR INFORMATION ONLY

**Statewide Regulations:**

***Recommendation #1 - Restrictions on The Possession and Use of Natural Cervid Urine-Based Lures and Attractants***

Restrict the possession and use of non-synthetic cervid urine-based lures and attractants while hunting or trapping game species. Only synthetic cervid urine-based lures or attractants or natural cervid urine-based lures or attractants that are labeled with the official ATA (Archery Trade Association) Seal of Participation will be legal.

**Lower Peninsula Regulations:**

***Recommendation #2 - Baiting Exception for Qualified Hunters***

Grant a baiting exception for qualified hunters with disabilities outside of any county where free-ranging CWD positive Cervidae have been detected (Clinton, Ionia, Ingham, Jackson, Kent, Montcalm & Mecosta counties) and Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Management Zone (Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties) during the Liberty and Independence Hunts. Baiting would be limited to current regulations, allowing only two gallons of bait per site (shelled corn only in counties within the CWD Management Zone where CWD has not been detected), distributed across a 10'x10' area, and baiting may only occur from the first day of the season to the last day of the season.

***Recommendation #3 - CWD Management Zone***

Establish a 29 County CWD Management Zone that includes Allegan, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Lake, Lenawee, Livingston, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Saginaw, Shiawassee and Washtenaw Counties. (map attached)

In addition, the Department recommends eliminating the CWD Management Zone defined as Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, and Shiawassee counties, also known as Deer Management Unit (DMU) 419. These counties will be included in the newly defined CWD Management Zone.

***Recommendation #4 - Baiting Restriction and Feeding Ban***

Institute a baiting restriction and a feeding ban effective immediately for the 29 County CWD Management Zone defined as Allegan, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Lake, Lenawee, Livingston, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Saginaw, Shiawassee and Washtenaw Counties.

Effective Immediately, baiting will be restricted to 2 gallons of shelled corn per site, distributed over a minimum of 100 sq. ft., in the following counties within the CWD Management Zone; Allegan, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Clare, Eaton, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Isabella, Lake, Lenawee, Livingston, Mason, Midland, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Saginaw, Shiawassee and Washtenaw Counties. This restriction shall be automatically extended

to any counties added to the CWD Management Zone in the future and lifted in any counties removed from the Zone.

Effective Immediately the use of bait is banned in Clinton, Ingham, Ionia, Kent, Jackson, Montcalm and Mecosta Counties. The baiting ban shall automatically extend to include any county upon the confirmed detection of CWD in any free ranging cervidae within it's boundaries.

**Recommendation #5 - *New Private Land License at a Reduced Cost***

Create a new private land antlerless license at a reduced cost that expires the first Sunday in November, valid for private-land in all 3 counties in the Core CWD Area, defined as Kent, Montcalm & Mecosta Counties.

**Recommendation #6 - *Early Antlerless Firearm Opportunity***

Provide an early firearm opportunity to harvest antlerless deer, the Department recommends an early antlerless season for all hunters for antlerless deer on private land in the 3 counties in the CWD Core Area, for a total of four days starting the Thursday prior to the second Saturday in October and for three days thereafter. The season will occur October 11 through October 14 for the 2018 hunting season. Eligible licenses would include the proposed expiring CWD Core Area antlerless license, regular antlerless licenses, as well as a deer license and a deer combination license good for any antlerless deer. All regulations for the firearm season apply.

**Recommendation #7 - *Open Muzzleloader Season to All Firearms in the 29 County CWD Management Zone Chronic Wasting Disease***

Increase opportunity to more hunters in the muzzleloader season by allowing the use of centerfire firearms, consistent with current firearm zone regulations, during Muzzleloader season, thus making a second firearms season. This regulation shall automatically extend to any counties added to the CWD Management Zone in the future and eliminated in any counties removed from the Zone.

**Recommendation #8 - *Core CWD Area***

Establish a 3 County Core CWD Area that includes Kent, Mecosta and Montcalm counties. The Department also recommends eliminating the current Core CWD Areas defined as DMUs 333 and 359.

**Recommendation #9 - *APR Exemption in CWD & TB Zones.***

All antlered tags are exempt from any APR, when used in counties located within the 29 County CWD Management Zone or in the TB Zone. This regulation shall automatically extend to any counties added to the CWD Management Zone in the future and eliminated in any counties removed from the Zone.

**Recommendation #10 - *Carcass Transportation.***

The Department recommends restricting carcass transportation, except for deboned meat, quarters or other parts of a cervid that do not have any part of the spinal column or head attached, antlers, antlers attached to a skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue, hides, upper canine, or finished taxidermy mounts outside of Clinton, Ingham, Ionia, Kent, Jackson, Montcalm and Mecosta Counties, unless the carcass has been submitted to a designated drop-off location within 24 hours of harvest for testing. These carcass transportation restrictions shall automatically extend to include any county upon the confirmed detection of CWD in any free ranging cervidae within it's boundaries.

### **Recommendation #11 - *Late Season Hunts***

Current regulations state that the Director may authorize a disease management hunt, lasting no longer than nine days between January 2 and March 31 where additional harvest is deemed necessary to meet disease management objectives. The Department recommends maintaining this regulation and recommends the Director authorize a disease management hunt based on surveillance goals that are supported by CWD management or if certain prevalence rates or thresholds are being exceeded.

### **Recommendation #12 - *Take of Either Sex on Deer License and Deer Combination License During Firearms Seasons***

Current regulations allow for individuals possessing a deer license to harvest an antlerless or antlered deer during firearms seasons in designated Core CWD Areas. In addition, hunters possessing a combination deer license can harvest an antlerless or antlered deer on both their regular tag or restricted tag. To maintain consistency and flexibility for hunters in how they use these licenses, extend this regulation in the 29 County CWD Management Zone. This regulation shall automatically extend to any counties added to the CWD Management Zone and be automatically eliminated in any county removed from the CWD Management Zone in the future.

### **Recommendation #13 - *Early/Late Antlerless Firearm Season***

Areas to be Open for Early and Late Antlerless Seasons The Department is recommending expansion of areas open to both the early and late antlerless seasons in the Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP) Region. Clare, Gladwin, Mason, and Osceola counties are recommended to be open for these seasons. The Department is also recommending expansion of areas open to the early antlerless seasons (both the established September dates as well as the proposed October dates) in the Southwest Lower Peninsula Region. Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Montcalm, Gratiot, Kent, Muskegon, and Ottawa counties are recommended to be open for the early antlerless season.

### **Recommendation #14 - *Rehabilitation of Deer***

The Department recommends updating existing regulations on the rehabilitation and movement of wild deer to continue to prevent the unintentional spread of CWD through the rehabilitation of deer, specifically:

- All wild deer, except fawns, positively confirmed to be from inside a county with a confirmed case of CWD shall not be possessed unless:
  - o Euthanized and sent or taken at the earliest possible time to the wildlife disease laboratory by direct arrangement with the wildlife disease laboratory or by arrangement with a local conservation officer, or
  - o Obtained by a permittee located inside a county with a confirmed case of CWD who humanely euthanizes the animal within 24 hours of receipt
- All wild fawns positively confirmed to be from inside a county with a confirmed case of CWD shall be possessed and released only if the capture and release point of the wild fawn is within a 10-mile radius of a licensed permittee Chronic Wasting Disease Regulations Wildlife Conservation All deer, except fawns, located outside of a confirmed county with CWD shall not be possessed unless:
  - o Euthanized and sent or taken at the earliest possible time to the wildlife disease laboratory by direct arrangement with the wildlife disease laboratory or by arrangement with a local conservation officer, or
  - o Obtained by a permittee located outside of a county with a confirmed case of CWD who humanely euthanizes the animal within 24 hours of receipt.
- All wild fawns located outside of a confirmed county with CWD shall not be moved to a county with a confirmed case of CWD and shall only be released in the county of origin
- All deer shall be released by October.

# Proposed CWD Regulation Areas

-  - 29 County CWD Management Zone
-  - 3 County Core CWD Area
-  - Baiting Ban & Carcass Transport Restriction Area

