

THE CONCERNED SPORTSMEN OF MICHIGAN

Dedicated to protecting and promoting Michigan's Whitetail Deer resource, through the promotion of responsible, science based policies and regulations.

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Hunter Retention, Antlerless Harvest, Antlered Buck Harvest

These are three metrics that we have been monitoring in the NLP, since APR's were implemented in the NW12 Counties. Attached are graphics updated with data from the 2016 Harvest Survey, displaying the changes that have occurred on a county by county basis.

There have been a number of claims made regarding the impact of mandatory APR's, speculating on the potential impact that such regulations have on these three metrics.

Virtually all of these claims, supposedly identifying causative trends, are based on comparisons of aggregate numbers, in which the combined totals from the NW12 Counties are compared to the combined totals from other groups of counties in the NLP, under other regulations. The narrative that have been put forth are that mandatory APR's will result in higher rates of hunter retention and increased levels of antlerless harvest.

As I have mentioned before, there are a large variety of factors that impact a hunters decisions on where to hunt and what type of deer to harvest and the fact is that there is no actual evidence that would support the idea that APR's are a primary influence in causing those decisions.

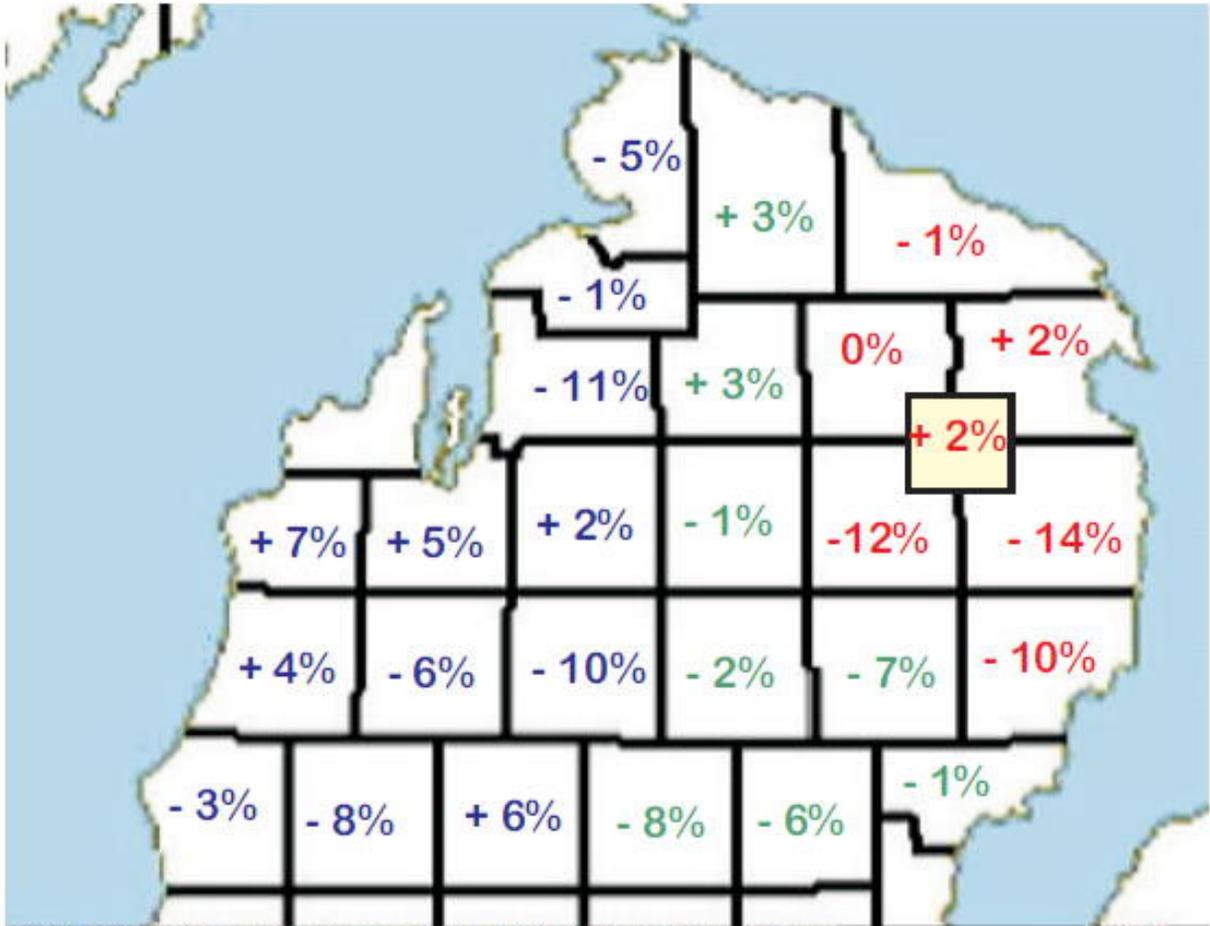
These graphics show, that when the presence or absence of mandatory APR's are looked at on a county by county basis, that there is clearly no readily identifiable trend associated with APR's that could be used in any way as a predictive measure of what the likely impact of such regulations may be, if applied to the counties in the TB zone in Michigan, with the exception that it's pretty clear that mandatory APR's depress levels of antlered buck harvest, which has clearly identified negative impacts on disease mitigation efforts.

It's important to dispel these myths, as they form the primary basis that has been suggested both by MDNR and QDMA, as to why these proposed APR's in the TB zone should be enacted.

The other side of the coin that needs to be repeated loudly and often, is that there are known negative biological impacts, in terms of limiting the potential spread of disease, which result from increased numbers of dispersing juvenile bucks and the creation of an advanced buck age structure, due to the significantly higher prevalence rates for bTB and CWD that are present in older bucks. Any policy that simply ignores those dangers, while anticipating results that have no actual basis in reality, is a bad policy.

Please look closely at the included graphics. These graphics depict the statistical changes that have occurred in the NW12 and the rest of the NLP, using the four years of data since mandatory APR's were put in place in the NW12 Counties, compared to a three year pre-APR baseline period. In all three of the metrics measured, there is simply too much variations from county to county, under each type of regulation, to support the idea that APR's are having any kind of major influence in shaping the changes that are occurring.

NLP Hunter participation trends

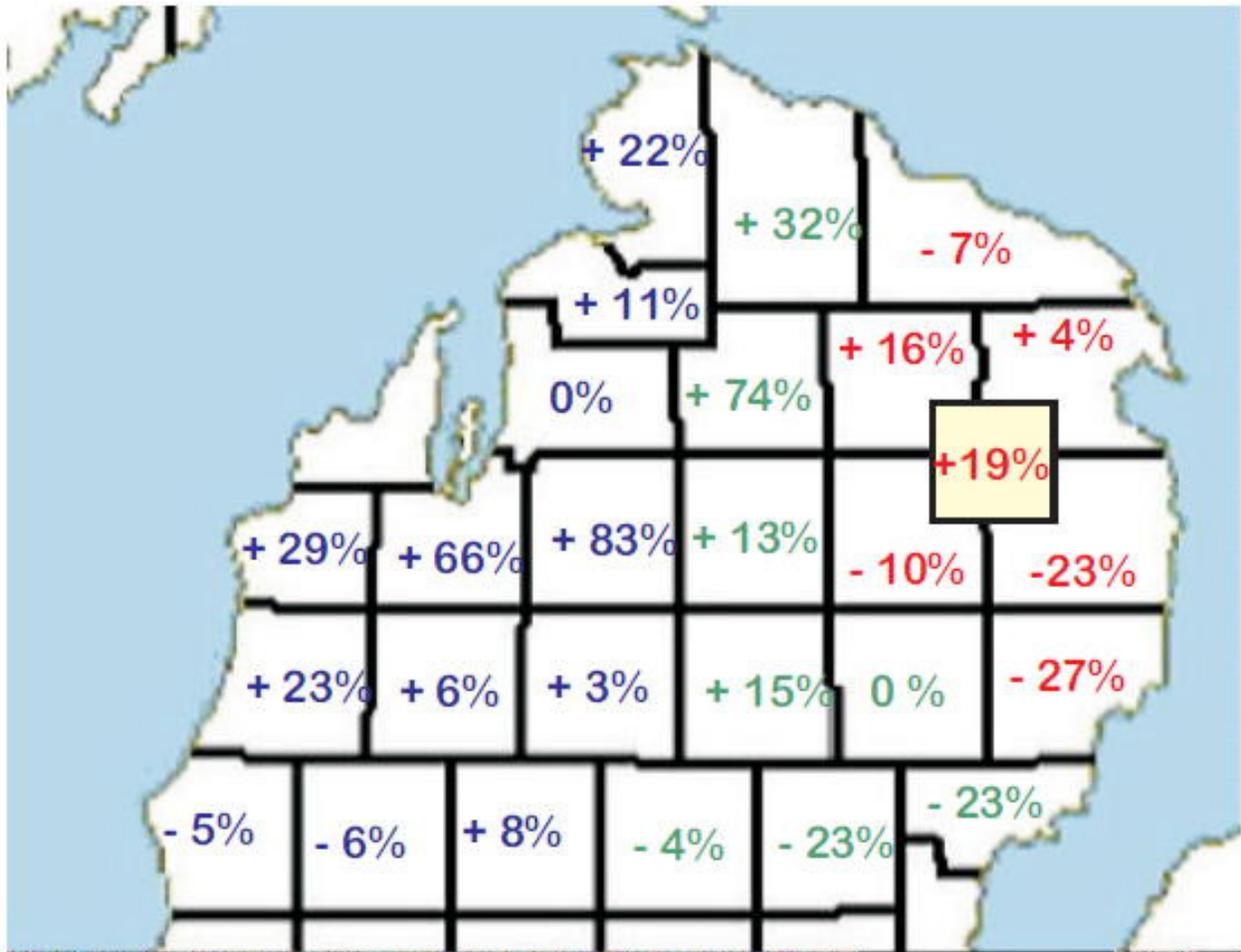


Change in hunter numbers since APR's were enacted in the NW12

Counties in Blue - APRs
Counties in Green - Non -APR
Counties in Red - HC APR's

Comparison of average of NW12 APR period to 3 year pre-APR baseline.
Data compiled from MDNR annual hunter survey reports 2010 - 2016.

NLP Antlerless Harvest trends

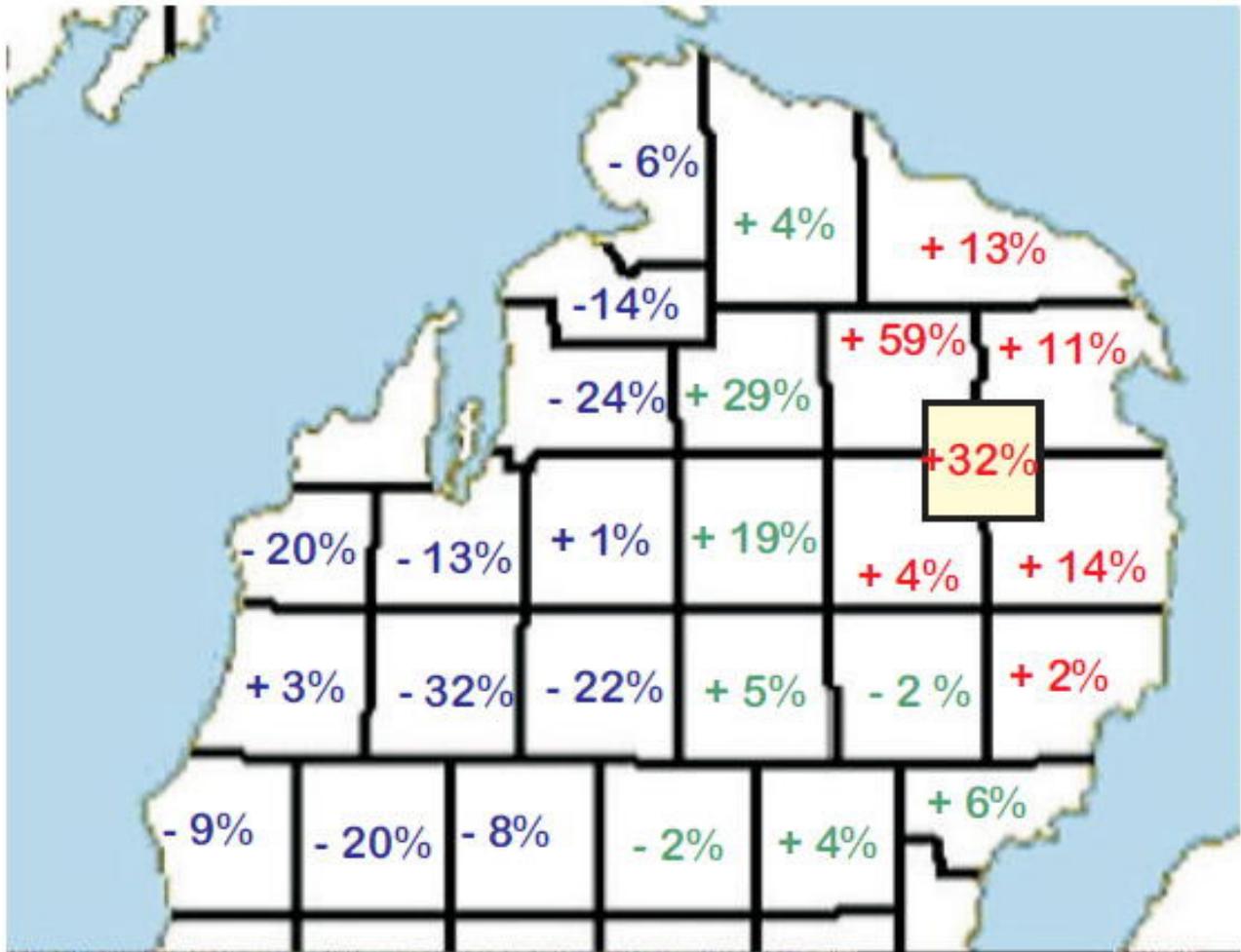


Change in Antlerless harvest since APR's were enacted in the NW12

- Counties in Blue - APRs
- Counties in Green - Non -APR
- Counties in Red - HC APR's

Comparison of average of NW12 APR period to 3 year pre-APR baseline. Data compiled from MDNR annual hunter survey reports 2010 - 2016.

NLP Antlered Harvest trends



Change in Antlered Buck harvest since APR's were enacted in the NW12

Counties in Blue - APRs
 Counties in Green - Non -APR
 Counties in Red - HC APR's

Comparison of average of NW12 APR period to 3 year pre-APR baseline. Data compiled from MDNR annual hunter survey reports 2010 - 2016.