



New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection

Fish & Wildlife

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Results of the 2022-23 New Jersey Deer Season



Considerations for 2022 reduced harvest

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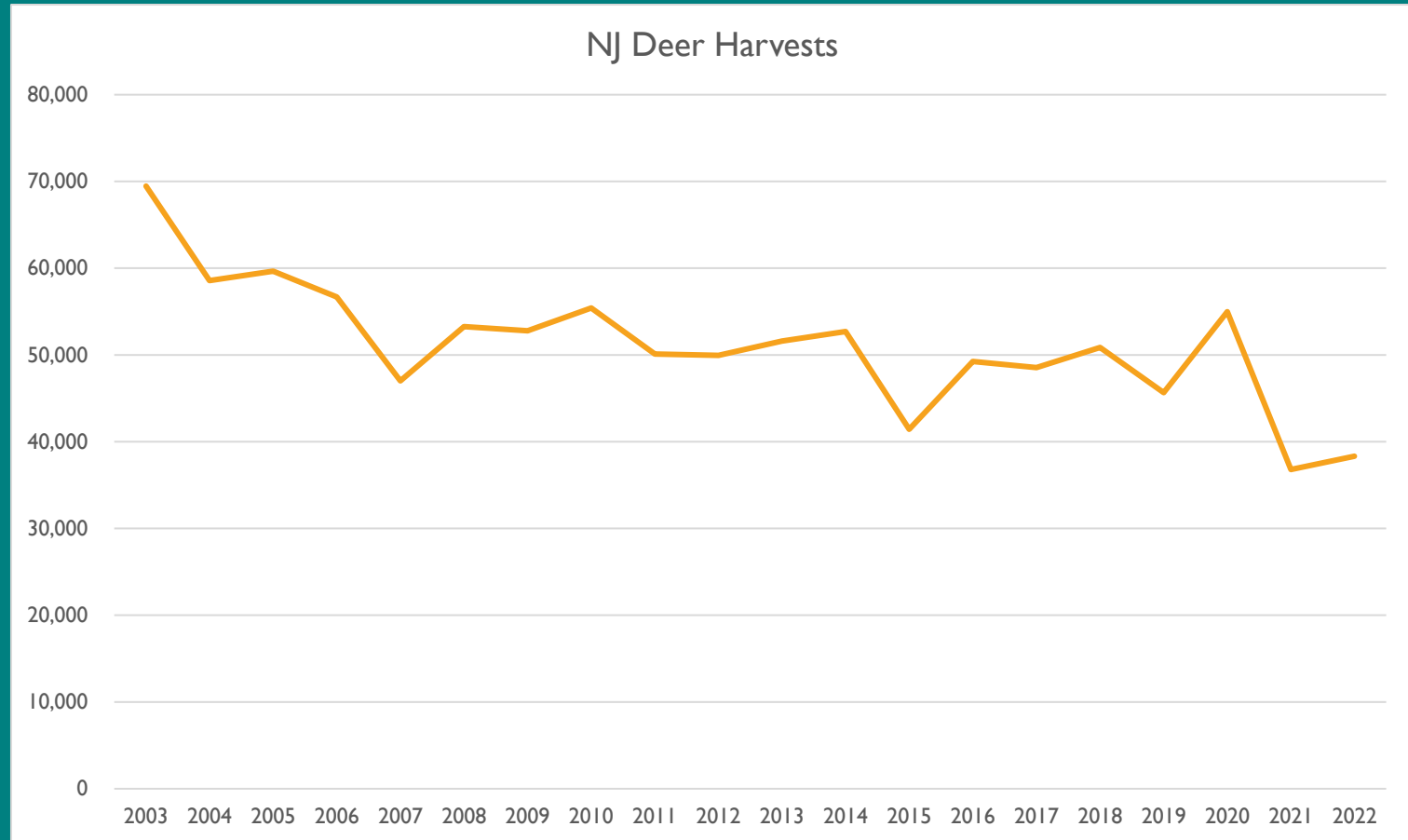
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- Dry fall, except for Ian; rain end of 6-day Firearm;
January – mildest on record; February – 5th
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Considerations for 2022 reduced harvest

- Effect of high harvest in 2020-21
- EHD – localized impacts, *but...*
- Exaggerated mortality reports affect hunter behavior?
- Dry fall, except for Ian; rain end of 6-day Firearm;
January – mildest on record; February – 5th
mildest
- Increased harvest for each season except Permit
Shotgun and Winter Bow.
 - January Permit Shotgun -8%
 - February Permit Shotgun -13%
 - Winter Bow -11%
 - Warm weather possible factor in hunter and
deer behavior

2022-23 Total Deer Harvest: 38,324



5 yr. average: 45,320

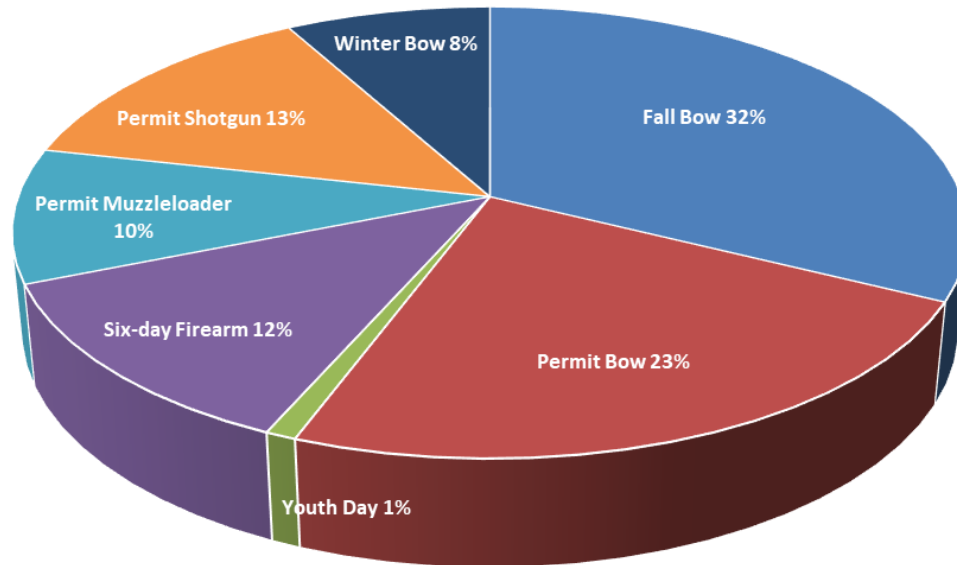
2022-23 Total Deer Harvest

	Overall Harvest Comparison							
	Fall Bow	Permit Bow	6-Day Firearm	Permit Muzzle-loader	Permit Shotgun	Winter Bow	Youth Hunt Days	Total
2022	12395	8958	4697	3692	5142	3092	348	38,324
2021	10,867	8,937	4,237	3,555	5,397	3,474	320	36,787
% difference	14.1%	0.2%	10.9%	3.9%	-4.7%	-11.0%	8.8%	4.2%
N difference	1,528	21	460	137	-255	-382	28	1,537

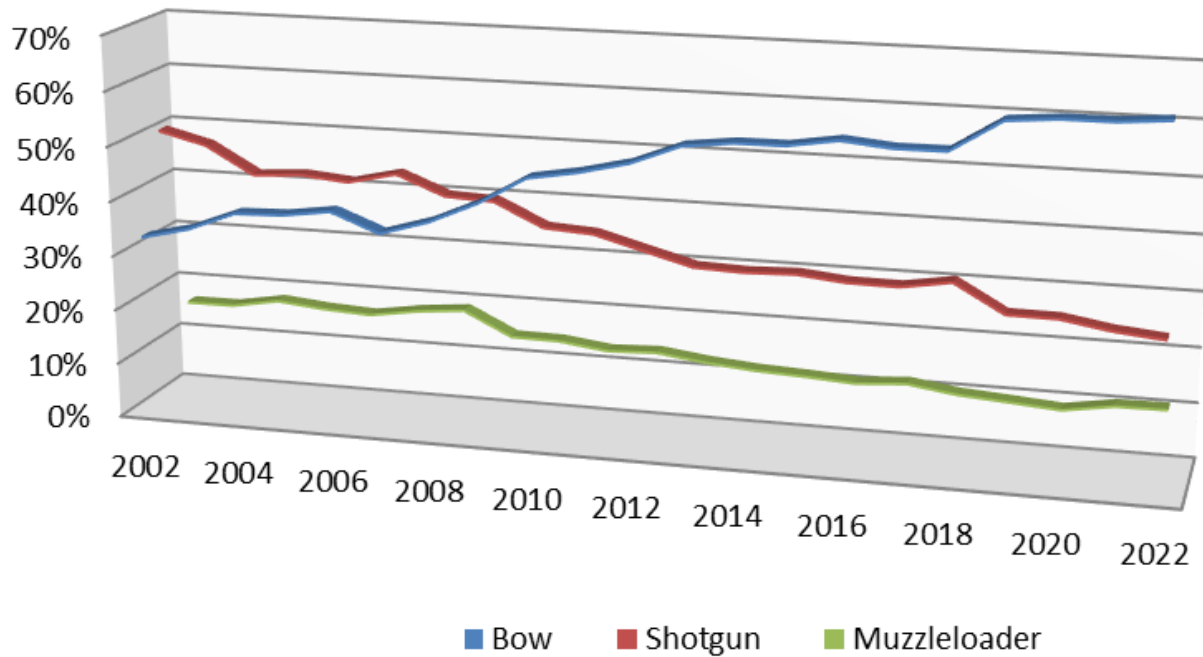
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2022-23 Deer Harvest by Season Percentage

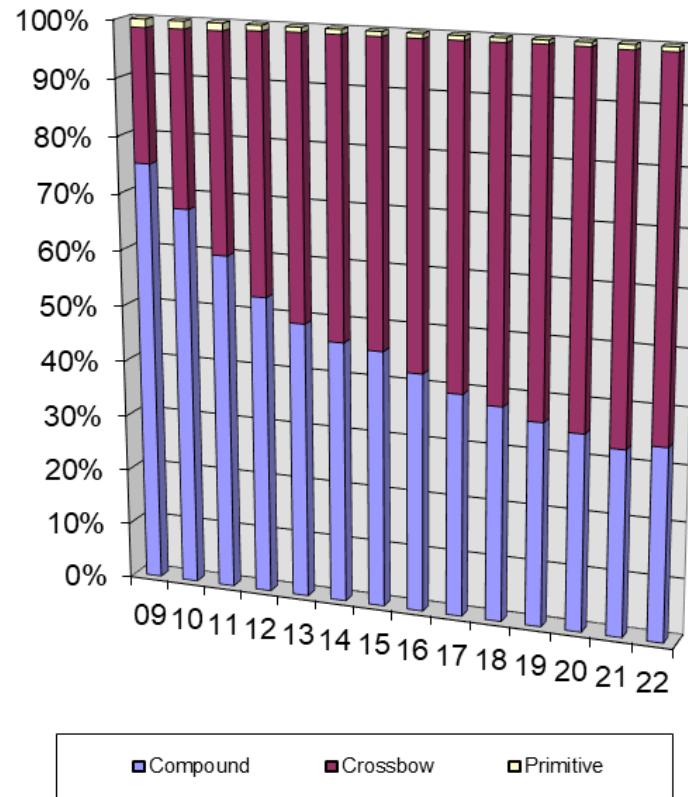


Weapon Percentages of Total Harvest



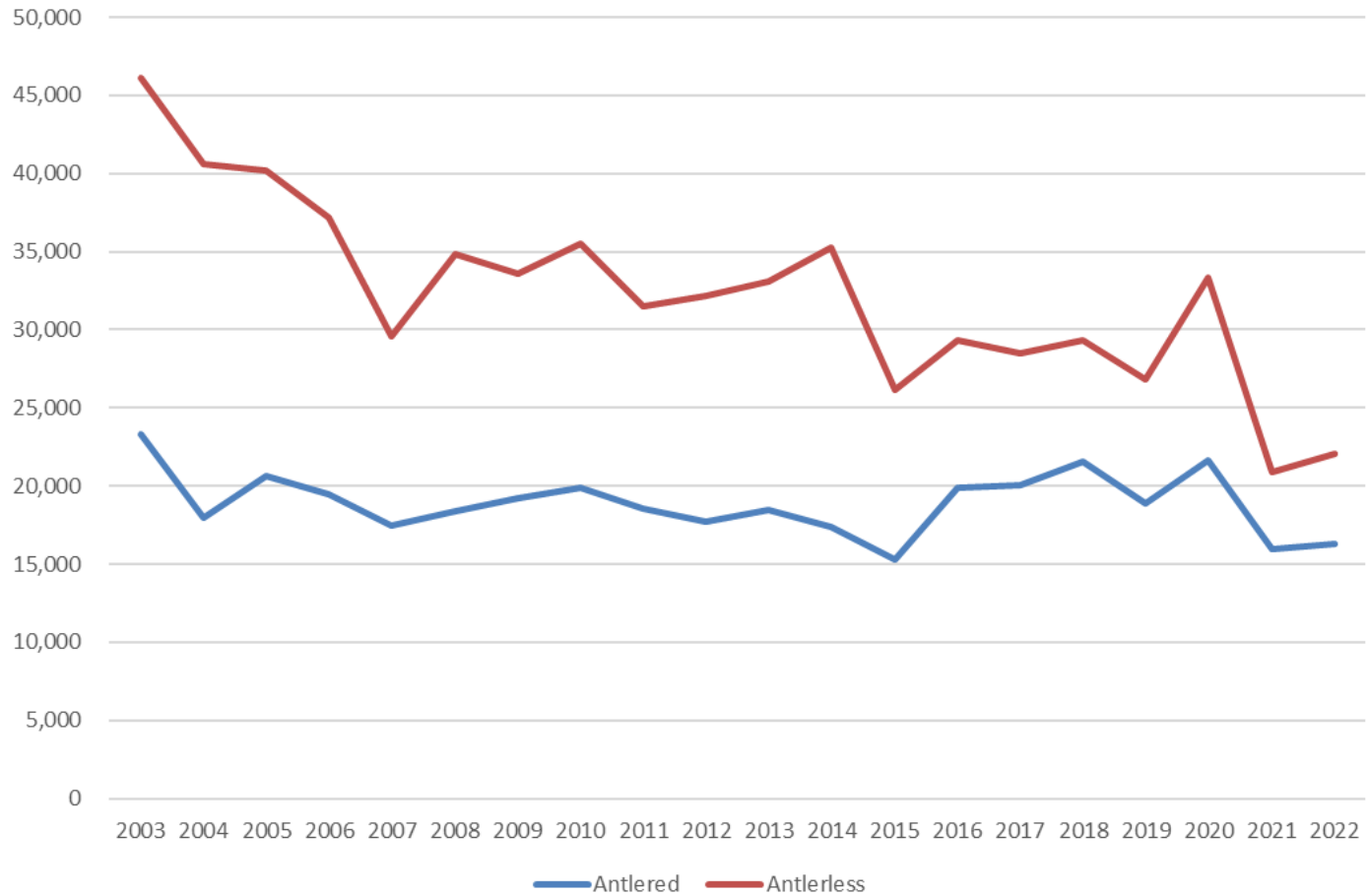
2022: 24,717 9689 3,918
percent of total harvest 64% 26% 10%

Bow Deer Harvest Trends



Percent of bow harvest 2022: 34% 65% 0.7%

Antlered vs Antlerless Deer Harvest



16,289

-2.5%

-393

22,035

+5.5%

+1,144

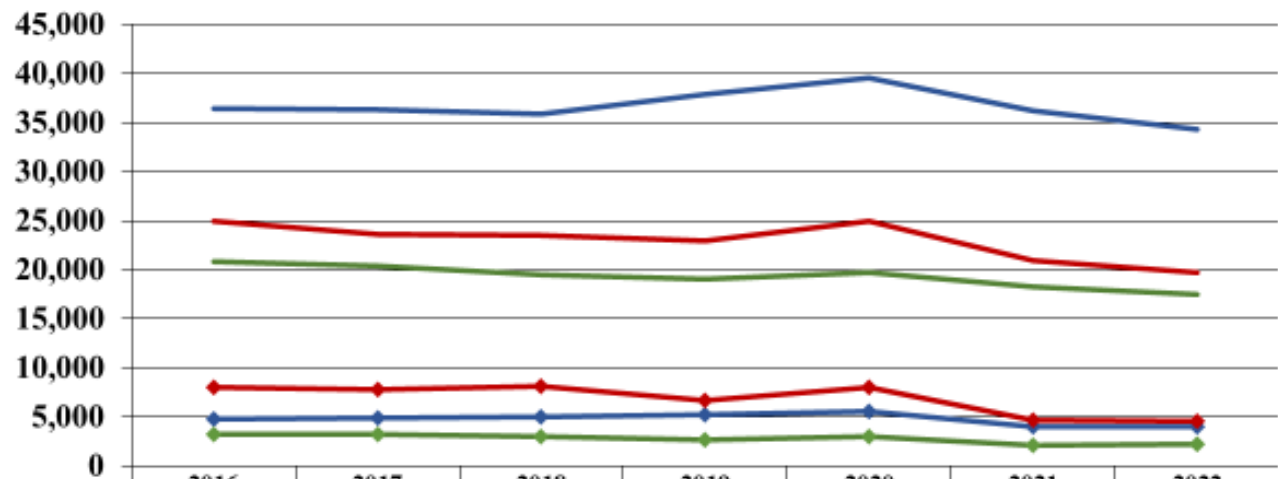
2023 Community Based Deer Management Permit Kills

Bernards, Somerset County			Essex County Parks			Princeton, Mercer County			Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst			Mercer County Parks		
Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
0	6	6	37	115	152	45	80	125	0	0	0	16	54	70

2023 CBDMP total = 353

2022 CBDMP Total = 196

All Deer Management Zones – Permit Sales (Antlerless Only) vs. Harvest (Antlerless Only)



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Bow	36,493	36,377	35,860	37,935	39,590	36,254	34,334
Shotgun	24,995	23,614	23,533	22,947	24,975	20,913	19,763
Muzzleloader	20,863	20,412	19,500	19,039	19,695	18,274	17,458
Bow Antlerless Harvest	4853	4939	5048	5290	5566	4063	4007
Shotgun Antlerless Harvest	8030	7857	8185	6663	7988	4647	4526
Muzzleloader Antlerless Harvest	3265	3258	3053	2662	3002	2169	2279

Total Antlerless Permits: 71,555

-5%

34,334

-5%

19,763

-5%

17,458

-4%

Total Antlerless Harvest: 10,812

-1%

4,007

-1%

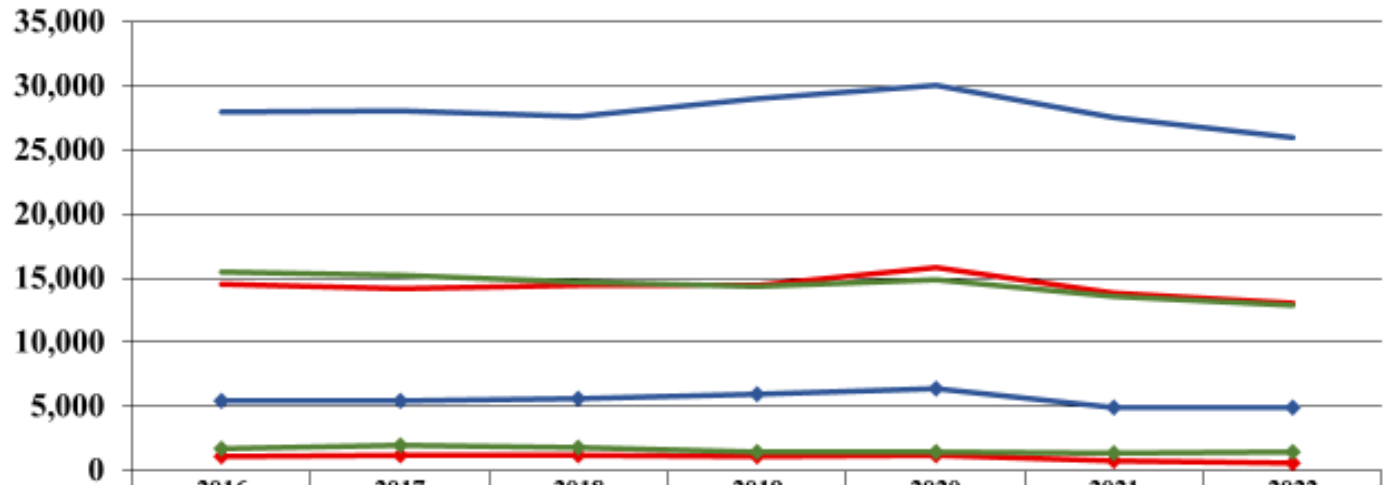
4,526

-3%

2,279

+5%

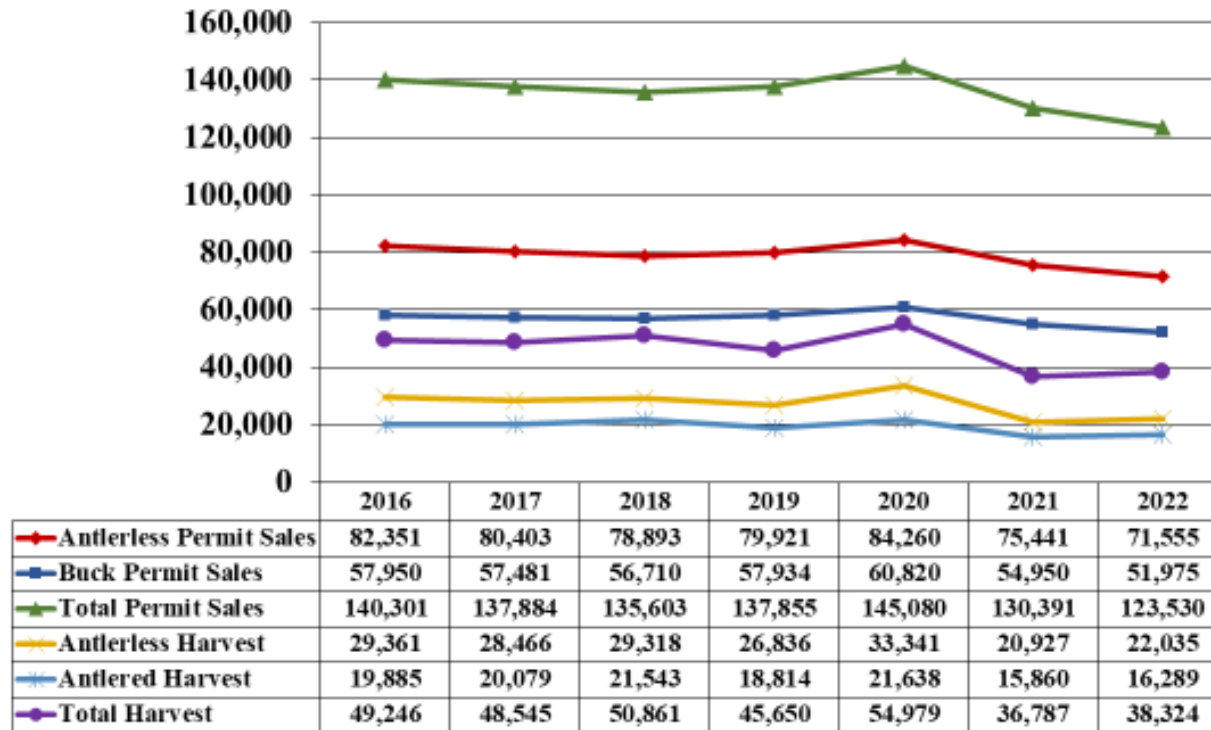
All Deer Management Zones – Buck Permit Sales vs. Antlered Harvest



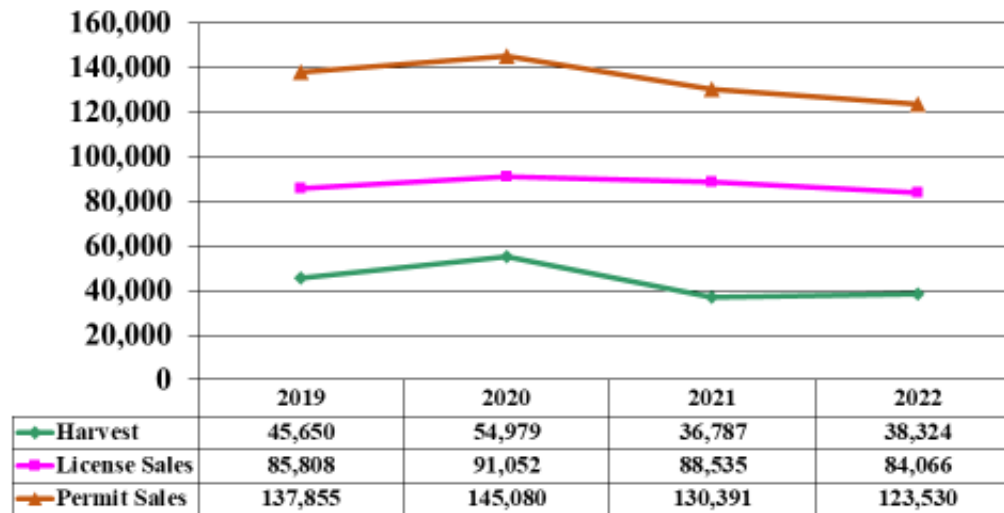
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Bow Buck Permit Sales	27,958	28,069	27,603	29,038	30,097	27,527	26,007
Shotgun Buck Permit Sales	14,504	14,157	14,408	14,491	15,803	13,848	13,056
Muzzleloader Buck Permit Sales	15,488	15,255	14,699	14,405	14,920	13,575	12,912
Bow Antlered Harvest	5394	5463	5601	5933	6391	4875	4951
Shotgun Antlered Harvest	1134	1151	1189	1094	1169	750	616
Muzzleloader Antlered Harvest	1670	1967	1759	1464	1486	1386	1413

Total Buck Permits:	51,975	26,007	13,056	12,912
	-5%	-6%	-6%	-5%
Total Antlered Harvest:	6,980	4,951	616	1,413
	-1%	+2%	-18%	+2%

All Deer Management Zones – Buck Permit Sales vs. Antlerless Permit Sales

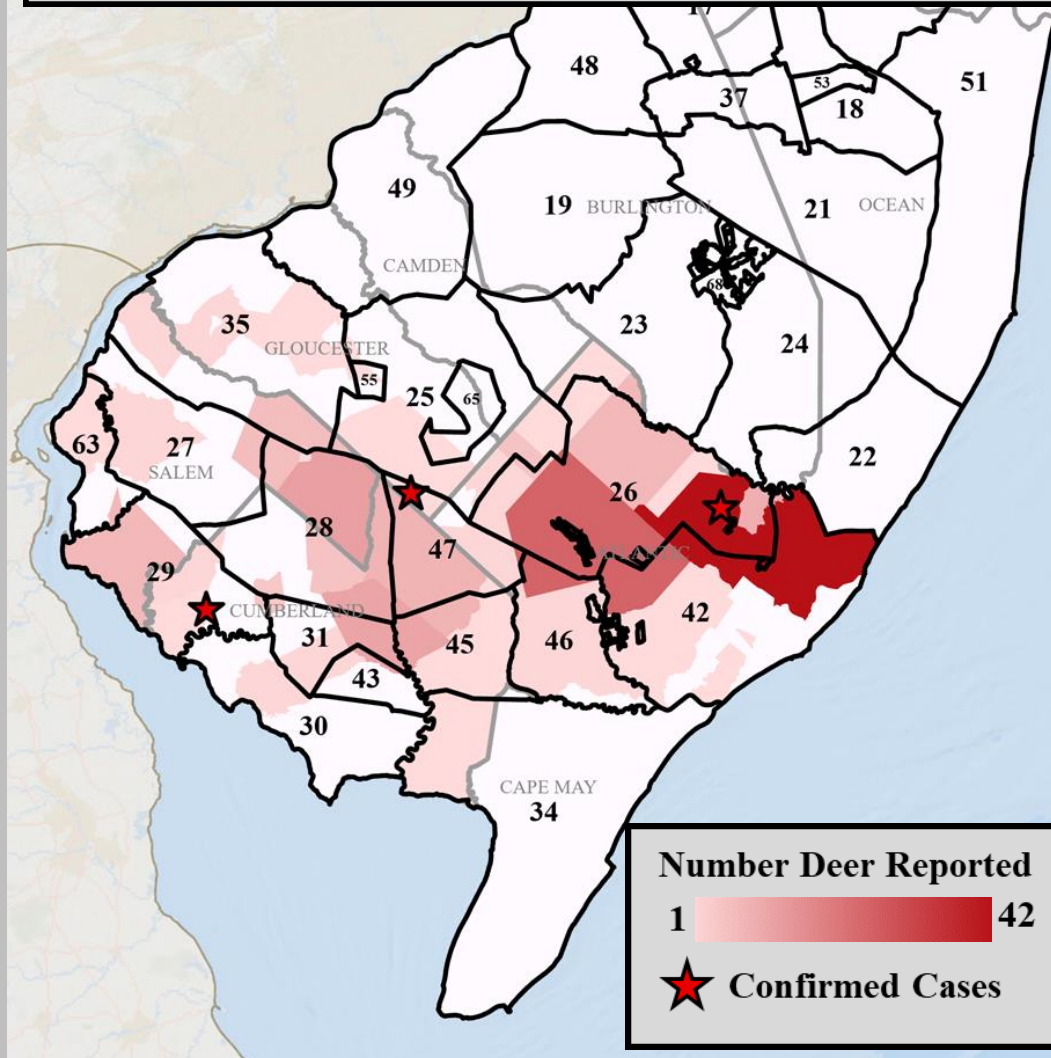


Total Harvest vs. Hunting License and Permit Sales



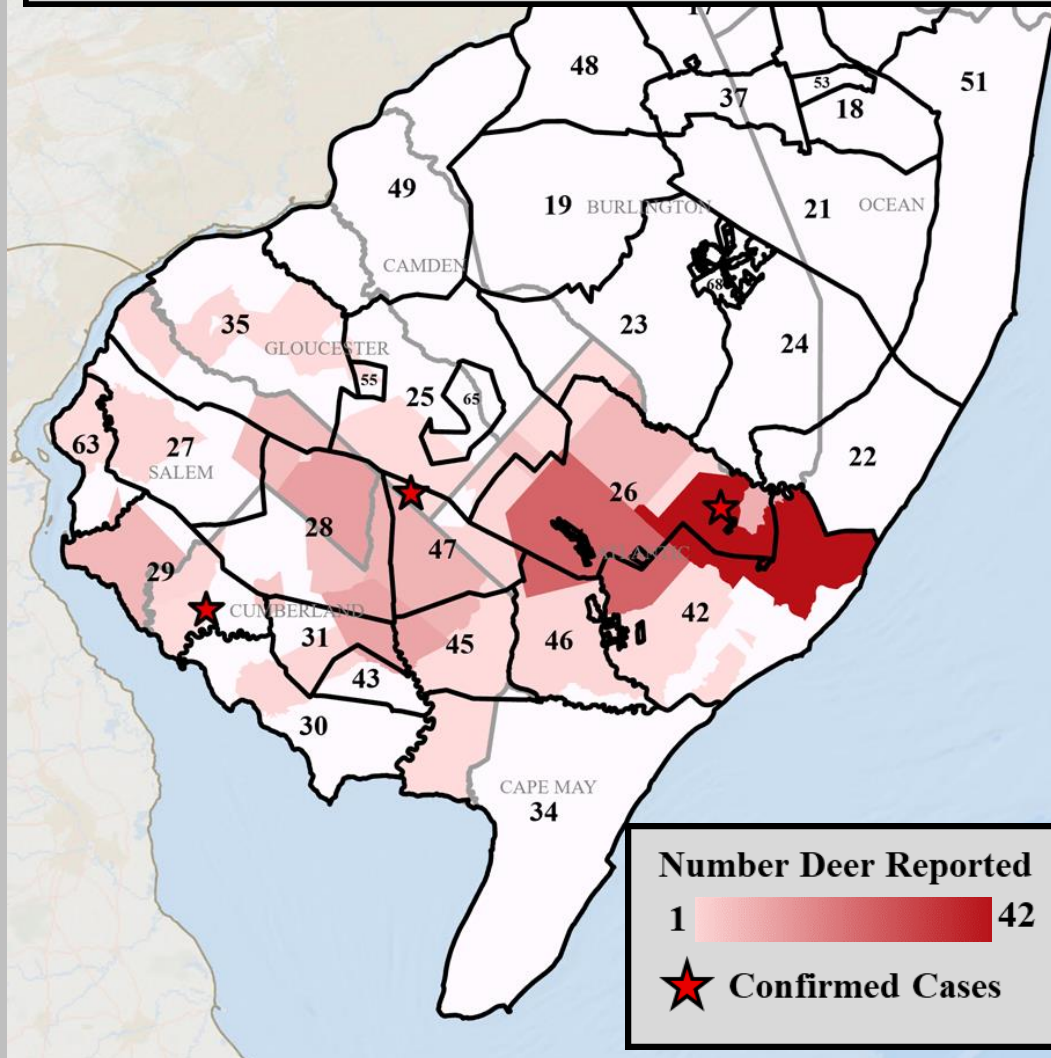
Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports – April 4, 2023, report: Hunting license sales back to pre-pandemic levels.

2022 Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Reports of Number of Dead Deer by New Jersey Township



County	Total Deer Reported	Confirmed Positive
Atlantic	111	X
Cumberland	50	X
Gloucester	11	X
Salem	26	
Total	198	

2022 Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Reports of Number of Dead Deer by New Jersey Township



DMZ harvest possibly
impacted by EHD

26* -41%

28 -29%

29* -6%

43 -39%

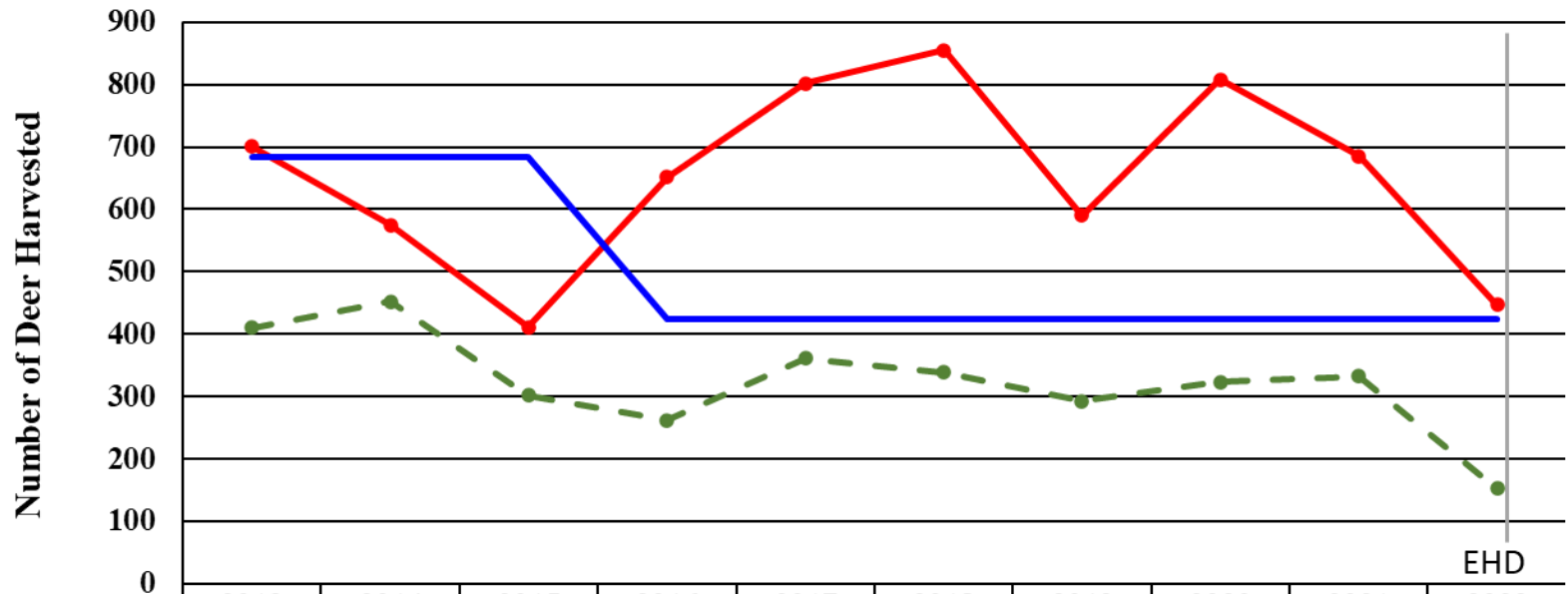
45 -67%

46 -51%

47* -48%

Deer Management Zone 26

Deer Range = 212 sq. mi.



EHD

Reg Set 2

Buck goal = 2.0 bucks per square mile

Strategy = Increase

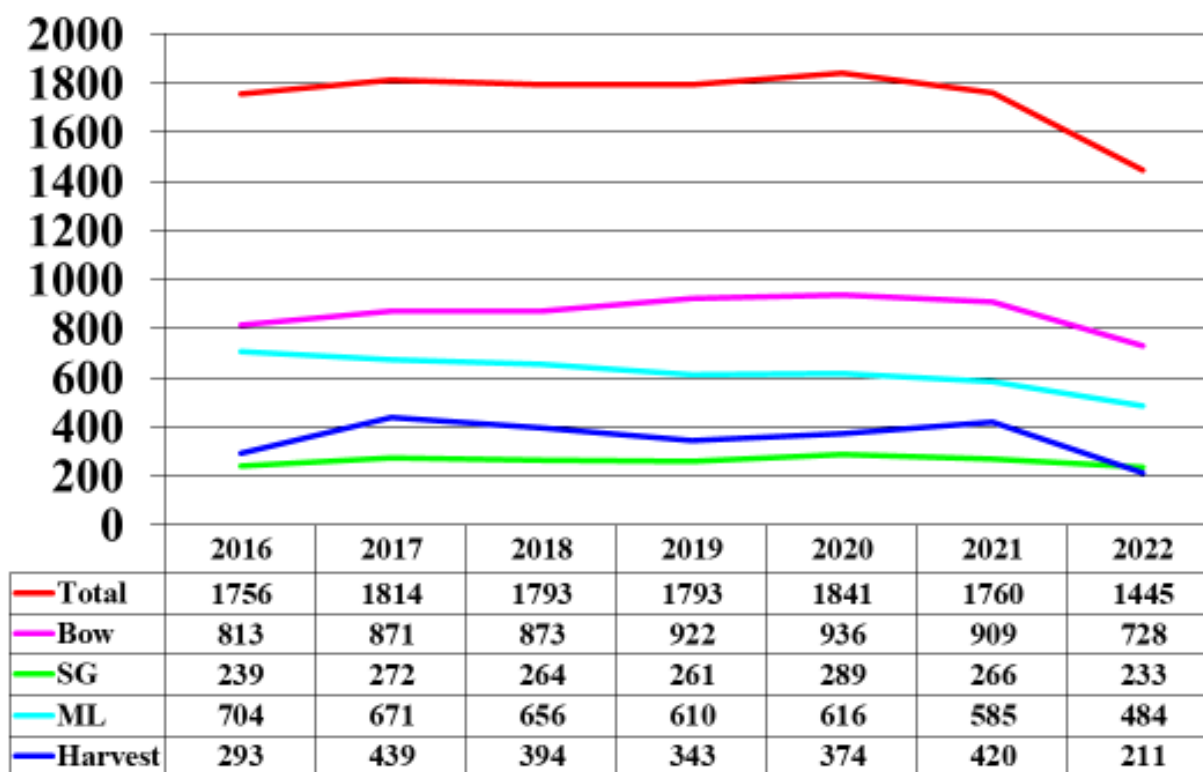
2009: Reg Set changed from Set 4 to Set 3

2016: Reg Set Changed from Set 3 to Set 2

2017: 17 sq. miles of deer range added due to boundary change with Zone 42.

2022: EHD

Permit Sales (Antlerless Only) Vs. Permit Harvest Zone 26

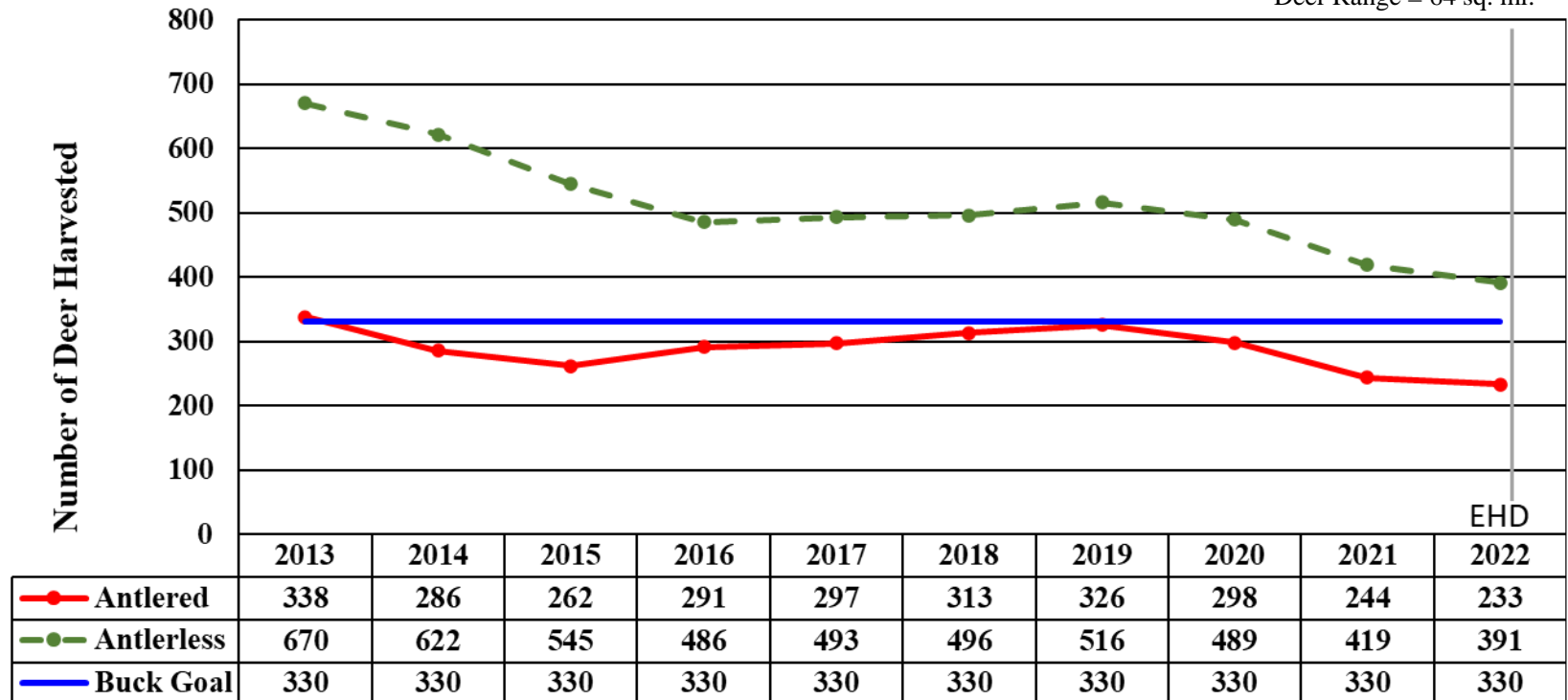


Antlerless Permit Sales: -18%

Permit Harvest: -50%

Deer Management Zone 29

Deer Range = 64 sq. mi.



Reg Set 5

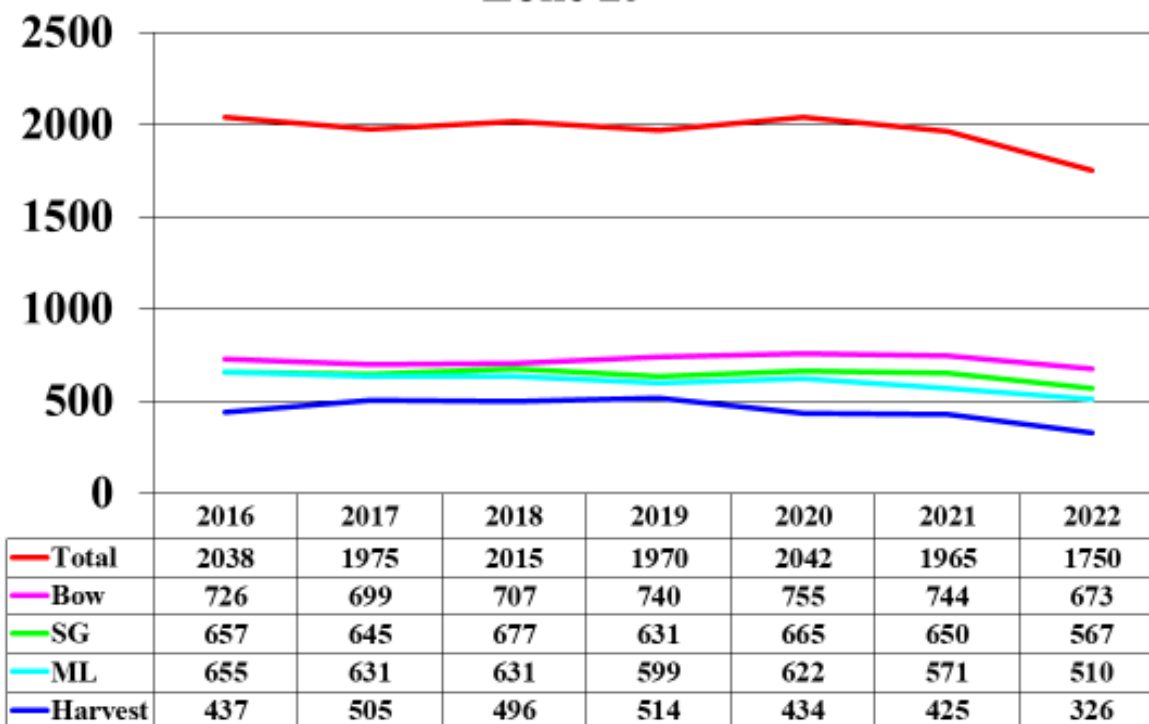
Buck goal = 5.0 bucks per square mile

Strategy = Stabilize

Since 2000: Antler Point
Restrictions

2022: EHD

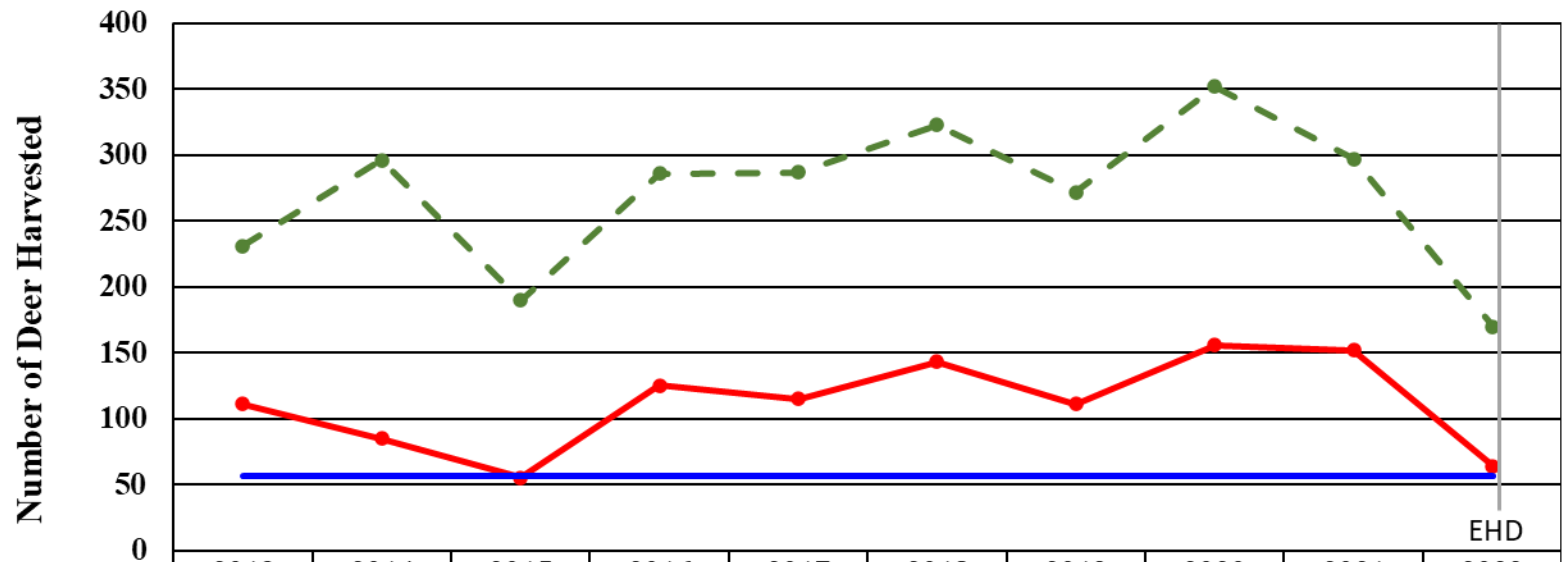
Permit Sales (Antlerless Only) Vs. Permit Harvest Zone 29



Antlerless Permit Sales: -10%
Permit Harvest: -23%

Deer Management Zone 47

Deer Range = 54 sq. mi.



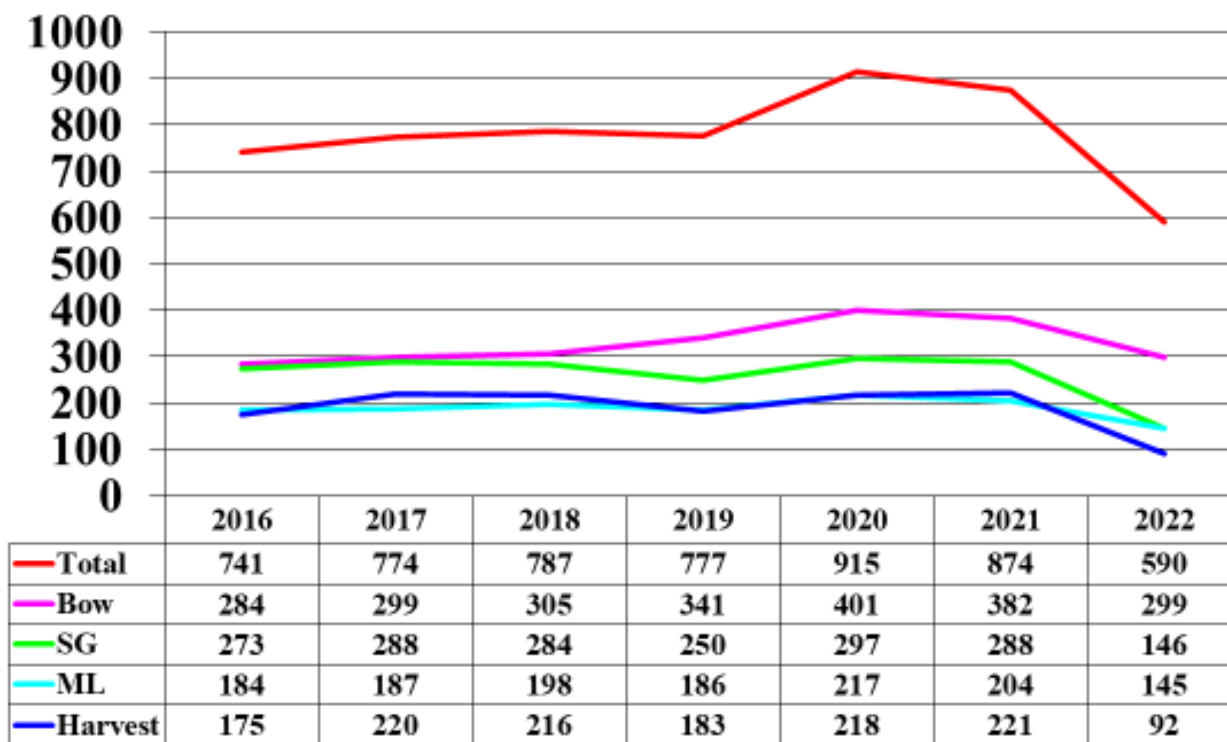
Reg Set 5

Buck goal = 1.03 bucks per square mile

Strategy = Decrease

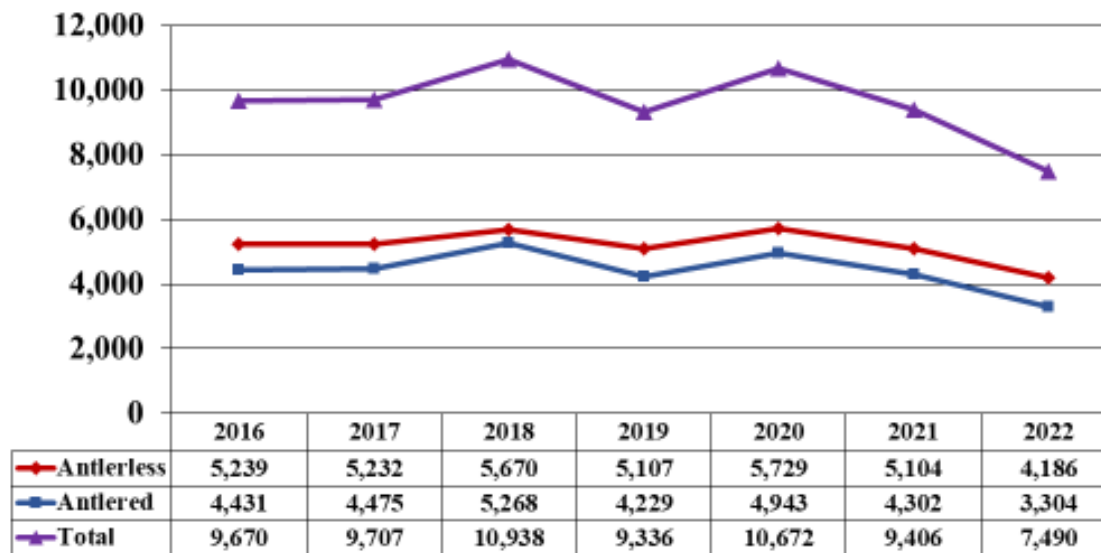
2011: Antler Point
Restrictions
2022: EHD

Permit Sales (Antlerless Only) Vs. Permit Harvest Zone 47



Antlerless Permit Sales: -32%
Permit Harvest: -58%

Southern Deer Management Zones Antlerless Harvest vs. Antlered Harvest 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 55, 61, 63, 65, 66



Southern Zones Total Harvest:

2021 – 9,406

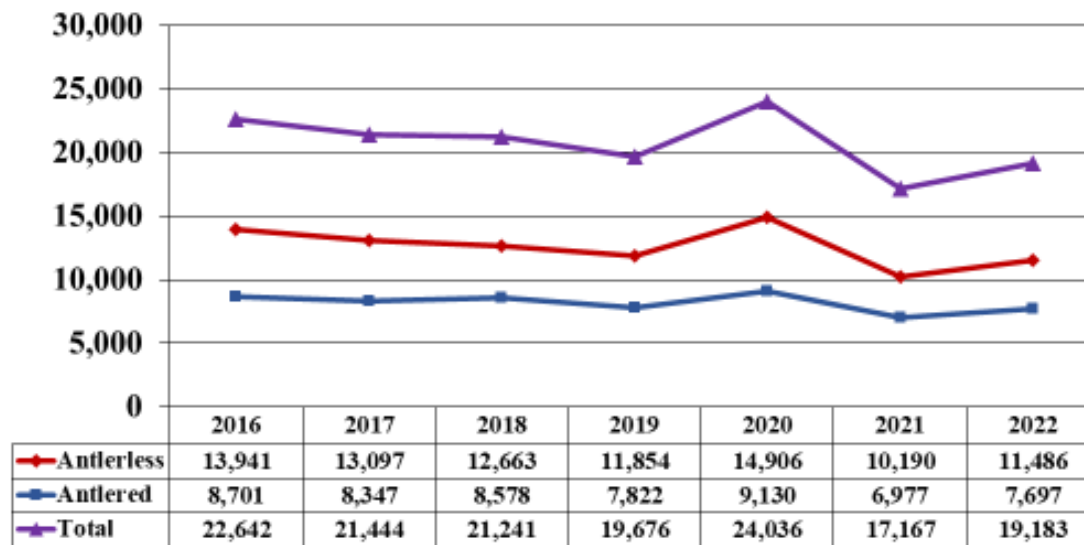
2022 – 7,490

-20%

Northern Deer Management Zones

Antlerless Harvest vs. Antlered Harvest

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 36, 38, 54, 67

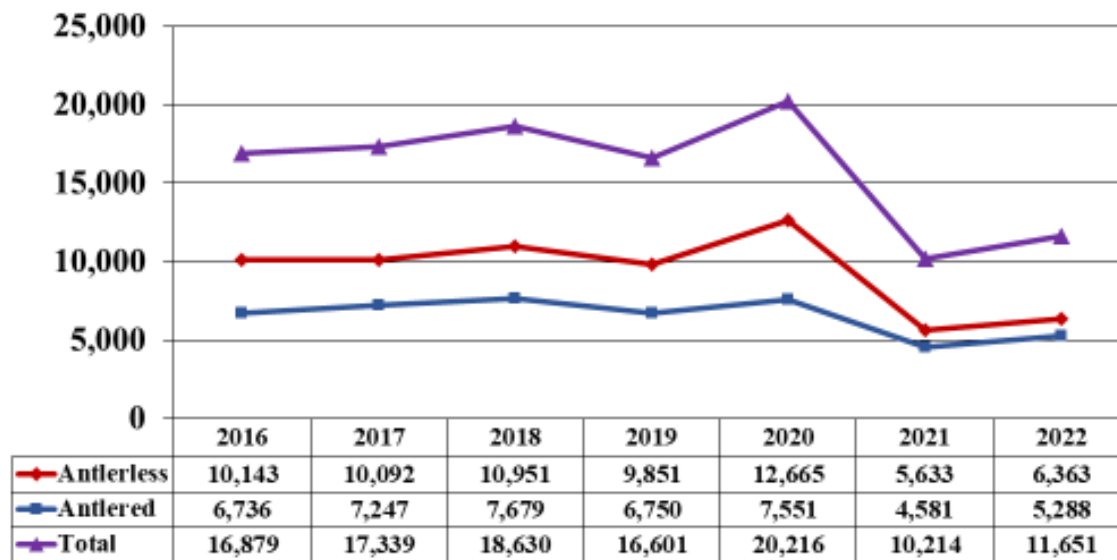


Northern Zones Total Harvest:
 2021 – 17,167
 2022 – 19,183
 +12%

Central Deer Management Zones

Antlerless Harvest vs. Antlered Harvest

14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 37, 39, 41, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 64, 68



Central Zones Total Harvest:

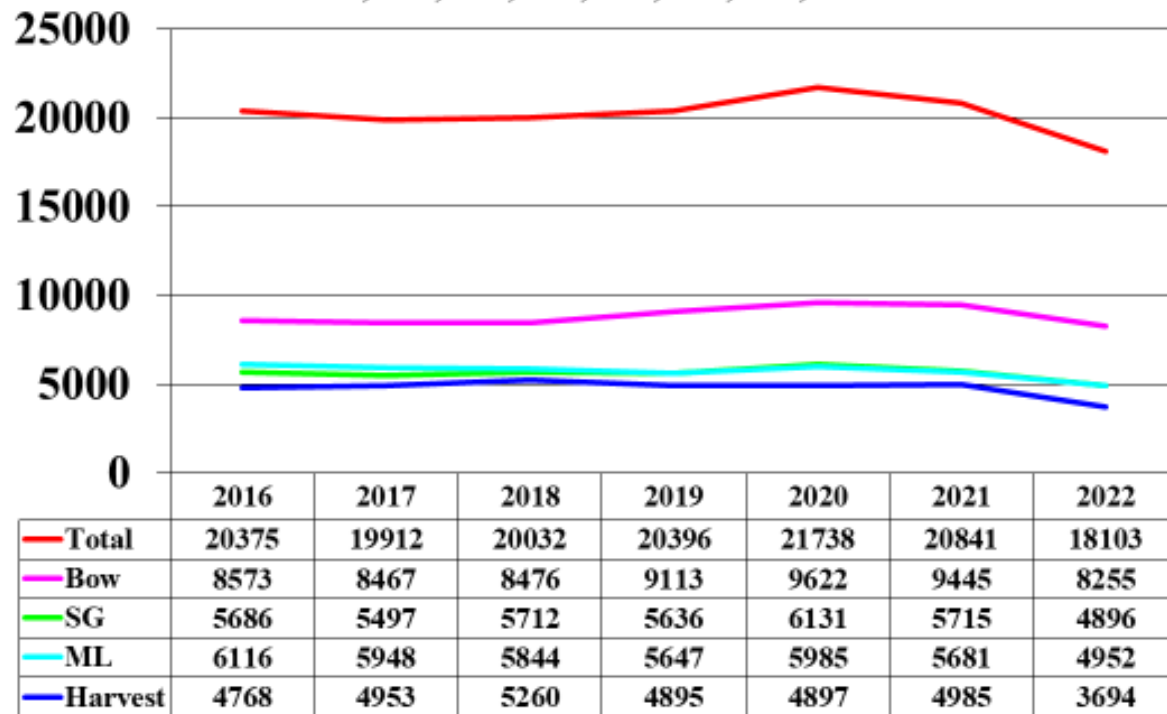
2021 – 10,214

2022 – 11,651

+14%

Southern Zone Permit Sales (Antlerless Only) Vs. Permit Harvest

25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 42, 43,
45, 46, 47, 55, 61, 63, 65, 66



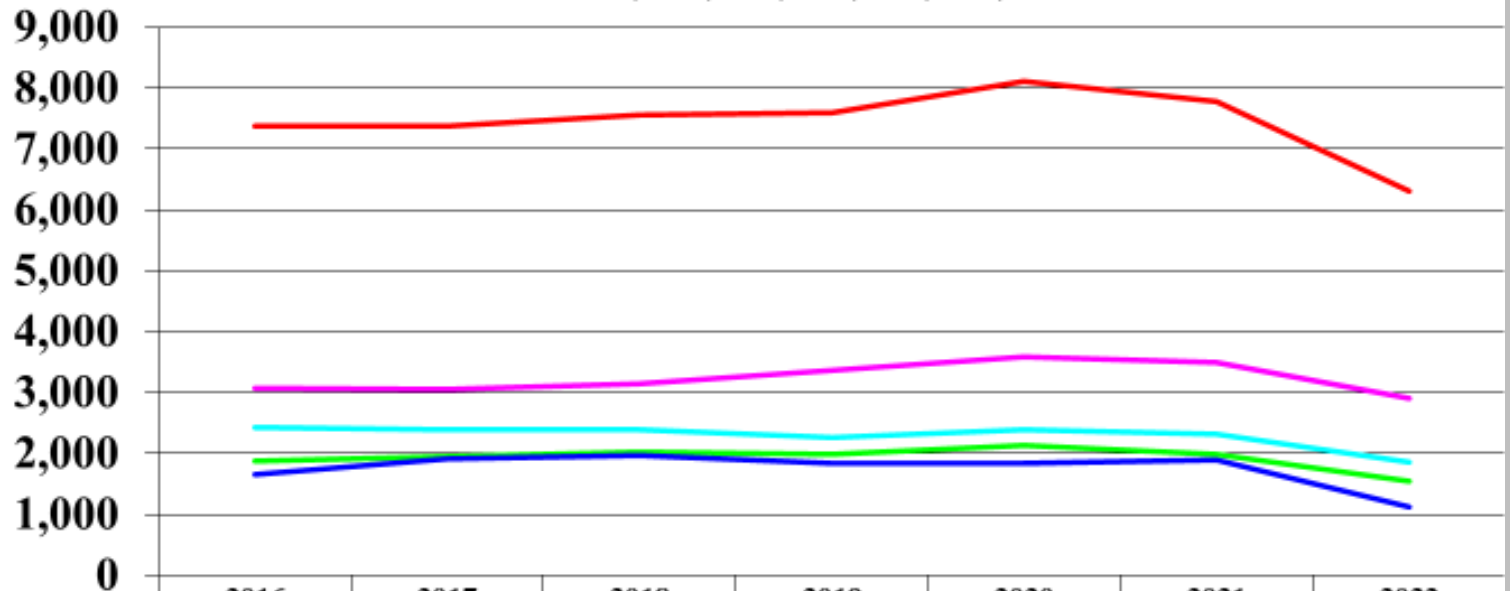
Total Permit Sales: -13%

Total Permit Harvest: -25%

EHD Affected Zones

Permit Sales (Antlerless Only) Vs. Permit Harvest

EHD Affected Zones: 26, 28, 29, 43, 45, 56, 47

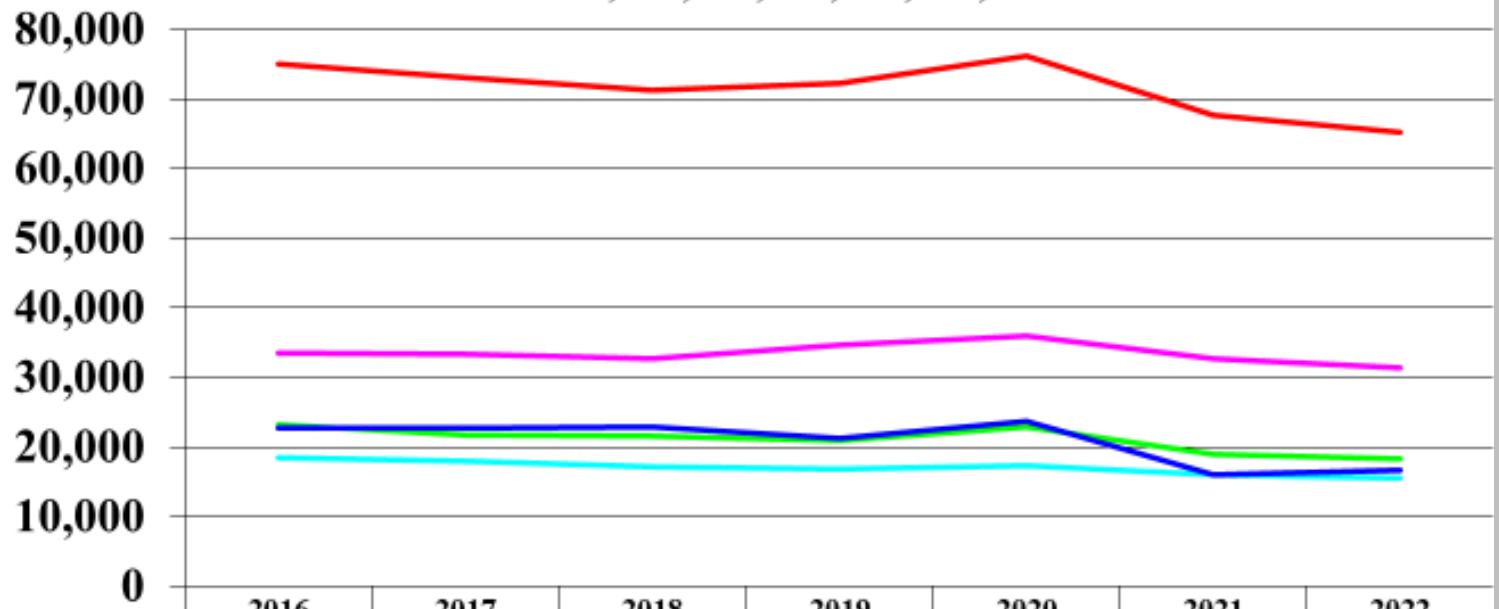


	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
EHD Total Permit Sales	7,372	7,380	7,553	7,600	8,109	7,784	6,306
EHD Bow Permit Sales	3,073	3,053	3,145	3,355	3,585	3,495	2,897
EHD SG Permit Sales	1,867	1,945	2,021	1,987	2,133	1,981	1,544
EHD ML Permit Sales	2,432	2,382	2,387	2,258	2,391	2,308	1,865
EHD Permit Season Harvest	1,647	1,913	1,964	1,832	1,840	1,901	1,125

EHD Unaffected Zones

Permit Sales (Antlerless Only) Vs. Permit Harvest

EHD Affected Zones: 26, 28, 29, 43, 45, 56, 47



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
non-EHD Total Permit Sales	74,979	73,023	71,340	72,321	76,151	67,657	65,249
non-EHD Bow Permit Sales	33,420	33,324	32,715	34,580	36,005	32,759	31,437
non-EHD SG Permit Sales	23,128	21,669	21,512	20,960	22,842	18,932	18,219
non-EHD ML Permit Sales	18,431	18,030	17,113	16,781	17,304	15,966	15,593
non-EHD Permit Season Harvest	22,699	22,722	22,871	21,274	23,762	15,989	16,667

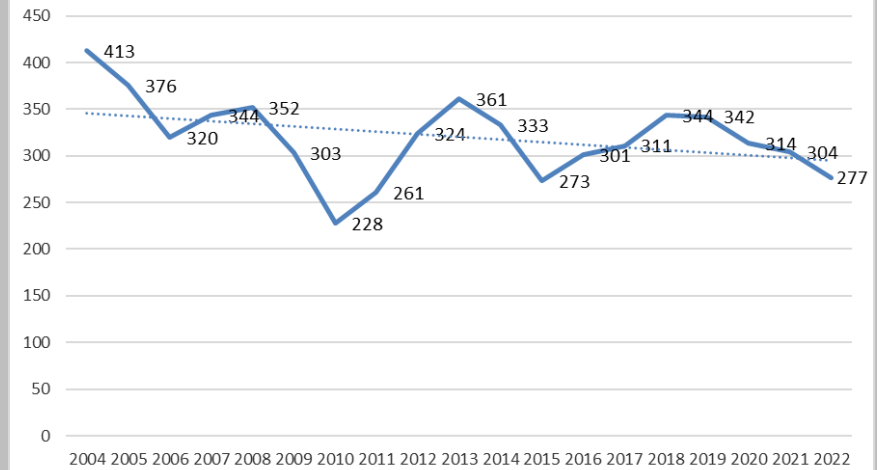
Farmer Depredation Permits In EHD affected DMZs

	2020		2021		2022	
Permit Zone	Total Permits	Total Cull	Total Permits	Total Cull	Total Permits	Total Cull
26*	7	23	5	12	5	44
28	2	1	1	0	4	2
29*	7	24	8	19	7	0
29*/30	0	0	1	0	1	0
47*/28	0	0	1	0	0	0
Grand Total	16	48	16	31	17	46

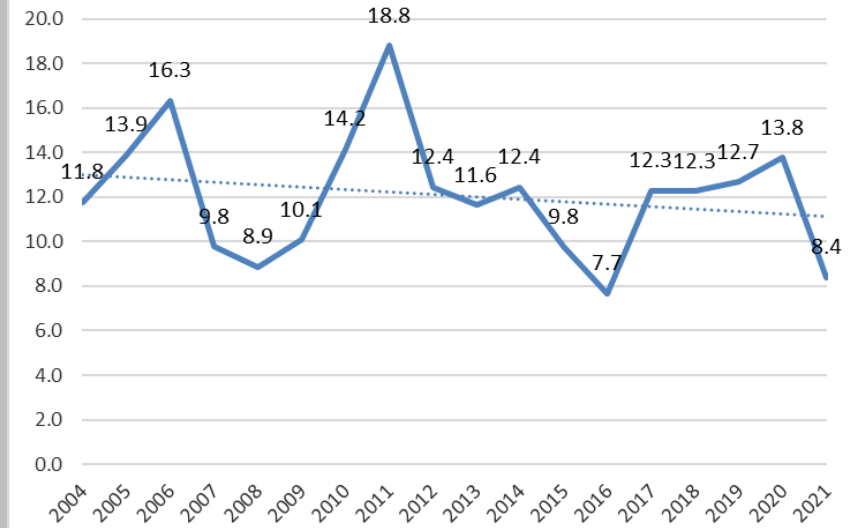
* EHD 2022

Average 3 deer killed per permit

Number of Deer Depredation Permits Issued by Year

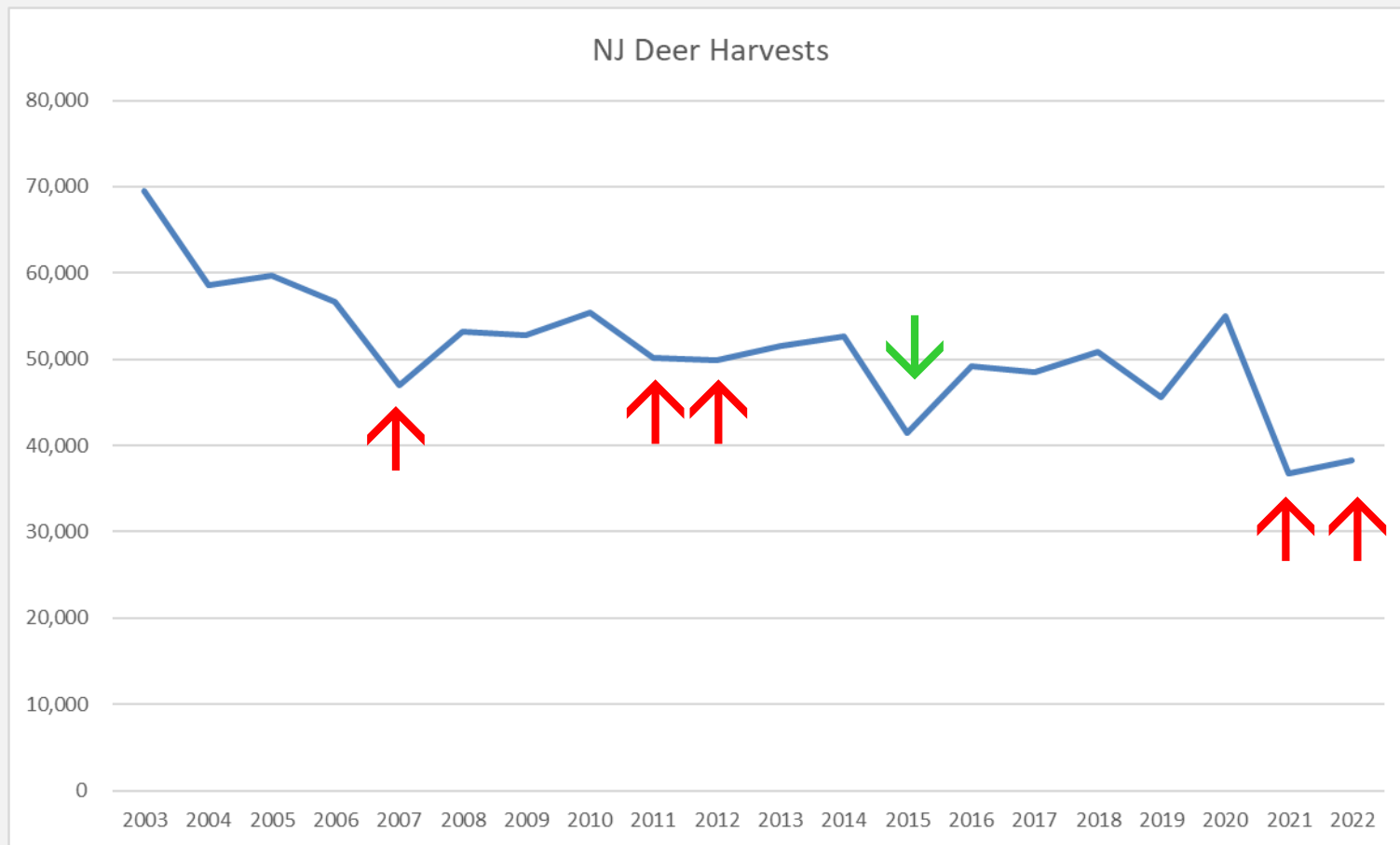


Deer Killed per Depredation Permit by Year



Years with EHD outbreaks:

2007
2011
2012
2021
2022



Year with significant mast production: 2015

Spotlight Count - Galloway Township, Atlantic County

Number of Deer

- 1 - 3
- 4 - 7
- 8 - 12
- 13 - 19
- 20 - 23

Variable	Estimate	95% Confidence Interval
Density	36.22	21.81 , 60.16
Group Size	3.43	2.79 , 4.21
Group Density	10.56	6.60 , 16.89
Total Herd*	2,494.00	1,501.88 , 4,141.41

* (Density) x (Galloway Twp Area excluding salt marshes & bay; 68.84sqmi)

Summary of Survey

Largest Herd Size	23
Mean Herd Size	4.75
Median Herd Size	3
Linear Miles Surveyed	56.32

Questions?