

2021

HUNTING

Update



DEAR FRIEND:

Hunting in Michigan is part of our culture and our heritage. But hunting and fishing are also an important part of our economy. These outdoor pursuits are multi-billion dollar industries in the Upper Peninsula and are enjoyed by thousands of sportsmen and women.

Fall in Michigan signals the beginning of hunting season. As you begin planning this year's hunting trip, it is my pleasure to offer you this hunting update with a legislative report, safety tips, hunting resources and more. I hope you find it informative.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions on ways to preserve our Upper Peninsula outdoor heritage and look forward to hearing from you. Best wishes for a safe and successful hunting season!

Sincerely,



STATE SENATOR

ED McBROOM

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LEGISLATIVE *Update*

- Last year, **HB 4313**, now **PA 262 of 2020**, was signed into law. The new law created a pheasant hunting license for use on public lands in the Lower Peninsula. There are exemptions to the license for those hunting on private land, hunters who are under the age of 17, and for pheasant hunting in the Upper Peninsula. Revenue collected from this license will be dedicated to the improvement of pheasant habitats and the stocking of birds on state-owned land.
- **SB 106** would allow property owners to use purple boundary paint, an established land demarcation tool in many states, to notify others not to enter their land. SB 106 was passed by the Senate and was sent to the House for consideration.
- I was proud to sponsor **SR 20**, a resolution urging the Natural Resources Commission to add the eastern sandhill crane to the game species list and to seek U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval to establish an eastern sandhill crane hunting season.
- **HB 4088** would have allowed feeding of wildlife and birds, with limits of not more than two gallons of food at one time within 300 feet from a residence. The bill was passed by the House and the Senate but was vetoed by the governor.



SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT

There were three hunting fatalities in Michigan last year. Eight injury incidents were reported, with three of the incidents attributed to failure to identify the target. Please hunt with safety in mind and follow all firearm safety rules.

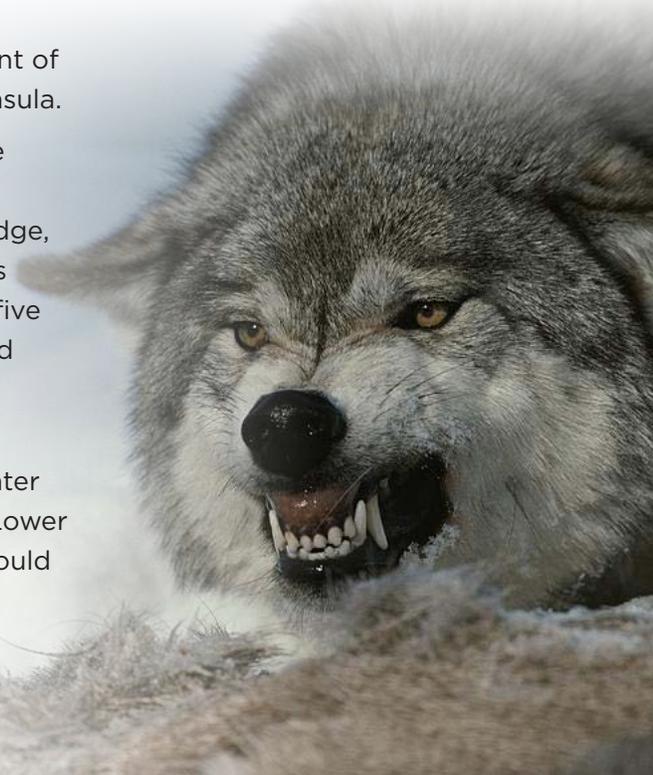
McBROOM BILL WOULD REQUIRE ONLY U.P. REPRESENTATION ON STATE WOLF PANEL

In June, the Senate approved legislation that would require that each member of the state's Wolf Management Advisory Council be a resident of the Upper Peninsula unless wolves become present in the Lower Peninsula.

Michigan's entire known wolf population is in the U.P., yet nearly all the members of the state's Wolf Management Advisory Council are from downstate. Unless or until the wolf population moves south of the bridge, for the council to be fair and to be a better representation of reality, its members need to be from the U.P. Citizens of the UP, representing all five of the specific stakeholders this panel calls for, are readily available and have the intelligence and desire to serve.

If signed into law, McBroom's Senate Bill 486 would require all council members to reside in the U.P. unless the DNR determined, through winter track surveys and genetic testing, that wolves became present in the Lower Peninsula. If that were to occur, then a majority of council members would have to be residents of the U.P. under the bill.

The bill is now sitting in the House Natural Resources Committee, but I continue to monitor the council meetings and support the active management of the Upper Peninsula's wolf population.





HUNTER *Safety* COURSES

All first-time hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1960 are required to take and pass a hunter safety course. There are two options for completing hunter education in Michigan - the traditional course or the online course. Both options require attendance at a field day.

The traditional in-person course will consist of a minimum of 10 classroom hours over two days and will include hands-on training. The alternate option allows students to take either an online course or home study followed by attendance at a field day. The online course is available at: www.hunter-ed.com/Michigan.

To locate a traditional course or field day in your area, visit www2.dnr.state.mi.us/recnsearch.

**HUNTING
AND FISHING**
IN MICHIGAN GENERATE
\$11.2 BILLION
ANNUALLY

171,000 JOBS

ARE CREATED AND
SUPPORTED ANNUALLY
ACROSS MICHIGAN BY

**HUNTING
AND FISHING**

MICHIGAN HAS
700,000+
HUNTERS



DEER HUNTING *Update*

A LOOK BACK AT 2020

In order to provide deer hunters with additional flexibility and opportunity, the Michigan Natural Resources Commission adopted new deer regulations for the 2020 hunting season. Statewide, these regulation changes included expanding the Liberty and Independence hunt qualifications and exempting mentored youth, junior license holders, and apprentice license holders from antler point restrictions. The statewide limit for private-land antlerless license purchasers was increased to 10 deer per hunter.

The 2020 season saw 615,948 people purchase a license, a 2% increase over 2019.

In all seasons combined, 410,639 deer were harvested, a 13% increase over 2019.

A LOOK AHEAD TO THE 2021 SEASON

ARCHERY

Oct. 1-Nov. 14 & Dec. 1-Jan. 1, 2022

REGULAR FIREARM

Nov. 15-30

MUZZLELOADING

(Zones 1, 2 & 3)

Dec. 3-12

LATE ANTLERLESS FIREARM*

Dec. 13-Jan. 1, 2022

**See Antlerless Deer Digest*

Check the *2021 Michigan Hunting Digest* for information on these special hunts and other notes.