

### **2013 PRELIMINARY DEER HARVEST SUMMARY**

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) reports that the preliminary deer harvest for 2013 (excluding Quabbin and any data not yet received) is 11,413. Although preliminary, this figure is up 4% from last year's total harvest. The preliminary archery season harvest of 4,474 is up 15% from last year, the preliminary shotgun season harvest of 4,625 is down 7% from last year, and the preliminary primitive season harvest of 2,314 is up 11% from last year.

| <b>2013 Preliminary Deer Harvest by Season and Wildlife Management Zone (WMZ)*</b> |                |                |                  |               |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>Zone</b>  | <b>Archery</b> | <b>Shotgun</b> | <b>Primitive</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
| 1  | 66             | 99             | 32               | 197           |
| 2  | 134            | 178            | 67               | 379           |
| 3  | 144            | 233            | 95               | 472           |
| 4N   | 149            | 163            | 99               | 411           |
| 4S   | 82             | 66             | 57               | 205           |
| 5  | 151            | 252            | 141              | 544           |
| 6  | 39             | 81             | 37               | 157           |
| 7  | 229            | 254            | 121              | 604           |
| 8  | 240            | 406            | 191              | 837           |
| 9  | 373            | 326            | 236              | 935           |
| 10   | 1,167          | 671            | 502              | 2,340         |
| 11   | 1,154          | 990            | 518              | 2,662         |
| 12   | 60             | 133            | 32               | 225           |
| 13   | 248            | 365            | 100              | 713           |
| 14   | 238            | 408            | 86               | 732           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>4,474</b>   | <b>4,625</b>   | <b>2,314</b>     | <b>11,413</b> |

\*WMZ map at: [mass.gov/dfw/wmz-map](http://mass.gov/dfw/wmz-map)

**Regional Preliminary Summary:** The 2013 preliminary harvest data for zones 1-5 shows a decrease in female harvest and a corresponding increase in adult male harvest, indicating that deer densities in these zones are increasing toward DFW's goals. Deer densities in Zones 6-9 appear to be within DFW's goals. Densities in Zones 10 and 11 are still above goal, but more towns are increasing access to lands for hunting, which is one of the most important parts of managing deer in a suburban setting. Deer densities on Martha's Vineyard (Zone 13) and Nantucket island (Zone 14) remain significantly above DFW's management goals, but preliminary results from this year's harvest show an increase in the female harvest that is critical to reduce deer densities.

Online reporting was available during deer season for the first time during the 2013 archery and primitive arms seasons (hunters must still report harvested deer at a check station during shotgun season to facilitate collection of biological data); over 70% of the deer taken during those seasons were reported by hunters through the [MassFishHunt](#) system.

Not only is the online reporting system convenient for hunters, it allows DFW to provide preliminary harvest totals much earlier than in previous years. It also allows DFW to break down the preliminary harvest information by Wildlife Management Zone (WMZ). While total harvest by zone can be informative, it doesn't provide the complete picture for monitoring trends in deer density because total harvest is influenced by antlerless deer permit allocations in each zone.

The DFW Deer Project Leader analyzes harvest, biological, and hunter effort data, along with hunter success rates, female versus male harvest, and other factors to manage deer populations in each zone. An analysis of this information is now underway for the annual spring deer management review. A complete harvest summary will be posted on the DFW website shortly after the annual deer review.

Lastly, hunters who include their email addresses in their MassFishHunt profile will receive a hunter survey by email in February.