

MNRF Kemptville-Kingston District Fish and Wildlife Update

OFAH Zone F Meeting

March 2nd, 2023

District Management Biologists:

- Dom Ferland
- Joffre Côté
- Scott Smithers

District Supervisor

- John Boos

Science Operations Supervisor

- Larissa Nituch

Presentation Outline

❑ District Overview and Contacts

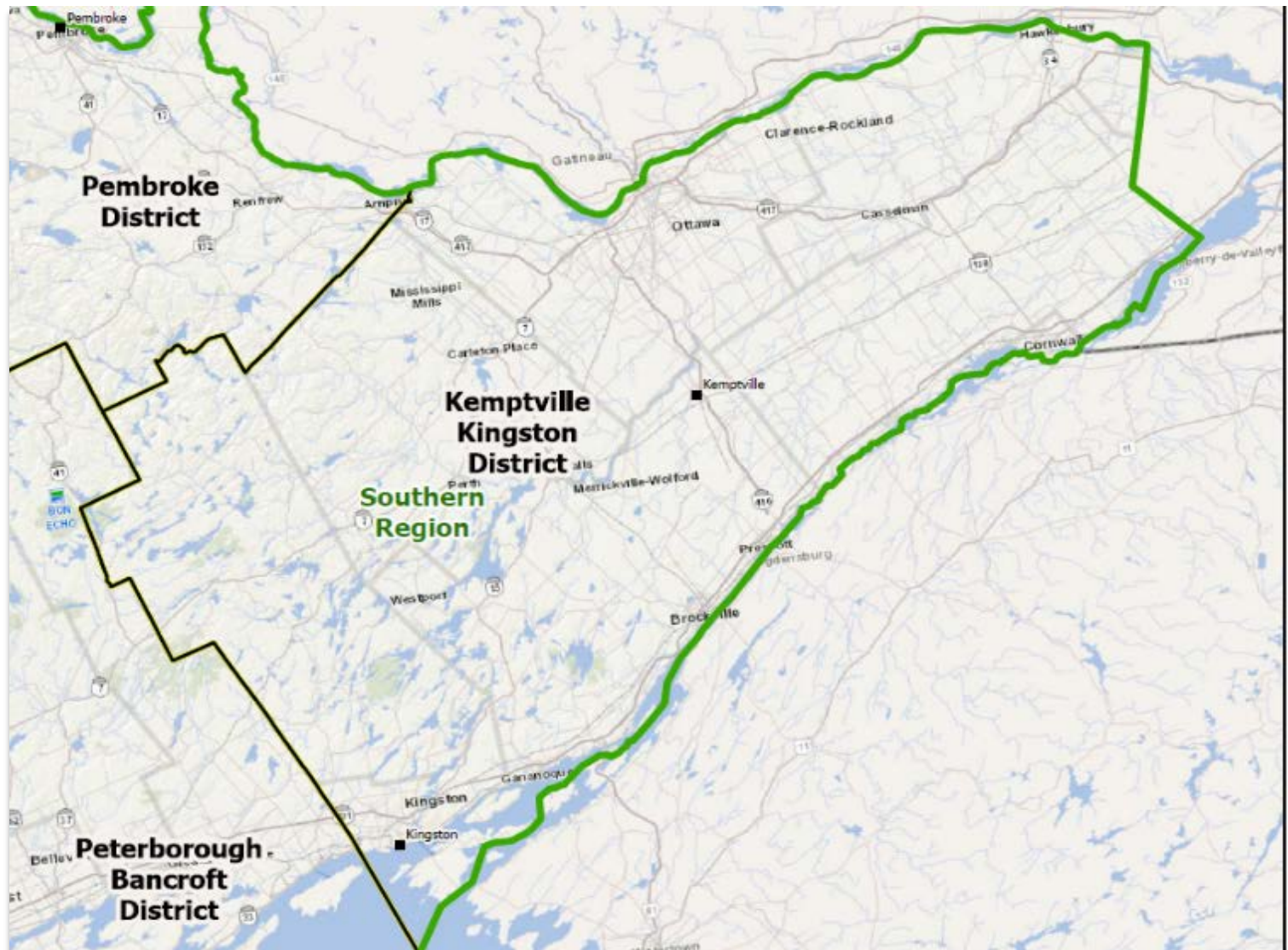
❑ Fish and Wildlife

- Deer and moose tag allocations, process, any reg changes and 2021-2022 results
- MAI for 65 from 2022, results and change in tags
- Broad-scale monitoring (BsM) - lakes sampled in 2022 in FMZ 18
- Fish Stocking in K-K District
- Proposed Fisheries Regulation Change (2024)
- Wildlife habitat improvements – ministry involvement, and role working with NGOs

❑ Invasive Species and Diseases

- Invasive species awareness – wild pigs
- CWD and other wildlife disease updates

Kemptville-Kingston District



Kemptville-Kingston District Contact Information

Kemptville Work Center

Telephone:

613- 258-8204

Email:

Kemptville.MNRF@ontario.ca

Kingston Work Center

Telephone:

613- 531-5700

Email:

Kingston.MNRF@ontario.ca

Human- Wildlife Conflict: 613- 410-7239

To report a non-emergency bear encounter please call Bear Wise
Reporting line at 1-866-514-2327

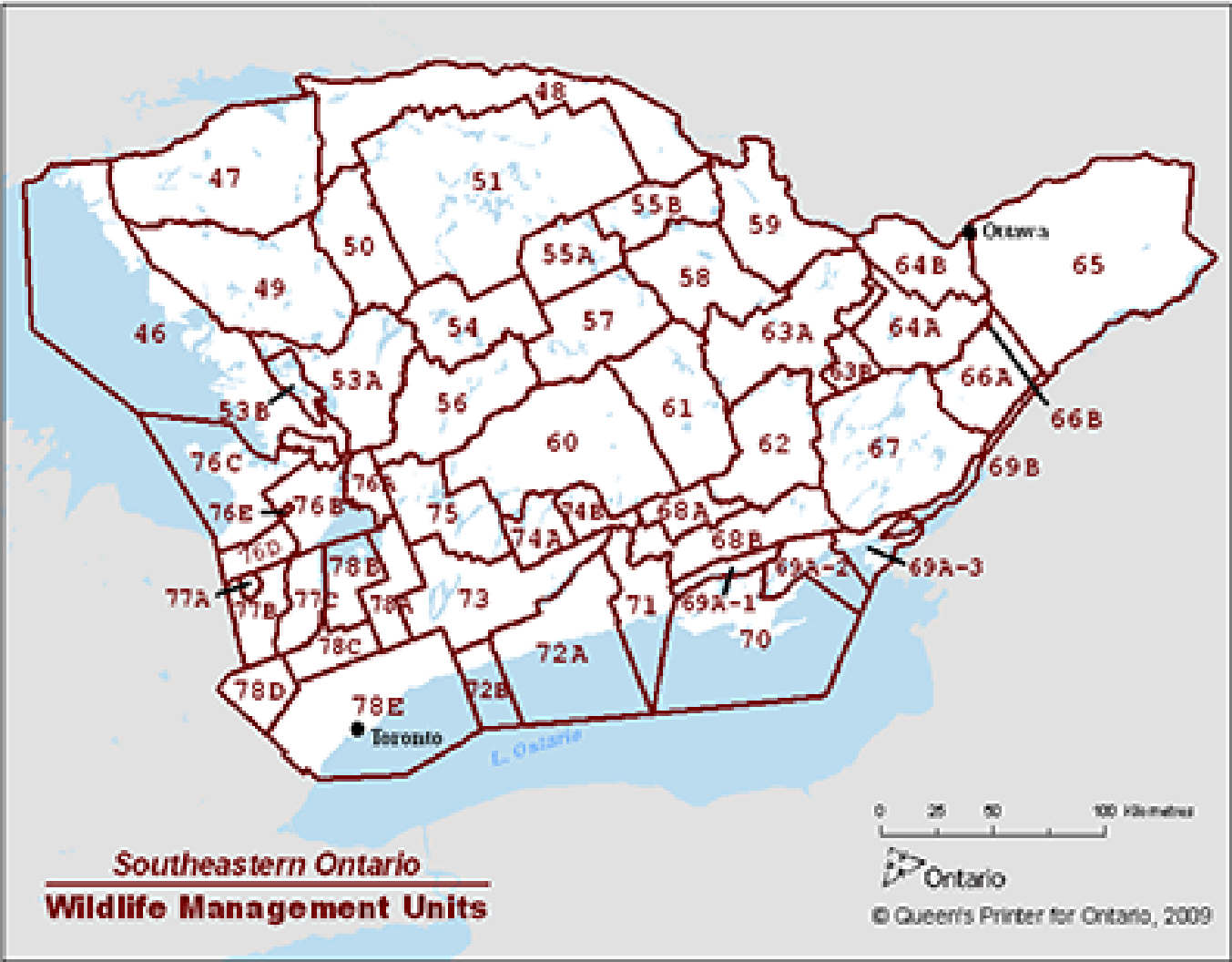
Cervid Ecological Zones

2022 Deer Tag Allocations

	Antlerless Validation Tags			Additional Deer Seals			Controlled Hunt Tags		
CEZ	2021	2022	Change	2021	2022	Change	2021	2022	Change
A	360	360	0	160	160	0			
B	905	755	-150	355	280	-75			
C1	4,200	3,925	-275	3,775	1,950	-1,825			
D1	910	710	-200	75	75	0			
C2	900	700	-200	0	0	0			
D2	21,750	21,925	175	0	0	0	100	100	0
E1	800	650	-150	0	0	0			
E2	4,860	4,860	0	0	0	0			
E3	49,160	52,105	2,945	7,980	7,980	0	40,895	40,595	0
Provincial	83,845	85,990	2,145	12,345	10,445	-1,900	40,895	40,695	0

Cervid Ecological Zones in Southern Region





2022 Kemptville-Kingston District Deer Antlerless Allocation

WMU	2021	2022	Change	First Choice Allocation Rate
62	1000	2000	+ 1000	68%
63A	1500	1500	0	35%
63B	500	500	0	39%
64A	1400	2100	+900	100%
64B	215	260	+ 45	40%
65	4300	4300	0	100%
66A	600	400	-200	26%
66B	30	30	0	100%
67	1400	3000	+1600	70%
69A	900	900	0	100%
69B	600	600	0	100%

Archery Only AVT

66B	S	E3	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
69A	S	E3	700	700	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600

Controlled Deer Hunt

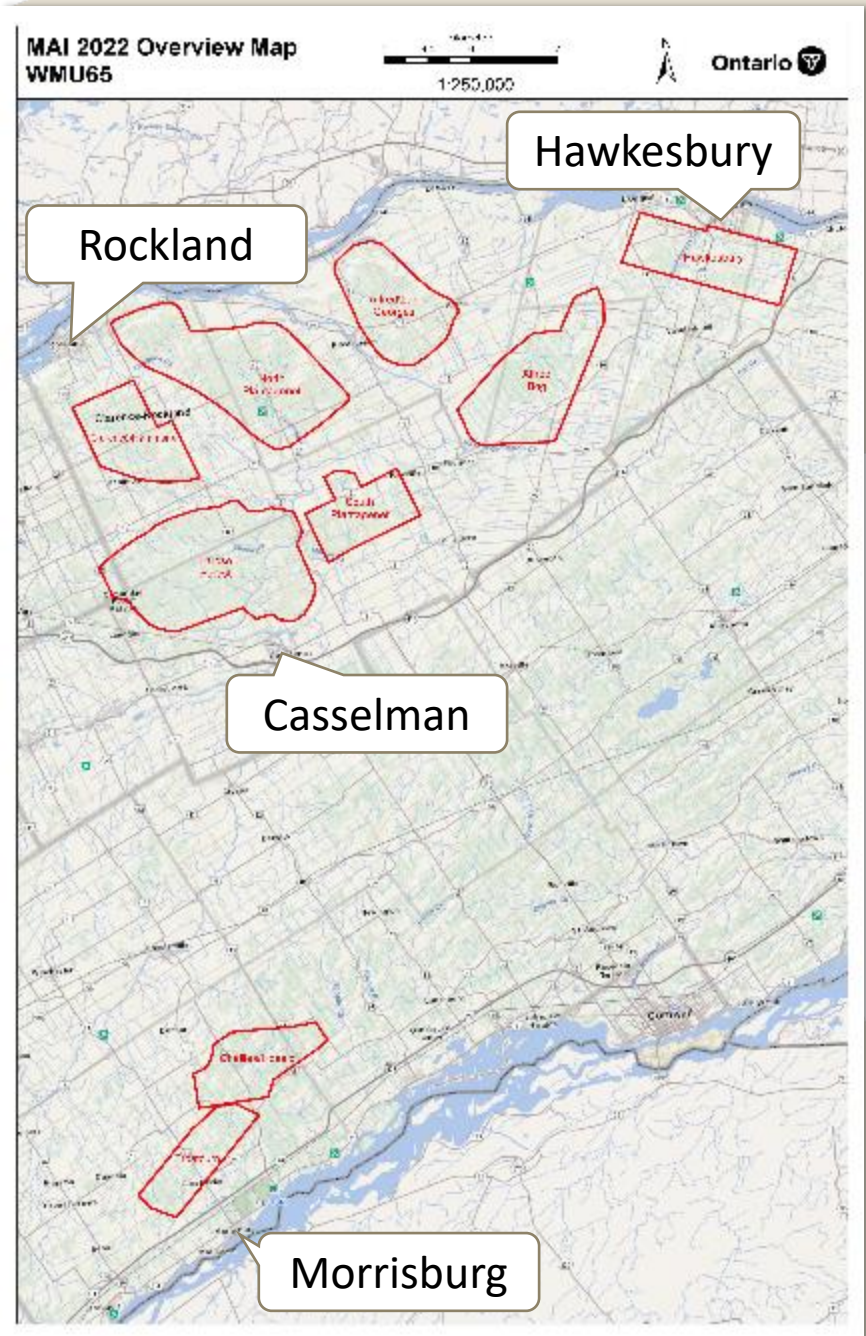
69A	3	1000	1000	875	875	875	875	875	875	950	950	950	950	950	950
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Additional Seals

WMU	2021	2022	Per Hunter	Sex
66B	30	30	1	Any
69A3	400	400	3	Antlerless
69A3	0	100	3 (available to non-residents)	Antlerless
69B	100	100	3	Antlerless

Moose Aerial Inventory WMU 65 - 2022

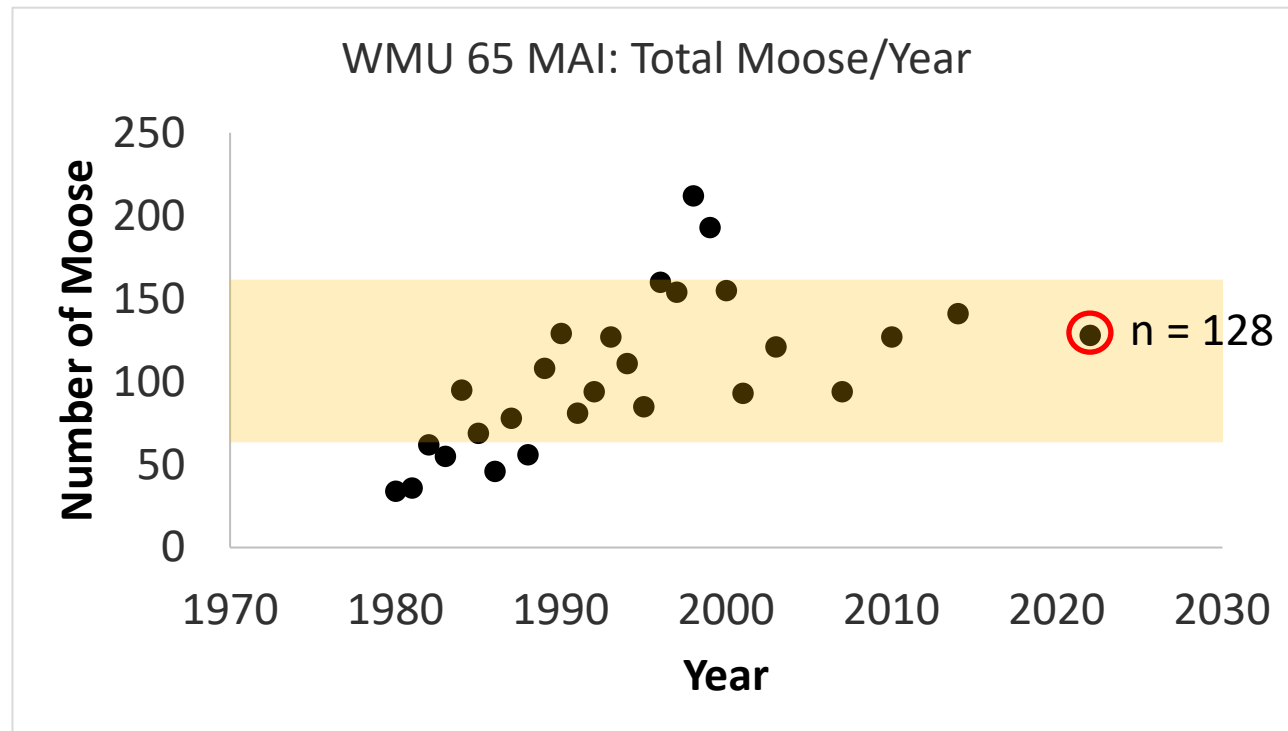
- Not flown since 2014 (8 years)
- Not a standardized survey: population census targeting known moose habitat
 - Expectation -> every animal is counted (probably 5-10% error)
- 9 blocks of suitable habitat flown



Moose Aerial Inventory WMU 65 - 2022

- 4 days of flying: January 28-31
- 128 moose counted

Survey Year	Total No. Moose
2003	121
2007	94
2010	127
2014	141
2022	128



Moose Aerial Inventory WMU 65 - 2022

- Population stable
- Within population objective range (75-100)
- Management approach = status quo: 10% harvest based on 10-year tag fill rate

WMU 65 Moose Allocation

WMU 65	Bull Tags Available / Issued in Parenthesis	Cow Tags Available / Issued in Parenthesis	Calf Tags Available / Issued in Parenthesis	Bull Harvest / Fill Rate in Parenthesis	Cow Harvest / Fill Rate in Parenthesis	Calf Harvest / Fill Rate in Parenthesis
2020	42	63	0	10 (24%)	9 (14%)	9 (14%)
2021	36 (33)	63 (56)	14 (11)	8 (22%)	3 (5%)	0 (0%)
2022	33 (30)	65 (50)	13 (9)	6 (20%)	0	0

2022 BsM – FMZ 18

- Only 'Trend' lakes are being sampled during the 3rd netting cycle
- Cycle should be completed in 2023

FMZ 18 BsM Lakes sampled in 2022:



n=15 lakes

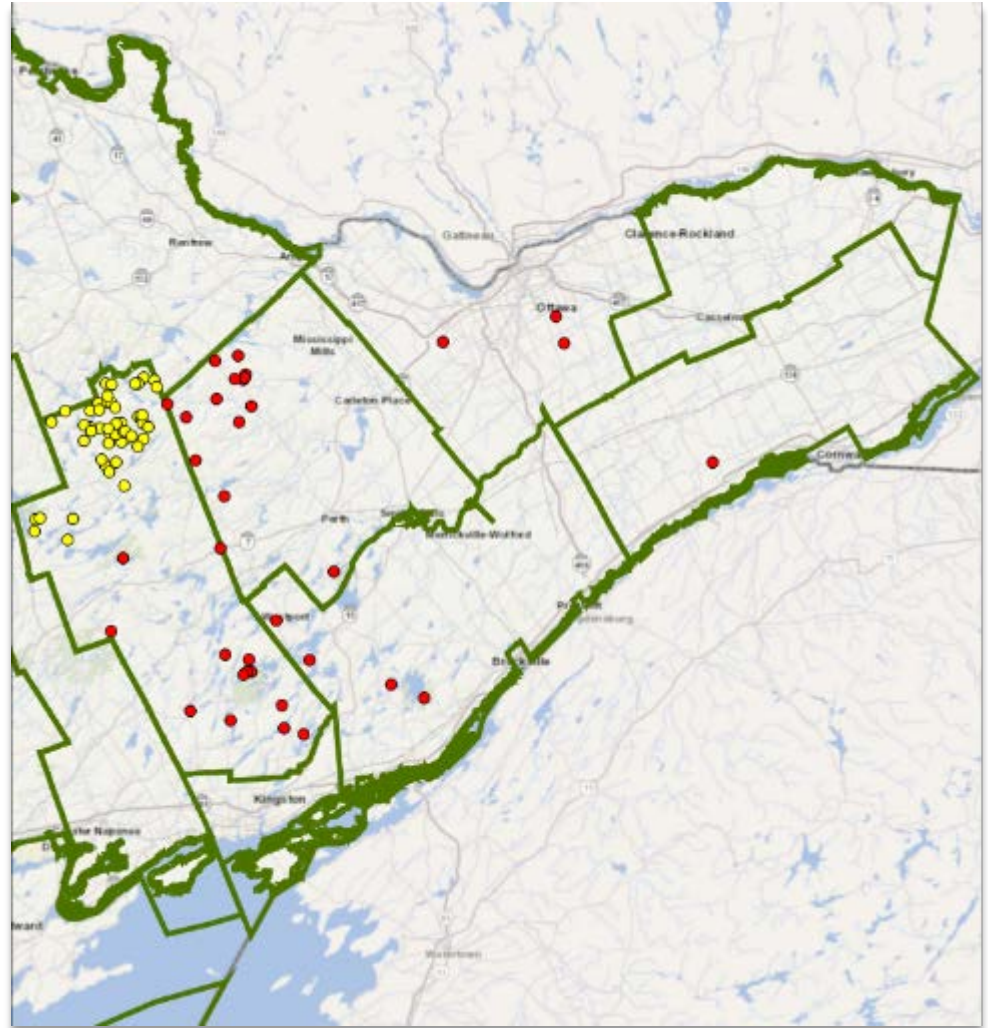
- Birch
- Burr ridge
- Christie
- Crystal
- Desert
- Dickey
- Howes
- Joeperry
- Kennebec
- Kishkebus
- Little Clear
- Moira
- Sharbot
- Sheffield Long
- Skootamatta

Kemptville- Kingston District Fish Stocking

- No changes occurred in 2022, and no changes are proposed for 2023.
- Meeting with hatcheries in early March (to discuss any surplus or shortfalls)

Kemptville-Kingston District Stocking Locations

- Kemptville: n=22 waterbodies (13 lakes, 7 streams, 2 rivers)
- Kingston: n=12 waterbodies (all lakes)
- North Frontenac: an additional n=54 waterbodies (53 lakes and 1 stream)
- Total of 88 stocked waterbodies!



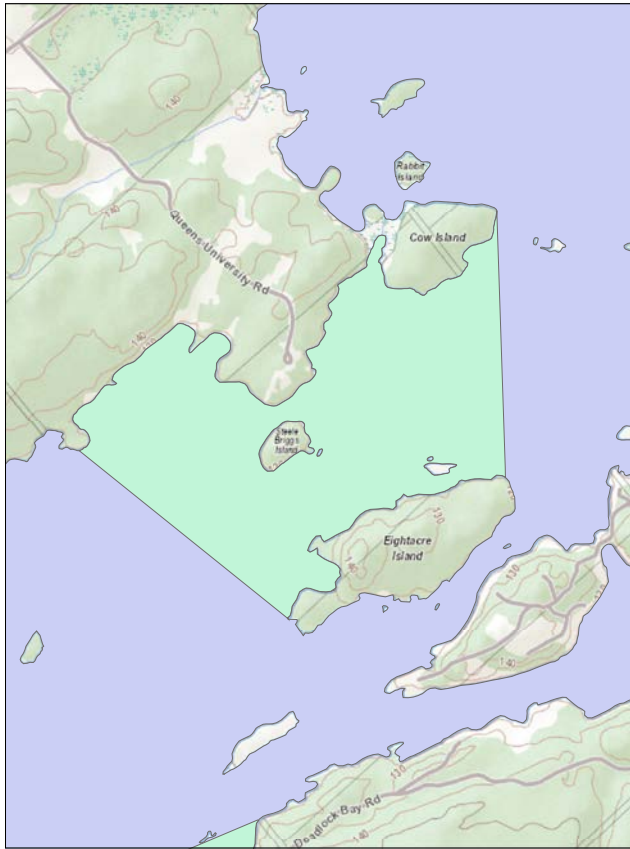
Upcoming Fisheries Regulation Change Proposal in FMZ 18

Temporary Bass Spawning
Sanctuaries:

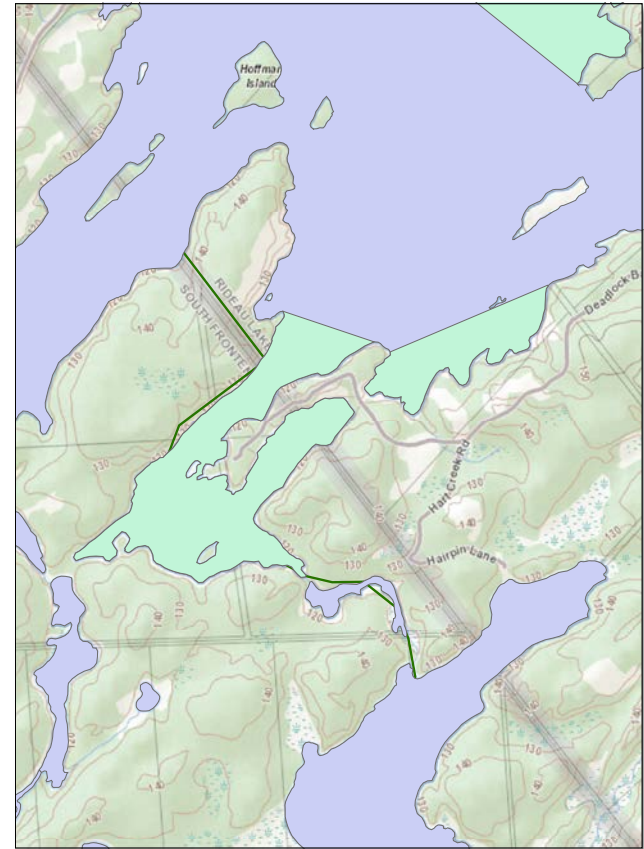
- Opinicon Lake and
Charleston Lake
- April 15 – July 10 (2024
and 2025 only)
- To support long-term bass
nesting and population
recruitment research in
FMZ 18.

Opinicon Lake Sanctuaries:

Queens University Biology
Station to Eightacre Island

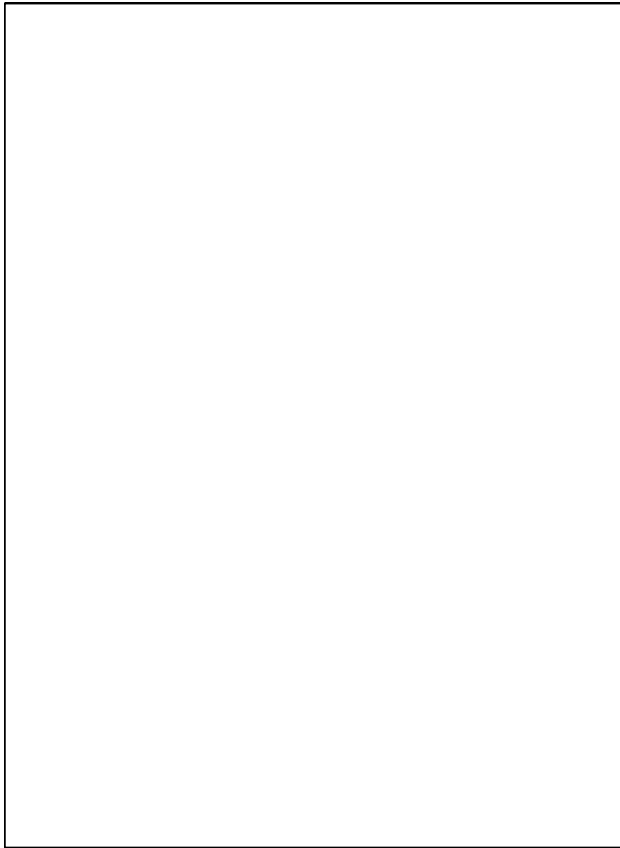


Deadlock Bay and 'OPOC' Bay

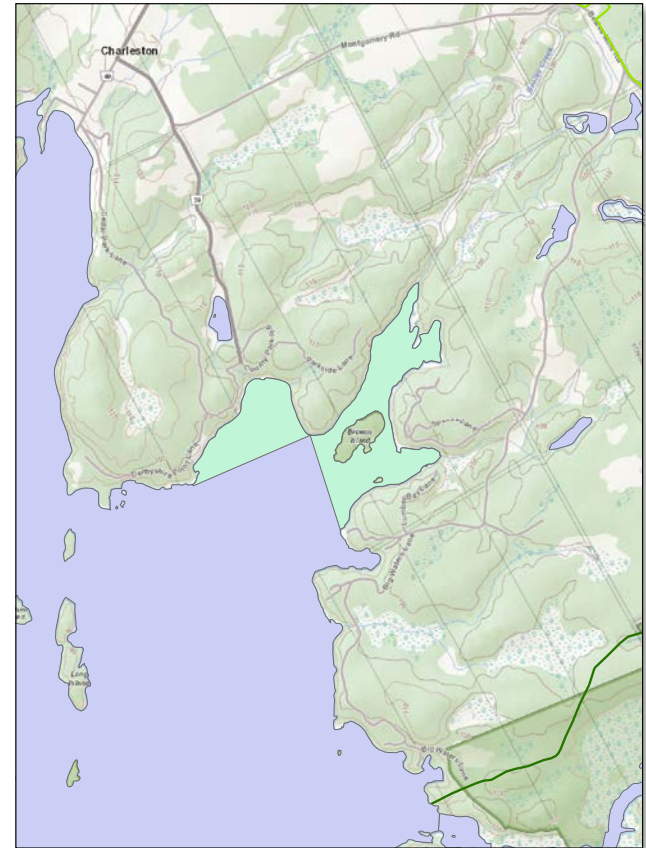


Charleston Lake Sanctuaries:

Middle Islands



Sand Bay and Sally's Hole Bay



Invasive Species Awareness – Wild Pigs

- *Ontario's Strategy to Address the Threat of Invasive Wild Pigs* (2021)
- Use a coordinated approach to remove wild pigs from the natural environment
- Wild Pig Response Team (WPRT) Science and Research Branch: Monitor, investigate, and action wild pig reports
- Districts: Support WPRT
- Report sightings to:
 - wildpigs@ontario.ca
 - 1-833-933-2355



Escaped cervids – Red Deer/Elk

- Ongoing implementation of existing tools and policies – MNRF WiPo 5.3 pertaining to unauthorized release or escaped farmed cervids, elk removal/harassment authorizations, based on risk assessment
- Operationalizing FWCA regulatory changes (Section 47.2 - Minister's Authorization for Wildlife Disease Control..) from 2019
- MNRF is interested in receiving information /observations
- Landowner cooperation and interests are important considerations
- Continue to assess situations on a case-by-case basis to determine best and most appropriate or feasible response
- Ongoing collaboration between provincial and federal agencies, stakeholders and industry will be required

Wildlife habitat improvements

- NGOs or other parties wishing to undertake activities on Crown land are encouraged to contact the local district office for information or questions.
- Crown lands in Ontario serve a variety of purposes and support a number of uses (recreation, economic development, tourism, etc.)
- Requests to undertake projects on Crown land would need to consider the land use planning direction as well as any permits or authorizations that would be required under relevant legislation (i.e. PLA, CFSA, etc.) as well as other uses and management activities taking place at the site.
- There may be Environmental Assessment Act requirements that would be determined on a case-by-case basis and generally depend on how the project is described and the purpose (e.g., forestry, wildlife).
- The Crown has a duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate when the Crown contemplates conduct that might adversely impact established or asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights. MNRF will assess whether consultation is engaged once a complete application is received. In some instances, the Ministry may delegate procedural aspects of the duty to consult to applicants.

MNRF wildlife disease updates

Larissa Nituch, Science Operations Supervisor
Wildlife Research and Monitoring
Science and Research Branch

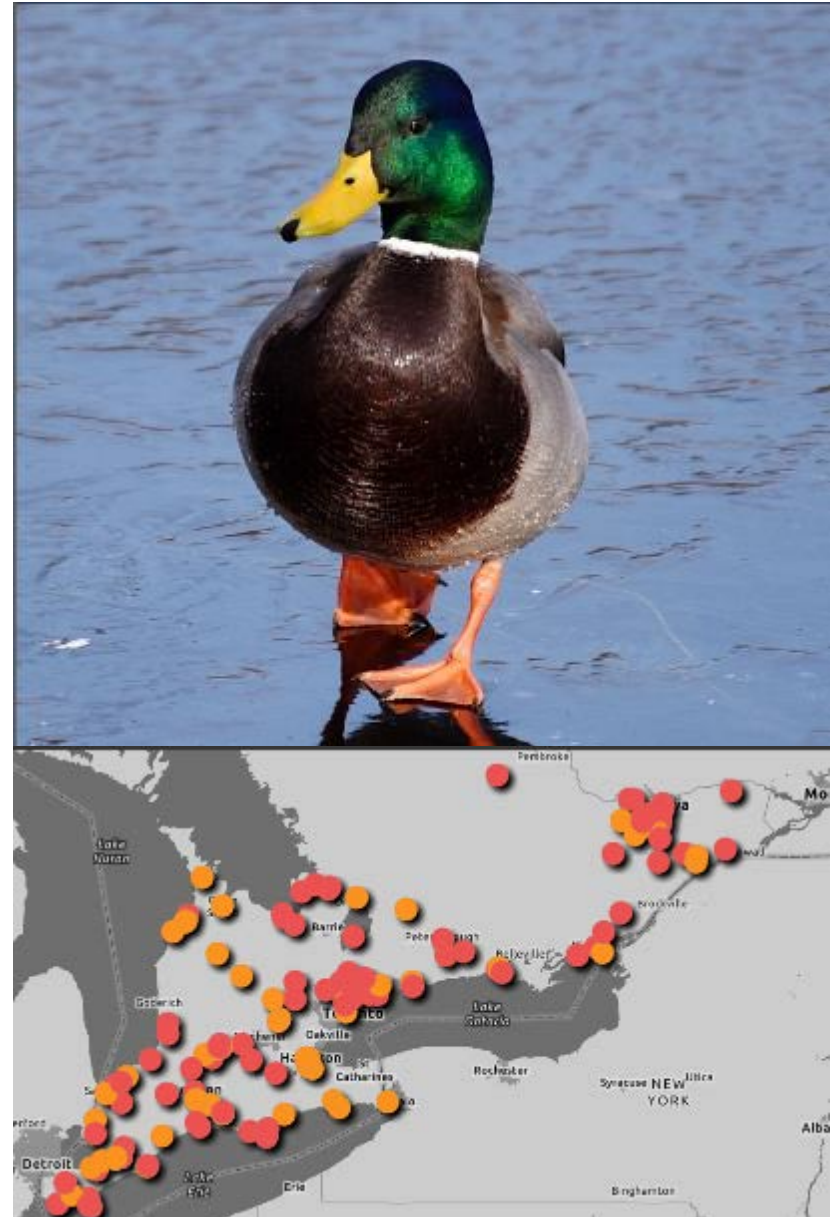
Outline

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
- Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (EHDV)
- Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV)
- Rabies
- SARS-CoV-2

Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

- on-going outbreak across North America and globe
- associated with large scale wild bird die-offs mostly in colonial waterbirds and some raptor species
- since March 2022, 167 suspected and confirmed cases of HPAI in wild birds in Ontario, including 28 species
- at least 18 cases in wild mammals in Ontario
 - 13 red foxes
 - 1 striped skunk
 - 1 mink
 - 1 raccoon (+1 suspected)
 - 1 northern river otter (suspected)





Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

- CWD is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) of cervids (members of the deer family) caused by prions (abnormal proteins)
- CWD spreads rapidly and once established, is virtually impossible to eliminate
- Transmitted by animal-animal contact or by contact with infected body fluids or environment
- Clinical Signs:
 - Weight loss, emaciation
 - Uncoordinated movements
 - Excessive thirst
 - Drooping head
- Ontario is currently thought to be CWD free

CWD surveillance in eastern Ontario

- CWD was detected on a cervid farm in Québec near the Ontario border in 2018.
- The ministry has conducted enhanced surveillance along the eastern Ontario border in:
 - 2017 (regular surveillance)
 - 2018-2021 (WMU 65 adjacent to QC cases)
 - 2022 (along the Ottawa river from Arnprior to North Bay)



2022 CWD Surveillance



- Surveillance generally occurs during hunting season
- Methods of sample collection include:
 - MNRF roving crews
 - MNRF depot locations
 - Participating butchers and taxidermists
 - Roadkill (MTO, Animal Services, etc.)
 - Reports of sick animals
- **646** samples tested across three areas (eastern, southern and southwestern Ontario) – CWD not detected.

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (EHDV)

- EHD is an acute, infectious, often fatal viral disease of white-tailed deer and other ruminants.
- Transmitted by flying insects (*Culicoides sp.*) – often called midges, gnats or “no-see-ums”

Cases detected in Ontario:

- *September 2017*: two white-tailed deer near London
- *October 2021*: three white-tailed deer near Kingston and one white-tailed deer near Amherstburg
- *September 2022*: two white-tailed deer in Norfolk County



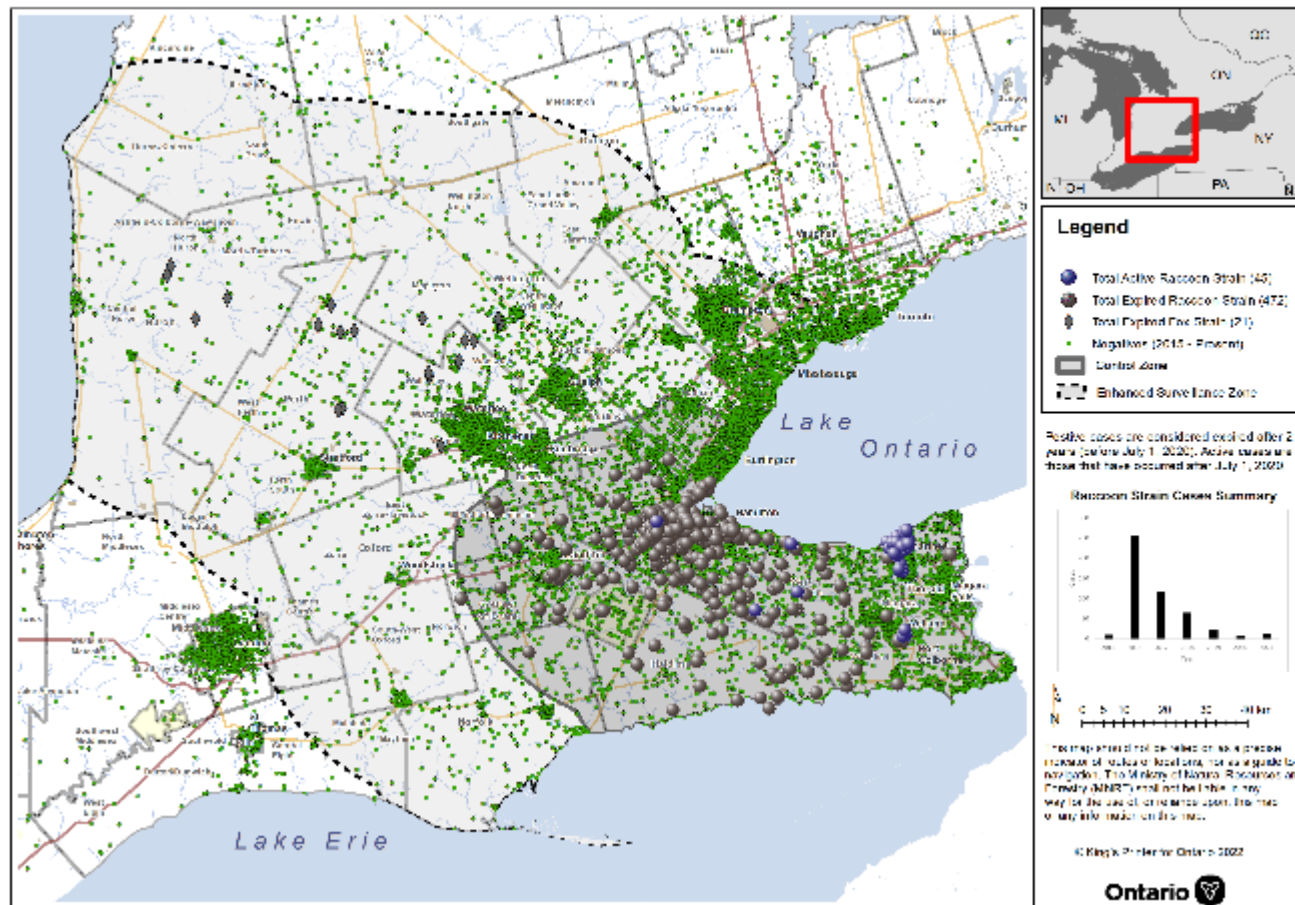
Rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV)

- RHDV is a sudden, highly contagious and fatal viral disease of rabbits and hares (wild and domestic)
- RHDV was detected for the first time in Ontario in 2022 (in 2 domestic rabbits in Lambton county).
- RHDV has not been detected in any Ontario wildlife
- Monitoring is ongoing.



Rabies in Ontario

Rabies Surveillance: December 2015 to December 21, 2022



- 517 positive raccoon strain (45 active)
- 21 positive fox strain (0 active)
- Over 8 million baits distributed
- Over 12,000 animals vaccinated by hand
- Over 27,500 samples tested



SARS-CoV-2

- 2020 – 2021: over 1,600 mammals tested
 - 17 white-tailed deer PCR positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- 2022:
 - Over 1,500 samples collected from a variety of sources including wildlife custodians, live trapping projects, CWD surveillance and opportunistic sampling (e.g., road-killed wildlife)
 - All samples processed to date have been negative.
- Plan to continue sampling throughout winter and next spring/summer.

How you can help

- Education and awareness
- Participate in surveillance programs
- Report sick/dead wildlife as soon as possible



Reporting contacts:

Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative: 1-866-673-4781

MNRF Natural Resources Information and Support Centre: 1-800-667-1940

Email: cwd@ontario.ca or rabies@ontario.ca

THANK YOU!



Contacts and information

Email:

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rabies@ontario.ca

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Websites:

Ontario.ca/CWD

Ontario.ca/rabies

Ontario.ca/page/fish-and-wildlife-health