

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Game Division

Report No. 2432

August 5, 1963

Deer Hunters' Opinion Survey 1962
by L. A. Ryel

This is the ninth year of our mail survey asking for opinions of deer hunters on various subjects. Two major questions were used this year, asking opinion on type of special season (concurrent vs. post-seasons), and opinion as to necessity for special seasons. A majority of the hunters contacted this year (57%) felt that some antlerless deer needed to be harvested in addition to bucks. A preference was shown for concurrent special seasons, among those expressing an opinion on the type of season. Reports 2095, 2137, 2185, 2228, 2297, 2356 and 2385 give details of previous survey results. About 1,200 randomly selected licensees have responded each year (1,328 replies this year out of 1,457 cards mailed, or a 91 per cent response). Copies of the several questionnaires used to date are attached.

PART I: OPINION ON SPECIAL SEASONS

Opinions on controversial issues usually cannot be adequately explored by a single question, and frequently the real feelings of the person being contacted can be appraised only through direct discussion with a trained interviewer. Different wordings of the same question may result in marked changes in the answers.

In spite of the above uncertainties, we feel that a question on opinion is worthwhile, in that it gives us some notion of the attitudes of the "average" hunter as obtained from a representative sample. The biological basis for special seasons is certainly sound; the problem at present is to inform the people of Michigan about the need for such seasons. Consequently, the results of this survey are mainly important as a measure of our success to date in so informing sportsmen.

The question used in the survey was identical to one asked from 1956 to 1961, so comparable data are now available for seven years. The question was:

"We would like your opinion about special seasons. Do you think it is necessary to shoot a limited number of does and fawns, as well as bucks in some parts of Michigan? Yes ☐ No ☐ ."

Answers were:

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Yes	47.4%	47.2%	60.3%	60.8%	42.5%	52.9%	57.3%
No	46.1	47.8	37.1	35.8	55.4	46.2	41.1
No answer	6.5	5.0	2.6	3.4	2.1	.9	1.6
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Number of replies	1,138	1,116	1,185	1,312	1,253	1,268	1,328

Hunter responses each year have been closely related to the nature of the various deer seasons. There is a highly significant correlation (.90) between the regular season buck kill and the log of the per cent of "yes" replies for the seven years (percentages transformed to arc sines).

Opinions by areas of the state, based on county of residence:

The breakdown of opinions by areas of the state is interesting in view of the fairly common feeling that more people in northern areas object to special seasons:

Upper Peninsula

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Yes	51.5%	45.4%	56.0%	64.2%	42.4%	41.7%	50.7%
No	43.9	49.6	39.5	33.6	55.3	56.6	49.3
No answer	4.6	5.0	4.5	2.2	2.3	1.7	
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Number of replies	130	121	134	137	132	120	136

Northern Lower Peninsula

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Yes	48.5%	55.7%	60.7%	56.3%	42.6%	52.2%	51.6%
No	46.6	40.6	37.8	38.1	55.6	46.4	48.1
No answer	4.0	3.7	1.5	5.6	1.8	1.4	.3
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Number of replies	268	244	270	270	275	289	285

Southern Lower Peninsula

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Yes	45.7%	43.8%	60.8%	61.2%	42.0%	54.6%	60.6%
No	46.5	51.0	36.5	35.9	55.8	44.8	37.4
No answer	7.8	5.2	2.7	2.9	2.2	.6	2.0
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Number of replies	704	715	781	870	828	834	881

Non-Resident

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Yes	51.3%	63.9%	none	71.4%	66.7%	60.0%	42.3%
No	41.0	25.0	con-	25.7	33.3	40.0	50.0
No answer	7.7	11.1	tacted	2.9			7.7
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Number of replies	39	36		35	18	25	26

Opinions by areas of the state, based on county of residence and hunting location:

On the 1957, 1958, and 1962 surveys we also have information on where the various classes of residents hunted (see below). There is some indication that hunters' opinions concerning the need for special seasons differ depending on where they hunt. In all three years, for instance, a higher proportion of southern Lower Peninsula resident hunters hunting in the Lower Peninsula favored special seasons than southern Lower Peninsula residents who hunted in the Upper Peninsula.

1957

	U. P. residents hunting in U.P.	N. L. P. residents hunting in U.P.	S. L. P. residents hunting in U.P.	N. L. P. residents hunting in L.P.	S. L. P. residents hunting in L.P.
Yes	45.4%	40.0%	36.6%	56.7%	45.9%
No	50.4	50.0	56.1	39.9	49.6
No answer	4.2	10.0	7.3	3.4	4.5
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Number of replies	119	20	164	238	551

1958

Yes	55.6%	65.4%	53.1%	60.0%	61.6%
No	39.9	34.6	43.4	38.3	36.1
No answer	4.5		3.5	1.7	2.3
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Number of replies	133	26	143	240	662

1962

Yes	51.2%	71.4%	56.8%	50.0%	62.2%
No	48.8	28.6	40.5	49.6	36.5
No answer			2.7	.4	1.3
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Number of replies	129	14	148	260	682

Permittee vs. non-permittee opinions:

Since 1959 the questionnaire included a question as to whether or not the hunter had received a permit for the respective special deer season. The 1961 data are omitted since only 234 permits were issued. A comparison of permittee vs. non-permittee opinion on the need for special seasons for 1959, 1960, and 1962 is as follows:

	<u>Permittee</u>			<u>Non-Permittee</u>		
	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1962</u>
Yes	74.9%	52.6%	70.8%	56.8%	39.8%	54.6%
No	23.2	46.3	29.2	39.5	57.9	43.6
No answer	1.9	1.1		3.7	2.3	1.8
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Number of replies	311	266	236	983	979	1,079

We cannot, of course, be sure whether possession of a permit evokes a favorable answer, or whether those favoring the special seasons are more likely to apply for a permit.

PART II: REASONS GIVEN FOR OPINIONS ON SPECIAL SEASONS

The following statements are a summary of the answers given to the question. "What are your reasons for this opinion?" (on special seasons). We have attempted to group the answers as much as possible without losing too much of the original meanings.

Generally affirmative answers, code numbers:

- 1 Food - Food shortage, starvation, over browsing, crop damage
- 2 Deer Numbers - Over-population, too many does and fawns in proportion to bucks, cause too many automobile accidents
- 3 Comprehensive - shows general understanding, more than one of: reduce starvation over-population, better physical condition, reduce browsing pressure, balance herd, reduce crop damage
- 4 Utilize available deer, avoid (or reduce) waste
- 5 Better physical condition, reproduction
- 6 With limiting qualifications: does, not fawns, every other year, only in club areas, crop-damage areas only
- 7 With changes in type of season: Camp or party-deer, straight any-deer season, extend archery season

- 8 Chance to shoot a deer, like present seasons
- 9 Not qualified to judge, let Department control, control by field men, don't know

Generally negative answers, Code numbers:

- 15 Food - Starvation non-existent or unavoidable, no crop damage
- 16 Deer Numbers - Population too small or decreasing, does and fawns source of future herd, hunting poor, multiple reasons including too few deer
- 17 Too many does and fawns killed otherwise: poachers, cars, dogs, etc., "natural" causes, bow and arrow
- 18 Not sportsmanlike, too many left in woods, encourages violations
- 19 Unsafe, too dangerous
- 20 Alternatives: feed, trap and move, Department shoot, manage forests, drive deer to other areas
- 21 Let nature take care of itself, deer will take care of themselves

Other answers, Code numbers:

- 0 No answer
- 30 Vague, irrelevant, ambiguous, incomprehensible

Yes Answers

<u>Code</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
0	3.9%*	5.5%	6.3%	6.5%	5.1%	4.9%	7.6%
1	18.1	14.4	10.4	10.4	7.3	8.7	15.0
2	15.2	20.2	14.8	14.5	10.9	8.7	12.7
3	35.3	28.6	39.3	35.8	32.1	38.9	23.1
4	3.2	2.3	5.2	3.9	3.7	1.6	3.9
5	3.0	6.4	3.2	2.9	1.1	2.2	4.6
6	11.2	12.7	9.9	14.0	27.4	21.3	18.3
7	2.2	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.2	3.7	2.0
8	.6	.6	.9	1.1	.2	1.4	.7
9	4.7	2.8	3.4	5.5	6.2	3.7	6.1
15		.2					
16		.2	.1	.5	.6	1.3	.7
17				.1	.2		.4
18							
19							
20			.1	.1			.1
21					.2	.8	.1
30	2.6	3.4	3.9	2.5	2.8	2.8	4.7
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Total Responses	535	528	715	800	533	671	761

* Per cent within each code by response by year

No answers

<u>Code</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
0	10.6%	9.7%	9.5%	9.0%	8.1%	7.3%	10.2%
1		.2			.3	.2	
2					.6		.4
3			.2	.2			
4					.1	.2	
5							
6	1.3	1.1	2.3	4.5	3.9	4.4	5.5
7	3.6	1.5	2.7	4.1	2.3	1.7	1.6
8			.5	.2	.4		
9			.2	.2	1.4	.3	1.5
15	6.3	2.6	3.0	2.8	3.4	3.8	4.0
16	57.7	57.5	56.1	56.6	58.5	51.2	53.3
17	6.1	8.8	6.6	4.3	7.1	9.0	4.8
18	1.9	3.0	2.7	4.9	1.9	4.1	5.9
19	.8	.9	1.8	1.1	.7	1.4	2.4
20	3.2	6.0	3.9	2.8	2.0	4.6	2.9
21	5.3	3.2	7.3	6.8	4.8	8.0	5.9
30	3.2	5.5	3.2	2.5	4.5	3.8	1.6
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Total Responses	527	534	440	468	694	586	546
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Did not answer question

<u>Code</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
0	23.3%	32.2%	45.5%	21.4%	11.5%	27.3%	19.0%
1	1.4						
2							
3	2.7		3.0				
4							
5							
6	12.3	5.1		11.9	23.1	27.3	28.6
7	6.8	1.7		23.8	3.9		
8							
9	37.0	25.4	18.2	21.4	34.6	45.4	47.6
15		1.7		2.4	3.9		
16	5.5	10.2	3.0	14.3	7.7		4.8
17					3.8		
18							
19				2.4	3.8		
20			3.0				
21							
30	11.0	23.7	27.3	2.4	7.7		
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Total Responses	73	59	33	42	26	11	21
-----------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Composite of all responses

<u>Code</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
0	8.3%	8.9%	8.6%	7.9%	6.9%	6.2%	8.9%
1	8.6	6.9	6.2	6.3	3.3	4.7	8.6
2	7.1	9.5	8.9	8.9	4.9	4.6	7.4
3	16.8	13.5	23.8	21.9	13.6	20.6	13.2
4	1.5	1.1	3.1	2.4	1.7	.9	2.3
5	1.4	3.0	2.0	1.7	.5	1.2	2.6
6	6.7	6.8	6.8	10.5	14.3	13.6	13.2
7	3.1	2.0	2.5	3.6	2.3	2.8	1.8
8	.3	.3	.7	.8	.3	.7	.4
9	4.6	2.7	2.6	4.1	4.2	2.5	4.8
15	2.9	1.4	1.1	1.1	2.0	1.7	1.7
16	27.2	28.1	21.0	21.0	32.8	24.4	22.4
17	2.8	4.2	2.4	1.6	4.1	4.2	2.2
18	.9	1.4	1.0	1.8	1.0	1.9	2.4
19	.4	.4	.7	.4	.5	.6	1.0
20	1.5	2.9	1.6	1.1	1.1	2.5	1.3
21	2.5	1.5	2.7	2.4	2.7	3.7	2.4
30	3.4	5.4	4.3	2.5	3.8	3.2	3.4
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Total
Responses 1,135 1,121 1,188 1,310 1,253 1,268 1,328

PART III: TYPE OF SPECIAL SEASON

The question was: "Which type of special (any deer) season would you prefer if the same total antlerless kill would be permitted in either type of season?"

Two or three day special season at end of regular season ☐

Special season at same time as regular buck season ☐

Results are as follows (given by Region of residence):

<u>Type of season</u>	<u>Upper Peninsula Residents</u>				<u>Northern Lower Peninsula Residents</u>			
	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
"Post"	28%	37%	43%	41%	39%	43%	41%	41%
"Concurrent"	54	30	33	43	41	24	30	47
Did not answer	18	33	24	17	20	33	29	12
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of replies	137	132	106	126	270	275	289	254

Region of Residence (continued)

<u>Type of Season</u>	<u>Southern Lower Peninsula Residents</u>				<u>All Hunters*</u>			
	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
"Post"	33%	38%	40%	37%	33%	39%	40%	38%
"Concurrent"	50	33	35	55	49	31	34	52
Did not answer	17	29	25	8	18	30	26	10
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of replies	870	828	834	831	1,312	1,253	1,254	1,237

Since one-tenth of those contacted did not answer the question in 1962, perhaps the most useful figures are those pertaining only to hunters who actually made a choice. On this basis, 42 percent favored the "post" season and 58 percent the "concurrent" type of special season in 1962.

* Includes non-residents

This question had not been asked before 1959 of a random sample of all deer hunters, but we did ask a similar question of two groups of hunters following the 1956 season. These hunters were contacted on the basis of hunting license numbers (back-tags) obtained in the field during the season in two areas. The areas were the Lake-Newaygo (Area 2) and Roscommon-Missaukee-Clare (Area 3). Special Season Areas of 1956. Details of the survey are given in Report No. 2139, and a summary is as follows (classified by Area and by whether or not the hunter had a permit:

<u>Type of Season Preferred</u>	<u>Area 2</u> (Concurrent season in 1956)		<u>Area 3</u> (Post-season in 1956)	
	<u>Had Permit</u>	<u>No Permit</u>	<u>Had Permit</u>	<u>No Permit</u>
"Post"	14%	27%	45%	30%
"Concurrent"	75	53	34	39
No answer	11	20	21	31
	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total replies	189	323	175	313

Opinion on Special Seasons and Kind of Season Preferred

Data for 1960, 1961, and 1962 indicated there was a definite relationship between the opinion on special seasons and the kind of special season preferred. Those recognizing a need for special seasons preferred concurrent seasons all three years. Those who indicated they thought special seasons were unnecessary, favored post seasons about two to one. This may be explained by the apparently rather general feeling that the subsequent season will take fewer deer (this was evident in a number of comments in spite of our qualification that "the same number of deer would be taken in either type of season"). These results, given below, include only those individuals who answered both questions 3 and 4.

	1960	1961	1962
Believed special seasons necessary, preferred post season	27.3%	31.8%	21.6%
Believed special seasons necessary, preferred concurrent season	28.8	35.9	45.3
Believed special seasons unnecessary, preferred post season	30.2	22.3	20.6
Believed special seasons unnecessary, preferred concurrent season	13.7	10.0	12.5
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Total replies	848	908	1,097

APPENDIX

Questionnaires Used
Deer Hunters Opinion Surveys

1954 and 1955

1. During your deer hunting in 1954 (1955) how many deer (bucks, does and fawns) did you actually see?

Number seen in the Upper Peninsula _____ Days Hunted _____

Number seen in the Lower Peninsula _____ Days Hunted _____

2. Do you think the season should always open on:

Saturday _____, Sunday _____, a Week Day _____, or November 15 _____?

3. Would you prefer an:

Earlier _____, Later _____, or same _____ opening day (November 15)?

4. During your deer hunting this fall how many accidentally shot does and fawns did you see in the woods during the REGULAR BUCK SEASON?

Number in the Upper Peninsula _____.

Number in the Lower Peninsula _____.

5. Comments on the 1954 (1955) deer season:

1956

1. During your deer hunting in 1956 how many deer (bucks, does and fawns) did you actually see?

Number seen in the Upper Peninsula _____ Days Hunted _____

Number seen in the Lower Peninsula _____ Days Hunted _____

2. During your deer hunting this fall how many accidentally shot does and fawns did you see in the woods, during the REGULAR BUCK SEASON?

Number in the Upper Peninsula _____

Number in the Lower Peninsula _____

3. We would like YOUR opinion about special seasons. Do you think it is necessary to shoot a LIMITED number of does and fawns, as well as bucks, in some parts of Michigan? Yes ☐ No ☐ . What are your reasons for this opinion?

1957 and 1958

1. During your deer hunting in 1957 (1958) how many deer (bucks, does and fawns) did you actually see?

Number seen in the Upper Peninsula _____ Days Hunted _____

Number seen in the Lower Peninsula _____ Days Hunted _____

2. Would you prefer an:

Earlier _____, Later _____, or same _____ opening day (November 15)?

3. We would like your opinion about special seasons. Do you think it is necessary to shoot a LIMITED number of does and fawns, as well as bucks, in some parts of Michigan? Yes ☐ No ☐ .

WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS FOR THIS OPINION?

1959, 1960 and 1961

1. Did you receive a special (any deer) season permit last fall? Yes ☐ No ☐

What area was it for? (Number _____).

2. Which type of special (any deer) season would you prefer if the same total antlerless kill would be permitted in either type of season?

Two or three day special season at end of regular season.....

Special season Nov. 15-30 along with regular buck season.....

3. We would like YOUR opinion about special seasons. Do you think it is necessary to shoot a LIMITED number of does and fawns, as well as bucks, in some parts of Michigan? Yes ☐ No ☐

WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS FOR THIS OPINION?

1962

1. Where did you hunt deer last fall? (Give county or counties) _____

2. Did you receive a special (any deer) season permit last fall? Yes ☐ No ☐

What area was it for? (Give Number) _____

3. Which type of special (any deer) season would you prefer if the same total antlerless kill would be permitted in either type of season?

Two or three day special season at end of regular season.....

Special season at the same time as regular buck season.....

4. We would like YOUR opinion about special seasons. Do you think it is necessary to shoot a LIMITED number of does and fawns, as well as bucks, in some parts of Michigan? Yes ☐ No ☐

WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS FOR THIS OPINION?

LAR/jr
8/5/63