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2003 MICHIGAN BLACK BEAR HUNTER SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

A random sample of bear hunters was contacted after the 2003 hunting season to determine hunter participation, hunting methods, bear harvest, and hunter satisfaction. In 2003, an estimated 8,600 hunters spent about 63,000 days afield and harvested nearly 2,500 bears, an increase in harvest of 8% from 2002. Statewide, 29% of hunters harvested a bear. Baiting was the most common hunting method used to locate and harvest bears. Statewide, most hunters (54%) rated their hunting experience as very good or good. Also, most hunters (70%) approved of the preference-point system for the distribution of hunting licenses.

INTRODUCTION

Beginning in 1990, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) created black bear (*Ursus americanus*) management units (Figure 1) and limited the number of bear hunting licenses issued for each unit. Before 1990, an unlimited number of bear licenses were sold, and licenses were valid in all areas open to bear hunting. In 2000, the MDNR modified the licensing system by implementing a preference-point system for issuing bear hunting licenses. Under this system, hunters received one preference point if they applied for a hunt but were not selected in the drawing. Hunters also could obtain a preference point by completing an application but forgoing the drawing. Applicants with the greatest number of preference points had the greatest chance of being selected for a hunt, except that no more than 2% of the licenses were issued to nonresidents.

In 2003, ten bear management units in northern Michigan totaling 30,671 square miles were open for bear hunting (Figure 1). Bear could be hunted September 10-October 26 in most of the Upper Peninsula (UP) units except the Drummond Management Unit (September 10-16)



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and September 19-25 in the northern Lower Peninsula (LP) units. The Red Oak Management Unit in the LP also had an archery-only hunt during October 3-9. The Wildlife Division set license quotas for each management unit and allocated 10,900 licenses among 41,641 eligible applicants using the preference-point system. Licenses were valid on all land ownership types and allowed a hunter to take one bear of either sex, excluding cubs and female bears with cubs. Bear could be harvested with either firearm or archery equipment, except for the special archery-only hunt in the Red Oak Management Unit. Hunters could use bait or dogs to hunt bears (except dogs could not be used during September 10-14 in the UP, except on Drummond Island, and during the archery-only season in the Red Oak Management Unit).

The MDNR has the authority and responsibility to protect and manage the wildlife resources of the State of Michigan. Harvest surveys are one of the management tools used by the Wildlife Division to accomplish its statutory responsibility. Estimating harvest, hunting effort, and hunter satisfaction are among the primary objectives of these surveys. Estimates derived from harvest surveys, as well as harvest reported by hunters at mandatory registration stations, are used to monitor bear populations and establish harvest regulations.

METHODS

Following the 2003 bear hunting season, a questionnaire (Appendix A) was sent to 3,632 randomly selected successful applicants that had purchased a bear hunting license (resident, senior, and nonresident bear licenses, and comprehensive lifetime license). Hunters receiving the questionnaire were asked to report whether they hunted, number of days spent afield, whether they harvested a bear, and their hunting methods. Hunters also reported whether other hunters caused interference during their hunt and whether the interference was caused by other bear hunters. Successful hunters were asked to report harvest date, sex of the bear taken, and harvest method. Finally, all bear hunters were asked to rate their overall hunting experience and indicate whether they approved of the preference-point system that was used to distribute hunting licenses.

Estimates were based on information collected from random samples of hunting license buyers. Thus, these estimates were subject to sampling errors (Cochran 1977). Estimates were calculated using a stratified random sampling design (Cochran 1977) and were presented along with their 95% confidence limit (CL). In theory, this confidence limit can be added and subtracted from the estimate to calculate the 95% confidence interval. The confidence interval is a measure of the precision associated with the estimate and implies that the true value would be within this interval 95 times out of 100. Unfortunately, there are several other possible sources of error in surveys that are probably more serious than theoretical calculations of sampling error. They include failure of participants to provide answers (nonresponse bias), question wording, and question order. It is very difficult to measure these biases; thus, estimates were not adjusted for these possible biases.

Questionnaires were mailed initially during early November 2003, and up to two follow-up questionnaires were mailed to nonrespondents. Although 3,632 people were sent the questionnaire, 36 surveys were undeliverable resulting in an adjusted sample size of 3,596. Questionnaires were returned by 2,999 people, yielding an 83% adjusted response rate.

RESULTS

In 2003, 9,214 bear hunting licenses were purchased, an increase of 1% from 2002 (Table 1). Most of the people buying a license were men (92%), and the average age of the license buyers was 45 years (Figure 2). About 2% of the license buyers (153) were younger than 17 years old.

Nearly 94% ($\pm 1\%$) of the license buyers hunted bears (Tables 1 and 2). These hunters spent 62,925 days afield ($\bar{x} = 7.3$ days/hunter) and harvested 2,465 bears, an increase of about 8% from 2002 (Figure 3, Table 2). The number of hunters, hunting effort, and bears harvested in 2003 were the highest recorded since the present bear management system was initiated in 1990 (Figure 3). Counties having the highest number of bear hunters and bears harvested included Baraga, Marquette, and Ontonagon (Table 3).

About 37% of the bear hunters hunted on private lands only, 44% hunted on public lands only, and 19% hunted on both private and public lands (Table 4). Bear hunters spent 21,754 days afield on private land, 27,204 days hunting on public land only, and 13,284 days hunting on both private and public lands (Table 5). Of the estimated 2,465 bear harvested in 2003, 40% ($\pm 3\%$) of these bears were taken on private land (995 ± 87). About 59% ($\pm 3\%$) of the harvest ($1,448 \pm 105$) were taken on public land. A few bear (21 ± 14) were harvested from land of unknown ownership.

Of the bears harvested, 60% ($\pm 3\%$) were males ($1,476 \pm 105$) and 39% ($\pm 3\%$) were females (966 ± 88 , Table 6). Statewide, 29% of hunters harvested a bear in 2003 (Table 2), an increase from 27% hunter success reported last year (Frawley 2003). Hunter success ranged from 15-58% among the bear management units.

Most hunters ($77 \pm 1\%$) used only firearms while hunting bear, although $23 \pm 1\%$ of the hunters used archery equipment only or a combination of firearm and archery equipment (Table 7). Moreover, most hunters ($85 \pm 1\%$) relied primarily on baiting as a means of locating and attracting bears (Table 8). About 12% ($\pm 1\%$) of hunters relied primarily on dogs alone or in combination with baiting to locate bears. About 2% of hunters relied on a hunting method not involving dogs or bait.

About 81% ($\pm 1\%$) of the harvested bears were taken with the aid of bait only (Table 9). The proportion of bears harvested with bait was nearly identical to the proportion of hunters using bait as their primary means of locating bears (81% versus 85%; Tables 8 and 9). Although 12% of the hunters depended primarily on dogs to locate bears, 18% ($\pm 2\%$) of the harvested bears were taken using dogs. Bear hunters using dogs have normally been more successful in taking bear than hunters that used bait only (Table 10). In 2003, hunting success for hunters using dogs was 42%, while hunting success for hunters using bait only was 27%.

Statewide, most hunters ($54 \pm 2\%$) rated their hunting experiences as very good or good and 23% ($\pm 1\%$) rated their hunting experiences as being poor or very poor (Tables 3 and 11). Hunter satisfaction is affected by many factors such as hunting success and whether hunting activities were completed without interference (Figure 4). In 2003, 27% ($\pm 1\%$) of the hunters

(2,347 \pm 123) were interfered with by other hunters. Most of this interference was caused by another bear hunter; 22% (\pm 1%) of the hunters (1,903 \pm 115) reported that other bear hunters interfered with their hunt. Generally, hunters in the UP were less likely to be interfered by other hunters than hunters in the LP (Tables 3 and 11, Figure 5).

In 2001, a preference-point system was implemented for distributing bear hunting licenses. Hunters were asked whether they approved of this distribution system. Most hunters (70 \pm 1%) approved or strongly approved of the system. About 19% (\pm 1%) of the hunters indicated that they were not sure about the system, and 9% (\pm 1%) disapproved or strongly disapproved of the system.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Figure 1. 2003 bear management units open to hunting in northern Michigan.

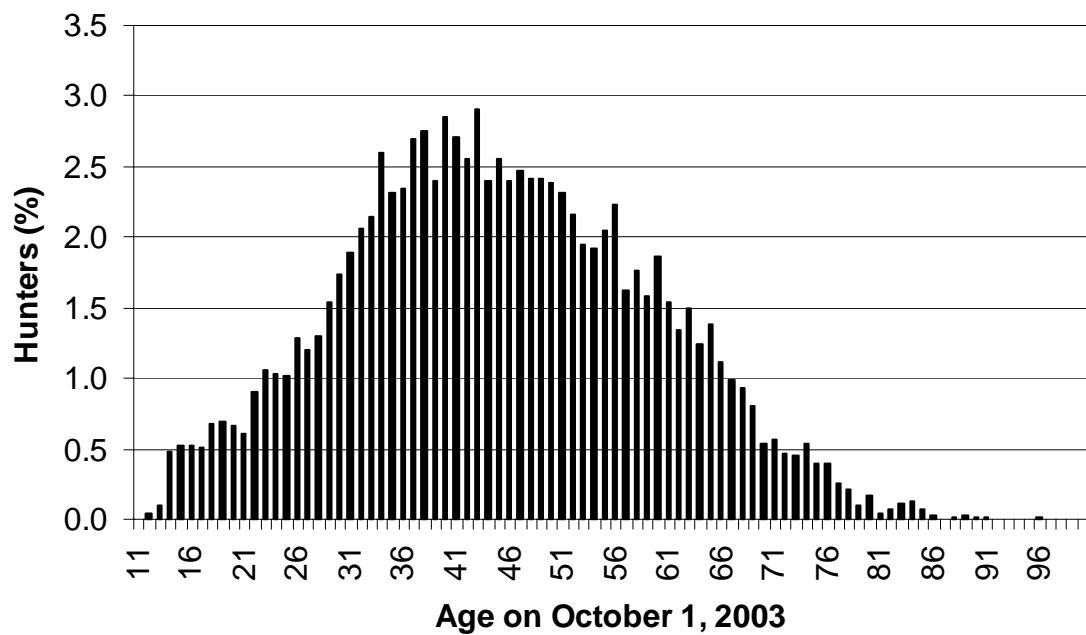


Figure 2. Age of people that purchased a bear hunting license in Michigan for the 2003 hunting season (\bar{x} = 45 years). Licenses were purchased by 9,214 people.

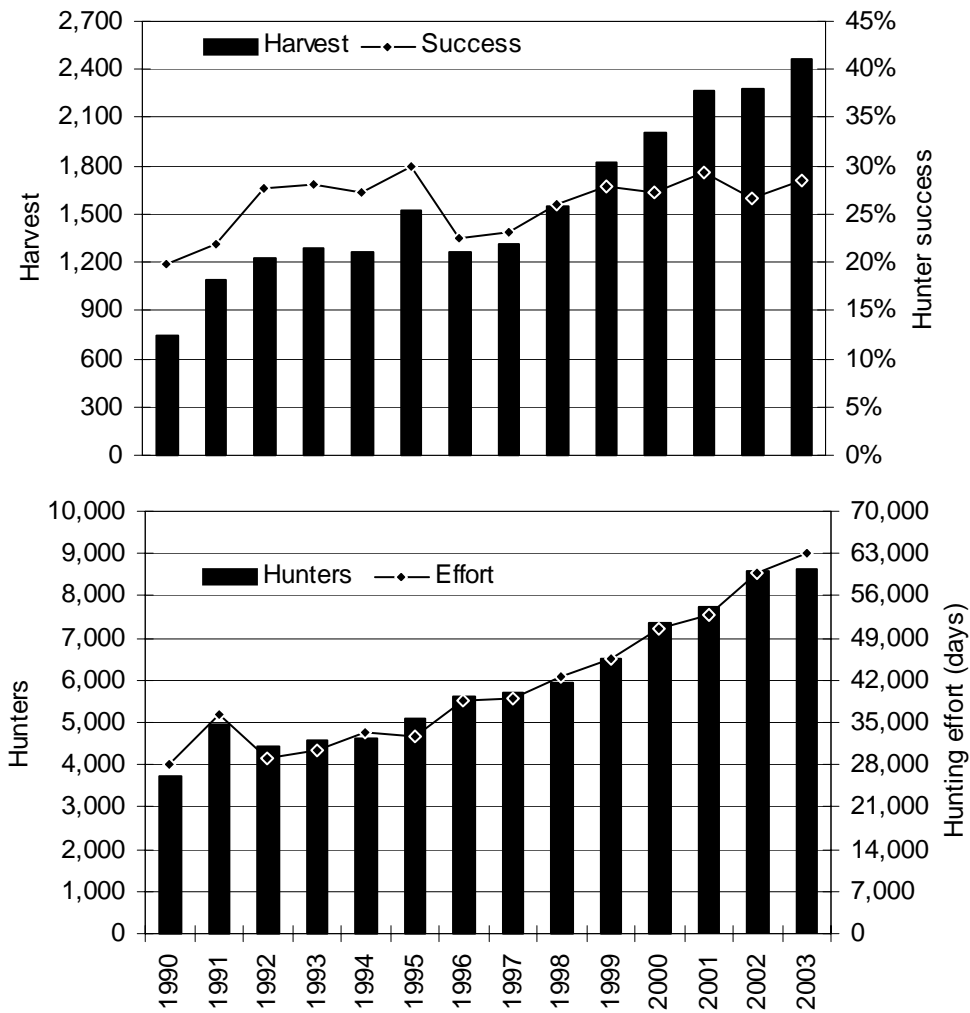


Figure 3. Estimated number of hunters, harvest, hunting effort, and hunting success during bear hunting seasons, 1990-2003.

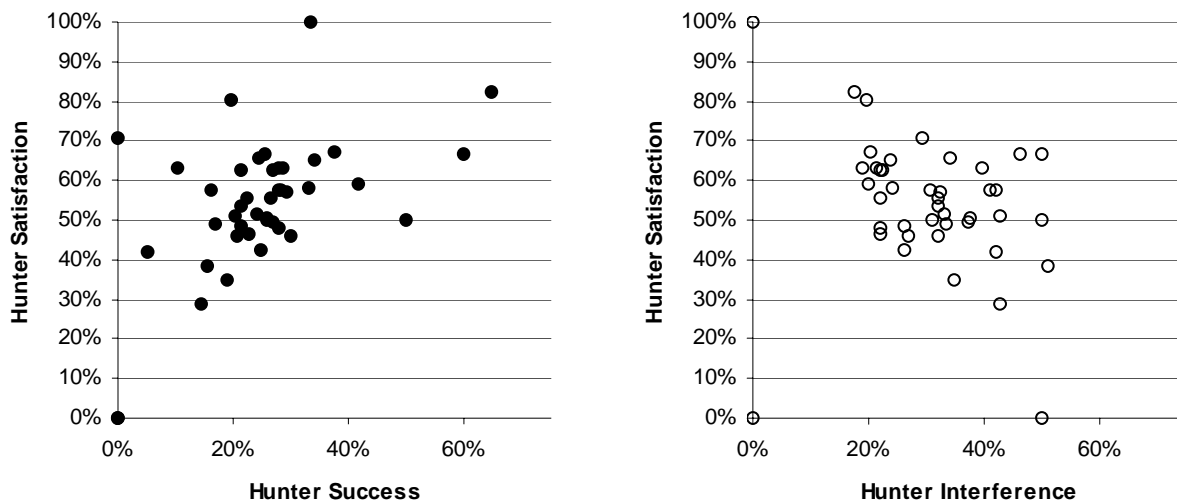


Figure 4. Hunter satisfaction (hunters rating their hunting experience as very good or good) relative to hunter success and hunter interference for each of 40 counties in Michigan during the 2003 bear hunting season. Interference was the proportion of hunters that reported interference from other hunters (all types of hunters).

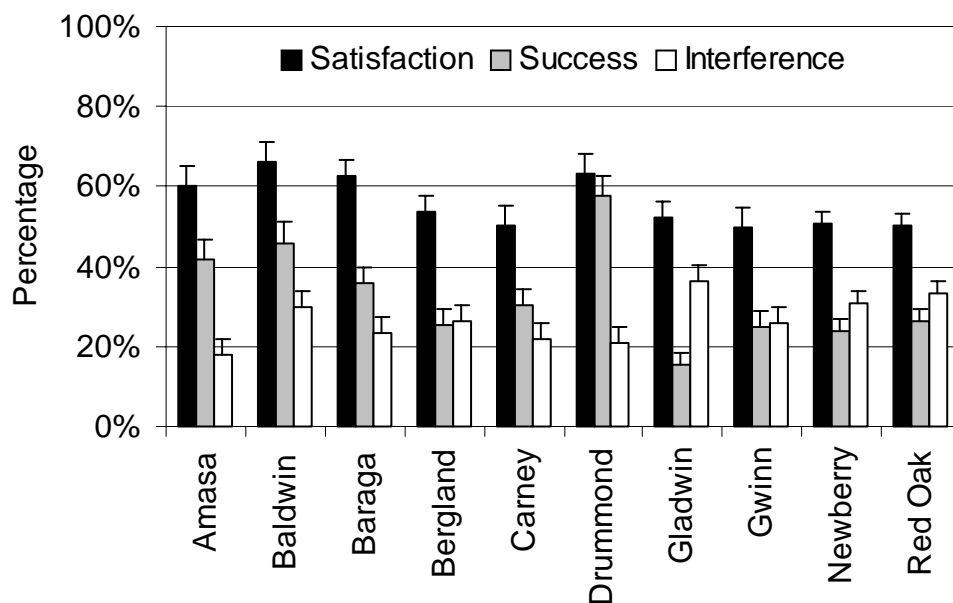


Figure 5. Estimated hunter satisfaction, hunting success, and level of hunter interference in Michigan's management units during the 2003 bear hunting season. Satisfaction measures the proportion of hunters rating their hunting experiences as very good or good. Error bars represent the 95% confidence limit. Interference was the proportion of hunters that reported interference from other hunters (all types of hunters).

Table 1. Number of people purchasing hunting licenses for the 2003 Michigan bear hunting seasons.

Management unit	Licenses available	Number of eligible applicants	Licenses sold
Amasa	590	2,346	525
Baldwin	60	1,806	57
Baraga	2,180	5,421	1,814
Bergland	1,660	3,050	1,316
Carney	1,060	2,804	900
Drummond	20	473	20
Gladwin	200	740	158
Gwinn	1,180	3,861	983
Newberry	2,250	9,389	1,895
Red Oak	1,700	11,751	1,546
Statewide	10,900	41,641	9,214
Applicants opting for Preference Point ^a		9,267	

^aApplicants that chose to receive a preference point rather than enter into the drawing for a hunting license.

Table 2. Estimated number of hunters, harvest, hunter success, and hunting effort during the 2003 Michigan bear hunting season.

Management unit	Hunters		Harvest		Hunter success		Hunting effort		Days per hunter (\bar{x})	
	No.	95% CL ^a	No.	95% CL ^a	%	95% CL ^a	Days	95% CL ^a	Days	95% CL ^a
Amasa	488	13	203	24	42	5	3,524	303	7.2	0.6
Baldwin	57	0	26	3	46	5	230	13	4.0	0.2
Baraga	1,699	39	606	75	36	4	12,129	1001	7.1	0.6
Bergland	1,218	30	308	48	25	4	9,310	802	7.6	0.6
Carney	829	22	250	37	30	4	7,991	748	9.6	0.8
Drummond	20	0	12	1	58	5	87	4	4.4	0.2
Gladwin	152	2	23	4	15	3	632	29	4.2	0.2
Gwinn	903	24	225	36	25	4	6,709	550	7.4	0.6
Newberry	1,781	30	422	53	24	3	14,582	925	8.2	0.5
Red Oak	1,486	20	389	44	26	3	7,730	370	5.2	0.2
Statewide ^b	8,634	70	2,465	126	29	1	62,925	1,896	7.3	0.2

^a 95% confidence limits.

^b Column totals may not equal statewide totals because of rounding errors.

Table 3. Estimated number of hunters, hunting effort, harvest, hunter success, hunter satisfaction, and hunt interference during the 2003 Michigan bear hunting season.

County	Hunters ^a		Harvest ^a		Hunter success		Hunting efforts (days) ^a		Hunter satisfaction ^b		Interfered hunters ^c	
	Total	95% CL	Total	95% CL	%	95% CL	Total	95% CL	%	95% CL	%	95% CL
Alcona	196	34	57	19	29	8	1,081	214	57	9	32	8
Alger	244	42	63	22	26	8	1,956	448	50	9	38	9
Alpena	144	29	33	15	23	9	762	179	46	11	22	9
Antrim	11	8	5	6	50	39	38	35	50	39	50	39
Arenac	4	5	0	0	0	0	16	24	71	37	29	37
Baraga	879	81	304	58	34	6	5,963	831	65	6	24	5
Benzie	2	1	0	0	0	0	13	6	0	0	50	25
Charlevoix	19	11	3	4	14	21	76	51	29	27	43	29
Cheboygan	91	25	25	13	27	12	518	206	63	13	23	11
Chippewa	464	54	106	28	21	5	3,677	579	53	6	32	6
Clare	31	7	5	2	16	7	142	52	38	9	51	11
Crawford	68	21	11	8	16	11	343	128	58	15	42	15
Delta	331	46	102	27	30	7	2,509	475	46	7	27	7
Dickinson	336	45	99	26	28	7	2,790	498	63	7	19	6
Emmet	45	18	14	9	24	17	237	111	66	18	34	18
Gladwin	35	7	5	2	10	5	142	24	63	8	40	9
Gogebic	453	54	102	30	22	6	3,421	553	56	7	22	6

^aNumber of hunters does not add up to statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one county. Column totals for hunting effort and harvest may not equal statewide totals because of rounding errors.

^bProportion of hunters that rated their hunting experience as very good or good.

^cProportion of hunters that indicated that they experienced interference from other hunters (all types of hunters).

Table 3 (continued). Estimated number of hunters, hunting effort, harvest, hunter success, hunter satisfaction, and hunt interference during the 2003 Michigan bear hunting season.

County	Hunters ^a		Harvest ^a		Hunter success		Hunting efforts (days) ^a		Hunter satisfaction ^b		Interfered hunters ^c	
	Total	95% CL	Total	95% CL	%	95% CL	Total	95% CL	%	95% CL	%	95% CL
Gd. Traverse	0	0	0	0			0	0				
Houghton	304	59	105	37	29	9	2,448	640	63	10	21	8
Iosco	23	4	1	1	5	4	120	23	42	10	42	10
Iron	304	24	127	21	42	6	2,216	282	59	6	20	5
Kalkaska	57	19	11	8	19	13	348	149	35	15	35	15
Keweenaw	220	52	87	34	38	12	1,350	441	67	12	20	10
Lake	29	6	8	2	28	8	104	15	58	10	31	9
Luce	567	59	120	31	21	5	3,730	518	46	6	32	6
Mackinac	324	48	55	22	17	6	3,128	618	49	8	33	8
Manistee	3	1	1	1	33	19	17	7	100	0	0	0
Marquette	695	70	229	46	33	6	4,965	685	58	6	24	5
Menominee	485	42	147	30	28	6	5,201	686	48	6	22	5
Missaukee	152	31	41	16	27	9	803	195	50	10	37	10
Montmorency	221	36	65	20	28	8	1,191	264	58	8	41	8
Newaygo	6	2	3	1	60	15	15	6	67	13	50	14
Ogemaw	52	7	11	3	21	6	234	35	62	7	22	5
Ontonagon	698	70	184	41	26	5	5,168	754	50	6	31	6

^aNumber of hunters does not add up to statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one county. Column totals for hunting effort and harvest may not equal statewide totals because of rounding errors.

^bProportion of hunters that rated their hunting experience as very good or good.

^cProportion of hunters that indicated that they experienced interference from other hunters (all types of hunters).

Table 3 (continued). Estimated number of hunters, hunting effort, harvest, hunter success, hunter satisfaction, and hunt interference during the 2003 Michigan bear hunting season.

County	Hunters ^a		Harvest ^a		Hunter success		Hunting efforts (days) ^a		Hunter satisfaction ^b		Interfered hunters ^c	
	95%		95%		95%		95%		95%		95%	
	Total	CL	Total	CL	%	CL	Total	CL	%	CL	%	CL
Osceola	6	2	1	1	20	12	13	5	80	12	20	12
Oscoda	96	24	25	13	25	11	510	153	67	12	46	12
Otsego	81	23	19	11	20	12	389	125	51	14	43	14
Presque Isle	199	34	49	18	25	8	932	180	43	9	26	8
Roscommon	135	29	33	15	24	10	646	156	51	11	33	10
Schoolcraft	320	49	91	27	26	7	2,723	558	55	8	32	7
Wexford	19	3	13	2	65	8	75	12	82	6	18	6
Unknown	473	60	107	30	21	6	2,918	509	48	6	26	6

^aNumber of hunters does not add up to statewide total because hunters can hunt in more than one county. Column totals for hunting effort and harvest may not equal statewide totals because of rounding errors.

^bProportion of hunters that rated their hunting experience as very good or good.

^cProportion of hunters that indicated that they experienced interference from other hunters (all types of hunters).

Table 4. Estimated number and proportion of hunters hunting on private and public lands during the 2003 bear hunting season.

Management unit	Private land only				Public land only				Both private and public lands				Unknown land			
	Total	95% CL	%	95% CL	Total	95% CL	%	95% CL	Total	95% CL	%	95% CL	Total	95% CL	%	95% CL
Amasa	245	24	50	5	168	23	35	5	72	17	15	3	2	3	0	1
Baldwin	11	2	20	4	34	3	60	5	10	2	18	4	1	1	0	0
Baraga	478	70	28	4	781	78	46	4	409	66	24	4	32	21	2	1
Bergland	242	44	20	4	711	56	58	4	245	44	20	4	21	14	2	1
Carney	485	41	59	5	191	34	23	4	150	31	18	4	3	5	0	1
Drummond	2	1	11	3	11	1	53	5	7	1	37	5	0	0	0	0
Gladwin	54	6	35	4	83	6	55	4	13	3	9	2	1	1	1	1
Gwinn	320	40	35	4	397	42	44	5	184	34	20	4	3	5	0	1
Newberry	574	59	32	3	870	64	49	3	331	49	19	3	6	7	0	0
Red Oak	743	51	50	3	531	48	36	3	193	33	13	2	19	11	1	1
Statewide	3,154	129	37	1	3,776	138	44	2	1,615	110	19	1	89	30	1	0

Table 5. Estimated number of days of hunting effort on private and public lands during the 2003 Michigan bear hunting season.

Management unit	Private lands		Public lands		Both private and public lands		Unknown	
	Total	95% CL	Total	95% CL	Total	95% CL	Total	95% CL
Amasa	1,568	226	1,225	227	665	207	66	95
Baldwin	48	10	141	15	41	10	0	0
Baraga	2,677	543	5,915	928	3,421	730	115	120
Bergland	2,093	552	5,278	664	1,764	459	175	150
Carney	4,632	624	1,803	530	1,444	406	112	178
Drummond	5	2	49	6	33	5	0	0
Gladwin	191	25	380	32	60	16	1	1
Gwinn	2,366	425	2,688	440	1,640	385	15	24
Newberry	4,400	612	6,814	743	3,274	670	94	124
Red Oak	3,772	353	2,910	324	942	207	106	107
Statewide ^a	21,754	1,312	27,204	1,577	13,284	1,262	683	324

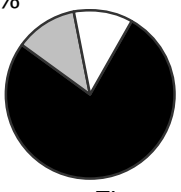
^aColumn totals may not equal statewide totals because of rounding errors.

Table 6. Estimated number of hunters, harvest, and hunting effort (days) during Michigan bear hunting season, 1997-2003.

Region	Year						
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Upper Peninsula							
Applicants	21,224	25,620	26,833	31,277	31,666	29,112	27,344
Licenses sold	5,490	5,242	5,818	6,786	8,337	7,393	7,453
Hunters	4,732	4,961	5,511	6,308	6,492	6,949	6,939
Harvest	1,116	1,353	1,590	1,781	1,990	1,962	2,026
Males (%)	54	59	65	58	59	62	62
Females (%)	45	40	34	40	39	37	38
Unknown (%)	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Hunter-days	34,195	37,123	40,452	45,403	46,719	51,452	54,333
Hunter success (%)	24	27	29	28	31	28	29
Lower Peninsula							
Applicants	7,904	10,295	11,073	13,887	14,674	14,370	14,297
Licenses sold	1,135	1,039	1,062	1,113	1,544	1,711	1,761
Hunters	961	993	1,005	1,058	1,247	1,626	1,695
Harvest	199	192	227	230	279	320	439
Males (%)	53	63	64	57	55	70	52
Females (%)	44	35	36	41	45	29	47
Unknown (%)	3	2	0	2	0	1	1
Hunter-days	4,877	4,629	5,069	5,259	6,204	8,465	8,592
Hunter success (%)	21	19	23	22	22	20	26
Statewide							
Applicants ^a	29,128	35,915	37,906	48,696	53,179	51,686	50,908
Licenses sold	6,625	6,281	6,880	7,899	9,881	9,104	9,214
Hunters	5,693	5,956	6,516	7,365	7,739	8,575	8,634
Harvest	1,315	1,545	1,817	2,011	2,268	2,282	2,465
Males (%)	54	59	65	58	58	63	60
Females (%)	45	39	34	40	40	36	39
Unknown (%)	1	2	1	2	2	1	1
Hunter-days	39,072	41,752	45,521	50,664	52,923	59,917	62,925
Hunter success (%)	23	26	28	27	29	27	29

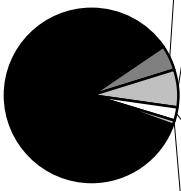
^aBeginning in 2000, the number of applicants statewide also included people that applied for a preference point.

Table 7. Hunting equipment used to hunt bear in Michigan, 2003.

Equipment	Number of hunters	95% CL ^a	Equipment used (%)
Firearm	6,589	127	 <p>Archery 12% Both 11% Firearm 77%</p>
Archery	1,035	89	
Both firearm and archery	981	84	
Unknown	29	17	

^a 95% confidence limits.

Table 8. Primary hunting methods used to hunt bear in Michigan, 2003.

Method	Number of hunters	95% CL ^a	Method used (%)
Bait only	7,345	116	 <p>Dogs Only 5% Dogs & Bait 7% Other 2% Unknown 1% Bait Only 85%</p>
Dogs only	409	58	
Dogs and bait	599	72	
Other	201	42	
Unknown	81	28	

^a 95% confidence limits.

Table 9. Hunting methods used to harvest bear in Michigan, 2003.

Method	Number of hunters	95% CL ^a	Method used (%)
Bait only	1,996	117	<p>Other 0.7%</p> <p>Unknown 0.6%</p> <p>Bait Only 81%</p> <p>Dogs & Bait 10%</p> <p>Dogs Only 7%</p>
Dogs only	178	40	
Dogs and bait	257	49	
Other	18	12	
Unknown	16	10	

^a 95% confidence limits.

Table 10. Bear hunter success, summarized by primary hunting method and year, 1999-2003.

Primary hunt method	Year									
	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003	
	%	95% CL	%	95% CL	%	95% CL	%	95% CL	%	95% CL
Bait only	30	2	26	2	30	2	28	2	27	2
Dogs only	28	6	39	7	28	6	26	7	40	7
Dogs started over bait	46	6	50	6	46	6	43	7	43	6
Other method	4	3	10	5	4	3	9	6	11	6
Used dogs (with or without bait)	37	4	45	5	37	4	36	5	42	5

Table 11. Level of hunter interference and satisfaction of bear hunters with their hunting experience in Michigan during the 2003 season.

Management unit	Hunter success (%)	Hunters interfered by other hunters (%) ^a	Hunters interfered by other bear hunters (%)	Satisfaction level (%)					
				Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	No answer
Amasa	42	18	11	26	34	21	12	6	2
Baldwin	46	30	12	40	26	14	14	6	0
Baraga	36	23	19	28	35	19	11	5	2
Bergland	25	26	23	17	36	21	18	6	1
Carney	30	22	16	17	33	23	15	10	2
Drummond	58	21	21	47	16	26	11	0	0
Gladwin	15	36	20	16	36	27	14	6	1
Gwinn	25	26	21	21	29	21	16	10	3
Newberry	24	31	27	17	34	20	17	11	1
Red Oak	26	34	27	19	32	24	14	10	2
Statewide	29	27	22	21	33	21	15	8	2

^aIncludes all types of hunters.

Appendix A.

2003 Michigan Bear Harvest Questionnaire.



2003 MICHIGAN BEAR HARVEST REPORT

This information is requested under authority of Part 435, 1994 PA 451, M.C.L. 324.43539.



*It is important that you complete and return this report even if
you did not hunt or harvest a bear.*

1. Did you hunt bear in Michigan during the 2003 season?

¹ ☐ Yes ² ☐ No; skip to question 10 on the reverse side

2. Please report the number of days for each county that you hunted bear in the following table.

COUNTY HUNTED (List each county that you hunted for bear)	NUMBER OF DAYS HUNTED	TYPE OF LAND		
		¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Private	² <input type="checkbox"/> Public	³ <input type="checkbox"/> Both
		¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Private	² <input type="checkbox"/> Public	³ <input type="checkbox"/> Both
		¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Private	² <input type="checkbox"/> Public	³ <input type="checkbox"/> Both
		¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Private	² <input type="checkbox"/> Public	³ <input type="checkbox"/> Both
		¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Private	² <input type="checkbox"/> Public	³ <input type="checkbox"/> Both

3. Did you hunt with a firearm or a bow during the 2003 bear season?

¹ ☐ Firearm ² ☐ Bow ³ ☐ Both

4. What hunting method did you most often use when hunting bear in Michigan during the 2003 bear season? (*please select only one item*)

¹ ☐ Hunted over bait only ² ☐ Used dogs only (bait not used)
³ ☐ Used dogs started over bait ⁴ ☐ Used other methods not involving dogs or bait

Please continue on back

5. Was your harvest tag put on a bear? (If no, please skip to question 7)

¹ ☐ Yes

² ☐ No

6. If your harvest tag was put on a bear, please fill in the information below

a. What date was the bear harvested?

(please check [X] the box for the date of harvest)

September 2003						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2003						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26						

b. What was the sex of the bear? ¹ ☐ Male

² ☐ Female

³ ☐ Not sure

c. In what county was it harvested?

(please write in the county name)

d. On what type of land was the bear harvested?

¹ ☐ Private

² ☐ Public

e. What was the method of harvest? ¹ ☐ Taken over bait

² ☐ Used dogs (bait not used)

³ ☐ Used dogs started over bait

⁴ ☐ Used other methods not involving dogs or bait

7. Did other hunters interfere with your bear hunting?

¹ ☐ Yes

² ☐ No (skip to question 9)

8. If you answered "yes" to the previous question, was the interference caused by other bear hunters?

¹ ☐ Yes

² ☐ No

9. Overall, how would you rate your 2003 bear hunting experiences?

¹ ☐ Very Good

² ☐ Good

³ ☐ Neutral

⁴ ☐ Poor

⁵ ☐ Very Poor

10. In 2000, a preference point system was implemented for distributing bear hunting licenses in Michigan. Which of the following best describes your opinion about the system?
(please select one choice)

¹ ☐ Strongly Approve

² ☐ Approve

³ ☐ Not Sure

⁴ ☐ Disapprove

⁵ ☐ Strongly Disapprove

11. Do you have any comments about bear management in Michigan? Your comments help to identify management issues and may impact future regulations.

Return the completed report in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Thanks for your help.