

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Game Division

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1960 Special Bear Seasons
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Bears were legal game during several hunting seasons in 1960, although a hunter may legally kill only one bear per calendar year. Briefly, these seasons were as follows:

1. Statewide, October 1 to November 5, under bow and arrow deer and bear license. Use of dogs not permitted.
2. Statewide, November 15 to 30, under regular gun deer and bear license. Use of dogs not permitted.
3. Upper Peninsula (Zone 1), under 1959 small game license with bear stamp attached, September 1 to 15. Use of dogs permitted.
4. Upper Peninsula (Zone 1), under 1960 small game license with bear stamp attached, October 1 to November 5. Use of dogs permitted.
5. Northern Lower Peninsula (Zone 2), under 1960 small game license with bear stamp attached, October 1 to 15. Use of dogs permitted.
6. Southern Lower Peninsula (Zone 3), under 1960 small game license with bear stamp attached, from October 7 to 15. Use of dogs permitted.

This report describes the results of the so-called "special" bear seasons, Numbers 3, 4, 5, and 6 above, where a bear stamp was required. These figures do not include the bears killed by deer hunters under a deer license. The information is based on a mail survey of a systematic sample of about one-half of the bear stamp purchasers. Since 1959 was the first year that bear stamps were required, we have comparable figures for only two years.

To date 3,743 1960 bear stamps have been sold, compared to sales of 3,845 at this time in 1959. Final sales of 1959 stamps totaled 3,865. Sales of 1960 bear stamps to stamp collectors will continue.

An estimated 3,511 hunters killed 348 (309 to 386)* bears during the 1960 special bear seasons; 313 (about 90 per cent) in the Upper Peninsula, and 35 in the northern Lower Peninsula. No hunters reported hunting bears in the southern Lower Peninsula, which has very few bears. Tabular summaries of survey results follow.

*These confidence limits are expected to include the true kill 19 times out of 20.

LAR/bc
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DISTRIBUTION: B, B-1, E, E-1, E-2, G-1, G-2, G-3, H, H-1, H-2

BASIC DATA

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>		<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
Bear stamp sales	3,865	3,743	Survey sample	1,890	1,852
Per cent reported hunting	91.9%	93.8%	Responses	1,722	1,722
			Per cent response of delivered cards	94.8%	95.7%

TABLE 1

Estimated Bear Kill and Hunters by Season 1959 and 1960

Zone of Hunt	Estimated Bear Kill						Estimated Hunters					
	September		Oct.-Nov.		Total		September		Oct.-Nov.		Total	
	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960
Zone 1	192	143	130	170	322	313	2,326	2,132	1,204	1,286	3,530	3,418
Zone 2	-	-	31	35	31	35	-	-	571	717	571	717
Total	192	143	161	205	353	348	2,326	2,132	1,775	2,003	4,101*	4,135*

*About 624 hunters (17.8%) hunted in more than one season in 1960 and 620 (17.5%) in 1959.

TABLE 2

Distribution of Hunting Effort 1959 and 1960

Zone of Hunt	Relative Effort						Estimated Hunter-days	
	September		Oct.-Nov.		Total		1959	1960
	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960		
Zone 1	48.4%	46.2%	39.1%	41.0%	87.5%	87.2%	18,887	18,740
Zone 2	-	-	12.5%	12.8%	12.5%	12.8%	2,706	2,743
Total	48.4%	46.2%	51.6%	53.8%	100.0%	100.0%	21,593	21,483

TABLE 3

Reported Residence of Hunters by Season 1960

Residence	September	October-November		All Seasons
	Zone 1	Zone 1	Zone 2	
Upper Peninsula	290 (29.9%)	302 (51.6%)	3 (.9%)	595 (31.6%)
Northern Lower Peninsula*	258 (26.6%)	98 (16.8%)	173 (53.1%)	529 (28.1%)
Southern Lower Peninsula	391 (40.3%)	166 (28.4%)	148 (45.4%)	705 (37.5%)
Out-of-State	31 (3.2%)	19 (3.2%)	2 (.6%)	52 (2.8%)
Total	970 (100.0%)	585 (100.0%)	326 (100.0%)	1,881 (100.0%)

*Includes all residents of counties bisected by M-20, plus the remainder of counties in Zone 2.

TABLE 4

Reported Use of Dogs and Hunting Success 1960*

	Used Dogs			Did Not Use Dogs			Total Hunters	Per Cent Using Dogs
	Kill	Hunters	Success	Kill	Hunters	Success		
September 1-15 Zone 1	12	249	4.8%	51	659	7.7%	908	27.4%
Oct. 1-Nov. 5 Zone 1	16	91	17.6%	58	453	12.8%	544	20.1%
October 1-15 Zone 2	12	203	5.9%	2	104	1.9%	307	66.1%
Total	40	543	7.4%	111	1,216	9.1%	1,759	30.9%

*Information not available from 131 hunters, including nine who shot bears.

