

FAQ's: Wildlife Regulation Changes

More information on significant changes to hunting and furharvesting regulations is available online at: <http://novascotia.ca/natr/hunt/regulations.asp> (page 3: "Significant Changes for 2015").

Sunday Hunting

Q. Can we hunt on Sundays?

A. Sunday hunting will be permitted on the first two Sundays following the opening of the General Deer Hunting Season (In 2015, this will be on November 1st and November 8th).

Q. What wildlife can we hunt on these two Sundays?

A. All species for which a season is open at that time, except moose, can be hunted on those Sundays.

Human Wildlife Conflict Stamps (HWC Stamps)

Q. What are Human Wildlife Conflict Stamps?

A. HWC stamps are a new type of hunting stamp that allow targeted harvesting of deer and bear in special situations. They were introduced to help reduce human-wildlife conflict problems, primarily in agricultural situations, where other methods have not been successful. The HWC stamp attaches to a base hunting licence (Wildlife Habitat Stamp) and allows the holder to harvest a nuisance deer or bear, in addition to the normal annual lawful bag limit for licensed hunters allowed during the regular open seasons.

Q. Who issues HWC Stamps?

A. HWC stamps are issued by local DNR offices when it is determined that the removal of problem animals is necessary. DNR will first conduct an investigation and assessment of the human wildlife conflict situation and then determine if a HWC stamp is necessary.

Q. How does a farmer get approved for lethal removal of problem animals under Human Wildlife Conflict Stamps?

A. Farmers who demonstrate that deer or bear are causing damage with significant economic loss to crops or livestock and have attempted other methods without success should contact their local DNR office.

Q. What are the requirements for an individual to hold a HWC Stamp?

A. To be eligible to hold a human wildlife conflict stamp, an individual must hold a valid base licence (Wildlife Habitat Stamp) and be certified to hunt with a weapon authorized for hunting deer or bear.

Q. How does a hunter apply for a HWC Stamp?

A. There are two options:

- a) Contact your local DNR office and request to be listed as an available hunter to assist with deer/bear Human Wildlife Conflict situations which may arise.
- b) Obtain permission from the farmer of a specific farm where DNR has determined that HWC stamps are necessary.

Q. Can a hunter acquire more than one HWC Stamp?

A. Yes. A hunter who is successful in harvesting a deer or bear using a HWC stamp and who has submitted the required harvest report and jaw/tooth, may apply for another stamp.

Q. Can a farmer be issued more than one HWC Stamp?

A. Yes, but the total number of stamps allocated to each farm will be determined by DNR depending on the severity of the problem.

Q. Are there special terms and conditions associated with HWC Stamps?

A. Yes. They will be listed on a special licence card to which the HWC Stamp must be attached. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- a) Mandatory harvest report and jaw bone/tooth submission
- b) Valid only for use within the farm boundary or other specified boundaries
- c) Valid only for taking an antlerless deer
- d) Valid only for a specified time period

Q. Is there a cost for a HWC Stamp?

A. The fee for a Human Wildlife Conflict stamp is \$5.57 (plus HST).

Q. Is a farmer required to pay for a Human Wildlife Conflict Stamp?

This is a two-part answer, depending on what is done with the harvested deer/bear:

A1. If a farmer or the employee/agent of a farmer donates the harvest to Feed NS, there is no fee for the HWC stamp.

A2. If a farmer or the employee/agent of a farmer wishes to keep the harvested deer/bear, they are required to pay \$5.57 (plus HST) for the HWC stamp.

Q. What is done with the harvested deer/bear?

A1. Hunters who successfully harvest a deer or bear under the authority of an HWC stamp are entitled to keep the carcass.

A2. Farmers or their employees/agents who did not pay for the HWC stamp are required to handle and store the carcass in a manner that maintains the carcass in a condition suitable for human consumption and provide the carcass to DNR for donation of the meat to Feed NS.

A3. Farmers or their employees/agents who did pay for the HWC stamp are entitled to keep the carcass.

Q. Is the farmer required to pay the meat cutting costs to process the deer or bear carcass for the food bank?

A. No.

Q. Can HWC stamps be issued outside of the hunting seasons?

A. Yes. Some situations may require supplemental deer or bear harvesting outside of normal hunting seasons. In those cases, the period and location for which the HWC stamps are valid will be specified in the Terms and Conditions on the Licence Card.

Q. Can HWC stamps be used on Sundays?

A. Yes, unless the Terms and Conditions state otherwise.

Q. Can I transfer my unused Stamp to anyone?

A. No, once a Stamp is issued it cannot be transferred to another person.

Q. Why is DNR offering HWC stamps while at the same time reducing the number of available antlerless deer stamps in some zones?

A. Antlerless deer stamp numbers have been reduced in several deer management zones as a precautionary approach in response to a high level of deer starvation during the winter/spring of 2015. However, deer densities vary across individual zones and in some cases, there are pockets with higher deer numbers and associated nuisance problems. HWC Stamps actually provide a means of dealing with nuisance deer situations on a localized basis, without having to apply zone-wide measures.

Biological Collections

Q. Why did I receive a letter/email stating that I must turn in the jaw bone from any deer I harvest this fall?

A. A random sample of hunters has received a notice requiring them to turn in to DNR jawbones from deer they harvest in 2015. This submission is mandatory if you are contacted and successfully harvest one or more deer this year. These jaw bones are needed to improve our "age at harvest" data collection.

Q. Why has DNR added a mandatory deer jaw bone collection?

A. In recent years participation in the voluntary deer jaw bone collection has fallen below levels adequate to provide sufficient information for reliable, science-based sustainable management of our deer population. Voluntary jawbone contributions are, however, also still welcome, and all contributors will receive this year's deer crest.