

MEMORANDUM



DATE: October 12, 2015
TO: House Appropriations Committee
FROM: Austin Scott, Fiscal Analyst
RE: Hunting & Fishing License Fees

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issues licenses to hunt and fish in Michigan. Public Act 108 of 2013 revised the license fee structure and increased the cost of some licenses. The total number of licenses was reduced from 227 to 42; these changes went into effect March 1, 2014.

	Previous Fee	Revised Fee	Revised Fee with \$1 Surcharge
Base Hunting Licenses <i>Note: Must purchase base license to buy any additional specific hunting license tags; base license allows small game and non-waterfowl migratory bird hunting.</i>			
Base License; Resident	N/A	\$10.00	\$11.00
Base License; Non-Resident	N/A	\$150.00	\$151.00
Base License; Junior	N/A	\$5.00	\$6.00
Base License; Senior	N/A	\$4.00	\$5.00
Specific Hunting License Tags <i>Note: Elk, Fur Harvester, Moose, Turkey, Wolf, and Mentored Youth license fees remain same price under revised fee schedule.</i>			
Antlerless Deer	\$15.00	\$20.00	
Hunting License Application	\$4.00	\$5.00	
Bear Harvest	\$15.00	\$25.00	
Bear Participation	\$15.00	\$15.00	
Deer	\$15.00	\$20.00	
Deer Senior	\$6.00	\$8.00	
Waterfowl State License	\$5.00	\$12.00	
Military (active duty and disabled veteran)	\$1.00	\$0.00	
Fishing Licenses			
24 hour Fishing License	\$7.00	\$10.00	
72 hour Fishing License	\$21.00	\$30.00	
Resident All-Species Fishing License	\$28.00	\$25.00	\$26.00
Resident All-Species Fishing License, Senior	\$11.20	\$10.00	\$11.00
Non-Resident All-Species Fishing License	\$42.00	\$67.00	\$68.00
Combination Hunting and Fishing Licenses			
Resident: Base License, 2 Deer Licenses, All-Species Fishing License	N/A	\$75.00	\$76.00
Non-Resident: Base License, 2 Deer Licenses, All-Species Fishing License	N/A	\$265.00	\$266.00

A base license is required in order to purchase additional hunting tags for specific game. An additional \$1 surcharge was added to the base license fee; this surcharge funds hunting and fishing education programs as well as marketing and outreach efforts. Rates for base hunting licenses and fishing licenses vary by age and residency (see table).

The sale of hunting and fishing licenses generated \$58.4 million in revenue for FY 2013-14. This total includes five months of revenue under the previous fee structure (October 1, 2013 through February 28, 2014) and seven months of revenue under the revised fee structure (March 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014). The department initially estimated that the revised fees would generate \$11.8 million in new revenue; actual new revenue equaled \$7.8 million. Fiscal year 2014-15 is the first complete 12 month cycle of license sales under the revised fee structure. Final license revenue for FY 2014-15 is not yet available.

These revenues are the primary source of income for the Game and Fish Protection Fund. Additional sources of income for the fund include an annual transfer from the Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund, interest and earnings from the Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund, common cash interest, federal indirect, and other miscellaneous revenue. The Game and Fish Protection Fund supports a variety of DNR divisions including Law Enforcement, Fisheries Management, and Wildlife Management. This fund also supports certain appropriations in the budgets for the Department of the Attorney General, Office of the Auditor General, and Department of Treasury. The table below illustrates these appropriations for FY 2015-16.

Division/Program	Appropriation
Law Enforcement	\$20,795,000
Fisheries	20,097,700
Wildlife Management	14,367,400
Communications and Customer Service	11,241,900
Department Support Services	6,787,200
Grants	4,200,000
Information Technology	3,691,600
Forest Resources	2,391,000
Executive Operations	1,057,900
Fish Production (one-time)	100,000
DNR Subtotal	\$84,729,700
Treasury – Purchased Lands	\$2,780,700
Attorney General Operations	735,100
Auditor General Field Operations	30,700
General Government Subtotal	\$3,546,500
TOTAL	\$88,276,200