

# Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

2017 Whitetail Deer Harvest and Effort Summary  
Natural Resources Department - Wildlife Management Program



## SAULT TRIBE NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

In 2017, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians issued 57,354 individual permits for hunting, fishing, gathering, and trapping within the 1836 Ceded Territory to 4,573 tribal members (see Appendix Table 1). The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians maintains mandatory harvest reporting requirements for all members who exercise the Tribe's treaty rights. At the time when this report was developed, the Sault Tribe Natural Resources Department (STNRD) had received and processed 1,677 harvest reports. Throughout this report, uncertainty in estimated harvest is quantified by bootstrap resampling of the observed data 5,000 times.

### 2017 WHITE-TAILED DEER

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians issued deer 20,989 kill tags to 4,189 Tribal members in 2017. At the time that this report was developed, STNRD had received 1,677 harvest reports back (approximately 39.5%). Approximately 73.8% (1,238) of those reporting actually hunted deer. The total estimated harvest for 2017 is 3,272 deer (95% confidence interval from 3,079.2 to 3,474.2 deer). In 2017, an estimated 57.7% (95% confidence interval from 54.9% to 60.4%) of harvested deer were bucks.

This estimate is based on a mean harvest per hunter of 1.06 deer. Actual harvest per hunter varies from 0 to 5 deer. Approximately 26.2% of our reporting hunters did not hunt deer in 2017. Many hunters (approximately 36.0% or 1,114.1 hunters) that pursued deer in 2017 were unsuccessful in their efforts (Figure 1). Approximately 37.8% (1,169 hunters) of hunters harvested 1 deer, 15.6% (482.1 hunters) harvested 2 deer, and 6.9% (212.3 hunters) harvested 3 deer (Figure 1). While Tribal hunters can receive five harvest tags, very few members who hunted deer actually harvested four (2.3%, 72.4 hunters) or five deer (1.3%, 42.5 hunters). See Figure 1.

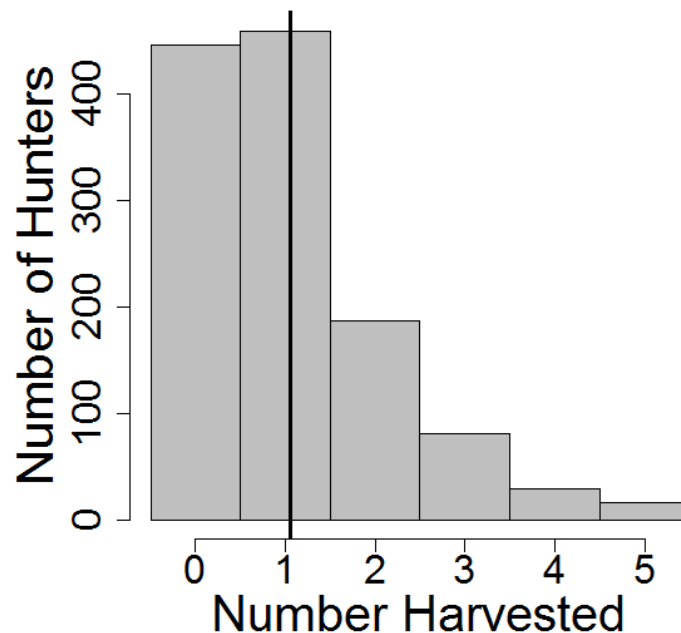


Figure 1. Reported number of hunters harvesting a given number of deer in 2017. Mean harvest per hunter (1.06) is plotted as a vertical line for reference.

Many Sault Tribe households have more than a single Tribal Member who exercises the Treaty Right. Of Those reporting, 1,558 (89%) of households had a single license holder residing, 164 (9%) had two license holders, and (1.6%) had 3 or 4 license holders residing (see Table 2). No Sault Tribe Members reporting had more than 4 license holders in the household.

Table 1. Number of whitetail deer harvested by Sault Tribe Members in 2017 grouped by number of Members living in the Household

Number of License Holders in the Household	Total Number of Households in category	Total Number of Deer Harvested by Households in this category	Average Deer per household
1	1558	1590	1.0
2	164	293	1.8
3	26	74	2.8
4	3	7	2.3
<b>Grand Total</b>	1751	1964	

Approximately 54.9% of the 2017 deer harvest took place in the month of November. Leading up to November, 3.6% of harvest took place in September and 16.4% occurred in October. Harvest in December accounted for 23.7% of harvest, while January harvest amounted to 1.3% of total harvest. Most of the deer harvest took place in the first two weeks after the quiet period (49.1%, Figure 2).

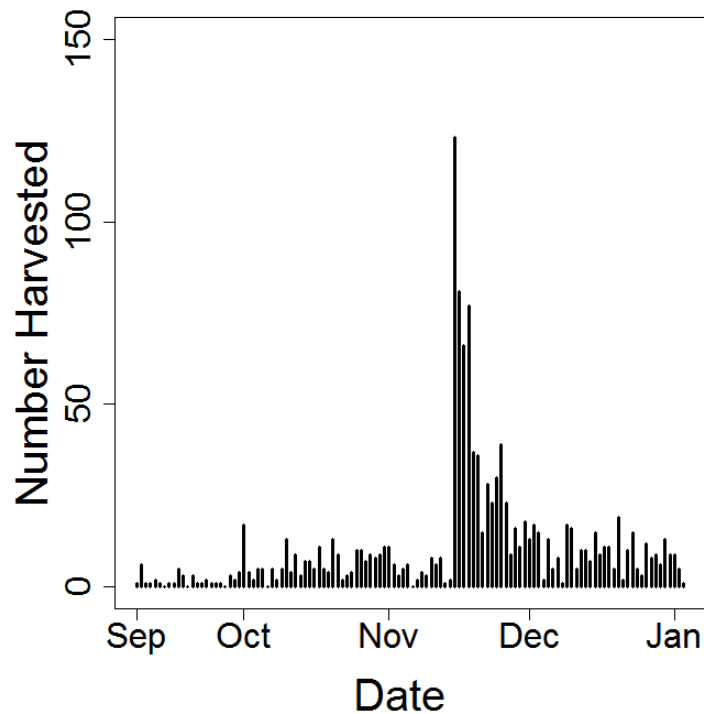


Figure 2. Number of deer harvested by date throughout the 2017 season

The geographic distribution of white-tailed deer harvest by Sault Tribe members is detailed in Table 10. Most deer were harvested in the eastern Upper Peninsula, with 16.67% of harvest in Mackinac County, 16.2% in Chippewa County, and 13.66% in Schoolcraft County.

Table 2. 2017 White-tailed deer harvest by county

County	Reported Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Estimated Harvest	Harvest per mile <sup>2</sup>	Estimated buck harvest	Estimated doe harvest
Alger	58	4.48	146.44	0.16	108.57	37.87
Alpena	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Antrim	3	0.23	7.57	0.02	7.57	0.00
Benzie	9	0.69	22.72	0.07	7.57	15.15
Charlevoix	6	0.46	15.15	0.04	12.62	2.52
Cheboygan	94	7.25	237.34	0.33	121.25	116.09
Chippewa	210	16.20	530.23	0.34	343.39	186.84
Clare	4	0.31	10.10	0.02	7.57	2.52
Crawford	4	0.31	10.10	0.02	7.57	2.52
Delta	141	10.88	356.01	0.30	195.81	160.20
Emmet	33	2.55	83.32	0.18	40.40	42.92
Grand Traverse	15	1.16	37.87	0.08	15.15	22.72
Ionia	1	0.08	2.52	0.00	0.00	2.52
Isabella	3	0.23	7.57	0.01	7.57	0.00
Kalkaska	21	1.62	53.02	0.09	17.67	35.35
Kent	8	0.62	20.20	0.02	10.10	10.10
Lake	15	1.16	37.87	0.07	25.25	12.62
Leelanau	6	0.46	15.15	0.04	5.05	10.10
Luce	87	6.71	219.67	0.24	121.20	98.47
Mackinac	216	16.67	545.38	0.53	343.10	202.28
Manistee	13	1.00	32.82	0.06	12.62	20.20
Marquette	22	1.70	55.55	0.03	35.35	20.20
Mason	15	1.16	37.87	0.08	15.15	22.72
Mecosta	8	0.62	20.20	0.04	12.62	7.57
Missaukee	9	0.69	22.72	0.04	11.36	11.36
Montcalm	5	0.39	12.62	0.02	7.57	5.05
Montmorency	5	0.39	12.62	0.02	5.05	7.57
Muskegon	6	0.46	15.15	0.03	7.57	7.57
Newaygo	25	1.93	63.12	0.07	22.72	40.40
Oceana	14	1.08	35.35	0.07	20.20	15.15
Osceola	1	0.08	2.52	0.00	2.52	0.00
Oscoda	1	0.08	2.52	0.00	0.00	2.52
Otsego	13	1.00	32.82	0.06	12.62	20.20
Ottawa	2	0.15	5.05	0.01	0.00	5.05
Presque Isle	34	2.62	85.85	0.13	42.92	42.92
Roscommon	4	0.31	10.10	0.02	10.10	0.00
Schoolcraft	177	13.66	446.91	0.38	262.59	184.32
Wexford	8	0.62	20.20	0.04	10.10	10.10

APPENDIX

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Deer	20,939
Turkey	9,295
Otter	8,033
Fisher	6,039
Hunter Harvest Card (incl. inland fishing, small game, waterfowl, migratory birds, furbearer, and gathering)	4,245
Bobcat	4,041
Marten	4,028
Bear	390
Non-hunter Harvest Card (incl. gathering and inland fishing)	328
Elk	7
Conifer Bough	5
Maple Sapling Permit	2
Black Lake Sturgeon	1
Birch Bark	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,354</b>

Appendix Table 1. Licenses issued by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for the 2017 harvest season.