

# Agenda Item 14

## Deer General Seasons and Deer Special Permits



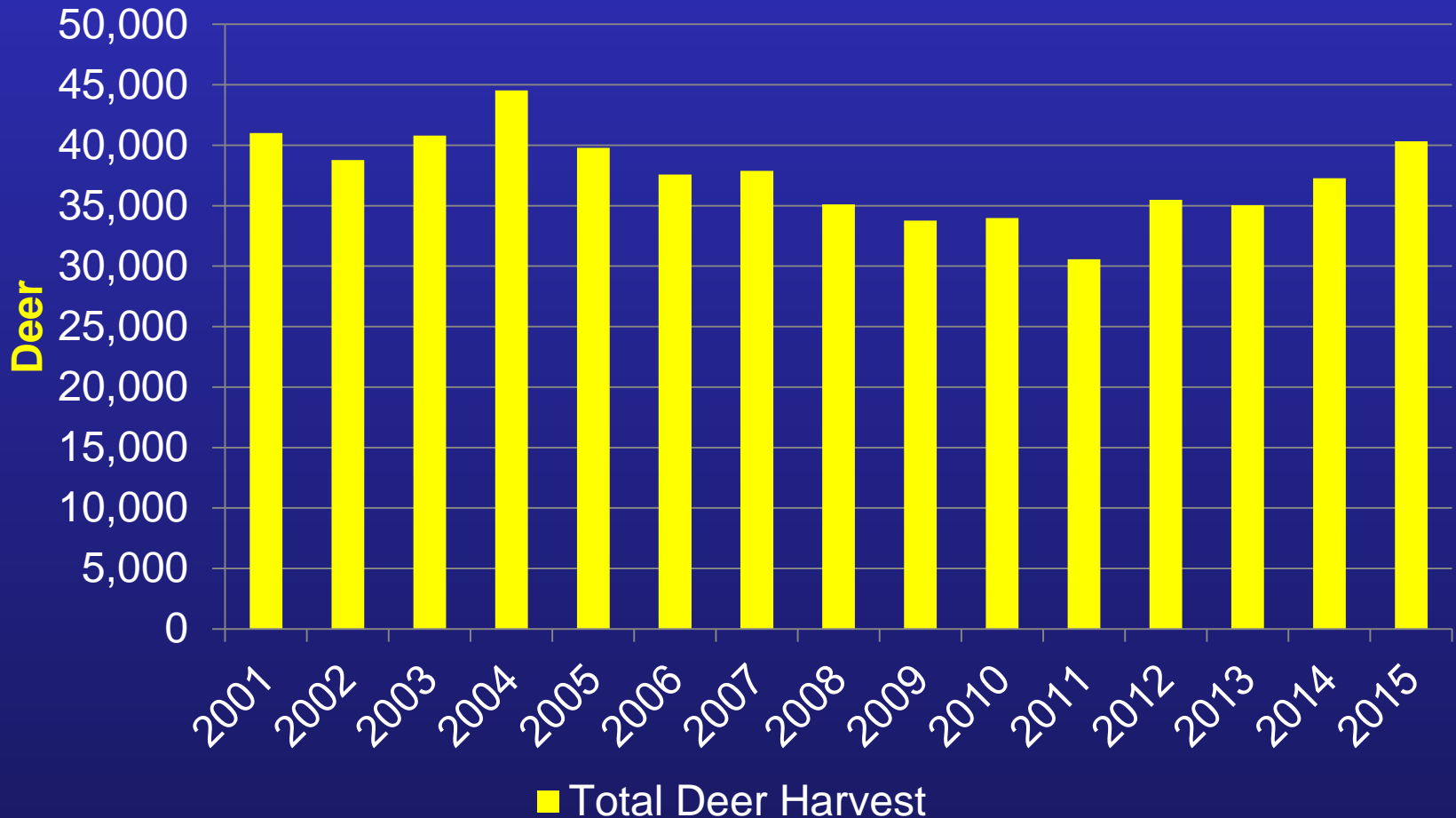
*Washington Department of*  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

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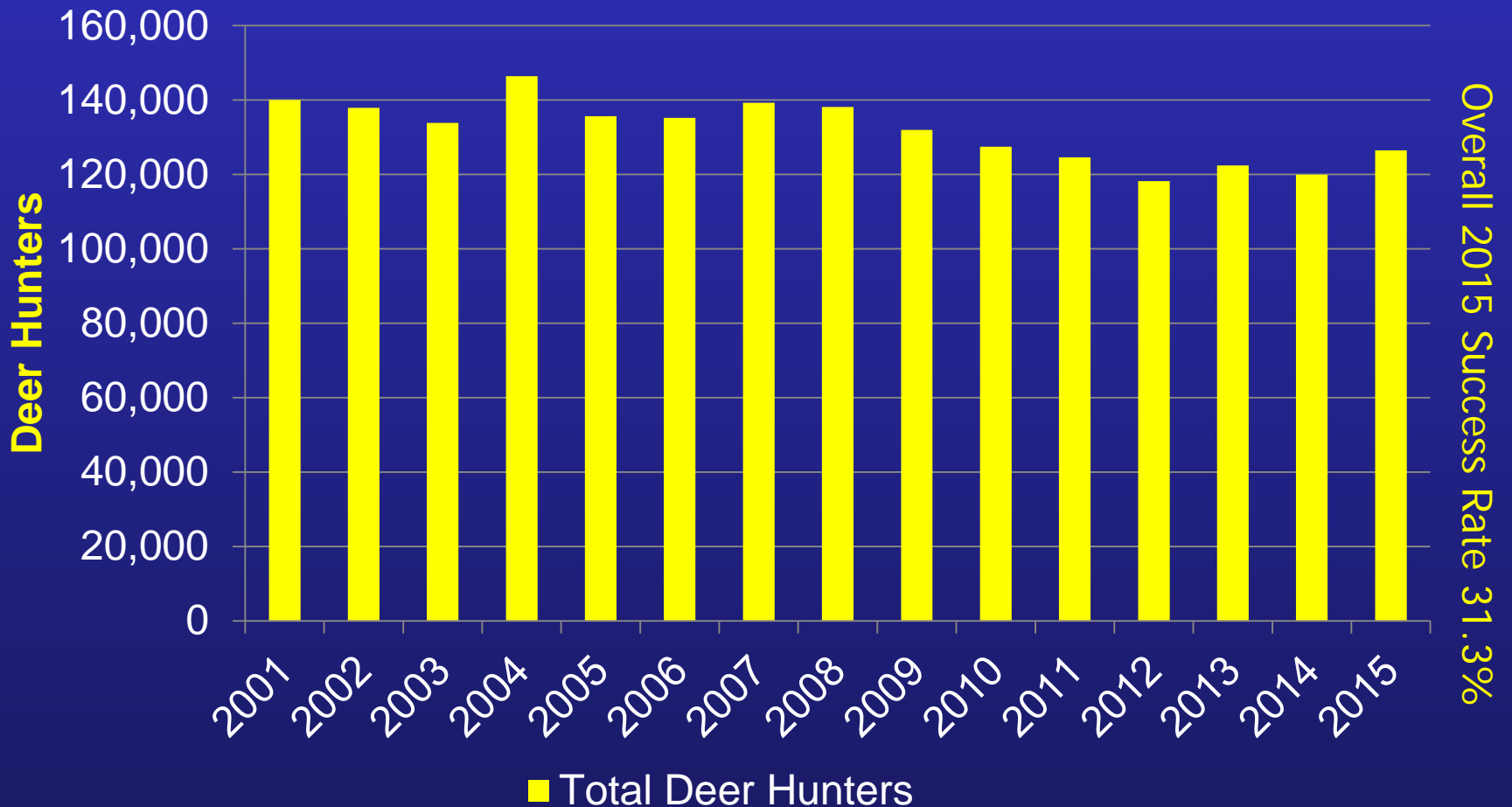
# Deer Harvest 2001 to 2015

## General Season and Special Permit Combined



# Deer Hunters 2001 to 2015

## General Season and Special Permit Combined



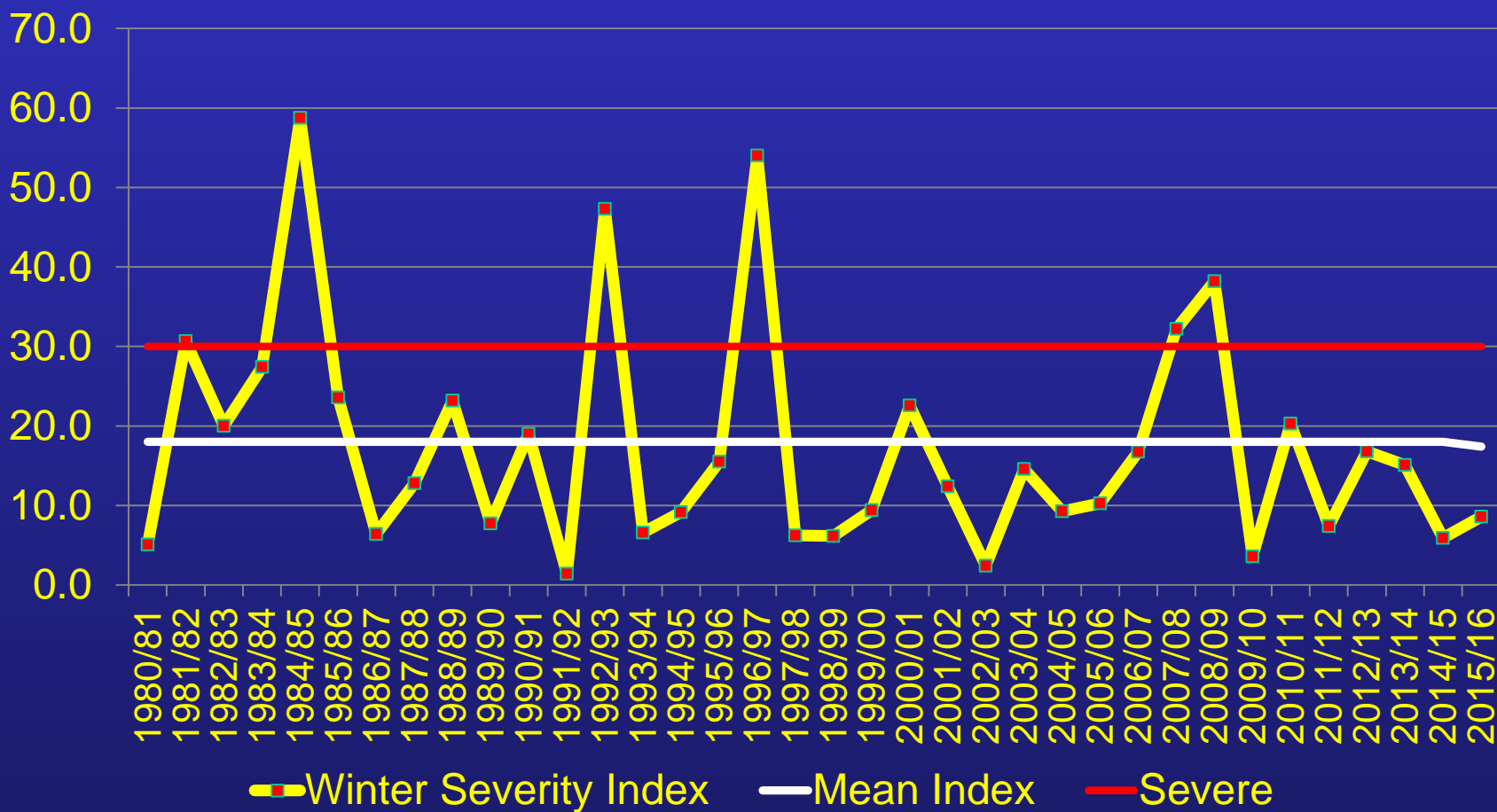
# Idaho F&G News Release

<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/media/viewNewsRelease.cfm?newsID=8106>

March 14, 2016

- Total 2015 deer harvest: 68,764
  - 2014 harvest: 61,200
- 2015 total deer harvest (mule deer and whitetails) was the highest since 1991
- 2015 whitetail deer harvest: 30,568 (new all-time record)
- Overall hunter success: 45%

# Northeast Winter Severity Index



# Deer General Seasons

## WAC 232-28-357

- Second year of a 3-year package
- No major changes proposed except changes to white-tailed deer antlerless opportunity in NE

# Hemorrhagic Disease

Bluetongue and Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)

- Major outbreaks in recent history
- 1946, 1953, 1967, 1992 (24 states reported disease that year)
- Typically in Spokane, Whitman, Lincoln Adams, Garfield, Stevens Counties
- In 2015, Eastern Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon reported losses from bluetongue

# Bluetongue 2015

- Concerns expressed by the public about the number of deer lost to bluetongue in the NE (District 1)
- Anecdotal reports and reports to the Department of deer losses in Region 1
- Majority of the reports come from places where deer and people overlap
- Department recognizes that there are data gaps that prevent a full understanding of the population impact



# Recommended Adjustment

- Modern Firearm
- Under Hunters 65 and Over, Disabled or Youth General Season – GMUs 101-121
- Change the 2016 dates to Oct. 20-23
- Change the 2017 dates to Oct. 19-22

# Rationale

- Conservative management action in response to uncertainty
- Establishes a hunting season framework that hunters are familiar with from 2014
- Based on past history – will have a positive impact on the antlerless white-tailed deer subpopulation

# Questions on 232-28-357 ?



# Deer Special Permits

## WAC 232-28-359

- Some Quality special permits were routinely adjusted through the special permit allocation process
- Island special permits were shifted
  - Retained 2<sup>nd</sup> Deer, antlerless
  - Removed Youth, Senior, Disabled
  - Staff will be focusing more attention on gaining access to private lands in the future

# Questions on WAC 232-28-359

