

**ONTARIO**  
**PROVINCIAL REPORT**  
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**Regulatory Changes**

- **Baitfish management:** Ontario has made changes to its bait management framework in an effort to mitigate the potential spread of invasive species and disease. As of January 1, 2022, Ontario has established four Bait Management Zones (BMZ). All commercial bait operators and anglers are required to keep baitfish and leeches within the zone it originated from (with a few limited exceptions). Anglers using baitfish or leeches outside of the BMZ of their primary residence (including non-residents) are required to purchase their bait and keep the receipt to prove the bait was acquired within the BMZ. The bait must be used within two weeks of the date of purchase. Anglers using baitfish and leeches within the BMZ of their primary residence can either purchase or self-harvest their bait and are not required to keep a receipt.
- **Black bear management:** Ontario has changed reporting requirements for resident black bear hunters, who must provide information on all their hunting activity (spring and fall) in a single report due December 14. Now, anyone wanting to provide black bear hunting services (e.g., guiding or baiting in exchange for money) to resident hunters in certain areas must possess a licence to provide those services. Also, all non-residents will be required to hunt through an operator licensed to provide black bear hunting and guiding services.
- **Chronic Wasting Disease:** Ontario continues to work at keeping CWD out of the province. Efforts include recent regulatory amendments to prohibit or restrict products derived from cervids, and movement of cervids.
- **Falconry:** Ontario has amended regulations to expand the live capture of wild raptors by licensed falconers, including a limited take of goshawk.
- **Fall wild turkey seasons:** Ontario has expanded fall wild turkey hunting opportunities to seven additional wildlife management units. Turkey populations in these areas are robust, as informed by improved mandatory hunter reporting data.
- **Hunter reporting penalties:** Ontario has introduced a \$25 financial penalty for hunters who fail to submit their mandatory hunter reports for elk, white-tailed deer, black bear, moose and wolf/coyote. In addition, hunters that fail to submit two consecutive reports for the same species would not be eligible to obtain a licence for that species for a one-year period. These penalties provide a more cost-effective tool to promote compliance with hunter reporting, which provides critical data to support wildlife management decisions. Penalties will begin being applied for the 2022 hunting season.
- **Moose management:** Significant changes have been introduced including the introduction of a points-based tag allocation process, calf tag quotas in all units, and the elimination of special non-resident moose hunting opportunities.

- **Invasive species:** Ontario has developed new regulations under the *Invasive Species Act, 2015* to regulate 13 additional invasive species and watercraft as a carrier of invasive species. This includes regulations to prevent the establishment of wild pigs. All regulations came into effect January 1, 2022.
- **White-tailed deer seasons:** Ontario has completed regulatory amendments for deer seasons across the province. Beginning in fall 2022, Ontario has extended weekend gun hunting opportunities in some areas, expanded the permitted firearm types for some hunters, and implemented other season changes to make things simpler and easier for hunters to understand. Additional feedback is being sought on permitted firearm types in some areas, as well as on non-resident deer guiding requirements in northern Ontario.

### Policy Updates

- **SARS-CoV-2 and Wildlife in Captivity:** Ontario implemented requirements on education facilities (e.g. zoos), wildlife rehabilitators and researchers that keep mammals in captivity to prevent the transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19. Requirements are based on ECCC's "Wildlife and SARS-CoV-2: Handling Guidelines" available at <http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/publications.php>.
- **Trapping/trapline allocation:** Ontario continues to evaluate feedback received from key stakeholders, Indigenous communities and organizations, on a proposal to renew the policy for the allocation of registered traplines areas.
- **Wild pigs:** Ontario's *Strategy to Address the Threat of Invasive Wild Pigs* was finalized in late 2021. The strategy includes goal/objectives to prevent the establishment of invasive wild pigs in the province and complements the new regulations under Ontario's *Invasive Species Act, 2015*.

### Emerging Issues / Trends

- **Avian Influenza Emergency Management:** Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been detected in domestic poultry and wild birds in numerous regions of Ontario. Positive domestic premises have been placed under quarantine. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is the lead agency for responding to HPAI outbreaks in commercial poultry operations with support from Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. NDMNRF provides support with wild bird disease surveillance and communications with stakeholders and members of the public who are licensed or authorized to hunt, hold, or rehabilitate birds
- **Support for the resource-based tourism sector:** The province has extended relief for some licence fees for resource-based tourism operators for a third year (2022).