

Ontario Proposing to Expand Black Bear Hunting Pilot*Province Committed to Sustainable Black Bear Management***NEWS**

October 30, 2015

Ontario is proposing an expanded spring bear hunting pilot program to gather further information to assess concerns voiced by northern communities about human-bear conflicts, and to support economic growth and tourism in northern Ontario.

The proposed spring bear hunt pilot expansion, now available for public comment on Ontario's Environmental Registry, would include:

- Extending the pilot by an additional five years, through to 2020
- All 88 wildlife management units that currently have a fall bear hunt
- Non-resident hunters

Under the expanded pilot proposal, it would still be illegal to hunt bear cubs and females with cubs. Anyone convicted of this offence could face a fine of up to \$25,000 and up to one year imprisonment. In most cases, each licensed hunter would only be allowed to hunt one bear in each calendar year. Baiting of bears during all bear hunting seasons would be regulated to help address possible public safety concerns.

QUOTES

"Managing the bear population responsibly through an expanded pilot program would allow us to gather further information to assess the impacts of an early black bear season on concerns voiced by northern communities about human-bear conflicts, and to support economic growth and tourism in northern Ontario."

— Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is home to a healthy and sustainable black bear population with up to 105,000 black bears living in the province.
- Currently across Canada, each province and territory with black bears has a spring and fall bear hunt except Nova Scotia and Ontario, which only have fall hunts.
- For 2014 and 2015, Ontario held a two-year bear management pilot program in eight wildlife management units, all of which reported high levels of nuisance bear activities. The hunt was open to Ontario residents from May 1 to June 15. Communities in and around these units include Timmins, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay.

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Black bears in Ontario

Who to contact if you encounter a bear

Hunting Regulations Summary

Media calls only: Emily Kirk, Minister's Office,
416-314-2206

ontario.ca/natural-resources-news

Media calls only: Media Desk, Communications Services Branch,
416-314-2106

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