

**Amendment to Fall 2022–Winter 2023 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas Submitted by Commissioner Walsh at the request of FWP.**

I move that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the proposed thresholds for wolf harvest as quotas that, if reached, would close the trapping and hunting seasons to the take of wolves, within the specific areas referenced and that “Region” be changed to “Trapping District” to match language used in furbearer regulations.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

- A harvest of 450 wolves (excluding those wolves harvested within WMU 313) shall ~~initiate a commission review with potential for rapid in-season adjustments to hunting and trapping regulations. Thereafter the commission shall be similarly re-engaged at intervals of additional 50 wolves harvested, if season adjustments allow for additional wolf harvest. The following harvests by any Region alone shall initiate a commission review:~~ close the state to the trapping and hunting of wolves for the season.
- The harvest of the following quotas would close the corresponding administrative areas to the take of wolves – Region Trapping District 1: 195 wolves; Region Trapping District 2: 116 wolves; Region Trapping District 3 outside of Wolf Management Unit 313: 82 wolves (excluding those wolves harvested within WMU 313); Region Trapping District 4: 39 wolves; Region Trapping District 5: 11 wolves; Region Trapping District 6: 3 wolves; and Trapping District Region 7: 4 wolves

**RATIONALE:**

Shifting the threshold to quotas will provide certainty as to what will happen if the quota is reached – the season will close in that trapping district, whereas the current language simply initiates a commission review with outcomes based on future decisions. Empirical data collected by agency biologists and modelling using methods from peer-refereed publications indicate that the take of 460 wolves will reduce statewide population trends consistent with legislative direction, while maintaining a viable population substantially higher than the federal and state levels adopted for original delisting under the Endangered Species Act. Annual monitoring, modelling, and projections will indicate when, in annual reassessments of wolf regulations, adjustments to these regulations are warranted.