

Annually Michigan boasts:

700,000 resident and nonresident hunters

Over **1,000,000** resident and nonresident anglers

Approximately **3,000,000** residents and nonresidents who watch wildlife

Wildlife watching generates at least **\$1.2 billion** in economic impact for Michigan.

Hunting and fishing have a significant economic impact regionally and for our entire state—
with **\$8.9 billion** in economic impact from hunting and \$2.3 billion from fishing annually.

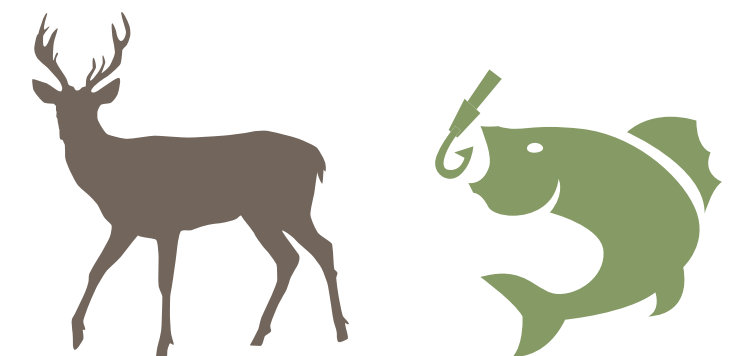


Investing in Michigan's Natural Resources

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is dedicated to the conservation, protection, and management of the state's natural and cultural resources. To continue providing vital services such as fish stocking, habitat restoration and wildlife management, the DNR is seeking a license fee increase.

With the last increase coming over a decade ago and rising costs due to inflation, this adjustment is necessary to sustain operations and maintain the high quality of Michigan's natural areas and outdoor experiences.

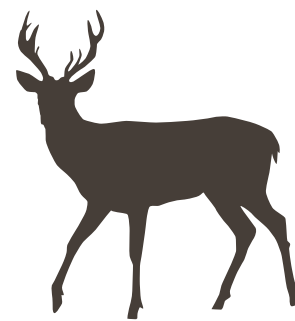
DNR fisheries and wildlife program areas are currently facing budget shortfalls and further reduction or elimination of conservation services and recreational programs, despite tapping into cash reserves. Without increased funding, the DNR's ability to deliver services such as stocking fish, creating habitat for deer, and maintaining critical infrastructure or removing hazardous dams is at risk.



Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan.gov/DNR



To address this issue, we propose an increase in hunting and fishing license fees to combat the effects of inflation and to meet increased and changing demands of the customers and public we serve. Additionally, by tying license fees to the consumer price index (CPI), we can create a more predictable and sustainable funding model that adjusts for inflation and prevents similar financial shortfalls in the future. This approach will provide critical funding for Michigan's outdoor resources now and into the future.



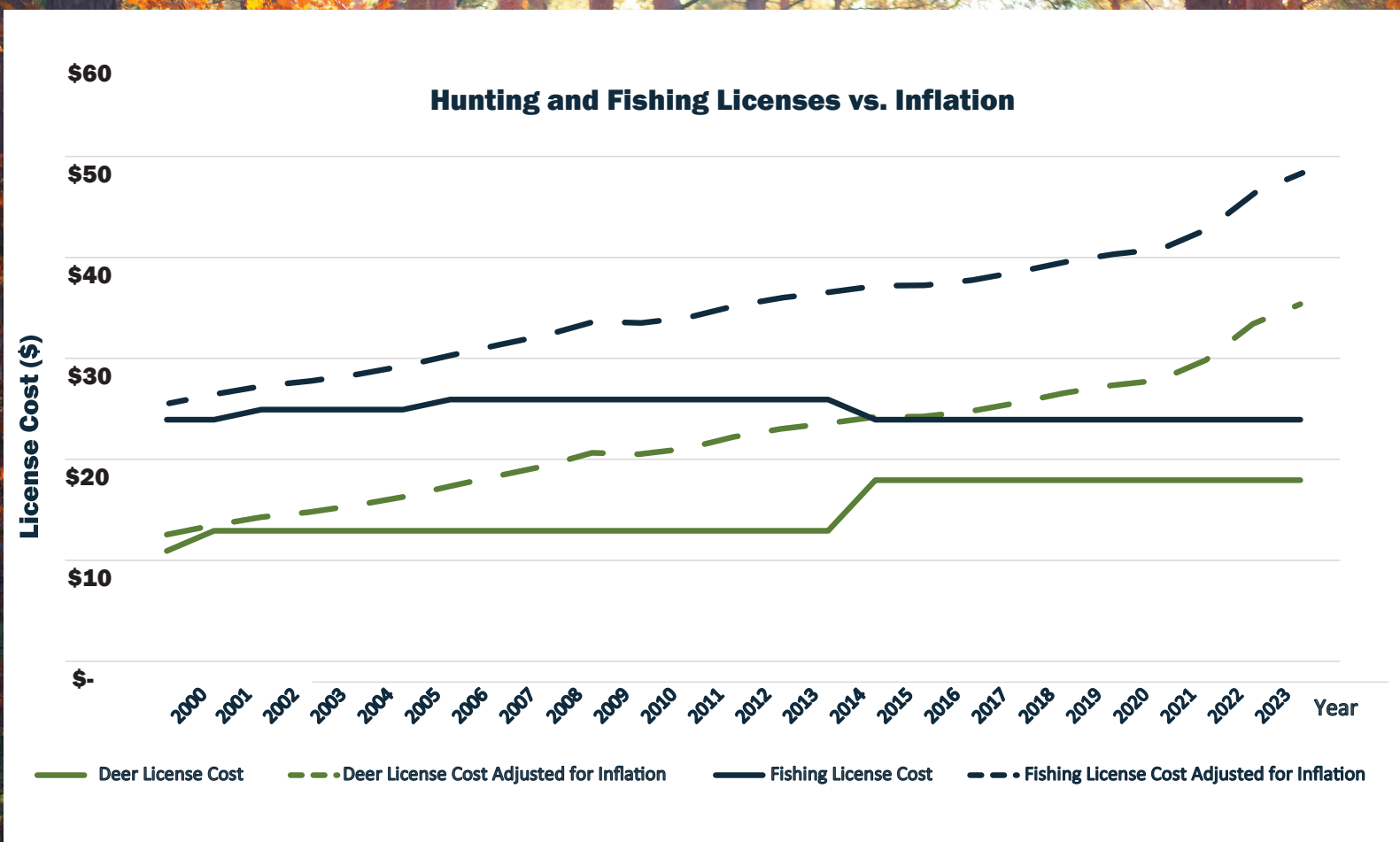
Fast fact:

Wildlife Division maintenance costs more than doubled from \$1.4 million in 2014 to \$3.1 million in 2023.



Fast fact:
Fish food now costs a million dollars, an increase of 71% over the last several years.

Gain What will be gained from a license fee adjustment	Maintain What will be maintained from a license fee adjustment	Prevent What a license fee adjustment will prevent
Fisheries		
Expand fish habitat protection and restoration	Michigan's world-class fishing waters	Closures of hatcheries and/or research facilities
Increased protection for Michigan's inland trout and coldwater fisheries	Engagement with partners and angler groups	Reduction of fish habitat grant program
Reinstate the inland lake and stream surveys	Current fish tagging and marking program	Elimination of muskie, walleye and sturgeon stocking programs
Increase information for anglers on fish populations and water bodies	Reintroduction of Arctic grayling Walleye stocking programs	Reduction of other species stocking Decline of diverse fishing opportunities
Wildlife		
Enhance access for hunters, target shooters and wildlife enthusiasts	Michigan's diverse hunting, shooting and wildlife recreation opportunities	Loss of hunting and wildlife recreation opportunities
Improve public and private land habitat and conservation	Quality wildlife populations and habitat on public and private lands	Elimination of wildlife habitat grant program
Bolster resilience of habitat and populations	Resilient wildlife and habitat	Decline in public and private land wildlife populations and habitat
Improved response for human-wildlife interactions	Coordination on human-wildlife interactions	Loss of federal funding opportunities
Expand education, outreach and engagement	Wildlife conservation partnerships, and education and outreach efforts	Increased human-wildlife conflict




Fast fact:
The cost for a refurbished fish stocking truck chassis has increased by 195% from about \$30,000 in 2014 to \$87,000 in 2023.