

# Michigan's Simplified License Structure \& Successes 

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## Where were we?

- 2008 recession
- 200,000 people left Michigan
- Unemployment rate near 15\%
- Nearly 800,000 jobs lost in 10 years
- No modifications to licenses in 17 years
- Public perception of agency
- Low morale


## Where were we?



## What did we do?

- Developed license package
- Simple-Fair-Efficient
- Fewer licenses
- Priced based on research
- Worked to gain support
- Brought community together with one voice
- Addressed legislative concerns
- Promised outcomes
- Access
- Outreach, education, promotion
- Impact on resources


## At the same time...

- HP
- Technical side of things
- How system works
- RBFF
- Critical feedback about buying process
- Web review



## Marketing efforts to support new structure



- Campaigns
- Pure Michigan
- Michigan Wildlife Council

- Unique Partnerships
- Convention \& Visitors Bureaus
- Targeted Promotions / R3
- Targeted messages to license buyers \& females in certain counties


## Marketing efforts to support new structure

- Digital Efforts
- Email
- Social Media

- Special Events
- Bi-annual Free Fishing Weekends
- Educational programming
- World-Class Fisheries!


## Results

- Expected 7\% drag resistance
- Push back by non-residents = discounted price in 2015
- Switching behavior
- Decline in first year


## Revenue

Hunting \& Fishing License Sales
Game \& Fish Protection Fund - General Purpose
Fiscal Years 1997 to 2015


## Fishing License Sales



## E-license Fishing Sales



## New Fishing License Customers



## The future

- Maintain world-class fisheries
- Invasive Species
- Hatchery investments
- Fishing heritage
- Recruitment / Retention / Reactivation
- Education
- Marketing
- Sustainable funding model

Thank you

