

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mass Conservation Alliance Stands Against Unreasonable Fee Increase Proposed by MassWildlife

Mass Conservation Alliance Response to MassWildlife's Proposed Fee Increase

The Massachusetts Conservation Alliance, a statewide Alliance representing the interests of 100,000 sportsmen, sportswomen, announces its opposition to the proposed fee increases by MassWildlife. The fee increase proposal raises hunting and fishing license costs by almost 100%, while quadrupling the cost of stamps.

Reliance on fee increases combined with declining license sales does nothing to fix a failed funding model that needs to be modernized to reflect 21st century reality. The Massachusetts Conservation Alliance recognizes the need to adequately fund MassWildlife programs. Conservation and wildlife management need be fully funded without program cuts or reduction in services.

The MCA urges an innovative approach to MassWildlife funding that secures a stable financial base. We support general fund reimbursement for 100% of state mandated free and partially free licenses, possible expansion of land stamp to non-hunters using DFW lands and compensation to DFW for expenses of agency programs not directly related to fish and game programs. New funding should be used to reduce proposed fee increases which the sporting community of the state is being asked to shoulder.

MCA ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS TAKEN FROM 3/9/21 to 3/19/21

57.9% respondents do not support a fee increase at this time.

Only 7.3% support DFW proposed Fishing license increase \$22.50 to \$40.00

Only 8.5% support DFW proposed Hunting license increase from \$22.50 to \$40.00

Only 11.3% support DFW proposed sporting license increase from \$40 to \$75

Only 3.5% support DFW increase from \$5 to \$20 archery stamp proposal

Only 3.5% support DFW increase from \$5 to \$20 waterfowl stamp proposal

Only 3.5% support DFW increase from \$5 to \$20 primitive firearm stamp proposal

Only 4.6% support DFW increase from \$5 to \$20 antlerless deer stamp proposal

Only 5.7% support DFW increase from \$5 to \$20 beer stamp proposal

Only 3.3% support DFW increase from \$5 to \$20 turkey stamp proposal

Only 6.3% support DFW new \$20 pheasant/quail stamp proposal

Significant work on the part of the DFW, the legislature and the Baker administration needs to be done to find a solution that does not unduly burden the sportsmen and sportswomen of the Commonwealth