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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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DIGEST

SCR 24 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Womack

Changes the rule governing CWD Control Areas. Defines "apparent prevalence" as the percentage of confirmed CWD detections within a surveillance season. Changes the term for the geographic area contemplated by the rule from "Control Area" to "CWD management zone".

Defines "CWD management zone" as the area established for surveillance and mitigation in response to the detection of CWD. Creates a five-mile zone and a 15-mile zone around the location of a confirmed CWD deer.

Defines "supplemental feed/bait" as substances used to attract wild quadrupeds or birds.

Defines "surveillance goal" as the probability of detecting CWD at 1.5% prevalence with 95% confidence, from a minimum of 300 samples.

Defines "surveillance season" as the period of sample collection, July one-June 30.

Provides for establishment of a management zone upon detection of CWD outside of the existing management zone. Provides for modification of the management zone only if CWD is detected outside the five-mile zone. Requires changes to management zone be via emergency declaration by the secretary, subject to ratification or amendment by the commission at its next meeting, and publication of the map on LDWF's website.

Requires LDWF to use easily identifiable zone boundaries, to establish five-mile and 15-mile zones as closely as practicable to each zone's actual radius, and allows LDWF to consider inclusion of processors, taxidermists, WMA's, and refuges in establishing management zones.

Requires removal of the CWD management zone when surveillance goals are met for three consecutive surveillance seasons.

For carcass export restrictions, changes the term for the geographic area from "CWD Control Area" to "CWD management zone".

Allows baiting and supplemental feeding with the 5-mile zone and 15-mile zone September first-March 31, only when prevalence is below 1.5% and annual surveillance goals are met, subject to commission approval or modification.

Requires hunters to check for bait prior to each hunt.

Provides that bait and feed restrictions for a new or modified management zone are effective upon the later of season closure or 30 days after confirmation of a CWD index case, subject to commission approval or modification.

Allows use of bait not normally eaten by deer for feral hog trapping or by permitted bear hunters during the designated bear baiting season.

Provides that properties of 40 or more acres within the 5-mile zone are eligible for Tier 1 DMAP liberalized bag limit and season length at no cost, if the entire property is within the specified zone. Allows for issuance of replacement tags to the harvester of a CWD-positive deer.

Directs transmission of copies of the resolution to the department and the commission.

Directs the La. Register to print the amendments in the La. Administrative Code.