



Black Bear Association of Nova Scotia

In regard to the recent announcement made by the Government of Nova Scotia to abandon plans to introduce a spring bear hunt; the Black Bear Association of Nova Scotia (BBANS), would like to express our disappointment. This decision was made on the basis of a survey which allowed people from anywhere in the world to inject data as many times as they wished. This was vulnerable to being influenced by parties not looking at the issue fairly.

This pilot program was based on sound biology and wildlife management practices. The program called for no increase in tags so each hunter would still only have one bear tag to use for the year. Nova Scotia is the only province in Canada that has a population of black bears and does not have a spring season.

This decision will result in guides and outfitters being unable to book clients and inject money into local economies across the province. Moreover, in a time where many Nova Scotians are facing food insecurity, a spring hunt would have allowed hunters to provide for themselves, their own families and to the Hunters Helping the Hungry program. This program benefited from donations of 976 kilograms of meat in 2022.

Nova Scotia has a healthy population of black bears, but this decision has limited a management tool used by biologists. We support the government plans to increase measures to raise awareness as the public plays a critical role in mitigated wildlife conflict. This however does not detract from the role that hunters play in wildlife conservation and management which provides data to biologists and decision makers.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and strokes, positioned above the printed name.

Steve Hanson
President
BBANS