

Hunting License Comparison Between California & Maryland – 12 Year Period (2013-2025)

Data from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

*- Covid Years

Conclusions: Maryland and California had the same number of years of decline in hunting, even with the Lead Ammo Phase-Out in California with final implementation in 2019. There is no correlation to any declines in hunting due to lead ammunition phase-out. The Covid years showed logical declines in hunting participation. The economic downturn causing unemployment during those years and supply-chain interruptions are the substantial reasons for the declines, plus a renewed sensitivity to humane animal husbandry and other alternatives to control animal populations.

YEAR	MARYLAND	% Incr./Decr.	# Incr./Decr.	CALIFORNIA	% Incr./Decr.	# Incr./ Decr.
2013	120,321			281,472		
2014	118,997	(1.10)	(1,324)	283,539	.073	2,076
2015	124,187	4.17	5,190	283,539	0	0
2016	129,376	4.01	5,189	287,147	1.25	3,608
2017	123,883	(4.43)	(5,493)	284,069	(1.08)	(3,078)
2018	120,334	(2.93)	(3,549)	280,967	(1.10)	(3,102)
2019	120,814	0.39	480	279,248	(0.61)	(1,719)
2020 *	119,202	(1.35)	(1612)	267,170	(4.52)	12,078
2021 *	116,702	(2.14)	(2,500)	262,009	(1.96)	5,161
2022 *	115,461	(1.07)	(1241)	250,441	(4.61)	11,568
2023	116,422	0.82	961	278,210	9.80	27,269
2024	113,460	(2.60)	(2,960)	260,359	(6.85)	17,851
2025	113,137	(0.28)	(323)	251,792	(3.40)	8,567