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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

2026-2027 Game Code

Proposed Repeals and New Rules: N.J.A.C. 7:25-5

Authorized By: Fish and Game Council, Frank J. Virgilio, Chair.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 13:1B-29 et seq., and 23:1-1 et seq.

Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

DEP Docket Number: 01-26-03.

Proposal Number: PRN 2026-026.

A **public hearing** concerning this notice of proposal will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.. The hearing will be in-person at:

The War Memorial, Delaware Room

1 Memorial Drive

Trenton, NJ 08608

Submit comments by June 5, 2026, electronically at <https://dep.nj.gov/rules/rule-comment-form/>. Please note that the online comment page has changed. Comments can be typed directly into the online form, or uploaded as a .pdf, .doc, or .docx file from the comment page.

The Fish and Game Council (Council) encourages electronic submittal of comments. In the alternative, comments may be submitted on paper to:

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Chris Segal, Esq.

Attn.: DEP Docket Number: 01-26-03

Office of Legal Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

401 East State Street, 7th Floor

Mail Code 401-04L

PO Box 402

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402

Written comments may also be submitted at the public hearing. It is requested (but not required) that anyone submitting oral testimony at the public hearing provide a copy of any prepared text to the stenographer at the hearing.

This notice of proposal may be viewed or downloaded from the Department's website at <https://dep.nj.gov/rules/>.

The agency proposal follows:

Summary

As the Council has provided for a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal, this notice is exempted from the rulemaking calendar requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

The proposed 2026-2027 Game Code ("Game Code" or "Code") at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5 states when, under what circumstances, in what locations, by what means, and in what amounts and

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numbers, game birds, game animals, and fur-bearing animals may be pursued, taken, killed, or had in possession.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife, in conjunction with the Council, has over a century-long history of managing the State's wildlife populations utilizing a variety of management methods reflecting the best available science at the time of each amendment in order to achieve the goals of the Game Code to protect, propagate, increase, control, and conserve the State's game birds, game animals, and fur-bearing animals, while responsibly providing for their use and development for public recreation and food supply. Over that extended period, countless annual and semi-annual revisions have been made to the Game Code by the Council in response to shifts in wildlife resources driven by habitat changes, changes in recreational interests, and emerging wildlife issues (including disease, control of destructive wildlife, and population over and under abundance). Additionally, the Code is continually updated to reflect advances in science, based upon continued research on the many species regulated and experience gained with the goal of providing a more refined approach to wildlife management. In short, the Code has been, and continues to be, a living document, regularly updated and amended to reflect the knowledge and experience accumulated over more than a century of management of the State's wildlife resources.

The complexity of managing wildlife across the State's ever-changing urbanizing landscape is directly reflected within the complex regulatory structure that currently exists within the State Game Code. The standards and requirements are tailored not just to each specific species regulated, but also to the unique circumstances present in different parts of the State through the utilization of tools, such as regulation sets that result in slightly different

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requirements for a single species in different parts of the State. Additionally, differing requirements and restrictions are included in the Code to ensure the State's wildlife resources are managed in a sustainable manner, and that hunting and trapping activities are conducted in a safe manner for both those participating in the activity and the general public. To ensure this goal is met, the Code includes differing standards based upon the type of weapon and ammunition to be used and other safeguards, such as hunter clothing requirements. The Code also includes provisions designed to address special circumstances, such as those that provide a mechanism to address damage by nuisance wildlife, and measures to address disease outbreaks amongst wildlife species in New Jersey.

Since the adoption of the initial Game Code, the Code has been supplemented and amended with sections that provide general requirements applicable to a specific species, requirements dependent upon the type of weapon to be utilized, and other sections to address other parts of the wildlife management effort. Sections were also added to address special circumstances, such as nuisance damage and disease issues, as mentioned above. As a result of the continued evolution and refinement of the Code, it is necessary to consult several sections of the Code to determine the type of permit needed, the general requirements for each species, and the requirements and restrictions applicable for the type of weapon to be utilized.

To ensure all constituents understand the requirements and limitations regulated in the rules, the Department issues and makes available free of charge, the Hunting & Trapping Digest, which is published annually and available in print and online (see dep.nj.gov/njfw/digests/hunting-and-trapping/). The Hunting & Trapping Digest assists readers by summarizing hunting and trapping requirements, identifying opportunities for youth hunting,

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and providing general information, including where licenses may be purchased and maps of the deer zones, which determine what requirements are applicable in that area. The Hunting & Trapping Digest is not a regulatory document, but it assists the reader in understanding the requirements specified in the Game Code and additionally provides a means for the Department and the Council to communicate useful non-regulatory information.

While the Hunting & Trapping Digest will continue to be made available on an annual basis as a resource for those interested in becoming involved in hunting and for current hunters and trappers, the Council proposes to restructure the rules at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5, to improve the clarity of the Game Code. As part of the proposed reorganization, in an effort to consolidate similar topics within one section, the Council proposes to include weapons and other provisions applicable to the hunting or trapping of a particular species with other requirements governing the manner and means for hunting or trapping of that species. This will reduce the number of sections that need to be consulted by a participant in the harvest of that species. Additionally, the Council proposes to consolidate each game species to one section specific to that species. The proposed new rules will separate current sections that address requirements applicable to unrelated species in one section. For example, existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 addresses requirements applicable to both black bear and bobcat. This rulemaking will separate these species, so that each species is addressed in separate sections.

The Council proposes to reorganize the provisions of the Code into seven basic categories: General Provisions, Closed Seasons, Requirements Applicable to Hunting Specific Species, Trapping Requirements, Special Permits, Wildlife Damage Control, and Wildlife Health, Disease, and Surveillance.

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Although much of the restructuring of the Code involves reorganization of provisions with little or no change in rule text beyond aligning text and new formatting, the sheer number of reorganizational proposed modifications throughout the entire Code will result in a difficult-to-follow presentation of rule text utilizing brackets and boldface to reflect the changes. Therefore, the Council proposes to repeal the existing Code and replace it with a new Code. Table 1 is provided below to assist the reader in identifying how the existing Code provisions are proposed to be relocated, and which provisions are proposed to be changed. A description of the proposed contents of the general categories listed above follows, with more substantial amendments proposed to existing provisions identified and discussed after Table 1.

General Provisions

The initial portion of the proposed new Game Code includes general provisions that apply across all hunting, trapping, and wildlife possession activities. This portion of the proposed new Code includes general rule standards, including judicial notice, severability, time standards, and the main contact and location information of the Trenton and regional law enforcement offices. In addition, general provisions include provisions for closing of seasons, license restrictions, corrective lens requirements, hunter orange requirements, restrictions on the use and training of dogs on State wildlife management areas, drone restrictions, possession, and tagging of animal part requirements, recordkeeping requirements for animal processors, and exemptions for wildlife personnel and permitted State and Federal agents for the use of pyrotechnic missiles for aversive conditioning purposes, and for the use of drugs to chemically immobilize or dispatch sick, injured, or dangerous wildlife. While still within general provisions, definitions of terms

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used in the Code, currently codified at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d), are proposed to be codified into a separate section at proposed new N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2, Definitions, for ease of reference. The summary following Table 1 addresses the additions to the list of terms included within the definitions or proposed amendments to existing definitions.

Closed Seasons

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 13:1B-30, the Council is mandated to preserve, properly utilize, or maintain the best relative number of the State's freshwater fish, game birds, game animals, and fur-bearing animals by determining in what circumstances, when, and in what localities, by what means and in what amounts and numbers such freshwater fish, game birds, game animals, and fur-bearing animals may be pursued, taken, killed, or possessed. To fulfill this mandate and ensure that the State's game animals are properly managed to achieve the legislative goals, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife monitors the health and abundance of populations of the species found in the State and determines, based upon the best available science, appropriate management measures needed to ensure the sustainability of that species. Such management measures may include, where appropriate, a ban on any harvest of the species.

The existing Code includes closed seasons for species where it has been determined that no harvest should be allowed at this time. Game species that may not be harvested currently include bobcat (*Felis rufus*), bobwhite quail wild (*Colinus virginianus*), fisher (*Pekania pennanti*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), and sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*). Other than proposing to relocate these species to the closed seasons

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portion of the proposed new Code, the list of species currently subject to a closed season is not proposed to be amended.

In addition to making it easier to identify which species currently do not have a season for harvest by consolidating those species in this segment of the Code, with reference to bobcat, the reorganization will help achieve the goal of better focusing requirements applicable to a particular species in one section by separating this species from its existing codification at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 where the closed season is codified with requirements applicable to the entirely unrelated black bear (*Ursus americanus*).

Hunting

As indicated above, one of the purposes of the proposed repeal and new Game Code is to consolidate, to the extent possible, requirements applicable to a particular species in one section instead of provisions for a particular species being codified in several sections of the Code. In the next portion of the proposed new Game Code, reorganization and consolidation is proposed for hunting game species with an open season. This includes black bear, coyote, crow, fox, migratory game birds, pheasant and quail, rabbit and hare, raccoon and opossum, squirrel, turkey, and white-tailed deer. As raptors may also be used for hunting in New Jersey, falconry provisions are also included in this portion of the proposed new Code. For ease of reference, species-related sections are organized alphabetically.

The proposed restructuring will significantly reduce the number of Code sections that must be consulted to determine requirements applicable to the harvest of a particular species. For example, after reviewing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1, General provisions, depending on desired weaponry, an individual interested in participating in a black bear hunt currently would need to consult

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existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6, Black bear (*Ursus americanus*), bobcat (*Felis rufus*), for season and bag limit information, N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23, Firearms and missiles, etc., for firearm and ammunition restrictions, N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24, Bow and arrow, general provisions, for bow and arrow requirements, and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.22, Wild animals; possession, killing, for possession requirements and wanton waste restrictions. In the restructured Code, an individual will find all of this information codified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.4, Black bear. The proposed restructuring will also simplify and clarify rules by eliminating lengthy rule language that results when addressing provisions, such as hunting firearms and ammunition for a wide variety of wildlife species in one section, as, invariably, numerous exceptions to every provision result.

In addition to presenting as much information as possible specific to each species in its own section, the Council is proposing to organize each section in a consistent manner between sections so that, for example, if interested in determining the license/permit requirement applicable to that species, the reader would look to subsection (a) of the section for that species, whether the reader is interested in black bear or turkey. Particularly, with limited exception, the species-specific sections are organized as follows:

- (a) Licensing and permit requirements; an indication of what approvals or other documents must be obtained before an individual may participate in the activity for the species identified. This includes Federal licensing or permit requirements.
- (b) Season dates, hunting hours; identification of when the species may be harvested, including both season dates and hours during the season when hunting may be conducted, including special youth days, as well as, where applicable, the process the

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- Council will follow to notify hunters should it become necessary to close the hunt or otherwise modify season terms on an emergent basis.
- (c) Bag limits; specification of how many animals may be harvested during the season as well as any other limits applicable to individual animals of the species harvested, such as size, sex, or age of each individual animal.
 - (d) Manner of take; identification of methods and any restrictions to methods that may be utilized in attempting to take or harvest the species, such as whether bait may be used, if hunter orange is required, use of dogs, if allowed, calling device requirements, whether hunting may occur from stands or blinds, and, where applicable, any special requirements or exemption from otherwise applicable requirements that may pertain to youth hunters.
 - (e) Legal weaponry: specification of the types of weapon that may be used in hunting individual species, such as shotgun, rifle, or bow and arrow. Caliber restrictions and size and types of ammunition allowed are identified for hunting firearms, as well as, where applicable, any specific arrow requirements when hunting with a bow and arrow. The summary below the table identifies proposed changes to existing hunting firearm requirements for a specific species. Proposed amendments to the definition of crossbow, within the definition of bow, are addressed in the summary of proposed amendments.
 - (f) Permitting process; where applicable, includes application and selection information, including lottery and youth hunt requirements, for those species that require a permit in addition to a valid and proper hunting license. Hunting for species such as black

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- bear, migratory game birds, pheasant and quail, turkey, and specific “permit” seasons for white-tailed deer require an additional permit. Application and issuance information is also included for those species that offer farmers additional permit opportunities to hunt their own or lease properties. For clarification, species or seasons that do not require an additional permit are also explicitly identified.
- (g) Tagging/reporting requirements; where applicable, information on any tagging and/or reporting requirements applicable to the harvest of the species.
 - (h) Management zones or areas; where applicable, identification of management zone or hunting area boundaries established for the management of a particular species or areas specifically closed for hunting or harvest of a species. Species without defined management zones, hunting area boundaries, or specific closed areas are identified as such. The summary section immediately following Table 1 addresses proposed changes to several management zones for white-tailed deer.
 - (i) Permit quotas; where applicable, specify the number of permits that may be issued by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for a particular management zone or hunting area for species or seasons that require a permit in addition to a hunting license. For those species that either do not require a permit or, if a permit is required, are not subject to a permit quota, this subsection will explicitly indicate that they are not applicable. There are no proposed changes to permit quotas for any game animal as part of this rulemaking.

Where substantive changes are proposed to the existing provisions included within the proposed expanded species-specific sections, those changes are individually summarized below Table 1.

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Trapping Requirements

Currently, general trapping requirements, as well as requirements and restrictions applicable to trapping of specific species, are intermingled with sections addressing the harvest of game animals, with the general trapping requirements codified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12 and species-specific requirements codified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8, 5.9, 5.10, and 5.11, as well as intertwined with species-specific requirements for hunting. Species subject to the trapping provisions include mink (*Neogale vison*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), nutria (*Myocaster coypus*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), river otter (*Lontra canadensis*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), long-tailed weasel (*Neogale frenata*), short-tailed weasel (*Mustela richardsonii*), fisher (*Pekania pennanti*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*).

In addition to separating the trapping provisions from provisions applicable to hunting, the order of the existing sections is proposed to be reorganized, so that the general trapping requirements applicable to all species appear before the species-specific requirements and restrictions. For consistency, species-specific trapping requirements are proposed to follow the same format as those for hunting; (a) license and permit requirements, (b) season dates, trapping hours, (c) bag limits, (d) manner of take, (e) legal weaponry, (f) permits, (g) tagging/reporting requirements, (h) management zones or areas, and (i) permit quotas. Other than changes necessary to update cross-references to reflect the organization of provisions in the proposed new Code and similar changes, proposed changes to trapping requirements are addressed within the summary following Table 1.

Special Permits

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In addition to permits for hunting or trapping of specific species in accordance with the requirements specified in the Code, the existing Code at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(l) and (o) and 5.32 authorize the Director of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife to issue special permits to address unique issues that may arise. For example, hunters with disabilities may be issued a permit to shoot from a standing vehicle or may be approved to utilize alternative methods of taking a game animal that addresses the limitations of their particular disability, so that they may partake in the sport of hunting and trapping. Provisions governing the application for, and issuance of, such approvals for hunters with disabilities are proposed to be codified into a separate section in the Special Permit portion of the proposed Code.

Special wildlife management permits may also be issued to authorize the take of any game species, indigenous animal, exotic animal, potentially dangerous indigenous or exotic animal by the means and at times and locations specified in the permit, subject to conditions specified at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32(b). Recognizing that these permits address unique situations, special wildlife management permits need not conform to all the provisions applicable to hunting and trapping. Among other things, special wildlife management permits may be issued to address damage to crops or property, the hazard posed to safe airport operations, the biological condition of the animal, or any other unique management problem. In addition to describing the purpose of special wildlife management permits and the general conditions these permits are subject to at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32(a) and (b), the existing section addresses two specific situations where these permits may be utilized.

Existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32(c) provides that site-specific permit shotgun and muzzleloader season deer permits may be issued to address a documented history of deer damage

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on farms meeting specified criteria, subject to specified limitations. These site-specific special wildlife management permits are only issued if regular shotgun or muzzleloader permits for the deer management zone within which the farm is located are sold out. Any special permit issued pursuant to this subsection of the existing Code will only authorize the take of antlerless deer.

Existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32(d) authorizes the Director of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife to designate special deer management areas and issue special deer management permits to administer alternative deer control methods as part of an approved community-based deer management plan. Pursuant to this special wildlife management permit, certain local authorities, defined in the subsection, may be authorized to utilize deer control methods other than traditional hunting in the designated special deer management area. Examples of alternative deer control methods include taking deer by agents, capturing and euthanizing, capturing and removing, and using materials and techniques to limit reproduction and controlled hunting. Definitions of terms used in the subsection are provided within the subsection. Designation of a special deer management area and issuance of a special deer management permit will only occur if there is a demonstrated history of significant agricultural or property damage caused by deer, a significant number of deer-vehicle collisions caused by deer, or a hazard to the safe operation of aircraft caused by deer within the area requested to be designated as a special deer management area. The subsection specifies the conditions and limitations applicable to the approval of special deer management areas and for special deer management permits.

In addition to the special circumstances addressed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32, the existing Code contains provisions addressing other situations where permits may be issued to address specific situations.

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At existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.35, the Director is authorized to issue special permits for the salvage and possession of accidentally killed or naturally dead wildlife. This special permit does not apply to migratory game birds, nongame birds, or endangered wildlife species named on the State or Federal lists of endangered species. This special permit is only available to properly accredited persons associated with educational or scientific institutions for strictly educational or scientific purposes only. The section specifies annual reporting requirements, circumstances that will lead to the permit becoming void, and requirements applicable to the disposition of specimens collected under the special permit should the permit become void.

Except for subsection (a), which authorizes a replacement permit to a hunter who legally harvests a deer unfit for consumption, the remainder of existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.36 authorizes the Director to issue a special permit identified as Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permits. These permits may authorize the taking of antlerless deer during the permit bow, permit shotgun, or permit muzzleloader seasons. They will only be issued to properties in deer management zones with a limited antlerless bag limit or if the regular zone quota of permits is sold out. Any DMAP special permit issued is subject to requirements specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.36(b) and to all requirements applicable to the aforementioned hunting seasons specified elsewhere in the existing Code. The section requires that the applicant for the special permit provide any existing management plans for the property, as well as any available biological data collected from previous deer management efforts, with the Director to consider any data available to him or her in determining whether the special permit should be granted. No permit is to be issued until after a field investigation is performed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife personnel. Examples of the types of information the Director will take into account are provided and

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include information related to damage done to crops or property, ecological damage, the hazard posed to safe airport operations, the biological condition of the herd, or any other special management problem occurring on the property for which the DMAP permit(s) is requested.

Permittees are required to immediately tag all deer taken pursuant to the DMAP permit and check in the deer either at an authorized check station or electronically through the AHRS.

Written daily records of hunting activity and take, including specific information, are required and must be made available to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife personnel upon request for inspection. A detailed report is required to be filed with NJDEP Fish & Wildlife to allow NJDEP Fish & Wildlife to monitor the success of the activities conducted under the permit and compliance with the permit.

The final special permit included in the existing Game Code is the special permit to inhibit wildlife reproduction, codified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.37. Without this permit, the use of fertility control materials and/or methodologies, such as contraception, contragestation, and/or sterilization, on any species of free-ranging wildlife is prohibited. Further, use of any physical alteration or device that would alter the reproduction potential of any free-ranging wildlife species without first procuring this permit is prohibited, with possession of such unauthorized materials or devices in the field specified to be considered the attempt to take wildlife contrary to the provisions of the Code. According to this section, acquiring any necessary Federal permits must occur before applying to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for the special permit. The section includes requirements designed to ensure that any such activity is only conducted by qualified individuals and will not result in adverse impacts, with each application reviewed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife in conjunction with the Department of Animal Science, Cook College-Rutgers

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University and other scientists who may be selected by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. This coordinated review includes an analysis of the overall justification and need for conducting the procedures for which the permit is sought, the qualifications of the person(s) administering the procedure, identification of the anticipated environmental impacts affecting both wildlife and humans, and the probability of success in controlling free-ranging wildlife populations.

As part of the reorganization to improve the ease of use of the Code, these special permits will continue to be available in the proposed new Game Code, with the sections grouped.

Revisions to permit application requirements and issuance are minor in nature and are addressed in the summary following Table 1.

Wildlife Damage Control

The Council's legislative mandate includes recognizing that allowing control of certain species may be appropriate to ensure that damage caused to livestock, crops, poultry, and property from species other than deer is limited. For example, N.J.S.A. 23:4-9 makes clear that the Game Code must allow farmers and fruit growers to control gray squirrels, rabbits, or hares during the entire year on the property owned or leased for the raising of fruit, vegetables, trees, shrubbery, nursery stock, or other produce. The authority to regulate these and other species not generally considered highly valued game species, such as squirrel and woodchuck, in part to achieve the Council's mandate to manage the State's wildlife to protect property beyond crops, is recognized in other statutory provisions, including N.J.S.A. 23:4-1.

The existing Code addresses the management of property damage caused by specific species at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.21. Particularly, this section addresses control of squirrel (*Sciurus spp.*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*),

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weasel (*Mustela spp.*), woodchuck (*Marmota monax*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), and red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) when one or more of these species are damaging property or destroying livestock, crops, or poultry. In contrast to special permits and other provisions addressing damage from deer through the permitting process, this provision allows property owners and occupants of dwellings, as well as farmers or their agents, to immediately address active damage without needing a permit. However, in both the context of control measures taken by farmers and those by property owners in general, the section clarifies that any actions taken remain subject to any applicable State law and local ordinances. Additionally, in both contexts, any control measure taken to address damage caused by a coyote must be reported to the NJDEP Fish & Game's regional enforcement office within 24 hours. The NJDEP continues to track coyote harvest, as it is a top-level predator whose numbers appear to be expanding in the State.

This mechanism is continued at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.34 with the addition of species such as rabbit, mink, muskrat, and nutria addressed in the summary following Table 1.

Wildlife Health, Disease, and Surveillance

The existing Code, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(i), includes provisions that allow the Council to take a variety of actions designed to protect the State's game and furbearing animals from the spread of a highly contagious or zoonotic disease of concern.

Among other things, these provisions allow the Council to designate disease surveillance areas when either a highly contagious or zoonotic wildlife disease of concern has been discovered within New Jersey or near the State's border. The establishment of such an area enables the Council to authorize additional disease monitoring and management measures within

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the State to attempt to prevent the disease from readily spreading beyond the index case and gauge the disease's prevalence and geographic range. These provisions are designed to allow the Council not only to take action to contain and control outbreaks that occur within the State's boundaries but also to take precautionary measures within the designated areas, including increased surveillance, which may prevent the introduction into New Jersey of diseases, such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a highly contagious and fatal disease of cervids, including deer, which had been found within locations in Pennsylvania.

The rules also give the Director of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife authority, with the concurrence of the Council, to take rapid steps to limit any outbreak. Regulations that might be considered for modification include: extension of season dates and/or relaxation of bag limits to allow for increased sampling of diseased animals through hunter/trapper harvests, relaxation of wanton waste regulations to enable hunters to dispose of animals not fit for consumption, the banning of baiting and feeding to prevent uninfected animals from coming into contact with infected animals over bait piles, and, in the case of deer, the elimination of antler point restrictions, which prevent the harvest of younger-aged bucks, in order to allow for older, larger bucks to be available for harvest in the future. Bucks have greater dispersal distances and the most potential to spread disease over the landscape. Notification of emergency regulation changes will be made through notice in the New Jersey Register, news releases, as well as notice on NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, and within the Hunting & Trapping Digest.

The existing rules also ban the rehabilitation of susceptible animals (species affected by or carrying the contagion) associated with a disease surveillance area, including both rehabilitation by a wildlife rehabilitator located within the disease surveillance area and

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rehabilitation by a wildlife rehabilitator outside the disease surveillance area of a susceptible animal that was taken from within the disease surveillance area.

To further protect wildlife species, provisions that no person shall administer, or attempt to administer, any chemical or biological substance, including, but not limited to, drugs, pesticides, vaccines, disease prevention or treatment, immobilization drugs, or growth stimulant, nor make any alterations or affix any device to any free-ranging vertebrate wildlife without first obtaining a permit from the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife are also proposed to be included within this section.

These provisions are continued in the proposed new Code at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.35 without substantive amendment.

General Amendments

In addition to the proposed reorganization of the Game Code and proposed amendments to specific areas of the Game Code resulting in changes to seasons, weapons, manner, and means of the hunting and trapping of game animals specifically addressed within the summary following Table 1, the proposed new Game Code includes several proposed updates to the existing Code. These proposed changes include the following:

1. Throughout N.J.A.C. 7:25-5, the Council proposes to replace references to the “Division of Fish and Wildlife, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection,” and “the Division” with “NJDEP Fish & Wildlife” and “Fish & Wildlife.” The changes are proposed to reflect the 2023 Department of Environmental Protection reorganization, which split Natural and Historic Resources, comprised then of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Forestry, and the Green Acres

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- Program into three separate program areas within the Department. As a result of the 2023 reorganization, the former Division of Fish and Wildlife was realigned, with Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Forestry and Historic Places each becoming a separate Assistant Commissioner area within the Department organization structure, rather than being part of a division within Natural and Historic Resources.
2. For simplification and ease of reference, scientific names of game animals are proposed to be removed from the title of the various sections that comprise the Code. Instead, scientific names of the various game animals will be identified within subsection (a), license and permits, of each section that includes provisions for the hunting or trapping of a particular species. This proposed approach will greatly reduce the length of the titles of several sections, providing easier reference.
 3. Throughout N.J.A.C. 7:25-5, the Council proposes to update references to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's website by replacing www.njfishandwildlife.com with www.NJFishandWildlife.com. The proposed format is the widely accepted reference used in all NJDEP Fish & Wildlife outreach, making it easier for constituents to follow. The NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website is referenced throughout the Code as a mechanism of notification to hunters and trappers of important stocking information tied to regulations and to alert them of potential changes in seasons and bag limits in response to emerging situations codified within the Code.
 4. Except for the portion of the Code addressing provisions for the issuance of truly unique permits, such as those for community-based deer management, the deer management assistance program, biological permits for deer, permits to inhibit

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- wildlife reproduction, Special Wildlife Management Permits, and Special Wildlife Salvage Permits, the Council proposes to remove the term “special” from various permit references throughout the Code. Overuse of the term throughout the Code results in misconceptions about the various permits and is deemed unnecessary, particularly regarding permits required to hunt during established seasons and within stocked areas.
5. The Council proposes to add references to hunter orange requirements codified at N.J.S.A. 23:4-13.1 and proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(p), at subsection (d) within each species-specific section. For safety purposes, 200 square inches of hunter orange is required on the outer clothing of hunting firearm hunters. A hunter orange cap/hat, with incidental ornamentation that does not reduce its visibility is also required when hunting with a hunting firearm in State wildlife management areas for small game species, such as coyote, fox, rabbit, hare, pheasant, quail, and squirrels. Exceptions to the requirement, such as when hunting turkey, at night for coyote or fox, or when using a bow and arrow, will also be referenced, where appropriate. Except as identified otherwise at specific amendments summarized after Table 1 below, this does not change existing hunter orange requirements. This change is proposed for ease of reference and added emphasis.
 6. Throughout N.J.A.C. 7:25-5, the Council proposes, where appropriate, to remove outdated references that permits will be mailed. Since the Electronic Licensing System (ELS) was implemented, permits for hunting and trapping have been issued

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through the ELS and are no longer mailed to license holders, including permits for farmers. This results in no change to current practices.

7. Throughout N.J.A.C. 7:25-5, the Council proposes to remove the hyphen from center-fire and rim-fire rifle references. This proposed change results in no change to the provisions regarding using these weapons in hunting.
8. Throughout N.J.A.C. 7:25-5, references to the authority for adoption at N.J.S.A. Title 23 repeats within each section. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5 possesses intrinsic authority and, therefore, these references have been deemed unnecessary and removed.

Organization of the Proposed New Game Code, N.J.A.C. 7:25-5

As discussed above, the Council is proposing to recodify the provision of the existing code as set forth in the table below.

Table 1.

TABLE OF RECODIFICATION

Topic	Current Citation (N.J.A.C.) 7:25-	Proposed Citation (N.J.A.C.) 7:25-	Revised Text
Judicial Notice	5.1(a)	5.1(a)	No substantive change
Time	5.1(b)	5.1(d)	Agency name updated
Definitions	5.1(d)	5.2(a)	Amended, new definitions, existing amended

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Air gun provisions	5.1(d)1	5.1(l)5	Amended, air gun caliber increased
One license per year	5.1(f)	5.1(j)	No substantive change
Closing of seasons or areas	5.1(g)	5.1(i)	Agency name/website updated
Farmer CID requirement	5.1(h)	5.1(z)	Amended, all species, date reference removed
Possession seals	5.22(e)2	5.1(t)	Reworded
Pheasant season	5.2(a)	5.10(b)1	Reworded
Pheasant, quail, partridge bag limit	5.2(b)	5.10(c)	Reworded
Pheasant, quail, partridge with falconry	5.2(c)	5.7(g)2	No substantive change
Pheasant, quail, partridge – hunting hours	5.2(d)	5.10(b)1	Amended
Experimental pheasant zones	5.2(e)	5.10(b)5	No substantive change
Youth pheasant	5.2(f)	5.10(b)2	No substantive change
Semi-wild shooting preserves season	5.2(g)	5.10(b)3	No substantive change

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Semi-wild shooting preserves bag limits	5.2(g)1	5.10(c)1	No substantive change
Pheasant, quail, partridge authority	5.2(h)	Repealed	Repealed
Seasons for rabbits, jackrabbits and hares; hunting hours	5.3(a)	5.11(b)	Reworded
Quail and partridge season	5.3(a)	5.10(b)	Updated citations, reworded
Quail (wild) season closed	5.3(a)	5.3(a)	Reworded
Quail liberation restrictions	5.3(a)(1)	Repealed	Repealed
Falconry season for pheasant, quail, partridge, rabbit, jackrabbit, and hare	5.3(b)	5.7(g)2	Updated citations
Partridge, rabbit, jackrabbit, and hare bag limit	5.3(c)	5.11(c)	Reworded
Pheasant, quail, partridge, rabbit, jackrabbit, and hare hunting hours	5.3(d)	5.10(b) and 5.11(b)	Amended
Partridge and quail season on semi-wilds	5.3(e)	5.10(b)3	Reworded

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Pheasant, quail, and partridge, youth season	5.3(e)	5.10(b)2	Reworded
Youth hunter supervision requirement	5.3(e)	5.2(a)	No substantive change
Semi-wild preserve season extension for partridge and quail	5.3(e)	Repealed	Repealed
Pheasant, quail partridge bag limits on semi-wilds	5.3(e)1	5.10(c)1	No substantive change
Authority for rabbit, jackrabbit, hare, partridge, and quail	5.3(f)	Repealed	Repealed
Closed season for ruffed grouse	5.4(a)	5.3(a)	Reworded
Reserved – ruffed grouse	5.4(b) and (c)	Repealed	Repealed
Ruffed grouse hunting hours	5.4(d)	Repealed	Repealed
Authority for ruffed grouse	5.4(e)	Repealed	Repealed
Seasons for gray squirrel	5.5(a)	5.13(b)	Amended, repealed muzzleloader zones, aligned seasons, updated citation

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Muzzleloader provisions for gray squirrel	5.5(a)	5.13(e)	No substantive change
Falconry season for gray squirrel	5.5(b)	5.7(g)2	Reworded, updated citation
Bag limit for gray squirrel	5.5(c)	5.13(c)	No substantive change
Hunting hours for gray squirrel	5.5(d)	5.13(b)	Amended, delayed start repealed
Authority for gray squirrels	5.5(e)	Repealed	Repealed
Bobcat season closure	5.6(a)	5.3(a)	Substance moved to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3(a)
Black bear dogs prohibited	5.6(a)	5.4(d)9	No substantive change
Black bear season closure	5.6(a)	5.4(b)2	No substantive change
Black bear permit provisions	5.6(a)1i-iv	5.4	Added requirement for farmer permit, updated agency reference, reworded
Black bear bag limit	5.6(a)2	5.4(c)	No substantive change
Black bear reporting requirements	5.6(a)2	5.4(g)1 through 4	No substantive change
Black bear management zone boundaries	5.6(a)3	5.4(h)	Updated agency reference
Black bear weaponry	5.6(a)4	5.4(e)	No substantive change

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Stand/still/drive allowed	5.6(a)5	5.4(d)5	No substantive change
Black bear den restriction	5.6(a)5	5.4(d)6	No substantive change
Black bear no weapon within 300 ft bait	5.6(a)5	5.4(d)7	No substantive change
Black bear hunter orange requirement	5.6(a)5	5.4(d)1 and 2	No substantive change
Black bear permit quotas	5.6(a)6	5.4(i)	No substantive change
Black bear season extension	5.6(b)	5.4(b)1ii(1)	Updated agency references, citations, notification clarified
Black bear authority	5.6(c)	Repealed	Repealed
Turkey seasons	5.7(a)1	5.14(b)	Amended, fall season repealed, reworded
Turkey bag limits	5.7(b)	5.14(c)	Amended, fall bag limit repealed
Turkey hunting hours	5.7(c)	5.14(b)	Fall hunting hours repealed
Turkey permits restricted to designated areas	5.7(d)	5.14(a)	Reworded
Restrictions for youth turkey hunters	5.7(d)	5.14(b)6	Reworded

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Hunting methods for turkey	5.7(e)1 through 9 and 12	5.14(d)	Reworded
Turkey hunting methods	5.7(e)10 and 11	5.14(e)	Reworded
Turkey permit requirements	5.7(f)1	5.14(f)1 and 2	Reworded
Turkey harvest reporting requirements	5.7(g)	5.14(g)	Amended, fall reporting requirements repealed, reworded
Turkey permit application process	5.7(h)1 through 7	5.14(f)3 through 7	Amended, fall turkey references repealed, reworded, updated agency references
Farmer permit issuance	5.7(i)	5.14(f)8	Reworded
Turkey permit provisions	5.7(j)	5.14(f)9-10	Reworded
Spring turkey season quotas	5.7(k)1	5.14(i)1	Amended, updated
Fall turkey season quotas	5.7(l)	Repealed	Repealed
Turkey hunting authority	5.7(m)	Repealed	Repealed
Turkey hunting area boundaries	5.7(n)	5.14(h)	No substantive change
Turkey youth day	5.7(o)	5.14(b)	Reworded
Mink, muskrat, and nutria by trapping only	5.8(a)	5.25(d)1	No substantive change

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Mink, muskrat, nutria trapping seasons	5.8(b)1 and 2	5.25(b)	Seasons combined into one
Zone boundaries for mink, muskrat, and nutria	5.8(b)3	5.25(h)	Amended, zone boundaries repealed
No setting before designated start time provision	5.8(c)	5.25(a)	Reworded
Mink, muskrat, and nutria authority	5.8(d)	Repealed	Repealed
Citation reference to general trapping section	5.8(e)	Repealed	Repealed
Beaver may only be taken by approved traps	5.9(a)	5.24(d)2	No substantive change
Beaver trapping season	5.9(b)	5.24(b)	Seasons extended, updated agency references
Beaver trapping permit application and issuance	5.9(c)	5.24(f)	Reformatted, permit reference updated
Beaver permit zone quotas	5.9(c)	5.24(i)	Updated citation
Beaver damage control permits	5.9(d)	5.32(c)	Reformatted
Beaver trapping bag limit	5.9(e)	5.24(c)	Amended, trap limit increased, reformatted

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Beaver harvest tagging and reporting	5.9(f)	5.24(g)	Amended, check station requirement replaced with online reporting
Beaver trap limits and identification	5.9(g)	5.24(d)	Amended, trap limit increased, trap tags must be metal
Posting of protected beaver colonies	5.9(g)	5.24(d)	Updated agency reference
Beaver permits only valid in zone or site designated and non- transferable	5.9(h)	5.24(a) and (d) and 5.32(b)7	No substantive change
Beaver trapping authority	5.9(i)	Repealed	Repealed
River otter trapping license and permit requirement	5.10(a)	5.27(a)	Amended, license requirements added, trap provision moved to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(d)
River otter trapping season	5.10(b)	5.27(b)	Upgraded notification, reworded

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River otter application and permit issuance	5.10(c)	5.27(f)	Reformatted
River otter management zone quotas	5.10(c)	5.27(i)	Reformatted into tabular format
River otter bag limit	5.10(d)	5.27(c)	Reworded
River otter tagging and harvest reporting	5.10(e)	5.27(g)	Amended, carcass surrender repealed
River otter trap limit	5.10(f)	5.27(d)3	Reworded
River otter trapping authority	5.10(g)	Repealed	Repealed
River otter management zone boundaries	5.10(h)	5.27(h)	No substantive change
River otter permits only valid in zone specified and non-transferable	5.10(i)	5.27(a) and (d)4	Reworded
Raccoon, fox, opossum, skunk, weasel, coyote trapping license requirement	5.11(a)	5.26(a)	Reworded
Raccoon, fox, opossum, skunk, weasel, coyote trapping season	5.11(b) and (c)	5.26(b)	Reformatted
Fisher closed season	5.11(b)	5.3(a)3	Reformatted

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Special permits for trapping raccoon, fox, coyote and opossum	5.11(d)	Substance captured at 5.32	Reworded
Raccoon, fox, opossum, skunk, weasel, coyote bag limit	5.11(e)	5.26(c)	Reworded
Trapping by farmers experiencing damage	5.11(f)	5.34(c)	Reworded, combined with identical provisions for other species
Coyote and gray fox harvest reporting requirement	5.11(g)	5.26(g)	Amended, reporting deadline extended, updated agency reference
Raccoon, fox, opossum, skunk, weasel, coyote trapping authority	5.11(h)	Repealed	Repealed
Trap identification requirement	5.12(a)	5.23(b)	Amended, metal tag required
No set traps beyond season closure	5.12(b)	5.23(e)	No substantive change

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<p>Permit requirement for beaver and otter for body gripping killer trap jaw spread greater than 6 inches</p>	<p>5.12(b)</p>	<p>Substance moved to 5.24(e)1ii for beaver; and 5.27(e)1ii for river otter</p>	<p>Reworded, reference to permit removed as all trapping of beaver and otter is under permit</p>
<p>Body gripping killer trap must be submerged, tidal waters</p>	<p>5.12(c)</p>	<p>Substance moved to 5.24(e) for beaver; 5.25(e) for mink, muskrat, and nutria; and 5.27(e) for river otter</p>	<p>Reworded</p>
<p>Body gripping killer trap jaw spread greater than 6 inches except for beaver and otter</p>	<p>5.12(d)</p>	<p>Substance moved to 5.24(e) for beaver; 5.25(e) for mink, muskrat, and nutria; 6.26(e) for raccoon, fox, opossum, skunk, weasel, and coyote; and 5.27(e) for river otter</p>	<p>Amended to allow snap traps for weasels, reworded, reformatted</p>

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Steel jaw leghold trap prohibited	5.12(e)	5.23(g)	Amended, effective date reference removed
Live capture cable constraints provisions	5.12(f)	Substance moved to 5.24(e)3 for beaver; 5.25(e)3 for mink, muskrat, and nutria; 5.26(e)4 for raccoon, fox, opossum, skunk, weasel, and coyote; and 5.27(e)3 for river otter	Reformatted
Enclosed foothold trap provisions	5.12(g)	5.26(e)	Reformatted
Weapons for dispatch	5.12(h)	Substance moved to 5.24(e) for beaver; 5.25(e) for mink, muskrat, and nutria; 5.26(e) for raccoon, fox, opossum, skunk,	Amended, air guns caliber increased to .25, no air guns for water sets, reformatted

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		weasel, and coyote; and 5.27(e) for river otter	
Timeframe for checking traps	5.12(i)	5.23(c)	No substantive change
Authority for trapping provisions	5.12(j)	Repealed	Repealed
Migratory game bird hunting hours	5.13(a)	5.9(b)	Amended, delayed start repealed
Migratory game bird methods for take	5.13(b)	5.9(d) and (e)	Reformatted
Migratory game bird seasons	5.13(c)	5.9(b)	Amended, Light Goose Conservation Order added, updated Federal reference, reformatted, reworded
Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program	5.13(c)	5.9(a) and (a)2	Reworded
Herring Island Closure	5.13(d)	5.1(dd)	No substantive change
Shark River Closure	5.13(e)	5.1(dd)	No substantive change
State law limitations	5.13(f)	5.9(d)2	Reworded

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Waterfowl hunting hours	5.13(g)	5.9(b)3	Amended, hours expanded to migratory game birds, reworded
Permit Requirements	5.13(h)	5.9(f)	Amendment to require permit for Conservation Order
Swan hunting area	5.13(h)	5.9(h)6	No substantive change
Canada goose hunting area	5.13(h)	5.9(h)2	No substantive change
Waterfowl stamp requirements	5.13(i)	5.9(a)	Reworded
Waterfowl hunting Delaware River	5.13(j)	5.9(h)3	No substantive change
100 ft. boat restriction for waterfowl	5.13(k)	5.9(h)5	No substantive change
Migratory game bird restrictions	5.13(l)2-9	5.9(d)3i through viii	Reworded
Delayed start opening day pheasant	5.13(l)11	Repealed	Repealed
Shark River Closure	5.13(l)12	5.1(dd)	Reworded
Manasquan River closure	5.13(l)13	5.1(dd)	Reworded

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Migratory game birds hunting time and manner prescribed by Federal regulations and State Game Code	5.13(l)14	5.9(b)3	Amended and reworded with updated references
Migratory game bird shot restrictions	5.13(l)15	5.9(e)3 and 4	Amended and reworded with updated references
No more than one daily bag limit	5.13(l)16	Repealed	Repealed
Tagging and shipping requirements	5.13(l)17 through 19	5.9(d)4	Reworded
Cox Hall Creek WMA Closure	5.13(l)20	5.1(dd)	Reworded
Barnegat Inlet Closure	5.13(l)21	5.1(dd)	Reworded
Mourning dove and sandhill crane closed seasons	5.13(m)1	5.3(a)	Reworded
Season and bag limits for rails and woodcock	5.13(m)2	Repealed	Repealed
Bag limit for gallinule	5.13(m)2	5.9(c)	Amended, updated common name

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Woodcock hunting areas	5.13(n)1-2	Repealed	Repealed
Woodcock hunting hours	5.13(n)3	Repealed	Repealed
Sea duck hunting area	5.13(o)	5.9(h)4	No substantive change
Scaup hunting area	5.13(p)	Repealed	Repealed
Parker and Oceanport Creek Firearm season closure	5.13(q)	5.1(dd)	No substantive change
Waterfowl hunting youth days	5.13(r)	5.9(b)2	Reformatted
Migratory game bird authority	5.13(s)	Repealed	Repealed
Non-toxic shot requirement for migratory game bird hunting	5.14	5.9(e)4	Reworded
Crow hunting season	5.15(a)	5.6(b)	Updated citation
Crow bag limit	5.15(b)	5.6(c)	Reworded
Crow hunting hours	5.15(a)	5.6(b)	Amended, delayed start on pheasant opener repealed
Crow methods	5.15(d)	5.6(d)	Reworded
Falconry terms and definitions	5.16(a)1	5.7(a)	Amended, replace one term, reformatted

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Falconry permit classes	5.16(a)2	5.7(b)	Amended, replaced term, updated agency references
Falconry examination requirements	5.16(a)3	5.7(c)	Updated agency references
Falconry facilities and equipment	5.16(a)4	5.7(d)	Updated agency references
Falconry collecting and breeding provisions	5.16(a)5	5.7(e)	Amended, replaced term, updated agency references
Marking of raptors	5.16(a)6	5.7(f)	Update agency references
Training and flying year-round	5.16(a)7i	5.7(i)	Reworded
Falconry hunting on Sundays	5.16(a)7ii	5.7(g)	No substantive change
Hunting with raptors on semi-wilds	16(a)7iii	5.7(g)6	No substantive change
Rules for non-resident falconers	5.16(a)8	5.7(h)	Updated agency references
Additional requirements	5.16(a)9	5.7(i)	Amended, replaced term, updated agency references

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Falconry reporting requirements	5.16(a)10	5.7(j)	Updated agency reference
Penal Provisions	5.16(a)11	5.7(k)	Updated agency references
Authority	5.16(a)12	Repealed	Repealed
Raccoon and opossum hunting season and hours	5.17(a)	5.12(b)	Reworded
Raccoon and opossum season and bag limit	5.17(b)	5.12(c)	Reworded, updated citation
Raccoon and opossum hunting prohibited Six-Day Firearm and Wednesday of Permit Shotgun	5.17(c)	5.12(b)	Reworded
Dog training timeframe for raccoon and opossum hunting	5.17(d)	5.12(d)	Reworded
Raccoon and opossum hunting authority	5.17(e)	Repealed	Repealed
Woodchuck hunting seasons	5.18(a)	Substance for regular woodchuck hunting moved to 5.22(b) and for falconry to 5.7(g)3	Reworded, reformatted, updated citation

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Woodchuck hunting hours	5.18(b)	5.22(b)	Reworded
Rifle permit requirement	5.18(c)	5.22(a)	Reworded
Rifle prohibited on WMAs and State parks and forests	5.18(d)	5.22(d)3	No substantive change
Woodchuck bag limit	5.18(e)	5.22(c)	Reworded
Woodchuck hunting authority	5.18(f)	Repealed	Repealed
Fox and coyote hunting seasons	5.19(a)1 and 2	Substance for coyote moved to 5.5(b); and for fox to 5.8(b)	Amended, seasons restructured
Incidental harvest of coyote during turkey season	5.19(a)3	5.5(b)3 with reference to 5.14(d)13	Reworded
Coyote and fox hunting, use of dogs	5.19(b)	Substance of 5.19(b) for coyote moved to 5.5(d)1iii; and for fox to 7:25-5.8(d)1iii	Updated citations

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Incidental harvest of coyote and fox during certain deer seasons	5.19(b)	Substance for coyote moved to 5.5(b)4; for fox to 5.8(b)3, with reference to 5.18(d)3, 5.19(d)3, and 5.20(d)3	Reworded
Coyote and fox hunting hours	5.19(c)	Substance for coyote moved to 5.5(b); and for fox to 5.8(b)	Amended, repeal delayed start small game season
Bag limit for fox	5.19(d)	5.8(c)	Reworded
Special season for coyote and fox	5.19(e)	Repealed	Repealed
Special season hunting hours for coyote and fox	5.19(e)	Repealed	Repealed
Apprentice license restriction for coyote and fox hunting	5.19(f)1	Substance for coyote moved to 5.5(a); and for fox to 5.8(a)	No substantive change
Bag limit for coyote	5.19(g)	5.5(c)	Reworded

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Special season provisions for coyote and fox	5.19(h) and (i)	Repealed	Repealed
Coyote harvest report requirement	5.19(j)	5.5(g)	Amended, reporting deadline extended, updated agency reference
Coyote and fox hunting authority	5.19(k)	Repealed	Repealed
Exercising and training of dogs on WMAs	5.20(a) and (b)	5.1(s)1iii	Amended, no training on WMAs week of youth pheasant
Control of certain species causing damage	5.21	5.34	Amended, additional species, reworded
Open seasons required for taking of wildlife	5.22(a)	5.1(g)	Updated citations
Restrictions on cervid importation	5.22(a)	5.35(c)	Updated citations
Administration of chemicals	5.22(a)1	5.35(f)	Agency references updated
No hunting from airborne conveyance	5.22(a)2	5.1(r)	No substantive change

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No cervid natural derived lures	5.22(a)3	5.35(d)	No substantive change
Depredation of certain birds Federal regulations	5.22(b)	5.34(d)	No substantive change
Non-native provision	5.22(d)	5.1(g)	No substantive change
Possession of animal parts	5.22(e)	5.1(t)	Updated agency reference
Wild game dinners	5.22(f)	5.1(aa)	No substantive change
Squirrel pelt and tail sale	5.22(g)	5.1(u)	No substantive change
Wanton waste	5.22(h)	5.1(q)	No substantive change
Maximum shot #4 fine	5.23(a)	Substance moved for pheasant and quail to 5.10, for rabbit, jackrabbit, and hare to 5.11(e)1, for raccoon, opossum to 5.12(e)2, for squirrel to 5.13(e)2, for turkey to 5.14(e)2, for deer to 5.18(e)	Amended, reformatted and reworded

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		through 5.20(e), and for woodchuck to 5.22(e)2	
Air guns and ammunition	5.23(a)	Substance moved for rabbit, jackrabbit, and hare to 5.11(e)2, and for squirrel to 5.13(e)5	Amended, caliber increased
Shotgun caliber and ammunition	5.23(a)	Substance moved for coyote to 5.5(e)1ii and for fox to 5.8(e)1ii	Reformatted
No. 4 buckshot for woodchuck for farmers and their agents	5.23(a)	5.34(c)1	No substantive change
Rifles for woodchuck hunting	5.23(a)	5.22(e)4 through 6	No substantive change
Muzzleloader for squirrel hunting	5.23(a)	5.13(e)4	No substantive change
Ammunition for waterfowl hunting	5.23(a)	5.9(e)4	No substantive change

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Rifles and air guns for raccoon and opossum hunting and trapping of furbearers	5.23(a)	Substance moved for raccoon and opossum to 5.12(e)5, for trapping for beavers to 5.24(e)4 and 5, for mink, muskrat, and nutria to 5.25(e)4 and 5, for raccoon, fox, coyote, skunk, and weasel 5.26(e)5 and 6, and for river otter to 5.27(e)4 and 5	Amended, air gun caliber increased, air guns prohibited on water sets
Special Deer Management Rifle exemption	5.23(a)	5.32(b)3i	Agency references updated
Manually operated human-controlled triggers required	5.23(a)	5.1(l)	Reworded
Rifle Permit	5.23(a)	5.1(m)	No substantive change
Rifle allowed on WMAs for raccoon and opossum hunting	5.23(a)	Substance moved for hunting raccoon	Reworded

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and dispatch of trapped animals (other than muskrats)		and opossum to 5.12(e)4, for trapping for beavers to 5.24(e)4ii, for mink, muskrat, and nutria to 5.25(e)4iii, for raccoon, fox, coyote, skunk, and weasel to 5.26(e)5ii, and for river otter to 5.27(e)4ii	
Shotguns and rifles not capable of firing more than three times	5.23(c)	5.1(l)1 and 4	No substantive change
Monmouth Battlefield Shot restriction for deer	5.23(c)	Repealed	Repealed
Rifles for Raccoon and opossum	5.23(d)	5.12(e)3 and 4	No substantive change
Reserved	5.23(e)	Repealed	Repealed

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Exceptions to shotgun	5.23(f)	Repealed	Repealed
Shotgun provisions for bear and deer	5.23(f)	Substance moved for general provisions to 5.1(l)1iii, for black bear to 5.4(e)2, and for deer to 7:25- 5.19(e)2, 5.20(e)1	Reformatted, reworded
Muzzleloader provisions	5.23(f)1 through 4	Substance moved for general provisions to 5.1(l)2 and 3, for black bear to 5.4(e)1ii and 2ii, and for deer to 5.19(e)3 and 5.20(e)2	Reformatted, reworded
Rifle permit required for muzzleloader	5.23(f)2	Substance moved for general provisions to 5.1(m), for black bear to 5.4(a), for	Reformatted, reworded

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		squirrel 5.13(a), for deer to 5.19(a), and for woodchuck to 5.22(a)	
Hunting Firearms unloaded in transport and encased, and penalties	5.23(f)3 and 5 and (k)	5.1(l)6	Amended, citation updated
Game Code provision for taking wildlife	5.23(g)	5.1(h)	Reworded
Sunday hunting provisions	5.23(h) and (j)	Substance moved, for migratory game birds to 5.9(b), for rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares to 5.11(b), for chukars, partridge pheasants, and quail to 5.10(b), and for deer to 5.15(b)	Amended, reference to grouse removed, reworded
Restricting hunting firearms near State game refuges	5.23(i)	Repealed	Repealed

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Permit to shoot from a standing vehicle	5.23(l)	5.30(a)	Updated agency references
Both hunting firearm and bow prohibited	5.23(m)	5.1(n)	Reworded
Decoys for deer hunting	5.23(n)	Substance moved to 5.16 for Fall Bow, 5.17 for Permit Bow, and 5.21 for Winter Bow	No substantive change
Calling devices and light beams prohibited when deer hunting	5.23(n)	5.15(i)	No substantive change
Hunter orange requirement	5.23(n)	5.1(p)	No substantive change
Ground blind definition	5.23(n)	5.2(19)	No substantive change
Alternative methods for physically challenged	5.23(o)	5.30(b)	Reformatted, updated agency reference and citations
Shotgun with iron peep sights or scope	5.23(p)	5.1(l)1ii	Reworded
Corrective lenses	5.23(q)	5.1(o)	No substantive change

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NJDEP FW staff/agents exemption weapons	5.23(r)	5.1(v)	Updated agency references
NJDEP FW staff and agents exemption equipment	5.23(s)	5.1(w)	Updated agency references
NJDEP F&W staff and agents Aversive conditioning devices	5.23(t)	5.1(x)	Updated agency references
Depredation permits for Federal employees	5.23(u)	5.1(y)	Updated agency references and authorized calibers
Authority for firearms and missiles	5.23(v)	Repealed	Repealed
Bow definition	5.24(a)	5.2(11)	No substantive change
Bow and arrow provisions	5.24(a)	5.1(k)	Amended, expanded
No bows during Permit Muzzleloader or Permit Shotgun Seasons	5.24(b)	Substance addressed at 5.18(e) for Permit Muzzleloader and 5.20(e) for Permit Shotgun	No substantive change
Bow and arrow during Six-Day Firearm	5.24(b)	5.19(a) and(e)1	No substantive change

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Sunday deer hunting	5.24(b)	5.15(b)	Reworded
Antlered deer taken with bow during Six-Day Firearm	5.24(b)	5.19(f)	No substantive change
Broadhead specifications for deer, bear, coyote, fox, woodchuck, and turkey	5.24(c)1 through 3	Substance moved to 5.4(e)1 for bear, 5.5(e)1 for coyote, 5.8(e)1 for fox, 5.22(e)1 for woodchuck, 5.14(e)1 for turkey, and for deer 5.16(e)1, 5.17(e)1, 5.19(e)1, and 5.21(e)1	No substantive change
Carry of other arrow types in the field	5.24(c)4	5.1(k)3viii	No substantive change
Devices for injecting drugs prohibited	5.24(c)4	5.1(k)5	No substantive change
Crossbow uncocked in transport	5.24(c)4	5.1(k)3ix	No substantive change
Draw weights for bow and crossbows	5.24(c)5	5.1(k)1	Amended, max. draw weight for crossbow

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Use of deer decoys only with bow and arrow	5.24(d)	Repealed	Repealed, redundant to proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(d), 5.17(d), and 5.21(d)
Use of light beams or calling devices prohibited for deer	5.24(d)	5.15(i)	Reworded
Hunter orange required when utilizing ground blind with bow and arrow	5.24(d)	Substance moved to 5.1(p)	Reworded
Ground blind definition	5.24(d)	5.2(19)	No substantive change
Arrowheads for flying game birds	5.24(e)	Substance moved to 5.9(e)2 for migratory game birds, 5.14(e) for turkey, and 5.6(d)4 for crow	Addressed in each game bird species' sections separately
Authority for bow and arrow, general provisions	5.24(f)	Repealed	Repealed, it is unnecessary to include a subsection for statutory citations
White-tailed deer Fall Bow season hunting hours	5.25(a)	5.16(b)	No substantive change

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White-tailed deer Fall Bow season	5.25(a)1	5.16(b)	Amended, consolidated regulation sets, season adjustments
White-tailed deer Fall Bow Youth Day	5.25(a)3	5.16(b)3	Reformatted
White-tailed deer Fall Bow bag limit	5.25(b)	5.16(c)	Amended, consolidated regulation sets
White-tailed deer Fall bow harvest reporting	5.25(b) and (b)1	5.15(k)	Amended, extended reporting deadline, updated agency references,
Antler Point Restrictions (APR) for Fall Bow	5.25(b)2	5.15(g)1i through iv	Amended, properties exempted reworded
White-tailed deer Fall Bow Youth Day bag limit, APR and Earn-A-Buck waived	5.25(b)3	5.16(c)10	Reworded, updated citation
White-tailed deer Fall Bow license requirements	5.25(c)	5.16(a)	Reworded
White-tailed deer Fall Bow season extension	5.25(c)	5.16(b)4	Reworded, updated agency references

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White-tailed deer Fall Bow Buck goal provisions	5.25(c)1	5.15(f)	Combined with similar references for other seasons, updated agency references
White-tailed deer Fall Bow authority	5.25(d)	Repealed	Repealed
White-tailed deer Fall Bow season	5.26(a)	5.16(b)	Amended, consolidated regulation sets, season adjustments
White-tailed deer Winter Bow hunting hours	5.26(a)	5.21(b)	No substantive change
White-tailed deer Winter Bow bag limit	5.26(b)	5.21(c)	Amended, consolidated regulation sets
White-tailed deer Winter Bow harvest reporting	5.26(b) and (b)1	5.15(k) through (n)	Amended, extended reporting deadline, updated agency references
Antler Point Restrictions (APR) for Winter Bow	5.26(b)2	5.15(g)1i through iv	Amended, additional properties exempted reworded

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Winter Bow license requirements	5.26(c)	5.21(a)	Reworded
White-tailed deer Winter Bow season extension	5.26(c)	5.21(b)3	Reworded, updated agency references
White-tailed deer Winter Bow authority	5.26(d)	Repealed	Repealed
White-tailed deer Six-Day Firearm Season	5.27(a)	5.19(b)	No substantive change
White-tailed deer Six-Day Firearm Season license requirements	5.27(a)	5.19(a)	Reworded
Tagging of deer taken with bow during Six-Day Firearm Season	5.27(a)	5.19(f)	No substantive change
White-tailed deer Six-Day Firearm Youth Day	5.27(a)	5.19(b)2	No substantive change
White-tailed deer Six-Day Firearm Season Bag Limit	5.27(b)	5.19(c)	No substantive change
White-tailed deer Six-Day Firearm Season tagging and reporting of harvested deer	5.27(b)	5.15(k) through (n)	Amended, extended reporting deadline, reworded, reformatted,

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			agency references updated
White-tailed deer Six-Day Firearm Season (Reserved)	5.27(b)1	Repealed	Repealed
Antler Point Restrictions for Six-Day Firearm Season	5.27(b)2	5.15(g)1i through iv	Amended, exemption expanded, reworded
White-tailed deer Six-Day Firearm Season youth bag limit and APR waiver	5.27(b)3	5.19(c)2	Reworded and reformatted
White-tailed deer Six-Day Firearm Season license requirements	5.27(c)	5.19(a)	Reworded
White-tailed deer Six-Day Firearm Season extension	5.27(c)	5.19(b)3	Amended, notifications clarified
White-tailed deer Six-Day Firearm Season hunting hours	5.27(d)	5.19(b)	Reworded
White-tailed deer Six-Day Firearm Season taken of deer more than prescribed in Code	5.27(e)	Repealed	Repealed
White-tailed deer Six-Day Firearm Season authority	5.27(f)	Repealed	Repealed

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White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader Season permit authority	5.28(a)	Repealed	Repealed
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader season extension	5.28(b)	5.18(b)12	Amended, notification clarified and aligned with other seasons
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader Season bag limit	5.28(c)	5.18(c)	Amended, consolidated regulation sets
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader season harvest reporting provisions	5.28(c)	5.15(k) through (n)	Amended, extended reporting deadline, reworded, reformatted, agency references updated
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader antlered pert must be purchased prior to season	5.28(c)	5.18(f)2v	No substantive change
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader season Zone 67 Earn-A-Buck	5.28(c)1	5.18(c)6	No substantive change

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White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader season antler point restrictions	5.28(c)2	5.15(g)1i through iv	Amended, additional properties exempted, reworded
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader Season reporting difficulties provisions	5.28(c)3	5.15(k)9	Updated agency references
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader season hunting hours	5.28(c)3	5.18(b)	No substantive change
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader seasons	5.28(d)1 through 16	5.18(b)1 through 12	Amended, regulation set consolidation, outdated dates replaced, aligned with other seasons, reserved repealed
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader season permits	5.28(e) and (f)	5.18(a) and (f)	Reworded, updated agency references
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader permit application process	5.28(f)2	5.18(f)	Reworded, reformatted, updated agency references

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White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader application process	5.28(h)	5.18(f)	Amended, all permits issued through ELS
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader farmer permit application process	5.28(i)	5.15(j)1 through 8	Reworded, reformatted, updated agency references
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader farmer permit applicability	5.28(j)	5.15(j)9 and 10	No substantive change
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader permit quotas	5.28(k) and (m)	5.18(i)	Amended
White-tailed deer Permit Muzzleloader permit reallocation	5.28(n)	5.18(i)3	Reworded
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun season permit authority	5.29(n)	Repealed	Repealed
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun season extension	5.29(b)	5.20(b)13	Amended, notification clarified and aligned with other seasons
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun season buck goal	5.29(c)	5.15(f)	Combined with similar references for other

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			seasons, updated agency references
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun Season bag limit	5.29(c)	5.20(c)1 through 10	Amended, no forfeiture for second buck for Six-Day Firearm, consolidated regulation sets
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun reporting provisions	5.29(c)	5.15(k) through (n)	Amended, extended reporting deadline reporting information expanded to align with other seasons
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun Season antlered permit provisions	5.29(c)	5.20(a)	Reworded
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun permit purchase before start of season	5.29(c)	5.20(f)2v	Reworded
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun farmer permit antlerless only	5.29(c)	5.20(c)11	No substantive change

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White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun Season antler point restrictions	5.29(c)1	5.15(g)1i through iv	Amended, additional properties exempted, reworded
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun season hunting hours	5.29(d)1	5.20(b)	No substantive change
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun seasons	5.29(d)1 through 16	5.20(b)1 through 12	Amended, regulation set consolidation, outdated dates replaced, aligned with other seasons, reserved repealed
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun season permits	5.29(e)	5.20(a) and (f)	Reworded, updated agency references
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun requirement and application provision	5.29(f)	5.20(a)	Amended, application process amended
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun permit application process	5.29(f)2	5.20(f)	Reworded, reformatted, updated agency references
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun harvest reporting	5.29(g)	5.15(k) through (n)	Amended, extended reporting deadline,

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			reworded, reformatted, agency references updated
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun reporting difficulties provisions	5.29(g)	5.15(k)9	Updated agency references
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun limited antlered permit	5.29(g)	5.20(a)	Reworded
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun application process	5.29(h)	5.20(f)	Amended, all permits issued through ELS
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun reallocate leftover permits	5.29(h)6	5.15(j)11	Reworded, consolidated for three permit seasons
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun farmer permit application process	5.29(i)	5.15(j)1 through 8	Reworded, reformatted, updated agency references
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun farmer permit applicability	5.29(j)	5.15(j)9 and 10	No substantive change
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun permit quotas	5.28(k)	5.20(i)	Amended, zone changes

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Reference to corresponding Permit Shotgun season dates for zones	5.28(l)	Repealed	Repealed, redundant cross-reference to another subsection
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun season authority	5.29(n)	Repealed	Repealed
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun season special area quotas	5.29(o)	5.20(i)2	No substantive change
White-tailed deer Permit Shotgun deer management zone (DMZ) boundaries	5.29(o)	5.15(o)	Amended, zone changes
Deer Regulation Sets and special areas	5.29(q)1	5.15(d)	Amended, regulation set consolidation, special area changes
Regulation Sets by Season	5.29(q)2	5.15(d)	Amended, regulation set consolidation, season alignment
Buck goals and management strategies by deer management zone (DMZ)	5.29(r)	5.15(e)	Amended, regulation set consolidation, updated buck goals
White-tailed deer Permit Bow season permit authority	5.30(a)	Repealed	Repealed

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White-tailed deer Permit Bow season extension	5.30(b)	5.17(b)4	Amended, notification clarified and aligned with other seasons
White-tailed deer Permit Bow Season bag limit	5.30(c)	5.17(c) through 8	Amended, consolidated regulation sets
White-tailed deer Permit Bow Season tagging and harvest reporting	5.30(c)	5.15(k) through (n)	Amended, extended reporting deadline reporting information expanded to align with other seasons
White-tailed deer Permit Bow Season antler point restrictions	5.30(c)2	5.15(g)1i through iv	Amended, exemptions expanded, reworded
White-tailed deer Permit Bow season hunting hours	5.30(d)1	5.17(b)	No change
White-tailed deer Permit Bow seasons	5.30(d)1 through 5	5.17(b)1 through 4	Amended, regulation set consolidation, outdated dates replaced, aligned with other seasons, reserved repealed

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White-tailed deer Permit Bow season permits	5.30(e) and (f)	5.17(a) and (f)	Reworded, updated agency references
White-tailed deer Permit Bow antlered permit purchase before start of season	5.30(g)	5.17(f)2v	No change
White-tailed deer Permit Bow tagging and harvest reporting	5.30(g)	5.15(k) through (n)	Amended, extended reporting deadline reporting
White-tailed deer Permit Bow application process	5.30(h)	5.17(f)	Reformatted, reworded
White-tailed deer Permit Bow farmer permit application process	5.30(i)	5.15(j) 1through 8	Reworded, reformatted, and updated agency references
White-tailed deer Permit Bow farmer permit applicability	5.30(j)	5.15(j)9 and 10	No change
White-tailed deer Permit Bow permit quotas	5.30(k)	5.17(i)	Amended, regulation set consolidation, zone changes

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White-tailed deer Permit Bow permit quotas for special areas	5.30(m)	5.17(i)2	Amended, Zone 68
White-tailed deer Permit Bow reissuance of left over permits	5.30(n)	5.15(j)11	Reworded and consolidated
Permit Shotgun and Permit Muzzleloader seasons Great Swamp	5.31	Repealed	Repealed
Special Wildlife Management Permit validity	5.32(b)6	5.32(b)7	No change
Special Wildlife Management Permits airport provisions	5.32(b)7	5.32(b)6	No change
Special Wildlife Management Permit provisions	5.32(b)8 through 15	5.32(b)8 through 15	No change
Permit shotgun and Permit Muzzleloader permits for farms in oversubscribed DMZs	5.32(c)	5.32(d)	No change
Special Permits for Community Based Deer Management Permits	5.32(d)	5.28	Amended, clarified provisions, updated

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			agency references and citations
Special Wildlife Management Permit authority	5.32(e)	Repealed	Repealed
Pheasant and Quail Stamp Requirement	5.33(a)	5.10(a)	Reworded
Pheasant and Quail Stamp Stocked Areas	5.33(a)2	Repealed	Substance moved to agency website
Hunter orange requirement on stocked WMAs	5.33(a)3	5.10(d)1	Reworded
Controlled Hunting- hunting restrictions on wildlife management areas	5.34	7:25-5.1(bb)	Amended, clarified, additional provisions
Special wildlife salvage permit	5.35	5.33	Updated agency references
Deer unfit for human consumption	5.36(a)	5.15(l)	No change
Deer Management Assistance Program Permits	5.36(b) and (c)	5.29	Updated agency references, reformatted, authority repealed

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Special permit to inhibit wildlife reproduction	5.37	5.31	Updated agency references
Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement Offices	5.38	5.1(f)	No change
Severability	5.39	5.1(b)	No change

Summary of Rule Changes

In addition to the organizational changes discussed above and more general updates to agency and website references, the proposed new Code includes proposed amendments to provisions in the existing Game Code, as summarized below. In addition to the proposed changes described below, expired season dates have been deleted and typographic corrections have been made.

1. At N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(c), the Council proposes to remove the outdated reference to the notice that the adoption and effective date of “[T]his Code” will supersede provisions of the 2006-2012 Game Code. As adopting new amendments to the Game Code in any given year always supersedes the prior Code, the Council proposes replacing the specific dated code reference with “previous version of the State Game Code.” This keeps the provision current and prevents requiring the provision to be updated with each rulemaking effort in the future.
2. For consistency, provisions referencing wild mammals and birds may only be taken if an open season has been declared by New Jersey Fish and Game Laws or Code,

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- N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(g), and then only during seasons declared by the New Jersey Fish and Game Laws or Code is proposed to be aligned with terminology and references at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(h), which prescribes that wild mammals or birds may only be taken in a manner provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. Title 23 and the State Game Code. This change is for consistency and results in no change to the season or manner in which wild mammals and birds may be taken. Similar alignments in terminology are proposed for the list of areas for which there are no open seasons for game mammals and birds at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(dd). Additional varied references to “migratory game birds,” “migratory waterfowl,” and “waterfowl” that appear in the list of closed areas are also proposed to be removed as they are captured within the term and reference to “game birds.”
3. To more clearly identify the types of bows and crossbows allowed, the definition of bow and the various provisions pertaining to their structure and components are proposed to be combined, clarified, and expanded at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k). The stock of a crossbow must be at least 25 inches long. The Council proposes, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k)3ii, to clarify further that the stock length is to be measured from the buttstock to the end of the rail, and while it can be adjustable down to the 25-inch minimum length, it cannot be collapsible. The Council also proposes, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k)3iii and iv, that a crossbow has a minimum draw length of 14 inches measured from the knocking point of the drawstring to the front of the bow and a 16-inch minimum bolt length. As crossbows have a shorter draw length than standard bows, a minimum draw length of 14 inches and a 16-inch bolt ensures that the crossbow will

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- deploy an arrow with sufficient velocity to kill the animal ethically. The proposed 16-inch minimum bolt is a standard minimum for bolts that typically range from 16 to 22 inches, depending on the crossbow manufacturer. The Council also proposes, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k)3v, a maximum draw weight of 200 pounds to prevent high-power crossbows from being used. These provisions help ensure that the Code accounts for current and future advancements in weaponry to provide a safe hunting experience. They prevent bow “pistols” or other archery weapons that may be too light for an ethical kill or too powerful to be safe. The Council will continue to monitor technological advancements and amend the Game Code in the future, if necessary, to maintain a safe hunting experience.
4. The Council proposes, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(l), to identify the types of hunting firearms allowed for hunting and trapping game animals, including general provisions required for their use. Additionally, the Council proposes to amend muzzleloader rifle and smoothbore muzzleloader provisions to account for advancements in weaponry and to maintain the intent of the weapons allowed for hunting and trapping. The proposed changes include that muzzleloaders must be of a design incapable of loading the projectile through the breach of the firearm. By definition, muzzleloaders are loaded from the end of the muzzle. However, muzzleloader-type weapons that can be loaded from the rear end of the barrel, referred to as the breach, have recently become available. The Council also proposes to align ammunition currently allowed for muzzleloader and muzzleloader rifles to include lead, lead alloy, copper, sabot, jacketed, and belted bullets. The Council proposes to reflect the proposed caliber

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- increase in the provisions for an air gun at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(l)5 by increasing the maximum caliber of the air gun from .22 caliber to .25 caliber. This is consistent with other proposed provisions to increase the maximum caliber of an air gun allowed pursuant to the existing Code for hunting and dispatch of rabbits, hares, jackrabbits, mink, nutria, beavers, coyotes, and foxes from .22 caliber to .25 caliber.
5. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(l)6, the Council proposes to clarify provisions for the safe transport by motor vehicle of hunting firearms. N.J.S.A. 23:4-24.1a requires that a hunting firearm must be transported “in a closed and securely fastened case, or locked in the trunk of the motor vehicle.” It must also be unloaded. In accordance with the statute, the Council proposes to add language clarifying that securing a hunting firearm in a locked trunk is a permissible alternative to a securely fastened case. In addition, the Council is adding language at new N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(l)7 made to comport with N.J.S.A. 23:4-12, 13, 24, and 44, as amended at P.L. 2023, c. 330. This provision provides that “nothing in this Subchapter prohibits a person from legally carrying a handgun pursuant to Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes while hunting, provided that the handgun is not used to take, or attempt to take, wildlife.”
 6. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(s)liii, the Council proposes to no longer allow the exercising and training of dogs in designated State wildlife management areas the week before pheasant season, when only youth hunters are allowed to hunt. While adult hunters cannot harvest birds, they have begun to use these pre-season stocking periods as added training opportunities for their hunting dogs. The training exercises scatter birds, making them wary, and also result in more dogs and persons in the same fields,

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- impacting the experience and success of the youth for which the birds are stocked. The proposed restriction would only apply to the 10 State wildlife management areas stocked for youth hunts. Prohibiting this practice will improve youth hunters' experience and increase their chances of a successful hunt. As the proposed change only applies to the State wildlife management areas designated for the youth hunt, there are still areas within other State wildlife management areas where dog training can occur.
7. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(t)2, the Council proposes to update provisions regarding possession seals that must be kept with black bear, deer, and turkey meat, fur, or body parts that may be preserved through taxidermy. Possession seals are tags received at a physical check station or a confirmation number received through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's online Automatic Harvest Reporting System. The Council proposes to clarify the provisions by indicating that black bears receive physical seals while harvested deer and turkey receive confirmation numbers through the AHRS. The proposed change reflects no change to existing practice regarding the issuance of possession seals.
 8. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(y), the Council proposes to increase the maximum caliber of air rifles that can be used by Federal employees for depredation purposes from .22 to .25. Federal employees obtain permits from NJDEP Fish & Wildlife to assist in response to wildlife nuisance complaints or to protect endangered and threatened species from predation. This change allows Federal employees to use the same weaponry proposed for hunters and trappers.

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9. Proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(z) requires that farmers who participate in deer hunting must obtain a free Conservation identification number (“CID” or “Conservation ID Number”) from the ELS to report the harvest of a game animal pursuant to N.J.S.A. 23:3-1.e. The statute exempts farmers and their immediate family members from the requirement of securing a hunting, trapping, or fishing license when hunting, trapping, or fishing on their own farm. Similar to licensed hunters, farmers are still required to report the harvest of any species for which harvest reporting is required, such as deer and coyotes, through the Automated Harvest Reporting System (AHRS). As NJDEP Fish & Wildlife moved to a fully online reporting system for deer in 2012, which is based on a unique CID being assigned to hunters, trappers, and anglers, farmers were required to obtain a CID through the system, so that they could report the deer they harvested on their farms. As there have been considerable advancements in both the AHRS, harvest reporting, as well as the process for farmers to obtain free permits associated with hunting and trapping of game animals since 2012, the provision to obtain a CID is proposed to be expanded to all farmers, and their immediate family members, seeking to hunt, fish or trap on their farm and not just those targeting deer. An existing reference to the initial onset of the provision in 2012 is also proposed to be removed. This proposed change is to update the Code with current and existing practices. It does not result in any change for farmers or their immediate family members, who hunt and trap on their property.
10. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(bb), the Council proposes to identify provisions for the notification and implementation of specialized hunting and trapping opportunities on

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- lands managed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. Currently, existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.34, Controlled hunting-hunting restrictions on wildlife management areas, provides NJDEP Fish & Wildlife the authority to impose restrictions limiting hunter density on State wildlife management areas. However, no wildlife management areas are identified within the section, and no provisions indicate how the public and potential users would be informed of such programs. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(aa), the Council proposes that these low-density hunting experiences may include, but are not limited to, assisted or mentored hunts for youths or the disabled and other programs to provide unique outdoor field experiences. Similar to other provisions that require notification to hunters, notice of any such programs will be posted on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website. Proposed provisions also require that participants will be selected in a fair and equitable manner, only legal weapons in accordance with the Game Code may be used, and any wildlife that may be harvested will not count against associated season quotas.
11. Fish and Game Code convictions within a five-year period result in the revocation of hunting and fishing privileges for a two-year period. Permits related to hunting, such as that for bear, turkey, and deer, require a proper and valid hunting or trapping license to purchase. While a proper and valid hunting and trapping license is required to apply for and/or purchase permits, the existing Code only identifies the prohibition of applying and acquiring permits for some permits and not others. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(cc), the Council proposes to clarify that individuals with a suspended hunting or trapping license are not eligible to purchase, nor receive, permits for which a valid hunting or trapping license is required or requires the pursuit of game. This not only

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includes the more obvious permits associated with recreational hunting and trapping, such as those required for bear, turkey, and deer, which are identified in the existing Code, but also permits for trapping beaver or otter, as well as depredation permits, which are aligned with legal hunting and trapping requirements and seasons. This also includes Tracking Dog Permits issued by the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. While a hunting license is not identified as a prerequisite of the permit, tracking and pursuit of game is deemed a component of hunting thus the issuance of such a permit is deemed contrary to an existing license revocation.

Definitions

12. For clarification purposes and ease of reference, the Council proposes to add the term and definition of “bait” or “baited area” at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2. A baited area is a concentration of foods used to lure or entice certain game animals for which baiting is allowed, such as deer. The Code specifies when bait may be used and imposes conditions on its use in certain circumstances. For example, consistent with N.J.S.A. 23:4-24.2, the Code prohibits hunting from an elevated area within 300 feet of the baited area during hunting seasons, except for deer, as provided at N.J.S.A. 23:4-24.4. Currently, the term is referenced in various locations throughout the Code in provisions related to hunting for bears, deer, turkey, and migratory game birds. Its proposed inclusion with the list of terms and definitions utilized throughout the Code provides consistency. It incorporates the concepts contained in the statutory definition of the term “baited area” at N.J.S.A. 23:4-24.3 and adds further examples of the items used

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- as bait, such as corn, wheat, and oats. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 23:4-24.3, growing and unharvested crops shall not be considered baiting or feeding game birds or game animals.
13. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2, the term “checking station” is proposed to be shortened to the more common reference “check station.” For certain species, hunters must report their harvest to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife through a check station. Although once there were physical locations staffed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife personnel, today, a check station can either be a physical location, such as that provided for black bears, or through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife’s online Automated Harvest Reporting System.
14. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2, the Council proposes to add the term “hunting firearm” to the list of terms and definitions used within the State Game Code. The term “hunting firearm” is proposed to reference any shotgun, rifle, muzzleloader rifle, smoothbore muzzleloader, and air gun allowed for use when hunting and trapping as prescribed at N.J.S.A. Title 23 and the State Game Code. The term is used throughout the Game Code when referencing license requirements as the use of hunting firearms requires a proper and valid firearm license, and using a rifle, when allowed, requires an additional rifle permit. The definition is also proposed to clarify that the weapons identified in the term are strictly for the State Game Code and for hunting and trapping of wildlife. Provisions for hunting firearms at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(l) are also proposed to be referenced within the definition.
15. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2, “parent” is proposed to be added to the list of family members within the term “immediate family” who may be eligible for permits available

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- to farmers hunting on their own farm for turkey, deer, and bear. As guardian, grandparent, and great-grandparent are currently identified, among other family members, adding parent provides further clarification of the provision's intent.
16. The term "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d)20 is proposed to be eliminated. Prior to online harvest reporting, harvested deer were required to be checked at physical check stations. The term references the paper deer permit and transportation tag issued at the physical deer check stations. Since all harvest reporting is now done through the online Automatic Harvest Reporting System (AHRS), the tag, and thus the term, is no longer needed.
17. The term "traditional muzzleloader rifle" at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d)26 is proposed to be eliminated. The term traditional muzzleloader was initially added during discussions of creating a special season for traditional types of black powder hunting firearms. For various reasons, the season was never implemented, and the definition is no longer needed, as it is not referenced within the Code. The Council does propose to include provisions for muzzleloaders allowed for use while hunting and trapping within hunting firearm provisions at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(l).
18. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2, the Council proposes to add "multi-zone permit" to the list of terms and definitions referenced in the Code. The multi-zone permit was implemented in 2020 and is a permit that may be purchased for a hunter to use in any deer management zone within the specified regulation set in place of purchasing multiple individual zone permits. A multi-zone permit is available for the permit bow, permit shotgun, and permit muzzleloader seasons and is valid for the hunting and

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harvesting of antlerless deer only. The permit was offered as a cost-saving accommodation to hunters who hunt or are looking to hunt in multiple areas. Other proposed changes for the Game Code include expanding the multi-zone permit to cover a larger number of zones within the proposed consolidation of the number of regulation sets from nine to four, as explained below at item 60 below.

19. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2, the Council proposes to include within the definition of the term “youth hunter provisions” for direct supervision of youth hunters. The Game Code contains various provisions allowing youth license holders to participate in certain hunts. Designated Youth Day hunts for multiple species require direct supervision of all participating youth license and permit holders, while during the regular seasons, youth hunters or trappers between the ages of 10 and under 14 years are subject to direct supervision requirements. Regardless of whether hunting on a specific youth day or during the regular season, parameters for direct supervision are consistently defined in the Code as requiring a properly licensed adult at least 21 years or older to hunt or trap with the youth hunter at the same location. The youth may not hunt or trap independently of the supervising adult. The supervising hunter must also have the proper licenses and permits required. This addition will eliminate unnecessary redundancy and improve consistency.
20. The Council proposes to add “water set” to the list of terms and definitions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2. A water set refers to any legally allowed trap or snare that is either submerged under water or is set or staked in such a manner as to permit the trapped animal to reach water. The Council is also proposing, at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(d), to prohibit

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the use of air guns to dispatch trapped animals with water sets due to concerns of fired projectiles deflecting off the water.

Seasons

21. At existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2(d), the Council proposes to eliminate the delayed 8:00 A.M. start on the opening day of pheasant season and begin the season at sunrise. Pheasants and quail are species for which opportunities are provided strictly through an annual stocking program in designated State wildlife management areas. Initially, the delayed start kept hunters out of the fields until set season time, preventing early hunters from positioning themselves in the anterior fields within the line of fire. The later start also provided additional travel time for those traveling long distances. To reduce predation on stocked birds, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife experimented with early morning stockings versus existing nighttime stockings. Even though hunters recovered more birds, a broader implementation of the practice was not adopted due to concerns for staff that may be delayed in the fields beyond the time the season started. As hunters are no longer queued from the fields and stocking occurs the night before the season starts, there is little benefit to the delayed start time. Due to the concerns of hunting activities for other species disrupting the season opener, either through movement or noise from hunting firearm discharge distressing stocked birds, thus interfering with the opening day experience and success of pheasant hunters, a number of other species, whose seasons overlap with the pheasant opener, also have a delayed start. As there is no longer a strong cause to continue with the delayed start, coupled with the number of

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- other seasons that are also impacted, the Council proposes, at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.10(b), to delete the delayed 8:00 A.M. start on the opening day of pheasant, and apply the hunting hours of sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for the entire season. As a result of the proposed deletion for pheasant season, the Council also proposes to delete the corresponding delayed start for rabbits and hares at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3(d)3, squirrels at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(d), migratory birds at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(a) and (l)11, woodcock at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(n)3, crows at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(c), and fox and coyote at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(c).
22. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3, Closed seasons, game species, the Council proposes to consolidate regulations pertaining to game species with a closed season, such as bobcat (*Felis rufus*); bobwhite quail (wild) (*Colinus virginianus*); fisher (*Pekania pennanti*); mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*); ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*); and sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*). As the seasons for these species are closed, proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3(a) clarifies that it is illegal to take or kill these game species or attempt to take or kill them. Proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3(b) requires trappers to report any incidentally caught bobcat and provides that any bobcat possessed in New Jersey that was legally harvested from another U.S. or Canadian province must have a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) tag from the state or province of harvest.
23. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3(a)3, the Council proposes to update the scientific name of fisher from *Martes pennanti* to *Pekania pennanti*. Initially, fishers were believed to be more closely related to martens (*Martes spp.*). However, based on the analysis of

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- their nuclear-mitochondrial DNA, fishers were found to be more closely related to wolverines (*Gulo gulo*). Still, they were determined to be distinct enough to warrant their own genus, *Pekania*.
24. As game species with closed seasons, including ruffed grouse, are proposed to be recodified to proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3, the Council proposes to eliminate references to hunting hours, statutory authority for provisions governing ruffed grouse, and the ruffed grouse section of the Code at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.4, Ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), as it is no longer applicable. The Council also proposes eliminating the reference to grouse for species that may not be hunted for on Sundays at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(h). The provisions are relics from when an open season for ruffed grouse existed. For similar reasons, the Council also proposes eliminating the reference to ruffed grouse at provisions for the wanton waste of game animals at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(q)1.
25. As referenced above, the current Game Code addresses bobcat and black bear in the same section, existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6. As regulations pertaining to the closed season for bobcat are proposed to be recodified separately into a new section addressing bobcat and other game species with closed seasons, the reference to bobcat is proposed to be removed from the heading of proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.4, which will now only reference black bear.
26. Existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a)1 prohibits apprentice license holders from taking black bears. The Council's intent that apprentice license holders do not participate in any manner in any bear hunt is further clarified at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.4(a), which

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- specifies that apprentice licenses are not valid for either “hunting” or “taking” black bears. A black bear permit is required to hunt black bears. Apprentice license holders are prohibited from purchasing a black bear permit and cannot participate in the act of hunting or in the take.
27. The existing Game Code contains various provisions allowing youth license holders to participate in specific hunts. Designated Youth Day hunts for various species require direct supervision of all participating youth license and permit holders, while during the regular seasons, only youth hunters between the ages of 10 and 13 are subject to direct supervision requirements. Youth license holders are referred to as “youth hunters” in sections addressing pheasant, chukar partridge, Hungarian partridge, quail, and turkey. However, existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6, Black bear (*Ursus americanus*), bobcat (*Felis rufus*), refers to hunters between the ages of 10 and 13 as “juvenile hunters.” For consistency with license and permit terminology, the term “youth” is proposed to replace the term “juvenile” in referencing hunters 10 to less than 14 years of age. Provisions for what constitutes supervision for youth hunters is also proposed to be replaced with a citation referencing the information at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2 throughout the Code and aligning references to ages. This ensures consistency with the provisions throughout the various seasons.
28. Farmer permits allow farmers to hunt for specific species on their own property to address animals damaging crops or killing livestock. Obtaining such permits requires specific information to be submitted to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for review and approval. At N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.4(f)5ii, the Council proposes to add “proof demonstrating

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the applicant qualifies” to the application requirements for issuing a farmer black bear permit. This will ensure that NJDEP Fish & Wildlife staff receive all information necessary to ensure the applicant fully meets the requirements established at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.4(f)5. Also, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.4(f)5, the term “special” is proposed to be removed from the reference to farmer permits. Farmer permits allow farmers to hunt on their own property for species such as bear, deer, or turkey, which can cause significant damage to crops or threaten or kill livestock. As black bears are one of several species for which farmer permits are issued, a farmer permit for hunting black bears is not unique.

29. While managed as a small game species, coyote is a top-level predator that has adapted well to New Jersey’s urbanized landscape. While NJDEP Fish & Wildlife does not track population trends for the State, they are considered ubiquitous and prevalent in all 21 counties, including heavy urban areas. They have been documented in nearly 400 municipalities, representing 94 percent of the State's land area. Coyotes are adaptable and inhabit a wide array of habitat types, including coastal areas. In certain areas, coyotes are deemed problematic by the general public. Currently, there are two seasons for hunting coyotes, a regular season that includes bow and arrow beginning September 30 until November 10, at which time shotguns, in addition to bows, are allowed until March 15 of the following year. There is also a Special Permit Season that runs from January 1 through March 15. The Special Permit Season is divided into daytime and nighttime segments for which differing weapon types are allowed. While not strictly nocturnal, coyotes are more active at night. In addition to established seasons for coyote

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hunting, they may also be harvested incidentally by hunters pursuing deer and turkey and during legal trapping seasons. There is no season or daily bag limit for coyotes. In 2023, 309 coyotes were reported harvested.

To expand hunting opportunities for coyotes, the Council proposes a number of changes to existing seasons for coyote and fox, including restructuring the season, extending the season, expanding the timeframe that rifles and muzzleloaders may be utilized, allowing the use of air guns, and eliminating the permit requirement for night hunting. To maintain a safe hunting environment, the Council offsets the expanded opportunities with expanded limitations on using rifles on lands managed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and Parks and Forestry when hunting coyotes and foxes.

It is important to note that while the proposed changes target increasing hunting opportunities for coyotes, hunting opportunities for foxes have historically been directly aligned with those of coyotes due to similarities between the species and the mechanisms used to hunt them. Red foxes are another predator species with stable, if not growing, numbers in New Jersey. Gray foxes are more elusive but considered common. Similar to coyotes, there is no season or daily bag limit for the red or gray fox. While foxes do not generate the concerns from the general public that coyotes do, neither the Council nor NJDEP Fish & Wildlife has data or inherent reason to separate the long-standing approach of aligning hunting opportunities between the species. As a result, proposed changes to seasons and weaponry for coyotes are also proposed for red and gray foxes. However, to better align the Code for any potential that hunting opportunities or management of these species may diverge in the future, the Council

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proposes to recodify regulations pertaining to red and gray fox into their own section of the Code at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8, Fox, even though the current and proposed new rule provisions are very similar. As a result, the proposed changes for coyotes at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5 and fox at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8 include the following:

- a. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(b) for coyotes and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8(b) for foxes, the Council proposes to restructure the current coyote seasons by eliminating the Special Permit Season, which begins on January 1 of each year through March 15 and, instead, divide the seasons into daytime and nighttime segments. This change provides the desired increase in opportunities by expanding the use of shotgun, muzzleloader rifle, rimfire, and centerfire rifles, which are currently restricted to only January 1 to March 15, to the entire daytime season. Night hunting opportunities would still be limited to shotgun only from January 1 through March 15. As a result of eliminating the Special Permit Season, hunters would no longer be required to obtain an additional permit. Eliminating the Special Permit Season expands opportunities for hunters who utilize other weapon types and significantly streamlines hunting regulations for coyotes and foxes. It incorporates the daytime permit season option into the regular season and aligns weaponry types into more straightforward day and nighttime components.
- b. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(b)1i for coyotes and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8(b)1i for foxes, the Council proposes extending the daytime hunting season of coyotes and foxes to begin on August 1 instead of at the end of September. Consistent

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with similar approaches for game animals with set opening dates that cannot be hunted on Sunday, in years where August 1 is a Sunday, the season would begin on August 2. Currently, daytime hunting of coyotes and foxes begins concurrently with the fall bow season for white-tailed deer (the fourth Saturday prior to the last Friday in October). Allowing the season to start before the fall bow season increases the number of days in the field when coyotes and foxes are very active and a time when other hunting opportunities are more limited. Removing the special permit season discussed at (a) above also allows hunting firearm hunters additional opportunities during this extended season. However, it is important to note that existing restrictions prohibiting the use of rifles in State wildlife management areas, State parks, forests, and recreation areas would be expanded to include hunting for coyotes and foxes. The August 1 timeframe applies to hunters targeting woodchuck, which are also rifle-restricted on these properties, providing consistency among regulations.

- c. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(d)1iv for coyotes and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8(d)1iv for foxes, the Council proposes allowing the incidental take of coyotes and foxes during the fall bow season for white-tailed deer. Existing regulations allow coyotes and foxes to be harvested incidentally by deer hunters during hunting firearm seasons. Expanding incidental take during the earlier fall bow season will afford archery deer hunters the opportunity to harvest coyotes and foxes if encountered afield. This change coincides with a proposed change to extend the seasons for coyote and fox to begin on August 1. Both species are

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considered to be common. Reporting of harvest of coyotes and gray foxes taken incidentally would still be required through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's AHRS.

- d. At N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(d)1v, vi, and vii for coyotes and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5(d)1v, vi, and vii for foxes, the Council proposes to allow baiting, artificial decoys, and manual or electronic calling devices during the daytime season. While the existing Code at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(h) is clear for certain provisions, on what is allowed or not, especially for the special permit season, it does not specifically address all provisions, particularly for the regular season. The use of bait, artificial decoys, and manual or electronic calling devices has been allowed during the regular season, with the exception of bait use for the special permit season. This information is relayed annually to hunters each year in the Hunting and Trapping Digest. The Council proposes at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(d)1v, vi, and vii for coyotes and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8(d)1v, vi, and vii for fox to explicitly identify that these methods are allowed during the daytime seasons for coyote and fox.
- e. At N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(e)1ii(2) and (e)2i for coyotes and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8(e)1ii(2) and (e)2i for foxes, the Council proposes to align shot sizes for shotguns between the proposed daytime and nighttime seasons to allow no larger than #3 buckshot and no smaller than #4 fine. Current regulations for daytime hunting allow only shot sizes up to #4 fine (.13 inches in diameter) before January 1, and from BB (.18 inches in diameter) to #3 buckshot (.25 inches in diameter) from January 1 to March 15. Nighttime hunting is currently

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limited to #4 to “T” only. The proposed expanded shot sizes pose no greater safety concerns than current shot sizes allowed. The proposed change provides coyote hunters with additional ammunition choices, including larger sizes that may be more effective in harvesting coyotes, the largest of small game species.

- f. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(e)1vi(1) for coyotes and proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8(e)1vi(1) for fox, the Council proposes allowing .25 caliber air guns as a weapon type. Currently, .25 caliber centerfire rifles are allowed during daylight hours of the special permit season. They are an increasingly popular choice among hunters. A .25 caliber air gun uses the same diameter projectile as a .25 caliber centerfire rifle but has a shorter effective range and is a more popular choice among hunters who may not feel comfortable using a centerfire rifle. Allowing the use of .25 caliber air guns would provide constituents with an additional weapon type that is safe, effective, and already allowed in other states and provinces. Air guns up to .22 caliber are allowed in New Jersey for other small game species such as squirrel, rabbit, hare, and jackrabbit, and when night hunting for opossums and raccoons. The caliber of air guns for these species, and others, is proposed to be increased to .25 caliber as part of this rulemaking.

30. For consistency, the Council proposes to standardize the harvest reporting deadlines for all species whose harvest is reported through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife’s Automated Harvest Reporting System (AHRS), with reporting to occur no later than 10:00 P.M. on the day of harvest. There is a wide array of harvest reporting deadlines between

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various species and seasons. Deadlines varied based on the length of daylight for a particular season and related hunting practices. Hunting or trapping seasons during winter or early spring had earlier reporting times than those in late spring to early fall when extended daylight hours allow hunters and trappers to remain in the field longer. Beaver and gray foxes are proposed to be added to the list of species with mandatory harvest reporting through the AHRS, and deer, turkey, and coyote reporting already occurs. As a result, all species with mandatory harvest reporting, except black bears, will be done remotely through the AHRS. The 10:00 P.M. timeframe, an hour later than the latest existing harvest report deadline, provides ample time for hunters or trappers to report their harvest no matter the time of year. As the harvest of black bear still has a mandatory in-person check station requirement, no changes are proposed to the existing harvest reporting time for black bear. Standardizing reporting deadlines makes it easier for hunters who hunt multiple species or hunt multiple seasons throughout the year to know exactly when they must report their harvest. The proposed changes would be reflected at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(g), 5.8(g)1, 5.14(g)3, 5.15(k)5, 5.24(g)2, and 5.26(g)1.

31. Currently, hunting of crows is allowed from sunrise to a half hour after sunset during the established season, except for the first day of pheasant season, when hunting for crows and other species has been historically delayed until 8:00 A.M. The delayed start for hunting crow on the first day of pheasant season was put in place so that hunting for other species, that would typically start hours earlier, did not impact pheasant hunters on the first day of their season. Noise from the discharge of hunting firearms

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- and hunters moving through woods and fields can make stocked birds wary, impacting the experience and success of pheasant and quail hunters during the season opener. As the Council is proposing to no longer delay the start of the opening day for pheasants, see item no. 21 above, provisions for a delayed start for other species, such as crows, to account for the pheasant opener would no longer be necessary. See existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(c) and proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(b).
32. For consistency with the approach utilized with the streamlining of headings of other sections at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5, the heading of proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7 is proposed to be changed from “General falconry rules” to “Falconry.”
33. For ease of reference and consistency with other sections within the Game Code that include definitions, terms and definitions related to falconry at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(a)1 are proposed to be reorganized alphabetically.
34. Throughout proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(a), the Council proposes to replace the terms “take” or “taking” with “collect” and “collecting” when referencing the securing of a raptor to train it for falconry. The term “take” is used throughout N.J.A.C. 7:25-5, including at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7, when referencing the harvest or killing of wildlife through regulated hunting and trapping activities. The term “take” is also defined at N.J.S.A. 23:2A-3 in reference to illegal activities in the harassing, hunting, capturing, killing, or attempting to do so of endangered and threatened wildlife. Replacing “take” with “collect” will eliminate any potential misconception and more clearly reflect the process of acquiring, possessing, training, and utilizing a raptor throughout the section.

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35. There are over 100 permitted falconers in the State of New Jersey. Falconry involves collecting approved species from the wild, specialized housing and training requirements, and unique equipment. This is in addition to provisions for hunting, such as license requirements, seasons, and bag limits. Due to the unique nature and extended specialized requirements related to falconry, included at both existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16 and proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7, such as the list of definitions applicable to only this section, facility and equipment requirements, in addition to unique season requirements, did not allow this section to follow the format proposed for the species-specific sections. The Council proposes, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(g)1, to identify that a valid and proper firearm license and a falconry permit are required to hunt with a raptor. The Council also proposes to clarify that a pheasant and quail stamp is needed to hunt partridge, pheasant, and quail in designated State wildlife management areas stocked with those species, and a turkey permit is required to hunt for turkey. These permits and stamps are in addition to a firearm license. This results in no change to current licensing and permitting requirements for hunting with a falcon or raptor.
36. As the falconry season for several species is identical, but each differs from established seasons for traditional hunting methods for that species, falconry seasons are proposed to be relocated from various other sections of the existing Code, N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2(c), 5.3(b), 5.5(b), 5.24(e)10 and 11, and 5.18(a), to the proposed falconry section in the proposed new Game Code. Inclusion of the seasons for the take of the separate species through falconry in the falconry section will align the season dates not only with license and permit requirements applicable to falconry but also with the other requirements

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- unique to hunting with raptors. In contrast, most hunting provisions in individual species-specific sections, except the bag limit, do not apply when hunting with raptors. As species-specific bag limits included in the species-specific sections do apply, proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(g)5 specifies that bag limits for falconry are those prescribed in the applicable species-specific section.
37. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(g)7, the Council proposes, within provisions regarding falconry, to make clear that Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area is closed to hunting from September 1 to the first Monday after the six-day firearm deer season has ended. Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area is popular for collecting, training, and hunting with raptors. It is also an important stopover for many migratory bird species, thus warranting the added protections during this timeframe. The area is already closed to hunting during this timeframe pursuant to existing provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-2.19. Accordingly, incorporating this reference at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(g)7 does not change existing falconry regulations nor access and use of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife managed properties, such as Higbee Wildlife Management Area.
38. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.26(g)1, the Council also proposes to require mandatory reporting for gray fox harvested by trapping through the Automatic Harvest Reporting System (AHRs). Currently, reporting the harvest of this species is voluntary. However, making gray fox harvest reporting mandatory will allow NJDEP Fish & Wildlife to obtain more accurate information on gray fox harvest and potential population trends.

Migratory Game Birds

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39. Regulations pertaining to migratory game birds are unique in that seasons and bag limits are established mainly by Federal regulations (50 CFR Part 20). However, states may institute stricter regulations than those required pursuant to Federal regulations to account for local concerns about specific migratory species within their State. Federal regulations also distinguish between bird species it considers migratory game birds, compared to those, such as crow, that are considered simply “migratory” for which regulations are established through a separate miscellaneous provision section at 50 CFR Part 20.133. As a result, the Council proposes to continue maintaining regulations pertaining to crows in a separate section at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6. It is also proposed that proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9 be headed Migratory Game Birds rather than the existing heading of Migratory Birds to align with the distinction set by Federal regulations at 50 CFR Part 20. As a result, all references to “migratory birds” throughout proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9 are proposed to be updated to “migratory game birds.”
40. Although Federal regulations significantly influence the provisions concerning the hunting of migratory game birds, for consistency, the Council proposes to align the format at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9 with the species-specific hunting sections proposed. Accordingly, proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9 is organized as follows: (a) license and permit requirements; (b) season dates, hunting hours; (c) bag limits; (d) manner; (e) means; (f) permits; (g) tagging, AHRS; (h) management zones or areas; and (i) quota tables. Federal regulations are referenced, where appropriate; however, the existing reference to these regulations “in Federal regulations as adopted by the U.S.

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Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service” is proposed to be replaced with the more precise reference of “50 CFR Part 20.”

41. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(a), the Council proposes to identify that a valid and proper firearm, bow and arrow, or an All-Around Sportsman license and a Federal Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification is required to hunt migratory game birds. Hunters 16 years and over, hunting ducks and geese, are also required to have both a State and Federal Waterfowl Stamp in addition to license requirements. These are existing provisions and result in no change to current licensing requirements. However, the Council is proposing, at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(a)1, to eliminate the requirement that both Federal and State waterfowl stamps must be signed and, instead, require that a hunter have evidence of procurement of the stamps, which can be provided through either documentation by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife’s Electronic Licensing System (State) or a certification on a mobile device (Federal). Federal stamps are rapidly being updated to an electronic format and are anticipated to be completely electronic by 2028. This proposed change results in no changes to the existing stamp requirements.

42. The Council proposes, at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(b)1i and 5.9(f), to specify the Federally established Light Goose Season dates and permit requirements, respectively. Annual dates are not published at 50 CFR Part 20. Rather, the Light Goose Conservation Order was authorized in 2008 at 50 CFR Part 21.180 and 50 CFR Parts 20 and 21[FWS-R9-MB-2008-0113; 91200-1231-9BPP-L2]; RIN 1018-AI07; *Migratory Bird Hunting and Permits; Regulations for Managing Harvest of Light*

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Goose Populations and remains in place until rescinded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Federal Register. The Light Goose Conservation Order season begins February 16, unless it is a Sunday, through the first Saturday in April. The term “light geese” refers collectively to three taxa of geese that have light coloration: greater snow geese, Ross's geese, and lesser snow geese.

43. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9, the Council proposes to replace the reference to “waterfowl” with the more appropriate term “migratory game birds” in reference to the species that legal hunting hours are prescribed at 50 CFR Part 20 for the current hunting season or during the period that a Conservation Order or Managed Take Option is in effect. While all waterfowl (ducks and geese) are migratory game birds, not all migratory game birds are waterfowl. The change in term expands the provision to include woodcock, rails, and gallinule as subject to the Federally established season. The change properly aligns the State Game Code with depicting all migratory game species as Federally managed. States can be more restrictive than Federal regulations but not more liberal. In instances where the Council opts for more restrictive regulations, such as hunting hours for woodcock and the bag limit for gallinule, provisions are explicitly identified in the Code and appear as exemptions to the Federal regulations.

44. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(b)3 and 4, the Council proposes to add specific references to Federal regulations and specific requirements for species for which hunting hours are more restrictive of Federal regulations. This replaces an existing general reference that migratory game birds may not be taken except at the time and

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- manner prescribed by the State or Federal regulation or by the current Game Code. As hunting hours for woodcock are more stringent than Federal regulations, season hours for that species explicitly appear within the Game Code at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(b)4.
45. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9, the Council is also proposing to remove several additional references or provisions at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13, which are outdated, redundant with other regulations, or are minor Federal requirements. Removing these provisions would not change the existing provisions regarding hunting migratory game birds in New Jersey. These include:
- a. Existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(m)2 specifies that season and bag limits for rails, gallinules, and woodcock are those specified in the applicable Federal regulations. Since rails and woodcock are migratory game birds, this citation is unnecessary as proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(c) specifies that Federal limits apply to all migratory game birds, except gallinule. The bag limit of one gallinule, which is stricter than Federal requirements, is proposed to remain unchanged at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(c).
 - b. Existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(l)16 provides that you cannot possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field. This is addressed in Federal regulations, and as bag limit information is proposed to be addressed at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(c), following the outline established for species-specific sections, the additional reference is unnecessary. It is proposed to be repealed and not codified at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(d)2.

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- c. Existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(n)1 and 2 identify the boundaries for the two hunting zones for woodcock. Similar to other migratory game bird species, these zones have been established through Federal regulations. As no other Federally designated geographic areas for hunting of other migratory game birds are designated in the Game Code the Council proposes to repeal the information regarding the two hunting zones for woodcock. Instead, a general reference to Federal regulations for hunting areas of migratory game birds is proposed to be included at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(h)1.
- d. Existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(p) references the special scaup hunting area. This area was referenced and made available as a regulatory option by Federal regulations in 1967 and 1968 and then again in 1973-1987. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has restricted the use of special regulations since 1987. Further, if a special area were deemed suitable for scaup, the area or zone would be addressed through the Federal Regulations, not the State Game Code.
 - e. Existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(e) and (l)12 both reference the hunting closure in or on the shores of Shark River, which is being consolidated to appear only once at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(cc)6.
 - f. Existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(l)14 references the time and manner for taking migratory game birds as prescribed by the State or Federal regulation or by the current Game Code. These provisions are already stated at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(c) and 5.23(g). As a result, the provision is proposed to be repealed and not codified a third time at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(d)2.

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46. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(b)3, the Council proposes to update the standard and scientific name of common gallinule or moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*). The American Ornithologists Union governs both standard and scientific names of birds. The standard name “moorhen” is no longer utilized, and the scientific name changed to *Gallinula galeata* in 2011. This change results in no changes to current provisions regarding the hunting of the species.

Partridge, Pheasant, and Quail

1. Proposed new N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.10 would combine requirements applicable to hunting for partridge and quail, currently part at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3 along with rabbit, jackrabbit, and hare with requirements applicable to hunting pheasant, currently part of N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2. These three species are grouped in one section of the rules rather than each having a separate section as the three species no longer occur in the wild and are only available through an integrated stocking program on specified State wildlife management areas and Federal properties stocked by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife or on permitted semi-wilds and commercial preserves. Hunting of areas stocked with these species requires a Pheasant & Quail stamp. The existing rules at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3(a)1 prohibit the liberation of quail in eight specified State wildlife management areas. This prohibition is proposed not to be continued in the new Game Code. The restriction was put in place when NJDEP Fish & Wildlife was considering the feasibility of reintroducing wild bobwhite quail to reestablish the species within the State due to concerns of the potential negative effect pen-reared birds may have on

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- wild populations. The State wildlife management areas subject to the prohibition were selected due to their proximity to the potential quail reintroduction area. The reintroduction of bobwhite quail in New Jersey is looking less and less likely in the future, and as a result, the restrictions are no longer necessary. If reintroduction is once again considered, the need for such provisions can be reconsidered.
2. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.10, Partridge, pheasant, and quail, the Council proposes to no longer identify the specific State wildlife management areas and Federal properties stocked with partridge, pheasant, or quail within the Game Code. Hunting stocked areas requires a Pheasant & Quail stamp issued by the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife in addition to a valid and proper hunting license. No longer identifying stocked areas, including those stocked with quail, within the Game Code would allow NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and the Council to adapt quickly to unforeseen circumstances, such as High Path Avian Influenza outbreaks, wildfires, drought, and sudden access issues that may impact the availability of birds or the ability to stock certain State wildlife management areas. The proposed change would allow decisions addressing emerging issues to be made quickly and alternative areas to be considered, or to shift stocking of one species to another stocked species, to maintain recreational opportunities and protect the resource. The Council would continue to approve formal changes to the stocking program at publicly held meetings and stocked areas would be posted on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website. Hunters already rely heavily on information on the website for the most concise and timely information regarding these circumstances and stocking information, including maps of stocked locations.

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3. For efficiency purposes, the Council proposes, at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.10(b)3, to extend the season for semi-wild shooting preserves, which currently ends on March 15, to March 31 and repeal existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3(e) to remove the existing provision that allows the Director, with the approval of the Council, to extend the season for a period of up to 20 days. The option of extending the season accounted for poor weather or supply issues. The proposed extension of the season provides an almost equal time buffer to account for unforeseen circumstances and eliminates the need for added time to seek Council approval when an extension is needed.

Rabbits, Jackrabbits, and Hares

4. Regulations pertaining to the hunting of rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares are proposed to be separated from regulations pertaining to partridge, pheasant, and quail and recodified into a separate section at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.11, Rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares. While there are some similarities to the regulations regarding weapon types and hunting methods, season differences, and additional permit requirements for stocked partridge, pheasant, and quail on specific State wildlife management areas and Federal properties warrant separation of the provisions.

Squirrels

5. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(e), the Council proposes allowing muzzleloaders for hunting squirrel Statewide, eliminating boundaries restricting their use and a modified muzzleloader season within those boundaries. Currently, existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-

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- 5.5(a) limits the use of muzzleloaders for squirrel hunting to two large defined areas within the State, commonly referenced as squirrel muzzleloading rifle season areas. These areas, which were more rural when established, carry a modified season compared to Statewide regulations. Over time, the growing use of muzzleloaders for hunting a variety of species has demonstrated that initial concerns for safety in more populated areas were unfounded. As muzzleloaders are not widely used for squirrel hunting, squirrels are an abundant species, and the change would not affect the daily bag limit is the same for all weapon types, expanding the use of muzzleloaders is not anticipated to impact the squirrel population.
6. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(d)2 for squirrels, the Council proposes to include the statutory requirement that persons hunting shall not have in possession or control, a hunting firearm, while elevated in a standing tree or a structure of any kind, within 300 feet of a baited area. The requirement, N.J.S.A. 23:4-24.2, applies to all game birds and animals. Similar references can be found in the Game Code for bears, turkeys, rabbits, and hares. The addition does not result in any change to the requirements for squirrel hunting.
7. Currently, seasons for several small game species, including squirrels, with seasons that overlap the first day of pheasant season have a corresponding delayed start of 8:00 A.M. The delayed start prevents hunting activities for other species from interfering with the opening day of pheasants, which currently begins at 8:00 A.M. As the Council is proposing to eliminate the 8:00 A.M. opening day start for pheasants, see item no. 21 above, the Council is also proposing, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13, to

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eliminate the delayed 8:00 A.M. start time for squirrels on the opening day of the pheasant season.

Turkey

8. Rules governing wild turkey hunting, currently codified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7, are proposed to be codified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.14 in the proposed new Game Code. The Council proposes to eliminate the fall either-sex wild turkey hunting season and replace existing references to spring wild turkey gobbler season and to spring turkey hunting season with the term spring gobbler season for consistency. The existing six segments of the spring season identified as hunting periods A, B, C, D, E, and Y are proposed to be retained, and rather than each being referred to as a “Hunting Period,” the proposed section refers to them more concisely as “Period A, Period B,” etc. Multiple varied references to the same permit for hunting turkey are found in the existing Code, including general turkey hunting, private land turkey hunting permit, special wild turkey permit, special wild turkey hunting permit, special turkey permit, and wild turkey hunting permits. The Council proposes to replace all of these with “turkey permit” for consistency and clarity throughout the section. This results in no change to current permitting requirements.
9. For consistency, throughout proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.14, the term “special” is proposed to be removed from references to the youth turkey day and from references to the farmer turkey permit. There is no change to the youth turkey day or farmer permits as a result of this change.

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10. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.14(d)11, the Council proposes to require that a turkey hunter must label their blind with their Conservation ID number and remove the blind on any State wildlife management area, State park, forest, or recreation area at the end of legal hunting hours each day for that period. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife receives numerous complaints regarding blinds being left up all season long in State wildlife management areas, which prevents other hunters from being able to use the same location when hunting.
11. The Council proposes to close Statewide, the fall either-sex wild turkey hunting season at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(a), retaining only the spring season, which is restricted to gobblers. Accordingly, the spring season is proposed to be renamed the spring gobbler season. Wild turkeys are ground-nesting game birds that depend on recruitment for stable populations. Spring harvest trends, used to estimate fall turkey populations, have declined over the past decade by approximately 17 percent. Similar declines have been documented in other states. Hen survival is important for the recruitment and stabilization of the population. Closing the fall either-sex season will protect hens and help stabilize the population while providing recreational opportunities to sportsmen and sportswomen.
12. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.14(e)3, the Council proposes to reduce the minimum caliber of shotgun allowed for turkey hunting from 20 gauge to .410 caliber provided shot with a minimum density of 18 grams per cubic centimeter is utilized for calibers below 20 gauge. Technology has advanced so that a variety of shots are now available that are harder and denser than the traditional lead or steel. The availability of denser

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shot allows lower caliber weapons to be as effective as higher caliber weapons when hunting. Smaller gauge shotguns are lighter, have less recoil, and can be purchased with shorter barrels than larger calibers, making them appealing to hunters.

White-Tailed Deer

13. Proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15, White-tailed deer, general provisions, includes general information on New Jersey's deer hunting rules. White-tailed deer hunting involves six separate seasons, a variety of permit processes, multi-stepped harvest reporting and recording requirements, and extensive boundary descriptions for 71 distinct deer management zones, integrated into separate regulation sets with unique management objectives. Information applicable to all six deer seasons is combined in this section. The six seasons for hunting white-tailed deer span a variety of weapons and time of year. Individual season-specific information is proposed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15 through 5.21. Each season has specific license and permitting requirements, season dates, bag limits, weapon restrictions, and provisions for methods allowed for the particular season. These sections follow the format established for the species-specific approach outlined in the introduction and utilized for other species.
14. There are currently six deer seasons: fall bow, permit bow, permit muzzleloader, permit shotgun, six-day firearm, and winter bow, spanning mid-September through mid-February the following year. As the season names imply, they were developed based on weapon types and time of year to offer hunters a diverse array of hunting opportunities with various weapon types. There is overlap between seasons,

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particularly those for hunting firearms and in those areas with longer liberal regulations. This is the result of historical changes in the changed landscape due to increased development and human population densities, that resulted in increased deer densities in many portions of the State. This prompted additional deer seasons, longer seasons, varying bag limits, the introduction of deer management zones, and more recently, the introduction of regulation sets. The resulting highly varied, intermixed habitats, essentially a collage of urban centers amongst agricultural and sprawling suburban areas, over the decades, resulted in a complex matrix of regulations and management objectives. New Jersey is the fifth smallest state in the country and has the most complex deer regulations of all. Complex regulations can deter new incoming hunters and even deter long-standing hunters from continued participation. Despite some of the most liberal regulations in the country, the declining participation of hunters makes it increasingly challenging to continue to manage and control the deer population. Overabundant deer impact forest health by removing critical understory and regrowth, destroying agricultural crops, and posing safety risks with vehicle collisions along the State's concentrated roadway networks. To re-think the complex rules governing New Jersey's deer population and related management objectives, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife spent almost two years analyzing a decade of deer harvest data, seeking ways to simplify regulations. Simplifying regulations is anticipated to assist in recruiting new hunters, retaining current hunters, and reactivating hunters who left the sport. Maintaining and increasing hunter participation will assist the State in meeting deer management goals in the years ahead.

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For each of the six seasons, the State is broken into 65 active deer management zones, grouped into nine regulation sets, referenced by number 0 through 8, ranging from the very conservative with one deer bag limits and short seasons (low number regulation sets) to those with unlimited antlerless bag limits across long extended seasons (higher number regulation sets). Total hunting days between the regulation sets range from 107 days (Regulation Set 0) to 276 days (Regulation Set 8). See Table 2 below for a complete breakdown of existing deer seasons and regulation sets. In the table, the first number in each column under a particular season indicates the number of days within the season. The second number indicates the maximum number of antlerless deer that may be harvested during that season within the regulation set. A designation of “u” indicates that an unlimited number of antlerless deer may be harvested, “(2)” indicates two deer may be taken at one time. It is important to note that even in zones that allow unlimited antlerless harvest of deer, the vast majority of successful hunters (93.2 percent) harvest two or fewer deer.

Table 2.

Current Deer Regulation Sets									
SET #	Zones	Season							Total Days
		Fall Bow	Permit Bow	Youth Day	Six-Day	Permit ML	Permit S/G	Winter Bow	
0	21, 23, 24, 34*, 43, 45, 46	28-1	22-1	2-2	6-2	15-1	3-1	31-1	107
1	No Zones Assigned	28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	17-2	3-1	31-2	117
2	1, 3*, 4, 18, 22, 26	28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	17-2	3-1	31-2	117
3	30*, 55, 63*, 65	28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	22-2	3-2	31-2	122
4	6	49-u	63-u	2-2	6-2	22-2	3-2	31-u	176
5	2, 16, 27*, 28*, 29*, 31*, 35*, 47*	49-5	63-5	2-2	6-2	22-5	10-5	31-5	183
6	5, 19, 25, 42, 48	49-9(2)	63-9(2)	2-2	6-2	43-9(2)	24-9(2)	31-9(2)	218
7	7, 8, 9, 12, 17, 41	49-u(2)	63-u(2)	2-2	6-2	59-u(2)	40-u(2)	49-u(2)	268
8	10, 11, 13*, 14, 15, 36, 49, 50, 51	49-u(2)	63-u(2)	2-2	6-2	63-u(2)	44-u(2)	49-u(2)	276

* indicates APR Zone

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The harvest of any deer is required to be reported through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's Automated Harvest Reporting System (AHRS). Information including the season, county, township, deer management zone, and deer management unit (a numbered grid referenced within each zone) where the deer was harvested is required for each deer reported, as well as biological information, such as sex, and for antlered deer, the number of antler points. Upon reporting, hunters are provided with a unique confirmation number.

Boundaries of the deer management zones have long been established. To the extent possible, the boundaries utilize physical attributes, such as roadways or natural features such as rivers to identify where one deer management zone begins and another ends. Land uses, habitats, and management objectives were also considered in their delineation.

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife performed an in-depth analysis of deer harvest data from 2016 to 2023. Efforts focused on the number of deer harvested by individual hunters, by season, by deer management zone, and also compared along various regulation sets; hunter success rates, by season and overall, as well as the number of deer harvested against season harvest limits. Harvest data for bucks, including antler points, was also analyzed by season, zone, and regulation set. Hunting license and permit sales trends were also compared to harvest data.

While the analysis provided considerable insight into numerous aspects of deer harvest trends and the effectiveness of various management measures in influencing those trends, the most interesting observation related to the effectiveness of increasing

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bag limits as a management measure. Notably, it was observed that, despite moderate and liberal seasonal bag limits allowing five antlerless, nine antlerless, and even an unlimited number of antlerless deer to be harvested within a season, the majority of hunters harvested significantly less than the allowed bag limit, with 96.7 percent harvesting three or fewer deer, 93.2 percent harvesting two or less, and 84.4 percent harvesting one or less. Harvest information for the special permit seasons was similar. The data indicated that the numerous degrees of separation of season lengths and bag limits among nine separate regulation sets were no longer necessary as hunters were not harvesting additional deer afforded in the moderate or liberal regulation sets. As a result of the analysis, the Council proposes to consolidate the number of deer regulation sets from nine to four.

Three regulation sets are proposed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(d): Low, Medium, and High, to avoid confusion with the existing numerically referenced regulation sets. The remaining regulation set will be utilized as a “safety” set to be used in the event any emerging issues result in concern about the number of deer being harvested, either due to unforeseen impacts of regulation changes or in response to disease outbreaks that may warrant a reduction in harvest to allow time for the population to rebound. Overall, zones managed through conservative regulations would be assigned to the Low Regulation Set, those with mid-range bag limits and season lengths would be managed through the Medium Regulation Set, and those with liberal harvest and season lengths would be managed through the High Regulation Set.

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In addition to consolidating regulation sets, the Council proposes aligning season dates within the proposed Medium and High Regulation Sets, where feasible. The extended seasons within these sets allow further regulation simplification as seasons often overlap or intermingle but may start and stop on different days within the same week.

The proposed Safety Regulation Set is proposed to follow the season structure for existing Regulation Set No. 0. Due to this set's limited season and bag limits, there is no proposed alignment of season dates. Harvest would be limited to bucks only, with a one-deer limit for each season. No zones are currently proposed to be managed through this regulation set at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(d). As indicated above, the Safety Regulation Set allows the Council to respond to emerging issues that may warrant significantly reducing harvest within a particular zone, such as populations with zones that may have been impacted by disease or unforeseen dramatic decreases in harvest or, though less likely, significant increases in harvest due to significant increases in hunter participation that warrant limiting hunting opportunities to protect the population.

The proposed Low Regulation Set is proposed to follow the season structure for existing Regulation Set No. 3. As with the Safety Regulation Set, there are no proposed season date alignments due to the limited season lengths within this conservative regulation set. Zones assigned would be afforded approximately 122 hunting days across the six seasons: fall bow (28 days), permit bow (30 days), youth day (two days),

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six-day firearm (six days), permit muzzleloader (22 days), permit shotgun (three days), and winter bow (31 days).

At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(d), the Low Regulation Set is proposed to include Zones 1, 3, 4, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 30, 34, 43, 45, 46, 55, 63, and 65. These zones are currently managed through Regulation Set Nos. 0, 2, and 3. The proposed change would extend the hunting season for Zones 21, 23, 24, 34, 43, 45, and 46 by 15 days, with eight additional days allocated to the permit bow season pursuant to proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.17(b), and seven additional days for the permit muzzleloader season pursuant to proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.18(b). Hunters would be able to harvest an additional deer during each of the fall bow, proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(c), permit bow, proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.17(c), permit muzzleloader, proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.18(c), permit shotgun, proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.20(c), and winter bow, proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.21(c) seasons within these zones. Current harvest trends for zones within Regulation Set No. 3 indicate that 2.5 percent or less of the hunters in these zones harvest additional deer. As a result, the total anticipated increase in harvest across all seasons resulting from this change would be 172 deer, spread across the 1,094 square mile area the zones encompass, equating to an increase in harvest of 0.16 deer per square mile.

The proposed change would also extend the permit muzzleloader season for Zones 1, 3, 4, 18, 22, and 26 by five days. However, it does not change the number of antlerless deer that may be harvested for any of the seasons for these zones. The extension of the season by five days is not anticipated to impact the overall harvest within these zones.

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As the remaining Zones 30, 55, 63, and 65 are in existing Regulation Set 3, for which the Low Regulation Set is modeled, there would be no season length or bag limit changes for these zones.

The proposed Medium Regulation Set is proposed to follow the season structure for existing Regulation Set No. 5 with the following changes in dates to align seasons, where feasible. The period from Wednesday to Friday after the six-day firearm season is proposed to be added to the permit muzzleloader season at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.18(b). This would eliminate confusion with permit shotgun days that same week. In turn, the Monday and Tuesday of that week are proposed to be added to the permit shotgun season at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.20(b). Permit muzzleloader and shotgun seasons would run concurrently Monday through Friday, the week following the six-day firearm season. The final segment of the permit shotgun season at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.20(b) is also proposed to begin January 1 or 2, depending on the year, instead of the second Saturday in January, further aligning permit muzzleloader and permit shotgun seasons. This would extend the permit shotgun season by an additional 10 days.

Zones proposed to be managed through the proposed Medium Regulation Set, with proposed season alignments described above, would result in a total of 193 hunting days across the six seasons, fall bow (49 days), permit bow (60 days), youth day (two days), six-day firearm (six days), permit muzzleloader (25 days), permit shotgun (20 days), and winter bow (31 days). The Medium Regulation Set at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(d) is proposed to include Zones 2, 5, 6, 16, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 35, and 47.

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Eight of the 11 zones, Zones 2, 16, 27, 28, 29, 31, and 35, already fall within Regulation Set 5. The proposed season date alignments result in an additional 10 days of hunting opportunities for these zones, with the permit muzzleloader being extended an additional three days and the permit shotgun proposed to be extended another 10 days.

Zone 6 is currently managed through Regulation Set No. 4. Managing Zone 6 through the Medium Regulation Set, as proposed at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(d), in addition to the proposed season date alignments discussed above, would extend the permit shotgun season, at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.20(b), an additional seven days. Season limits for fall bow, permit bow, and winter bow would decrease from an unlimited antlerless deer harvest down to five antlerless deer. In contrast, the season harvest limit for permit muzzleloader would increase from two to five antlerless. However, as discussed for the Low Regulation Set, as the majority of successful hunters harvest three deer or less, the reduction in the season limit to five antlerless deer is not anticipated to impact the overall harvest of deer within Zone 6.

Regulation of Zones 5 and 25, which are currently managed through Regulation Set No. 6, through the proposed Medium Regulation Set, at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(d), would decrease the permit muzzleloader season by 21 days, and the permit shotgun season by 14 days. The bag limits for these seasons would decrease from nine antlerless to five antlerless deer. Also, for fall bow, permit bow, permit muzzleloader, permit shotgun, and winter bow seasons, through the proposed Medium Regulation Set only one deer may be taken at one time, compared to two currently afforded in these zones. While, on the surface, these changes would seem to significantly reduce harvest

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in these zones, considering that only about one hunter a year harvests more than five deer in a season, these proposed changes are not anticipated to alter the overall harvest in these zones significantly. The reduction in season length is estimated to reduce the harvest by approximately 109 deer for permit muzzleloader and by 323 deer for permit shotgun across both zones, or approximately an average harvest reduction of one deer per square mile.

The proposed High Regulation Set is proposed to follow the season structure for existing Regulation Set No. 8 with the following changes in season dates to align seasons, where feasible. The Council proposes to add the Monday and Tuesday following the six-day firearm season to the permit shotgun season at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.20(b). At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.20(b), the Council also proposes to begin the final segment of the permit shotgun season on January 1 instead of the 2nd Saturday of the month. In addition, the Council is proposing to extend the permit shotgun, proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.20(b), and permit muzzleloader, proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.18(b), seasons for the High Regulation Set to add one additional week in February so that winter bow, permit muzzleloader, and permit shotgun seasons all end on the same date; the third Saturday in February. As hunting participation is typically light at the tail end of the season, the additional week during which these two hunting firearm seasons would overlap with the final week of winter bow is not anticipated to cause user conflicts.

Zones proposed to be managed through the proposed High Regulation Set, with proposed season alignments described above, would result in a total of 300 hunting

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days across the six seasons, fall bow (49 days), permit bow (60 days), youth day (two days), six-day firearm (six days), permit muzzleloader (71 days), permit shotgun (60 days), and winter bow (52 days). At N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(d), the High Regulation Set is proposed to include Zones 7 through 15, 17, 19, 36, 41, 42, 48, 49, 50, and 51. All zones are currently managed among the more liberal Regulation Sets Nos. 6, 7, and 8. Nine of the 18 zones, Zones 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 36, 49, 50, and 51, are already managed through Regulation Set No. 8, on which the High Regulation Set is modeled. The proposed season date alignments would result in an additional 22 days of hunting opportunities for these zones with permit muzzleloader season, N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.18(b), being extended an additional eight days and the permit shotgun season being extended an additional 14 days. The proposed changes do not increase seasonal bag limits for these zones for any of the six seasons, which are unlimited antlerless with two deer allowed to be taken at one time for all but the six-day firearm season and youth days. The Council anticipates a slight increase in harvest within these zones as the additional days may afford unsuccessful hunting firearm hunters, the additional time needed in the field to successfully harvest a deer and provide successful hunters short on time typically an opportunity to harvest another deer.

Zones 7, 8, 9, 12, 17, and 41 are currently managed through Regulation Set No. 7. Managing these zones through the High Regulation Set proposed at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(d) increases hunting opportunities by eight days, four additional days for permit muzzleloader, and four days for permit shotgun. The proposed season alignments would extend hunting opportunities an additional 22 days, eight for permit

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muzzleloader and 14 for permit shotgun. There is no change in season bag limits, which are already unlimited and antlerless, with two deer allowed to be taken at one time in these zones, except for the six-day firearm season and youth days. The Council anticipates only a slight increase in harvest within these zones due to the additional days afforded hunters.

Zones 19, 42, and 48 are currently managed through Regulation Set No. 6 and are proposed to be managed through the High Regulation Set at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(d). Out of the 15 zones proposed to be managed through the High Regulation Set, these three zones would have the greatest increase in hunting days as a result of the proposed changes. Managing these zones through the High Regulation Set would increase hunting opportunities by 85 days, 28 days for the permit muzzleloader, 36 days for permit shotgun, and an additional 21 days for winter bow. It is important to note that there is a significant overlap between these additional days and the seasons. As noted above, the proposed season alignments would provide an additional 22 days, eight days for permit muzzleloader, and 14 days for permit shotgun. The season bag limits for these zones would also increase from nine antlerless deer to unlimited antlerless, with two deer still allowed to be taken at one time. While such an increase in the season bag limits may seem significant, as discussed previously, the vast majority of successful hunters harvest three or fewer deer even when season limits afford otherwise. As such, the anticipated increase in seasonal harvest anticipated for these zones is not expected to be significant, but it is anticipated to increase as a result of the over 70 additional field days these changes would provide.

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Table 3 below, codified at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(c), summarizes season lengths and bag limits for each proposed regulation set. Bag limits appear under the number of hunting days within each season. Safety Regulation Set is antlered only. All other limits include antlerless deer limits plus one antlered deer allotted per season except for six-day firearm where two antlered deer are allowed.

Table 3.

Regulation Set	Zones	Fall Bow	Permit Bow	Youth Day	Six-Day Firearm	Permit Muzzleloader	Permit Shotgun	Winter Bow	Total Hunt Days
Safety	-	28 days 1 deer	22 days 1 deer	2 days 2 deer	6 days 2 deer	13 days 1 deer	3 days 1 deer	31 days 1 deer	105 days
Low	1, 3, 4, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 30, 34, 43, 45, 46, 55, 63, 65	28 days 2 deer	30 days 2 deer	2 days 2 deer	6 days 2 deer	22 days 2 deer	3 days 2 deer	31 days 2 deer	122 days
Medium	2, 5, 6, 16, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 35, 47	49 days 5 deer	60 days 5 deer	2 days 2 deer	6 days 2 deer	25 days 5 deer	20 days 5 deer	31 days 5 deer	193 days
High	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 36, 41,	49 days no limit	60 days no limit	2 days 2 deer	6 days 2 deer	71 days no limit	60 days no limit	52 days no limit	300 days

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	42, 48, 49, 50,								
	51								

Note: This chart is based on the 2025-2026 season and number of days may vary slightly from year to year due to annual calendar changes. Deer harvested in the Safety Regulation Set must be antlered only; all other bag limits are antlerless deer. Antlered deer bag limit is one antlered deer per season with the exception of six-day firearm.

1. In addition to an appropriate hunting license, an additional permit is required for deer hunters to hunt during the permit bow, permit muzzleloader, or permit shotgun seasons. Permits are zone-specific. Hunters desiring to hunt in areas located in different zones can purchase multiple permits. In 2021, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife introduced a multi-zone permit as proposed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2(a)25. In place of purchasing multiple individual permits for different zones at a cost of \$28.00 each, hunters could now purchase a multi-zone permit for Regulation Set No. 7 or 8. A separate multi-zone permit is available for each of the permit seasons. The permits allow hunters for the specified permit season to hunt in any zone within the specific regulation set at a discounted rate of \$56.00. For example, a multi-zone permit for Regulation Set No. 7 for the permit shotgun season would allow a hunter to hunt in Zones 7, 8, 9, 12, 17, and 41 during the permit shotgun season. A multi-zone permit for Regulation Set No. 8 would allow hunters to hunt in Zones 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 36, 49, 50, and 51. A separate multi-zone permit is required for each of the permit seasons and for each of the two regulation sets. Permits are valid for antlerless deer only. The discounted permit option has been well received by hunters.

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With the proposed consolidation of deer regulation sets from nine to four, as discussed above, the Council proposes modifying and expanding multi-zone permits to account for the changes. The Council proposes to offer a multi-zone permit for each of the proposed Low, Medium, and High Regulation Sets for each of the permit seasons: permit bow, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.17(f)1v; permit muzzleloader, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.18(f)1v and permit shotgun, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.20(f)1v season. A multi-zone permit for the Low Regulation Set would allow a hunter to hunt antlerless deer in any of the following Zones: 1, 3, 4, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 30, 34, 43, 45, 46, 55, 63, and 65. A multi-zone permit for the Medium Regulation Set would allow a hunter to hunt antlerless deer in any of the following Zones: 2, 5, 6, 16, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 35, and 47. A multi-zone permit for the High Regulation Set would allow a hunter to hunt antlerless deer in any of the following Zones: 7 through 15, 17, 19, 36, 41, 42, 48, 49, 50, and 51. A separate multi-zone permit is required for each of the permit seasons.

Buck permits are still required to pursue or take an antlered deer and are valid for use with any zone-specific season antlerless permit or a multi-zone regulation permit. The purchase of a multi-zone permit would still be optional, and hunters could still choose to purchase a single-zone permit.

2. Currently, deer hunters receive an antlered permit with the purchase of a license for the fall bow, six-day firearm, and winter bow seasons. Hunters may purchase an additional antlered permit for each of the following permit seasons: permit bow, permit muzzleloader, or permit shotgun when purchasing an antlerless permit for these seasons. The antlered permit tags, specific to each season, allow hunters to harvest one

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antlered deer, except for the six-day firearm season, when hunters may harvest two antlered deer without purchasing an additional permit. The Council is proposing to eliminate a restriction limiting hunters to a total of two bucks during the six-day firearm and permit shotgun seasons and instead treat permit shotgun the same as other seasons. This proposed change would restore the annual antlered bag limit (also commonly referred to as buck bag limit) to seven. The annual buck bag limit is the total number of bucks a hunter can harvest if they purchase all available licenses and optional antlered permits.

Restoring the annual buck bag limit to seven is not anticipated to increase the overall harvest of bucks. An analysis of antlered harvest from 2016 through 2022 indicates that 98.2 percent of hunters harvest three bucks or fewer despite the existing opportunities to harvest more. In 2019, only 4,347 hunters out of 88,0000 purchased all buck permits available, allowing them to harvest six bucks across the seasons. Of that number of permitted hunters, only nine hunters harvested six bucks. Allotting an antlered permit across each season provides an equal opportunity to harvest a buck regardless of the weapon or time of year a hunter may choose.

3. The consolidation of regulation sets, addressed at item No. 61 above, is proposed to be reflected in provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(f) for corrective actions the Council may take when the yearly antlered or antlerless harvest in any deer management zone is above or below the stated buck goal by 15 percent. The proposed reduction of regulation sets from nine to four will significantly limit options in moving zones to more liberal or more conservative regulation sets. Recently, Zones 45 and 46 seasons

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- were significantly curtailed due to the population's failure to recover from two back-to-back Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) outbreaks. EHD is a serious, often fatal, viral disease in deer spread by midges. Provisions, such as these, enable the Council to respond quickly to emerging situations to protect New Jersey's deer population. Buck goals for individual zones are proposed to be specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(e).
4. Twelve deer management zones, three in the north and nine in the south, are managed with Antler Point Restrictions (APR). APR regulations require all antlered deer to have at least three antler points on one side to be harvested. The premise behind APR regulations is that by protecting young bucks from harvest, larger bucks will ultimately be available in the future. Despite the implementation of these regulations in these deer management zones, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife has not documented significant improvement in deer antler size within these zones for this quality deer management tool to be beneficial. However, a recent survey of licensed deer hunters indicates strong support for the regulation. As such, the Council considers it a social regulation rather than biologically driven. The Council is continuing the antler point restrictions in the proposed new Game Code, with the modifications discussed below, and will continue to monitor its effectiveness.

However, APR regulations can inhibit communities from meeting deer management goals in certain circumstances. This can be particularly problematic in more urbanized areas where hunting opportunities, for a variety of reasons, are limited and preserved open space provides areas of refuge for overabundant deer. Zones 9 and 13 are two APR-managed zones in Morris and Union County. The Morris County Park

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Commission, Union County Deer Management Program, and Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge have long-standing deer management programs in place, working with local sportsmen and licensed agents. APR regulations are impacting these programs' success as the restriction results in populations dominated by young males that cannot be harvested. As a result, the Council is proposing, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(g)1ii, iii, and iv, to exempt the properties managed by the Morris County Park Commission, Union County Deer Management Program, and as addressed below, the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

During the archery and hunting firearm youth days, youth hunters are exempt from APR restrictions and may harvest any deer encountered. They are, however, held to the APR restrictions for all other seasons within these zones. As most youth hunters are inexperienced, the Council believes it is important to remove barriers to help them succeed in their hunting experiences. As a result, the Council is proposing, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(g)1i, to exempt all youth hunters from APR restrictions for all seasons. The Council believes removing APR regulations will improve chances for youth hunters to successfully harvest a deer as they would no longer have to pass on young bucks they encounter while hunting.

5. Farmer permits at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5:15(j) allow farmers to hunt for specific species on their own property to address animals damaging crops or threatening or killing livestock. Obtaining such permits requires an application submitted to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for review and approval. They are provided free of charge. Successfully acquiring a farmer permit does not preclude a farmer with a proper and

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valid hunting license from purchasing additional permits available to licensed hunters.

These permits are not restricted to their property and may be purchased so they may hunt other areas. The ability of a farmer to purchase these additional permits as a licensed sportsman or sportswoman is identified in provisions for bear and turkey. The Council proposes adding a similar deer provision at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(j)11 for the permit bow, permit muzzleloader, or permit shotgun seasons. These seasons require an additional permit in addition to a hunting license.

6. The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is in Special Area Deer Management Zone 38. As such, it has a unique set of more restrictive regulations that apply strictly to its properties despite being located within Zone 13. As a National Wildlife Refuge, Great Swamp is managed by the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS has expressed concern that the limited season and bag limits are no longer suitable for managing the deer population in the refuge. Accordingly, USFWS has requested Special Area Deer Management Zone 38 be eliminated with the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to instead be managed through the more liberal Zone 13 regulations, with the exception of the Antler Point Restrictions. Zone 13 is one of 12 zones where hunters may only harvest bucks with at least three antler points on one side. The Council and NJDEP Fish & Wildlife concur with the changes proposed by the USFWS and are proposing, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15, to eliminate Special Area Deer Management Zone 38 and exempt the refuge from Zone 13 APR regulations. Provisions that apply only to Special Area Deer Management Zone 38 are proposed for repeal. The proposed change will allow more opportunity for deer harvest by increasing

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- the number of huntable days, increasing the antlerless bag limit, and expanding hunting firearms types. The Council believes these changes will enable USFWS, in coordination with NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, to build a new and improved deer hunting program that better fits USFWS and the Council's wildlife and habitat management goals.
7. Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, is currently split into two separate Special Deer Management Zones, Dix-McGuire (Zone 37) and Lakehurst (Zone 53), each with differing regulations. Although there are some differences in habitat between the two areas, both areas are managed similarly by the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Natural Resource Department. At the request of the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Administration, the Council proposes, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(o), to no longer regulate the Joint Base as two separate zones, but instead merge the areas into one new zone, Zone 71. This proposed change would better align regulations between the two areas, which was a source of confusion and frustration for hunters on the base, especially the military personnel who may only be stationed on their installation for one or two deer seasons. The Joint Base also continues to lose huntable areas on their property due to military activity. Combining the zones into proposed Zone 71 would help hunters better understand the regulations in the remaining huntable acres.

Regulations for proposed Zone 71 are proposed to follow the season dates of Zone 53, excluding December 25 and January 1. This would extend the seasons for the permit muzzleloader by 10 days and the permit shotgun by 17 days for the Dix-McGuire (previous Zone 37) section of the base. The bag limits for fall and permit bow would

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remain the same. A new bag limit of three deer, one antlered and two antlerless or three antlerless, is also proposed for the permit muzzleloader and permit shotgun seasons. This increases the bag limit from two to three for the Dix-McGuire section and reduces the bag limit from unlimited to three for the Lakehurst section. Once again, as the vast majority of hunters harvest three deer or less, the proposed changes in bag limits for these seasons are not anticipated to impact the overall harvest for the two areas. The bag limit for winter bow is proposed to be set at one antlered and an unlimited number of antlerless deer. This would dramatically increase the Lakehurst section (Zone 53), which is currently limited to two deer. It should be noted that bag limits for this area's other seasons are unlimited, and such a dramatic restriction in harvest for a winter bow season compared to other seasons is unwarranted.

There are no other properties managed within Zones 37 and 53. As such, similar to previous circumstances in the past, these zone references are proposed to be marked as reserved in the Code until they may be needed in the future.

Trapping

8. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.26(e)2i, the Council proposes adding common rat-type traps (also known as “snap traps”) for use as a means of harvesting weasels, provided the traps are recessed inside a wooden box (cubby). This method of harvesting weasels has been thoroughly tested and meets the recommendations of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Best Management Practices for trap types targeting weasels. Allowing this method will provide trappers an additional, safe tool to harvest

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weasels. Weasel populations are stable, and this trap type poses minimal risk to other wildlife.

9. For consistency, at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(g), the Council proposes to remove the effective date reference of October 27, 1985, regarding when steel-jaw leghold type traps were initially banned. No other provisions in the Code include the date of initial implementation. All provisions regarding the illegal use and possession of steel-jaw leghold-traps remain unchanged.
10. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(d), 5.24(e)5i, 5.25(e)5i, 5.26(e)6i, and 5.27(e)5i, the Council proposes allowing air guns no smaller than .177 caliber and no greater than .25 caliber for dispatching furbearers other than muskrats. A .25 caliber air gun would allow for an additional, safe, and effective means of dispatching furbearers caught with live capture methods, such as cable restraints, a common means of capture for these species.

There is concern, however, with the use of air guns for trapped species using water sets. As indicated in the proposed definition of this term, a water set refers to any legally allowed trap or snare that is either submerged under water or is set or staked in such a manner as to permit the trapped animal to reach the water. Water sets target species such as beaver, mink, nutria, and river otter. The concern with air guns used for dispatch with water traps is the possible deflection of fired rounds across the water. The increased caliber proposed does not increase the risk of this occurring; it can occur with any caliber air gun. The term “water set” and its related definition are proposed to be added to the list of terms at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2. These proposed changes would

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have a minimal impact on furbearer populations and continue to maintain minimal risks to public safety.

11. In response to growing concerns surrounding an expanding beaver population, the Council proposes several changes to provisions for the trapping of beaver, including extending the season and increasing the bag limit and the number of traps allowed per permit. These changes are in addition to proposed changes to reporting requirements. Since 2015, there has been a notable increase in beaver detections during streamside surveys at monitored sites within a number of designated beaver management zones. There has also been an increasing trend in harvest numbers since 2000. Along with increased detections, issues surrounding beavers, such as property damage, increased potential for flooding, and blockages in lake outlet structures, have also increased, particularly in recent years. In these instances, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife works with licensed trappers and property owners to try and address issues through established trapping seasons. If circumstances require more immediate action, a beaver damage control permit can be issued to a licensed trapper to try and resolve the issue.

While there has been a corresponding increasing interest in trapping beavers, the number of beaver permits is restricted by statute to no more than 200 permits per year. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife receives almost double the applications that the permit quota can accommodate. In addition to the limitation in the number of permits that can be issued, only 50 percent of trappers harvest at least one beaver a year, and the average harvest among successful trappers is only five annually, resulting in a current harvest rate of only approximately five percent.

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To increase the annual harvest of beavers, the Council is proposing the following changes:

- a. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(b)1, the Council proposes extending the trapping season by six weeks, beginning two weeks earlier on December 15 and ending approximately four weeks later on March 15 of the following year. The existing season runs from December 26 through February 9 of the following year, and the Director of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife has the authority to extend the season by 14 days if the anticipated harvest is not met. With the season extended by several weeks, the ability to extend the season by 14 days is no longer necessary, and this provision is not proposed to be continued in the new section. The Council also proposes extending the condensed season for stocked State wildlife management areas, which runs from January 1 to February 9, to end on March 15.
- b. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(c), the Council proposes increasing the season bag limit from the current eight beavers per permit to 10 beavers per permit.
- c. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(d)3, the Council proposes increasing the daily trap limit from five to six traps per day per management zone. This change will maintain the ratio of traps to bag limit.
- d. At N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(g)2, the Council proposes eliminating the in-person check station requirement for beaver pelts and replacing it with mandatory reporting through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's AHRS. Currently, reporting

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beaver harvest through the AHRS is voluntary and harvest data is obtained through the in-person pelt check-ins held in February. AHRS reporting will provide more real-time harvest information.

12. The Council proposes to allow beaver at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(e)1i, mink and nutria at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(e)1i, and river otter at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(e)1i, to be trapped using body gripping killer-type traps set exposed above the water surface in tidal areas, as is already permitted for muskrats. Like muskrats, these species are semi-aquatic mammals that inhabit tidal areas and are frequently harvested with this trap type. Except for nutria, the populations of these species are stable, and allowing exposed trap sets in tidal areas is not anticipated to result in any significant increase in their harvest and poses minimal risks to public safety. Nutria is an invasive species and has not been documented in New Jersey since 1980. Including nutria may help reduce the potential for impacts caused by the species, if, and when, it is encountered.

13. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(a), the genus name of mink is proposed to be updated from *Mustela* to *Neogale*. Mink were originally placed in the genus *Mustela*. In 2006, it was reclassified into its own genus, *Neovison*. A study in 2021 found mink to be more closely related to other species in the genus *Neogale*. As a result, the Council proposes to update the scientific name for mink from *Mustela vison* to *Neogale vison*.

Patterson, Bruce D.; Ramírez-Chaves, Héctor E.; Vilela, Júlio F.; Soares, André E. R.; Grewe, Felix (2021). "On the nomenclature of the American clade of weasels (Carnivora: Mustelidae)." *Journal of Animal Diversity*. 3 (2): 1–8. doi:10.52547/JAD.2021.3.2.1

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14. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(b), the Council proposes eliminating the north and south trapping zones for mink, muskrat, and nutria and establishing one Statewide season. The two zones were initially created with slightly offset season dates, two weeks earlier in the north compared to the south, due to concerns that the more temperate weather in the southern portion of the State would require additional time for their fur to reach its prime winter condition. Over time, these concerns proved unfounded, and trappers found little difference in fur quality between the two zones. As a result, the Council proposes to unify the season to begin on November 15 through March 15 of the following year. This timeframe is consistent with the trapping seasons for coyote, fox, opossum, and raccoon.
15. At N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.26(g), the Council proposes to require trappers to report all gray fox harvested. Currently, harvest reporting for gray fox is voluntary. However, the Council and NJDEP Fish & Wildlife seek to obtain more accurate harvest numbers for this species to understand population trends better. In addition, the Council proposes that harvest is reported no later than 10:00 P.M. on the day of harvest for both coyote and gray fox. This change is in keeping with efforts to standardize the reporting time for all species in the Game Code whose harvest is reported through the AHRS.
16. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(b)3, the Council proposes identifying the mechanisms by which trappers would be notified of any season extensions for river otter. The Director of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife has the authority to extend the river otter season by 14 days if the anticipated harvest has not been achieved. If a season extension is approved, trappers would be informed of the extension through NJDEP Fish &

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Wildlife's website at NJFishandWildlife.com, news releases, and direct emails to trappers with current otter permits.

17. The proposed new rules at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23, 5.24, 5.25, and 5.27 include trapping semi-aquatic species language making clear that the requirements that traps only remain in place during the applicable seasons, that Federal requirements must be satisfied, etc., that are specifically identified as applicable to certain species are equally applicable to all species that are allowed to be taken by traps.
18. The existing Code, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.10(e), includes a requirement that trappers surrender otter carcasses to a physical check station no less than 20 days after the close of the season. The Council is proposing to not continue this requirement at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(g). Each trapper may harvest one otter. The purpose of carcass surrender allowed NJDEP Fish & Wildlife to collect data such as sex, age, size, and other biological information. This data is helpful in assessing the health of the overall population. After several decades of data collection, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife has determined that the Statewide otter population is very stable. Sample collection from otter carcasses is no longer necessary as other monitoring protocols for this species are sufficient. The proposed elimination of this requirement would mean that trappers would no longer have to hold carcasses until the February check-in date. The proposed change also decreases the staff time necessary to coordinate carcasses' surrender and disposal and eliminates costs associated with sample processing.
19. For ease of reference, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(i), the Council proposes to depict permit quotas for individual otter zones in a tabular form similar to the format utilized for

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- beavers at existing N.J.A.C 7:25-5.9(c) and deer for various seasons. This change is in formatting only and does not change the quotas allotted to any of the 30 established otter zones.
20. The Council proposes to recodify provisions related to the review and issuance of community-based deer management plans from the special wildlife management permits section at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32, to a new section at proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.28 dedicated to community-based deer management. Limitations with continued development, hunting firearm discharge ordinances, and parcels of public land interspersed closely with suburban and urban centers restricts the use of legal hunting as a population management tool for white-tailed deer. Community-based deer management plans provide local communities alternative options to address over abundant deer beyond legal hunting seasons. While approval of community-based deer management plans are issued through a special wildlife management permit, the process and parameters for review and issuance of the permits are quite distinct, thus warranting a separate section within the Game Code.
21. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.28(e)1x, the Council proposes to expand requirements currently codified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32(d)3viii to require community-based deer management plans submitted for NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's approval to identify how they intend to dispose of antlers, hides, and other non-edible portions of the deer harvested if their plan is approved. Submitted plans are already required to include provisions to help ensure the donation of venison (meat) from harvested deer to those in need through local food banks or venison donation organizations. However, there

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are currently no requirements to identify the disposal of the non-edible portions of the deer harvested. Requiring this information will ensure that non-edible portions are correctly disposed of.

22. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.28(i)2, 3, 4, and 5, the Council proposes to incorporate several provisions into the list of items applicable to community-based deer management plans, currently codified at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32(d). These provisions specify that an approved plan is valid only for the lands, species, times, and dates specified in the permit, that approved plans and associated permits must be made available for visual inspection to any interested person, that records must be kept daily, and such records must be available to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife personnel for inspection upon request, and that NJDEP Fish & Wildlife representatives must be provided access to lands covered by the approved plan at all reasonable times. Community-based deer management plans are approved by issuance of a special deer management permit; one of the special permits, also known as special wildlife management permits, issued in accordance with existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32. All special wildlife management permits are subject to the conditions specified in existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32(b). These conditions include, at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32(b)6, 8, 9, and 10 the requirements proposed to be incorporated into proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.28. This change is proposed due to the proposed separation of community-based deer management plans and their associated permits into a section separate from other special wildlife management permits, as the application requirements for community-based deer management are significantly different than those applicable to other special wildlife management

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- permits. Incorporation of these requirements into the new separate section will provide consistency among permit provisions within the Game Code.
23. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.28(i)6, the Council proposes to extend the timeframe for submission of the final report required as part of the approval of a community-based deer management plan. Currently, reports are due upon expiration of the permit. The Council proposes to provide a two-week grace period following permit expiration to allow permittees time for report preparation.
24. At N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29, the Council proposes to remove any reference to physical check stations regarding the reporting of deer harvested through the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). Physical check stations for deer were terminated almost a decade ago when NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's Automated Harvest Reporting System (AHRS) came online. Since then, the harvest of deer, including through DMAP, has been done through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's AHRS. The proposed change removes an outdated reference and does not modify existing harvest reporting requirements for the DMAP program.
25. For ease of reference, provisions designed to provide accommodations for hunters with medical disabilities that prevent them from utilizing standard legally approved methods for hunting are proposed to be recodified from firearms and missiles at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(l) and (o) into its own section at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.30, Provisions for hunters with disabilities. Outdated and no longer relevant references to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(e) are also proposed to be deleted. Prior to crossbows becoming legal for use by all hunters, they were allowed for use pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(e) by hunters with

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- certain disabilities. While the provision was removed when crossbows became legal, outdated references to the citation remain at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23. These proposed changes result in no change to the requirements, application process, or approvals of methods for hunters with disabilities.
26. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.31(d)5, pertaining to the special permit to inhibit wildlife reproduction, the Council proposed that copies of any Federal permits required to inhibit reproduction in wildlife populations be included with the permit application to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. Applicants must obtain any necessary Federal permits before applying for their State-issued permit. This proposed change would ensure applicants have applied for, and received, the proper Federal permits, which would help expedite the review of their application.
27. Proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.34 continues provisions designed to address damage caused by specific species, currently codified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.21. For simplification and conciseness, the heading of existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.21, Squirrel (*Sciurus* spp.), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), opossum (*Didelphis virginianus*), skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), weasel (*Mustela* spp.), woodchuck (*Marmota monax*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), and red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) damage, is proposed to be changed to “Wildlife damage and control.” The section identifies in what circumstances and which species a property owner or farmer may destroy specifically identified wildlife species that cause damage to their property, dwelling, crops, and livestock without needing a permit.

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28. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.34, the Council proposes adding mink, muskrat, nutria, and rabbit to the list of species for which a property owner or farmer may destroy an animal that is causing damage to their dwelling, crops, or livestock without needing a permit. Foraging rabbits can significantly impact gardens and crops. The burrowing of mink and muskrats under houses, near dams and abutments can make the structures unsafe. While not believed to be present in New Jersey, nutria is an invasive species similar to mink in that their burrowing habits can jeopardize structures.
29. For ease of reference, rules pertaining to the creation of disease surveillance areas, special check station requirements, and the ability to modify hunting and trapping rules, as necessary in the event a contagious or zoonotic disease, is discovered in New Jersey's wildlife are proposed to be recodified from the General provisions section of the current Code at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(i) to a proposed new standalone section at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.35, Wildlife health, disease and surveillance. In addition, requirements to help prevent the introduction of chronic wasting disease, such as rules prohibiting the import of semen of cervids, the importation of carcasses or non-taxidermied heads, the use of natural deer-derived lures, and the required surrender of any venison testing positive for chronic wasting disease, are proposed to be recodified from N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.22(a), pertaining to wild animals; possession, killing to proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.35, Wildlife health, disease and surveillance. Provisions requiring a permit to administer any drug or vaccines or to tag any free-ranging wildlife at existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.22(a)1 are also proposed to be recodified into this section.

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Social Impact

The restructure of the Game Code into a more organized and species-structured format will have positive social benefits as the rules will be more straightforward, easier to follow, and abide by, creating a more positive field experience for all. The positive social impact anticipated from the proposed changes include improved conservation and management of the species covered by the proposed repeals and new rules, as well as the enhancement of the wildlife resources for recreational activities.

The proposed repeals and new rules simplifying New Jersey's complex deer regulations are also anticipated to be well-received by hunters. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife anticipates deer hunters will positively view the proposed increased availability of multi-zone permits, as a greater number of zones will offer an even greater cost savings. Deer regulations that are more concise and consolidated, coupled with the consolidation of regulation sets will provide a more worry-free hunting experience. The proposed repeals and new rules that extend seasons will increase opportunities for hunters for days in the field. The proposed repeals and new rules to simplify changes to deer hunting regulations will provide additional opportunities for hunters in those DMZs where the deer population exceeds management goals, while reducing the potential for deer-human conflict. Conversely, reducing bag limits in other zones will help ensure that local populations are not overhunted in other areas of the State, safeguarding the continued health of the population throughout the State.

Economic Impact

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The proposed repeals and new rules will protect the economic interests of businesses serving the hunting community. Specifically, the proposed repeals and new rules are intended to preclude the introduction or the spread of contagious wildlife disease, which results in a significant reduction in hunting in an impacted area, and thereby negatively impacts those businesses. The overall value to the State's economy from hunting and other activities related to wildlife is summarized in a 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (Survey). The Survey estimated that the total expenditure by hunters in the State of New Jersey was just under \$116 million. Additionally, the Survey showed expenditures for wildlife watching activities in New Jersey totaled over \$860 million, not including expenditures related to backyard birding. An unknown portion of these funds flows to out of State suppliers and distributors of equipment and services. Although the proportion of money being spent out-of-State is unknown, the overall impact on the New Jersey economy and revenue generated from such economic activity is still significant, and NJDEP Fish & Wildlife believes it exceeds the costs to it and to participants.

The Council anticipates that continuing a deer management strategy of population reduction or stabilization on 83 percent of the deer management zones will mitigate economic losses associated with the damage by deer depredating landscape plantings, gardens, and agricultural crops, and damage from deer-vehicle collisions. Rutgers Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet FS1202, a 2022 study of 27 farmers carried out by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, found estimated losses of nearly \$1.5 million attributable to wild deer, including direct damage to crops and other hidden costs. Rutgers Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet FS1202, January 2013, cites a 1998 survey specifically targeting New Jersey farmers, which revealed that deer are responsible for 79 percent of wildlife-related agricultural damage, resulting in a yield loss of five to 10 million

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dollars per year (\$9.73 to 19.56 million adjusted to 2024). According to the State Farm annual deer collision study, the company reports the likelihood of collision with deer on New Jersey roads was one in 213 between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, based on over 1.8 million estimated industry claims counts; the national cost per deer collision claim averaged \$4,341 in 2018 (\$5,300 adjusted to 2023). These figures likely understate the costs of a collision, as they do not include any medical costs that might be associated with a deer strike.

The proposed expansion of the “multi-zone permit” to allow even more deer zones to be hunted at \$56.00 per permit will benefit hunters who would otherwise purchase more than one individual zone permit at \$28.00 each. A 2023 survey of hunters who purchased the multi-zone permit were supportive of continuing the permit option.

The proposed repeals and new rules to the Game Code are designed to conserve and manage the species covered by the Code and enhance recreational activities. The money spent on hunting and wildlife watching will help ensure that the economic benefits to the State will continue.

Environmental Impact

The proposed repeals and new rules will have a positive environmental impact as they are designed to implement the management and control of wildlife species based on the State’s ongoing research efforts. The proposed repeals and new rules to the Game Code will improve the conservation, management, and enhancement of the State’s wildlife resources and habitats by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife based on studies of the current population, distribution, and habitat status of game species in New Jersey. The proposed amendments to the season length and bag limits for

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deer have been designed to maintain a high level of antlerless deer harvest and will help maintain deer populations at levels more compatible with natural habitats and land, uses such as for agriculture.

Federal Standards Statement

N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., requires State agencies that adopt, readopt, or amend State regulations that exceed any Federal standards or requirements to include in the rulemaking document a Federal standards analysis.

Pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, 16 U.S.C. § 668dd (1966), and regulations (50 CFR 32.49), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service regulates hunting only in National Wildlife Refuge areas in New Jersey. The proposed Game Code does not include any standards or requirements that exceed Federal regulations involving National Wildlife Refuge areas, and there are no Federal standards for non-National Wildlife Refuge areas.

Therefore, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife has determined the proposed Game Code and related proposed amendments do not set forth any standards or requirements that exceed any standards or requirements imposed by Federal law. Accordingly, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., does not require further analysis.

Jobs Impact

The proposed Game Code and related amendments are not anticipated to have any impact on the creation or elimination of jobs in the State. The proposed repeals and new rules will help ensure continued recreational and economic benefits to the citizens of the State and continue to

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provide for the regulated use and proper management of the State's wildlife resources. The Council does not anticipate that the proposed changes will impact the number of jobs in businesses serving this recreational industry, such as sporting goods stores and eateries.

Agriculture Industry Impact

The proposed Game Code and related changes are anticipated to lessen economic losses incurred by the agricultural community. The proposed changes will simplify the State's complex deer regulations, provide discounts to hunters hunting in multiple deer management zones, and extend coyote and fox seasons, thereby assisting population control measures and positively influencing crop yields and their economic value by minimizing crop damage and livestock kills.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The New Jersey Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq., requires that proposed rules be reviewed for reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements on small businesses.

Recodification of the State Game Code and related changes at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5 do not impose any additional requirements on citizens or on farmers applying for depredation permits. Only minimal reporting and compliance requirements are imposed on sportsmen engaged in recreational hunting and trapping with these requirements being part of the rules in place prior to repeal and replacement of the subchapter. Particularly, all hunters are already required to have a valid and proper firearm or archery hunting license and related hunting permits for species, such as bear, turkey, deer, and migratory game birds. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5, successful hunters

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are already required to complete a transportation tag, report harvest through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's Automated Harvest Reporting System (AHRS), provide information and receive either a legal possession tag or confirmation number, and for bear specifically, take the harvested bear to a check station. Licensed trappers are required to do the same for certain species, such as beaver, otter, and coyote. The proposed repeals and new rules require only the additional reporting requirement for gray fox, which is currently voluntary, but also eliminates the requirement to bring trapped beavers to a physical check station and instead allows reporting of harvest online through the AHRS. The proposed repeals and new rules do not impose any reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements on small businesses, as that term is defined at N.J.S.A. 52:14B-17, therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required pursuant to the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Housing Affordability Impact Analysis

N.J.S.A. 52:14B-4.1b requires State agencies that propose any rule for adoption to determine the impact, if any, on the affordability of housing and the average costs of housing in the State. The proposed Game Code changes and recodification do not involve the creation or construction of any type of housing units. The proposed changes apply solely to hunting and trapping and the management of game species. Accordingly, the proposed repeals and new rules have no impact on housing affordability or on the average costs of housing in the State.

Smart Growth Development Impact Analysis

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In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-4.1(b), as amended effective July 17, 2008, at P.L. 2008, c. 46, the Council has evaluated the proposed repeals and new rules to determine the nature and extent of the changes on the impacts on housing production within Planning Areas 1 or 2, or within designated centers, pursuant to the State Development and Redevelopment Plan. The proposed repeals and new rules apply solely to provisions for hunting, trapping, and management of the State's wildlife species, including addressing wildlife damage issues and wildlife health concerns. Therefore, the proposed repeals and new rules have no impact on housing production within Planning Areas 1 or 2, or within designated centers, pursuant to the State Development and Redevelopment Plan.

Racial and Ethnic Community Criminal Justice and Public Safety Impact

The Council has evaluated this rulemaking and determined that it will not have an impact on pretrial detention, sentencing, probation, or parole policies concerning adults and juveniles in the State. Accordingly, no further analysis is required.

Full text of the rules proposed for repeal may be found in the New Jersey Administrative Code at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.

Full text of the proposed new rules follows:

SUBCHAPTER 5. 2026-2027 GAME CODE

7:25-5.1 General provisions

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(a) Judicial Notice. N.J.S.A. 13:1B-34 provides in pertinent part, “[c]opies of the State Fish and Game Code, and its amendments, duly certified by the Chairman of the council shall be received in evidence in all court or other judicial proceedings in the State.”

(b) Severability: If any provision of this Code, or the application thereof, to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of this Code and the application of such provisions to persons and circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

(c) This Code, when adopted and effective, shall supersede the provisions of the previous versions of the State Game Code.

(d) Time: The hours listed in this Code are EST or EDT as of the current date and are based on Trenton time. A copy of the official timetable for Trenton is available from the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. Timetables for Trenton time are also published in the annual Summary of Game Regulations and Trenton time shall be the Statewide official time.

(e) For the purpose of this subchapter, “Trenton Office” shall mean the Bureau of Wildlife Management, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, Mail Code 501-03, PO Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420.

(f) NJDEP Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement Region Headquarters and contact information are as follows:

1. Northern Region Office--Clinton WMA Region Office, 26 Route 173 West, Hampton, NJ 08827, (908) 735-8240.

2. Central Region Office--Assunpink WMA, 1 Eldridge Road, Robbinsville, NJ 08691, (609) 259-2120.

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3. Southern Region Office--Winslow WMA, 220 Blue Anchor Road, Sicklerville, NJ 08081, (856) 629-0555.

4. DEP Action Line, 1-877-WARN DEP (927-6337).

(g) No person shall have in possession, attempt to pursue, take, hunt, shoot, trap, hunt for, or kill, any wild mammal or wild bird, unless an open season for the taking of such mammals or birds is provided for at N.J.S.A. Title 23 and the State Game Code and then only during the respective open seasons established at N.J.S.A. Title 23 and the State Game Code, except as provided for crow at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6. The fact that a mammal or bird is not native to this State shall not constitute a defense to the possession, taking, or attempting to take any wild mammal or bird in violation of this subchapter.

(h) No person shall attempt to pursue, take, hunt, shoot, or trap, hunt for, or kill, or pursue, take, hunt, shoot, trap, hunt for, or kill any wild mammal or wild bird in any manner, except in the manner provided for at N.J.S.A. Title 23 and the State Game Code.

(i) The Director, with the approval of the Fish and Game Council, may close any hunting or trapping season Statewide or in a designated area, when necessary to respond to emergencies or special circumstances when it is deemed necessary to protect wildlife or human health or safety. Such closure shall be announced by the press, posted on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com and listserv at <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/education/email-lists/>.

(j) Hunters may purchase no more than one all around sportsman license or one bow and arrow hunting license and one firearm hunting license for any calendar year.

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(k) Bows for use in accordance with the State Game Code must only be capable of being loaded with and/or firing a single arrow or bolt. Multi-barrel bows or bows capable of firing more than one arrow or bolt in rapid succession are not permitted. The use of bows is subject to the provisions below:

1. Longbows and recurved bows shall have a minimum draw pull weight of 35 pounds at the archer's draw length;

2. Compound bows shall have a minimum peak weight of 35 pounds;

3. Crossbows used for hunting shall conform to the following:

i. "Crossbow" shall mean a device fired from the shoulder that propels an arrow (bolt) by means of a string and horizontally articulated traverse limbs mounted on a stock. Crossbows that employ any other means of propulsion, such as the "air bow," are strictly prohibited;

ii. Stock shall be at least 25 inches in length, measured from buttstock to the end of the rail, and cannot be collapsible but may be adjustable to no less than 25 inches;

iii. Minimum draw length of 14 inches, measured from the knocking point of the drawstring to the front of the bow;

iv. Bolts (arrows) shall be a minimum of 16 inches in length, not including the head;

v. Draw weight shall be between 75 and 200 pounds;

vi. All crossbows shall be equipped with a mechanical safety;

vii. Cocking levers and other devices may be used on crossbows;

viii. It is legal to carry blunt or judo tips in the field for the purpose of discharging crossbows; and

ix. Whenever a crossbow is in or upon a motor vehicle, it shall be uncocked;

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4. Hand-held releasing devices are permitted; and

5. It is unlawful to hunt with any device propelled by any means that is used for the purpose of injecting or delivering any type of drug into an animal.

(l) "Hunting firearms" shall be fired only by human-controlled, manually operated mechanical triggers. No person shall use a smart rifle or gun to take or attempt to take wild animals. Specific hunting firearms, type and caliber, and type and size of ammunition allowed is established for species and seasons specified within the various provisions of the Game Code. The use of hunting firearms is subject to the provisions below:

1. A shotgun used for hunting shall:

i. Except as may be permitted for waterfowl hunting in accordance with Federal regulations and as provided for agents and/or permittees operating pursuant to an approved special deer management permit, a shotgun shall not be capable of holding more than three shells at one time or be capable of being fired more than three times without reloading;

ii. Have an adjustable open iron or peep sight or a scope affixed when containing shotgun slugs for the purpose of hunting; and

iii. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.4, 5.19, and 5.20, shotguns with a rifled bore are legal for hunting for bear and deer only;

2. A muzzleloader rifle used for hunting shall:

i. Be a single shot, single barrel firearm;

ii. Have a side-lock percussion, flintlock, in-line, center-hammer, or under-hammer ignition system. Electronic ignition systems are strictly prohibited;

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iii. Be of design that is incapable of loading the projectile (bullet) through the breach of the firearm;

iv. Be loaded with a single projectile of lead, lead alloy, copper, and sabot, jacketed, or belted bullet;

v. Be not capable of firing more than one shot without reloading or holding more than one charge;

vi. Be loaded with only black powder or black powder equivalents, including Clean Shot, GOEX Clear Shot, and Pyrodex. Modern smokeless powder is strictly prohibited; and

vii. Only one muzzleloader rifle may be possessed while hunting;

3. A smoothbore muzzleloader used for hunting shall:

i. When allowed, be a single or double barrel;

ii. Be of design that is incapable of loading the projectile (bullet) through the breach of the firearm; and

iii. Be loaded with only black powder or black powder equivalents, including Clean Shot, GOEX Clear Shot, and Pyrodex. Modern smokeless powder is strictly prohibited;

4. A rifle shall be loaded with no more than three cartridges, except as provided for agents and/or permittees operating pursuant to an approved special deer management permit;

5. An air gun shall use ammunition no smaller than .177 caliber and no larger than .25 caliber producing projectile velocities of not less than 600 feet per second measured at the muzzle. Noise reduction systems, which are included in the definition of "firearm silencer" at N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1.g, are prohibited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3.c;

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6. No person may transport, possess, or have in their control a hunting firearm in a motor vehicle or vehicle of any kind unless the hunting firearm is unloaded, and as such, does not contain missiles of any kind, and is contained in a closed and securely fastened case or locked in the trunk, under a penalty of not less than \$20.00 nor more than \$50.00. A muzzleloader is considered unloaded when, in the case of a percussion cap rifle, the percussion cap has been removed from the nipple; in the case of an in-line rifle, the primer has been removed from the action; in the case of a flintlock, when the powder is removed from the pan and a boot or cover made of a nonmetallic material is placed over the frizzen; and

7. Nothing in this subchapter prohibits a person from legally carrying a handgun pursuant to Title 2C of the New Jersey statutes while hunting or trapping, provided that the handgun is not used to take, or attempt to take, wildlife.

(m) Persons in possession of a rifle, including a muzzleloader rifle, while hunting or trapping must have a valid and proper firearm license and a valid rifle permit.

(n) No person shall have both a hunting firearm and a bow and arrow in his or her possession or within his or her control in the woods or fields or on the water while hunting any wild mammal or bird. This does not preclude a person from carrying both a hunting firearm and bow and arrow in a motor vehicle.

(o) Persons required by law to wear corrective lenses to operate a motor vehicle shall wear corrective lenses when hunting with a bow or a hunting firearm.

(p) Hunter orange requirements are set forth at N.J.S.A. 23:4-13.1 and are detailed for individual species at (d) above for each species at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.4 through 5.27.

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1. A bowhunter utilizing a ground blind during a time period when the bowhunting season is concurrent with a deer or bear hunting firearm season, must display 200 square inches of hunter orange atop the blind and visible from all sides, or within five feet outside the blind and higher than the blind or at least feet off the ground, whichever is higher.

(q) "Wanton waste" is defined by the following activities and is illegal:

1. It is unlawful for any person who kills or wounds any white-tailed deer; black bear; wild turkey; rabbit species as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.11; squirrel; pheasant as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.10; quail, chukar, or Hungarian partridge; and all migratory game birds as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9 while engaged in any hunting activities to refuse or neglect to make a reasonable effort to retrieve, retain, or lawfully take into possession such game or wildlife.

2. It is unlawful for any person to take, kill, or capture any game mammal or game bird and remove from the carcass the head, hide, or antlers and leave the edible portions of the carcass and meat to waste, except for those species at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5, 5.6, 5.8, 5.12, 5.22, 5.24, 5.25, 5.26, 5.27, and 5.34, except with the permission of the owner or tenant as provided at (q)3 below. As used in this paragraph, "edible portions" means:

i. For white-tailed deer and black bear: Front quarters as far as the distal joint of the radius-ulna (knee); hind quarters as far as the distal joint of the tibia-fibula (hock); and backstrap/tenderloin - the meat along the backbone, between the front and hind quarters;

ii. For rabbit and squirrel: Front shoulders, thighs, and backstrap;

iii. For turkey, the meat of the breast, legs, and thighs;

iv. For game birds other than turkey, the meat of the breast; and

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v. Edible portions do not include meat from the head or neck; meat that has been damaged by the method of taking; bones, sinew, and meat reasonably lost as a result of butchering, boning, or close trimming of bones; or viscera. Edible portions do not include meat from diseased or scavenged carcasses.

3. It is unlawful for any person to place, leave, dump, or abandon a game mammal, game bird, or wildlife carcass or parts of it along or upon a public right-of-way or highway, or on public property, including a waterway or stream, or on private property without the permission of the owner or tenant, or on any State wildlife management area or State park.

(r) No person shall hunt from or shoot at any wild animal or bird from any airborne conveyance, including an unmanned aircraft or drone. Except when authorized through a permit issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32, no person shall disturb wildlife utilizing any unmanned aircraft or drone for the purpose of:

1. Hunting, concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up any migratory game bird to put them in the range of hunters; or

2. Herding any wild animal or bird for the purpose of scouting, hunting, or trapping.

(s) Exercising or training of dogs on State wildlife management areas shall be subject to the following:

1. There shall be no exercising or training of dogs:

i. On any State wildlife management areas, from May 1 to August 31, inclusive, except on portions of various State wildlife management areas designated as dog training areas.

ii. On any State wildlife management area, the Friday following the first Monday in November, the day preceding the opening of the regular small game season.

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iii. On State wildlife management areas stocked for Youth Day, as listed on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website and in the Hunting and Trapping Digest, on the Saturday before the opening day of pheasant season to the Friday before the opening day of pheasant season, as enumerated at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.10(b).

2. This subsection shall not preclude a properly licensed field trial association from conducting a field trial or from handling and working dogs during the period of time covered by a field trial license on the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area.

(t) No person shall have in possession a deer, bear, or turkey, or the parts thereof, including the meat of a deer, bear, or turkey, that he himself or she herself did not kill, unless it has a tag or label bearing the date of harvest, possession seal, or confirmation number, and the name, address, telephone number, and Conservation Identification Number (CID) of the person who killed the deer, bear, or turkey.

1. Those in the business of processing deer, bear, or turkey, that is, butchers, taxidermists, etc., shall keep a ledger of all of their customers. Each customer's name, current address, day and evening telephone number, Conservation Identification Number (CID), and the possession seal or confirmation number of any black bear, deer, or turkey being processed shall be included in the ledger. For deer, the gender and age (fawn or adult) of the animal shall also be included. This ledger shall be made available for inspection upon request during the hours of 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. by any law enforcement officer or employee of the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

2. The possession seal that is issued at a designated black bear check station or the confirmation number issued by the AHRS for deer and turkey shall always stay with the carcass, and with the meat after processing. If the black bear, deer, or turkey is to be mounted by a

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taxidermist, those parts of the animal being mounted, shall be labeled with the possession seal or confirmation number and the name and address of the owner.

3. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a person from collecting and possessing naturally shed deer antler(s).

(u) In addition to the wildlife species and/or parts listed at N.J.S.A. 23:4-27, the pelt, including the tail of the eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) may be sold, as defined at N.J.S.A. 23:4-27.

(v) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prevent the Director of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife from authorizing personnel or agents of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife from possessing, carrying, or using hand held pistol-like devices that launch pyrotechnic missiles for the sole purpose of frightening, hazing, or aversive conditioning of nuisance wildlife; or from possessing, carrying, or using animal immobilization rifles, pistols, or similar devices for the sole purpose of chemically immobilizing wild or non-domestic animals or from possessing, carrying, or using rifles or shotguns, upon completion of approved training course, in order to dispatch sick, injured, or dangerous animals or for non-lethal use for the purpose of frightening, hazing, or aversive conditioning of nuisance or depredating wildlife. All such duly authorized personnel of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, except conservation officers, shall possess a firearms purchaser card, a valid New Jersey hunting license, and a rifle permit issued by the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

(w) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prevent duly authorized personnel or agents of the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife from the possession and use of any other NJDEP Fish & Wildlife approved device or equipment for the capture, marking, or killing of wildlife for scientific, enforcement, or public safety purposes. This subsection applies to all non-domestic animals whether native or exotic, irrespective to season status, or other restrictions in any statute or rule.

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(x) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prevent duly authorized personnel or agents of the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife from possessing, carrying, or using any device that projects, releases, or emits any substance specified as being non-injurious to black bears or other animals by the State Director of Animal Health and which produces temporary physical discomfort through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air for the purpose of repelling animal attacks or for the aversive conditioning of nuisance wildlife.

(y) Notwithstanding the foregoing, this subsection shall not preclude the Director from authorizing, on a case-by-case basis, Federal government employees operating pursuant to a State of New Jersey Depredation Control Permit, special wildlife management permit, and/or a Federal Fish and Wildlife permit that is co-signed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, to shoot wildlife specifically listed on that permit with an air gun or a rifle when that permit specifically authorizes the use of air guns and/or rifles. Air guns used for this purpose shall be restricted to .2s5 caliber or other calibers approved by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

(z) All farmers, as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.14(f)8 or 5.15(j)1, and their immediate family must obtain a free Conservation ID Number (CID) from the ELS to check in game animals harvested pursuant to N.J.S.A. 23:3-1(e) through the Automated Harvest Report System (AHRS).

(aa) Not for profit and non-commercial organizations, including civic associations, volunteer fire departments and first aid squads, the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and their county affiliates, sportsmen's clubs, and other conservation organizations, may conduct "wild game or venison dinner" fund raising events. These dinners/events may include prepared and ready-to-eat game and fur-bearing animal meat on a per serving basis. The game meat, the sale of which is otherwise prohibited, and fur-bearing animal meat, must be harvested, registered if

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required, stored, and processed in accordance with applicable State, county, and local laws and regulations.

(bb) The Director, with Council approval, may implement specialized hunting and trapping opportunities on lands managed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. These include, but are not limited to, special hunts where hunter density is limited, assisted, and/or mentored hunts for youth hunters or the disabled, and other programs aimed to provide unique outdoor field experiences. These programs shall require the following:

1. Notice of such programs would be provided through the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, as well as news releases and emails to hunters or trappers with current licenses;

2. Only legal weapons in accordance with the State Game Code may be used; and

3. Any wildlife harvested as a result will not count against associated season quotas.

(cc) All persons, while their hunting or trapping licenses are void pursuant to the authority of law or as imposed by a court, are prohibited from procuring any hunting or trapping permits, including those permits involving the pursuit or tracking of game. Any permits obtained by fraud shall be void.

(dd) The following areas are closed to the hunting of any game mammals or birds:

1. Barnegat Inlet: There shall be no open season for hunting of any game mammals or birds in the waters or shoreline of Barnegat Inlet. For the purpose of this subsection, Barnegat Inlet is defined as the shoreline and waters westward from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) Demarcation Line as designated at 33 CFR 80.501; to the north end of Broadway in Barnegat Light (39.763133 N; 074.108317 W); then northwest to Red Buoy 14 in

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the channel (39.763783 N; 074.109283 W); then northeast to the westernmost section of rock jetty at Island Beach State Park (39.771617 N; 074.103017 W);

2. Cox Hall Creek Wildlife Management Area: There shall be no open season for the hunting of any game mammals or birds on the non-tidal waters of the Cox Hall Creek Wildlife Management Area;

3. Herring Island: There shall be no open season for the hunting of any game mammals or birds in the following designated area of Barnegat Bay, including all of Herring Island in the Township of Brick and that portion of Barnegat Bay lying between the northern and southern tips of Herring Island easterly to the adjacent shoreline of the Borough of Mantoloking in Ocean County;

4. Manasquan River: There shall be no open season for the hunting of any game mammals or birds in that portion of the Manasquan River from the ocean inlet upstream to the Route 70 bridge;

5. Parker Creek and Oceanport Creek: There shall be no open hunting firearm season for the hunting of any game mammals or birds on Parker Creek and Oceanport Creek, Monmouth County, or the shores thereof, southwest or upstream of the Conrail R.R. bridge; and

6. Shark River: There shall be no open season for the hunting of any game mammals or birds on the Shark River in Monmouth County, or the shores thereof.

7:25-5.2 Definitions

When used in this subchapter, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

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"Air gun" means any shoulder-mounted firearm that, by the force of a spring, air, or other non-ignited compressed gas, expels a missile or projectile and has a rifled or smooth barrel.

"Antlered deer" means any deer with at least one antler measuring at least three inches in length.

"Antlered muzzleloader permit," "antlered shotgun permit," or "antlered bow permit" means the additional purchase to the muzzleloader, shotgun, or bow zone-specific antlerless permit that allows for the pursuit and harvest of an antlered deer only.

"Antlerless deer" means a female deer and any deer that does not have an antler measuring at least three inches in length. For the purposes of this definition, shed antlered deer and deer with broken antlers that measure less than three inches are considered antlerless deer.

"Antler length" means the maximum length of a deer antler measured from the lowest outside edge of the antler burr along the outer curve to the most distant point of what is or appears to be the main antler beam. For the purposes of this definition, the antler length does not include the pedicel or portion of the skull between the skull plate and the base of the antler burr.

"Antler point" means an antler point measuring at least one inch long from its tip to its baseline, and the length must exceed the width at some location at least one inch down from the tip.

"Apprentice license" means a resident or non-resident firearm or bow and arrow license issued to a person at least 18 years of age for hunting firearms and at least 14 years of age for bow and arrow without meeting the hunter safety education course requirement. The apprentice license holder shall only hunt with an accompanying firearm or bow and arrow licensed hunter at least 21 years of age. A person may not serve as an accompanying firearm hunting license holder to more

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than one apprentice firearm hunting license holder at a time. A holder of an apprentice license may hunt in any open season, as defined by license type, except as provided at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.4, 5.6, and 5.19. The apprentice license shall be void after December 31 of the year of its issuance and may be issued to a person only twice during the person's lifetime.

“Automated Harvest Report System” or “AHRS” replaces live check stations for designated species and is the means by which a hunter registers a harvested animal through the Internet or telephone.

“Bag limit” means the amount of permitted take per person per season, except in a permit season the “bag limit” is the amount of permitted take per permit per season.

“Bait” or “baited area” means the collection, deposit, concentration, or unnatural gathering of feed, including corn, wheat, oats, or other substances that may constitute a lure or enticement to game animals. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 23:4-24.3, growing and unharvested crops shall not be considered baiting or feeding game birds or game animals.

“Bow” or “bow and arrow” means longbow, recurved bow, compound bow, or crossbow, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k).

“Check station” means the place or method of registering a harvest, as required in this subchapter, for any game animal with a legal hunting or trapping season. A check station may be considered either a physical location or the Automated Harvest Report System (AHRS), as designated by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife pursuant to N.J.S.A. 23:4-47.

“Conservation ID Number” means the lifetime identification number assigned to sportsmen and sportswomen when they initially obtain a license, permit, or child support certification through the electronic licensing system (ELS).

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"Deer check station" means a physical location, as designated by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, where a hunter must bring his or her deer on the day of kill to be registered as a legally harvested deer; or the AHRS, by which a hunter registers the harvested deer through the Internet or telephone as designated by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

"Earn-a-buck" requirement means that deer hunters must harvest an antlerless deer from within a specified zone or zones before taking or attempting to take an antlered deer in the prescribed season or season period, and deer management zone.

"Electronic License System" or "ELS" means the integrated web-based and license agent-based automated electronic license purchasing system used by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife to sell hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses and permits.

"Enclosed foothold trap" means a live-capture trap with a trigger that is activated by pulling, as enumerated at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.26(e)3i, ii, iii, iv, and v.

"Hunting firearm" means any shotgun, rifle, muzzleloader, muzzleloader rifle, smoothbore muzzleloader, or air gun allowed for the sole purpose of hunting and trapping as prescribed at N.J.S.A. Title 23 and the State Game Code. Provisions regarding hunting firearms are found at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(l).

"Ground blind" means a temporary man-made structure used for the purpose of concealing from sight a person who is hunting. A ground blind is not a naturally occurring feature that a hunter merely uses for concealment.

"Immediate family," for the purpose of determining eligibility for permits within the farmer turkey, deer, and bear permit sections of the Code, means the parent, spouse, child, stepchild, stepparent, guardian, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent,

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great grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, stepsister, stepbrother, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law of the farm owner or lessee who resides thereon.

"Leftover permits" means those permits within the amount presented as the permit quota remaining after closure of the initial permit-granting process.

"Limited quota, special deer permits" means bow, muzzleloader, or shotgun special deer seasons permits for special management areas including military bases, national wildlife refuges, State and county parks, and other areas that require application or issuance of special deer permits through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife issued by random drawing because demand for permits is expected to exceed the supply.

"Local time" means the time applicable in the State, reflecting either daylight savings or eastern standard time, on the date the rule is to be applied.

"Multi-zone permit" means a permit that may be purchased for use in any deer management zone within the specified regulation set. The multi-zone permit is available for permit bow, permit shotgun, and/or permit muzzleloader and is valid for antlerless deer only.

"Permit quota" means the maximum number of permits allocated for a given locality, season, or species category.

"Possession tag" means the tag or metal seal affixed to the animal by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife personnel or designated agent.

"Regulation Set" means a group of deer management zones, as designated by the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, that all have the same season dates and bag limits.

"Relaxing lock" means that component of a live capture cable restraint intended to create and maintain a loop; and that stops tightening when the captured animal stops pulling against the

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cable restraint. Cam-locks and spring-assisted locking systems are prohibited for the purposes of this definition.

"Smart rifle or gun" means any firearm that is equipped with one or more of the following: a target tracking system; an electronically controlled, electronically assisted, or computer-linked trigger; or a ballistics computer.

"Special areas" are deer management zones where hunter access is controlled by a regulating authority, and may include, but are not limited to, Federal, State, county, and private lands, as designated by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

"Transportation tag" or "harvest report stub" means the tag portion of the hunting license or permit that is removed and affixed to the animal immediately upon kill or removal from the trap. It is also a tag supplied by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife with the beaver and otter trapping license. Deer transportation tags can be homemade or cut out from the NJDEP Hunting and Trapping Digest.

"Water set" means any legally allowed trap or snare that is either submerged under water or is set or staked in such a manner as to permit the trap, snare, or trapped animal to reach water.

"Youth hunter" means the possessor of the youth hunting license or the immediate family member of a qualified occupant farmer who is at least 10 years of age. Youth hunter status continues until December 31 of the year in which the youth turns 16 years old. Youth hunters, aged 10 to less than 14 years of age, shall be accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a properly licensed adult who is at least 21 years of age. On designated youth days, all youth hunters must be directly supervised. For the purposes of this Code, direct supervision means both the youth hunter or trapper and properly licensed adult are set up together at the same location, hunting or

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trapping as a unit, and not hunting or trapping independently of each other. The youth hunter or trapper may not hunt or trap independently of the supervising adult.

"Youth hunting license" means the free hunting license issued by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife to persons 10 through 15 years of age upon the successful completion of an approved hunter education course. The license is valid, unless revoked for due cause, from the time of issuance until December 31 of the year in which the youth attains the age of 16 years.

7:25-5.3 Closed seasons, game species

(a) It shall be illegal to take, kill, or attempt to take or kill any of the game species identified below in the State of New Jersey at any time:

1. Bobcat (*Felis rufus*);
2. Bobwhite quail (wild) (*Colinus virginianus*);
3. Fisher (*Pekania pennanti*);
4. Mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*);
5. Ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*); and
6. Sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*).

(b) All trappers shall report any bobcat incidentally caught within 24 hours of discovery to 1-877-WarnDEP (1-877-927-6337). Bobcat, including any part thereof, legally harvested in other U.S. states or Canadian provinces may be possessed provided they are affixed with a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) tag from the state or province of harvest.

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7:25-5.4 Black bear

(a) A valid and proper firearm, bow and arrow, or all-around sportsman license and a valid black bear permit are required to hunt black bear (*Ursus americanus*). Hunting with a rifle also requires a valid and proper rifle permit. Apprentice licenses are not valid for hunting or taking black bears.

(b) There may only be a season for black bears provided there is a valid comprehensive policy for the protection and propagation of black bears that has been approved by the Council and the Commissioner and adopted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., rulemaking procedures, and the Council determines that this subchapter comports with such policy. In the absence of such a policy, there shall be no season for black bears. The Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy (CBBMP) shall be published on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website, www.NJFishandWildlife.com. A season for black bears shall be consistent with the approved CBBMP.

1. The season shall consist of two segments, Segment A and Segment B. Legal hunting hours shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

i. Segment A shall be a period of six consecutive days beginning on the second Monday in October.

ii. Segment B shall be concurrent with the six-day firearm deer season as enumerated at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b).

(1) If the season harvest rate of black bears is less than 20 percent at the conclusion of the last day of Segment B, the season shall be extended for four additional consecutive days, beginning the Wednesday after the six-day firearm season. This extension shall

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be announced by news release, radio, the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, and other media.

2. Following the commencement of the season, the Director shall close the season if the harvest rate reaches 30 percent. The Director will announce such closure, which will become effective 24 hours from the daily legal closing time of the day on which NJDEP Fish & Wildlife determines that the harvest rate reaches 30 percent, based upon data obtained and reviewed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife at the close of each day of the season.

3. Harvest rate equals the number of harvested bears that were tagged in the current calendar year within bear management zones (BMZs) open to hunting, divided by the number of bears that were tagged in the current calendar year that are available for harvest (total number of bears tagged in the current year within BMZs open to hunting minus known mortality of such tagged bears and number of such tagged bears known to have left the BMZs that are open to hunting). Season closure will be announced by news release, radio, the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website (www.NJFishandWildlife.com), and other media.

(c) Bag limit. One bear of either sex and any age with a live weight greater than 75 pounds or a dressed weight greater than 50 pounds may be harvested per permit. No adults accompanying cubs under 75 pounds may be taken. Only one bear may be harvested per segment, regardless of the number of permits the hunter holds. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take or continue to hunt for more than the number of black bear permitted.

(d) Unless noted otherwise, the following shall apply while hunting black bear, regardless of season, segment, or zone:

1. Hunter orange is required when hunting with a hunting firearm for black bear;

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2. Persons hunting black bears with a hunting firearm must wear a cap made of daylight fluorescent orange with incidental ornamentation that does not reduce its visibility or an outer garment containing at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material visible from all sides at all times while hunting;

3. Black bear permits, including farmer permits, are valid only in the BMZ and year designated on the permit. They are not transferable;

4. Black bear permits, including farmer permits, must be in the possession of the hunter while hunting black bears. Bear permits include a “Black Bear Transportation Tag”;

5. Black bears may be taken while stand hunting, still-hunting, or drive hunting with a bow, shotgun, or muzzleloader rifle;

6. Black bears may not be taken from dens;

7. No person shall attempt to take or kill a black bear or have in their possession or control any hunting firearm within 300 feet of a baited area;

8. Hunters are limited to hunting in no more than two BMZs per season; and

9. It shall be illegal to use dogs to pursue or run black bears.

(e) The following shall be used to hunt black bears:

1. For Segment A:

i. During the entirety of Segment A, bows as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k), with arrows fitted with an edged head of the following specifications:

(1) Minimum width shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch;

(2) Minimum length -- none; and

(3) Cutting edges shall be of well-sharpened metal only.

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ii. During the last three days of Segment A, single barrel muzzleloader rifles .44 or larger caliber loaded with a single projectile. No shotgun shall be used during Segment A.

2. For Segment B:

i. Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than 20 gauge with lead, lead alloy, or copper slugs.

(1) Shotgun shells containing a single spherical projectile may not be possessed or used.

(2) The use of buckshot is not allowed.

ii. Muzzleloader rifles .44 or larger caliber loaded with a single projectile.

(f) Black bear permits will be issued in accordance with the following:

1. Black bear permits are issued on an individual basis to holders of proper and current firearm and/or archery hunting licenses.

2. Black bear permits are issued through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's ELS or, in the event of ELS operating difficulties, by providing the same information at ELS locations through such alternate system as may be designated by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

3. Hunters are limited to purchasing up to two black bear permits per year, one for each BMZ hunted, until the end of Segment B. Except for the two weeks immediately following the end of Segment A.

4. All persons, while their hunting licenses are void pursuant to the authority of law or as imposed by a court, are prohibited from procuring a black bear permit. Any permit obtained by fraud shall be void.

5. Farmer black bear permits shall be applied for as follows:

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i. Only the owner or lessee of a farm, who resides thereon, or immediate members of his or her family 10 years of age or older who also reside thereon, may apply for a farmer black bear permit utilizing the application form obtained in accordance with (f)5ii below. Pursuant to this section, a farm is an area of five acres or more, producing a gross income in excess of \$500.00, and is tax-assessed as farmland. Farmer black bear permits will be issued only in those BMZs where a season is prescribed. Application forms may be obtained from the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJfishandWildlife.com or by mailing a request to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, MC 501-03, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420, or from the county agricultural agent. Prior to applying, the applicant must create a profile in the Electronic License System and obtain a Conservation ID Number. Profiles may be created by going online or going to a participating license agent or contacting the staff of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for alternative instructions.

ii. Applications shall include:

(1) Applicant's Conservation ID Number;

(2) Applicant's name;

(3) Applicant's mailing address;

(4) The applicant's farm address; and

(5) Proof demonstrating that the applicant qualifies for the farmer black bear permit in accordance with (f)5i above; and any other supporting information requested thereon.

iii. Properly completed application forms will be accepted in the Trenton office May 1 through September 1, inclusive.

iv. There is no fee required.

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v. Only one farmer permit application may be submitted per individual for the zone/area in which the farm is located. In the event a farm property is located in two different zones/areas the farmer must choose which zone/area for which to apply. Application for more than the allowable number of permits during the initial application period will cause all applications by the individual to be void.

vi. All qualified applicants will receive notification by mail with instructions on when, how, and where to claim their farmer permits for prescribed season(s).

vii. Application for a farmer black bear permit shall not preclude a farmer from procuring a black bear permit as a holder of a valid hunting license in accordance with (f)1, 2, 3, and 4 above.

(g) Hunters successfully harvesting a black bear shall:

1. Immediately complete the “transportation tag” from their black bear hunting permit and attach it to the bear.

i. Information included on the black bear transportation tag shall include: the hunter’s name, address, and current firearm or archery license number; date and time of kill; BMZ, county, and municipality of kill; and the sex of the black bear.

2. The black bear must be taken to a designated check station by 9:00 P.M. on the day of the kill during Segment A or by 7:00 P.M. on the day of the kill during Segment B.

3. Hunters shall surrender the transportation tag and will be issued a legal possession tag.

4. Any legally killed black bear recovered too late to be brought to a designated black bear check station by 9:00 P.M. on the day of the kill during Segment A or by 7:00 P.M. on the date of the kill during Segment B must be reported immediately by telephone to the nearest regional

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Bureau of Law Enforcement office.

i. Hunters must provide their name, address, and a telephone number where they can be reached on the telephone message recording device if a representative is not available.

ii. The black bear must be brought to a designated black bear check station on the next weekday to be registered and to receive a legal possession tag.

(h) A Black Bear Management Zone Map is available from NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. Boundaries of the BMZs are as follows:

1. Zone 1: That portion of Warren and Sussex Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Portland Bridge and the Delaware River at Columbia; then northward along the east bank of the Delaware River to the New York State Line; then east along the New York State Line to Route 519; then south along Route 519 to its intersection with Route 627; then south along Route 627 to its intersection with Route 626; then south along Route 626 to its intersection with Route 521; then southwest along Route 521 to its intersection with Route 94 in Blairstown; then southwest along Route 94 to the Portland Bridge, the point of beginning in Columbia. The islands of Labar, Tocks, Poxono, Depew, Namanock, Minisink, and Mashipacong lying in the Delaware River are also included within this Hunting Area.

2. Zone 2: That portion of Sussex, Warren, and Morris Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at Portland Bridge in Columbia; then northward along Route 94 to its intersection with Route 521 in Blairstown; then north along Route 521 to its intersection with Route 626; then north along Route 626 to its intersection with Route 627; then north along Route 627 to its intersection with Route 519 in Branchville; then north along Route 519 to the New York State Line; then southeast along the New York State line to Route 517; then south along Route 517 to

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its intersection with Route 94; then south on Route 94 to its intersection with Route 23 in Hamburg Borough; then south along Route 23 to its intersection with Route 517 in Franklin; then south along Route 517 to its intersection with Route 15 in Sparta; then south along Route 15 to its intersection with Interstate 80 in Dover; then west along interstate 80 to its intersection with Route 94; then south along Route 94 to the intersection with the Portland Bridge and the Delaware River located in Columbia, the point of beginning.

3. Zone 3: That portion of Sussex, Passaic, Morris, and Bergen Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 80 and Route 15 in Dover; then north along Route 15 to its intersection with Route 517 in Sparta; then north along Route 517 to its intersection with Route 23 in Franklin; then north along Route 23 to its intersection with Route 94 in Hamburg Borough; then north along Route 94 to its intersection with Route 517; then north along Route 517 to the New York State Line; then east along the New York State Line to its intersection with Route 287; then south along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 80; then west along Route 80 to its intersection with Route 15, the point of beginning in Dover.

4. Zone 4: That portion of Sussex, Warren, Morris, Somerset, and Hunterdon Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 78 and the Delaware River; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to the Portland Bridge at Columbia; then northeast along Route 94 to its intersection with Route 80; then east along Route 80 to its intersection with Route 287; then southwest along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 78; then west along Route 78 to the Delaware River, the point of beginning.

5. Zone 5: That portion of Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, and Warren Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 78 and the Delaware

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River; then east along Route 78 to its intersection with Route 287; then northeast along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 202 in Oakland; then south along Route 202 to its intersection with Route 23; then south along Route 23 to its intersection with Route 80; then west along Route 80 to its intersection with the Passaic River; then west along the north bank of the Passaic River to its intersection with Route 80; then west on Route 80 to its intersection with Route 280; then south along Route 280 to its intersection with Route 632; then south along Route 632 to its intersection with Route 608; then south along Route 608 to its intersection with Route 124; then southeast along Route 124 to its intersection with Route 638; then south along Route 638 to its intersection with Route 531; then south along Route 531 to its intersection with Route 527; then south along Route 527 to its intersection with Route 533; then south along Route 533 to its intersection with Route 206; then south along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 518; then west along Route 518 to its intersection with Route 165; then west along Route 165 to its intersection with Route 179; then west along Route 179 to the Delaware River; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to its intersection with Route 78, the point of beginning.

6. Zone 6: That portion of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, and Union Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 287 and the New York state line; then southeast along the New York state line to the Hudson River; then south along the west shore of the Hudson River to Upper New York Bay; then south along the shore of Upper New York Bay to the Kill Van Kull; then west along the north shore of the Kill Van Kull to Newark Bay; then west across Newark Bay to its confluence with the Arthur Kill; then south along the west shore of the Arthur Kill to its intersection with Route 440; then west along Route 440 to its intersection with Route 287; then west along Route 287 to its intersection

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with Route 533; then north along Route 533 to its intersection with Route 527; then north along Route 527 to its intersection with Route 531; then north along Route 531 to its intersection with Route 638; then north along Route 638 to its intersection with Route 124; then northwest along Route 124 to its intersection with Route 608; then north along Route 608 to its intersection with Route 632; then north along Route 632 to its intersection with Route 280; then northwest along Route 280 to its intersection with Route 80; then east along Route 80 to its intersection with the Passaic River; then east along the north bank of the Passaic River to its intersection with Route 80; then east along Route 80 to its intersection with Route 23; then north along Route 23 to its intersection with Route 202; then north along Route 202 to its intersection with Route 287; then north along Route 287 to its intersection with the New York state line, the point of beginning.

7. Zone 7: That portion of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem, and Somerset Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 179 and the Delaware River; then east along Route 179 to its intersection with Route 165; then east along Route 165 to its intersection with Route 518; then east along Route 518 to its intersection with Route 206; then north along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 533; then north along Route 533 to its intersection with Route 287; then east along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 440; then east along Route 440 to its intersection with the Arthur Kill at Perth Amboy; then south along the west shore of the Arthur Kill to Raritan Bay; then south and east along the shore of Raritan Bay to Sandy Hook; then north along the east shore of Sandy Hook Bay to the tip of Sandy Hook; then south along the Atlantic Ocean to the Delaware Bay shore; then north and west along the shore of Delaware Bay to its intersection with the Delaware River; then north along the east bank of the

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Delaware River to its intersection with Route 179, the point of beginning.

(i) A total of 11,000 black bear permits, allocated by BMZ, will be available to properly licensed hunters. The black bear hunting season permit quotas are as set forth by zone as follows:

BLACK BEAR HUNTING SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

Bear Management Zone	Hunting Season Permit Quota	Portions of Counties Involved
1	2,000	Sussex, Warren
2	3,000	Sussex, Warren, Morris
3	3,000	Sussex, Passaic, Morris, Bergen
4	2,000	Warren, Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex
5	1,000	Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, and Warren
6	0	Somerset, Union, Middlesex, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic
7	0	Hunterdon, Mercer, Somerset, Ocean Middlesex, Monmouth, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Atlantic, Salem, Cumberland, Cape May

7:25-5.5 Coyote

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(a) A valid and proper firearm, bow and arrow, or all-around sportsman license is required to hunt coyotes (*Canis latrans*). Hunting with a rifle also requires a valid and proper rifle permit.

Apprentice licenses are not valid for the hunting or taking of coyotes.

(b) The hunting seasons for coyotes shall be as follows:

1. Daytime season:

i. Shall begin on August 1 (except in years when August 1 is a Sunday in which case the season shall begin on August 2) and conclude the following March 15, inclusive. Legal hunting hours shall be ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

2. Nighttime season:

i. Shall begin January 1 (except in years when January 1 is a Sunday, in which case the season will begin January 2) through March 15, inclusive. Legal hunting hours shall be ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise.

3. Notwithstanding (b)1 and 2 above, coyotes may be taken by properly licensed turkey hunters when encountered incidental to hunting for turkey in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.14. Turkey hunters may not have coyote calls or coyote decoys in their possession or take any action intended to attract coyotes for take.

4. Notwithstanding (b)1 and 2 above, coyotes may be taken by properly licensed deer hunters, during the six-day firearm, permit muzzleloader, and permit shotgun seasons, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15, 5.16, 5.18, 5.19, and 5.20, provided encountered before the season and daily limit of deer is reached. Harvest reporting requirements, in accordance with (g) below, still apply.

(c) Bag limit. There is no season or daily bag limit for coyotes.

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(d) Unless otherwise noted, the following regulations shall apply while hunting coyotes:

1. Daytime season requirements are as follows:

i. Hunter orange is required when hunting with a hunting firearm for coyotes. In addition, an orange hat with incidental ornamentation that does not reduce its visibility, is required as part of the 200 square inch hunter orange requirement when hunting on a State wildlife management area stocked with pheasant and quail;

ii. From August 1 to December 31, inclusive, there shall be no centerfire, rimfire, or muzzleloader rifle hunting for coyotes on State wildlife management areas, and State parks, forests, and recreation areas;

iii. The use of dogs for coyote hunting is allowed, subject to the following requirements:

(1) Dogs shall not be allowed for coyote hunting during the six-day firearm deer season set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b) or on the Wednesday of the permit shotgun deer season immediately following the six-day firearm deer season as set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.20(b); and

(2) Properly licensed persons may continue to hunt coyotes with dogs through the end of the daytime season as set forth at (b)1 above pursuant to regular season regulations, including the requirement to wear fluorescent hunter's orange;

iv. Properly licensed persons hunting deer during the fall bow, six-day firearm, permit muzzleloader, or permit shotgun seasons may take coyotes, if the coyote is encountered before said person has taken the season bag limit of deer. However, after the person has taken a daily bag limit of deer, he or she must cease hunting immediately;

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v. Baiting is permitted. Bait must be placed a minimum of 300 feet away when hunting in a tree stand or ground blind. Baiting is prohibited on national wildlife refuges;

vi. Artificial decoys are allowed; and

vii. The use of manual or electronic calling devices is allowed; and

2. Nighttime season requirements are as follows:

i. Hunter orange is not required on outer clothing for coyote hunting during the nighttime hunting season;

ii. While hunting during the nighttime season specified at (b)2 above, hunting methods shall be restricted to calling and stand hunting. No person shall stalk or attempt to approach a coyote for the purpose of taking or attempting to take the animal;

iii. A manual or electronic calling device must be in possession while hunting;

iv. The use of dogs is prohibited;

v. The use of bait is prohibited; and

vi. Portable lights are permitted.

(e) The following shall be used for hunting coyotes:

1. Daytime season only, as follows:

i. Bows, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:23-5.1(k), with all arrows, regardless of bow and arrow type, shall be fitted with an edged head of the following specifications:

(1) Minimum width shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch;

(2) Minimum length – none; and

(3) Cutting edges shall be of well-sharpened metal only;

ii. Shotgun, as follows:

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(1) Shotguns shall be no smaller than 20 gauge nor larger than 10 gauge;

and

(2) Shotgun shells loaded with shot sizes no larger than #3 Buckshot (.25 inches in diameter) and no smaller than #4 fine shot. Pellets must be lead or tungsten-nickel-iron hybrid pellets;

iii. Centerfire rifle, as follows:

(1) Centerfire rifles shall be a maximum of .25 caliber loaded with soft point or hollow point bullets with a maximum weight of 80 grains;

iv. Rimfire rifle, as follows:

(1) Rimfire rifles shall be a maximum of .22 caliber loaded with soft point or hollow point bullets with a maximum weight of 50 grains;

v. Single barrel muzzleloader rifle, as follows:

(1) Muzzleloader rifles shall be no less than .44 caliber or larger. Smoothbore muzzleloaders shall be single barreled; and

vi. Air gun, as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2(a)1:

(1) Air guns shall be .25 caliber only, loaded with wadcutter, domed or pointed, or hollow point pellets; spherical BBs are not permitted; and

2. Nighttime season only, as follows:

i. Shotgun, as follows:

(1) Shotguns shall be no smaller than 20 gauge nor larger than 10 gauge;

and

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(2) Shotgun shells loaded with shot sizes no larger than #3 Buckshot and no smaller than #4 fine shot. Pellets must be lead or tungsten-nickel-iron hybrid pellets.

(f) Except as noted for rifle permit requirements at (a) above, there are no additional permit requirements for hunting coyotes.

(g) Hunters successfully harvesting a coyote shall report the harvested coyote through the AHRS no later than 10:00 P.M. on the day of harvest. Should the hunter be unable to access the AHRS by the designated time, the hunter shall immediately report the harvested coyote by telephone to the nearest NJDEP Fish & Wildlife law enforcement regional office and register that harvest through the AHRS the next day.

(h) There are no management zones or delineated hunting areas associated with coyote hunting.

(i) There are no permit quotas for coyote hunting.

7:25-5.6 Crow

(a) A valid and proper firearm, bow and arrow, or all-around sportsman license is required to hunt crows (*Corvus* spp.).

(b) Except during the six-day firearm deer season, the season for hunting crows shall be Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from the second Monday in August through the third Saturday in March or as otherwise prescribed at 50 CFR Part 20. The season for hunting crows shall be closed during the six-day firearm deer season, defined at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19. Legal hunting hours shall be sunrise to a 1/2 hour after sunset.

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(c) Bag limit. There is no season or daily bag limit for crows. Hunting methods shall be in accordance with Federal regulations as adopted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

(d) Hunting weapons and missiles shall be in accordance with Federal regulations as adopted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, except as noted below:

1. Hunter orange is not required;
2. No person shall have in their possession any shell or cartridge with missiles of any kind larger than #4 fine shot while hunting crows;
3. No person shall use any shotgun capable of holding more than three shells at one time or that may be fired more than three times without reloading while hunting crows; and
4. Persons may only take or attempt to take flying crows with flu-flu type arrows.

(e) There are no additional permitting requirements for crow hunting.

(f) There are no tagging or harvest reporting requirements for crow hunting.

(g) There are no management zones or delineated hunting areas associated with crow hunting.

(h) There are no permit quotas for crow hunting.

7:25-5.7 Falconry

(a) This section governs the acquisition, possession, training, transfer, marking, and housing facilities of raptors, the classification of permittees, and the use of raptors for falconry, to collect, kill, or pursue wild birds or wild animals.

(b) Definitions: The following words and terms, when used in this section, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

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1. “Captive bred” means raptors hatched and raised in captivity by breeders with necessary Federal permits.

2. “Collect” means to trap or secure, or attempt to trap or secure, a raptor for the purpose of falconry.

3. “Endangered, threatened” is defined to include all raptors appearing on a U.S. Department of Interior or NJDEP Fish & Wildlife’s list of endangered, threatened, or rare species.

4. “Facilities” means equipment and shelters necessary to protect, house, and train raptors.

5. “Falconry” means the sport of hunting with trained raptors--including the training of raptors. The use of raptors to hunt, take, kill, or pursue to attempt to take wild game animals.

6. “Hacking-back” means return of a captive raptor to the wild through the gradual process, eliminating any dependency on man.

7. “Imping” means the replacement of broken or damaged wing or tail feathers by affixing previously molted feathers to the damaged feather.

8. “Nestlings” or “eyasses” means young raptors not yet capable of flight.

9. “Passage birds” means raptors in their first year of life.

10. “Permit year” means all permits expire on June 30 of the third calendar year after issue.

11. “Raptors” means live birds of the family *Accipitridae*, other than the American bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) or of the family *Falconidae* or the great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*) of the family *Strigidae*.

12. “Sponsor” means a holder of a general or master falconry permit who has accepted the responsibility for the conduct and training of an apprentice falconer.

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13. “Transfer” means to convey, carry, remove, or send from one person, place, or position to another.

(c) Classes of permits are as follows:

1. Apprentice: The permittee shall be at least 14 years of age.

i. A sponsor who is holder of a general or master falconry permit is required for all permittees in the apprentice class. Apprentice permittee must notify NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, in writing, 10 days after his or her sponsorship has been withdrawn for any reason.

ii. A permittee shall not possess more than one raptor and may not obtain more than one raptor for replacement during any 12-month period.

iii. A permittee may possess a red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*).

2. General: The permittee shall be at least 18 years of age.

i. A permittee shall have been licensed at least two years as an apprentice falconer and have had a raptor in possession for at least 12 months. A permittee shall have had two seasons of active field flying experience with a raptor. A sponsor for the apprentice must certify, in writing, that the apprentice is now qualified to become a general falconer.

ii. Except as provided below, a permittee may not have more than two raptors in possession and may not collect more than two raptors for replacement birds during any one permit year. A General Class falconer may apply for approval to possess a third raptor. A General Class falconer who wishes to possess three raptors shall first contact NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and demonstrate that the falconer has the time, equipment, and facilities to ensure all birds are properly housed, adequately exercised, and used for hunting.

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iii. A permittee may not collect, transport, or possess any golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) or any species listed as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Department of the Interior or NJDEP Fish & Wildlife provided, however, that captive bred birds, or a species legally acquired from the wild from states outside New Jersey where it is not classified as endangered or threatened, may be possessed. Eyass birds or nestlings of threatened or endangered raptors may not be collected within New Jersey. Passage peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) may be collected in compliance with the Code (N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7) and Federal regulations.

iv. A permittee who refused sponsorships of any apprentice applicant for any reason shall report his or her reasons for this refusal to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, in writing, within 10 days upon written request.

3. Master: A permittee shall have at least five years of falconry experience in the practice of falconry at the General Class. A raptor shall have been in possession for no less than 36 months during this time.

i. Except as provided below, a permittee may not possess more than three raptors and may not collect more than two raptors for replacements during any permit year. A Master Class falconer may apply for approval to possess up to an additional two raptors. A Master Class falconer who wishes to possess more than three and up to five raptors shall first contact NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and demonstrate that the falconer has the time, equipment, and facilities to ensure all birds are properly housed, adequately exercised, and used for hunting.

ii. A permittee may not collect, transport, or possess any species listed as endangered on the U.S. Department of Interior or NJDEP Fish & Wildlife list; provided, however, that captive bred birds, or a species legally acquired from the wild from outside New Jersey where

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it is not classified as endangered or threatened may be possessed. Eyass birds or nestlings of threatened or endangered species may not be collected within New Jersey. Passage peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) may be collected in compliance with the Code (N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7) and Federal regulations.

iii. A permittee may not collect, transport, or possess any golden eagle for falconry purposes, unless authorized, in writing, by the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

iv. A permittee may not collect, transport, or possess as part of his or her three-bird limitation, more than one raptor listed as threatened on the U.S. Department of the Interior or NJDEP Fish & Wildlife list and then only in compliance with all Federal requirements and written permission from the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

v. A permittee who refuses sponsorship of an applicant for any reason shall report his or her reasons for this refusal to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, in writing, within 10 days upon written request of the agency.

vi. A Federal permit is required for master falconers engaged in raptor propagation, sale, purchase, or barter.

(c) The examination and assignment of class of falconry permit holders are as follows:

1. All persons desiring a falconry permit will be required to answer correctly at least 80 percent of the questions on a supervised examination. All falconry examinations will be provided or approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The examinations may relate to basic biology, care and handling of raptors, literature, regulations, and other appropriate subject matter.

(d) Facilities and equipment: Falconry equipment shall be inspected and certified by a representative of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife as meeting the following standards:

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1. Facilities: The primary consideration for raptor housing facilities, either indoors (mews) or outdoors (weathering area), is protection from the environment, predators, or undue disturbance.

The applicant shall have the following facilities:

i. Indoor facilities (mews) shall be large enough to allow easy access for caring for the raptors housed in the facility. If more than one raptor is to be kept in the mews, the raptors shall be separated by partitions and the area for each bird shall be large enough to allow the bird to fully extend its wings. There shall be at least one window, protected on the inside by vertical bars, spaced narrower than the width of the bird's body, and a secure door that can be easily closed. The floor of the mews shall permit easy cleaning and shall be well drained. Adequate perches shall be provided.

ii. Outdoor facilities (weathering area) shall be fenced and covered with netting or wire or roofed to protect the birds from disturbance and attack by predators. The enclosed area shall be large enough to ensure the birds cannot strike the fence when flying from the perch. Protection from excessive sun, wind, and inclement weather shall be provided for each bird. Adequate perches shall be provided.

2. Equipment: The following items shall be in the possession of the applicant before he or she can obtain a permit or license:

i. Jesses--At least one pair of Aylmeri jesses or similar type constructed of pliable, high-quality leather, or suitable synthetic material shall be used when any raptor is flown free. This flying jess should have no slits, only one hole no longer than 0.1 inch in diameter. Traditional one-piece jesses may be used on raptors when not being flown.

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ii. Leashes and swivels--At least one flexible weather-resistant leash and one strong swivel of acceptable falconry design.

iii. Proper glove with a snap and falconer's bag with food storage area.

iv. Bath container--At least one suitable container, two to six inches deep and wider than the length of the raptor, for drinking and bathing for each raptor.

v. Outdoor perches--At least one weathering area perch of an acceptable design shall be provided for each raptor.

vi. Weighing device--A reliable scale or balance suitable for weighing the raptor(s) held shall be provided.

vii. Hoods--A well fitted hood should be available for use with each bird during transport. (Birds need not necessarily be hooded for transport.)

viii. Maintenance: All facilities and equipment shall be kept at or above the preceding standards at all times.

ix. Transportation: temporary holding--A raptor may be transported or held in temporary facilities which shall be provided with an adequate perch and protected from extreme temperatures and excessive disturbances, for a period not to exceed 30 days.

x. Veterinary care: The falconer shall prove to the satisfaction of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife that he or she has on call consultation for medical care of the raptor. (Name and telephone number of veterinarian shall be supplied on application.)

(e) Restrictions on collecting and breeding raptors are as follows:

1. No person shall collect, possess, transport, or obtain a raptor unless they are in possession of a current falconry permit, nongame permit as described at N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.2(a), or endangered

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species permit as described at N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.10(b). Apprentice falconers shall collect or attempt to collect their first raptor while accompanied by a general or master falconer.

2. Young birds not yet capable of flight (eyasses) may only be collected by a general or master falconer and only during the period April 1 to July 15, inclusive. No more than two eyasses may be collected by the same permittee during the specified period. No more than one eyass per nest may be collected, leaving at least one eyass in the nest. A three-foot metal flashing painted a dark color must be fastened completely around the nest tree at least four feet from the base of the tree. The flashing shall be removed after the nestlings have fledged.

3. First year (passage) birds may only be collected during the period of September 1 to December 31, inclusive.

4. Captive bred raptors may be used for falconry, in accordance with Federal regulations. Captive bred raptors in possession of a permittee shall be counted as part of the possession limit of said permittee.

5. Raptor propagation and activities associated with the captive breeding of raptors for falconry purposes are permitted by master falconers with Federal captive breeding permits only, in accordance with 50 CFR Parts 21 and 30. No additional State permit is required for captive propagation of raptors of captive bred origin.

6. Adult American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) and great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*) may only be collected during the period of September 1 to December 31, inclusive. No other adult raptors may be collected except those raptors, other than endangered or threatened species, that are acquired under a depredation (or special purpose) permit, which may be used for falconry by General and Master falconers.

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7. A master or general permittee may trade or transfer a raptor to another master or general permittee if the transaction occurs entirely within the State and no money or other consideration is involved. A master or general permittee may transfer a raptor to another master or general permittee in an interstate transaction if the prior written approval of the state agency that issued the permit is obtained and no money or other consideration is involved in the transaction.

8. Bal-Chattri type live traps, other live traps, and nets may be used for taking raptors; provided that they are used in such a manner that would minimize any danger of injuring the raptor. All traps or nets used must have attached thereto a tag or label clearly showing the name and address, permit number, and class of the permittee.

9. Owners of escaped raptors marked in accordance with this section may recapture these marked raptors at any time. However, all other banded raptors trapped while attempting to capture a raptor for falconry shall immediately be released unharmed and a report containing the date, time, band number, location, and species shall be submitted to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife within 10 days of capture.

10. Restrictions on collecting passage peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) are as follows:

i. Passage peregrine falcons may only be collected by General or Master Class falconers who possess a valid special peregrine falcon permit issued by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

ii. Notwithstanding (e)3 above, passage peregrine falcons may only be collected during the period September 20 through October 20, inclusive.

iii. One passage peregrine falcon of either sex may be collected.

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iv. Banded peregrine falcons may not be collected. Banded peregrine falcons must be released immediately upon capture. Band numbers must be reported to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife within 48 hours of capture.

v. All special peregrine falcon permit conditions shall be complied with.

vi. Resident and non-resident falconers who wish to obtain a special peregrine falcon permit should apply to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for the permit between January 1 and July 31. The New Jersey passage peregrine falcon permit quota will be established on a yearly basis by the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The initial selection of permits will be conducted by random drawing from the pool of resident applicants. In the event the permit quota is not filled during the initial drawing, a second selection of permits will be conducted by random drawing from the pool of non-resident applicants. Successful applicants will be notified by September 1. After September 1, any remaining permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

(f) Marking of raptors shall be as follows:

1. Wild-caught birds must be tagged with the falconer's name and phone number on the jesses or bells. Captive bred birds must have a seamless Federal marker affixed to one leg.

2. Any marker mutilated or lost shall be reported, in writing, within 72 hours to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, Trenton. Markers no longer legible shall be reported in the same manner. Markers causing leg damage must be removed and reported.

3. It shall be unlawful for any person to alter or deface a marker. However, the falconer may smooth any imperfect surface, provided the integrity of the marker and numbering is not affected. It shall be unlawful to use or possess a counterfeit marker.

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4. Markers shall be removed from birds that die or are intentionally released into the wild and forwarded to the Trenton office within 10 days along with a report of the probable cause of death or the area of the release. When possible, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service numbered band should be put on the raptor before release. Raptors of a species not indigenous to New Jersey shall not be released intentionally without written authorization of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

(g) Hunting with raptors shall be as follows:

1. A valid firearm hunting license and valid falconry permit is required. The hunting of partridge, pheasant, quail, or turkey on any State wildlife management area or Federal property stocked by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife requires an additional valid pheasant and quail stamp or turkey permit.

2. Except for the six-day firearm deer season and the Wednesday immediately following, the season for jackrabbits, hares, partridge, pheasants, quail, rabbits, and squirrels shall be from September 1 to March 31, inclusive. Hunting on Sundays for these species with raptors is permitted. The season is closed during the six-day firearm season, specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b), and the Wednesday immediately following.

3. The season for woodchuck shall be from March 1 to the Wednesday prior to the opening day of the Fall Bow deer season specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(b). Hunting on Sundays for woodchuck with raptors is permitted.

4. The seasons for migratory birds are in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(b) and identified Federal regulations. Hunting for waterfowl on Sundays with raptors is prohibited.

5. Bag limits shall be those prescribed in the individual species sections of the Game Code.

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6. Raptors may be used to take game birds on a licensed semi-wild or commercial game preserve by holders of valid falconry permits.

7. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-2.19, there is no hunting within Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area from September 1 to the first Monday after the six-day firearm deer season ends as enumerated at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b).

(h) Rules for non-resident falconers are as follows:

1. Non-residents of New Jersey who possess a valid falconry permit from another state may bring any raptor legally possessed by them pursuant to the authority of their falconry permit into New Jersey to attend falconry meets or to hunt; provided:

i. No laws or regulations of other states are violated;

ii. No Federal laws are violated; and

iii. Non-resident New Jersey hunting license is obtained, and all hunting regulations are observed.

2. Non-residents of New Jersey who possess a valid falconry permit from another state, and who move to New Jersey for the purpose of becoming a resident may bring any raptors with them that they legally possess; provided that they construct the required facilities within 30 days and apply for New Jersey falconry permit no later than 60 days after moving to New Jersey. A permit in the same classification as the one they held in their previous state of residence may be issued without a written examination.

3. Non-residents of New Jersey who possess a valid falconry permit from another state may request permission to collect, or attempt to collect, a raptor for falconry purposes by writing to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. Non-resident falconers attempting to collect raptors in New Jersey for

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falconry purposes must possess written authorization from NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and possess a valid non-resident firearm hunting license.

4. The falconry permit issued by the former state of residence will be authority to possess and exercise raptors until a New Jersey permit is obtained; provided no raptors are collected from the wild and raptors are not used to take any prey without a valid New Jersey hunting license.

(i) Additional requirements are as follows:

1. A valid and proper firearm hunting license must be displayed while hunting with or attempting to collect raptors. The falconry permit, or a photocopy thereof, must be carried by the permittee when engaged in the sport of falconry.

2. The flying and training of raptors by holders of valid falconry permits may be conducted year-round.

3. Persons having and holding raptors pursuant to the authority of a falconry permit whose facilities do not meet the established standards shall take immediate action to have the facilities comply within 30 days. No permit will be renewed at any time if the facilities do not meet the required standards.

4. Persons having raptors in their possession whose falconry permits are not renewed or are revoked with cause shall have 30 days to return their birds to the wild by "hacking back," transfer to a licensed general or master falconer, or shall forfeit the raptors to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

5. Whoever, while engaged in the sport of falconry, should unintentionally kill any wildlife for which there is no open season shall leave the killed specimen at the site and notify a Regional

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Law Enforcement Office or the Trenton Office of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, within 12 hours of such killing.

6. Another person may care for the raptors of a permittee if written authorization, showing period covered, from the permittee accompanies the raptors when transferred, provided that if the period of care will exceed 30 days, written permission shall be obtained from NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

7. Feathers that are molted or feathers from birds held in captivity that die may be retained by the permittee for imping purposes only. Carcasses of birds that die in captivity must be turned over to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for disposal.

8. A sponsor may have more than three apprentices at any one time.

9. A person who lawfully possesses raptors before (the effective date of this rulemaking), in excess of the number allowed within his or her class permit, shall be allowed to retain the extra raptors provided facility requirements are met and the birds are included on the falconry permit. All such birds shall be identified with markers supplied by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and no replacement can occur, nor may an additional raptor be obtained, until the number in possession is at least one less than the total number authorized by the class of permit held by the permittee.

10. Species of raptors not native to the State of New Jersey or otherwise covered by the Code shall be allowed for the purpose of falconry; provided they are legally acquired and are in compliance with all applicable Federal and State rules and regulations. A falconer may not possess more than six species of raptors not native to the North American continent during any one year.

11. The possession of hunting firearms while engaged in falconry is illegal.

(j) Reporting shall be as follows:

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1. Whenever a raptor is acquired, transferred, released, or lost due to escape or death, a copy of Federal Form 3-186A must be submitted to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife within 10 days of the transaction or occurrence.

2. A report is also required upon termination of the permit for any reason.

3. This report must be an accurate account of all activities carried out pursuant to the authority of the permit.

(k) Penal provisions. It shall be unlawful to hunt for, collect, possess, or transfer any raptor or practice falconry contrary to the rules and regulations adopted by the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife or to make a false statement on any required report or document. Any person who violates any provision at N.J.S.A. 23:1-1 et seq., or this subchapter, is subject to the revocation of any permits issued pursuant to this section and any other penalties prescribed by law.

7:25-5.8 Fox

(a) A valid and proper firearm, bow and arrow, or all-around sportsman license is required to hunt red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*). Hunting with a rifle also requires a valid and proper rifle permit. Apprentice licenses are not valid for the hunting or taking of red fox and gray fox.

(b) The hunting seasons for fox shall be as follows:

1. Daytime season requirements are as follows:

i. Shall begin on August 1 (except in years when August 1 is a Sunday in which case the season shall begin on August 2) and conclude the following March 15, inclusive. Legal hunting hours shall be ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

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2. Nighttime season requirements are as follows:

i. Shall begin January 1 (except in years when January 1 is a Sunday in which case the season will begin January 2) through March 15, inclusive. Legal hunting hours shall be ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise.

3. Notwithstanding (b)1 and 2 above, foxes may be taken by properly licensed deer hunters, during the fall bow, six-day firearm, permit muzzleloader, and permit shotgun seasons, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.18, 5.19, and 5.20; provided encountered before the season and daily limit of deer is reached. Harvest reporting requirements for gray fox, in accordance with (g) below, apply.

(c) There is no season or daily bag limit for fox.

(d) Unless otherwise noted, the following shall apply while hunting fox:

1. Daytime season requirements are as follows:

i. Hunter orange is required when hunting with a hunting firearm for fox. In addition, an orange hat with incidental ornamentation that does not reduce its visibility, is required as part of the 200 square inch hunter orange requirement when hunting on a State wildlife management area stocked with pheasant and quail;

ii. From August 1 to December 31, inclusive, there shall be no centerfire, rimfire, or muzzleloader rifle hunting for fox on State wildlife management areas, State parks, forests, and recreation areas;

iii. The use of dogs for fox hunting is permitted, with the following requirements:

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(1) Dogs shall not be allowed for fox hunting during the six-day firearm deer season set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b), or on the Wednesday of the permit shotgun deer season immediately following the six-day firearm deer season set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.20; and

(2) Properly licensed persons may continue to hunt fox with dogs through the end of the daytime season as set forth at (b)1 above pursuant to regular season regulations, including the requirement to wear fluorescent hunter's orange;

iv. Properly licensed persons hunting deer during the fall bow, six-day firearm, permit muzzleloader, or permit shotgun seasons may harvest a fox, if the fox is encountered before said person has taken the season bag limit of deer. However, after the person has taken a daily bag limit of deer, he or she must cease hunting immediately;

v. Baiting is permitted. Bait must be placed a minimum of 300 feet away when hunting in a tree stand or ground blind. Baiting is prohibited on national wildlife refuges;

vi. Artificial decoys are allowed; and

vii. The use of manual or electronic calling devices is allowed; and

2. Nighttime season requirements are as follows:

i. Hunter orange is not required for fox hunting with a hunting firearm during the nighttime season;

ii. While hunting during the nighttime season listed at (b)2 above, hunting methods shall be restricted to calling and stand hunting. No person shall stalk or attempt to approach a red fox or gray fox for the purpose of taking or attempting to take the animal;

iii. A manual or electronic calling device must be in possession while hunting;

iv. The use of dogs is prohibited;

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v. The use of bait is prohibited; and

vi. Portable lights are allowed.

(e) The following shall be used to hunt fox:

1. Daytime season only:

i. Bows, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k), with all arrows, regardless of bow and arrow type, shall be fitted with an edged head of the following specifications:

(1) Minimum width shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

(2) Minimum length - none.

(3) Cutting edges shall be of well-sharpened metal only.

ii. Shotgun:

(1) Shotguns shall be no smaller than 20 gauge nor larger than 10 gauge.

(2) Shotgun shells shall be loaded with shot sizes no larger than #3 buckshot (.25 inches in diameter) and no smaller than #4 fine shot. Pellets must be lead or tungsten-nickel-iron hybrid pellets.

iii. Centerfire rifle:

(1) Centerfire rifles shall be a maximum of .25 caliber loaded with soft point or hollow point bullets with a maximum weight of 80 grains.

iv. Rimfire rifle:

(1) Rimfire rifles shall be a maximum of .22 caliber loaded with soft point or hollow point bullets with a maximum weight of 50 grains.

v. Single barrel muzzleloader rifle:

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(1) Muzzleloader rifles shall be no less than .44 caliber. Smoothbore muzzleloaders shall be single barreled.

vi. Air gun:

(1) Air guns shall be .25 caliber only, loaded with wadcutter, domed or pointed, or hollow point pellets; spherical BBs are not permitted.

2. Nighttime season only:

i. Shotgun:

(1) Shotguns shall be no smaller than 20 gauge nor larger than 10 gauge.

(2) Shotgun shells must be loaded with shot sizes no larger than #3 buckshot and no smaller than #4 fine shot. Pellets must be lead or tungsten-nickel-iron hybrid pellets.

(f) Except as noted for rifle permit requirements at (a) above, there are no additional permitting requirements for hunting fox.

(g) The following harvest reporting requirements shall apply to gray fox only:

1. Any gray fox harvested during any legal hunting season, including gray fox harvested incidental to deer hunting, shall be reported through the AHRS no later than 10:00 P.M. of the day of harvest. Should the hunter be unable to access the AHRS by the designated time, the hunter shall immediately report the harvested gray fox by telephone to the nearest NJDEP Fish & Wildlife law enforcement regional office and register that harvest through the AHRS the next day.

(h) There are no management zones or delineated hunting areas associated with fox hunting.

(i) There are no permit quotas for fox hunting.

7:25-5.9 Migratory game birds

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(a) A valid and proper firearm, bow and arrow, or all-around sportsman license and a Federally mandated Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification is required to hunt migratory game birds. Hunters 16 years and over hunting ducks and geese are also required to have both a State and a Federal Waterfowl Stamp.

1. License, HIP, and State and Federal Waterfowl Stamp requirements apply during all seasons, including when a Conservation Order or Managed Take Option, as prescribed by Federal Regulations, is in effect.

2. Hunters are required to have evidence of participation in the HIP on their person while hunting migratory game birds. Evidence of participation shall include a HIP certification on a proper and valid hunting license. HIP certification shall be obtained through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's ELS.

3. Evidence of procurement of both State and Federal Waterfowl Stamps can be met through either a document obtained through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's ELS or a certification on a mobile device.

4. Crows are not a migratory game bird and are not subject to HIP, and State and Federal waterfowl stamp requirements, nor migratory game bird provisions within this subsection. Requirements for hunting crows are found at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6.

(b) Seasons for migratory game birds shall be as follows:

1. A person shall not take, attempt to take, hunt for, or have in possession, any migratory game birds except on the dates prescribed at 50 CFR Part 20, or annual general decision Federal framework limits policy document, or during the period that a U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Order, or Managed Take Option is in effect.

i. Light Goose Conservation Order dates are February 16, or February 17 if February 16 is a Sunday, through the first Saturday in April annually. The Conservation Order is closed on all Sundays during that period. The Light Goose Conservation Order is authorized pursuant to 50 CFR 21.180 and 50 CFR Parts 20 and 21 [FWS-R9-MB-2008-0113; 91200-1231-

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9BPP-L2]; RIN 1018-AI07; Migratory Bird Hunting and Permits; and Regulations for Managing Harvest of Light Goose Populations.

ii. During the period that any Federal Conservation Order or Managed Take Option for Canada geese is in effect, the take of Canada geese will be limited to private, agricultural lands during August 1 through 31.

(1) For the purposes of this section, agricultural lands mean an area of five acres or more, producing a gross income in excess of \$500.00 and tax assessed as farmland. Any Federal Conservation Order or Managed Take Option for Canada geese would be implemented only after NJDEP Fish & Wildlife requests, and is granted authority from, the U.S. Department of the Interior.

(2) Farmers or other individuals participating in any Federal Conservation Order or Managed Take Option for Canada geese shall obtain a permit from NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

2. Special youth or other special privileged waterfowl hunting days will be held on the dates and in the manner prescribed at 50 CFR Part 20, or annual general decision Federal framework limits policy document.

i. Youth hunters must possess a valid youth firearms license or be less than 16 years of age on the season date and qualified to hunt without a license pursuant to the farmer license exemption.

ii. All youth hunters must be under the direct supervision, of a properly licensed, non-hunting adult 21 years of age or older.

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3. Except for snow geese, which shall end at sunset from October 1 until the closing of the special winter Canada goose season, the hunting hours for migratory game birds shall be those hours that are prescribed at 50 CFR Part 20 for the current hunting season or during the period that a Conservation Order or Managed Take Option is in effect.

4. Legal hunting hours for woodcock shall be from sunrise to sunset during the season prescribed at 50 CFR Part 20.

(c) Except for gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*), which has a daily bag limit of one bird, the daily bag limits for migratory game bird species shall be as prescribed at 50 CFR Part 20, or annual general decision Federal framework limits policy document for the current hunting season or during the period that a Conservation Order or Managed Take Option is in effect.

(d) Unless noted otherwise, the following shall apply while hunting migratory game birds:

1. Hunter orange is not required;

2. Unless otherwise provided, methods for taking migratory game birds shall be in accordance with 50 CFR Part 20. State laws and regulations can be more stringent, but not more lenient than the time and manner prescribed by the Code of Federal Regulations;

3. The following are prohibited when hunting for migratory game birds:

i. A trap, net, cable restraint, rifle, pistol, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, fishhook, poison, drug, or explosive;

ii. A sinkbox (a low floating device affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water);

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iii. Hunting from any motorboat or sailboat, unless the motor has been shut off and/or the sail furled, and the boat has stopped. However, crippled birds may be shot from craft under power in the sea duck area;

iv. Hunting from a car or other motor-driven conveyance, or any aircraft;

v. Using live birds as decoys, or by the use or aid of livestock as a blind or means of concealment;

vi. Using recordings or tapes of migratory game birdcalls, or electrically amplified imitations of birdcalls, except for snow geese and/or Canada geese as provided for by Federal regulations;

vii. Driving or chasing birds with any sailboat to put them in range of hunters; and

viii. By the aid of baiting (placing feed seeds such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement) in or over any baited area. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait; and

4. The following are required when hunting for migratory game birds:

i. Hunters must make every reasonable effort to retrieve dead or crippled birds and include them in the daily limit; crippled birds must be immediately killed.

ii. Hunters must completely field dress birds prior to transporting from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a commercial preservation facility.

iii. Carcasses shall not be left at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

(1) The hunter's signature and address;

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(2) The total number and species of birds involved; and

(3) The date such birds were killed.

iv. When shipping carcasses, the outside of the package must be marked with the following:

(1) The name and address of the person sending the birds;

(2) The name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent;

and

(3) The number of each species contained in the package.

(e) The following shall be used to hunt migratory game birds:

1. Unless otherwise provided, methods for taking migratory game birds shall be in accordance with 50 CFR Part 20.

2. While hunting for migratory game birds, a shotgun, 10 gauge or smaller, not capable of holding more than three shells at one time or that may be fired more than three times without reloading, except as may be provided for by Federal regulations.

3. While hunting woodcock, a shotgun, 10 gauge or smaller, with missiles of any kind, none larger than No. 4 fine shot.

4. While hunting waterfowl, coot, snipe, rail, or gallinule, only shotgun shells containing steel or bismuth pellets, or other non-toxic shot, none larger than T (.20 inch) authorized by Federal regulations. No person shall have in possession any shotgun or shotgun shell containing lead, lead pellets, or shot.

5. A person found in possession of any of the following items below, while hunting for, pursuing, taking, or attempting to take waterfowl, coot, snipe, rail, or gallinule is in violation of

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this section. Each shell represents a distinct violation and shall constitute an additional, separate, and distinct offense subjecting the person to a penalty of \$20.00 for each offense.

6. Bows, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k), are regulated as follows:

i. Persons shall only take or attempt to take flying migratory game birds with flu-flu type arrows. No person shall take or attempt to take flying migratory game birds with arrows equipped with heads as described at (e)6ii(1), (2), and (3) below.

ii. Canada geese which are not in flight may be taken using arrows with standard fletching and edged heads meeting the description below:

(1) Minimum width shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch;

(2) Minimum length—none; and

(3) Cutting edges shall be of well-sharpened metal only.

(f) All participants hunting pursuant to the Light Goose Conservation Order, authorized at 50 CFR Part 20, must obtain a permit.

(g) There are no tagging or harvest reporting requirements associated with the harvest of migratory game birds. Hunters are required to participate in the Federal Harvest Information Program as specified at (a) above.

(h) Hunting areas for migratory game birds shall be as follows:

1. Unless otherwise provided, hunting zones or areas for migratory game birds will be as prescribed at 50 CFR Part 20 for the current hunting season, or annual general decision Federal

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framework limits policy document, or during the period that a Conservation Order or Managed Take Option is in effect.

2. The September Canada goose hunting area shall be that portion of the State designated by Federal regulations. The late season Canada goose hunting areas shall be that portion of the State established by Federal regulations. Hunting areas for any other migratory game bird special season shall be that portion of the State designated by Federal regulations.

3. Waterfowl hunting on Delaware River is governed by State boundaries and restricted to respective State seasons.

4. The special sea duck hunting area for New Jersey is defined as all coastal waters seaward from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) Demarcation Lines shown on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Nautical Charts and further as designated at 33 CFR 80.165, 80.501, 80.502, and 80.503.

5. The prohibition against shooting waterfowl or placing a boat or other structure at a greater distance than 100 feet from shore, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 23:4-19, shall not apply in all the waters of the State and Atlantic Ocean.

6. A special swan permit shall be required to hunt swans, if the appropriate, prescribed special season is established by Federal regulations. If a special season for swan is established by Federal regulations, the special swan hunting area shall be that portion of the State designated by Federal regulations.

7. See the list of areas closed to hunting at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(dd).

(i) There are no permit quotas for migratory game bird hunting.

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7:25-5.10 Partridge, pheasant, and quail

(a) A valid and proper firearm, bow and arrow, or all-around sportsman license is required to hunt Partridge (*Alectoris graeca* and *Perdix perdix*), Pheasant (*Phasianus spp.*), and Quail (*Colinus spp.*). A “pheasant and quail” stamp is also required to hunt pheasant or quail on any State wildlife management area or Federal property stocked by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

(b) The hunting seasons for partridge, pheasant, and quail shall be as follows:

1. Begin the Saturday following the first Monday in November and conclude the third Monday of the following February, inclusive; except the season shall be closed during the six-day firearm deer season and on the Wednesday immediately following the six-day firearm season. Legal hunting hours shall be sunrise until ½ hour after sunset.

2. Youth hunters may hunt the Saturday before the opening of the pheasant season to the Friday before the opening of the pheasant season on select State wildlife management areas, or portions thereof, if such activity is authorized by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

3. Hunting on properly licensed semi-wild shooting preserves begins on the Saturday following the first Monday in November and concludes the following March 31, inclusive; except that nothing in this section shall preclude properly licensed and permitted youth hunters from hunting partridge, pheasant, and quail on the Saturday before the regular opening of the pheasant season on semi-wild shooting preserves licensed for partridge, pheasant, and quail.

4. Partridge, pheasant, and quail shall not be hunted for or taken on Sunday, except on semi-wild and commercial shooting preserve lands that are properly licensed for the taking thereof.

5. The Director, with the approval of the Council, may designate experimental pheasant management zones for research purposes.

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(c) Bag Limit: Except as provided for at (c)1 and 2 below, the daily bag limit is two pheasants of either sex, seven partridge, and four quail.

1. There is no daily bag limit or sex restrictions for partridge, pheasant, or quail on properly licensed semi-wild shooting preserve.

2. The Director, with the approval of the Council, may establish bag limits for experimental pheasant management zones for research purposes.

(d) Unless noted otherwise, the following shall apply while hunting partridge, pheasant, and quail:

1. Hunter orange is required when hunting with a hunting firearm for partridge, pheasant, and quail. In addition, an orange hat with incidental ornamentation that does not reduce its visibility, is required as part of the 200 square inch hunter orange requirement when hunting on a State wildlife management area stocked with pheasant and quail.

(e) The following shall be used to hunt partridge, pheasant, and quail:

1. Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than .410 gauge capable of holding no more than three shells at one time or that may be fired more than three times without reloading using shot no larger than No. 4 fine shot and no smaller than No. 10 fine shot.

2. Bows, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k), are required are as follows:

i. All arrows used for partridge, pheasant, and quail not in flight, must be fitted with an edged head with standard fletching of the following specifications:

(1) The minimum width shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch;

(2) Minimum length - none; and

(3) Cutting edges shall be of well-sharpened metal only.

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ii. Flu-flu type arrows must be used to take or attempt to take partridge, pheasant, and quail in flight.

(f) Pheasant and quail stamps are available through the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife ELS for holders of proper and valid firearm, bow and arrow, or all-around sportsman licenses.

(g) There are no tagging or harvest reporting requirements associated with the harvest of partridge, pheasant, and quail.

(h) State wildlife management areas and Federal properties stocked with pheasants and quail are identified on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com. The hunting of quail is restricted to properly licensed semi-wild and commercial preserves and Greenwood Forest Wildlife Management Area and Peaslee Wildlife Management Areas.

(i) There are no permit quotas for partridge, pheasant, and quail hunting.

7:25-5.11 Rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares

(a) A valid and proper firearm or bow and arrow license is required to hunt cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), white-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus townsendii*), and European hare (*Lepus europaeus*).

(b) The hunting season for rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares shall be as follows:

1. Begin on the last Saturday in September and conclude the Saturday after the third Monday of the following February, inclusive; except the season shall be closed during the six-day firearm deer season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b) and on the Wednesday immediately following the six-day firearm deer season. Legal hunting hours shall be sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

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2. Except as provided for falconry at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7, rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares shall not be hunted for or taken on Sunday.

(c) Bag limit. The daily bag limit is one jackrabbit or hare and four cottontail rabbits. There is no season limit.

(d) Unless noted otherwise, the following shall apply while hunting rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares:

1. Hunter orange is required when hunting with a hunting firearm for rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares. In addition, an orange hat with incidental ornamentation that does not reduce its visibility, is required as part of the 200 square inch hunter orange requirement when hunting on a State wildlife management area stocked with pheasant or quail.

2. A person hunting rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares shall not have in possession or control, a hunting firearm, while elevated in a standing tree or in a structure of any kind, within 300 feet of a baited area.

(e) The following shall be used for hunting rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares:

1. Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than .410 gauge capable of holding no more than three shells at one time or that may be fired more than three times without reloading using shot no larger than No. 4 fine shot and no smaller than No. 10.

2. Air guns no smaller than .177 caliber and no larger than .25 caliber provided:

- i. Wadcutter, domed or pointed, or hollow point bullets are used; and
- ii. Spherical BBs are not permitted.

3. Bows, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k).

(f) There are no additional permit requirements for hunting rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares.

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(g) There are no tagging or harvest reporting requirements for the harvest of rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares.

(h) There are no management zones or delineated hunting areas associated with the hunting of rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares.

(i) There are no established quotas for rabbits, jackrabbits, and hares.

7:25-5.12 Raccoon and Virginia opossum hunting

(a) A valid and proper firearm, bow and arrow, or all-around sportsman license is required to hunt raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*). Hunting with a rifle also requires a valid and proper rifle permit.

(b) The hunting seasons for raccoon and Virginia opossum shall begin on October 1 (except in years when October 1 is a Sunday in which case the season shall begin on October 2) and conclude on the following March 1, inclusive; except the season shall be closed during the six-day firearm deer season and on the Wednesday immediately following the six-day firearm deer season. Legal hunting hours shall be one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

(c) Bag limit. There is no season or daily bag limit for hunting raccoon or Virginia opossum.

(d) Unless noted otherwise, the following regulations shall apply while hunting raccoon and Virginia opossum:

1. Hunter orange is not required when hunting with a hunting firearm for raccoon or Virginia opossum.

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2. Raccoon and Virginia opossum shall not be hunted for or taken on Sunday, except that this section shall not apply to any person hunting raccoon and Virginia opossum between midnight on Saturday and sunrise on Sunday during the season prescribed at (b) above.

3. Portable and hand-held lights are permitted for raccoon and Virginia opossum hunting.

4. A person shall not train a raccoon or opossum dog other than during the period from September 1 through 30, inclusive, and from March 2 through May 1, inclusive. Legal training hours are one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

5. It shall be legal to use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 caliber short cartridge for hunting raccoon and Virginia opossum on State wildlife management areas.

6. The dead body or any part or product thereof of raccoon and Virginia opossum may be sold or purchased, provided that the raccoon and Virginia opossum was taken and possessed in a lawful manner.

(e) The following shall be used to hunt raccoon and Virginia opossum:

1. Bows, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k), with arrows fitted with an edged head of the following specifications:

- i. Minimum width shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch;
- ii. Minimum length - none; and
- iii. Cutting edges shall be of well-sharpened metal only;

2. Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than .410 gauge with shot no larger than No. 4 fine shot and no smaller than No. 10;

3. Smoothbore muzzleloaders no larger than 10 gauge with shot no larger than No. 4 fine shot and no smaller than No. 10;

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4. Rimfire rifles .22 caliber using .22 caliber short ammunition; and

5. Air guns no larger than .25 caliber and no smaller than .177 caliber with wadcutter, domed or pointed, or hollow point pellets; spherical BBs are not permitted.

(f) There are no additional permit requirements for hunting raccoon and Virginia opossum.

(g) There are no tagging or harvest reporting requirements for the harvest of raccoon and Virginia opossum.

(h) There are no management zones or delineated hunting areas associated with hunting raccoon and Virginia opossum.

(i) There are no permit quotas for raccoon and Virginia opossum hunting.

7:25-5.13 Eastern gray squirrel

(a) A valid and proper firearm, bow and arrow, or all-around sportsman license is required to hunt eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*). Hunting with a rifle also requires a valid and proper rifle permit.

(b) The hunting season for eastern gray squirrel shall be as follows:

1. Begin on the last Saturday in September and conclude the Saturday following the third Monday of the following February, inclusive; except the season shall be closed during the six-day firearm deer season and on the Wednesday immediately following the six-day firearm deer season. Legal hunting hours shall be sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

2. Except as provided for falconry, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7, squirrels shall not be hunted for or taken on Sunday.

(c) Bag limit. The daily bag limit is five squirrels. There is no season limit.

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(d) Unless noted otherwise, the following shall apply while hunting squirrels:

1. Hunter orange is required when hunting squirrels with a hunting firearm. In addition, an orange hat with incidental ornamentation that does not reduce its visibility, is required as part of the 200 square inch hunter orange requirement when hunting on a State wildlife management area stocked with pheasant and quail; and

2. A person hunting squirrels shall not have in possession or control, a hunting firearm, while elevated in a standing tree or in a structure of any kind, within 300 feet of a baited area.

(e) The following shall be used for hunting squirrels:

1. Bows, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k), with arrows fitted with an edged head of the following specifications:

- i. Minimum width shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch;
- ii. Minimum length - none; and
- iii. Cutting edges shall be of well-sharpened metal only;

2. Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than .410 gauge capable of holding no more than three shells at one time or that may be fired more than three times without reloading using shot no larger than No. 4 fine shot;

3. Single- or double-barrel smoothbore muzzleloaders no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than 20 gauge with shot no larger than No. 4 fine shot and no smaller than No. 10 fine shot;

4. Muzzleloading rifles .36 caliber or smaller, loaded with a single projectile; and

5. Air guns no larger than .25 caliber and no smaller than .177 caliber using wadcutter, domed or pointed, or hollow point bullets. Spherical BBs are not permitted.

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(f) Except as noted for a rifle at (a) above, there are no additional permit requirements for hunting squirrels.

(g) There are no tagging or harvest reporting requirements for the harvest of squirrels.

(h) There are no management zones or delineated hunting areas for hunting squirrels.

(i) There are no permit quotas for squirrel hunting.

7:25-5.14 Turkey

(a) A valid and proper firearm, bow and arrow license, or all-around sportsman license, and a valid turkey permit are required to hunt wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Turkey permits are valid only during the hunting period and within the turkey hunting area designated on the permit.

(b) There is one season for the harvest of turkey, the spring gobbler season, which is divided into distinct hunting periods. The hunting periods for the spring gobbler season are:

1. Period A: A period of five consecutive days beginning on the fifth Monday before Memorial Day; Legal hunting hours shall be ½ hour before sunrise to noon daily;

2. Period B: A period of five consecutive days beginning on the fourth Monday before Memorial Day; Legal hunting hours shall be ½ hour before sunrise to noon daily;

3. Period C: A period of five consecutive days beginning on the third Monday before Memorial Day; Legal hunting hours shall be ½ hour before sunrise to noon daily;

4. Period D: Two periods of five consecutive days, one beginning on the second Monday before Memorial Day, and the other beginning on the Monday before Memorial Day; Legal hunting hours shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset daily;

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5. Period E: A period of four days, including the fifth, fourth, third, and second Saturdays before Memorial Day; Legal hunting hours shall be ½ hour before sunrise to noon daily for the first three Saturdays, and from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset on the last Saturday of Period E; and

6. Period Y: Restricted to youth hunters only, beginning on the sixth Saturday before Memorial Day, Youth Turkey Day. Legal hunting hours on Youth Turkey Day shall be ½ hour before sunrise to noon. If no turkey is harvested on Youth Turkey Day, the Y period permit may be used during Periods A through E until a bird has been harvested. A youth hunting with a Hunting Period Y permit on any day of the spring turkey season other than Youth Turkey Day will follow the hunting hours of that hunting period.

(c) Bag Limit. One male turkey may be taken during the spring gobbler season per permit. Only one turkey may be taken in a given day, regardless of the number of permits possessed.

(d) Unless noted otherwise, the following shall apply while hunting wild turkey, regardless of period, or area:

1. Hunter orange is not required for turkey hunting with a hunting firearm;
2. Hunting methods shall be restricted to calling or stand hunting;
3. No person shall stalk or attempt to approach a wild turkey for the purpose of taking or attempting to take the bird;
4. All persons must have a turkey calling device in their possession while turkey hunting. No person shall use an electronic calling device to call turkeys at any time during the open season;
5. Persons may not drive or chase wild turkeys for the purpose of putting them in range of hunters;

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6. No group of hunters larger than five individuals may hunt turkeys at any time;
7. The use of dogs is prohibited;
8. No live or electronically operated decoys may be used;
9. Turkeys may be hunted from a blind or tree stand;
10. No person shall attempt to take or kill a turkey or have in possession or control, a hunting firearm within 300 feet of a baited area;
11. All blinds must be labeled with the Conservation ID number of the hunter using the blind. Blinds must also be removed each day from any State wildlife management area, State park, forest, or recreation area at the end of legal hunting hours for that period;
12. In addition to (d)1 through 11 above, the following applies to youth hunters:
 - i. Youth hunters must possess a valid and proper Youth Hunting License and a Period Y permit for a designated turkey hunting area. Youth hunters, 10 to 16 years of age, who qualify to hunt as provided for at (f) below must have a valid permit for the farm designated on the application;
 - ii. Youth hunters may obtain only one permit for Period Y per year;
 - iii. All youth hunters, aged 10 to 16 years of age, participating in Youth Turkey Day, denoted at (b)6 above, must be under the direct supervision of a properly licensed non-hunting adult (21 years or older). During all other hunting periods, youth hunters, aged 10 to less than 14 years of age, shall be accompanied by, and under the direct supervision of, a properly licensed adult who is at least 21 years of age.

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(1) The non-hunting adult must possess a valid firearm license if the youth is hunting with a shotgun; or a valid bow and arrow license if the youth hunter is hunting with a bow and arrow;

iv. Youth hunters may use their Hunting Period Y permit within the designated turkey hunting area at any time the season is open in Periods A through E and Y, designated at (b)1 through 6 above;

v. Youth hunters may purchase additional permits for other designated periods or areas, except for Period Y;

vi. Youth hunters are not required to use their Period Y permit before using other additionally purchased turkey permits;

vii. After taking their bird with a Period Y permit, youth hunters who have purchased additional permits are subject to the same area and hunting period that the additional regular period hunting permit designates; and

viii. Permits are not transferable; and

13. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(b)4, coyotes may be taken incidentally while hunting turkeys.

(e) The following shall be used to hunt wild turkeys:

1. Bows, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k), with arrows fitted with an edged head of the following specifications:

i. Minimum width shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch;

ii. Minimum length - none;

iii. Cutting edges shall be of well-sharpened metal only; and

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iv. Arrows fitted with standard fletching are legal for turkey that are not in flight.

Arrows fitted with flu-flu type fletching shall be used to take or attempt to take turkey in flight.

2. Shotguns and single- or double-barrel smoothbore muzzleloader no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than .410 caliber may be used for turkey hunting, subject to the following limitation on shot utilized:

i. Shot no larger than No. 4 fine shot and no smaller than No. 7½ fine shot with no restriction on shot type composition or density; or

ii. Shot no larger than No. 8 fine shot and no smaller than No. 10 fine shot, with a minimum density of 18 grams per cubic centimeter.

3. Shotguns and single- or double-smoothbore muzzleloaders smaller than 20 gauge to .410 caliber shall utilize shot no larger than No. 7 fine shot and no smaller than No. 10 fine shot with a minimum density of 18 grams per cubic centimeter.

(f) Application for turkey permits shall be as follows:

1. For the spring gobbler season, holders of valid and proper firearm, bow and arrow licenses, or all-around sportsman licenses, including youth licenses, shall apply by submitting an application. Applications shall be submitted through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's ELS or, in the event of ELS operating difficulties, by providing the same information at ELS locations through such alternate system as may be designated by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

i. First-time permit applicants who do not yet possess a valid hunting license may apply for a turkey permit. Applicants who are awarded permits will not be able to claim awards unless they have successfully completed hunter education and possess a valid and current hunting license;

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2. Only one application for an initial permit and only one application for a leftover permit may be submitted by any one individual during the prescribed application period. Duplicate applications will cause all applications by an individual to be void;

3. All persons, while their hunting licenses are void pursuant to the authority of law or as imposed by a court, are prohibited from making application for, or otherwise procuring a turkey hunting permit;

4. Applications shall include:

- i. The applicant's Conservation ID Number;
- ii. The applicant's name;
- iii. The applicant's address;
- iv. Turkey hunting area(s) applied for; and
- v. Any other information requested;

5. Unless otherwise indicated, the non-refundable permit application fee payable to "NJDEP Fish & Wildlife" must accompany the completed application;

6. Applications must be submitted between January 25 and February 22, inclusively.

7. Permits for the Spring Gobbler Season will be issued as follows:

i. Applicants 10-16 years of age who have a valid and proper youth hunting license will receive a spring hunting season permit for Hunting Period Y for the turkey hunting area of their choice. Period Y permits are not counted against permit quotas designated at (i)1 above;

ii. Applicants who possess a "Permit to Shoot From A Standing Vehicle," granted by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife who have a valid license, will receive a permit for the spring gobbler season for their first choice of hunting area and hunting period. These permits are not counted

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against permit quotas designated at (i)1 below. Selection of permits for the spring gobbler season, not addressed at (f)7i above, will be by random drawing from applications received by February 22, and in accordance with the turkey permit quotas designated at (i)1 below.

(1) Applicants will be notified of their status. Successful applicants will need to claim their awarded permit(s) by a date specified by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. The permit fee must be paid at the time the successful applicant claims their award(s). Any permit obtained by fraud is void.

8. Farmer Turkey Permits will be issued in accordance with the following:

i. Only the owner or lessee of a farm, who resides thereon, or immediate members of his or her family 10 years of age or older who also reside thereon, may apply on forms provided for a farmer turkey permit. Pursuant to this paragraph, a farm is an area of five acres or more, producing a gross income in excess of \$500.00, and is tax-assessed as farmland;

ii. Farmer turkey permits will be issued only in those turkey hunting areas where a spring gobbler season is prescribed. Application forms may be obtained from the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com or by mailing NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, Mail Code 501-03, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420, or from the county agricultural agent. Prior to applying, the applicant must create a profile in the Electronic License System and obtain a Conservation ID number. Profiles may be created by going online or going to a participating license agent or contacting the staff of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for alternative instructions;

iii. Applications shall include:

(1) The applicant's Conservation ID number;

(2) The applicant's name;

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(3) The applicant's mailing address;

(4) The applicant's farm address;

(5) Turkey hunting area applied for;

(6) Turkey hunting periods applied for;

(7) Proof demonstrating the applicant qualifies for the farmer turkey permit

in accordance with (f)8i, ii, and iii above; and any other supporting information requested thereon;
and

(8) Any other information requested;

iv. Properly completed application forms will be accepted in the Trenton office from May 1 through September 1, inclusive;

v. There is no fee required;

vi. Only one farmer permit application may be submitted per individual for the zone/area in which the farm is located. In the event a farm property is located in two different zones/areas, the farmer must choose which zone/area for which to apply. Applications for more than the allowable number of permits during the initial application period will cause all applications by the individual to be void;

vii. All qualified applicants will receive notification by mail that will include instructions on how, when, and where the applicant may claim their Farmer Permit for the prescribed season(s);

viii. Farmer permits consist of a back display (the AHRS), which includes a wild turkey harvest tag. The back portion of the permit must be conspicuously displayed on the outer clothing in addition to the valid firearm or archery license; and

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ix. An application for a farmer turkey permit shall not preclude a farmer from applying for, and NJDEP Fish & Wildlife issuing, one regular turkey season permit as a holder of a valid hunting license. The farmer turkey permit is valid for all five turkey hunting periods only on the farm designated on the application. It is not transferable;

9. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude NJDEP Fish & Wildlife from issuing unfilled or unclaimed permits on a first come, first served basis to any properly licensed bow and arrow hunter, hunting firearm hunter, or qualified farmer after the permit selection process; and

10. Turkey hunting permits are not transferable from turkey hunting area to turkey hunting area, or from hunting period to hunting period, from individual to individual or from farm to farm. Permits must be used in the turkey hunting area, in the hunting period, and by the individual to whom it was issued. The turkey permit hunter is responsible for hunting in the correct turkey hunting area and time period as indicated and in ascertaining the boundaries prescribed at (h) below.

(g) Hunters successfully harvesting a turkey shall:

1. Immediately complete the transportation tag and attach it to the turkey;
2. Report the harvest using AHRS; and
3. Record the “confirmation number” received using AHRS on the transportation tag.

i. Harvest must be reported using AHRS by 10:00 P.M. on the day of harvest, regardless of the hunting period.

ii. The possession of a turkey after 10:00 P.M. on the day harvested on the Youth Turkey Day, Periods A, B, and C, and the first three Saturdays of Period E or after 10:00 P.M.

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during Period D and the last Saturday of Period E without a legal possession tag or confirmation number shall be deemed illegal possession.

(h) A map of Turkey Hunting Areas is available from that agency or NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. The boundaries of turkey hunting areas are as follows:

1. Turkey Hunting Area No. 1: That portion of Sussex County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 206 and 519 at Branchville; then northwest along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 560; then west along Route 560 to its intersection with the Delaware River at Dingman's Ferry; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to the New York State Line; then east along the New York State Line to Route 519; then south along Route 519 to the point of beginning at Branchville. The islands of Namanock, Minisink and Mashipacong lying in the Delaware River are included in the Hunting Area.

2. Turkey Hunting Area No. 2: That portion of Sussex and Warren Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 94 and Bridge Street at Blirstown; then north on Bridge Street to the Blirstown-Millbrook Road; then northwest along the Blirstown-Millbrook Road to Millbrook Village; then northwest along the Millbrook-Flatbrookville Road to its intersection with the Flatbrook at Flatbrookville; then south along the west bank of the Flatbrook to its confluence with the Delaware River; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to the intersection with Route 560 at Dingman's Ferry; then east along Route 560 to its intersection with Route 206; then southeast along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 519 at Branchville; then south along Route 519 to its intersection with Route 94 at Newton; then southwest along Route 94 to the point of beginning at Blirstown.

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3. Turkey Hunting Area No. 3: That portion of Warren and Sussex Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Portland Bridge and the Delaware River at Columbia; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to its confluence with the Flatbrook; then north along the east bank of the Flatbrook at its intersection with the Millbrook-Flatbrookville Road at Flatbrookville; then southeast along the Millbrook-Flatbrookville Road to Millbrook Village, then south on the Blairstown-Millbrook Road to its intersection with Bridge Street; then south on Bridge Street to Route 94 at Blairstown; then southwest along Route 94 to the Portland Bridge, the point of beginning at Columbia. The islands of Tocks and Labar lying in the Delaware River are also included within this Hunting Area.

4. Turkey Hunting Area No. 4: That portion of Sussex, Warren, and Morris Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 94 and 206 at Newton; then south along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 183 at Netcong; then southeast along Route 183 to its intersection with Route 46; then west along Route 46 to the Delaware River at Manunkachunk; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to the Portland Bridge at Columbia; then northeast along Route 94 to the point of beginning at Newton.

5. Turkey Hunting Area No. 5: That portion of Sussex County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 206 and 517 at Andover; then north along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 519 at Newton; then north along Route 519 to the New York State Line; then east along the New York State Line to its intersection with Route 517; then south along Route 517 to the point of origin at Andover.

6. Turkey Hunting Area No. 6: That portion of Sussex, Passaic, and Bergen Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 23 and Route 517 at the

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Hardystonville; then north along Route 517 to the New York State Line; then east along the New York State Line to its intersection with Route 202; then south along Route 202 to its intersection with Route 23; then west along Route 23 to the point of beginning at Hardystonville.

7. Turkey Hunting Area No. 7: That portion of Sussex, Passaic, and Morris Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 23 and Route 517 at Hardystonville; then east along Route 23 to its intersection with Route 202 at Wayne; then south and west along Route 202 to its intersection with Route 287; then south along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 80; then west along Route 80 to its intersection with Route 183 at Netcong; then east along Route 183 to its intersection with Route 206; then north along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 517; then northeast along Route 517 to the point of beginning at Hardystonville.

8. Turkey Hunting Area No. 8: That portion of Hunterdon and Warren Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Delaware River at Manunkachunk; then east along Route 46 to its intersection with Route 31; then south along Route 31 to its intersection with Route 12 at Flemington; then west along Route 12 to its intersection with the Delaware River at Frenchtown; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to the point of beginning at Manunkachunk.

9. Turkey Hunting Area No. 9: That portion of Hunterdon, Warren, Somerset, and Morris Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 31 and 46 at Buttzville; then east along Route 46 to its intersection with Route 80; then east along Route 80 to its intersection with Route 206; then south along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 287; then south along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 202; then south and west along Route 202 to its intersection with Route 31 at Flemington; then north along Route 31 to the point of beginning at Buttzville.

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10. Turkey Hunting Area No. 10: That portion of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, and Union Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 206 and 80; then east along Route 80 to its intersection with Route 287; then north along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 202; then north and east along Route 202 to the New York State line; then southeast along the New York state line to the Hudson River; then south along the west shore of the Hudson River to Upper New York Bay; then south along the shore of Upper New York Bay to the Kill Van Kull; then west along the north shore of the Kill Van Kull to Newark Bay; then west across Newark Bay to its confluence with the Arthur Kill; then south along the west shore of the Arthur Kill to its intersection with Route 440; then west along Route 440 to its intersection with Route 287; then north along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 206; then north along Route 206 to the point of beginning.

11. Turkey Hunting Area No. 11: That portion of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, and Somerset Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 12 and the Delaware River at Frenchtown; then east along Route 12 to its intersection with Route 202; then east along Route 202 to its intersection with Route 287; then south and east along route 287 to its intersection with Route 1; then south and west along Route 1 to its intersection with the Delaware River at Trenton; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to the point of beginning. The islands of Skyhawks, Rush, Bull, Treasure, and Eagle are included in this area.

12. Turkey Hunting Area No. 12: That portion of Mercer, Middlesex, Ocean, and Monmouth Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 1 and Route 206 at Trenton; then north and east along Route 1 to its intersection with Route 287; then south and east along Routes 287 and 440 to its intersection with the Arthur Kill at Perth Amboy;

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then south along the west shore of the Arthur Kill to Raritan Bay, then south and east along the shore of Raritan Bay to Sandy Hook; then north along the east shore of Sandy Hook Bay to the tip of Sandy Hook; then south along the Atlantic Ocean to Sixteenth Avenue at Belmar; then west on Sixteenth Avenue to Route 35; then south on Route 35 to Route 138; then west along Route 138 to its intersection with Route 195; then west along Route 195 to its intersection with Route 524; then north along Route 524 to its intersection with Route 206; then north along Route 206 to the point of beginning.

13. Turkey Hunting Area No. 14: That portion of Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 1 and the Delaware River; then east along Route 1 to its intersection with Route 206; then south along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 524; then east along Route 524 to its intersection with Route 195; then east along Route 195 to its intersection with Route 138; then east along Route 138 to Route 35; then north on Route 35 to Sixteenth Avenue; then east on Sixteenth Avenue to the Atlantic Ocean at Belmar; then south along the Atlantic Ocean to Ship Bottom; then north and west along Route 72 to its intersection with Route 70; then west along Route 70 to its intersection with Route 38 at Cherry Hill; then west along Route 38 to its intersection with Route 30; then west along Route 30 to the Delaware River; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to the point of beginning. Newbold Island is additionally included in Turkey Hunting Area No. 14.

14. Turkey Hunting Area No. 15: That portion of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 70 and 206 at Red Lion; then south along Route 206 to Hammonton; then south along Route 54 from Hammonton to its intersection with the Atlantic City Expressway; then west along the Atlantic

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City Expressway to its intersection with Route 42; then north on Route 42 to its intersection with Interstate 76; then north along Interstate 76 to its intersection with the Delaware River; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to its intersection with Route 30 at Camden; then east along Route 30 to its intersection with Route 38; then east along Route 38 to its intersection with Route 70; then east along Route 70 to the point of beginning.

15. Turkey Hunting Area No. 16: That portion of Burlington, Ocean, Cape May, and Atlantic Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 206 and 70 at Red Lion; then east along Route 70 to its intersection with Route 72; then southeast along Route 72 to Ship Bottom and the Atlantic Ocean; then south along the Atlantic Ocean to Great Egg Harbor Inlet; then west through Great Egg Harbor Bay to the Great Egg Harbor River; then north along the Great Egg Harbor River to its intersection with Route 50; then north along Route 50 to its intersection with Route 30; then north and west along Route 30 to its intersection with Route 206; then north along Route 206 to the point of beginning.

16. Turkey Hunting Area No. 20: That portion of Cumberland, Gloucester, Camden, and Salem Counties beginning at the intersection of the east bank of the Delaware River and Interstate 76; then southeast on Interstate 76 to its intersection with Route 42; then south on Route 42 to its intersection with the Atlantic City Expressway; then south on the Atlantic City Expressway to its intersection with Route 536; then south along Route 536 to its intersection with Route 322; then west along Route 322 to its intersection with Route 47; then south along Route 47 to its intersection with Route 40; then west along Route 40 to its intersection with Route 553; then south along Route 553 to its intersection with Route 49; then west along Route 49 to Bridgeton and its intersection with the Cohansey River; then south along the west bank of the Cohansey River to its confluence

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with the Delaware River; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to the point of beginning.

17. Turkey Hunting Area No. 21: That portion of Atlantic, Cumberland, Gloucester, Camden, and Salem Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 40 and 553; then east along Route 40 to its intersection with Route 47; then north along Route 47 to its intersection with Route 322; then east along Route 322 to its intersection with Route 536; then north along Route 536 to its intersection with the Atlantic City Expressway; then south along the Atlantic City Expressway to its intersection with Route 54; then south on Route 54 to Lincoln Ave. (Route 655), in Buena Vista; then southwest along Lincoln Ave. to its intersection with Route 55 in Vineland; then south along Route 55 to its intersection with Route 49; then west along Route 49 to the Maurice River; then south along the west bank of the Maurice River to its confluence with Delaware Bay; then west along the Delaware Bay shore to the Cohansey River; then north along the east bank of the Cohansey River to its intersection with Route 49 at Bridgeton; then east along Route 49 to its intersection with Route 553; then north along Route 553 to the point of beginning.

18. Turkey Hunting Area No. 22: That portion of Atlantic, Cape May, and Cumberland Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 55 and Lincoln Avenue (Route 655); then northeast along Lincoln Avenue to its intersection with Wheat Road (Route 619) at Buena; then east on Wheat Road to its intersection with Route 54; then northeast along Route 54 to its intersection with Route 206; then north along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 30, then southeast along Route 30 to its intersection with Route 50; then southwest along Route 50 to its intersection with the Great Egg Harbor River; then south along the Great Egg

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Harbor River to Great Egg Harbor Bay; then east through Great Egg Harbor Bay to Great Egg Harbor Inlet; then south along the Atlantic Coast to the Delaware Bay shore; then north and west along the shore of Delaware Bay to its intersection with the Maurice River; then north along the east bank of the Maurice River to its intersection with Route 49 at Millville; then east along Route 49 to its intersection with Route 55; then north along Route 55 to its intersection with Lincoln Avenue (Route 655) the point of beginning.

(i) Permit quotas for turkey hunting are designated below:

1. Spring gobbler season permit quotas shall be as follows:

SPRING GOBBLER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

For hunting Periods A, B, C, D, and E

	Hunting Period	Season Permit Quota	
Turkey Hunting Area Number	Permit Quota*	Total	Portions of Counties Involved
1	240	1,200	Sussex
2	315	1,575	Sussex, Warren
3	115	575	Sussex, Warren
4	240	1,200	Sussex, Warren, Morris
5	325	1,625	Sussex

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SPRING GOBBLER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

For hunting Periods A, B, C, D, and E

6	500	2,500	Sussex, Passaic, Bergen
7	500	2,500	Sussex, Morris, Passaic
8	325	1,625	Warren, Hunterdon
9	220	1,100	Warren, Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset
10	160	800	Essex, Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, Union, Bergen, Hudson, Passaic
11	300	1,500	Middlesex, Mercer, Hunterdon, Somerset
12	175	875	Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean
14	450	2,250	Burlington, Ocean, Monmouth, Mercer
15	100	500	Burlington, Atlantic, Gloucester, Camden
16	160	800	Burlington, Atlantic, Ocean, Cape May
20	750	3,750	Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester

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SPRING GOBBLER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

For hunting Periods A, B, C, D, and E

21	380	1,900	Atlantic, Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester
22	200	1,000	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland
Total	5,455	27,275	

* Applied to each of the five turkey hunting Periods (A, B, C, D, E) in all areas enumerated at (b)1 through 5 above.

7:25-5.15 White-tailed deer, general provisions

(a) The Director, with the approval of the Council, may authorize the issuance of permits for permit bow, permit shotgun, and permit muzzleloader seasons for the taking of deer anywhere within this State, including at any State or Federal installation.

(b) Deer shall not be hunted for or taken on Sunday except on State wildlife management areas or private property during the prescribed fall bow, permit bow, and winter bow seasons in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16, 5.17, and 5.21, or on wholly enclosed preserves that are properly licensed for the propagation thereof.

(c) Deer season summary table, as follows:

1. The following is a summary, for informational purposes only, of the season lengths and bag limits, applicable to each regulation set. Actual season lengths are specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16 through 5.21. The number of days per season may vary slightly from year to year due to

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annual calendar changes. Should there be any inconsistency between the information below and the corresponding provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16 through 5.21, the provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16 through 5.21 shall govern.

Regulation Sets by Season Lengths and Bag Limits

Regulation Set	Fall Bow	Permit Bow	Youth Day	Six-Day Firearm	Permit Muzzleloader	Permit Shotgun	Winter Bow	Total Huntible Days
Safety	28 days 1 deer	22 days 1 deer	2 days 2 deer	6 days 2 deer	13 days 1 deer	3 days 1 deer	31 days 1 deer	105 days
Low	28 days 2 deer	30 days 2 deer	2 days 2 deer	6 days 2 deer	22 days 2 deer	3 days 2 deer	31 days 2 deer	122 days
Medium	49 days 5 deer	60 days 5 deer	2 days 2 deer	6 days 2 deer	25 days 5 deer	20 days 5 deer	31 days 5 deer	193 days
High	49 days no limit	60 days no limit	2 days 2 deer	6 days 2 deer	71 days no limit	60 days no limit	52 days no limit	300 days

* Bag limits include one antlered deer per season except for six-day firearm season where the bag limit is two antlered deer only; the bag limit in the Safety Regulation Set is one antlered deer only; in other regulation sets as stated.

(d) Deer Season Regulation Sets 1. The following table identifies the applicable regulation set, special area or undesignated status of each deer management zone. Zones defined as Special Areas

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are not assigned to regulation sets; their seasons dates and bag limits may be found by zone at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16, 5.17, 5.18, 5.19, 5.20, and 5.21.

Zone	Regulation Set		Zone	Regulation Set		Zone	Regulation Set
1	Low		25	Medium		49	High
2	Medium		26	Low		50	High
3	Low		27	Medium		51	High
4	Low		28	Medium		52	Reserved
5	Medium		29	Medium		53	Reserved
6	Medium		30	Low		54	Special Area
7	High		31	Medium		55	Low
8	High		32	Reserved		56	Reserved
9	High		33	Reserved		57	Reserved
10	High		34	Low		58	Reserved
11	High		35	Medium		59	Reserved
12	High		36	High		60	Reserved
13	High		37	Reserved		61	Special Area
14	High		38	Reserved		62	Reserved
15	High		39	Special Area		63	Low
16	Medium		40	Reserved		64	Special Area

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17	High		41	High		65	Low
18	Low		42	High		66	Special Area
19	High		43	Low		67	Special Area
20	Reserved		44	Reserved		68	Special Area
21	Low		45	Low		69	Reserved
22	Low		46	Low		70	Reserved
23	Low		47	Medium		71	Special Area
24	Low		48	High			

(e) Deer Management Zone Buck Goals and Management Strategies 1. The following is for informational purposes only and is a summary of the target antlered deer harvest and overall management strategies applicable to each deer management zones as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16 through 5.21.

Buck Goals and Management Strategies by Deer Management Zone				
Zone	Buck Goal*	Deer Range	Strategy	Total Goal**
1	4	75	Stabilize	300
2	5	149	Stabilize	745
3	2	153	Stabilize	306
4	4.5	71	Stabilize	320

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5	6	215	Stabilize	1290
6	2.5	153	Decrease	383
7	6	103	Stabilize	618
8	6	203	Decrease	1218
9	4.5	52	Stabilize	234
10	7	110	Decrease	770
11	7	68	Decrease	476
12	7	152	Decrease	1064
13	2	121	Decrease	242
14	3	165	Decrease	495
15	4	86	Decrease	344
16	4	91	Decrease	364
17	3.5	90	Decrease	315
18	3	70	Increase	210
19	4	159	Stabilize	636
20	reserved	-	-	-
21	2	192	Increase	384
22	3.5	34	Increase	119
23	2	190	Increase	380
24	1	162	Increase	162
25	3	159	Stabilize	477

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26	2	212	Increase	424
27	3.5	103	Stabilize	361
28	3	125	Stabilize	375
29	5	64	Stabilize	330
30	3.5	43	Stabilize	151
31	2	40	Stabilize	80
34	2	97	Increase	194
35	3	171	Stabilize	513
36	0	127	Decrease	0
37	reserved	-	-	-
38	reserved	-	-	-
39	3	15	Decrease	45
40	reserved	-	-	-
41	7	39	Decrease	273
42	1	73	Decrease	73
43	3.5	27	Increase	95
44	reserved	-	-	-
45	3.5	65	Increase	228
46	3.5	79	Increase	277
47	1	54	Decrease	54
48	4	86	Stabilize	344

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49	0	68	Decrease	0
50	1	137	Decrease	137
51	1	153	Decrease	153
52	reserved	-	-	-
53	reserved	-	-	-
54	3	10	Stabilize	30
55	5	5.6	Decrease	28
56	reserved	-	-	-
57	reserved	-	-	-
58	reserved	-	-	-
59	reserved	-	-	-
60	reserved	-	-	-
61	2	5	Stabilize	10
62	reserved	-	-	-
63	5	21	Stabilize	105
64	3	3	Decrease	9
65	5	17	Stabilize	85
66	2	3.3	Decrease	7
67	4	15	Decrease	60
68	1	16.3	Decrease	16
70	reserved	-	-	-

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71	4	27.5	Stabilize	110
<p>* per square mile.</p> <p>** buck goal per square mile multiplied by deer range.</p>				

(f) If the yearly antlered or antlerless harvest in any deer management zone is above or below the stated buck goal by 15 percent, as specified at (q) below, or in the event of a disease outbreak or when necessary to respond to emergencies or special circumstances when it is deemed necessary to protect wildlife or human health or safety, the Director, with the approval of the Council may:

1. Move a deer management zone into a more liberal or more conservative regulation set for subsequent deer seasons, as is determined to be appropriate to provide for harvests that will meet the stated goals. The appropriate regulation set will be determined by estimating the resulting harvest of antlered or antlerless deer pursuant to various regulation sets having varying season lengths and/or bag limits.

2. Suspend the requirement to take an antlerless deer before an antlered deer in any deer management zone as is determined to be appropriate to provide for harvest that will meet the stated goals. The Council, upon consultation with the Director, may also reinstate the requirement, as needed, if the antlered harvest exceeds the buck goal by 15 percent.

3. Close any hunting season Statewide or in a designated area.

4. Such actions will be made by publication of a notice of administrative change in the New Jersey Register, as well as by posting notice on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, and in the Hunting and Trapping Digest.

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(g) It shall be illegal to kill, take, or attempt to take any antlered deer that does not have a minimum of three antler points on one side in Zones 3, 9, 13, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 47, 63, and 67.

1. Exemptions to this section include:

i. Youth hunters for all deer seasons including the youth bow day and the youth hunting firearm day;

ii. Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge;

iii. Properties owned or managed by the Morris County Parks Commission; and

iv. Properties owned or managed by the Union County Deer Management Program.

(h) Bait may be used when hunting for deer in accordance with the following:

1. A person may: (1) use bait to attract, entice, or lure a deer; and (2) take, attempt to take, hunt or attempt to hunt, kill or attempt to kill, shoot at or attempt to shoot at deer within any distance of a baited area.

2. A person may be elevated in a standing tree or in a structure of any kind when using a baited area for hunting deer.

3. The baited area may be within any distance of the standing tree or structure. For the purposes of this section, "baited area" means the presence of placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered agricultural products, salt, or other edible lure whatsoever capable of attracting, enticing, or luring deer.

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(i) No person shall hunt for deer with an electronic calling device, or a device which projects a beam of light upon the target.

(j) Permits issued to farmers for permit bow, permit shotgun, and permit muzzleloader seasons, as designated at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.17, 5.18, and 5.20, shall be issued in accordance with the following:

1. Only the owner or lessee of a farm, who resides thereon, or immediate members of his or her family 10 years of age or older who also reside thereon, may apply on forms provided for a farmer permit bow permit.

i. Pursuant to a subsection, a farm is an area of five acres or more, producing a gross income in excess of \$500.00, and is tax-assessed as farmland.

2. The owner or lessees of a farm, who does not reside thereon, and their immediate family 10 years of age or older, may apply on forms provided for a non-occupant farmer deer permit.

i. Pursuant to this subsection, applicants must farm 30 tilled acres that are tax assessed as farmland. Wood lots are not included in acreage needed to qualify. Properties do not need to be contiguous.

ii. No more than five individuals may receive a permit for the season for a property.

3. Permits to farmers will be issued only in those deer management zones where a permit bow, permit shotgun, and permit muzzleloader season is prescribed.

4. Application forms may be obtained from the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com or by mailing NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, Mail Code 501-03, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420, or from the county agricultural agent. Prior to applying the applicant must create a profile in the Electronic License System and obtain a Conservation ID number.

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Profiles may be created by going online or going to a participating license agent or contacting the staff of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for alternative instructions. Applications shall include:

- i. The applicant's Conservation ID Number;
- ii. The applicant's name;
- iii. The applicant's mailing address;
- iv. The applicant's farm address; and
- v. Proof demonstrating the applicant qualifies for the farmer permit bow permit in

accordance with (j)1 and 2 above, and any other supporting information requested thereon.

5. Properly completed application forms will be accepted in the Trenton office from May 1 through September 1, inclusive.

6. There is no fee required.

7. Only one farmer permit application may be submitted per individual for the zone/area in which the farm is located. In the event a farm property is located in two different zones/areas the farmer must choose which zone/area for which to apply. Applications for more than the allowable number of permits during the initial application period will cause all applications by the individual to be void.

8. All qualified applicants will receive notification by mail that will include instructions on how, when, and where the applicant may claim their farmer permit for the prescribed season(s).

9. The occupant farmer antlerless season permits are valid only on the farm occupied and designated in the application and are not transferable from season to season, from deer management zone to deer management zone, from farm to farm, or from individual to individual. The occupant farmer antlered bow permit is valid in any zone in which the farmer has an antlerless

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permit for that season. The occupant farmer is responsible for hunting on the correct farm in the correct DMZ, as indicated and in ascertaining the boundaries.

10. The non-occupant farmer antlerless bow season permits are valid only on private land within the deer management zone designated in the permit and are not valid on public lands within the DMZ. The non-occupant farmer antlered permit is valid only on private land within the deer management zone designated on the non-occupant farmer antlerless permit or in any other zone for which the farmer has purchased an antlerless permit. The permits are not transferable from season to season, from deer management zone to deer management zone, or from individual to individual. The non-occupant farmer is responsible for hunting on private lands in the correct DMZ as indicated and in ascertaining the boundaries.

11. Application or issuance of any farmer permit for permit bow, permit shotgun, and permit muzzleloader seasons shall not preclude the farmer from applying for an NJDEP Fish & Wildlife issuing the farmer a permit as a holder of a valid and proper hunting license.

(k) Hunters successfully harvesting a deer shall immediately:

1. If harvested during fall bow, six-day firearm, or winter bow, the following shall apply:

i. Completely fill out the antlerless tag, if an antlerless deer, or buck tag, if an antlered deer, that is attached to the appropriate license. The confirmation number can be left blank until the deer is reported in the AHRS. This tag must stay attached to the appropriate license. A supplemental harvest log may be used if all spaces on an antlerless tag on the appropriate license have been used. This tag is kept on the hunter's person until the meat is consumed. Completed tags shall include the following information:

(1) Conservation ID Number;

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- (2) Deer Management Zone;
- (3) Date of harvest;
- (4) Sex;
- (5) If applicable, right and left number of antler points; and
- (6) Confirmation Number, received after reporting harvest in the AHRS.

2. If harvested during permit bow, permit shotgun, and permit muzzleloader:

i. Completely fill out the antlerless tag on the antlerless permit, if an antlerless deer, or antlered permit, if an antlered buck, that is attached to the appropriate permit. The confirmation number can be left blank until reported in the AHRS. A supplemental harvest log may be used if all spaces on an antlerless permit have been used. This tag is kept on the hunter's person until the meat is consumed. Completed tag shall include the following information:

- (1) Conservation ID Number;
- (2) Deer Management Zone;
- (3) Date of harvest;
- (4) Sex;
- (5) If applicable, right and left number of antler points; and
- (6) Confirmation Number, received after reporting harvest in the AHRS.

3. Before moving a harvested deer, hunters must fill out a transportation tag, either homemade or from the Hunting and Trapping Digest or the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at NJFishandWildlife.com. The transportation tag must remain affixed to the deer until the deer is processed for consumption.

i. Completed transportation tag shall include the following information:

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- (1) Conservation ID Number;
- (2) Deer Management Zone;
- (3) Date of harvest;
- (4) Sex;
- (5) If applicable, right and left number of antler points; and
- (6) Confirmation Number, received after reporting harvest in the AHRS.

4. Each deer must be reported using the AHRS as designated by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife prior to the attempt to take an additional deer, except in zones that allow the harvest of two deer at a time.

5. Each deer must be reported in the AHRS by 10:00 P.M. on the day of harvest. A deer is not legally reported until a Confirmation Number is received.

6. A deer cannot be legally possessed until a Confirmation Number is obtained.

7. The Confirmation Number must be recorded on the appropriate antlerless or antlered tag found on the appropriate license or permit. This tag stays attached to the appropriate license or permit. Do not remove.

8. The Confirmation Number must remain with the antlers indefinitely and with the meat until it is consumed.

9. Should the hunter be unable to access the AHRS by the designated time, the hunter must immediately contact by telephone the nearest NJDEP Fish & Wildlife law enforcement regional headquarters, as identified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(f). The hunter must provide the name, CID, date of harvest, and reason for late reporting. The deer must be reported in the AHRS the next day.

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(l) Notwithstanding any other provision in the Code, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife personnel may issue a replacement tag to a hunter who presents a lawfully taken deer found unfit for human consumption.

(m) Within 48 hours of reporting a deer in the AHRS and upon request from NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, a hunter shall be required to produce the head of the deer harvested or produce records relating to the location of the head.

(n) In the event in-person deer check stations become mandatory, deer shall be tagged immediately with completed "transportation tag," as specified at (k)3 above and shall be transported to a check station by a time specified by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife on the day harvested to secure a legal possession tag. The legal possession tag must be securely affixed or locked on the deer before the deer is transported or removed from the authorized check station. Hunters are responsible for legal possession tags being securely affixed or locked before leaving the deer check station. All reporting requirements apply.

(o) Deer management zone boundary descriptions:

Zone 1: That portion of Sussex County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 521 (River Road) and Mashipacong Road; then west along the northern boundary of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to the east bank of the Delaware River; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to the New York State line; then east along the New York State line to Route 519; then south along Route 519 to its intersection with Route 206 at Branchville; then northwest along Route 206 to the intersection with Route 633; then south along Route 633 to its intersection with Route 521; then northwest along Route 521 to its intersection with Route 206; then northwest on Route 521/Route 206 to its intersection with Route

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560; then west along Route 560 to the intersection with Ridge Rd; then north on Ridge Road to the intersection with Route 646; then east 83 on Route 646 to the intersection with Route 645 in Hainesville; then north on Route 645 to the intersection with Routes 206 and 521; then north on Routes 206 and 521 to Montague; then north on Route 521 (River Road) to the intersection with Mashipacong Road, the point of beginning. The island of Mashipacong lying in the Delaware River is included in this zone. High Point State Park (Zone 67) is excluded from Zone 1.

Zone 2: That portion of Sussex County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 94 and the New York State line; then south along Route 94 to its intersection with Route 23 at Hamburg, then southeast along Route 23 to its intersection with Route 517 at Franklin; then south along Route 517 to its intersection with Route 206 at Andover; then north along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 519 at Newton; then north along Route 519 to the New York State line; then east along the New York State line to Route 94 to the point of beginning.

Zone 3: That portion of Sussex, Morris, Passaic, and Bergen Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 94 and the New York State line; then east along the New York State line to its intersection with Route 202 near Suffern; then south along Route 202 to its intersection with Route 287 in Oakland; then south on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 23 in Riverdale; then west along Route 23 to its intersection with Route 94 at Hamburg; then north along Route 94 to the point of beginning on the New York State line.

Zone 4: That portion of Sussex and Warren Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 521 (River Road) and New Mashipacong Rd; then running along Route 521 to the intersection with Route 206 in Montague; then south on Route 206 to the intersection with Route 645 (Layton-Hainesville Road); then south on Route 645 to the intersection

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with Route 646 in Hainesville (Jagger Road); then west on Route 646 to the intersection with Ridge Road; then south on Ridge Road to the intersection with Route 560 (Dingman's Bridge Road); then southeast along Route 560 to its intersection with Route 206; then south on Route 206 to the intersection with Route 521; then south along Route 521 to its intersection with Beavans Road at the Hampton Township-Frankford Township border; then northwest along Beavans Road to its intersection with the base of the Kittatiny Ridge; then southwest along the east base of the Kittatinny Ridge to the Delaware River at the Delaware Water Gap north and west of Quarry Road; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to the northern park boundary of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; then east along the northern park boundary of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to Route 521 (River Road), the point of beginning. Namanock, Minisink, Depew, Tocks, Poxono, and Labar Islands in the Delaware River are included in this zone.

Zone 5: That portion of Warren and Sussex Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 521 and Beavans Road at Hampton Township-Frankford Township border; then southeast on Route 521 to its intersection with Route 633; then north on Route 633 to its intersection with Route 206 in Branchville; then southeast along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 519 at Branchville; then south along Route 519 to its intersection with Route 206 at Newton; then south along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 517 at Andover; then south along Route 517 to its intersection with Route 46 at Hackettstown; then west along Route 46 to its intersection with the Delaware River at Manunkachunk; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to its intersection with the Zone 4 boundary at the Delaware Water Gap north and west of Quarry Road; then northeast along the base of the Kittatinny Ridge to its

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intersection with Beavans Road at the Hampton Township--Frankford Township border; then southeast along Beavans Road to its intersection with Route 521 at the point of beginning.

Zone 6: That portion of Morris, Sussex, Passaic, Warren, and Essex Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 80 and Route 517 at Allamuchy; then northeast along Route 517 to its intersection with Route 23 at Franklin; then southeast along Route 23 to its intersection with Route 618; then south along Route 618 to its intersection with Rockaway Valley Road; the southwest along Rockaway Valley Road to its intersection with Diamond Spring Road; then south along Diamond Spring Road to its intersection with West Main Street in Denville; then south along West Main Street to its intersection with Route 80; then west along Route 80 to the point of beginning at Allamuchy. Picatinny Arsenal (Zone 54) is excluded from Zone 6.

Zone 7: That portion of Hunterdon and Warren Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 31 and 78 at Clinton; then north along Route 31 to its intersection with Route 46 at Buttzville; then west on Route 46 to the Delaware River at Manunkachunk; then south along the east bank of the Delaware to its intersection with Route 78 at Phillipsburg; then east along Route 78 to the point of beginning at Clinton.

Zone 8: That portion of Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, and Warren Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 22 and 206 near Somerville; then north along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 80 near Netcong; then west along Route 80 to its intersection with Route 517 at Allamuchy; then south along Route 517 to its intersection with Route 46 at Hackettstown; then west along Route 46 to its intersection with Route 31 at Buttzville; then southeast along Route 31 to its intersection with Route 22 at Clinton; then east along Route 22 to the point of beginning at Somerville.

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Zone 9: Those portions of Morris and Somerset Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 206 and Route 80 near Netcong; then east along Route 80 to its intersection with Route 46; then east on Route 46 to the intersection with Route 10 in Ledgewood; then east on Route 10 to the intersection with Morris Tpk.; then east and south on Morris Turnpike to Calais Road; then west on Calais Road to Combs Hollow Road; then south on Combs Hollow Road to Calais Road; then south on Calais Road to Mountain Avenue in Mendham; then south and east on Mountain Avenue to Hilltop Road (Route 525); then south on Route 525 to the intersection with Route 78; then west on Route 78 to the intersection with Route 206 near Pluckemin; then north on Route 206 to the intersection with Route 80 in Netcong, the point of beginning.

Zone 10: That portion of Hunterdon and Warren Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 31 and 12 in Flemington; then north along Route 31 to its intersection with Route 78 at Clinton; then west along Route 78 to the Delaware River at Phillipsburg; then south along the east bank of the Delaware River to Route 12 at Frenchtown; then east along Route 12 to the point of beginning at Flemington.

Zone 11: That portion of Hunterdon County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 12 and 31 and 202 at Flemington; then southwest along Route 202 to the Delaware River; then northwest along the east bank of the Delaware River to its intersection with Route 12 at Frenchtown; then east along Route 12 to the point of beginning at Flemington. Shyhawks, Treasure, Rush, Bull and Eagle Islands lying in the Delaware River are in this zone.

Zone 12: That portion of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 31 and 22 at Clinton; then east on Route

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22 to its intersection with Route 206 at Somerville; then south along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 546 at Lawrenceville; then west on Route 546 to its intersection with Route 31 at the Pennington traffic circle; then north along Route 31 to the point of beginning at Clinton. That portion of Round Valley Recreation Area designated as open to deer hunting is included in Zone 12.

Zone 13: That portion of Morris, Somerset, and Union Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 22 and 206 at Somerville; then north on Route 206 to the intersection with Route 78 near Pluckemin; then east on Route 78 to the intersection with Route 525; then north on Route 525 to Mountain Ave. in Mendham; then north and west on Mountain Avenue to Calais Road; then north on Calais Road to Combs Hollow Road; then north on Combs Hollow Road to Calais Road; then east on Calais Road to Morris Turnpike; then north and west on Morris Turnpike to Route 10; then west on Route 10 to Route 46 in Ledgewood; then west on Route 46 to the intersection with Route 80 near Netcong; then east on Route 80 to the intersection with Route 511; then south on Route 511 to the intersection with Route 124 in Morristown; then southeast along Route 124 to the intersection with Route 82; then southwest along Route 82 to the intersection with Route 22; then southwest along Route 22 to the point of beginning at Somerville. Zone 13 also includes the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (previously designated as Zone 38).

Zone 14: That portion of Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset, and Burlington Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 22 and 206 at Somerville; then east along Route 22 to its intersection with Interstate 287; then south on Interstate 287 to its intersection with Route 18; then south on Route 18 to its intersection with the New Jersey

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Turnpike; then southwest along the New Jersey Turnpike to its intersection with Route 545; then northwest on Route 545 which becomes Farnsworth Avenue; then continuing northwest on Farnsworth Avenue to its intersection with West Burlington Street; then southwest on West Burlington Street to its intersection with Interstate 295; then north on Interstate 295 to its intersection with the Delaware River at Bordentown; then northwest along the east bank of the Delaware River to Route 546 at Washington's Crossing; then east on Route 546 to its intersection with Route 206 at Lawrenceville; then north along Route 206 to the point beginning at Somerville. Rotary and Blauguard Islands lying in the Delaware River are in this zone.

Zone 15: That portion of Monmouth, Mercer, and Middlesex Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the New Jersey Turnpike and Route 522 near Jamesburg; then south on the Turnpike to its intersection with Route 195; then east on Route 195 to its intersection with Route 537 near Holmeson; then northeast on Route 537 to its intersection with Route 522 in Freehold; then northwest on Route 522 to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike, the point of beginning. Monmouth Battlefield State Park is excluded from this zone.

Zone 16: That portion of Monmouth and Ocean Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 537 and Route 571 near Holmeson; then southeast on Route 571 to the intersection with Route 547; then northeast on Route 547 through Farmingdale to the intersection with Tinton Falls Road; then north on Tinton Falls Road to the intersection with Route 33 and Route 34; then north on Route 34 to the intersection with the fenced boundary of the Earle Naval Weapons Depot property; then westward along the fenced border of the Earle Depot to the intersection with Route 33; then west along Route 33 to the intersection with Route 537 in

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Freehold; then southwest on Route 537 to the intersection with Route 571 near Holmeson, the point of beginning.

Zone 17: That portion of Mercer, Monmouth, Burlington, and Ocean Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the New Jersey Turnpike and Interstate 195; then east along Interstate 195 to the intersection with Route 537 near Holmeson; then southwest along Route 537 to the intersection with Hawkin Road (Prospertown-Colliers Mills Road: Route 640); then southeast along Hawkin Road (Prospertown-Colliers Mills Road: Route 640) to the intersection with Colliers Mills Road; then west along Colliers Mills Road to its intersection with Woodruff Road; then southwest along Woodruff Road to the intersection with Route 539; then southeast along Route 539 to the border of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (Zone 71); then westward along the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (Zone 71) boundary to Route 545 near Wrightstown; then northwest along Route 545 to the intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then northeast along the New Jersey Turnpike to its intersection with Interstate 195, the point of beginning.

Zone 18: That portion of Ocean County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 530 and the Garden State Parkway at South Toms River; then west along Route 530 to the intersection with Route 70; then west along Route 70 to the border of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (Zone 71); then northward along the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (Zone 71) boundary to the northernmost intersection of the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (Zone 71) border and Route 539; then northwest along Route 539 to the intersection with Woodruff Road; then northeast along Woodruff Road to the intersection with Colliers Mills Road; then east along Colliers Mills Road to the intersection with Hawkin Road (Prospertown-Colliers Mills Road:

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Route 640); then northwest along Hawkin Road (Prosperstown-Colliers Mills Road: Route 640) to the intersection with Route 537 near Prosperstown; then northeast along Route 537 to the intersection with Route 571 near Holmeson; then southeast along Route 571 to the Garden State Parkway; then south along the Garden State Parkway to the point of beginning near South Toms River.

Zone 19: That portion of Burlington and Camden Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 530 and Route 646 (New Lisbon-Four Mile Road); then southeast on Route 646 to its intersection with Turkey Buzzard Bridge Road; then west on Turkey Buzzard Bridge Road to its intersection with Route 644 (Buddtown-Ong's Hat Road); then southeast on Route 644 to its intersection with Route 70 at Four Mile Circle; then west on Route 70 to its intersection with Burr's Mill Road; then southwest on Burr's Mill Road to its intersection with Avenue Road; then south on Avenue Road to its intersection with Sooy Place Road; then south on Sooy Place Road to its intersection with Irick's Causeway; then southwest on Irick's Causeway to its intersection with Route 532 (Chatsworth Road); then west along Route 532 to its intersection with Butterworth's Bogs Road; then south and west along Butterworth's Bogs Road to its intersection with Brace Lane; then west along Brace Lane to its intersection with Bozarthtown Road; then southwest along Bozarthtown Road to its intersection with Dingtletown Road; then southwest along Dingtletown Road which becomes Forked Neck Road and curves to the west; then west along Forked Neck Road to its intersection with Route 206; then south along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 541, Stokes Road; then northwest along Route 541 to its intersection with Willow Grove Road; then southwest on Willow Grove Road to its intersection with Atsion Road; then northwest on Atsion Road to its intersection with Route 534, Jackson Road; then west along

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Route 534 to its intersection with Route 73; then north along Route 73 to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then northeast along the New Jersey Turnpike to its intersection with Route 38; then east along Route 38 to its intersection with Route 530; then east along Route 530 to its intersection with Route 616 (Vincentown-Pemberton Road); then northeast on Route 616, Hanover Street, into the town of Pemberton to its intersection with Elizabeth Street; then east on Elizabeth Street, which becomes Pemberton-Brown's Mills Road (Route 687) to its intersection with Route 530 (Pemberton-By-Pass Road); then east on Route 530 to its intersection with Route 646 (New Lisbon-Four Mile Road), the point of beginning. Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (Zone 71) is excluded from Zone 19. Franklin Parker Preserve and Michael Huber Prairie Warbler Preserve (Zone 68) are excluded from Zone 19.

Zone 20: (Reserved.)

Zone 21: That portion of Ocean and Burlington Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 530 and the Garden State Parkway near South Toms River; then south along the Parkway to its intersection with Route 72; then northwest along Route 72 to its intersection with Route 644 (Buddtown-Ong's Hat Road) at Four Mile Circle; then northwest on Route 644 to its intersection with Turkey Buzzard Bridge Road; then northeast on Turkey Buzzard Bridge Road to its intersection with Route 646 (New Lisbon-Four Mile Road); then northwest on Route 646 to its intersection with Route 530 (Pemberton-Brown's Mills Road); then east along the southern border of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (Zone 71) to its intersection with Route 70; then east on Route 70 to its intersection with Route 539 and Route 530 near Whiting; then east along Route 530 to its intersection with the Garden State Parkway near South

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Toms River, the point of beginning. Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (Zone 71) is excluded from Zone 21.

Zone 22: That portion of Ocean and Burlington Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Garden State Parkway and Route 72 near Manahawkin; then south along the Garden State Parkway to its intersection with Stage Road; then west along Stage Road to its intersection with Leektown Road; then west along Leektown Road (which turns into Route 653 to its intersection with the Wading River); then south along the east bank of the Wading River to its intersection with the Mullica River and the Atlantic-Burlington County line; then east along the Atlantic-Burlington County line to the Atlantic Ocean; then east to the Atlantic Ocean; then north along the Atlantic Ocean to Route 72 at Ship Bottom; then west along Route 72 to the Garden State Parkway, the point of beginning.

Zone 23: That portion of Burlington, Atlantic, and Camden Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 563 and the Mullica River at the Atlantic-Burlington County line near Green Bank; then north and west along the north bank of the Mullica River to its intersection with Route 542 at Pleasant Mills; then west along Route 542 to its intersection with Nescochague Creek; then northwest along Nescochague Creek to Great Swamp Branch; then westward along Great Swamp Branch to its intersection with Route 206 (just south of the intersection of Route 206 and Middle Road); then south along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 30; then northwest along Route 30 to its intersection with Route 73; then north on Route 73 to its intersection with Route 534, Jackson Road; then east along Route 534 to its intersection with Atsion Road; then southeast on Atsion Road to its intersection with Willow Grove Road; then northeast on Willow Grove Road to its intersection with Route 541, Stokes Road; then

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southeast along Route 541 to its intersection with Route 206; then north along Route 206 to its intersection with Forked Neck Road; then east along Forked Neck Road which becomes Dingtletown Road curving to the northeast; then northeast along Dingtletown Road to its intersection with Bozarthtown Road; then northeast on Bozarthtown Road to its intersection with Brace Lane; then east on Brace Lane to its intersection with Butterworth's Bogs Road; then north on Butterworth's Bogs Road to its intersection with Route 532 (Chatsworth Road); then east on Route 532 to its intersection with Irick's Causeway; then northeast on Irick's Causeway to its intersection with Sooy Place Road (Vincentown-South Park Road); then northwest on Sooy Place Road to its intersection with Avenue Road; then northeast on Avenue Road to its intersection with Burr's Mill Road; then northeast on Burr's Mill Road to its intersection with Route 70; then east on Route 70 to its intersection with Route 72 at Four Mile Circle; then southeast on Route 72 to its intersection with Route 563; then southwest along Route 563 to its intersection with the Mullica River at the Atlantic-Burlington County line, the point of beginning near Green Bank. The Franklin Parker Preserve and Michael Huber Prairie Warbler Preserve (Zone 68) are excluded from Zone 23.

Zone 24: That portion of Burlington and Ocean Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 563 and Route 72; then southeast along Route 72 to its intersection with the Garden State Parkway; then south along the Parkway to its intersection with Stage Road; then west along Stage Road to its intersection with Leektown Road; then west along Leektown Road (which turns into Route 563) to its intersection with the Wading River; then south along the east bank of the Wading River to its intersection with the Mullica River and the Atlantic-Burlington County line; then west along the north bank of the Mullica River to its intersection with

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Route 563 near Green Bank; then north along Route 563 to its intersection with Route 72, the point of beginning.

Zone 25: That portion of Salem, Gloucester, Atlantic, and Camden Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 54 and 40 near Buena; then west on Route 40 to its intersection with Route 553; then north on Route 553 to its intersection with Route 610 (Aura Road); then southeast on Route 610 to its intersection with Route 655 (Fries Mills Road); then north on Route 655 to its intersection with Route 322; then west on Route 322 to its intersection with Route 47 at Glassboro; then north on Route 47 to its intersection with County Road 635 (Hurffville-Grenloch Road); then eastward on County Road 635 to its intersection with County Road 705 (County House Road); then southeast along Route 705 to its intersection with County Road 688 (Turnerville-Hickstown Road); then eastward along County Road 688 to its intersection with County Road 689 (Berlin-Crosskeys Road); then northeast along County Road 689 to its intersection with Route 73 at Berlin; then south on Route 73 to its intersection with Route 30; then southeast along Route 30 to its intersection with Weymouth Road (Routes 640 and 559); then southward on Weymouth Road to its intersection with the Atlantic City Expressway; then west along the Atlantic City Expressway to its intersection with Eighth Street; then south along Eighth Street to its intersection with Route 322; then westward on Route 322 to its intersection with Route 54; then southward on Route 54 to its intersection with Route 40 near Buena, the point of beginning. Zone 65 is excluded from Zone 25.

Zone 26: That portion of Atlantic County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 40 and 54 near Buena; then southeast on Route 40 to its intersection with Route 50; then north on Route 50 to its intersection with Route 322; then east on Route 322 to its

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intersection with Cologne Avenue; then north on Cologne Avenue to its intersection with Duerer Street; then east on Duerer Street to its intersection with Jimmie Leeds Road; then east on Jimmie Leeds Road to its intersection with Great Creek Road; then east on Great Creek Road to its intersection with Route 9; then north on Route 9 to its intersection with the Garden State Parkway; then to its intersection on the south shore of the Mullica River; then west along the south bank of the Mullica River to its intersection with Route 542 at Pleasant Mills; then west on Route 542 to its intersection with Nescochague Creek at Pleasant Mills; then north along the west bank of Nescochague Creek to its intersection with Great Swamp Branch; then westward along Great Swamp Branch to its intersection with Route 206 (just past the intersection of Route 206 and Middle Road); then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 30 (White Horse Pike), near Hammonton; then south on Route 30 to its intersection with Weymouth Road (Routes 640 and 559); then south on Weymouth Road to its intersection with the Atlantic City Expressway; then northwest along the Atlantic City Expressway to its intersection with Eighth Street; then southwest along Eighth Street to its intersection with Route 322 (Black Horse Pike); then northwest along Route 332 to its intersection with Route 54; then southwest along Route 54 to its intersection with Route 40 at Buena, the point of beginning. The Atlantic County Park System (Zone 61) is excluded from Zone 26.

Zone 27: That portion of Cumberland and Salem Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 77 and 40 at Pole Tavern; then northwest on Route 40 to its intersection with Route 48; then west on Route 48 through Penns Grove to the Delaware River; then south along the east bank of the Delaware River to its intersection with the Salem Canal at Deepwater; then eastward along the south bank of the Salem Canal to its intersection with the

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Salem River; then southward along the west bank of the Salem River to its intersection with Route 49 at Salem; then southeast on Route 49 to its intersection with Salem County Route 667 (Pecks Corner-Cohansey Road) at Pecks Corner; then eastward along Route 667 to its intersection with Route 540; then east along Route 540 to its intersection with Route 77; then north on Route 77 to its intersection with Route 40 at Pole Tavern, the point of beginning.

Zone 28: That portion of Gloucester, Cumberland, and Salem Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 77 and 40 at Pole Tavern; then east on Route 40 to its intersection of Route 47 at Malaga; then south on Route 47 to its intersection of Route 49 in Millville; then west on Route 49 to its intersection with Salem County Route 667 (Pecks Corner Cohansey Road) at Pecks Corner; then eastward along Route 667 to its intersection with Route 540; then east on Route 540 to its intersection with Route 77; then north on Route 77 to Pole Tavern, the point of beginning.

Zone 29: That portion of Salem and Cumberland Counties lying within a continuous line beginning with the intersection of Routes 77 and 49 at Bridgeton; then northwest on Route 49 to its intersection with Alloway Creek at Quinton; then southwest along the northern bank of the Alloway Creek to its intersection with the Delaware River; then south along the east bank of the Delaware River to the Cohansey River; then along the northwest bank of the Cohansey River to Bridgeton, the point of beginning.

Zone 30: That portion of Cumberland County lying within a continuous line beginning at Fairton on the Cohansey River; then west along the south bank of the Cohansey River to the Delaware River; then southeast along the east bank of the Delaware River to the Maurice River; then north along the west bank of the Maurice River to Haleyville-Mauricetown Road (County

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Road 676); then west on Haleyville-Mauricetown Road to its intersection with the Central Railroad of New Jersey (C.R.R.N.J.); then west along the C.R.R.N.J. line to its intersection with Newport-Centre Grove Road (County Road 629); then southwest on Newport-Centre Grove Road to its intersection with Route 553; then northwest on Route 553 to Fairton, the point of beginning.

Zone 31: That portion of Cumberland County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersections of Routes 77 and 49 at Bridgeton; then east on Route 49 to the Maurice River near Millville; then south along the west bank of the Maurice River near Millville; then south along the west bank of the Maurice River to Buckshutem Creek; then west on the north bank of Buckshutem Creek to its intersection with Buckshutem Road (County Road 670); then northwest on Buckshutem Road to its intersection with Cedarville Road (County Road 610); then southwest on Cedarville Road to its intersection with Newport Centre Grove Road (County Road 629); then southwest on Newport Centre Grove Road to its intersection with Route 553; then northwest along Route 553 to the Cohansey River at Fairton; then north on the east bank of the Cohansey River to Bridgeton, the point of beginning.

Zone 32: (Reserved.)

Zone 33: (Reserved.)

Zone 34: That portion of Cumberland and Cape May Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 47 and 548 in Port Elizabeth; then east on Route 548 to its intersection with Route 49; then northwest on Route 49 to its intersection with the Tuckahoe River at Head of the River; then eastward along the south bank of the Tuckahoe River and Atlantic Cape May County line to Great Egg Harbor Bay; then continuing eastward along the Atlantic Cape May County line to the Atlantic Ocean at the Great Egg Harbor Inlet; then southwest along the

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Atlantic Ocean to Delaware Bay; then north and west along the east bank of Delaware Bay to the Maurice River; then north along the east bank of the Maurice River to Port Elizabeth and Route 548, the point of beginning.

Zone 35: That portion of Salem and Gloucester Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the east bank of the Delaware River at Penns Grove; then southeast on Route 48 to its intersection with Route 40; then southeast on Route 40 to its intersection with Route 553; then north on Route 553 to the intersection with Route 610 (Aura Road); then southeast on Route 610 to its intersection with Route 47 at Clayton; then north on Route 47 to its intersection with County Route 635 (Lambs Road) at Glassboro; then west on Route 635 to its intersection with Mantua Creek at Glassboro; then northwest along the Mantua Creek to the Delaware River; then southwest along the east bank of the Delaware River, to Penns Grove, the point of beginning. Chester and Mond's Islands lying in the Delaware River are in this zone.

Zone 36: That portion of Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Passaic, Morris, Union, Somerset, and Middlesex Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 202 and the New York State line near Suffern; then south on Route 202 to its intersection with Route 287 in Oakland; then south along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 23; then northwest along Route 23 to its intersection with Route 618; then south along Route 618 to its intersection with Rockaway Valley Road; then southwest along Rockaway Valley Road to its intersection with Diamond Spring Road; then south along Diamond Spring Road to its intersection with West Main Street in Denville; then south along West Main Street to its intersection with Route 80; then east along Route 80 to its intersection with Route 511; then south on Route 511 to its intersection with Route 510; then west on Route 510 to its intersection with Route 124 at Morristown; then southeast

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on Route 124 to its intersection with Route 82; then southeast along Route 82 to its intersection with Route 22; then southwest on Route 22 to its intersection with Route 287 near Somerville; then southeast on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 18 near South Bound Brook; then southeast on Route 18 to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then north on the Turnpike to its intersection with the Raritan River; then east along the north bank of the Raritan River to Raritan Bay and the New York State line; then north along the New York State line to Arthur Kill and west bank of the Hudson River; then west along the New Jersey-New York border to the point of beginning near Suffern.

Zone 37: (Reserved.)

Zone. 38: (Reserved.)

Zone 39: The entirety of Naval Weapons Station Earle, U.S. Department of the Navy, lying within Monmouth County. The Waterfront Section (formerly Zone 40) is now included in Zone 39. Lands open for deer hunting only and persons authorized to hunt deer on the facility shall be determined by Naval Weapons Station Earle.

Zone 40: (Reserved.)

Zone 41: That portion of Hunterdon and Mercer Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 31 and Route 202 at Ringoes; then south along Route 31 to its intersection with Route 546 at then Pennington traffic circle; then west along Route 546 to the Delaware River; then north along east bank of Delaware River to its intersection with Route 202; then north along Route 202 to the point of beginning at Ringoes.

Zone 42: That portion of Atlantic County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the south bank of the Mullica River and the Garden State Parkway; then south along

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Route 9 to its intersection with Great Creek Road; then west on Great Creek Road to its intersection with Jimmie Leeds Road; then west on Jimmie Leeds Road to its intersection with Duerer Street; then west on Duerer Street to its intersection with Cologne Avenue; then south on Cologne Avenue to its intersection with Route 322; then west on Route 322 to its intersection with Route 50; then south on Route 50 to its intersection with the Great Egg Harbor River at Mays Landing; then south along the east bank of the Great Egg Harbor River to the Atlantic-Cape May County line in Great Egg Harbor Bay; then eastward along the Atlantic-Cape May County line to its intersection with the Atlantic Ocean at the Great Egg Harbor Inlet; then northeast along the Atlantic Ocean to Great Bay; then west along the south shore of Great Bay to the confluence of the Mullica River; then west along the south bank of the Mullica River to its intersection with the Garden State Parkway, the point of beginning. The Atlantic County Park System (Zone 61) and the lands (excluding Laurel Memorial Park Cemetery), roads, right of ways, and easements within the contiguous boundary of the Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center (Zone 66) are excluded from Zone 42.

Zone 43: That portion of Cumberland County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Buckshutem Road (County Road 670) and Cedarville Road (County Road 610); then southwest on Cedarville Road to its intersection with Newport Centre Grove Road (County Road 629); then southwest on Newport Centre Grove Road to its intersection with the Central Railroad of New Jersey (C.R.R.N.J.); then east on the C.R.R.N.J. line to its intersection with Haleyville Road (County Road 676) at Mauricetown Station; then east on Haleyville Road to its intersection with the Maurice River at Mauricetown; then north along the west bank of the Maurice River to the north bank of Buckshutem Creek at Laurel Lake; then west along the north bank of

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Buckshutem Creek to Buckshutem Road; then northwest on Buckshutem Road to its intersection with Cedarville Road, the point of beginning.

Zone 44: (Reserved.)

Zone 45: That portion of Cumberland, Atlantic, and Cape May Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Broad Street (Route 552 spur) and Delsea Drive (Route 47); then northeast along Route 552 spur to Route 552; then continuing northeast along Route 552 to its intersection with the Tuckahoe River at Milmay; then south along the west bank of the Tuckahoe River to its intersection with Route 49 at Hunter's Mill; then southeast on Route 49 to its intersection with Route 548; then west on Route 548 to its intersection with Delsea Drive (Route 47) and the Manumuskin River in Port Elizabeth; then west along the south bank of Manumuskin River to its intersection with the Maurice River; then north along the east bank of the Maurice River to its intersection with Route 49 in Millville; then east on Route 49 to its intersection with Delsea Drive (Route 47); then north on Route 47 to its intersection with Broad Street (Route 552 spur), the point of beginning.

Zone 46: That portion of Atlantic County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 49 and the Tuckahoe River at Hunter's Mill; then southeast along Route 49 to its intersection with the Tuckahoe River and the Atlantic-Cape May County line at Head of River; then eastward along the north bank of the Tuckahoe River to Great Egg Harbor Bay and the Egg Harbor Township line on the Egg Harbor River; then northwest along the west bank of the Egg Harbor River to its intersection with Route 40 at Mays Landing; then west on Route 40 to its intersection with Estell Avenue; then south on Estell Avenue to its intersection with Route 552; then southwest on Route 552 to its intersection with the Tuckahoe River at Milmay; then south

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along the east bank of the Tuckahoe River to its intersection with Route 49 at Hunter's Mill, the point of beginning. The Atlantic County Park System (Zone 61) is excluded from Zone 46.

Zone 47: That portion of Gloucester, Atlantic, and Cumberland Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 47 and 40 at Malaga; then southeast on Route 40 to its intersection with Estell Avenue; then south on Estell Avenue to its intersection with Route 552; then southwest on Route 552 to spur 552; then west on spur 552 to its intersection with Route 47 at Millville; then north on Route 47 to Malaga, the point of beginning.

Zone 48: That portion of Burlington County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the New Jersey Turnpike and Route 38 near Moorestown; then east along Route 38 to its intersection with Route 530; then east along Route 530 along the Pemberton by-pass to its intersection with the southern boundary of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst; then northward along the western Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst boundary to its intersection with County Road 670; then east on County Road 670 to its intersection with Route 545 at Wrightstown; then northwest on Route 545 which becomes Farnsworth Avenue; then continuing northwest on Farnsworth Avenue to its intersection with West Burlington Street; then southwest on West Burlington Street to its intersection with Interstate 295; then north on Interstate 295 to its intersection with Crosswicks Creek at Bordentown; then west along the south bank of Crosswicks Creek to its intersection with the Delaware River at Bordentown; then southwest along the east bank of the Delaware River to Route 541 at the City of Burlington; then southeast along Route 541 to its intersection with Interstate 295; then southwest along Interstate 295 to its intersection with Rancocas Creek; then east along Rancocas Creek to its intersection with the New Jersey

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Turnpike; then southwest along the New Jersey Turnpike to its intersection with Route 38, the point of beginning. New Bold and Burlington Islands lying in the Delaware River are in this zone.

Zone 49: That portion of Gloucester, Camden, and Burlington Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the mouth of Mantua Creek on the Delaware River; then northeast along the east bank of the Delaware River to Route 541 at the City of Burlington; then southeast along Route 541 to its intersection with Interstate 295; then southwest along Interstate 295 to its intersection with Rancocas Creek; then east along the Rancocas Creek to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then southwest along the New Jersey Turnpike to its intersection with Route 73; then south along Route 73 to its intersection with County Road 689 (Cross Keys Road) at Berlin; then southwest along County Road 689 to its intersection with County Road 688 (Turnersville-Hickstown Road); then west along County Road 688 to its intersection with County Road 705; then northwest along County Road 705 (County House Road) to its intersection with County Road 635 (Grenlode-Hurfville Road); then southwest on County Road 635 to its intersection with Mantua Creek; then northwest along Mantua Creek to its mouth at the Delaware River, the point of beginning. Petty Island lying in the Delaware River is in this zone.

Zone 50: That portion of Monmouth and Middlesex Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the New Jersey Turnpike and Route 522 near Jamesburg; then southeast on Route 522 to the intersection with Route 537 at Freehold; then southwest on Route 537 to the intersection with business Route 33; then east on Route 33 to the intersection with the western edge of the fenced boundary of the Earle Naval Weapons Depot; then north and east along the fenced boundary of the Earle Depot to the intersection of County Route 38 (Wayside Road) and Route 547 at the most eastern point of the fenced boundary of Naval Weapons Station--Earle;

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then northeast on Route 547 to the intersection with the Garden State Parkway; then north on the Garden State Parkway to the intersection with Route 36 near Eatontown; then east on Route 36 to the Atlantic Ocean; then north along the Atlantic coastline to the Raritan Bay; then south and west along the southern shore of Raritan Bay to Raritan River; then continuing west along the south bank of the Raritan River to the intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then southwest along the New Jersey Turnpike to the intersection with Route 522, the point of beginning. Monmouth Battlefield State Park (Zone 64), Naval Weapons Station, Earle (Zones 39 and 40), and Fort Monmouth (Zone 62), are excluded from this zone.

Zone 51: That portion of Monmouth and Ocean Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 547 and 571 near Lakehurst; then southeast along Route 571 to the intersection with the Garden State Parkway; then south on the Garden State Parkway to its intersection with Route 72 near Manahawkin; then east along Route 72 to the Atlantic Ocean at Ship Bottom; then north along the Atlantic coastline to the intersection with Route 36 in Long Branch; then west on Route 36 to the intersection with the Garden State Parkway near Eatontown; then south on the Parkway to the intersection with Route 547; then south on Route 547 to the intersection with county route 38 (Wayside Road) at the eastern fenced boundary of Naval Weapons Station, Earle; then south along the eastern fenced boundary of Naval Weapons Station, Earle to the intersection with Route 34; then south on Route 34 to the intersection with Tinton Falls Road and Route 33; then south on Tinton Falls Road to the intersection with Route 547 (Asbury Road); then south on Route 547 through Farmingdale to the intersection with Route 571, the point of beginning.

Zone 52: (Reserved.)

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Zone 53: (Reserved.)

Zone 54: The entirety of U.S. Army Armament Research and Development Command (ARRADCOM) (Picatinny Arsenal), U.S. Department of the Army, lying within Morris County. Lands open for deer hunting only and persons authorized to hunt deer on the facility shall be determined by U.S. Army Armament Research and Development Command (ARRADCOM) (Picatinny Arsenal).

Zone 55: That portion of Gloucester County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 47 and 322 at Glassboro; then east along Route 322 (County Route 536) to its intersection with Route 655 (Fries Mill Road); then south on Route 655 to its intersection with Route 610 (Academy Avenue); then west on Route 610 to its intersection with Route 47 (Delsea Drive) at Clayton; then north along Route 47 to its intersection with Route 322 at Glassboro, the point of beginning.

Zone 56: (Reserved.)

Zone 57: (Reserved.)

Zone 58: (Reserved.)

Zone 59: (Reserved.)

Zone 60: (Reserved.)

Zone 61: The entirety of the Atlantic County Park System, lying within Atlantic County. Lands open for deer hunting only and persons authorized to hunt deer on the facility shall be determined by the Atlantic County Park System.

Zone 62: (Reserved.)

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Zone 63: That portion of Salem County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Salem Canal and the Delaware River at Deepwater; then eastward along the south bank of the Salem Canal to its intersection with the Salem River; then southward along the west bank of the Salem River to its intersection with Route 49 at Salem; then southeastward on Route 49 to its intersection with Alloway Creek at Quinton; then southwest along the northern bank of the Alloway Creek to its intersection with the Delaware River; then northward along the east bank of the Delaware River and New Jersey State line to Finns Point and Fort Mott State Park; then northward along the New Jersey State Line to the Delaware River; then northwest along the east bank of the Delaware River; then northwestward along the east bank of the Delaware River and New Jersey State line to its intersection with the Salem Canal at Deepwater, the point of beginning.

Zone 64: The entirety of Monmouth Battlefield State Park, lying within Monmouth County. Lands open for deer hunting only and persons authorized to hunt deer on the facility shall be determined by Monmouth Battlefield State Park.

Zone 65: That portion of Camden and Gloucester Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 322 and County Road Route 659 (Malaga-New Brooklyn Road) in Monroe Township, Gloucester County; then northeast along Route 659 to its intersection with County Road Route 536 at New Brooklyn; then northward along Route 536 to its intersection with County Road Route 720 (Brooklyn-Blue Anchor Road); then southeast on Route 720 to its intersection with Route 73 near Blue Anchor; then southward along Route 73 to its intersection with Piney Hollow Road; then southwest along Piney Hollow Road to its intersection with Dutch Mill Road; then west along Dutch Mill Road to its intersection with County Road Route 557

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(Tuckahoe Road); then Northwest on Route 557 to its intersection with County Road Route 659 (Malaga Road); then North on Route 659 to its intersection with County Road Route 633 (Blue Bell Road); then south on Route 633 to its intersection with County Road Route 538 (Coles Mill Road); then east along Route 538 to its intersection with Route 322; then west along Route 322 to its intersection with County Road Route 659, the point of beginning.

Zone 66: That portion of Atlantic County, including lands, roads, right of ways, and easements within the contiguous boundary of the Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center, excluding Laurel Memorial Park Cemetery. Lands open for deer hunting only and persons authorized to hunt deer on the facility shall be determined by the Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center, the administrative agency.

Zone 67: The entirety of High Point State Park, lying within Sussex County. Lands open for deer hunting only and persons authorized to hunt deer on the facility shall be determined by High Point State Park.

Zone 68: The entirety of the Franklin Parker Preserve and Michael Huber Prairie Warbler Preserve, lying within Burlington County. Lands open for deer hunting only and persons authorized to hunt deer on the facility shall be determined by the Franklin Parker Preserve and Michael Huber Prairie Warbler Preserve.

Zone 69: (Reserved.)

Zone 70: (Reserved.)

Zone 71: The entirety of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, U.S. Air Force, lying within Burlington and Ocean Counties. Lands open for deer hunting only and persons authorized to hunt deer on the facility shall be determined by Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

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7:25-5.16 White-tailed deer - fall bow season

(a) A valid and proper bow and arrow or all-around sportsman license is required to hunt white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) during the fall bow season.

(b) Season dates for fall bow are based on regulation sets and specific zones. Legal hunting hours for all regulation sets and zones shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

1. For zones within the Safety and Low Regulation Sets and Zone 54, fall bow begins the fourth Saturday prior to the last Friday in October through the last Friday in October.

2. For zones within the Medium and High Regulation Sets and in Zones 39, 66, 68, and 71, fall bow begins the second Saturday in September through the last Friday in October.

3. Youth Day for hunting deer with bow and arrow will be held on the Saturday prior to the opening day of the fall bow season as specified at (b)1 above in all zones open for the fall bow season.

i. Youth hunters must possess a valid and proper youth bow license or be less than 16 years of age on the season date or qualified to hunt without a license pursuant to the exemption for farmers in accordance with N.J.S.A. 23:3-1.

ii. All youth hunters participating in Youth Day must be under the direct supervision of a properly licensed non-hunting adult 21 years of age or older.

iii. Bows, as described at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k), and edged arrowhead approved for deer hunting may be used. Except as noted at (c)10 below, and all other hunting requirements for the fall bow season shall apply.

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4. If the anticipated harvest of deer has not been accomplished during the fall bow season, additional days of bow and arrow deer hunting may be authorized by the Director, in consultation with the Council. Such authorization and dates thereof shall be announced by publication of a notice of administrative change in the New Jersey Register, as well as by posting notice on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, and/or in the Hunting and Trapping Digest.

(c) Bag limit. Bag limits for the fall bow season are based on regulation sets and zones and are defined below:

1. Only one antlered deer may be taken Statewide during the fall bow season.
2. For zones within the Safety Regulation Set, the bag limit is one antlered deer.
3. For zones within the Low Regulation Set, the bag limit is two deer, either one antlered and one antlerless, or two antlerless deer.
4. For zones within the Medium Regulation Set, the bag limit is one antlered deer and five antlerless deer.
5. For zones within the High Regulation Set and Zones 39, 54, 66, and 71, the bag limit is one antlered deer and an unlimited number of antlerless deer.
6. For Zone 68, the bag limit is one antlered deer and nine antlerless deer.
7. For zones within the Safety, Low, and Medium regulation sets, only one deer may be taken at a time until the season limit is reached.
8. For zones within the High Regulation Set and in Zones 39, 54, 66, 68, and 71, two deer may be taken at a time until the season concludes.

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9. For zones within the Medium and High Regulation Sets and in Zones 39, 66, 68, and 71 an antlerless deer must be taken before an antlered deer from the second Saturday in September through the first Friday in October except for youth hunters.

10. The bag limit for Youth Day provided at (b)3 above is one deer of either sex and any age. The requirement that hunters take an antlerless deer first, as specified at (c)9 above, is waived for this day. If a youth hunter takes an antlered deer during Youth Day, that youth can still take an antlered deer during the regular fall bow season. All tagging and deer checking requirements shall apply.

(d) In addition to the provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15, the following regulations shall apply while hunting for deer during the fall bow season:

1. Hunter orange is not required, except as provided at (d)2i below.
2. A deer decoy may be used.

i. Any person while carrying or moving deer decoys in the woods and fields for the purpose of hunting shall wear a cap of fluorescent hunter orange or some other garment containing at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material which shall be visible from all sides.

(e) The following shall be used to hunt deer during fall bow:

1. Bows, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k), with arrows fitted with an edged head meeting the following specifications:

- i. Minimum width shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.
- ii. Minimum length--none.
- iii. Cutting edges shall be of well-sharpened metal only.

(f) There are no additional permit requirements for the fall bow season.

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(g) There are no permit quotas for the fall bow season.

(h) Fall bow hunters successfully harvesting a deer shall comply with tagging and harvest reporting requirements as specified pursuant to white-tailed deer, general provisions, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(k), (l), (m), and (n).

(i) Fall bow season is open in all deer management zones for which a season is specified at (b) above and in accordance with deer management zone boundaries specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(o).

7:25-5.17 White-tailed deer - permit bow season

(a) A valid and proper bow and arrow or all-around sportsman license, and an antlerless or multi-zone bow permit is required to hunt white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) during the permit bow season. Permits are valid only in the deer management zone(s) designated on the permit. To pursue antlered deer, an antlered bow permit is required in addition to the antlerless permit.

(b) Season dates for permit bow are based on regulation sets and specific zones. Legal hunting hours for all regulation sets and zones shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

1. For zones within the Safety Regulation Set, permit bow begins the Saturday following the close of the fall bow season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(b) through the second to last Saturday in November.

2. For zones within the Low Regulation Set, permit bow begins the Saturday following the close of the fall bow season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(b) through the last Sunday in November. For zones within the Medium and High Regulation Sets and in Zones 39, 54, 61, 66,

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and 71, permit bow begins the Saturday following the close of the fall bow season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(b) through December 31, excluding Christmas Day.

3. There is no permit bow season in Zones 64 and 67.

4. If the anticipated harvest of deer has not been accomplished during the permit bow season, additional days of permit bow hunting may be authorized by the Director, in consultation with the Council. Such authorization and dates thereof shall be announced by publication of a notice of administrative change in the New Jersey Register, as well as by posting notice on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, and/or in the Hunting and Trapping Digest.

(c) Bag limit. Bag limits for the permit bow season are based on regulation sets and zones and are defined below:

1. Only one antlered deer may be taken Statewide during the permit bow season.

2. For zones within the Safety Regulation Set, the bag limit is one antlered deer.

3. For zones within the Low Regulation Set, the bag limit is two deer, either one antlered and one antlerless or two antlerless.

4. For zones within the Medium Regulation Set, the bag limit is one antlered deer and five antlerless deer.

5. For zones within the High Regulation Set and Zones 39, 54, 61, 66, and 71, the bag limit is one antlered and an unlimited number of antlerless deer.

6. In Zone 68, the bag limit is one antlered deer and nine antlerless deer.

7. For zones within the Safety, Low, and Medium regulation sets, only one deer may be taken at a time until the season limit is reached.

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8. For zones within the High Regulation Set and in Zones 39, 54, 61, 66, 68, and 71, two deer may be taken at a time until the season concludes.

(d) In addition to the provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15, the following shall apply while hunting for deer during the permit bow season:

1. Hunter orange is not required, except as provided at (d)2i below.
2. A deer decoy may be used.

i. Any person while carrying or moving deer decoys in the woods and fields for the purpose of hunting shall wear a cap of fluorescent hunter orange or some other garment containing at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material which shall be visible from all sides.

(e) The following shall be used to hunt deer during the permit bow season:

1. Bows, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k), with arrows fitted with an edged head meeting the following specifications:

- i. Minimum width shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.
- ii. Minimum length--none.
- iii. Cutting edges shall be of well-sharpened metal only.

(f) Permits for the permit bow season will be issued according to the following:

1. Antlerless bow permits are regulated as follows:

- i. Are issued through the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife ELS;
- ii. In accordance with quotas specified at (i) below, antlerless bow permits will be issued on a first come, first served basis to any properly licensed hunter or qualified farmer until the permit quota is met for the individual deer management zone(s).

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iii. Antlerless bow permits are valid only in the designated deer management zones or other designated areas and are not transferable.

iv. Only one antlerless bow permit may be purchased per zone.

v. Multi-zone permits are valid for use in any deer management zone within the designated regulation set and are not transferable.

2. Antlered bow permits are regulated as follows:

i. Are issued through the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife ELS;

ii. Are issued only when an antlerless permit is also issued;

iii. Are valid in any zone for which the hunter has already purchased an antlerless permit;

iv. Only one antlered bow permit may be purchased per permit bow season; and

v. Must be purchased prior to the season opener or at the time of purchase of the initial antlerless bow permit if the season has already begun.

3. Permits for farmers for the permit bow season will be issued in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(j). Qualified farmers will be able to claim their farmer permits, provided the individual deer management zone is open for hunting.

(g) Permit bow hunters successfully harvesting a deer shall comply with tagging and harvest reporting requirements as specified for white-tailed deer, general provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(k), (l), (m), and (n).

(h) Permit bow season is open in all deer management zones for which a season is specified at (b) above and in accordance with deer management zone boundaries specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(o). As specified at (a) above, a permit for the designated zone is required in order to hunt.

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(i) The deer management zone map is available from that agency or NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

Permit quotas for the permit bow season shall be as follows:

1. PERMIT BOW SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

Deer Mgt. Zone No.	Permit Quota
1	1,105
2	2,790
3	1,185
4	1,140
5	4,300
6	2,210
7	2,100
8	4,210
9	1,115
10	2,440
11	1,580
12	3,080
13	2,000
14	2,290
15	1,820
16	1,850
17	880
18	635

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19	1,910
21	970
22	480
23	1,020
24	370
25	1,455
26	1,315
27	1,285
28	1,400
29	1,145
30	435
31	390
34	1,240
35	1,740
36	1,000
37	Reserved
38	Reserved
39	190
41	830
42	600
43	185
45	420

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46	300
47	360
48	1,040
49	500
50	2,000
51	900
53	Reserved
54	60
55	140
56	Reserved
57	Reserved
58	Reserved
61	60
63	320
64	0
65	390
66	70
67	0
68	100
70	Reserved
71	430
Total	61,780

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2. Permit quotas for Zones 39, 54, 59, 61, 66, 68, 70, and 71 are contingent upon approval by the appropriate land management agencies for these zones.

3. Limited quota, permit bow season permits not issued may be reallocated to permit muzzleloader or permit shotgun seasons.

7:25-5.18 White-tailed deer - permit muzzleloader season

(a) A valid and proper firearm or all-around sportsman license, a rifle permit, and an antlerless or multi-zone muzzleloader permit are required to hunt white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) during the permit muzzleloader season. Permits are valid only in the deer management zone(s) designated on the permit. To pursue antlered deer, an antlered muzzleloader permit is required in addition to the antlerless permit.

(b) Season dates for permit muzzleloaders are based on regulation sets and specific zones. Legal hunting hours for all regulation sets and zones shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

1. For zones within the Safety Regulation Set, permit muzzleloaders shall include the Monday and Tuesday the week preceding the six-day firearm season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b)1, and December 1, 2, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31, 2025; November 30 and December 1, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31, 2026; November 29 and 30, and December 18, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31, 2027; November 27 and 28 and December 16, 18, 19, 20, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31, 2028; November 26 and 27 and December 15, 17, 18, 19,

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24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31, 2029; and December 2, 3, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31, 2030.

2. For zones within the Low Regulation Set and Zone 61, permit muzzleloader shall include the Monday and Tuesday of the week preceding the six-day firearm season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b)1; the Monday and Tuesday of the week after the six-day firearm season; and the Saturday following the six-day firearm season through December 31, exclusive of Christmas Day, and January 1, or January 2 if January 1 is a Sunday, through the first Friday in January (Note: If January 1 falls on a Wednesday through Friday, then the season extends through the second Saturday in January).

3. For zones within the Medium Regulation Set, permit muzzleloaders shall include the Monday and Tuesday of the week preceding the six-day firearm season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b)1; the Monday of the week after the six-day firearm season through December 31 exclusive of Christmas Day, and January 1, or January 2 if January 1 is a Sunday, through the first Friday in January (Note: If January 1 falls on a Wednesday through Friday, then the season extends through the second Saturday in January).

4. For zones within the High Regulation Set, permit muzzleloaders shall include the Monday through Wednesday and the Friday of Thanksgiving week; the Monday and Tuesday preceding the six-day firearm season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b)1; the week of the six-day firearm season; the Monday following the six-day firearm season, through December 31, exclusive of Christmas Day, and January 1 through the third Saturday in February.

5. For Zone 39, the permit muzzleloader season shall include December 1 through 6 and 15 through 31, 2025, and January 1 through February 14, 2026; and November 30 and December

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1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 14 through 31, 2026, and January 1 through February 13, 2027; and November 29 through December 4 and 13 through 31, 2027, and January 1 through February 12, 2028; and November 27 through December 2 and 11 through 30, 2028, and January 1 through February 10, 2029; and November 26 through December 1 and 10 through 31, 2029, and January 1 through February 9, 2030; and December 2 through 7 and 16 through 31, 2030, and January 1 through February 8, 2031.

6. For Zone 54, the permit muzzleloader season shall include December 1, 2, 15 through 31, 2025, and January 1 through 10, 2026; November 30 and December 1 and 14 through 31, 2026, and January 1 through 9, 2027; November 29 and 30, and December 13 through 31, 2027, and January 1 through 8, 2028; and November 27 and 28, December 11 through 30, 2028, and January 1 through 6, 2029; and November 26 and 27, and December 10 through 31, 2029, and January 1 through 5, 2030; and December 2 and 3 and 16 through 31, 2030, and January 1 through 11, 2031.

7. For Zone 66, the permit muzzleloader season shall include November 29 through December 6 and December 12 and 13, 2025, and January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2026; and November 28 through December 5 and December 11 and 12, 2026, and January 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2027; and November 27 through December 4 and December 10 and 11, 2027, and January 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2028; and November 25 through December 2 and December 8 and 9, 2028, and January 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2029; and November 24 through December 1 and December 7 and 8, 2029, and January 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2030; and November 30 through December 7 and December 13 and 14, 2030, and January 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2031.

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8. For Zone 67, the permit muzzleloader season shall include November 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, and 13, 2025; November 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, and 12, 2026; November 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 11, 2027; November 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, and 16, 2028; November 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 15, 2029; and November 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 14, 2030.

9. For Zone 68, the permit muzzleloader season shall include the Monday and Tuesday of the week preceding the six-day firearm season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b)1; the Monday and Tuesday following the six-day firearm season; the Saturday following the six-day firearm season through December 31, exclusive of Christmas Day; and January 1 through January 31.

10. For Zone 71, the permit muzzleloader season shall include November 29, and December 1 through 6, 15 through 24, and 26 through 31, 2025, and January 2 through 10, 2026; and November 28, 30, and December 1 through 5, 14 through 24, and 26 through 31, 2026, and January 2 through 9, 2027; November 27, 29, 30, and December 1, 2, 3, 4, 13 through 24, and 27 through 31, 2027, and January 3 through 8, 2028; and November 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, and December 1, 2, 11 through 24, and 26 through 31, 2028, and January 2 through 13, 2029; and November 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and December 1, 10 through 23, 26 through 31, 2029, and January 2 through 12, 2030; and November 30, and December 2 through 7, 16 through 24, and 26 through 31, 2030, and January 2 through 11, 2031.

11. There is no permit muzzleloader season for Zones 56 and 64.

12. If the anticipated harvest of deer has not been accomplished during the permit muzzleloader season, additional days of permit muzzleloader hunting may be authorized by the Director, in consultation with the Council. Such authorization and dates thereof shall be announced by publication of a notice of administrative change in the New Jersey Register, as well as by

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posting notice on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, and in the Hunting and Trapping Digest.

(c) Bag limit. Bag limits for the permit muzzleloader season are based on regulation sets and zones and are defined below:

1. Only one antlered deer may be taken Statewide during the permit muzzleloader season;
2. For zones within the Safety Regulation Set, the bag limit is one antlered deer only;
3. For zones within the Low Regulation Set, the bag limit is two deer, one antlered and one antlerless or two antlerless;
4. For zones within the Medium Regulation Set, the bag limit is one antlered deer and five antlerless deer;
5. For zones within the High Regulation Set and in Zones 39, 54, 61, and 66 the bag limit is one antlered and an unlimited number of antlerless deer;
6. For Zone 67, the bag limit is one antlered and an unlimited number of antlerless deer. In Zone 67, an antlerless deer must be taken in each year before taking or attempting to take an antlered deer during the prescribed muzzleloader deer seasons;
7. For Zone 68, the bag limit is one antlered deer and nine antlerless deer;
8. For Zone 71, the bag limit is one antlered deer and two antlerless deer or three antlerless deer;
9. For zones within the Safety, Low, and Medium Regulation Sets, only one deer may be taken at a time until the season limit is reached;
10. For zones within the High Regulation Set, and in Zones 39, 54, 61, 66, 68, and 71, two deer may be taken at a time until the season concludes; and

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11. For zones within the High Regulation Set, only antlerless deer may be taken during the Monday through Wednesday and Friday of Thanksgiving week and the dates concurrent with the six-day firearm season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b)1.

(d) In addition N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15, the following shall apply while hunting for deer during the permit muzzleloader season:

1. Hunter orange, consisting of at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material visible from all sides, is required;

2. A deer decoy may not be used; and

3. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(b)4 for coyotes and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8(b)3 for foxes, coyotes and foxes may be taken incidentally while deer hunting during the permit muzzleloader season.

(e) The following shall be used to hunt deer during permit muzzleloader:

1. Muzzleloader rifles .44 caliber or larger loaded with a single projectile;

2. Single smoothbore muzzleloader no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than a 20 gauge with a single projectile or shot no larger than 000 (0.36 inch) and no smaller than No. 4 buckshot (.24 inch).

i. Double barrel and other types of smoothbore muzzleloaders capable of firing more than one shot without reloading or holding more than one charge are prohibited during the permit muzzleloader season; and

3. Only one muzzleloader rifle or smoothbore muzzleloader may be possessed while hunting deer during the permit muzzleloader season.

(f) Permits for the permit muzzleloader season shall be issued according to the following:

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1. Antlerless muzzleloader permits:

- i. Are issued through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife ELS.
- ii. Are limited by quota, as specified at (i) below. Muzzleloader permits shall be issued on a first come, first served basis to holders of valid and proper firearm licenses and rifle permits or all-around sportsman licenses and rifle permits until the permit quota is met for the individual deer management zone(s).
- iii. Antlerless permits are valid only in the designated deer management zones or other designated areas and are not transferable.
- iv. Only one antlerless muzzleloader permit may be purchased per zone.
- v. Multi-zone permits are valid for use in any deer management zone within the designated regulation set and are not transferable.

2. Antlered muzzleloader permits:

- i. Are issued through the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife ELS;
- ii. Issued only when an antlerless permit is also issued;
- iii. Valid in any zone for which the hunter has already purchased an antlerless permit;
- iv. Only one antlered muzzleloader permit may be purchased per season; and
- v. Must be purchased prior to the season opener or at the time of purchase of the initial antlerless muzzleloader permit if the season has already begun.

3. Permits for farmers for the permit muzzleloader season will be issued in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(j). Qualified farmers will be able to claim their farmer permits, provided the individual deer management zone is open for hunting.

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(g) Permit muzzleloader hunters successfully harvesting a deer shall comply with tagging and harvest reporting requirements as specified pursuant to white-tailed deer, the general provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(k), (l), (m), and (n).

(h) Permit muzzleloader season is open in all deer management zones for which a season is specified at (b) above and in accordance with deer management zone boundaries specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(o).

(i) The Deer Management Zone Map is available from NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. Permit quotas for the permit muzzleloader season shall be as follows:

1. PERMIT MUZZLELOADER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

Deer Mgt. Zone No.	Permit Quota
1	1,500
2	2,510
3	1,180
4	1,270
5	3,510
6	1,760
7	1,690
8	2,920
9	530
10	1,760
11	1,090

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12	1,860
13	565
14	1,020
15	1,260
16	1,240
17	845
18	660
19	1,570
21	1,350
22	350
23	1,420
24	700
25	1,265
26	1,860
27	1,050
28	1,330
29	965
30	610
31	435
34	1,720
35	1,460
36	800

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37	Reserved
38	Reserved
39	100
41	590
42	500
43	255
45	590
46	528
47	440
48	780
49	120
50	510
51	410
53	Reserved
54	50
55	210
56	Reserved
57	Reserved
58	Reserved
61	60
63	280
64	0

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65	390
66	15
67	350
68	100
70	Reserved
71	580
Total	50,913

2. Permit quotas in Zones 39, 54, 61, 66, 67, 68, and 71 are contingent upon approval by appropriate land management agencies for those zones.

3. Limited quota, permit muzzleloader season permits not issued may be reallocated to permit shotgun season.

7:25-5.19 White-tailed deer six-day firearm season

(a) A valid and proper firearm or all-around sportsman license is required to hunt white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) during the six-day firearm season. A valid rifle permit is also required to hunt with a muzzleloader rifle. Bow hunters participating in six-day firearm season must possess a valid and proper firearm license in addition to a valid bow and arrow or all-around sportsman license.

(b) The six-day firearm season for white-tailed deer is Statewide. Legal hunting hours for all regulation sets and zones shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise and 1/2 hour after sunset. The six-day firearm season shall:

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1. Begin the second Monday after Thanksgiving through the following Saturday, inclusive.
2. Youth Day for hunting deer with a hunting firearm will be held on the second Saturday preceding the opening of the permit muzzleloader season, as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.18(b).

- i. Youth hunters must possess a valid and proper firearm license or be less than 16 years of age on the season date and qualified to hunt without a license pursuant to the farmer license exemption. A valid rifle permit is also required to hunt with a muzzleloader rifle.

- ii. All youth hunters participating in Youth Day must be under the direct supervision of a properly licensed non-hunting adult (21 years of age or older). The supervising adult must possess a valid and proper firearm license and a rifle permit, if the youth hunter is using a muzzleloading rifle.

- iii. Any hunting firearm and ammunition approved for six-day firearm shall be used.

- iv. Except as set forth at (c)1 below, all other hunting requirements for six-day firearm shall apply.

3. If the anticipated harvest of deer has not been accomplished during the six-day firearm season, additional days of deer hunting may be authorized by the Director, in consultation with the Council. Such authorization and dates thereof shall be announced by publication of a notice of administrative change in the New Jersey Register, as well as by posting notice on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, and/or in the Hunting and Trapping Digest.

(c) Bag limit. Bag limits for the six-day firearm season are defined below:

1. Bag limit is two antlered deer in all zones open for the prescribed season. Each antlered deer must have one antler at least three inches long. Only one antlered deer may be taken at a time.

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2. The bag limit for Youth Day provided for at (b)2 above is one deer of either sex or any age. If a youth hunter takes an antlered deer during youth day, that youth can still take two antlered deer during the six-day firearm season. All tagging and deer checking requirements shall apply.

3. Farmers may harvest an antlerless deer during the six-day firearm season regardless of whether that zone is open for permit shotgun or permit muzzleloader.

(d) In addition to the provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15, the following shall apply while hunting for deer during the six-day firearm season:

1. Hunter orange, consisting of at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material visible from all sides, is required for all hunters during the six-day firearm season, including those using bow and arrow;

2. A deer decoy may not be used; and

3. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(b)4 for coyotes and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8(b)3 for foxes, coyotes and foxes may be taken incidentally while deer hunting during the six-day firearm season.

(e) The following shall be used to hunt deer during the six-day firearm season:

1. Bows with arrows fitted with an edged head of the following specifications:

i. Minimum width shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

ii. Minimum length--none.

iii. Cutting edges shall be of well-sharpened metal only.

2. Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than 20 gauge with shot no larger than 000 buckshot (0.36 inch) and no smaller than 4 buckshot (.24 inch) or with lead, lead alloy, or

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copper slugs. Shotgun shells containing a single spherical projectile may not be possessed or used.

Shotguns with a rifled bore are legal.

3. Single- or double-barrel smoothbore muzzleloaders no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than 20 gauge with shot no larger than 000 buckshot (0.36 inch) and no smaller than 4 buckshot (.24 inch) or with a single projectile.

4. Muzzleloader rifles .44 or larger caliber loaded with a single projectile.

(f) Six-day firearm season hunters successfully harvesting a deer shall comply with tagging and harvest reporting requirements as specified pursuant to the white-tailed deer, the general provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(k), (l), (m), and (n). Deer taken with a bow and arrow during the six-day firearm season shall be tagged with a transportation tag from either the firearm or all-around license.

(g) The six-day firearm season is open in all deer management zones for which a season is specified at (b) above and in accordance with deer management zone boundaries specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(r).

(h) Except as noted for rifle permit requirements at (a) above, there are no additional permit requirements for the six-day firearm season.

(i) There are no permit quotas for the six-day firearm season.

7:25-5.20 White-tailed deer - permit shotgun season

(a) A valid and proper firearm or all-around sportsman license and an antlerless or multi-zone shotgun permit is required to hunt white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) during the permit shotgun season. Permits are valid only in the deer management zone(s) designated on the permit.

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To pursue antlered deer, an antlered shotgun permit is required in addition to the antlerless permit specified above.

(b) Season dates for permit shotgun are based on regulation sets and specific zones. Legal hunting hours for all regulation sets and zones shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

1. For zones within the Safety Regulation Set, permit shotgun shall include the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of the week following the six-day firearm season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b).

2. For zones within the Low Regulation Set, permit shotgun shall include the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of the week following the six-day firearm season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b)1.

3. For zones within the Medium Regulation Set, permit shotgun shall include the Monday through Friday of the week following the six-day firearm season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b)1, and January 1 through the third Saturday in January.

4. For zones within the High Regulation Set, permit shotgun shall include the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday of Thanksgiving week, the week of the six-day firearm season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b)1, the Monday through Friday of the week following the six-day firearm season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b)1, and January 1 through the third Saturday in February.

5. For Zone 39, the permit shotgun season shall include December 6, 8 through 13, 20, and 27, 2025, and January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 and February 7 and 14, 2026; and December 5, 7 through 12, 19, and 26, 2026, and January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 and February 6 and 13, 2027; December 4, 6 through 11, 18, 2027, and January 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, and February 5 and 12,

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2028; December 2, 4 through 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2028, and January 6, 13, 20, and 27, and February 3 and 10, 2029; December 1, 3 through 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2029, and January 5, 12, 19, and 26 and February 2 and 9, 2030; December 7, 9 through 14, 21, and 28, 2030, and January 4, 11, 18, 25 and February 1 and 8, 2031.

6. For Zone 54, the permit shotgun season shall include December 8 through 13 and 20, 2025, and January 3 and 5 through 10, 2026; and December 7 through 12 and 19, 2026, and January 2 and 4 through 9, 2027; and December 6 through 11 and 18, 2027, and January 1 and 3 through 8, 2028; and December 4 through 9 and 16, 2028, and January 6 and 8 through 13, 2029; and December 3 through 8 and 15, 2029, and January 5 and 7 through 12, 2030; and December 9 through 14 and 21, 2030, and January 4 and 6 through 11, 2031.

7. For Zone 61, the permit shotgun season shall include December 8 through 13, 17, 18, and 19, 2025; December 7 through 12, 16, 17, and 18, 2026; December 6 through 11, 15, 16, and 17, 2027; December 4 through 9, 13, 14, and 15, 2028; December 3 through 8, 12, 13, and 14, 2029; and December 9 through 14, 18, 19, and 20, 2030.

8. For Zone 64, the permit shotgun season shall include December 8 through 13, 2025; December 7 through 12, 2026; December 6 through 11, 2027; December 4 through 9, 2028; December 3 through 8, 2029; and December 9 through 14, 2030.

9. For Zone 66, the permit shotgun season shall include November 29 through December 6 and December 12 and 13, 2025, and January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2026; and November 28 through December 5 and December 11 and 12, 2026, and January 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2027, and November 27 through December 4 and December 10 and 11, 2027; and January 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2028; and November 25 through December 2 and December 8 and 9, 2028, and January 6, 13, 20,

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and 27, 2029; and November 24 through December 1 and December 7 and 8, 2029, and January 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2030; and November 30 through December 7 and December 13 and 14, 2030, and January 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2031.

10. For Zone 67, there is no permit shotgun season.

11. For Zone 68, the permit shotgun season shall include the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of the week following the six-day firearm season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b)1, and the first Saturday in January through January 31.

12. For Zone 71, the permit shotgun season shall include December 8 through 13, 17, 18, and 19, 2025, and January 3 through 10, 2026; and December 7 through 12, 16, 17, and 18, 2026, and January 2 through 9, 2027; December 6 through 11, 15, 16, and 17, 2027, and January 3 through 8, 2028; December 4 through 9, 13, 14, and 15, 2028, and January 6 through 13, 2029; and December 3 through 8, 12, 13, and 14, 2029, and January 5 through 12, 2030; December 9 through 14, 18, 19, and 20, 2030, and January 4 through 11, 2031.

13. If the anticipated harvest of deer has not been accomplished during the permit shotgun season, additional days of permit shotgun hunting may be authorized by the Director, in consultation with the Council. Such authorization and dates thereof shall be announced by publication of a notice of administrative change in the New Jersey Register, as well as by posting notice on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, and/or in the Hunting and Trapping Digest.

14. For farmer permit shotgun permit holders, permit shotgun season shall include the six-day firearm season, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b), in addition to permit shotgun season

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prescribed for the deer management zone prescribed on their permit for the property occupied or designated on the application.

(c) Bag limit. Bag limits for the permit shotgun season are based on regulation sets and zones and are set forth below:

1. Only one antlered deer shall be taken Statewide during the permit shotgun season.
2. For zones within the Safety Regulation Set, the bag limit is one antlered deer.
3. For zones within the Low Regulation Set, the bag limit is two deer, either one antlered and one antlerless or two antlerless deer.
4. For zones within the Medium Regulation Set, the bag limit is one antlered deer and five antlerless deer.
5. For zones within the High Regulation Set and in Zones 39, 54, 61, 64, and 66, the bag limit is one antlered deer and an unlimited number of antlerless deer.
6. In Zone 68, the bag limit is one antlered deer and nine antlerless deer.
7. In Zone 71, the bag limit is one antlered deer and two antlerless deer or three antlerless deer.
8. For zones within the High Regulation Set, only antlerless deer shall be taken during the Monday through Wednesday and Friday of Thanksgiving week, and during the dates concurrent with the six-day firearm season, as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b)1.
9. For zones within the Safety, Low, and Medium regulation sets, only one deer shall be taken at a time until the season limit is reached.
10. For zones within the High Regulation Set and in Zones 39, 54, 61, 64, 66, 68, and 71, two deer may be taken at a time per permit until the season concludes.

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11. For farmer permit shotgun permit holders, when the season for the prescribed zone overlaps with six-day firearm season, as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:23-5.19(b), only antlerless deer may be taken.

(d) In addition to provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15, the following shall apply while hunting for deer during the permit shotgun season:

1. Hunter orange, consisting of at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material visible from all sides, is required.

2. A deer decoy may not be used;

3. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(b)4 for coyotes and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8(b)3 for foxes, coyotes and foxes may be taken incidentally while deer hunting during the six-day firearm season.

(e) The following shall be used to hunt deer during permit shotgun:

1. Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than 20 gauge with shot no larger than 000 Buckshot (0.36 inch) and no smaller than 4 Buckshot (.24 inch) or with lead, lead alloy, or copper slugs. Shotgun shells containing a single spherical projectile may not be possessed or used. Shotguns with a rifled bore are legal.

2. Single- or double-barrel smoothbore muzzleloaders no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than 20 gauge with shot no larger than 000 buckshot (0.36 inch) and no smaller than 4 buckshot (.24 inch) or with a single projectile.

(f) Permits for the permit shotgun season shall be issued in accordance with the following:

1. Antlerless permit shotgun:

i. Are issued through NJDEP Fish & Wildlife ELS;

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ii. Are limited quota, as specified at (i) below. Shotgun permits shall be issued on a first come, first served basis to holders of valid and proper firearm or all-around sportsman licenses until the permit quota is met for the individual deer management zone(s);

iii. Antlerless permits are valid only in the designated deer management zones or other designated areas and are not transferable;

iv. Only one antlerless shotgun permit may be purchased per zone; and

v. Antlerless multi-zone permits are valid for use in any deer management zone within the designated regulation set and are not transferable.

2. Antlered permit shotgun permits:

i. Are issued through the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife ELS;

ii. Issued only when an antlerless permit is also issued;

iii. Valid in any zone for which the hunter has already purchased an antlerless permit;

iv. Only one antlered shotgun permit may be purchased per season; and

v. Must be purchased prior to the season opener or at the time of the purchase of the initial antlerless shotgun permit if the season has already begun.

3. Permits for farmers for the permit shotgun season shall be issued in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(j). Qualified farmers will be able to claim their farmer permits, provided the individual deer management zone is open for hunting.

(g) Permit shotgun hunters successfully harvesting a deer shall comply with tagging and harvest reporting requirements as specified pursuant to the white-tailed deer, the general provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-15(k), (l), (m), and (n).

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- (h) Permit shotgun season is open in all deer management zones for which a season is specified at (b) above and in accordance with deer management zone boundaries specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15(o). As specified at (a) above, a permit for the designated zone is required in order to hunt.
- (i) The deer management zone map is on file and available from NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. Permit quotas for the Permit Shotgun season shall be as follows:

1. PERMIT SHOTGUN SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

Deer Mgt. Zone No.	Permit Quota
1	645
2	3,250
3	303
4	744
5	8,360
6	2,210
7	3,490
8	7,280
9	1,240
10	3,590
11	2,370
12	4,140
13	1,200
14	2,820

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15	2,650
16	1,630
17	1,650
18	200
19	2,830
21	270
22	785
23	260
24	106
25	3,400
26	2,365
27	1,540
28	1,530
29	1,390
30	520
31	390
34	1,370
35	2,910
36	1,000
37	Reserved
38	Reserved
39	160

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41	1,300
42	1,330
43	55
45	170
46	146
47	850
48	1,760
49	310
50	1,780
51	1,510
53	Reserved
54	50
55	80
56	Reserved
57	Reserved
58	Reserved
61	100
63	600
64	100
65	120
66	80
67	0

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68	170
70	25
71	200
Total	79,334

2. Permit quotas for Zones 39, 54, 61, 64, 66, 67, 68, and 71 are contingent upon approval by appropriate land management agencies for those zones.

3. Limited quota, permit shotgun season permits not issued may be reallocated to the permit muzzleloader season.

7:25-5.21 White-tailed deer winter bow season

(a) A valid and proper bow and arrow or all-around sportsman license is required to hunt white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) during the winter bow season.

(b) Season dates for the winter bow season are based on regulation sets and specific zones. Legal hunting hours for all regulation sets and zones shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

1. For zones within the Safety, Low, and Medium Regulation Sets and in Zones 54, 61, 66, 67, and 68, the winter bow season begins January 1 through January 31.

2. For zones within the High Regulation Set and in Zones 39, 64, and 71, the winter bow season begins January 1 through the third Saturday in February. There is no winter bow season hunting in Zone 71 on January 1.

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3. If the anticipated harvest of deer has not been accomplished during the winter bow season, additional days of winter bow hunting may be authorized by the Director, in consultation with the Council. Such authorization and dates thereof shall be announced by publication of a notice of administrative change in the New Jersey Register, as well as by posting notice on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, and/or in the Hunting and Trapping Digest.

(c) Bag limit. Bag limits for the winter bow season are based on regulation sets and zones and are defined below:

1. Only one antlered deer may be taken Statewide during the winter bow season.
2. For zones within the Safety Regulation Set, the bag limit is one antlered deer.
3. For zones within the Low Regulation Set and Zone 71, the bag limit is two deer, one antlered and one antlerless, or two antlerless deer.
4. For zones within the Medium Regulation Set, the bag limit is one antlered deer and five antlerless deer.
5. For zones within the High Regulation Set and for Zones 39, 64, and 66, the bag limit is one antlered deer and an unlimited number of antlerless deer.
6. For Zone 68, the bag limit is one antlered deer and nine antlerless deer.
7. For zones within the Safety, Low, and Medium regulation sets, only one deer may be taken at a time until the season limit is reached.
8. For zones within the High Regulation Set and in Zones 39, 54, 61, 64, 66, 67, 68, and 71, two deer may be taken at a time until the season concludes.

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(d) In addition to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.15, the following shall apply while hunting for deer during the winter bow season:

1. Hunter orange is not required, except as provided at (d)2i below; and
2. A deer decoy may be used.

i. Any person, while carrying or moving deer decoys in the woods and fields for the purpose of hunting, shall wear a cap of fluorescent hunter orange or some other garment containing at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material that shall be visible from all sides.

(e) The following shall be used to hunt deer during the winter bow season:

1. Bows, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k), with arrows fitted with an edged head of the following specifications:

- i. Minimum width shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch;
- ii. Minimum length – none; and
- iii. Cutting edges shall be of well-sharpened metal only.

(f) There are no additional permit requirements for the winter bow season.

(g) There are no permit quotas for the winter bow season.

(h) Winter bow season hunters successfully harvesting a deer shall comply with tagging and harvest reporting requirements as specified in the white-tailed deer, general provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-15(k), (l), (m), and (n).

(i) The winter bow season is open in all deer management zones for which a season is specified at (b) above and in accordance with deer management zone boundaries specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-15(r).

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7:25-5.22 Woodchuck

(a) A valid and proper firearm, bow and arrow license, or all-around sportsmen license is required to hunt woodchuck (*Marmota monax*). Hunting with a rifle also requires a valid and proper rifle permit.

(b) The hunting seasons for woodchuck shall be as follows:

1. The season for hunting woodchuck with a rifle shall begin on March 1 (except in years when March 1 is a Sunday, in which case the season shall begin on March 2) and conclude on the Wednesday before the opening of the fall bow deer season specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(b), inclusive. Legal hunting hours shall be sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

2. The season for hunting firearm or bow and arrow license holders shall begin on March 1 (except in years when March 1 is a Sunday in which case the season shall begin on March 2) and conclude on the Wednesday before the opening of the fall bow season specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(b), inclusive, and begin on the last Saturday in September and conclude the third Monday of the following February, inclusive; except the season shall be closed during the six-day firearm deer season as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(b) and on the Wednesday immediately following the six-day firearm season. Legal hunting hours shall be sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

(c) Bag limit. There is no season or daily bag limit for hunting woodchuck.

(d) Unless noted otherwise, the following shall apply while hunting woodchuck:

1. Hunter orange is not required when hunting woodchuck;

2. Woodchuck shall not be hunted for or taken on Sunday; except the hunting of woodchuck on Sundays with raptors is permitted during the prescribed seasons; and

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3. There shall be no rifle hunting for woodchuck on State wildlife management areas or State parks, forests, or recreation areas.

(e) The following shall be used for hunting woodchuck:

1. Bows, as prescribed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(k), with arrows fitted with an edged head of the following specifications:

- i. Minimum width shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch;
- ii. Minimum length – none; and
- iii. Cutting edges shall be of well-sharpened metal only;

2. Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than .410 caliber with shot no larger than No. 4 fine shot and no smaller than No. 10 fine shot;

3. Single- or double-barrel smoothbore muzzleloaders no larger than 10 gauge with shot no larger than No. 4 fine shot and no smaller than No. 10 fine shot;

4. Muzzleloader rifles loaded with a single projectile;

5. Centerfire rifles and air guns .25 caliber or smaller or centerfire rifles larger than .25 caliber using bullets not exceeding 80 grains in weight; all centerfire ammunition must be hollow point, soft point, or expanding lead core bullets; and

6. Rimfire rifles using hollow point or soft point ammunition not exceeding 50 grains in weight.

(f) Except for a rifle permit as noted at (a) above, there are no additional permit requirements associated with woodchuck hunting.

(g) There are no tagging or harvest reporting requirements for woodchuck hunting.

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(h) There are no management zones or delineated hunting areas associated with woodchuck hunting.

(i) There are no permit quotas for woodchuck hunting.

7:25-5.23 Trapping, general provisions

(a) No trap stakes or traps shall be placed or set before the times as indicated at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24, 5.25, 5.26, and 5.27.

(b) All traps set or used in this State must bear a metal tag with the name and address of the person setting, using, and maintaining the traps. An NJDEP Fish & Wildlife-issued trap identification number or Conservation Identification Number (CID) may be used in lieu of a name and address.

(c) All traps set or in use must be checked, tended, and maintained at least once per calendar day for the trapping of semi-aquatic species in tidal areas and at least once every 24 hours for all other trappings.

(d) Legally licensed trappers may carry and use an air gun, no smaller than .177 caliber or greater than .25 caliber, to kill legally trapped beavers other than on water sets for semi-aquatic species.

(e) No trap of any kind shall be permitted to remain set on any property at the close of the trapping season.

(f) Permittees shall conform to all Federal, State, and local statutes, rules, codes, and ordinances pertaining to the use and discharge of hunting firearms, and the setting of traps.

(g) Steel-jaw leghold traps:

1. No person in this State shall:

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i. Manufacture, sell, offer for sale, possess, import, or transport an animal trap of the steel-jaw leghold type;

ii. Take or attempt to take any animal by means of a trap of the steel-jaw leghold type; or

iii. Use a steel-jaw leghold-type trap.

2. The possession of a trap of the steel-jaw leghold type shall be *prima facie* evidence of a violation of this section except pursuant to the conditions prescribed at N.J.S.A. 23:4-22.5, which are:

i. The use of steel-jaw leghold traps for the purpose of exhibition by humane or educational institutions or organizations; or

ii. The possession of such traps by a person in the act of turning over the traps to a law enforcement agency.

7:25-5.24 Beaver trapping

(a) A valid and proper trapping license and a valid beaver trapping permit are required to trap beavers (*Castor canadensis*). A valid and proper firearm license is required to dispatch beavers. All persons in possession of a rifle while trapping must have, in addition to their license, a valid rifle permit. Beaver permits are valid only within the beaver management zone designated on the permit.

(b) The trapping season for beaver shall be:

1. Except as provided at (b)2 below, the trapping season for beaver shall begin on December 15 at 6:00 A.M. and conclude the following March 15, at 11:59 P.M., inclusive.

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2. On State wildlife management areas stocked with pheasants and quail by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, as identified on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, the trapping season for beaver shall begin at 6:00 A.M. on January 1 and conclude March 15, at 11:59 P.M., inclusive.

(c) Bag limit. The season limit for trapping beavers is 10 beavers per permit.

(d) In addition to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23, the following shall apply while trapping beavers, regardless of season, location, or management zone:

1. Beavers shall be taken by trapping only;
2. Beavers shall only be taken by means of a trap approved by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife;
3. Each beaver trapper shall be restricted to a maximum of six traps per day per beaver management zone. Each trap shall be tagged pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(b) with the tag clearly visible above the level of the water or ice;
4. Beaver permits are not transferable from person to person; and
5. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, in its discretion, may designate and suitably post signage in the vicinity of certain beaver colonies and prohibit all trapping within their dams, or within 500 feet thereof, during the beaver trapping season as indicated in this section.

(e) The following shall be used to trap beavers:

1. Body gripping killer-type trap, in accordance with the following:
 - i. No person shall set, use, or maintain any type of body gripping killer-type trap for the purpose of trapping any beaver in this State, unless such trap is completely submerged underwater. This shall not preclude the setting of body gripping killer-type traps in tidal waters of this State for the purpose of taking beavers where the traps are exposed above the surface of the

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water due to the ebb and flow of the tide, provided that all such traps shall be completely submerged at mean high tide; and

ii. No body gripping killer-type traps with a jaw spread larger than 10 inches shall be used, set, or maintained at any time in this State for the purpose of trapping beaver. Jaw spread shall be measured across the trigger of a set trap to the inner edges of the jaws;

2. Cage trap;

3. Live capture cable restraint, in accordance with the following:

i. No person shall set, use, or maintain any type of cable restraint for beaver, unless they have first satisfactorily completed an NJDEP Fish & Wildlife-approved cable restraint training course and carry on their person appropriate certification thereof;

ii. Except when submerged underwater, all live capture cable restraints used in trapping must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring up to 3/16 inches in diameter and be equipped with a swivel and a relaxing lock;

iii. No live capture cable restraints shall be set, used, or maintained with a loop diameter average (arithmetic mean) greater than 12 inches;

iv. No live capture cable restraints shall be set, used, or maintained with the distance between the ground or walking surface to the top of the loop greater than 24 inches;

v. Except when submerged underwater, no live capture cable restraints shall be set, used, or maintained unless they are equipped with a stop six inches from the end to restrict loop closure to no less than six inches in circumference; and

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vi. All natural baits consisting of fish, bird, or mammal carcasses or flesh used in trapping with live capture cable restraints must be covered or concealed from view except when placed or located at a distance of 30 feet or greater from any set cable restraint;

4. A .22 caliber rifle may be used to dispatch legally trapped beaver, in accordance with the following:

i. A legally licensed trapper possessing a valid rifle permit may possess and use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 short rimfire cartridge only to dispatch legally trapped beaver while tending his or her trap line;

ii. It shall be legal to use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 caliber short cartridge for dispatching legally trapped beaver on State wildlife management areas; and

iii. Legally licensed trappers under 14 years of age using a .22 caliber rifle in accordance with a valid and proper rifle permit to kill legally trapped animals shall be accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a properly licensed adult who is at least 21 years of age. The supervising adults must have a proper and valid trapping license; and

5. An air gun may be used to dispatch a trapped beaver in accordance with the following:

i. Legally licensed trappers may carry and use an air gun, no smaller than .177 caliber or greater than .25 caliber, to kill legally trapped beavers other than on water sets for semi-aquatic species;

ii. Air guns may use wadcutter, domed or pointed, or hollow point pellets; spherical BBs are not permitted; and

iii. Legally licensed trappers under 14 years of age using an air gun to kill legally trapped animals shall be accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a properly licensed

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adult who is at least 21 years of age. Supervising adult must have a valid and proper trapping license.

(f) Application for beaver trapping permits shall be as follows:

1. Applicants shall submit an application using the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife ELS or, in the event of ELS operating difficulties, by providing the same information at ELS locations through such alternate system as may be designated by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife during the period of October 1 through 31, annually;

2. Applicants may apply for only one beaver trapping permit;

3. Applicants shall provide their:

i. Conservation ID Number;

ii. Name;

iii. Address; and

iv. Any other supporting information requested thereon;

4. If the number of applications received exceeds the quotas listed at (i) below, a random drawing will be held to determine permit holders; and

5. Unclaimed beaver permits may be reissued to other applicants until quotas are met.

(g) Trappers successfully harvesting a beaver shall:

1. Upon taking possession of the beaver or any part thereof, complete and immediately affix the transportation tag provided by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife to the beaver; and

2. Report harvest using AHRS by 10:00 P.M. on the day of harvest.

(h) The boundaries of the Beaver Management Zones are as follows:

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1. Zone 1: That portion of Sussex County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the New York-New Jersey state line with Route 519, then south on Route 519 to its intersection with Route 23, then south on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 519 at Colesville, then south on Route 519 to its intersection with County Route 636 above Branchville, then west on Route 636 to its intersection with Route 206, then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 521, then southwest on Route 521 to its intersection with County Route 617, then south on Route 617 to its intersection with Route 624 near Fairview Lake, then northwest on Route 624 to its intersection with Big Flatbrook River; then southwest along the southern bank of the Big Flatbrook River to its confluence with the Delaware River, then north along the Delaware River to the New York-New Jersey state line, then south along the New York-New Jersey state line to Route 519, the point of beginning.

2. Zone 2: That portion of Sussex County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the New York-New Jersey state line with Route 519, then south on Route 519 to its intersection with Route 23, then south on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 519 at Colesville, then south on Route 519 to its intersection with County Route 636 above Branchville, then west on County Route 636 to its intersection with Route 206, then southeast on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 15 at Ross Corner, then south on Route 15 to its intersection with Route 517 at Sparta, then north on Route 517 to its intersection with Route 23, then east on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 515 at Stockholm, then north on Route 515 to its intersection with Route 94 at Vernon, then north on Route 94 to the state line, then west along the state line to its intersection with Route 519, the point of beginning.

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3. Zone 3: That portion of Sussex, Passaic, Morris, and Bergen Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the state line and Route 94; then south on Route 94 to its intersection with Route 515 at Vernon; then south on Route 515 to its intersection with Route 23 at Stockholm; then east on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 202 near Wayne; then north on Route 202 to the state line at Suffern; then west along the state line to its intersection with Route 94, the point of beginning.

4. Zone 4: That portion of Sussex and Warren Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the confluence of the Delaware and Big Flatbrook River; then northeast along the southern bank of Big Flatbrook River to its intersection with Route 624, then south on Route 624 to its intersection with Route 617, then north on Route 617 to its intersection with Route 521, then northeast on Route 521 to its intersection with Route 206, then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 94 at Newton, then south on Route 94 to its intersection with Route 608 at Marksboro, then south on Route 608 to its intersection with Route 521, then south on Route 521 to its intersection with Route 80 near Hope, then west on Route 80 to its intersection with Route 94 at Columbia, then south on Route 94 to its intersection with the Delaware River, then north and northeast along the Delaware River to its confluence with the Big Flatbrook River, the point of beginning.

5. Zone 5: That portion of Sussex and Warren Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Delaware River and Route 94 at Columbia, then north on Route 94 to its intersection with Route 80, then east on Route 80 to its intersection with Route 521 near Hope, then north on Route 521 to its intersection with Route 608, then northeast on Route 608 to its intersection with Route 94 at Marksboro, then north and east on Route 94 to its intersection

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with Route 206 at Newton, then north on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 15 at Ross Corner, then south on Route 15 to its intersection with Route 517 at Sparta, then southwest on Route 517 to its intersection with Route 46 at Hackettstown, then west on Route 46 to its intersection with Water Street in Belvidere, then south along Water Street to its intersection with the Delaware River, then north on the Delaware River to its intersection with Route 94, the point of beginning.

6. Zone 6: That portion of Warren, Morris, Sussex, and Passaic Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 46 and Route 517 in Hackettstown, then north on Route 517 to its intersection with Route 23 at Franklin, then south on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 699 (Berkshire Valley Road) at Oak Ridge, then south on Route 699 to its intersection with Route 15, then south on Route 15 to its intersection with Route 80, then west on Route 80 to its intersection with Route 10 near Ledgewood, then east on Route 10 to its intersection with Route 513, then west on Route 513 to its intersection with Route 517 at Long Valley, then north on Route 517 to its intersection with Route 182, then north on Route 182 to its intersection with Route 46, then northwest on Route 46 to its intersection with Route 517 at Hackettstown, the point of beginning.

7. Zone 7: That portion of Morris, Passaic, and Essex Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 699 (Berkshire Valley Road) and Route 23 at Oak Ridge, then southeast on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 80 near Singac, then west on Route 80 to its intersection with Route 287, then south on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 10 near Whippany, then west on Route 10 to its intersection with Route 80 at Ledgewood, then east on Route 80 to its intersection with Route 15, then north on Route 15 to its intersection with Route

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699 at Mt. Hope, then north on Route 699 to its intersection with Route 23 at Oak Ridge, the point of beginning.

8. Zone 8: That portion of Ocean County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 537 and 539 at Hornerstown, then south on Route 539 to its intersection with Route 72 near Howardsville, then east on Route 72 to its intersection with Route 532, then east on Route 532 to its termination at Barnegat Bay, then continuing eastward across Barnegat Bay and through Barnegat Inlet to the Atlantic Ocean, then north along the Atlantic Ocean to its intersection with Route 528 at Mantoloking, then west along Route 528 (527/528) to its intersection with Route 195 near Jackson Mills, then west along Route 195 to its intersection with Route 537 near Holmeson, then southwest along Route 537 to its intersection with Route 539 at Hornerstown, the point of beginning.

9. Zone 9: That portion of Ocean and Burlington Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 537 and 539 at Hornerstown, then south on Route 539 to its intersection with Route 72 near Howardsville, then northwest on Route 72 to its intersection with Route 532, then west on Route 532 to its intersection with Route 206 near Tabernacle, then north on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 537 at Chambers Corner, then east on Route 537 to its intersection with Route 539 at Hornerstown, the point of beginning.

10. Zone 10: That portion of Burlington, Camden, and Atlantic Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 73 and 561 near Blue Anchor, then north on Route 73 to its intersection with Route 70 at Marlton, then east on Route 70 to its intersection with Route 541 at Medford, then southeast on Route 541 to its intersection with Route 532 at Medford Lakes, then east on Route 532 to its intersection with Route 206, then south on Route

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206 to its intersection with Route 54, then southwest on Route 54 to its intersection with Route 561 near Hammonton, then northwest on Route 561 to its intersection with Route 73 near Blue Anchor, the point of beginning.

11. Zone 11: That portion of Ocean, Burlington, and Atlantic Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 563 and 532 at Chatsworth, then east on Route 532 to its intersection with Route 72, then southeast on Route 72 to its intersection with Route 532 near Howardsville, then east on Route 532 to its termination at Barnegat Bay; then continuing eastward across Barnegat Bay and through Barnegat Inlet to the Atlantic Ocean, then south along the Atlantic Ocean to the Absecon Lighthouse in Atlantic City, then northwest on Route 30 to its intersection with Route 563 in Egg Harbor, then north on Route 563 to its intersection with Route 532 at Chatsworth, the point of beginning.

12. Zone 12: That portion of Atlantic, Gloucester, and Camden Counties lying in a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 322 and Spur 536 Williamstown, then northeast on Spur 536 to its intersection with Route 73 near Tansboro, then south on Route 73 to its intersection with Route 561 at Blue Anchor, then southeast on Route 561 to its intersection with Route 54 near Hammonton, then southwest on Route 54 to its intersection with Route 557 at Buena, then northwest on Route 557 to its intersection with Route 322/536 near Williamstown, then east on Route 322/536 to its intersection with Spur 536 Williamstown, the point of beginning.

13. Zone 13: That portion of Cape May, Atlantic, and Cumberland Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 557 and County Route 671 at Buena, then southeast on Route 557 to its intersection with Route 50 near Buck Hill, then south on Route 50 to its intersection with Route 9 at Seaville, and south on Route 9 to its intersection with Sea Isle

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Boulevard (Route 625) at Ocean View, then east on Sea Isle Boulevard to the Atlantic Ocean, then south along the Atlantic Ocean to the Delaware Bay, then north along the Delaware Bay to its intersection with East Point Road in Heislerville Wildlife Management Area, then north on East Point Road to its intersection with Route 616 (Dorchester-Heislerville Road), then north on Route 616 to its intersection with Route 740, then northeast on Route 740 to its intersection with Route 47, then north on Route 47 to its intersection with Route 646 (Cumberland-Port Elizabeth Road) near Port Elizabeth, then north on Route 646 to its intersection with Route 49 near Cumberland, then west on Route 49 to its intersection with Route 671 (Union Road), then north on Route 671/71 to its intersection with Route 557 near Buena, the point of beginning.

14. Zone 14: That portion of Cumberland, Salem, and Atlantic Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Delaware Bay and the west bank of the Maurice River, then north along the west bank of the Maurice River to Route 631, then north along Route 631 to its intersection with Route 553, then north along Route 553 to its intersection with Routes 536/322 at Glassboro, then east along Routes 322/536 to its intersection with Route 555 near Williamstown, then south along Routes 555/557 to its intersection with Route 671 (Union Road) near Buena, then south on Route 671 to its intersection with Route 49 at Cumberland, then east on Route 49 to its intersection with Route 646 (Cumberland-Port Elizabeth Road), then south on Route 646 to its intersection with Route 47 at Port Elizabeth, then south on Route 47 to its intersection with Route 740, then southwest on Route 740 to its intersection with Route 616 (Dorchester-Heislerville Road), then south on Route 616 to its intersection with East Point Road in Heislerville Wildlife Management Area, then south on East Point Road to the Delaware Bay,

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then west along the Delaware Bay to its intersection with the west bank of the Maurice River, the point of beginning.

15. Zone 15: That portion of Salem and Cumberland Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Delaware River at Route 625 at Oakwood Beach, then east on Route 625 to its intersection with Route 49 at Salem, then southeast on Route 49 to its intersection with Pecks Corner-Cohansey Road, then east on Pecks Corner-Cohansey Road to its intersection with Route 540, then east on Route 540 to its intersection with Route 553, at Centerton, then south on Route 553 to its intersection with Route 631 near Port Norris, then south on Route 631 to the Delaware Bay, then northwest along the Delaware Bay and Delaware River to its intersection with Route 625 at Oakwood Beach, the point of beginning.

16. Zone 16: That portion of Burlington and Atlantic Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 206 and 532 near Tabernacle, then southeast on Route 532 to its intersection with Route 563 at Chatsworth, then south on Route 563 to its intersection with Route 30 at Egg Harbor, then northwest on Route 30 to its intersection with Route 206, then north on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 532 near Tabernacle, the point of beginning.

17. Zone 17: That portion of Atlantic County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 557 and 54 at Buena, then northeast on Route 54 to its intersection with Route 30 at Hammonton, then southeast along Route 30 to its intersection with Route 50 at Egg Harbor, then southeast along Route 50 to its intersection with Route 557 near Buck Hill, then northwest on Route 557 to its intersection with Route 54 at Buena, the point of beginning.

18. Zone 18: That portion of Atlantic and Cape May Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 50 and 557 near Buck Hill, then northeast along Route

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50 to its intersection with Routes 30/563 at Egg Harbor, then southeast on Routes 30/563 to the Absecon Lighthouse in Atlantic City, then south along the Atlantic Ocean to Sea Isle Boulevard (Route 625) in Sea Isle, then west on Sea Isle Boulevard to its intersection with Route 9, then north on Route 9 to its intersection with Route 50 at Seaville, then northwest on Route 50 to its intersection with Route 557 near Buck Hill, the point of beginning.

19. Zone 19: That portion of Warren, Morris, and Hunterdon Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Water Street and the Delaware River; then north on Water Street to its intersection with Route 46 and continuing east on Route 46 to its intersection with Route 182 at Hackettstown; then south on Route 182 to its intersection with Route 517; then south along Route 517 (517/24) to Schooleys Mountain; then south on Pleasant Grove Road to Pleasant Grove; then southeast on Califon Road to its intersection with Sliker Road; then southeast on Sliker Road to its intersection with East Hill Road; then south on East Hill Road to its intersection with Route 628 at Woodglen; then southwest on Route 628 to its intersection with Route 645 at Glen Gardner; then northwest on Route 645 to its intersection with Route 635 at Hampton; then south on Route 635 (Charlestown Road) to its intersection with Route 78/22; then west on Route 78/22 to its intersection with Route 614 near Perryville; then southwest on Route 614 to its intersection with Route 519 at Spring Mills; then south on Route 519 to the Delaware River at Milford; then northward along the Delaware River to its intersection with Water Street in Belvidere, the point of beginning.

20. Zone 20: That portion of Morris and Hunterdon Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 517 (517/124) and Pleasant Grove Road at Schooleys Mountain; then south on Pleasant Grove Road to Pleasant Grove; then southeast on Califon Road

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to its intersection with Sliker Road; then southeast on Sliker Road to its intersection with East Hill Road; then south on East Hill Road to its intersection with Route 628 at Woodglen; then southwest on Route 628 to its intersection with Route 645 at Glen Gardner; then northwest on Route 645 to its intersection with Route 635 at Hampton; then south on Route 635 (Charlestown Road) to its intersection with Routes 78/22; then west on Routes 78/22 to its intersection with Route 614 near Perryville; then southwest on Route 614 to its intersection with Route 519 at Spring Mills; then south on Route 519 to the Delaware River at Milford; then south on the Delaware River to the intersection of Route 29 and Route 523 at Stockton; then northeast on Route 523 to its intersection with Route 517 near Oldwick; then north on Route 517 to its intersection with Route 513 (513/24) at Long Valley; then northwest on Route 517 (517/124) to Schooleys Mountain, the point of beginning.

21. Zone 21: That portion of Hunterdon, Somerset, and Morris Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 517 and 513 at Long Valley; then north and east along Route 513 to its intersection with Route 10; then east along Route 10 to its intersection with Route 287 at Malapardis; then southwest along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 525 (Mt. Airy Road); then south along Route 525 to its intersection with Route 22 near Bound Brook; then west along Route 22 to its intersection with Route 523 at Whitehouse; then north along Route 523 to its intersection with Route 517 near Oldwick; then north along Route 517 to Long Valley, the point of beginning.

22. Zone 22: That portion of Somerset, Union, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, and Bergen Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the north shore of the Raritan River and the Garden State Parkway; then north on the Garden State Parkway to its

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intersection with Route 440; then west on Route 440 to Route 287; then west on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 22; then east on Route 22 to its intersection with Route 525 (Thompson Avenue) near Bound Brook; then north on Route 525 to its intersection with Route 287; then north on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 80; then east along Route 80 to Exit 53 and its intersection with Route 46; then east on Route 46 to its intersection with Route 3; then southeast on Route 3 to the Hudson River at the Lincoln Tunnel; then south along the New Jersey shore of the Hudson River to the Kill Van Kull; then west along the New Jersey shore of the Kill Van Kull to Newark Bay; then west following the New Jersey boundary along Newark Bay; then south along the Arthur Kill following the New Jersey boundary to Raritan Bay; then west along the north shore of the Raritan River to the point of beginning at the Garden State Parkway.

23. Zone 23: That portion of Bergen, Passaic, and Hudson Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 202 and the New York/New Jersey border; then southwest on Route 202 to its intersection with Route 23; then south on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 46 at Route 80 Exit 53; then east on Route 46 to its intersection with Route 3; then southeast on Route 3 to the Hudson River at the Lincoln Tunnel; then north along the Hudson River to the New York/New Jersey border; then northwest along the New York/New Jersey border to Route 202, the point of beginning.

24. Zone 24: That portion of Hunterdon, Mercer, and Somerset Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Delaware River near the intersection of Routes 29 and 523 at Stockton; then northeast on Route 523 to its intersection with Route 22; then east on Route 22 to its intersection with Route 206; then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 295 near

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Lawrenceville; then west on Route 295 to Route 95; then west on Route 95 to the Delaware River; then north along the Delaware River to Stockton, the point of beginning.

25. Zone 25: That portion of Somerset, Middlesex, Mercer, and Burlington Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Delaware River at the confluence of Black Creek at Bordentown; then eastward along Black Creek to the point at which Black Creek intersects Route 130; then northeast on Route 130 to its intersection with Route 1; then northeast on Route 1 to its intersection with Route 287; then west on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 22; then west on Route 22 to its intersection with Route 206; then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 295 near Lawrenceville; then west on Route 295 to Route 95; then west on Route 95 to the Delaware River; then south along the Delaware River to Bordentown, the point of beginning.

26. Zone 26: That portion of Mercer, Middlesex, and Monmouth Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the north shore of the Raritan River and the Garden State Parkway; then north on the Garden State Parkway to its intersection with Route 440; then west on Route 440 to Route 287; then west on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 1; then southwest on Route 1 to its intersection with Route 130; then south on Route 130 to its intersection with Route 33 at Hightstown; then east on Route 33 to its intersection with Route 537; then northeast on Route 537 to its intersection with Route 79 at Freehold; then north on Route 79 to its intersection with Lloyd Road at Morganville; then north on Lloyd Road to Broadway in Keyport; then north on Broadway to the Matawan Creek confluence with the Raritan Bay; then northwest along the New Jersey shoreline to the Raritan River intersection with the Garden State Parkway, the point of beginning.

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27. Zone 27: That portion of Monmouth and Ocean Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Atlantic Ocean at Route 528 at Mantoloking; then west on Route 528 (527/528) to its intersection with Route 195 near Jackson Mills; then west on Route 195 to its intersection with Route 537 near Holmeson; then northeast on Route 537 to its intersection with Route 79 at Freehold; then north on Route 79 to its intersection with Lloyd Road at Morganville; then north on Lloyd Road to Broadway in Keyport; then north on Broadway to the Matawan Creek confluence with the Raritan Bay; then southeast along the New Jersey coastline of the Atlantic Ocean at Raritan Bay; then south along the New Jersey coastline of the Atlantic Ocean to Mantoloking, the point of beginning.

28. Zone 28: That portion of Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Burlington Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Delaware River at the confluence of Black Creek at Bordentown; then eastward along Black Creek to the point at which Black Creek intersects Route 130; then northeast on Route 130 to its intersection with Route 33 at Hightstown; then east on Route 33 to its intersection with Route 537; then south on Route 537 to its intersection with Route 206 at Chambers Corner; then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 530 (Pemberton Road); then northwest on Route 530 to its intersection with Route 541 at Mt. Holly; then north on Route 541 to the Delaware River at Burlington; then north on the Delaware River to Bordentown, the point of beginning.

29. Zone 29: That portion of Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Delaware River at Route 541 in Burlington; then southward along the Delaware River to Route 30 at Camden; then east along Route 30 to its intersection with Route 130; then south along Route 130 to its intersection with Interstate 76; then south along Interstate

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76 to its intersection with Route 42; then southeast along Route 42 to its intersection with Spur 536 (Williamstown-Mt. Freedom Road) at Williamstown; then northeast along Spur 536 to its intersection with Route 73 near Berlin; then north along Route 73 to its intersection with Route 70 at Marlton; then east on Route 70 to its intersection with Route 541 at Medford; then southeast on Route 541 to its intersection with Route 532 at Medford Lakes; then east on Route 532 to its intersection with Route 206; then north on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 530 (Pemberton Road); then northwest along Route 530 to its intersection with Route 541 at Mt. Holly; then north along Route 541 to the Delaware River at Burlington, the point of beginning.

30. Zone 30: That portion of Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Delaware River and Route 30 at Camden; then east along Route 30 to its intersection with Route 130; then south on Route 130 to its intersection with Route 76; then south on Route 76 to its intersection with Route 42; then southeast on Route 42 to its intersection with Spur 536 near Williamstown; then south on Spur 536 to its intersection with Route 322 (322/536) at Williamstown; then west on Routes 322/536 to its intersection with Route 553 at Glassboro; then south on Route 553 to its intersection with Route 540 at Centerton; then west on Route 540 to its intersection with Pecks Corner-Cohansey Road; then west on Pecks Corner-Cohansey Road to its intersection with Route 49; then northwest along Route 49 to its intersection with Route 625 at Salem; then west on Route 625 to its intersection with the Delaware River at Oakwood Beach; then northward along the Delaware River to Route 30 at Camden, the point of beginning.

(i) Permit quotas for beaver trapping shall be as follows:

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ANNUAL BEAVER PERMIT QUOTAS

Beaver Management Zone Number*	Annual Permit Quota	Portions of Counties Involved
1	8	Sussex
2	17	Sussex
3	9	Bergen, Morris, Passaic, Sussex
4	7	Sussex, Warren
5	12	Sussex, Warren
6	22	Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Warren
7	10	Essex, Morris, Passaic
8	8	Ocean
9	7	Burlington, Ocean
10	8	Atlantic, Burlington, Camden
11	6	Atlantic, Burlington, Ocean
12	3	Atlantic, Camden, Gloucester
13	7	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland
14	2	Atlantic, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem
15	2	Cumberland, Salem
16	6	Atlantic, Burlington

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17	5	Atlantic
18	3	Atlantic, Cape May
19	3	Hunterdon, Morris, Warren
20	7	Hunterdon, Morris
21	1	Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset
22	1	Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Union
23	1	Bergen, Hudson, Passaic
24	3	Hunterdon, Mercer, Somerset
25	6	Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset
26	3	Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth
27	2	Monmouth, Ocean
28	11	Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth
29	12	Burlington, Camden, Gloucester
30	8	Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem
Total	200	

7:25-5.25 Mink, muskrat, and nutria trapping

(a) A valid and proper trapping license is required to trap mink (*Neogale vison*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), and nutria (*Myocastor coypus*). A valid and proper firearm license is required to

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dispatch mink, muskrat, and nutria. All persons in possession of a rifle while trapping must have, in addition to their license, a valid rifle permit.

(b) The trapping season for mink, muskrat, and nutria shall be as follows:

1. Except as provided at (b)2 below, the trapping season for mink, muskrat, and nutria shall begin on November 15 at 6:00 A.M. and conclude the following March 15 at 11:59 P.M., inclusive.

2. On State wildlife management areas stocked with pheasants and quail by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, as identified on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, the trapping season for mink, muskrat, and nutria shall begin on January 1 at 6:00 A.M. and conclude March 15, at 11:59 P.M., inclusive.

(c) Bag limit. There is no season or daily bag limit for the trapping of mink, muskrat, or nutria.

(d) In addition to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23, the following shall apply while trapping mink, muskrat, and nutria, regardless of season:

1. Mink, muskrat, and nutria shall be taken by trapping only; and

2. Mink, muskrat, and nutria shall only be taken by means of a trap approved by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

(e) The following shall be used to trap mink, muskrat, and nutria:

1. Body gripping killer-type traps, in accordance with the following:

i. No person shall set, use, or maintain any type of body gripping killer-type trap for the purpose of trapping any mink, muskrat, or nutria in this State, unless such trap is completely submerged underwater. This shall not preclude the setting of body gripping killer-type traps in tidal waters of this State for the purpose of taking mink, muskrat, or nutria where the traps are exposed

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above the surface of the water due to the ebb and flow of the tide, provided that all such traps shall be completely submerged at mean high tide; and

ii. No body gripping killer-type traps with a jaw spread larger than six inches shall be used, set, or maintained at any time for the purpose of trapping mink, muskrat, or nutria. Jaw spread shall be measured across the trigger of a set trap to the inner edges of the jaws;

2. Cage trap;

3. Live capture cable restraints, in accordance with the following:

i. No person shall set, use, or maintain any type of cable restraint for mink, muskrat, and nutria unless they have first satisfactorily completed an NJDEP Fish & Wildlife-approved cable restraint training course and carry on their person appropriate certification thereof;

ii. All natural baits consisting of fish, bird, or mammal carcasses or flesh used in trapping with live capture cable restraints for mink, muskrat, and nutria must be covered or concealed from view, except when placed or located at a distance of 30 feet or greater from any set cable restraint;

iii. Live capture cable constraints set for mink and muskrat:

(1) Must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring $1/32$, $3/64$, or $1/16$ inches in diameter, equipped with a swivel;

(2) Must be equipped with a stop to prevent the average (arithmetic mean) diameter of the loop opening from exceeding four inches;

(3) Shall not be set, used, or maintained with a distance between the ground or walking surface to the top of the loop greater than seven inches; and

(4) Must be set within 50 feet of the mean high-water line; and

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iv. Live capture cable constraints set for nutria:

(1) Except when submerged underwater, all live capture cable restraints used in trapping nutria must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring up to 3/16 inches in diameter and be equipped with a swivel and a relaxing lock;

(2) Except when submerged underwater, no live capture cable restraints used in trapping nutria shall be set, used, or maintained with a loop diameter average (arithmetic mean) greater than 12 inches;

(3) Shall not be set, used, or maintained with the distance between the ground or walking surface to the top of the loop greater than 24 inches; and

(4) Except when submerged underwater, no live capture cable restraints set for nutria shall be set, used, or maintained unless it is equipped with a stop six inches from the end to restrict loop closure to no less than six inches in circumference;

4. A .22 caliber rifle may be used to dispatch trapped mink and nutria in accordance with the following:

i. All persons in possession of a .22 caliber rifle while trapping must have, in addition to their proper license, a valid and proper rifle permit;

ii. A legally licensed trapper possessing a valid rifle permit may possess and use a .22 rifle and .22 short rimfire cartridge only for killing legally trapped mink or nutria while tending his or her trap line;

iii. It shall be legal to use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 caliber short cartridge for killing legally trapped mink or nutria on State wildlife management areas; and

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iv. Legally licensed trappers under 14 years of age using a .22 caliber rifle in accordance with a valid and proper rifle permit to kill legally trapped animals shall be accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a properly licensed adult who is at least 21 years of age. The supervising adult must have a valid and proper trapping license and rifle permit; and

5. An air gun may be used to dispatch a trapped mink or nutria in accordance with the following:

i. Legally licensed trappers may carry and use an air gun, no smaller than .177 caliber or greater than .25 caliber, to kill legally trapped mink or nutria;

ii. Air guns may use wadcutter, domed or pointed, or hollow point pellets; spherical BBs are not permitted; and

iii. Legally licensed trappers under 14 years of age using an air gun to kill legally trapped mink or nutria shall be accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a properly licensed adult who is at least 21 years of age. Supervising adult must have a valid and proper trapping license.

(f) Except as noted for a rifle at (a) above, there are no additional permit requirements for the trapping of mink, muskrat, and nutria.

(g) There are no tagging or harvest reporting requirements for the trapping of mink, muskrat, and nutria.

(h) There are no management zones or delineated trapping areas for the trapping of mink, muskrat, and nutria.

(i) There are no permit quotas for the trapping of mink, muskrat, and nutria.

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7:25-5.26 Raccoon, red fox, gray fox, Virginia opossum, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, and coyote trapping

(a) A valid and proper trapping license is required to trap raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), long-tailed weasel (*Neogale frenata*), short-tailed weasel (American ermine, *Mustela richardsonii*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*). A valid and proper firearm license is required to dispatch raccoon, fox, opossum, skunk, weasel, and coyote. All persons in possession of a rifle while trapping must have, in addition to their proper license, a valid rifle permit.

(b) The trapping season for raccoon, red fox, gray fox, Virginia opossum, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, and coyote shall be as follows:

1. The trapping season shall begin on November 15 at 6:00 A.M. and conclude the following March 15, at 11:59 P.M., inclusive.

2. From January 1 at 6:00 A.M. to March 15, at 11:59 P.M., inclusive, only live capture cable constraints shall be used on State wildlife management areas stocked with pheasant and quail by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, as identified on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com.

(c) Bag limit. There are no daily or season bag limits for the trapping of raccoon, red fox, gray fox, Virginia opossum, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, and coyote.

(d) In addition to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23, the following regulations shall apply while trapping raccoon, red fox, gray fox, Virginia opossum, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, and coyote:

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1. Farmers or their agents may trap fox and coyote by lawful procedures at any time when found destroying poultry, crops or property subject to State law and local ordinances.

(e) The following shall be used to trap raccoon, red fox, gray fox, Virginia opossum, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, and coyote:

1. Cage trap;

2. Body gripping killer-type traps, in accordance with the following:

i. A rat-type snap trap (defined as a lethal, single spring-loaded jawed trap) set on land shall be permissible for the taking of weasels in accordance with the following:

(1) The inside width at the jaw hinge posts must be greater than two inches, but not exceeding 2 ½ inches. The inside length (jaw spread at dog) must be greater than three inches, but not exceeding 3 ¾ inches;

(2) Traps must be recessed inside a wooden box (cubby) with an entrance hole no larger than two inches in diameter; and

(3) The wooden cubby must be securely anchored to an immovable object;

3. Enclosed foothold traps, in accordance with the following:

i. All triggering and restraining mechanisms shall be enclosed by a housing;

ii. The triggering and restraining mechanism is accessible only by a single opening when the trap is set;

iii. The access opening does not exceed two inches in diameter or when measured diagonally;

iv. The triggering mechanism can be activated only by a pulling force; and

v. The trap has a swivel-mounted anchoring system;

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4. Live capture cable restraint, in accordance with the following:

i. No person shall set, use, or maintain any type of cable restraint for raccoon, red fox, gray fox, Virginia opossum, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, or coyote unless they have first satisfactorily completed an NJDEP Fish & Wildlife-approved cable restraint training course and carry on their person appropriate certification thereof.

ii. Except when submerged underwater or when set for weasel, all live capture cable restraints used in trapping must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring up to 3/16 inches in diameter and be equipped with a swivel and a relaxing lock. Weasel live capture cable restraints must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring 1/32, 3/64, or 1/16 inches in diameter, and equipped with a swivel.

iii. Except when submerged underwater or set for weasel, no live capture cable restraints shall be set, used, or maintained with a loop diameter average (arithmetic mean) greater than 12 inches. Weasel live capture cable restraints must be equipped with a stop to prevent the average (arithmetic mean) diameter of the loop opening from exceeding four inches.

iv. Except when set for weasel, no live capture cable restraints shall be set, used, or maintained with the distance between the ground or walking surface to the top of the loop greater than 24 inches. No weasel live capture cable restraints shall be set, used, or maintained with a distance between the ground or walking surface to the top of the loop greater than seven inches.

v. Except when submerged underwater or set for weasel, no live capture cable restraints shall be set, used, or maintained unless they are equipped with a stop six inches from the end to restrict loop closure to no less than six inches in circumference.

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vi. All natural baits consisting of fish, bird, or mammal carcasses or flesh used in trapping with live capture cable restraints must be covered or concealed from view except when placed or located at a distance of 30 feet or greater from any set cable restraint;

5. A .22 caliber rifle may be used to dispatch legally trapped raccoon, red fox, gray fox, Virginia opossum, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, and coyote in accordance with the following:

i. A legally licensed trapper possessing a valid rifle permit may possess and use a .22 caliber rifle and short rimfire cartridge only to dispatch legally trapped species identified above while tending his or her trap line, including on State wildlife management areas;

ii. It shall be legal to use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 caliber short cartridge for dispatching legally trapped animals covered pursuant to this section on State wildlife management areas; and

iii. Licensed trappers under 14 years of age using a .22 rifle to dispatch legally trapped animals shall be accompanied by and under the direct supervision of an adult at least 21 years of age. The supervising adult must have a valid and proper trapping license and valid rifle permit; and

6. An air gun may be used to dispatch a trapped raccoon, red fox, gray fox, Virginia opossum, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, or coyote in accordance with the following:

i. Legally licensed trappers may carry and use an air gun, no smaller than .177 caliber or greater than .25 caliber, to kill legally trapped animals, except for muskrats and other than water sets for semi-aquatic species;

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ii. Air guns may use wadcutter, domed or pointed, or hollow point pellets; spherical BBs are not permitted; and

iii. Legally licensed trappers under 14 years of age using an air gun to dispatch legally trapped animals shall be accompanied by and under the direct supervision of an adult at least 21 years of age. The supervising adult must have a valid and proper trapping license.

(f) NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, in its discretion, may issue a permit for trapping of coyote, red fox, gray fox, opossum, and raccoon.

(g) Trappers successfully harvesting a coyote or gray fox shall:

1. Any person, including a farmer, trapping a coyote or gray fox shall report the harvest using the AHRS no later than 10:00 P.M. of the day of harvest. Should the trapper be unable to access the AHRS by the designated time, the trapper shall immediately report the harvest of a coyote or gray fox by telephone to the nearest NJDEP Fish & Wildlife law enforcement regional office and shall register that harvest using AHRS the next day.

(h) There are no management zones or delineated trapping areas for the trapping of raccoon, red fox, gray fox, Virginia opossum, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, and coyote.

(i) There are no permit quotas for the trapping of raccoon, red fox, gray fox, Virginia opossum, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, and coyote.

7:25-5.27 River otter trapping

(a) A valid and proper trapping license and a valid river otter permit is required to trap river otter (*Lontra canadensis*). A valid and proper firearm license is required to dispatch river otters. All persons in possession of a rifle while trapping must have, in addition to their license, a valid rifle

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permit. River otter permits are valid only within the river otter management zone or location designated on the permit.

(b) The trapping season for river otter shall be:

1. Except as provided at (b)2 below, the trapping season for river otter shall begin on December 26 at 6:00 A.M. and conclude the following February 9, at 11:59 P.M., inclusive.

2. On State wildlife management areas stocked with pheasants and quail by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, as identified on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, the trapping season for river otter shall begin on January 1 at 6:00 A.M. and conclude February 9, at 11:59 P.M., inclusive.

3. If the anticipated harvest of river otter has not been accomplished during the trapping season, up to 14 additional days may be authorized by the Director. Notice of any authorized extensions would be provided through the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com, news releases, and emails to trappers with current licenses.

(c) Bag limit. The season bag limit for trapping river otter is one.

(d) Unless otherwise noted, the following shall apply while trapping river otter, regardless of season, location, or management zone:

1. River otter shall be taken by trapping only;

2. River otter shall only be taken by means of a trap approved by the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife;

3. Each river otter trapper is restricted to a maximum of three traps per day and each trap must be tagged pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(b) with the tag clearly visible above the level of the water or ice; and

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4. River otter permits are not transferable from person to person.

(e) The following shall be used to trap river otter:

1. Body gripping killer-type trap, in accordance with the following:

i. No person shall set, use, or maintain any type of body gripping killer-type trap for the purpose of trapping river otter in this State, unless such trap is completely submerged underwater. This shall not preclude the setting of body gripping killer-type traps in tidal waters of this State for the purpose of taking river otters where the traps are exposed above the surface of the water due to the ebb and flow of the tide, provided that all such traps shall be completely submerged at mean high tide; and

ii. No body gripping killer-type traps with a jaw spread larger than 10 inches shall be used, set, or maintained at any time in this State for the purpose of trapping river otter. Jaw spread shall be measured across the trigger of a set trap to the inner edges of the jaws;

2. Cage trap;

3. Live capture cable restraint, in accordance with the following:

i. No person shall set, use, or maintain any type of cable restraint for river otter unless they have first satisfactorily completed an NJDEP Fish & Wildlife-approved cable restraint training course and carry on their person appropriate certification thereof;

ii. Except when submerged underwater, all live capture cable restraints used in trapping river otter must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring up to 3/16 inches in diameter and be equipped with a swivel and a relaxing lock;

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iii. Except when submerged underwater, no live capture cable restraints used in trapping river otter shall be set, used, or maintained with a loop diameter average (arithmetic mean) greater than 12 inches;

iv. No live capture cable restraints used in trapping river otter shall be set, used, or maintained with the distance between the ground or walking surface to the top of the loop greater than 24 inches;

v. Except when submerged underwater, no live capture cable restraints used in trapping river otter shall be set, used, or maintained unless it is equipped with a stop six inches from the end to restrict loop closure to no less than six inches in circumference; and

vi. All natural baits consisting of fish, bird, or mammal carcasses or flesh used in trapping river otter with live capture cable restraints must be covered or concealed from view except when placed or located at a distance of 30 feet or greater from any set cable restraint.

4. A .22 caliber rifle may be used to dispatch trapped river otter in accordance with the following:

i. A legally licensed trapper possessing a valid rifle permit may possess and use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 short rimfire cartridge to dispatch legally trapped river otter while tending his or her trap line, including on State wildlife management areas;

ii. It shall be legal to use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 caliber short cartridge for dispatching legally trapped beaver on State wildlife management areas;

iii. Legally licensed trappers under 14 years of age using a .22 caliber rifle in accordance with a valid and proper rifle permit to kill legally trapped animals shall be accompanied

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by and under the direct supervision of a properly licensed adult who is at least 21 years of age. The supervising adult must have a valid and proper trapping license and valid rifle permit; and

5. An air gun may be used to dispatch a legally trapped river otter in accordance with the following:

i. Legally licensed trappers may carry and use an air gun, no smaller than .177 caliber or greater than .25 caliber;

ii. Air guns may use wadcutter, domed or pointed, or hollow point pellets; spherical BBs are not permitted; and

iii. Legally licensed trappers under 14 years of age using an air gun to dispatch legally trapped animals shall be accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a properly licensed adult who is at least 21 years of age. Supervising adult must have a valid and proper trapping license.

(f) Application for otter trapping permits shall be as follows:

1. Applicants shall submit an application using the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife ELS or, in the event of ELS operating difficulties, by providing the same information at ELS locations through such alternate system as may be designated by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife during the period of October 1 through 31, annually.

2. If the number of applications received exceeds the quotas enumerated at (i) below, a random drawing will be held to determine permit holders. Beaver permit holders will be given first opportunity for otter permits in their respective zones.

3. Applicants shall provide their:

i. Conservation ID Number; or

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ii. Name;

iii. Address; and

iv. Any other supporting information requested thereon;

4. Only one application per person may be submitted for a river otter trapping permit; and

5. Unclaimed river otter permits may be issued to other applicants until quotas are met.

(g) Trappers successfully harvesting a river otter shall:

1. Upon taking possession of the river otter or any part thereof, complete and immediately affix the transportation tag provided by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife to the otter; and

2. Report harvest using AHRS by 10:00 P.M. on the day of harvest.

(h) River Otter management zone boundaries are as follows:

1. Zone 1: That portion of Sussex County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the New York-New Jersey state line with Route 519, then south on Route 519 to its intersection with Route 23, then south on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 519 at Colesville, then south on Route 519 to its intersection with County Route 636 above Branchville, then west on Route 636 to its intersection with Route 206, then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 521, then southwest on Route 521 to its intersection with County Route 617, then south on Route 617 to its intersection with Route 624 near Fairview Lake, then northwest on Route 624 to its intersection with Big Flatbrook River; then southwest along the southern bank of the Big Flatbrook River to its confluence with the Delaware River, then north along the Delaware River to the New York-New Jersey state line, then south along the New York-New Jersey state line to Route 519, the point of beginning.

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2. Zone 2: That portion of Sussex County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the New York-New Jersey state line with Route 519, then south on Route 519 to its intersection with Route 23, then south on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 519 at Colesville, then south on Route 519 to its intersection with County Route 636 above Branchville, then west on County Route 636 to its intersection with Route 206, then southeast on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 15 at Ross Corner, then south on Route 15 to its intersection with Route 517 at Sparta, then north on Route 517 to its intersection with Route 23, then east on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 515 at Stockholm, then north on Route 515 to its intersection with Route 94 at Vernon, then north on Route 94 to the state line, then west along the state line to its intersection with Route 519, the point of beginning.

3. Zone 3: That portion of Sussex, Passaic, Morris, and Bergen Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the state line and Route 94; then south on Route 94 to its intersection with Route 515 at Vernon; then south on Route 515 to its intersection with Route 23 at Stockholm; then east on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 202 near Wayne; then north on Route 202 to the state line at Suffern; then west along the state line to its intersection with Route 94, the point of beginning.

4. Zone 4: That portion of Sussex and Warren Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the confluence of the Delaware and Big Flatbrook River; then northeast along the southern bank of Big Flatbrook River to its intersection with Route 624, then south on Route 624 to its intersection with Route 617, then north on Route 617 to its intersection with Route 521, then northeast on Route 521 to its intersection with Route 206, then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 94 at Newton, then south on Route 94 to its intersection with Route 608 at

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Marksboro, then south on Route 608 to its intersection with Route 521, then south on Route 521 to its intersection with Route 80 near Hope, then west on Route 80 to its intersection with Route 94 at Columbia, then south on Route 94 to its intersection with the Delaware River, then north and northeast along the Delaware River to its confluence with the Big Flatbrook River, the point of beginning.

5. Zone 5: That portion of Sussex and Warren Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Delaware River and Route 94 at Columbia, then north on Route 94 to its intersection with Route 80, then east on Route 80 to its intersection with Route 521 near Hope, then north on Route 521 to its intersection with Route 608, then northeast on Route 608 to its intersection with Route 94 at Marksboro, then north and east on Route 94 to its intersection with Route 206 at Newton, then north on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 15 at Ross Corner, then south on Route 15 to its intersection with Route 517 at Sparta, then southwest on Route 517 to its intersection with Route 46 at Hackettstown, then west on Route 46 to its intersection with Water Street in Belvidere, then south along Water Street to its intersection with the Delaware River, then north on the Delaware River to its intersection with Route 94, the point of beginning.

6. Zone 6: That portion of Warren, Morris, Sussex, and Passaic Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 46 and 517 in Hackettstown, then north on Route 517 to its intersection with Route 23 at Franklin, then south on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 699 (Berkshire Valley Road) at Oak Ridge, then south on Route 699 to its intersection with Route 15, then south on Route 15 to its intersection with Route 80, then west on Route 80 to its intersection with Route 10 near Ledgewood, then east on Route 10 to its intersection with Route

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513, then west on Route 513 to its intersection with Route 517 at Long Valley, then north on Route 517 to its intersection with Route 182, then north on Route 182 to its intersection with Route 46, then northwest on Route 46 to its intersection with Route 517 at Hackettstown, the point of beginning.

7. Zone 7: That portion of Morris, Passaic, and Essex Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 699 (Berkshire Valley Road) and 23 at Oak Ridge, then southeast on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 80 near Singac, then west on Route 80 to its intersection with Route 287, then south on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 10 near Whippany, then west on Route 10 to its intersection with Route 80 at Ledgewood, then east on Route 80 to its intersection with Route 15, then north on Route 15 to its intersection with Route 699 at Mt. Hope, then north on Route 699 to its intersection with Route 23 at Oak Ridge, the point of beginning.

8. Zone 8: That portion of Ocean County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 537 and 539 at Hornerstown, then south on Route 539 to its intersection with Route 72 near Howardsville, then east on Route 72 to its intersection with Route 532, then east on Route 532 to its termination at Barnegat Bay, then continuing eastward across Barnegat Bay and through Barnegat Inlet to the Atlantic Ocean, then north along the Atlantic Ocean to its intersection with Route 528 at Mantoloking, then west along Route 528 (527/528) to its intersection with Route 195 near Jackson Mills, then west along Route 195 to its intersection with Route 537 near Holmeson, then southwest along Route 537 to its intersection with Route 539 at Hornerstown, the point of beginning.

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9. Zone 9: That portion of Ocean and Burlington Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 537 and 539 at Hornerstown, then south on Route 539 to its intersection with Route 72 near Howardsville, then northwest on Route 72 to its intersection with Route 532, then west on Route 532 to its intersection with Route 206 near Tabernacle, then north on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 537 at Chambers Corner, then east on Route 537 to its intersection with Route 539 at Hornerstown, the point of beginning.

10. Zone 10: That portion of Burlington, Camden, and Atlantic Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 73 and 561 near Blue Anchor, then north on Route 73 to its intersection with Route 70 at Marlton, then east on Route 70 to its intersection with Route 541 at Medford, then southeast on Route 541 to its intersection with Route 532 at Medford Lakes, then east on Route 532 to its intersection with Route 206, then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 54, then southwest on Route 54 to its intersection with Route 561 near Hammonton, then northwest on Route 561 to its intersection with Route 73 near Blue Anchor, the point of beginning.

11. Zone 11: That portion of Ocean, Burlington, and Atlantic Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 563 and 532 at Chatsworth, then east on Route 532 to its intersection with Route 72, then southeast on Route 72 to its intersection with Route 532 near Howardsville, then east on Route 532 to its termination at Barnegat Bay; then continuing eastward across Barnegat Bay and through Barnegat Inlet to the Atlantic Ocean, then south along the Atlantic Ocean to the Absecon Lighthouse in Atlantic City, then northwest on Route 30 to its intersection with Route 563 in Egg Harbor, then north on Route 563 to its intersection with Route 532 at Chatsworth, the point of beginning.

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12. Zone 12: That portion of Atlantic, Gloucester, and Camden Counties lying in a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 322 and Spur 536 in Williamstown, then northeast on Spur 536 to its intersection with Route 73 near Tansboro, then south on Route 73 to its intersection with Route 561 at Blue Anchor, then southeast on Route 561 to its intersection with Route 54 near Hammonton, then southwest on Route 54 to its intersection with Route 557 at Buena, then northwest on Route 557 to its intersection with Routes 322/536 near Williamstown, then east on Routes 322/536 to its intersection with Spur 536 in Williamstown, the point of beginning.

13. Zone 13: That portion of Cape May, Atlantic, and Cumberland Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 557 and County Route 671 at Buena, then southeast on Route 557 to its intersection with Route 50 near Buck Hill, then south on Route 50 to its intersection with Route 9 at Seaville, and south on Route 9 to its intersection with Sea Isle Boulevard (Route 625) at Ocean View, then east on Sea Isle Boulevard to the Atlantic Ocean, then south along the Atlantic Ocean to the Delaware Bay, then north along the Delaware Bay to its intersection with East Point Road in Heislerville Wildlife Management Area, then north on East Point Road to its intersection with Route 616 (Dorchester-Heislerville Road), then north on Route 616 to its intersection with Route 740, then northeast on Route 740 to its intersection with Route 47, then north on Route 47 to its intersection with Route 646 (Cumberland-Port Elizabeth Road) near Port Elizabeth, then north on Route 646 to its intersection with Route 49 near Cumberland, then west on Route 49 to its intersection with Route 671 (Union Road), then north on Routes 671/71 to its intersection with Route 557 near Buena, the point of beginning.

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14. Zone 14: That portion of Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, and Atlantic Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Delaware Bay and the west bank of the Maurice River, then north along the west bank of the Maurice River to Route 631, then north along Route 631 to its intersection with Route 553, then north along Route 553 to its intersection with Routes 536/322 at Glassboro, then east along Routes 322/536 to its intersection with Route 555 near Williamstown, then south along Routes 555/557 to its intersection with Route 671 (Union Road) near Buena, then south on Route 671 to its intersection with Route 49 at Cumberland, then east on Route 49 to its intersection with Route 646 (Cumberland-Port Elizabeth Road), then south on Route 646 to its intersection with Route 47 at Port Elizabeth, then south on Route 47 to its intersection with Route 740, then southwest on Route 740 to its intersection with Route 616 (Dorchester-Heislerville Road), then south on Route 616 to its intersection with East Point Road in Heislerville Wildlife Management Area, then south on East Point Road to the Delaware Bay, then west along the Delaware Bay to its intersection with the west bank of the Maurice River, the point of beginning.

15. Zone 15: That portion of Salem and Cumberland Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Delaware River at Route 625 at Oakwood Beach, then east on Route 625 to its intersection with Route 49 at Salem, then southeast on Route 49 to its intersection with Pecks Corner-Cohansey Road, then east on Pecks Corner-Cohansey Road to its intersection with Route 540, then east on Route 540 to its intersection with Route 553, at Centerton, then south on Route 553 to its intersection with Route 631 near Port Norris, then south on Route 631 to the Delaware Bay, then northwest along the Delaware Bay and Delaware River to its intersection with Route 625 at Oakwood Beach, the point of beginning.

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16. Zone 16: That portion of Burlington and Atlantic Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 206 and Route 532 near Tabernacle, then southeast on Route 532 to its intersection with Route 563 at Chatsworth, then south on Route 563 to its intersection with Route 30 at Egg Harbor, then northwest on Route 30 to its intersection with Route 206, then north on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 532 near Tabernacle, the point of beginning.

17. Zone 17: That portion of Atlantic County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 557 and 54 at Buena, then northeast on Route 54 to its intersection with Route 30 at Hammonton, then southeast along Route 30 to its intersection with Route 50 at Egg Harbor, then southeast along Route 50 to its intersection with Route 557 near Buck Hill, then northwest on Route 557 to its intersection with Route 54 at Buena, the point of beginning.

18. Zone 18: That portion of Atlantic and Cape May Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 50 and Route 557 near Buck Hill, then northeast along Route 50 to its intersection with Routes 30/563 at Egg Harbor, then southeast on Routes 30/563 to the Absecon Lighthouse in Atlantic City, then south along the Atlantic Ocean to Sea Isle Boulevard (Route 625) in Sea Isle, then west on Sea Isle Boulevard to its intersection with Route 9, then north on Route 9 to its intersection with Route 50 at Seaville, then northwest on Route 50 to its intersection with Route 557 near Buck Hill, the point of beginning.

19. Zone 19: That portion of Warren, Morris, and Hunterdon Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Water Street and the Delaware River; then north on Water Street to its intersection with Route 46 and continuing east on Route 46 to its intersection with Route 182 at Hackettstown; then south on Route 182 to its intersection with Route 517; then

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south along Route 517 (517/24) to Schooleys Mountain; then south on Pleasant Grove Road to Pleasant Grove; then southeast on Califon Road to its intersection with Sliker Road; then southeast on Sliker Road to its intersection with East Hill Road; then south on East Hill Road to its intersection with Route 628 at Woodglen; then southwest on Route 628 to its intersection with Route 645 at Glen Gardner; then northwest on Route 645 to its intersection with Route 635 at Hampton; then south on Route 635 (Charlestown Road) to its intersection with Routes 78/22; then west on Routes 78/22 to its intersection with Route 614 near Perryville; then southwest on Route 614 to its intersection with Route 519 at Spring Mills; then south on Route 519 to the Delaware River at Milford; then northward along the Delaware River to its intersection with Water Street in Belvidere, the point of beginning.

20. Zone 20: That portion of Morris and Hunterdon Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 517 (517/124) and Pleasant Grove Road at Schooleys Mountain; then south on Pleasant Grove Road to Pleasant Grove; then southeast on Califon Road to its intersection with Sliker Road; then southeast on Sliker Road to its intersection with East Hill Road; then south on East Hill Road to its intersection with Route 628 at Woodglen; then southwest on Route 628 to its intersection with Route 645 at Glen Gardner; then northwest on Route 645 to its intersection with Route 635 at Hampton; then south on Route 635 (Charlestown Road) to its intersection with Routes 78/22; then west on Routes 78/22 to its intersection with Route 614 near Perryville; then southwest on Route 614 to its intersection with Route 519 at Spring Mills; then south on Route 519 to the Delaware River at Milford; then south on the Delaware River to the intersection of Routes 29 and 523 at Stockton; then northeast on Route 523 to its intersection with Route 517 near Oldwick; then north on Route 517 to its intersection with Route 513 (513/24) at

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Long Valley; then northwest on Route 517 (517/124) to Schooleys Mountain, the point of beginning.

21. Zone 21: That portion of Hunterdon, Somerset, and Morris Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 517 and 513 at Long Valley; then north and east along Route 513 to its intersection with Route 10; then east along Route 10 to its intersection with Route 287 at Malapardis; then southwest along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 525 (Mt. Airy Road); then south along Route 525 to its intersection with Route 22 near Bound Brook; then west along Route 22 to its intersection with Route 523 at Whitehouse; then north along Route 523 to its intersection with Route 517 near Oldwick; then north along Route 517 to Long Valley, the point of beginning.

22. Zone 22: That portion of Somerset, Union, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, and Bergen Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the north shore of the Raritan River and the Garden State Parkway; then north on the Garden State Parkway to its intersection with Route 440; then west on Route 440 to Route 287; then west on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 22; then east on Route 22 to its intersection with Route 525 (Thompson Avenue) near Bound Brook; then north on Route 525 to its intersection with Route 287; then north on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 80; then east along Route 80 to Exit 53 and its intersection with Route 46; then east on Route 46 to its intersection with Route 3; then southeast on Route 3 to the Hudson River at the Lincoln Tunnel; then south along the New Jersey shore of the Hudson River to the Kill Van Kull; then west along the New Jersey shore of the Kill Van Kull to Newark Bay; then west following the New Jersey boundary along Newark Bay; then south along

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the Arthur Kill following the New Jersey boundary to Raritan Bay; then west along the north shore of the Raritan River to the point of beginning at the Garden State Parkway.

23. Zone 23: That portion of Bergen, Passaic, and Hudson Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 202 and the New York/New Jersey border; then southwest on Route 202 to its intersection with Route 23; then south on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 46 at Route 80, Exit 53; then east on Route 46 to its intersection with Route 3; then southeast on Route 3 to the Hudson River at the Lincoln Tunnel; then north along the Hudson River to the New York/New Jersey border; then northwest along the New York/New Jersey border to Route 202, the point of beginning.

24. Zone 24: That portion of Hunterdon, Mercer, and Somerset Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Delaware River near the intersection of Routes 29 and 523 at Stockton; then northeast on Route 523 to its intersection with Route 22; then east on Route 22 to its intersection with Route 206; then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 295 near Lawrenceville; then west on Route 295 to Route 95; then west on Route 95 to the Delaware River; then north along the Delaware River to Stockton, the point of beginning.

25. Zone 25: That portion of Somerset, Middlesex, Mercer, and Burlington Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Delaware River at the confluence of Black Creek at Bordentown; then eastward along Black Creek to the point at which Black Creek intersects Route 130; then northeast on Route 130 to its intersection with Route 1; then northeast on Route 1 to its intersection with Route 287; then west on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 22; then west on Route 22 to its intersection with Route 206; then south on Route 206 to its intersection with

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Route 295 near Lawrenceville; then west on Route 295 to Route 95; then west on Route 95 to the Delaware River; then south along the Delaware River to Bordentown, the point of beginning.

26. Zone 26: That portion of Mercer, Middlesex, and Monmouth Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the north shore of the Raritan River and the Garden State Parkway; then north on the Garden State Parkway to its intersection with Route 440; then west on Route 440 to Route 287; then west on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 1; then southwest on Route 1 to its intersection with Route 130; then south on Route 130 to its intersection with Route 33 at Hightstown; then east on Route 33 to its intersection with Route 537; then northeast on Route 537 to its intersection with Route 79 at Freehold; then north on Route 79 to its intersection with Lloyd Road at Morganville; then north on Lloyd Road to Broadway in Keyport; then north on Broadway to the Matawan Creek confluence with the Raritan Bay; then northwest along the New Jersey shoreline to the Raritan River intersection with the Garden State Parkway, the point of beginning.

27. Zone 27: That portion of Monmouth and Ocean Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Atlantic Ocean at Route 528 at Mantoloking; then west on Route 528 (527/528) to its intersection with Route 195 near Jackson Mills; then west on Route 195 to its intersection with Route 537 near Holmeson; then northeast on Route 537 to its intersection with Route 79 at Freehold; then north on Route 79 to its intersection with Lloyd Road at Morganville; then north on Lloyd Road to Broadway in Keyport; then north on Broadway to the Matawan Creek confluence with the Raritan Bay; then southeast along the New Jersey coastline of the Atlantic Ocean at Raritan Bay; then south along the New Jersey coastline of the Atlantic Ocean to Mantoloking, the point of beginning.

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28. Zone 28: That portion of Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Burlington Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Delaware River at the confluence of Black Creek at Bordentown; then eastward along Black Creek to the point at which Black Creek intersects Route 130; then northeast on Route 130 to its intersection with Route 33 at Hightstown; then east on Route 33 to its intersection with Route 537; then south on Route 537 to its intersection with Route 206 at Chambers Corner; then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 530 (Pemberton Road); then northwest on Route 530 to its intersection with Route 541 at Mt. Holly; then north on Route 541 to the Delaware River at Burlington; then north on the Delaware River to Bordentown, the point of beginning.

29. Zone 29: That portion of Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Delaware River at Route 541 in Burlington; then southward along the Delaware River to Route 30 at Camden; then east along Route 30 to its intersection with Route 130; then south along Route 130 to its intersection with Interstate 76; then south along Interstate 76 to its intersection with Route 42; then southeast along Route 42 to its intersection with Spur 536 (Williamstown-Mt. Freedom Road) at Williamstown; then northeast along Spur 536 to its intersection with Route 73 near Berlin; then north along Route 73 to its intersection with Route 70 at Marlton; then east on Route 70 to its intersection with Route 541 at Medford; then southeast on Route 541 to its intersection with Route 532 at Medford Lakes; then east on Route 532 to its intersection with Route 206; then north on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 530 (Pemberton Road); then northwest along Route 530 to its intersection with Route 541 at Mt. Holly; then north along Route 541 to the Delaware River at Burlington, the point of beginning.

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30. Zone 30: That portion of Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Delaware River and Route 30 at Camden; then east along Route 30 to its intersection with Route 130; then south on Route 130 to its intersection with Route 76; then south on Route 76 to its intersection with Route 42; then southeast on Route 42 to its intersection with Spur 536 near Williamstown; then south on Spur 536 to its intersection with Route 322 (322/536) at Williamstown; then west on Routes 322/536 to its intersection with Route 553 at Glassboro; then south on Route 553 to its intersection with Route 540 at Centerton; then west on Route 540 to its intersection with Pecks Corner-Cohansey Road; then west on Pecks Corner-Cohansey Road to its intersection with Route 49; then northwest along Route 49 to its intersection with Route 625 at Salem; then west on Route 625 to its intersection with the Delaware River at Oakwood Beach; then northward along the Delaware River to Route 30 at Camden, the point of beginning.

(i) Permit quotas for trapping river otter shall be as follows:

ANNUAL OTTER PERMIT QUOTAS

Zone Number	Annual Permit Quota	Portions of Counties Involved
1	4	Sussex
2	4	Sussex

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3	3	Bergen, Morris, Passaic, Sussex
4	3	Sussex, Warren
5	5	Sussex, Warren
6	5	Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Warren
7	4	Essex, Morris, Passaic
8	8	Ocean
9	6	Burlington, Ocean
10	2	Atlantic, Burlington, Camden
11	6	Atlantic, Burlington, Ocean
12	2	Atlantic, Camden, Gloucester
13	7	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland
14	6	Atlantic, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem
15	15	Cumberland, Salem
16	5	Atlantic, Burlington
17	2	Atlantic
18	6	Atlantic, Cape May
19	3	Hunterdon, Morris, Warren
20	7	Hunterdon, Morris
21	1	Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset
22	1	Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris,

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		Passaic, Somerset, Union
23	1	Bergen, Hudson, Passaic
24	3	Hunterdon, Mercer, Somerset
25	6	Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset
26	3	Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth
27	2	Monmouth, Ocean
28	11	Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth
29	6	Burlington, Camden, Gloucester
30	9	Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem
Total	146	

7:25-5.28 Community-based deer management permits

(a) Subject to the requirements of the section, the Director may, in his or her discretion, designate special deer management areas and issue special deer management permits to administer alternative deer control methods as part of an approved community-based deer management plan.

(b) Definitions: The following words and terms, when used in this section, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

1. "Agent" means a volunteer(s) or paid individual(s) listed by the cooperator on their Special Deer Management Permit to employ alternative deer control methods. Agents are restricted to weapons and/or ammunition as specified in the Game Code.

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2. "Alternative deer control methods" means those techniques, other than traditional hunting, employed to reduce deer populations, which techniques may include, but not be limited to, shooting by agents, capture and euthanize, capture and remove, the use of materials and methods to limit reproduction, and controlled hunting.

3. "Biological carrying capacity" means the maximum number of deer that a given land area can support in good health over an extended period of time.

4. "Community-based deer management plan" is a plan submitted by a cooperator in accordance with N.J.S.A. 23:4-42.4 and this section involving the use of alternate control methods to reduce the number of deer in an area designated as a special deer management area.

5. "Controlled hunting" means an alternative deer control method involving the capturing, taking, or killing of deer during a modified season that is usually more restrictive than traditional hunting in terms of hunter density, methods of take, size of huntable area, etc., than deer hunting elsewhere in New Jersey, as approved by the Council.

6. "Cooperator" means the local authority(ies), including airports, county boards of agriculture, county and municipal governing bodies, or a combination thereof, and/or instrumentalities thereof that have secured the approval of their applicable governing body(ies), cooperating in the administration of a community-based deer management plan.

7. "Coordinator" means NJDEP Fish & Wildlife employee(s) designated by the Director as the agency's official representative who, with the local authority(ies), will develop and monitor the administration of the community-based deer management plan.

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8. "Council" means the Fish and Game Council which is an 11-member body that has legislative authority to determine seasons, bag limits, and manners and means of take for game species and establishes policy regarding these matters.

9. "Cultural carrying capacity" means the number of deer that can co-exist compatibly with the local human population in a given area.

10. "Deer" means white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

11. "Director" means the Director or Assistant Commissioner of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

12. "Huntable" means those sites on which, due to their size, location, and available habitat, traditional or controlled deer hunting seasons can be conducted.

13. "Special deer management area" is an area designated by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife as an area having excessive agricultural or property damage caused by an overabundance of white-tailed deer or an area within and adjacent to an airport where deer constitute a hazard to the safe operation of aircraft.

14. "Special deer management permit" is a permit issued to the cooperator by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife upon approval of the community-based deer management plan by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and the Council authorizing the reduction of a deer population within a designated special deer management area, subject to conditions set by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and the Council.

15. "Traditional hunting" means the pursuit of deer by licensed hunters during annual prescribed open seasons as approved by the Council and provided by the Game Code (hunting firearm and bow) without additional restrictions.

(c) A cooperator experiencing significant agricultural or property damage caused by deer or a significant number of deer-vehicle collisions caused by deer or a hazard to the safe operation of

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aircraft caused by deer may request assistance from NJDEP Fish & Wildlife in order to develop an application requesting designation of a special deer management area(s) for lands within their jurisdiction.

(d) Applications shall contain a quantitative description of the significant damage caused by deer to agricultural crops or property, or the number of deer-vehicle collisions within the proposed special deer management area; and a map and description of the proposed deer management area, including the approximate acreage of the proposed deer management area. Whenever possible, the boundaries of the area shall coincide with readily recognizable boundaries such as roads, natural features, such as streams, or already established legal boundaries, such as well posted property or administrative boundaries.

1. An application may be submitted in accordance with the following:

i. A cooperator may submit an application for designation as a special deer management area concurrently with an application for approval of a community-based deer management plan.

ii. Two or more municipalities may submit a single application for a special deer management area that covers more than one municipality.

iii. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife or the county board of agriculture may request the Center for Wildlife Damage Control of Rutgers University to coordinate and facilitate the development of a special deer management area and a community-based deer management plan for an agricultural area.

iv. After consultation with the cooperator, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and the Council may modify the area proposed for designation in an application.

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(e) Following the designation of a Special Deer Management Area or concurrent with the application for such an area, the cooperator, with the coordinator and, if applicable, the Center for Wildlife Damage, may submit for approval by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and the Council a community-based deer management plan. Such plan shall be submitted to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife 120 days prior to the proposed date of implementation.

1. A community-based deer management plan submitted for approval shall include the following:

i. A quantitative estimate of the current deer population or deer population density and the intended target population or density necessary to reduce the damage caused by deer;

ii. Description of the proposed alternative control method(s) to reduce the number of deer in the special deer management area, including the extent to which traditional hunting is or is not applicable. The description shall include detailed information, including, but not limited to, the capture methodology, the type of traps and destination of deer to be removed, or the method of euthanasia; the culling methodology, including the type of weapons, type of ammunition, hours of culling activities, and shooting methodology, such as baiting, shooting from platforms, or detailed information on other methods to be employed;

iii. Identify each organization or contractor, if any, that shall participate in the implementation of the alternative control methods proposed in the plan and describe their qualifications. Attach resumes, where applicable;

iv. Include documentation denoting all volunteers or employees of the cooperator, or their agents, which will cull deer using hunting firearms possess a valid firearm hunting license,

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a valid rifle permit if required, and a valid New Jersey Firearms Purchaser Identification Card or proof that the person is in compliance with the applicable laws of the person's state of residence.

(1) Cooperators shall provide a notarized letter that all agents involved in culling deer using hunting firearms have passed the following shooting qualifications:

(A) Agents using rifles are required to pass that portion of the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, Scoped Rifle Qualifications, from 50 and 25 yards, which requires shooting two-inch and one-and-one-half inch targets from a sitting or kneeling position with artificial support;

(B) Agents using shotguns with slugs must be able to shoot a three-inch group, twice at 40 yards;

(C) Unless otherwise authorized, qualified agents using rifles must shoot deer at no more than 50 yards; and

(D) Unless otherwise authorized, qualified agents using shotguns must shoot deer at no more than 40 yards;

v. Any proposal for reduction by limiting reproduction shall also adhere to the provisions at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.31, in addition to the applicable provisions of this section;

vi. Describe the methods and timing thereof that shall be used to notify the public, including residents located within and adjacent to the special deer management area, of the alternative control methods proposed in the plan and the specific times and places when and where they will be used. Such methods shall, at a minimum, include written notice to adjacent landowners when the control method includes culling deer;

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vii. Describe the precautions that will be taken to ensure the safety of the public.

Such provisions shall, at a minimum, include the use of local police or appropriate law enforcement authority to enforce the closure of roads if necessary, the restriction of the normal use of public land not normally open to hunting, when deemed necessary by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife or the Council, or if required by the county prosecutor as a condition for the use of silencers or suppressors;

viii. Document the written consent of each affected landowner for access to that person's land if access to private property is necessary to implement the plan;

ix. Attach a resolution adopted by the cooperator's governing body endorsing the application for approval of a community-based deer management plan and special deer management permit. If the proposed alternate control methods require exemptions from restrictions concerning traditional weapons and/or ammunition used for deer hunting, exemptions regarding the hunting by the aid of lights and/or motor vehicles, the transportation of weapons within motor vehicles, and/or the normal hours authorized for hunting deer, a resolution endorsing the plan adopted by the governing body of the municipality(ies) in which the special deer management area is located shall also be included;

x. Description of a plan to implement the following measures: discouragement of deer feeding, support of traditional hunting where practicable, reasonable efforts to utilize deer killed by non-traditional means, including a plan by the cooperator to ensure donation of venison to the needy, and a plan to ensure the antlers, hides, and other non-edible portions of the deer are disposed of;

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xi. If the alternate deer control includes the use of silencers or suppressors, include prior written authorization from the county prosecutor of the county in which the special deer management area is located; and

xii. Any additional information as NJDEP Fish & Wildlife or the Council may determine to be necessary to properly review a community-based deer management plan.

(f) All costs associated with the application of alternative deer control options, including, but not limited to, those associated with the processing of venison, shall be borne by the cooperator.

(g) Fertility control methodologies, including contraception, contragestation, and sterilization materials and procedures, may be used by the cooperator and/or its agents who have been issued the Special Permit to Inhibit Wildlife Reproduction approved by the Council and issued by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.31. Approval for such efforts shall be restricted to bona fide researchers, following review and approval of a study plan by the Council and the Department of Animal Science, Cook College-Rutgers University. Any experimental use of chemicals and vaccines to inhibit wildlife reproduction on free-ranging deer populations shall be restricted to those individuals granted an Investigational Exemption for a New Animal Drug (INAD) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Special Permit to Inhibit Wildlife Reproduction, for use of those specific substances at specified locations.

(h) Upon approval of the special deer management area and community-based deer management plan by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and the Council, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife shall issue a special deer management permit authorizing the cooperator to implement the alternate control method(s). The permit shall incorporate the community-based deer management plan by reference and shall identify the duration of the permit, the time, place, and alternate control method authorized by

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NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and the Council, the name of each individual authorized to administer the alternate control method, any exemption or variance from a law, rule, or regulation authorized by the Council and any special conditions established by the Council.

1. Individuals administering the alternative control method must not have been convicted of any violation of the fish and game laws of this State or any other state, or of any violation of any provision of the New Jersey Fish or Game Code within five years of the issuance of the special deer management permit; or of violation of any law or rules authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 23:4-16.d, 23:7-1, 23:7-3, 23:9A-1, or 23:9A-2, 23:4-42, 23:4-43, 23:4-44, 23:4-45, 23:4-46, 23:4-47, 23:4-47.1, or 23:4-48, within 10 years of issuance of the special deer management permit. Any individual who has been convicted of said laws or regulations shall be ineligible to administer alternate control methods as provided for in the deer management permit.

(i) No person shall implement an alternate control method except when in possession of a special deer management permit issued by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. The permittee shall provide a copy of the permit issued by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife to that individual named in the permit that is authorized to administer the alternate control method.

1. During the implementation of the alternate control method, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife may monitor operations in order to ensure compliance, ensure public safety, ensure the proper treatment of any animals captured, ensure proper disposition of deer remains, carcasses, and/or venison. Unless otherwise authorized on the permit, antlers and other parts not disposed of are the property of the State.

2. The permit is valid only for the lands, species, times, and dates specified on the permit.

3. Permits must be made available for visual inspection to any interested party.

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4. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife representatives shall be provided access to lands listed on the permit at any reasonable time.

5. Permittees must keep written daily records of all shooting activity and mortality, including the date, species, and sex of any animal harvested. Said records must be available to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for inspection at any time.

6. Within two weeks of the expiration of a special deer management permit, the cooperator shall file a report, which shall include information on the costs, and efficacy of the alternate control method(s) employed to reduce the deer population and reduce deer damage.

7. Failure to comply with any of the provisions or requirements in the special deer management permit and any applicable law may cause revocation of the permit or denial of subsequent permits.

7:25-5.29 Deer Management Assistance Program

(a) Special permits, known as Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permits, may be issued by the Director, in his or her discretion, for the taking of antlerless deer during the permit bow, permit shotgun, or permit muzzleloader seasons subject to the requirements of this section. All requirements applicable to the aforementioned hunting seasons pursuant to this subchapter apply. DMAP permits are non-transferable.

(b) In granting DMAP permits, the Director shall consider any data available to him or her, including, but not limited to, damage done to crops or property, ecological damage, the hazard posed to safe airport operations, the biological condition of the herd, or any other special management problem occurring on the property for which the DMAP permit(s) are requested.

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1. The applicant shall provide any existing management plans for the property which support the need for DMAP permit(s); and any available biological data collected from previous deer management efforts. Information shall be submitted to the main NJDEP Fish & Wildlife Office in Trenton, as identified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(e).

2. The applicant and the hunters receiving DMAP permits and acting as agent(s) of the applicant shall adhere to the following conditions:

i. The applicant and their agents shall conform to applicable Federal, State, and local statutes, rules, codes, and ordinances pertaining to the use and discharge of hunting firearms.

ii. The applicant and their agents shall comply with the means, methods of take, dates, hours, recordkeeping requirements, and other conditions prescribed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and listed on the DMAP application. Failure to comply with any of the conditions or the provisions of this subsection or this subchapter may be the cause for revocation of the permits and may cause the denial of subsequent permits.

iii. Only bows or hunting firearms as prescribed for the hunting of deer at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(e), 5.17(e), 5.18(e), 5.19(e), 5.20(e), and 5.21(e) may be used to harvest deer. The permit(s) will not be issued until a field investigation is performed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife personnel.

iv. The permits are valid only for the lands specified on the application.

v. All deer taken pursuant to the DMAP shall be tagged immediately with the transportation tag included on the permit. Deer harvested pursuant to this permit shall be tagged immediately and reported using the AHRS.

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vi. Applicants or their agents must keep written daily records of all hunting activity and mortality, including the date, sex, age, weight, number of antler points, antler beam measurement, and possession tag number of any animal killed. Said records must be available to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for inspection upon request.

vii. Within two weeks of the conclusion of the deer season, the applicant shall file a written report of activities. The report shall include the Conservation ID Number (CID) of the agent(s), and the dates, sex, age, number of antler points, antler beam measurement, and weights of any deer taken, and any additional biological information that may be applicable. If no deer are killed, the agent's CID number, and dates of activity shall be listed.

3. Permits will only be issued to properties in deer management zones with a limited antlerless bag limit or if the regular zone quota of permits is sold out. Permits will be issued at a rate of one per 10 acres.

i. DMAP permits will be priced at the same rate as regular deer season permits. Permits will be issued by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. Up to two DMAP permits may be issued per agent, per property.

ii. Each DMAP permit allows for the taking of two antlerless deer only.

iii. Pursuant to the provisions at N.J.S.A. 23:3-56.1, a farmer and his or her immediate family will be issued one DMAP permit per person, without charge.

iv. Applicants or agents hunting pursuant to the DMAP must have a valid and current hunting license and permits required for the appropriate season, with the exception of the farmer hunting license exemption, as specified at N.J.S.A. 23:3-1(e).

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7:25-5.30 Provisions for hunters with disabilities

(a) NJDEP Fish & Wildlife may issue special permits, without a fee, to shoot or hunt from a standing vehicle that is parked off the road to licensed hunters who have demonstrated, in writing, the nature of their disability and the need for an exemption.

1. The applicant shall provide medical documentation on the form(s) provided by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, which must be certified by a physician licensed to practice medicine.

2. Individuals hunting with a permit to hunt or shoot from a motor vehicle shall mark the vehicle being used for the purpose of hunting in one of the following ways: The vehicle shall display handicapped license plates issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission or display a sign, provided by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, in the rear window of the vehicle being utilized.

3. Permits issued to individuals pursuant to this subsection and (b) below may be revoked by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife when the applicant is found to have made false statements on their application or the applicant had been convicted of any violation of Fish and Wildlife laws and regulations.

4. Permittees are subject to all applicable NJDEP Fish & Wildlife laws and regulations.

5. Violation of any NJDEP Fish & Wildlife law or regulation may result in the revocation of any special permit issued by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

(b) Physically challenged persons whose need for alternative methods of taking game animals cannot be addressed by the provisions at (a) above may apply to the Director of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for further exemption from the existing regulations concerning methods of taking wildlife including alternative equipment on forms provided NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. Applicants must demonstrate, in writing, the nature of the disability and the need for an exemption and must provide

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medical documentation, on the form(s) provided by the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, which must be certified by a physician licensed to practice medicine. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife will review each request submitted pursuant to (a) above or this subsection, and may determine the need to schedule interviews with the applicants and/or their physician to verify the circumstances and determine the specific requirements of each applicant and assess the ability of each applicant to safely and effectively use alternative equipment or methods.

1. Additional medical information and/or evaluation may be required if deemed necessary by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife in order to make a determination of the validity of the application.

2. The cost of the additional medical testing is the responsibility of the applicant.

3. Each permit shall designate the specific alternative methods to take wildlife, including equipment permitted and the term of the permit for each individual determined to be qualified.

4. All handicapped permit applications will be accepted during the period of January 1 to August 31 of each year.

5. Within 60 calendar days from the denial of any application by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, the applicant may appeal to the Fish and Game Council. Any further right of appeal shall be determined and handled in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and 52:14F-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1. Such disputes will be referred to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing.

7:25-5.31 Special permit to inhibit wildlife reproduction

(a) No person shall administer or otherwise employ the use of fertility control materials and/or methodologies including, but not limited to, those which result in contraception, contragestation,

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and/or sterilization to any species of free-ranging wildlife without first procuring a permit approved by the Council and issued by the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife pursuant to this section.

(b) No person shall employ any physical alteration or device that would alter the reproduction potential of any free-ranging wildlife species without first procuring a permit as required. The possession of such unauthorized materials or devices in the field shall be considered an attempt to take wildlife contrary to the provisions of the Game Code.

(c) Prior to submission of an application, applicants must first obtain any necessary Federal permits.

(d) Each application shall include a written proposal that includes the following information:

1. A description of the fertility control procedure;
2. The credentials of the person(s) who will administer the contraceptive procedure;
3. The purpose or intent of the procedure;
4. An assessment of environmental impacts; and
5. A copy of any applicable federal permits.

(e) NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, in cooperation with the Department of Animal Science, Cook College-Rutgers University and other scientists who may be selected by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, will review each application and determine whether or not a permit is granted based on the overall justification and need for conducting such procedures, the qualifications of the person(s) administering the procedure, and the anticipated environmental impacts affecting both wildlife and humans and the probability of success in controlling free-ranging wildlife populations. The permit shall identify the time, place, and methodology to be utilized and any special conditions established by the Council.

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7:25-5.32 Special wildlife management permits

(a) Special permits, known as special wildlife management permits, may be issued by the Director, in his or her discretion, for the taking of any game species, indigenous animal, exotic animal, potentially dangerous indigenous animal, or potentially dangerous exotic animal by any lawful manner and means and at any time subject to the requirements of this section. Such permits shall be valid for the times, conditions, and areas or installations indicated thereon and need not conform to the provisions applicable to general permits.

(b) In granting this special wildlife management permit, the Director shall consider any data available to him or her including, but not limited to, damage being done to crops or property, the hazard posed to safe airport operations, the biological condition of the animal, or any other special management problem. The permittee and their agent(s) shall adhere to the following conditions:

1. The permittee and their agents shall conform to applicable Federal, State, and local statutes, rules, codes, and ordinances pertaining to the use and discharge of hunting firearms, and the setting of traps.

2. The permittee and their agents shall comply with the means, methods of take, dates, hours, recordkeeping requirements, and other conditions prescribed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and listed on the special wildlife management permit. Failure to comply with any of the conditions or requirements of the permit or the provisions of this subchapter may be cause for revocation of the permit and may cause denial of issuance of subsequent permits.

3. Only hunting firearms prescribed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife may be used to kill wild deer, wild turkey, black bear, coyote, woodchuck, fox, raccoon, opossum, skunk, or other wildlife

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listed on the permit. For situations involving the use of a hunting firearm, the permit will not be issued until a field investigation is performed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife personnel. In exigent circumstances, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife may issue a permit for one day only without prior confirmation of necessity by field investigation; provided that a field investigation can be performed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife personnel within seven days.

i. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this subsection shall not preclude agents and/or permittees operating pursuant to an approved special deer management permit (see N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.28) from shooting deer with a rifle or a rifle equipped with a silencer or suppressor if that permit so specifically provides. Rifles for this purpose shall be restricted as specifically provided in that permit to include only .22, .223, .270, and .45 caliber or other calibers approved by the Division. Only highly frangible bullets shall be employed in .223 and .270 caliber rifles. Bullets employed in .22 and .45 caliber rifles shall be restricted to those designed to provide maximum expansion and limited penetration. As a part of a Special Deer Management Permit, use of .22 rim-fire ammunition is restricted to the euthanasia of captive deer only.

4. Hunting firearms shall not be discharged from any vehicle.

5. No loaded hunting firearm shall be possessed, and no hunting firearm may be discharged within 450 feet of an occupied building or school playground, unless the permittee or their agent has written authorization in hand from the owners or lessees of said building(s).

6. Permits issued to airports to control wildlife on or near runways will be valid only during the hours in which the airport runway(s) is/are operational, unless otherwise specified on the permit.

7. Permits are valid only for the lands, species, times, and dates specified on the permit.

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8. Permits and approved plans must be made available for visual inspection to any interested party.

9. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife representatives must have access to lands listed on the permit at any reasonable time.

10. Permittees must keep written daily records of all shooting activity and mortality, including the date, species, and sex of any animal killed. Said records must be available to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for inspection at any time.

11. Wildlife killed pursuant to the permit must be disposed of as prescribed by the permit. No wildlife killed pursuant to a permit may be sold or bartered; however, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife may authorize the permittee to annually keep for consumption of meat only up to 10 deer or five wild turkeys or one black bear shot pursuant to a permit and/or may designate a not-for-profit or non-commercial organization that may receive deer killed pursuant to the permit. Wildlife taken on the permit and designated for consumption shall be tagged immediately with possession seals provided by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. A written record, including the date, possession seal number, and person or organization receiving wildlife shall be made and provided to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife within two weeks of the expiration of the permit. Deer antlers, turkey feathers, skins, and other inedible parts must be disposed of and may not be kept by the permittee or their agents.

12. Wildlife carcass disposal shall be the responsibility of the permittee and shall be in compliance with State and local statutes, rules, codes, ordinances, and the conditions of the permit. Transportation of wildlife carcasses for disposal shall be as directed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

13. All agents listed on the permit who are involved in the handling or shooting of hunting firearms pursuant to the permit must have a valid and proper New Jersey firearm license and a

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valid State of New Jersey Firearms Purchaser Identification Card. Persons listed on the permit that do not have a valid and proper New Jersey Firearm License and a valid State of New Jersey Firearms Purchaser Identification Card may assist by holding lights, driving a vehicle, or in other ways, but are prohibited from the handling or shooting of hunting firearms.

14. Within two weeks of the expiration of the permit, the permittee shall file a written report of activities. The report shall include the date, species, and number of wildlife taken; the sex of any deer, black bear, or turkey killed; and any additional information that may be required. Any and all information regarding deer, or other species taken shall be also entered into AHRS simultaneously, when available.

15. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of the subchapter or requirements of the permit may be reason to cause revocation of the permit or denial of subsequent permits.

(c) Special wildlife management permits to address beaver damage through trapping, known as beaver damage control permits, may be issued by the Director, in his or her discretion. Permits may be issued during, or outside of the regular beaver trapping season, set forth at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(b). In addition to the other requirements specified in this section for all special wildlife management permits, beaver damage control permits are subject to the following.

1. In-season beaver damage control permits shall be issued according to the following:

i. Beaver damage control permits may be issued to the owner or lessee of any land, or their agent, to control beavers that are causing damage on that land.

ii. A valid trapping license is required for trapping pursuant to a beaver damage control permit issued during the annual trapping season, as specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(b).

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iii. A licensed trapper who must have first applied for a beaver permit for the current beaver trapping season.

iv. Permit conditions for a beaver damage control permit issued during the annual season may include provisions for possession of beavers caught pursuant to the permit, in which case the beavers must be tagged and checked in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(g).

v. Permittees are subject to (b)1 through 15 above.

2. Out-of-season, established at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(b), beaver damage control permits shall be issued according to the following:

i. Beaver damage control permits may be issued to the owner or lessee, or their agent, of any land to control beavers that are causing damage on that land.

ii. The permittee and their agents shall conform to all Federal, State, and local statutes, rules, codes, and ordinances pertaining to the use and discharge of hunting firearms, and the setting of traps.

iii. The permittee and their agents shall comply with the means, methods of take, hours, recordkeeping requirements, and other conditions prescribed by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and listed on the beaver damage control permit.

iv. Permittees are subject to (b)1 through 15 above.

(d) Additional permit shotgun and muzzleloader permits may be issued for specific farms within oversubscribed deer management zones. Permits will be issued based on the following:

1. The farm must include an area of 10 acres or more, produce a gross income in excess of \$500.00, be assessed as farmland, and have a documented history of deer damage;

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2. The permit shall only be valid for the specific farm applied for and shall not be transferable; and

3. Site specific permits shall be issued for use only on farms with a history of deer damage. Site specific shotgun permits will only be issued if the regular permits are sold out. Site-specific muzzleloader permits will only be issued if the regular quota for muzzleloader permits is sold out. There will be no limit to the number of site-specific permits that can be issued. The permits shall be for antlerless deer only.

7:25-5.33 Special wildlife salvage permit

(a) Special permits known as “scientific salvage permits” may be issued by the Director for the salvage and possession of accidentally killed or naturally dead wildlife other than migratory game birds and nongame birds and endangered wildlife species that are named on the State of New Jersey and the Federal lists of endangered species.

(b) The special permits may be issued to properly accredited persons associated with educational or scientific institutions for strictly educational or scientific purposes only. In the event that the permittee separates from the educational or scientific institution, the special permit shall become void. Specimens collected by the permittee will remain with the educational or scientific institution. If the educational or scientific institution does not want to retain the specimen collection or ceases to exist, the permittee shall contact NJDEP Fish & Wildlife for proper disposition of specimens.

(c) The scientific salvage permit issuance fee shall be \$7.00 to defray expenses attending the granting of the permit and the permit shall be valid until revoked for cause and shall not be

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transferable. The permittee shall submit an annual report of activities by January 31 to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. The report shall include the species and number of specimens collected, the date of acquisition of each specimen, and the disposition of each specimen. Failure to submit an annual report of activities by the due date shall result in permit revocation.

(d) Upon proof that a holder of the special salvage permit has killed, injured, destroyed, or attempted to kill, injure, or destroy with any weapon, trap, cable restraint, or other device of any kind any wild animal, except as provided at N.J.S.A. Title 23 or the State Game Code, or has in possession any species of wildlife other than those named in this permit or other wildlife possession permit, the special permit shall become void and the permit holder shall be subject to the penalties provided by law.

7:25-5.34 Wildlife damage - control

(a) The following species may be taken by lawful procedures to address damage being caused by identified species to dwellings, livestock, crops, or poultry: coyote (*Canis latrans*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), mink (*Neogale vison*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), squirrel (*Sciurus spp.*), long-tailed weasel (*Neogale frenata*), short-tailed weasel (American ermine, *Mustela richarsonii*), and woodchuck (*Marmota monax*).

(b) Property owners and occupants of dwellings suffering damage from coyote, gray fox, red fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, raccoon, rabbit, skunk, squirrel, weasel, and woodchuck, or their agents designated in writing, may control these animals by lawful procedures at any time subject

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to State law and local ordinances. Persons controlling coyotes pursuant to this provision shall notify one of the Regional Law Enforcement Offices within 24 hours.

(c) Farmers, or their agents, may control coyote, gray fox, red fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, raccoon, rabbit, skunk, squirrel, weasel, and woodchuck, by lawful procedures at any time when found destroying livestock, crops, or poultry, subject to State law and local ordinances. Farmers, or their agents, controlling coyotes pursuant to this provision shall notify one of the Regional Law Enforcement Offices within 24 hours.

1. Farmers, or their agents, may use shot no larger than No. 4 buckshot to control woodchuck causing damage.

(d) This section shall not apply to the taking of English sparrows, European starlings, or blackbirds that are doing damage to crops or property; nor shall it apply to the taking of household pests, such as Norway rats and house mice.

1. Pursuant to Federal regulations, a person may kill yellow-headed, red-winged, bicolored red-winged, tricolored red-winged, and Brewer's blackbirds, cow-birds, all grackles, common crows, and magpies when found committing or about to commit serious depredations upon any ornamental or shade tree, agricultural crops, livestock, or wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers and manner as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance. None of the birds killed, nor their plumage, shall be sold or offered for sale, but may be possessed, transported, and otherwise disposed of or utilized.

2. Nothing in this section shall preclude a person from taking resident Canada geese or their nests or eggs as permitted at 50 CFR 21.49 through 21.52 and 21.61, as authorized by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. Persons taking resident Canada geese

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or their nests or eggs pursuant to this section may be required to report on or keep a log of their activities if authorized by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, as defined at 50 CFR 21.49 through 21.61. Methods and circumstances established by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, governing where Canada geese, or their nests or eggs, may be taken will be authorized by the Director, with the approval of the Council.

7:25-5.35 Wildlife health, disease, and surveillance

(a) In the event that a highly contagious or zoonotic disease of concern is discovered in New Jersey, or within 20 miles of the New Jersey State border, whether in a captive or wild animal, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife may establish one or more disease surveillance areas within the State's borders. Notification of the establishment of any such area(s), including the boundaries of any such area(s), and the affected species, shall be made through a notice in the New Jersey Register, news release, and the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com. Once a disease surveillance area has been established, all provisions of this subsection shall be in effect.

1. No person shall remove from the disease surveillance area any carcass or the parts or portions of parts that may carry the contagion, except pursuant to a permit issued by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife or as authorized by this subsection.

2. Special check stations within the surveillance area may be established by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. Any susceptible animal, as defined by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, taken within the disease surveillance area during an open hunting season shall be registered at a special designated NJDEP Fish & Wildlife check station within the surveillance area by 7:00 P.M. on the day harvested. If the animal is recovered too late to be brought to a check station by 7:00 P.M. on the

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day of harvest, the hunter who harvests the animal must notify an NJDEP Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement Regional Office by phone immediately and present the animal at a special designated check station by no later than 5:00 P.M. on the day after it was taken. However, the animal carcass cannot be removed from within the surveillance area until properly checked and tagged. If necessary, unchecked animals may be left at the designated check station overnight, tagged with the hunter's CID and phone number, and date of harvest. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife shall post on their website and publish in news releases information regarding special check station or head drop-off locations within the disease surveillance area, including times of operation.

i. All animals taken within the disease surveillance area shall be kept intact prior to check-in at special designated check stations. Viscera shall be disposed of at sites designated by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

ii. Any person who harvests an animal within the disease surveillance area shall allow NJDEP Fish & Wildlife staff or NJDEP Fish & Wildlife-authorized staff to collect and retain tissue samples from the animal for disease testing. Hunters shall be contacted by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife when positive lab results from tested animals are received; NJDEP Fish & Wildlife shall post all lab results on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJfishandWildlife.com. If the disease test is positive, all meat and other parts determined to be potentially contaminated shall be confiscated by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife or shall be disposed of in a manner specified by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

3. Notwithstanding the provision at N.J.A.C. 7:25-17.6 to the contrary, no person may possess the carcass or any part of the carcass of any susceptible cervid killed as a result of a cervid-vehicle collision within the disease surveillance area, if applicable, or any susceptible animal

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collected pursuant to N.J.S.A. 23:4-1 et seq. or N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33 taken from within the disease surveillance area.

4. The Director, in concurrence with the Council, may modify hunting or trapping regulations applicable to species identified as potentially impacted by the disease within the disease surveillance area, including, but not limited to, the relaxation of bag limits, the addition of season dates, the repeal of antler point restrictions, the relaxation of wanton waste regulations, and the ban of baiting and feeding in an attempt to reduce or contain the spread of disease. Notification of emergency regulation changes will be made through notice in the New Jersey Register, press releases, and on the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife website at www.NJFishandWildlife.com.

5. No person shall rehabilitate an animal belonging to a species specified as affected in the notice designating the disease surveillance area within the disease surveillance area. Additionally, no such animal that has been taken from the disease surveillance area shall be rehabilitated in any other part of the State. All susceptible animals already located at a wildlife rehabilitator that have been taken from a disease surveillance area or are being held at a wildlife rehabilitator within the disease surveillance area shall be surrendered to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

(b) No person shall import the semen or any live member of the Cervidae family, including, but not limited to, white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose, elk, reindeer, caribou, sika deer, roe deer, red deer, and muntjac, from another state or country.

(c) No person shall bring into the State the whole carcass or intact, non-taxidermied head of any member of the Cervidae family harvested in another state or country. Only boned-out meat, cleaned skullcaps and hides, shed antlers, and clean upper canine teeth of any member of the Cervidae family may be brought into New Jersey.

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(d) No person shall possess or use natural lures derived from deer urine, deer gland secretions or tissues, or other bodily fluid or biological material from deer.

(e) Any person possessing a carcass, meat, or parts of a deer, harvested in another jurisdiction, that has been deemed to be CWD-positive as a result of testing by that jurisdiction, shall surrender the CWD-positive carcass, meat, or body parts to the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife immediately. Excluded are shed antlers, cleaned capes, hides, skullcaps, and taxidermy.

(f) No person shall administer or attempt to administer any chemical or biological substance, including, but not limited to, drugs, pesticides, vaccines, disease prevention or treatment, immobilization drugx, or growth stimulantx, nor make any alterations or affix any device to any free-ranging vertebrate wildlife without first obtaining a permit approved by the Director in consultation with the Fish and Game Council, and issued by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. Prior to the submission of an application, applicants must first obtain any necessary Federal permits. Each permit applicant must provide a written proposal describing the procedure, the credentials of the person(s) who will administer the substance or device, the purpose or intent of the procedure, and an assessment of environmental impacts. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, in cooperation with the Department of Animal Science, Cook College--Rutgers University and other scientists who may be selected by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, will review each application and determine whether or not a permit is granted based on the overall justification and need for conducting such procedures, the qualifications of the person(s) administering the procedure and anticipated environmental impacts affecting both wildlife and humans and the probability of success in achieving the intent listed in the application. The permit shall identify the time, place, and methodology to be utilized, and any special conditions established by the Council. This subsection does not apply to those substances

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or devices used in order to control species of the genera *Mus*, *Peromyscus*, or *Rattus* in or around buildings; or to those species possessed pursuant to a permit defined at N.J.A.C. 7:25-4 or 10.