

Regulations in red are new this year.

- ♦ A trapping license is required and a Trapper Education course must be passed. See pages 1 and 8 for license information.
- ♦ All traps set or used must bear a legible tag of durable material with the **Conservation Identification Number (CID#)** of the person setting, using and maintaining the traps.
- ♦ No traps or trap stakes are to be set prior to times indicated in this section.
- ♦ All traps must be checked and tended at least once every 24 hours, preferably in the morning.
- ♦ No trap shall be permitted to remain set on any property at the close of the trapping season.
- ♦ No person shall steal or attempt to take traps of another, or remove a trapped animal without permission of the trap owner.
- ♦ **Any person (including a farmer) who traps a coyote must notify a Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement office within 24 hours. Callers must identify themselves by name, CID# and daytime phone number.**
- ♦ Licensed trappers and in possession of a valid rifle permit may carry a .22 caliber rifle and use only .22 caliber short rimfire cartridges to kill legally trapped animals other than muskrat. Firearms may not be loaded with more than three rounds.

Trapper Josh Garriss, 14, harvested this 43 pound beaver in Stillwater during the cold, snowy days of January 2014.



NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife

Beaver and River Otter

Beaver may be taken only by properly licensed trappers in possession of a special beaver trapping permit valid for an entire management zone, or a special site-specific beaver permit valid as designated on the permit. River otter may only be taken by properly licensed trappers in possession of a special river otter trapping permit valid for an entire management zone. Application can be made at license agents or via Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales site www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com. Applicants must have a current and valid trapping license to apply.

Zone maps, boundary descriptions and permit quotas are available on our website or call (609) 292-1473. Applicants must have a current and valid trapping license to apply. The application period is October 1–31. **Applicants may apply for only one beaver trapping permit and/or one otter trapping permit.** If the number of applications exceeds the permit quota, a random lottery drawing will be held to determine permit holders. Successful beaver permit applicants will be given first opportunity for otter permits in their respective zone.

The Director may issue Beaver Damage Control Permits to owners or lessees of any land to control beaver damage. Damage Control Permits issued during the open beaver trapping season may be awarded to applicants that did not receive a zone wide permit during the open lottery and who reside near the damage site. All beaver harvested on Damage Control Permits issued during the open season must be registered at an official beaver/otter check station. Beaver taken on Damage Control Permits issued outside of the open beaver trapping season may not be possessed or sold by the damage permit holder.

Other beaver/otter rules and regulations:

- ♦ Holders of a river otter trapping permit may use a maximum of three traps daily.
- ♦ Trappers may only possess one Special River Otter Trapping Permit per season.
- ♦ All beaver and otter trap tags must be clearly visible above the water or ice.
- ♦ **Holders of both a Special Beaver Permit and a Beaver Damage Control Permit may use five additional traps daily on the property listed in the Damage Control Permit.**
- ♦ A Fish and Wildlife-issued Beaver Transportation Tag or Otter Transportation Tag must be affixed to the beaver or otter carcass **immediately upon taking possession of the animal.**
- ♦ All otters harvested incidentally by beaver trappers (i.e., trappers possessing a beaver permit but not an otter permit) must be fully surrendered to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The entire carcass, including the pelt, must be surrendered.
- ♦ All successful trappers (or their agents) must present their beaver and/or otter pelts at a designated check station for examination where pelt tags will be affixed. **All otter carcasses must be surrendered when pelts are registered, as required by the Game Code. Failure to submit your carcass will result in the issuance of a citation by the Bureau of Law Enforcement.**
- ♦ Trappers are requested to properly flesh and stretch all pelts for examination. Additional

information on check stations will be provided to all permit holders.

- ♦ Fish and Wildlife will staff check-in stations at the Assunpink, Clinton, Flatbrook, Tuckahoe and Winslow WMAs and the Newfoundland Fire Company on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015 (9 a.m.–noon). Successful trappers who cannot attend the scheduled dates should contact either Joseph Garriss at (908) 735-7040 or Andrew Burnett at (609) 748-2058 prior to Feb. 14 to make alternate arrangements.
- ♦ Permit holders will be notified via email, telephone or U.S. mail in the event the beaver and otter trapping season is extended for any reason, and notified of any change in the pelt registration date.

Bobcat and Fisher

Bobcats are classified as endangered in New Jersey; they are distributed widely across the northern part of the state. Fishers are returning, naturally and through reintroduction efforts in New York and Pennsylvania, to most of their historic range in the northeastern United States. Fishers have been documented in several northern and southern New Jersey counties.

There is no open trapping season for either bobcat or fisher; possession is not permitted. If you encounter a live bobcat or fisher on your trapline, do not disturb the animal or the set but immediately notify Fish and Wildlife by calling (877) WARNDP (927-6337). A Fish and Wildlife technician will provide further instructions. Call the same number for a dead bobcat or fisher on your trapline; a Fish and Wildlife technician arrange to pick up the animal. Biological samples will be taken from all bobcat and fisher carcasses. The data collected will be instrumental to understand the status of the species populations.

Traps, Live-capture Cable Restraints (Snares)

- ♦ No person shall set, use or maintain any type of snare unless they have first passed a Fish and Wildlife-approved trapper education course and carry on their person appropriate certification thereof.
- ♦ 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 at least 30 feet from any trap set.

Live-capture cable restraints set for mink, muskrat and nutria are subject to the following requirements:

- ♦ All such traps must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring 1/32, 3/64 or 1/16 inches in diameter, equipped with a swivel and set within 50 feet of the mean high water line;
- ♦ All such traps must be equipped with a stop to prevent the average loop diameter from exceeding 4 inches; and,
- ♦ All such traps must be set so that the distance between the ground/walking surface to the top of the loop does not exceed 7 inches.

Live-capture cable restraints set for coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon, skunk and weasel shall be subject to the following requirements:

- All such traps must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring 5/64 to 3/16 inches in diameter and be equipped with a swivel;
- All such traps must be equipped with a deer stop located no less than 6 inches from the beginning of the cable and a loop stop to prevent the average loop diameter from exceeding 12 inches; and,
- All such traps must be set so that the distance between the ground / walking surface to the top of the loop does not exceed 24 inches.

The above requirements for cable diameters, loop stops and loop sizes do not apply to body gripping restraining snares that are completely submerged underwater at all times (e.g., when set for beaver or river otter).

Traps, Body-gripping or Killer-type

No body-gripping or killer-type trap shall be used in non-tidal waters unless completely submerged underwater when the water is at the normal level. In tidal water, such traps must be completely covered at normal high tide.

It is illegal to use, set or maintain a body-gripping or killer-type trap having a jaw spread greater than 6 inches without a permit for beaver or river otter. A body-gripping or killer-type trap with a jaw spread of no more than 10 inches may be used for beaver or river otter. Jaw spread shall be measured between the

inner edges of the jaws across the trigger of a set trap. Beaver and otter trap tags must be placed above the water line and exposed to view.

Traps, Leg-hold

It is illegal to possess or use steel-jawed leghold traps anywhere in New Jersey.

Coyote, Red and Gray Fox, Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum and Weasel Trapping

- **Season Dates:** Nov. 15–Mar. 15 except Jan. 1–Mar. 15 on select WMAs*.
- **Bag Limits:** No daily bag limit for any of these species.
- No open fisher season. Call (877) 927-6337 to report any fisher capture.
- Traps may not be set prior to 6 a.m. on the respective opening day.
- Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area closed to trapping.

Mink, Muskrat and Nutria Trapping Zones

- **North Zone:** Those portions of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties lying north beginning at the intersection of US Rt. 1 and the Delaware River at Trenton; then north along Rt. 1 to its intersection with I-287; then south along I-287 to its intersection

with Rt. 440; then east along Rt. 440 to the NJ-NY state line.

- **South Zone:** Those portions of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem counties lying south of the aforementioned line.

- * The following wildlife management areas (WMAs) are closed to trapping until Jan. 1: Assunpink, Berkshire Valley, Bevans (Millville), Black River, Clinton, Colliers Mills, Flatbrook-Roy, Glassboro, Greenwood (incl. Howardsville), Heislerville, MacNamara (Tuckahoe), Mad Horse, Manahawkin, Manasquan River, Medford, Nantuxent, Peaslee, Piquette, Port Republic, Stafford Forge, Walpack, Winslow and Whittingham. Trapping is prohibited at all times on the Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area. ♫

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Beaver and River Otter Trapping Zones



Del. Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area closed to trapping

Season Dates:

Dec. 26–Feb. 9 except Jan. 1–Feb. 9 on select WMAs*

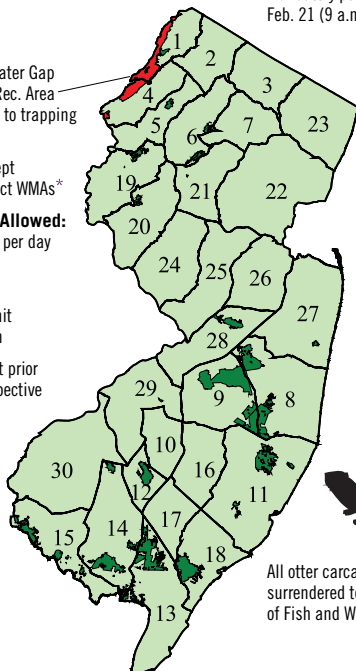
Number of Traps Allowed:

Beaver—5 per zone per day
Otter—3 per day

Bag Limits:

Beaver—8 per permit
Otter—1 per season

Traps may not be set prior to 6 a.m. on the respective opening day.



Mandatory pelt registration:
Feb. 21 (9 a.m.–noon)

All otter carcasses must be surrendered to the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Mink, Muskrat and Nutria Trapping Zones



Del. Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area closed to trapping

North Zone:

Nov. 15–Mar. 15

South Zone:

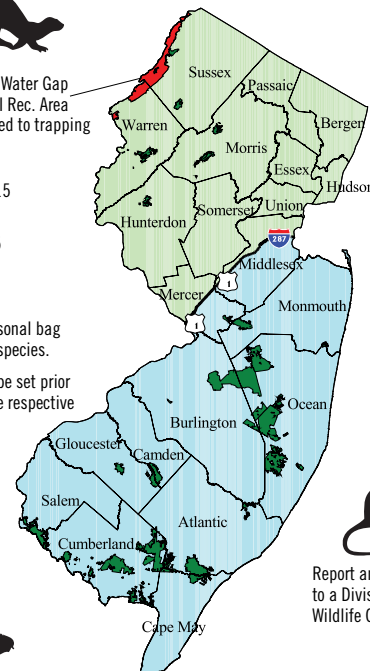
Dec. 1–Mar. 15

WMAs:

Jan. 1–Mar. 15

No daily or seasonal bag limit for these species.

Traps may not be set prior to 6 a.m. on the respective opening day.



Report any nutria harvest to a Division of Fish and Wildlife Office.

THE COMPLETE MIGRATORY bird regulations will be published in the *New Jersey 2014–15 Migratory Bird Regulations* available in September at license agents, Fish and Wildlife offices and on the Fish and Wildlife website at NJFishandWildlife.com. Migratory bird season dates published in the Migratory Bird Regulations booklet supersede those printed in this *Digest* if there are discrepancies.

Migratory Bird Seasons

Season	Area	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
September Canada Goose*	Statewide	Sept. 1 – 30	15
Rail and moorhen	Statewide	Sept. 1 – Nov. 8	Sora & Virginia rail: 25 total or aggregate; moorhen and clapper rail: 10
Sea Duck	Special Sea Duck Area	Sept. 23 – Jan. 24	7, except no more than 4 scoters
Snipe	Statewide	Sept. 17 – Jan. 1	8
Crow (Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat.)	Statewide	Aug. 11 – Dec. 6** and Dec. 15 – Mar. 21	No limit
Woodcock	North Zone	Oct. 18 – Nov. 22	3
	South Zone	Nov. 8 – 29 and Dec. 19 – Jan. 1	
Mourning Dove, swans, harlequin duck, king rail	Statewide	Closed	No Season
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	North Zone	Oct. 4; Nov. 1	For all species, Youth Day limits are the same as for regular seasons
	South Zone	Oct. 11; Nov. 8	
	Coastal Zone	Oct. 25; Feb. 7	

* See special regulations only for September Canada goose hunting, on right.

** The starting time to hunt any migratory game bird, including waterfowl, on the opening day of the pheasant season (Nov. 8, 2014) shall be 8 a.m. on wildlife management areas stocked with pheasant and quail. See page 64 for stocked WMAs.

Attention Waterfowl Hunters

Special Regulations Permitted During September Canada Goose Season

Special regulations designed to help curb the growth of resident population Canada geese. These special regulations are optional.

1. Electronic calls are permitted.
2. Shotguns capable of holding no more than seven shells (including magazine and chamber) are permitted.
3. Hunting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

Remember: these special regulations apply only to the September Canada goose season. Hunters who choose to use an unplugged gun during the September Canada goose season must remember to reinstall the magazine plug before pursuing other game species.

During all other waterfowl seasons, including duck, brant, regular and winter Canada goose, and snow goose, standard regulations apply. Standard regulations include: electronic calls prohibited, shotguns may not be capable of holding more than three shot shells and hunting hours end at sunset.

Hunters: Report Banded Birds

Hunters who recover banded migratory birds are asked to report the band number to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL), Washington, D.C. Banding data plays a critical role in migratory bird harvest management. There are three ways to report bands:

1. **Online:** reportband.gov
2. **Call Toll Free:** (800) 327-BAND
3. **Write:** to the address inscribed on the band.

Online reporting provides instant access to the original banding information including the species, sex, location, date and age of the bird at banding. Band reporters will be able to print a certificate of appreciation on their home computer which will include information about the bird which had been banded.

When contacting the BBL, be prepared to provide: band number, date the bird was recovered, exact location of the bird's recovery as well as nearest town, and method of recovery, e.g., shot or found dead. Hunters may keep the bands.

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What Do I Need To Hunt Migratory Birds In New Jersey?

Species Hunted	Hunting License	HIP Certification	NJ Stamp Certification	Federal Stamp
Crow	✓			
Woodcock, rail, moorhen, snipe	✓	✓		
Duck, brant, goose	✓	✓	✓	✓

Waterfowl Stamps: Both the New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp Certification and Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp are required for waterfowl hunters 16 years and older and must be signed in ink. New Jersey Stamp Certifications (the state stamp itself no longer exists) are available from license agents and from the Licenses and Permits button on Fish and Wildlife's website. Federal stamps are available from some U.S. post offices and online at <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps>.

Information For Migratory Bird Hunters

Important Reminder in Obtaining HIP Certification

Hunters, including youths, must purchase a Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification before hunting ducks, geese, brant, woodcock, rails, snipe, coot or moorhens (gallinules) in New Jersey and must always hunt with proof in possession in the license holder. HIP certifications are valid from Sept. 1 to April 15 each year.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will use this confidential information only to conduct migratory bird harvest surveys. Only a small, random group will be surveyed.

Hunters may purchase an HIP certification via three sales outlets:

- 1. License Agents**
HIP certification may be purchased at any license agent for a \$2 fee. Hunters will have their HIP certification printed on their license or as a separate document.
- 2. Internet Sales Site**
Hunters may purchase an HIP certification for a \$2 fee on Fish and Wildlife's Internet sales site (www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com) then self-print the HIP certifications.
- 3. Telephone Sales Site**
Hunters may purchase their HIP certifications using Fish and Wildlife's telephone sales process (888) 277-2015. Hunters will receive a transaction number; record this number for immediate proof of completing an HIP certification. The actual HIP certification will be mailed to the hunter. Note: purchases made via telephone will incur an additional shipping and handling fee of \$5.13.

New Jersey Waterfowlers Clinic

Every year, experienced waterfowlers throughout New Jersey join together dedicating their time and energy to present the **New Jersey Waterfowlers Clinic**—an all day, free seminar covering “everything you ever wanted to know” about the traditions of waterfowl hunting in New Jersey. This year is no exception!

Thirty years ago, the clinic began as an opportunity to introduce young people to the world of waterfowl hunting. However, with the growing interest among men and women, as well as children, the event has been transformed into an opportunity for anyone 10 and up to spend a fun and interesting day learning about waterfowling!

Our full-day clinic covers waterfowling from A to Z, and includes bird identification, decoys, calling, guns and ammo, boats, safety, laws and ethics, do's and don'ts, clothing and camo, and even a demonstration by working retrievers! The value of the day is priceless. It's a unique chance to ask any question you've ever had about the sport—to be answered by the most experienced waterfowlers in New Jersey. Our instructors have a combined 300 years of experience!

- **Free breakfast and lunch to all attending!**
- **Date:** Sunday, Oct. 5, 2014
- **Location:** Tip Seaman Park, Tuckerton, NJ
- **Time:** 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Please **register in advance** by calling Marty Kristiansen at (732) 977-5648 so we can plan accordingly.

We hope you'll join us this year and share our enthusiasm for all that is waterfowling!



Be a Conservation-Minded Trapper

For tips to avoid the accidental capture of bobcat or to prevent injury if one is trapped, scan the QR code, below.



Trapping Tips to Prevent the Accidental Capture of — and Injury to — Bobcat

If an accidental bobcat trapping occurs, call NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Trapper Response Team at **(877) WARN-DEP (877-927-6337)** so that we may obtain genetic samples.

Have You Seen This Cat?

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife needs your help by reporting bobcat sightings so we can better understand the size, distribution and genetic structure of our bobcat population.

Contact our agency if you have observed a bobcat:

- **Live and trail cam photos—** Complete a brief sighting report form: http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/bobcat-fisher-nutria_sighting.pdf. *Data from south Jersey is of particular interest.*
- **Dead on the road—** call us at (908) 638-4127 to report the carcass location.



It is illegal to possess incidentally trapped or road-killed bobcat from New Jersey.