



New Jersey Furbearer Management Newsletter

Fall 2016

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
Upland Wildlife and Furbearer Project



Important Upcoming Dates:

- **Trapper Education courses are scheduled. Call 877-2-HUNT NJ for registration and further information.**
 - October 8 and 9, Tuckahoe WMA (Lenape Farms Section, Atlantic County)
 - October 15 and 16, Hackettstown Fish Hatchery (Warren County)
 - October 27 and 28, Joint Base MDL (Burlington County)
- **October 1-31 – Application period for beaver and otter permits**
- **Sunday, October 2 – New Jersey Trappers Association annual convention at Space Farms**
- **Sunday, November 6 – New Jersey Fur Harvesters annual convention at Atsion State Park**

Remember:

- To trap or use a cable restraints a person must have first passed a Fish and Wildlife-approved trapper education course which included use of cable restraints and carry the certificate while trapping.
- Any person must be at least 12 years of age in order to obtain a trapping license.
- **TAKE A KID TRAPPING!**



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- Bobcats and Fishers in New Jersey



Please Remember to Report Your Coyotes!

Coyotes harvested by any method must be reported to a New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Regional Law Enforcement office within 24 hours.

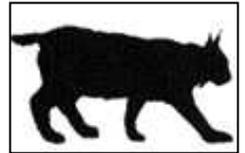
Regional NJ Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Office phone numbers:

Northern Region Office 908-735-8240
Central Region Office 609-259-2120
Southern Region Office 856-629-0555

Proposed Amendments/changes to the 2017 Game Code affecting trapping

1. *Amend relaxing lock definition* from “that component of a live capture cable restraint intended to create and maintain a loop; and that allows the loop to release constriction pressure on the captured animal when the cable is not taut (for example, when the animal stops pulling) to “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 cable restraint. Cam-locks and spring assisted locking systems are prohibited.**
2. *Provide for an earlier* mink, muskrat and nutria trapping season on WMAs that receive pheasant/quail stockings (mink, muskrat and nutria trapping will begin either November 15 or December 1 statewide, depending on which side of Route 1 you’re trapping).
3. *Increase number of permits* for taking river otter from 115 to 146 (affects about ½ the 30 zones).
4. *Allow youth trappers* age 12-14 to use a .22 rifle to dispatch legally captured animals when accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a properly licensed adult at least 21 years of age.
5. *Allow use of cage / enclosed foothold traps* only on WMAs receiving game bird liberations from Nov 15-Dec 31. Use of cable restraints will remain prohibited until January 1 on stocked WMAs.
6. *Amend trap check language* from “once in every 24 hours” to **once per calendar day.**

We’re all creatures of habit, as are the animals we pursue, but you should be aware that Endangered and Nongame Species staff as well as the Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee are *very* concerned that changing the trap check language will increase bobcat mortality. **If you trap in “Bobcat Country”, please continue to your normal trapping schedule and check your traps as early in the morning as possible.**



The Division realizes the extra effort required to report a captured bobcat, and fully appreciates your cooperation.

Legislative Update

Like most bills, legislation pertaining to fishing, hunting and/or trapping remain in their respective committees (Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Senate Environmental and Energy Committee, or as otherwise referred). Here’s a few whose status has changed since January/February 2016:

A109 – Increases membership of Fish and Game Council and clarifies it has sole authority to regulate freshwater fishing, hunting and trapping (**withdrawn from consideration 5/26/16**).

A723 – Provides discounted hunting and trapping license, permit, and stamp fees for senior citizens (**additional co-sponsors, Space (24) and Phoebus (24), have signed on**).

A1157 – Authorizes free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and free admission to State parks and forests for individuals with certain types of military service (**additional co-sponsor, Dancer (12), has signed on**).

A1387 – Requires voter registration forms be made available when applying for hunting, fishing or trapping license (**additional primary sponsors, Holley (20) and Houghtaling (11), have signed on**).

A3668 – Authorizes free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for volunteer emergency workers and persons with certain types of military service (introduced 4/14/16).

A2178 – Authorizes State Fish and Game Council to establish number of beaver trapping permits annually (**reported from Committee, as a Substitute, 2nd Reading 9/19/16**).

ACR25 – Determines that Fish and Game Council’s proposal to allow use of enclosed foothold traps is inconsistent with plain language and legislative intent of 1984 law banning animal traps of steel-jaw leghold

type (**additional primary sponsor, Zwicker (11), and co-sponsors, Jasey (27), Pinkin (18) and Eustace (38), have signed on).**

SCR11 – Identical to ACR25 (**additional co-sponsors, Gordon (38) and Diegnan (18), have signed on).**

ACR79 – Proposes constitutional amendment to preserve right of people to fish, hunt and trap and harvest fish and wildlife (**additional co-sponsors, Munoz (21) and Brown (2), have signed on).**

Please see the 2016 Beaver and Otter Trapping Supplement, available on the Division’s website, for a complete listing of trapping related legislation or visit <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us> to search all bills by number or keyword (such as “beaver”, “fishing”, “foothold”, “hunting”, “trap”, “trapping”, etc.).

Furbearer Fun Fact: Tularemia

In June 2016, a case of human tularemia was documented in Monroe Township, Gloucester County. It should be noted that a dead rabbit was found in the yard of the infected individual shortly before. Contraction of this disease is extremely rare in New Jersey - about 1 case per year is diagnosed – but since trappers spend a great deal of time outdoors handling many and varied animals, necessary precautions should be part of your routine.

Tularemia (aka, rabbit fever) occurs worldwide especially in rural areas where mammals, birds and insects are infected with *Francisella tularensis*, an organism capable of living for weeks in soil, water and dead animals. In the United States, it commonly occurs in squirrels, muskrats, beavers, prairie dogs, cats, bobcats, deer and sheep as well as the most common source, rabbits. It can also be spread by deerflies, ticks and other insects, but doesn’t occur naturally in humans and is not known to be transmissible from person to person.

This disease causes fever and sometimes ulceration at the point of entry and/or swelling of nearby lymph nodes. In some cases, it can cause severe pneumonia. Symptoms may last for several weeks and most victims recover completely, however it is a potentially fatal disease. Blood tests and cultures must be taken and analyzed to help confirm the diagnosis. Antibiotics used to treat tularemia include streptomycin, gentamicin, doxycycline, and ciprofloxacin. Treatment usually lasts 10 to 21 days depending on the stage of illness and the medication used. Health care providers and laboratories that diagnose cases of laboratory-confirmed tularemia are required to report those cases to their local or state health departments, which in turn report the cases to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Tularemia has several modes of transmission. How you get the disease usually determines the type and severity of symptoms. In general, you can get tularemia through:

- **Insect bites.** Although a number of insects carry tularemia, ticks and deer flies are most likely to transmit the disease to humans.
- **Exposure to sick or dead animals.** Tularemia can result from handling or being bitten by an infected animal, most often a rabbit or hare. Bacteria enter the skin through small cuts and abrasions or a bite, and an ulcer forms at the wound site. The ocular form of tularemia can occur when you rub your eyes after touching an infected animal.
- **Airborne bacteria.** Bacteria in the soil can become airborne during gardening, construction or other activities that disturb the earth. Inhaling the bacteria can lead to pneumonic tularemia. Laboratory workers who work with tularemia also are at risk of airborne infection.
- **Contaminated food or water.** Although uncommon, it's possible to get tularemia from eating undercooked meat of an infected animal or drinking contaminated water. The signs include vomiting, diarrhea and other digestive problems.

Simple measures can be taken to minimize the risk of tularemia, including the following:

- Use protective clothing and insect repellants and check for ticks frequently.
- Avoid handling any sick animals or any dead animals that you have not shot/trapped.
- Wear rubber gloves when handling or dressing game (especially rabbits).
- Avoid drinking untreated water.
- Always thoroughly cook game meat, especially rabbit and squirrel, to at least 165° Fahrenheit

Dogs can be affected by tularemia, but the signs observed may be mild and nonspecific. The signs that may be observed are related to the mode of transmission and include fever, depression, mucus and pus discharge from the nose and/or eyes, pustules at the sites of contact, swollen lymph nodes, and loss of appetite. In most cases, the disease can be overcome with supportive treatment.



Beaver and River Otter Harvests since 1992

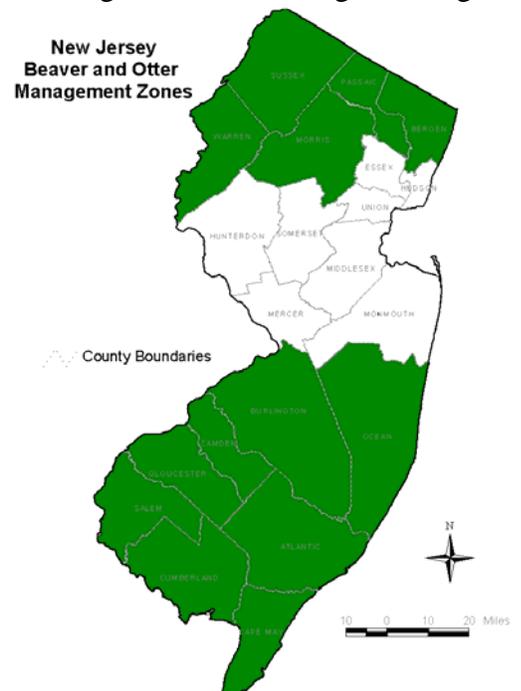
There are four maps on the following pages which illustrate total beaver and river otter harvests from 1992 through the 2015-16 trapping seasons.

To better understand what these maps show, a bit of history on the New Jersey Beaver and Otter Management Zone system is necessary. Many of our older beaver and otter trappers may remember how things were back in the 1970s and the early 1980s, and how trapping seasons and bag limits have changed through the years as beaver populations increased and Beaver / Otter Management Zones were established. For you younger trappers, here's how it was back in the old days.

Prior to the 1983 trapping season, beaver permits were allocated on a county basis (map, right). In 1983, 15 New Jersey Beaver and Otter Management Zones were delineated using physical road/waterway boundaries rather than county boundaries (Zones 1-7 in the north and Zones 8-15 in the south). Zones 1 through 7 had the same boundaries that they do at present, as do Zones 8, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 15. Zones 10 and 12 were once much larger than at present.

Beginning with the 1990-91 beaver trapping season, Zone 10 was divided into Zones 10 and 16 with the western boundary of the new Zone 10 extending further into Burlington and Camden counties. At the same time, Zone 12 was divided into what is now Zones 12, 17 and 18. So, for the 1990-91 beaver trapping season there were a total of 18 Beaver and Otter Management Zones, but there was still a large portion of the state without a management zone.

The remainder of the state was finally delineated in 1997. The new Zones 19-30 were drawn so as to include major watershed/stream corridors for each area. Thus were born the 30 Beaver and Otter Management Zones we have today.



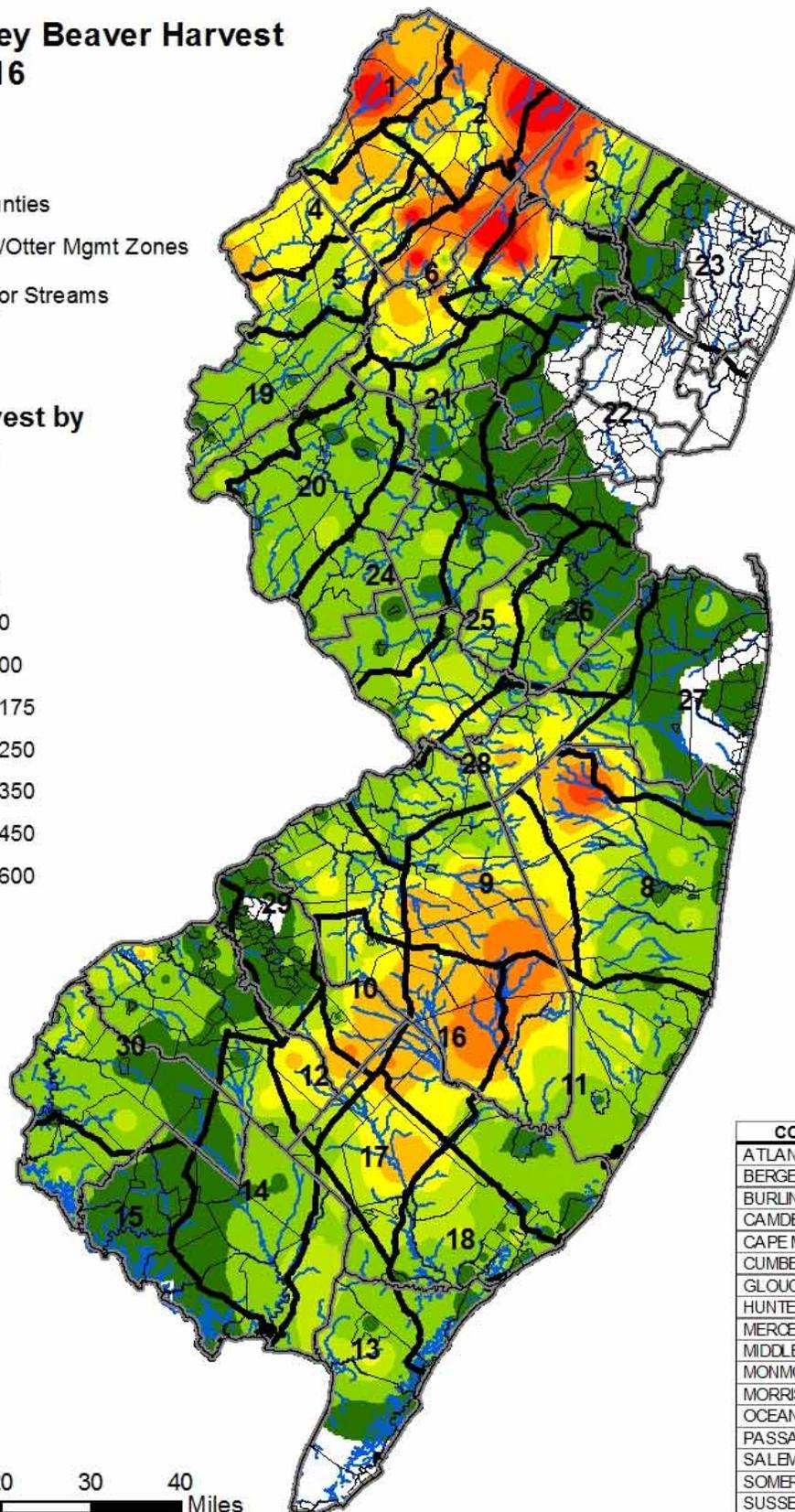
New Jersey Beaver Harvest 1992 - 2016



- NJ Counties
- Beaver/Otter Mgmt Zones
- NJ Major Streams

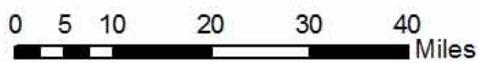
Beaver Harvest by Municipality

- 0
- 0 - 5
- >5 - 25
- >25 - 50
- >50 - 100
- >100 - 175
- >175 - 250
- >250 - 350
- >350 - 450
- >450 - 600



ZONE	COUNT
1	654
2	917
3	663
4	504
5	775
6	1599
7	795
8	569
9	587
10	591
11	368
12	220
13	128
14	53
15	58
16	394
17	250
18	119
19	234
20	159
21	46
22	13
23	29
24	166
25	340
26	135

COUNTY	TOTAL
ATLANTIC	600
BERGEN	49
BURLINGTON	1820
CAMDEN	427
CAPE MAY	76
CUMBERLAND	78
GLOUCESTER	389
HUNTERDON	302
MERCER	300
MIDDLESEX	210
MONMOUTH	320
MORRIS	1513
OCEAN	809
PASSAIC	393
SALEM	210
SOMERSET	97
SUSSEX	3493
WARREN	693



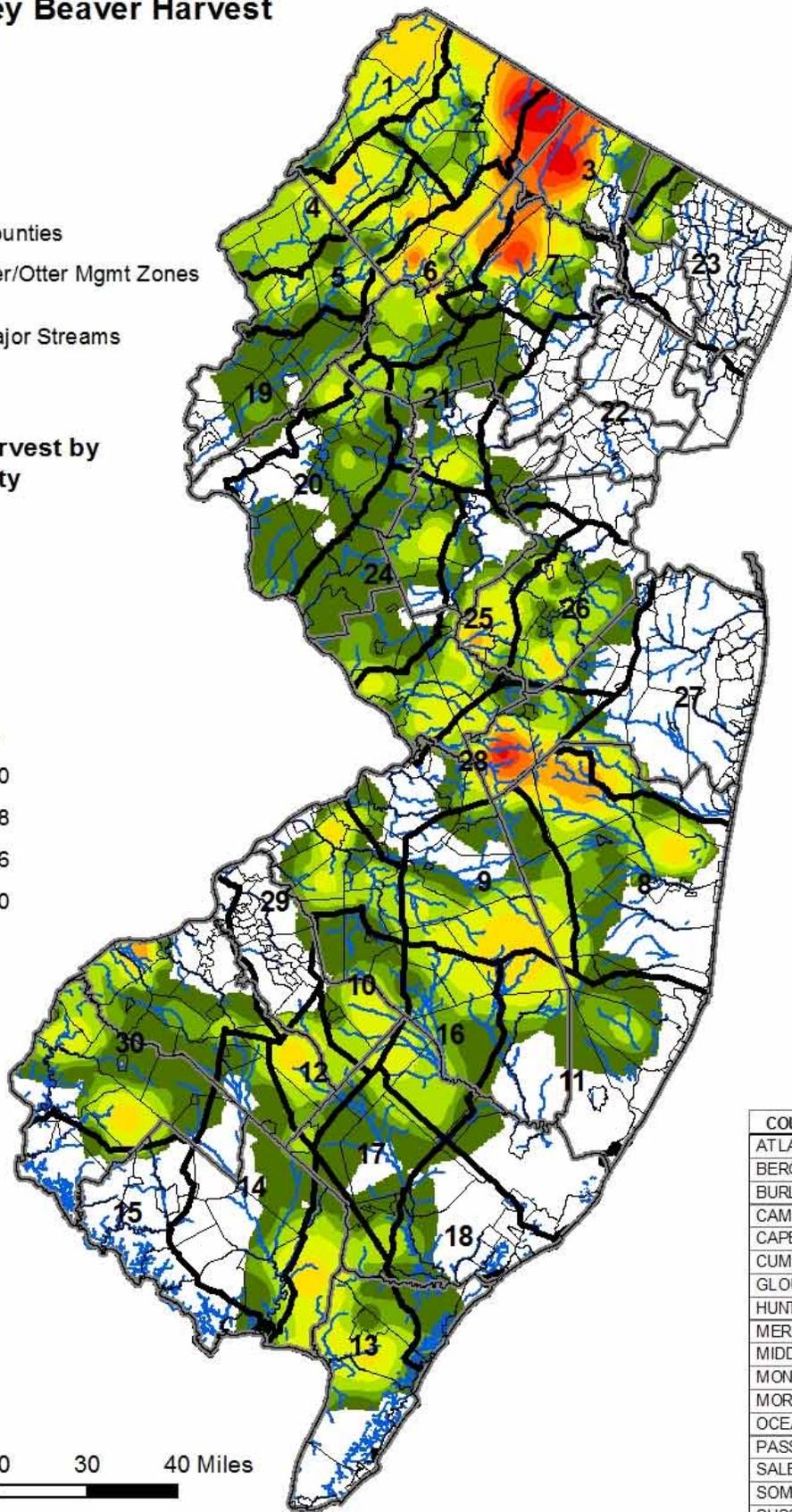
New Jersey Beaver Harvest 2015-16



-  NJ Counties
-  Beaver/Otter Mgmt Zones
-  NJ Major Streams

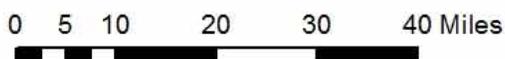
Beaver Harvest by Municipality

-  0
-  0 - 1
-  1 - 2
-  2 - 4
-  4 - 8
-  8 - 14
-  14 - 20
-  20 - 28
-  28 - 36
-  36 - 50



ZONE	Count
1	17
2	68
3	44
4	23
5	35
6	76
7	68
8	30
9	12
10	15
11	11
12	10
13	21
14	4
15	3
16	5
17	7
18	4
19	3
20	15
21	1
22	1
23	7
24	22

COUNTY	Count
ATLANTIC	16
BERGEN	9
BURLINGT	64
CAMDEN	3
CAPE MAY	11
CUMBERL	10
GLOUCES	29
HUNTERD	16
MERCER	25
MIDDLESE	56
MONMOU	42
MORRIS	85
OCEAN	35
PASSAIC	40
SALEM	34
SOMERSE	14
SUSSEX	178
WARREN	30

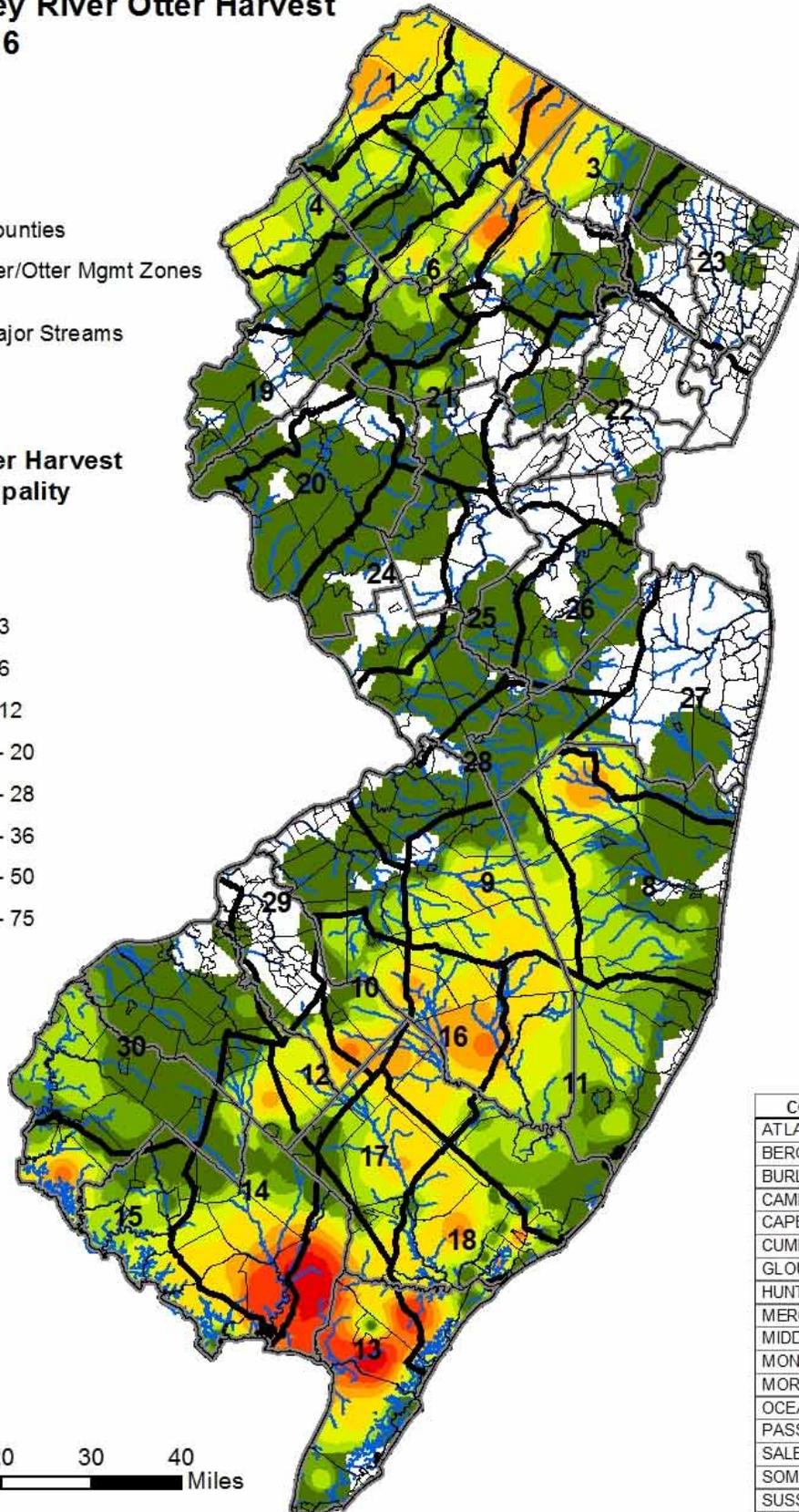


New Jersey River Otter Harvest 1992 - 2016

-  NJ Counties
-  Beaver/Otter Mgmt Zones
-  NJ Major Streams

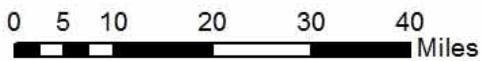
River Otter Harvest by Municipality

-  0
-  1 - 2
-  >2 - 3
-  >3 - 6
-  >6 - 12
-  >12 - 20
-  >20 - 28
-  >28 - 36
-  >36 - 50
-  >50 - 75



ZONE	Count
1	49
2	66
3	27
4	31
5	16
6	70
7	31
8	43
9	41
10	56
11	51
12	20
13	190
14	82
15	95
16	52
17	24
18	74
19	6
20	4
21	1
22	1
23	3
24	2

COUNTY	Count
ATLANTIC	131
BERGEN	4
BURLINGTON	117
CAMDEN	36
CAPE MAY	135
CUMBERLAND	182
GLOUCESTER	40
HUNTERDON	7
MERCER	5
MIDDLESEX	9
MONMOUTH	3
MORRIS	67
OCEAN	69
PASSAIC	21
SALEM	63
SOMERSET	2
SUSSEX	170
WARREN	36

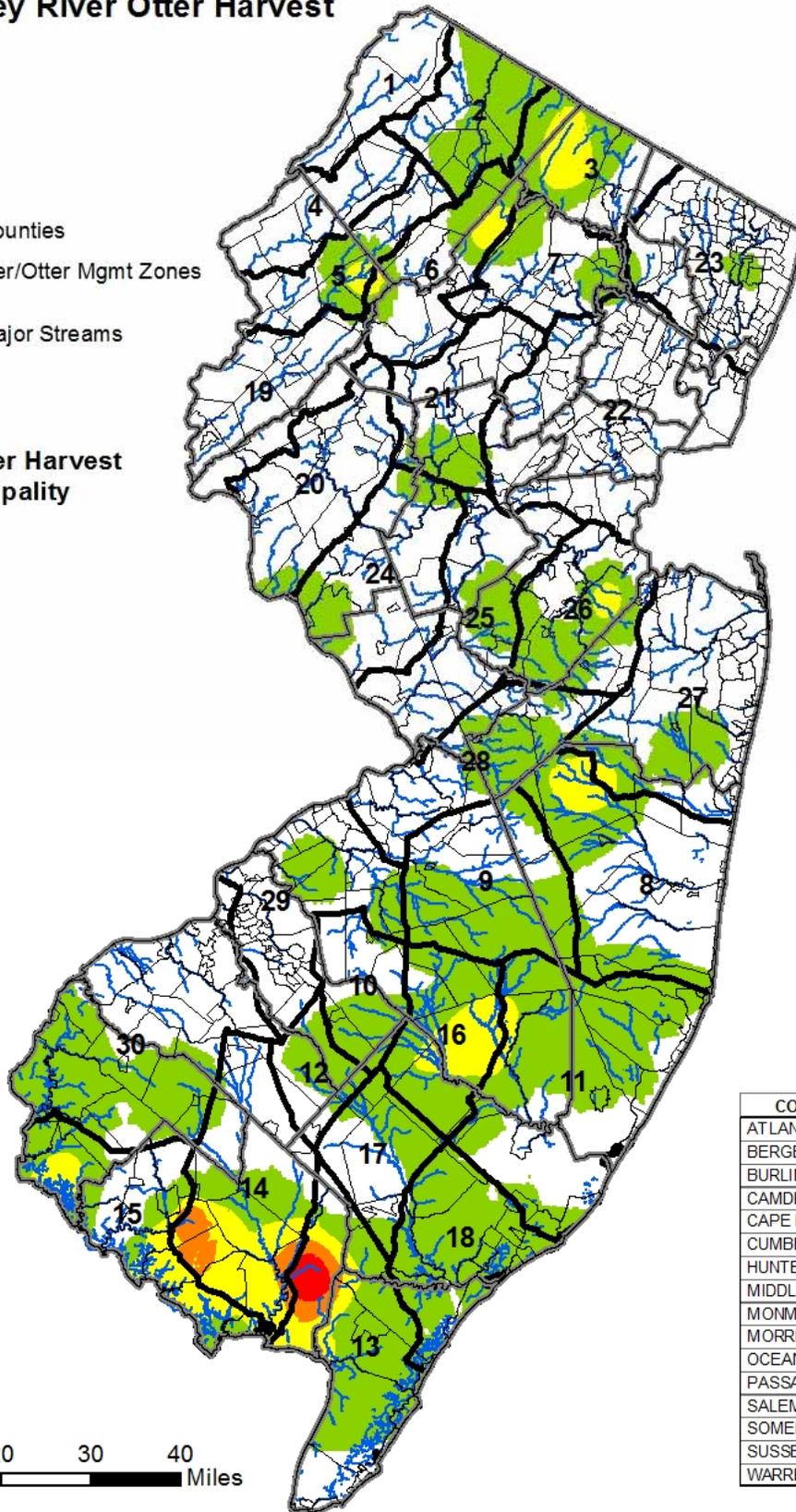


New Jersey River Otter Harvest 2015-16

-  NJ Counties
-  Beaver/Otter Mgmt Zones
-  NJ Major Streams

River Otter Harvest by Municipality

-  0
-  1
-  2
-  3
-  4



ZONE	Count
2	2
3	2
5	1
6	2
7	2
8	2
9	2
10	2
11	3
13	5
14	3
15	10
16	1
17	1
18	2
23	1
24	2
25	1
26	3
27	1
28	1
29	1
30	3

COUNTY	Count
ATLANTIC	4
BERGEN	1
BURLINGTON	5
CAMDEN	1
CAPE MAY	2
CUMBERLAND	13
HUNTERDON	1
MIDDLESEX	4
MONMOUTH	2
MORRIS	3
OCEAN	4
PASSAIC	2
SALEM	6
SOMERSET	1
SUSSEX	2
WARREN	2

Bobcats and Fishers in New Jersey



Although a panel of mammalian experts considered them as ‘threatened’ as recently as 2012, bobcats are still classified as endangered in New Jersey, and they are distributed widely across the northern counties of Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren. ENSP continues to work with a Rutgers University statistician to complete a mark-recapture analysis using all individual bobcat data (tissue and scat) collected to date in order to estimate population size and density over time, and with the Rocky Mountain Research Station Genetics Lab in order to determine geographic genetic structure.

Fishers, whose status was ‘undetermined’ by the panel of mammalian experts, have returned to New Jersey in limited numbers thanks to reintroduction efforts in New York and Pennsylvania. Fishers have been documented in several northern and southern New Jersey counties, with several vehicle mortalities recovered from northern counties. Two fishers were captured incidentally via cable restraint sets in Warren County during 2015-16 and released unharmed.

Remember:

- **There is no open hunting season for bobcat or trapping season for fisher; possession of New Jersey bobcats or fishers is not permitted.**
- **Animals legally harvested in other US states or Canada may be possessed provided they are affixed with a tag from the jurisdiction of harvest (CITES for bobcat, state-issued for fisher).**
- **If you encounter a live bobcat or fisher captured on your trapline, do not disturb the animal or the set, but immediately notify Fish and Wildlife by calling (877) WARNDP (877-927-6337).**

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 will arrange to pick up the animal. Biological samples will be taken from all bobcat and fisher carcasses. The data collected will be instrumental in determining the status of these populations.



The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is *the* professional, environmental agency overseeing the protection and management of the state’s fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic value for all New Jerseyans.

