

2017-18 Hunting and Trapping Season Dates and Limits • FREE

# New Jersey Hunting & Trapping Digest

August 2017

Highlights of  
Regulation  
Changes  
page 6



A Summary of Regulations  
and Wildlife Management Information  
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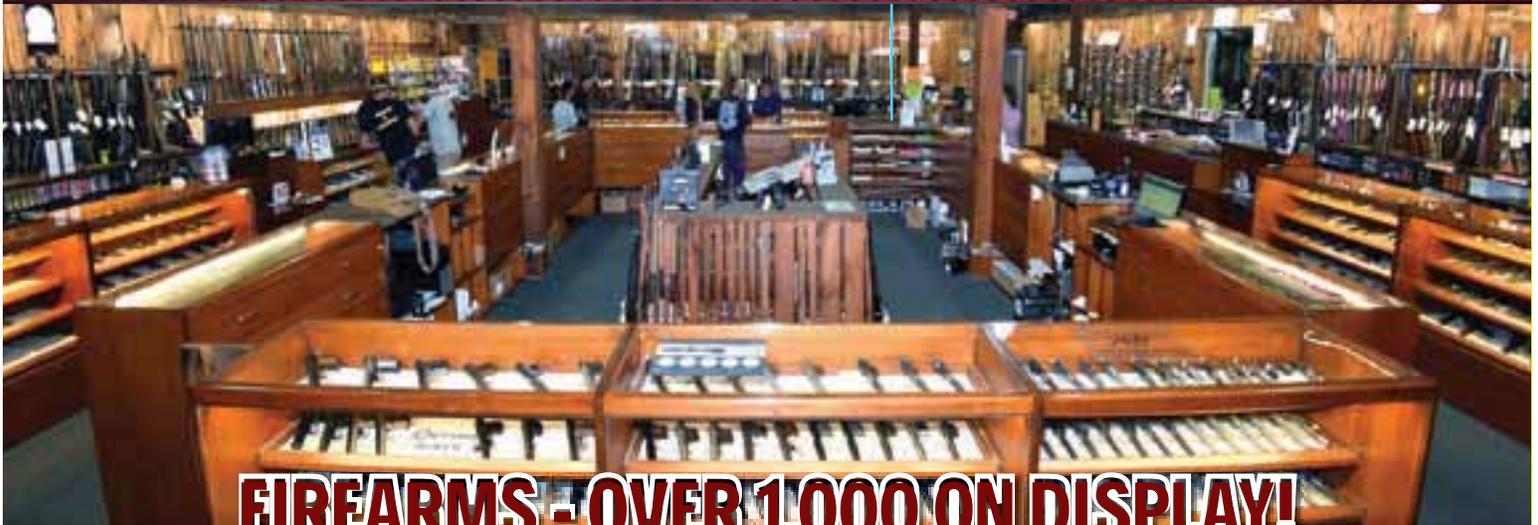
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## License Information & Fees 2017–18

Licenses are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year. For license sales by phone or Internet, call (888) 773-8450 or go to [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com). See also pages 22–23 for license agent listings.

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Resident Trapping .....	\$32.50
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Youth Trapping (ages 12–15, see page 10) .....	FREE

### PERMITS

Deer Permits for Bow, Shotgun, Muzzleloader or Bucks .....	\$28
Youth Deer and Turkey Permit (ages 10–15) .....	\$12
Turkey Season Permit .....	\$21
Black Bear Permit .....	\$2
Rifle Permit (Valid from July 1–June 30, 16 years old and older) .....	\$10.50
Rifle Permit, Youth (Valid from July 1–June 30, under 16 only) .....	\$6
Beaver Trapping Permit .....	\$17
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Otter Trapping Permit .....	\$2

### STAMPS

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Duplicate License, Permit or Stamp .....	\$2

• New licenses become available on Dec. 15 annually.  
See page 8 for additional license information.



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**Cover photo** Hunting dog with pheasant (©Steven Oehlenschlaeger | Dreamstime.com)

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## New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

### Our Mission

To protect and manage the state's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic value for all New Jerseyans.

### Our Goals

- To maintain New Jersey's rich variety of fish and wildlife species at stable, healthy levels and to protect and enhance the many habitats on which they depend.
- To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.
- To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey's fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.



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# Director's Message

LARRY HERRIGHTY



Hunting season, my favorite time of year, is fast upon us. I have been bowhunting since I was 14. The year was 1966. My hunting buddy and I had practiced all summer in anticipation of the season. On opening day his father took us to Stokes State Forest where we had built tree stands a few weeks before. The prospect of hunting deer—and especially bear hunting, both legal quarry during the fall bow season—was exciting and I was *eager*.

It was mid-afternoon on our first day hunting. I was dozing off when a bear growled in the swamp behind me. Truth be told, startled, I almost fell out of the tree! That year my lack of success was not isolated, as the harvest total was only three bears statewide, two by bow and arrow.

Not so last year as hunters took part in the historic re-opening of New Jersey's archery black bear season that had been closed since 1971. Although I did not bear hunt this past year, I participated in the excitement of the many successful bowhunters who brought their bear to the Whittingham WMA check station. Bowhunters harvested 85 percent of the bears taken in October including six bears harvested with traditional archery equipment.

Many hunters continued to hunt with bows when the muzzleloader segment kicked in for the last three days of the hunt. Most important, as our biologists predicted, hunters harvested many bears that would not have been available during the December season segment. The result: 636 bears, the highest harvest in New Jersey history. *The success of this management tool is demonstrated in a 46 percent decrease in bear complaints this year.* It's a perfect example of hunter-conservationists enjoying their sport while managing wildlife for the benefit of all New Jersey citizens. Check out the black bear season information on page 51.

As we continue to celebrate our agency's 125 anniversary, I'm reminded that "the more things change, the more they remain the same." The 2015 deer harvest was low throughout the northeast region, not just in the Garden State. Requests ensued by New Jersey hunters to make the deer regulations more conservative. Despite a rebound in the 2016 harvest, we worked with the State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the Fish and Game Council to cut back the season or bag limit in select deer management zones.

Conservation has a long history in New Jersey and reacting to lack of game is not a new idea! The first restrictions placed on deer harvests date back to 1722; the first season was instituted in 1771. Prior to that, deer were hunted all year. For more interesting facts about our wildlife agency's history, visit our 125th anniversary webpage at: [NJFishandWildlife.com/history.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/history.htm).

Also, be sure to check out the 2017 *Highlights of Regulation Changes* on page 6.

Finally, enjoy your time afield, whether you're observing the world awakening from your tree stand or duck blind, taking pride in your dog's work while hunting upland game or mentoring your son, daughter or apprentice hunting partner (page 8) so that they, too, can enjoy the tradition of hunting.

Always remember that we are blessed with bountiful natural resources and be proud that your efforts have made this possible. Your contributions are many and include your support for wildlife conservation through your license dollars along with the federal excise taxes you pay on sporting equipment (page 78.) Equally important are your observations and ideas expressed through letters, emails or conversations with our staff and with your Fish and Game Council representatives. All your efforts help us to improve the sport of hunting and trapping and ensure wildlife will be here in New Jersey for generations to come. 🏹

**Larry Herrighty is the Director of New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.**





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# Highlights of Regulation Changes

## 2017-18 HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Changes to deer regulations for the 2017-18 seasons are extensive and involve changes to the bag limits for the deer management zones in Regulation Sets 2, 5 and 6; season date changes for the permit shotgun and permit muzzleloader seasons for zones in Regulation Sets 6, 7 and 8; a small boundary change between zones 26 and 42 and changes to several Special Area zones.

- ♦ The Permit Muzzleloader season will close on December 30 in **DMZs in Regulation Set 0**.
- ♦ The Permit Shotgun season in **DMZs in Regulation Set 0** is expanded from 1 day to 3 days.
- ♦ The bag limit for **DMZs in Regulation Set 2** is changed from two deer to one antlered and one antlerless deer.
- ♦ The bag limit for **DMZs in Regulation Set 5** is changed from one antlered and unlimited antlerless deer to one antlered and five antlerless deer.
- ♦ The bag limit for **DMZs in Regulation Set 6** is changed from one antlered and unlimited antlerless to one antlered and nine antlerless deer. **Also**, the six days of antlerless-only Permit Shotgun and Permit Muzzleloader hunting which ran concurrent with the Six-day Firearm season is eliminated.
- ♦ The Permit Shotgun and Permit Muzzleloader season antlerless-only days immediately prior to the opening of the Six-day Firearm season are eliminated in **DMZs in Regulation Sets 7 and 8**.
- ♦ **DMZ 54** (Picatinny Arsenal) is closed to Permit Muzzleloader hunting on Christmas Day.

**Other Game Code amendments for the 2017-18 hunting seasons include the following:**

- ♦ The **Youth Pheasant Hunt** is extended from one day to six days; see page 25.
- ♦ The **liberation of northern bobwhite quail** is banned on certain wildlife management areas; see page 56.
- ♦ The **hunting season for gray squirrel** is extended one week to coincide with the closure of the rabbit season. See page 56.
- ♦ The opening day of the **trapping season for mink, muskrat and nutria** on pheasant-stocked WMAs is changed to November 15 from January 1. See page 63.
- ♦ The opening day of the **trapping season for raccoon, fox, opossum, skunk, weasel, and coyote** is now earlier, changed to Nov. 15 on pheasant-stocked WMAs where **ONLY** cage traps or encapsulated foothold traps are legal during this early part of the season through Dec. 31. See page 63.
- ♦ The required **timeframe to check traps** is changed for **semi-aquatic species in tidal waters ONLY**. See page 63.
- ♦ The waters and shoreline of Barnegat Inlet are closed to waterfowl hunting. See page 67.
- ♦ The holders of an apprentice hunting license (see QR Code, below) are prohibited from hunting during the black bear season and the special nighttime coyote and fox seasons. See page 8.
- ♦ Drones or unmanned aircraft are prohibited for the purposes of hunting. See page 26.
- ♦ "Smart" rifles or guns are prohibited for the purpose of hunting. See page 26.

### New Apprentice Hunting License



For information on the new Apprentice Hunting License, scan this QR code or visit our website at [NJFishandWildlife.com/hntlic\\_apprentice.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/hntlic_apprentice.htm)

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