The Fish and Game Council (Council) is adopting amendments at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 and 5.24. The Council is also adopting a new New Jersey Comprehensive Black Bear Management
Policy (CBBMP) at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 Appendix, which the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has approved.

The Game Code (Game Code or Code), N.J.A.C. 7:25-5, states when, under what circumstances, in what locations, by what means, and in what amounts and numbers, game birds, game animals, and fur-bearing animals may be pursued, taken, killed, or had in possession. Since the early 1900s, the Game Code has provided a system for the protection, propagation, increase, control, and conservation of game birds, game animals, and fur-bearing animals in this State, and for their use and development for public recreation and food supply. Biennial revision of season opening and closing dates, bag limits, and other regulations based on scientific investigation and research ensures the greatest likelihood of success in reaching these goals.

The CBBMP is a compilation of the Council’s black bear preservation and management goals, the various means by which the preservation and management goals may be accomplished, and the factors to be considered in determining which means should be implemented to achieve those goals. The CBBMP includes several integrated tools to accomplish these goals, such as research and monitoring, non-lethal and lethal control of problem bears, public education on coexisting with bears, law enforcement to reduce human/bear conflicts, and a controlled hunt.

The proposed amendments were published in the New Jersey Register at 47 N.J.R. 929(a) on May 18, 2015. The comment period closed July 17, 2015. Additional notice was sent by e-mail to the news media maintaining a press office in the State House Complex as well as to a Statewide list of newspapers and news outlets. Notice of the proposal and the proposal itself was posted on the Department and the Division of Fish and Wildlife (Division) websites, and sent out
through Department and Division listservs. Additional notice was also provided by posting copies of the rule proposal, including summaries of the amendments and notice of the public hearing, in five Division field offices, mailing copies of the rule proposal to interested organizations and persons upon request, and reviewing the proposed amendments at county and State meetings of the Federation of Sportsman’s Clubs.

**Summary** of Hearing Officer’s Recommendation and Agency Response:

The Council held a public hearing on June 2, 2015, at the New Jersey State Museum, 205 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey. A total of 29 individuals registered and 21 people presented oral comments. Carole Stanko, Acting Chief of the Bureau of Wildlife Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife, acted as hearing officer. The hearing officer recommended that the Council and the Department adopt the proposed amendments to the Game Code and the CBBMP with non-substantial changes as summarized below.

A public meeting was held on August 11, 2015, at the Division’s Central Region Office, One Eldridge Road, Robbinsville, New Jersey, at which time the Council, after having considered the testimony from the June 2, 2015, hearing and written comments received during the comment period, adopted the Game Code and the CBBMP. The CBBMP has been approved by Department Commissioner Bob Martin. A copy of the record of the public hearing is available for inspection in accordance with applicable law by contacting:

Office of Legal Affairs

ATTENTION: DEP Docket Number: 04-15-04

Department of Environmental Protection
Summary of Public Comments and Agency Responses:

The following 1,734 commenters submitted comments, either written, oral, or through the Division’s website, concerning the Game Code and the CBBMP at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 and 5.24:

1. Rena
2. William Abbott
3. Samer Abraham
4. Rebecca Abrishami
5. Ed Ackerman
6. Shelley Adams
7. Seth Adler
8. Alisa Adobajor
9. Vilya Ageeva
10. William Ahern
11. Loretta Aja
12. Wale Akande
13. Dawn Albanese
14. Nicole Albert
15. Sherri Albrecht
16. Grant Aleksander
17. Diane Ali
18. Carole Allamand
19. Jennifer Allegretto
20. Susan Allen
21. Diane Allex
22. Rae Ann Allex
23. Barbara Allison
24. Irene Almeida
25. Les Alpaugh, Society of American Foresters
26. Ingrid Alpha
27. Anthony Altamura
28. Suja Alum
29. Michael Amberger

30. Richard Amon
31. Maria Amsden
32. Gretchen Andersen
33. Bev Anderson
34. Randall Anderson
35. Theresa Anderson
36. Yvonne Anderson
37. Raksha Andreassen
38. Michael Angelone
39. Laura Anise
40. Karan Anton
41. Patty Antonucci
42. Gary Anzelmo, Sr.
43. Kathy Aprile
44. Anthony Aquino
45. Jill Aquino
46. Maria Aquino
47. Donna C. Arcaro
48. Leigh Archambeau
49. Janet Arendas
50. Sandra Arthur, All Wildlife Conservations Groups
51. Thomas Artin
52. Phyllis Asay
53. Mary Asbury
54. Krys Ash
55. Marianne Ashe
56. Holly Ashenfelter, Sierra Club, New Jersey Chapter
57. David Ashton
58. Debra Ashton
59. Denise Assante
60. Arlene Aughey
61. Sean Augustyn
62. Gerry Aungst, United Bow Hunters of NJ
63. Candi Ausman
64. Jose Avetikyan
65. Peter B.
66. Rose B.
67. Scott L. Bach
68. Mir Bahmanyar
69. Kathleen Bahri
70. Lisa Bailey
71. Irena Baird
72. Robert Balance

73. Susan Balik
74. Bruce Bamond, United Bow Hunters of NJ
75. Sandra Bandov
76. Leo Bankowski
77. Mark Bankowski
78. Elizabeth Banwell
79. Eric Baratta
80. Sherrill Barbary
81. Randy Barclay
82. Brett Barkman
83. Erika Barkman
84. Ruth Barron
85. Debbie Barry
86. Todd Bartolomeo
87. Louise Barton
88. Maria Basham
89. J. Basile
90. Beth Ann Bates
91. Tom Beatini
92. Carol Beauparlant
93. Elisabeth Bechmann
94. William Bechtel
95. Elaine Becker
96. Renee Becker
97. Gladys Bedford
98. Carol Bene
99. Carol & William Bene
100. Gina Benevento
101. Scott Benintente
102. James Benko
103. Martha Bennett
104. Robert Bennett
105. Kristin Bentzen
106. Debbie Benvenuto
107. Tammy Benvenuto
108. Maria Benz
109. Lisa Berg
110. Wendy Berg
111. Cynthia Bergstein
112. Gary Berkowicz
113. Karen Berman
114. Ellen Bernardino
115. Beth Berniker

116. David Bernosky
117. Doug Bertrand
118. William Betar
119. Gary Bettum
120. Liliane Beutin
121. Brooke Biedermann
122. Annie Bien
123. Raymond Bilar
124. Deborah Binns
125. Kut Biroc
126. Maryjo Birrittieri
127. Mary Bissell
128. Christine Bistis
129. Jack Bitz
130. Sue Black
131. A Blackstock
132. Mary Blackstock
133. Donna Blair
134. Julian Blau
135. Ellen Bloom
136. Timothy Blum, NJ Chapter NWTF
137. Ross Bockbrader
138. Paul Bogacki
139. Michael Bogan
140. John Boily
141. Janet Bolasci
142. Brian Boles
143. Constance Bolzan
144. Joseph J. Bonadio II
145. Maureen Bonner
146. Jane Books
147. Jennifer Books
148. Judy Books
149. Carol Borazza
150. Fred Borchert
151. Janet Borinsky
152. Ruth Boroshok
153. Martha Borowyk
154. Marty Bostic
155. Gail Boterus
156. Ricky Botti
157. Patricia Boud
158. Robert Bowden

159. Mike Bowie
160. Joann Bowman
161. Sharon Boxley
162. John Boyce
163. Chris Bozowski
164. Lorraine Brabham
165. Ann Bradley
166. Julia Bramwell
167. Paula Brandino
168. Mike Brandt
169. Randy Brehne
170. Gene Brennan
171. Jared Brenner
172. Lynn Brenner
173. Karen Breny
174. Judy Brizzolara
175. Stacy Brockbrader
176. Andrea Brodde
177. Thomas A. Brodhecker, Farmer
178. Debra Broski
179. Christine Brown
180. Diane Brown
181. Jackie Brown
182. John Brown
183. Matthew Brown
184. Geoff Browne
185. Barbara Brusco
186. Joyce Bryson
187. Shelley Bubis
188. Cynthia Buchanan
189. Helen Buchanan
190. Caroline Bucquet
191. Jean Bucquet
192. Beverly Budz
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208. Michael Buynie
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212. Stephanie Cabrera
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215. Andrea Cahill
216. Lynne Cahill
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221. Donna Callegari
222. Wayne Callow
223. Marc Calman
224. Heather Cammisa, St. Huberts Animal Welfare Center
225. Caitlyn Campbell
226. Annamarie Camporeale
227. Jessica Caneal
228. Shirley Cannella
229. Valerie Capezzuto
230. Sharon Cappuccio
231. Odelta Carbonell Renna
232. Frank Carey
233. Eric Carlson
234. Rita Carney
235. Dolores Carpenter
236. Linda Carroll
237. Debbie Carson
238. Glenn Carson
239. Elizabeth Carter
240. Lauren Carucci
241. Jim Caruso
242. Jim Caruso
243. Janell Casciano
244. Jeanette Casciano

245. Sandra L. Cassetta
246. Rachel Castelino
247. Dana Castro
248. Peggy Catalina
249. Paul Catania
250. Mary Ann Cavallaro
251. June April Cavana
252. Courtney Cavanaugh
253. Figen Ceceli
254. Joan Cehak
255. Michele Celebre
256. Andrew Cerria
257. Pat Cerria
258. Kim Cervino
259. Deborah Chaiken
260. John Chan
261. Karen Charette
262. Tiffany Charinskas
263. Tara Chase
264. Theresa A. Chepurny
265. Gary Cheski
266. Michael Cheski
267. Rita Chesterton
268. Chembo Chi
269. Angelojohn Chianese
270. Miriam Chisholm
271. Maryanne Cristiano-Mistretta
272. Bruce Christman
273. Sean Christopher
274. Winnie Chung
275. Jeri-Ann Ciampa
276. Denise Ciardi
277. Steven & Jennifer Cicardo
278. Merrilee Cichy
279. Sal Ciurleo
280. Douglas Clark
281. Tammie Clark
282. Denise Clarke
283. Billie Close
284. Diana Cluff
285. Christine Coari
286. Esther Cochrane
287. Dorothy Cohen
288. Jonathan Cohen
289. Susan Cole
290. Jill Coletti
291. Matthew Colletto, Metuchen Rod & Gun Club
292. Chris Collins
293. Ellen Collins
294. Gail Collins
295. Judy Collins
296. Karen Collins
297. Stephanie Collins-Chapman
298. Melissa Compton
299. Trudy Congleton
300. Tracy Connelly
301. Lisa Conner
302. Stephen Connington
303. Richard Connolly-Randazzo
304. Jacqueline Conquest
305. Jim Conroy
306. Bianca Constance
307. Kathleen Contey
308. Kathleen Conway
309. Justin Cook
310. Kathi Cooley
311. Charlene Cooper
312. Ken Cooper
313. Shirley Cooper
314. Richard Copley
315. Morgan Cormia
316. John Corney, Trustee, NJ Waterfowlers Assoc. Inc.
317. Morgan Cornia
318. Kenneth Corrales
319. Alexandra Correa-Luccio
320. Bethany Cortale
321. Christopher Corus
322. Brendan Costello, UBNJ
323. Michael Coulson
324. Brian Cowden
325. Lori B Coyle
326. Barbara Craig
327. Brian JP Craig
328. John & Carolyn Craig
329. Bill Crain, Animal Protection League NJ
330. Joanne Crandall

331. Mike Crane
332. J. C. Cranford
333. Jennifer Crecelius
334. Fran Crivellone
335. Mel Crowther
336. Anthony Cudmo
337. Ivan Cuevas
338. Karen Cummings
339. Joyce Cuomo
340. Rick Curley
341. Thomas Curran
342. Dorothy Cuthbertson
343. Elaine Cuttler
344. Ewa Czyzewska
345. Cheri D.
346. Liz D.
347. Joshua Dacosta
348. Assad Daibes
349. Michelle Dail
350. Melanie Daleo
351. Mike D'Angelica
352. Marie D'Anna
353. E. Dantuono
354. Antonella Dasilva
355. William Davis, Jefferson Sportsmen Club
356. Dee Dawson
357. Jilene Day
358. Eric De Jong, UBNJ, NRA, NJSFSC
359. Maria De Stefano
360. Ron De Stefano
361. Phyllis Deal
362. Linnea Dearing
363. Steve Debeus
364. Alicia Deblasio
365. Christopher Deblasio
366. Donald Deblock
367. Kevin Decie
368. Kim Decore
369. Marybeth Decostanzo
370. Regina Defalco Lippert
371. John Defilippo
372. Laura Dehaven
373. Nick Del Sontro
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<td>Gary Devine, Field &amp; Stream Website</td>
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<td>Valerie Devine</td>
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<td>William J. Devine, Carpenter Millwright</td>
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<td>Jeane Devries</td>
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<td>402</td>
<td>Maria Dewey</td>
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<td>Lynn Diakogiannakis</td>
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<td>Nichole Diamond</td>
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<td>Leticia Diaz</td>
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<td>Marayah Dimondi</td>
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<td>Mariel Dimondi</td>
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<td>Carmen Dinescu</td>
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<td>Vanessa Dinuzzo</td>
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<td>415</td>
<td>Diane Diorio</td>
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<td>416</td>
<td>Edward Ditolla</td>
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417. Erika Divivo
418. Eric Dlugosz
419. William Doan
420. Graham Docwra
421. Archana Doddi
422. Gene Doebley
423. Brian Dolch
424. Sean Donovan, UBNJ
425. Edward Dooling
426. Dawn Dooriss
427. Darren Doran
428. Leverne Doran
429. Sean Dorward
430. Pat Dosky
431. Lisa Douglass
432. Chris Dowling
433. Jennifer Downing
434. Paris Downing
435. Cheryl M. Drach
436. Mark Dreyfus
437. Susan Dubin
438. Reed Dubow
439. Patrice Duffy
440. Kris Dufosse
441. Kristin Dufosse
442. Anne Duhaime, Former Mayor
443. Shirl Dujack
444. Lorraine Dumas
445. Donna Duncan
446. Elaine Dunn
447. Donna Duran
448. Darlene Dynega
449. Brian Eastman
450. Margaret Eberbach
451. Gonenc Eddy
452. Kenneth S. Eder
453. Mike Edley
454. Debbie Efron
455. Helen Egan
456. Robert Egan
457. Robin Egbert-Kohere
458. Lisa Ehrhart
459. Karen Eicholtz

460. Richard Einstein
461. Lola Elliott
462. Joyce Ellis
463. Lynne Elson
464. Steve Ember
465. Walter Endlicher
466. Aimee Eng
467. Erin Engenhart
468. Sarah Englestein
469. Daniel English
470. Jesse Eriksen
471. Raymond Eriksen
472. Robert Eriksen
473. Susan Eriksen
474. Kevin Eskow
475. Robert Eskow, United Bowhunters of New Jersey
476. Rita Esposito
477. Tiina Esposito
478. Nicole Evaal
479. Paul Ezzo
480. Alex Faber
481. Clara Fahy
482. Diana Fair
483. David Falandys
484. Nicole Falkowitz
485. Fred Fall
486. Gabriele Fall
487. Karen Fanale
488. Susan Fanning
489. Linda Fante
490. Danielle Faraldo
491. Leslie J. Farer
492. Selma Farer
493. Linda C. Farrell
494. Timothy Farrell
495. Beau Fazio
496. Dino Fazio
497. Kevin Fee
498. Linda Feitell
499. Patricia Felice
500. Adam Felton
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502. Steven Fenster

503. Robert Fentzlaff
504. Kari Ferguson
505. Pauline Ferguson
506. Franklin Ferrara
507. Robert Ferrara, Timberline Outdoorsman
508. Luis Ferreira, United Bow Hunters
509. Jeanne Ferrell
510. Elena Marie Fetch
511. Donna Feuss
512. Paul R. Fibraio
513. Paul Fibraio, Jr.
514. Suzanne Ficara
515. Carrie Fichat
516. David Fier
517. Ronald Finch
518. Robert Findlay
519. Anthony Finno
520. Maureen Fiore
521. Amy Fischer
522. Dara Fischer
523. Janice Fisher
524. Sydney Fisher
525. Tim Fisher
526. Robert Fitch
527. Deborah FitzGerald
528. Michael Fleetwood
529. Julie Fleiser
530. Al Florio
531. Cathy Flum
532. Sally Flynn
533. Vanessa Folleco
534. Laura Fonde
535. Joanne Forbes
536. Denise Force-McElheron, Advocated for Animal Rights
537. Stella Formanek
538. Tiffany Formilan
539. Rebeca Four
540. Alvaro E. Fouves
541. Jeanne Fox
542. Stephen Fox, UBNJ Member
543. Dawna Francis
544. Elizabeth R. Franck
545. Matthew Franck
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566. Jill Gallager
567. Ana Galvan
568. Linda Galvan Nonw
569. John Galvin
570. Janet Garay
571. Phylene Garbasz
572. Julie Garber
573. Santos Garcia, Jr.
574. Erika Gardner
575. Jeffrey Gardner
576. John Gardner
577. Brooks Garrison, NJOA
578. Jennifer Gatto
579. Louis Gauci
580. Phyllis Gaudenzi
581. Stephen Gaughan
582. Janine Gavin
583. Yun Ge
584. Peter Geidel
585. Yvonne Gerber
586. Nicholas Giacobe
587. Lauren Gibbs
588. Patricia Gibson

589. Judy Gillen
590. Maureen Gillen
591. Anne Giller
592. H. Leslie & Richard G. Gilman
593. Leslie Gilmartin
594. Kristy Gingerelli
595. Douglas Glen
596. Helene Glick
597. Ron Glick
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599. Bill Gockeler
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601. Paula Goellner
602. Jackie Goepel
603. Hans Goettsch
604. Chelsea Gohd
605. Anne Goldberg
606. Ira Goldstein
607. Lynn Goldstein
608. Janet Gonzales
609. Harley Gonzalez
610. Al Good
611. Barbara Goodfriend
612. Susan Goodman
613. Jeanne Gordon
614. Susan Gordon
615. Jennifer Gorgo
616. Mark Gorres
617. Larry Gould, United Bowhunters of New Jersey Member
618. Rob Gould, UBNJ
619. Valerie Gould
620. Michelle Grabowski
621. Alycia Graham
622. Guy Graham Sierra
623. Cheryl Gramp
624. Marc Grawunder
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626. Peter Graziano, UBNJ
627. George K. Greaves
628. Susan Greaves
629. Michael Grecco
630. Jacqueline Greulich
631. Ruth Griffiths

632. Peter Grimbilas, NJOA
633. Oliver Grimsdall
634. Thomas Grodner, UBNJ
635. Dawn Gross
636. Laura Gruenebaum
637. Maureen Grzanna
638. Anthony Guarnieri
639. Tony Guarnieri
640. Robert Gud
641. Robert Gudger
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647. Evan Gutman
648. Morton Gutman
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664. Scott Hamilton, UBNJ, NJOA
665. Beverly Hammond
666. Michael Handel
667. Tom Handel
668. Lori Hanko
669. Douglas Hargrave
670. Paul Harman
671. Jack Harris, United Bowhunters of NJ
672. Julie Harris
673. Lori Harris
674. Kate Hart

675. Kathy Hart
676. Brendan Hartigan
677. Anna Hartman
678. George Hartman
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682. Barbara Hayes
683. Chris Joy Hayes
684. James Hazar
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686. Nadine Hemy
687. Charles E. Hendrickson, Turkey Swamp Rod & Gun
688. Kimberly Hennelly
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696. Joanne Hibbett
697. John Hickerson
698. John R. Hickerson
699. Michelle Hicok
700. Karen Higgins
701. Larry Higgins, Safari Club International
702. Bobbi Hill
703. Heather Hill
704. Jay Hill, UBNJ
705. Scott Hill
706. Ruthann Hilland
707. Brijane Hills
708. Richard Hirsch
709. Dona Hoagland
710. Eleanor Hoffman
711. Denise Holleritter
712. Dan Holmes
713. Donna Holmes
714. Barbara Holstein
715. Matthew Holt
716. Gregory Hopf, UBNJ
717. Cheryl Hopkins

718. Sarah Horan
719. Gurdon Hornor
720. Deanna Horton
721. M. Horton
722. George Horvath, Sierra Club
723. Cathleen Hothersall, Animal Protection League of NJ
724. Don Howering, NJ Bowhunters
725. Mark Hrab
726. Donna Huber
727. John Hudzina
728. Dawn Huff
729. Bryce Hugelmeyer
730. George Hugerich
731. Janet Hunter
732. Jeffrey Hunter
733. Linda Hurd
734. Florence Iannantuano
735. Eileen Ingoglia
736. Ray Ippolito
737. Jim Ipsale
738. Teresa Ipsale
739. Sheela S. Iyer
740. Mark Jackson
741. Shannon Jacobs
742. Carol Jagiello
743. Anne Jamieson
744. Roberta Janasz-Nagle
745. Kelly Janocko
746. Gayle Janzen
747. Rosiland Jaussi
748. Dot & Ted Jedzeniak
749. Donna Jenkins
750. Stanley Jermanowski
751. Harriet Jernquist
752. Mike Jessie
753. William Jimeno
754. Lois Jobeless
755. Erica Johanson
756. Kenneth Johanson
757. Karol Johnson
758. Scott Johnson
759. Wayne Johnson, Ph.D.
760. Laura Jolliffe

761. Elizabeth Jonach
762. Kenneth Jonach
763. Clarissa Jonas
764. Robert Jonas
765. Dale Jones
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1733. Thomas Zumpetta
1734. Danelle Zweidinger

1735. The following 426 commenters submitted form letters in support of the entire CBBMP and specifically in support of the bear hunting season at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 and 5.24 indicating that: a bear hunting season was an effective tool to control the bear population and should include extended dates, additional weapons, and an increased bag limit; other states such as New York and Pennsylvania have earlier-timed bear hunting seasons and utilize archery:

Kathleen Abisiconer
Amir Abiskaroon
Brendan Abiskarron
Leanne Adams

Robert Aldrich
Rick Allen
Mark Alremy
William K. Anderson
Nancy Arias
Ken Audersey
Dennis Aungst
Mary Lou Aungst
Bruce Ayers
John Ayers
Dean B.
Edward A. Bacigalupo
Ronald Ballard
Ron Batol
Brian Beale
Liz Beale
Greg Beck
Chris Bennis
Ellsworth E. Bensley, Jr.
Richard Bertero
Anthony Bianco
Tony Bienes
Joseph Bibeault
Don Bisch
Eric Bisch
Matt Blog
Jim Bocchino
Sylvia Bocchino
Henry Boheim
Russell T. Boles
Ethan Borczynski
Jack Bothel
Jim Boyle
Kieron Boyle
Shannon Boyle
Daniel Braun
Marty Brennan
Chris Brown
Daniel Brown
Deanna Brown
Stephen Brown
Peter Brunda
John P. Bruseo, Jr.

John Burgos
Timothy P. Burns
Devon Bush
Michael Bush
Nikki Bush
Ron Buter
Deborah Butkovich
Derek Butkovich
Phillip Cacchio
A C Calabrese
Jeff Camiscioli
Evan Cappiello
Dominick Carnavale
Kenneth Carr
Ronald Carter
Phil Castelluzzo
James Castiglione
John Catandi, Jr.
John Cepero
Jason Chacon
Virginia Chanda
Michael Chaplin
Casey Christensen
Carolyn Jean Christman
Brennan Chuprinko
Neil Chuprinko
Thomas P. Cimino
Tim Clancy
Matthew Cleaver
James Colao
Roger Colardeau
David Conklin
Dave Conklin, II
Henry Corforte
Joe Corforte
John Corforte
Rich Corney
Jim Cosmano
Frank Crampton
Tyler Crane
Louis Crescitelli, III
Richard J. Culp
Lisa Curiotto

Ken Francis
Raymond Francis
Thomas D. Frapaul
Francis Gajewski
Michael Gajewski
Greg Galfo
Charles Gambatese
Donald Gardner
Rob Gaydos
Michael Giambrone
Tom Giannella
John Gibson
Autumn Gioia
Skye Gioia
Mike Giola
Dustin Gomes
Steve Gooditis
Matt Green
Mike Green
Chris Gregory
Brett A. Gross
Trevor Haggerty
Wayne Haggerty
Mike Haight
Richard Hamilton
Jack Harris
John Harris
Archie Harrison
Lynn Harrison
Cynthia Hartwell
Jake Hasot
Robert Healey, Jr.
Mr & Mrs Peter J. Hefferan
Robert Scott Heinzer
Ed Hellriegel
Kenneth Henderson, Jr.
Justin Henriksen
Kristian Henrikson
John Heyes
Norman Holden
Donna Hook
Kenneth F. Hook
John Hopper

Paul Minenna
Thomas Molea
James R. Moloney
Michael J. Murray
Anthony Musciotto
Michael Musciotto
Casey Neal
Carlos Negron
Mark Nelson
Robert Nenna
Richard Netel
Ed Niedzinski
Tony Niprz
Lorraine Nocera
Ray Noreika
Richard Nowicki
Kurt Nuss Berger
Raymond Oakes
Sean O’Brien
Robert O’Brien
Jake Odee
Mariana Ofearicio
Ryan Oldham
John O’Neill
James Opiekuv
Steve Oroho
Scott Pappa
Travis Pappos
Richard Pedati
Chris Pelletier
Gregg Pelletier
Richard Pelligra
Craig Pellington, Jr.
Neil Pellone
John Pellow
Jim Pels
Doug Penicaro
Jason Peranio
Justin Perkins
Austin Peter
Richard K. Peter, Jr.
Crystal Piccinillo
Mike Pier

Jerome Piernot
Jim Piernot
Eric Pierro
Alfred Pinello
Domenica Poland
Bill Ponder
Erka Poter
Paige Preziosi
Matteo Proietto
Richard Raabe
Charles Raffaeh
Robert W. Rardisch
Louis Ratti
Ted Regetz
Lill Remac
Tom Repsha
Zachariah E. Riehl
Clifford B. Riker
Therese A. Riker
Edward Robulland
Joe Roccasarta
Deborah Rogalo
Jim Rogalo
Ksenia Rogalo
Theodore Rogers
Gary Roglio
Roy Rohel
Donal W. Rolfs
Edward Roll
Anthony Romano
Anthony R. Romano
Richard L. Rome
Judith Rosenthal
Angela Rowe
William Rowe
Tim Roy
Jim Rozas
Donald Rutsch
John Saltzman
Julianne Sanchez
Raymond Santana
Frank M. Santora
David Sapp

Leon Sartell
Matt Sartell
W. Sauerman
Rob Savage
Lawrence Scartozzi, Jr.
Joe Schmitt
Lorri Schneider
Ed Schneider, Jr.
James Schoner
Bridgit Schulz
Mark Selis
Harry Selnov
Hank Sharp
Jake Sharp
Drew S. Shelton
Shawn Shernce
Todd Shutter
Michael Silverstri
Dennis Silverstri
Frank Sliker
Chris Smith
James P. Smith
Rudy Smith
John Snook
George Soot
Earl South
Mark Spillane
Jim Stabile
Thomas Stalter
Jared Stangosky
Brad Staudt
Chuck Stonyi
Brian E. Storms
Steve Strowbridge
Jamie Struble
Kurt Stuhmeier
Jerry Suk, Jr.
Katie Swisshelm
David Tamaldge
Ken Theung
Scott Thomas
Jeffrey L. Thompson
Rich Tiberio
1736. The following 5,005 commenters submitted post cards or submitted an e-mail through the Division’s website with the same verbiage as the post card opposing the CBBMP and an extended bear hunting season. These commenters were generally opposed to bear hunting and
also indicated that: hunting would not resolve human/bear interactions; the Division’s Category system for bear behavior is flawed; non-lethal means of reducing human/bear encounters are the only effective solution and they have never been implemented in a serious manner by the
Division:

E. A.
Camila Abarca
Judith Abate
Lois Abate
Stephen Abate
Janet Abbott
Michelle Abdinoor
Andrew Abdul
Florinne Abramowitz
Jesse Abramowitz
Taylor Abrams
Gian Accetta
Jerard Aceado
Gloria Acevedo
Martha Acevedo
Katarina Acosta
Virginia Adair
Anna Adam
Heidi Adam
Mk Adams
Jodi Adel
Yvette Adessa
Natalie Adis
Cindy Aeelisio
Nitin Agarwal
Jamie Agens
Ricardo Aguayo
Manuela Agudelo Velasco
Antorio Aguilar
Michael Aguilar
Elianna Aguirre
Rawan Ahau
Deborah Ahern
Lorena Ahmadi
Jayme Ahmed
Kenneth Alley
Joyce Allington, League of Humane Voters of NJ
Claire Allotta
Diane Allston
Sammy Almaita
Ana Almanzer
Eileen Almeida
Jose Almeida
Lucy Almeida
Tony Almeida
Debbie Aloisio
Kathleen Alpart
Pamela Alton
Barbara Alvarez
Karin Alvarez
Marjorie Alzate
Sarah Amador
Tom Amadroit
Felix Amaro
Luis Amaya
Roberta Amazzini
Corey Ambler
Robert Ambrose
Maria Ameoler
Addae Amofa-Boachie
Richard Amol
Beak Amos
Daniel Amos
Gideon Amos
Alyse Amster
Diane Andersen
Stacie Andersen
Alan Anderson
Beverly Anderson
Dorothy Anderson
Julia Anderson
Justin Anderson
Kristi Anderson
Linda Anderson
Pat Anderson
Peggy Anderson
Philip Anderson
Thomas Anderson

Janet Armstrong
Susan Armstrong
Elizabeth Arnold
Caleigh Arosky
Hilda Arroyo
Bill Artinger
Isaac Asare
Dawn Asbjorn
Evelyn Ascencio
April Asher
Renee Ashley
Mae Aspinall Dell
Barbara Aster
Mary Asterith
Jessica Atehortua
Sandra Atehortua
Susan Aubin
Chuck Augello
Alex Auld
Jennifer Aumick
John Aumick
Vanessa Aurtado
Patrick Austin
Cyndi Avedon
Jesse Averhart
Michele Avignone
Isabel Avila
George Avrov
Susan Avrov
Polar Ayala
Gayle Baarck
Jaymie Babcock
Brooke Bacchetta
Al Bachman
Peter Backer, Jr.
Lauren Baer
Antonio Baez
Jessica Baez
Lisa Bagwell
Kathy Bainfield
Alexander Baker
I. Baker
Kyara Baker

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Molly Baker
Tad Baker
Tavish Baker
Todd Baker
Bibi Baksh
John Balance
Sharon Balbo
Celia Baldi
Glen Baldill
Dena Baldwin
Bambi Lynn Bales
Cynthia Balestier
Andy Ball
Zachary Ball
Erika Ballard
Sylvia Balne
Peter Balouskas
Rosemarie Balouskas
Ruhee Baltz
Kendra Banach
Olivia Banach
Kristine Banek
Drew Bankes
Kelly Bankes
Abbie Bannon
Rachel Bannon
Jessica Bara
Sharon Barbosa
Victoria Barco
Flocina Bardhi
Joanne Bardowell
Myra Bardy
Daniel Barenas
Laney Baris
Joan Barkonski
Carl Barnes
Joe Barnish
Bert Baron
Charlotte & Frank Barone
Maria Barrera
John Barrett
Amy Barricella
Sophia Barricella

Daniel Bartkewicz
Leslie Bartlett
Philip Bartolotto
Lisa Basile
Rod Bass
Aida Basuotto
Hunter Bates
Michelle Bates
Andrea Batista
Cathy Batisti
Michael Battista
Marcia Battles
Jeffrey Bauer
Kendall Bauer
Linda Baulk
Diane Baumann
Victoria Baumgartner
Steve Baun
Mary Ann Bautz
Lynn Beanca
Gail Beaudry
William Beaumont
Jessica Beck
Kristy Beck
Warren Beck
Caitriona Becker
Caleb Becker
Steven Becker
Dale Bedford
Clarrissa Bednar
Roy Beeler
Doug Behm
Harriet Behrens
Susan Behrens
Katie Beier
Kaylee Beier
Kris Beier
Franklin Bekoe
Vinny Belcastro
Dennis Belgard
Jeanne Belknap
D. Bell
Denise Bell

Eden Blazovic
Dak Blevins, Jr.
Gary Lee Blevons
Rachel Bliss
Blossom M. Block
James Block
Kim Block
Nelly Bobadilla
Gail Bobinshot
Marion E. Bochmer
Ashley Bock
William Bodine
William Boehm
Katie Bogardus
Birgit Bogler
Ray T. Bohacz
Monica Bohorquez-Zemser
Yolima Bohoryeuz
Judith Bohs
Frances Boily
Helen Boizot
Jacob Boje
Kate Boje
Naime Bojkovic
Sharon Bokor
Jeff Boleen
Susan Boleen
William J. Bolen
Amy Bolitho
Tyler Bolton
Maria Bolton
Bernadette Bonanno
Carol Bond
Denise Bondurich
Lee Ann Bondy
Kathleen Bonelli
Roberto Bonelli
James Boness
Danielle Bonet
Donald Bonnell
Jane Bonnell
Rich Bonoguer
Chanel Borduin

Antonio Brugnoli
Joann Brummell
Ariel Brunetto
John Bruschi
Jean Bruzzone
Colleen Buchanan
Emma Buchkawright
Elaine Buchtmann
K. Buckley
Laura Buckley
Izzy Buckweitz
Kathy Buckweitz
Oleksa Buczok
Christine Budin
Stacy Budinich
Joseph Budy
Emma Buehler
Carina Buergi
Justin Buergi
Pia Buergi
Patricia Buffin
Stephen Buffin
Carol Bull
Roger Bultot
Holger Bumueller
Michelle Bundock
Rosanne Bunduka
Dana Buonadies
Angela Buracker
Irene Burbank
Carolyn Burdge
Kevin Burdorf
Nathaniel Burgdorfe
Debra Buria
Sheri Burkat
Amy Burke
Cameron Burke
Kathleen Burke
Cheryl Burkhard
Crystal Burkhard
Joseph Burkhard
Mary Burkhardt
Mary Burkhardt
Cindy Burmasta

Jackie Camacho
Elizabeth Camano
Edith Camaya
Linda Cambria
Karen Camlet
Kathleen Cammarata
Victoria Campana
Raffaela Campana-Slusher
Christine Campbell
Diane Campbell
Jean Campbell
Karen Campbell
Fortunato Campesi
Mia Campesi
Patricia Campesi
Mary Ann Campione
Leslie Campo
Jessica Canada
Linda Cane
Kim Cannariato
Frank Cannata
Michele Cannata
Barbara Cannella
Ronald Cannella
Patti Cannizzaro
Ivan Cano
Myriam Cano
Don Canpanella
Carlina Capanna
June Capano
Susana Capote
J. Capozzelli
Marie Capozzi
Christine Capozzoli
Carmen Cappadona
Marie Cappuccio
Marisa Caprio
Melanie Caraballo
Daniel Carabin
Vincent Carabin
Corinne Carbone
Marion Carbone
Harriet Carchman

Samantha Chan
Aileen Chaney
Yuan Chang
Rebeca Chaparro
Natalia Chaparyan
Mimi Chapman
Anthony Charlier
Sarah Chase
Julian Chavarro
Fabrioca Chavez
Maria Chavez
Christina Chavis
Linda Chenoweth
Jennifer Chester
Daniel Chevestick
Annette Chiainpì
Anthony Chiampi
Jehny Chicaio
Marianne Chickene
Chin-Ju Chien
Chumen Chien
Jennifer Chinn
Catherine Chinni
Ozair Chishti
Jennifer Chitty
Eric Choi
Antonia Chorna
Leslie Chrenko
Lisa Christiansen
Katelyn Christopher
Leslie Christopher
Richard Christopher
Gina Chronowicz
Laura Chrysam
Michael Chrysam
Jacob Chung
Robert Cianci
A. Lyne Ciccarelli
Jamie Cicchetti
Kristine Cierny
Nadine Cifarelli
Tina Cillo
Anthony Cinams

Robert Cini
Dr. Dorothy K. Cinqueman
Janice Cioffi
Denise Ciresa
Dina Cirillo
Dianne Cironi
Maria Cironi
Danielle Citarella
Laura Citta
Philip Ciulla
Robert Ciulla
Max Clairaji
Douglas S. Clark
Ed Clark
Justine Clark
Laura Clark
Patricia Clark
Charlotte Clark-Bohacz
Lisa Clark-Kahn
Robert Clarks
Danielle Clayton
Tirpok Cleaners
Sandra Clemens
Susan Clerico
Nancy Cliff
Uslie Close
Ronda Cluff
Mary Clybur
Janice Cocca
Sandra Cochran
Robert Cochrane
Megan Cocuzzza
Nicole Codiroli
Pete Coe
Alysha Cohen
Cindy Cohen
Daniel Cohen
Nathan Cohen
Edward Coiro
Alexis Colangelo
Danielle Colangelo
Emily Coldon
E. Cole
Kerri Colegrove
Dion Coleman
Janet Coleman
Rob Coleman
Kenneth Coles
Kristine Coles
Grady Colin
Valerie Colino
Robert Colivo
Kerry Collins
Lindsey Collins
Valerie Collins
Chris Collise
Sandy Collison
Sheila Colon
Jenna Columbia
J. Colutano
Miriam Colwell
Kathleen Colyer
Dennis Comella
Rita Como
Elbia Concepcion
Xiomans Concepcion
Denise Condreras
Sharon Coney
Carole Congleton
Juliana Conlon
Keri Conlon
Larry Connell
Jennifer Connelley
Pam Connington
Kim Connolly
Linda Connolly
Michelle Connolly
Alyson Connolly-Randazzo
Laura Connor
Jason Conover
Laurie Conrad
Ann Marie Conuille
Cynthia Cook
Donna Cook
Kelly Cook
Melissa Cook

Robert Cook
Veronica Cook
Bonnie Coombe
Robert Cooney
Sandra Cooper
Frances Copper
Joseph Corasio
Gloria Corbalis
Jessica Corchada
John Corcoran
Judy Corcoran
Linda Corcoran
Brian Corfino
Robyn Corfino
Alexandra Coriea
Kyle Corino
Frank Comacchiulo
Lydia Comacchiulo
Ashley Corrales
Sami Corrales
Antoinette Corralos
Jacqueline Corrieri
Gerry Corsaro
Holly Corsaro
Cynthia Cortes
Jacqueline Cortesena
Pat Costa
Sam Costa
Barbara Costagliola
Breanne Costagliola
Jose Costales
Juliann Costales
Karen Costanza
Maria Coste
Agnes Costello
Elle Costello
Joseph Costello
M. Rita Costello
Chris Costrow
Anyanna Cotter
Keisha Cotto
Valerie Coulson
Debbie Coulston

F. Coutinro
David Couto
Carrie Cowen
Alexandra Cowley
Bettylou Cox
Kanasha Cox
Ellen Coyote
Chris Cracchiolo
Pawa Craciun
Selina Craciun
Diana Craft
Glenn Craft
Julie Craig
Robin Craig
John Craighcod
Barbara Cramer
Amanda Crane
Gary Cravy
Elizabeth Crawford
Joyce Creaden
Roseanne Creafi
Jermaine Credle
Stephen Cree
Ruby Cribbin
Michelle Crimi
Martha Criollo
Sue Ellen Crocco
Frances Croco
Cathleen Cronin
Amber Cronklite
Drew Cronklite
Leah Crowley
Patricia Crowley
Sharon Crump
Nayda Cruz Harris
Chie Cua
Julia Cuascut
Kevin Cusquar
Julie Cuenca
Maria Cuenes
Brian Cullen
Camille Cullen
Barbara A. Cullinan

Marsha R. Cummings
Deborah Cuoco
Lisa Cupit
Shanna Cupples
John Curcio
Alison Curcura
David Cutarella
Theresa Cutillo
John Cutruzzula
Briana Cymanski
Bruce Cymanski
Jeremy Cymanski
Maria Cymanski
Cindy Czahor
Robert Czechowski
K. D.
Jussemi Da Silvo
Marguerite Dabis
J. D’Agostino
Christine Dalli Cardillo
Karen Dalton
Jim Daly
Chercely Damis
Corinne D’Amuto
Heidi Danberry
Richard Danek
Joan D’Angelo
Agnes Daniel
Achima Daniels
Omo Bisi Daniels
Trevor Daniels
Wallace Daniels
Adrian Danon
John Dantoni
Traci Dantoni
Victoria Danurand
Kimberly Danzeisen
Doris Dapper
Joan Darbig
Laura Dardi
Irene Darrigo
Gina D’Arrigo
Alanout Darweegh
Jeter Dash
Edward Daspin
Joan B. Daspin
Josh Dautel
Ashley Davieau
John Davieau
Aida Davies
Susan Davies
Amanda Davis
Amy Davis
Carol Davis
Jackie Davis
Laurie Davis
Margie Davis
Pete Davis
Ricky Davis
Sandy Davis
Shawn Davis
Taylor Davis
Tinayah Davis
Ursula Davis
Venetta Davis
Christine Davison
Margaret Davison
Sarah Dawes
Kelly Dawley
Kathy Day
Carryl Daza
Lauren De Bruijn
Lynn De Lotto
Darlene De Santis
Judith Deak
Nancy Dealto
Joy Dean
John Deangelis
Karen Deangelis
Lisa Debasi
Michele Debbs
Dave Deblieck
Sandra Deblieck
Cynthia Dechiara
Adrian Decicco
Christine Decker

Madeline J. Decker
Shari Decker
Sam Decondta
Mia Decosta
Kathryn Defabrizio
Lydia Defelice
Raymond Defelice
Nicole Defero
Janet Defialio
Mary Ann Deforne
Stephanie Defranco
Keith Defreitas
Samiyah Defreitas
Cirina Degante
Robin Degenaars
Jennifer Degerolamo
Donna Degroat
David & Antonia Dejacomo
Lauren Dekany
William Dekmar
B. Del Sol
Michael Dela Funte
Deborah Delacruz
Barbara Delaney
Elaine Delaney
Susan Delaney
Una Delaney
Mary Delaosa
Eugene Delavega
Nina Delcollo
Patricia Delgado
Karen Dellaporta
Tom Delong
Georgette Delopoulos
Helen Delorenzo
Dawn Delrios
Dillon Delrosso
Charles Delvalle
Tyne Delwiche
Lily Demarco
Michael Demarco
Sharon Demarco
Mary Demartin

Donna Demartino
Emily Demartino
Hilde Demartino
Sharon Demeola
Madeleine Demesa
James Demetz
Richard Demmin
Lorraine Denatale
Jorothy Jeanne Denes
Carin Deninan
Jeanine Denitto
Patti Denn
Gudrun Dennis
Rick Dennis
Susan Depasquale
Kenneth Depew, Jr.
Timothy Depuy
Elaine Derise
Frank Derise
Colleen Derobertis
Pat Derosa
Loretta Derosso
Jenny Derry
Samantha Dervitz
Maria Des Guiros
Darlene Desantis
Joanne Desantis
Joseph Desantis
Mary Desantis
Carmine Desantis, Jr.
Loretta Desanto
Marisa Desanto
Rosemarie Desaro
Michael Desenzo
Barbara Desera
Ashley Desevo
John Desilvio
John Desimone
Teri Desorbo
Chet Destefano
June Dester
Maryann Deutsch
Brenna Devaney

Nicole Devine
Thomas Devine
Eunice Devito
Robert Devito
Lisa Devlin
Robert Devos
Carla Dewitt
Elisa Deyoung
Zarna Dharia
Kristin Diaco
Isa Diago
Brandon Diaz
Joel Diaz
Raul Diaz
Belinda Diaz-Perez
Valerie Dickerson
Marge Dickinson
Martha Jean Dickinson
Rose Ann Diclemento
Frances Diffley
Thomas Diffley
Kristen Difiore
John Dilairano
Dani Dillon
Kutz Dimaam
Rosemarie Dimarco
Christina Dimitry
Elizabeth Dimondi
Laura Dinardo
Lucille Dipaolo
Paul Dipaolo
Jessica Dipietro
Deborah Disanto
Dolores Discala
Michael Diskis
Laura Distasi
Elena Ditaranto
Linda Dittmars
Ronald Ditzel
Susan Ditzel
Ashley Dix
Carol Dixon
Rosella Dizuzio

Doniya Docherty
Lee Doheny
Barry Doll
Patricia Doll
Sandy Domaratus
Alexandria Domicolo
Elena Domicori
Pawelec Dominika
Lorene Donahue
Sharae Donalson
Christopher Donnellan
Patricia Donnelly
Susanne Donnelly
Valerie Donnelly
Joan Marie Donohue
Kathleen Donohue
Patricia Donohue
Janet Donus
Marie Dopico
M. W. Dorohe
Peggy Dorr
Dina Dorris
John Dorsey
Maria Dorsey
Wendy Dosalavage
Rubin Doster
Allison Dougherty
Donald Dougherty, Jr.
Deborah Downie
Gail Doyle
Mary Ann Doyle
Tracey Doyle
Mary Drake
Beth Dreifach
John Drinkard
Kerri Driscoll
Devin Drkengil
Cecelia Drury
Mariel & Anthony Dryl
Alex Drzin
Andrea Drzygna
Christine Dube
Jacqueline Dubosky
Samantha Edgington
Linda Edmonds-Faraci
Ed Edwards
Shirloey Edwards
Patricia Egerer
Michael Egizi
Lee Ehman
Nancy Ehrlich
Becky Eidam
Derrick Eidam
Jessica Eilson
Nona Einloth
Sharon Eisenberg
Eileen Eiserle
Cathy Eland
Hesham El-Bewak
Ura Eldosougi
Diana Elfar
Mena Elfeky
Alex Elizache
Barbara Ellicott
Jan Elliott
Jess Elliott
Pat Elison
Taisha Elmore
Carole Elsner
Stephanie Elwood
Jocelyn Emerson
Carmen Emery
Rhane Emory
Christina Endres
Jeo Endres
Linda Endres
Kathi Enering
Marilyn English
Vanessa Enriquez
Patrice Enyart
Tere Episale
Ken Epp
Angela Erichsen
Wayne Erickson
Peter Erikson
Robin Ervin

Maryellen Farrelly
Laura Faulkner
Ron Faulkner
Susan Faulkner
Candice Faust
Emily Faust
Lillian Faust
Paula Favorito
Leona Fazio
Lorilynn Fearon
Walter Featherall
Barbara Fedge
Diane Fee
Mary Feenly
Chase Fehrenbacher
Megan Feibusch
Gary Feinstein
Myrna Feldman
Beyne Feliciano
Vera Fell
Diane Fellenz
Dave Felton
Laura Felton
Michael Felton
Rachel Felton
Helene Fendelander
Victoria Fenentino
Patricia Fenty
Dennis Ferdham
Miranda Fergenson
Carlos Fernandez
Jayden Fernandez
Jessie Fernandez
Lindsay Fernandez
Robin Fernandez
Stacy Fernandez
Karen Fernley
Ashley Ferrante
Anne Ferrara
Marisa Ferrara
Chris Ferrarese
Loren Ferraro
Victoria Ferraro

Susan Ferreira
Marie Ferrera
Susan Ferry
Charles Fessler
Barb Festa
Gary Fetchko
Kathleen Fetchko
Bill Feuss
Susan Feverstein
April Fey
Barbara Fichter
Ezio Fidal
Rebecca Fidati
Barbara Fiedler
Barbara Field
Barbara Field
Debbie Fields
Sharon Fifth
Edward Fifth, Jr.
Michael Figueiredo
Gabriel Figueroa
Julissa Figueroa
Milton Figueroa
Nora Figueroa
Timothy Figueroa
Christina Fileti
Donn Fileti
Sarah Fillman
Giovanna Finemore
John Finemore
Ruth J. Fink
Samia Fink
Patricia A. Finlay
Patrick Finn
Catherine Finnegan
Karen Finnegan
Erika Fiore
Aileen Fiorio
Elaine Firmenich
Laura Fisher
Mr & Mrs Peter B. Fisher
Shayla Fisher
Mike Fiske

Michael Franchino
Patti Franchino
Luis Franco
Michael Franco
Trycia Francois
Mary A. Frangipane
Helena Frangogiannis
Stephanie Frank
Christopher Frankle-Toler
Lynn Franklin
Simon Franklyn
Dale Franks
Kelly Fransca
Cheryl Frassetto
Gianni Frassetto
Kelly Frawley
Jan Fredericks
Linda Freeman
Susan Freeman
Frank Frega
Theresa Frega
Matthew Freidman
Nora Frend
Rita Frend
Sonia Fresse
Merrall Freund
Wayne Frey
Irene Friedland
Melanie Frischman
Carol Fritz
Mary Esther Fritz
Theresa Fritzges
Lisa Frost-Goodall
Matt Fry
Sherry Fudim
Joyce Fudurich
Kathy Fuehring
Kurumi Fukushima
Colleen Fulham
Rekenna Fuller
Sam Fullman
D. W. Fulton
Rosa Funcheon

Alvin Genick
Felicia Gentile
Pam George
Travis Gerckens
Shari Gerhold
Gloria Gerlach
Ron Gerlach
Robert Gerry
Margaret Geruntho-Bloom
John Gfrorer
Ellen Giammarino Munoz
Mike Giangraure
Richard Giannone
Lawrence Gicaro
Amanda Gilbert
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Nayeli Valadez
Samuel Valasquez
Paola Valderrama
Ruth Valdes Faun
David Valencia
Lisa Valenti
Frank Valentin
John Vallance
James Valle
Jamie Valle
Pat Valle
James Valtaire
Richard Van Brunt
Deborah Van Damme
Jennifer Van Dunk
Timothy Van Dunk
Nancy Van Dyk
Claire Van Giesen
Gary Van Giezen
Edith Van Houten
Susan Van Loke
Thomas Van Winkle
Gary Van Wowk
Marguerite Van Wowk
Russell Van Zile
Rhonda Vanaganwery
Laura Vandepulte
Catherine Vanderbok
Jan Vanderhook
John Vanderhook
Steve Vandyk
Ann Vanhentenryck

Tricia Veler
Milagro Velez
Janice Veliko
Leah Veloso
Lucas Veloso
Stephanie Velusco
Denise Vendetti
Victoria Venezia
John & Wendy Venezio
S. M. Venino
W. K. Venino
Georgeann Ventola
Kevin Ventrice
Bruce Verbit
Nicole Verbit
Thomas Verbonsky
Joe Verdesco
Janet Verdon-Giella
Roberta Verdun
Yolanda Verhoeven-Sutherland
Jacqueline Vermeyler
Michael Vertes
Deyna Vesey
Michael Vex
Marcia Vicari
Jill Vicario
Christie Victor
Seth Victor
Lois Vida
Mike Vida
Erica Vieira
Gilma Viera
Holly J. Viggiano
Katherine Vigorita
Dina Vigorito
Beverly Vila
Tom Vilardo
Luisa Villa
Christine Villabon
Steven Villalona
Sara Villani
Joe Villano
Iveth Villanueva
Nancy Wells
Terry Wells
Jane Welman
Heather Welsch
Lauren Weltman
Lorelei Wenzel
Sara Werner
Grace Wessbecher
Mary Ellen Wessbecher
Jared Westervelt
Joan Westervelt
Bill Wettstein
Mary Whalen
Desiree Wheaton
Joan Whettlesey
Dawn Whisley
Khalil White
Laura White
M. White
Steve White
Fred Whiteley
Denzell Whitest
Michael Whitney
Bobbi Whitenour
Patricia Whitenour
Adrienne Whyte
Jerry Wichtel
Jill Wichtel
Linda Wieseneck
Anne Wiggins
David Wihton
Loretta A. Wikander
Jennifer Wilchak
Angel Wilcox
Cherie Wilder
Sue Wilderman
Adele Wildermoth
Joann Wildman
Heather Wilk
Beverly Wilke
Jennifer Wilke
Kaitlin Wilkes
George Wilkie
Erwin Wolff
Lois Wolff
Brittany Wolfson
J. Wolfson
Jeffrey Wolfson
Valerie Wolfson
Eric Wong
Anthony Wood
Jason Wood
Elias Woodworth
Joe Woody
Clara Wootson
Jason Worley
Darander Worthy
Jodie Worthy
Krzystof Woydyla
Debra Wozney
Hailey Woznicki
Dawn Wright
Don Wright
Elma Wright
Jack Wright
Sydney Wright
Gary Wu
Joseph Wu
Meredith Wunderlich
William Wurst
Justin Wyble
Kathy Wyble
Sally Wydra
Jack Wyman
Wendy Wyman
Jeryln Wyse
Suzanne Yacowitz-Dragan
Debbie Yagid
Jane Yagoda
Sharon Yancey
William Yancey
Linda Yankowich
Nikki Yankunas
Chandra Yannuzzi
Julie Yarborough
Doris Yauch
The following 25 commenters submitted a form letter opposing the entire CBBMP stating that the policy is cruel, inhumane, and not necessary and that accurate studies should be conducted to ascertain the number of bears in New Jersey:

Daniel Arcaro
Donna Arcaro
Michele Arcaro
Heidi Borroto-Pulver
Kristine Cappiello
Joseph Damion Costa
Melanie Costa
Alisha Davlin
Elaine Dolsky
Ken Dolsky
Gabriella Gangala
1738. The following 902 commenters submitted form e-mails opposing expansion of black bear hunting and suggested that non-lethal methods should be used; bears should be humanely regulated and not hunted for trophies; Conservation Officers and “bear wardens” should address bear complaints and educate the public; a bear management plan should include public education and habitat protection; the bear hunt is not sustainable:

Alison Beringer
Caleope Bernhardt
Tracey Berry
Katie Besbris
Theresa Betros
Amy Bigge
June Bilenky
Cori Bishop
Teri Blackston
Jeannette Blackwell
Thomas Blackwell
Lorraine Blaszczak
Ruth Boice
Gail Bolka
Joy Bombardo
Carole Botticelli
George Bourlotos
Connie Bracco
Jeannehi Bradbury
Ektaa Brahmbhatt
Louanna Branca
Chris Brand
Theodore Brantly
Erin Breck
Matthew Brennan
Marion Brenneman
Cheryl Bressi
Marvin Brickner
Joseph Brigandi
Frank A. Brincka
Robert Broderick
Patricia Brower
Kevin Brown
Leo Brown
Donna Browne
Margaret Browne
J. Brummell
Stacey Bueno
Barbara Burke
Caitlin Burke
Elizabeth Burke
Monika Burke
Patricia R. Burke
Craig Clark
Diane Clark
M. Clark
Raymond Clark
Jeanne Clayton
Claudia Clemente
Viktoria Cohen
Joan Cole
Christopher Coles
Belinda Collins
Jennifer Colombo
Sharon Colucci
Millisa Combatti
Jennifer Connors
Andrea Cooperstock
Tracey Cornella
M. Rute Correia
M. Cecilia Correia
Debbie Costello
Erin Coughlin
Betsy Cousins-Coleman
C. Crawford
Isabel Cruz
Kathleen Cullity
Maurice Culver
Joe Cundari
Justine Cupp
Josh Cupriks
Eleanor Curland
Lauren Curtis
Emma Cutney
Kevin Dail
Ronnie Damario
Luke Damgen
Rafael Danaher
Nancy Danch
Darlene Daniels
Harry Danner
Linda C. Daubner, Esq.
Darsel D'Auria
Richard Davidson
Diana Davies
Louise Davies

Donna Durko
Dee Dyke
Ruth E Martillo
Yvonne Eagan
Stephanie Eckert
Susan Eckstein
Joann Eckstut
Gregory Edwards
Debra Ehrgood
Debbie Eliassen
Christopher Elliot
Graham Ellis
Mark Elman
Christina Elsayed
Douglas Englen
Jude English
Andrew Erkkila
Laurie Errington
Cheryl Esposito
Barbara Estenes
Amanda Everette
Chris Fahey
Daniel Falkowitz
Stephanie Falkowski
Tami Fallon
Richard Farkas
Donna J. Fasanella
Margaret Faure
Catherine Fee
Ruth Feldman
Robert Felice
Carol Ferri
Samantha Feuss
Deanna File-Kennedy
Karen Finkelstein
Linda Fiore
Mia Fiore
Jimmy Fischer
Katy Fischer
May Fisher
John Fitzgerald
Kevin Fitzgerald
Elaine Fitzpatrick

Ariel Flood
Denise Florczak
Mark Flythe
Deb Fong
Miryam Fonken
Amber Ford
Regina Ford
Maria Formoso
Maryann Foss
Christian Francisco
Mary Frasson
David Freschi
Melissa Friedman
Terry Friedman
Chris Frost
Denise Frullo
Lisa Fuller
G. Fung
John Fusco
T. G.
Thomas Gahrmann
Debbie Galen
Barbara Galinkin
Devin Gallagher
Kathleen Galligan
Elapully Ganapathy
Judt Gauger
George Gavaras
Diane Geary
Paul Gheorghiu
Norma Giannetti
Kamilah Gilbert
Lisa Gilling
Michelle Giraldi
Sandra Givas
Dagmar Goebelbecker
David Goffredi
Kit Gogan
Gary Goldberg
Brenda Goldfine
Linda Goldstein
Jon Goordman
Kathleen Gordon

Lauren Hjelm
Tom Hogan
Fred Holden
Joseph Holloway
John Holoduek, Jr.
Amelia Holstein
Dorothy Holtzman
Tina Horowitz
Barbara Pearl Houten
Katina Houvouras
Frederick Howe
Ariel Howlett
Dorothy Hubbard
William Hughes
Tom Hughes, IV
William Hull
Fallon Hume
Nancy Hunt
Nora Iannantuano
Phyllis Ianniello
Lisa Iannucci
Sherwood Inderlied, Jr.
Emily Indig
Patricia Infantino
Jen Irons
Howard Iwahashi
Michelle Jacob
Linda Jadach
Ellen Jamieson
Andrejs Jansons
Richard Jaretsky
Monica Jelonnek
Chris Jennings
Ed Jocz
Mary Johnson
Pricilla Johnson
Denise L Jones
Avital Kaplan
Steven Karatz
John Kashner
Larry Katzman
C. Keating
Mariellen Keefe

Lori Mangan
Beth Mann
Ross Mannino
Doreen Manno
Elise Margulis
Gideon Mark
Donald Marks
Fran Maroney
Eloise R. Marsh
Stephen Marshall
Stacey Martella-Ferris
Linda Marticek
Roxana Martillo
Celeste Martin
Priscilla Martin
Veona Martin
Jackie Martinez
Nicholas Marton
Connie Marzullo
Janis Masino
Mandie Masley
Paula Mate
Lisa Matthews
L. Maul
Judith Mayhew
Sheila Mazar
Barbara McArthur
Caroline McConnell
Kevin McCormick
Denise McDermott
Susan McDonald
Sean McFeely
Debbie McGee
Suzan McGlinch
Denise McGowan-Guida
Karen McGuinness
Margaret C. McHugh
Robert McIntyre
Linda McKillip
James McLarnon
Shelly McManus
Patricia McNally
Antoinette Meale

Suzanne Mears
Larry Meistrich
Dawn Melchoni
Melinda Mendez
Sasha Mendez
Lynn Merle
John Mesler
Gulnar Mewawala
Kierstin Meyer
Cathy Meyers
Lance Michel
Pat Middleton
Mara Miller
Regina Mills
Byron Minter
Minerva Mollica
Carol Montague
Lori Montgomery
Ginger Moore
Rui Moreira
Margaret Morgan
Dennis Morley
Paul Morrill
C Morrison
Silvia Moscatiello
Corinn Moshman
Geralyn Moss
Maria Moz
Sam Mufalli
Achim Mugrauer
Charles Muise
Linda Mullaney
Hisako Murakami
Diane Murphy
Jim Murphy
Michelle Murphy
Paula Murphy
Shannon Murphy
William Murphy
Tom Murray
Abdullah Ibn Musa Islam
Tzuriyah Musah
Camillo Musumeci

Frank Naclerio
Tomoko Nakamura
P. Naprstek
Dave Narasimhan
Nancy Nehama
Nina Nemeth
Paul Netusil
Gunter Neumann
Sandra Newman
Donna Nina
Chuck Nissley
Helen Noto
Chris Noyes
Noris Nunez
Denise Nyman
Michele O'Brien
Maria O'Connor
Shannon O'Connor
Joel Ogonowski
Karen Olden
Caroline Oliveira
Robert Oliveto
Rosemary Oliveto
Krystyna Olsiewicz
Rhoda Ondov
Peg O'Neil
Kevin O'Neill
Pamela Opdyke
Barry Orr
Jodie Ottolie
Kathleen Owens
Bonnie Packer
Beth Pajak
Thomas Palazzo
Michele Palermo
Robert Palmer
David Papa
Deborah Parker
Dave Pashman
S. Pasricha
Bina Paul
Mary W. Pearson
Anton F. Pecha, III
Rose Peirce
Mike Pena
Ruth Pennoyer
Carolyn Pereyra
Robert Perwas
Thomas Peters
Martin Pfeferkorn, Jr.
Emily Picarello
Paula Pirozzi
Kathleen Piscicelli
Sylvia Piskunov
Rosemary Pizzullo
Angela Plagge
Ann Plaisted
Vladmir Plisko
Michele Polce
Carlo Popolizio
Pamela Power
Lynn Prigge
Geraldine Pritcard
Suzanne Proniske
Michael Prtozel
Jean Publi
Eugene Pumphrey
Frank Puzzo
Sonniemarie Pyle
Jennifer Quigley
Sheeza Qurashi
Chester Raczkowski
Paige Radcliffe
Rita Raftery
Joe Raich
Beverly Railsback
Kat Raisky
Prema Ramashwar
Walt Rankin
Andrea Raphael
Alex Raspa
Soumi Rathod
Gene Ratti
Jeffrey Rattner
Jamie Rawlins
Sg Re

Michaela Redden
Christopher Reilly
Bettie Reina
Dorothy Reinhard
Krista Reinhard
Gin Resavi
Daniel Reynolds
Mari Ricco
Alexander Rice
Jennifer Richter
Mary Lynn Ricketts
Joseph Ridgeway
Jane Rigney
Oscar Ripalda
Joyce Rivera
Dean Robb
Jan Robbins
Holly Robertson
Judith Robinson
José Robles
Marcia Rogers
Margaret Roman
Michael Rose
Enid Rosenblatt
Lori Ross
David Rossi
Scott Rotman
Lori Rotundo
Patrick Rowland
Linda Rubiano
Thomas Rule
Bob Rusk
Joanne Ryan
Dottie Sachs
Amy Sadeghi
Edward Saiff
Ronald Salma
Lisa Saltalamacchia
Sarah Salvador
Karinmaria Salzman
Maria Sanchez
Kyle Sangiovanni
Anjan Sannidhi

Frank Santangelo
Marilynn Saunders
Melissa Saunders
George Sauvain
Helen Savastano
Christian Sawyer
Donald Scafuri
Patrick Scanlon
Jennifer Scheuerle
Darwin Schild
Lizzi Schippert
Gregory Schneider
Douglas Schneller
Chris Scholl
Denise Scholz
Csw Schorr
John Schreiber
S. Schreier
Janet Schubert
Andrea Schwartz
Brian Schwartz
Bonnie Schweinler
Cheryl Schwendel
Lynn Scott
P. Scoville
Patricia Sebastiano
Martin Seigel
Diane Sek
Susanna Senti
Marilyn Sergent
Stephanie Seymour
William Shadel
Carolyn Shafer
Susen Shapiro
Kimberly Shaub
Dennis Shaw
Carolyn Shea
James Shea
Diana Sheffield
Jill Shell
Victoria Shields
Anna Sidorova
James Sigler
Lina Silimkhan
Dawn Sink
Eva Sipos
K. Skelley
Amy Skelton
Crysanthi Skiada
Amy Skinner
Dylen Sklar
Laila Slesers
Anita Smith
Jaszmene Smith
Kevin Smith
Matthew Smith
Monica Smith
Neil Smith
David Snope
Ryan Snyder
Molly Solanki
Lotte Sonnschein
Cynthia Sororka-Dunn
Patricia Soteropoulos
Patricia Sottile
Michael Southwell
Franklin P. Souza
James Soviero
Nancy Sowder
Barb Spector
Robert Spector
Mark Spinner
Maary Splithe
Sandy Spremulli
Edward Squibb
Mark Sroka
Kathryn Stanchi
Gene Steiker
Ruth Steinberg
Todd Stevenson
D. E. Steward
Tami Stewart
Josepb Stiener
Teresa Stimpfel
E. Sto
Kurt Stofko
Patricia Van Vlaenderen
Barbara Van Walsen
Donna Vannatta
Aymara Vargas
G. Vega
Gigi Vento
Roxanna Veras
Michael Vernam
Debra Vitola
Michelle Vogt
Pamela Votto
Roberta Wagner
Phyllis Wald
Katelyn Waldeck
Donald Walden
Patricia Walden
Rob Walker
Sean Walker
Donna Wallace
Janet Walsh
Kathleen Walsh
Angelina Walton
Sally Warner
Debi Wehrmann
Kimi Wei
Allison Weideman
Rebecca Weinberg
Daniel Weinberger
Kathryn Weller-Demming
Reid Westergaard
Helene Wetzel
Marti Wheat
Ian Whelan
Corinne White
Harriet White
Valeris White
Virginia Wiener
Sandra Wilkes
Edith Williams
Holly Williams
Danielle Willmott
Marianne Willms
Dina Willner
1739. The following 1,090 commenters submitted form letters opposing expansion of black bear hunting and a maximum harvest rate of 30 percent; opposing the hunting of female bears and cubs; opposing baiting of bears; suggesting that non-lethal conflict prevention methods will stop human-bear conflict; recommending enforcement of trash management:

Steven Abbott
Arlene Abrams
Nancy Acosta
Farred Adams
James Adams
Susan Addelston
Theresa Adjan-Vallen
Dolores Alimi
Gatte Aline
Jennifer Allen
Gabriela Almeida

Veronica Carter-Macchione
Kristina Carvalhido
Peg Castelli
Vicky Castronovo
Anthony Catti
Heather Cavall
Melissa Ccorbo
Annette Cecala
Linda Celestini
Suzanne Censier
Mary Cerria
Mildred Chalmers
Laura Chappell
William Charle
Virginia Chase
Lisa Chenoweth
D'Angelica Cheryl
Cynthia Cheval
Nicole Chiafullo
Irina Chicherina
Nm Chobin
Kyung Choe
Marylou Chopan
Eric Christensen
Kathryn Christopher
Elaine Chudzik
Cyn Churh
Lyne Ciccarelli
Anne Cicchino
Anthony Cimino
Marie Cirelli
Bonnie Citron
Fran Ciurczak
Carol Clark
Morgan Clark
Robert Cleary
Pat Clermont
Michelle Clifford
Rosemary Clifford
E. Bruce Clifton
Laura Coates
Lauren Collura
Ilona Colon

Jane Davidson
Cynthia Davis
James Davis
Marie Davis
Caicedo Dawn
Loretta De Rosso
Arlene De Taranto
Cheryll Dearborn
Carmen Debeer
Anthony Debiase
Brian Decastro
Catherine Deckenbach
Susan Decoste
Laura Decroce
Dagmara Defilippo
Alice Deich
Diane Deidloff
Lindsay Deitch
Cassandren Delley
T. Demaio
Cheryl Demill
Jennifer Delpalma
Joanne Derby
Dena Desantis
Jennifer Desimone
Ali Desmet
Lisa Devino
Christina Dibenedetto
Patrice Dietrich
Denise Dinicola
Nikole Dipillo
Kim Dobbs
Connie Dodd
Megan Dolan
Peter Dominick
Rita Donato-Edwards
Susan Donovski
Brigette Downey
I Dr
Mary Drody
Mark Drude
Lucia Drumgould
Ch Duclos

Pat Duigon
Judith Durcan
Margot Durling
Nicole Dykstra
Betty Eagles
Wendy Eberle
Evelyn Eckert
Jennifer Edmonds
Bonnie Eggemann
Brigitte Eibisberger
Anna Einspahr
Nora Elcar-Verdon
Lois Elg
Dave Emmons
Lynne Emmons
Rob Erickson
Aymara Vargas Espinosa
Richard Espuga
Jesse Estok
Meredith Estomata
Vincenza Euripides
Nicole Evaul
Noelle Ewen
Colin Fahey
Cindy Fahy
Judy Fairless
Jessica Falzarano
Ann Fance
Alyssa Fanning
Emma Fanning
Richard Fante
Debra Farbo
David Faria
Nicole Farina
Phyllis Fast
Donna Fazio
Kathryn Featherston
Joanne Felcetto
Annemarie Feldman
Anna Fenton
Catherine Ferguson
Anastasia Ferrante
Richard Ferraro

Diane Gaffney
Asha Gangasarran
Stacy Gannon
J. Garber
Lorraine Garofalo
Kathryn Garramone
Suzanne Garrera
Lillian Gatti
Phil Gatti
Eric Genemans
Kathy Gerardi
Dorothy Getzow-Primich
Darlene Giese
Lorna Gil Gil Serrate
Jo Ann Gilbert
Bernadette Gilbride
Patricia Gilmore
Monica Gimenez
James Giordano
Kimberly Glaskey
Shanna Glaspey
Lascinda Goetschius
Glenn Golden
Lauren Goldstein
Madeline Goldstein
Heather Golia
Dana Gollance
Carl Gompf
Marcelo G Gonzalez
Andrew Goold
Jim Gordon
Robert Gore
Jane Gorman
William Gorman
Richard Gorski
Kimberly Goydan
Krista Grabowski
Dana Graves
Mikel Graziani
Andrea Greco
Nikki Green
Cariln Greenfield
Jamie Greer

Jessica Martucci
Angela Marvel
Larry Maskin
Karen Mason
Peggy Massler
Sheila Massoni
Deborah Mathews
Patricia Mathis
Barry Matiez
Jane Maughan
Denise Maurer
Lauren Mayer
Anne Mayhew
Linda Mazzone
Tracey Mazzone
Lisa McCaulley
Bobbie McClain
Meredith McClatchy
Krys McConville
Lois McDonald
Patrick McDonnell
Maureen McDowall
Lynn McGimsey
Joy McGinty
Pamela McGowan
Cindy McGrath
Bernadette McGroarty
Brian McHugh
Phyllis McIntyre
Susan McKinnon
Jp Re McPadden
Janice McShane
Mary Carmen Medina
Nancy Meister
Jill Melveger
Myah Mena
Rosa Mena
Ellen Mendelsohn
Dominique Menear
Joyce Mentzer
Stacey Merrill
Judy Merten
Amanda Mesa

Bess Michaels
C. B. Michaels
Katy Michalchuk
Ralph Midiri
Anna Mieleffski
Liz Mikre
Mary-Ellen Milesnick
Carol Milford
Jane Millar
Jessica Miller
Kenneth Miller
Ray Miller
Jean Miller-Habermann
Jill Mindas
Lisa Mita
Dennis Moffett
Amanda Mohr
Debra Monroe
Allison Monserrate
Ralph Montemarano
Sharon Moody
Cheyenne Moore
Gayle Moore
Pamela Moore
Jessica Moreau
Brittany Moreno
Dorothy Morin
Joanne Moritz
Brenda Morris
Elsie Morris
Linda Morris
Nancy Motts
Annie Mulligan
Margo Mullin
Jill Murithi
Jacqueline Murtha
Selva Naidu
Suzan Napolitano
Cindi Napurano
Allan Nasta
Linda Nathans
Jo-Anne Navarro
Linda Nemeth

Joel Scharf
Lindsay Schartner
Alexa Schatzmann
John Schiazzano
Ronald Schiraldi
Ruth Schlomer
Yvonne Schneider
Susan Schneller
Clara Schroeder
Donna Schroeder
Gerd Schubert
J. M. Schulz
Beverly Schwarz
Lisa Schwarzwalder
Tara Schwenker
Matt Sciacca
Joanne Scofield
Ann Scornavacca
Ken Scott
Lindsay Scott
William Scott
Pamela Scoville
Joe Scriff
Mary Ann Scuttaro
Diego Duran Serrano
Irene Sette
Roberta Seward
Aarti Shah
Colleen Shanley
Susan Shapiro
Maki Shaw
Lisa Shedden
Donna Sherry
Kristi Sherwood
George Shinas
Nicole Shine
Sharon Shinkle
Johanna Shulman
Kathleen Siano
Barbara Sicherman
Elizabeth Ann Sidhom Lvt
Marlene Sigman
Jeff Sikora

Stephanie Silverstein
Carrie Ann Silvert
Dana Silvester
Karen Simister
Carilyn Simne
Suzanne Simone
Ulysses Simpkins
Iris Sinai
Carol Sinclair
Jean Sinclair
Sharon Sinton
Stacy Andris Skalski
John Skibbie
Karen Skolski
Michelle Slaughter
Lois Sloan
Anthony Smar
Trae Smaron
Debra Smeltzer
Agnieszka Smith
Doreen Smith
Kristy Smith
Maria Smith
Patricia Smith
Susan Smith
Cathy Smitheimer
Julie Smolin
Megan Smutz
RJ Soens, III
Lori Sokol
Albert Soltis
Karin Spalding
Rosemary Spann
Mary Sparagna
Joseph Sperone
Vickie Spillane
Emily Spina
Frank Spina
Lisa Stackhouse
Melissa Waite Stamps
Jessica Starkman
Sanford Stein
Dusty Stepanski

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1740. The following 136 commenters submitted form letters opposing the entire CBBMP,

stating that only non-lethal components should be adopted:

Alex Abitante
Allan Abraham
Amuchie Amanda
Kassandra Ann Astorias
Piedad Avendallo
George Azar
Joshua Bandstra
Patricia Berry
Vanesa Biba
Angela Biscardi
Tarik Boke
Christopher Borst
Marcus Brown
Hilda Buitriago
Darian Burch
Joshua Cabrera
Ashley Caceves
Matthew Cahill
Brendan Campbell
Skylur Caravelli
George Chimarios
Steffan Chirichello
Alexander Collas
Jacqueline Cueros
Johann Deborja
Charles Delvalle
Delia Vanessa Diaz
Emmanuel Diaz
Francois Dugue, III
William Dunn
Patrick Durein
Parsa Ebrahimi
Katherine Ellenberg

Juncan Sun
Catherine Tolentino
Kevolk Toossem
Danielle Tustin
Patricia Tustin
Karika Tuzun
Chien Ung
Monica Valencia
Kelsey Vellucci
Lou Vellucci
Michael Vergara
Phil Vogelman
Alivia Voss
Chelsea Walsh
Nici Whittingham
Heather Wood
Carmen Zurita

1741. The following 214 commenters submitted form letters opposing the entire CBBMP. These commenters opposed the expansion of the season and the hunting area, the use of bows and muzzleloaders, and the increase in the bag limit:

Alexa Abel
Chris Aelenlinger
G. Alfano
Haifa Alhaw
Anthony Altadonna
Zhreida Aquino
Lily Bahlander
Mike Baladi
Jeanne Balsam
Carol Barry
Janet Bastien
E. Beckford
Randol Benites
Anthony Berger
Donna Binder
Cassandra Bockhorn
Cat Bodner
Chuckie Bodner
Mary Bodner

Dean Galasso
Stacey Galasso
Jodi Garbarino
Lisa Garliareno
Andrew Giesman
E. Giordano
Liliana Gonzalez
Cherie Grampp
Carol Granpp
Audrey Griffin
Karen Grimaldi
John Grisbacher
Danielle Grossfeld
Paige Grossfeld
Tiffany Grossfeld
Howard Grossford
Janet Grote
Dave Grotti
Scott Gunther
Sheldon Gurr
Janet Gygax
Morgan Hammond
Christine Han
Robert Haschah, Jr.
Enza Helwani
Barbara Henderson
Cesa Hernandez
Pam Hiller
Luljeta Hugi
Deborah Huyles
Aaron Jackson
Victoria Jade
Kevin Jakimas
Patricia Jameison
Diane Johnson
Gordon Johnson
Peter Karpov
Sarah Kithusi
Rene Kolb
Jane Laforge
A. Lass
Linda Lembo
Robert Liebold
Mackenzie Peacock
Theresa Peacock
Priscilla Pena
Amanda Perez
Joe Perillo
Joy Perillo
Therese Pilaar
Melanie Pollis
Ruth Prol
Lisa Racz
Joshua Ramos
Mercedes Rashkole
Megan Reilly
Maria Reissmann
D. Restrepo
Maria Reyes
Ekaterina Ribot
Rosie Rodriguez
Ann M. Rosenthal
Danielle Rush
Carol Sargentelli
Frank Scaizitti
Harris Scarano
Barbara Schlachta
Amy Schlauer
Ellen Schoemer
Robert Scott
Donna Secule
Joann Sheehan
Sarah Sheiti
Carol Siems
Robert Sigona
Deborah Sinatra
Thomas Sinnott
Daniel Slutsky
Brittany Smith
Carol Smith
Shelley Spaulding
Warren Squitieri
Mike Stadyton
Renee Stanko
Irizarry Stella
Anita Stensberg
1742. The following 363 commenters submitted form letters opposing the entire CBBMP, stating that New Jersey’s hunts are entirely recreational and have no impact in reducing human/bear interactions. These commenters also call for elimination of the category system:

Avery Abad
Carlos Acevedo
Alicia Acosta
Randy Adjete
Flavia Aerta
Reyniel Afuang
Milagros Agostini
Samantha Agosto
Dina Ahmed
Douca Ala'Aldin
Claudette Alcober
Il Hwa An

Joyce Randolph
Dylan Reddick
Victor Reinoro
Maria Restrepo
Jennifer Rickety
Vincent Ridon
Kaitlyn Rifici
Josh Rivera
Andres Rodriguez
Frank Rojacta
Genessi Rosario
Michael Rosenberg
David Rozenshlegne
Matt Russell
Raquel Russell
Cecilia Russo
Antorella Sabatini
Phil Sabbagh
Coralys Saez
Corinna Sakala
David Lee Samuels
Ibelmi Sanchez
Katlyn Sanchez
Cathleene Sanpedro
Carlos Santos
Leanna Santucci
Ahelelkader Sardena
Christopher Sasso
Lucie Scaravaglione
Samantha Scherm
Usama Shafi
Melissa Shea
Alexander Sheng
Derrick Shepherd, II
Ashley Sherise
Ryan Shim
Hyowon Shin
Hyuna Shin
Taylor Siebel
Xavier Siguenza
Matthew Silvestre
Jason Sims
Chris Singharath

Amy Yoon
Margaret Young
Melissa Zarra
Zhenzhen Zhu
Azmi Zoske
Rowan Zubi
Julianna Zutell

1743. The following 15 commenters submitted form letters opposing the entire CBBMP:

Daniel Arcaro
Michael Arcaro
Brian Cannici
Cynthia Cannici
Trish Ketelsen
Joseph Leone
Nina Leone
Sylvia Leone
Fredy Lopez
Alma Mendez
Deborah Nawotka
Matthew Nawotka
Alexis Nawotka, Sr.
Louis Paterno
Dianne Schaller

1744. The following six commenters submitted form letters opposing the entire CBBMP:

Bryan Fiorella
Omauri Isaac
Kenyaei-Rah Rodney
Anashiot Shanma
Puja Shrestha
Sarah Tufts

1745. The following 218 commenters signed a petition opposing portions of the CBBMP:

Goran Abramic
Praesens Absens
Winn Adams
Amy Alexander
Anita Andela
Phillip Anderton

Anneke Andries
Manuela Arioli
Elsie Au
Helen Auzins
Makihita Ayako
Barbara Baggs
Maxine Bakhtiar
Pam Barciszewski
Rosa Blackaerts
Shawna Blaker
C. Bradley
Hoin Brigitte
Connie Brink
Wendy Broad
Myra Brodett
Cindra Broenner
Gillian Brown
Ankle Brunschot
Jesse Bryant
Jaimieke Buelens
Mary Burt
Bill C.
Julia Cabrera-Woscek
Suheyla Caliskan
Eduardo Campos
Florina-Constanta Capitan
Mauricio Carvajal
Sinclayr Casaroto
Nicola Cerato
Donna Chi
Samuela Conte
Claudia Correla
Gabriela Craciunas
Jasmina Cuk
Marleen Cuypers
Sabine Danelon
Reggie De Man
Mona De Ryck
Lisette De Waard
Caroline Debaille
Jan Decoon
Emmanuel Delannoy Degauque
Evelyn Depypere

Kat Parsons-Bertrand
Giana Peranio-Paz
Terri Pigford
Terry Pitt
Marina Polli
Bernadette Porter
Teresa Prentice
Michael Quinn
Sugathri Rajkumar
Rocky Randy
Mariann Rannenberg
Paulo Reeson
Marianne Rehfeld
Karen Ricci
Sandy Rodgers
Shawn Rodriguez
Rosa Ruiz
Judith Sadura
Lisa Salazar
Natasha Salgado
Leigh Saunders
Sue Schuemmer
Yolanda Schultes
Paola Scodellari
Kristina Sedic
Barbara Seiler
Helen Seuckan
Hagen Simon
Ulrica Sjogren
Dina Smith
Hugh Smith
Michael John Smith
Bill Smithson
Bianca Sodfried
Christina Soli
Krshna Soneji
Caterina Spaccamonti
Theodore Spachidakis
S. Spek
Judith Spith
Inge Stadler
Maryann Staron
Mark Stewart
A summary of the comments and the Council’s and/or the Department’s responses, as appropriate, follows. The number(s) in parentheses after each comment identifies the respective commenter(s) listed above.

**General**

1. COMMENT: The proposed amendments to the CBBMP are supported in their entirety (67, 72, 101, 136, 158, 195, 249, 394, 470, 472, 473, 577, 632, 687, 695, 701, 705, 725, 774, 783, 785, 866, 985, 991, 1007, 1033, 1067, 1079, 1107, 1270, 1316, 1318, 1326, 1372, 1377, 1414, 1467, 1500, 1505, 1518, 1573, 1578, 1624, 1626, 1700, 1735).

   RESPONSE: The Council and the Department acknowledge the comments in support of the CBBMP.

RESPONSE: The Council is authorized and required by N.J.S.A. 13:1B-29 et seq. to manage wildlife throughout the State of New Jersey as a renewable resource and to maximize the benefits derived from this resource, including the taking of bears, while utilizing a flexible system of protection, propagation, increase, control, and conservation of wildlife populations. The Council periodically promulgates amendments to the Game Code to meet its responsibilities by adjusting seasons, bag limits and methods of take on the basis of scientific information. The Council recognizes that comments received in opposition to hunting represent the philosophy of people who may be opposed to the killing and/or use of bears, including recreational hunting as a management tool. However, this rulemaking represents the Council’s best efforts to fulfill its statutory mandate to manage the State’s game and furbearing animals. The Council and the Department have concluded that the CBBMP should include a regulated black bear hunt as part of a comprehensive approach to black bear management.
As discussed in Section H of the CBBMP, Division bear population monitoring has shown growth and range expansion of the State’s black bear population, which has produced high levels of negative human/bear interactions, despite the Division’s expanded non-lethal management initiatives. Thus, the CBBMP finds that the bear population should be decreased and stabilized at a level consistent with available habitat and cultural carrying capacity, and no other proven method of population control other than hunting is available. Regulated hunting seasons in 2003, 2005, and 2010 - 2014 demonstrated that bears could be harvested safely. Thus, the Council and the Department support regulated hunting as a safe and effective management tool to reduce negative bear-human interactions, provide recreation and to control the State’s black bear population in a cost-effective manner and support the continuation and expansion of a regulated black bear hunting season, which includes Bear Management Zones (BMZs) 1 through 5, to direct hunting pressure as appropriate. The Council and the Department also support the development of a more liberal season structure for bear hunting to reduce and then stabilize the bear population at a level compatible with the availability and quality of habitat, which is consistent with public safety and residential and agricultural concerns.

In 2005, the New Jersey Supreme Court (U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance Found. v. N.J. Dep’t. Env’tl. Prot., 182 N.J. 461 (2005)) explained that the CBBMP should take into consideration the management tools available for management of the State’s black bear population. The Council and the Department have examined the management of black bears in other states and note that the 29 states with viable bear populations use hunting as the means to control their black bear populations. No alternative method is used. The Council and the Department further recognize that regulated hunting is a legitimate and effective means to control and manage the bear
population, can slow the rate of population growth, and can reduce associated problems (for example, vehicle collisions, home entries, livestock kills, pet kills, property damage, and agricultural damage) in a cost effective manner. Thus, regulated hunting is an important component of the CBBMP.

The Council and the Department also acknowledge the benefit of an integrated wildlife management approach for the State’s black bear population, which is consistent with the black bear management efforts that the Division has undertaken for many years. That is why the CBBMP reflects an integrated wildlife management plan, incorporating the following components: education; control of human–derived food; research and analysis of the State’s black bear population; analysis of the State’s available black bear habitat; cooperative research with other states, academic institutions, and other entities engaged in research on black bear management; control of bears that threaten human safety, agricultural crops, or property, or nuisance bears, by lethal and non-lethal means; habitat protection; and bear population management.

The Council and the Department note that many of the commenters opposed to a black bear hunt support other aspects of the CBBMP, often suggesting that an expansion of non-lethal population control efforts would eliminate the need for a black bear hunt. As explained in the CBBMP, however, an integrated approach to black bear management should utilize all available, practicable methods for the management of the State’s black bear population, while taking into account the best scientific information and the fiscal and personnel resources of State and local agencies. Thus, as detailed in the CBBMP, based on the Division’s extensive experience with black bear management, as well as the fiscal and other constraints present, the Council and the

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department acknowledge the comments in support of all the provisions of Game Code sections N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 and 5.24 and the entire CBBMP.

4. COMMENT: Commenters indicated that hunting was the best management tool available to control the black bear population (67, 116, 136, 249, 394, 428, 701, 705, 725, 778,

788, 866, 901, 956, 991, 1033, 1067, 1115, 1142, 1164, 1315, 1316, 1318, 1478, 1505, 1518, 1532, 1735).

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department acknowledge the comments in support of the Game Code sections N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 and 5.24 and the CBBMP.

5. COMMENT: Commenters expressed support for the black bear hunting season and support of the CBBMP because it was based on sound science and/or management (3, 25, 34, 72, 101, 116, 194, 316, 391, 422, 471, 472, 551, 556, 565, 569, 695, 701, 705, 775, 836, 921, 990, 1007, 1025, 1026, 1033, 1142, 1188, 1241, 1270, 1294, 1403, 1434, 1460, 1500, 1584, 1588, 1626, 1723).

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department acknowledge the comments in support of the Game Code sections N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 and 5.24 and the CBBMP.

6. COMMENT: Commenters indicated that an earlier and expanded hunting season was necessary to control the black bear population (72, 76, 77, 142, 194, 195, 233, 249, 316, 324, 337, 340, 358, 371, 373, 387, 394, 395, 397, 400, 423, 474, 495, 503, 513, 532, 559, 565, 586, 606, 629, 633, 658, 663, 667, 671, 691, 701, 714, 722, 724, 725, 753, 758, 773, 778, 780, 788, 848, 865, 921, 985, 989, 991, 993, 1001, 1003, 1006, 1021, 1033, 1064, 1067, 1082, 1107, 1173, 1180, 1188, 1216, 1252, 1270, 1280, 1294, 1303, 1315, 1316, 1318, 1338, 1344, 1373, 1403, 1453, 1460, 1478, 1479, 1505, 1518, 1521, 1525, 1573, 1637, 1689, 1690, 1705, 1719, 1735).
RESPONSE: The Council and the Department acknowledge the comments in support of the Game Code sections N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 and 5.24 and the CBBMP.

7. COMMENT: Commenters indicated that the hunting season should be continued to further reduce nuisance bear behavior (3, 77, 324, 340, 712, 753, 778, 820, 822, 991, 1028, 1067, 1166, 1308, 1318, 1396, 1453, 1530, 1705, 1708).

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department acknowledge the comments in support of the Game Code sections N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 and 5.24 and the CBBMP.

8. COMMENT: Commenters indicated support for the use of archery hunting to control the black bear population (76, 162, 194, 233, 302, 324, 337, 358, 423, 475, 495, 503, 507, 508, 512, 528, 542, 603, 606, 633, 634, 667, 671, 701, 708, 758, 773, 780, 810, 848, 865, 881, 956, 971, 1007, 1010, 1115, 1131, 1171, 1176, 1180, 1221, 1250, 1270, 1280, 1315, 1316, 1323, 1326, 1338, 1344, 1346, 1356, 1366, 1373, 1410, 1411, 1422, 1478, 1479, 1518, 1521, 1573, 1590, 1619, 1637, 1690, 1705, 1734, 1735).

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department acknowledge the comments in support of the Game Code sections N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 and 5.24 and the CBBMP.
9. COMMENT: Commenters indicated that the season was necessary because bears are a threat to human safety (34, 67, 316, 337, 341, 358, 373, 391, 400, 556, 583, 606, 629, 691, 778, 780, 820, 822, 993, 1003, 1026, 1164, 1171, 1303, 1403, 1478, 1723).

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department acknowledge the comments in support of the Game Code sections N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 and 5.24 and the CBBMP.

10. COMMENT: Commenters indicated that the season would reduce agricultural damage incidents for the farming community (712, 820, 822, 1308, 1441).

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department acknowledge the comments in support of the Game Code sections N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 and 5.24 and the CBBMP.

11. COMMENT: Commenters stated that lethal methodologies are unnecessary as bear problems can be resolved through garbage management and through enforcement of the feeding statute (15, 18, 36, 63, 75, 92, 99, 108, 133, 140, 190, 191, 200, 221, 224, 256, 257, 278, 309, 320, 351, 392, 433, 439, 450, 463, 484, 486, 553, 563, 579, 594, 613, 734, 743, 761, 762, 765, 776, 786, 791, 831, 859, 882, 888, 897, 914, 922, 951, 953, 962, 968, 974, 988, 1008, 1020, 1032, 1035, 1052, 1094, 1098, 1108, 1114, 1135, 1196, 1214, 1223, 1247, 1275, 1299, 1332, 1343, 1349, 1369, 1378, 1384, 1416, 1419, 1425, 1444, 1448, 1451, 1470, 1484, 1518, 1528, 1557, 1573, 1625, 1628, 1657, 1659, 1698, 1714, 1722, 1730); commenters stated that bears without access to unnatural foods will not gain as much weight and will have lower reproductive
rates, which will naturally address bear population growth (99, 743, 761, 762, 897, 974, 1302, 1332, 1378, 1425).

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department disagree that better garbage control alone would resolve human/bear conflicts, although the Council and the Department have included garbage control as a necessary part of the CBBMP. The Department has had several meetings with garbage haulers, municipalities, and private communities to discuss the issue of providing bear resistant garbage cans and dumpsters to the general public. Both haulers and communities have indicated that technological and economic constraints make implementing these devices very difficult.

While large-scale implementation of bear resistant garbage cans and dumpsters remains a goal, efforts to reduce access to garbage continues to be an important part of the plan. In 2004, the Division received 282 complaints of bears getting into garbage as opposed to 503 garbage complaints in 2003; the Division received 288 garbage complaints in 2006 compared to the 358 garbage complaints in 2005. The decrease in garbage related complaints from 2003 to 2004 and again from 2005 to 2006 is in part due to increased enforcement of the statute banning the intentional feeding of black bears, N.J.S.A. 23:2A-14, and the harvest of nuisance bears during the 2003 and 2005 bear hunting seasons. Similarly, from 2010 to 2013, the number of bear garbage complaints dropped 38 percent from 481 complaints in 2010 to 298 complaints in 2013, as a result of the 2010 through 2012 bear hunting seasons.

The Council and the Division supported the ban on the intentional feeding of black bears enacted in November 2002 which provides for a civil penalty of up to $1,000 for each offense.
The Division’s Bureau of Law Enforcement (BLE) investigates bear feeding complaints and issues warnings and citations when warranted. The Division has long recommended that trash be controlled so that it is not available to bears. For example, trash should not be put out for disposal until the morning of pickup and should be stored at other times in areas inaccessible to bears.

Council and the Department recognize that bear-resistant garbage containers can be successful at keeping bears out of garbage, but they do not prevent the bears from remaining in the area and utilizing containers that are not bear-resistant. The benefits and limitations of garbage management are discussed in detail in the CBBMP at section B, Control of Human Derived Food. Bear-resistant containers also do not decrease or stabilize the bear population. The State and Federal park systems in bear country have implemented bear-resistant garbage cans and dumpsters at their facilities. Bear-resistant garbage cans and food storage containers were installed at several State parks in northern New Jersey. These food storage containers and garbage cans have been effective in mitigating some nuisance bear behavior within the park system. Even though these bear-resistant garbage cans and dumpsters have been effective at minimizing garbage related incidents within the parks, they have not reduced the number of bears in the area nor have they eliminated nuisance bear behavior within the parks or recreational areas.

The Division has been working cooperatively with the Division of Parks and Forestry to develop educational programs, signage, and regulations that preclude bear feeding, maintain clean picnic and camp sites, and keep food inaccessible to bears in State parks and forests (see, for example, N.J.A.C. 7:2-2.7 and 6.1). The Council and the Department believe that
enforcement of State and local ordinances banning the feeding of bears should help reduce human/bear conflicts. However, human/bear conflicts are increasing as the bear population grows and expands its range into new and inadequate habitats, including urban and suburban areas. Black bears are attacking and killing livestock and pets, damaging agricultural crops, damaging and entering homes, and directly threatening humans. Black bears are also involved in a high number of collisions with motor vehicles (703 since 2010). The feeding ban does nothing to control the number of black bears. The Council notes that there is no evidence to support claims that bears in New Jersey produce more cubs due to the availability of unnatural foods or that human supplied food sources increase fecundity, or that the absence of such supplemental foods would result in a decrease in reproductive rates, but note that the high habitat quality and consistent natural food resources in the mid-Atlantic region of the country already place bears at their maximum reproductive potential. Studies which suggest human-derived food increases bear litter sizes have taken place in some central and western states, where natural food resources are varied and unpredictable.

The law enforcement effort regarding this feeding ban is discussed in Section B of the CBBMP, Control of Human-Derived Food. The CBBMP acknowledges the difficulty in enforcing this law and recommends that the definition of “unintentional feeding” at N.J.S.A. 23:2A-14 be amended to clarify what actions constitute unintentional feeding. The Council and the Department note that intensive sweeps of neighborhoods in bear country show that greater than 90 percent of households inspected are complying with this statute and are making a genuine effort to prevent bears from feeding on household garbage and other human derived food sources. The BLE has received 243 complaints from citizens reporting violations of the

bear feeding ban since its adoption in 2003. Individuals suspected of feeding bears must first be given a written warning before a summons can be issued for repeat offenses. Upon investigation of these complaints, 63 written warnings and 11 summonses were issued. The Division’s experience is that most people respond to the educational discussion with the conservation officer and that only a small number of people ignore the written warning. Thus, conservation officers have had to issue a minimal number of summonses for repeat offenses.

Some commenters also stated that use of aversive conditioning techniques should be increased to solve human/bear interactions (190, 553, 1444).

RESPONSE: As stated in the CBBMP, the Council and the Department recognize the importance of a multi-faceted approach to black bear management which includes the use of non-lethal techniques. The Council and the Department recognize that the use of non-lethal techniques is widely accepted to mitigate nuisance behavior in black bears, especially within communities and park environments, and the CBBMP recommends the continued use of non-lethal techniques when appropriate. The Division and properly trained law enforcement agencies will continue to use non-lethal rubber projectiles and pyrotechnics as a means of aversive conditioning to mitigate nuisance bear behavior. The Council and the Department note that since 2005, Division personnel have used aversive conditioning on nuisance bears 416 times, and law enforcement officers trained by the Division have used aversive conditioning on nuisance bears 997 times, using on average two rounds of rubber projectiles and 1.7 pyrotechnic rounds before the bear ran out of range.

The Council and the Division disagree that aversive conditioning alone would adequately resolve human/black bear conflicts, but the Council and the Department have specified that non-lethal control, including aversive conditioning, is an important component of the CBBMP (see CBBMP at F, Bear Control: Lethal and Non-Lethal). However, non-lethal techniques are not effective at controlling black bear population numbers. The Division has determined, as have other state and Federal agencies and institutions, that aversive conditioning can deter a bear from
returning to the treatment location, but treated bears continue nuisance activity at other locations and, in some cases, return to the original location after a period of time. Aversive conditioning reduced, but did not eliminate, foraging by nuisance bears in human-developed areas. The Division’s research efforts have demonstrated that aversive conditioning has limited short-term effectiveness, does not eliminate nuisance behavior in bears, and does nothing to reduce or stabilize the bear population.

13. COMMENT: One commenter felt that only bears that are not afraid of humans should be killed (160).

RESPONSE: Determining which bears are unafraid of humans can only be done after the bear has had a negative interaction with people, and then it is not always likely that the problem bear can be located and caught. Additionally, the low success rate of captures on these bears means this methodology would not significantly contribute to controlling New Jersey’s growing black bear population.

14. COMMENT: Commenters opposed the black bear hunting season and indicated that the black bear season would not solve nor alleviate damage/nuisance problems or conflicts caused by bears (1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 23, 24, 32, 35, 41, 49, 52, 56 - 58, 60, 64, 79, 80, 82, 83, 90, 91, 94, 95, 97, 99, 100, 102, 103, 106, 107, 111, 126, 133, 135, 138, 141, 146 - 148, 151, 161, 176, 180, 181, 185 - 187, 193, 197 - 201, 204, 206, 212, 214, 216, 218, 219, 221, 225, 228 - 230, 235 - 237, 241, 244, 245, 251, 259, 263, 264, 266, 267, 269, 273, 280, 281, 285, 286, 289, 257
RESPONSE: The Council and the Division disagree with the assertion that a regulated hunting season will not alleviate damage and nuisance problems caused by bears because the evidence indicates that regulated hunting encourages bears to avoid humans. The Black Bear Management Handbook (Black Bear Conservation Committee, 1996. Black bear management handbook for Louisiana, Mississippi, southern Arkansas and east Texas. BBCC, Baton Rouge, LA. 28 pp.), the product of a broad-based cooperative effort by representatives from state and Federal agencies; private conservation groups; and the forestry, agricultural, and academic communities, states that hunting is commonly recommended as a damage control tool because it reduces bear populations and associated problems to acceptable levels and elicits human-avoiding behavior. According to a report commissioned by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA, 2005. Potential Costs of Losing Hunting and Trapping as Wildlife Management Methods, 444 North Capitol Street, NW Suite 725, Washington, DC. 55 pp., http://www.fishwildlife.org/pdfs/Costs_of_Losing_HuntingAndTrapping_US-Canada.pdf), in areas without hunting (for example, national parks and jurisdictions which ban hunting), bears can lose their wariness of people, resulting in unfortunate encounters and negative human/bear interactions.
15. COMMENT: One commenter offered that hunting seasons increase public tolerance of black bears since the public does not like to see bears killed. This individual states that when hunting seasons occur, any subsequent decrease in bear complaints is due to the public refraining from calling the Division to report nuisance activity by bears (897).

RESPONSE: While public tolerance of black bears can affect complaint numbers, the most significant factor affecting bear complaint numbers is the bear population. After the 2003 and 2005 bear hunting seasons, bear complaints in 2004 and 2006 fell consistent with the decrease in the bear population. However, after the 2004 decrease in complaints, levels in 2005 increased before the impending 2005 season occurred. If public sentiment about hunting drove complaint numbers down in 2004, a drop in complaints would be expected again in 2005. Similarly, complaint levels dropped between 2011 and 2013 as a result of the 2010 through 2012 bear seasons. After the 2013 bear season, complaint numbers rose significantly in 2014 consistent with the increase in the bear population. If public tolerance following hunting seasons caused a decrease in complaints, the complaint total would not have again risen to such a degree in 2014.

16. COMMENT: Some commenters felt that bear hunts would only eliminate “woodland” or “deep woods” bears, implying that nuisance bears would not be accounted for in the harvest (750, 1547, 1557). One commenter referenced a 2014 study by Obbard et al., which “found no significant correlations between harvest and subsequent human-bear conflict.” (1378)
RESPONSE: Hunting has been proven to be an effective method to reduce negative human/bear interactions. Each year approximately 20 percent of the tagged bears in the 2003, 2005, and 2010 to 2014 harvests were known nuisance bears or bears that were previously captured at nuisance locations. Because not all nuisance bears are tagged, it is likely that some portion of the 70 and 79 percent of the harvested bears that were untagged during these seasons were nuisance bears, with the actual percentage of harvest attributable to nuisance bears being greater than 20 percent.

Based on tag returns, nuisance bears, which includes daytime-active, food-conditioned, and human-habituated bears, were harvested during the 2003, 2005, and 2010 to 2014 New Jersey seasons. The home range of bears in New Jersey averages approximately two square miles for females and approximately 60 square miles for males. Daily movements confirmed by radio-telemetry reveal that black bears can travel between three and 15 miles in circuitous or linear routes throughout their home range. Bears living in close proximity to people also travel through woodlands and forested wetlands surrounding and adjacent to human developed areas. Many of these adjacent areas are open to hunting. Therefore, it is anticipated that these problem bears will be available for harvest by hunters.

It is acknowledged that bears not causing damage will also be harvested. The reduced densities of bears that will result from the harvest of non-problem bears will slow the emigration of bears from suitable habitat into non-suitable habitat, thereby further reducing bear associated problems.

After the 2003 season, damage and nuisance calls to the Division decreased by 40 percent and Category I (Category I are bears posing a threat to human safety by house entries or coming
within 10 feet of a person, vehicle entries, killing pets or livestock, or causing property damage in excess of $1,000) reports to the Division decreased by 37 percent in 2004; after the 2005 season, damage and nuisance calls to the Division decreased by 13 percent and Category I reports to the Division decreased by seven percent in 2006. Similarly, damage and nuisance calls to the Division declined 40 percent between 2010 through 2013 after several consecutive hunting seasons.

It is important to note however that after the 2010 through 2012 bear seasons, both Category I and Category II (Category II bears are defined as “nuisance” bears, which cause minor damage, such as knocking over bird feeders or getting into garbage) incident reports decreased at the same rate, 40 percent. While many Category II complaints such as garbage and birdfeeder incidents may go unreported due to their less serious nature, Category I incidents are not likely to be tolerated or go unreported by the public. Consequently, if bear incidents in general went under-reported due to greater public tolerance, it would be expected that non-reporting of Category II nuisance complaints would occur at a higher rate than with more serious Category I incidents, but this was not the case. The fact that reports of both Category I and II incidents have decreased at the same rate following New Jersey’s hunting seasons argues against public tolerance contributing significantly to the decline.

Some commenters made reference to the Tavss report (http://www.aplnj.org/assets/pdf/TavssReport.pdf; http://www.bearsmartnj.org/images/Nonlethal%20Report%20-%202010%20Tavss.pdf), which concluded that the hunting approach had no effect in reducing the human complaints/conflicts but, the non-lethal approach was “markedly effective in reducing human complaints/conflicts
The Council and the Department have determined that the Tavss report ignored various factors which may influence the relationship between management options and human/bear interactions, such as the effects on nuisance complaints of natural food availability, human population increases, differences in human habitat/wildlife habitat interfaces, and management protocols in populated areas such as New Jersey versus national parks. Also, the report discounted data that did not fit Tavss’ theory, such as the decrease in bear complaints after the 2003 and 2005 bear hunting seasons in New Jersey and the reduction in bear complaints in northeastern Pennsylvania after implementation of extended bear hunting in Pennsylvania during 2002.

Biologists across the eastern North American continent have documented an increase in bear populations concurrent with an increase in the human population, which, along with other factors such as food availability, can account for an increase in bear complaints. States with increasing bear populations have also experienced an increase in human/bear conflict. In an effort to reduce human-bear conflicts, many states have liberalized regulations, allowing for the legal harvest of more bears, with a resulting decrease in the number of nuisance bear complaints.

The Tavss investigation mentions Virginia harvests and complaints up to 1998, but fails to continue the analysis for later, more current, years. Biologists from Virginia reported that, after a record bear harvest in 2003, the number of bear complaints decreased from over 600 to less than 200 in 2004. Regarding the northeastern region of Pennsylvania, this area had high bear densities, high human densities, and a very high numbers of conflicts. Starting in the fall of 2002, bear hunting seasons in the northeast Pennsylvania region were extended to include the first week of Pennsylvania's rifle deer season with the goal of increasing bear harvest and
reducing bear densities. Human/bear conflicts that had increased 95 percent between 1998 and 2002, before extended hunting seasons were put in place, declined 70 percent between 2002 and 2005, after extended bear seasons were implemented. A similar result has been seen in New Jersey where it was documented that damage and nuisance calls to the Division decreased by 40 percent in 2004, after the 2003 season; damage and nuisance calls to the Division decreased by 13 percent in 2006, after the 2005 season; damage and nuisance calls decreased by 40 percent between 2010 and 2013, after the 2010 through 2012 hunting seasons.

In reference to the 2014 study by Obbard et al., Relationships among Food Availability, Harvest, and Human-Bear Conflict at Landscape Scales in Ontario, Canada. *Ursus* 25(2):98-110, which “found no significant correlations between harvest and subsequent [human-bear conflict].” It is important to note, however, that this study taking place throughout the province of Ontario, Canada, is not relevant to New Jersey for two reasons. First, the study noted that human-bear conflicts were negatively correlated with natural food availability in Ontario. In many parts of Ontario, as noted in the study, bears are dependent upon fruit production from a small number of plant and shrub species. If these food sources fail, human-bear conflicts increase. New Jersey and neighboring states differ from Ontario in that the high habitat quality and abundance and diversity of natural foods in this area allows for more consistent availability of these resources. In New Jersey, even if some food resources fail, others are available to bears, and thus bears are less likely to provision their diet with human foods in this area because of shortages in natural foods. Second, Ontario’s demographics differ greatly from those of New Jersey. Human population densities over most of Ontario are much lower than those found in
New Jersey, and therefore do not allow for an appropriate comparison of the factors leading to human-bear interactions.

The Council and the Department note that bear complaints in New Jersey had been rising during the 1990s and the Council and the Department believe this trend would have continued if the Division had not implemented the integrated black bear management strategy in 2001, which utilized all available tools, such as Division's bear education program, training local police for bear response, lethal control on Category I bears, and the short term population reduction from the 2003 and 2005 black bear hunting seasons. The Council and the Department believe that the high complaint numbers of 2008 and 2009 were not "statistical outliers" but reflect the actual increased negative human/bear interactions which had occurred in New Jersey since the closure of the hunting seasons during 2006-09.

These examples all support the premise that a regulated harvest, in conjunction with other bear management tools, can lead to a reduction in bear complaints.


RESPONSE: The Council and the Department disagree that black bear education alone would resolve human/bear conflicts, but have stressed that education is one of the important components of the CBBMP. An extensive black bear education effort has been conducted by the Division since 1997 as part of its integrated bear management strategy. A primary message is “Do Not Feed Bears,” either intentionally or unintentionally. The Department and the Division
regularly issue news releases alerting the public to safety issues regarding New Jersey's growing black bear population and providing bear information and bear-proofing techniques. The Division’s Web Page (www.njfishandwildlife.com) provides information regarding: bear biology and natural history; tips to better manage trash; a brochure highlighting ways to prevent and minimize problems with bears; sources of bear-proof trash cans; brochures for those camping, hiking or fishing in bear country; how to report bear sightings; and, links to additional information. The Department and the Division have issued video public service announcements on the Department web page and through news outlets to provide information about black bears to help residents minimize bear problems around their homes and to help visitors while recreating in bear country.

Since 2010, the Division has produced and distributed over 369,500 pieces of bear education material to the general public, including park, campground and outdoor recreation brochures, Garbage Bag Tags (plastic signs) with bear-proofing tips, signs for use in parks and campgrounds, waste hauler bill inserts, “Do Not Feed the Bears” bookmarks, and “Do Not Feed the Bears” bumper stickers. Additional educational pieces distributed include: residential household brochures, educational coloring books and educational book covers for distribution through schools, educational bookmarks for distribution through libraries, and camper behavior in bear country cards for distribution in campgrounds. A television Public Service Announcement has been created to provide information on how to bear-proof homes and yards and to help prevent bears from becoming problems. Since 2010, Division biologists and public information specialists also presented programs in 19 counties to over 54,000 people, including
school groups, camp groups, service organizations, clubs, Boy and Girl Scout troops, police, and municipal meetings.

The Division contracted and assisted in the production of the documentary “Bear Country, New Jersey.” The film explains the natural and historic perspective on the black bear in the Garden State and follows Division biologists through their yearly cycle of black bear research. Approximately 200 copies of the film were distributed to schools, environmental education centers Statewide, and other states’ fish and wildlife agencies. It has been broadcast numerous times on PBS affiliates around the country and internationally.

The Department prepares news releases that are distributed statewide for the spring and fall black bear activity periods. The Department continues to address media-related inquiries and interviews regarding bears, as well as participating in numerous municipal meetings concerning bears, including discussing public safety issues, urging residents to properly “bear-proof” their surroundings and providing information on living with an expanding bear population.

The Council and the Department recognize that using more web-based educational programs is important to furthering messages concerning bear awareness. Since 2010, visits to the Division main bear webpage have exceeded 220,000. The Division will continue expanding use of this medium as well as use of social media. In addition, educational efforts will focus more on urban centers, youth education, and education of those who do not live in prime bear country, but visit these areas for recreation.

Finally, the Division uses every opportunity from citizen reporting of bear sightings or complaints as an opportunity to educate residents in, and visitors to, bear country about how to “bear proof” surroundings and how to avoid negative encounters with bears.
Even with the Department and Division’s extensive public education programs and citizen advocacy groups conducting bear education programs, human/bear conflicts in New Jersey continue. Although public education is important, education alone will not adequately solve all the problems associated with an expanding bear population and does nothing to control population size.

18. COMMENT: Commenters opposed the hunting components of the Game Code and the CBBMP because they felt that black bear season was a trophy hunt.
RESPONSE: Although the commenters did not define a trophy hunt, in general bear hunting terms, a trophy hunt would target large adult bears. The season was not designed to be a “trophy hunt.” The black bear hunting season allows for the harvest of bears of either sex and any age, which will slow the rate of black bear population growth and provide data on black bear age, sex, and physical condition. The harvest of tagged bears in the population will also provide information on movement and survival rates and will provide important information for estimating the population. The sex and age structure of the 2003, 2005, and 2010 through 2014 harvests matched that of bears captured during research and control activities. During the past five bear hunting seasons, a total of 1,874 bears were harvested and 79 percent of the bears harvested were untagged, similar to the percentage that were untagged during research activities. Of the bears harvested, 62 percent were females and 38 percent were males; 21 percent were young of the year, 29 percent were yearlings, and 50 percent were adults. The 2010 through 2014 bear seasons each produced a harvest that was representative of the bear population at the time.

19. COMMENT: Commenters opposed the black bear hunting season and stated that human/bear interactions were the result of man-altered habitat and human encroachment on undeveloped land, and that protection of habitat would eliminate human/bear problems (14, 17, 270


RESPONSE: The Council and the Department recognize that habitat modification and loss, and human encroachment on open space are factors associated with negative human/bear interactions. The Council and the Department also note that the growing and expanding bear population and resulting high bear density contributes to negative human/bear interactions both in prime bear habitat and in those areas of lower quality bear habitat where dispersing bears are setting up new home ranges. Even if all remaining undeveloped land in private ownership could be purchased and preserved, human/bear conflicts would continue with the expanding black bear population.

RESPONSE: The Council recognizes that negative interactions between humans and bears not only result in economic loss to individual citizens, but also have created a severe budgetary burden on responding agencies, particularly the Division. The Division employs Wildlife Control Unit technicians and biologists who respond to nuisance bear incidents throughout the State. The primary function of Conservation Officers in New Jersey is to enforce hunting and fishing statutes and regulations. See N.J.S.A. 23:1-1 and 23:2-6. Employment of additional personnel to respond to human/bear interactions would not be possible without new sources of funding to cover the increasing costs of this work, and response to bear complaints does nothing to control the size or rate of increase of the bear population.


RESPONSE: The hunting season structure of 2003, 2005, and 2010 through 2014 was timed to be conservative, restricting harvest to bears that had not yet entered winter dens and also protecting pregnant females. This conservative structure allowed important data to be collected on New Jersey bear harvest rates without negatively impacting the population. However, employing this conservative, late season structure during the past several years allowed harvest rates to fall, which in turn, has contributed to an increase in estimated bear population numbers from 1,911 bears in 2012 to 3,500 bears in 2014. As explained in Section H of the CBBMP, Bear Population Management, the factors contributing to this decrease in harvest rate include
season timing, bear behavior, hunter behavior, and hunter participation. To counter these factors, the bear season will now include an earlier October segment. The October segment will begin during the 2016 bear season. The 2015 bear season will only have a December segment.

The Council and the Department disagree that the proposed hunting season as provided for by the CBBMP and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 will endanger the New Jersey black bear population. According to a 1987 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Report, entitled “Habitat Suitability Index Models: Black Bear, Upper Great Lakes Region”, Dr. Lynn Rogers reported that “[w]ell managed, sustained yield hunting has not been shown to jeopardize black bear populations.” (Rogers, L.L. and A.W. Allen. 1987. Habitat suitability index models: Black Bear, Upper Great Lakes Region. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Report 82 (10.144) 54 pp.).

The amendments to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 provide for the expansion of the December segment of the bear season if the harvest rate (number of harvested bears that were tagged in the current calendar year within BMZs open to hunting divided by the number of bears that were tagged in the current calendar year that are available for harvest) has not reached 20 percent. Research suggests that black bear populations can sustain annual harvest rates of 15-20 percent with little or no decline in population size. A further mechanism authorizes the Division Director to stop the bear season if the harvest rate reaches 30 percent. The Council and the Department disagree that this rate is too high, though the Council and the Department recognize that in order to protect populations from overharvest there are upper limits to sustainable harvest rates. In certain counties in Pennsylvania, harvest rates have periodically exceeded 35 percent without detriment to the population (Ternent, M. A. 2006. Management Plan for Black Bear in
22. COMMENT: Commenters opposed the CBBMP, indicating that hunting posed a threat to human safety (47, 78, 234, 399, 433, 484, 524, 541, 546, 614, 654, 878, 894, 897, 952, 1020, 1035, 1052, 1278, 1349, 1393, 1424, 1447, 1618).

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department disagree and note that there were no hunting accidents during the 2003, 2005, or 2010 through 2014 bear hunting seasons. Over the last 10 years, New Jersey hunters averaged 6.3 hunting incidents with injury per year, while spending about 3,000,000 hunting days a field each year. These incidents were typically limited to a hunter shot and injured by a hunting partner. The low number of incidents is attributed to mandatory hunter education and the use of fluorescent hunter orange.

Every hunter, regardless of age, must successfully complete the hunter education course in order to purchase his or her first hunting license. Hunter education courses require that the prospective hunter complete a course of home study (which requires that students view a video, study a booklet and answer questions in a workbook) and attend a field session. Before the
license can be issued, every graduate must show safe and responsible firearms handling and pass
the written examination.

In the last 10 years, hunters in hunting incidents injured only one non-hunter. A non-
hunter injured by a hunter is a rare occurrence. According to accident statistics from the National
Safety Council, hunting has fewer injuries per 100,000 people participating than football,
baseball, cycling, volleyball, swimming, golf, tennis, fishing, bowling, badminton, billiards and
ping pong.

23. COMMENT: Commenters opposed the black bear hunting season and indicated that
the use of immuno-contraception or sterilization should be used as a method of controlling the
black bear population (10, 238, 244, 250, 601, 897, 939, 1065, 1066, 1125, 1204, 1288, 1328,
1329, 1349, 1384, 1512, 1609, 1679, 1717).

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department have determined that at this time non-
lethal birth control is not a viable method for controlling the black bear population. The
Department’s Division of Science and Research commissioned a literature review of fertility
control on bears and other wildlife (An Analysis of the Feasibility of Using Fertility Control to
Manage New Jersey Black Bear Populations, 2006, Fraker et. al.), which concluded that fertility
control is very unlikely to be a feasible means of managing the black bear population in New
Jersey due to the costs involved with field capture and the inability to capture enough bears to
effect population control, even if a licensed fertility agent existed (none do) for bears.

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To date, sterilization, neutering, and contraception have not been developed or tested and found to be feasible and/or effective tools for reducing wild, free ranging populations of any bear species. Surgical sterilization is permanent, expensive, and poses concern for the individual animal during field surgery and recovery. Immuno-contraceptive vaccines, such as PZP, have not been proven in wild black bear populations. At this juncture, the Council and the Department believe that hunting remains the best and most cost effective management option for controlling the black bear population.

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department have determined that hunters’ use of bait has not led to larger bear litter sizes, conditioned bears to human food, nor created nuisance bears. Baiting for bears has been legal during all bear hunting seasons since 2003. The Division has been monitoring bear dens and bear litter sizes since the 1980s. Since that time, the average number of cubs per litter has remained statistically unchanged. The average litter size remained between 2.7 and 2.9 cubs per litter during the 1990s, 2000s, and 2010s, before, during, and in between periods in which bear hunting and hunting with bait were allowed. The Council notes that bears in New Jersey do not produce more cubs in response to bait placed by hunters due to the high habitat quality and consistent natural food resources in this region of the country. The average litter size of the New Jersey bear population has been consistent since the 1980s and has not increased since baiting for deer (such bait potentially available to bear) or bears was allowed.
Studies which suggest human-derived food increases bear litter sizes have taken place in some central and western states, where natural food resources are varied and unpredictable.

The Council notes that conditioning of bears to human foods is not dependent upon obtaining human food alone; rather, other cues, when coupled with human food, contribute to a bear’s learned behavior to seek food at areas of human habitation, thus creating “nuisance bears.” In populated places or developed areas where bears find human-derived food, visual cues formed by physical items such as dumpsters, birdfeeders, trash cans, sheds, and, in some cases, buildings all reinforce the search image used by bears to locate similar food at this and other locations. Consequently, homeowners reporting nuisance bear activity around homes will sometimes note that a bear has broken into a shed or opened a garbage can that contained no garbage or other attractants. The bear in this case is searching these structures based on its past experience finding garbage therein.

Bait placed in forested areas in a hunting situation does not cause bears to become a nuisance around homes since such structural visual cues commonly associated with developed areas, are lacking. Bear researcher Lynn Rogers conducted a study in 2009 (Does Diversionary Feeding Create Nuisance Bears and Jeopardize Public Safety? Lynn L. Rogers, Biologist, Wildlife Research Institute, 1482 Trygg Road, Ely, MN 55731, USA) which analyzed the effects of diversionary feeding to control nuisance bear activity in a Minnesota community. In the study, bears were purposefully fed human food outside the community in a natural setting, sometimes by hand (illegal in New Jersey), with no structures or garbage cans as visual cues. While these bears were thus conditioned to human foods by humans, the “bears that visited the diversionary feeding site continued to forage on natural foods and did not become nuisances” in
the neighboring community. The act of some hunters placing bait in field settings is akin to the diversionary feeding employed in the Minnesota study, which did not cause bears to become a nuisance. Therefore, the Council concludes that the act of placing bait for hunting purposes does not lead to the creation of nuisance bears.

In response to bait causing female bears with cubs to be vulnerable to hunting and orphaned cubs having poor survival, the Council notes that by July 1 of their year of birth in New Jersey, cubs that are orphaned are left in the wild as they have a high chance for survival after this date without the presence of the parent female. Prior to July 1, orphaned cubs are brought to a wildlife rehabilitator for assistance. The current and proposed bear seasons fall well after July 1, so cubs that are orphaned due to hunting will not experience significantly decreased chances of survival.

Females with cubs are vulnerable to hunting pressure since they forage through the woods as a unit and are highly visible (they comprise between two and six active bears (not a single individual)) and are more easily spotted by hunters. This visibility and vulnerability to harvest of females with cubs occurs whether bears are moving between feeding areas, foraging for mast such as acorns or nuts, or feeding on bait. Hunters placing bait in the woods alone is not the cause of the vulnerability. An earlier season as proposed will certainly make all bears more vulnerable than New Jersey's current late season. All sexes and ages of bears are legal to be harvested in New Jersey. The objective is to lower the population, so killing females (even those with cubs) is a component of the objective. Based on New Jersey's data and data from other states, cubs are self-sufficient after July 1st, so there is not a concern about the orphaning of cubs in the fall.
In response to the comment that bait contains chemicals that are toxic to bears, the Council notes that baits placed by hunters include foods that bears already consume in agricultural areas, such as corn. The Division has noted no cases of illness due to toxicity of bait foods in bears in New Jersey. In addition, the Council notes that while many bears may visit individual dumpsters, garbage containers, or bait sites placed by hunters, there is no evidence that bears are being exposed to diseases such as rabies at these locations.

25. COMMENT: Commenters questioned the validity of the black bear population estimates and complaint data (190, 277, 278, 419, 433, 654, 761, 762, 811, 831, 851, 871, 897, 992, 1035, 1065, 1129, 1139, 1207, 1223, 1302, 1349, 1378, 1384, 1406, 1444, 1459, 1662, 1714, 1737); one commenter alleged that the Division falsified data and recorded sighting reports as nuisance reports (1349).

RESPONSE: The Division has conducted bear population monitoring showing bear population growth and range expansion. The Division has conducted intensive and extensive research on bears since 1980 and the data represent a solid, long-term and extremely valuable database. Based on the intensive population monitoring that the Division has conducted over the past 35 years, the Council and the Department have concluded that the New Jersey bear population is a robust and viable population that has maintained a high reproductive and survival rate. This finding is in concert with population parameters reported for other viable populations in the mid-Atlantic region. Division personnel continue to monitor bears using radio telemetry to acquire information on reproduction, survival, mortality, home range size, and habitat use.
The Division has also employed population monitoring by determining individual identity using DNA analysis. The Division has used cooperating university statisticians to generate population size estimates; the Division’s population estimates and projections were reviewed and supported by wildlife biologists familiar with bear population estimation as well as by university wildlife professors. These experts include recognized biologists and statisticians from Penn State University, Rutgers University, University of Georgia, and Colorado State University; the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; state wildlife agencies; and private organizations. These experts confirmed the validity of the methodology used by the Division in reaching its population estimates.

Notwithstanding their approval, many of these experts have recommended improvements in modeling techniques and data collection and several have pointed out the difficulties of collecting sufficient samples in BMZs 2 and 4. Accordingly, the Division continues to work with statisticians and wildlife studies experts to improve the bear population models.

Regarding bear sighting and complaint data (bear incidents), the Black Bear Rating and Response Criteria (BBRRC) was established using protocols developed by bear experts across the continent. Division personnel receive reports about black bear complaints, through the Department’s New Jersey Environmental Data Management System (NJEMS), as a “Communication Center Notification Report” and log these reports into a computer database. Division personnel make attempts to interview the complainants for all Category I complaints, conduct on-site inspections, and verify the details of the incident. The record of these reports is on file with the Department’s Communication Center and the Division maintains an archive of the database tracking the complaints.
In 2010, Department Commissioner Bob Martin called for an audit of the Division’s procedures for collecting and reporting of bear incident data, after receiving allegations that this data was inflated and inaccurate. The results of the audit showed, and the Commissioner concluded in his 2010 letter denying appellants’ stay request to the Department pertaining to Animal Protection League of NJ v. N.J.D.E.P., 423 N.J. Super. 549 (App. Div. 2011), that the “allegations challenging the accuracy of the Department’s black bear incident data [were] unfounded and, quite simply, wrong.”

26. COMMENT: Commenters questioned considering biological and cultural carrying capacity in regards to black bear population management, with some questioning the validity of using cultural carrying capacity as a management benchmark (897, 1444).

RESPONSE: Biological carrying capacity can generally be defined as the maximum number of animals an environment can support without damage to the environment and while maintaining the animals in a healthy and vigorous condition. The Council and the Department recognize that no state agency manages any wildlife species solely for biological carrying capacity. Managing a species for biological carrying capacity alone is unfeasible where significant human populations exist. Biological carrying capacity population numbers are usually significantly higher than cultural carrying capacity population numbers. The Council and the Department disagree that a black bear hunt should be designed solely to reduce bear populations to their biological carrying capacity.
Instead, the CBBMP’s goals for black bear management reflect the legislative mandate of the Department and the Council, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1B-28 et seq., and the mission and goals of the Department and the Division. The Legislature delegated to the Council the responsibility and authority to protect and conserve game birds, mammals, and fish and to provide an adequate supply for recreational and commercial harvest. The mission of the Division is to protect and manage the State’s fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational, and economic values for all New Jerseyans. (See N.J.S.A. 23:1-1 and 23:2-2.) Thus, the black bear population management goals of the CBBMP consider the cultural carrying capacity, which is the number of bears that can co-exist compatibly with the local human population in a given area, in concert with the biological carrying capacity of the land to support bears, just as the management goals do for most other wildlife species under the jurisdiction of the Council and Division.

Due to varying habitat quality, land uses, human densities, and bear densities across and within each of the State’s BMZs, and due to periodic changes in public attitude towards bears as the bear population, numbers of incidents, and natural food availability change, an absolute value for cultural carrying capacity cannot be ascertained. The CBBMP recommends that the bear population be reduced to a level commensurate with available habitat and consistent with a reduced risk to public safety and property. Such a level is representative of cultural carrying capacity even though an absolute value for this capacity is not calculated. The Division’s management of wildlife based on cultural carrying capacity has been upheld in Animal Protection League of NJ v. N.J.D.E.P., 423 N.J. Super. 549 (App. Div. 2011). The 2011 case referenced a previous case, Mercer County Deer Alliance v. Department of Envt'l Protection,

349 N.J. Super. 440 (App. Div. 2002), which stated: “While there may be some scientific dispute as to the utility of standards based on biological and cultural carrying capacities as well as dispute as to the specific content of the standards, the fact remains, as this record demonstrates, that there is a wealth of respectable professional and scientific literature supporting the determinations presented by the Plan.” Id. at 449.

27. COMMENT: Commenters stated that if the Division relocated bears to other parts of New Jersey or to another state, the need for a hunting season would be eliminated.
RESPONSE: The Council and the Department note that, although relocation can be used to establish or reestablish bear populations, no state has successfully used relocation as a means of population control for black bear. In a densely populated state such as New Jersey, relocation of any problematic wildlife species would be merely putting the problem in someone else’s backyard. Council recognizes that southern New Jersey contains quality long-term habitat for black bears. During the early 1980s, the Division conducted a study of a plan to relocate black bears to the Pinelands (Lund, R.C., P. McConnell and S. Smyser. 1981. Restoration of the Black Bear to the New Jersey Pine Barrens-A discussion of the Proposal and Assessment of Impacts. NJ DEP, DFGW, BWM. 27 pp. Trenton, NJ). At that time, local opposition to the relocation of bears to southern New Jersey put a halt to this option. The Council also believes that the bear population that is reestablished in southern New Jersey will continue to grow. Once all available bear habitat is occupied, there will be no additional space for relocation in New Jersey. Relocating thousands of bears from northern New Jersey to southern New Jersey would be cost prohibitive and likely a multi-year task. The Council believes that the Division does not have the necessary staff and funding to make such a program practical. The Council has also determined that no other state or provincial agency in North America would accept excess bears from New Jersey.
28. COMMENT: Commenters opposed archery hunting for black bears (39, 46, 55, 128, 143, 158, 160, 204, 205, 209, 225, 246, 254, 329, 350, 351, 369, 399, 402, 433, 455, 469, 482, 510, 523, 529, 533, 541, 546, 553, 576, 579, 607, 637, 647, 657, 676, 698, 702, 710, 717, 721, 731, 733, 743, 744, 746, 747, 752, 761, 762, 765, 831, 859, 875, 878, 888, 889, 894, 897, 933, 949, 953, 957, 958, 988, 1019, 1023, 1030, 1032, 1035, 1038, 1043, 1059, 1065, 1078, 1088, 1120, 1129, 1146, 1147, 1197, 1214, 1219, 1220, 1262, 1282, 1283, 1307, 1324, 1330, 1336, 1341, 1349, 1365, 1370, 1383, 1412, 1424, 1444, 1447, 1466, 1483, 1484, 1529, 1567, 1595, 1633, 1639, 1659, 1667, 1683, 1686, 1698, 1713, 1725, 1741, 1745); in addition, some of these commenters also objected to the use of muzzleloaders for bear hunting (128, 350, 399, 402, 657, 710, 744, 897, 1035, 1059, 1088, 1214, 1283, 1330, 1370, 1444, 1466, 1567, 1595).

RESPONSE: While no basis for this objection was given, the Council notes that hunting is the primary means of managing and regulating black bear populations in 29 states. With the exception of New Jersey, all states with bear hunting seasons allow archery. Firearms and archery equipment are effective in hunting bears (Kurzejeski, E.W., J.L. Byford, K. Causey, J.W. Enck, L.P. Hansen, W. Krueger, K. Mayer, and K. McCaffery. 1999. The Role of Bowhunting in Wildlife Management. Wildl. Soc. Tech. Rev. 99-1, 15 pp.), and both shotguns and archery equipment were allowed in past bear hunting seasons in New Jersey (archery 1958-1970). Additionally, technological advancements in archery equipment since 1970 have made bows more accurate and effective. The Council believes archery should once again be integrated into the Division’s regulated hunting season as a method of controlling the black bear population.

With regard to muzzleloaders, the Council notes that muzzleloaders are already allowed for bear
hunting in New Jersey and have been an effective means for hunting bears during the December bear season since 2003.

29. COMMENT: Commenters stated that archery equipment was ineffective for hunting bears and that hunting bears in general would result in wounded bears (10, 39, 158, 246, 254, 277, 286, 357, 433, 469, 474, 541, 546, 553, 647, 698, 702, 733, 743, 746, 747, 761, 762, 765, 811, 831, 847, 859, 888, 897, 942, 949, 1036, 1129, 1194, 1197, 1220, 1302, 1336, 1341, 1349, 1394, 1444, 1447, 1529, 1557, 1579, 1609, 1633, 1639, 1659, 1698).

RESPONSE: The Council notes that both firearms and archery equipment are effective in hunting bears (California Final Environmental Document, Section 265, 365, 367, 367.5, Title 14, California Code of Regulations Regarding Bear Hunting. April 27, 2000. CA Department of Fish and Game, 188 pp. + Appendices, Kurzejeski, E.W., J.L. Byford, K. Causey, J.W. Enck, L.P. Hansen, W. Krueger, K. Mayer, and K. McCaffery. 1999. The Role of Bowhunting in Wildlife Management. Wildl. Soc. Tech. Rev. 99-1, 15 pp.). In addition, modern archery equipment is far more accurate, powerful, and effective than equipment used during the 1960s, when archery hunting for bears was allowed in New Jersey. All of the states that have bear hunting allow for archery to be used, and no states have reported that archery is an ineffective method of take. The Council does recognize that there is a chance of bears being wounded from any method of take just as there is with all hunted species. Hunters make every effort not to wound any species while hunting because the hunter desires to take the intended game animal into possession. There were
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no reported incidents of wounded bears posing a threat to the public during the 2003, 2005, and 2010 through 2014 bear hunting seasons.

30. COMMENT: Two commenters stated that youth hunters should not be able to hunt black bears (957, 1349).

RESPONSE: While no basis for this objection was given, the Council notes that youth hunters that have fulfilled the hunter education requirements and attended the mandatory bear training seminar are allowed to participate in the bear season, just as they can participate in all other New Jersey hunting seasons. Youth hunters participated in the 2003, 2005, and 2010 through 2014 bear hunting seasons without incident.

31. COMMENT: Commenters stated that bear populations are self-regulating and that a hunt is not necessary (99, 419, 490).

RESPONSE: New Jersey’s black bear population continues to increase and expand, and reports of black bear sightings have been received from all counties. Both Pennsylvania and New York report captures and mortalities of bears which were originally tagged in New Jersey. Reproductive rates in this region have been documented to be among the highest in North America. The black bear population already exceeds the “cultural carrying capacity,” or the level that a significant number of farmers and home owners will tolerate, in much of northwestern New Jersey. Young black bears are also dispersing into suburban and urban areas.

which are not suitable for bears because of the high human population density and resulting lack of open space and suitable bear habitat. Allowing the black bear population to continue to increase to a level where the reproductive rate may decline would be irresponsible and would likely increase nuisance complaints and threaten public safety. No scientific literature was presented in support of the commenters’ position that black bears self-regulate as a population control mechanism prior to exceeding their biological carrying capacity.

RESPONSE: The BBRRC was derived after examining behavioral rating systems for black bear behavior used successfully by other states. Based on the experience of Division personnel and the knowledge of other professionals in the field of black bear management, the Division classified bear behavior into three categories based on the severity of the behavior. Bears posing an immediate threat to the safety of New Jersey residents, their property, pets, livestock, or economic livelihood are deemed the greatest risk to the general public and classified as exhibiting Category I behavior. The rating and response criteria used to identify potentially dangerous bears is not unlike that of any other wildlife species that poses a threat or causes damage to agricultural crops or property. Bear biologists from across the eastern seaboard,
including Division wildlife biologists, agree that certain learned bear behavior such as home entries, killing of livestock, and beehive damage cannot be changed, and the only way to stop an animal from continuing this type of behavior is to euthanize the animal. Black bear exhibiting Category II behaviors, that is, nuisance bears that are not a threat to life and property, are not euthanized, nor are those exhibiting Category III behavior, that is, normal behavior.

33. COMMENT: One commenter stated that the Division should provide no assistance to farmers/landowners until they have carried out reasonable self-protective measures such as fencing and noise to protect livestock, agricultural crops, and bees (1444).

RESPONSE: The Division uses every contact with bear damage complainants as an educational opportunity. Just as the Division uses an integrated strategy of various techniques to manage New Jersey’s black bears, bear damage complainants are encouraged to use various methodologies, including several non-lethal techniques, to solve damage and nuisance problems caused by bears. Such techniques include the use of pyrotechnics, fencing, baited electrified fencing, and regulated hunting to protect crops and livestock. In 2015, the BBRRC was amended to ensure that livestock owners take adequate measures to protect their animals from depredation by black bears. Bears that attacked and killed livestock were previously considered Category I bears (bears that are posing an immediate threat to human safety/property) and subsequently were euthanized. Currently, under the revised BBRRC, bears that attack and kill livestock are only considered Category I bears if the livestock were protected with properly installed and active electrified fencing, or otherwise enclosed in such a way that reasonably

prevents access by bears. In this way, livestock owners are expected to employ non-lethal methods for protecting their animals before a depredating bear is captured and euthanized.

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department recognize that the Division has conducted bear population monitoring which has shown bear population growth and range expansion. The bear population has spread south and east, impacting people in areas of New Jersey that have not had bears for more than a century. The newly delineated BMZ 5 encompasses parts of Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, Passaic, and Somerset Counties. BMZ 5 has had a bear population increase of 39 percent since 2010. Municipalities that are completely or partially contained within BMZ 5 showed high numbers of both Category I and Category II incidents from 2010 through 2014. BMZ 5 has had a 29 percent increase in all categories of bear incidents since 2010. As was seen after the 2003, 2005, and 2010 through 2012 bear seasons, Category I and II bear incidents decreased in BMZs 1 through 4, which were open to hunting, by 40 percent. It is expected that a similar decrease in bear incidents will be measured in BMZ 5 after this area is opened to bear hunting. Hunting in this area is also expected to lessen the number of bears that disperse into urban areas and then require capture and removal at a significant cost to State and municipal agencies. Based on the number of incident reports in BMZ 5, the Council has concluded that the bear population in that zone can sustain a hunt; harvest levels are expected to be lower than other BMZs where densities of bears are higher.

35. COMMENT: Some commenters recommended habitat modification and other techniques to control black bear complaints and the bear population. One commenter suggested planting wild berries and fruit trees in park areas (591); another commenter suggested removing the most productive forest trees, or access to them, to reduce the food supply for bears, thus
controlling bear cub productivity (1444); this same commenter also recommended generating noise during the bear breeding season, so as to reduce opportunities for mating.

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department disagree that the planting of berries and fruit trees, while possibly beneficial to some wildlife on a local level, would control bear complaints. New Jersey’s black bears seldom encounter situations where natural foods are lacking, and even in this productive, high-quality habitat, some bears continue to provision their diet with human-derived foods. Planting additional trees would be cost-prohibitive to manage on a large scale and would not be expected to prevent or reduce utilization of human foods by bears. While the Council and the Department acknowledge that in the absence of mast-producing forest trees or high quality habitat, bears may have lower reproductive rates (as happens in some western states), such a venture as removing the most productive forest trees in New Jersey would be extremely cost prohibitive. In addition, New Jersey’s high quality forests support innumerable organisms, both common and endangered, that could suffer great losses from removal of productive trees.

With regard to noise generation, the commenter did not provide a type of noise or decibel level that might be employed to reduce mating activity by bears. It is unlikely that noise alone would have a significant impact on bear breeding activity. Even if noises drove bears from a particular woodland area, bears travel large home ranges, and could mate in nearby patches of forest. Due to the dense human population in New Jersey, bears are commonly exposed to human-generated noise, and this noise has not been shown to reduce opportunities for mating.
36. COMMENT: One commenter suggested alternate methods of population control, such as visiting bear dens and euthanizing the female and her cubs, or removing a single cub from each den the Division visits and euthanizing that cub (1444); some commenters suggested that military police, police officers, sharpshooters, “professional hunters,” etc., should be mobilized to control the bear population as these individuals are capable of a “fast, humane kill.” (1579, 1583, 1609)

RESPONSE: The Legislature mandated that the Council has the responsibility of protecting and conserving game birds, mammals, and fish and providing an adequate supply for recreational and commercial harvest. The mission of the Division is to protect and manage the State’s fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational, and economic values for all New Jerseyans.

Division employees visit approximately 10 winter dens every March to collect biological information used to properly manage black bears. The average litter size in New Jersey is approximately three bears per litter. Euthanasia of these bears would equate to culling 40 bears from the population annually (10 if only one cub was euthanized per den), an insufficient number to control the bear population. Tagging the number of sows necessary to effect the desired population reduction by tracking them to dens to cull their cubs is cost-prohibitive and beyond the ability of Division staffing, and is a waste of the meat resource utilized by hunters.

The Council and the Department disagree that military police, police officers, sharpshooters, “professional hunters,” etc., are more capable of a “fast, humane kill” than recreational hunters. Thousands of recreational bear hunters have harvested 1,874 bears in New Jersey
during the past five hunting seasons safely, quickly, and humanely. Employing the number of
non-hunters adequate to accomplish an equivalent level of bear population control would be
highly cost prohibitive. In contrast, sportsmen and women pay for the opportunity to harvest
black bears in New Jersey and support the local economy.

37. COMMENT: One commenter stated the CBBMP and the Game Code fail to include a
means for the taking of wildlife by persons not allowed by law to possess or use firearms or other
weapons, although he did not specify an alternative method to take a bear (697).

RESPONSE: The CBBMP and the Game Code include all legal and effective methods
for a quick, humane harvest of black bears. These methods have been used effectively for many
years in New Jersey and in other states with bear seasons. While other methods of take are
possible, the Council has determined that none are as efficacious.

38. COMMENT: Commenters stated there was no proof that a human was killed by a
black bear in 2014, and therefore this information should not have been included in the CBBMP
(1349, 1444, 1492).

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department have reviewed the evidence concerning
this tragic event and have concluded that the victim was killed by a black bear. This evidence
included testimony by the surviving hikers, a necropsy of the bear, and photographs of the bear
taken by the hikers. A medical examiner’s report listed the cause of death as “mauled by bear.”
39. COMMENT: Some commenters stated that the Division should install trailhead signage with information on bears and bear behavior (1199, 1278, 1444, 1557).

RESPONSE: The CBBMP includes increased educational efforts for youth and urban dwellers, and includes the initiation of trailhead signage to protect those recreating in bear country. Signage and pamphlets include information on how to react if one encounters a black bear.

40. COMMENT: One commenters objected to research trapping of hundreds of bears annually, stating the practice was unnecessary, inhumane, and unethical (1378).

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department disagree that research trapping of black bears is unnecessary, inhumane, and unethical. Research trapping of wildlife, including black bears, is used widely in North America as a means of collecting biological data so that proper management decisions may be made concerning wildlife. New Jersey biologists and technicians currently handle 200 to 300 bears annually, including not only bears handled on research trap lines and in winter dens, but also bears caught at Category II nuisance sites and bears removed from urban areas. The Division handles this number of bears in part to obtain a sample size of tagged animals adequate for rigorous data analysis and robust population estimates. The tools that the Division uses to capture these animals, including dart rifles, culvert traps, and foot snares, are used widely and are recognized to be humane for trapping and wildlife capture, rarely
causing any injury or harm to the animal. Division biologists and technicians check bear traps at least once every 24 hours to minimize capture time and receive extensive training in trapping techniques and the use of chemical immobilization.

41. COMMENT: Commenters objected to an increase in the bag limit for bear hunting (10, 183, 225, 246, 350, 399, 455, 510, 523, 529, 533, 539, 607, 641, 657, 676, 710, 744, 847, 875, 897, 1035, 1038, 1043, 1059, 1078, 1088, 1129, 1146, 1147, 1214, 1219, 1282, 1283, 1349, 1365, 1370, 1378, 1412, 1466, 1567, 1659, 1667, 1686, 1698, 1741, 1745); some commenters opposed an additional 1,000 permits added to the bear season quota (897, 1035, 1378).

RESPONSE: The Council and the Department note that the bag limit for bear hunting is still one bear per permit, though there is a provision that will allow a small portion of hunters who hunt during the October segment to purchase a second permit and continue hunting in the December segment. Hunters who harvest a bear during the first segment of the season (October) may still hunt in the second segment of the season (December) if they initially purchased two permits or if there are permits still available for them to purchase after the first segment. Hunters cannot harvest more than one bear per segment even if the hunter holds two permits during one segment. Therefore, hunters harvesting their first bear of the season during the second segment of the season (December), may take only one bear that season.

The increase in permit numbers from 10,000 to 11,000 provides for the allocation of additional permits for the newly designated BMZ 5 without reducing the number of permits available for hunting in BMZs that were open to hunting during the previous seasons.
hunting area north of Interstate 78 and west of Interstate 287 (BMZs 1 – 4) will still retain the same permit quota (10,000 permits) as in prior seasons. The newly delineated BMZ 5, encompassing parts of Hunterdon, Mercer, Passaic, and Somerset Counties, will be allotted 1,000 permits, thus bringing the statewide total to 11,000.

42. COMMENT: One commenter (1444) opined that the October bear hunting season would disrupt migratory bird patterns.

RESPONSE: There is no evidence to suggest that existing October hunting seasons have ever affected migratory bird patterns and none was provided by the commenter.

Summary of Agency-Initiated Changes:

The Council is modifying the rules on adoption to make the below changes.

1. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a) is modified on adoption to delete the phrase “[b]eginning in 2016.” This phrase appears in the proposal to make clear that while future seasons for black bear hunting will have two segments (segment A in October, and segment B in December), the first season with segment A was not to occur until 2016. Since the adoption will first become effective only after the dates for an October season during 2015 could have occurred, this language is unnecessary and has been deleted from the adoption.

2. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a) is modified to include a cross reference to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a)4, which specifies the different segment-specific means that may be used to harvest black bear during the season.
3. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a)4 is modified to make it clear that, in addition to complying bows, complying muzzleloader rifles may be used during Segment A of the black bear season, and that during either segment of the black bear season, persons hunting with muzzleloader rifle must also possess a current and valid rifle-hunting permit.

**Federal Standards Statement**

Executive Order No. 27 (1994) and N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. require 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.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service regulates hunting in National Wildlife Refuge areas in New Jersey pursuant to National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, 16, U.S.C. § 668dd (1966), and implementing regulations at 50 CFR 32.49. The adopted amendments to the Game Code and the CBBMP do not contain any standards or requirements that exceed Federal regulations involving National Wildlife Refuge areas.

Therefore, the adopted amendments to the Game Code and the CBBMP do not contain any standards or requirements that exceed any standards or requirements imposed by Federal law. Accordingly, Executive Order No. 27(1994) and N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. do not require further analysis.

**Full text** of the adoption follows (additions to proposal indicated in boldface with asterisks *thus*; deletions from proposal indicated in brackets with asterisks *[thus]*):

(Agency Note: The text of N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 published below includes an amendment to
7:25-5.6 Black bear (Ursus americanus), bobcat (Felis rufus)

(a) There is a closed season for bobcat. It shall be illegal to intentionally take, kill, or attempt to take or kill a bobcat in the State of New Jersey at any time. 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. It shall be illegal to use dogs to pursue or run black bears. There is a season for black bears in accordance with the approved Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy (CBBMP) (see section Appendix, incorporated herein by reference). *[Beginning in 2016, the]* *The* season for black bears shall consist of two segments. Segment A shall be a period of six consecutive days beginning on the second Monday in October. Segment B shall be concurrent with the six-day firearm deer season as enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a). *During each segment, black bear may only be harvested by the means specified in (a)4 below.* Legal hunting hours for black bears shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. 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 the Division determines that the harvest rate reaches 30 percent, based upon data obtained and reviewed by the Division at the close of each day of the season. 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 Division's
website (www.njfishandwildlife.com) and other media.

1. – 3. (No change from proposal.)

4. During the entirety of Segment A, bows as described in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24 may be used.
During the last three days of Segment A, muzzleloader rifles of .44 or larger caliber may *also*
be used. During Segment A, no shotgun shall be used to hunt black bears. During Segment B,
only shotguns no smaller than 20 gauge or larger than 10 gauge with rifled slugs, and/or
muzzleloader rifles of .44 or larger caliber shall be used. *[Persons]* *In either segment,
persons* hunting with muzzleloader rifle must also possess a current and valid rifle-hunting
permit.

5. – 6. (No change from proposal.)

(b) – (c) (No change from proposal.)

APPENDIX

(No change from proposal.)