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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**Fish and Game Council
2011-2012 Game Code**

Proposed Amendments: N.J.A.C. 7:25-5

Authorized By: Fish and Game Council, Dave Burke, Acting Chair

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

DEP Docket Number: 07-11-03

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

Proposal Number: PRN 2011-

A **public hearing** concerning these proposed amendments will be held on:

May 17, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at:

New Jersey State Museum

205 West State Street

Trenton, NJ 08625

Submit written comments postmarked by July 1, 2011 to:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Mail Code 501-03

David Chanda, Director

Division of Fish and Wildlife

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

The Fish and Game Council (Council) requests that commenters submit comments on CD or DVD as well as on paper in order to facilitate incorporation of submitted comments into its comment-response document. For this purpose, the comments on CD or DVD should not be access-restricted (locked or read-only). The Council prefers Microsoft Word 6.0 or above. MacIntosh formats should not be used. Submission of a CD or DVD

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is not a requirement. Each comment should be identified by the applicable N.J.A.C.

citation, with the commenter's name and affiliation following the comment.

The agency proposal follows:

Summary

The proposed 2011-2012 Game Code, N.J.A.C. 7:25-5, states when, under what circumstances, in what location, by what means, and what amounts and numbers, game-birds, game animals and fur-bearing animals may be pursued, taken, killed or had in possession. As the Department has provided for a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal, this notice is excepted from the rulemaking calendar requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

Since the turn of the century, 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. Yearly revisions of season dates, bag limits and other regulations based on scientific investigation and research ensures the greatest likelihood of success in reaching these goals.

The Council is proposing amendments to the Game Code as summarized below. In addition to the below described changes, expired season dates are deleted and typographic corrections are made in the Code.

The proposed amendments include the following:

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1. The words “deer” and “bear” are added to the definition of immediate family to bring consistency with the existing definition of immediate family for turkey farmer permits. “Grandchild” is added to the list of immediate family members. The term “spouse or children” is removed and replaced with “immediate family” in all applicable deer sections. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d)16, 5.6(a), 5.28(i)1 and 2, 5.29(i)1 and 2, and 5.30(i)1 and 2.
2. A definition of “checking station” is added to clarify that the location or method is as designated by the Division to accommodate for the implementation of an automated deer checking system, scheduled to be on-line in 2012. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d)23
3. A provision is added which gives the Director, with approval of the Fish and Game Council, the authority to close any hunting or trapping season to respond to emergent circumstances that threaten wildlife or human health and safety. This provision specifies notice to be provided of any such closure. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(g).
4. The Code is amended to require all farmers and their immediate family who hunt deer to obtain a free Conservation Identification number (CID) in preparation for the implementation of an automated deer checking system, scheduled to be on-line in 2012. Farmers may hunt their property without a hunting license [N.J.S.A. 23:3-1(e)]; all other hunters who purchase a hunting license already have a CID assigned to them. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(h).
5. The Council proposes to add a new subsection to allow the Division to establish disease containment areas when a highly contagious or zoonotic disease of concern is discovered, and regulate the possession and movement of game animal carcasses

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from disease containment areas during a disease outbreak to minimize the spread of disease and to allow for biological sampling. Also included in this subsection are the establishment of special check stations within the containment area, and restrictions on field dressing and carcass removal from road kills. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(i).

6. The closing day of the rabbit and hare hunting season is moved from the third Monday in February to the Saturday after the third Monday in February. This extension will allow for greater recreational opportunity without significant impact on rabbit and hare populations. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3(a).

7. The hunting season for bobwhite quail is proposed to be closed statewide, with the exception of the Peaslee and Greenwood Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), and semi-wild and commercial shooting preserves licensed under N.J.S.A.23:3-29 during the 2009-2010 season. Bobwhites have been in decline throughout their range including New Jersey, primarily due to habitat loss and fragmentation, and the three major indexes of abundance have shown severe declines over several decades. The Peaslee and Greenwood WMAs will continue to be stocked with captive-raised birds to provide sportsmen limited quail hunting opportunity, and semi-wild and commercial shooting preserves already in existence will be allowed to continue to operate to permit recreation and prevent economic hardship to those licensed breeders which supply quail to these clubs. Proposals to the taking of quail are applicable to shotgun, bow and arrow, and falconry. The statewide bag limit for bobwhite is deleted. "Bobwhite" is added to the existing language "quail (*Colinus virginianus*)" in the section title to differentiate from other quail species. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3(a), (b) and (c).

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8. Language is added to allow for the possession and sale of bobcat pelts and parts, from bobcats legally harvested in other states and provinces which are lawfully tagged with a Convention on International trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) tag. The bobcat season remains closed in New Jersey. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a)

Reference in the Code to the closed season for black bear until the approval by the Commissioner of a Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy (CBBMP) is proposed for deletion. The Commissioner approved a CBBMP in 2010. Reference to approval of the CBBMP is added to the rule. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a)

Language referring to black bear hunting seminars is deleted. The majority of hunters interested in bear hunting will have been trained by the opening of the 2010 black bear season, as seminars have been held in 2003, 2005 and 2010. Information on black bear hunting is being added to the standard hunter education course so that all new and untrained hunters will still receive bear training. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a)1. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 is amended to bring two portions of bear regulations into agreement. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a)1iii was changed in 2009 to allow hunters to obtain a second bear permit for a different zone from the pool of any leftover permits subsequent to the initial black bear permit lottery, for the hunting of black bear. However, N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a)1, which limits hunters to one permit was inadvertently not amended to reflect that it is possible for a hunter to hold two permits in accordance with the amendments adopted at that time to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a)1iii. This oversight is being corrected by amending N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a)1 to increase the allowed number of bear permits from one to two. The season bag limit of one bear

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per hunter remains unchanged. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a)1.

The deadline for the application period for bear hunting permits is changed from October 30 to October 15 in order to allow sufficient time for successful applicants to claim their permits before leftover permits go on sale over-the-counter so that unclaimed permits may be added to these sales. This would allow for unclaimed permits from oversubscribed zones to be sold to hunters interested in hunting those areas. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6.1iii

A subparagraph is proposed to be added at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a)1iv to create special farmer black bear permits and specify who qualifies for this permit and the procedure for obtaining a permit. The special farmer black bear permit is available without cost, as are existing farmer turkey and deer permits. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6.1iv

9. One additional day is proposed to be added to the fall turkey hunting season. The proposed amendment would make the opening day of this season the Saturday before the last Monday in October instead of the last Monday. This will increase the opportunity for working hunters who cannot participate on a weekday, and for youth hunters who will now have an additional Saturday to hunt. The expected impact on turkey populations is negligible. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(a)

The Council is proposing to expand the take of either-sex turkeys during the fall season from only firearm, and bow and arrow to include take by means of falconry. This amendment expands opportunity for falconers, but is expected to have a negligible impact on turkey populations. Language is proposed to make clear that the take of male wild turkeys in the spring gobbler season continues to be limited to firearm, or bow and arrow. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(f) and 5.16(a)7ii.

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Newbold Island is added to the Turkey Hunting Area (THA) 14 description. This New Jersey-owned island in the Delaware River is huntable but was inadvertently omitted from the Turkey Hunting Area descriptions. Newbold Island is already included in Deer Management Zone 48 (N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29). See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(n)13.

The boundaries of THAs 16 and 22 at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(m)15 and 18 are proposed for amendment. Turkey harvest densities have been increasing in the southern portion of THA 16 over the past several years as the population in this part of the Area has expanded. The Council is proposing to transfer approximately 71.5 square miles of the southern part of THA 16 into THA 22, which contains similar habitat and turkey population characteristics and includes both a spring and fall hunting season instead of just a spring season. This amendment will open up the areas moved to THA 22 to fall turkey hunting, based upon established spring harvest density criteria. The appropriate number of permits from THA 16 are reallocated to THA 22 for the spring and fall seasons, based upon land area and established hunter density guidelines. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(m)15 and 18

10. Language is proposed to clarify the time that trapping season begins and ends, and the number of traps that may be used daily per zone. Permits left over from the beaver lottery may now be purchased over-the-counter, so that a trapper may have more than one permit. If permits are purchased for different zones, trappers should be able to set five traps in each zone. If two permits are purchased for the same zone, then beavers may be overharvested, so the proposed language limits trappers to five traps per zone.

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See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(b) and (g).

Beaver trapping permit quotas are adjusted for Beaver Management Zones (BMZs) 13, 19, 20 and 27, based upon recent beaver population assessments. Due to beaver population decreases in BMZs 13 and 19, the quotas are reduced by one and four permits, respectively. These permits are added to BMZs 20 (four permits) and 27 (one permit) where populations have increased. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(c).

Language is proposed to clarify that a beaver should be tagged immediately upon possession, rather than when it is removed from the trap. This change is proposed to maintain the original intent of this subsection, as some trappers have been removing the trap containing the carcass without tagging the carcass. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(f).

Amendments to the authority for section N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9 are proposed to be amended to include sections previously omitted by error, and to delete a repealed section. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(i).

11. Minor changes are made to update the genus name and to clarify the time the trapping season begins, and to limit the amount of traps an individual may possess in the field, as the season bag limit is one otter and the placement of too many traps may result in the take of more than one otter. The number of otter permits an individual may possess is restricted to one so that the bag limit of one otter will not be exceeded. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.10(b), (c), and (f).

Language is proposed to clarify that an otter should be tagged immediately upon possession, rather than when it is removed from the trap to prevent trappers from removing the trap containing the carcass without tagging. This change is proposed to maintain the original intent of this subsection, as some trappers have been removing

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the trap containing the carcass without tagging the carcass. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.10(e).

12. Crossbows are removed as a prohibited weapon for the taking of migratory birds.

There is no Federal restriction under 50 CFR Part 20 on the use of crossbows for the taking of migratory birds. Prior to 2009 crossbows were not a legal hunting arm in New Jersey until they were added to the definition of a bow as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(a), and are now legal for use in New Jersey. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(1)2.

Sandhill crane is proposed for addition to the list of migratory birds with a closed season. Sandhill cranes are a peripheral species in New Jersey with few but regular sightings, but are not on any wildlife lists in New Jersey. Adding them as a migratory game bird with a closed season will afford them protection and will make their listing in New Jersey consistent with that of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the primary agency for management of migratory bird species. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(m)1

13. Falconry language is proposed to be amended to come into compliance with changes in Federal regulations. Language is proposed to be deleted referring to a Federal falconry permit as one is no longer required, and to grandfathered birds no longer in possession as the birds no longer exist.

The Council is proposing to amend provisions related to take and possession by general and master class falconers. Amendments proposed would allow falconers to possess threatened and endangered raptors legally acquired outside New Jersey, and to take passage peregrine falcons from New Jersey. Peregrine falcon populations have recovered and this species is no longer Federally listed as threatened or endangered.

The Council is proposing amendment of possession limits for general class and

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master class falconers at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(a)2ii(2) and (a)2iii(1). The rules currently allow general and master class falconers to possess two and three birds respectively. Federal regulations were recently modified to allow for three and five birds, respectively. This amendment will allow the Division to permit falconers at the increased number of birds if they demonstrate that they have the time, equipment, and facilities to ensure all birds are properly housed, adequately exercised and used for hunting to possess more birds. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(a)2ii(2) and (a)2iii(1).

Language is proposed to be deleted from N.J.A.C. 7:25-16(a)3ii regarding annual exams for falconers. Falconers are required to take an examination when initially applying for a permit; falconers licensed in other states who move to New Jersey are not required to take an examination.

Language is proposed to be deleted from N.J.A.C. 7:25-16(a)3iii pertaining to placement of applicants in the general or master class of falconers. This section of the falconry regulations was written in 1980, when New Jersey first became a Federally-recognized falconry state. Prospective falconers at that time were assigned to class based on their bird handling experience at that time. This section only pertained to the six months following the initial adoption of the falconry regulations in 1980, and does not pertain today. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-16(a)3iii

The dates for take of eyass and passage birds, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(a)5ii and iii is proposed for amendment to increase the season during which these birds may be taken. This will allow for better take of eyass red-tailed and sharp-shinned hawks, and for the take of early migrants such as merlins. These new date frameworks are more aptly timed to coincide with the natural movements and abundance of these species

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through New Jersey, allowing falconers a greater chance of success in securing them for use in falconry.

The dates for take of adult American kestrels and great horned owls, at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(a)5vi is proposed for amendment to increase the season during which these birds may be taken. These new date frameworks are more aptly timed to coincide with the natural movements and abundance of these species through New Jersey, allowing falconers a greater chance of success in securing them for use in falconry.

Language on regulations for the take of passage peregrines is added to N.J.A.C.7:25-5.10(a)5x in anticipation of a Federal quota allowing licensed New Jersey falconers to take passage peregrines. Peregrine populations have increased, and Federal regulations will now allow for a limited take of passage birds on the eastern flyway.

Language requiring an inventory of raptors is proposed to be deleted from N.J.A.C. 7:25-16(a)6i. This section was written in 1980, when New Jersey first became a Federally-recognized falconry state. Prospective falconers at that time were required to list birds they currently had in possession. This section only pertained to the 90 days following the initial adoption of the falconry regulations in 1980, and does not pertain today.

Language stipulating the requirements of 15 gram increments on a scale for the weighing of birds is proposed to be deleted as the scale used should be suitable for the type of raptor possessed, regardless of the type of scale, and 15 gram increments are not suitable for weighing smaller raptors such as kestrels. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-164ii(6) Turkey is proposed to be added to the list of game animals which may be taken by

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falconry on Sundays, as turkeys are proposed to be a legal game species for falconers in N.J.A.C.7:25-5.7(f). Waterfowl are the only species not permitted to be taken on Sundays by falconry. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(a)7ii.

14. The early, bow and arrow only, season for coyote and fox is proposed for change to coincide with the early opening of the deer fall bow season in Deer Management Zones (DMZs) that have an early fall bow season, thereby increasing the coyote and fox season by three weeks in those DMZs. The general, firearm or bow and arrow, coyote and fox season which follows the early bow and arrow season is proposed to be extended by four weeks. The majority of the coyote harvest is reported by hunters pursuing deer. Coyotes have expanded their range to all counties in New Jersey, and human-coyote conflicts have increased in recent years. Sportsmen have expressed an interest in extending the length of this season. A season extension will provide additional recreational opportunity and a chance to increase predator harvests. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19.

15. Language is added to mandate the use of hunter orange for ground blinds used during firearm deer hunting seasons, including archers using blinds when bow and firearm seasons are concurrent, as a safety precaution as the use of ground blinds becomes more popular. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(n) and 5.24(d).

16. Amendments are proposed to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(c)4 to allow for the possession of target blunt tips and judo points in the field for the discharge of crossbows. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(c) currently provides that only arrows fitted with an edged head (commonly known as broadheads) can be in possession while hunting deer, coyote, woodchuck or

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turkey. Crossbows are mechanically or manually cocked, and most can only be uncocked by firing. Hunters are not allowed to transport a cocked crossbow in a vehicle. Therefore, if a hunter has not discharged the crossbow during the taking of legal game, they may safely uncock their crossbows by firing a bolt at the ground, a tree stump, or bow target. Crossbows cannot be dry-fired, that is, fired with no arrow in place as this will ruin the weapon. The use of target blunts or judo points to discharge will negate the use of an edged-headed arrow and make arrow retrieval safer and easier. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24.

17. Fox are proposed to be added to the list of species legal for taking with a bow and arrow in order to make N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(c) consistent with the regulations for hunting other canids in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(c).

A new subsection is proposed at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(e) to make clear that arrows equipped with edged heads are prohibited for the take of game birds while in flight. Instead, it is proposed that flu-flu arrows must be used for the taking of birds in flight. Flu-flu arrows are specifically designed to fly only a short distance. The use of flu-flu arrows for the taking of flying game birds will reduce the likelihood of injury or property damage, thereby increasing public safety. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(e).

18. The Council is proposing to create in numerous sections of the Code a new deer regulation set. The proposed Regulation Set 3A adds unlimited antlerless harvests to all bow seasons and three weeks to the front of the fall bow season to the existing Regulation Set 3 structure. Regulation Set 3A provides an intermediate deer hunting regulation set between the existing Regulation Sets 3 and 4. Regulation Set 3A will provide for a moderate increase in antlerless harvest over the existing regulation Set

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3, but less of a harvest than the much more liberal Regulation Set 4. Regulation Set 3 DMZ 6 is moved to Regulation Set 3A, as the liberal harvests predicated by the season dates and bag limits in Regulation Set 4 could not be supported by the habitat in Zone 6. This change is to reduce the deer densities in this DMZ in order to better respond to communities experiencing deer conflicts, and to forest health issues. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(a)2 and (b), 5.26(a), 5.28(c) and (d), 5.29(c), (d) and (q1), and 5.30(c).

19. The requirement to take an antlerless deer before harvesting an antlered deer for the first three weeks of the deer fall bow season is removed for youth hunters, allowing youths to harvest an either-sex deer. This may benefit hunter recruitment as it is believed that youths are more likely to persist with the sport of hunting if they are successful during their early hunting experience. The recruitment of youth hunters is paramount to the survival of the sport and to the management of deer populations by sport hunting. See N.J.A.C 7:25-5.25(b).

20. Amendments are proposed to better differentiate between the current deer check station system and the automated deer checking system, scheduled to be on-line in 2012. The new language details requirements for the automated system, such as when the transportation tag must be filled out, that a Division Law Enforcement office must be called to report the harvest in the event that the hunter is unable to access the automated system, and that a hunter may be required to produce the head of the animal within 48 hours of harvest if required by the Division, to enable Division officials to confirm the sex of the harvested animal. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(b), (b)1; 5.26(b), (b)1; 5.27(b); 5.28(c), (c)3; and 5.29(c), (g).

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21. The latest time during the day to legally register a deer harvest is changed from midnight of the day of harvest to 8pm during the fall bow season or 7pm during all other deer seasons, for the automated system to maintain consistency with the current deer check station system. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(b), 5.26(b), 5.27(b), 5.28(c), 5.29(g), and 5.30(c).
22. DMZs 28, 30, 31, 34 and 47 are proposed for inclusion in the Antler Point Restriction (APR) program. This was requested by the south New Jersey chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association. A subsequent survey of hunters in the proposed DMZs by the Division of Fish & Wildlife showed 71% support for inclusion of these DMZs into APR. APR requires hunters to take a buck with a minimum of three antler points on one side. APR's objective is to save younger bucks from harvest with the hope that greater numbers of older bucks with larger antlers will be available for harvest in subsequent years. Although data from existing south New Jersey APR zones shows a 54% decrease in the yearling segment of harvested males, only modest increases of older age class bucks show up in the harvest. Although harvest and condition data show that antler growth in three of these zones will likely not increase significantly with APR, the Council recognizes that APR is more of a social issue than a biological issue in these DMZs. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(b)2, 5.26(b)2, 5.27(b)2, 5.28(c)2, 5.29(c)1, and 5.30(c)2.
23. Amendments are proposed to clarify that only one deer may be harvested at a time, except where it is expressly permitted to take two deer at a time. This clarification is necessitated by license and permit format changes that provide hunters with two transportation tags, thereby possibly giving the misconception that it is legal to

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harvest two deer at a time. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(c), 5.26(c), 5.28(c), 5.29(c), and 5.30(c).

24. An amendment is proposed to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(b)1 to give the Council, in consultation with the Director, the authority to move DMZs to a different regulation set based on an evaluation of one year's data rather than two years, to be better able to respond to emergent situations like disease or habitat destruction which would warrant a change in management strategies. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(b)1.
25. The boundary between DMZs 19 and 23 is modified to return a portion of DMZ 19 to DMZ 23. The area in question was moved into DMZ 19 to place it into more liberal deer hunting regulations due to agricultural complaints. The move puts the area back into more conservative regulations as agricultural damage is no longer an issue and the habitat is not productive enough to sustain high deer harvests as with the current regulations. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(p)19 and 23.
26. White Oak Branch Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is proposed for addition to DMZ 65. This moves the White Oak Branch WMA from liberal deer hunting regulations to more conservative deer hunting regulations. White Oak Branch WMA was incorporated into the Division's WMA system several years ago. Public land receives greater hunting pressure due to easier access than private properties. Zone 65 was created to ensure that the public land that comprises it is not over-harvested, compared to the private surrounding land. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(p)65.
27. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(q) describes regulation sets, specifies the applicable regulation set, special area or undesignated status of each deer management zone, and provides a summary, for information purposes only, of conditions applicable to the designated

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regulation sets. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(q)2 provides a table summarizing, for information purposes, various information applicable to each of the regulation sets, including a column totaling the number of hunting days provided in each regulation set. This column is updated to account for the addition of days due to the legalization of Sunday bow hunting (N.J.S.A. 23:4-24). See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(q)

28. The definition of “cooperator” is proposed for amendment in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32, Special Wildlife Management Permits. The change reflects statutory amendments at N.J.S.A. 23:4-42.4 which allow county governing bodies to apply for a community based deer management permit. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32(d).

The remaining changes have been made for clarification, correction of typographical errors, change of format without change in text, and for change in calendar year.

Social Impact

Most proposed changes are minor and will have little positive or negative social impact. The proposal to close the quail hunting season is likely to cause some public interest among people who quail hunt, and will reduce recreational hunting opportunity for some upland game hunters

The proposal to increase the fall turkey hunting season, to allow the take of turkeys by means of falconry during the fall season, and the boundary changes in THAs 16 and 22 will provide a positive social impact for that portion of the public who enjoy the hunting provided by this increase in recreational opportunity.

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Extending the rabbit and hare hunting season will provide greater recreational opportunity for participating hunters; private landowners can decide not to allow the extension on their property if they so desire. This change will have a positive social impact for that portion of the public who enjoy the hunting provided by this increase in recreational opportunity.

Extending the fox and coyote hunting season will provide greater opportunity for participating hunters, and help to harvest these predators, which are responsible for small animal and livestock damage.

Adding APR to five DMZs will provide a positive social impact on the majority of hunters in those DMZs who support this change.

Animal rights advocates and persons who are philosophically opposed to recreational hunting, trapping and the killing of animals can be expected to oppose the proposed changes which will continue or enhance hunting and trapping opportunities.

In general, the ability of the Division to address people/wildlife conflicts and public health and safety related to wildlife will be maintained. The continued positive social impact anticipated includes the conservation, management, and the enhancement of the wildlife resources for recreational activities.

Economic Impact

There will be positive economic impact on local retailers serving the hunting population as a result of the proposed amendments. A deer management strategy of population reduction or stabilization on 79 percent of the deer range and the inclusion of

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DMZ 6 into a new regulation set will mitigate economic losses associated with deer damage to landscape plantings or gardens, agricultural crops and deer/vehicle collisions. The provision for control of carcasses in the event of a disease outbreak like Chronic Wasting Disease by helping to control the spread of the disease will mitigate economic losses associated with a reduction in hunting and all hunting-related expenditures, and an increase in population due to reduced harvests which would cause more deer-vehicle collisions, and agricultural and horticultural damage.

The amendment to close the hunting season on bobwhite except for two State administered WMAs and grandfathered licensed clubs will allow breeders to continue to sell birds to their current customers but will not allow them to expand their sale to new customers.

The amendments to the Game Code do not affect the current costs associated with how the DFW manages wildlife and are not expected to result in increased expenditures by hunters and trappers. The 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation estimated that the total expenditure by hunters in the State of New Jersey was \$146 million per year. Additionally, the Survey showed expenditures for wildlife watching activities in New Jersey totaled \$537 million per year.

Environmental Impact

The proposed amendments should have a positive environmental impact through the State's continued research on and control of wildlife species. The existing regulations should continue the conservation, management and enhancement of the State's wildlife

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resources and habitats based on current population, distribution and habitat status. The season length and bag limits in place for deer have been designed to maintain a high level of antlerless deer harvest and will help maintain deer populations at levels more compatible with natural habitats and other land uses. The amendment to move DMZ 6 into the proposed regulation set 3A will help to address forest health issues and unwanted deer densities in that zone. The amendment to regulate the movement and possession of game animal carcasses during a disease outbreak will attempt to stem the spread of disease throughout the affected species. Controlling the spread of disease in any species is not only important to the overall health of that animal population but will ensure that hunters will continue to pursue that species. For example, if CWD were to have a widespread effect on New Jersey deer, hunters may choose not to pursue them, leading to increased deer-human conflicts as deer densities increased without the population control afforded by sport hunting.

Federal Standards Statement

Executive Order No. 27 (1994) and N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. require State agencies which 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 regulations (50 CFR 32.49). The

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proposed amendments to the Game Code do not contain any standards or requirements that exceed Federal regulations involving National Wildlife Refuge areas.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service regulates falconry in 50CFR 21.29. The proposed amendments to the Game Code do not contain any standards or requirements that exceed Federal regulations involving falconry.

The waterfowl hunting regulations (50 CFR 20 and 21) and Conservation Order regulations (50 CFR 20) that are promulgated annually by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service allow states to select the dates, times, manner and means for hunting of waterfowl within the allowable Federal framework established by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Therefore, the Department has determined that the proposed amendments to the Game Code 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. does not require further analysis.

Jobs Impact

The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any significant effect on the creation or elimination of jobs in the State. The amendments provide for continued recreational and economic benefits to the citizens of the State and the regulated use and proper management of the State's wildlife resources. The Council does not anticipate that the minor changes in season proposed will impact the number of jobs in businesses serving this recreational industry, such as sporting goods stores and eateries.

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Agriculture Industry Impact

The proposed amendments should continue to lessen the economic losses incurred by the agricultural community. The proposed hunting seasons will continue to assure that wildlife populations be maintained at acceptable levels. The expansion of the definition of “immediate family” to include grandchildren on farmer deer and turkey depredation permits, and the addition of farmer depredation permits for bears will allow for more effective control by famers of damaging wildlife populations.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Generally, the proposed 2011-2012 Game Code imposes minimal reporting and compliance requirements on sportsmen engaged in recreational hunting. These requirements are not, therefore, imposed upon small business, as the term is defined under the Regulatory Flexibility Act. N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et.seq.

However, the Game Code also regulates the activity of trappers, who may engage in such activity for their economic benefit. Such trappers may be considered small businesses. As there is no increased regulatory burden on trappers due to the proposed amendments and given the Council’s objective to protect game resources and foster recreational opportunities related to game, no differentiation in requirements to exempt small businesses is provided.

Smart Growth Impact

Executive Order No. 4 (2002) requires State agencies which adopt, amend or repeal any rule adopted pursuant to Section 4(a) of the Administrative Procedure Act, to

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describe the impact of the proposed rule on the achievement of smart growth and implementation of the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan (State Plan). The Department has evaluated this rulemaking to determine the nature and extent the proposed amendments impact on smart growth and the implementation of the State Plan. The proposed amendments do not involve land use policies or infrastructure development and therefore, do not impact smart growth. As to the implementation of the State Plan, the proposed amendments are intended to conserve the State's natural resources, which is one of the overall goals of the State Plan.

Housing Affordability Impact

An amendment to Executive Order No. 4 (2008) requires State agencies which adopt, amend or repeal any rule adopted pursuant to Section 4(a) of the Administrative Procedure Act, to describe the impact of the proposed rule on housing affordability and implementation of the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan (State Plan). The Department has evaluated this rulemaking to determine the nature and extent the proposed amendments impact on housing affordability and the implementation of the State Plan. The proposed amendments do not involve the creation or construction of any type of housing units and therefore do not impact housing affordability. As to the implementation of the State Plan, the proposed amendments are intended to conserve the State's natural resources, which is one of the overall goals of the State Plan.

Smart Growth Development Impact

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In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-4, as amended effective July 17, 2008, by P.L. 2008, c. 46, the Department has evaluated the proposed amendments for purposes of determining their impact, if any, on the availability of affordable housing and on new construction in Planning Areas 1 or 2, or within designated centers, under the State Plan. As indicated in the Housing Affordability Impact statement, The proposed amendments do not involve the creation or construction of any type of housing units and will not have any impact on affordable housing or on housing in State Development and Redevelopment Plan (State Plan) Planning Areas 1 and 2 and designated centers. Accordingly, the Council believes that the proposed amendments will not evoke a change in housing production within these areas.

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

SUBCHAPTER 5. **2011-2012** GAME CODE

7:25-5.1 General provisions

(a) – (c). No change.

(d) The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

1. – 15. No change.

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16. For the purpose of determining eligibility for permits within the special farmer turkey, **deer and bear** permit sections of this Code, "immediate family" includes the spouse, child, stepchild, stepparent, legal guardian, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, great grandparent, **grandchild**, brother, sister, stepsister, stepbrother, brother-in-law and sister-in-law of the farm owner or lessee who resides thereon.

17. – 22. No change.

23. "Checking station" means the place or method of registering a harvest, as required by this subchapter, for any game animal with a legal hunting or trapping season. A checking station may be considered either a physical location or the ADCS, as designated by the Division pursuant to N.J.S.A. 23:4-47.

(e) – (f). No change.

(g) The Director, with the approval of the Fish and Game Council, may close any hunting or trapping season state-wide or in a designated area, when necessary to respond to emergencies or special circumstances when it is deemed necessary to protect wildlife or human health or safety. Such closure shall be announced by press, radio, Division website (www.njfishandwildlife.com) and listserve, found at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/lstsub.htm> .

(h) All farmers, as defined in 7:25-5.7(i)1 or 7:25-5.28(i)1 and 2, and their immediate family who participate in deer hunting must obtain a free Conservation Identification number (CID) from the ELS by January 2012 to check in game animals harvested pursuant to N.J.S.A.23:3-1e via the ADCS.

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(i) In the event that a highly contagious or zoonotic disease of concern is discovered in New Jersey, whether in a captive or wild animal, the Division may establish one or more disease containment areas. Notification of the establishment of any such area(s), including the boundaries of any such area(s), and the affected species shall be made through a Notice in the New Jersey Register, press releases and the Division's website at www.njfishandwildlife.com. Once a disease containment area has been established, all provisions of this subsection shall be in effect.

1. No person shall remove from the disease containment area any carcass or the parts or portions of parts that may carry the contagion, except under permit issued by the Division or as authorized by this subsection.

2. Special check stations within the containment area may be established by the Division. Any susceptible animal, as defined by the Division, taken within the disease containment area during an open hunting season shall be registered at a special designated Division check station within the containment area by 7:00 p.m. on the day harvested. If the animal is recovered too late to be brought to a check station by 7:00 p.m. on the day of harvest, the hunter who harvests the animal must notify a Division Law Enforcement Regional Office by phone immediately, and present the animal at a special designated Division check station by no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day after it was taken. However, the animal carcass can not be removed from within the containment area until properly checked and tagged. If

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necessary, unchecked animals may be left at the designated check station overnight, tagged with the hunter's CID and phone number, and date of harvest. The Division shall post on the Division website and publish in press releases information regarding special check station locations within the disease containment area including times of operation.

(i) All animals taken within the disease containment area shall be kept intact prior to check-in at a special designated check stations. Viscera shall be disposed of at sites designated by the Division.

(ii) Any person who harvests an animal within the disease containment area shall allow Division staff or Division-authorized staff to collect and retain tissue samples from the animal for disease testing. Hunters shall be contacted by the Division when positive lab results from tested animals are received; the Division shall post all lab results on the Division website at www.njfishandwildlife.com. If the disease test is positive, all meat and other parts determined to be potentially contaminated shall be confiscated by the Division or shall be disposed of in a manner specified by the Division.

3. Notwithstanding the provision of N.J.A.C.7:25-17.3 to the contrary, no person may possess the carcass or any part of the carcass of any susceptible cervid killed as a result of a cervid-vehicle collision within the disease containment area, if applicable, or any susceptible animal collected under N.J.S.A. 23:4-1 et seq. or N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.35 taken from within the disease containment area.

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7:25-5.2. Pheasant-Chinese ringneck (*Phasianus colchicus torquatus*), English or blackneck (*P. c. colchicus*), Mongolian (*P. mongolicus*), Japanese green (*Phasianus versicolor*); including mutants and crosses of above

(a) – (h). (No change).

7:25-5.3. Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), blacktail jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), whitetailed jackrabbit (*Lepus townsendii*), European hare (*Lepus europeus*), chukar partridge (*Alectoris graeca*), and **bobwhite** quail (*Colinus virginianus*)

(a) The annual season for hunting cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, white-tailed jackrabbit and European hare with shotgun or bow and arrow shall begin the last Saturday in September and conclude the **Saturday after the** third Monday of the following February, inclusive; except during the six-day firearm deer season as enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a) and on the Wednesday immediately following the six-day firearm deer season. The annual season for hunting chukar partridge [(statewide) and quail (in that portion of the State lying north of Route 33)] with shotgun or bow and arrow shall begin on the Saturday following the first Monday in November and conclude the third Monday of the following February, inclusive; except during the six-day firearm deer season as enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a) and on the Wednesday immediately following the six-day firearm deer season. The annual season for hunting quail with shotgun or bow and arrow [in that portion of the State lying south of Route 33] **at Greenwood Forest WMA and Peaslee WMA** shall begin on the Saturday following the

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first Monday in November and conclude the following January 31, inclusive; except during the six-day firearm deer season as enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a) and on the Wednesday immediately following the six-day firearm deer season. **Hunting for quail in all other portions of the State is prohibited at all times except on properly licensed semi-wild and commercial preserves in accordance with (e) below.**

(b) The annual season for hunting the animals listed in (a) above for properly licensed persons engaged in falconry shall begin on September 1 and conclude the following March 31, inclusive; except during the six-day firearm deer season as enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a) and on the Wednesday immediately following the six-day firearm deer season. **The falconry season for quail is closed except at Greenwood Forest WMA and Peaslee WMA as noted in (a) above.**

(c) The daily bag limit is one jackrabbit or hare, [seven quail,] seven chukar partridge, and four cottontail rabbits[, except the] **The daily** bag limit for quail [in the area of New Jersey south of Route 33] **at Greenwood Forest WMA and Peaslee WMA** is four quail.

(d) - (f) No change.

7:25-5.6 Black bear (*Ursus americanus*), bobcat (*Felis rufus*)

(a) There is a closed season for bobcat. It shall be illegal to [possess,] **intentionally** take, kill or attempt to take or kill a bobcat **in the State of New Jersey** at any time.

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Bobcat, including any part thereof, legally harvested in other US states or Canadian provinces may be possessed provided they are affixed with a CITES tag from the state or province of harvest. It shall be illegal to use dogs to pursue or run black bear.

[There is a closed season for black bear until the Commissioner approves a comprehensive policy for the protection and propagation of black bear (see section Appendix, incorporated herein by reference). Subsequent to approval of such comprehensive policy, there shall be an open season for black bear. Notice of the Commissioner's approval of the comprehensive policy and the Division's schedule for acceptance of applications for permits for the black bear hunt shall be published on the Division's website at www.njfishandwildlife.com.] **There is a season for black bear in accordance with the approved comprehensive policy for the protection and propagation of black bear (see section Appendix, incorporated herein by reference).**

The season duration for black bear shall be concurrent with the six-day firearm deer season as enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a). Legal hunting hours for black bear shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Following the commencement of the season, the Director may, after consultation with the Chairman, close the season. To the extent possible, the Chairman will consult with available Council members prior to consultation with the Director. The Director will announce such closure, which will become effective 24 hours from the daily legal closing time of the day on which the decision is made, based upon data obtained and reviewed by the Division. Season closure will be announced by news release, radio, the Division's website (www.njfishandwildlife.com) and other media.

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1. Special black bear hunting permit requirement: All black bear hunters must have a current and valid firearm hunting license and a current and valid special "black bear hunting permit" which will be issued by the Division. A total of 10,000 special black bear hunting permits, allocated by black bear management zone (BMZ), will be available to properly licensed firearm hunters [who have successfully completed a mandatory black bear hunting seminar]. A random lottery will be conducted, if demand exceeds supply in any black bear BMZ. [The Division will notify successful applicants of dates, times, locations and other requirements of the black bear hunting seminars. Successful applicants, who previously completed a black bear hunting seminar, may be waived from attending a current year seminar.] Black bear hunting permits **and special farmer black bear permits** are not transferable and must be in the possession of the hunter while hunting black bear. Hunters are limited to [one] **two** black bear hunting permits per year, **as per section (a)liii below**. Juvenile hunters aged 10 through 13 years of age must have a black bear hunting permit and be under the direct supervision of a properly licensed adult (21 years of age or older) while bear hunting. The adult must also possess a black bear hunting permit. Direct supervision means the juvenile hunter and the supervising adult are together at the same location. The juvenile hunter may not hunt independently of the adult.

i. Black bear hunting permits will be issued on an individual basis to holders of valid and current firearm hunting licenses. Black bear hunting permits **and special farmer black bear permits** are valid only in the black bear BMZ and year designated on the permit, and are not transferable.

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ii. Black bear hunting permits consist of a back display and include a "Black Bear Transportation Tag." The back display shall be worn in the middle of the back in addition to the valid firearm license.

iii. Black bear hunting permits shall be applied for as follows: Holders of valid and current firearm hunting licenses, including juvenile licenses, shall apply by submitting an application via the Division's ELS which has been properly completed in accordance with instructions or, in the event of ELS operating difficulties, by providing the same information at ELS locations through such alternate system as may be designated by the Division. First time permit applicants who do not possess a valid hunting license may apply for a black bear hunting permit provided they have applied for a hunter education course prior to the application period and have provided such related information as may be required on the application. Only two applications may be submitted per individual – one application for an initial permit lottery and one application for a left-over permit for a different BMZ. Submission of more than one application for the initial permit lottery or for a left-over permit by an individual will cause all applications to be void. All persons, while their hunting licenses are void under authority of law or as imposed by a court, are prohibited from making application for, or otherwise procuring, a black bear hunting permit. The application shall be completed to include the applicant's Conservation ID Number or name, address, BMZ applied for, and any other information required by law or requested. Applications must be received no later than October **15**[30], annually, to be included in the initial permit drawing. If the number of applications exceeds the BMZ permit quota, permit selection will be by random drawing. After the regular permit

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application period and initial permit selection process, nothing contained herein shall preclude the Division from issuing unfilled or unclaimed permits on a first come-first served basis to any properly licensed hunter. Any permit obtained by fraud shall be void.

iv. Special Farmer Black Bear Permits shall be applied for as follows:

1. Only the owner or lessee of a farm, who resides thereon, or immediate members of his family 10 years of age or older who also reside thereon, may apply on forms provided for a special farmer black bear permit. Under this section a farm is an area of five acres or more and producing a gross income in excess of \$ 500.00 and is tax assessed as farmland. Special farmer black bear permits will be issued only in those Black Bear Management Zones where a season is prescribed.

2. Application forms may be obtained from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, N.J. 08625-0400.

3. The application shall be filled in to include Conservation ID Number or name, age, address, and any other information requested thereon. Properly completed application forms will be accepted in the Trenton office no later than October 15. There is no fee required and all qualified applicants will receive a Special Farmer Black Bear Permit delivered by mail.

4. Only one farmer application may be submitted per individual during the initial application period. Application for a farmer black bear permit shall not preclude a farmer from applying for and the Division's issuing one regular black bear season permit as a holder of a valid hunting license.

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2. – 6. (No change.)

(b) No change.

7:25-5.7 Wild turkey (Meleagris gallapavo)

(a) The duration of the Fall Either Sex Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons for Turkey Hunting Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 20, 21 and 22 shall include a hunting period "N" of **[six] seven** days **excluding Sunday** beginning on the **Saturday before the** last Monday in October **and ending on the following Saturday**. There shall be no Fall Turkey Hunting in Turkey Hunting Areas 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 15, and 16. The hunting periods for all Spring Wild Turkey Gobbler Seasons shall be as set forth in (a)1 through 6 below as follows:

1. – 7. (No change.)

(b)-(e) (No change.)

(f) Method: The taking of one male wild turkey in the spring gobbler season **with firearm or bow and arrow** or one wild turkey of either sex during the fall turkey season per special turkey permit with firearm, [or] bow and arrow **or falconry** is permitted in any designated turkey hunting areas by holders of a special wild turkey permit.

1. No change.

(g) - (j) (No change.)

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(k) Turkey hunting area map is on file at the Office of Administrative Law and is available from that agency or the Division. The Spring Turkey Hunting Season Permit Quotas are as set forth in (k)1 below:

1. Spring Turkey Hunting Season Permit Quotas are as follows:

SPRING TURKEY HUNTING SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

For Hunting Periods A, B, C, D, and E

Turkey Hunting Area Number	Hunting Period Permit Quota*	Season Permit Quota Total	Portions of Counties Involved
1	240	1,200	Sussex
2	315	1,575	Sussex, Warren
3	115	575	Sussex, Warren
4	240	1,200	Sussex, Warren, Morris
5	325	1,625	Sussex
6	500	2,500	Sussex, Passaic, Bergen
7	500	2,500	Sussex, Morris, Passaic
8	325	1,625	Warren, Hunterdon
9	220	1,100	Warren, Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset
10	160	800	Essex, Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, Union, Bergen, Hudson, Passaic
11	300	1,500	Middlesex, Mercer, Hunterdon, Somerset
12	175	875	Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean
14	200	1,000	Burlington, Ocean, Monmouth, Mercer

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SPRING TURKEY HUNTING SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

For Hunting Periods A, B, C, D, and E

Turkey	Hunting	Season	
Hunting	Period	Permit	
Area	Permit	Quota	Portions of
Number	Quota*	Total	Counties Involved
15	100	500	Burlington, Atlantic, Gloucester, Camden
16	200 160	1,000 800	Burlington, Atlantic, Ocean, Cape May
20	750	3,750	Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester
21	380	1,900	Atlantic, Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester
22	120 165	600 825	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland
Total	5,165 5,170	25,825 25,850	

* Applied to each of the five Turkey Hunting Permit hunting periods (A, B, C, D, E) in all areas enumerated in (a)1 through 5 above.

(l) The Fall Turkey Hunting Season (Hunting Period N Permit Quotas) are as follows:

FALL TURKEY HUNTING SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

Number	Permit	Portions of
Number	Quota**	Counties Involved
1	240	Sussex
2	315	Sussex, Warren
3	115	Sussex, Warren
4	240	Sussex, Warren, Morris

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FALL TURKEY HUNTING SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

Number	Permit Quota**	Portions of Counties Involved
5	325	Sussex
8	325	Warren, Hunterdon
9	220	Warren, Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset
11	300	Middlesex, Mercer, Hunterdon, Somerset
20	750	Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, Camden
21	200	Atlantic, Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, Camden
22	[100]140	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland
Total	[3,130]3,170	

** Applied to the single Fall Turkey Hunting Period "N" in Turkey Hunting Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 20, 21 and 22.

(m) No change.

(n) Turkey Hunting Areas are as follows:

1.-12 (No change.)

13. Turkey Hunting Area No. 14: That portion of Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 1 and the Delaware River; then east along Route 1 to its intersection with Route 206; then south along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 524; then east along Route 524 to its intersection with Route 195; then east along Route 195 to its intersection with Route 138;

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then east along Route 138 to Route 35; then north on Route 35 to Sixteenth Avenue; then east on Sixteenth Avenue to the Atlantic Ocean at Belmar; then south along the Atlantic Ocean to Ship Bottom; then north and west along Route 72 to its intersection with Route 70; then west along Route 70 to its intersection with Route 38 at Cherry Hill; then west along Route 38 to its intersection with Route 30; then west along Route 30 to the Delaware River; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to the point of beginning. **Newbold Island is additionally included in Turkey Hunting Area No. 14.**

14. No change.

15. Turkey Hunting Area No. 16: That portion of Burlington, Ocean, Cape May and Atlantic Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Routes 206 and 70 at Red Lion; then east along Route 70 to its intersection with Route 72; then southeast along Route 72 to Ship Bottom and the Atlantic Ocean; then south along the Atlantic Ocean to **Great Egg Harbor Inlet** [Sea Isle Boulevard (Route 625) in Sea Isle City]; then west **through Great Egg Harbor Bay to the Great Egg harbor River** [along Sea Isle Boulevard to its intersection with Route 9]; then north along **the Great Egg Harbor River** [Route 9] to its intersection with Route 50; then north along Route 50 to its intersection with Route **30**[557]; then north and west along Route **30**[557] to its intersection with Route 40; then west along Route 40 to its intersection with Route 54; then north along Route 54] to its intersection with Route 206; then north along Route 206 to the point of beginning.

16. - 17. No change.

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18. Turkey Hunting Area No. 22: That portion of Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 55 and Lincoln Avenue (Route 655); then northeast along Lincoln Avenue to its intersection with Wheat Road (Route 619) at Buena; then east on Wheat Road to its intersection with Route ~~54~~[557]; then **northeast along Route 54 to its intersection with Route 206; then north along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 30, then** southeast along Rt. ~~30~~[557] to its intersection with Rt. 50; then **southwest**[southeast] along Rt. 50 to its intersection with **the Great Egg Harbor River**[Rt. 9 at Seaville]; then south along **the Great Egg Harbor River to Great Egg Harbor Bay; then east through Great Egg Harbor Bay to Great Egg Harbor Inlet** [Rt. 9 to its intersection with Sea Isle Boulevard; then east along Sea Isle Boulevard to the Atlantic Ocean at Sea Isle City]; then south along the Atlantic Coast to the Delaware Bay shore; then north and west along the shore of Delaware Bay to its intersection with the Maurice River; then north along the east bank of the Maurice River to its intersection with Rt. 49 at Millville; then east along Rt. 49 to its intersection with Rt. 55; then north along Rt. 55 to its intersection with Lincoln Avenue (Route 655) the point of beginning.

(o) (No change.)

7:25-5.9 Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) trapping

(a) (No change.)

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(b) The annual beaver trapping season shall begin **6:00 AM EST** on December 26 and conclude the following February 9, **11:59 PM EST**, inclusive, except on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a)2. On State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a)2 the trapping season for beaver shall [be] **begin 6:00 AM EST** on January 1 [~~--~~]**and conclude** February 9, **11:59 PM EST**, inclusive. If the anticipated harvest of beaver has not been accomplished during this season, up to 14 additional days may be authorized by the Director.

(c) Special Permit: A special permit obtained from the Division of Fish and Wildlife shall be required to trap beaver. If the number of applications received exceeds the quotas listed, a random drawing will be held to determine permit holders. Application for special permits shall be made via the Division's ELS or, in the event of ELS operating difficulties, by providing the same information at ELS locations through such alternate system as may be designated by the Division during the period October 1-31, annually. Unclaimed beaver permits may be issued over-the-counter. Applicants may apply for only one beaver trapping permit and shall provide their Conservation ID Number, or name, age, address and any other information requested thereon. Successful applicants must trap with a valid, current trapping license. The annual Special Beaver Trapping Permit quota is as follows:

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ANNUAL SPECIAL BEAVER PERMIT QUOTAS

Beaver Management Zone Number*	Annual Permit Quota	Portions of Counties Involved
1	8	Sussex
2	16	Sussex
3	9	Bergen, Morris, Passaic, Sussex
4	7	Sussex, Warren
5	12	Sussex, Warren
6	20	Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Warren
7	9	Essex, Morris, Passaic
8	8	Ocean
9	7	Burlington, Ocean
10	8	Atlantic, Burlington, Camden
11	6	Atlantic, Burlington, Ocean
12	3	Atlantic, Camden, Gloucester
13	[8]7	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland
14	2	Atlantic, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem
15	2	Cumberland, Salem
16	6	Atlantic, Burlington
17	5	Atlantic
18	3	Atlantic, Cape May
19	[7]3	Hunterdon, Morris, Warren
20	[3]7	Hunterdon, Morris
21	1	Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset
22	1	Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic,

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ANNUAL SPECIAL BEAVER PERMIT QUOTAS

Beaver Management		
Zone	Annual Permit	Portions of Counties Involved
Number*	Quota	
		Somerset, Union
23	1	Bergen, Hudson, Passaic
24	3	Hunterdon, Mercer, Somerset
25	5	Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset
26	3	Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth
27	[1]2	Monmouth, Ocean
28	8	Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth
29	8	Burlington, Camden, Gloucester
30	6	Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem
Total	186	

* Beaver and otter management zones are described in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.10(h)1 through 30.

(d) Special Site Specific Permit: During the initial application period, applicants may also apply for one special site specific beaver permit. The total number of permits available shall not exceed 14. Site specific permits will be issued for specific locations or properties where the Division has determined that beaver damage or nuisance problems exist. A random drawing will be held to determine permit holders; however, applicants

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unsuccessful in obtaining the special permit as set forth at (c) above will be given first opportunity. Permits will be valid only during the beaver trapping season.

(e) (No change.)

(f) A "beaver transportation tag" provided by the Division shall be affixed to each beaver taken immediately upon [removal from trap] **taking possession of the beaver or any part thereof**, and all beaver pelts shall be taken to a designated beaver checking station at the times and dates specified on the beaver permit and, in any case, no later than 20 days after the close of the season.

(g) Each beaver trapper shall be restricted to a maximum of five traps **daily in any given management zone**. However, holders of both a Special Permit and a Special Site Specific Permit may use five additional traps per Special Site Specific Permit provided they are used only on the property or site specified in the Special Site Specific Permit. Each trap shall be tagged pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12 with the tag clearly visible above the level of the water or ice. The Division, in its discretion, may designate and suitably post certain beaver colonies and prohibit all trapping within their dams, or within 500 feet thereof, during the beaver trapping season as indicated in this section.

(h) (No change).

(i) Authority: The authority for the adoption of the foregoing section is found in N.J.S.A. 23:3-1, 23:4-1, **23:4-22.2, 23:4-27**, 23:4-37, [23:4-38.1,] 23:4-38.2, 23:4-38.3, 23:4-39, 23:4-40, 23:4-41, 23:4-55 and other applicable statutes.

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7:25-5.10 River otter ([Lutra] **Lontra canadensis**) trapping

(a) (No change).

(b) The annual river otter trapping season shall begin **6:00 AM EST** on December 26 and conclude the following February 9, **11:59 PM EST**, inclusive, except on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a)2. On State Wildlife Management Areas enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a)2 the trapping season for otter shall [be] **begin 6:00 AM EST** on January 1[~~-~~] **and conclude** February 9, **11:59 PM EST**, inclusive. If the anticipated harvest of otter has not been accomplished, up to 14 additional days may be authorized by the Director.

(c) Special Permit: A special permit obtained from the Division of Fish and Wildlife shall be required to trap otter. If the number of applications received exceeds the quotas listed, a random drawing will be held to determine permit holders. Beaver permit holders will be given first opportunity for otter permits in their respective zones. Applications shall be submitted via the Division's ELS or, in the event of ELS operating difficulties, by providing the same information at ELS locations through such alternate system as may be designated by the Division during the period October 1-31, annually. Unclaimed otter permits may be issued over-the-counter. Only one application per person may be submitted for trapping otter and applicants shall provide their Conservation ID Number, or name, age, address and any other information requested thereon. Permits will be allotted on a zone basis as follows: Zone 1-7, Zone 2-7, Zone 3-2, Zone 4-3, Zone 5-2, Zone 6-9, Zone 7-3, Zone 8-6, Zone 9-3, Zone 10-4, Zone 11-5,

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Zone 12- 2, Zone 13-14, Zone 14-7, Zone 15-12, Zone 16-4, Zone 17-2, Zone 18-5, Zone 19-1, Zone 20-1, Zone 26-1, Zone 27-1, Zone 30-5. Total: 106. Successful applicants **may purchase only one Special Otter Trapping Permit per season and** must trap with a valid, current trapping license.

(d) (No change).

(e) The "otter transportation tag" provided by the Division must be affixed to each otter taken immediately upon [removal from the trap] **taking possession of the otter or any part thereof.** All otter pelts and carcasses shall be taken to a beaver-otter check station at dates specified on the otter permit and, in any case, no later than 20 days after the close of the season, where a pelt tag will be affixed and the carcass surrendered.

(f) Each otter trapper is restricted to a maximum of three traps **daily** and each trap must be tagged pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12 with the tag clearly visible above the level of the water or ice.

(g) Authority: The authority for the adoption of the foregoing section is found in N.J.S.A. 23:3-1, 23:4-1, 23:4-37, [23:4-38.1] **23:4-22.2, 23:4-27**, 23:4-38.2, 23:4-38.3, 23:4-39, 23:4-40, 23:4-41, and 23:4-55 and other applicable statutes.

(h) Beaver and Otter **Management** Zones are described as follows:

1. – 30. (No change)

(i) (No change.)

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7:25-5.13 Migratory birds

(a) – (k) (No change).

(l) A person shall not take or attempt to take migratory game birds:

1. (No change).

2. With a trap, net, snare, [crossbow,] rifle, pistol, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, fish hook, poison, drug or explosive;

3.-19. (No change.)

(m) Seasons and bag limits are as follows:

1. Mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), **sandhill crane** (*Grus canadensis*), and king rail (*Rallus elegans*) are protected. There is a closed season for mourning dove, **sandhill crane** and king rail.

2. (No change).

(n)-(r) (No change.)

7:25-5.16 General falconry rules

(a) The following rules govern the taking, possession, training, transfer, marking and housing facilities of raptors, the classification of permittees and the use of raptors for falconry, to take, kill, or pursue wild birds or wild animals.

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1. (No change).

2. Classes of permits are as follows:

i. Apprentice: Permittee shall be at least 14 years of age.

(1) – (2). No change.

(3) Permittee may possess a red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*).

i. (No change.)

ii. General: Permittee shall be at least 18 years of age.

(1) (No change).

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

(3) Permittee may not take, transport or possess any golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) or any species listed as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Department of the Interior or the N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife provided, however, that [captive bred Cooper's hawks (*Accipiter cooperi*), or one] **captive bred birds, or a species** legally acquired from the wild from states outside New Jersey where it is not classified as endangered or threatened, may be possessed. [Notwithstanding the above, passage or captive bred red-

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shouldered hawks (*Buteo lineatus*) or goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) may be possessed.]

Eyass birds or nestlings of threatened or endangered raptors may not be taken **within**

New Jersey [; however, eyass or nestling goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) legally taken

from the wild from states outside New Jersey may be possessed.] **Passage peregrine**

falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) may be taken in compliance with this Code (N.J.A.C.

7:25-5) and Federal regulations.

(4) (No change).

iii. Master: Permittee shall have at least five years of falconry experience in the practice of falconry at the general class. A raptor shall have been in possession for no less than 36 months during this time.

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

(2) A permittee may not take, transport or possess any species listed as endangered on an U.S. Department of Interior or N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife list, provided, however, that captive bred birds, [when legally acquired and possessed in compliance with Federal authorization, may be used. Captive bred Cooper's hawks or Cooper's hawks] **or a species** legally acquired from the wild from outside New Jersey where it is

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not classified as endangered or threatened may be possessed. [Notwithstanding the above, passage or captive bred red-shouldered hawks or goshawks may also be possessed.]

Eyass birds or nestlings of threatened or endangered species may not be taken **within New Jersey**. [; however, eyass or nestling goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) legally taken from the wild from states outside New Jersey may be possessed.] **Passage peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) may be taken in compliance with this Code (N.J.A.C. 7:25-5) and Federal regulations.**

(3) Permittee may not take, transport or possess any golden eagle for falconry purposes unless authorized in writing by [both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and] the N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife.

(4)- (6) (No change).

3. The examination and assignment of class of falconry permit holders are as follows:

i. [After the adoption of these rules, a]All persons desiring a falconry permit will be required to answer correctly at least 80 per cent of the questions on a supervised examination. All falconry examinations will be provided or approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

ii. [All applicants will be given examinations once a year.]The examinations may relate to basic biology, care and handling of raptors, literature, regulations and other appropriate subject matter.

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[iii. During the first six-month period following the adoption of these regulations any individual who, after passing the required examination and complying with all facility requirements, feels he or she should be placed in the "General" or "Master" class shall advise the Division of this fact in writing. Such individuals will then be interviewed by a recognized authority on the sport of falconry to be designated by the Division. This authority shall advise the Division in writing (with a copy to the individual requesting such interview) of which class he feels the individual should be placed. The Division, after consideration of the recommendation of the authority, may place the individual in a higher class to provide Apprentice class falconers with the necessary sponsors.]

4. Facilities and equipment: Falconry equipment shall be inspected and certified by a representative of the Division as meeting the following standards:

i (No change).

ii Equipment:

(1) - (5) (No change).

(6) Weighing device--A reliable scale or balance suitable for weighing the raptor(s) held [and graduated in increments of not more than one-half ounce (15 grams)] shall be provided.

(7) (No change).

iii through v. (No change).

5. Restrictions on taking and breeding raptors are as follows:

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i. (No change).

ii. Young birds not yet capable of flight (eyasses) may only be taken by a general or master falconer and only during the period April 1[5] to [June 29]**July 15** inclusive. No more than two eyasses may be taken by the same permittee during the specified period. No more than one eyass per nest may be taken, leaving at least one eyass in the nest. A three foot metal flashing painted a dark color must be fastened completely around the nest tree at least four feet from the base of the tree. The flashing shall be removed after the nestlings have fledged.

iii. First year (passage) birds may only be taken during the period September 1[19] to December 31 inclusive.

iv. – v. (No change).

vi. Adult American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) and great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*) may only be taken during the period September 1[19] to December 31 inclusive. No other adult raptors may be taken with the exception that any raptor other than endangered or threatened species that may be taken under a depredation (or special purpose) permit may be used for falconry by General and Master falconers.

vii. – ix. (No change).

x. Restrictions on take of passage peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) are as follows:

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(1). Passage peregrine falcons may only be taken by General or Master Class falconers who possess a valid Special Peregrine Falcon Permit issued by the Division.

(2). Passage peregrine falcons may only be taken during the period September 20 through October 20, inclusive, except as provided in (a)5iii.

(3). One passage peregrine falcon of either sex may be taken.

(4). Banded peregrine falcons may not be taken. Banded peregrine falcons must be released immediately upon capture. Band numbers must be reported to the Division within 48 hours of capture.

(5). All Special Peregrine Falcon Permit conditions shall be complied with.

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

6. Marking of raptors shall be as follows:

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[i. An inventory of all raptors held within New Jersey, except those held for scientific or zoological purposes, shall be made and reported to the Division within 90 days of the date when New Jersey is listed under the State's meeting Federal Falconry Standards. This paragraph applies to all such raptors whether or not the owner intends to submit an application for a falconry permit.]

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

ii[i]. Any marker, mutilated or lost, shall be reported in writing within 72 hours to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Trenton. Markers no longer legible shall be reported in the same manner. Markers causing leg damage must be removed and reported.

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

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

7. Hunting with raptors shall be as follows:

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i. (No change).

ii. Game species may be hunted only in accordance with the Game Laws and the seasons and bag limits established each year for falconry by the Division. The hunting of pheasants, rabbits, jackrabbits, hares, chukar partridge, quail, squirrels, **wild turkeys** and woodchuck on Sundays with raptors is permitted during the prescribed seasons. The hunting of waterfowl on Sundays with raptors is prohibited.

iii. (No change).

8. Rules for non-resident falconers are as follows:

i. Non-residents of New Jersey who possess [Federal falconry permits or falconry permits issued by states designated as a participant in a joint Federal/State falconry permit system]**a valid falconry permit from another state** may bring any raptor legally possessed by them under authority of their falconry permit into New Jersey to attend falconry meets or to hunt, provided:

(1) - (2) (No change).

(3) Non-resident New Jersey hunting license is obtained and all hunting regulations are observed.

ii. Non-residents of New Jersey who possess [Federal falconry permits or falconry permits issued by states designated as a participant in joint Federal/State falconry permit system] **a valid falconry permit from another state, and** who move into New Jersey for the purpose of becoming a resident may bring any raptors with them that they legally possess provided that they construct required facilities within 30 days and apply for New

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Jersey Falconry Permit no later than 60 days after moving into New Jersey. A permit in the same classification as one they held in their previous state of residence may be issued without a written examination.

iii. Non-residents of New Jersey who possess [Federal falconry permits or falconry permits issued by states designated as a participant in the joint Federal/state falconry permit system] **a valid falconry permit from another state** may request permission to take or attempt to take a raptor for falconry purposes by writing to the Division. Non-resident falconers attempting to take raptors in New Jersey for falconry purposes must possess written authorization from the Division and a valid non-resident firearm hunting license.

(1) (No change).

9. Miscellaneous rules are as follows:

i. – vii. (No change).

[viii. A person who possesses a lawfully acquired raptor acquired before the enactment of these regulations and who fails to meet the permit requirements shall be allowed to retain the raptors provided facility requirements at (a)4 above are met and a permit is obtained pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-4. All such birds shall be identified with markers supplied by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and cannot be replaced if death loss, release, or escape occurs. These raptors may not be used for falconry.]

viii[ix]. A person who lawfully possesses raptors before the enactment of these regulations, in excess of the number allowed under his class permit, shall be allowed to

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retain the extra raptors provided facility requirements are met and the birds are included on the falconry permit. All such birds shall be identified with markers supplied by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and no replacement can occur, nor may an additional raptor be obtained, until the number in possession is at least one less than the total number authorized by the class of permit held by the permittee.

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

x[i]. The possession of firearms while engaged in falconry is illegal.

10. -12. (No change).

7:25-5.19 Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) and coyote (*Canis latrans*) hunting

(a) The duration of the red fox, gray fox, and coyote hunting season is as follows:

1. Bow and Arrow Only: Begins [on the opening day of the statewide] **concurrently with the** white-tailed deer fall bow season, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(a), and concludes the Friday following the first Monday in November, inclusive.

2. Firearm or Bow and Arrow: Firearm or Bow and Arrow: Beginning on the first Saturday following the first Monday in November and concluding [the third Monday of the following February] **the following March 15**, inclusive.

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(b)-(k) (No change.)

7:25-5.23. Firearms and missiles, etc.

(a)-(m) (No change.)

(n) No person shall hunt with the aid of a deer decoy, except during the fall bow, special permit bow and winter bow seasons. Any person while carrying or moving deer decoys in the woods and fields for the purpose of hunting shall wear a cap of fluorescent hunters orange or some other garment containing at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material which shall be visible from all sides. No person shall hunt for deer with the aid of an electronic calling device, or any device which projects a beam of light upon the target. **A hunter engaged in firearm hunting for deer and utilizing a ground blind must display 200 square inches of hunter orange atop the blind and visible from all sides, or within five feet outside of the blind and higher than the blind or at least three feet off the ground, whichever is higher. A “ground blind” is defined as a temporary man-made structure used for the purpose of concealing from sight a person who is hunting. A ground blind is not a naturally occurring feature that a hunter merely uses for concealment.**

(o)-(v) (No change.)

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7:25-5.24 Bow and arrow, general provisions

(a) –(b) (No change).

(c) During the seasons for taking deer, coyote, **fox**, woodchuck or turkey with bow and arrow (as listed elsewhere in this subchapter), all arrows used for taking deer, coyote, **fox**, woodchuck or turkey must be fitted with an edged head of the following specifications:

1. – 3. (No change).

4. Arrows fitted with heads other than specified in (c)1 through 3 above may be carried in the woods and fields during the Upland Game Season or other seasons which overlap with the Bow and Arrow Deer Season, in addition to arrows specified for deer. **It is legal to carry blunt or judo tips in the field for the purpose of discharging crossbows.** It is unlawful to hunt with any device propelled by any means that is used for the purpose of injecting or delivering any type of drug into an animal. Whenever a crossbow is in or upon a motor vehicle, it shall be uncocked.

5. (No change).

(d) No person shall hunt deer with the aid of a deer decoy except during the fall bow, winter bow and special bow seasons. No person shall hunt for deer with an electronic calling device, or any other device which projects a beam of light upon the target. **A bowhunter hunting for deer and utilizing a ground blind during a time period when the bowhunting season is concurrent with a deer firearm season, must display 200 square inches of hunter orange atop the blind and visible from all sides, or within five feet outside of the blind and higher than the blind or at least three feet off the**

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ground, whichever is higher. A “ground blind” is defined as a temporary man-made structure used for the purpose of concealing from sight a person who is hunting. A ground blind is not a naturally occurring feature that a hunter merely uses for concealment.

(e) No person shall take or attempt to take flying game birds with arrows equipped with heads as described in section (c) above. Persons may only take or attempt to take flying game birds with flu-flu type arrows. Canada geese and turkey which are not in flight may be taken with arrows with standard fletching and edged heads as described in section (c) above.

(f) (No change.)

7:25-5.25 White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) fall bow season

(a) Duration of the fall bow season is as set forth in (a)1 through 2 below. Legal hunting hours shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

1. (No change).

2. Opening the second Saturday in September through the last Friday in October, in zones in Regulations Sets **3A**, 4, 6, 8, and 9; and in Zones 40, 53, 66 and 68.

3. (No change).

(b) Bag Limit: Only one antlered deer may be taken Statewide during the fall bow season. Hunters must use an antlered deer transportation tag from their bow and arrow or all around sportsman license, which is designated for use during the fall bow season,

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when registering an antlered deer. The standard bag limit is two deer, either one antlered and one antlerless or two antlerless in zones in Regulation Sets 1, 2, or 3. In zones in Regulation Sets **3A**, 4, 6, 8, and 9 and zones 37, 39, 40, 53, 54, and 68, the bag limit is one antlered deer and an unlimited number of antlerless deer. In zones in Regulation **S**[s]et 0, the bag limit is one antlered and one antlerless deer. In Regulation Sets 4, 6, 8, and 9 and in Zones 53 and 68, an antlerless deer must be taken before an antlered deer from the first Saturday in September through the fourth Saturday prior to the last Friday in October **except for youth hunters, as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d)15**. All deer must be legally registered either at a deer check station or via the automated deer check system. Properly licensed hunters who harvest their first antlerless deer during the bow season subject to the provisions of this section will be given a "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" (supplemental tag), upon registration of their deer at a designated deer check station, or will be assigned a registration number via an automated check system as designated by the Division. This tag **or registration number** will be valid for the taking of additional antlerless deer, as applicable by zone bag limit set forth above. No supplemental tags will be issued for antlered deer. The supplemental tag **or registration number** may be used in any zone that is open for the season subject to the limitations of this section. Properly licensed hunters that harvest a second deer may obtain a "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" upon registration of their second deer at a designated check station. Supplemental tags for the taking of a third or subsequent deer are valid only in zones that have a bag limit of an unlimited number of antlerless deer listed above. After taking a second deer in any zone, hunters may not hunt deer during the fall bow season in the zones in Regulation Sets 0, 1, 2, or 3. One

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additional supplemental tag, valid only in zones with an unlimited antlerless deer bag limit, will be issued upon registration of each subsequent deer until the season concludes.

All supplemental tags **or registration numbers** are valid on the date of issuance in all zones that are open for this season. Deer shall be tagged immediately with completely filled in "transportation tag" and shall be transported to a deer checking station before 8:00 P.M. D.S.T. or E.S.T., whichever is in effect, on the day killed to secure a legal possession tag. The legal possession tag must be securely affixed or locked on the deer before the deer is transported or removed from the authorized deer checking station.

Hunters are responsible for legal possession tags being securely affixed or locked before leaving the deer check station. The supplemental tag shall be valid on the day of issuance and all registration requirements apply. If the deer check station system is no longer in use, then **with the exception of the registration number, the possession tag shall be filled out immediately upon killing**, [deer shall be tagged immediately with completely filled in "transportation tag"] and **the deer** shall be registered via an automated deer checking system, as designated by the Division, in lieu of a deer check station prior to the attempt to take an additional deer, and no later than [midnight] **8:00 P.M. D.S.T. or E.S.T., whichever is in effect**, of the day of harvest. Hunters must record the registration number given via this system, which replaces the legal possession tag. If an automated system is implemented, notice will be published in the New Jersey Register, on the division's website and in the hunting Digest which summarizes hunting season dates and regulations.

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1. The possession of a deer after 8:00 P.M. on the date killed without a legal possession tag shall be deemed illegal possession under the deer check station system. Possession of a deer after [midnight] **8:00 P.M.** on the date killed without a legal registration number shall be deemed illegal under the ADCS. Any legally killed deer which is recovered too late to be brought to the deer check station by closing time must be immediately reported by telephone to the nearest Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement regional headquarters. Said deer must be brought to a checking station on the next open day to receive a legal "possession tag." If the season has concluded, said deer must be taken to a regular deer checking station on the following weekday to receive a legal possession tag. It is unlawful to attempt to take or continue to hunt for more than the number of deer permitted. **Should the hunter be unable to access the ADCS by the designated time, the deer shall be immediately reported by telephone to the nearest Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement regional headquarters and registered via the ADCS the next day. Within 48 hours of registering a deer with the ADCS and upon request from the Division, a hunter may be required to produce the head of the deer harvested.**

2. In Zones 3, 9, 13, 27, **28**, 29, **30, 31, 34**, 35, 37, 40, **47** and 63, it shall be illegal to kill, take or attempt to take any antlered deer which does not have a minimum of three antler points on one side.

3. The bag limit for the special youth hunting day provided in (a)3 above is one deer of either sex and any age. The requirement that hunters take an antlerless deer first or earn-a-buck is waived for this day [only]. All tagging and deer checking requirements

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shall apply. The provisions of (b)2 above, requiring that antlered deer must have at least three antler points on one side, is waived for the special youth hunt on this day only.

(c) This season shall be open only to holders of a valid and current bow and arrow hunting license or all around sportsman license that contains an attached fall bow and arrow deer "transportation tag" or a proper and valid supplemental tag. **Only one deer at a time may be taken, regardless of the number of transportation tags in possession.** If the anticipated harvest of deer has not been accomplished during this season, additional days of bow and arrow deer hunting may be authorized by the Director. Such authorization and dates thereof shall be announced by press and radio. (d) Authority: The authority for the adoption of the foregoing section is found in N.J.S.A. 23:4-42, 23:4-43, 23:4-45, 23:4-47 and other applicable statutes.

7:25-5.26 White-tailed deer winter bow season

(a) Duration of the winter bow season is from Duration of the winter bow season is from January 1 through January 31 in zones in Regulation Sets 0, 1, 2, 3, **3A**, 4 and 6; and in Zones 39, 40, 53, 54, 66, 67 and 68. Duration of the season is: January 1 through the 3rd Saturday in February in zones in Regulation Sets 8 and 9; and in Zones 37 and 64, except closed January 1 in Zone 37.

Legal hunting hours shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

(b) Bag Limit: Only one antlered deer may be taken Statewide during the winter bow season where the season is open. Hunters must use the antlered buck transportation

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tag from their bow and arrow or all around sportsman license, which is designated for use during the winter bow season, when registering an antlered deer. The standard bag limit is two deer, one antlered and one antlerless, or two antlerless in zones in Regulation Sets 1, 2, and 3, and Zone 53. In zones in Regulation Sets **3A**, 4, 6, 8, and 9, and in Zones 37, 39, 40 64, 66, and 68, the bag limit is one antlered deer and an unlimited number of antlerless deer. In zones in Regulation Set 0, the bag limit is one antlered deer and one antlerless deer. All deer must be legally registered either at a deer check station or via the automated deer check system. Properly licensed hunters who take their first deer during the winter bow season will be given a "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" (supplemental tag), upon registration of their first deer at a designated deer check station if that deer is antlerless only. This tag will be valid for the taking of one additional antlerless deer. No supplemental tags will be issued for antlered deer. The supplemental tag may be used in any zone that is open for the winter bow season subject to the limitations of this section. Properly licensed hunters that take a second antlerless deer may obtain a "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" upon registration of their second antlerless deer at a designated check station. Supplemental tags for the taking of a third and subsequent antlerless deer will only be valid in the zones listed above having an unlimited bag limit for antlerless deer. After taking a second deer in any zone, hunters may not hunt deer during the winter bow season in the zones in Regulation Sets 0, 1, 2, and 3. One additional supplemental tag, valid only in zones with an unlimited antlerless deer bag limit, will be issued upon registration of each subsequent deer at a designated check station until the season concludes. Supplemental tags and antlerless transportation tags attached to the regular license are only valid for taking antlerless deer.

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All supplemental tags are valid on the date of issuance in all zones that are open for the winter bow season. For deer harvested when the deer check station system is in use, upon harvesting a deer, hunters must immediately detach, completely fill out and attach the "transportation tag" to the deer, and then take the deer to a deer checking station before 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the day killed to secure a legal possession tag. The legal possession tag must be securely affixed or locked on the deer before the deer is transported or removed from the authorized deer checking station. Hunters are responsible for legal possession tags being securely affixed or locked before leaving the deer check station. For deer harvested when the deer check station system is no longer in use, upon harvesting a deer, hunters must immediately [detach, completely] fill out with the exception of the registration number [and attach] the "transportation tag" [to the deer] and must register their deer via an ADCS, as designated by the Division, in lieu of a deer check station, prior to the attempt to take an additional deer and no later than [midnight] **7:00 P.M. E.S.T.** of the day of harvest. Hunters must record the registration number given via this system, which replaces the legal possession tag. If an automated deer checking system is implemented, notice will be published in the New Jersey Register, on the Division's website and in the Hunting Digest.

1. The possession of a deer after 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the date killed without a legal possession tag shall be deemed illegal possession under the deer check station system. Possession of a deer after [midnight] **7:00 P.M. E.S.T.** on the date killed without a legal registration number shall be deemed illegal possession under the ADCS. Any legally killed deer which is recovered too late to be brought to the deer check station by closing time must be immediately reported by telephone to the nearest Division of Fish and

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Wildlife law enforcement regional headquarters. Said deer must be brought to a checking station on the next open day to receive a legal "possession tag." If the season has concluded, said deer must be taken to a regular deer checking station on the following weekday to receive a legal possession tag. It is unlawful to attempt to take or continue to hunt for more than the number of deer permitted. **Should the hunter be unable to access the ADCS by the designated time, the deer shall be immediately reported by telephone to the nearest Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement regional headquarters and registered via the ADCS the next day. Within 48 hours of registering a deer with the ADCS and upon request from the Division, a hunter may be required to produce the head of the deer harvested.**

2. In Zones 3, 9, 13, 27, **28**, 29, **30, 31, 34**, 35, 37, 40, **47** and 63, it shall be illegal to kill, take or attempt to take any antlered deer which does not have a minimum of three antler points on one side

(c) This season will be open only to holders of a valid and current bow and arrow hunting license or all around sportsman license which contains an attached winter bow season "transportation tag" or a proper and valid supplemental tag. **Only one deer at a time may be taken, regardless of the number of transportation tags in possession.** If the anticipated harvest of deer has not been accomplished during this season, additional days of special winter bow and arrow deer hunting may be authorized by the Director. Such authorization and dates thereof shall be announced by press and radio.

(d) (No change).

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7:25-5.27 White-tailed deer six-day firearm season

(a) (No change).

(b) Bag Limit: Two antlered deer, with one antler at least three inches long. If an automated deer checking system is implemented, notice will be published in the New Jersey Register, and on the Division's website and in the Hunting Digest.

All deer must be legally registered either at a deer check station or via the automated deer check system. Deer shall be tagged immediately with the "transportation tag" appropriate for the season, completely filled in and shall be transported to a checking station before 7:00 P.M. on the day killed to secure a legal possession tag. The legal possession tag must be securely affixed or locked on the deer before the deer is transported or removed from the authorized deer checking station. Hunters are responsible for legal possession tags being securely affixed or locked before leaving the deer check station. The possession of a deer after 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the date killed without a legal possession seal shall be deemed illegal possession under the deer check station system. Possession of a deer after [midnight] **7:00 P.M.** on the date killed without a legal registration number shall be deemed illegal under the ADCS. Upon completion of the registration of the first deer at a deer check station, one valid and proper "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" will be issued which will allow that person to continue hunting and take one additional deer with one antler at least three inches long during the current, six-day firearm season. The supplemental tag shall be valid on the day of issuance and all registration requirements apply. [Deer shall be tagged **i**]Immediately [with the] **upon**

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harvest, the "transportation tag" appropriate for the season, shall be completely filled in with the exception of the registration number, and the deer shall be registered via an automated deer checking system, as designated by the Division, if the deer check station system is no longer in use, in lieu of a deer check station, prior to the attempt to take an additional deer and no later than [midnight] 7:00 P.M. of the day of harvest. Hunters must record the registration number given via the automated system, which replaces the legal possession tag. Hunters who take two antlered deer during the six-day firearm season are prohibited from taking an antlered buck during the regular permit shotgun season. Any legally killed deer which is recovered too late to be brought to a check station by closing time shall be immediately reported by telephone to the nearest Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement regional headquarters. This deer must be brought to a checking station on the next open day to receive a legal "possession tag." If the season has concluded, this deer must be taken to a regular deer checking station on the following weekday to receive a legal "possession tag." It is unlawful to attempt to take or to continue to hunt for more than the number of deer permitted. Should the hunter be unable to access the ADCS by the designated time on the day of harvest, the deer shall be immediately reported by telephone to the nearest Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement regional headquarters, and registered via the ADCS the next day. Within 48 hours of registering a deer with the ADCS and upon request from the Division, a hunter may be required to produce the head of the deer harvested.

1. (No change).

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2. In Zones 3, 9, 13, 27, **28**, 29, **30, 31, 34**, 35, 37, **47** and 63, it shall be illegal to kill, take or attempt to take any antlered deer which does not have a minimum of three antler points on one side.

3. (No change).

(c) - (f) (No change.)

7:25-5.28 White-tailed deer muzzleloader rifle permit season

(a)-(b) (No change.)

(c) Bag Limit: Only one antlered deer may be taken Statewide during the muzzleloader rifle permit season, regardless of the number of permits obtained. Two deer, one antlered and one antlerless or two antlerless may be taken in zones in Regulation Sets 1, 2 [and] 3 **and 3A**, and in Zone 37. Two deer, one antlered and one antlerless only may be taken in zones in Regulation Set 0. One antlered and an unlimited number of antlerless deer may be taken in zones in Regulation Sets 4, 6, 8 and 9, and in Zones 39, 40, 53, 57, 58, 66, 67, 68 and 70, except as noted below and in (c)1 and 2 below. Only one deer may be taken at a time [per permit] until the season limit is reached except in [in] zones in Regulation **S[sets]** 6, 8 and 9, and in Zones 39, 40, 54, 57, 58, 66 and 68 where the limit is two deer at a time until the season concludes. In zones in Regulation Sets 4, 6, 8 and 9, and in Zones 53, 54, 57, 58, 61, 66, 67, 68 and 70, supplemental tags for the taking of a third and subsequent deer will be issued upon registration of deer at official deer checking stations until the season concludes.

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In zones in Regulation Set 8, and in Zone 58, only antlerless deer may be taken on applicable muzzleloader season permits during the Wednesday through Friday before the Six-day Firearm season, and the dates concurrent with the Six-day Firearm season (N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a)). In zones in Regulation Set 6 and in Zones 57 and 68, only antlerless deer may be taken during on the dates concurrent with the six-day firearm season, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a). In zones in Regulation Set 9, only antlerless deer may be taken during the Monday through Wednesday and Friday of Thanksgiving week and the Wednesday through Friday before the Six-day Firearm season , and the dates concurrent with the Six-day Firearm season (N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a)). All supplemental tags **and registration numbers** are valid on the date of issuance and only in the zone for which the special season permit was **issued**. All deer must be legally registered either at a deer check station or via the automated deer check system. If an automated deer check system is implemented, notice will be published in the New Jersey Register, on the Division's webpage and in the Hunting Digest. Deer shall be tagged immediately with the muzzleloader rifle permit season permit, transportation tag completely filled in, and shall be transported to a deer checking station before 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the day killed to secure a legal possession tag. The legal possession tag must be securely affixed or locked before the deer is transported or removed from the authorized deer checking station. Hunters are responsible for legal possession tags being securely affixed or locked on the deer before leaving the deer check station. [Deer shall be tagged **i]Immediately upon harvest [with] the muzzleloader rifle permit season permit[,] transportation tag must be completely filled in with the exception of the registration number, and the deer** shall be registered via an automated deer checking system, as

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designated by the Division, if the deer check station system is no longer in use, in lieu of a deer check station, prior to the attempt to take an additional deer, except as in (c) above and no later than [midnight] **7:00 P.M. E.S.T.** of the day of harvest. Hunters must record the registration number given via the ADCS, which replaces the legal possession tag. Hunters must use an antlered deer transportation tag from their antlered muzzleloader permit which is designated for use during the permit muzzleloader season, when registering an antlered deer. The antlered muzzleloader permit with antlered deer transportation tag which is valid only for the harvest of one antlered deer must be purchased in addition to an antlerless muzzleloader permit. The antlered muzzleloader permit with antlered deer transportation tag may be used in any zone for which the hunter has already purchased an antlerless permit. The antlered muzzleloader permit with antlered deer transportation tag must be purchased prior to the season opener or at the time of the purchase of the initial antlerless muzzleloader permit if the season has already begun. The possession of a deer after 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the date killed without a legal possession seal shall be deemed illegal possession under the deer check station system. Possession of a deer after [midnight] **7:00 P.M. E.S.T.** on the date killed without a legal registration number shall be deemed illegal under the ADCS. Except as noted in (c)1 through 3 below upon completion of registration of first deer, one valid and proper "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" (supplemental tag) will be issued under the deer check station system which will allow this person to continue hunting and take one additional antlerless deer during the current muzzleloader rifle permit season. The supplemental tag **or registration number** shall be valid on the day of issuance and all registration requirements apply. No supplemental tags shall be issued for antlered deer.

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1. (No change).

2. In Zones 3, 9, 13, 27, **28**, 29, **30, 31, 34**, 35, 37, 40, **47**, 63, and 67, it shall be illegal to kill, take or attempt to take any antlered deer which does not have a minimum of three antler points on one side.

3. Any legally killed deer which is recovered too late to be brought to the deer check station by closing time must be immediately reported by telephone to the nearest Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement regional headquarters. Said deer must be brought to a checking station on the next open day to receive a legal "possession tag." If the season has concluded, said deer must be taken to a regular deer checking station on the following weekday to receive a legal possession tag. It is unlawful to attempt to take or continue to hunt for more than the number of deer permitted. **Should the hunter be unable to access the ADCS by the designated time on the day of harvest, the deer shall be immediately reported by telephone to the nearest Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement regional headquarters, and registered via the ADCS the next day. Within 48 hours of registering a deer with the ADCS and upon request from the Division, a hunter may be required to produce the head of the deer harvested.**

(d) Duration of the muzzleloader rifle permit season is as set forth in (d)1 through 15 below. There is no season in the following Zones: 56 and 64. Legal hunting hours shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset E.S.T.

1. The Monday and Tuesday the week preceding the Six-day Firearm season N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a), and the Monday and Tuesday of the week after the Six-day Firearm season,

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and the Saturday following the Six-day Firearm season through December 31 exclusive of Christmas Day, and January 1, or January 2 if January 1 is a Sunday, through the first Friday in January (NOTE: if January 1 falls on a Wednesday through Friday, then the season extends through the second Saturday in January) in zones in Regulation Sets 2, 3, **3A** and 4; and in Zones 61 and 70.

2. – 4. (No change).

5. [November 9--13 and December 14--24, 26--31, 2009 and January 2--9, 2010; and] November 8--12 and December 13--24, 27--31, 2010 and January 3--8, 2011; November 7--11 and December 12--24, 26--31, 2011, and January 2--7, 2012; November 5--9 and December 10--24, 26--31, 2012, and January 7--12, 2013; and November 4--8 and December 16--24, 26--31, 2013, and January 6--11, 2014 in Zone 37.

6. [October 31, November 4-7, 2009; October 30, November 3-6, 2010;] October 29, November 2-5, 2011; November 3, 7-10, 2012; November 2, 6-9, 2013 in Zone 38.

7. [November 30--December 5, 14--31, 2009 and January 1--30, 2010; and November 29--December 4, 13--31, 2010 and January 1--31, 2011;] November 28 -- December 3, 12--31, 2011, and January 2--31, 2012; November 26 -- December 1, 10--31, 2012, and January 1--31, 2013; December 2--7, 16--31, 2013, and January 1--31, 2014 in Zone 39.

8. [November 7, 11, 14, 21, 23-25, 27 and 28, 2009; November 6, 11, 13, 20, 22-24, 26 and 27, 2010; and] November 5, 11, 12, 19, 21-23, 25 and 26, 2011; November 3, 10, 12, 17, 19--21 and 23 --24, 2012; November 9, 11, 16, 23, 25-- 27, and 29 --30, 2013 in Zone 40.

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9. [November 28--30 and December 1--5, 14--24, 26--31, 2009 and January 1--9, 2010; and November 27--30 and December 1--4, 13--24, 27--31, 2010 and January 1--8, 2011;] November 26 – December [1--]3, 12--24, 26--31, 2011, and January 2--7, 2012; November 24- – December 1, 10--24, 26--31, 2012, and January 1--5, 2013; November 30 and December 2--7, 16--24, 26--31, 2013, and January 1--4, 2014 in Zone 53.

10. [December 1, 2, 15--31, 2008 and January 1--10, 2009; November 30 and December 1, 14--31, 2009 and January 1--9, 2010; and November 29, 30 and December 13--31, 2010 and January 1--8, 2011;] November 28, 29 and December 12--31, 2011, and January 2--7, 2012; November 26, 27 and December 10--31, 2012, and January 1--5, 2013; December 2, 3, 16--31, 2013, and January 1--11, 2014 in Zone 54.

11. [November 30 and December 1, 7-12, 14, 15, 19-24, 26-31, 2009 and January 1-8, 2010; and, November 29, 30 and December 6-11, 13, 14, 18-24, 27-31, 2010 and January 1-7, 2011;] November 26, 27 and December 10, 11, 15-24, 26-31, 2012, and January 1-4, 2013 in Zone 57.

12. [November 28--December 5, 11, 12, 2009 and January 2, 9, 2010; and November 27--December 4, 10, 11, 2010 and January 8, 15, 2011;] November 24 – December 1, 7, 8, 2012, and January 5, 12, 2013; November 30 – December 7, 13, 14, 2013, and January 4, 11, 2014 in Zone 66.

13. [November 10--13, 17--20, 2008; November 9--12, 16--19, 2009; and November 8--11, 15--18, 2010;] November 7-10, 14-17, 2011; November 5-8, 12-15, 2012; November 4-7, 11-14, 2013 in Zone 67.

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14. [November 30 and December 1, 7-12, 14, 15, 19-24, 26-31, 2009 and January 1, 2010; and November 29 and December 3, 6-11, 13, 14, 18-24, 27-31, 2010 and January 1-8, 2011; and] November 28-December 2, December 5-10, 12, 13, 17-24, 26-31, 2011 and January 2-February 11, 2012; November 26, 27, December 10, 11, 15-24, 26-31, 2012, and January 1-11, 2013; December 2, 3, 16, 17, 21-24, 26-31, 2013, and January 1-10, 2014 in Zone 58.

15. (No change).

16. At other times as determined by the Director.

(e) - (h) (No change).

(i) Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 23:3-56.1, occupant and non-occupant Farmer Muzzleloader Rifle Permit Season Permits shall be applied for as follows:

1. Only the owner or lessee of a farm, who resides thereon, or the [spouse or children] **immediate family** of that farmer 10 years of age or older who reside in the farmer's household, may apply on forms provided for an occupant farmer, muzzleloader rifle permit season permit. Under this subsection, a farm is an area of five acres or more and producing a gross income in excess of \$ 500.00 and is tax assessed as farmland. Farmer muzzleloader rifle permit season permits will be issued only in those deer management zones where a muzzleloader rifle, permit season is prescribed.

2. The owner or lessees of a farm, who does not reside thereon, and their [spouse and children] **immediate family** 10 years of age or older who reside with them, may apply on forms provided for a non-occupant farmer deer permit. Under this subsection, applicants must farm 30 tilled acres that are tax assessed as farmland. Wood lots are not included in

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acreage needed to qualify. Properties do not need to be contiguous. No more than five individuals may receive a permit for the season for a property. The applicants must be the farmer or farmers[, their spouses and their children aged 10 years and older **and their immediate family.**

3. – 6. (No change).

(j) – (n) (No change).

7:25-5.29 White-tailed deer shotgun permit season

(a) (No change).

(b) If the anticipated harvest of deer has not been accomplished during this season, additional days of shotgun permit deer hunting may be authorized by the Director. Such authorization and the dates thereof shall be announced by press and radio.

1. If [, for two consecutive years or more,] the yearly antlered or antlerless harvest in any deer management zone is above or below the stated buck goal by plus or minus fifteen percent, the Council may, upon consultation with the Director, move a deer management zone into a more liberal or more conservative regulation set for subsequent deer seasons, as is determined to be appropriate to provide for harvests which will meet the stated goals, as set forth in subsection (r) of this section. The appropriate regulation set will be determined by estimating the resulting harvest of antlered or antlerless deer[, as the case may be,] under various regulations sets having varying season lengths and/or bag limits. Such regulation set changes will be made by publication of a notice of administrative change in the New Jersey Register, as well as by posting notice on the

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Division's website and in the Hunting Digest which summarizes hunting season dates and regulations.

(c) Bag limit: A properly licensed hunter who did not take two antlered deer during the current year, six-day firearm season may take one antlered deer during the shotgun permit season. Only one antlered deer may be taken Statewide during the shotgun permit season, regardless of the number of permits obtained. One deer, either antlered or antlerless, may be taken in zones in Regulation Sets 0, 1 and 2. Two deer, either one antlered and one antlerless or two antlerless may be taken in zones in Regulation Sets 3 **and 3A**. One antlered deer and an unlimited number of antlerless deer may be taken in zones in Regulation Sets 4, 6, 8 and 9, and in Zones [37,] 39, 40, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 61, 64, 66, 68 and 70. In zones in Regulation Set 8 and in Zone 58, only antlerless deer may be taken on the Wednesday through Friday preceding the six-day firearm season and on the dates concurrent with the six-day firearm season, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a). In zones in Regulation Set 6, and in Zones 57, **64 and 68** only antlerless deer may be taken during the dates concurrent with the six-day firearm season, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a). In zones in Regulation Set 9, only antlerless deer may be taken during the Monday through Wednesday and Friday of Thanksgiving week, and the Wednesday through Friday of the week preceding the six-day firearm season, and during the during the dates concurrent with the six-day firearm season, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a). Only one deer may be taken at a time [per permit] until the season limit is reached except in zones in Regulation Sets 6, 8 and 9 and in Zones 39, 40, 54, 56, 57, 58, 64, 66 and 68 where the limit is two deer at a time per permit until the season concludes. New Jersey

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Supplemental Deer Transportation Tags **or registration numbers** are valid on the day of issuance in all zones. All deer tagging and registration provisions apply. Hunters must use an antlered deer transportation tag from their antlered shotgun permit which is designated for use during the permit shotgun season, when registering an antlered deer. The antlered shotgun permit with antlered deer transportation tag, which is valid only for the harvest of one antlered deer, must be purchased in addition to an antlerless shotgun permit. The antlered shotgun permit with antlered deer transportation tag may be used in any zone for which the hunter has already purchased an antlerless permit. The antlered shotgun permit with antlered deer transportation tag must be purchased prior to the season opener or at the time of the purchase of the initial antlerless shotgun permit if the season has already begun. The season bag limits apply to both regular and farmer deer permits; however, all farmer shotgun permits are valid for taking antlerless deer only, when used during the six-day firearm buck season and on any other days authorized through the last day of the six-day firearm buck season.

1. In Zones 3, 9, 13, 27, **28**, 29, **30, 31, 34**, 35, 37, 40, **47** and 63, it shall be illegal to kill, take or attempt to take any antlered deer which does not have a minimum of three antler points on one side.

(d) Duration of the permit shotgun deer season is as set forth in (d)1 through 19 below. There is no season in Zone 67. Legal hunting hours shall be from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset on the following dates:

1. The Wednesday through Friday of the week following the Six-day Firearm season in zones in Regulation Set 3 **and 3A**.

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2. – 5. (No change).

6. [December 26, 28 and 29, 2009; December 27-29, 2010;]December 24, 26 and 27, 2011; December 28, 29 and 31, 2012; December 28, 30 and 31, 2013 in Zone 37.

7. [October 31, and November 4-7, 2009; October 30, and November 3-6, 2010;] October 29, and November 2-5, 2011; November 3, 7-10, 2012; November 2, 6-9, 2013 in Zone 38.

8. [December 5, 7--12, 19 and 26, 2009 and January 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2010; and December 4, 6--11, 18 and 25, 2010 and January 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2011;] December 3, 5-10, 17, 24 and 31, 2011, and January 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2012; December 1, 3-8, 15, 22 and 29, 2012, and January 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2013; December 7, 9-14, 21 and 28, 2013, and January 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2014 in Zone 39.

9. [November 7, 11, 14, 21, 23-25, 27 and 28, 2009; November 6, 11, 13, 20, 22-24, 26 and 27, 2010; and] November 5, 11, 12, 19, 21-23, 25 and 26, 2011; November 3, 10, 12, 17, 19-21, and 23-24, 2012; November 9, 11, 16, 23, 25-27 and 29-30, 2013 in Zone 40.

10. [(Reserved)] **December 5 – 10, 14 – 16, 2011 and January 7 – 14, 2012; December 3 – 8, 12 – 14, 2012 and January 5 – 12, 2013; December 9 – 14, 18 – 20, 2011 and January 4 – 11, 2014 in Zone 53.**

11. [December 8--13, and 27, 2008 and January 10, 2009; December 7--12, and 26, 2009 and January 9, 2010; and December 6--11, and 18, 2010 and January 8, 2011;]

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December 5-10, 17, 2011 and January 7, 2012; December 3-8, 22, 2012 and January 5, 2013; December 9-14, 28, 2013 and January 11, 2014 in Zone 54.

12. [December 14--18, 2009; and December 13--17, 2010;] December 12--16, 2011; December 10-14, 2012; December 16-20, 2013 in Zone 56.

13. [December 2-4 and December 7-12, 16-18, 2009 and January 2-9, 2010; December 1-3 and December 6-11, 15-17, 2010 and January 1-8, 2011;] November 30-December 2 and December 5-10, 14-16, 2011 and January 7-14, 2012; November 28-30, and December 3-9, 12-14, 2012, and January 5-12, 2013; December 4-6, 9-14, 18-20, 2013, and January 4-11, 2014 in Zone 58.

14. (No change).

15. [December 7--12, 16--18, 2009; December 6--11, 15--17, 2010;] December 5-10, 14-16, 2011; December 3-8, 12-14, 2012; December 9-14, 18-20, 2013 in Zone 61.

16. [December 8-13, 2008, December 7-12, 2009, December 6-11, 2010, and] December 5-10, 2011; December 3-8, 2012; December 9-14, 2013 in Zones [53 and] 64.

17. [November 28--December 5, 11 and 12, 2009 and January 2 and 9, 2010; November 27--December 4, 10 and 11, 2010 and January 8 and 15, 2011;] November 26 – December 3, 9, 10, 2011, and January 7, 14, 2012; November 24 – December 1, 7, 8, 2012, and January 5, 12, 2013; November 30 – December 7, 13, 14, 2013, and January 4, 11, 2014 in Zone 66.

18. - 19. (No change).

(e) – (f) (No change).

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(g) Permits for shotgun permit season consist of a back display, which includes a "deer transportation tag," or proper and valid supplemental tag. The back display portion of the permit will be conspicuously displayed on the outer clothing in addition to the valid firearm license in the case of a shotgun permit season permit, and without the license in the case of the farmer shotgun permit season permit. All deer must be legally registered either at a deer check station or via the automated deer check system. If an automated deer check system is implemented, notice will be published in the New Jersey Register, on the Division's website and in the Hunting Digest. Upon harvesting a deer during this season, the "deer transportation tag" portion of the permit must be detached, completely filled out, and affixed to the deer immediately upon killing. **Under the ADCS, the transportation tag must be filled out, with the exception of the registration number, immediately upon killing.** This [completely] filled in "deer transportation tag" allows legal transportation of the deer of either sex to an authorized checking station or to a location where the hunter may register his or her deer via an automated deer checking system as designated by the Division only. Personnel at the checking station will issue a "possession tag." Any permit holder killing a deer during this season must transport this deer to an authorized checking station by 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on date killed to secure the legal "possession tag." The possession of a deer of either sex after 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the date killed without a legal "possession tag" shall be deemed illegal possession under the deer check station system. Possession of a deer after [midnight] **7:00 P.M. E.S.T.** on the date killed without a legal registration number shall be deemed illegal under the ADCS.[.] The legal possession tag must be securely affixed or locked on the deer before the deer is transported or removed from the authorized deer checking station. Hunters are

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responsible for legal possession tags being securely affixed or locked before leaving the deer check station. Any legally killed deer which is recovered too late to be brought to the check station by closing time must be immediately reported by telephone to the nearest Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement regional headquarters. Said deer must be brought to a checking station on the next open day to receive a legal "possession tag." If the season has been concluded, said deer must be taken to a regular deer checking station on the following weekday to receive a legal "possession tag." For deer management zones where the shotgun permit season is more than one day and the bag limit is two deer, a valid and proper "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" will be issued upon registration of the first deer under the deer check station system. Hunters must register their deer via an automated deer checking system as designated by the Division if the deer check station system is no longer in use, in lieu of a deer check station prior to the attempt to take an additional deer, except as in (c), and no later than [midnight] **7:00 P.M. E.S.T.** of the day of harvest. The hunter must record the registration number given by the ADCS, which replaces the legal possession tag. **Should the hunter be unable to access the ADCS by the designated time on the day of harvest, the deer shall be immediately reported by telephone to the nearest Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement regional headquarters, and registered via the ADCS the next day. Within 48 hours of registering a deer with the ADCS and upon request from the Division, a hunter may be required to produce the head of the deer harvested.**

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This permit or registration number will allow this person to continue hunting and take one additional antlerless deer during the shotgun permit season, provided the season is open the following day(s) or on any additional days that shotgun permit season hunting is authorized. For deer management zones where the shotgun permit season is three days or more and the bag limit is three deer or more, additional "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tags" will be issued, under the deer check station system, upon registration of the second, third or applicable antlerless deer until the bag limit is reached. This permit will allow this hunter to continue hunting and take one additional antlerless deer during the shotgun permit season, provided the season is open or on any additional days that shotgun permit season hunting is authorized. Permittees will be able to continue hunting on the designated season dates after registration of deer and issuance of appropriate tags or registration numbers. Supplemental tags will only be issued for and valid for antlerless deer, and no supplemental tags will be issued for antlered deer. Hunters must use an antlered deer transportation tag from their bonus shotgun permit, which is designated for use during the permit shotgun season, when registering an antlered deer. The antlered shotgun permit with antlered deer transportation tag which is valid only for the harvest of one antlered deer, must be purchased in addition to an antlerless shotgun permit. The antlered shotgun permit with antlered deer transportation tag may be used in any zone for which the hunter has already purchased an antlerless permit. The antlered shotgun permit with antlered deer transportation tag must be purchased prior to the season open or at the time of the purchase of the initial antlerless shotgun permit if the season has already begun.

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(h) (No change.)

(i) Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 23:3-56.1, Occupant and Non-occupant Farmer Shotgun Permit Season Permits shall be applied for as follows:

1. Only the owner or lessee of a farm, who resides thereon, or the [spouse or children] **immediate family** of that farmer 10 years of age or older who reside in the farmers household, may apply on forms provided for an occupant farmer shotgun permit season permit. Under this section, a farm is an area of five acres or more and producing a gross income in excess of \$ 500.00 and is tax assessed as farmland. The occupant Farmer Shotgun Permit Season Permit will be issued in all deer management zones.

2. The owner or lessees of a farm, who does not reside thereon, and their [spouse or children] **immediate family** 10 years of age or older, may apply on forms provided for a non-occupant farmer deer permit. Under this subsection, applicants must farm 30 tilled acres that are tax assessed as farmland. Wood lots are not included in acreage needed to qualify. Properties do not need to be contiguous. No more than five individuals may receive a permit for the season for a property. The applicants must be the farmer or farmers, their spouses and their children aged 10 years and older] **and their immediate family**.

3. – 6. (No change).

(j) - (o) (No change).

(p) Deer Management Zones are located as follows:

1. – 18. (No change).

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19. Zone No. 19: That portion of Burlington and Camden Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 530 and Rt. 646 (New Lisbon-Four Mile Rd.); then southeast on Rt. 646 to its intersection with Turkey Buzzard Bridge Road; then west on Turkey Buzzard Bridge Rd. to its intersection with Rt. 644 (Buddtown-Ong's Hat Road); then southeast on Rt. 644 to its intersection with Rt. 70 at Four Mile Circle; then west on Rt. 70 to its intersection with Burr's Mill Road; then southwest on Burr's Mill Rd. to its intersection with Avenue Road; then south on Avenue Rd. to its intersection with Sooy Place Road; then south on Sooy Place Rd. to its intersection with Irick's Causeway; then southwest on Irick's Causeway to its intersection with Rt. 532 (Chatsworth Road); [then south and southeast on Rt. 532 to its intersection with South Park Rd.; then south on South Park Rd. to its intersection with White Horse-Speedwell Rd.; then south on White Horse-Speedwell Rd. to its intersection with Eagle Rd.; then southwest on Eagle Rd. to its intersection with the railroad tracks; then west following the railroad tracks to their intersection with Carranza Rd.; then northwest on Carranza Rd. to its intersection with Tuckerton Rd.; then north and northwest on Tuckerton Rd. to its intersection with Forked Neck Rd. (Dingletown Rd.);] **then west along Rt. 532 to its intersection with Butterworth's Bogs Rd.; then south and west along Butterworth's Bogs Rd. to its intersection with Brace Lane; then west along Brace Lane to its intersection with Bozarthtown Rd.; then southwest along Bozarthtown Rd. to its intersection with Dingletown Rd.; then southwest along Dingletown Rd. which becomes Forked Neck Rd. and curves to the west;** then west along Forked Neck Road to its intersection with Rt. 206; then south along Rt. 206 to its intersection with Rt. 541, Stokes Road; then northwest along Rt. 541 to its intersection

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with Willow Grove Road; then southwest on Willow Grove Road to its intersection with Atsion Road; then northwest on Atsion Road to its intersection with Rt. 534, Jackson Road; then west along Rt. 534 to its intersection with Rt. 73; then north along Rt. 73 to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then northeast along the New Jersey Turnpike to its intersection with Rt. 38; then east along Rt. 38 to its intersection with Rt. 530; then east along Rt. 530 to its intersection with Rt. 616 (Vincentown-Pemberton Road); then northeast on Rt. 616, Hanover Street, into the town of Pemberton to its intersection with Elizabeth Street; then east on Elizabeth Street, which becomes Pemberton-Brown's Mills Road (Rt. 687) to its intersection with Rt. 530 (Pemberton-By-Pass Road); then east on Rt. 530 to its intersection with Rt. 646 (New Lisbon-Four Mile Road), the point of beginning. Fort Dix Military Reservation (Zone 37) is excluded from Zone 19. Franklin Parker Preserve and Four Mile Spring Preserve (Zone 68) are excluded from Zone 19.

20. – 22. (No change).

23. Zone No. 23: That portion of Burlington, Atlantic and Camden Counties lying with a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 563 and the Mullica River at the Atlantic-Burlington County line near Green Bank; then north and west along the north bank of the Mullica River to its intersection with Rt. 542 at Pleasant Mills; then west along Rt. 542 to its intersection with Nescochague Creek; then northwest along Nescochague Creek to Great Swamp Branch; then westward along Great Swamp Branch to its intersection with Rt. 206 (just south of the intersection of Rt. 206 and Middle Road); then [north] **south** along Rt. 206 to its intersection with Rt. 30; then northwest along Rt. 30 to its intersection with Rt. 73; then north on Rt. 73 to its intersection with Rt.

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534, Jackson Road; then east along Rt. 534 to its intersection with Atsion Road; then southeast on Atsion Road to its intersection with Willow Grove Road; then northeast on Willow Grove Road to its intersection with Rt. 541, Stokes Road; then southeast along Rt. 541 to its intersection with Rt. 206; then north along Rt. 206 to its intersection with Forked Neck Road; [then east along Forked Neck Road (Dingletown Rd.) to its intersection with Tuckerton Rd.; then southeast and south on Tuckerton Rd. to its intersection with Carranza Rd.; then southeast on Carranza Rd. to its intersection with the railroad tracks; then east following the railroad tracks to their intersection with Eagle Rd.; then northeast on Eagle Rd. to its intersection with White Horse-Speedwell Rd.; then north on White Horse-Speedwell Rd. to their intersection with South Park Rd.; then north on South Park Rd. to its intersection with Rt. 532 (Chatsworth Rd.); then northwest on Rt. 532 to its intersection with Irick's Causeday;] **then east along Forked Neck Rd. which becomes Dingletown Rd. curving to the northeast; then northeast along Dingletown Rd. to its intersection with Bozarthtown Rd.; then northeast on Bozarthtown Rd. to its intersection with Brace Lane; then east on Brace Lane to its intersection with Butterworth's Bogs Rd.; then north on Butterworth's Bogs Rd. to its intersection with Rt. 532 (Chatsworth Rd.); then east on Rt. 532 to its intersection with Irick's Causeway;** then northeast on Irick's Causeway to its intersection with Sooy Place Road (Vincentown-South Park Road); then northwest on Sooy Place Rd. to its intersection with Avenue Road; then northeast on Avenue Rd. to its intersection with Burr's Mill Road; then northeast on Burr's Mill Rd. to its intersection with Rt. 70; then east on Rt. 70 to its intersection with Rt. 72 at Four Mile Circle; then southeast on Rt. 72 to its intersection with Rt. 563; then southwest along Rt. 563 to its

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intersection with the Mullica River at the Atlantic-Burlington County line, the point of beginning near Green Bank. The Franklin Parker Preserve and Four Mile Spring Preserve (Zone 68) are excluded from Zone 23.

24. – 64. (No change).

65. Zone No. 65: That portion of Camden and Gloucester Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 322 and County Road Rt. 659 (Malaga-New Brooklyn Rd.) in Monroe Township, Gloucester County; then northeast along Rt. 659 to its intersection with County Road Rt. 536 at New Brooklyn; then northward along Rt. 536 to its intersection with County Road Rt. 720 (Brooklyn-Blue Anchor Rd.); then southeast on Rt. 720 to its intersection with Rt. 73 near Blue Anchor; then southward along Rt. 73 to its intersection with Piney Hollow Road; then southwest along Piney Hollow Road to its intersection [with Rt. 322; then west along Rt. 322 to its intersection with County Road Rt. 659, the point of beginning] **with Dutch Mill Rd. then west along Dutch Mill Rd. to its intersection with County Road Rt. 557 (Tuckahoe Rd.); then Northwest on Rt. 557 to its intersection with County Road Rt. 659 (Malaga Rd.); then North on Rt. 659 to its intersection with County Road Rt. 633 (Blue Bell Rd.); then south on Rt. 633 to its intersection with County Road Rt. 538 (Coles Mill Rd.); then east along Rt. 538 to its intersection with Rt. 322; then west along Rt. 322 to its intersection with County Road Rt. 659, the point of beginning.**

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66. – 69. (No change).

(q) This subsection describes regulation sets, specifies the applicable regulation set, special area or undesignated status of each deer management zone, and provides a summary, for information purposes only, of conditions applicable to the designated regulation sets.

1. Regulation sets are used to organize regular deer management zones by season dates and bag limits, which are determined by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The following table identifies the applicable regulation set, special area or undesignated status of each deer management zone.

Regulation Sets by Season Lengths and Bag Limits

Zone	Regulation Set	Zone	Regulation Set
1	2	35	4
2	4	36	8
3	2	37	Special Area
4	1	38	Special Area
5	6	39	Special Area
6	3A	40	Special Area
7	8	41	8
8	8	42	6
9	8	43	2
10	8	44	not designated
11	8	45	0
12	8	46	0
13	8	47	4

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14	8	48	6
15	8	49	8
16	4	50	8
17	6	51	8
18	2	52	not designated
19	6	53	Special Area
20	not designated	54	Special Area
21	0	55	3
22	3	56	Special Area
23	0	57	Special Area
24	0	58	Special Area
25	6	59	not designated
26	3	60	not designated
27	4	61	Special Area
28	4	62	not designated
29	4	63	4
30	3	64	Special Area
31	4	65	3
32	not designated	66	Special Area
33	not designated	67	Special Area
34	0	68	Special Area
		70	Special Area

Note: Zones defined as Special Areas are not assigned to Regulation Sets; their season dates and bag limits may be found by zone within sections 7:25-5.25, 5.26, 5.27, 5.28, 5.29, and 5.30.

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2. The following is a summary, for information purposes only, of the season lengths, the opening and closing dates, as well as other conditions applicable to each regulation set. Actual season lengths and other conditions and limitations are specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25 through 5.30. Should there be any inconsistency between the information below and the corresponding provision of N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25 through 5.30, the provisions of N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25 through 5.30 shall govern.

SET #	Fall Bow	Permit Bow	Youth Day	Six- Day Fire- arm	Permit Muzzle -loader	Permit Shotgun	Winter Bow	consecuti ve total days
0	24 days 2 deer*	25 days- 2deer*	2 days 1 deer ea	6 days 2 deer	9 days- 2 deer*	1 day 1 deer	27 days 2 deer*	[93]112 days
1	24 days 2 deer	25 days 2 deer	2 days 1 deer ea	6 days 2 deer	13 days 2 deer	1 day 1 deer	27days 2 deer	[97]110 days
2	24 days 2 deer	25 days 2 deer	2 days 1 deer ea	6 days 2 deer	21 days 2 deer	1 day 1 deer	27 days 2 deer	[105]118 days
3	24 days 2 deer	25 days 2 deer	2 days 1 deer ea	6 days 2 deer	21 days 2 deer	3 days 2 deer	27 days 2 deer	[107]120 days
3A	42 days no limit	25 days no limit	2 days 1 deer	6 days 2 deer	21 days 2 deer	3 days 2 deer	27 days no limit	141 days

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			ea					
4	42 days	55 days	2 days	6 days	21 days	10 days	27 days	[124] 142
	no limit	no limit	1 deer ea	2 deer	no limit	no limit	no limit	days
5	no zones designated							
6	42 days	55 days	2 days	6 days	50 days	32 days	27 days	[124] 142
	no limit	no limit	1 deer ea	2 deer	no limit	no limit	no limit	days
7	no zones designated							
8	42 days	55 days	2 days	6 days	61days	43 days	41 days	[138] 161
	no limit	no limit	1 deer ea	2 deer	no limit	no limit	no limit	days
9	42 days	55 days	2 days	6 days	65 days	47 days	41days	[138] 161
	no limit	no limit	1 deer ea	2 deer	no limit	no limit	no limit	days

Note: The number of days per season may vary slightly from year to year due to annual calendar changes.

* Bag limits include one antlered deer per season except during the Six-day Firearm season where the bag limit is two antlered deer only; the antlerless bag limit is one antlerless deer only in Regulation Set 0, in all other regulation sets as stated.

(r) (No change).

7:25-5.30 White-tailed deer bow permit season

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(a) - (b) (No change).

(c) Bag Limit: Only one antlered deer may be taken Statewide during the bow permit season, regardless of the number of permits obtained. Two deer, one antlered and one antlerless or two antlerless may be taken in zones in Regulation Sets 1, 2 and 3. One antlered and an unlimited number of antlerless deer may be taken in zones in Regulation Sets **3A**, 4, 6, 8 and 9 and in Zones 37, 39, 40, 53, 54, 57, 58, 61, 63, 66, 68 and 70, except as noted in (c)1 and 2 below. In zones in regulation Set 0, the bag limit is one antlered and one antlerless deer. Only one deer may be taken at a time [per permit] until the season limit is reached. All supplemental tags are valid on the date of issuance and only in the zone for which the special season permit was issued. All deer registration requirements apply. All deer must be legally registered either at a deer check station or via the automated deer check system. If the deer check system is in use, deer shall be tagged immediately with the bow and arrow permit “transportation tag”, completely filled in, and shall be transported to a checking station before 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the day killed to secure a legal possession tag. If the deer check station system is no longer in use, deer shall be tagged immediately with the bow permit season permit transportation tag completely filled in, and shall be registered via an ADCS, as designated by the Division, prior to the attempt to take an additional deer, except as in (c) above and no later than [midnight] **7:00 P.M. E.S.T.** of the day of harvest. Hunters must record the registration number given via the ADCS, which replaces the legal possession tag. The legal possession tag must be securely affixed or locked before the deer is transported or removed from the authorized deer checking station. Hunters are responsible for legal

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possession tags being securely affixed or locked on the deer before leaving the deer check station. The possession of a deer after 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the date killed without a legal possession seal shall be deemed illegal possession under the deer check station system.

Possession of a deer after [midnight] **7:00 P.M. E.S.T.** on the date killed without a legal registration number shall be deemed illegal under the ADCS. Upon completion of the registration of the first deer, one valid and proper "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" (supplemental tag) will be issued by the deer check station which will allow the person to continue hunting and take one additional antlerless deer during bow permit season, provided the season is open. The supplemental tag shall be valid on the day of issuance and all registration requirements apply. Supplemental tags will only be issued for antlerless deer; no supplemental tags will be issued for antlered deer. Deer shall be tagged immediately with the bow and arrow permit "transportation tag", completely filled in, and shall be registered via an automated deer checking system as designated by the Division if the deer check station system is no longer in use, in lieu of a deer check station prior to the attempt to take an additional deer, and no later than [midnight] **7:00 P.M. E.S.T.** of the day of harvest. The hunter must record the registration number given by the automated deer checking system, which replaces the legal possession tag.

1. In zones in Regulation Sets **3A**, 4, 6, 8 and 9 and in Zones 37, 39, 40, 53, 54, 57, 58, 61, 66, 68 and 70 , supplemental tags for the taking of a third and subsequent deer will be issued upon registration of deer at official deer checking stations until the season concludes. A supplemental tag may be used to take an antlerless deer, subject to the

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above provisions and is only valid in that deer management zone for which the special season permit was originally issued. The supplemental tag is valid on the date of issuance. All tagging and registration requirements apply.

2. In Zones 3, 9, 13, 27, **28**, 29, **30, 31, 34**, 35, 37, 40, **47** and 63, it shall be illegal to kill, take or attempt to take any antlered deer which does not have a minimum of three antler points on one side.

3. (No change).

(d) Duration of the bow permit season is as set forth in (d)1 through 6 below. There is no season in the following Zones: 38, 56, 64 and 67 or any time as determined by the Director. Legal hunting hours shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

1.- 2. (No change).

3. [October 31, 2009--January 31, 2010; October 30, 2010--January 31, 2011;] October 29, 2011 – January 31, 2012; October 27, 2012 – January 12, 2013; October 26 – January 13, 2014 in Zone 61.

4. [November 1--December 31, 2008; October 31--December 31, 2009; October 30--December 31, 2010;] October 29- December 31, 2011; October 27 – December 31, 2012; October 26- December 31, 2013 in Zones 39, 40, 54 and 66.

5. [October 31--December 24, 26--31, 2009; and October 30--December 24, 27--31, 2010;] October 29 – December 24 and 26-31, 2011; October 27 – December 24 and 26-31, 2012; October 26 – December 24 and 26-31, 2013 in Zone 37.

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6. [October 31--November 28, 2009; and October 30--November 27, 2010;] October 29 – December 31, 2011; October 27 – December 31, 2012; October 26 – December 31, 2013 in Zone 53.

7. (No change).

(e) – (h) (No change).

(i) Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 23:3-56.1, Occupant and Non-occupant Farmer Bow Permit Season Permits shall be applied for as follows:

1. Only the owner or lessee of a farm, who resides thereon, or the [spouse or children] **immediate family** of that farmer 10 years of age or older who reside in the farmer's household, may apply on forms provided for a farmer bow permit season permit. Under this section a farm is an area of five acres or more and producing a gross income in excess of \$ 500.00 and is tax assessed as farmland. Farmer bow permit season permits will be issued only in those deer management zones where a bow permit season is prescribed.

2. The owner or lessees of a farm, who does not reside thereon, and their [spouse or children] **immediate family** 10 years of age or older, may apply on forms provided for a non-occupant farmer deer permit. Under this subsection, applicants must farm 30 tilled acres that are tax assessed as farmland. Wood lots are not included in acreage needed to qualify. Properties do not need to be contiguous. No more than five individuals may receive a permit for the season for a property. The applicants must be the farmer or farmers[, their spouses and their children aged 10 and older **and their immediate family**.

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3. – 5. (No change).

(j) – (n) (No change).

7:25-5.32 Special Wildlife Management Permits

(a)-(c) (No change.)

(d) Subject to the requirements of the subsection, the Director may, in his or her discretion, designate special deer management areas and issue Special Deer Management Permits to administer alternative deer control methods as part of an approved community based deer management plan.

1. As used in this section, except as otherwise noted:

...

"Cooperator" means the local authority(ies), including airports, county boards of agriculture, **county and** municipal governing bodies, or a combination thereof, and/or instrumentalities thereof that have secured the approval of their applicable governing body(ies), cooperating in the administration of a community based deer management plan.

...

2. – 10. (No change).

(e) (No change).

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Based on consultation with staff, I hereby certify that the above statements, including the Federal Standards Analysis addressing the requirements of Executive Order 27 (1994), permit the public to understand accurately and plainly the purpose and expected consequences of these proposed amendments. I hereby authorize this proposal.

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Date

David Burke, Acting Chair
Fish and Game Council