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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Fish and Game Council  
2013 – 2014 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: 02-13-03  
Calendar Reference: See summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.  
Proposal Number: PRN 2013-

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

at 6:30 P.M. at:  
New Jersey State Museum  
205 West State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Submit comments by (60 days after publication) electronically at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/comments>. The Fish and Game Council (Council) encourages electronic submittal of comments. In the alternative, comments may be submitted on paper to:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Mail Code 501-03  
2013 Game Code Comments  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
P.O. Box 420  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

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The agency proposal follows:

### **Summary**

The proposed 2013-2014 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 Council 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 twentieth 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. Biennial 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:

1. The word "is" is deleted from the definition of "limited quota, special deer

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permits” and is replaced by the words “may be” regarding the requirement of a random lottery drawing for deer permits. The sentence will now read: “...a random lottery may be required because demand for permits is expected to exceed the supply.” No lottery drawings are presently conducted; however, the Division of Fish and Wildlife (Division) is reserving the right to do so in the future, if necessary. Lotteries will be conducted if demand exceeds quotas in special area deer management zones only, as lotteries are no longer conducted in regular management zones because quotas are designed to meet demand. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d)12.

2. A definition of “air gun” is added to complement proposed amendments that allow the use of air guns for the take of rabbit, jackrabbit, hare and squirrels (see proposed N.J.A.C.7:25-5.3, 5.5 and 5.23). The parameters for projectile size and muzzle velocity are identical to those utilized by New York State, which has had safe and successful air gun hunting for years. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.1(d)24.

3. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3 specifies limitations applicable to the take of species including chukar partridge (*Alectoris graeca*). The Council is proposing to add Hungarian partridge (*Perdix perdix*) to the section title, the subsection delineating season dates and weapon types legal for the take of the species in this section, and the subsection on bag limits. Season dates, weapon types and bag limits proposed are identical to those applicable to chukar partridge. The addition of this species will enable hunters to legally harvest Hungarian partridge which are stocked on semi-wild and commercial hunting preserves and when encountered incidentally on adjacent properties. The Division does not stock

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Hungarian partridge on Wildlife Management Areas. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.3(a), (c) and section title.

4. The hunting of quail by youth hunters on youth upland bird hunt day, as described in N.J.A.C.5:25-5.3(e), on the Peaslee and Greenwood Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) is proposed. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.3(e).

5. Air guns are added to the list of sporting arms legal for the take of cottontail rabbit, blacktail rabbit, whitetailed rabbit and European hare. Modern air guns have sufficient power to take small game and are quieter and lighter than some shotguns, making them the ideal tool for smaller framed hunters. Information on air guns will be incorporated into the basic shotgun hunter education course. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.3(a).

6. The opening day of the ruffed grouse season in the northern zone is proposed to be changed from the third Thursday to the second Saturday to coincide to the opening day of the woodcock season. The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and Flyway Councils adopt season dates for woodcock and have recently changed the season. States set their season dates by these Federal regulations. Woodcock and grouse are often found in similar habitat. Having the opening day of both species coincide would allow hunters to harvest both species when encountered, and allow a continuous season in the northern zone that would start on a Saturday and end on a Saturday. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.4(a).

7. Air guns are added to the list of sporting arms legal for the take of squirrel. Modern air guns have sufficient power to take small game and are quieter and lighter than some shotguns, making them the ideal tool for smaller framed hunters. Information on air guns

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will be incorporated into the basic shotgun hunter education course. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.5(a).

8. The boundary description for bear management zone 3 is corrected to reflect the actual existing boundary; the area in this zone does not change. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.6(a)3iii.

9. Legal hunting hours for the last two weeks of the spring turkey season (Hunting Period D) and the last Saturday of Hunting Period E are proposed to be changed to one-half hour before sunrise to sunset from one-half hour before sunrise to noon. The legal hunting hours for Hunting Periods A, B and C, and for the first three Saturdays of Hunting Period E remain unchanged. A youth hunting with a Hunting Period Y permit on any day of the spring turkey season other than the sixth Saturday before Memorial Day will follow the hunting hours of that hunting period. The change to full-day from half-day hunting during this time period will increase opportunity for working and youth hunters and will act as an incentive to hunters to participate in the end of the season which is currently not as popular as the earlier weeks of the season. New Jersey's spring gobbler season is timed to begin when most hens are incubating and less nest abandonment will occur. While a hen turkey is laying her clutch of eggs, she visits her nest only briefly each day to lay a single egg. During egg laying she is vulnerable to disturbance, mostly from hunters inadvertently walking within close proximity to her nest site and scaring her away. Once the clutch is complete, the hen sits tightly for long periods of time each day incubating the eggs and is much more tolerant of close approaches by passersby. All hens are incubating during the last two weeks and gobbling activity is naturally subsiding at this

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time. It is anticipated that this change will increase the harvest by approximately 10 percent, and, as the spring season is males-only, the expected impact on turkey populations is anticipated to be negligible. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.7(c).

10. Fall permit quotas for Turkey Hunting Areas (THA) 21 and 22 are adjusted. In most THAs, the fall permit quota is equivalent to one week of the spring turkey permit quota. THAs 21 and 22 were assigned lower fall quotas while turkey populations were rebounding. At this time, turkey populations are healthy and spring harvests are increasing. Accordingly, the fall permit quotas for THAs 21 and 22 have been adjusted to reflect the equivalent of one week of the spring quota for these areas, consistent with the other THAs. Permit quotas are set based upon land area and established hunter density guidelines. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(l).

11. Beaver trapping permits once reserved for site-specific situations under existing N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(d) are proposed to be reallocated to the special permit process specified at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(c) and distributed among beaver management zones with high complaint levels. At proposed N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(d) a new category of beaver trapping permit is proposed, known as beaver damage control permits. Fourteen permits of the 200 recreational permits designated by N.J.S.A.23:4-55 each year are normally set aside as site-specific permits to address problem areas. The current quota of 14 site-specific and 186 recreational permits is insufficient to satisfy all trappers interested in pursuing beaver. Increasing recreational permits to 200 will help to meet demand, while increasing beaver harvests to help alleviate problems caused by beavers in the affected

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zones. With elimination of the special site specific permits, limitations applicable to the take of beaver under those permits in other subsections are eliminated. Adding the new category of beaver damage control permits, issued by the Director, will still allow for the Division to respond to beaver problems where needed. Beaver damage control permits are issued under the authority of N.J.S.A 23:4-55. Beaver Damage Control permittees will be issued a limited number of possession tags based on the estimate of the number of animals causing the problem during inspection of the damage at the site. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(c), (d), (e), (g), and (h).

12. The Council is proposing to reallocate otter trapping permits between zones based on estimated otter populations in the 30 zones in the State, with the total number of permits proposed to be increased from 106 to 115. Otter trapping is expanded to zones currently closed. Recent population analyses on otter populations in New Jersey have determined a robust, healthy population exists in zones that currently have trapping. Evidence of otter (sighting reports, incidental captures and vehicle mortality reports) in closed zones indicates a trappable population. Permits will be reallocated from zones with high permit quotas but low population estimates. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.10(c).

13. Conservation ID (CID) is added to the list of identification methods that trappers can use to label their trap sets. CIDs are issued by the Electronic Licensing System to all persons purchasing a hunting, fishing or trapping license in New Jersey and are a lifetime identifier which replaced traditional license numbers in 2006. Permitting the use of CID numbers on trap tags will simplify trapper identification by the Division's Bureau of Law

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Enforcement personnel, who will be able to look up CID numbers on their vehicle's computer. Use of a CID number, which is permanently assigned to an individual, eliminates the need for the Division to assign trapper identification numbers in the future. Trappers already issued a trapper ID number may continue to use it on their trap tags in lieu of the CID if they so choose. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(a).

14. The phrase "conibear or killer-type trap" is removed from text and replaced by "body gripping killer-type trap" at the request of the company who owns the trademark for conibear. To avoid confusion with live traps, the term "body gripping restraining snares" is changed to "live capture cable restraints". See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(b), (c), (d), (f), (f)2, (f)3, (f)4, (f)5, and (g).

15. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(f) is proposed for amendment to allow for expanded diameters of cable or wire on snares of the body gripping type to allow for greater efficacy in trapping coyote. The Division increased the maximum cable diameter from 3/32 inches to 1/8 inches in 2009 to allow trappers the flexibility to employ the Collarum™ trap. At that time, the company's fox model utilized a 1/8 diameter cable and lighter duty springs to throw a 9-inch loop around the animal, but they did offer a conversion kit with larger arms needed to throw a larger, 12-inch loop size around the larger coyote. However, it is reported that the conversion kit's larger arms causes the 1/8 cable to twist in mid-air resulting in failure to capture the target animal. The company's current coyote model utilizes a 3/16 inch cable and heavy duty springs needed to throw a 12-inch loop of heavier cable successfully around larger canines. The Collarum™ is not widely used due



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to its unit cost. However in some cases, it can be extremely effective in capturing coyotes that have learned to avoid standard body gripping restraining snares. Accordingly, to allow this option, N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.12(f)2 is proposed for amendment to allow cable diameter on snares up to 3/16 inches in diameter. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(f)2.

16. The 8:00 a.m. opening time for waterfowl hunting on the opening day of the pheasant season is rescinded except on wildlife management areas stocked with pheasant and quail, as listed in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a)2. Currently, migratory bird hunting is only allowed on the opening day of the pheasant season prior to 8:00 AM in tidal marshes. This presents a significant conflict for Canada goose hunters in upland field hunting situations (especially on private land) and to a smaller degree with hunters pursuing ducks in nontidal waters (i.e.: headwater portions of lakes or on rivers/streams). During some years, this is especially troublesome since the opening of the “regular” Canada goose season and/or the second split of the duck season can coincide with the opening of the pheasant season. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(a) and (d)11. .

17. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(c) is proposed for amendment to require a Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification when pursuing light geese during a period when a Conservation Order (CO) is in effect. Currently, participating states individually conduct harvest surveys during the period covered by the light goose CO. In order to have consistent data collection, and to ease the reporting burden to waterfowl hunters, state agencies have requested that the US Fish and Wildlife Service derive CO harvest through the HIP. This proposed change should create, at worst, a minimal burden to hunters since

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the vast majority of hunters who pursue light geese during a CO are already HIP certified. Hunters who are not HIP certified can do so easily by purchasing the \$2.00 HIP permit. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(c).

18. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(l) is amended to close the upland ponds (non-tidal waters) on the Cox Hall Creek Wildlife Management Area to the take or possession of any migratory game birds. The Cox Hall Creek WMA is a small, highly visited suburban WMA which is adjacent to residential houses. While there is adequate space for waterfowl hunting in the salt marsh portion of Cox Hall Creek, waterfowl hunting in the lakes or ponds of the former golf course may create conflict with the surrounding community. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(l)20.

19. The Council proposes to remove the word “long” from the phrase “long bow” in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.18(a), which specifies when woodchuck may be taken. The term long bow predates the introduction of modern bows such as the compound bow and crossbows, which were incorporated into the Code as legal sporting arms in the 1970s and in 2009, respectively. Modern bows are now included in the definition of bows, along with traditional bows (long bows and recurved bows), in N.J.A.C.7:25-5.24(a). The removal of the word “long” is not a change in regulation but an update in nomenclature. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.18(a).

20. The Council proposes that turkey hunters may legally harvest coyotes if encountered incidental to legal turkey hunting. Turkey hunters shall not actively pursue coyotes or have coyote calls or coyote decoys in possession. Many turkey hunters have reported

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having coyotes come into their setup as they call turkeys or that coyotes have stalked their turkey decoys. Since most coyotes are taken incidentally to deer hunting, it is hoped that incidental take during the turkey season will allow for increased harvest of one of New Jersey's top predators. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(a).

21. The Council proposes to expand the types of firearms and ammunition legal for coyote hunting. Larger size shot and center- and rim-fire rifles are added to maximize the effectiveness of New Jersey's coyote hunters and to allow weapons which are most capable of humanely killing coyotes without posing an unacceptable risk to the general public or to other hunters. The range of shot sizes changes from no larger than #T or smaller than #4 to no smaller than #4 buckshot to no larger than "BB." Additionally, pellets must be lead or tungsten-nickel-iron hybrid pellets. Lead or tungsten-nickel-iron hybrid pellets have the necessary density and retained energy to insure adequate on-target energy to sustain clean and humane kills. Center-fire rifles no larger than .25 caliber and loaded with soft point or hollow point bullets with a maximum weight of 80 grains and rim-fire rifles no larger than .22 caliber loaded with soft point or hollow point bullets with a maximum weight of 50 grains are proposed to be authorized weapons for the reasons stated above. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(i).

22. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.22 is proposed for amendment to reflect the terminology used by the new Automated Deer Check System. Where possession seals are referenced, the phrase "confirmation number" is added as harvested deer will now receive a confirmation number in place of a metal possession seal. It is also proposed that the gender and age of

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a deer is to be recorded by a taxidermist or butcher processing a deer for confirmation by law enforcement under the ADCS. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.22(e), (e)1, and (e2).

23. Air guns are proposed to be added to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(a) for the take of cottontail rabbit, blacktail rabbit, whitetailed rabbit and European hare. Modern air guns have sufficient power to take small game and are quieter and lighter than some shotguns, making them the ideal tool for smaller framed hunters. Information on air guns will be incorporated into the basic shotgun hunter education course.

Farmers or their agents may use shot not larger than no. 4 buckshot to control coyote in concert with the proposed changes to ammunition in #21 above.

Hungarian partridge are added to the list of small game species that shall not be hunted on Sundays except on semi-wild and commercial shooting preserves. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(a), (f), and (h).

24. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24 specifies general provisions applicable to hunting with bow and arrow, including types of head that may be affixed to an arrow. In 2011, the Game Code was amended to require the use of flu-flu arrows for the take of flying game birds. This section includes a cross-reference to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(c) which specifies arrowhead requirements applicable to the hunt of grounded game birds. A more specific citation is added to differentiate the type of arrow heads legal for the take of grounded game from the flu-flu arrows required by this subsection. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.24(e).

25. At N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(p)39-40 Deer Management Zone (DMZ) 40 is proposed to be incorporated into DMZ 39 at the request of the administering agency (Earle Naval

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Weapons Station). As a result of this proposed consolidation of these two DMZs, all references to DMZ 40 throughout the Code are deleted or marked as “not designated.”

With the proposed consolidation, the DMZ 40 permit bow quota at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.30(k)40 is proposed to be transferred to DMZ 39. In DMZ 39 the permit muzzleloader season is extended through the second Saturday in February and the fall bow season switches from the traditional October opening day to a September opening day format. The winter bow season in Zone 39 is proposed to be extended through the third Saturday in February. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(a)2, (b), (b)2; 5:25-5.26(a); 5.28(c), (c)2, (d)7 and 8, (f)1, (k), (m); 5.29(c), (c)1, (d)9, (f)1, (k), (o), (p) 39 and 40, (q)1, (r); 5.30(c), (c)1 and 2, (d)4, (f)3, (k), (m).

26. The rules include requirements that must be met for reporting of deer recovered too late to be brought to a deer check station. Within 48 hours of registering the deer with the ADCS and upon request of the Division, the hunter is required to produce the head of the harvested deer. Language requiring hunters to produce the head of a harvested deer upon request from Division of Fish & Wildlife is clarified to make clear that hunters must produce the head in that situation. Additionally, the phrase “or produce records relating to the location of the head” is added to the provisions containing this requirement. This change makes accommodations for a hunter who may have brought his or her deer to a butcher or taxidermist within the 48 hour window when DFW may inspect the head. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(b)1; 5.26(b)1; 5.27(b); 5.28(c)3; 5.29(g), 5.30(c).

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27. Regulation Sets are used to organize regular deer management zones by season dates and bag limits. All zones within a specific regulation set have the same season dates and overall bag limits for all seasons. The Council is proposing to restructure the regulation sets applicable to the take of deer to better achieve management goals and distribute hunting opportunity. Regulation sets are renumbered to eliminate sets without assigned zones. These regulation sets originally had zones assigned which were subsequently moved to other regulation sets to better meet management strategies within those zones. Proposed amendments to regulation set 0 shorten the permit bow season by removing the last week, shorten the permit muzzleloader season by removing the last week, and change the bag limit from two deer to one deer of either sex. Proposed amendments to regulation set 1 add two days to the permit shotgun season, increasing from a one-day season to a three-day season. Proposed amendments to regulation set 2 add two days to the permit shotgun season, increasing from a one-day season to a three-day season, and shorten the permit muzzleloader season by removing the last week. Proposed regulation sets 4 through 7 are renumbered from their old assigned set numbers of 3A, 4, 6, and 8; the earn-a-buck harvest dates during the first three weeks of the fall bow season are changed to antlerless-only for sets 4 through 8. Proposed regulation set 8, which is existing set 9, adds four antlerless-only harvest dates to both the permit shotgun and permit muzzleloader seasons.

Zones are assigned to new regulation sets as follows:

<u>Regulation Set</u>	<u>DMZs</u>
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0	21, 23, 24, 43, 45
1	34, 46
2	1, 3, 4, 18
3	22, 26, 30, 55, 65
4	6
5	2, 16, 27, 28, 29, 31, 35, 47, 63
6	5, 17, 19, 42, 48
7	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 41
8	13, 14, 36, 49, 50, 51

See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25, 5.26, 5.28, 5.29, 5.30.

28. The statewide two-deer bag limit is removed for the fall bow and winter bow seasons. Currently, zones with an early opening fall bow season have an unlimited antlerless bag limit. More restrictive zones have a later season open date and a reduced bag limit of one or two antlerless deer. Currently, if a hunter chooses to hunt in an early opening fall bow season zone and harvests two deer, he/she cannot then proceed to hunt in a more restrictive zone that opens later because he/she has already met the two-deer statewide bag limit. The current regulation restricts hunters who may want to hunt in both types of zones. Bag limits for the fall bow and permit bow seasons will be as prescribed for each zone, except that once hunters have met the bag limit for that regulation set, they may not harvest any more deer from any zones in that regulation set. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(b); 5.26(b).

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29. The Council proposes to eliminate the requirement to display a permit, with the exception of farmers hunting on their own property utilizing a farmer muzzleloader, shotgun, or bow and arrow season permit. Display of a license by a person engaged in hunting is mandated by N.J.S.A.23:3-1; display of a deer season permit is required by N.J.A.C.7:25-5. Mandating the display of a permit was necessary when permits were hand-issued and there was no centralized database for law enforcement officers to confirm a hunter's legality. The Electronic Licensing System, which replaced hand-issued licenses and permits in 2007, issues a lifetime Conservation ID (CID) number and enables law enforcement to reference the CID electronically providing information on all permits possessed by a hunter. Accordingly, it is no longer necessary to require hunters licensed through the Electronic Licensing System to display a permit. Farmers are proposed to continue to be required to display a permit because they do not need a hunting license when hunting on their own property and the permit will be the only form of ID for law enforcement to check. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.28(g); 5.29(g); 5.30(g).

30. Prior to implementation of the new Automated Deer Check System, deer were assigned registration numbers at designated deer check stations. Under the Automated Deer Check System, the number assigned is referred to as a confirmation number. Accordingly, wherever "registration number" is referenced in the Code, it will be replaced by "confirmation number" to reflect the current terminology when referring to deer. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.25(b), (b)1; 5.26(b), (b)1; 5.27(b); 5.28(c); 5.29(c), (g); 5.30(c), and (g).



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31. Five permit muzzleloader days that have previously been scheduled in November are proposed to be moved to the first Monday through Friday in December in Deer Management Zone 37 at the request of the administering agency (Fort Dix). Additionally, Fort Dix Military Reservation and Lakehurst Naval Engineering Station are renamed Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.28(d)5; 5.29(k),(p)37.

32. Changes are proposed to Deer Management Zone 61 at the request of the administering agency (Atlantic County Parks System). Particularly, it is proposed that a winter bow season be instituted, that the take of two deer at a time be allowed for the permit shotgun and permit muzzleloader seasons, and that the permit bow season be shortened to end December 31<sup>st</sup>. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.26(a); 5.28(c); 5.29(c); 5.30(d)2.

33. Deer management Zone 38 (Great Swamp NWR) adds future season dates to permit shotgun and permit muzzleloader subsections, and is deleted from subsections in permit shotgun (N.J.A.C.7:25-5.29) and permit muzzleloader (N.J.A.C.7:25-5.28) as it has its own section that already exists and which includes this information (N.J.A.C.7:25-5.31). See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.28(d)6; 5.29(d)7; 5.31(c).

34. The existing season dates for zones 57 and 58 correspond to regulation set 4; therefore these zones are now included with set 4 in N.J.A.C.7:25-5.28(d)1, and the subsections previously defining their dates have been omitted (d)11 and 14. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.28(d)1, 11 and 14.

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35. The buck goal for deer management zone 63 is proposed to be changed from six bucks to five bucks per square mile. The buck goal is the level of antlered harvest necessary to keep deer populations at a certain level, as the antlered harvest is used as an index to each deer management zone's population. Zone 63 has been below the current buck goal of six bucks per square mile for over 10 consecutive years, dropping further in 2010 (40 percent below) and 2011 (46 percent below). The goal is adjusted to reflect recent harvest trends and adapted to adjust for the reduced population resulting from recent Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease outbreaks in 2007 and 2010. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.29(r)63.

36. The boundary between deer management zones 25 and 26 is changed to move approximately 18 square miles of zone 25 into zone 26. Harvest analysis for the area to be moved shows that the three year harvest average is 2.4 deer per square mile. When compared to the surrounding area, there are significantly less deer being harvested in the area proposed to be moved than in the surrounding area (5.2 deer per square mile). Zone 26 has more restrictive harvest regulations than zone 25, which are more appropriate to deer densities and habitat in the area proposed to be moved. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.29(p)25 and 26.

37. As indicated in summary paragraph 27 above, the current regulation set 3A is proposed to be redesignated as regulation set 4. When regulation set 3A was added to the Game Code in 2011, this regulation set was not added to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.30(d), which specifies the duration of the bow permit season. This oversight is proposed to be

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corrected by the proposed addition of proposed regulation set 4 to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.30(d).

See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.30(d)1.

38. The permit bow season is extended by one day in deer management zones in proposed regulation sets 1- 4 (see summary paragraph #27 above) with the season proposed to close on Sunday instead of Saturday. The permit bow season traditionally closed on Saturday as Sunday bow hunting was not allowed on Sundays prior to 2009. Regulation set 0 is not included in the extended season provided by the proposed amendment because deer populations cannot support an additional day of hunting. Accordingly, a new N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.30(d)7 is proposed which continues to close the permit bow season in this regulation set on the Saturday following the fall bow hunt season. Sets 4 through 8 have an extended season which closes December 31<sup>st</sup>. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.30(d)1.

39. Permit quotas for the permit bow season are increased in deer management zones 36 and 49. The current quotas are not sufficient to meet demand in these zones. Both zones have buck goals of zero deer per square mile and are in two of the mostly densely populated areas of the State; as such over-harvest is not a concern. Zone 13 is increased from 1,650 to 2,000 permits, 36 is increased from 500 to 1,000 permits and zone 49 is increased from 285 to 500 permits. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.30(k)13, 36 and 49.

40. The restriction prohibiting firearm hunting on wildlife management areas on the day prior to the opening of the regular small game season for pheasants and quail is proposed to be rescinded. This regulation originated when stocking of pheasants occurred during

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daytime hours on the day prior to opening day. Currently, pheasants are stocked during nighttime hours, precluding any conflict between Division personnel and hunters or the chance of prematurely harvesting a pheasant before the season opens. The quail season is closed statewide with the exception of the Peaslee and Greenwood WMAs. See N.J.A.C.7:25-5.34(a).

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 increase the legal hunting hours for the last two weeks of the spring turkey hunting season, and to increase the number of permits available for fall turkey hunting in turkey hunting areas (THAs) 21 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.

Allowing the use of air gun for the rabbit and hare, and squirrel hunting seasons will provide greater recreational opportunity for participating hunters, particularly for smaller framed hunters like youths who cannot comfortably handle a heavier shotgun.

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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.

Expanding the choice of weapons and ammunition for the coyote hunting season will provide greater opportunity for participating hunters while ensuring more humane kills, and help to increase the harvest of these predators, which are responsible for pet, small animal and livestock depredation.

The positive social impact anticipated from the proposed amendments includes improved conservation and management of the species covered by the proposed amendments, as well as 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 restructuring of regulation sets will mitigate economic losses associated with deer damage to landscape plantings or gardens, agricultural crops and deer-vehicle collisions.

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The amendment to reallocate beaver trapping permits to zones experiencing an increase in complaints will help to mitigate property damage to citizens living in those areas.

Providing hunters with better means to take coyotes through amendments to hunting and trapping methods allowed for the take of this predatory species will help to mitigate property losses of small livestock and pets.

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 significant 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. Amendments to the Game Code designed to conserve and manage the species covered by the Code, as well as to enhance recreational activities will assure that these economic benefits to the State continue.

### **Environmental Impact**

The proposed amendments are anticipated to have a positive environmental impact as they reflect the State's continued research on and control of wildlife species. The proposed amendments to the regulations will continue the conservation, management and enhancement of the State's wildlife resources and habitats based on current

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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 restructure regulation sets will help to address forest health issues by reducing deer densities in various portions of the State. The proposed change to move approximately 18 square miles of zone 25 into zone 26, which has more restrictive harvest regulations than zone 25, will assure that appropriate limitations on harvest are in place in this area. The amendment to reallocate beaver trapping permits will reduce the potential for flooding caused by beavers in those areas.

### **Federal Standards Statement**

Executive Order No. 27 (1994) and N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. requires 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 proposed amendments to the Game Code do not contain any standards or requirements that exceed Federal regulations involving National Wildlife Refuge areas.

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The United States Fish and Wildlife Service regulates falconry in 50 CFR 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. do not require further analysis.

### **Jobs Impact**

The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any 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 for 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 are maintained at acceptable levels.

### **Regulatory Flexibility Analysis**

The proposed 2013-2014 Game Code requires taxidermists and game butchers who process deer to record the age (fawn or adult) and the gender of the animal in addition to their regular recordkeeping. This minimal requirement will not result in an administrative burden to small business or require them to hire additional staff.

### **Housing Affordability Impact**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-4 as amended effective July 17, 2008, by P.L. 2008.c.46, the Council has evaluated this rulemaking to determine the impact, if any, on the affordability of housing. The proposed amendments do not involve the creation or construction of any type of housing units. Accordingly, there is an extreme unlikelihood that the proposed amendment will have an impact on housing affordability.

### **Smart Growth Development Impact**

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

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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 Development and Redevelopment Plan (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 Planning Areas 1 and 2, or designated centers. Accordingly, there is an extreme unlikelihood that the proposed amendments will not evoke a change in housing production within planning areas 1 or 2 or within designated centers.

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

#### SUBCHAPTER 5. 2013 - 2014 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 – 11. (No change.)

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12. "Limited quota, special deer permits" means bow, muzzleloader or shotgun special deer seasons permits for [management zones] **special management areas including military bases, National Wildlife Refuges, State and county parks and other areas that require application or issuance of special deer permits through the Division issued by [where a] random drawing [is required] because demand for permits is expected to exceed the supply[, and for special management areas including military bases, National Wildlife Refuges, State and county parks and other areas that require application or issuance of special deer permits through the Division]**

13 – 23. (No change.)

24. **“Air gun” means any shoulder-mounted firearm which by the force of a spring, air or other non-ignited compressed gas expels a missile or projectile and has a rifled or smooth barrel, using ammunition no smaller than .177 caliber and no larger than .22 caliber producing projectile velocities of not less than 600 feet per second measured at the muzzle.**

(e) – (i) (No change.)

7:25-5.3 Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), blacktail jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), whitetailed jackrabbit (*Lepus townsendii*), European hare (*Lepus*

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europeus), chukar partridge (*Alectoris graeca*), **Hungarian partridge (*Perdix perdix*)** 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, **or air gun** shall begin the last Saturday in September and conclude the Saturday after the third Monday of the following February, inclusive; except the season shall be closed during the six-day firearm deer season as specified 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 and Hungarian** partridge 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 the season shall be closed during the six-day firearm deer season as specified 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 at Greenwood Forest WMA and Peaslee WMA shall begin on the Saturday following the first Monday in November and conclude the following January 31, inclusive; except the season shall be closed during the six-day firearm deer season as specified 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.

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(b) (No change.)

(c) The daily bag limit is one jackrabbit or hare, seven chukar partridge, **seven Hungarian partridge**, and four cottontail rabbits. The daily bag limit for quail at Greenwood Forest WMA and Peaslee WMA is four quail.

(d) (No change.)

(e) The annual season for hunting chukar partridge and quail on properly licensed semi-wild preserves shall begin on the Saturday following the first Monday in November and conclude the following March 15 inclusive., except that nothing herein contained shall preclude properly] **Properly** licensed and permitted youth hunters [from hunting] **may hunt** quail and/or chukar **partridge** on the Saturday before the regular opening of the quail and chukar **partridge** season on semi-wild preserves licensed for quail and/or chukar **partridge** **or for hunting quail on that same Saturday on the Peaslee and Greenwood Wildlife Management Areas**. Youth hunters must be under the direct supervision of a non-hunting adult (21 years or older), who must possess a proper and valid firearm license. Direct supervision means the youth hunter and the supervising adult are together at the same location. The youth hunter may not hunt independently of the supervising adult. The Director, with approval of the Council, may extend the quail and

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chukar partridge season on licensed semi-wild preserves for a period not to exceed 20 days.

1. There is no daily bag limit for quail, [and] chukar **partridge and Hungarian** partridge taken on properly licensed semi-wild shooting preserves. The total number of quail, [and] chukar **partridge and Hungarian** partridge taken on a semi-wild shooting preserve in the season may not exceed the number specified for release on the semi-wild shooting preserve application.

(f). (No change.)

#### 7:25-5.4 Ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)

(a) The annual season for hunting ruffed grouse with shotgun or bow and arrow in the area of New Jersey lying north of Route 70 shall begin on the third [Thursday] **Saturday** in October and conclude December 31, inclusive; except the season shall be closed during the six-day firearm deer season specified 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 ruffed grouse with shotgun or bow and arrow in the area of New Jersey lying south of Route 70 shall begin the Saturday following the first Monday in November and conclude December 31, inclusive; except the season shall be closed during the six-day firearm deer season specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a) and on the Wednesday immediately following the six-day firearm deer season.

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(b) – (d) (No change.)

7:25-5.5 Eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

(a) The annual season for hunting eastern gray squirrel with shotgun, [or] bow and arrow, **or air gun** shall begin on the last Saturday in September and conclude the third Monday of the following February, inclusive; except the season shall be closed during the six-day firearm deer season as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a) and on the Wednesday immediately following the six-day firearm deer season.

(b) – (e) (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 intentionally take, kill or attempt to take or kill a bobcat in the State of New Jersey at any time. Bobcat, including any part thereof, legally harvested in other U.S. states or Canadian provinces may be possessed provided they are affixed with a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) tag from the state or province of

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harvest. It shall be illegal to use dogs to pursue or run black bear. 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](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)) and other media.

1. – 2. (No change.)

3. The black bear management zones are located as follows:

i. – ii. (No change.)

iii. Zone 3: That portion of Sussex, Passaic, Morris and Bergen counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 80 and Rt. 15 in Dover; then north along Rt. 15 to its intersection with Rt. 517 in Sparta; then north along Rt. 517 to its intersection with Rt. 23 Franklin; [then north along Rt. 23/ 517 to its intersection with 517 in Hamburg Borough;] **then north along Rt. 23 to its intersection with Rt. 94 in**



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**Hamburg Borough; then north along Rt. 94 to its intersection with Rt. 517** then north along Rt. 517 to the New York state line; then east along the New York state line to its intersection with Rt. 287; then south along Rt. 287 to its intersection with Rt. 80; then west along Rt. 80 to its intersection with Rt. 15 the point of beginning in Dover.

iv. – vi. (No change.)

4. – 6. (No change.)

(b) (No change.)

7:25-5.7 Wild turkey (*Meleagris gallapavo*)

(a) – (b) (No change.)

(c) The hunting hours for wild turkey gobblers in the spring season shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to noon daily **for Hunting Periods A – C and the first three Saturdays of hunting Period E; and ½ hour before sunrise to sunset daily for Hunting Period D and the last Saturday of hunting Period E. A youth hunting with a Hunting Period Y permit on any day of the spring turkey season other than the sixth Saturday before Memorial Day will follow the hunting hours of that hunting period.** Hunting hours for the fall either sex turkey season shall be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset daily.

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(d) – (k) (No change.)

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

FALL TURKEY HUNTING SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

Turkey Hunting Area Number	Permit Quota**	Portions of Counties Involved
...		
21	[200]380	Atlantic, Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, Camden
22	[140]165	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland
Total	[3,170]3,375	

\*\* 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) – (n) (No change.)

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

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(a) – (b) (No change.)

(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:

ANNUAL SPECIAL BEAVER PERMIT QUOTAS

Beaver Management Zone Number*	Annual Permit Quota	Portions of Counties Involved
...		
2	[16]17	Sussex
...		
6	[20]22	Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Warren
7	[9]10	Essex, Morris, Passaic
...		

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25	[5]6	Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset
...		
28	[8]11	Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth
29	[8]12	Burlington, Camden, Gloucester
30	[6]8	Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem
Total	[186]200	

\*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 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.] **Beaver Damage Control Permit: Special permits, known as Beaver Damage Control Permits, may be issued by the Director, in his or her discretion, for the control of beavers. These permits may be issued to the owner or lessee of any land to control beavers that are causing damage on that land.**

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**1. The permittee and their agents shall conform to all Federal, State, and local statutes, rules, codes and ordinances pertaining to the use and discharge of firearms, and the setting of traps.**

**2. The permittee and their agents shall comply with the means, methods of take, hours, recordkeeping requirements, and other conditions prescribed by the Division and listed on the Beaver Damage Control Permit.**

**3. The conditions set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32(b)3 – 6, 8 – 10, and 12 – 15 apply to Beaver Damage Control Permits.**

**4. For Beaver Damage Control Permits issued during the dates of the annual beaver trapping season, the permittee must have first applied for a special permit for the current beaver trapping season. Beaver taken outside the recreational trapping season cannot be possessed or sold by the damage control trapper. Permit conditions for a Beaver Damage Control Permit issued during the annual season may include provisions for possession of beavers caught under the permit, in which case the beavers must be tagged and checked in accordance with (f) below. A valid trapping license is required for trapping under a Beaver Damage Control Permit issued during the annual trapping season.**

(e) The season limit for beaver trapping is eight beaver per special permit [and 10 beaver per special site specific permit].

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(f) (No change.)

(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) Special Beaver [Permit and Special Site Specific] Permits **and Beaver Damage Control Permits** are valid only in the zone or site designated and are not transferable from person to person.

(i) (No change.)

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

(a) – (b) (No change.)

(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

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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]2, Zone 2-[7]3, Zone 3-2, Zone 4-[3]2, Zone 5-[2]3, Zone 6-[9]4, Zone 7-3, Zone 8-[6]7, Zone 9-[3]4, Zone 10-[4]2, Zone 11-5, Zone 12- 2, Zone 13-[14]7, Zone 14-[7]6, Zone 15-[12]15, Zone 16-4, Zone 17-2, Zone 18-5, Zone 19-[1]3, Zone 20-[1]3, **Zone 21-1, Zone 22-1, Zone 23-1, Zone 24-3, Zone 25-3,** Zone 26-[1]3, Zone 27-[1]2, **Zone 28-5, Zone 29-3 and Zone 30-[5]9**. Total: [106]**115**. Successful applicants must trap with a valid, current trapping license.

(d) – (i) (No change.)

#### 7:25-5.12. General trapping

(a) All traps set or used in this State must bear a durable and legible tag with the name and address of the person setting, using and maintaining the traps. [The]A Division

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[may issue a] **issued** trap identification number or **Conservation Identification Number (CID)** [to licensed trappers which] may be used in lieu of a name and address.

(b) No trap of any kind shall be permitted to remain set on any property at the close of the trapping season. It shall be illegal to possess, in the woods or fields of this State any [conibear or] **body gripping** killer type trap with a jaw spread greater than six inches except under permit for the trapping of beaver or otter.

(c) No person shall set, use or maintain any type of [conibear or] **body gripping** killer-type trap for the purpose of trapping any muskrat or other furbearing animal in this state unless such trap is completely submerged underwater. This shall not preclude the setting of [conibear or] **body gripping** killer-type traps in tidal waters of this State for the purpose of taking muskrats, whereby the traps may be exposed above the surface of the water due to the ebb and flow of the tide, and provided that all such traps shall be completely submerged at mean high tide.

(d) No [conibear or] **body gripping** killer-type traps with a jaw spread larger than six inches shall be used or set in this State except for the trapping of beaver or otter. No [conibear or] **body gripping** killer-type traps with a jaw spread larger than 10 inches shall be used, set or maintained at any time in this state for the purpose of trapping any animal. Jaw spread shall be measured across the trigger of a set trap to the inner edges of the jaws.

(e) (No change.)



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(f) [Body gripping restraining snares] **live capture cable restraints** shall be subject to the following requirements.

1. (No change.)

2. Except when submerged underwater or when set for mink and muskrat as provided herein, all [snares of the body gripping type] **live capture cable restraints** used in trapping must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring [5/64 to 1/8] **up to 3/16** inches in diameter and be equipped with a swivel. Mink and muskrat [body gripping snares] **live capture cable restraints** must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring 1/32, 3/64, or 1/16 inches in diameter, equipped with a swivel and set within 50 feet of the mean high water line.

3. Except when submerged underwater or when set for mink and muskrat as provided in this subsection, no [body gripping snare] **live capture cable restraints** shall be set, used, or maintained with a loop diameter average (arithmetic mean) greater than 12 inches. Mink and muskrat [body gripping snares] **live capture cable restraints** must be equipped with a stop to prevent the average (arithmetic mean) diameter of the loop opening from exceeding four inches.

4. Except when set for mink and muskrat as provided in this subsection, no [body gripping snare] **live capture cable restraints** shall be set, used or maintained with the distance between the ground or walking surface to the top of the loop greater than 24 inches. No mink or muskrat [body gripping snare] **live capture cable restraints** must be

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set, used or maintained with a distance between the ground or walking surface to the top of the loop greater than seven inches.

5. Except when submerged underwater or when set for mink and muskrat as provided in this subsection, no [body gripping snare] **live capture cable restraints** shall be set, used or maintained unless it is equipped with a stop six inches from the end to restrict loop closure to no less than six inches in circumference.

(g) All natural baits consisting of fish, bird or mammal carcasses or flesh used in trapping with [body gripping restraining snares] **live capture cable restraints** must be covered or concealed from view except when placed or located at a distance of 30 feet or greater from any set snare.

(i) – (j) (No change.)

#### 7:25-5.13 Migratory birds

(a) Should any open season on migratory game birds, including waterfowl, set by Federal regulation include the opening day of the pheasant season (see N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2(d)), the starting time for hunting of the migratory game bird season on such date will be 8:00 A.M. to coincide with the opening of the pheasant season on that date **on Wildlife Management areas stocked with pheasants and quail as enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a)2.**

(b) (No change.)

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(c) A person shall not take, attempt to take, hunt for or have in possession, any migratory game birds, including waterfowl, except at the time and in the manner prescribed in the Code of Federal Regulations by the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for the current hunting season or during the period that a U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Order or Managed Take Option is in effect. During the period that any Federal Conservation Order or Managed Take Option for Canada geese is in effect, the take of Canada geese will be limited to private, agricultural lands during August 1-31. For the purposes of this section, agricultural lands means an area of five acres or more, producing a gross income in excess of \$ 500.00 and tax assessed as farmland. Any Federal Conservation Order or Managed Take Option for Canada geese would be implemented only after the Division requests, and is granted authority from, the U.S. Department of the Interior. Farmers or other individuals participating in any Federal Conservation Order or Managed Take Option for Canada geese shall obtain a permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The species of migratory game birds, including waterfowl, that may be taken or possessed and, unless otherwise provided, the daily bag limits shall be the same as those prescribed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the current hunting season or during the period that a Conservation Order or Managed Take Option is in effect. Anyone engaged in hunting migratory birds including waterfowl, woodcock, mourning doves, rails, [and] gallinules, **and light geese under a Conservation Order** must comply with the rules of the Migratory Bird Harvest

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Information Program (HIP) as specified in 50 C.F.R. § 20.20 Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program; Final Rule, incorporated herein by reference, wherein licensed hunters are required to supply their names, addresses, and migratory bird harvest information to the hunting license authority of the state in which they hunt. Hunters are required to have evidence of participation in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program on their person while hunting migratory game birds. Evidence of participation shall include a HIP certification on his or her valid hunting license. The HIP certification shall be obtained via the Division's ELS.

(d) – (k) (No change.)

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

1. – 10. (No change.)

11. Before 8:00 A.M. on the opening day of the pheasant season (see N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2(d)) **on Wildlife Management areas stocked with pheasants and quail as enumerated in 5:33(a)2.** However, this shall not preclude the hunting of migratory game birds on tidal waters or tidal marshes of the State;

12. – 19. (No change.)

**20. On the non-tidal waters of the Cox Hall Creek Wildlife Management Area.**

(m) – (r) (No change.)

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7:25-5.18 Woodchuck (*Marmota monax*) hunting

(a) Duration for the hunting of woodchucks with a rifle including a muzzleloading rifle shall begin on March 1 (except in years when March 1 is a Sunday in which case the season shall begin on March 2) and conclude on the Wednesday before the opening of the fall bow and arrow deer season specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(a)1, inclusive. Licensed hunters may also take woodchuck with shotgun or [long] bow and arrow or by means of falconry during the regular woodchuck rifle season and during the upland game season established in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3, 5.4 and 5.5.

(b) – (f) (No change.)

7:25-5.19 Fox & coyote

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

1. Bow and Arrow Only: Begins concurrently with the white-tailed deer fall bow season, as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(a)1, and concludes the Friday following the first Monday in November, inclusive.

2. (No change.)

**3. Notwithstanding 1 and 2 above, coyote may be taken by licensed turkey hunters when encountered incidental to hunting turkey in accordance with N.J.A.C.**

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**7:25-5.7. Turkey hunters may not have coyote calls or coyote decoys in their possession or take any action intended to attract coyote for take.**

(b) – (h) (No change.)

(i) During the special eastern coyote, red fox and gray fox hunting season listed in (e) above, exclusively, coyotes may be hunted with bow and arrow, shotgun, **center-fire rifles, rimfire rifles** and single barrel muzzleloader rifles between 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Compound bows must have a minimum peak weight of 35 pounds. All other bows must have a minimum draw pull weight of 35 pounds. Shotguns shall be no smaller than 12 gauge nor larger than 10 gauge. [No shot size larger than #T (.20 inches in diameter) fine shot or smaller than #4 (.13 inches in diameter) fine shot] **Coyote hunters shall possess and use shotgun shells loaded with shot sizes no smaller than number 4 Buckshot (.24 caliber) and no larger than “BB” (.18 caliber)** [shall be used] for coyote hunting with a shotgun. **Pellets must be lead or tungsten-nickel-iron hybrid pellets.** Muzzleloader rifles shall be no less than .44 caliber. Smoothbore muzzleloaders shall be single barreled. **Center-fire rifles shall be a maximum of .25 caliber loaded with soft point or hollow point bullets with a maximum weight of 80 grains. Rim fire rifles shall be a maximum of .22 caliber loaded with soft point or hollow point bullets with a maximum weight of 50 grains.** Between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise, only 10 or 12 gauge shotguns and fine shot no smaller than #4 (.13 inches in diameter) or larger than #T (.20 inches in diameter) may be used.

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(j) – (k) (No change.)

7:25-5.22 Wild animals; possession, killing

(a) – (d) (No change.)

(e) No person shall have in possession a deer, bear or turkey, or the parts thereof including the meat of a deer, bear or turkey, that he himself or she herself did not kill unless it has a tag or label bearing the date of harvest, possession seal **or confirmation** number, and the name, address, telephone number, and license number of the person who killed the deer, bear or turkey.

1. Those in the business of processing deer, bear or turkey, that is butchers, taxidermists, etc., shall keep a ledger of all of their customers. Each customer's name, current address, day and evening telephone number, hunting license number and the possession seal **or confirmation** number of any black bear, deer or turkey being processed shall be included in the ledger. **For deer, the gender and age (fawn or adult) of the animal shall also be included.** This ledger shall be made available for inspection upon request made during the hours of 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. by any law enforcement officer or employee of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

2. The possession seal which is issued at a designated black bear, deer or turkey check station **or the confirmation number issued by the ADCS** shall always stay with the carcass, and with the meat after processing. If the black bear, deer or turkey is to be mounted by a taxidermist, the antlers, or in the case of a black bear, an antlerless deer or

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turkey, those parts of the animal being mounted, shall be labeled with the possession seal **or confirmation** number and the name and address of the owner.

3. (No change.)

(f) – (h) (No change.)

7:25-5.23 Firearms and missiles, etc.

(a) Except when legally engaged in deer or black bear hunting during the prescribed firearm seasons, respectively, no person shall have in his or her possession in the woods, fields, marshlands or on the water any shell or cartridge with missiles of any kind larger than No. 4 fine shot. **This shall not apply to persons properly licensed for hunting during the cottontail rabbit, blacktail jackrabbit, whitetailed jackrabbit, European hare and eastern gray squirrel seasons, exclusively, who may use an air gun, as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d)24. Air guns may use wadcutter, domed or pointed, or hollowpoint pellets; spherical BBs are not permitted.** This shall not apply to persons properly licensed and permitted for hunting during the special eastern coyote, red fox and gray fox hunting season, exclusively, who may use [fine shot no smaller than #4 (.13 inches in diameter) or larger than #T (.20 inches in diameter)] **10 or 12 gauge shotgun ammunition loaded with shot sizes between Number 4 buckshot (.24 caliber) and “BB” (.18 caliber). Pellets must be lead or tungsten-nickel-iron hybrid pellets.** This shall not preclude farmers or their agents from using shot not larger than No.



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4 buckshot to control woodchuck causing damage or a properly licensed person from hunting woodchuck with a rifle during the woodchuck season. For hunting woodchuck, center-fire rifles of .25 caliber or smaller or rim-fire rifles may be used. Center-fire rifles larger than .25 caliber may also be used provided that the bullets used do not exceed 100 grains in weight. All center-fire rifle ammunition used in hunting woodchucks must be hollow point, soft point or expanding lead core bullets. All rim-fire rifle ammunition used in hunting woodchuck must be hollow point or soft point type. Also excepted is the use of a muzzleloading rifle, .36 caliber or smaller, loaded with a single projectile during the prescribed portion of the squirrel season in designated areas. Waterfowl hunters may possess and use shotgun shells loaded with T (.200") steel fine shot or smaller or other non-toxic shot authorized by Federal regulations no larger than T (.200") shot and properly licensed persons hunting for raccoon or opossum with hounds or engaged in trapping for furbearing animals may possess and use a .22 caliber rifle [and]for raccoon, or opossum or legally trapped furbearing animals other than muskrat. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this subsection shall not preclude agents and/or permittees operating under an approved Special Deer Management Permit (N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.32) from shooting deer with a rifle or a rifle equipped with a silencer or suppressor if that permit so specifically provides. Rifles for this purpose shall be restricted as specifically provided in that permit to include only .22, .223, .270 and .45 caliber or other calibers approved by the Division. Only highly frangible bullets shall be employed in .223 and .270 caliber rifles. Bullets employed in .22 and .45 caliber rifles shall be restricted to those designed to provide

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maximum expansion and limited penetration. As a part of a Special Deer Management Permit, use of .22 rim-fire ammunition is restricted to euthanasia of captive deer only.

(b) – (e) (No change.)

(f) Except as specifically provided **in (a) above or** below for waterfowl hunters, **hunting in** semi-wild and commercial preserves, trappers, woodchuck hunters, raccoon and opossum hunters, **hare and rabbit hunters, squirrel hunters, fox and coyote hunters,** muzzleloader deer hunters, [muzzleloader squirrel hunters,] and muzzleloader bear hunters, it shall be illegal to use a [ny] firearm of any kind other than a shotgun. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the use of a shotgun not smaller than 20 gauge nor larger than 10 gauge with a rifled bore for deer and black bear hunting only. Persons hunting black bear shall use a shotgun not smaller than 20 gauge or larger than 10 gauge with lead, lead alloy or copper slug only. Persons hunting deer shall use a shotgun not smaller than 20 gauge or larger than 10 gauge with the lead, lead alloy or copper slug only; or, a shotgun not smaller than 20 gauge nor larger than 10 gauge with the buckshot shell. It shall be illegal to have in possession while deer hunting any firearm missile except the 20, 16, 12 or 10 gauge lead, lead alloy or copper slug; or, if hunting deer the 12, 10, 16 or 20 gauge buckshot shell. Shotgun shells containing a single spherical projectile may not be possessed or used in deer or black bear hunting. (This does not preclude a person legally engaged in hunting on semi-wild or commercial preserves for the species under license or a person legally engaged in hunting woodcock from being possessed solely of shotgun(s) and nothing larger than No. 4 fine shot, nor a person

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engaged in hunting waterfowl only from being possessed solely of shotgun and nothing larger than T (.200 inch) steel shot or other bismuth non-toxic shot authorized by Federal regulations during the shotgun deer seasons). A legally licensed trapper possessing a valid rifle permit may possess and use a .22 rifle and short rimfire cartridge only while tending his or her trap line. Farmers or their agents may use shot not larger than No. 4 buckshot to control covote or woodchuck causing damage.

1. – 5. (No change.)

(h) Wild waterfowl, migratory game birds, rabbits, hares, jack rabbits, squirrels, grouse, chukar partridge, **Hungarian partridge**, pheasants, and quail shall not be hunted for or taken on Sunday. However, pheasants, quail, **Hungarian partridge**, and chukar partridge may be hunted for or taken on Sunday on semi-wild and commercial shooting preserve lands that are properly licensed for the taking thereof.

(i) - (j) (No change.)

(k) No person shall, for the purpose of hunting for, pursuing, taking or killing, or attempting to hunt, pursue, take or kill any bird or animal, have in an automobile or vehicle of any kind, any firearm loaded with missiles of any kind, **except as provided for in (f)3 above**, under a penalty of not less than \$ 20.00 nor more than \$ 50.00.

(l) – (v) (No change.)

7:25-5.24 Bow and arrow, general provisions

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(a) – (d) (No change.)

(e) No person shall take or attempt to take flying game birds with arrows equipped with heads as described in (c)1-3 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 (c)1-3 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. Opening the [fourth] Saturday prior to the last Friday in October through the last Friday in October, in zones in Regulation Sets 0, 1, 2 and 3; and in Zones 37, [39] and 54.

2. Opening the second Saturday in September through the last Friday in October, in zones in Regulation Sets [3A, 4, 6, 8 and 9] **4 – 8**; and in Zones **39**[40], 53, 66 and 68.

3. (No change.)

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(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, 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, **5, 6, 7 and 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 Set 0, the bag limit is one antlered [and] **or** one antlerless deer. In Regulation Sets 4[, 6, 8 and 9] **5, 6, 7 and 8** and in Zones 53 and 68, [an] antlerless deer **only** [must] **may** be taken [before an antlered deer] from the second Saturday in September through the Friday before 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]**confirmation** number via an automated deer check system as designated by the Division. This tag or [registration] **confirmation** number will be valid for the taking of additional antlerless deer, as applicable by zone bag limit specified above. No supplemental tags will be issued for antlered deer. The supplemental tag or [registration] **confirmation** number may be used in any zone that is open for the

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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 **in Regulation Sets 0, 1, 2 or 3**, hunters may not hunt deer during the fall bow season in the zones in Regulation Sets 0, 1, 2 or 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 until the season concludes. All supplemental tags or [registration] **confirmation** 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] **confirmation** number, the possession tag shall be filled out immediately upon killing, 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

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attempt to take an additional deer, and no later than 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] **confirmation** number given via this system, which replaces the legal possession tag. 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 which summarizes hunting season dates and regulations.

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 8:00 P.M. on the date killed without a legal [registration] **confirmation** 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

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request from the Division, a hunter [may] **shall** be required to produce the head of the deer harvested **or produce records relating to the location of the head.**

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. All tagging and deer checking requirements 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 harvest report stub** 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) (No change.)



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

(a) Duration of the winter bow season is from January 1 through January 31 in zones in Regulation Sets 0, 1, 2, 3, [3A,] 4, **5** and 6; and in Zones [39, 40,] 53, 54, **61**, 66, 67 and 68. Duration of the season is January 1 through the third Saturday in February, in zones in Regulation Sets **7 and 8** [and 9]; and in Zones 37, **39** 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 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, **5, 6, 7 and 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] **or** 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

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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 **in Regulation Sets 0, 1, 2 and 3**, 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. 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

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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 fill out with the exception of the [registration] **confirmation** number the "transportation tag" 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 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. of the day of harvest. Hunters must record the [registration] **confirmation** 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 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the date killed without a legal [registration] **confirmation** 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 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

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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] **shall** be required to produce the head of the deer harvested **or produce records relating to the location of the head.**

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) - (d) (No change.)

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. 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. 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

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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. The possession of a deer after 7:00 P.M. on the date killed without a legal registration number shall be deemed illegal possession 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. Immediately upon harvest, the "transportation tag" appropriate for the season shall be completely filled in with the exception of the [registration] **confirmation** number, and the deer shall be registered via an ADCS as designated by the Division, if the deer check station system is no longer in use, prior to the attempt to take an additional deer and no later than 7:00 P.M. of the day of harvest. Hunters must record the [registration] **confirmation** 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

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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] **shall** be required to produce the head of the deer harvested **or produce records relating to the location of the head.**

1. – 3. (No change.)

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

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

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

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(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, 3 and [3A] **4**, and in Zone 37. [Two] **One** deer, [one] antlered [and one] **or** 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,] **5, 6, 7 and 8** [and 9], and in Zones 39, [40,] 53, 57, 58, **61**, 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 until the season limit is reached except in zones in Regulation Sets [6,] **7 and 8** [and 9], and in Zones 39, 40, 54, 57, 58, **61**, 66 and 68 where the limit is two deer at a time until the season concludes. In zones in Regulation Sets [4,] **5, 6, 7 and 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. In zones in Regulation Set **7 and 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 as specified in 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 the dates concurrent with the six-day firearm season, as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a). In zones in Regulation Set [9] **8**, 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

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firearm season, and the dates concurrent with the six-day firearm season as specified in 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. Immediately upon harvest the muzzleloader rifle permit season permit transportation tag must be completely filled in with the exception of the [registration] **confirmation** number, and the deer shall be registered via an ADCS, 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) above and no later than 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. of the day of harvest. Hunters must record the [registration] **confirmation** 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



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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. The possession of a deer after 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the date killed without a legal [registration] **confirmation** number shall be deemed illegal possession 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] **confirmation** number shall be valid on the day of issuance and all registration requirements apply. No supplemental tags shall be issued for antlered deer.

1. In Zone 67, an antlerless deer must be taken in each year before taking or attempting to take an antlered deer during the prescribed muzzleloader deer seasons.

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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] **shall** be required to produce the head of the deer harvested **or produce records relating to the location of the head.**

(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 **of** the week preceding the six-day firearm season as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a); the Monday and Tuesday of the week after the six-

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day firearm season; 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 **57, 58**, 61 and 70.

2. (No change.)

3. The Monday through Friday preceding the six-day firearm season as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a), the week of the six-day firearm season, the Monday and Tuesday following the six-day firearm season, and the Saturday following the six-day firearm season through December 31, exclusive of Christmas Day, and January 1 through the second Saturday in February in zones in Regulation Set [8]7.

4. (No change.)

5. [November 8--12 and December 13--24, 27--31, 2010 and January 3--8, 2011; November 7--11 and December 12--24 and 26--31, 2011, and January 2--7, 2012; November 5--9 and December 10--24 and 26--31, 2012, and January 7--12, 2013; and November 4—8] **December 2-7** and December 16--24 and 26--31, 2013, and January 6--11, 2014; **and December 1-6, and 15-24 and 26-31, 2014 and January 5-10, 2015** in Zone 37.

6. [October 29 and November 2--5, 2011; November 3 and 7--10, 2012; November 2 and 6--9, 2013 in Zone 38.] **(Reserved.)**

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7. [November 28--December 3 and 12--31, 2011, and January 2--31, 2012; November 26--December 1 and 10--31, 2012, and January 1--31, 2013;] December 2--7 and 16--31, 2013, and January 1—[31] **February 8, 2014; and December 1-6 and 15-31, 2014 and January 1-February 14, 2015** in Zone 39.

8. [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.] **The Monday and Tuesday the week preceding the six-day firearm season as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a); the Monday and Tuesday of the week after the six-day firearm season; and the Saturday following the six-day firearm season through December 31 exclusive of Christmas Day in zones in Regulation Set 2.**

9. [November 26--December 3, 12--24 and 26--31, 2011, and January 2--7, 2012; November 24--December 1, 10--24 and 26--31, 2012, and January 1--5, 2013;] November 30 and December 2--7, 16--24 and 26--31, 2013, and January 1—[4]**11, 2014; and November 29 and December 1-6, 15-24 and 26-31, 2014 and January 1-10, 2015** in Zone 53.

10. [November 28 and 29 and December 12--31, 2011, and January 2--7, 2012; November 26 and 27 and December 10--31, 2012, and January 1--5, 2013;] December 2, 3 and 16--31, 2013, and January 1--11, 2014; **and December 1, 2, 15--31, 2014, and January 1--10, 2015; November 30 and December 1, 14--31, 2015, and January 1--9, 2016** in Zone 54.

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11. [November 26 and 27 and December 10, 11, 15--24 and 26--31, 2012, and January 1--4, 2013 in Zone 57.] **Reserved.**

12. [November 24--December 1, 7 and 8, 2012, and January 5 and 12, 2013;] November 30--December 7, 13 and 14, 2013, and January 4 and 11, 2014; **and Nov. 29-Dec. 6, 12, 13, 2014 and Jan. 3, 10, 2015** in Zone 66.

13. [November 7--10 and 14--17, 2011; November 5--8 and 12--15, 2012;] November 4--7 and 11--14, 2013; **and November 3-6, 10-13, 2014; November 2-5, 9-12, 2015** in Zone 67.

14. [November 28--December 2, 5--10, 12, 13, 17--24 and 26--31, 2011 and January 2--February 11, 2012; November 26 and 27, December 10, 11, 15--24 and 26--31, 2012, and January 1--11, 2013; December 2, 3, 16, 17, 21--24 and 26--31, 2013, and January 1--10, 2014 in Zone 58.] **Reserved.**

15. The Monday through Wednesday and the Friday of Thanksgiving week, the Monday through Friday preceding the six-day firearm season as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27 the week of the six-day firearm season, the Monday and Tuesday following the six-day firearm season, and the Saturday following the six-day firearm season through December 31, exclusive of Christmas Day, and January 1 through the second Saturday in February in zones in Regulation Set [9]8.

16. The Monday and Tuesday the week preceding the six-day firearm season as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a), the Monday and Tuesday of the week following the

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six-day firearm season, and the Saturday following the six-day firearm season through **the second to last Saturday in** December [31], excluding Christmas Day, in zones in Regulation Set 0.

17. (No change.)

(e) (No change.)

(f) Method: The taking of two deer, one antlered and one antlerless, or two antlerless, except as noted in (c)1 through 3 above, or the taking of deer as designated for special hunts is authorized to holders of valid permits for muzzleloader rifle permit season in designated deer management zones. The taking of two deer, one antlered and one antlerless, or two antlerless or the taking of deer as designated for special hunts is authorized to holders of valid farmer permits for muzzleloader rifle permit season only on the farm occupied and designated on the permit application.

1. Limited quota, special deer permits for muzzleloader rifle permit season will be issued on an individual basis to holders of valid and current firearm licenses and qualified farmers. Only one application per regular firearm license holder may be submitted, whether for muzzleloader rifle or shotgun permit seasons, during the initial application period. Duplicate or multiple applications will cause all applications to be void. All persons, while their hunting licenses are void under the authority of law or as imposed by a court, are prohibited from making application for, or otherwise procuring a muzzleloader deer permit. For special management zones where the agency

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administering the affected land requires that hunters attend mandatory hunter orientation as a condition of access, failure to attend the designated session shall result in invalidation of the muzzleloader season permit for the zone. Limited quota, special deer permit zones include the following deer management zones: 37, 38, 39, [40,] 53, 54, 57, 58, 61, 66, 67, 68, and 70. Only one antlerless muzzleloader rifle permit season permit may be purchased per zone. Only one antlered muzzleloader permit with antlered deer transportation tag may be purchased per season.

2. (No change.)

(g) Permits for muzzleloader rifle permit season consist of 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 the case of the farmer muzzleloader season permit** [in addition to the valid firearm license].

(h) – (j) (No change.)

(k) The Deer Management Zone Map is on file at the Office of Administrative Law and is available from that agency or the Division. The Muzzleloader Rifle Deer Season Permit Quotas are as follows:

MUZZLELOADER RIFLE PERMIT SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS			
Deer Mgt.	Season	Permit Quota	Portions of Counties Involved
Zone No.	Dates Code		
1	1	[1,140] <b>1,500</b>	Sussex

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...			
37	5	480	Burlington, Ocean ([Fort Dix Military Reservation] <b>Joint Base McGuire-Dix- Lakehurst</b> )
...			
[40]	[8]	[50]	[Monmouth (Earle Naval Weapons Station - Waterfront)]
...			
53	9	100	Ocean ([Lakehurst Naval Engineering Station] <b>Joint Base McGuire-Dix- Lakehurst</b> )
...			
Total		[50,693]	<b>51,003</b>

(l) (No change.)

(m) Permit quotas in Zones 37, 38, 39, [40,] 53, 54, 57, 58, 61, 66, 67, 68 and 70 are contingent upon approval by appropriate land management agencies for those zones.

(n) (No change.)

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

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



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(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] **4**. One antlered deer and an unlimited number of antlerless deer may be taken in zones in Regulation Sets [4,] **5, 6, 7 and 8** [and 9], and in Zones 39, [40,] 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 61, 64, 66, 68 and 70. In zones in Regulation Set [8]**7**, 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 specified 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 specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a). In zones in Regulation Set [9]**8**, 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 dates concurrent with the six-day firearm season, as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a). Only one deer may be taken at a time until the season limit is reached except in zones in Regulation Sets 6, **7 and 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 Supplemental Deer Transportation Tags or

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[registration] **confirmation** 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:

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1. The Wednesday through Friday of the week following the six-day firearm season as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a) in zones in Regulation Sets **1, 2, 3** and **[3A]4**.
2. The Wednesday through Friday of the week following the six-day firearm season, and the second Saturday through the third Saturday in January, in zones in Regulation Set **[4]5**, and in Zone 70.
3. The Wednesday of the week following the six-day firearm season N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a) in zones in Regulation Set[s] **0[1 and 2]**.
4. The Wednesday through Friday preceding the six-day firearm season as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a), the week of the six-day firearm season, the Wednesday through Friday of the week following the six-day firearm season, and the first Saturday in January through the second Saturday in February in zones in Regulation Set **[8]7**.
5. The week of the six-day firearm season as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a), and the Wednesday through Friday of the week following the six-day firearm season, and the first Saturday in January through January 31 in zones in Regulation Set 6, and in Zones 57 and 68.
6. **[December 24, 26 and 27, 2011; December 28, 29 and 31, 2012 and] December 28, 30 and 31, 2013; December 27, 29 and 30, 2014** in Zone 37.

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7. [October 29, and November 2--5, 2011; November 3 and 7--10, 2012; and November 2 and 6--9, 2013 in Zone 38.] **(Reserved.)**
8. [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; and] December 7, 9--14, 21 and 28, 2013, [and] January 4, 11, 18 and 25, **and February 1 and 8, 2014; and December 6, 8-13, 20 and 27, 2014 and January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 7 and 14, 2015** in Zone 39.
9. [November 5, 11, 12, 19, 21--23, 25 and 26, 2011; November 3, 10, 12, 17, 19--21 and 23--24, 2012; and November 9, 11, 16, 23, 25--27 and 29--30, 2013 in Zone 40.] **(Reserved.)**
10. [December 5--10 and 14--16, 2011 and January 7--14, 2012; December 3--8 and 12--14, 2012 and January 5--12, 2013; and] December 9--14 and 18--20, 201[1]3 and January 4--11, 2014; **and December 8-13 and 17-19 and January 3-10, 2015** in Zone 53.
11. [December 5--10, 17, 2011 and January 7, 2012; and December 3--8 and 22, 2012 and January 5, 2013; and] December 9--14 and 28, 2013 and January **4 and 6-11, 2014; December 8-13, 20, 2014 and January 3 and 5-9, 2015; December 7-12, 19, 2015 and January 2 and 4-8, 2016** in Zone 54.
12. [December 12--16, 2011; December 10--14, 2012; and] December 16--20, 2013; in Zone 56.

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13. [November 30--December 2 and December 5--10 and 14--16, 2011 and January 7--14, 2012; November 28--30, and December 3--9 and 12--14, 2012, and January 5--12, 2013; and] December 4--6, 9--14 and 18--20, 2013, and January 4--11, 2014; **and Dec. 3-5 and Dec. 8-13, 17-19, 2014 and Jan. 3-10, 2015** in Zone 58.

14. The Monday through Wednesday and Friday of Thanksgiving week, the Wednesday through Friday preceding the six-day firearm season as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a), the week of the six-day firearm season, the Wednesday through Friday of the week following the six-day firearm season, and the first Saturday in January through the second Saturday in February in zones in regulation Set [9]8.

15. [December 5--10 and 14--16, 2011; December 3--8 and 12--14, 2012; and] December 9--14 and 18--20, 2013; **and Dec. 8-13 and 17-19, 2014** in Zone 61.

16. [December 5--10, 2011; December 3--8, 2012; and] December 9--14, 2013; in Zone 64.

17. [November 26--December 3, 9 and 10, 2011, and January 7 and 14, 2012; November 24--December 1, 7 and 8, 2012, and January 5 and 12, 2013; and] November 30--December 7, 13 and 14, 2013, and January 4 and 11, 2014; **Nov. 29- Dec.6, 12, 13, 2014 and Jan. 3, 10, 2015** in Zone 66.

18. – 19. (No change.)

(e) (No change.)

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(f) Method: The taking of deer with a shotgun under a shotgun permit season permit or a farmer shotgun permit season permit is permitted in designated deer management zones by holders of a shotgun permit season permit and, on their own property, by holders of a farmer shotgun permit season permit.

1. Limited quota, special deer permits for shotgun permit season will be issued on an individual basis to holders of valid and current firearm licenses, persons who have applied for the shotgun hunter education course prior to the permit application period and qualified farmers. Only one application, whether for shotgun or muzzleloader permit season, may be submitted by regular firearm license holders for the initial permit drawing. Applications for more than the allowable number of permits during the initial application period will cause all applications by an individual to be void and subject the applicant to prosecution. All persons, while their hunting licenses are void under the authority of law or as imposed by a court, are prohibited from making application for, or otherwise procuring, a shotgun deer permit. For special management zones where the agency administering the affected lands requires that hunters attend mandatory hunter orientation as a condition of access, failure to attend the designated session shall result in invalidation of the shotgun season permit for the zone. Limited quota, special deer permit zones include the following deer management zones: 37, 38, 39, [40,] 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 61, 64, 66, 67, 68, and 70. Only one antlerless shotgun permit season permit may be purchased per zone. Only one antlered shotgun permit with antlered deer transportation tag may be purchased per season.

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2. (No change.)

(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] **confirmation** number, immediately upon killing. This 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 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the date

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killed without a legal [registration] **confirmation** 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 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) above, and no later than 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. of the day of harvest. The hunter must record the [registration] **confirmation** 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



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the next day. Within 48 hours of registering a deer with the ADCS and upon request from the Division, a hunter [may] **shall** be required to produce the head of the deer harvested **or produce records relating to the location of the head**. This permit or [registration] **confirmation** 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 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

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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.

(h) – (j) (No change.)

(k) The Deer Management Zone Map is on file at the Office of Administrative Law and is available from that agency or the Division. The Shotgun Permit Season Permit Quotas are as follows:

SHOTGUN PERMIT SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

Deer Mgt. Zone No.	Season Dates Code	Permit Quota	Portions of Counties Involved
...			
37	6	100	Burlington, Ocean [(Fort Dix Military Reservation) <b>Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst</b> ]
...			
[40]	[9]	[50]	[Monmouth (Earle Naval Weapons Station - Waterfront)]
...			
53	2	100	Ocean ([Lakehurst Naval Engineering Station] <b>Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst</b> )
...			
Total		[79,134] <b>79,084</b>	

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(l) – (n) (No change.)

(o) Permit quotas for Zones 37, 38, 39, [40,] 53, 54, 56-59, 61, 64, 66, 67 and 68 are contingent upon approval by appropriate land management agencies for those zones.

(p) Deer Management Zones are located as follows:

1. – 16. (No change.)

17. Zone No. 17: That portion of Mercer, Monmouth, Burlington and Ocean Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the New Jersey Turnpike and Interstate 195; then east along Interstate 195 to the intersection with Rt. 537 near Holmeson; then southwest along Rt. 537 to the intersection with Hawkin Road (Prosperstown-Colliers Mills Road: Rt. 640); then southeast along Hawkin Road (Prosperstown-Colliers Mills Road: Rt. 640; to the intersection with Colliers Mills Road; then west along Colliers Mills Road to its intersection with Woodruff Rd.; then southwest along Woodruff Rd. to the intersection with Rt. 539; then southeast along Rt. 539 to the border of [Fort Dix Military Reservation] **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst**; then westward along the [Fort Dix Military Reservation] **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst** boundary to Rt. 545 near Wrightstown; then northwest along Rt. 545 to the intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then northeast along the New Jersey Turnpike to its intersection with Interstate 195 the point of beginning.

18. Zone No. 18: That portion of Ocean County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 530 and the Garden State Parkway at South Toms

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River; then west along Rt. 530 to the intersection with Rt. 70; then west along Rt. 70 to the border of [Fort Dix Military Reservation] **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst**; then northward along the [Fort Dix Military Reservation] **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst** boundary to the northernmost intersection of the [Fort Dix Military Reservation] **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst** border and Rt. 539; then northwest along Rt. 539 to the intersection with Woodruff Rd.; then northeast along Woodruff Rd. to the intersection with Colliers Mills Road; then east along Colliers Mills Road to the intersection with Hawkin Road (Prospertown-Colliers Mills Road: Rt. 640); then northwest along Hawkin Road (Prospertown-Colliers Mills Road: Rt. 640) to the intersection with Rt. 537 near Prospertown; then northeast along Rt. 537 to the intersection with Rt. 571 near Holmeson; then southeast along Rt. 571 to the Garden State Parkway; then south along the Garden State Parkway to the point of beginning near South Toms River.

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

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intersection with Irick's Causeway; then southwest on Irick's Causeway to its intersection with Rt. 532 (Chatsworth Road); 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 Dingtletown Rd.; then southwest along Dingtletown 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 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] **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst** (Zone 37) is excluded from Zone 19. Franklin Parker Preserve and Four Mile Spring Preserve (Zone 68) are excluded from Zone 19.

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20. (No change.)

21. Zone No. 21: That portion of Ocean and Burlington Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 530 and the Garden State Parkway near South Toms River; then south along the Parkway to its intersection with Rt. 72; then northwest along Rt. 72 to its intersection with Rt. 644 (Buddtown-Ong's Hat Road) at Four Mile Circle; then northwest on Rt. 644 to its intersection with Turkey Buzzard Bridge Road; then northeast on Turkey Buzzard Bridge Rd. to its intersection with Rt. 646 (New Lisbon-Four Mile Road); then northwest on Rt. 646 to its intersection with Rt. 530 (Pemberton-Brown's Mills Road); then east along the southern border of Fort Dix Military Reservation to its intersection with Rt. 70; then east on Rt. 70 to its intersection with Rt. 539 and Rt. 530 near Whiting; then east along Rt. 530 to its intersection with the Garden State Parkway near South Toms River, the point of beginning. [Fort Dix Military Reservation] **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst** (Zone 37) is excluded from Zone 21.

22. – 24. (No change.)

25. Zone No. 25: That portion of Salem, Gloucester, Atlantic and Camden Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 54 and Rt. 40 near Buena; then west on Rt. 40 to its intersection with Rt. 553; then north on Rt. 553 to its intersection with Rt. 610 (Aura Road); then southeast on Rt. 610 to its intersection with Rt. 655 (Fries Mills Road); then north on Rt. 655 to its intersection with Rt. 322; then west on Rt. 322 to its intersection with Rt. 47 at Glassboro; then north on Rt. 47 to its intersection with County Road 635 (Hurville-Grenloch Road); then eastward on

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County Road 635 to its intersection with County Road 705 (County House Road); then southeast along Rt. 705 to its intersection with County Road 688 (Turnerville-Hickstown Road); then eastward along County Road 688 to its intersection with County Road 689 (Berlin-Crosskeys Road); then northeast along County Road 689 to its intersection with Rt. 73 at Berlin; then south on Rt. 73 to its intersection with Rt. 30; then southeast along Rt. 30 to its intersection with [Rt. 206; then north on Rt. 206 to its intersection with Great Swamp Branch (just pass the intersection of Rt. 206 and Middle Road); then eastward along Great Swamp Branch to its intersection with Nescochague Creek; then eastward along Nescochague Creek to Nescochague Lake, at Pleasant Mills; then westward along the north and western shore of Nescochague Lake to its intersection with Hammonton Creek; then westward along Hammonton Creek to its intersection with Rt. 30 (White Horse Pike), near Hammonton; then southeast on Rt. 30 to its intersection with] Weymouth Road (Rts. 640-559); then southward on Weymouth Rd. to its intersection with the Atlantic City Expressway; then west along the Atlantic City Expressway to its intersection with Eighth Street; then south along Eighth Street to its intersection with Rt. 322; then westward on Rt. 322 to its intersection with Rt. 54; then southward on Rt. 54 to its intersection with Rt. 40 near Buena, the point of beginning. Zone 65 is excluded from Zone 25.

26. Zone No. 26: That portion of Atlantic County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rts. 40 and 54 near Buena; then southeast on Rt. 40 to its intersection with Rt. 50; then north on Rt. 50 to its intersection with Rt. 322; then east on

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Rt. 322 to its intersection with Cologne Avenue; then north on Cologne Avenue to its intersection with Duerer Street; then east on Duerer Street to its intersection with Rt. 575; then northeast on Rt. 575 to its intersection with the Garden State Parkway; then north along the Garden State Parkway to its intersection with the Mullica River and the Atlantic-Burlington County line; then northwest along the south bank of the Mullica River to its intersection with Rt. 542 at Pleasant Mills; then west on Rt. 542 to its intersection with Nescochaque Creek at Pleasant Mills; [then south along the west bank of Nescochaque Creek to Nescochaque Lake; then southwest along the western bank of Nescochaque Lake to its intersection with Hammonton Creek; then westward along Hammonton Creek to its intersection with Rt. 30 (White Horse Pike), near Hammonton;] **then north along the west bank of Nescochaque Creek to its intersection with Great Swamp Branch; then westward along Great Swamp Branch to its intersection with Rt. 206; (just past the intersection of Rt. 206 and Middle Rd.); then south on Rt. 206 to its intersection with Rt. 30 (White Horse Pike), near Hammonton;** then south on Rt. 30 to its intersection with Weymouth Road (Rts. 640-559); then south on Weymouth Road to its intersection with the Atlantic City Expressway; then northwest along the Atlantic City Expressway to its intersection with Eighth Street; then southwest along Eighth Street to its intersection with Rt. 322 (Black Horse Pike); then northwest along Rt. 332 to its intersection with Rt. 54; then southwest along Rt. 54 to its intersection with Rt. 40 at Buena, the point of beginning. The Atlantic County Park System (Zone 61) is excluded from Zone 26.



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27. – 36. (No change.)

37. Zone No. 37: That portion of [Fort Dix Military Reservation, U.S. Dept. of the Army,] **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, U.S. Air Force**, designated as open for deer hunting, lying within Burlington and Ocean Counties.

38. (No change.)

39. Zone No. 39: That portion of Naval Weapons Station Earle, U.S. Department of the Navy designated as open for deer hunting, lying within Monmouth County. **The Waterfront Section (formerly Zone 40) is now included in Zone 39.**

40. [Zone No. 40: That portion of Naval Weapons Station Earle, Waterfront Section, U.S. Department of the Navy, designated as open for deer hunting, lying within Monmouth County.] **Reserved.**

41. – 47. (No change.)

48. Zone No. 48: That portion of Burlington County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the New Jersey Turnpike and Route 38 near Moorestown; then east along Route 38 to its intersection with Route 530; then east along Route 530 along the Pemberton by-pass to its intersection with the southern boundary of [Fort Dix Military Reservation] **Joint Base McGuire-Dix- Lakehurst**; then northward along the western [Fort Dix] **Joint Base McGuire-Dix- Lakehurst** boundary to its intersection with County Road 670; then east on County Road 670 to its intersection with Route 545 at Wrightstown; then northwest on Route 545 which becomes Farnsworth Avenue; then

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continuing northwest on Farnsworth Ave. to its intersection with W. Burlington Street; then southwest on W. Burlington Street to its intersection with Interstate 295; then north on Interstate 295 to its intersection with Crosswicks Creek at Bordentown; then west along the south bank of Crosswicks Creek to its intersection with the Delaware River at Bordentown; then southwest along the east bank of the Delaware River to Route 541 at the City of Burlington; then southeast along Route 541 to its intersection with Interstate 295; then southwest along Interstate 295 to its intersection with Rancocas Creek; then east along Rancocas Creek to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then southwest along the New Jersey Turnpike to its intersection with Route 38, the point of beginning. New Bold and Burlington Islands lying in the Delaware River are in this zone.

49. – 52. (No change.)

53. Zone No. 53: That portion of [Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Center, U.S. Department of the Navy,] **Joint Base McGuire-Dix- Lakehurst, U. S. Air Force**, designated as open for deer hunting, lying within Ocean County.

54. – 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.

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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.

Zone	Regulation Set	Zone	Regulation Set
...			
2	[4]5	37	Special Area
...			
4	[1]2	39	Special Area
5	6	40	[Special Area]not designated
6	[3A]4	41	[8]7
7	[8]7	42	6
8	[8]7	43	0
9	[8]7	44	not designated
10	[8]7	45	0
11	[8]7	46	[0]1
12	[8]7	47	[4]5
...			
15	[8]7	50	8
16	[4]5	51	8
...			
27	[4]5	62	not designated
28	[4]5	63	[4]5
29	[4]5	64	Special Area

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...

31	[4]5	66	Special Area
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...

34	[0]1	70	Special Area
----	------	----	--------------

35	[4]5		
----	------	--	--

Note: Zones defined as Special Areas are not assigned to regulation sets; their season dates and bag limits may be found by zone within N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25, 5.26, 5.27, 5.28, 5.29 and 5.30.

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.

### Regulation Sets by Season Lengths and Bag Limits

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Set #	Fall Bow	Permit Bow	Youth Day	Six-day Firearm	Permit Muzzle-loader	Permit shotgun	Winter Bow	Consecutive Days
0	28 days 1 deer*	22 days 1 deer*	2 days 1 deer ea	6 days 2 deer	11 days 1 deer*	1 day 1 deer*	31 days 1 deer*	101 days
1	28 days 2 deer **	29 days 2 deer **	2 days 1 deer ea	6 days 2 deer	18 days 2 deer **	3 days 2 deer **	31 days 2 deer **	117 days
2	28 days 2 deer	29 days 2 deer	2 days 1 deer ea	6 days 2 deer	15 days 2 deer	3 days 2 deer	31 days 2 deer	114 days
3	28 days 2 deer	29 days 2 deer	2 days 1 deer ea	6 days 2 deer	21 days 2 deer	3 days 2 deer	31 days 2 deer	120 days
4	49 days no limit	29 days no limit	2 days 1 deer ea	6 days 2 deer	21 days 2 deer	3 days 2 deer	31 days no limit	141 days
5	49 days no limit	62 days no limit	2 days 1 deer ea	6 days 2 deer	21 days no limit	10 days no limit	31 days no limit	141 days
6	49 days no limit	62 days no limit	2 days 1 deer ea	6 days 2 deer	46 days no limit	34 days no limit	31 days no limit	141 days
7	49 days no limit	62 days no limit	2 days 1 deer ea	6 days 2 deer	62 days no limit	50 days no limit	50 days no limit	161 days
8	49 days no limit	62 days no limit	2 days 1 deer ea	6 days 2 deer	66 days no limit	54 days no limit	50 days no limit	161 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 bag limit in Regulation Set 0 is one deer of either sex**; the antlerless bag limit is one antlerless deer only in Regulation Set [0]1, in all other regulation sets as stated.

(r) The following is for informational purposes only and is a summary of the desired antlered deer harvest and overall management strategies applicable to each deer management zones as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25 through 5.30.

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Buck Goals and Management Strategies by Deer Management Zone

Zone	Buck Goal*	Deer Range	Strategy
...			
40	[3]not designated	[1]	[Decrease]
63	[6]5	21	Stabilize

\* per square mile.

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

(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, **5, 6, 7 and 8** [and 9], and in Zones 37, 39, [40,] 53, 54, 57, 58, 61, 66, 68 and 70, except as noted in (c)1 and 2 below. One antlered and one antlerless deer may be taken in zones in Regulation Set [0]1. **One antlered or one antlerless deer may be taken in zones in Regulation Set 0.** Only one deer may be taken at a time until

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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 station 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. Within 48 hours of registering a deer with the ADCS and upon request from the Division, a hunter [may] **shall** be required to produce the head of the deer harvested **or produce records relating to the location of the head.** 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 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. of the day of harvest. Hunters must record the [registration] **confirmation** 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 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 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the date killed without a legal [registration] **confirmation** number

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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.

1. In zones in Regulation Sets [3A,] 4, **5, 6, 7 and 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 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. (Reserved.)

(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



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

1. The Saturday following the close of the fall bow season as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(a)1 through the last [Saturday] **Sunday** in November in zones in Regulation Sets [0,] 1, 2, [and] 3 **and 4**, and in Zone 70.

2. The Saturday following the close of the fall bow season as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(a)1 through December 31, excluding Christmas Day, in zones in Regulation Sets [4]5, 6, 7 **and 8** [and 9], and in Zones **39, 54, 58, 57, 58, 61, 66** and 68.

3. [October 29, 2011--January 31, 2012; October 27, 2012--January 12, 2013; and October 26--January 13, 2014 in Zone 61.] **(Reserved.)**

4. [October 29--December 31, 2011; October 27--December 31, 2012; and] October 26--December 31, 2013 in Zones 39, 40, 54 and 66.]**Reserved.**

5. [October 29--December 24 and 26--31, 2011; October 27--December 24 and 26--31, 2012; and] October 26--December 24 and 26--31, 2013; **October 25 – December 24 and 26-31, 2014** in Zone 37.

6. [October 29--December 31, 2011; October 27--December 31, 2012; and] October 26--December 31, 2013; **October 25 – December 31, 2014** in Zone 53.

7. [(Reserved.)] **The Saturday following the close of the fall bow season as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(a)1 through the second to last Saturday in November in zones in Regulation Set 0.**

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(e) (No change.)

(f) Method: The taking of two deer one antlered and one antlerless or two antlerless except as noted in (c) and (c)1 above or the taking of deer as designated for special hunts with a bow under a bow permit season permit or a farmer bow permit season permit, is permitted in designated deer management zones by holders of a bow permit season permit and on the farm occupied and designated in the application by holders of a farmer bow permit season permit.

1. – 2. (No change.)

3. Limited quota, special deer permits for bow permit season will be issued on an individual basis to holders of valid and current bow licenses and qualified farmers.

Limited quota, special deer permit zones include the following deer management zones: 37, 38, 39, [40,] 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, 61 and 66. Only one antlerless bow permit season permit may be purchased per zone. Only one antlered bow permit with antlered deer transportation tag may be purchased per season.

4. (No change.)

(g) Permits consist of 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 bow license, and without the license] in the case of the farmer bow and arrow permit season permit. The "Deer Transportation Tag" portion of the permit must be completely filled out and affixed

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to the deer 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 deer via an automated deer check system as designated by the Division only. Hunters must use an antlered deer transportation tag from their antlered bow permit, which is designated for use during the permit bow season, when registering an antlered deer. The antlered bow 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 bow permit. The antlered bow permit with antlered deer transportation tag may be used in any zone for which the hunter has already purchased an antlerless permit. The antlered bow 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 bow permit if the season has already begun. Personnel at the checking station will issue a "possession tag." Any permit holder killing a deer of either sex 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 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 before leaving the deer check station. The possession of a deer of either sex after 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on date killed without a legal "possession tag" shall be deemed illegal possession under the deer check station system. Possession of a deer after midnight on the date killed without a legal [registration] **confirmation** number shall be

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deemed illegal under the ADCS. 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. Such 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, such deer must be taken to a regular deer checking station on the following weekday to receive a legal "possession tag."

(h) – (j) (No change.)

(k) The Deer Management Zone Map is on file at the Office of Administrative Law and is available from that agency or the Division. The Bow Permit Season Quotas are as follows:

BOW PERMIT SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

Deer Mgt. Zone No.	Season Dates Code	Permit Quota	Portions of Counties Involved
...			
13	2	[1,650]2,000	Morris, Somerset, Union
...			
36	2	[500]1,000	Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Morris, Union, Somerset, Middlesex, Passaic

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37	5	330	Burlington, Ocean ([Fort Dix Military Reservation] <b>Joint Base McGuire- Dix-Lakehurst)</b>
...			
39	4	[110] <b>190</b>	Monmouth (Earle Naval Weapons Station)
[40]	[4]	[80]	[Monmouth (Earle Naval Weapons Station - Waterfront)]
...			
49	2	[285] <b>500</b>	Burlington, Camden, Gloucester
...			
53	6	100	Ocean ([Lakehurst Naval Engineering Station] <b>Joint Base McGuire-Dix- Lakehurst)</b>
...			
Total		[59,965] <b>61,030</b>	

(l) (No change.)

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(m) Permit quotas for Zones 37, 39, [40,] 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, 61, 66, 68 and 70 are contingent upon approval by the appropriate land management agencies for these zones.

(n) (No change.)

7:25-5.31 White-tailed deer permit shotgun season and permit muzzleloader season, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (Zone 38)

(a) – (b) (No change.)

(c) Duration of the Great Swamp Permit Shotgun Season and Permit

Muzzleloader Season shall be from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset on the following dates: [October 31 and November 4-7, 2009; November 5 and November 9--12, 2011; November 3 and November 7--10, 2012; and] November 2 and November 6--9, 2013; **November 1, 5-8, 2014; November 7, 11-14, 2015** (concurrent) or as may otherwise be designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If the anticipated harvest of deer has not been accomplished during the season, one or more days of shotgun and muzzleloader permit deer hunting may be authorized by the Director. Such authorization and date thereof would be announced by press and radio.

(d) – (i) (No change.)

7:25-5.34 Controlled hunting--hunting restrictions on wildlife management areas

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(a) No wildlife management areas have been selected for limited hunter density. [However, hunting with firearms shall be prohibited on the day prior to the opening of the regular small game seasons for pheasant established in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2 and quail established in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3 on those wildlife management areas designated as pheasant and quail stamp areas in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33.]

(b) (No change.)