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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

**2015 – 2016 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.

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

DEP Docket Number: 01-15-02.

Proposal Number: PRN 2015-026.

A **public hearing** concerning these proposed amendments will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, at 6:30 P.M. at:

New Jersey State Museum Auditorium

205 West State Street

Trenton, NJ 08625

Submit comments by May 15, 2015, electronically at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/comments>. The Fish and Game Council (Council)

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encourages electronic submittal of comments. In the alternative, comments may be submitted on paper to:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
2015 Game Code Comments  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Mail Code 501-03  
P.O. Box 420  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

This rule proposal may be viewed or downloaded from the Department of Environmental Protection's website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules>.

The agency proposal follows:

### **Summary**

As the Council has provided for a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal, this notice is exempted from the rulemaking calendar requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

The proposed 2015-2016 Game Code (also Game Code or Code) at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5 states when, under what circumstances, in what locations, by what means, and in

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what amounts and numbers, game birds, game animals, and fur-bearing animals may be pursued, taken, killed, or had in possession.

Since the early 1900s, the Game Code has provided a system for the protection, propagation, increase, control, and conservation of game birds, game animals, and fur-bearing animals in this State and for their use and development for public recreation and food supply. Biennial revision of season opening and closing dates, bag limits, and other regulations based on scientific investigation and research ensures the greatest likelihood of success in reaching these goals.

The 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 proposed to the Code.

The proposed amendments include the following:

1. The mailing address of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Trenton Office is proposed to be updated throughout the Code to comply with the change from street address and former P.O. Box 400 to the new Mail Code and new P.O. Box 420, and corresponding update to the zip code. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(e), 5.6(a)1iv(2), 5.7(i)2, 5.28(i)3, 5.29(i)3, and 5.30(i)3ii.
2. The definitions in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1 are proposed to be alphabetized for ease of reference. New definitions for "Automated Harvest Report System" or "AHRS," and "enclosed foothold trap" are proposed. The Council is proposing the increased use of automated harvest report systems as described below in Items 10,

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- 16, 32, and 33. Amendments allowing for the use of enclosed foothold traps, as well as a description of those traps, appear in Item 18 below. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d).
3. The definition of “air gun” is proposed using relevant language from the definition of a firearm silencer under New Jersey’s Criminal Code, N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1.g. The reference to the Criminal Code definition reinforces that air guns with noise reduction systems are illegal in New Jersey. The definition of “air gun” was added to the 2013-2014 Game Code, but noise reduction systems were not specifically addressed at that time. This proposed amendment does not change the existing air gun hunting regulations and is for clarification purposes only. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d)1.
  4. A definition of “relaxing lock” is proposed. Item 20 below describes its required use. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d)22.
  5. The addition of Hungarian partridge to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3 was made in the 2013-2014 Game Code. However, a corresponding amendment was inadvertently omitted in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3(e). Accordingly, the Council is proposing to add Hungarian partridge to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3(e). The word “chukar” is proposed for removal in the remainder of this section as “partridge” will now refer to both Hungarian partridges and chukar partridges. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3(e).
  6. The common name of the black-tailed jackrabbit is proposed to be corrected from “blacktail jackrabbit” to “black-tailed jackrabbit” and the common name of the

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- white-tailed jackrabbit is proposed to be corrected from “whitetailed jackrabbit” to “white-tailed jackrabbit” in the section heading of N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3.
7. The opening day of the ruffed grouse season in the northern zone is proposed to be changed from the second Saturday to the third Saturday in October. This change was proposed and accepted by the Council for inclusion in the 2013-2014 Game Code, but it was overlooked when the 2013-2014 Code was proposed and adopted. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.4(a).
  8. Language pertaining to eastern gray squirrel hunting season dates and zone boundary descriptions is proposed to be moved from N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23 to 5.5. Season dates and zone boundary descriptions are traditionally placed within the section for the specific species. However, the season dates and zone boundary descriptions for the eastern gray squirrel are currently in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23, Firearms and missiles, etc., instead of in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5, Eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*). For consistency with other provisions in the Game Code, the season dates and zone boundaries are proposed to be moved to the more appropriate location. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.5(a) and 5.23(e).
  9. A requirement for trappers to report an incidentally-caught bobcat is proposed to be added. Bobcats are a game species with a closed season and are a State-listed endangered species, which it is illegal to intentionally take, kill, or attempt to take or kill in the State of New Jersey at any time. Because bobcats are an elusive

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species and hard to study, data on this species in New Jersey are limited. Requiring trappers to report their incidental catches will add to the available data to enable the Division to better manage this species. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6(a).

10. Wild turkey checking requirements are proposed for amendment from the reporting of a harvested turkey at live-check stations to the Automated Harvest Report System (AHRS) for the Spring and Fall seasons. The AHRS will increase hunter convenience and biologists' efficiency, and reduce costs to the Division. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(g).
11. The lottery for Fall turkey hunting permits is proposed to be eliminated. The Fall turkey season remains undersubscribed. For several years permits have been available over-the-counter after the lottery in all Turkey Hunting Areas (THA) and the Fall turkey season remains under subscribed. Eliminating the unnecessary lottery will additionally result in a cost savings for the Division. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(h)3i and (h)7.
12. The Council is proposing to open THAs 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 15, and 16 to Fall hunting. Opening these THAs to fall hunting will increase hunting opportunities but will have no significant adverse impact on the turkey population as the Fall season is undersubscribed and therefore harvest will not exceed production. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(l).
13. The Council is proposing to adjust the Spring and Fall permit quotas for THAs 14 and 22. The Spring quotas in both of these THAs were conservative and have met

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demand for many years. However, both demand and turkey populations have increased in recent years so quotas can be raised for the Spring season. In all THAs, the Fall turkey permit quota is equivalent to one week of the Spring turkey permit quota. In THA 22, the Spring quota assigned was lower while turkey populations were rebounding. The turkey populations in these two THAs are now healthy and Spring harvests are increasing. Accordingly, the Spring quotas for THAs 14 and 22 are increased and the Fall permit quota for THA 22 has been adjusted to reflect the equivalent of one week of the new Spring quota for this area, 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(k) and (l).

14. The Council is proposing to increase trapping opportunities for mink, muskrat, and nutria in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8(b), beaver in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(b), and river otter in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.10(b) by allowing trapping on all Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) prior to January 1, including those stocked with pheasants, in which trapping during this period is currently prohibited. This change will add 31 to 46 days to the trapping season for mink, muskrat, and nutria and six days to the trapping season for beaver and otter in WMAs areas stocked with pheasants. Pheasant and Quail Stamp Designated Areas as designated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a) currently prohibit trapping prior to January 1 to minimize conflicts between trappers and hunters that use dogs. However, since mink, muskrat, nutria, beaver, and river otter are primarily semi-aquatic furbearing animals, the

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- potential for user group conflict is minimal. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8(b)4, 5.9(b), and 5.10(b).
15. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(d)4 is proposed to be amended to substitute “trapper” for “permittee” in the sentence regarding the application for special beaver control damage permits. This modification is necessary because most permittees (that is, landowners) are not licensed trappers and would require a licensed trapper as their agent to remove a nuisance beaver. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.9(d)4.
16. Amendments are proposed to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.11(g) and 5.19(j) to require the reporting of coyote harvests via the Automated Harvest Report System (AHRS) for coyotes taken by farmers, trappers, and hunters. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.11(g) is proposed for amendment to require famers and their agents who trap depredating coyotes to report these animals through the AHRS. Using the AHRS to replace the mandatory call-in reporting system currently in use will consolidate coyote data, enable biologists to more efficient, and will be convenient for farmers, trappers and hunters. Coyote will be the third species to be reported utilizing the AHRS as deer harvest has been reported using this system since 2012 and reporting of turkey harvest using this system is proposed (see item 10, above). See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.11(g) and 5.19(j).
17. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.11(e) is proposed to be amended to make clear that the bag limit applies only to those species in this section that have an open season as provided in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.11(a) and (b), and that the bag limit does not apply to the

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species for which there is no open season (fisher), even though the fisher is listed in the section heading. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.11(e).

18. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(g) is proposed for amendment to allow for the use of enclosed foothold traps. There have been many innovations in the design of restraining devices for use in trapping since steel-jawed leghold traps were prohibited in New Jersey in 1984. Several commercially available devices, known as enclosed or encapsulated foothold traps but more commonly referred to as species-specific traps, have been specifically designed to capture species such as raccoon and opossum (which possess a degree of manual dexterity) while avoiding the capture of non-target animals (such as domestic dogs and cats). Enclosed foothold traps are a live-restraint trap, which do not result in the death of the captured animal, or in the potential for significant injury such as is possible with steel-jawed leghold traps. All types of traps used on land to hold live animals were evaluated by the Division against five performance criteria: animal welfare, efficiency, selectivity, practicality, and safety. Enclosed foothold type traps have been extensively studied and summarized (Best Management Practices (BMP) for Trapping in the United States by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and their performance in capturing opossums and raccoons equals or exceeds those of steel-jaw leghold type traps currently prohibited. The BMP was written by the Furbearer Conservation Technical Work Group of AFWA with the cooperation of state wildlife agencies, trappers and trapping groups, and input from the Fur

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Institute of Canada and the USDA. The purpose of the BMP process is to scientifically evaluate the traps and trapping systems used for capturing furbearers in the United States. Evaluations are based on animal welfare, efficiency, selectivity, practicality, and safety. Enclosed foothold traps are both more species selective, and their use results in higher trapper success, as compared to cage traps. Enclosed foothold type traps have undergone rigorous testing through the BMP process and have been scientifically based on internationally agreed standards to measurably reduce trauma to captured animals compared to unmodified steel-jaw leghold traps. The unrelated content of N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(g) is proposed to be moved to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(f)6 and language for enclosed foothold traps is added to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(g). The definition of enclosed foothold traps is added to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d). See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d)14 and 5.12(f)6 and (g).

19. Portions of the general trapping section, N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12, are proposed to be amended by adding weasel to the cable restraint regulations established for mink and muskrat trapping in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(f). Current live capture cable restraint regulations require that devices set for weasels be equipped with a stop six inches from the end to restrict loop closure to no less than six inches in circumference. The loop stop prohibits the use of cable restraints to harvest weasels as both long-tailed and short-tailed weasels are smaller than mink (for which loop stops are not required). This proposed change would allow for the trapping of both long-tailed

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and short-tailed weasels with live capture cable restraints. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(f)2 through (f)6.

20. Portions of the general trapping section at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(f)2 are proposed to be amended by requiring all live capture cable restraints to include a relaxing-type lock, except when submerged underwater or when set for mink, muskrat, or weasel. Current live capture cable restraint regulations are silent regarding cable lock systems, but the use of relaxing locks is promoted in the Division's Trapper Education classes and the two Statewide trapping organizations in New Jersey to enhance the welfare of captured animals. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(f)2.

21. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(h) and 5.23(a) and (d) are proposed for amendment to allow the use of air guns for the dispatch of legally trapped furbearing animals with the exception of muskrat. Language in the rules outlining how furbearing animals may be legally trapped can be found in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8, 5.9, 5.10 and 5.11. Previous Game Code rules have authorized properly licensed trappers, raccoon and opossum hunters, and woodchuck hunters to possess and use .22 caliber rifles for the dispatch of trapped animals, and provisions allowing for the use of air guns were added to the regulation for taking squirrel, rabbits, and hares in the 2013-2014 Game Code. Air guns are safer at point-blank range, as they have less of a chance of ricochet, and are quieter and therefore less obtrusive than .22 caliber rifles which is preferable in populated areas of the State. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(h) and 5.23(a) and (d).

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22. The Council is proposing to remove language referring to the geographic hunting areas for swans from N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(h), and language that would enable special seasons and hunting areas for any other migratory birds, as allowed under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations, is proposed to be added. In place of the geographic hunting areas referenced in the existing rule for swans, any future hunt established by the Federal government would only occur in portions of the State designated by Federal regulation. Accordingly, the rule will provide that any special seasons and the areas within which both swans and any other migratory birds may be hunted are those areas of the State established through Federal regulation. The Federal government manages migratory birds pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, 16 U.S.C. §§ 703 through 712, as amended, and the corresponding regulations at 50 CFR Part 20. Hunting season frameworks for migratory birds, including geographic areas within states open for particular migratory bird seasons, are annually promulgated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Although the Division and Council have no intention of holding a swan or other special migratory bird hunting season at this time, these changes are consistent with other sections of the Game Code which defer to the Federal descriptions of migratory bird hunting areas. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(h).
23. The Council proposes to prohibit the leaving of any staked, anchored, or floating waterfowl hunting blinds in the field overnight or longer. The practice of leaving anchored, floating hunting blinds in open tidal waters for days or weeks at a time

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- has become commonplace. This practice allows hunters to monopolize some of the best waterfowl hunting areas by excluding other hunters from these areas or causes conflicts between hunters who leave these blinds and hunters who bring their equipment on individual days for hunting. In addition, unoccupied blinds can cause maritime navigational hazards to other hunters, fishermen, and the general boating public. Prohibiting waterfowl hunters from leaving these blinds overnight or longer will result in more equitable access to the waterfowl resource and reduce navigational hazards on New Jersey's tidal waters. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(k).
24. The Council is proposing to correct the common name of the American woodcock in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(n) and (n)2. The current terminology reads as just "woodcock" and is proposed to be corrected to "American woodcock." See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(n) and (n)3.
25. The Council is proposing to correct the common name of the American bald eagle from just "bald eagle" to "American bald eagle." See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.16(a)1ii.
26. The Council proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(i) to allow for the harvest of foxes with center-fire or rim-fire rifles during the special permit season. This proposal corrects an omission from prior Game Codes. Foxes are allowed to be taken during the special permit season but were omitted from the clause which describes the weaponry types that can be used to take foxes. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(i).

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27. The Council is proposing to extend the use of 20-gauge shotguns for coyote and fox hunting during the special coyote and fox season. Twenty-gauge shotguns are allowed and effective for deer hunting and, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(a)2, 20-gauge shotguns are allowed during the coyote and fox small game firearm season. This proposed change to the regulation may encourage young hunters and women to participate in the special coyote and fox season as these caliber shotguns are lighter and have less recoil than 12-gauge shotguns, which are the current minimum size allowed in this subsection. The Council is also proposing that the maximum shot size is proposed to be standardized at #3 Buckshot. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.19(i) and 5.23(a).
28. The Council is proposing to add a “wanton waste” regulation for game mammals and birds at N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.22(h). Hunters sometimes take only portions of an animal for consumption and leave other consumable parts in the field. The proposed language prohibits this practice for the following species: white-tailed deer, wild turkey, rabbit and hare, squirrel, pheasant, quail, partridge, ruffed grouse, and waterfowl. Diagrams of the animal parts which must be removed from the field will be included in the NJ Hunting and Trapping Digest for clarification for hunters. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.22(h) and (i).
29. N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(a) is proposed for amendment to reduce the allowed grain weight in center-fire rifles from 100 to 80 grains and to limit grain weight to a maximum of 50 grains for rim-fire rifles when hunting woodchuck. Bullet grain

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weights were specified for hunting coyote in the 2013-2014 Game Code but differ somewhat from grain weights permitted for hunting woodchuck. This proposed change matches the grain weights for hunting coyote with those for hunting woodchuck for consistency in regulations. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(a).

30. The Council is proposing to add bear hunters to the regulation requiring the use of hunter orange when hunting in ground blinds during the firearm deer seasons. Currently, the regulation only applies to those engaged in “firearm hunting for deer.” By proposing to delete the term “for deer” from this phrase, the required use of hunter orange would apply to those hunting for bear in ground blinds during the firearm deer seasons. The use of hunter orange on ground blinds was instituted for safety reasons during the firearm deer hunting seasons, and since the bear season runs concurrent with the firearm buck season, the Council has determined that hunters only hunting for bear should also be required to utilize hunter orange while in ground blinds to promote hunter safety. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(n). N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(n) is additionally amended to cross-reference statutory and regulatory provisions that exempt turkey and waterfowl hunters from the requirement to use hunter orange.
31. The Council is proposing to correct the common name of the black-tailed jackrabbit and the white-tailed jackrabbit in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(a). The current language reads “blacktail jackrabbit” and “whitetailed jackrabbit” and is proposed

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to be corrected to “black-tailed jackrabbit” and “white-tailed jackrabbit.” See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.23(a).

32. The Council is proposing to change the language referring to the Automated Deer Checking System (ADCS) throughout the deer hunting sections to the Automated Harvest Report System (AHRS). Initially, the ADCS only recorded deer harvest data; however, other species are now proposed to be added to the system making the language referring only to deer obsolete. A definition of AHRS is added under N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d). See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d)7 and 9; 5.22(e)2; 5.25(b)1; 5.26(b) and (b)1; 5.27(b); 5.28(c) and (c)3; 5.29(g); 5.30(c) and (g); and 5.36(b)1v.
33. The requirement to physically tag a harvested deer was eliminated because of the requirement to report deer takings through the ADCS (proposed herein for redesignation as the Automated Harvest Report System (AHRS)) and the corresponding circumstance that additional possession tags were no longer going to be issued at a physical deer check station. After two deer seasons reporting deer takings through the ADCS and a no-tagging requirement for hunters, conservation officers (CO) have been encountering untagged deer in the backs of trucks with no hunter present. The unintended result of a no-tagging requirement can leave the conservation officers unable to determine whether an untagged deer in the back of a truck has been legally harvested and, if it has been, whether it was properly registered. They must then track or wait for returning hunters in order to

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determine if the deer has been legally harvested and properly registered and whether or not the hunter is eligible to be actively hunting. Without the hunter's Conservation ID number (CID), which is required for all hunters, a check of the AHRS system to see if the deer has been registered or legally harvested is not possible. Therefore, the Council proposes to require the tagging of harvested deer. Having the deer physically tagged will help the conservation officer determine its legality as untagged deer will be deemed illegally possessed thereby triggering an investigation by the conservation officer. A tagged deer means that the officer does not have to conduct such investigation. The tagging of deer will also ensure that conservation officers do not interrupt a hunt to investigate an untagged but registered deer. Hunters can use homemade tags filled in with the hunter's CID, date of harvest, zone of harvest, antler points, and confirmation number, if applicable, or the hunter may use tags printed in the Digest. This proposal is similar to the regulation formerly in effect under the deer check station system, and it does not place an undue burden on the hunter. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(b), 5.26(b), 5.27(b), 5.28(c), 5.29(g), and 5.30(c).

34. In each deer season section, there is language which refers to the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife being able to extend the length of the season if the anticipated harvest of deer has not been met. In some of these sections, the language reads "authorized by the Director"; however, N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(c) reads "authorized by the Director, with the approval of the Council." To make all

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- deer sections consistent, the Council is proposing to change “authorized by the Director” to “authorized by the Director, in consultation with the Council.” This proposed change does not change management strategies or hunting regulations. This proposed change harmonizes the otherwise inconsistent process for properly extending the length of season as appropriate, while retaining Council involvement in the decision-making. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(c), 5.26(c), 5.27(c), 5.28(b), 5.29(b), and 5.30(b).
35. In most deer management zones and seasons, hunters must report their harvest after taking one deer. In deer management zones with overabundant deer populations and liberal hunting regulations, hunters harvesting deer during the permit shotgun and permit muzzleloader season may kill two deer before having to report their harvest. The Council proposes to extend to bow hunters the same opportunity to kill two deer before having to report their harvest in these same deer management zones in an effort to better manage burgeoning deer populations, especially in suburban problem areas where bows are more commonly used. This proposed requirement would be in effect during the Fall bow, permit bow, and winter bow hunting seasons in deer management zones in Regulation Sets 6, 7, and 8. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(b) and (c), 5.26(b) and (c), and 5.30(c).
36. Generally, hunting and trapping seasons in the Code are set for the same time frame each year (for example, beginning on the second Friday in September and

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ending on the second Sunday in October). In the 2009 Game Code, specific calendar dates (month/day/year) for all deer hunting seasons were replaced with a written definition of the time period the season is open to eliminate the necessity of having to update the Code for annual calendar changes. It has been brought to the Council's attention that certain definitions do not mirror the Council's original intent, resulting in incorrect season dates. The Council is proposing to amend the language in the three paragraphs listed below to more accurately reflect what the Council voted on for season lengths. For example, in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(a)1, the word "fourth" is inserted before "Saturday" to correct the season length to four weeks. The proposed amendment corrects the season start and is calculated in reverse from the end of the season: starting at the last Friday of October (which is the last day of the season), hunters can then count back four Saturdays for the beginning of the season. The current omission incorrectly makes the season one week in length. The January season dates for the muzzleloader rifle permit season in zones in Regulation Set 1 were inadvertently previously omitted from N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.28(d)2. This paragraph is amended to reflect the continuing season during the first nine days of the year, excluding Sundays. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(a)1 and (b) and 5.28(d)2.

37. The Council is proposing the following changes to Deer Management Zone 54: add dates to the permit muzzleloader and permit shotgun seasons; change the buck goal from five to three to replicate the buck goal of the surrounding Zone 6

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- for consistency since habitat is the same and, therefore, deer densities are similar; and raise the bow permit quota from 50 to 60 permits. These changes are proposed at the request of the administering agency, Picatinny Arsenal. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.28(d)10, 5.29(d)11 and (r), and 5.30(k).
38. The Council is proposing to remove Deer Management Zone 37 (Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst) from the Antler Point Restriction regulation to increase the harvest of all antlered deer. The Council is also proposing to clarify that the permit shotgun bag limit is two deer, and season dates are added through 2018 for the permit shotgun, muzzleloader, and bow seasons at the request of the administering agency in Deer Management Zone 37. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(b)2; 5.26(b)2; 5.27(b)2; 5.28(c)2 and (d)5; 5.29(c), (c)1, and (d)6; and 5.30(c)2 and (d)5.
39. In the 2013-2014 Game Code, references to Deer Management Zone 40 had been removed as Zone 40 had been incorporated into Deer Management Zone 39 because they were both within Earle Naval Weapons Station. One reference to Zone 40 was previously left in the Game Code inadvertently and is proposed for removal. The Council is also proposing to add Deer Management Zone 39 to the Earn-A-Buck regulation for the Fall bow deer season, at the request of the administering agency, and add season dates through 2018. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.25(b), 5.28(c) and (d)7, and 5.29(d)8.

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40. The Council is proposing to add season dates for the permit muzzleloader season, permit shotgun season, and permit bow season for Deer Management Zone 53 (Lakehurst section of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst) through the 2018 seasons, at the request of the administering agency. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.28(d)9, 5.29(d)10, and 5.30(d)6.
41. The Council is proposing to add season dates for the permit shotgun season for Deer Management Zone 61 (Atlantic County Park System) for the 2015 and 2016 seasons, at the request of the administering agency. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(d)15.
42. The Council is proposing to add season dates to Deer Management Zone 67 (High Point State Park) for the permit muzzleloader season for the 2016, 2017, and 2018 seasons, and the Council is proposing to change the buck goal from six to four to replicate the buck goal of the surrounding Zone 1 for consistency since habitat is the same and, therefore, deer densities are similar. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.28(d)13 and 5.29(r).
43. The Council is proposing to add season dates to Deer Management Zones 56 and 58 (Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge) for the permit shotgun season for 2015 and 2016. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(d)12 and 13.
44. The Council is proposing to add season dates to Deer Management Zone 64 (Monmouth Battlefield State Park) for the permit shotgun season through 2018. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(d)16.

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45. The Council is proposing to add season dates to Deer Management Zone 66 (Federal Aviation Administration Technical Center) for the permit shotgun season for 2015 and 2016. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(d)17.
46. In the Deer Management Zones in Regulation Set 0's permit muzzleloader season, the Council is proposing to move two days from the week after the six-day firearm season to the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. This will allow for greater opportunity for hunters who have off from work and school during this holiday period without having a significant impact on the deer population in these zones. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.28(d)16.
47. The Council is proposing to add season dates to Deer Management Zone 38 (Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge) for the permit muzzleloader and permit shotgun seasons for the 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 seasons. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.31(c).
48. The Council proposes changing the buck goals for several Deer Management Zones. Zone 2 buck goal is proposed to be changed from six to five bucks per square mile; Zone 6 is proposed to be changed from 4.5 to three; Zone 16's buck goal is proposed to be changed from three to four; and Zone 25's buck goal is proposed to be changed from two to three. As stated in item 37 above, Zone 54's buck goal is proposed to be changed from five to three. As stated in item 42 above, Zone 67's buck goal is proposed to be changed from six to four. The buck goal is the level of antlered harvest necessary to keep deer populations at a certain

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level as the antlered harvest is used as an index to each Deer Management Zone's population. Zone 15's management strategy is changed from "stabilize" to "decrease" to coordinate with its proposed change in regulation set (see item 49 below). These proposed changes better reflect current management goals and recent harvest trends. Changes in buck goals do not reflect a change in hunting regulations; rather, as stated in this subsection, they are for informational purposes, only. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(r).

49. Four Deer Management Zones show indications of an increasing deer population, as evidenced by rising buck harvests, and have consistently exceeded the buck density management goal. These Zones have been consistently over management goal for several years, and have increasing antlered harvests. The antlered harvest is used as an index to each Deer Management Zone's population. By putting these Zones into more liberal regulation sets with additional hunting days, the Council is attempting to increase the harvest of antlerless deer and lower the deer densities in these Zones. Accordingly, the Council proposes that Zones 10, 11, and 15 be moved from Regulation Set 7 to Regulation Set 8. Regulation Set 8 has four additional days in the permit shotgun season and four additional days in the permit muzzleloader of antlerless-only hunting than Regulation Set 7. In addition, the Council is proposing to move Zone 17 from Regulation Set 6 to Regulation Set 7. Regulation Set 7 has 16 additional days of the permit muzzleloader season and of the permit shotgun season, and 19 additional days of the winter bow

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hunting season than Regulation Set 6. Consistent therewith, and to help achieve the buck density goal of 3.5 bucks per square mile, a change in Zone 17's management strategy from "Stabilize" to "Decrease" is proposed. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(q)1 and (r). In addition, in the Regulation Sets by Season Length and Bag Limits table in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.29(q)2, the permit shotgun and permit muzzleloader bag limits in Regulation Set 4 were erroneously listed as "no limit"; only bow seasons have unlimited bag limits in this regulation set. Therefore, the bag limit has been corrected to "2 deer."

50. The permit bow season in Regulation Set 4 currently closes on the last Sunday in November. Deer Management Zone 6 is the only Deer Management Zone in Regulation Set 4, and several municipalities in Zone 6 have complained of an overabundance of deer. Due to the varied habitat, and, therefore, the varied deer densities throughout this Zone, the Council has liberalized bow hunting in recent years, but has not authorized longer gun seasons. Moving this Zone into a more liberal Regulation Set with longer gun seasons would likely result in the overharvest of deer in areas of lower production within Zone 6. Therefore, the Council is proposing to extend the permit bow season by 31 days to decrease the deer population in these communities while maintaining herds throughout the rest of the Zone. Because bows have a smaller safety zone and are a quieter sporting arm than firearms, they are usually the weapon of choice for deer hunting in suburban/exurban areas where higher deer densities exist. The proposed change

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would extend the permit bow season to December 31. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.30(d)1 and 2.

51. The Council is proposing to correct language for the time the possession of a harvested deer will be deemed “legal” prior to a confirmation number being issued for the permit bow season. When language was first added to the Game Code to include the registration of deer using the ADCS, the latest time a hunter could possess a harvested deer without a confirmation number was midnight of the day of harvest. Subsequent regulations modified the time to 8:00 P.M. for the Fall bow season and 7:00 P.M. for all other deer seasons. Although the correction was made to N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.30(c), the time modification was inadvertently omitted from N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.30(g). Therefore, the Council is proposing to correct N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.30(g) to change the time from midnight to 7:00 P.M. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.30(g).
52. The Council is proposing to add portions of the Rockport Wildlife Management Area (WMA) to the list of WMAs where a Pheasant and Quail Stamp is required. The Rockport WMA is home to the Division’s Rockport Pheasant Farm (Farm) where pheasant are raised for stocking purposes. In the course of pheasant production, some birds escape to areas of the WMA surrounding the Farm proper. Hunters take advantage of these “free” birds and currently harvest them without acquiring a Pheasant & Quail Stamp. There is a cost the Division for these birds, even though they were an unintended release. This proposed amendment will

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- help to recoup some of the costs for those “free” pheasants. As a result of the October 2011 snowstorm when pen failure resulted in the unintentional release of birds, the Director has designated a “No Pheasant Hunting Area” for the Farm proper; however, there are a number of huntable fields in the areas around the Farm proper in the WMA. The Division plans to add signage within the WMA to direct hunters to the huntable areas and to keep them off of the Farm proper. The list of designated wildlife management areas has been put into alphabetical order. Within the reorganized list, “Pt.” is changed to “Port” in Port Republic, and “MacNamara (Tuckahoe-Corbin City)” is changed to “Tuckahoe,” the name by which this WMA is now known. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a)2.
53. The Council proposes to mandate the wearing of a hunter orange hat by all those persons engaged in firearm hunting for small game on WMAs stocked with pheasants or quail. Conservation officers have observed that on many of these WMAs, the grass or vegetative cover is tall or dense enough to conceal a hunter even if the hunter is wearing fluorescent orange on just the hunter’s body. This problem is exacerbated in the early morning when hunters may be obscured by a clear, bright sun low on the horizon. The proposed mandate of wearing an orange hat will provide an additional degree of protection when in thick cover or high grasses. See N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a)3 and 4.

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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 amendments are minor and will have little positive or negative social impact.

The proposal to add turkey and coyote to the Automated Harvest Report System will provide increased convenience for the sportsmen and sportswomen who participate in these seasons as they no longer have to bring the carcass to a turkey check station but instead may register their kill via the Internet or telephone.

The opening of fall turkey hunting in all turkey hunting areas will provide increased opportunity for hunters who choose to participate.

Changes to deer hunting regulations will provide added opportunity for hunters in those DMZs, while reducing the potential for deer-human conflict.

Allowing an earlier opening date for the trapping of semi-aquatic species will provide greater recreational opportunity for participating trappers.

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.

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### **Economic Impact**

There will be a small but positive economic impact on local retailers serving the hunting population as a result of the proposed amendments, which include longer deer and turkey seasons, a wider variety of firearms and traps authorized for hunting certain game, and new areas of the WMAs opened for pheasant hunting. Although the Council anticipates that these changes will result in a small positive economic impact, it is not possible to estimate the monetary impact of these changes.

The Council anticipates that instituting a deer management strategy of population reduction or stabilization on 79 percent of the deer range will mitigate economic losses associated with the damage by deer depredating landscape plantings or gardens and agricultural crops, and deer-vehicle collisions.

The Council anticipates that providing trappers with alternative means to take species like raccoon and opossum through the addition of foot encapsulating traps will allow for the take of these fur-bearing species while mitigating the capture of non-target species. Because the new traps are an option and not a requirement, expenditures as a result of these amendments cannot be estimated as the Council has no way of foretelling how many trappers may choose to use foot encapsulating traps. Those trappers who choose to employ foot encapsulating traps will not be subjected to significant economic impacts, as trap prices for bulk purchases (by the dozen traps) are as low as \$12.50 per trap, and may be offset by greater success in trapping targeted species.

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The proposed amendments to the Game Code will not significantly affect the current costs associated with the management of wildlife by the Division, and the proposed amendments are not expected to result in a significant increase in expenditures by hunters and trappers. The 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (Survey), issued in 2013 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), estimated that the total expenditure by hunters in the State of New Jersey was just under \$116 million. Additionally, the Survey showed expenditures for wildlife watching activities in New Jersey totaled over \$986 million. An unknown portion of these monies flows to out-of-State suppliers and distributors for bird food, bird houses, bird feeders, bird baths, etc. Although the amount of money being spent out-of-State is unknown, the net positive impact on the New Jersey economy after adjusting for monies being spent on out-of-state supplies is still significant, and this amount is well in excess of the costs to the Department and to participants.

These proposed amendments to the Game Code are designed to conserve and manage the species covered by the Code and enhance recreational activities, and the money spent on hunting and wildlife watching will help ensure that the economic benefits to the State will continue.

### **Environmental Impact**

The proposed amendments will have a positive environmental impact as they are designed to implement the management and control of wildlife species based on the

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State's ongoing research efforts. The proposed amendments to the Game Code will improve the conservation, management and enhancement of the State's wildlife resources and habitats by the Division based on studies of the current population, distribution and habitat status of game species in New Jersey. The proposed amendments to the season length and bag limits 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 land uses such as for agriculture. The proposed amendment to reassign some deer management zones to more liberal regulation sets will help to address forest health issues by reducing deer densities, and, therefore, reduce the depredation of the forests by deer in various portions of the State.

### **Federal Standards Statement**

Executive Order No. 27 (1994) and N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. require State agencies which adopt, readopt or amend State regulations that exceed any Federal standards or requirements to include in the rulemaking document a Federal standards analysis.

The USFWS regulates hunting in National Wildlife Refuge areas in New Jersey pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, 16 U.S.C. § 668dd (1966), and its corresponding regulations at 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 USFWS regulates falconry in 50 CFR 21.29, which are the regulations to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The proposed amendments to the Game Code do not contain any standards or requirements that exceed Federal regulations involving falconry.

The Federal waterfowl hunting regulations at 50 CFR 20 and 21 and Conservation Order regulations at 50 CFR 20 are promulgated annually by the USFWS and allow states to select the dates, times, manner, and means for the hunting of waterfowl.

Therefore, the proposed amendments to the Game Code do not contain any standards or requirements that exceed any standards or requirements imposed by Federal law.

### **Jobs Impact**

The proposed amendments will not have any effect on the number of jobs in the State. The amendments will help ensure continued recreational and economic benefits to the citizens of the State and continue to provide for the regulated use and proper management of the State's wildlife resources. The Council does not anticipate that the minor changes 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 regarding deer seasons should continue to decrease the economic losses incurred by the agricultural community. The proposed hunting seasons will continue to ensure that wildlife populations are maintained at acceptable levels.

### **Regulatory Flexibility Analysis**

In accordance with the New Jersey Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq., the Council has reviewed the proposed amendments for reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements on small businesses.

Generally, the proposed 2015-2016 Game Code imposes minimal reporting and compliance requirements on sportsmen engaged in recreational hunting. These requirements are not, therefore, imposed upon small business, as the term is defined under the Regulatory Flexibility Act. N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq.

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

### **Housing Affordability Impact Analysis**

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In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-4, as amended effective July 17, 2008, by P.L. 2008, c. 46, the 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. The proposed amendments apply solely to hunting and trapping. Accordingly, the proposed amendments have no impact on housing affordability.

### **Smart Growth Development Impact Analysis**

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 the proposed amendments to determine the nature and extent of the proposed amendments on the impacts on housing affordability and on housing production within Planning Areas 1 or 2, or within designated centers, under the State Development and Redevelopment Plan. The proposed amendments apply solely to hunting and trapping and, therefore, will have no impact on housing affordability or on housing production within Planning Areas 1 or 2, or within designated centers, under the State Development and Redevelopment Plan.

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

SUBCHAPTER 5. [2013–2014] **2015-2016** GAME CODE

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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. "Bag limit" means the amount of permitted take per person per season, except in a permit season the "bag limit" is the amount of permitted take per permit per season.

2. "Leftover permits" means those permits within the amount presented as the permit quota remaining after closure of the initial permit-granting process.

3. "Permit quota" means the maximum amount of permits allocated for a given locality, season, or species category.

4. "Possession tag" means the tag or metal seal affixed to the animal by Division personnel or designated agent.

5. "Transportation tag" means the tag portion of the hunting license or special permit which is removed and affixed to the animal immediately upon kill or removal from the trap. It is also a tag supplied by the Division with the beaver and otter trapping license.

6. "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" means the paper deer permit and transportation tag issued by mandatory deer check stations after registration of a deer taken on a regular license or special season permit. The "New Jersey Supplemental

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Deer Transportation Tag" will allow the hunter to continue hunting and take one additional deer subject to applicable sections of this Code. The transportation tag is completed and affixed to a deer immediately upon killing by the hunter.

7. "Traditional muzzleloader rifle" means a single shot, single barrel, side-lock percussion or flintlock firearm with iron or peep sights and a wooden stock. In-line ignition, center-hammer and under-hammer muzzleloaders are not included in this definition. Scopes, Sabot slugs and jacketed projectiles are prohibited for the purposes of this definition.

8. An "antler point" is defined as at least one inch long from its tip to its base line, and the length must exceed the width at some location at least one inch down from the tip.

9. "Antler length" means the maximum length of a deer antler measured from the lowest outside edge of the antler burr along the outer curve to the most distant point of what is or appears to be the main antler beam. For the purposes of this definition, the antler length does not include the pedicel or portion of skull between the skull plate and base of the antler burr.

10. "Antlered deer" means any deer with at least one antler measuring at least three inches in length.

11. "Antlerless deer" means any deer which does not have any antler measuring at least three inches in length. For the purposes of this definition, shed antlered deer and

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deer with broken antlers which measure less than three inches are considered antlerless deer.

12. "Limited quota, special deer permits" means bow, muzzleloader, or shotgun special deer seasons permits 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 issued by random drawing may be required because demand for permits is expected to exceed the supply.

13. "Special Areas" are deer management zones where hunter access is controlled by a regulating authority, and may include, but are not limited to, Federal, State, county, and private lands, as designated by the Division.

14. "Youth Hunting License" means the free hunting license issued by the Division to persons 10 through 15 years of age upon the successful completion of an approved hunter education course. The license is valid, unless revoked for due cause, from the time of issuance until December 31 of the year in which the youth attains the age of 16 years.

15. "Youth hunter" means the possessor of the Youth Hunting License or the immediate family member of a qualified occupant farmer who is at least 10 years of age. Youth hunter status continues until December 31 of the year in which the youth turns 16 years old.

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

17. "Earn-a-buck" requirement means that deer hunters must harvest an antlerless deer from within a specified zone or zones before taking or attempting to take an antlered deer in the prescribed season or season period, and deer management zone.

18. "Conservation ID Number" means the lifetime identification number assigned to sportsmen and sportswomen when they initially obtain a license, permit or child support certification through the electronic licensing system (ELS) beginning in 2006 and thereafter.

19. "Antlered muzzleloader permit," "antlered shotgun permit" or "antlered bow permit" means the additional purchase to the regular muzzleloader, shotgun or bow zone-specific antlerless permit, that contains an antlered deer transportation tag and allows for the pursuit and harvest of an antlered deer only.

20. "Electronic License System" or "ELS" means the integrated Web-based and license agent-based automated electronic license purchasing system used by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to sell hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and permits.

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21. "Deer check station" means a physical location, as designated by the Division, where a hunter must bring his or her deer on the day of kill to be registered as a legally harvested deer; or an "automated deer check system" (ADCS) by which a hunter registers the harvested deer via the Internet or telephone as designated by the Division.

22. "Regulation set" means a group of deer management zones, as designated by the Division, that all have the same season dates and bag limits.

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

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.]

**1. "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. Noise reduction systems, which are included in the**

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**definition of "firearm silencer," at N.J.S.A. 2C:39-1.g, are prohibited at N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3.c.**

**2. "Antlered deer" means any deer with at least one antler measuring at least three inches in length.**

**3. "Antlered muzzleloader permit," "antlered shotgun permit," or "antlered bow permit" means the additional purchase to the regular muzzleloader, shotgun, or bow zone-specific antlerless permit that contains an antlered deer transportation tag and allows for the pursuit and harvest of an antlered deer only.**

**4. "Antlerless deer" means any deer which does not have any antler measuring at least three inches in length. For the purposes of this definition, shed antlered deer and deer with broken antlers which measure less than three inches are considered antlerless deer.**

**5. "Antler length" means the maximum length of a deer antler measured from the lowest outside edge of the antler burr along the outer curve to the most distant point of what is or appears to be the main antler beam. For the purposes of this definition, the antler length does not include the pedicel or portion of skull between the skull plate and base of the antler burr.**

**6. An "antler point" is defined as at least one inch long from its tip to its base line, and the length must exceed the width at some location at least one inch down from the tip.**

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**7. "Automated Harvest Report System" or "AHRS" replaces live check stations for designated species and is the means by which a hunter registers a harvested animal via the Internet or telephone.**

**8. "Bag limit" means the amount of permitted take per person per season, except in a permit season the "bag limit" is the amount of permitted take per permit per season.**

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

**10. "Conservation ID Number" means the lifetime identification number assigned to sportsmen and sportswomen when they initially obtain a license, permit, or child support certification through the electronic licensing system (ELS) beginning in 2006 and thereafter.**

**11. "Deer check station" means a physical location, as designated by the Division, where a hunter must bring his or her deer on the day of kill to be registered as a legally harvested deer; or an "Automated Harvest Report System" (AHRS) by which a hunter registers the harvested deer via the Internet or telephone as designated by the Division.**

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**12. "Earn-a-buck" requirement means that deer hunters must harvest an antlerless deer from within a specified zone or zones before taking or attempting to take an antlered deer in the prescribed season or season period, and deer management zone.**

**13. "Electronic License System" or "ELS" means the integrated web-based and license agent-based automated electronic license purchasing system used by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to sell hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses and permits.**

**14. "Enclosed foothold trap" means a live-capture trap with a trigger which is activated by pulling, as enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.12(g)1 through 5.**

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

**16. "Leftover permits" means those permits within the amount presented as the permit quota remaining after closure of the initial permit-granting process.**

**17. "Limited quota, special deer permits" means bow, muzzleloader, or shotgun special deer seasons permits for special management areas including military bases, National Wildlife Refuges, State and county parks, and other areas**

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**that require application or issuance of special deer permits through the Division issued by random drawing because demand for permits is expected to exceed the supply.**

**18. "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" means the paper deer permit and transportation tag issued by mandatory deer check stations after registration of a deer taken on a regular license or special season permit. The "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" will allow the hunter to continue hunting and take one additional deer subject to applicable sections of this Code. The transportation tag is completed and affixed to a deer immediately upon killing by the hunter.**

**19. "Permit quota" means the maximum amount of permits allocated for a given locality, season, or species category.**

**20. "Possession tag" means the tag or metal seal affixed to the animal by Division personnel or designated agent.**

**21. "Regulation Set" means a group of deer management zones, as designated by the Division, that all have the same season dates and bag limits.**

**22. "Relaxing lock" means that component of a live capture cable restraint intended to create and maintain a loop; and that allows the loop to release constriction pressure on the captured animal when the cable is not taut (for example, when the animal stops pulling).**

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**23. "Special Areas" are deer management zones where hunter access is controlled by a regulating authority, and may include, but are not limited to, Federal, State, county, and private lands, as designated by the Division.**

**24. "Traditional muzzleloader rifle" means a single shot, single barrel, side-lock percussion or flintlock firearm with iron or peep sights and a wooden stock. In-line ignition, center-hammer, and under-hammer muzzleloaders are not included in this definition. Scopes, Sabot slugs, and jacketed projectiles are prohibited for the purposes of this definition.**

**25. "Transportation tag" means the tag portion of the hunting license or special permit which is removed and affixed to the animal immediately upon kill or removal from the trap. It is also a tag supplied by the Division with the beaver and otter trapping license.**

**26. "Youth hunter" means the possessor of the Youth Hunting License or the immediate family member of a qualified occupant farmer who is at least 10 years of age. Youth hunter status continues until December 31 of the year in which the youth turns 16 years old.**

**27. "Youth Hunting License" means the free hunting license issued by the Division to persons 10 through 15 years of age upon the successful completion of an approved hunter education course. The license is valid, unless revoked for due cause, from the time of issuance until December 31 of the year in which the youth attains the age of 16 years.**

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(e) For the purpose of this subchapter, "Trenton Office" shall mean the Bureau of Wildlife Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, [501 East State Street, 5 Station Plaza, PO Box 400] **Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box 420**, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-[0400]**0420**.

(f) – (g) (No change.)

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

(i) (No change.)

7:25-5.3 Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), [blacktail] **black-tailed** jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), [whitetailed] **white-tailed** jackrabbit (*Lepus townsendii*), European hare (*Lepus europeus*), chukar partridge (*Alectoris graeca*), Hungarian partridge (*Perdix perdix*), and bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*)

(a) – (d) (No change.)

(e) The annual season for hunting chukar partridge, **Hungarian 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. Properly licensed and permitted youth hunters may hunt quail and/or [chukar] partridge on the Saturday before the regular opening of the quail and [chukar] partridge season on semi-wild

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

1. (No change.)

(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 [second] **third** 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

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season specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.27(a) and on the Wednesday immediately following the six-day firearm deer season.

(b) – (d) (No change.)

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

(a) The annual season for hunting eastern gray squirrel with shotgun, 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. **Within the areas described as portions of Passaic, Mercer, Hunterdon, Warren, Morris, and Sussex Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 513 and the New York State line; then south along Rt. 513 to its intersection with Rt. 511; then south along Rt. 511 to its intersection with Rt. 46; then west along Rt. 46 to its intersection with Rt. 80; then west along Rt. 80 to its intersection with Rt. 15; then north along Rt. 15 to its intersection with the Morris-Sussex County line; then south along the Morris-Sussex County line to the Warren County line; then southwest along the Morris-Warren County line to the Hunterdon County line; then southeast along the Morris-Hunterdon County line to the Somerset County line; then south along the Somerset-Hunterdon County line to its intersection with the Mercer County line; then west and south along the Hunterdon-Mercer County line to its intersection with Rt. 31;**

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**then south along Rt. 31 to its intersection with Rt. 546; then west along Rt. 546 to the Delaware River; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to the New York State Line; then east along the New York State Line to the point of beginning at Lakeside; and in that portion of Salem, Gloucester, Camden, Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic, Cape May, and Cumberland counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 295 and the Delaware River; then east along Rt. 295 to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then east along the New Jersey Turnpike to its intersection with Rt. 40; then east along Rt. 40 to its intersection with Rt. 47; then north along Rt. 47 to its intersection with Rt. 536; then east along Rt. 536 to its intersection with Rt. 206; then north along Rt. 206 to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then northeast along the New Jersey Turnpike to its intersection with Rt. 571; then southeast along Rt. 571 to its intersection with the Garden State Parkway; then south along the Garden State Parkway to its intersection with Rt. 9 at Somers Point; then south along Rt. 9 to its intersection with Rt. 83; then west along Rt. 83 to its intersection with Rt. 47; then north along Rt. 47 to its intersection with Dennis Creek; then south along the west bank of Dennis Creek to its intersection with Delaware Bay; then northwest along the east shore of Delaware Bay and the Delaware River to the point of beginning; persons holding a valid and proper rifle permit in addition to their current firearm hunting license may hunt for squirrels between the last Saturday in September and the Friday following the first Monday**

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**in November, inclusive; and between the first Saturday in January and the third Monday in February, inclusive, using a .36 caliber or smaller muzzleloading rifle loaded with a single projectile.**

(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. **Trappers shall report any bobcat incidentally caught within 24 hours of discovery to 1-877-WarnDEP (1-877-927-6337).** Bobcat, including any part thereof, legally harvested in other U.S. states or Canadian provinces may be possessed provided they are affixed with a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) tag from the state or province of harvest. It shall be illegal to use dogs to pursue or run black 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

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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. Special black bear hunting permit requirement: All black bear hunters must have a current and valid firearm hunting license and a current and valid special "black bear hunting permit" which will be issued by the Division. A total of 10,000 special black bear hunting permits, allocated by bear management zone (BMZ), will be available to properly licensed firearm hunters. A random lottery will be conducted, if demand exceeds supply in any BMZ. Black bear hunting permits and special farmer black bear permits are not transferable and must be in the possession of the hunter while hunting black bear. Hunters are limited to two black bear hunting permits per year, as per (a)l-iii below. Juvenile hunters aged 10 through 13 years of age must have a black bear hunting permit and be under the direct supervision of a properly licensed adult (21 years of age or older) while bear hunting. The adult must also possess a black bear hunting permit. Direct supervision means the juvenile hunter and the supervising adult are together at the same location. The juvenile hunter may not hunt independently of the adult.

i.-iii. (No change.)

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

(1) (No change.)

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(2) Application forms may be obtained from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, [PO Box 400] **Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box 420**, Trenton, N.J. 08625-[0400]**0420**.

(3) – (4) (No change.)

2 – 6. (No change.)

(b) (No change.)

#### APPENDIX

(No change.)

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

(a) – (f) (No change.)

(g) Special permits consist of a back display which includes a wild turkey [transportation] **harvest** tag. The back portion of the permit will be conspicuously displayed on the outer clothing in addition to the valid firearm or archery license. [Any wild turkey killed must be tagged immediately with the completed wild turkey transportation tag. This completely filled in wild turkey transportation tag allows legal transportation of the wild turkey to an authorized checking station only. Personnel at the checking station will issue a "possession tag".] **After harvesting a wild turkey, the hunter must register his or her turkey via the AHRS or an alternate system as designated by the Division only. Hunters registering their wild turkey via the AHRS will receive a “confirmation number” that can be written on the harvest tag.** Any

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permit holder killing a wild turkey must [transport this wild turkey to an authorized checking station] **register the turkey** by 3:00 P.M. on the day killed **on the youth turkey hunting day, Hunting Periods A, B, and C, and the first three Saturdays of Hunting Period E, or by 9:00 P.M. during Hunting Period D and the last Saturday of Hunting Period E** during the spring gobbler hunting season, or by 7:00 P.M. on the day killed during the fall turkey season to secure the legal "[possession tag] **confirmation number.**" The possession of a wild turkey after 3:00 P.M. on the date killed **on the youth turkey hunting day, Hunting Periods A, B, and C, and the first three Saturdays of Hunting Period E, or after 9:00 P.M. during Hunting Period D and the last Saturday of Hunting Period E** during the spring gobbler season, or **after 7:00 P.M.** on the date killed during the fall season without a legal "[possession tag] **confirmation number**" shall be deemed illegal possession.

(h) Wild Turkey Hunting Permits shall be applied for as follows:

1. **For the spring turkey hunting season,** [Holders] **holders** of valid and current firearm or archery hunting licenses, including juvenile licenses, shall apply by submitting an application. 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. First time permit applicants who do not yet possess a valid hunting license may apply for a wild turkey hunting permit provided they have applied for a hunter education course prior to the permit

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application period and have provided such related information as may be required on the application.

2. (No change.)

3. The application shall be filled in to include the applicant's Conservation ID Number or name, address, turkey hunting areas applied for, hunting periods applied for, and any other information requested. Only those applications will be accepted for participation in random selection that are received during the period of January 25--February 22, inclusive. Applications received after February 22 will not be considered for the initial drawing. Selection of permits will be by random drawing except that: applicants 10-16 years of age who have a valid youth hunting license will receive a spring hunting season permit for Hunting Period Y for the turkey hunting area of their choice separate from the spring permit quota; and applicants who possess a "Permit to Shoot From A Standing Vehicle," granted by the Division who have a valid license, will receive a spring hunting season permit for their first choice hunting area and hunting period separate from the spring permit quota. Persons possessing a Permit to Shoot From A Standing Vehicle shall apply for a spring turkey season permit on separate applications provided by the Division during the regular application period.

[i. Application for the fall hunting season shall be made separately from the spring season and as prescribed by the Division. Selection of permits shall be by random drawing except that applicants 10 to 16 years of age who have a valid youth

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hunting license shall receive a fall hunting season permit for the hunting area applied for separate from the fall permit quota, if the area is open for the fall turkey season.]

4. – 6. (No change.)

**7. For the fall turkey season, permits will be issued on an individual basis to holders of valid and current firearm or archery licenses via the Division's ELS or, in the event of ELS operating difficulties, by providing the same information at ELS locations through such alternate systems as may be designated by the Division. These permits may be issued as authorized by the Division, through the last day of the season. Qualified applicants may purchase permits for Turkey Hunting Areas 1 through 22. Qualified farmers may obtain permits as provided in (i) below.**

(i) Special Farmer Turkey Permits shall be applied for as follows:

1. (No change.)

2. Application forms may be obtained from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, [PO Box 400] **Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box 420**, Trenton, N.J. 08625-[0400]**0420**.

3. – 4. (No change.)

(j) (No change.)

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

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

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SPRING TURKEY HUNTING SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

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

Turkey	Hunting	Season	
Hunting	Period	Permit	
Area	Permit	Quota	Portions
<u>Number</u>	<u>Quota*</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>of Counties Involved</u>
1	240	1,200	Sussex
2	315	1,575	Sussex, Warren
3	115	575	Sussex, Warren
4	240	1,200	Sussex, Warren, Morris
5	325	1,625	Sussex
6	500	2,500	Sussex, Passaic, Bergen
7	500	2,500	Sussex, Morris, Passaic
8	325	1,625	Warren, Hunterdon
9	220	1,100	Warren, Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset

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10	160	800	Essex, Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, Union, Bergen, Hudson, Passaic
11	300	1,500	Middlesex, Mercer, Hunterdon, Somerset
12	175	875	Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean
14	[200] <b>450</b>	[1,000] <b>2,250</b>	Burlington, Ocean, Monmouth, Mercer
15	100	500	Burlington, Atlantic, Gloucester, Camden
16	160	800	Burlington, Atlantic, Ocean, Cape May
20	750	3,750	Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester
21	380	1,900	Atlantic, Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester

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22	[165] <b>200</b>	[825] <b>1,000</b>	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland
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Total	[5,170] <b>5,455</b>	[25,850] <b>27,275</b>	
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\* Applied to each of the five Turkey Hunting Permit hunting periods (A, B, C, D, E) in all areas enumerated in (a)1 through 5 above.

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

FALL TURKEY HUNTING SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

Turkey

Hunting

Area	Permit	Portions
<u>Number</u>	<u>Quota**</u>	<u>of Counties Involved</u>
1	240	Sussex
2	315	Sussex, Warren
3	115	Sussex, Warren
4	240	Sussex, Warren, Morris
5	325	Sussex
<b>6</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>Sussex, Passaic, Bergen</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>Sussex, Morris, Passaic</b>

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8	325	Warren, Hunterdon
9	220	Warren, Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset
<b>10</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>Essex, Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, Union, Bergen, Hudson, Passaic</b>
11	300	Middlesex, Mercer, Hunterdon, Somerset
<b>12</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>Burlington, Ocean, Monmouth, Mercer</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Burlington, Atlantic, Gloucester, Camden</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>Burlington, Atlantic, Ocean, Cape May</b>
20	750	Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, Camden
21	380	Atlantic, Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, Camden
22	[165] <b>200</b>	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland
Total	[3,375] <b>5,455</b>	

\*\* 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] **1 through 22**.

(m) – (o) (No change.)

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7:25-5.8 Mink (*Mustela vison*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), and nutria (*Myocaster coypus*) trapping only

(a) (No change.)

(b) The annual mink, muskrat, and nutria-trapping season is as follows:

1. Northern Zone: 6:00 A.M. on November 15 through the following March 15, inclusive[, except on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas, enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a)2].

2. Southern Zone: 6:00 A.M. on December 1 through the following March 15, inclusive[, except on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas, enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a)2].

3. (No change.)

[4. On State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas, enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a)2, the season duration will be: 6:00 A.M. on January 1--March 15, inclusive.]

(c) – (e) (No change.)

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

(a) (No change.)

(b) The annual beaver trapping season shall begin 6:00 A.M. EST on December 26 and conclude the following February 9, 11:59 P.M. EST, inclusive[, except on State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a)2. On State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.33(a)2, the trapping

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season for beaver shall begin 6:00 A.M. EST on January 1 and conclude February 9, 11:59 P.M. EST, inclusive]. If the anticipated harvest of beaver has not been accomplished during this season, up to 14 additional days may be authorized by the Director.

(c) (No change.)

(d) 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.

1. – 3. (No change.)

4. For Beaver Damage Control Permits issued during the dates of the annual beaver trapping season, the [permittee] **trapper** 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) – (i) (No change.)

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

(a) (No change.)

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

(c) – (i) (No change.)

7:25-5.11 Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*), short-tailed weasel (*Mustela erminea*), fisher (*Martes pennanti*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*) trapping only

(a) - (d) (No change.)

(e) There shall be no daily [nor] **or** season bag limit **for any species enumerated in this section having an open season.**

(f) (No change.)

(g) Any person including a farmer trapping a coyote shall [notify one of the regional law enforcement offices within 24 hours] **report said harvest via the AHRS no later**

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**than 8:00 P.M. of the day of harvest. Should the trapper be unable to access the AHRS by the designated time, the trapper shall immediately report the harvest of a coyote by telephone to the nearest Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement regional office and shall register that harvest via AHRS the next day.**

(h) (No change.)

#### 7:25-5.12 General trapping

(a) – (e) (No change.)

(f) Live capture cable restraints shall be subject to the following requirements.

1. (No change.)

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

3. Except when submerged underwater or when set for **weasel**, mink, and muskrat as provided in this subsection, no live capture cable restraints shall be set, used, or maintained with a loop diameter average (arithmetic mean) greater than 12 inches.

[Mink] **Weasel, mink**, and muskrat live capture cable restraints must be equipped with a

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stop to prevent the average (arithmetic mean) diameter of the loop opening from exceeding four inches.

4. Except when set for **weasel**, mink, and muskrat as provided in this subsection, no 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 **weasel**, mink, or muskrat live capture cable restraints [must] **shall** be 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 **weasel**, mink, and muskrat as provided in this subsection, no 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)] **6.** (No change in text.)

**(g) Enclosed foothold traps may be used to harvest furbearing animals during the prescribed open seasons and shall be subject to the following requirements:**

- 1. All triggering and restraining mechanisms shall be enclosed by a housing;**
- 2. The triggering and restraining mechanism is accessible only by a single opening when the trap is set;**
- 3. The access opening does not exceed two inches in diameter or when measured diagonally;**
- 4. The triggering mechanism can be activated only by a pulling force; and**

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**5. The trap has a swivel-mounted anchoring system.**

(h) Legally licensed trappers possessing a valid and proper rifle permit may carry and use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 caliber short rimfire cartridges only, to kill legally trapped animals other than muskrats. **Legally licensed trappers may also carry and use an air gun, no smaller than .177 caliber, to kill legally trapped animals other than muskrats.**

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

7:25-5.13 Migratory birds

(a) – (g) (No change.)

(h) A special swan permit shall be required to hunt swans, if the appropriate prescribed special season is established by Federal regulations. If a special season for swan is established by Federal regulations, the special swan hunting area shall be [the counties of Burlington, Cumberland and Salem] **that portion of the State designated by Federal regulations.** The September Canada Goose hunting area shall be that portion of the State designated by Federal regulations. The late season Canada goose hunting areas shall be that portion of the State established by Federal regulations. **Hunting areas for any other migratory bird special season shall be that portion of the State designated by Federal regulations.** Permitting requirements for pursuing snow geese and/or Canada geese will conform to requirements prescribed in the Code of Federal Regulations during

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the period of any Conservation or Managed Take Option, authorized by Federal Regulations, is in effect.

(i) – (j) (No change.)

(k) The prohibition against shooting waterfowl or placing a boat or other structure at a greater distance than 100 feet from shore shall not apply in all the waters of the State and Atlantic Ocean. **Any staked, anchored, or floating waterfowl hunting blinds located greater than 100 feet from shore at mean high tide shall not be left unattended and shall be removed when the hunter ceases hunting that day or not later than two hours after sunset on any calendar day, whichever comes last. Any waterfowl hunting blind in non-compliance with the above requirement shall be subject to seizure and disposal at the Division’s discretion. In addition, any waterfowl hunting blind as described above, shall have prominently placed thereon, in some permanent manner, the owner's full name and Conservation Identification Number. All relevant Federal, State, or municipal regulations pertaining to the use of said hunting blinds, including, but not limited to, safety equipment, shall be adhered to.**

(l) – (m) (No change.)

(n) [Woodcock] **American woodcock** zones and hunting hours are as follows:

1.– 2. (No change.)

3. Hunting hours for **American** woodcock are sunrise to sunset except on the opening day of pheasant season, as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2(d), when the hunting hours are 8:00 A.M. to sunset.

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(o) – (r) (No change.)

#### 7:25-5.16 General falconry rules

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

1. Definitions: The following words and terms, when used in this section, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

i. (No change.)

ii. Raptors: Live birds of the family Accipitrididae, other than the **American** bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) or of the family Falconidae or the great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*) of the family Strigidae.

iii-xiii. (No change.)

2. – 12. (No change.)

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

(a) – (h) (No change.)

(i) During the special eastern coyote, red fox, and gray fox hunting season listed in (e) above, exclusively, coyotes **and foxes** may be hunted with bow and arrow, shotgun, center-fire rifles, rim-fire rifles, and single barrel muzzleloader rifles between 1/2 hour

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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] **20** gauge nor larger than 10 gauge. Coyote **and fox** hunters shall possess and use shotgun shells loaded with shot sizes no smaller than "BB" (.18 caliber) and no larger than [4 Buckshot (.24 caliber)] **#3 Buckshot (.25 caliber)** for coyote **and fox** 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.

(j) Any coyote killed during regular or special hunting seasons shall be reported [to a Division regional law enforcement office within 24 hours] **via the AHRS no later than 8:00 P.M. of the day of harvest. Should the hunter be unable to access the AHRS by the designated time, the hunter shall immediately report the harvested coyote by telephone to the nearest Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement regional office and register that harvest via the AHRS the next day.** [Callers must identify themselves by name and phone number.]

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(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. (No change.)

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] **AHRS** 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 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) – (g) (No change.)

**(h) The following activities shall be considered the wanton waste of a game animal and are illegal:**

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**1. It is unlawful for any person who kills or wounds any white-tailed deer; black bear; wild turkey; rabbit species as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.3; squirrel; pheasant as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.2; quail, chukar, or Hungarian partridge; ruffed grouse; and all migratory game birds as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13 while engaged in any hunting activities to refuse or neglect to make a reasonable effort to retrieve, retain, or lawfully take into possession such game or wildlife.**

**2. It is unlawful for any person to take, kill, or capture any game mammal or game bird and remove from the carcass the head, hide, or antlers and leave the edible portions of the carcass and meat to waste except for those species in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.8, 5.9, 5.10, 5.11, 5.15, 5.17, 5.18, 5.19, and 5.21.**

**i. As used in this paragraph, “edible portions” means:**

**(1) For white-tailed deer and black bear:**

**(A) Front quarters as far as the distal joint of the radius-ulna (knee);**

**(B) Hind quarters as far as the distal joint of the tibia-fibula (hock);**

**and**

**(C) Backstrap/tenderloin - the meat along the backbone, between the front and hind quarters;**

**(2) For rabbit and squirrel:**

**(A) Front shoulders;**

**(B) Thighs; and**

**(C) Backstrap;**

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**(3) For game birds:**

**(A) For turkey, the meat of the breast, legs and thighs; and**

**(B) For game birds other than turkey, the meat of the breast; and**

**(4) Edible portions do not include meat from the head or neck; meat that has been damaged by the method of taking; bones, sinew, and meat reasonably lost as a result of butchering, boning, or close trimming of bones; or viscera. Edible portions do not include meat from diseased or scavenged carcasses.**

**3. It is unlawful for any person to place, leave, dump, or abandon a game mammal, game bird, or wildlife carcass or parts of it along or upon a public right-of-way or highway, or on public or private property, including a waterway or stream, without the permission of the owner or tenant, or on any Wildlife Management Area or State Park.**

[(h)] **(i)** (No change in text.)

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] **black-tailed** jackrabbit, [whitetailed] **white-tailed** jackrabbit, European hare, and eastern gray squirrel seasons, exclusively, who may use an

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air gun, as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d)[24]1. Air guns may use wadcutter, domed or pointed, or hollow point 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 10 [or 12] **to 20** gauge shotgun ammunition loaded with shot sizes no smaller than "BB" (.18 caliber) and no larger than [4 Buckshot (.24 caliber)] **#3 Buckshot (.25 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. 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] **80** 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 **not exceeding 50 grains in weight**. 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 **or air gun, as**

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**defined in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.1(d)1**, 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 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) – (c) (No change.)

(d) It shall be legal to use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 caliber short cartridge only for hunting raccoon and opossum with hounds and for killing legally trapped animals other than muskrats on State wildlife management areas. **Legally licensed trappers may also carry and use an air gun, not smaller than .177 caliber, to kill legally trapped animals other than muskrats.**

(e) [Within the areas described as portions of Passaic, Mercer, Hunterdon, Warren, Morris and Sussex Counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 513 and the New York State line; then south along Rt. 513 to its intersection with Rt. 511; then south along Rt. 511 to its intersection with Rt. 46; then west along Rt. 46 to

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its intersection with Rt. 80; then west along Rt. 80 to its intersection with Rt. 15; then north along Rt. 15 to its intersection with the Morris-Sussex County line; then south along the Morris-Sussex County line to the Warren County line; then southwest along the Morris-Warren County line to the Hunterdon County line; then southeast along the Morris-Hunterdon County line to the Somerset County line; then south along the Somerset-Hunterdon County line to its intersection with the Mercer County line; then west and south along the Hunterdon Mercer County line to its intersection with Rt. 31; then south along Rt. 31 to its intersection with Rt. 546; then west along Rt. 546 to the Delaware River; then north along the east bank of the Delaware River to the New York State Line; then east along the New York State Line to the point of beginning at Lakeside; and in that portion of Salem, Gloucester, Camden, Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 295 and the Delaware River; then east along Rt. 295 to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then east along the New Jersey Turnpike to its intersection with Rt. 40; then east along Rt. 40 to its intersection with Rt. 47; then north along Rt. 47 to its intersection with Rt. 536; then east along Rt. 536 to its intersection with Rt. 206; then north along Rt. 206 to its intersection with the New Jersey Turnpike; then northeast along the New Jersey Turnpike to its intersection with Rt. 571; then southeast along Rt. 571 to its intersection with the Garden State Parkway; then south along the Garden State Parkway to its intersection with Rt. 9 at Somers Point; then south along Rt. 9 to its intersection with Rt. 83; then west along Rt.

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83 to its intersection with Rt. 47; then north along Rt. 47 to its intersection with Dennis Creek; then south along the west bank of Dennis Creek to its intersection with Delaware Bay; then northwest along the east shore of Delaware Bay and the Delaware River to the point of beginning; persons holding a valid and proper rifle permit in addition to their current firearm hunting license may hunt for squirrels between the last Saturday in September and the Friday following the first Monday in November, inclusive; and between the first Saturday in January and the third Monday in February, inclusive, using a .36 caliber or smaller muzzleloading rifle loaded with a single projectile.] **(Reserved.)**

(f) – (m) (No change.)

(n) No person shall hunt with the aid of a deer decoy, except during the fall bow, special permit bow, and winter bow seasons. Any person while carrying or moving deer decoys in the woods and fields for the purpose of hunting shall wear a cap of fluorescent hunters orange or some other garment containing at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material which shall be visible from all sides. No person shall hunt for deer with the aid of an electronic calling device, or any device which projects a beam of light upon the target. A hunter engaged in firearm hunting [for deer] and utilizing a ground blind must display 200 square inches of hunter orange atop the blind and visible from all sides, or within five feet outside of the blind and higher than the blind or at least three feet off the ground, whichever is higher, **except as enumerated in N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.7(e) and N.J.S.A. 23:4-13.1.** A "ground blind" is defined as a temporary man-made structure used

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for the purpose of concealing from sight a person who is hunting. A ground blind is not a naturally occurring feature that a hunter merely uses for concealment.

(o) – (v) (No change.)

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 and 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 and 54.

2.-3. (No change.)

(b) Bag Limit: Only one antlered deer may be taken Statewide during the fall bow season. Hunters must use an antlered deer transportation tag from their bow and arrow or all around sportsman license, which is designated for use during the fall bow season, 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 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 and zones 37, 39, 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 or one antlerless deer. In Regulation Sets 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 and in Zones **39**, 53, and 68, an antlerless deer must be taken before an antlered deer from the second Saturday in September through the [Friday before the fourth Saturday prior to the last] **first** Friday in October except for youth hunters, as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:25-

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5.1(d)15. All deer must be legally registered either at a deer check station or via the automated [deer check] **harvest report** system. **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 in Zones 37, 39, 53, 54, 66, and 68, where the limit is two deer at a time until the season concludes.** 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 confirmation number via an automated [deer check] **harvest report** system as designated by the Division. This tag or 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 confirmation number may be used in any zone that is open for the season subject to the limitations of this section. Properly licensed hunters that harvest a second deer may obtain a "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" upon registration of their second deer at a designated check station. Supplemental tags for the taking of a third or subsequent deer are valid only in zones that have a bag limit of an unlimited number of antlerless deer listed above. After taking a second deer in any zone 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

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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 confirmation number, the possession tag **on the license** shall be filled out immediately upon killing[.]. **Additionally, every deer is to have a tag affixed to the carcass bearing the hunter's CID, date of harvest, zone of harvest, antler points if applicable, and confirmation number if registered. This tag shall remain attached until such time as the deer is processed for consumption.** [and the] **The** deer shall be registered via an automated [deer checking] **harvest report** system, as designated by the Division, in lieu of a deer check station prior to the attempt to take an additional deer, and no later than 8:00 P.M. D.S.T. or E.S.T., whichever is in effect, of the day of harvest. Hunters must record the confirmation number given via this system, which replaces the legal possession tag. If an automated [deer check] **harvest report** system is implemented, notice will be published in the New Jersey Register, on the

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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 confirmation number shall be deemed illegal under the [ADCS] **AHRS**. 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] **AHRS** 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] **AHRS** the next day. Within 48 hours of registering a deer with the [ADCS] **AHRS** and upon request from the Division, a hunter 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,] 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.

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3. (No change.)

(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, **in consultation with the Council**. Such authorization and dates thereof shall be announced by press and radio.

(d) (No change.)

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

(a) (No change.)

(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 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 and in Zones 37, 39, 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 or one antlerless

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deer. **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 in Zones 37, 39, 53, 54, 61, 64, 66, 67, and 68, where the limit is two deer at a time until the season concludes.** All deer must be legally registered either at a deer check station or via the automated [deer check] **harvest report** system. Properly licensed hunters who take their first deer during the winter bow season will be given a "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" (supplemental tag), upon registration of their first deer at a designated deer check station if that deer is antlerless only. This tag will be valid for the taking of one additional antlerless deer. No supplemental tags will be issued for antlered deer. The supplemental tag may be used in any zone that is open for the winter bow season subject to the limitations of this section. Properly licensed hunters that take a second antlerless deer may obtain a "New Jersey Supplemental Deer Transportation Tag" upon registration of their second antlerless deer at a designated check station. Supplemental tags for the taking of a third and subsequent antlerless deer will only be valid in the zones listed above having an unlimited bag limit for antlerless deer. After taking a second deer in any zone 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

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date of issuance in all zones that are open for the winter bow season. For deer harvested when the deer check station system is in use, upon harvesting a deer, hunters must immediately detach, completely fill out, and attach the "transportation tag" to the deer, and then take the deer to a deer checking station before 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the day killed to secure a legal possession tag. The legal possession tag must be securely affixed or locked on the deer before the deer is transported or removed from the authorized deer checking station. Hunters are responsible for legal possession tags being securely affixed or locked before leaving the deer check station. For deer harvested when the deer check station system is no longer in use, upon harvesting a deer, hunters must immediately fill out with the exception of the confirmation number the "transportation tag" **on the license. Additionally, every deer is to have a tag affixed to the carcass bearing the hunter's CID, date of harvest, zone of harvest, antler points if applicable, and confirmation number if registered. This tag shall remain attached until such time as the deer is processed for consumption.** [and] **Hunters** must register their deer via an [ADCS] **AHRS**, 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 confirmation number given via this system, which replaces the legal possession tag. If an automated [deer checking] **harvest report** system is implemented, notice will be published in the New Jersey Register, on the Division's website, and in the Hunting Digest.

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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 confirmation number shall be deemed illegal possession under the [ADCS] **AHRS**. 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] **AHRS** 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 **the harvest** registered via the [ADCS] **AHRS** the next day. Within 48 hours of registering a deer with the [ADCS] **AHRS** and upon request from the Division, a hunter 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,] 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.

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

(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] **harvest report** 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 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

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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] **AHRS**. 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" **on the license** appropriate for the season shall be completely filled in with the exception of the confirmation number[.]. **Additionally, every deer is to have a tag affixed to the carcass bearing the hunter's CID, date of harvest, zone of harvest, antler points if applicable, and confirmation number if registered. This tag shall remain attached until such time as the deer is processed for consumption.** [and the] **The** deer shall be registered via an [ADCS] **AHRS** 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 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

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

1. (No change.)

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

3. (No change.)

(c) This season shall be open only to holders of a valid and current firearm hunting or all around sportsman license which contains an attached six-day firearm season transportation tag or a proper and valid supplemental tag. If the anticipated harvest of

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deer has not been accomplished during this season, additional days of deer hunting may be authorized by the Director, [with the approval of] **in consultation with** the Council. Such authorization and dates thereof shall be announced by press and radio.

(d) – (f) (No change.)

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

(a) (No change.)

(b) If the anticipated harvest of deer has not been accomplished during this season, additional days of muzzleloader rifle permit deer hunting may be authorized by the Director, **in consultation with the Council**. Such authorization and the date thereof shall be announced by press and radio.

(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 4, and in Zone 37. One deer, antlered or antlerless, 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 5, 6, 7, and 8, and in Zones 39, 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 7 and 8, 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 5, 6, 7, and 8, and in Zones

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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 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 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 confirmation 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] **harvest report** 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.

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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 confirmation number[,] and **every deer is to have a tag affixed to the carcass bearing the hunter's CID, date of harvest, zone of harvest, antler points if applicable, and confirmation number if registered. This tag shall remain attached until such time as the deer is processed for consumption.** [the] The deer shall be registered via an [ADCS] **AHRS**, 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 confirmation number given via the [ADCS] **AHRS**, which replaces the legal possession tag. Hunters must use an antlered deer transportation tag from their antlered muzzleloader permit which is designated for use during the permit muzzleloader season, when registering an antlered deer. The antlered muzzleloader permit with antlered deer transportation tag which is valid only for the harvest of one antlered deer must be purchased in addition to an antlerless muzzleloader permit. The antlered muzzleloader permit with antlered deer transportation tag may be used in any zone for which the hunter has already purchased an antlerless permit. The antlered muzzleloader permit with antlered deer transportation tag must be purchased prior to the season opener or at the time of the purchase of the initial antlerless muzzleloader permit if the season has already begun. The possession of a deer after 7:00 P.M. E.S.T. on the

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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 confirmation number shall be deemed illegal possession under the [ADCS] **AHRS**. 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 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. (No change.)

2. In Zones 3, 9, 13, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, [37,] 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

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unable to access the [ADCS] **AHRS** 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] **AHRS** the next day. Within 48 hours of registering a deer with the [ADCS] **AHRS** and upon request from the Division, a hunter 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. (No change.)

2. 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 six-day firearm season, and the Saturday following the six-day firearm season through the last Tuesday in December, excluding Christmas Day, **and the first nine days in January, excluding Sundays**, in zones in Regulation Set 1.

3. – 4. (No change.)

5. [December 2-7, 16--24, and 26--31, 2013, and January 6--11, 2014; and December 1-6, 15-24, and 26-31, 2014 and January 5-10, 2015] **November 30 and December 1-5, 14-24, and 26-31, 2015, and January 4-9, 2016; and November 28-30 and December 1-3, 12-24, and 26-31, 2016, and January 2-7, 2017; and November 27-30 and December 1, 2, 11-23, and 26-30, 2017, and January 2-6, 2018**, in Zone 37.

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6. (No change.)

7. [December 2--7 and 16--31, 2013, and January 1--February 8, 2014; and December 1-6 and 15-31, 2014 and January 1-February 14, 2015] **November 30 and December 1-5 and 14-31, 2015, and January 1-February 13, 2016; and November 28-30 and December 1-3 and 12-31, 2016, and January 2-February 11, 2017; and November 27-30 and December 1, 2, and 11-30, 2017, and January 1-February 10, 2018**, in Zone 39.

8. (No change.)

9. [November 30 and December 2--7, 16--24 and 26--31, 2013, and January 1--11, 2014; and November 29 and December 1-6, 15-24, and 26-31, 2014 and January 1-10, 2015] **November 28 and 30 and December 1-5, 14-24, and 26-31, 2015, and January 1-9, 2016; and November 26 and 28-30 and December 1-3, 12-24, and 26-31, 2016, and January 1-14, 2017; and November 25, 27-30, and December 1, 2, 11-23, and 26-30, 2017, and January 1-13, 2018**, in Zone 53.

10. [December 2, 3 and 16--31, 2013, and January 1--11, 2014; and December 1, 2, and 15--31, 2014, and January 1--10, 2015;] **November 30 and December 1 and 14--31, 2015, and January 1--9, 2016; November 28 and 29, and December 12—31, 2016, and January 2—7, 2017; November 27 and 28 and December 11-31, 2017, and January 1—6, 2018; November 26 and 27 and December 10-31, 2018, and January 1-5, 2019**, in Zone 54.

11. (No change.)

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12. [November 30--December 7, 13, and 14, 2013, and January 4 and 11, 2014; and November 29--December 6, 12, and 13, 2014 and January 3 and 10, 2015]

**November 30 and December 1, 14, 15, 20-24, and 26-31, 2015, and January 1-9, 2016; and November 28 and 29, 2016, and December 12, 13, 17-24, and 26-31, 2016, and January 2-6, 2017, in Zone 66.**

13. [November 4--7 and 11--14, 2013; and November 3-6, 10-13, 2014; and] November 2-5 and 9-12, 2015; **November 7-10 and 14-17, 2016; November 6-9 and 13-16, 2017; November 5-8 and 12-15, 2018, in Zone 67.**

14. – 15. (No change.)

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 six-day firearm season, and the Saturday following the six-day firearm season through the second to last Saturday in December, excluding Christmas Day,] **and December 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, and 30, 2015; November 28 and 29 and December 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, and 29, 2016; November 27 and 28 and December 16, 18, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27, 28, and 29, 2017; November 26 and 27 and December 15, 17, 18, 19, 24, 26, 27, 28, and 29, 2018; December 2, 3, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, and 31, 2019, and January 1, 2020, in zones in Regulation Set 0.**

17. (No change.)

(e) – (h) (No change.)

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

1.-2. (No change.)

3. Application forms may be obtained from the County Agricultural Agent, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, [P.O. Box 400] **Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box 420**, Trenton, N.J. 08625-[0400]**0420**, or other Division offices.

4. - 6. (No change.)

(j) – (n) (No change.)

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

(a) (No change.)

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

1. (No change.)

(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

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antlered and one antlerless or two antlerless, may be taken in zones in Regulation Sets 3 and 4, **and in Zone 37**. One antlered deer and an unlimited number of antlerless deer may be taken in zones in Regulation Sets 5, 6, 7, and 8, and in Zones 39, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 61, 64, 66, 68, and 70. In zones in Regulation Set 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 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 in Zones 39, 54, 56, 57, 58, 61, 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 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

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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,] 47, and 63, it shall be illegal to kill, take, or attempt to take any antlered deer which does not have a minimum of three antler points on one side.

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

1. – 5. (No change.)

6. [December 28, 30, and 31, 2013; and December 27, 29, and 30, 2014] **December 26, 28, and 29, 2015; December 24, 26, and 27, 2016; December 23, 26, and 27, 2017; and December 22, 24, and 26, 2018,** in Zone 37.

7. (No change.)

8. [December 7, 9--14, 21, and 28, 2013, January 4, 11, 18, and 25, and February 1 and 8, 2014; and December 6, 8-13, 20, and 27, 2014, January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31,

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and February 7 and 14, 2015] **December 5, 7-12, 19, and 26, 2015, and January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 and February 6 and 13, 2016; December 3, 5-10, 17, 24, and 31, 2016, and January 7, 14, 21, and 28 and February 4 and 11, 2017; and December 2, 4-9, 16, 23, and 30, 2017, and January 6, 13, 20, and 27 and February 3 and 10, 2018, in Zone 39.**

9. (No change.)

10. [December 9--14 and 18--20, 2013 and January 4--11, 2014; and December 8-13 and 17-19, and January 3-10, 2015] **December 7-12 and 16-18, 2015, and January 2-9, 2016; December 5-10 and 14-16, 2016, and January 7-14, 2017; and December 4-9 and 13-15, 2017, and January 6-13, 2018, in Zone 53.**

11. [December 9--14 and 28, 2013 and January 4 and 6-11, 2014; December 8-13, and 20, 2014 and January 3 and 5-9, 2015; and] **December 7-12 and 19, 2015 and January 2 and 4-8, 2016; December 5—10 and 17, 2016, and January 7 and 9-13, 2017; December 4--9 and 16, 2017, and January 6 and 8-12, 2018; and December 3-8 and 15, 2018, and January 5, 7-11, 2019, in Zone 54.**

12. [December 16--20, 2013] **December 14-18, 2015; and December 12-16, 2016, in Zone 56.**

13. [December 4--6, 9--14, and 18--20, 2013, and January 4--11, 2014; and December 3-5, 8-13, and 17-19, 2014 and January 3-10, 2015] **December 2-4, 7-12, and 16-18, 2015, and January 2-9, 2016; and November 30-December 2 and December 5-10 and 14-16, 2016, and January 7-14, 2017, in Zone 58.**

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14. (No change.)

15. [December 9--14 and 18--20, 2013; and December 8-13 and 17-19, 2014]

**December 7-12 and 16-18, 2015; and December 5-10 and 14-16, 2016,** in Zone 61.

16. [December 9--14, 2013] **December 7-12, 2015; December 5-10, 2016; and**

**December 4-9, 2017; and December 3-8, 2018,** in Zone 64.

17. [November 30--December 7, 13, and 14, 2013, and January 4 and 11, 2014;

November 29-December 6, 12, and 13, 2014 and January 3 and 10, 2015] **November 28-**

**December 5 and December 11 and 12, 2015, and January 2 and 9, 2016; and**

**November 26-December 3 and December 9 and 10, 2016, and January 7 and 14,**

**2017,** in Zone 66.

18. – 19. (No change.)

(e) – (f) (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 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] **harvest report** system. If an automated [deer check] **harvest report** 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

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the [ADCS] **AHRS**, the transportation tag **on the permit** must be filled out, with the exception of the confirmation number, immediately upon killing, **and every deer is to have a tag affixed to the carcass bearing the hunter's CID, date of harvest, zone of harvest, antler points if applicable, and confirmation number if registered. This tag shall remain attached until such time as the deer is processed for consumption.** 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] **harvest report** 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 killed without a legal confirmation number shall be deemed illegal under the [ADCS] **AHRS**. 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

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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] **harvest report** 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 confirmation number given by the [ADCS] **AHRS**, which replaces the legal possession tag. Should the hunter be unable to access the [ADCS] **AHRS** 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] **AHRS** the next day. Within 48 hours of registering a deer with the [ADCS] **AHRS** and upon request from the Division, a hunter shall be required to produce the head of the deer harvested or produce records relating to the location of the head. This permit or 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

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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 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) (No change.)

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

1.-2. (No change.)

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3. Application forms may be obtained from the County Agricultural Agent, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, [P.O. Box 400] **Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box 420**, Trenton, N.J. 08625-[0400]**0420**, or Division field offices.

4. – 6. (No change.)

(j) – (p) (No change.)

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

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

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Regulation Set</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Regulation Set</u>
...			
10	[7] <b>8</b>	45	0
11	[7] <b>8</b>	46	1
...			
15	[7] <b>8</b>	50	8

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<u>Zone</u>	<u>Regulation Set</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Regulation Set</u>
...			
...			
17	[6] 7	52	not designated
...			

2. The following is a summary, for information purposes only, of the season lengths[,] **and** 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.



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(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.

Buck Goals and Management Strategies by Deer

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Management Zone</u>		
	<u>Buck Goal*</u>	<u>Deer Range</u>	<u>Strategy</u>
...			
2	[6] <b>5</b>	149	Decrease
...			
6	[4.5] <b>3</b>	176	Stabilize
...			
15	4	86	[Stabilize] <b>Decrease</b>
16	[3] <b>4</b>	91	Decrease
17	3.5	90	[Stabilize] <b>Decrease</b>

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...

25	[2] <b>3</b>	164	Stabilize
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...

54	[5] <b>3</b>	10	Stabilize
----	--------------	----	-----------

...

67	[6] <b>4</b>	15	Decrease
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...

\*per square mile

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

(a) (No change.)

(b) If the anticipated harvest of deer has not been accomplished during this season, one additional day of bow permit deer hunting may be authorized by the Director, **in consultation with the Council**. Such authorization and date thereof shall be announced by press and radio.

(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 2 and 3. One antlered and an unlimited number of antlerless deer may be taken in zones in Regulation Sets 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, and in Zones 37, 39, 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 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 the season

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limit is reached **except in zones in Regulation Sets 6, 7, and 8, and in Zones 37, 39, 53, 54, 57, 58, 61, 66, 68, and 70 where the limit is two deer at a time per permit until the season concludes.** 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] **harvest report** 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] **AHRS** and upon request from the Division, a hunter 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 **every deer is to have a tag affixed to the carcass bearing the hunter's CID, date of harvest, zone of harvest, antler points if applicable, and confirmation number if registered. This tag shall remain attached until such time as the deer is processed for consumption. The deer** shall be registered via an [ADCS] **AHRS**, 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 confirmation number given via the [ADCS] **AHRS**, 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

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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 confirmation number shall be deemed illegal under the [ADCS] **AHRS**. 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. (No change.)

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

3. (No change.)

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

1. 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 Sunday in November in zones in Regulation Sets 1, 2, **and** 3[, and 4], and in Zone 70.

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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 in Zones **39, 54, 58, 57, 58, 61, 66, and 68**.

3. - 4. (No change.)

5. [October 26--December 24 and 26--31, 2013; and October 25 - December 24 and 26-31, 2014] **October 31-December 24 and December 26-31, 2015; October 29-December 24 and December 26-31, 2016; October 28-December 24 and December 26-31, 2017; and October 27-December 24 and December 26-31, 2018**, in Zone 37.

6. [October 26--December 31, 2013; and October 25 - December 31, 2014] **October 31-December 24 and December 26-31, 2015; October 29-December 24 and December 26-31, 2016; October 28-December 24 and December 26-31, 2017; and October 27-December 24 and December 26-31, 2018**, in Zone 53.

7. (No change.)

(e) – (f) (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 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 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 or her deer via an automated [deer check] **harvest report** system as designated by the Division only. Hunters must use an antlered deer transportation tag from their

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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] **7:00 P.M. E.S.T.** on the date killed without a legal confirmation number shall be deemed illegal under the [ADCS] **AHRS**. 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."

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(h) (No change. )

(i) Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 23:3-56.1, Occupant and Non-occupant Farmer

Bow Permit Season Permits shall be applied for as follows:

1.-2. (No change.)

3. Application forms may be obtained from:

i. (No change.)

ii. Division of Fish and Wildlife, [PO Box 400] **Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box**

**420**, Trenton, NJ 08625-[0400]**0420**; and

iii. (No change.)

4. – 5. (No change.)

(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
...			
54	4	[50] <b>60</b>	Morris (Picatinny Arsenal-ARRAD Com)
...			

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Total [61,030]  
**61,040**

(l) – (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] **take place concurrently** from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset on the following dates: [November 2 and November 6--9, 2013; November 1 and 5-8, 2014; November 7 and 11-14, 2015 (concurrent)] **October 31 and November 4-7, 2015; November 5 and 9-12, 2016; November 4 and 8-11, 2017; and November 3 and 7-10, 2018**, 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.)

7:25-5.33 Pheasants and quail stamp designated areas

(a) Designated wildlife management areas **and Federal property** where the special “pheasant and quail” stamp is required.

1. (No change)

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2. Designated wildlife management areas:

[Assunpink	Bevan-Cedarville (Millville)
Berkshire Valley	Nantuxent
Black River	Peaslee
Clinton	Pt. Republic
Colliers Mills	Stafford Forge
Dix	MacNamara
Flatbrook-Roy	(Tuckahoe-Corbin City)
Glassboro	Walpack
Greenwood (including	Winslow
Pasadena-Howardsville)	Whittingham
Heislerville	Pequest
Mad Horse	Fort Dix
Manahawkin	Manasquan River]
Medford	
<b>Assunpink</b>	<b>Manahawkin</b>
<b>Berkshire Valley</b>	<b>Manasquan River</b>
<b>Black River</b>	<b>Medford</b>
<b>Clinton</b>	<b>Millville</b>

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<b>Colliers Mills</b>	<b>Nantuxent</b>
<b>Dix</b>	<b>Peaslee</b>
<b>Flatbrook-Roy</b>	<b>Pequest</b>
<b>Fort Dix</b>	<b>Port Republic</b>
<b>Glassboro</b>	<b>Rockport</b>
<b>Greenwood (including Winslow</b>	<b>Stafford Forge</b>
<b>Pasadena-Howardsville)</b>	<b>Tuckahoe</b>
<b>Heislerville</b>	<b>Walpack</b>
<b>Mad Horse</b>	<b>Whittingham</b>

**And Federal property:**

Delaware River Gap National Recreation Area.

**3. Any person subject to this section, while engaged in hunting for small game with firearms on Wildlife Management Areas enumerated in this section, shall wear a cap of fluorescent hunter's orange meeting the specifications set forth in N.J.S.A. 23:4-13.1.**

[3.] **4.** (No change in text.)

7:25-5.36 White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) special biological permit

(a) (No change.)

(b) Special permits, known as Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permits, may be issued by the Director, in his or her discretion, for the taking of antlerless deer during the Permit Bow, Permit Shotgun, or Permit Muzzleloader seasons subject to the requirements of this

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subsection. All requirements applicable to the aforementioned hunting seasons pursuant to this subchapter apply. DMAP permits are non-transferable.

1. In granting DMAP permits, the Director shall consider any data available to him or her including, but not limited to, damage done to crops or property, ecological damage, the hazard posed to safe airport operations, the biological condition of the herd, or any other special management problem occurring on the property for which the DMAP permit(s) are requested. The applicant shall also provide any existing management plans for the property which support the need for DMAP permit(s); and any available biological data collected from previous deer management efforts. The applicant and the hunters receiving DMAP permits and acting as agent(s) of the applicant shall adhere to the following conditions:

i.-iv. (No change.)

v. All deer taken pursuant to the DMAP shall be tagged immediately with the transportation tag included on the permit. Any applicant or their agent killing a deer on a DMAP permit must transport this deer to an authorized checking station by 7:00 P.M. on the date killed to secure the legal possession tag. If the deer check station system is no longer in use, deer harvested under this permit shall be tagged immediately and checked in via the [ADCS] **AHRS**.

vi-vii. (No change.)

2. (No change.)

(c) (No change.)

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