

Regulations in red are new this year.
Purple text indicates an important note.

- A trapping license is required and a Trapper Education course must be passed. See pages 1 and 10 for license information.
- All traps set or used must bear a legible tag of durable material with the name and address of the person setting, using and maintaining the traps.
- A trap identification number issued by Fish and Wildlife may be used in lieu of a name/address tag. A photocopy of your current and valid trapping license plus a daytime telephone number will be required. Contact the Bureau of Wildlife Management at (609) 292-6685 for more information.
- No traps or trap stakes are to be set prior to times indicated in this section.
- All traps must be checked and tended at least once every 24 hours, preferably in the morning.
- No trap shall be permitted to remain set on any property at the close of the trapping season.
- No person shall steal or attempt to take traps of another, or remove a trapped animal without permission of the trap owner.
- **Any person (including a farmer) who traps a coyote must notify a Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement office within 24 hours.**
- Licensed trappers at least 18 years of age and in possession of a valid rifle permit may carry a .22 caliber rifle and use only .22 caliber short rimfire cartridges to kill legally trapped animals other than muskrat. Firearms may not be loaded with more than three rounds.

Beaver and River Otter

Beaver may be taken only by properly licensed trappers in possession of a special beaver trapping permit valid for an entire management zone, or a special site-specific beaver permit valid as designated on the permit. River otter may only be taken by properly licensed trappers in possession of a special river otter trapping permit valid for an entire management zone. Application can be made at license agents or via Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales site www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com. Applicants must have a current and valid trapping license to apply.

Zone maps, boundary descriptions and permit quotas are available on our Web site or call (609) 292-1473. Applicants must have a current and valid trapping license to apply. The application period is October 1-31. Applicants may apply for only one beaver trapping permit and/or one otter trapping permit. If the number of applications exceeds the permit quota, a random lottery drawing will be held to determine permit holders. Successful beaver permit applicants will be given first opportunity for otter permits in their respective zone.

Beaver trappers may indicate on their application if they wish to be considered for a site-specific beaver permit within your chosen zone. Site-specific permits are issued for properties where confirmed beaver damage or nuisance problems exist. A sepa-

rate, random lottery will determine site-specific permit holders; however, applicants who did not receive a zone-wide beaver permit will have first opportunity for a site-specific permit.

Other beaver/otter rules and regulations:

- **Holders of a beaver trapping zone permit may use a maximum of five traps daily in each management zone for which they possess a permit.**
- Holders of a site-specific permit may use an additional five traps daily only at the location specified on the permit.
- Holders of a river otter trapping permit may use a maximum of three traps daily.
- **Trappers may only possess one Special River Otter Trapping Permit per season.**
- All beaver and otter trap tags must be clearly visible above the water or ice.
- A Fish and Wildlife-issued Beaver Transportation Tag or Otter Transportation Tag must be affixed to the beaver or otter carcass **immediately upon taking possession of the animal.**
- All otters harvested incidentally by beaver trappers (i.e., trappers possessing a beaver permit but not an otter permit) must be fully surrendered to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The entire carcass, including the pelt, must be surrendered.
- All successful trappers (or their agents) must present their beaver and/or otter pelts at a designated check station for examination where pelt tags will be affixed. **All otter carcasses must be surrendered when pelts are registered, as required by the Game Code. Failure to submit your carcass will result in the issuance of a citation by the Bureau of Law Enforcement.**
- Trappers are requested to properly flesh and stretch all pelts for examination. Additional information on check stations will be provided to all permit holders.
- Fish and Wildlife will staff check-in stations at the Assunpink, Clinton, Flatbrook, Tuckahoe and Winslow WMAs and the Newfoundland Fire Company on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012. Successful trappers who cannot attend the scheduled dates should contact either Joseph Garris at (908) 735-7040 or Andrew Burnett at (609) 748-2058 prior to Feb. 20 to make alternate arrangements.
- Permit holders will be notified via email, telephone or U.S. mail in the event the beaver and otter trapping season is extended for any reason, and notified of any change in the pelt registration date.

Fisher

Fishers are returning, naturally and through re-introduction efforts in New York and Pennsylvania, to most of their historic range in the northeastern United States. Fishers have been documented in several northern New Jersey counties and as far south as Cape May County.

The Fish and Game Council defines fisher as a furbearer to clarify its status; however there is

no open trapping season at this time; possession is not permitted. If you find a live fisher on your trapline, do not disturb the animal or the set but immediately notify Fish and Wildlife by calling 1-877-WARNDEP (927-6337). A Fish and Wildlife technician will provide further instructions. For a dead fisher on your trapline, call 1-877-WARNDEP; a Fish and Wildlife technician will make arrangements to pick up the animal. Biological samples will be taken from all fisher carcasses then analyzed for age and reproductive status. The data collected will be instrumental to determine when an open season may be established in the future.

Traps, Body Gripping Restraining Type (Snares)

- No person shall set, use or maintain any type of snare unless they have first passed a Fish and Wildlife-approved trapper education course and carry on their person appropriate certification thereof.
- All natural baits consisting of fish, bird or mammal carcasses or flesh used in trapping with body gripping restraining snares must be covered or concealed from view except when placed at least 30 feet from any trap set.

Body gripping restraining snares set for mink, muskrat and nutria are subject to the following requirements:

- All such traps must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring 1/32, 3/64 or 1/16 inches in diameter, equipped with a swivel and set within 50 feet of the mean high water line;
- All such traps must be equipped with a stop to prevent the average loop diameter from exceeding 4 inches; and,
- All such traps must be set so that the distance between the ground/walking surface to the top of the loop does not exceed 7 inches.

Body gripping restraining snares set for coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon, skunk and weasel shall be subject to the following requirements:

- All such traps must be constructed of aircraft cable of crucible wire measuring from 5/64 to 1/8 inches in diameter and be equipped with a swivel;
- All such traps must be equipped with a deer stop located no less than 6 inches from the beginning of the cable and a loop stop to prevent the average loop diameter from exceeding 12 inches; and,
- All such traps must be set so that the distance between the ground / walking surface to the top of the loop does not exceed 24 inches.

The above requirements for cable diameters, loop stops and loop sizes do not apply to body gripping restraining snares that are completely submerged underwater at all times (e.g., when set for beaver or river otter). ➤

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Traps, Conibear or Killer-type

No Conibear or killer-type trap shall be used in non-tidal waters unless completely submerged underwater when the water is at the normal level. In tidal water, such traps must be completely covered at normal high tide.

It is illegal to use, set or possess a Conibear or killer-type trap having a jaw spread greater than 6 inches without a permit for beaver or river otter. A Conibear or killer-type trap with a jaw spread of no more than 10 inches may be used for beaver or river otter. Jaw spread shall be measured between the inner edges of the jaws across the trigger of a set trap.

Beaver and otter trap tags must be placed above the water line and exposed to view.

Traps, Leg-hold

It is illegal to possess or use steel-jawed leghold traps anywhere in New Jersey.

Coyote, Red and Gray Fox, Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum and Weasel Trapping

Del. Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area closed to trapping

Season Dates:
Nov. 15–Mar. 15 except
Jan. 1–Mar. 15 on WMAs

Bag Limits:
No daily bag limit for any of these species.

Traps may not be set prior to 6 a.m. on the respective opening day.

No open fisher season.
Call (877) 927-6337 to report any fisher capture.

- The following wildlife management areas (WMAs) are closed to trapping until Jan. 1: Assunpink, Berkshire Valley, Bevans (Millville), Black River, Clinton, Colliers Mills, Flatbrook-Roy, Glassboro, Greenwood (incl. Howardsville), Heislerville, MacNamara (Tuckahoe), Mad Horse, Manahawkin, Manasquan River, Medford, Nantuxent, Peaslee, Pequest, Port Republic, Stafford Forge, Walpack, Winslow and Whittingham. Trapping is prohibited at all times on the Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area.
- North Zone: Those portions of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties lying north beginning at the intersection of US Rt. 1 and the Delaware River at Trenton; then north along Rt. 1 to its intersection with I-287; then south along I-287 to its intersection with Rt. 440; then east along Rt. 440 to the NJ-NY state line.
- South Zone: Those portions of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem counties lying south of the aforementioned line.
- Holders of both a Special Beaver Permit and a Special Site-Specific Beaver Permit may use five additional traps daily on the property listed in the Special Site-Specific Permit.

Zone Permit Beaver and River Otter Trapping

Mandatory pelt registration:
February 25, 2012

Del. Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area closed to trapping

Season Dates:
Dec. 26–Feb. 9 except
Jan. 1–Feb. 9 on WMAs

Number of Traps Allowed:
Beaver—5 per zone per day
Otter—3 per day

Bag Limits:
Beaver—10 per site-specific permit,
8 beaver per special permit
Otter—1 per season

Traps may not be set prior to 6 a.m. on the respective opening day.

All other carcasses must be surrendered to the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Mink, Muskrat and Nutria Trapping

Del. Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area closed to trapping

North Zone:
Nov. 15–Mar. 15

South Zone:
Dec. 1–Mar. 15

WMAs:
Jan. 1–Mar. 15

No daily or seasonal bag limit for these species.

Traps may not be set prior to 6 a.m. on the respective opening day.

Report any nutria harvest to a Division of Fish and Wildlife Office.

THE COMPLETE MIGRATORY bird regulations will be published in the *New Jersey 2011–12 Migratory Bird Regulations* booklet available in September at license agents, Fish and Wildlife offices and on the Fish and Wildlife Web site at NJFishandWildlife.com. Migratory bird season dates published in the Migratory Bird Regulations booklet supersede those printed in this *Digest* if there are discrepancies.

Migratory Bird Seasons

Season	Area	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
September Canada Goose*	Statewide	Sept. 1–30	15
Rail and moorhen	Statewide	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9	Sora & Virginia rail: 25 total or aggregate; moorhen and clapper rail: 10
Sea Duck	Special Sea Duck Area	Sept. 22 – Jan. 24, 2012	7, except no more than 4 scoters
Snipe	Statewide	Sept. 16 – Dec. 31	8
Crow (Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat.)	Statewide	Aug. 8 – Dec. 3 & Dec. 12 – Mar. 17, 2012	No limit
Woodcock	North Zone	Oct. 15 – Nov. 19	3
	South Zone	Nov. 12 – Dec. 3 & Dec. 17–30	
Mourning Dove, swans, harlequin duck, king rail	Statewide	Closed	No Season
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	North Zone	Oct. 1; Nov. 5	As for regular season for all species
	South Zone	Nov. 11–12	
	Coastal Zone	Oct. 22; Oct. 29	

* See special regulations only for September Canada goose hunting, on right.

Attention Waterfowl Hunters Special Regulations Permitted During September Canada Goose Season

At the recommendation of the Atlantic Flyway Council, the US Fish and Wildlife Service approved the use of special regulations to help curb the growth of resident population Canada geese. These special regulations are optional.

1. Electronic calls are permitted.
2. Unplugged guns are permitted. Magazine and chamber may hold up to seven shells.
3. Hunting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. This allows hunting one half hour later than past years.

Remember: these special regulations apply only to the September Canada goose season. Hunters who choose to use an unplugged gun during the September Canada goose season must remember to reinstall the magazine plug before pursuing other game species.

During all other waterfowl seasons, including duck, brant, regular and winter Canada goose, and snow goose, standard regulations apply. Standard regulations include: electronic calls prohibited, shotguns may not be capable of holding more than three shot shells and hunting hours end at sunset.

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Hunters: Report Banded Birds

Hunters who recover banded migratory birds are asked to report the band number to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL), Washington, D.C. Banding data plays a critical role in migratory bird harvest management. There are three ways to report bands:

1. **Online:** reportband.gov
2. **Call Toll Free:** (800) 327-BAND
3. **Write:** to the address inscribed on the band.

Online reporting provides instant access to the original banding information including the species, sex, location, date and age of the bird at banding. Band reporters will be able to print a certificate of appreciation on their home computer or have a certificate mailed to them which will include information about the bird which had been banded.

When contacting the BBL, be prepared to provide: band number, date the bird was recovered, exact location of the bird's recovery as well as nearest town, and method of recovery, e.g., shot or found dead. Hunters may keep the bands. 🦌

What Do I Need To Hunt Migratory Birds In New Jersey?

Species Hunted	Hunting License	HIP Certification	NJ Stamp Certification	Federal Stamp
Crow	✓			
Woodcock, rail, moorhen, snipe	✓	✓		
Duck, brant, goose	✓	✓	✓	✓

Waterfowl Stamps: Both the New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp Certification and Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp are required for waterfowl hunters 16 years and older and must be signed in ink. New Jersey Stamp Certifications (the state stamp itself no longer exists) are available from license agents and from the Licenses and Permits button on Fish and Wildlife's Web site. Federal stamps are available from some U.S. post offices and online at <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/stamps.htm>.

Information For Migratory Bird Hunters

Important Reminder in Obtaining HIP Certification

Hunters, including youths, must purchase a Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification before hunting ducks, geese, brant, woodcock, rails, snipe, coot or moorhens (gallinules) in New Jersey and must always hunt with proof in possession in the license holder. HIP certifications are valid from Sept. 1 to Feb. 15 each year.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will use this confidential information only to conduct migratory bird harvest surveys. Only a small, random group will be surveyed.

Hunters may purchase an HIP certification via three sales outlets:

1. License Agents

HIP certification may be purchased at any license agent for a \$2 fee. Hunters will have their HIP certification printed on their license or as a separate document.

2. Internet Sales Site

Hunters may purchase an HIP certification for a \$2 fee on Fish and Wildlife's Internet sales site (www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com) then self-print the HIP certifications.

3. Telephone Sales Site

Hunters may purchase their HIP certifications using Fish and Wildlife's telephone sales process (888) 277-2015. Hunters will receive a transaction number; record this number for immediate proof of completing an HIP certification. The actual HIP certification will be mailed to the hunter. Note: purchases made via telephone will incur an additional shipping and handling fee of \$5.13.



New Jersey Waterfowlers Clinic

Every year, experienced waterfowlers throughout New Jersey join together dedicating their time and energy to present the **New Jersey Waterfowlers Clinic**—an all day, free seminar covering “everything you ever wanted to know” about the traditions of waterfowl hunting in New Jersey. This year is no exception!

Thirty years ago, the clinic began as an opportunity to introduce young people to the world of waterfowl hunting. However, with the growing interest among men and women, as well as children, the event has been transformed into an opportunity for anyone 10 and up to spend a fun and interesting day learning about waterfowling!

Our full-day clinic covers waterfowling from A to Z, and includes bird identification, decoys, calling, guns and ammo, boats, safety, laws and ethics, do's and don'ts, clothing and camo, and even a demonstration by working retrievers! The value of the day is priceless. It's a unique chance to ask any question you've ever had about the sport—to be answered by the most experienced waterfowlers in New Jersey. Our instructors have a combined 300 years of experience!

- **Free breakfast and lunch to all attending!**
- **Date:** Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011
- **Location:** Tip Seaman Park, Tuckerton, NJ
- **Time:** 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Please **register in advance** by calling Marty Kristiansen at (732) 842-6375 so we can plan accordingly.

We hope you'll join us this year and share our enthusiasm for all that is waterfowling!

The New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp Program: Did you know?

The New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp Program has been a success story for waterfowl and their habitat. The physical stamps and prints have been discontinued (although waterfowl hunters 16 years and over must still purchase a state migratory bird stamp certification), but this legally earmarked, dedicated funding lives on. Since its inception in 1984, the Stamp Program has raised over \$4.5 million leading to the purchase of over 17,000 acres, from Sussex to Cape May, nearly all of which is open to waterfowl hunting. The Stamp Program has also funded habitat improvement projects and research activities related to habitat carrying capacity research studies in New Jersey.



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