



2015-16 NJ Beaver and Otter Trapping Season Information



Note: Important Changes Indicated in **RED**

Deadlines and Dates to Remember

Beaver and Otter Deadlines

Application Period: October 1-31

Award Notification: Week of November 9

Claim Permit by: 11:59 PM November 30

Beaver and Otter Trapping Season Dates

Dec. 26 – Feb. 9 (Jan. 1 – Feb. 9 on some WMA)*

Mandatory Pelt Registration: Feb. 20 9am-noon

***Please Note: In the event of a trapping season extension, all permit holders will be notified via Email, telephone or first-class mail (in that order).**

Please remember:

- **Successful applicants must claim their permit between November 9 and prior to 11:59 PM on Monday, November 30. Unclaimed permits will be posted on the website by late afternoon Tuesday December 1.**
- **Unclaimed permits will be returned to the quota and made available for over-the-counter sale at participating license agents or online beginning at 10 AM on **THURSDAY, Dec. 3.****

This Supplement includes:

- 2015-16 Beaver/Otter season permit quota and application information.
- Beaver and Otter Regulations, Management Zone map, permit quota by Beaver and Otter Management Zone, and Zone boundary descriptions.
- Harvest results, introduced legislation and other items of interest to beaver and otter trappers

2015-16 Beaver and Otter Permit Application Information

Applying for a Beaver and/or Otter Permit –

Apply in person by visiting any participating license agent or go online at <http://www.nj.wildlifelicenses.com> to log in to the Division's license sales website. You will be prompted to enter the necessary information. The website accepts most major credit cards and electronic checks as payment, using proven security technologies to ensure that your transaction is secure.

A non-refundable \$2.00 application fee will be charged for each permit you apply for. You must pay the remainder of the fee (\$15.00 for beaver and \$2.00 for otter) when claiming your permit(s). Unsuccessful applicants no longer need to wait for a refund since the only payment made was the non-refundable \$2.00 application fee. If paying via the Internet, applicants will receive their permits by mail (additional shipping charges apply).

Permits awarded via the lottery system may be claimed at participating license agents. Leftover and unclaimed permits returned to the quota will be made available for over-the-counter sale at license agents or online beginning **10 AM THURSDAY, December 3.**

2015-16 Beaver and Otter Trapping Permit Quotas & Lottery

Use the following table to calculate your odds of winning a beaver or otter permit. Compare the 2015-16 permit quotas with the number of 2014-15 first choice permit requests for your Zone of choice. Permit quotas have not changed this year, and there will be 200 beaver and 115 otter permits available this season for all 30 zones.

Note: The number of trappers pursuing beaver and otter increases yearly (during 2013-14, 423 trappers applied for a beaver permit and 356 applied for an otter permit).

Zone	2015-16	2014-15 Beaver Lottery			2015-16	2014-15 Otter Lottery		
	Beaver Quota	1 st Lottery Applicants	Permits Claimed	OTC Sales	Otter Quota	1 st Lottery Applicants	Permits Claimed	OTC Sales
1	8	15	5	3	2	8	2	0
2	17	32	16	1	3	27	3	0
3	9	23	9	0	2	19	2	0
4	7	12	5	2	2	10	2	0
5	12	11	9	3	3	8	3	0
6	22	41	22	0	4	31	4	0
7	10	21	8	2	3	16	3	0
8	8	21	8	0	7	22	7	0
9	7	16	6	1	4	17	4	0
10	8	9	5	3	2	10	0	2
11	6	22	6	0	5	21	5	0
12	3	3	3	0	2	4	2	0
13	7	13	5	2	7	15	6	1
14	2	6	1	1	6	11	4	2
15	2	25	1	1	15	42	10	5
16	6	19	5	1	4	17	3	1
17	5	10	4	1	2	5	2	0
18	3	7	2	1	5	12	2	3
19	3	9	3	0	3	5	2	1
20	7	7	7	0	3	5	3	0
21	1	4	2	0	1	4	1	0
22	1	4	1	0	1	3	1	0
23	1	3	1	0	1	3	1	0
24	3	4	3	0	3	4	2	1
25	6	11	6	0	3	6	3	0
26	3	14	2	1	3	7	2	1
27	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	0
28	11	21	9	2	5	11	4	1
29	12	16	11	1	3	6	3	0
30	8	56	6	2	9	37	6	3
Total	200	457	173	28	115	388	94	21

Beaver and Otter Trapping Regulations:

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 Beaver Damage Control 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 from October 1-31 at license agents or via Fish and Wildlife's Internet license sales site <http://www.nj.wildlifelicense.com>; applicants must have a current and valid trapping license to apply. 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.

The Director may issue Beaver Damage Control Permits (DCP) for the control of nuisance beaver at a specific location. Beaver taken on a DCP during the open trapping season may be possessed or sold by trappers provided they are properly checked in and tagged by the Division. ***To receive a Beaver DCP issued during the open season, one must first have applied for a Special Beaver Trapping Permit for the current season.*** Licensed trappers will be offered the opportunity to trap on a DCP by lottery, with preference given to trappers who applied for but did not receive a zone-wide Special Beaver Trapping Permit. Beaver taken outside the open trapping season may not be possessed or sold and must be disposed of as prescribed by the DCP.

Zone maps, boundary descriptions and permit quotas are available on pages 6 thru 9 of this supplement.

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.
- Trappers may possess *multiple* Special Beaver Trapping Permits.
- Holders of a river otter trapping permit may use a maximum of three traps daily.
- **Trappers may possess only 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.**

Mandatory Check-In:

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. 20, 2016 from 9am-Noon.**

Successful trappers who cannot attend the scheduled dates should contact either Joseph Garris at (908) 735-7040 or Andrew Burnett at (609) 748-2047 prior to February 12 to make alternate arrangements. Permit holders will be notified via email, telephone or US 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.

Trapping on State Wildlife Management Areas

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. **National Park Service regulations prohibit trapping at all times on the Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area.**

General Trapping Regulations:

- **It is illegal to possess or use steel-jawed leghold traps (coil spring / longspring) anywhere in New Jersey.**
- A trapping license is required and a Trapper Education course must be passed.
- 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.
- Your **CID** or a Division issued trap identification number may be used in lieu of a name/address tag.
- No traps or trap stakes are to be set prior to 6:00 AM on any respective opening day.
- All traps must be checked and tended at least once every 24 hours, preferably in the morning.
- No person shall steal or attempt to take traps of another, or remove a trapped animal without permission of the trap owner.
- No trap shall be permitted to remain set on any property at the close of the trapping season.
- 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. Licensed trappers may also carry an air gun and use ammunition no smaller than .177 and no larger than .22 caliber (a rifle permit is **not** required for an air gun).

Cable Restraints:

- No person shall set, use or maintain any type of cable restraint device 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 cable restraints must be covered or concealed from view except when placed at least 30 feet from any trap set.
- Cable restraint regulations regarding cable diameter, loop stop, loop size or relaxing lock do not apply when sets are completely submerged underwater at all times (as when set for beaver or river otter).

Body Gripping Traps:

- No killer-type trap shall be used in non-tidal waters unless it is 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 killer-type trap having a jaw spread greater than 6 inches without possessing a permit for beaver or river otter. A killer-type trap with a jaw spread not exceeding 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 clearly exposed to view.

2015 Digest Correction:

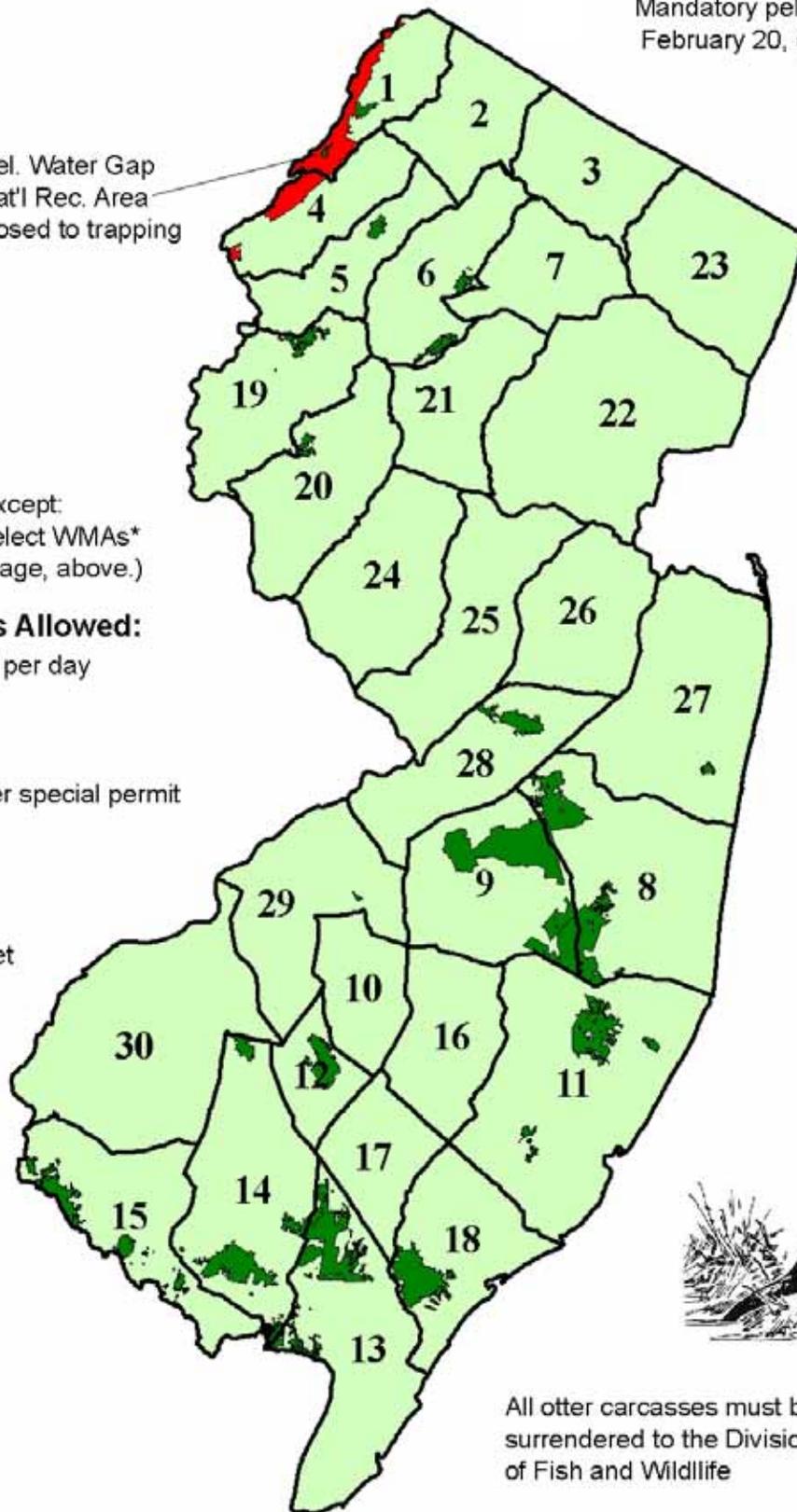
Page 66, Column 1 – The second bulleted item is incorrect and should have stated: “*All traps set or used must bear a legible tag of durable material with the name and address of the person setting, using and maintaining the traps. Trap tags with Fish and Wildlife-issued trap identification number or the trapper’s Conservation Identification Number (CID#) may be used in lieu of name and address to mark each tag*”.

Beaver and River Otter Trapping Zones



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

Mandatory pelt registration
February 20, (9 a.m.-noon)



Season Dates:

Dec. 26 to Feb. 9, except:
Jan. 1 - Feb. 9 on select WMAs*
(See WMA list this page, above.)

Number of Traps Allowed:

Beaver --5 per zone per day
Otter -- 3 per day

Bag Limits

Beaver: 8 Beaver per special permit
1 Otter per season

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



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

New Jersey Beaver and Otter Management Zone Boundary Descriptions

Zone 1: That portion of Sussex County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the New York-New Jersey state line with Rt. 519; then south on Rt. 519 to its intersection with Rt. 23; then south on Rt. 23 to its intersection with Rt. 519 at Colesville; then south on Rt. 519 to its intersection with County Rt. 636 above Branchville, then west on Rt. 636 to its intersection with Rt. 206; then south on Rt. 206 to Rt. 521, then southwest on Rt. 521 to its intersection with County Rt. 617; then south on Rt. 617 to its intersection with Rt. 624 near Fairview Lake, then northwest on Rt. 624 to its intersection Big Flatbrook River; then southwest along the southern bank of the Big Flatbrook River to its confluence with the Delaware River, then north along the Delaware River to the New York-New Jersey state line; then south along the New York-New Jersey state line to Rt. 519, the point of beginning.

Zone 2: That portion of Sussex County lying within a continuous line beginning at the Intersection of the New York-New Jersey state line with Rt. 519, then south on Rt. 519 to its intersection with Rt. 3; then south on Rt. 23 to its intersection with Rt. 519 at Colesville; then south on Rt. 519 to its intersection with County Rt. 636 above Branchville; then west on County Rt. 636 to its intersection with Rt. 206; then southeast on Rt. 206 to its intersection with Rt. 15 at Ross Corner; then south on Rt. 15 to its intersection with Rt. 517 at Sparta; then north on Rt. 517 to its intersection with Rt. 23, then east on Rt. 23 to its intersection with Rt. 515 at Stockholm; then north on Rt. 515 to its intersection with Rt. 94 at Vernon; then north on Rt. 94 to the state line, then west along the state line to its intersection with Rt. 519, the point of beginning.

Zone 3: That portion of Sussex, Passaic, Morris and Bergen counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the state line and Rt. 94; then south on Rt. 94 to its intersection with Rt. 515 at Vernon; then south on Rt. 515 to its intersection with Rt. 23 at Stockholm then east on Rt. 23 to its intersection with Rt. 202 near Wayne; then north on Rt. 202 to the state line at Suffern; then west along the state line to its intersection with Rt. 94, the point of beginning.

Zone 4: That portion of Sussex and Warren counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the confluence of the Delaware and Big Flatbrook River; then northeast along the southern bank of Big Flatbrook River to its intersection with Rt. 624; then south on Rt. 624 to its intersection with Rt. 617, then north on Rt. 617 to its intersection with Rt. 521 then northeast on Rt. 521 to its intersection with Rt. 206, then south on Rt. 206 to its intersection with Rt. 94 at Newton; then south on Rt. 94 to its intersection with Rt. 608 at Marksboro, then south on Rt. 608 to its intersection with Rt. 521; then south on Rt. 521 to its intersection with Rt. 80 near Hope; then west on Rt. 80 to its intersection with 94 at Columbia; then south on Rt. 94 to its intersection with the Delaware River; then north and northeast along the Delaware River to its confluence with the Big Flatbrook River, the point of beginning.

Zone 5: That portion of Sussex and Warren counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Delaware River and Rt. 94 at Columbia; then north on Rt. 94 to its intersection with Rt. 80; then east on Rt. 80 to its intersection with Rt. 521 near Hope; then north on Rt. 521 to its intersection with Rt. 608, then northeast on Rt. 608 to its intersection with Rt. 94 at Marksboro; then north and east on Rt. 94 to its intersection with Rt. 206 at Newton, then north on Rt. 206 to its intersection with Rt. 15 at Ross Corner, then south on Rt. 15 to its intersection with Rt. 517 at Sparta; then southwest on Rt. 517 to its intersection with Rt. 46 at Hackettstown, then west on Rt. 46 to its intersection with Water Street in Belvidere; then south along Water Street to its intersection with the Delaware River; then north on the Delaware River to its intersection with Rt. 94, the point of beginning.

Zone 6: That portion of Warren, Morris, Sussex and Passaic counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 46 and Rt. 517 in Hackettstown, then north on Rt. 517 to its intersection with Rt. 23 at Franklin, then south on Rt. 23 to its intersection with Rt. 699 (Berkshire Valley Rd.) at Oak Ridge, then south on Rt. 699 to its intersection with Rt. 15, then south on Rt. 15 to its intersection with Rt. 80, then west on Rt. 80 to its intersection with Rt. 10 near Ledgewood, then east on Rt. 10 to its intersection with Rt. 513; then west on Rt. 513 to its intersection with Rt. 517 at Long Valley, then north on Rt. 517 to its intersection with Rt. 182; then north on Rt. 182 to its intersection with Rt. 46, then northwest on Rt. 46 to its intersection with Rt. 517 at Hackettstown, the point of beginning.

Zone 7: That portion of Morris, Passaic and Essex counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 699 (Berkshire Valley Rd.) and Rt. 23 at Oak Ridge, then southeast on Rt. 23 to its intersection with Rt. 80 near Singac; then west on Rt. 80 to its intersection with Rt. 287, then south on Rt. 287 to its intersection with Rt. 10 near Whippany, then west on Rt. 10 to its intersection with Rt. 80 at Ledgewood, then east on Rt. 80 to its intersection with Rt. 15, then north on Rt. 15 to its intersection with Rt. 699 at Mt. Hope; then north on Rt. 699 to its intersection with Rt. 23 at Oak Ridge, the point of beginning.

Zone 8: That portion of Ocean County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 537 and Rt. 539 at Hornerstown, then south on Rt. 539 to its intersection with Rt. 72 near Howardsville, then east on Rt. 72 to its intersection with Rt. 532, then east on Rt. 532 to its termination at Barnegat Bay; then continuing eastward across Barnegat Bay and through Barnegat Inlet to the Atlantic Ocean, then north along the Atlantic Ocean to its intersection with Rt. 528 at Mantoloking, then west along Rt. 528 (527/528) to its intersection with Rt. 195 near Jackson Mills, then west along Rt. 195 to its intersection with Rt. 537 near Holmeson; then southwest along Rt. 537 to its intersection with Rt. 539 at Hornerstown, the point of beginning.

Zone 9: That portion of Ocean and Burlington counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 537 and Rt. 539 at Hornerstown, then south on Rt. 539 to its intersection with Rt. 72 near Howardsville, then northwest on Rt. 72 to its intersection with Rt. 532, then west on Rt. 532 to its intersection with Rt. 206 near Tabernacle, then north on Rt. 206 to its intersection with Rt. 537 at Chambers Corner; then east on Rt. 537 to its intersection with Rt. 539 at Hornerstown, the point of beginning.

New Jersey Beaver and Otter Management Zone Boundary Descriptions

Zone 10: That portion of Burlington, Camden and Atlantic counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 73 and Rt. 561 near Blue Anchor, then north on Rt. 73 to its intersection with Rt. 70 at Marlton; then east on Rt. 70 to its intersection with Rt. 541 at Medford, then southeast on Rt. 541 to its intersection with Rt. 532 at Medford Lakes, then east on Rt. 532 to its intersection with Rt. 206, then south on Rt. 206 to its intersection with Rt. 54; then southwest on Rt. 54 to its intersection with Rt. 561 near Hammonton; then northwest on Rt. 561 to its intersection with Rt. 73 near Blue Anchor, the point of beginning.

Zone 11: That portion of Ocean, Burlington and Atlantic counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 563 and Rt. 532 at Chatsworth; then east on Rt. 532 to its intersection with Rt. 72; then southeast on Rt. 72 to its intersection with Rt. 532 near Howardsville, then east on Rt. 532 to its termination at Barnegat Bay; then continuing eastward across Barnegat Bay and through Barnegat Inlet to the Atlantic Ocean, then south along the Atlantic Ocean to the Absecon Lighthouse in Atlantic City; then northwest on Rt. 30 to its intersection with Rt. 563 in Egg Harbor, then north on Rt. 563 to its intersection with Rt. 532 at Chatsworth, the point of beginning.

Zone 12: That portion of Atlantic, Gloucester and Camden counties lying in a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 322 and Spur 536 Williamstown; then northeast on Spur 536 to its intersection with Rt. 73 near Tansboro, then south on Rt. 73 to its intersection with Rt. 561 at Blue Anchor; then southeast on Rt. 561 to its intersection with Rt. 54 near Hammonton, then southwest on Rt. 54 to its intersection with Rt. 557 at Buena; then northeast on Rt. 557 to its intersection with Rt. 322/536 near Williamstown; then east on Rt. 322/536 to its intersection with Spur 536 Williamstown, the point of beginning.

Zone 13: That portion of Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 557 and County Rt. 671 at Buena; then southeast on Rt. 557 to its intersection with Rt. 50 near Buck Hill; then south on Rt. 50 to its intersection with Rt. 9 at Seaville, and south on Rt. 9 to its intersection with Sea Isle Boulevard (Rt. 625) at Ocean View; then east on Sea Isle Boulevard to the Atlantic Ocean; then south along the Atlantic Ocean; then north along the Delaware Bay to its intersection with East Point Rd. in Heislerville Management Area; then north on East Point Rd. to its intersection with Rt. 616 (Dorchester-Heislerville Rd.); then north on Rt. 616 to its intersection with Rt. 740, then northeast on Rt. 740 to its intersection with Rt. 47; then north on Rt. 47 to its intersection with Rt. 646 (Cumberland-Port Elizabeth Rd.) near Port Elizabeth; then north on Rt. 646 to its intersection with Rt. 49 near Cumberland; then west on Rt. 49 to its intersection with Rt. 671 (Union Rd.) then north on Rt. 671 to its intersection with Rt. 557 near Buena, the point of beginning.

Zone 14: That portion of Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester and Atlantic counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Delaware Bay and the west bank of the Maurice River; then north along the west bank of the Maurice River to Rt. 631, then north along Rt. 631 to its intersection with Rt. 553; then north along Rt. 553 to its intersection with Rt. 536/322 at Glassboro, then east along Rt. 322/536 to its intersection with Rt. 555 near Williamstown; then south along Rt. 555/557 to its intersection with Rt. 671 (Union Rd.) near Buena, then south on Rt. 671 to its intersection with Rt. 49 at Cumberland, then east on Rt. 49 to its intersection with Rt. 646 (Cumberland-Port Elizabeth Rd.), then south on Rt. 646 to its intersection with Rt. 47 at Port Elizabeth; then south on Rt. 47 to its intersection with Rt. 740; then southwest on Rt. 740 to Rt. 616 (Dorchester-Heislerville Rd.), then south on Rt. 616 to East Point Rd. in Heislerville Management Area; then south on East Point Rd. to the Delaware Bay, then west along the Delaware Bay to its intersection with the west bank of the Maurice River, the point of beginning.

Zone 15: That portion of Salem and Cumberland counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Delaware River at Rt. 625 at Oakwood Beach, then east on Rt. 625 to its intersection with Rt. 49 at Salem, then southeast on Rt. 49 to its intersection with Pecks Corner-Cohansey Road, then east on Pecks Corner-Cohansey Road to its intersection with Rt. 540, then east on Rt. 540 to its intersection with Rt. 553, at Centerton, then south on Rt. 553 to its intersection with Rt. 631 near Port Norris, then south on Rt. 631 to the Delaware Bay, then northwest along the Delaware Bay and Delaware River to its intersection with Rt. 625 at Oakwood Beach, the point of beginning.

Zone 16: That portion of Burlington and Atlantic counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 206 and Rt. 532 near Tabernacle, then southeast on Rt. 532 to its intersection with Rt. 563 at Chatsworth, then south on Rt. 563 to its intersection with Rt. 30 at Egg Harbor, then northwest on Rt. 30 to its intersection with Rt. 206, then north on Rt. 206 to its intersection with Rt. 532 near Tabernacle, the point of beginning.

Zone 17: That portion of Atlantic County lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 557 and Rt. 54 at Buena, then northeast on Rt. 54 to its intersection with Rt. 30 at Hammonton, then southeast along Rt. 30 to its intersection with Rt. 50 at Egg Harbor, then southeast along Rt. 50 to its intersection with Rt. 557 near Buck Hill; then northwest on Rt. 557 to its intersection with Rt. 54 at Buena, the point of beginning.

Zone 18: That portion of Atlantic and Cape May counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Rt. 50 and Rt. 557 near Buck Hill, then northeast along Rt. 50 to its intersection with Rt. 30/563 at Egg Harbor, then southeast on Rt. 30/563 to the Absecon Lighthouse in Atlantic City; then south along the Atlantic Ocean to Sea Isle Boulevard Rt. 625) in Sea Isle, then west on Sea Isle Boulevard to its intersection with Rt. 9, then north on Rt. 9 to its intersection with Rt. 50 at Seaville, then northwest on Rt. 50 to its intersection with Rt. 557 near Buck Hill, the point of beginning.

New Jersey Beaver and Otter Management Zone Boundary Descriptions

Zone 19: That portion of Warren, Morris and Hunterdon counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Water Street and the Delaware River; then north on Water Street to its intersection with Route 46 and continuing east on Route 46 to its intersection with Route 182 at Hackettstown; then south on Route 182 to its intersection with Route 517; then south along Route 517 (517/24) to Schooleys Mountain; then south on Pleasant Grove Road to Pleasant Grove; then southeast on Califon Road to its intersection with Sliker Road; then southeast on Sliker Road to its intersection with East Hill Road; then south on East Hill Road to its intersection with Route 628 at Woodglen; then southwest on Route 628 to its intersection with Route 645 at Glen Gardner; then northwest on Route 645 to its intersection with Route 635 at Hampton, then south on Route 635 (Charlestown Road) to its intersection with Route 78/22; then west on Route 78/22 to its intersection with Route 614 near Perryville; then southwest on Route 614 to its intersection with Route 519 at Spring Mills; then south on Route 519 to the Delaware River at Milford; then northward along the Delaware River to its intersection with Water Street in Belvidere, the point of beginning.

Zone 20: That portion of Morris and Hunterdon counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 517 (517/124) and Pleasant Grove Road at Schooleys Mountain; then south on Pleasant Grove Road to Pleasant Grove; then southeast on Califon Road to its intersection with Sliker Road; then southeast on Sliker Road to its intersection with East Hill Road; then south on East Hill Road to its intersection with Route 628 at Woodglen; then southwest on Route 628 to its intersection with Route 645 at Glen Gardner; then northwest on Route 645 to its intersection with Route 635 at Hampton; then south on Route 635 (Charlestown Road) to its intersection with Route 78/22; then west on Route 78/22 to its intersection with Route 614 near Perryville; then southwest on Route 614 to its intersection with Route 519 at Spring Mills; then south on Route 519 to the Delaware River at Milford; then south on the Delaware River to the intersection of Route 29 and Route 523 at Stockton; then northeast on Route 523 to its intersection with Route 517 near Oldwick; then north on Route 517 to its intersection with Route 513 (513/24) at Long Valley; then northwest on Route 517 (517/124) to Schooleys Mountain, the point of beginning.

Zone 21: That portion of Hunterdon, Somerset and Morris counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 517 and Route 513 at Long Valley; then north and east along Route 513 to its intersection with Route 10; then east along Route 10 to its intersection with Route 287 at Malapardis; then southwest along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 525 (Mt. Airy Road); then south along Route 525 to its intersection with Route 22 near Bound Brook; then west along Route 22 to its intersection with Route 523 at Whitehouse; then north along Route 523 to its intersection with Route 517 near Oldwick; then north along Route 517 to Long Valley, the point of beginning.

Zone 22: That portion of Somerset, Union, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic and Bergen counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the north shore of the Raritan River and the Garden State Parkway; then north on the Garden State Parkway to its intersection with Route 440; then west on Route 440 to Route 287; then west on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 22; then east on Route 22 to its intersection with Route 525 (Thompson Avenue) near Bound Brook; then north on Route 525 to its intersection with Route 287; then north on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 80; then east along Route 80 to Exit 53 and its intersection with Route 46; then east on Route 46 to its intersection with Route 3; then southeast on Route 3 to the Hudson River at the Lincoln Tunnel; then south along the New Jersey shore of the Hudson River to the Kill Van Kull; then west along the New Jersey shore of the Kill Van Kull to Newark Bay; then west following the New Jersey Boundary along Newark Bay; then south along the Arthur Kill following the New Jersey boundary to Raritan Bay; then west along the north shore of the Raritan River to the point of beginning at the Garden State Parkway.

Zone 23: That portion of Bergen, Passaic and Hudson counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of Route 202 and the New York/New Jersey border; then southwest on Route 202 to its intersection with Route 23; then south on Route 23 to its intersection with Route 46 at Route 80 Exit 53; then east on Route 46 to its intersection with Route 3; then southeast on Route 3 to the Hudson River at the Lincoln Tunnel; then north along the Hudson River to the New York/New Jersey border; then northwest along the New York/New Jersey border to Route 202, the point of beginning.

Zone 24: That portion of Hunterdon, Mercer and Somerset counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Delaware River near the intersection of Route 29 and Route 523 at Stockton; then northeast on Route 523 to its intersection with Route 22; then east on Route 22 to its intersection with Route 206; then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 295 near Lawrenceville; then west on Route 295 to Route 95; then west on Route 95 to the Delaware River; then north along the Delaware River to Stockton, the point of beginning.

Zone 25: That portion of Somerset, Middlesex, Mercer and Burlington counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Delaware River at the confluence of Black Creek at Bordentown; then eastward along Black Creek to the point at which Black Creek intersects Route 130; then northeast on Route 130 to its intersection with Route 1; then northeast on Route 1 to its intersection with Route 287; then west on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 22; then west on Route 22 to its intersection with Route 206; then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 295 near Lawrenceville; then west on Route 295 to Route 95, then west on Route 95 to the Delaware River, then south along the Delaware River to Bordentown, the point of beginning.

New Jersey Beaver and Otter Management Zone Boundary Descriptions

Zone 26: That portion of Mercer, Middlesex and Monmouth counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the north shore of the Raritan River and the Garden State Parkway; then north on the Garden State Parkway to its intersection with Route 440; then west on Route 440 to Route 287; then west on Route 287 to its intersection with Route 1; then southwest on Route 1 to its intersection with Route 130; then south on Route 130 to its intersection with Route 33 at Hightstown; then east on Route 33 to its intersection with Route 537; then northeast on Route 537 to its intersection with Route 79 at Freehold; then north on Route 79 to its intersection with Lloyd Road at Morganville; then north on Lloyd Road to Broadway in Keyport; then north on Broadway to the Matawan Creek confluence with the Raritan Bay; then northwest along the New Jersey shoreline to the Raritan River intersection with the Garden State Parkway, the point of beginning.

Zone 27: That portion of Monmouth and Ocean counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Atlantic Ocean at Route 528 at Mantoloking; then west on Route 528 (527/528) to its intersection with Route 195 near Jackson Mills; then west on Route 195 to its intersection with Route 537 near Holmeson; then northeast on Route 537 to its intersection with Route 79 at Freehold; then north on Route 79 to its intersection with Lloyd Road at Morganville; then north on Lloyd Road to Broadway in Keyport; then north on Broadway to the Matawan Creek confluence with the Raritan Bay; then southeast along the New Jersey coastline of the Atlantic Ocean at Raritan Bay; then south along the New Jersey coastline of the Atlantic Ocean to Mantoloking, the point of beginning.

Zone 28: That portion of Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Burlington counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Delaware River at the confluence of Black Creek at Bordentown; then eastward along Black Creek to the point at which Black Creek intersects Route 130; then northeast on Route 130 to its intersection with Route 33 at Hightstown; then east on Route 33 to its intersection with Route 537; then south on Route 537 to its intersection with Route 206 at Chambers Corner; then south on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 530 (Pemberton Road); then northwest on Route 530 to its intersection with Route 541 at Mt. Holly; then north on Route 541 to the Delaware River at Burlington, then north on the Delaware River to Bordentown, the point of beginning.

Zone 29: That portion of Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the Delaware River at Route 541 in Burlington; then southward following the Delaware River to Route 30 at Camden; then east along Route 30 to its intersection with Route 130; then south along Route 130 to its intersection with Route 76; then south along Route 76 to its intersection with Route 42; then southeast along Route 42 to its intersection with Spur 536 (Williamstown-Mt. Freedom Road) at Williamstown; then northeast along Spur 536 to its intersection with Route 73 near Berlin; then north along Route 73 to its intersection with Route 70 at Marlton; then east on Route 70 to its intersection with Route 541 at Medford; then south east on Route 541 to its intersection with Route 532 at Medford Lakes; then east on Route 532 to its intersection with Route 206; then north on Route 206 to its intersection with Route 530 (Pemberton Road); then northwest along Route 530 to its intersection with Route 541 at Mt. Holly; then north along Route 541 to the Delaware River at Burlington, the point of beginning.

Zone 30: That portion of Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties lying within a continuous line beginning at the intersection of the Delaware River and US Route 30 at Camden; then east along Route 30 to its intersection with Route 130; then south along Route 130 to its intersection with I-76; then south along I-76 to its intersection with Route 42; then southeast along Rt. 42 to its intersection with CR 536 Spur near Williamstown; then south on CR 536 Spur to its intersection with Rt. 322; then west along Rt. 322 to its intersection with CR 553; then south along CR 553 to its intersection with CR 540; then west along CR 540 to its intersection with Pecks Corner-Cohansey Road; then west along Pecks Corner-Cohansey Road to its intersection with Rt. 49; then northwest along Rt. 49 to its intersection with CR 625 at Salem; then west along CR 625 to its intersection with the Delaware River at Oakwood Beach; then northward along the Delaware River to US Route 30 at Camden, the point of beginning.

Best Management Practices (BMP):

BMP are based on the most extensive study of animal traps ever conducted in the United States. Test traps were selected based on knowledge of commonly used traps, previous research findings and input from expert trappers. Statisticians from universities and federal and state agencies developed rigorous study designs. Experienced wildlife biologists and trappers developed study procedures, supervised or participated in field research and provided insight and expert technical advice on trapping methods to ensure the completion of each project. Data collection, including safety evaluations, was undertaken following widely accepted international standards for testing traps specified in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Documents 10990-4 and 10990-5. The following beaver and river otter BMP traps are legal for use in NJ (other traps with equivalent characteristics are also legal):

- Belisle Classic 330
- BMI 220 Magnum
- LDL C280
- Sauvageau 2001-7
- Belisle Super X 220
- BMI 280
- LDL C280 Magnum
- Sauvageau 2001-8
- Belisle Super X 280
- LDL 220
- Rudy 280
- Woodstream Oneida Victor 220
- BMI 220
- LDL C220 Magnum
- Rudy 330
- Woodstream Oneida Victor 280

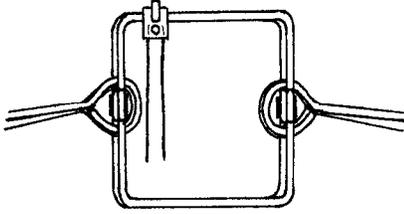
How Large Will Your Beaver Pelt Be?

Beaver pelts should be boarded in an **OVAL** shape which conforms to the animal's natural shape. Other shapes can result in loss of natural contours causing lack of uniformity, possible size loss, or overstretching in the back area leading to reduced fur density, possible grade reduction and *less money for you, the beaver trapper!* Use the table below to estimate the properly stretched size of your freshly pelted beaver (all measurements are in inches).

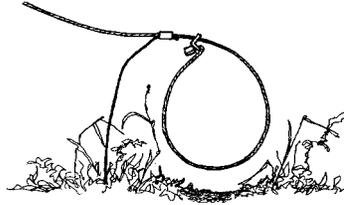
Hanging Length	Stretched Length	Stretched Width	Final Measurement	Size
12	10	9	19	Small
13	11	9	20	
14	12	10	22	
15	13	11	24	
16	13	12	25	
17	14	13	27	
18	15	13	28	
19	16	14	30	
20	17	15	32	
21	18	16	34	
22	19	17	36	
23	20	17	37	
24	21	18	39	
25	22	19	41	
26	22	20	42	
27	23	21	44	
28	24	21	45	
29	25	22	47	
30	26	23	49	
31	27	24	52	
32	28	25	53	Medium
33	29	25	54	
34	30	26	56	
35	31	27	58	
36	31	28	59	
37	32	29	61	Large
38	33	29	62	
39	34	30	64	
40	35	31	66	Blanket
41	36	32	68	
42	37	33	70	
43	38	33	71	Super Blanket
44	39	34	73	
45	40	35	75	
46	40	36	76	
47	41	37	78	
48	42	37	79	
49	43	38	81	
50	44	39	83	

How to Avoid Capturing Otter if You Only Have a Beaver Permit

Because otter and beaver often use the same habitat, there may be times/places when trappers need to avoid capturing otter. While no method can completely eliminate accidental otter captures, there are methods that can help reduce the risk of accidental capture. The following ideas are offered as a guide to improving selectivity, recognizing that each may have advantages/disadvantages depending on the situation and location. There may be other methods equally (or more) useful and trappers are encouraged to use whatever method seems most effective for the given situation.



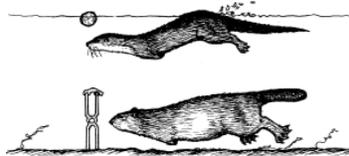
Moving the trigger to one side of a bodygrip trap increases the chance an otter can get through



A snare set with a loop of 9 to 10 inches will allow an otter to pass through, but will still catch beaver.

When there is a need to avoid otter while beaver trapping, consider the following ideas:

- Stay alert for the presence of otter sign on your trap line.
- Be cautious about using trap sets at high probability otter travel-ways, particularly dam crossings, inlets and outlets to ponds/lakes, narrow streams and ditches that connect to other water bodies, crossover trails along shorelines, dikes and culverts and the entrances to inactive beaver bank dens or lodges.
- Use baited beaver sets where possible. Avoid using beaver lures that may also attract otters to the set.
- Consider using a “side-parallel” position (see image, above) for the trigger wires on beaver bodygrip traps. Also consider the use of tension-adjustable triggers, using two “side-parallel” triggers (one on each side), and two-way triggers only (those that don’t spring when pushed sideways).
- Offset the trigger to one side on a bodygrip trap and place a stick in the mud directly in front of the trigger (make sure the stick is outside the closing radius of the trap). Otters will typically swim around the stick and avoid the trigger.
- When using cable devices, use a 9-10 inch loop. Make sure your snares have “stops” to prevent the loop from closing tighter than a four-inch diameter. Place the bottom of the loop close to the ground. Also consider positioning the lock farther back from top-center to decrease the sensitivity of the device. Do not “load” snares; this will further reduce sensitivity.
- Gang-set active beaver areas (set an equal number of traps for the anticipated number of beavers). Catch beaver as fast as possible, and pull traps. Avoid leaving traps set for extended periods trying to catch the last beaver.
- When trapping under ice, make baited sets between active lodges/dens and food caches/piles.
- For more information on otter avoidance and proper trigger configurations to use for bodygrip traps to capture beaver, see the Trapper Education Student Manual: A Guide for Trappers in the United States published by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Trapping_Student_Manual_2005.pdf
- Always check New Jersey’s trapping regulations for guidance, specific restrictions or prohibitions related to otter trapping.



Setting bodygrip traps deep under water may allow an otter to go over the top of the trap, while most beaver will dive to the bottom and be caught.

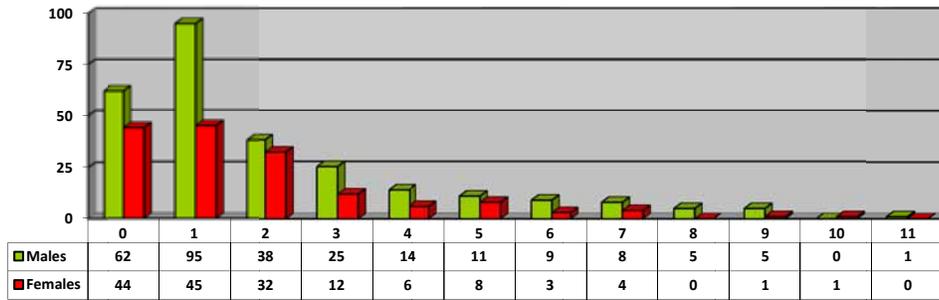
2014-15 Harvests

One hundred twenty-four (124) trappers were successful in capturing at least one beaver (62% success rate) and harvested a total 599 beavers (4.8 beavers/successful trapper). Thirty-seven (37) trappers harvested the permit bag limit of 8 beavers. Sixty-one (61) beavers were harvested on 17 damage permits issued bringing the total beaver harvest to 660. Only one damage permit trapper was successful in harvesting the permit bag limit of 10 beavers. The otter quota was increased from 106 in 2013 to 115 in 2014 (n = 9 or 8.5%) and allocated to effect 5-10% otter harvest mortality in each of 30 management zones based on historical success rates in respective zones (statewide goal was 5% or 49 otter). Forty-five (45) otter trappers were successful in capturing their season limit (39.1% success rate).

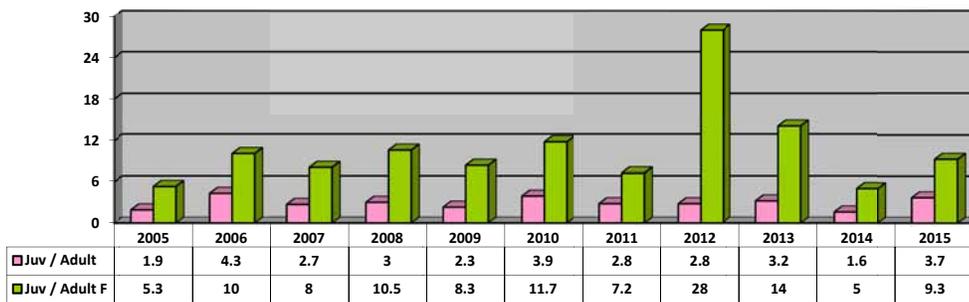
Zone	Beaver Permits Issued	Number Successful Trappers	Regular Beaver Harvest	Damage Harvest	Otter Permits Issued	Harvest	Projected Harvest
1	8	5	23	0	2	1	1
2	17	8	27	0	3	0	1
3	9	8	41	0	2	1	1
4	7	5	27	0	2	0	1
5	12	7	26	0	3	0	1
6	22	11	61	0	4	2	1
7	10	8	41	0	3	1	1
8	8	4	17	3	7	1	2
9	7	6	31	3	4	1	2
10	8	6	33	3	2	2	1
11	6	4	10	0	5	1	2
12	3	2	10	0	2	1	1
13	7	4	8	0	7	6	4
14	2	1	8	0	6	4	3
15	2	1	2	0	15	6	6
16	6	2	11	0	4	1	2
17	5	3	13	0	2	2	1
18	3	1	1	0	5	3	3
19	3	3	14	0	3	2	1
20	7	1	8	0	3	0	0
21	1	1	4	0	1	1	0
22	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
23	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
24	3	3	14	0	3	0	1
25	6	4	28	23	3	2	1
26	3	2	9	0	3	0	1
27	2	1	3	0	2	1	0
28	11	10	54	0	5	1	2
29	12	8	57	2	3	0	1
30	8	4	17	27	9	3	3
Total	201	124	599	61	115	45	49

River Otter Data Collection

Age Class Distribution of 454 Known Age River Otter Sampled from New Jersey, 2005-2015



Ratio of Juvenile River Otters (0-2 years of age) in the Annual Sample, 2005-2015



2015 Statewide Beaver Inventory

Bureau of Wildlife Management staff will initiate a statewide effort to estimate the beaver population in the fall of 2015. Land Use-Land Cover data in the DEP Geographic Information Software database was examined for beaver suitability, and a random sample of 360 points based on estimated habitat across all 30 management zones was selected for the survey. The number of points in each zone vary from 4 (Zone 12) to 23 (Zone 27). In addition, each zone will have 2 randomly selected points in areas not considered as beaver habitat for a total of 420 survey points. The main waterway, including any tributaries, will be surveyed 250 meters from center (minimum 0.5 km stream segment length), and the number of active beaver colonies recorded and extrapolated to provide a minimum population estimate.

The survey will begin October 1 and end December 24. Any Wildlife Conservation Corps member interested in volunteering can contact Andrew Burnett at andrew.burnett@dep.nj.gov. For those trappers that aren't already a WCC volunteer, information on joining can be found at <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/wcchome.htm>. This would be an excellent opportunity for beaver / otter trappers to get in some pre-season scouting while assisting the Division of Fish & Wildlife!

Introduced Legislation

A host of legislative bills are introduced every year. Below is a list of current bills. Those beginning with “A” are Assembly bills; those beginning with “S” are Senate bills; “CR” means Concurrent Resolution. Identical bills (for example, A112/S348) have been grouped together. Bills that have passed committee votes are followed by the date passed, otherwise bills remain in their respective committees. For further information on specific bills, please visit <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>

Number	Description	Introduced	Committee Referred To
A112	Clarifies the F&G Council has sole authority to regulate freshwater fishing, hunting and trapping	1/16/2014	Agriculture and Natural Resources
S348		1/14/2014	Environment and Energy
A138	Increases membership of F&G Council and clarifies sole authority to regulate freshwater fishing, hunting and trapping	1/16/2014	Agriculture and Natural Resources
A761	Authorizes free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and free admission to State parks and forests for individuals with certain types of military service	1/16/2014	Military and Veterans’ Affairs
A2139	Provides for discounted resident trapping license fees for senior citizens	1/16/2014	Agriculture and Natural Resources
S916		1/16/2014	Environment and Energy
A2228	Establishes certain requirements for trapping snapping turtles	1/27/2014	Agriculture and Natural Resources
A2285	Authorizes free State park and forest admission and free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for persons with certain types of military services	2/6/2014	Agriculture and Natural Resources
A2253	Provides for no net loss of DEP lands for fishing, hunting and trapping purposes	2/6/2014	Agriculture and Natural Resources
A2410	Removes statutory limitation on number of permits that may be issued by Division of Fish & Wildlife for the taking of beaver	2/6/2014	Agriculture and Natural Resources
S2492		10/14/2014	Environment and Energy (1/12/2015) Budget & Appropriations (3/9/2015)
A2485	Requires voter registration forms be made available when applying for hunting, fishing or trapping license	2/10/2014	Agriculture and Natural Resources
A2959	Authorizes free hunting, fishing and trapping for certain retired military personnel	3/24/2014	Agriculture and Natural Resources
A2971	Authorizes free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and free admission to State parks and forests for individuals with certain types of military service, and their immediate family members	3/24/2014	Agriculture and Natural Resources
A3598	Provides discounted hunting and trapping license, permit and stamp fees for senior citizens	9/11/2014	Agriculture and Natural Resources
S2327		8/11/2014	Environment and Energy
A4179	Prohibits use of snares in trapping of wildlife	2/12/2015	Agriculture and Natural Resources
S2538		10/27/2014	Environment and Energy
S193	Authorizes free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and free admission to State parks and forests for individuals with certain types of military service	1/14/2014	Environment and Energy
S240	Authorizes free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and free admission to State parks and forests for individuals with certain types of military service	1/14/14	Environment and Energy
S325	Authorizes free hunting, fishing and trapping for certain retired military personnel	1/14/14	Environment and Energy
S326	Authorizes free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and free admission to State parks and forests for individuals with certain types of military service, and their immediate family members	1/14/2014	Environment and Energy
S356	Requires voter registration forms be available when applying for hunting, fishing or trapping license; requires display and collection of completed application if the applicant wishes to register at public agency	1/14/2014	State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation (passed 3/24/2014)
S1734	Provides for no net loss of DEP lands for fishing, hunting and trapping	3/17/2014	Environment and Energy

Introduced Legislation - Continued

Number	Description	Introduced	Committee Referred To
ACR12	Proposes constitutional amendment to preserve right of people to fish, hunt, trap and harvest fish and wildlife	1/16/2014	Agriculture and Natural Resources
ACR210	Proposes constitutional amendment to guarantee the people's right to fish, hunt, trap and harvest fish and wildlife	12/4/2014	Agriculture and Natural Resources
SCR22		1/14/2014	Environment and Energy
SCR175	Determines that F&G Council's proposal to allow use of enclosed foothold traps is inconsistent with plain language and legislative intent of 1984 law banning animal traps of steel-jaw leghold type	6/15/2015	Environment and Energy

Game Code Changes

The New Jersey Fish and Game Council clarified an error of omission in the prior code regarding beaver damage permits. The Code previously stipulated that before receiving a damage permit during the open trapping season, the applicant must first have applied for a regular trapping permit. Landowners must apply for damage permits, but very few landowners are themselves trappers and therefore are precluded from obtaining a regular beaver trapping permit. The language was amended to stipulate that the landowner's trapping agent must first apply for a regular beaver trapping permit before they can obtain a damage permit.

At their June meeting, Council members unanimously voted to rescind the proposed amendment to allow beaver and otter trapping beginning December 26 on those Wildlife Management Areas where game birds are released for hunting. Those WMA will remain closed to trapping until January 1.

The Bureau of Wildlife Management will likely start its next discussions on potential Game Code changes in January 2016.