



## New Jersey Furbearer Management Newsletter Winter 2020-21



### New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Upland Wildlife and Furbearer Project

#### Important Upcoming Dates:

- Hunter Education courses resume in March. Registration opens in mid-February. Click [here](#) or call 1-877-2-HUNT NJ for schedule and additional information. Trapper Education courses are offered in April and September/October.
- 25 January – 22 February – Application period for 2021 Spring Turkey permits.
- Tuesday, 9 February – Last day of beaver and otter trapping season.
- **Saturday, 20 February – Beaver & Otter Check-in 9AM-NOON at Assunpink, Clinton, Flatbrook, Tuckahoe and Winslow WMA, as well as Newfoundland Fire Department on Rt. 23 in Newfoundland. Social Distancing protocols will be strictly adhered to!**
- Monday, 15 March – Last day of the 2020-21 trapping season and Special Permit Coyote/Fox hunting season.
- Saturday, March 20 (**Tentative**) – NJ Trappers Association fur collection at Space Farms in Beemerville, Sussex County. Fur auction will begin at 10:00 AM on Sunday, March 21 (**Tentative**).

#### Remember:

- To trap with or use cable restraints, a person must have first passed a Fish and Wildlife-approved trapper education course which included use of cable restraints and carry their course completion card while trapping.
- Any person must be at least 12 years of age in order to obtain a trapping license.
- TAKE A KID TRAPPING OR MENTOR A NEW TRAPPER!



#### In This Issue:

- Beaver and River Otter Online Harvest Reporting
- Beaver and River Otter Check Station Procedures
- Coyote and Gray Fox Online Harvest Reporting
- Basic Regulations for Trapping with Cable Restraints on Dry Land in NJ
- Trail Camera Identification Tips for Canines

## Beaver and River Otter Online Harvest Reporting

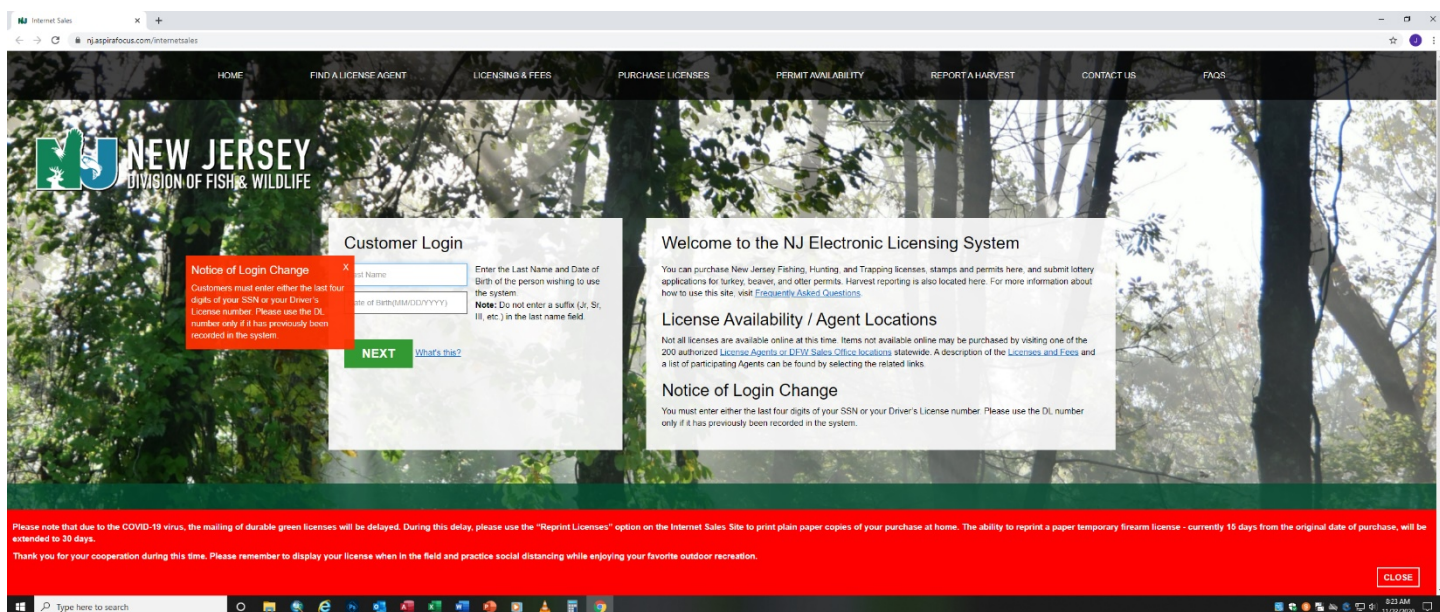
NEW – Beginning this season, successful trappers will be able to report their beaver and otter harvest daily using the Division’s Automated Harvest Reporting System (AHRS). This is NOT a requirement, but doing so will enable the Division to track harvest of these species in real time, and so inform decision making on whether a trapping season extension is needed. It does not replace the mandatory beaver and otter check-in requirement, and successful trappers (or their representative) will still be required to present their pelts as in the past (more on this later in this issue).

About 90% of licensed trappers possessed either a firearm or archery hunting license in 2019, and so may already be familiar with the AHRS reporting procedures if they harvested a deer in the recent past (or a turkey in 2020). The procedures for reporting a beaver or otter are similar, and fairly simple. As a refresher (and for those trappers that may not be hunters), please review the tutorial below.

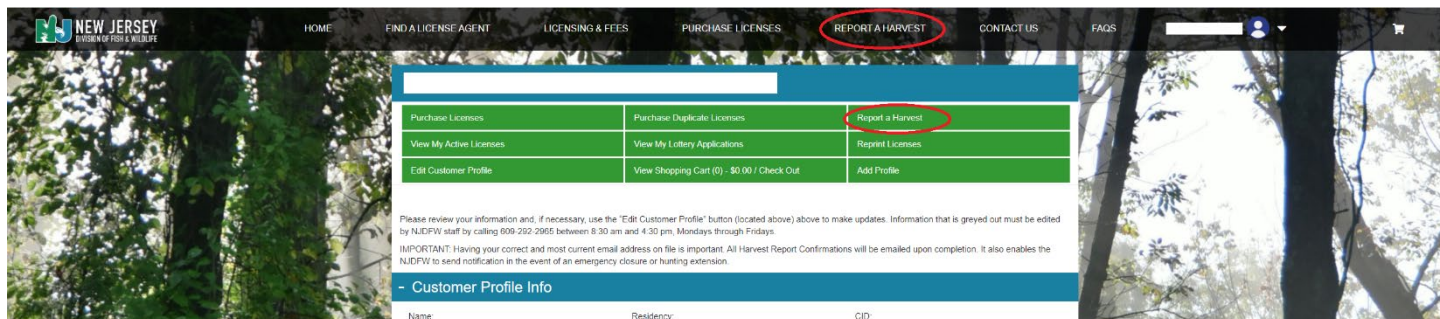
NOTE – If you have a smartphone and can get a signal in the field, we recommend you report your harvest online first so you can write the confirmation number on your transportation tag before attaching it to the carcass. If you need to report via flip phone or land line call the AHRS number at 1-855-448-6865.

### To file an online report for a beaver or otter harvested during the trapping season:

1. On your computer or smartphone go to [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com)
2. Log in as directed. The login screen looks like the view below.

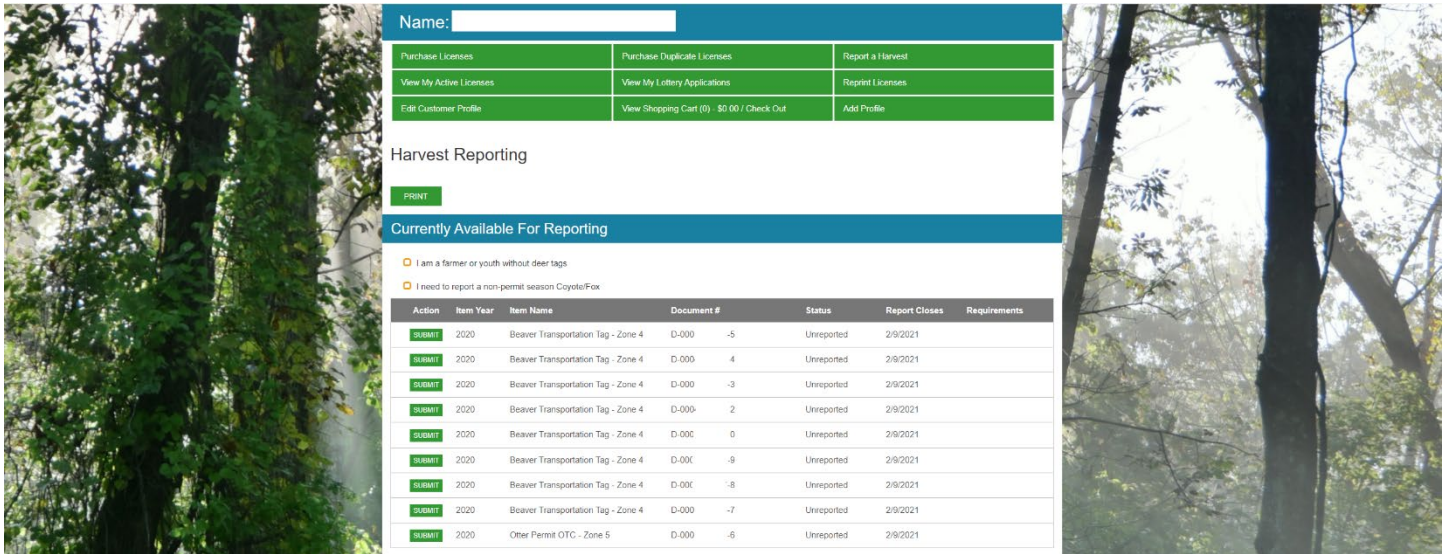


3. Once logged in you will see your Profile screen. It will look like the image below. Look for REPORT A HARVEST (circled in red in the image below).

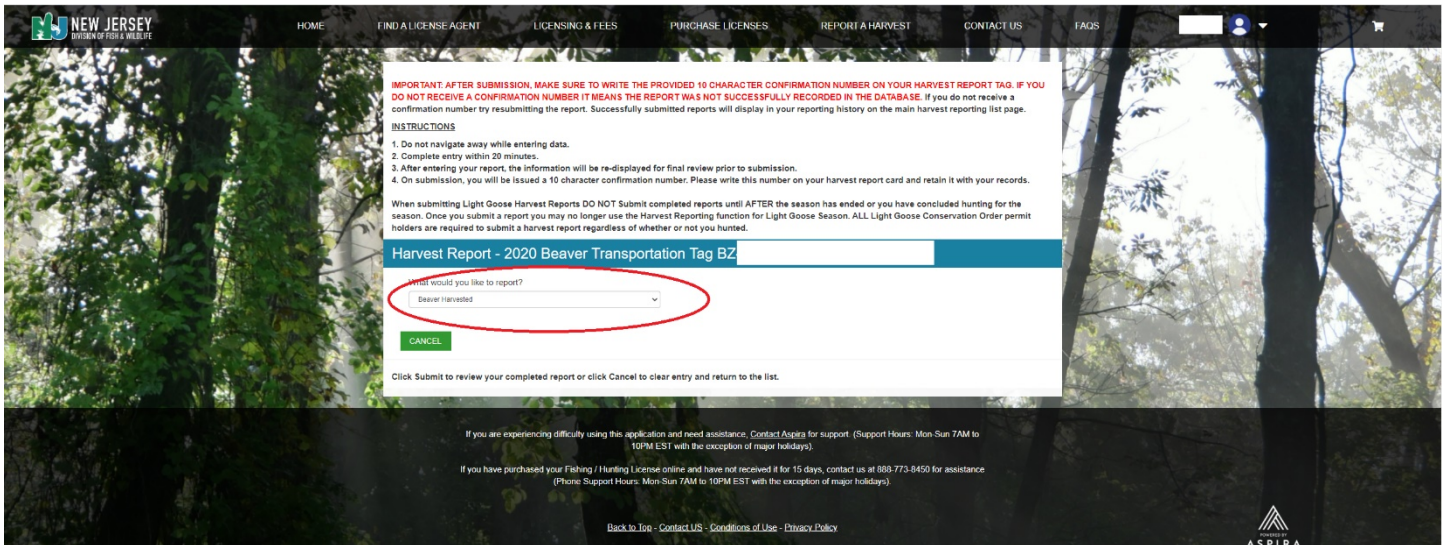




- Click on/select REPORT A HARVEST at either location.
- The next screen that will appear after selecting REPORT A HARVEST will look like the one below.



- The list of your Beaver and/or Otter Transportation Tag Harvest Numbers will appear as in the view, below. Harvest numbers on your printed tags correspond to Document #s on the computer reporting form.
- To report a beaver harvest, choose one of the Document # as in the view (above) that corresponds to Harvest Number that is printed on the Beaver or Otter Transportation tag that you will affix (or have already affixed) to your beaver or otter carcass/pelt.
- Choose the SUBMIT (green button) to the left of the Document # that matches the Harvest Number on the Beaver Transportation Tag on the beaver you need to report.
- A menu box will appear as in the view below. In the menu, (circled in red, below), simply choose which species you are reporting and click the green SUBMIT button to take you to the next page where you will enter all the harvest data (same information that is on the data sheet provided).



- After you finish filling out the harvest page, click on the green SUBMIT button at the bottom of that page. **You be issued a HARVEST CONFIRMATION NUMBER. Record it on the Transportation Tag.**
- That beaver or otter is reported! Repeat for additional beavers as needed. Bag limit for otter is 1 otter.

## Beaver and Otter Check Station Procedures

Successful beaver and otter trappers are reminded that they are required to present their pelts at one of six check stations (Assunpink, Clinton, Flatbrook, Tuckahoe and Winslow WMA as well as the Newfoundland Fire Department on Rt. 23) on Saturday, 20 February between the hours of 9:00 AM and noon.

Permit holders that were unsuccessful or that did not trap are reminded to return their harvest forms by mail, fax or email.

A few things to remember when checking your pelt(s):

- **For Social Distancing, all trappers should remain in their vehicles at their respective check station until called upon to present their pelts. Trappers will be required to supply their own mask.**
- Mandatory beaver and otter check station operation hours are 9:00 AM to Noon.
- Have your data forms completed and remember to bring them – this will speed things along.
- If you harvested an otter, remember to bring the carcass.
- If you cannot get to the check-in station personally, it is OK to have a friend check your pelts provided they have all necessary paperwork (completed data form, transportation tags), pelts and otter carcass.
- If you cannot get to the check-in station or cannot find someone else to do so for you, please schedule alternate arrangements by Friday, February 12 by calling the following:
  - Northern Region - Joe Garris (908) 735-7040 (office) or (609) 306-4545 (mobile)
  - Central Region - Jimmy Sloan (609) 256-2809 (mobile)
  - Southern Region – Andrew Burnett (609) 748-2047 (office)

## Coyote and Gray Fox Online Harvest Reporting

**As in past years, all** coyotes harvested in any manner must be reported within 24 hours. Beginning last season, successful hunters, trappers and farmers were able to report their coyote and gray fox harvest using the Division's Automated Harvest Reporting System (AHRS).

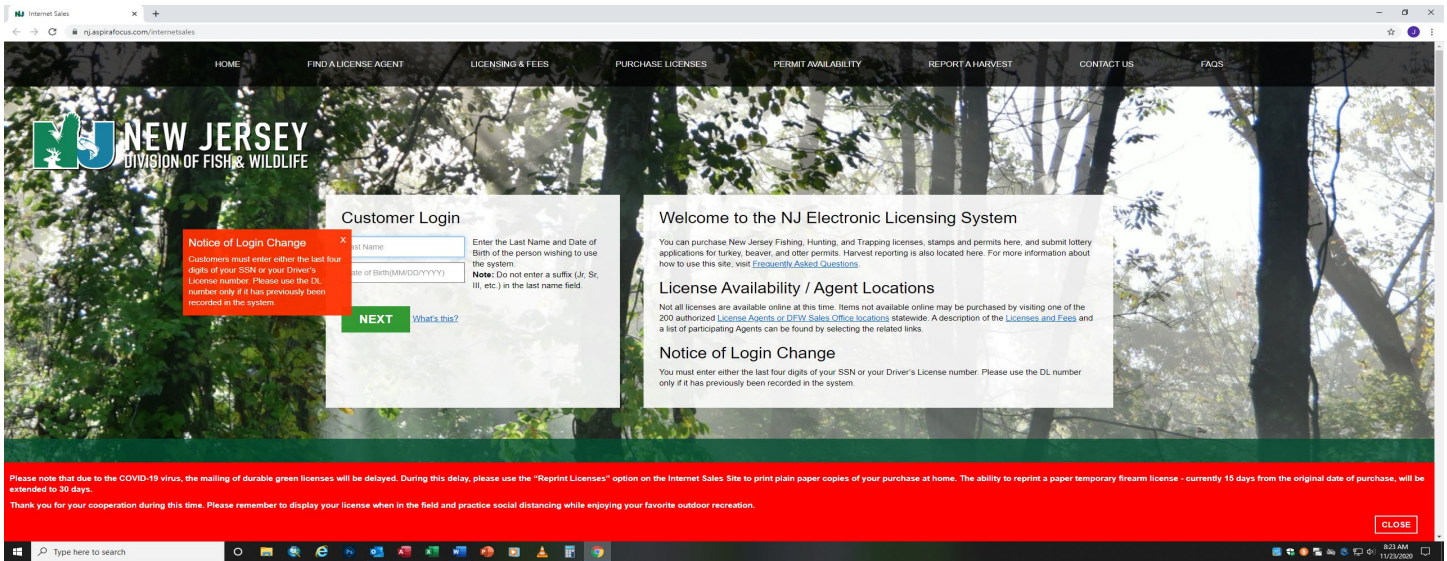
About 90% of licensed trappers possessed either a firearm or archery hunting license in 2019, and so may already be familiar with the AHRS reporting procedures if they harvested a deer in the recent past (or a turkey in 2020). The procedures for reporting a coyote or gray fox are similar, and fairly simple. As a refresher (and for those trappers that may not be hunters), please review the following tutorial.

- Reports can be made via mobile phone or computer at: [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com) or calling: 1-855-I HUNT NJ (1-855-448-6865).
- Hunters should use the same location information used for deer hunting, found at: [www.NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs\\_deer\\_viewer.htm](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/ahrs_deer_viewer.htm)
- Red fox harvests CANNOT and DO NOT need to be reported.

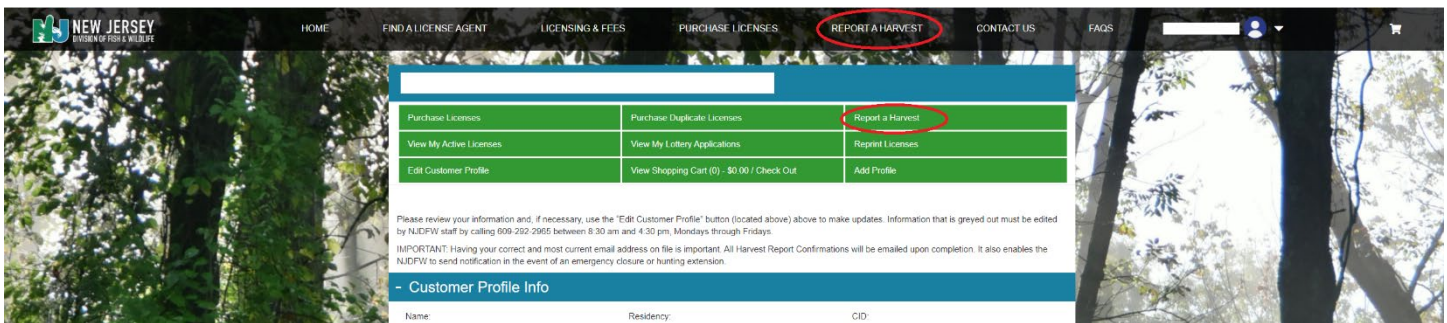


**To file an online report for a coyote or gray fox harvested during the open hunting or trapping season:**

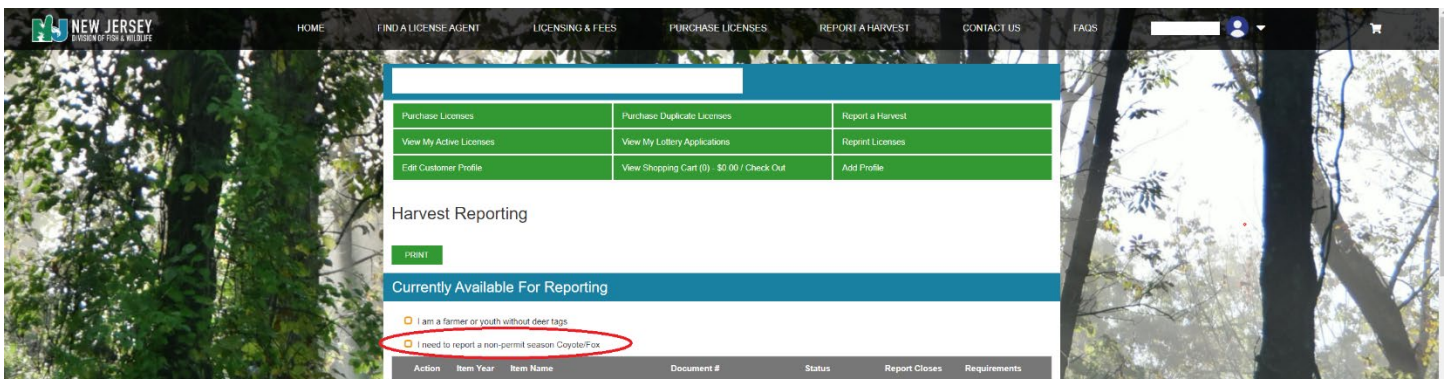
1. On your computer or smartphone go to [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com)
2. Log in as directed.



3. Once logged in you will see your profile screen. It will look like the image below.
4. In several locations on the menus on your profile screen you will see REPORT A HARVEST (circled in red). Click on/select REPORT A HARVEST on either location.

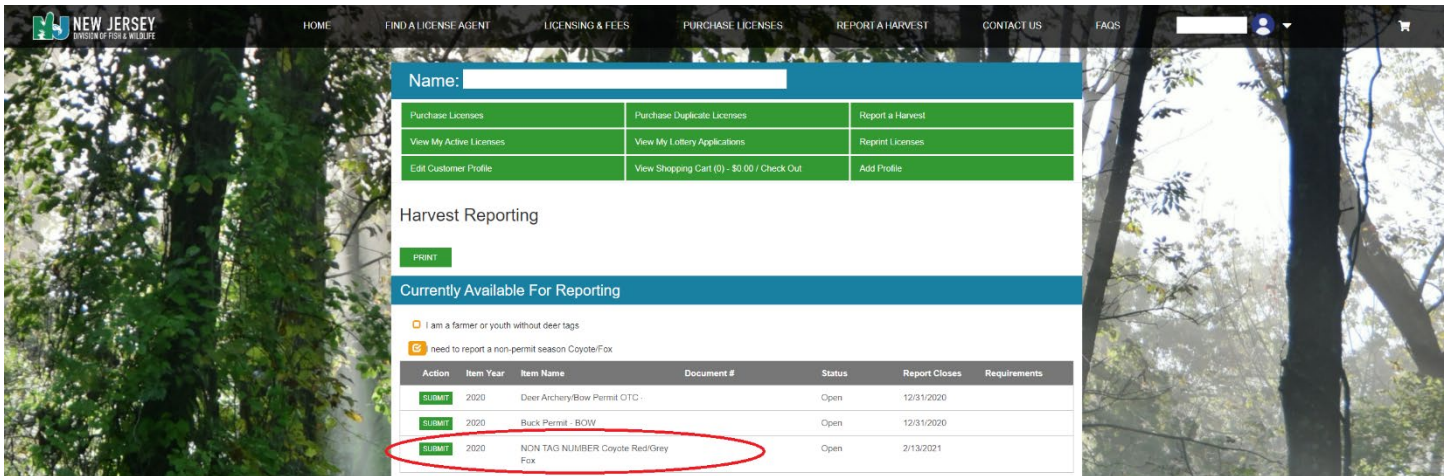


5. The next screen that will appear after selecting REPORT A HARVEST will look like the one below.
6. For coyote/gray fox taken while deer hunting or by trapping, click in the box for I WANT TO REPORT A NON-PERMIT SEASON COYOTE/FOX. *Only select I WANT TO REPORT A PERMIT SEASON COYOTE/FOX (when available) if you have a Special Permit **and** are hunting specifically for canines in accordance with Special Permit Coyote/Fox regulations.*

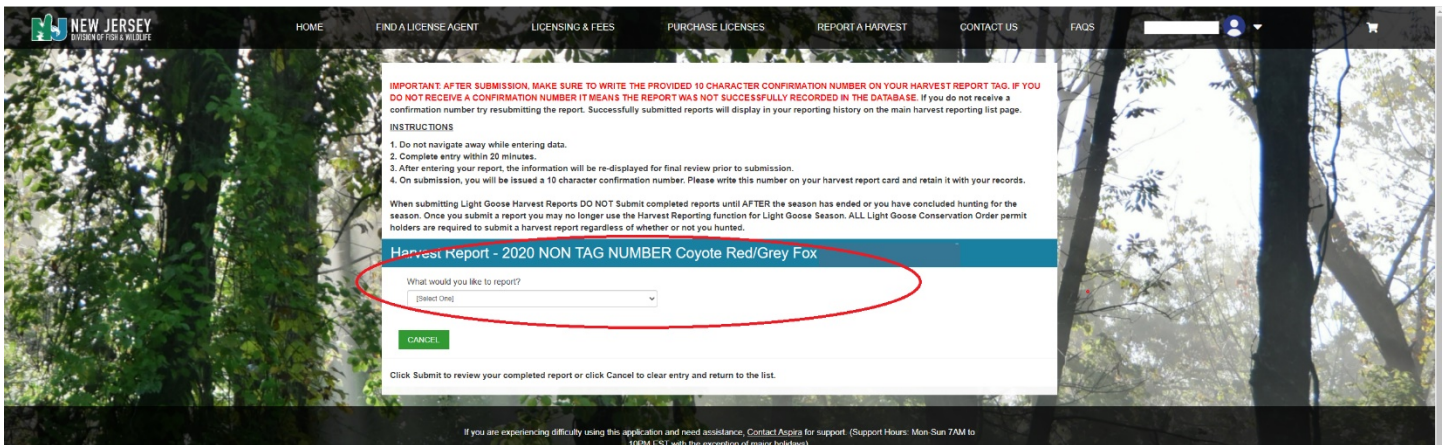




7. The next screen will appear and look like the image below. Click on the green SUBMIT button.



8. The next screen will look like the image below.



9. Select the species you which to report and follow the prompts as indicated.

10. After you finish populating the harvest page, click on the green SUBMIT button at the bottom of that page. **You be issued a HARVEST CONFIRMATION NUMBER. Record that number.**

11. That is it! Your coyote or gray fox is reported!

## Basic Regulations for Trapping with Cable Restraints on Dry Land in NJ

REMINDER – Pheasant and Quail Designated Areas are closed to trapping with cable restraints until 6:00 AM on January 1 (Assunpink WMA, Berkshire Valley WMA, Black River WMA, Clinton WMA, Colliers Mills WMA, Flatbrook-Roy WMA, Glassboro WMA, Greenwood Forest WMA (including Howardsville), Heislerville WMA, Mad Horse WMA, Manahawkin WMA, Manasquan WMA, Medford WMA, Millville (Bevans) WMA, Peaslee WMA, Pequest WMA, Port Republic WMA, Stafford Forge WMA, Tuckahoe (MacNamara) WMA, Walpack WMA, Whittingham WMA and Winslow WMA). All trapping is prohibited at all times on the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Many sportsmen have been trapping and using cable restraints for years, and there are things all should be aware of and do without thinking about them. We often get phone calls regarding trapping regulations from experienced and beginner trappers (the same ones outlined in the Digest on pages 56-58 of the current issue), so sometimes a few words to stimulate memories can be a tremendous help. It does not hurt to go over those requirements to make sure everyone is doing the right things! If you target terrestrial animals, it may pay to refresh your memory.

There are some things that apply to all trappers regardless of the trapping system used, such as:

1. A trapping license is required, and a Trapper Education course must be passed (unless you have a trapping license from before 1974).
2. Every trap set or used must bear a legible tag of durable material that identifies the trap owner. You have three choices to identify any trapping device, including a cable restraint, as yours – 1) Your CID (aka, trapping license number); 2) Name and address and, 3) Trapper ID number (if you had one issued in the past but which are no longer issued); . We recommend using the CID. If your trap or cable restraint is underwater, the trap tag **MUST** be placed above the water line and exposed to view. Making sure you do this will save you from having to reset and reposition your trap when a Conservation Police Office checks your sets.
3. All traps, unless set in tidal waters, must be checked at least once every twenty-four (24) hours. Sets in tidal waters only must be checked once per calendar day. Do not ignore these requirements. It is your responsibility to the animal that might be sitting in your trap or cable restraint. Animals in cable restraints are quite visible, and someone is likely to see it. We recommend checking terrestrial traps as early in the day as possible.
4. If you encounter a live bobcat or fisher captured on your trapline, do not disturb the animal or the set, but immediately notify Fish and Wildlife by calling 1-(877) WARNDP (1-877-927-6337). A Fish and Wildlife technician will provide further instructions. Call the same number for a dead bobcat or fisher on your trapline; a Fish and Wildlife technician will arrange to pick up the animal. Biological samples will be taken from all bobcat and fisher carcasses. The data collected will be instrumental to understand the status of the species populations.

Regulations applying specifically to use of Cable Restraints are provided below. Points 2-5 do not apply to cable restraints that are submerged underwater.

### **1. Trapper Education**

No one may set, use or maintain any type of cable restraint unless they have successfully passed a Division-approved cable restraint training course and carry their certification while trapping.

### **2. Cable Components**

All cable restraints set above water (unless set for mink, muskrat or weasel) must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire with a maximum diameter of 3/16 inches, and be equipped with a swivel and a relaxing lock.

Current regulations define a relaxing lock as “that component of a live capture cable restraint intended to create and maintain a loop; and that stops tightening when the animal stops pulling against the cable restraint”. Cam-locks and spring-assisted locking systems are prohibited for use above water. Several cable restraint/snare materials suppliers list in their online catalogs whether a lock is relaxing or non-relaxing.

Cable restraints for mink, muskrat and weasel must be constructed of aircraft cable or crucible wire between 1/32-1/16 inches in diameter, and be equipped with a swivel. Cable restraints for mink and muskrat must be set within 50 feet of the mean high water line.

### **3. Loop Size and Loop Stops.**

No cable restraint may be set, used or maintained above water with an average loop diameter exceeds twelve (12) inches. We recommend adding a loop stop at the appropriate distance for your target species. Use the following formula to find that point from the end of the cable restraint:  $Circumference = d * \pi$  (where  $d$  = diameter and  $\pi = 3.14$ ).

Cable restraints for mink, muskrat and weasel must be equipped with a stop to prevent the average loop diameter from exceeding four (4) inches.

### **4. Cable Height.**

No cable restraint may be set, used or maintained above water with a distance between the walking surface to the top of the loop greater than twenty-four (24) inches.

No cable restraint for mink, muskrat or weasel may be set, used or maintained with a distance between the walking surface to the top of the loop greater than seven (7) inches.

### **5. Deer Stops.**

Except when used for mink, muskrat or weasel, no cable restraint may be set, used or maintained above water unless it is equipped with a stop six (6) inches from the end to restrict loop closure to no less than six (6) inches in circumference.

### **6. Exposed Bait.**

All natural baits (consisting of fish, bird or mammal carcasses or flesh) must be covered or concealed from view when placed or located within thirty (30) feet from any cable restraint.



## **Trail Camera Identification Tips for Canines**

For most outdoorsman, especially trappers, identifying a fox or coyote in daylight when it is standing in a field or in a snare is pretty easy. However, in the headlights of a vehicle or the dim lights of backyard it gets a bit more difficult. We are often asked to identify some pretty poor videos or photographs regularly so here are a few of the tips and some images that might help with identification.

The average New Jersey resident really does not know how to tell a gray fox from a red fox from a coyote so please pass on the information from the text and pictures below! Anyone with a question as to identification of animals in pictures or videos can send the image(s) and location information to: [njfishandwildlife@dep.nj.gov](mailto:njfishandwildlife@dep.nj.gov)



## Coyote –

### *Field marks to notice:*

- Dog-like face, some say wolf-like face profile
- In adults, a more solid build and much taller than either a red or gray fox



(Joseph R. Garris Sr. images)

- Generally, carries the tail drooping, but sometimes straight out behind
- Long slim nose and face profile
- Pelt color may vary from black to very light in color, but the pelt coloration is generally gray/brown.

*Adult Total Length: 48" to 60" including the approx. 18" tail*

*Adult Height at Shoulder: 18" to 20"*

*Adult Weight: 20 to 50 lbs. Females are smaller than males.*



(Joseph R. Garris Sr. images)

Night-time images of coyotes illustrate their height, head shape, typical body posture, the way they carry their tail drooping and their heavier overall body conformation.

## Red fox –

### *Field marks to notice:*

- Much smaller than a coyote
- In NJ the usual pelt color will be an overall orange color.
- Black on front of front legs



(Joseph R. Garris Sr. images)

- Long ears with black fur on the back of the ears
- White tail tip, generally carries the tail straight out (level)
- Long, slim nose and face profile
- Legs are long in relation to the taller, longer, and slimmer body
- Dog-like face
- At night, in a trail camera picture or as seen in headlights, the eyes appear further apart.
- Lacks the black back and black coarse furred ridge along top of tail of the gray fox.

*Adult Total Length: about 36” including the approx. 12” to 14” tail*

*Adult Height at Shoulder: Adult- 15”*

*Adult Weight: 8 to 14 lbs.*



(Joseph R. Garris Sr. images)

Night-time images of red foxes illustrate their typical body posture, the way they carry their tail and black fur on front of the legs.

### **Gray fox –**

#### ***Field marks to notice:***

- Much smaller than a coyote



(Joseph R. Garris Sr. image (circa 1979))

- Grizzled gray over most of the body area with generally rusty orange areas in the neck, parts of the belly, throat, under the tail, backs of ears and portions of legs
- White or light colored “bib”
- Shorter legs than either a red fox or coyote
- Shorter nose and face profile
- Black strip along ridge of back and tail
- Black coarse ridge of hairs on tail which the gray fox will carry arched or out straight
- Tail appears heavier and wider in relation to overall size compared to red fox or coyote



- At night, in a trail camera picture or as seen in headlights, the eyes appear close together with an almost cartoon-like face

*Adult Total Length: Adult- about 36" including the approx. 12" to 14" tail*  
*Adult Height at Shoulder: 14"*  
*Adult Weight: 7 to 13 lbs.*



(Joseph R. Garris Sr. images)

Night-time images of gray foxes illustrates the way they carry their tail and the relative closeness of the eyes when viewed in a light beam.



### **New Jersey Bobcats and Fishers**

Bobcats are classified as endangered in New Jersey. They are widely distributed across the northern part of the state. Fishers have returned naturally thanks to reintroduction efforts in New York and Pennsylvania and have been documented in several northern and southern New Jersey counties.

- **There is no open trapping season for either bobcat or fisher in NJ**
- **If you encounter a live bobcat or fisher captured on your trapline, do not disturb the animal or the set, but immediately notify Fish and Wildlife by calling (877) WARNDP (877-927-6337).**

A Fish and Wildlife technician will provide further instructions. Call the same number for a dead bobcat or fisher on your trapline; a Fish and Wildlife technician will arrange to pick up the animal. Biological samples will be taken from all bobcat and fisher carcasses. The data collected will be instrumental to understand the status of the species populations.

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife is *the* professional, environmental agency overseeing the protection and management of the state's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic value for all New Jerseyans.