

# New Jersey

## *Fish & Wildlife Digest*

A Summary of Rules and Management Information

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**FREE**

## 2002 Hunting Issue

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New Jersey  
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NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF  
Fish and Wildlife

# New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest

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## The Director's Message

By Bob McDowell

In last year's message I remarked on the success of New Jersey's deer management program and the fantastic hunting opportunities available here. This past year hunters continued to harvest record numbers of deer, effectively managing our deer population and improving the quality of the deer herd. Restricting the harvest of bucks through season limits, antler point restrictions and "Earn-A-Buck" regulations have dramatically increased the harvest of does, a necessity to control the population. And although it is still too early to evaluate the effects of Quality Deer Management (QDM) and "Earn-A-Buck" on the age structure of our buck population, reports from the field are encouraging. This season we move further towards QDM as the buck tag concept takes full effect. The Fish and Game Council has decided to limit hunters to six bucks per year. This will help distribute the buck harvest more equitably among all hunters while allowing some bucks to get older and develop larger racks. Although the definition of "trophy" is in the eye of the beholder, most agree that allowing more bucks to reach their full potential will improve the quality of the deer hunting experience in New Jersey.

Even more important than our own evaluation of our management is the fact that the farming community, local officials, environmental organizations and the courts of New Jersey have acknowledged the benefit of our system of managing deer. Last year, the Fish and Game Council adopted deer season regulations designed to reduce the deer population in 74% of the deer range. With the success of this strategy the reduction effort is now reduced to only 70% of the range. Populations on the remaining 30% are in the desired range and will be managed for stabilization at this level.

Many hunters have reported seeing less deer afield in the last few years. This is by design. While our department is aggressively purchasing open space and steering development toward smart growth, it is a fact that New Jersey continues to suburbanize. Therefore, everyone must learn to live with fewer deer. Our dwindling habitat can not support the populations that existed a decade ago.

For years the Division, the Fish and Game Council and wildlife professionals around the country have been promoting sport hunting and trapping as a conservation tool. The concept that recreational sportsmen can manage wildlife populations more efficiently and more economically than any other non-lethal or lethal alternative is the foundation of North American wildlife management and is referred to as the North American Wildlife Management Plan. It is important to note that the farming community has long been our partner in this effort. In New Jersey, this is evidenced not only by farmer representation on the Fish and Game Council, but also by the close cooperation and support we receive on most wildlife issues by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and the New Jersey Farm Bureau. So while we pat ourselves on the back for a great job, remember to thank our farmer friends, many of whom are fellow hunters.

Reports from the farm community indicate fewer deer related problems as populations in agricultural areas are reduced. It's equally encouraging that many private environmental groups have recognized that species such as deer, Canada geese and beaver are species which when left uncontrolled, can negatively affect the plant and wildlife composition where they live. Control of these species through sport hunting, to the benefit of many species of plants and wildlife, is receiving increasing support.

Because hunting is such an effective management tool, many sportsmen and sportswomen cannot understand the need for paid culling agents as part of the Community Based Deer Management Program. This topic is discussed more thoroughly in the article "Community-based Deer Management in New Jersey" on page 60. However three points are worth mentioning here. First, the decision to grant Community Based Deer Management permits rests with the Division and the Council, therefore, wildlife professionals and hunters are at the helm. Secondly, the high costs of controlling deer by non-traditional means are encouraging local officials to take another look at sport hunting. Several townships closed to hunting for many years have recently opened their lands. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, recent legal challenges to the Community Based Deer Management Program have had historic consequences. Animal rights groups challenged the make up of the Council, the Division's and Council's authority to determine deer

(continued on page 4)

**OUR MISSION:** To protect and manage the state's fish and wildlife to maximize their long-term biological, recreational and economic value for all New Jerseyans.

**OUR GOALS:** To maintain New Jersey's rich variety of fish and wildlife species at stable, healthy levels and to protect and enhance the many habitats on which they depend.

To educate New Jerseyans on the values and needs of our fish and wildlife and to foster a positive human/wildlife co-existence.

To maximize the recreational and commercial use of New Jersey's fish and wildlife for both present and future generations.

## WHERE TO WRITE US

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife • P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

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# New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Telephone Directory

Internet Address..... www.njfishandwildlife.com

Commercial Preserves & Semi-Wild Preserves..... 609-984-6211  
**Deer & Turkey Permit Hotline..... 609-292-9192**  
 DEP ACTION LINE - 24 HOURS..... 877-WARNDEP  
 Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits..... 609-292-9591  
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**General Information..... 609-292-2965**  
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 Hunting, Fishing, & Duplicate Licenses..... 609-292-2965  
 Operation Game Thief..... 800-222-0456  
 Outstanding Deer Program..... 609-292-9450  
 Pheasant & Quail Stocking Information..... 609-984-0547  
 Rifle Permit Information..... 609-984-1400  
 Trout Stocking Hotline..... 609-633-6765  
 Wildlife Conservation Corps Information..... 856-629-1014  
 Wildlife Control..... 908-735-8793  
 Wildlife Management Area Information..... 609-984-0547

#### Trenton Office

501 E. State St., Station Plaza 5, 3rd Floor,  
 PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400  
 Endangered and Nongame Species..... 609-292-9400  
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 Land Management..... 609-984-0547  
 Law Enforcement..... 609-292-9430  
 Marine Fisheries..... 609-292-2083  
 Shellfisheries..... 609-984-5546  
 Wildlife Education..... 609-292-9450  
 Wildlife Management..... 609-292-6685

#### Freshwater Fisheries Lab

PO Box 394, Lebanon, NJ 08833..... 908-236-2118

#### Northern Region Office

26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827  
 Wildlife Management..... 908-735-7040  
 Endangered and Nongame Species..... 908-735-8975  
 Hunter Education..... 877-2HUNT NJ  
 Wildlife Control..... 908-735-8793  
 Land Management..... 973-383-0918  
 Law Enforcement (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties)..... 908-735-8240

#### Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center

605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863..... 908-637-4125

#### Central Region Office

386 Clarksburg-Robbinsville Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691  
 Land Management..... 609-259-2132  
 Hunter Education..... 877-2HUNT NJ  
 Wildlife Control..... 609-259-7955  
 Law Enforcement (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties)..... 609-259-2120

#### Southern Region Office

220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081  
 Information..... 856-629-0090  
 Hunter Education..... 877-2HUNT NJ  
 Land Management..... 856-629-5006  
 Freshwater Fisheries..... 856-629-4950  
 Wildlife Control..... 856-629-7224  
 Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties)..... 856-629-0555

#### Nacote Creek Research Station

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 Port Republic, NJ 08241  
 Marine Fisheries..... 609-748-2020  
 Shellfisheries..... 609-748-2040  
 Marine Education..... 609-748-2031  
 Wildlife Management..... 609-748-2063  
**Marine Law Enforcement..... 609-748-2050**

#### Bivalve Shellfish Office

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## License Information & Fees 2002-2003

#### Firearm Licenses

Resident Firearm Hunting (16-64 yrs.).....	\$ 27.50
Senior Resident Firearm Hunting (65 yrs & older).....	15.50
Non-Resident Firearm Hunting.....	135.50
Non-Resident Two-Day Small Game Firearm Hunting.....	36.50
Special One-Day Hunting (On Commercial Preserves Only).....	12.50
Youth (10-15, see page 4).....	FREE

#### Bow and Arrow Licenses

Resident Bow & Arrow Hunting.....	31.50
Senior Resident Bow & Arrow Hunting (65 yrs & older).....	16.50
Non-Resident Bow & Arrow Hunting.....	135.50

#### Trapping Licenses

Resident Trapping.....	32.50
Non-Resident Trapping.....	200.50

#### Permits

Deer Permits for Bow, Shotgun or Muzzleloader.....	28.00
Youth Deer and Turkey Permit.....	12.00
Turkey Season Permit.....	21.00
Rifle Permit (2-year Permit).....	19.00
Youth Rifle Permit.....	10.00

#### Stamps

Pheasant & Quail Stamp.....	40.00
Resident Waterfowl Stamp.....	5.00
Non-Resident Waterfowl Stamp.....	10.00

#### Miscellaneous Licenses

All-Around Sportsman.....	72.25
(Includes Resident Firearm Hunting, Bow & Arrow Hunting & Fishing Licenses)	
Duplicate License.....	2.00

See page 4 for additional license information

## Hunting & Trapping Licenses

**Deer Permits are valid for the 2002–2003 hunting season.  
New Jersey Sporting licenses are valid for the calendar year.**

All persons hunting or trapping must be properly licensed. It is unlawful for any person age 10 or older to hunt without a hunting license. It is unlawful for any person age 12 or older to trap without a trapping license. See below for youth license information. All hunters and trappers must openly display their license or permit on their outer clothing and must show their license to any police officer or any person requesting to see it.

Licenses and stamps may be purchased from participating county or municipal clerks, license agents and selected Division of Fish and Wildlife offices.

**Lost Licenses** Lost licenses can be replaced at all Division regional offices, the Trenton office and the Pequest Natural Resource Education Center. To replace a lost license, either mail or hand deliver the carbon copy issued with the license along with a \$2.00 check to any Division law enforcement office, the Trenton office, or Pequest. Duplicate stamps will not be issued, but may be purchased separately.

**License Revocation** Anyone convicted of a second fish and game violation within a period of 5 years will have their New Jersey hunting and fishing privileges revoked for 2 years. Certain violations carry greater periods of revocation, ranging from 3 years to lifetime revocation. Two convictions of the following will result in lifetime revocation: safety zone violation; causing damage to real or personal property; and negligent use of a firearm or bow.

**Resident Licenses** Resident licenses may be purchased if one has resided in the state for 6 months immediately prior to application.

**Non-Resident Licenses** Non-residents must show either a resident license from their state or proof of successfully completing an appropriate hunter education course, in order to obtain a license to hunt or trap in New Jersey.

**Youth Licenses, Resident & Non-Resident** Properly licensed youth hunters aged 10–13 may

hunt only when accompanied by a properly licensed adult aged 21 or older. Youths, 15 years of age and under, are able to hunt, fish, and trap for free, provided they have passed a Hunter Education course. Youth hunters who have passed a hunter education course should have received their new Youth Firearm or Youth Bow and Arrow license. The Youth Firearm, Bow and Arrow or Trapping License is valid from time of issuance until end of the year that he or she turns 16. Resident and nonresident youths who have not received their license can obtain licenses by calling the Division's Pequest, Trenton, Northern, Central or Southern region offices.

**Licenses for Non-Resident Servicemen** Any person on active duty in the armed services may buy a resident hunting license upon presenting a previous resident license (from this or any other state) of the appropriate type or proof of successfully completing the appropriate hunter education course to the agent.

**Licenses for National Guard Members** Eligible National Guard personnel are entitled to free licenses, permits, and stamps. Further information can be obtained by writing to: NJ Department of Military/Veteran Affairs, 101 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, Attn: 1st Sgt. Turrien, or call 609-530-6866.

**Special One-Day License** A one-day license may be issued for hunting on a licensed commercial shooting preserve. This license may be obtained at the shooting preserve and is valid only on the day issued for the species covered by the preserve's license. Hunter Education requirements still apply.

**Farmer License Exemption** A farmer and the immediate members of the family who also reside on the farm may hunt, trap and fish on the farm without being licensed or possessing a valid rifle permit (a farm is defined as an area of at least 5 acres and having gross income of at least \$500, and tax assessed as farmland).

This exemption does not apply to a tenant or employee who is not an immediate family member. Also: See *Farmer Deer Permits* section.

## The Director's Message

(continued from page 2)

population goals and to have goals based upon local needs (cultural carrying capacity) and the Division and Council's authority to manage deer and other wildlife through lethal means. The Superior Court rejected all of these challenges.

The science of wildlife management using sportsmen conservationists is finally receiving the recognition it deserves. It has been another good year! So hunt safely, hunt responsibly because *you* are an ambassador for all hunters who participate in the most effective wildlife management strategy for game animals on this great planet—the North American Wildlife Management Plan.



## Disabled Veteran's Licenses and Permits

**Free hunting licenses and permits are available for resident disabled veterans.**

For the purposes of this program, the legislation defines Disabled Veterans as: "...any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability of any degree..."

Disabled Veteran hunting licenses are available at the Division's Trenton office, as well as all Division field offices. For questions, call (609) 292-2965.

Disabled Veterans are entitled to **one free permit for the Permit Bow Season, and one free firearm permit (your choice), for either the Permit Shotgun or the Permit Muzzleloader Seasons**. Disabled Veterans cannot receive free permits at license agents. These free permits **only** can be obtained through the Division. In order ensure inclusion on our database, Disabled Veterans are encouraged to apply for free deer permits by mail using the special Disabled Veteran application (see below). In the event that the deadline is missed, Disabled Veterans may obtain their free permits at Division offices.

### Disabled Veteran Applicants:

1. Documentation of currently receiving benefits for a service-connected disability must be presented to obtain a free disabled veteran license.
2. In order to obtain the free Disabled Veteran Deer permits one must first have a Disabled Veteran hunting license.
3. Those applying for free deer permits must fill out **one** 2002 Disabled Veteran Deer Permit Application. Applications will be sent to all Disabled Veterans who are currently listed in our database. If you do not receive an application, one can be obtained at all Division Offices, on the Division website ([www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)) or by calling (609) 292-2965. **Do not** complete the regular application found in this Digest.
4. Disabled Veteran applications will be accepted for **all zones** that are open for deer hunting; this includes zones sold only at license agents and zones which still have a lottery system. If a Disabled Veteran wishes, additional permits may be purchased at the regular price of \$28.

Using a Disabled Veteran Permit Application does not give the applicant preference in the lottery.

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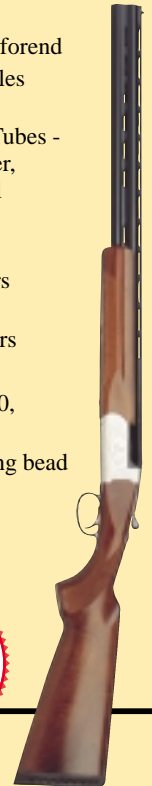


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