

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife

2022 Black Bear Season Harvest Information

The 2022 Black Bear Season consisted of only firearm Segment B. The archery/muzzleloader Segment A in October was not held. Originally, scheduled to begin December 5th-10th; the season did not open until December 6th at 2 pm when a stay issued by the Superior Court of New Jersey Appellate Division was lifted. Segment B was extended for four days the following week, December 14-17, when the harvest rate objective of 20% was not met. A total of 114 bears were harvested with a harvest rate of 7.1%. Weather throughout the segment was rainy and warm affecting harvest.

Summaries of the harvest by bear hunting zone and county are provided below. Hunters were required to check all harvested bears. Data, including sex, weight and size were collected, and a tooth was extracted for aging by Matson's Lab, a wildlife laboratory offering cementum (tooth) aging.

The document linked below provides sex, age and class information on harvested bears. The bears are listed according to the number on the possession seal attached to each bear's ear at the check station. The seal numbers are listed numerically. Tooth ages marked N/A are the result of the lab being unable to determine an exact age due to various reasons:

2022 Black Bear Harvest Data (pdf, 228kb).

For more information on the black bear hunting season in New Jersey, visit the Black Bear Season Information page; for information on black bears in the state, visit the Know the Bear Facts page.

Summaries of the harvest by bear hunting zone and county are provided below.

Black Bear Harvest by Bear Hunting Zone

Bear Hunting Zone	Segment B (Dec 5 th -10 th) (**12/5) (++)12/6)	Wednesday 12/14	Thursday 12/15	Friday 12/16	Saturday 12/17	Segment B Total
1	42	1	3	0	2	48
2	18	4	0	1	2	25
3	17	1	0	0	2	20
4	16	3	1	0	0	20
5	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	93	10	4	1	6	114
Number of bears harvested that were tagged this year / cumulative total	11	0	2	0	0	13
Cumulative harvest rate*	6.0%	6.0%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%

*Based on 184 tagged bears available for harvest

Black Bear Harvest by County

County	Segment B (Dec 6th-10th) (**12/5) (++12/6)	Wednesday 12/14	Thursday 12/15	Friday 12/16	Saturday 12/17	Segment B Total
Sussex	49	5	2	1	2	59
Warren	24	1	2	0	3	30
Passaic	6	1	0	0	0	7
Morris	14	1	0	0	0	15
Bergen	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	2	0	0	0	2
Somerset	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mercer	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	93	10	4	1	6	114

** Hunt closed due to stay issued by the Superior Court of New Jersey Appellate Division.

++ Court lifts the stay on the bear hunt. Hunt opened at 2pm.