

New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife

2023 Black Bear Season Harvest Information

The 2023 Black Bear Season was held during two segments: the archery/muzzleloader Segment A, October 9-14 and the firearm Segment B, December 4-9. Segment B was extended for four days the following week, December 13-16, when the harvest rate objective of 20% was not met. A total of 493 bears were harvested for a harvest rate of 19.0%. Summaries of the harvest by bear hunting zone and county are provided below. Sex, age, and class data will be posted when available.

Hunters were required to check all harvested bears at check stations staffed by Fish and Wildlife personnel. 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: [2023 Black Bear Harvest Data](#) (pdf, 262kb)

Bear Hunting Zone	Bears Harvested in Segment A						Segment A Total	Bears Harvested in Segment B						Segment B Total	Bears Harvested in Segment B Extension				Segment B + Extension Total	Season Total
	10/9	10/10	10/11	10/12	10/13	10/14		12/4	12/5	12/6	12/7	12/8	12/9		12/13	12/14	12/15	12/16		
Zone 1	37	8	6	12	17	3	83	24	7	4	3	3	6	47	3	0	1	1	52	135
Zone 2	34	16	18	16	20	5	109	12	3	4	2	14	9	44	3	2	2	4	55	164
Zone 3	28	14	15	7	7	2	73	12	8	6	1	3	6	36	2	1	0	2	41	114
Zone 4	26	7	11	8	10	2	64	6	0	2	0	2	0	10	2	0	2	0	14	78
Zone 5	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	126	45	51	43	54	12	331	54	18	16	6	22	21	137	10	3	5	7	162	493
Harvested Bears Tagged This Year	12	5	1	4	1	1	24	2	1	0	1	1	2	7	0	0	0	0	7	31

Cumulative Harvest Rate*	7.4%	10.4%	11.0%	13.5%	14.1%	14.7%	14.7%	15.9%	16.6%	16.6%	17.1%	17.78%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	-	19.0%
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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

***Based on 163 tagged bears available for harvest**

Black Bear Harvest by County

County	Bears Harvested in Segment A						Segment A Total	Bears Harvested in Segment B						Segment B Total	Bears Harvested in Segment B Extension				Segment B Total	Season Total
	10/9	10/10	10/11	10/12	10/13	10/14		12/4	12/5	12/6	12/7	12/8	12/9		12/13	12/14	12/15	12/16		
Sussex	54	22	27	20	29	7	159	31	11	10	4	14	17	87	3	3	3	2	98	257
Warren	46	8	14	10	17	3	98	9	3	3	1	5	2	23	4	0	0	2	29	127
Passaic	6	4	2	1	3	0	16	6	2	0	1	3	1	13	2	0	0	1	16	32
Morris	17	9	7	12	5	2	52	8	2	3	0	0	1	14	1	0	2	2	19	71
Bergen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	3	2	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	126	45	51	43	54	12	331	54	18	16	6	22	21	137	10	3	5	7	162	493