

2024–25 Hunting and Trapping Season Dates and Limits • FREE

# New Jersey Hunting & Trapping Digest

August 2024



A Summary of Regulations  
and Wildlife Management Information  
[NJFishandWildlife.com](http://NJFishandWildlife.com)





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Flatbrook/Roy Wildlife Management Area,  
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Jonathan Carlucci/NJDEP Fish & Wildlife

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## This Is Not the Full Law

**THIS IS NOT THE FULL LAW.** The information in this *Digest* is based on N.J.S.A. Title 23, Title 13:1B-34 and N.J.A.C. 7:25-5. The amended regulations are known as the Game Code and implement the statute laws. Consult NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's Bureau of Law Enforcement for further details. See *Law Enforcement Conservation Police Contacts*, page 16 for regional Law Enforcement offices. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal documents.



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Cover photo New Jersey Red Fox. (Photo © Bill Klimas)

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### Where to Write Us

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Fish & Wildlife  
MC 501-03 • P.O. Box 420 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 • NJFishandWildlife.com

### New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife

#### 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.

New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age and sex pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or service, contact NJDEP Fish & Wildlife, MC501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420. The telephone number is (609) 292-9410. You may also write to the Office of Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240.



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**John Dudley**  
@nockontv



# Assistant Commissioner's Message

DAVE GOLDEN



I've been hunting since I was a boy, and every year I feel the same increasing excitement and anticipation as hunting season approaches. With small game season starting in early September, there's little time to shift from summer activities to preparing for the 2024–2025 hunting season. During this "transition period," my garage is always a mess as I begin to pull out my hunting gear long before I've packed away my fishing gear. Fall fishing will again be heating up, but the season also calls for spending afternoons in the woods to get a jump on scouting. Such an exciting time for outdoor adventures in New Jersey!

Many hunters love the familiarity of their regular hunting spots, while others find adventure in scouting new areas and setting up in a fresh location where they just "know" a big buck is hiding. Reading sign and predicting how animals might move through the landscape is one of the most fun parts of the process. Finding that perfect hunting or trapping spot has never been easier with the "New Jersey Wildlife Management Area Explorer." Accessible from your computer or mobile device, this app gets you to where the action is by identifying parking areas, public shooting ranges, boat ramps, and other key features on Wildlife Management Areas. Check out what it has to offer by visiting our website at [dep.nj.gov/njfw/maps/](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/maps/). With over 800,000 acres of state-owned public open space available, the licensed hunter and trapper has plenty of area to explore!

In recent years, I've watched the "locavore" movement explode in New Jersey and across the country, as more people prioritize getting food produced close to home. I'm all for locally sourcing food, and I see hunters as the original "locavores." Since NJDEP Fish & Wildlife was established in 1892, NJ hunters have been balancing their diets with locally and sustainably sourced meat through the harvest of wildlife during regulated hunting seasons.

While hunting gives people the ability to feed their families and creates a unique bond with the natural world, the organization "Hunters Helping the Hungry" takes this a step further by giving hunters the ability to share their harvest with those in need. During the 2023–24 season, the program donated 31,169 pounds of venison (that's 124,676 servings!) to food banks across the state. See page 36 for details on how you can share your harvest.

I want to also encourage all our seasoned hunters to share the experience with someone who has not yet been hunting. Introducing someone to hunting and the outdoors can be extremely rewarding. The New Jersey Apprentice Hunting License provides an easy entryway for first time hunters by allowing them to participate in supervised hunting before they've completed their Hunter Education Course (see page 13). What a great opportunity to get someone started.

The 2024–2025 Hunting Season has a lot to offer our new and experienced hunters. As you go afield, let's remember that wildlife management in New Jersey is a cooperative effort from everyone. Use this publication as your guide for current hunting and trapping-related information and regulations. I want everyone to get outside with the information necessary to be legal, be safe, and have fun. Good luck this season! 🍗

**Dave Golden, Assistant Commissioner NJDEP Fish & Wildlife**





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# Mentored Hunting

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE

## Become an R3 Mentor!

R3 stands for **Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation.**

This nationwide initiative is generating new participation in hunting and the shooting sports, welcoming new and former hunters and shooters while addressing the declining numbers as many older participants leave these activities. The R3 effort will help create the next generation of conservationists while stabilizing critical wildlife conservation funding.

**Will you be part of the solution?**

### R3 Mentor Program

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's R3 Program is actively seeking volunteer hunting and target shooting mentors. Mentors must show safe, ethical and responsible use of archery and firearm equipment in the pursuit of game species and/or recreational shooting programs.

#### Mentor roles include:

- ♦ Assisting one-on-one with prospective novice hunters and target shooters.
- ♦ Sharing knowledge and experience at skill-based clinics, seminars, and workshops.
- ♦ Participating at field-to-fork style programming.

Questions about the **R3 Mentor Program** and application requests can be directed to [r3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov](mailto:r3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov).



Keith Grigaliak/NJDEP Fish & Wildlife



## About This Guide

This high-quality reference guide is brought to you by the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife through a partnership with Kalkomey, a trusted leader in outdoor safety education since 1995. In addition to producing this guide, Kalkomey also offers a suite of educational courses to help people enjoy the outdoors safely.


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The hunting and trapping regulations in this guide are online at:

