

Trapping Licenses and Permits¹

- Most licenses and permits may be purchased at license agents or online at NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm.
- Possession of a valid Trapping License is required to trap and must be openly displayed on back and cannot be covered by a pack or harness.
- **Must also carry Snare Course Completion Card¹ whenever using any cable restraint.**

License or Permit Type / Fee	Requirements	How to Obtain
Youth Trapping Age 12–15: Free Valid through Dec. 31 the year youth turns 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be at least 12 years of age to obtain, regardless of residency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass an approved Trapper Education course (See the Trapper Education webpage dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/trapping-season-information/ for more information). • Present course completion card at any license agent.
Resident Trapping Age 16+, including active military, regardless of residency: \$32.50 Valid through Dec. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be NJ resident for at least 6 months or active military stationed in NJ. • Required in the year license holder turns 17, and annually thereafter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first-time license must be obtained from a license agent by showing a Trapper Education course completion card, or with a prior resident trapping license from any state. • All subsequent licenses can be purchased at any license agent or online (web address above table).
NJ National Guard Resident Trapping Free Valid through Dec. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must active NJNG member who has completed Initial Active Duty Training. • Confirm you are active in the system (call (609) 530-6866). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available at all license agents
Disabled Veteran Resident Trapping Free Valid through Dec. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of service-connected disability (>10%) from VA. • Proof of honorable discharge (DD-214 or similar). • NJ Driver License or other proof of residency. • Trapper Education Course Completion Card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible veterans must initially be certified by submitting application and required documentation via U.S. mail to NJ Fish & Wildlife, MC 501-03, PO Box 420, Trenton NJ 08625-0420. For more info, see dep.nj.gov/njfw/licenses-and-permits/disabled-veteran-license-information/. • Once certified, veterans can obtain license at license agents or online (web address above table).
Non-Resident Trapping Age 16+: \$200.50 Valid through Dec. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-resident of NJ or NJ resident for less than 6 months • Required in the year holder turns 17, and annually thereafter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first-time license must be obtained from a license agent by showing a Trapper Education Course Completion Card, or with a prior resident trapping license from any state. • All subsequent licenses can be purchased at any license agent or online (web address above table).
Farmer License Exemption Farm – must meet qualifications under NJ Farmland Assessment Act of 1964. See nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/pdf/farmlandassessmentoverview.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No license or rifle permit required for farm property on which you reside. • Must be immediate family member* and reside on the farm. • Must have a Conservation Identification (CID) number. • Must have Snare Course Completion Card to use cable restraints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you purchased any license since 2006, you should already have a CID number. • If not, click on the Licenses & Permits button at NJFishandWildlife.com and follow instructions to complete a profile. Choose the option to Print an Identification Card. A card will print with your 9-digit CID.

* Immediate family members are defined further on page 70 under Farmer Regulations.

Special Beaver Trapping Permit: \$17 Beaver Damage Control Permit**: \$17 (during open season only) Special Otter Trapping Permit: \$2 Permit valid Dec. 26–Feb. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a valid license or meet Farmer Exemption to use any Special or Damage Permit during the prescribed open season. • May be used only in Management Zone specified on permit. <p>** <i>Beaver Damage Control Permits are issued at the discretion of NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and may only be used at the location specified on the permit.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply Oct. 1–31 at any license agent or online at NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm. Permit issued through lottery. • To review, change or check application, go to NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm. • Check permit award status in your profile. • Unclaimed permits become available for over-the-counter sale. Trappers may purchase multiple Special Beaver Permits, but may only have one Special Otter Permit.
Rifle Permit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth²: \$6 • Adult: \$10.50 Required to use .22 cal. and .22 cal. short ammo to dispatch trapped animals, except muskrat ³ . Permit valid from July 1 to June 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of a Firearm Hunter Education Course which includes use of rifle. • Possession of written landowner permission to use firearm for dispatch within any safety zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase at any license agent or online (web address above table). • Use the Landowner-Hunter/Trapper Agreement Card on pages 37–38.
Duplicate or Lost License / Permit \$2 each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be purchased or replaced at any license agent or online (web address above table). 	

¹ New trappers, farmers or older trappers needing Snare Course Completion Card will have to pass an approved Trapper Education course. (See the Trapper Education webpage dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/trapping-season-information/ for more information).

² Trappers under age 14 using any firearm must be accompanied by, and under direct supervision of, a properly licensed adult (21 or older).

³ Use of an air gun does not require a Rifle Permit.

Regulations in **red** are new this year.

Trapping Seasons 2024–25

No trap or trap stake may be set prior to 6 a.m. on any opening day.

Species	Season	Bag Limit(s) and Additional Information
Beaver* Permit required (see page 66). Maximum of 5 traps per day per zone, regardless of number of permits you have for the same zone.	Dec. 26, 2024–Feb. 9, 2025 in zones 1–30 (see map), except: Jan. 1–Feb. 9 on stocked WMAs*	8 per Special Permit 10 per Damage Permit All captures must tagged immediately. All beaver pelts must be brought to an official check station on Sat., February 22, 2025 (see your instruction packet). In addition to the mandatory check station, trappers are encouraged to report their beaver harvest using the Automated Harvest Report System.
Otter* Permit required (see page 66) Up to 3 otter traps per day	Dec. 26, 2024–Feb. 9, 2025 in zones 1–30 (see map), except: Jan. 1–Feb. 9 on stocked WMAs*	1 per Season Otter carcass must be surrendered to Fish & Wildlife. All captures must tagged immediately upon taking possession. Otter pelt and carcass must be brought to an official check station on Sat., February 22, 2025 (see your instruction packet). In addition to the mandatory check station, trappers are encouraged to report their otter harvest using the Automated Harvest Report System.
Coyote*, Gray fox*, Red fox*	Nov. 15, 2024–Mar. 15, 2025 Statewide, except: Jan. 1–Mar. 15 on stocked WMAs*	No daily or seasonal limit Coyote harvest must be reported by 8 p.m. on the day of harvest via the Automated Harvest Report System. Reporting of Gray Fox is also requested
Mink, Muskrat, Nutria	North Zone Nov. 15, 2024–Mar. 15, 2025 South Zone Dec. 1, 2024–Mar. 15, 2025	No daily or seasonal limit See map below, right for Mink, Muskrat, and Nutria zones
Opossum*, Raccoon*, Striped skunk*	Nov. 15, 2024–Mar. 15, 2025 Statewide, except: Jan. 1–Mar. 15 on stocked WMAs*	No daily or seasonal limit
Weasels Long-tailed, short-tailed	Nov. 15, 2024–Mar. 15, 2025 Statewide	No daily or seasonal limit
Bobcat, Fisher	Closed statewide No take is allowed	If you find a bobcat or fisher in your trap, do not disturb the set; immediately call (877) 927-6337 to report capture, and await Fish and Wildlife's Response Team.

* No traps may be set for beaver or otter, and no cable restraint may be set for coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon or skunk on any portion of stocked WMAs until 6 a.m. on January 1. (For a list of stocked WMAs, see page 55.) **Trapping is prohibited at all times within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.**

- Traps in tidal waters must be checked once per day, all others must be checked once every 24 hours.
- Report harvest of beaver, otter and coyote using Automated Harvest Reporting System at (855) 448-6865 or NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm. Please also report **gray fox**.

Beaver and River Otter Trapping Zones

Mandatory pelt registration:
Feb. 22, 2025 (9 a.m.–noon)

Del. Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area closed to trapping

Season Dates:
Dec. 26–Feb. 9 except
Jan. 1–Feb. 9 on select WMAs*
(See WMA list this page, above.)

Number of Traps Allowed:
Beaver—5 per zone per day
Otter—3 per day

Bag Limits:
Beaver—8 per permit
Otter—1 per season

Traps may not be set prior to 6 a.m. on the respective opening day.

All otter carcasses must be surrendered to the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife.

NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt

Mink, Muskrat and Nutria Trapping Zones

Del. Water Gap Nat'l Rec. Area closed to trapping

North Zone:
Nov. 15–Mar. 15

South Zone:
Dec. 1–Mar. 15

No daily or seasonal bag limit for these species.

Traps may not be set prior to 6 a.m. on the respective opening day.

Report any nutria harvest to a NJDEP Fish & Wildlife Office.

NJFishandWildlife.com/hunt

Trapping Regulations

See *General Hunting Regulations*, page 22.

Anyone applying for a trapping license must show a previous resident trapping license from this or any state or a Trapper Education Course Completion Card. Trapper Education courses are offered in the spring and fall. To enroll in a Trapper Education Course, go to dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/trapping-season-information/. See page 66.

The trapping license (including farmers) must be visibly displayed on outer clothing (not covered by a pack or harness) while trapping. In addition to a Trapping License, additional permits may be required depending on the furbearer to be trapped. A Rifle Permit is required when using a .22 caliber rifle to dispatch trapped animals other than muskrat.

See 2024–25 *Trapping Seasons* table on page 67 for seasons and bag limits.

The following wildlife management areas are closed to all beaver and otter trapping as well as for using cable restraints for coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon and skunk until 6 a.m. on Jan. 1: Assunpink, Berkshire Valley, Bevans (Millville), Black River, Clinton, Colliers Mills, Flatbrook-Roy, Glassboro, Greenwood Forest (incl. Howardsville tract), Heislerville, MacNamara (Tuckahoe), Mad Horse, Manahawkin, Manasquan River, Medford, Nantuxent, Peaslee, Pequest, Port Republic, Stafford Forge, Walpack, Whittingham and Winslow. Cage traps and encapsulating traps may be used on these WMAs beginning at 6 a.m. on Nov. 15.

Legal Trap Types

- All trap sets must be tagged either with trapper's name and address, trap ID number or trapper's CID.
- Tags on beaver and otter sets must be clearly visible above the water or ice.
- Relaxing lock for cable restraints are those that stop tightening when the animal stops pulling against the restraint. Cam-locks and spring-assisted locks are prohibited.

Trap Type	Target Species	Specifications	Notes
Body-gripping Trap	Mink, muskrat, nutria	Max. jaw spread of 6"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaw spread measured across trigger of set trap to inner edges of jaws. • Must be completely set below water, or at below mean high tide in tidal areas.
	Beaver*, otter*	Max. jaw spread of 10"	
Cable Restraint Trap Trappers must also carry their Snare Certification Card when trapping with any cable restraint. All natural baits consisting of fish, bird or mammal carcasses or flesh used while using cable restraints must be covered or concealed from view when placed within 30' of the set.	Beaver*, otter*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specifications when set submerged underwater. • If not submerged, same specifications as for coyote, fox, opossum, raccoon and skunk (see below) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average loop diameter may not exceed 12" in diameter. • Distance from the walking surface to the top of the loop may not exceed 24".
	Coyote*, fox*, opossum*, raccoon*, skunk*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made of aircraft cable or crucible wire between 5/64" and 3/16" in diameter. • Must be equipped with a swivel, a relaxing lock (see above), and a deer stop 6" from the end of the loop. 	
	Mink, muskrat, nutria • Must be set within 50' of mean high water line. Weasel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made of aircraft cable or crucible wire measuring 1/32, 3/64 or 1/16" in diameter. • Must be equipped with a swivel. 	
Cage Trap	Beaver*, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter*, raccoon, skunk, weasel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the appropriate size trap and bait for your target species. • Canines are reluctant to enter cage traps. 	
Encapsulating Trap (aka, dog-proof or species-specific trap)	Opossum, raccoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trigger and restraining mechanism must be enclosed in a housing. • Access to the trigger is through a single opening only. • The opening shall not exceed 2" in diameter, measured diagonally. • The trigger can only be activated by a pulling force. • The trap must have a swivel-mounted anchoring system. 	
Steel-jawed Leghold Trap	Coil-spring and longspring traps are prohibited in N.J. No person shall manufacture, sell, offer for sale, possess, import or transport any animal trap of the steel-jaw leghold type; nor shall any person use, take or attempt to take any animal by means of a steel-jaw leghold trap.		

* See *Furbearer Trapping Seasons*, page 67, for trap restrictions on Stocked WMAs. **Trapping prohibited at all times within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.**

Firearms

Licensed trappers may use a firearm to dispatch any captured furbearer except muskrat. Youth trappers under age 14 using any firearm to dispatch, must be accompanied by, and under the direct supervision of, a properly licensed adult, 21 or older. Trappers must carry written permission from the landowner or lessee to possess a loaded firearm within any 450-foot safety zone.

Permitted firearms include:

- ♦ Air gun (.177 to .22 caliber) having a minimum muzzle velocity of 600 fps and using wadcutter, domed or pointed or hollow point pellets only. (Spherical BBs not allowed.) Use of an air gun does not require the possession of a Rifle Permit.
- ♦ Rimfire (.22 caliber) rifle using .22 short cartridge only. Possession of a valid Rifle Permit is required when using any rimfire rifle.

Harvest Reporting

All coyote harvests must be reported by 8 p.m. via the Automated Harvest Report System (AHRS), either online at NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm or by phone at (855) 448-6865. The location data collected is similar to that used in reporting a deer harvest (DMZ, county, township). NJDEP Fish & Wildlife requests trappers to report all harvests of **gray fox** via the AHRS as with for coyote (see above). Red fox cannot be reported at this time.

Report All Furbearer Sightings

Furbearer species sightings are important to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife to estimate abundance

and distribution of various furbearing mammals. Please report all sightings to dep.nj.gov/njfw/furbearer-survey/.

Beaver and Otter Lottery, Permits

Application period: Oct. 1–31; may only apply for one beaver and/or one otter permit. Trappers who will only accept a permit for one zone should not fill in second or third choices. Successful beaver applicants are given the first opportunity for otter permits in their respective zone. **Permit award notification will begin on or before Nov. 2, 2024. Award pickup will begin November 4, 2024. Permits MUST be claimed by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024.** Unclaimed permits will be sold over the counter, first-come, first-served. Application fees for unclaimed permits are not refunded. **Over-the-counter permit sales begin 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024 at all license agents and online at NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm.** For permit availability, see website above.

Beaver and otter permit holders will receive a packet regarding mandatory otter carcass surrender, check-in station date and locations, and NJDEP Fish & Wildlife staff contacts if you wish to check your catch before the actual registration date. Please remember to:

- ♦ Report your harvest daily via the AHRS (online at NJFishandWildlife.com/licensesalesite.htm or by phone at 1(855) 448-6865).
- ♦ Make every attempt to properly flesh and stretch all pelts.
- ♦ Bring your otter carcass. If you caught an otter while beaver trapping but didn't have an otter permit, the entire animal must be surrendered, pelt on.