



New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection

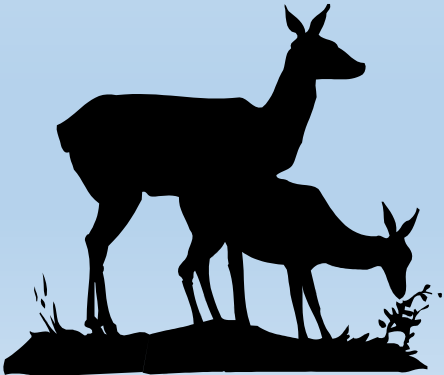
Fish & Wildlife



Dave Golden, Assistant Commissioner
Lisa Barno, Assistant Director
Frank Panico, Chief, Bureau of Law Enforcement

DEER REGULATION SIMPLIFICATION

Proposed for 2025 Game Code



Bureau of Wildlife Management
Carole Stanko, Chief

Deer Research Project
Jodi Powers, Project Leader
Megan Mills, Northern Region
Megan McCafferty, Southern Region
Brian Schumm, Outreach Biologist

Current Regulation Sets

Why?

APR vs Non-APR

Season Openings/Closures

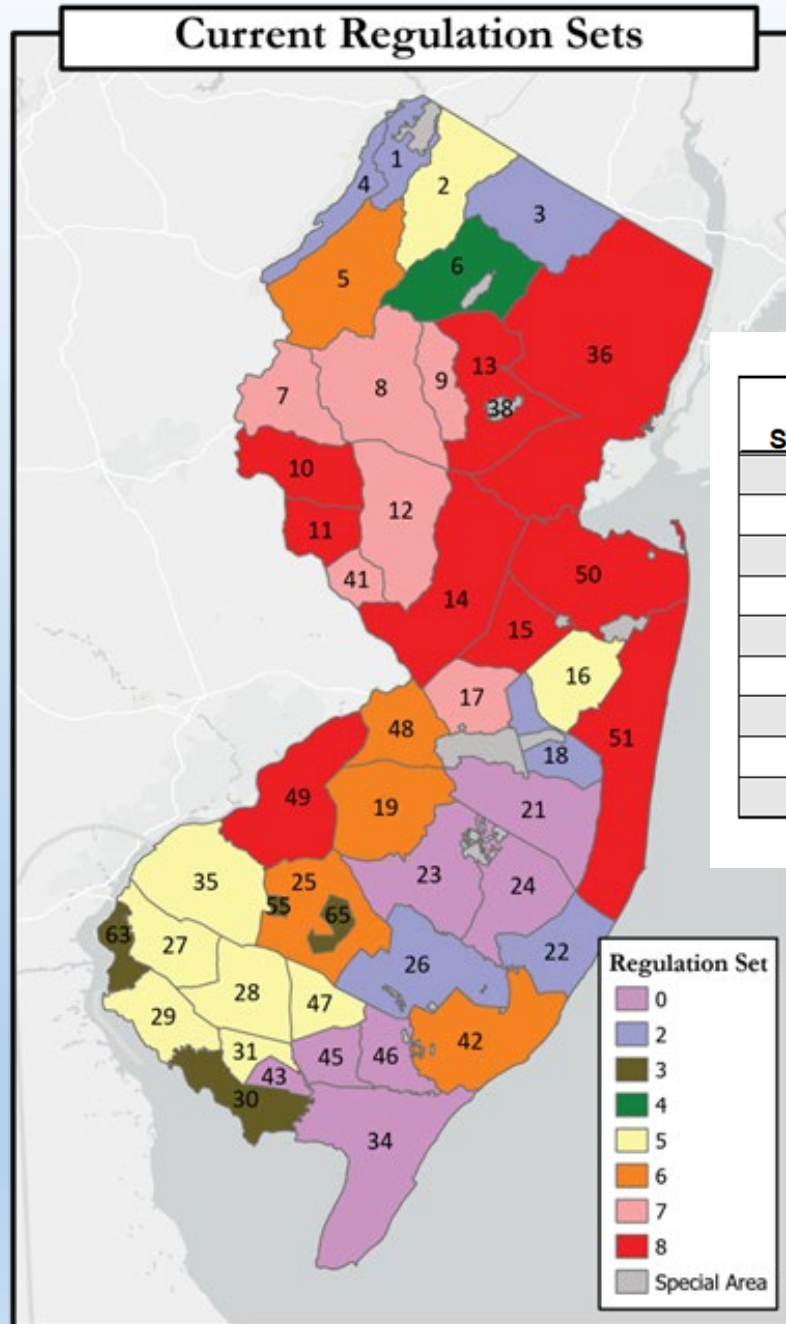
SET #	Zones	Season							Total Days
		Fall Bow	Permit Bow	Youth Day	Six-Day	Permit ML	Permit S/G	Winter Bow	
0	21, 23, 24, 34*, 43, 45, 46	28-1	22-1	2-2	6-2	15-1	3-1	31-1	107
1	No Zones Assigned	28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	17-2	3-1	31-2	117
2	1, 3*, 4, 18, 22, 26	28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	17-2	3-1	31-2	117
3	30*, 55, 63*, 65	28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	22-2	3-2	31-2	122
4	6	49-u	63-u	2-2	6-2	22-2	3-2	31-u	176
5	2, 16, 27*, 28*, 29*, 31*, 35*, 47*	49-5	63-5	2-2	6-2	22-5	10-5	31-5	183
6	5, 19, 25, 42, 48	49-9(2)	63-9(2)	2-2	6-2	43-9(2)	24-9(2)	31-9(2)	218
7	7, 8, 9, 12, 17, 41	49-u(2)	63-u(2)	2-2	6-2	59-u(2)	40-u(2)	49-u(2)	268
8	10, 11, 13*, 14, 15, 36, 49, 50, 51	49-u(2)	63-u(2)	2-2	6-2	63-u(2)	44-u(2)	49-u(2)	276

* indicates APR Zone

Youth Days

Hunter's Choice Buck

Expense \$\$\$



Common Concerns Amongst Hunters

- **Complicated to understand**
 - Agency receives complaints about complexity of regulations
 - Current regulations intimidate hunters, which impacts our R3 (Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation) objectives
 - Deters out-of-state hunters
- **Too many nuances**
 - APR is only in certain zones
 - APR applies to youths, except for youth days
 - If you take 2 bucks during Six-Day firearm, you can't pursue a buck during Permit Shotgun

We hear you!!!



Proposed Changes to Deer Regulations

2025 Game Code

- **Antler Point Restrictions (APR)**
 - Eliminate APR regulations
- **Simplify Regulations**
 - Eliminate and combine regulation sets
 - Align season date structure
 - Reinstate 7 buck bag limit
- **Multi-Zone Permits**
 - Proposed expansion

Statewide Harvest Trends

- The deer harvest has been declining since the 1990s.
- Bow license sales have increased since 2009 due to the addition of crossbows, Sunday hunting, and reduced bow safety zone.
- Firearm license sales have decreased.
- Antlerless permit sales have decreased.
- Buck permit sales have remained relatively stable.

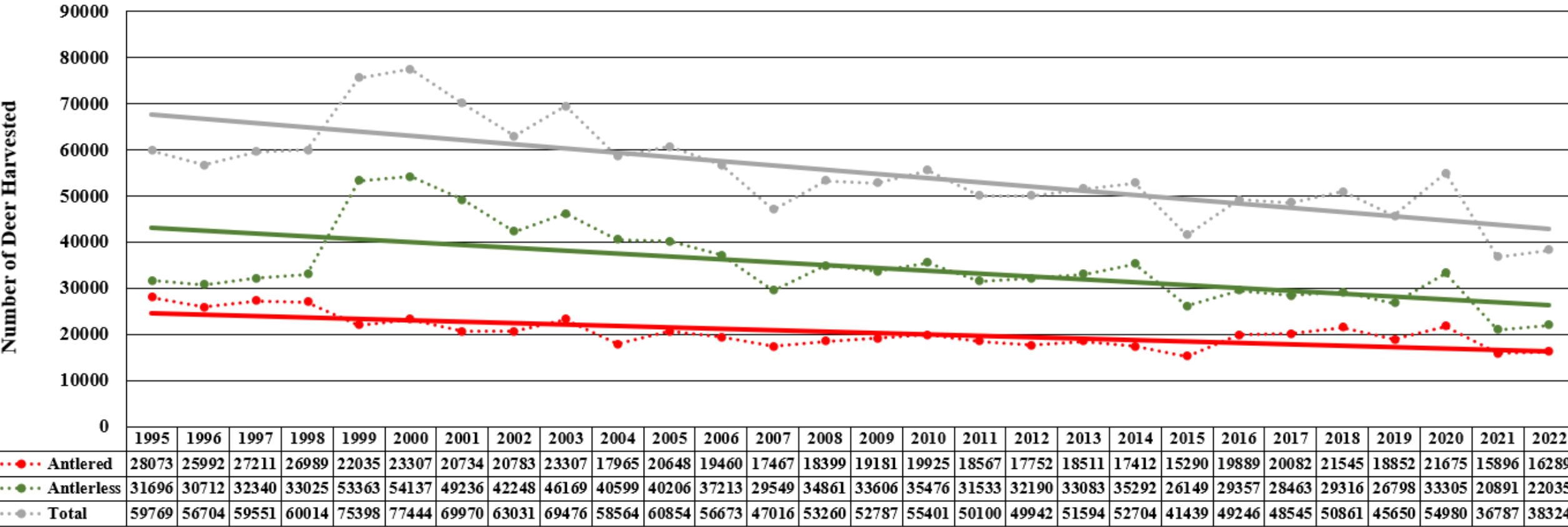
Notable Recent Events

The 'COVID bump' increased participation (2020-21); then 'Covid correction'

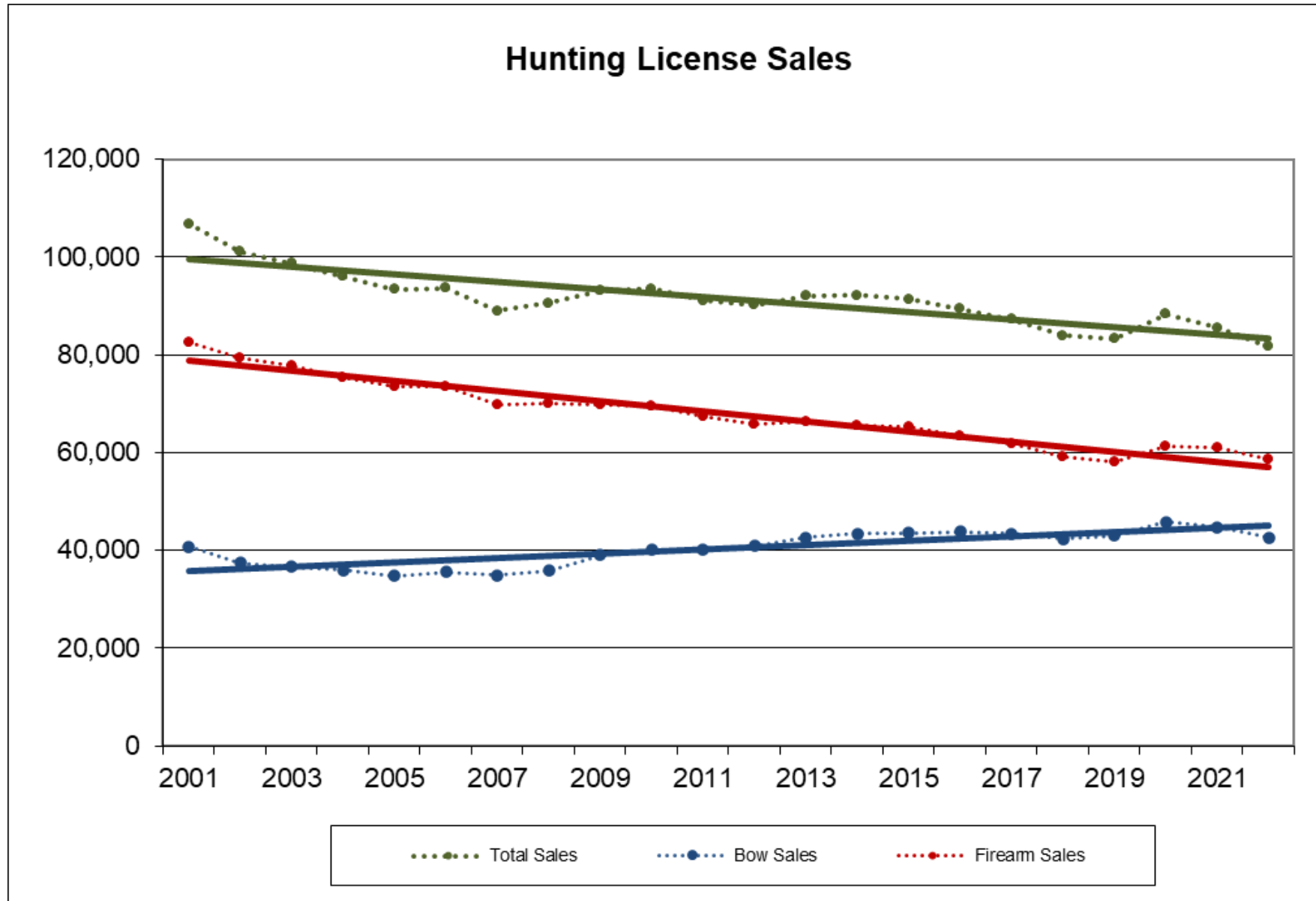
Back-to-back EHD outbreaks (2021 and 2022)

Warmer winters

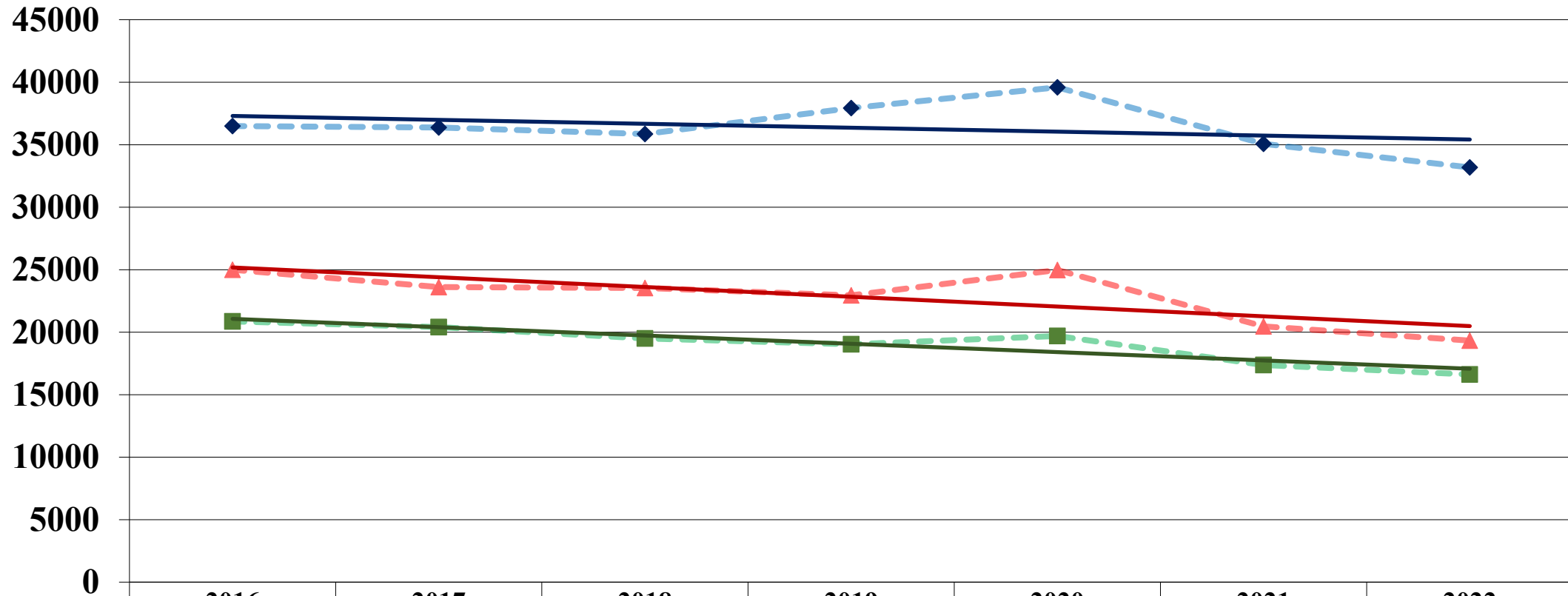
Statewide Harvest Trends



Hunting License Sales

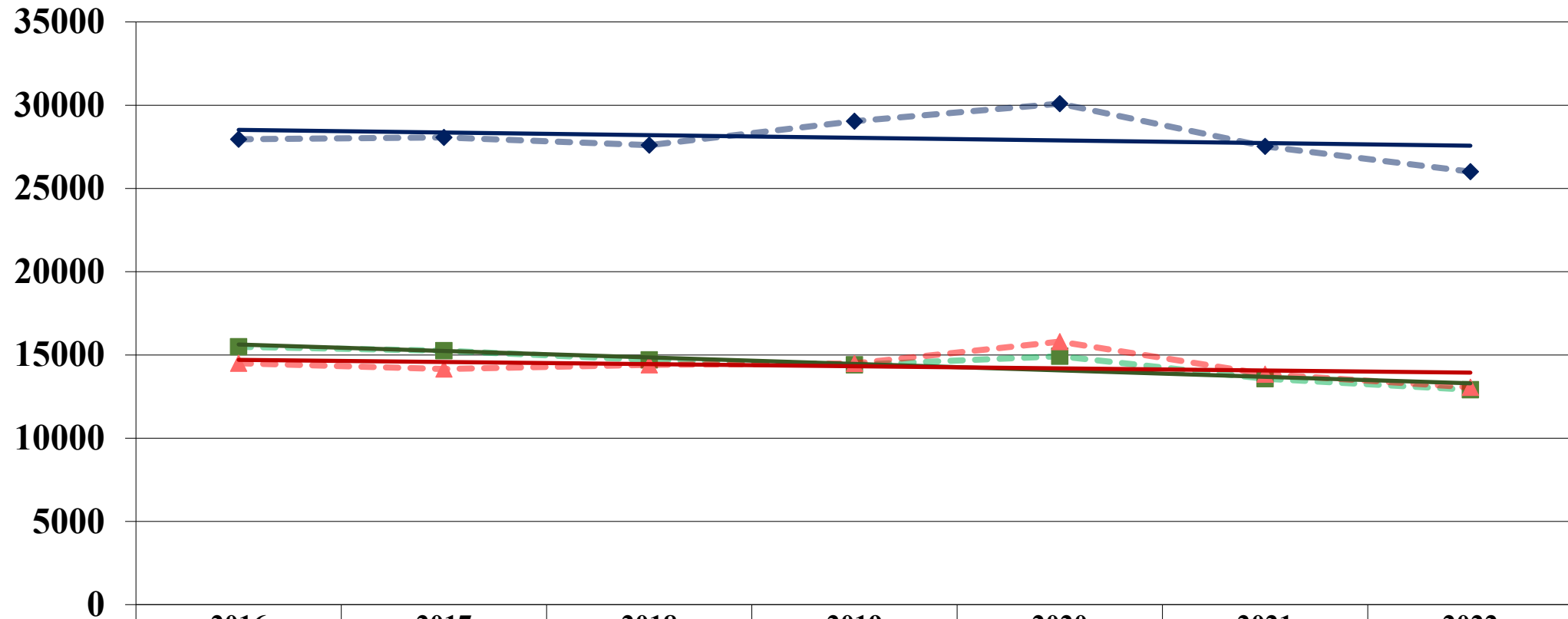


Antlerless Permit Sales



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
◆ Sales: Permit Bow	36493	36377	35860	37935	39590	35075	33188
■ Sales: Permit Muzzleloader	20863	20412	19500	19039	19695	17374	16620
▲ Sales: Permit Shotgun	24995	23614	23533	22947	24975	20462	19325

Buck Permit Sales



◆ Sales: Buck Permit Bow	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
■ Sales: Buck Permit Muzzleloader	27958	28069	27603	29038	30097	27527	26007
▲ Sales: Permit Shotgun	15488	15255	14699	14405	14920	13575	12912
	14504	14157	14408	14491	15803	13848	13056

Proposed Changes to Deer Regulations

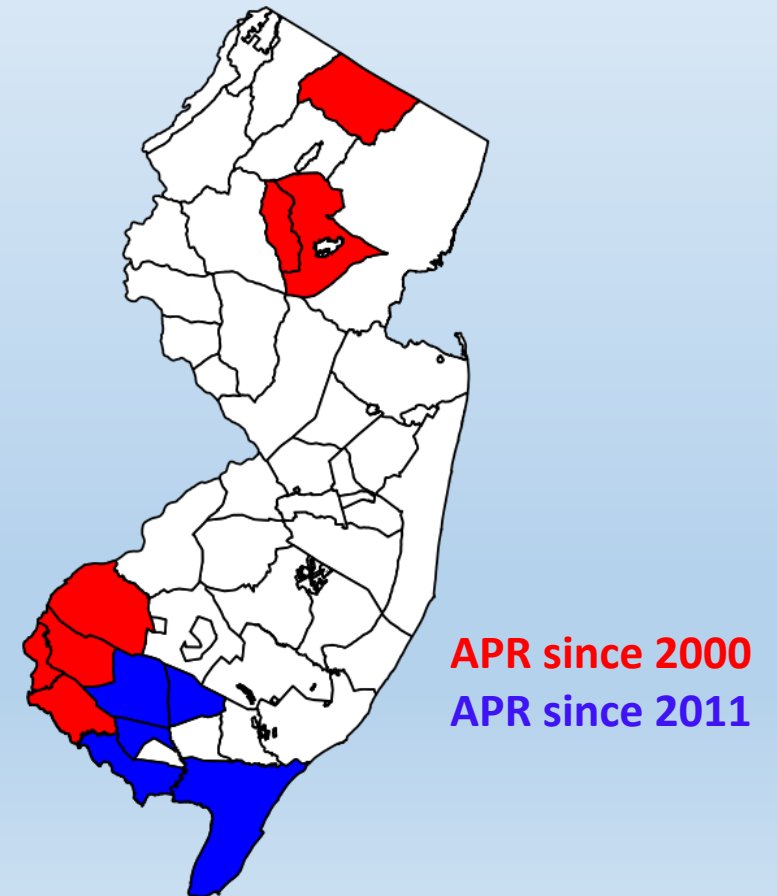
2025 Game Code

- **Antler Point Restrictions (APR)**
 - Eliminate APR regulations
- **Simplify Regulations**
 - Eliminate and combine regulation sets
 - Align season date structure
 - Reinstate 7 buck bag limit
- **Multi-Zone Permits**
 - Proposed expansion

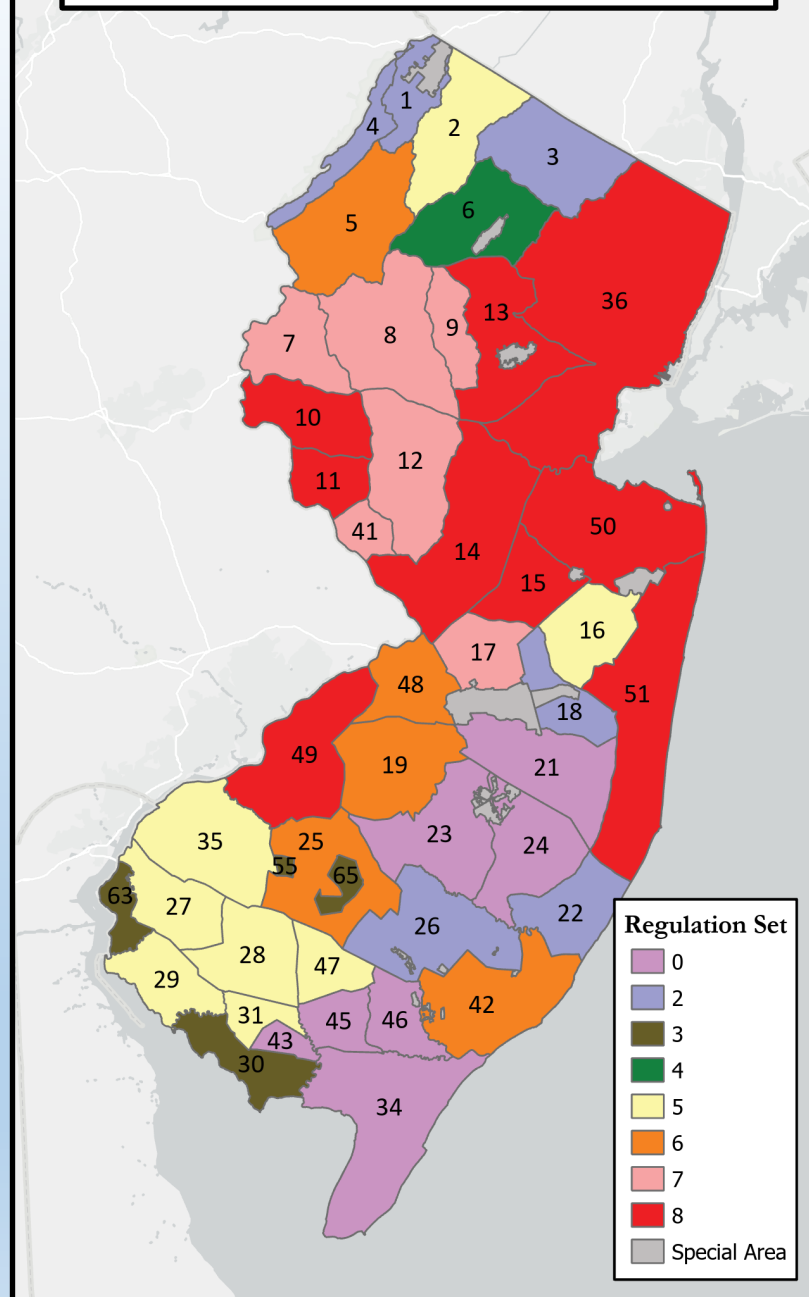
Antler Point Restrictions

QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT: The approach under which young bucks are protected from harvest combined with an adequate harvest of female deer to produce healthy deer herds in balance with existing habitat conditions.

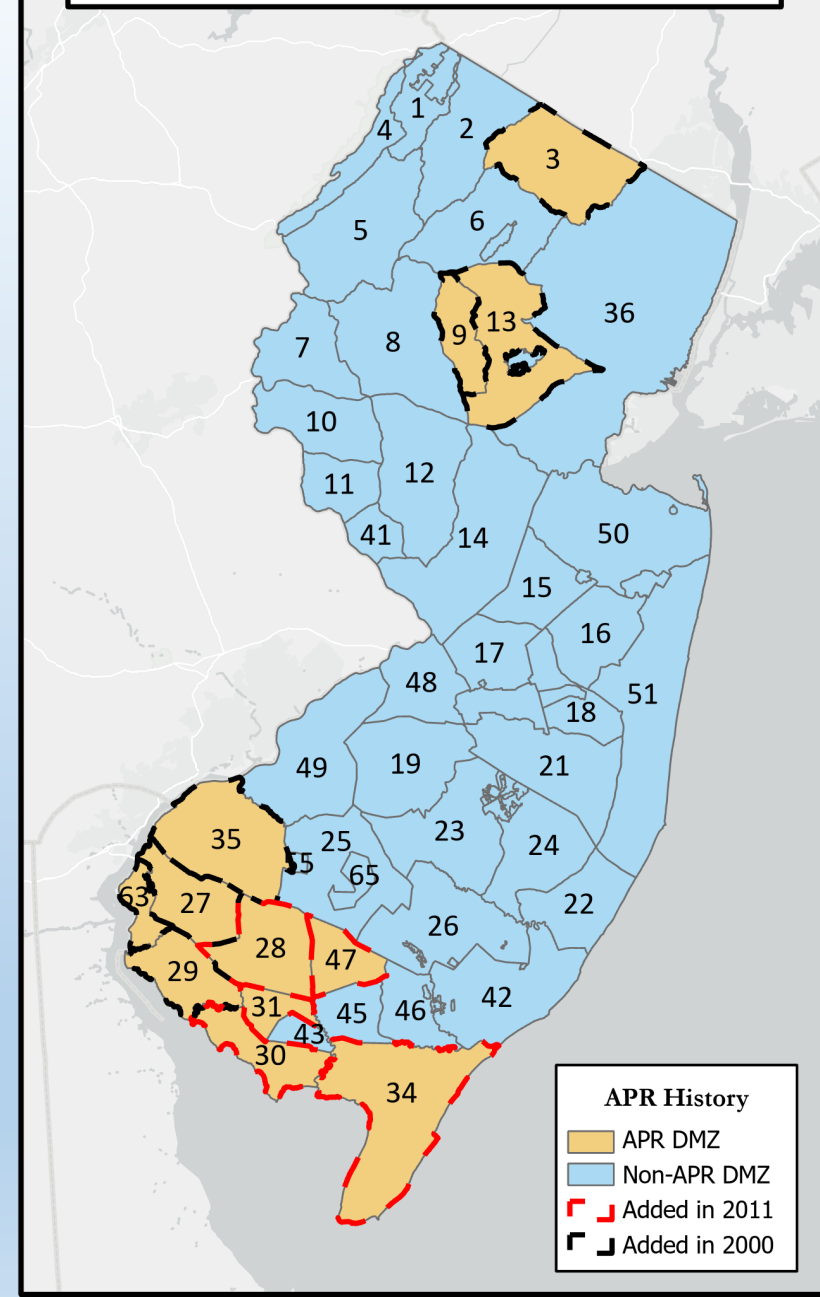
- **NJ Regulations**
 - Bucks must have 3 points on one side
 - Original zones - 2000
 - Additional zones – 2011
- **Goals of QDM**
 - Give young bucks more time to mature
 - Harvest older bucks with larger racks
 - Increase the antlerless harvest



Current Regulation Sets



Antler Point Restriction DMZs





Why are we looking at APR?

- Complicates regulations
 - Applies to only a few zones within each regulation set
- R3 – limiting success of new hunters
- Impractical in small zones/New Jersey
- No positive biological role
 - Negative results: high grading, potential spread of disease
 - Loss of opportunity for sustenance hunters/ new hunters
 - Mixed message (management vs trophy)
 - Cultural / Social program



Antler Point Restriction Analysis

- **Tracked changes in the number antler points of bucks harvested**
 - Compared APR zones vs. non-APR zones
 - Compared 2008-2010 avg. vs. 2016-2022 avg.
 - Tracked annual changes
- **Analyzed harvest trends in APR zones**
 - Hunter success rates
 - Antlered and Antlerless harvest before and after APR regulations
 - Harvest trends from hunters harvesting one deer
- **Analyzed permit issuance in APR zones**
 - Antlerless permit sales before and after APR regulations



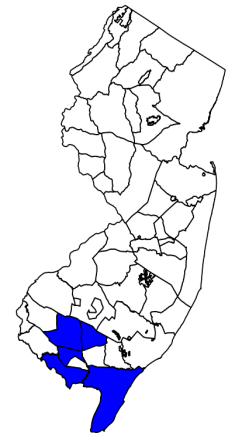
Number of Bucks Harvested

Buck Harvest Distribution by Total Antler Points

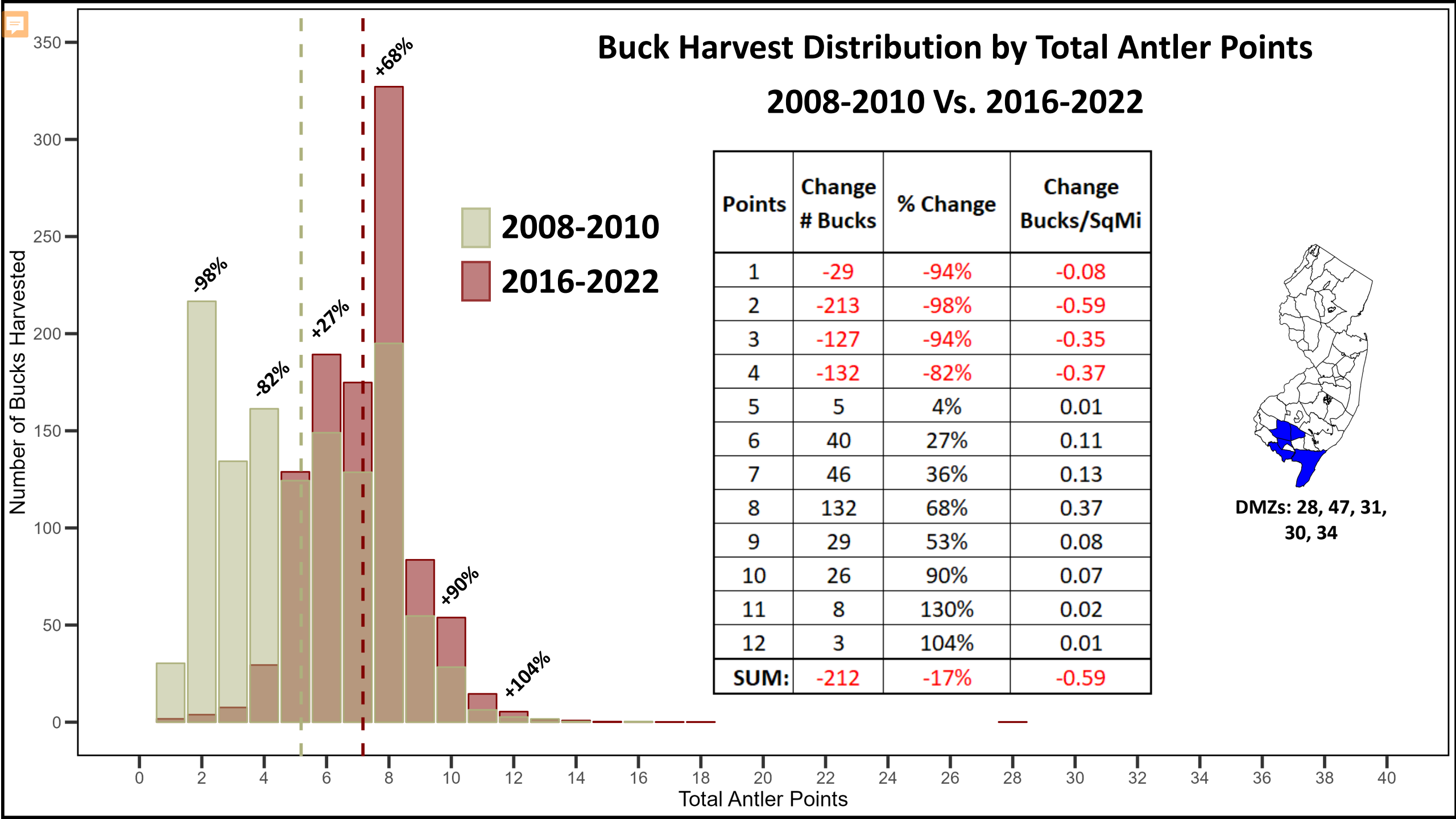
2008-2010 Vs. 2016-2022

2008-2010
2016-2022

Points	Change # Bucks	% Change	Change Bucks/SqMi
1	-29	-94%	-0.08
2	-213	-98%	-0.59
3	-127	-94%	-0.35
4	-132	-82%	-0.37
5	5	4%	0.01
6	40	27%	0.11
7	46	36%	0.13
8	132	68%	0.37
9	29	53%	0.08
10	26	90%	0.07
11	8	130%	0.02
12	3	104%	0.01
SUM:	-212	-17%	-0.59



DMZs: 28, 47, 31,
30, 34



Total Antler Points

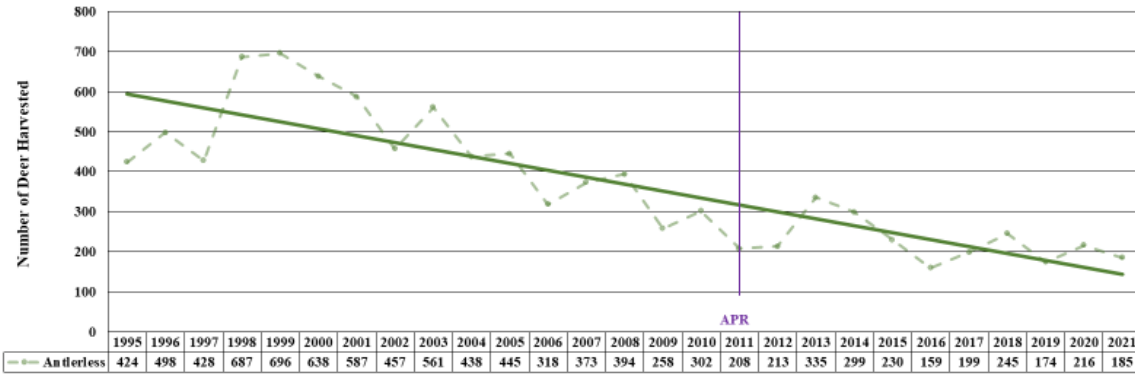
APR and Antlerless Harvest

QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT: The approach under which young bucks are protected from harvest combined with an adequate harvest of female deer to produce healthy deer herds in balance with existing habitat conditions.

- The goal of increased antlerless harvest did not occur
- Zones 9 and 13 show an increase during the years of Earn a Buck (EAB), but declined when removed in 2006
- Other factors:
 - The deer herd, where accessible, has decreased
 - Bag limits in more restrictive regulation sets force hunters to choose an antlered or antlerless deer (Regulation Set 0 and Set 2)

APR Zones Historical Antlerless Harvest

Zone 34 (Reg Set 0)

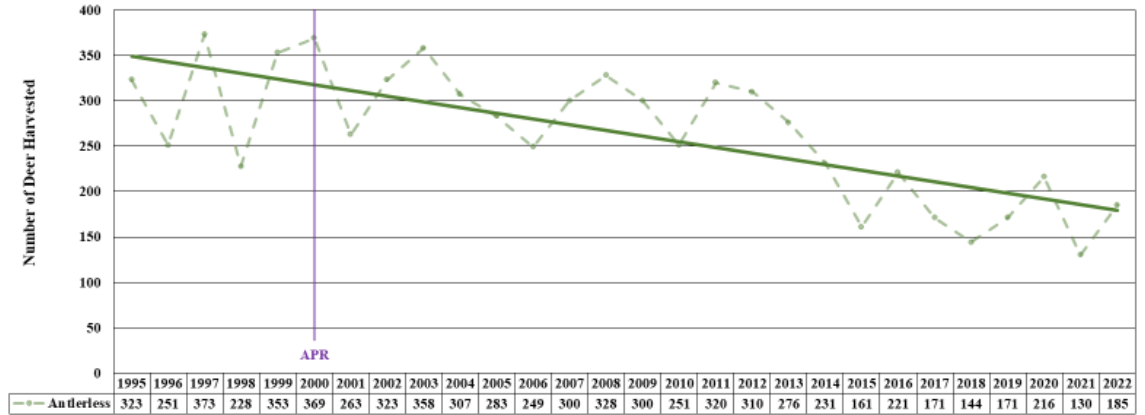


Bag Limit: 1 deer for all seasons

2011: Antler Point Restrictions

APR Zones Historical Antlerless Harvest

Zone 3 (Reg Set 2)

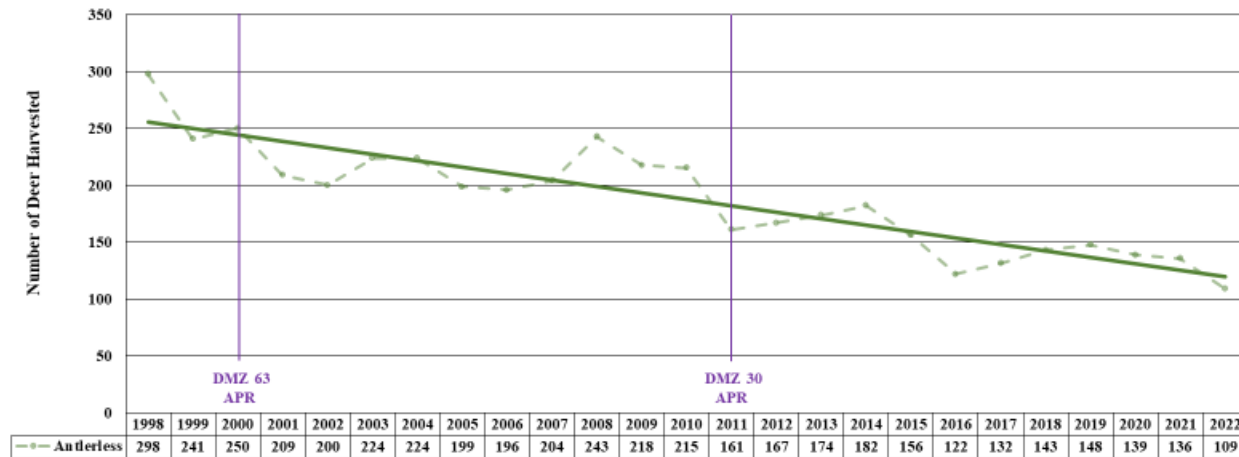


Bag Limit: 2 deer, only one may be antlered

Since 2000: Antler Point Restrictions
2005: lost 7.4 sq. mi. in boundary change

APR Zones Historical Antlerless Harvest

Zones 30, 63 (Reg Set 3)

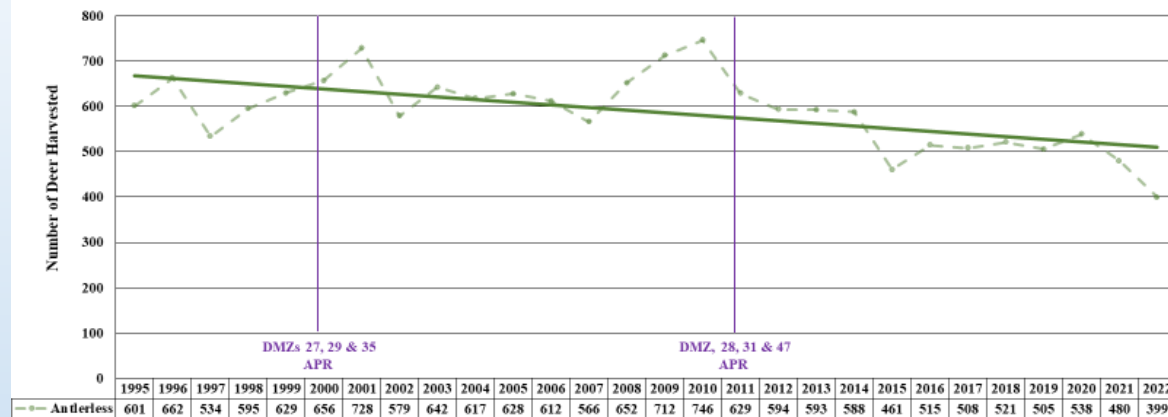


Bag Limit: 2 deer, only one may be antlered

DMZ 63 Since 2000: Antler Point Restrictions
DMZ 30 Since 2011: Antler Point Restrictions

APR Zones Historical Antlerless Harvest

Zones 27, 28, 29, 31, 35, 47 (Reg Set 5)

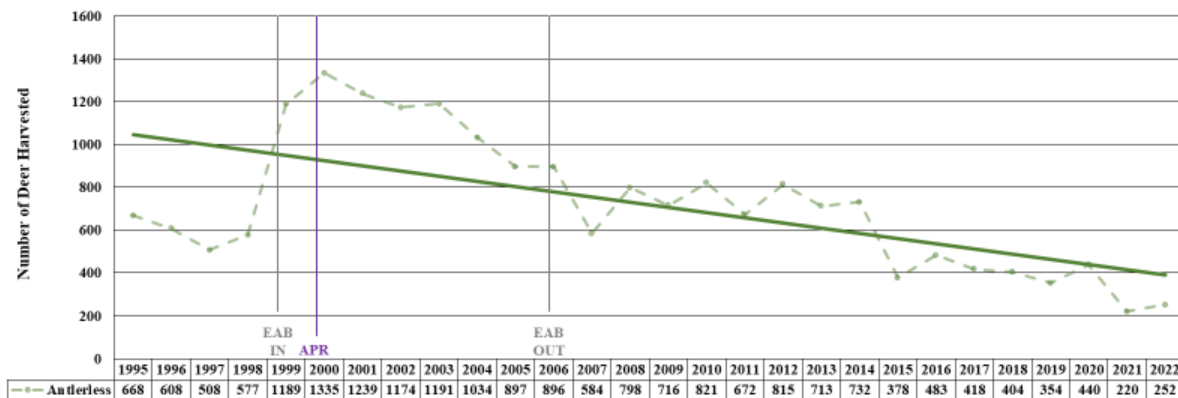


Bag Limit: 5 antlerless

DMZ 27, 29 and 35 Since 2000: Antler Point Restrictions
DMZ 28, 31 and 47 Since 2011: Antler Point Restrictions

APR Zones Historical Antlerless Harvest

Zone 9 (Reg Set 7)

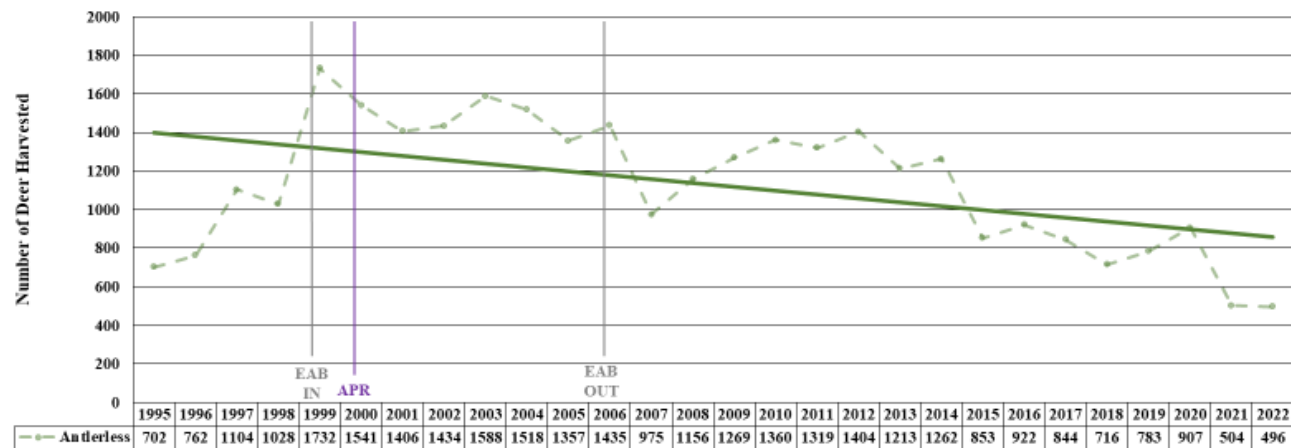


Bag Limit: unlimited antlerless

1999-2006: All-Season Earn-A-Buck
Since 2000: Antler Point Restrictions

APR Zones Historical Antlerless Harvest

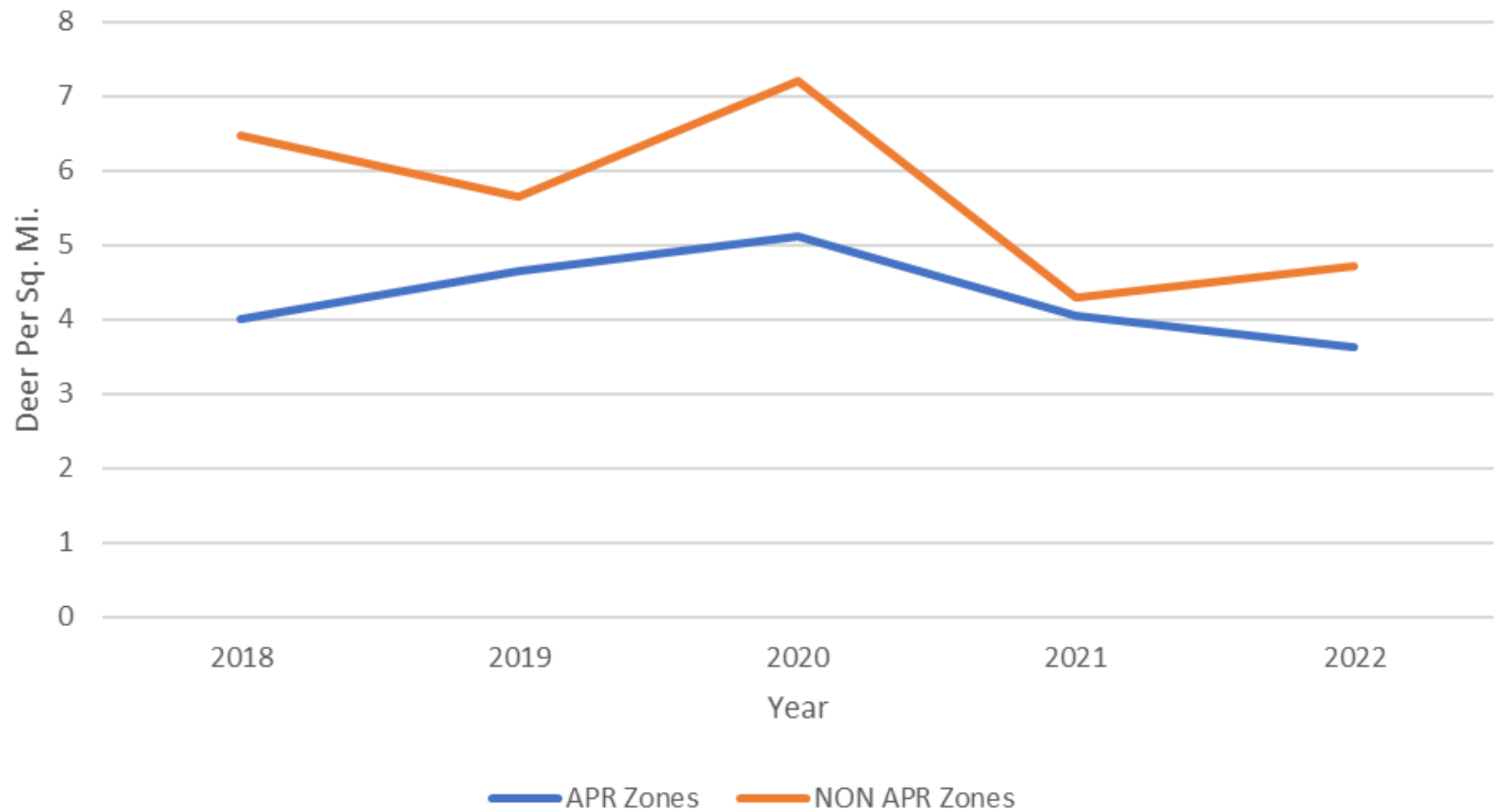
Zone 13 (Reg Set 8)



Bag Limit: unlimited antlerless

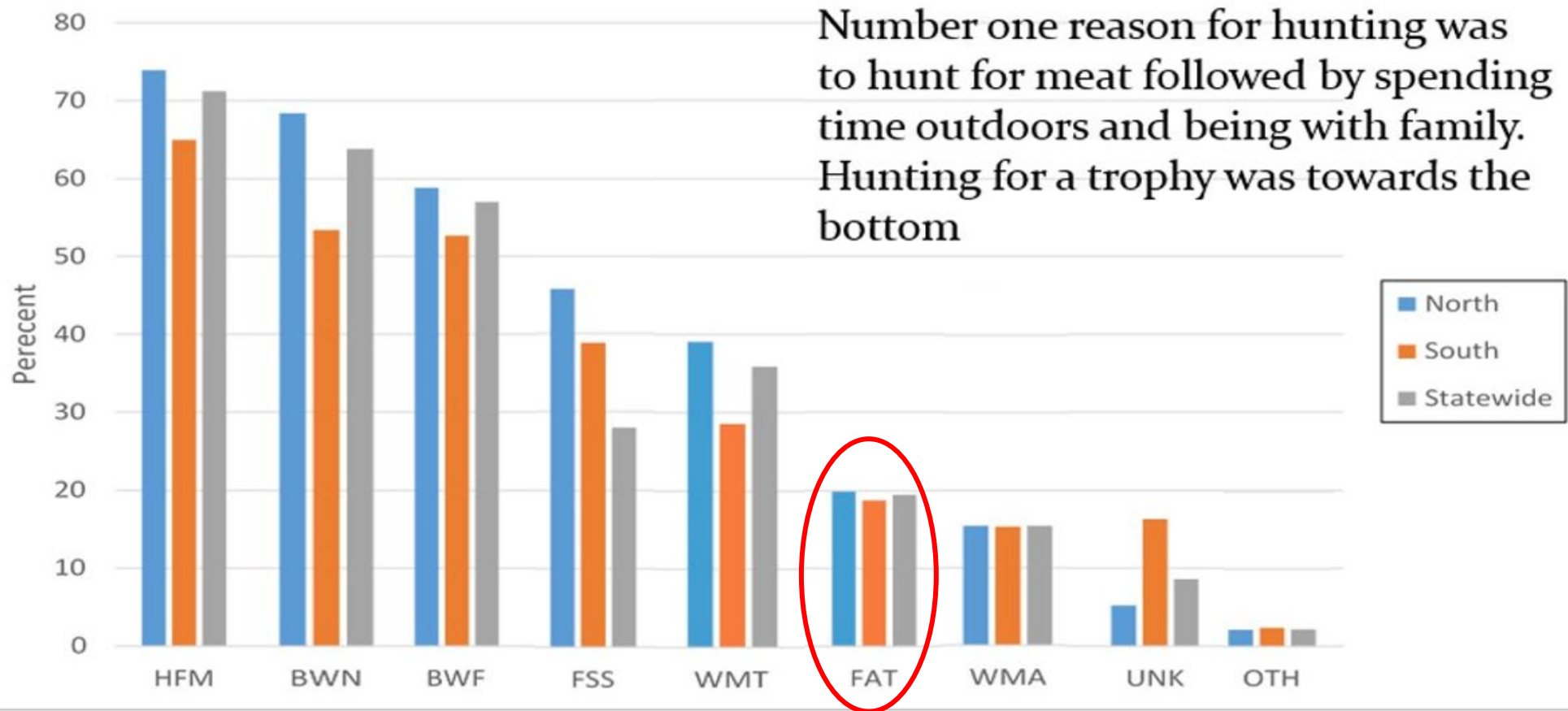
1999-2006: All-Season Earn-A-Buck
Since 2000: Antler Point Restrictions

2018-2022 APR vs Non-APR Harvest Densities





New Hunter Motivation, from a 2018 Hunter Education Survey



HFM- hunt for meat

BWN- be close to nature/spend more time outdoors

BWF- be with friends/family

FSS- learn additional firearms/ archery safety and skills

WMT- active participant in wildlife management

FAT – for a trophy

WMA- to use WMA ranges

OTH- other **UNK**- unknown

Justification for Proposed Removal of APR

Considered a social/cultural program for these reasons:

- Antlerless harvest is decreasing at higher rate than non-APR.
- DMZs with high deer densities should not limit deer available for harvest.
- Risk of high-grading deer.
- Removing APR will simplify regulations; increase opportunity for sustenance hunters.
- Deterring new hunters (R3) - encourage new hunter success.
 - Currently applies to youths outside of the designated youth days.
- Young bucks have a higher dispersal rate.
 - Potential for spread of diseases (CWD).
 - Potential for increased deer vehicle collisions.

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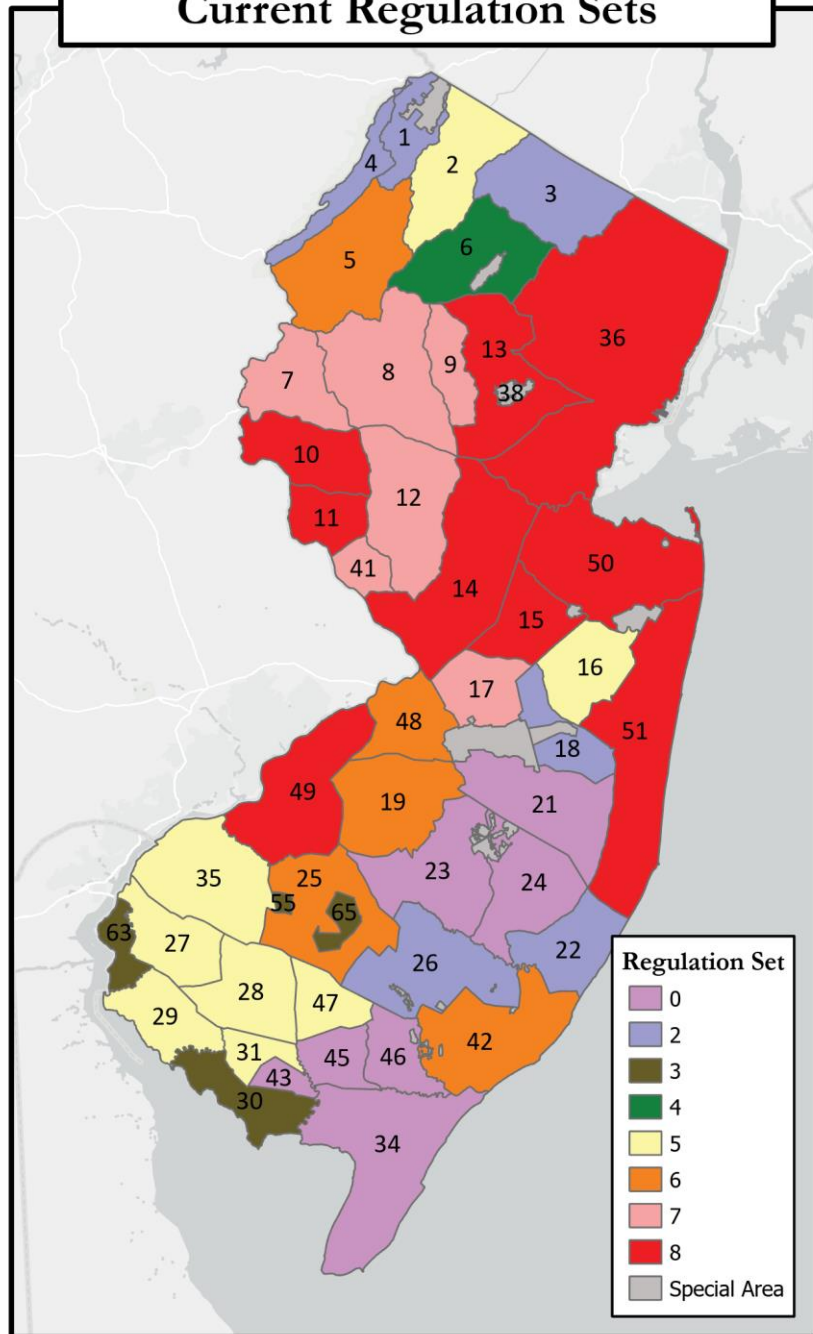
Why are we looking at Regulation Sets?

- Too many different season dates, bag limits, opening/closing days!
- R3 – intimidating to new and current hunters

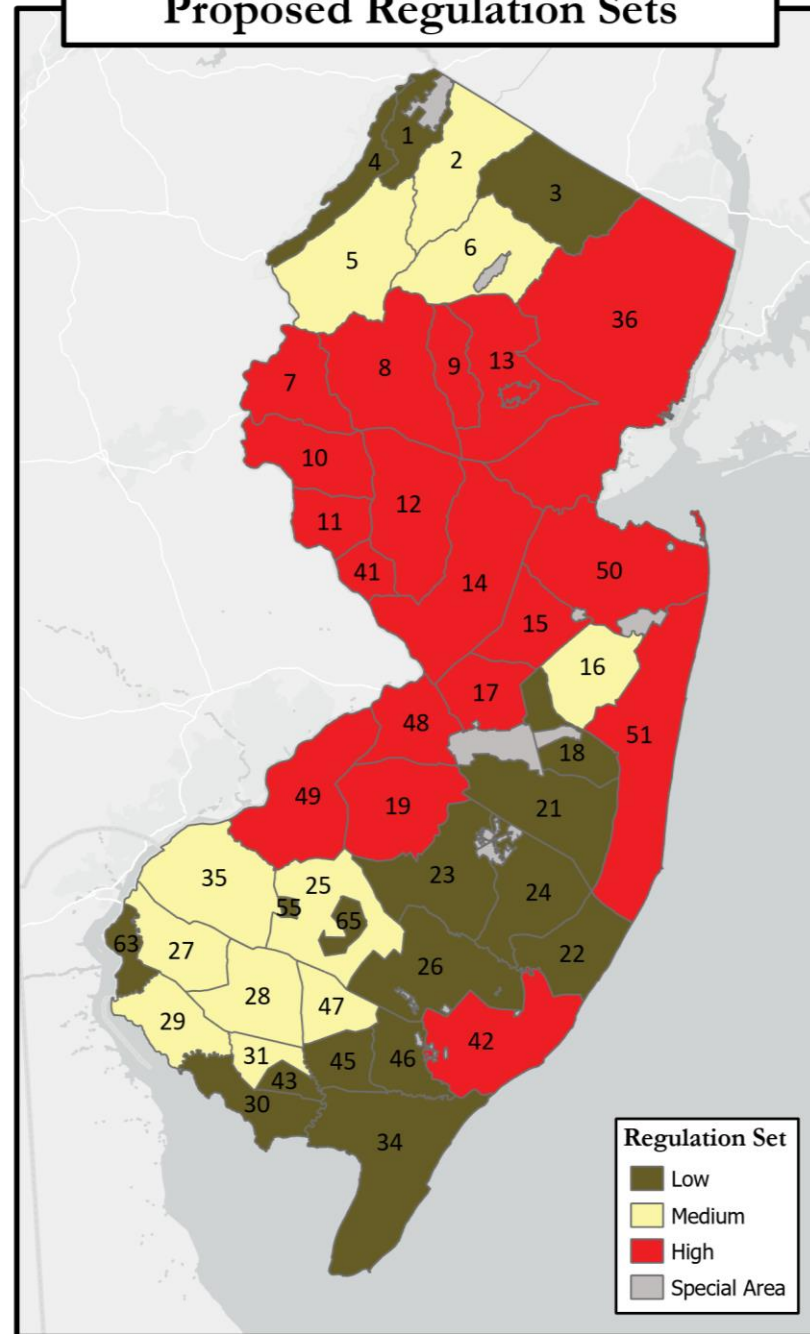
Regulation Set Simplification Analyses

- **Harvest trends**
 - Antlered and Antlerless by season
 - Antlered and Antlerless by date of harvest
- **Deer habitat**
 - Land use & land cover considerations when assigning DMZs
- **Bag limits**
 - Analyzed how many hunters reached bag limits seasonally and annually
 - Analyzed how many bucks each hunter is harvesting annually

Current Regulation Sets



Proposed Regulation Sets



Existing Regulation Set Structure

Current Deer Regulation Sets

SET #	Zones	Season							Total Days
		Fall Bow	Permit Bow	Youth Day	Six-Day	Permit M/L	Permit S/G	Winter Bow	
0	21, 23, 24, 34*, 43, 45, 46	28-1	22-1	2-2	6-2	15-1	3-1	31-1	107
1	No Zones Assigned	28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	17-2	3-1	31-2	117
2	1, 3*, 4, 18, 22, 26	28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	17-2	3-1	31-2	117
3	30*, 55, 63*, 65	28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	22-2	3-2	31-2	122
4	6	49-u	63-u	2-2	6-2	22-2	3-2	31-u	176
5	2, 16, 27*, 28*, 29*, 31*, 35*, 47*	49-5	63-5	2-2	6-2	22-5	10-5	31-5	183
6	5, 19, 25, 42, 48	49-9(2)	63-9(2)	2-2	6-2	43-9(2)	24-9(2)	31-9(2)	218
7	7, 8, 9, 12, 17, 41	49-u(2)	63-u(2)	2-2	6-2	59-u(2)	40-u(2)	49-u(2)	268
8	10, 11, 13*, 14, 15, 36, 49, 50, 51	49-u(2)	63-u(2)	2-2	6-2	63-u(2)	44-u(2)	49-u(2)	276

* indicates APR Zone

Proposed New Season Structure

Proposed New Regulation Sets Seasons

Old Set	New Set	Zones	Season							Total Days
			Fall Bow	Permit Bow	Youth Day	Six-Day	Permit M/L	Permit S/G	Winter Bow	
3	Low	1, 3, 4, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 30, 34, 43, 45, 46, 55, 63, 65	28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	22-2	3-2	31-2	122
5	Medium	2, 5, 6, 16, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 35, 47	49-5	63-5	2-2	6-2	25-5	23-5	31-5	199
8	High	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 36, 41, 42, 48, 49, 50, 51	49-u(2)	63-u(2)	2-2	6-2	72-u(2)	57-u(2)	49-u(2)	298

Red indicates the zone moving up in the reg sets

Green indicates the zone moving down in the reg sets

Black indicates the zone didn't change reg sets

Set	Fall Bow	Permit Bow	Youth Days	Six-Day	Permit Muzzleloader	Permit Shotgun	Winter Bow
1	Oct 1-28	Oct 29 - Nov 19	Sept 24 Nov 19	Dec 5-10	Nov 28-29, Dec 17-31	Dec 14-16	Jan 1-31
3 (Low)	Oct 1-28	Oct 29 - Nov 27	Sept 24 Nov 19	Dec 5-10	Nov 28-29, Dec 12, 13, 17-31, Jan 2-6	Dec 14-16	Jan 1-31
5 (Medium)	Sept 10-30 (EAB), Oct 1-28	Oct 29 - Dec 31	Sept 24 Nov 19	Dec 5-10	Nov 28-29, Dec 12-31, Jan 2-6	Dec 12-16, Jan 2-21	Jan 1-31
8 (High)	Sept 10-30 (EAB), Oct 1-28	Oct 29 - Dec 31	Sept 24 Nov 19	Dec 5-10	Nov 21-23, 25, Dec 5-10 (Aless Only) Nov 28-29, Dec 12-31, Jan 2-Feb 18	Nov 21-23, 25, Dec 5-10 (Aless Only) Dec 12-16, Jan 2-Feb 18	Jan 1-Feb 18

*Dates based off of the 2022-23 deer season, season dates change from year to year

2016-2022 Avg. Annual Total Harvests – All Seasons

Percent of Hunters Harvesting x Number of Deer

Set:		0	2	3 *	4	5 *	6	7	8 *
Annual Bag Limit:		7	11	11	UL.	31	51	UL.	UL.
Percent of Hunters Harvesting x Number of Deer	1	81.41%	75.84%	74.02%	69.12%	63.17%	60.81%	55.39%	55.24%
	2	14.51%	17.14%	18.27%	21.01%	22.13%	21.88%	22.99%	23.10%
	3	3.21%	4.82%	5.57%	6.45%	8.56%	8.86%	9.94%	9.85%
	4	0.71%	1.52%	1.60%	1.80%	3.40%	4.29%	5.04%	5.04%
	5	0.13%	0.49%	0.35%	0.82%	1.42%	1.89%	2.46%	2.61%
	6-10	0.02%	0.18%	0.18%	0.77%	1.28%	2.05%	3.33%	3.47%
	11-15				0.02%	0.03%	0.17%	0.60%	0.45%
	16-20					0.00%	0.06%	0.23%	0.21%
	21+						0.03%	0.19%	0.13%

Values within the 95th percentile highlighted

Ex: In Set 0, 95% of hunters take 2 or fewer deer

* Represents potential harvest trends for the new proposed regulation sets

2016-2022 Avg. Annual Total Harvest – All Seasons

Maximum Annual Harvest of 95% of Hunters vs. the Annual Bag Limit



Annual Harvest of 95% of Hunters

Regulation Set

Current Regulation Sets

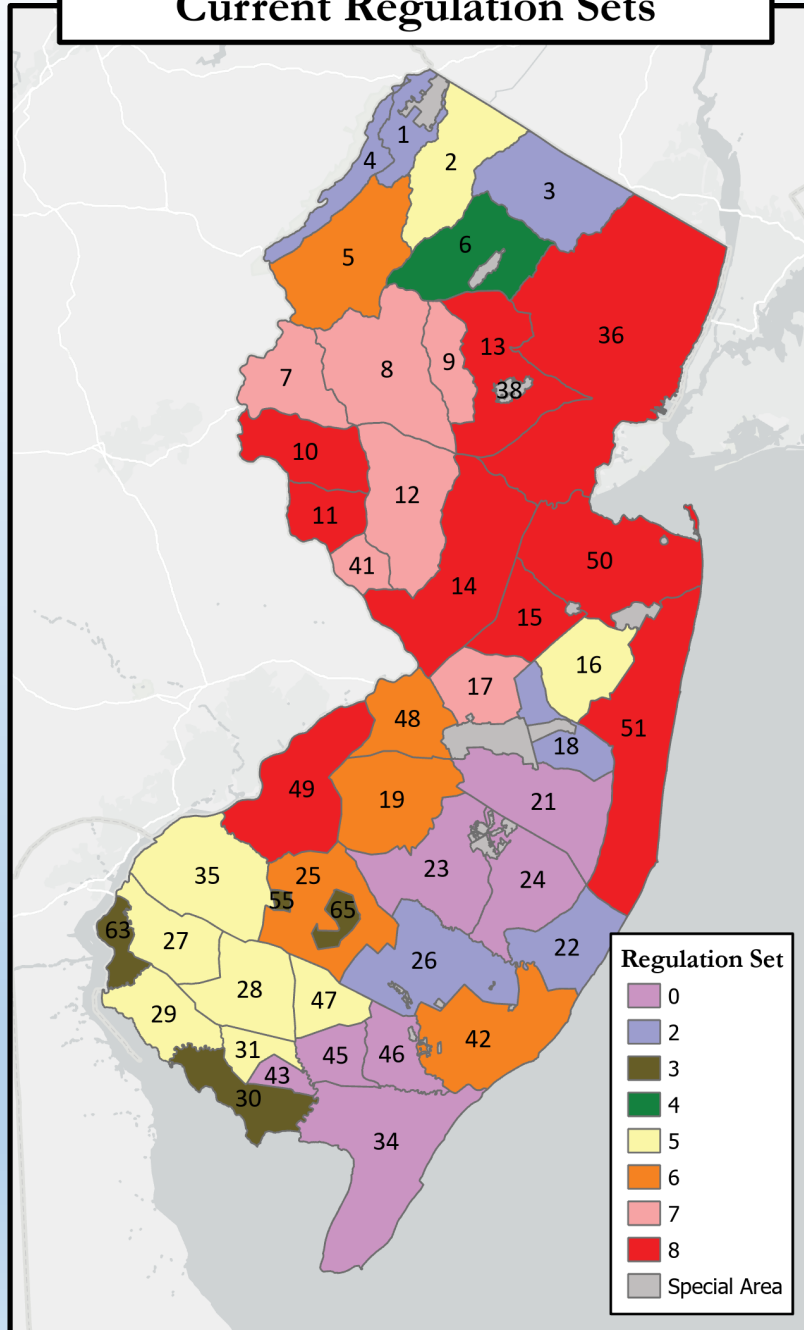
Regulation Set

- 0
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- Special Area

Low Set

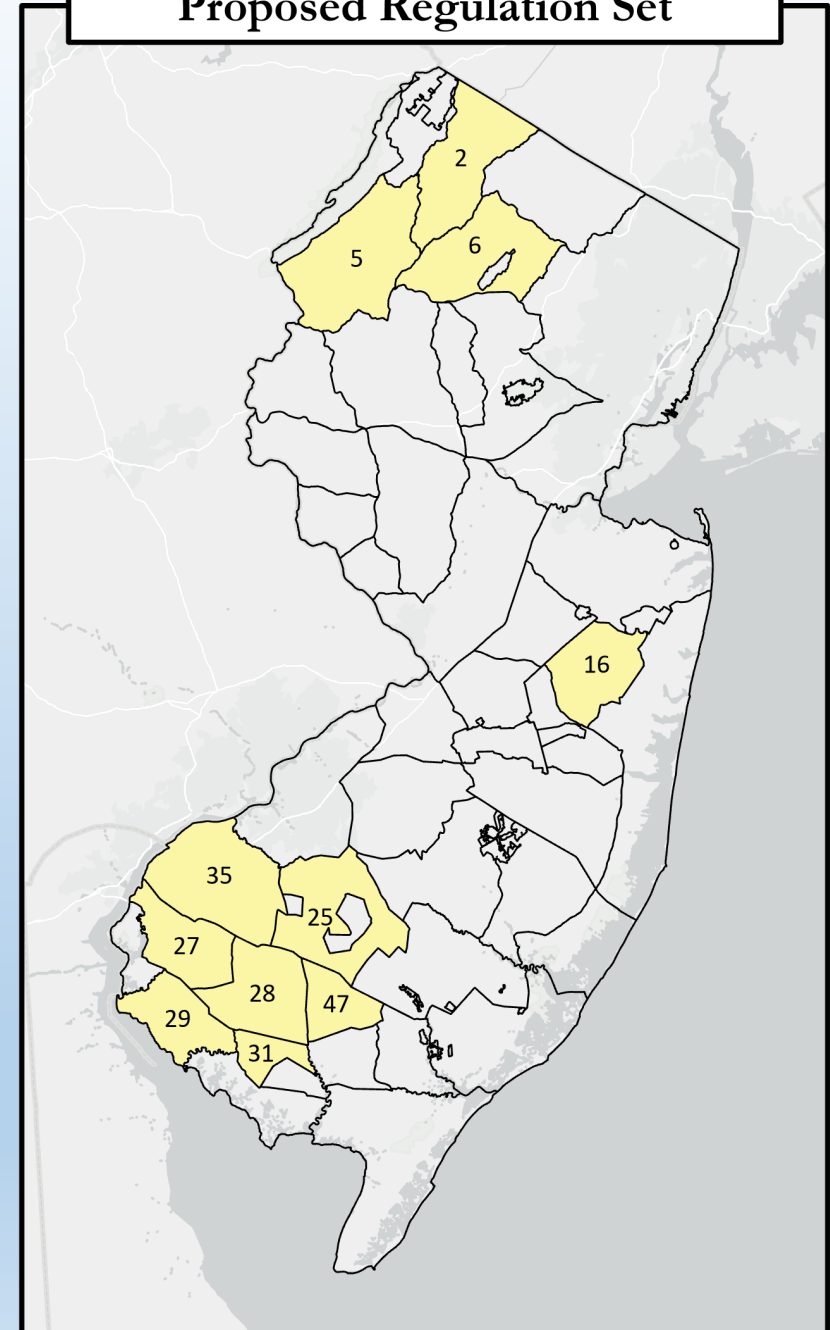
Zones	Current to New Reg Set	Proposed Changes	Fall Bow	Permit Bow	Youth Day	Six-Day	Permit M/L	Permit S/G	Winter Bow	Total Days	Notes
21, 23, 24, 34*, 43, 45,	0 to 3	Bag Limit goes from 1 deer (Either Sex) to 2 deer: 2 Antlerless or 1 Antlerless/ 1 Antlered	28-1	22-1	2-2	6-2	15-1	3-1	31-1	107 Days	Current Days-Bag Limit
			28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	22-2	3-2	31-2	122 Days	New Days-Bag Limit
			Same Days	+ 8 Days	Same Days	Same Days	+7 Days	Same Days	Same Days	+15 Days	Difference in Days
			+1 Deer	+1 Deer	No Change	No Change	+1 Deer	+1 Deer	+1 Deer	+5 Deer	Difference in Bag Limit
1, 3, 4*, 18, 22, 26	2 to 3	Bag Limit goes from 2 Deer (only 1 may be antlerless), PS - 1 deer (either sex) to 2 Antlerless OR 1 Antlerless/ 1 Antlered for all seasons	28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	17-2	3-1	31-2	117 Days	Current Days-Bag Limit
			28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	22-2	3-2	31-2	122 Days	New Days-Bag Limit
			Same Days	Same Days	Same Days	Same Days	+5 Days	Same Days	Same Days	+5 Days	Difference in Days
			No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change	+1 Deer	No Change	+1 Deer	Difference in Bag Limit
30*, 55, 63*, 65	Staying in Set 3		28-2	30-2	2-2	6-2	22-2	3-2	31-2	122 Days	Current Days-Bag Limit
			No Changes - Staying in Set 3								New Days-Bag Limit
											Difference in Days
											Difference in Bag Limit

Current Regulation Sets

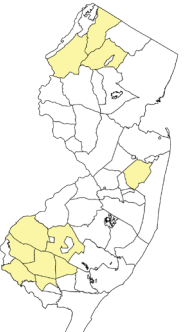


Medium
Set

Proposed Regulation Set

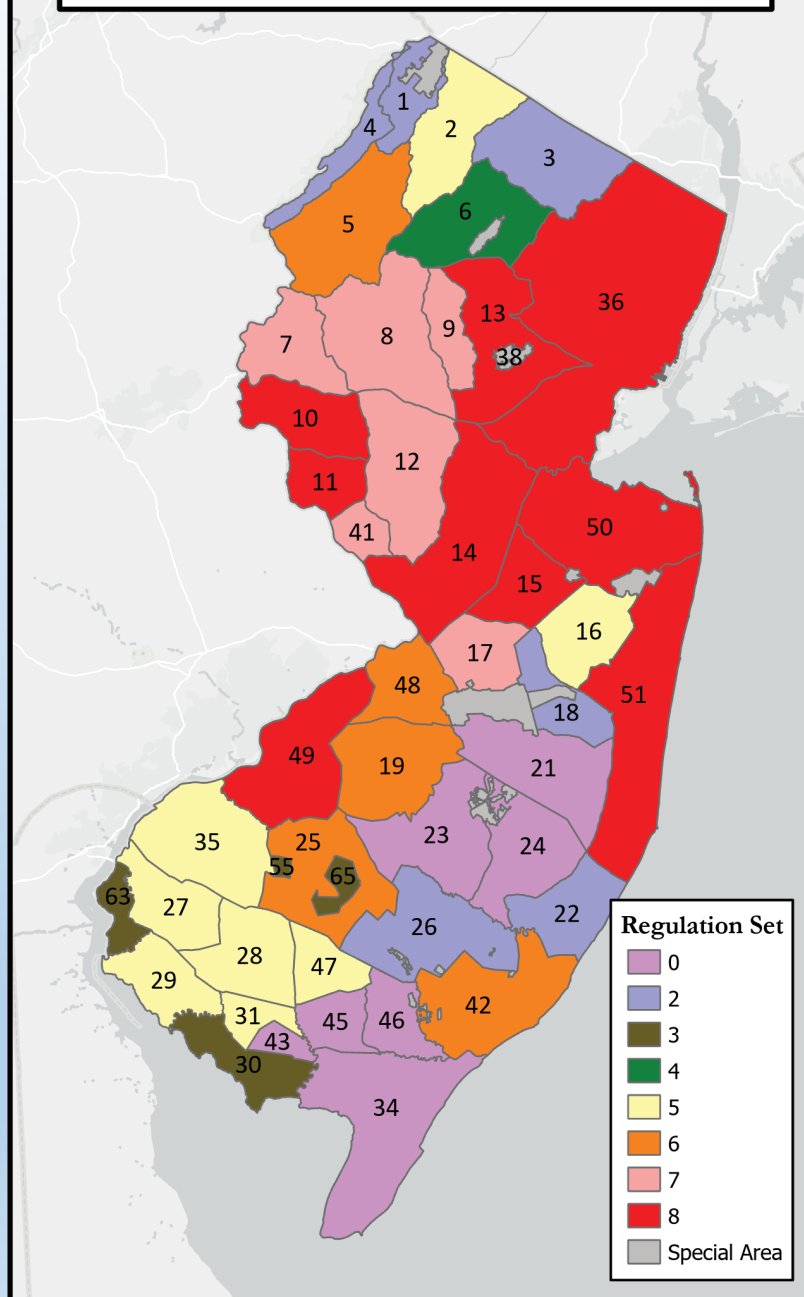


Existing vs New Medium Regulation Set



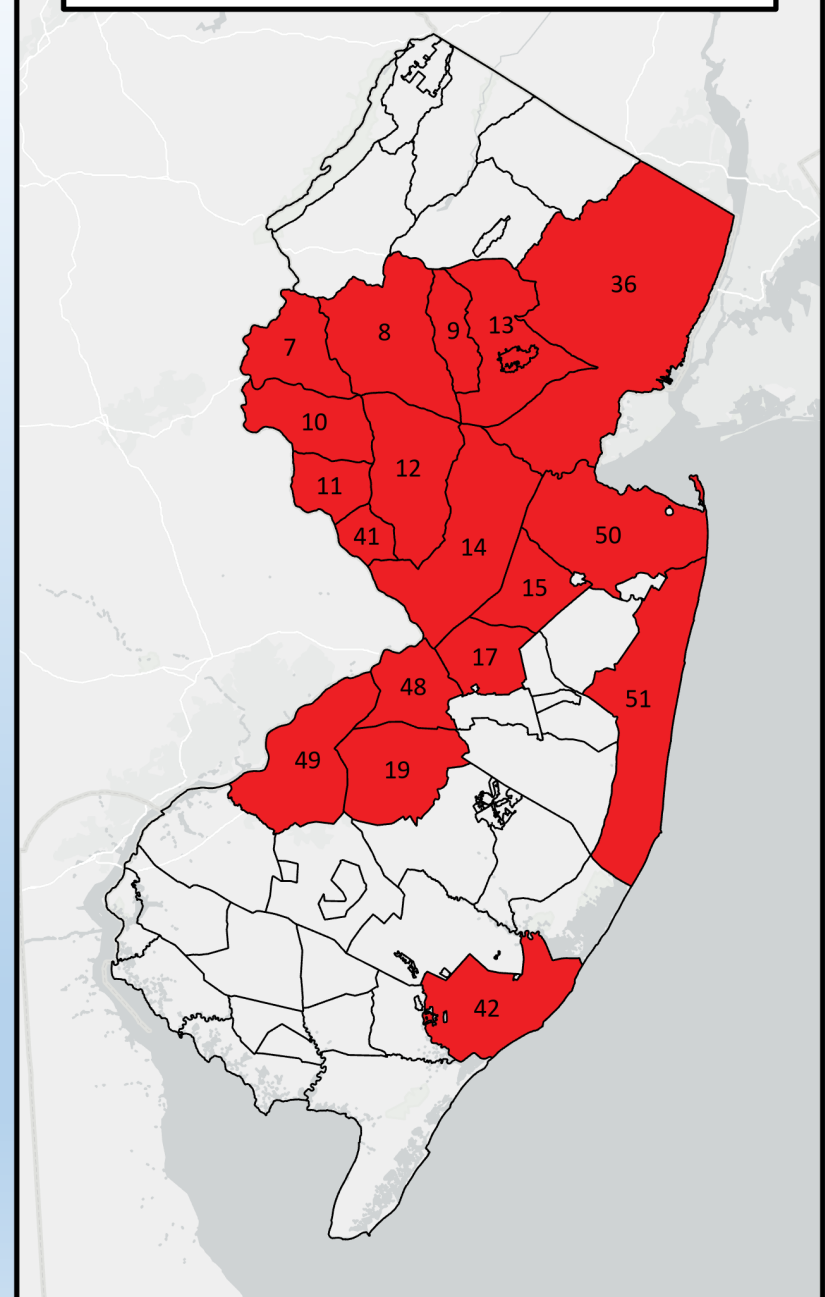
Zones	Current to New Reg Set	Proposed Changes	Fall Bow	Permit Bow	Youth Day	Six-Day	Permit M/L	Permit S/G	Winter Bow	Total Days	Notes
6	4 to 5	Antlerless Bag Limit goes to 5 deer for all seasons	49-u	63-u	2-2	6-2	22-2	3-2	31-u	176 Days	Current Days-Bag Limit
			49-5	63-5	2-2	6-2	25-5	23-5	31-5	199 Days	New Days-Bag Limit
			Same Days	Same Days	Same Days	Same Days	+3 Days	+20 Days	Same Days	+23 Days	Difference in Days
			u to 5	u to 5	No Change	No Change	+3 Deer	+3 Deer	u to 5	M&S +3/ B-	Difference in Bag Limit
2, 16, 27*, 28*, 29*, 31*, 35*, 47*	Staying in Set 5		49-5	63-5	2-2	6-2	22-5	10-5	31-5	183 Days	Current Days-Bag Limit
			49-5	63-5	2-2	6-2	25-5	23-5	31-5	199 Days	New Days-Bag Limit
			Same Days	Same Days	Same Days	Same Days	+3 Days	+13 Days	Same Days	+16 Days	Difference in Days
			No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change
5, 25	6 to 5	Antlerless Bag Limit goes from 9 Antlerless (2 at a time) to 5 Antlerless (1 at a time)	49-9(2)	63-9(2)	2-2	6-2	43-9(2)	24-9(2)	31-9(2)	218 Days	Current Days-Bag Limit
			49-5	63-5	2-2	6-2	25-5	23-5	31-5	199 Days	New Days-Bag Limit
			Same Days	Same Days	Same Days	Same Days	-18 Days	-1 Days	Same Days	-19 Days	Difference in Days
			- 4 Deer	- 4 Deer	No Change	No Change	- 4 Deer	- 4 Deer	- 4 Deer	-20 Deer	Difference in Bag Limit

Current Regulation Sets



High
Set

Proposed Regulation Set



[illegible]

Why are we looking at the buck bag limit?

- Confusing regulation for the second buck during Six-day Firearm Season OR Permit Shotgun
- Forcing hunters to make a choice to buy Antlered Buck Permit
- Perception of harvesting too many bucks per year is not valid

2016-2022 Antlered Harvests

Bucks per Hunter Summary							
# Bucks Taken	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	77.01%	76.13%	74.70%	75.87%	74.23%	78.21%	77.78%
2	17.66%	18.42%	19.38%	18.97%	20.05%	17.47%	17.93%
3	4.16%	4.23%	4.52%	4.03%	4.49%	3.39%	3.48%
4	0.95%	0.96%	1.12%	0.87%	0.99%	0.71%	0.64%
5	0.17%	0.23%	0.23%	0.19%	0.19%	0.17%	0.13%
6	0.04%	0.03%	0.06%	0.06%	0.04%	0.05%	0.05%
% of Hunters Harvesting 3 or Fewer Bucks:	98.8%	98.8%	98.6%	98.9%	98.8%	99.1%	99.2%

<2% of successful hunters take more than 3 bucks annually

Number of Bucks per Hunter by Reg Set

2016 – 2022 Average

	Regulation Set							
# Bucks	0	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	1358.9	1239.4	283.6	291.7	1897.7	2030.0	2302.6	2758.9
2	202.4	232.4	44.1	44.3	348.6	400.4	498.9	625.7
3	40.4	41.6	7.4	4.1	63.1	69.3	100.3	134.3
4	6.1	8.4	1.0	0.6	8.1	12.1	18.7	30.0
5	0.4	1.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	1.9	3.6	7.1
6		0.4				0.4	0.6	1.6

	Regulation Set							
# Bucks	0	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	84.49%	81.36%	84.32%	85.58%	81.85%	80.74%	78.73%	77.55%
2	12.59%	15.26%	13.13%	12.99%	15.03%	15.93%	17.06%	17.59%
3	2.51%	2.73%	2.21%	1.22%	2.72%	2.76%	3.43%	3.77%
4	0.38%	0.55%	0.30%	0.17%	0.35%	0.48%	0.64%	0.84%
5	0.03%	0.08%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.07%	0.12%	0.20%
6	0.00%	0.03%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	0.02%	0.04%

	New Regulation Set		
# Bucks	Low	Mid	High
1	2797.3	3278.1	5654.14
2	500.3	629.7	1361.71
3	98.6	108.3	301.571
4	18.9	16.0	65.286
5	2.0	2.3	16
6	0.4	0.6	4.429

	New Regulation Set		
# Bucks	Low	Mid	High
1	81.85%	81.24%	76.37%
2	14.64%	15.61%	18.39%
3	2.88%	2.68%	4.07%
4	0.55%	0.40%	0.88%
5	0.06%	0.06%	0.22%
6	0.01%	0.01%	0.06%

When combining number of bucks harvested by hunter within current and proposed regulation sets, the percentage of hunters taking 3 or less bucks remained the same at less than 2%

Justification for Simplifying Deer Reg Sets

- **Maintaining and improving management objectives**
- **Reducing the number of Regulations Sets from 9 to 3**
 - Simplification for new hunters to reduce concerns of making mistakes
 - Majority of hunters are not limiting out in antlerless harvest in any of the current reg sets
 - Encouraging hunters to expand into new zones
- **Streamlining season structure**
 - Better alignment of season dates
- **Reinstating buck bag limit of 7**
 - Simplifying buck bag limits to eliminate confusion around Permit Shotgun and Six-Day bag limits
 - Annually, about 98% of successful hunters harvest three or fewer bucks

Proposed Changes to Deer Regulations

2025 Game Code

- **Antler Point Restrictions (APR)**
 - Eliminate APR regulations
- **Simplify Regulations**
 - Eliminate and combine regulation sets
 - Align season date structure
 - Reinstate 7 buck bag limit
- **Multi-Zone Permits**
 - Proposed expansion

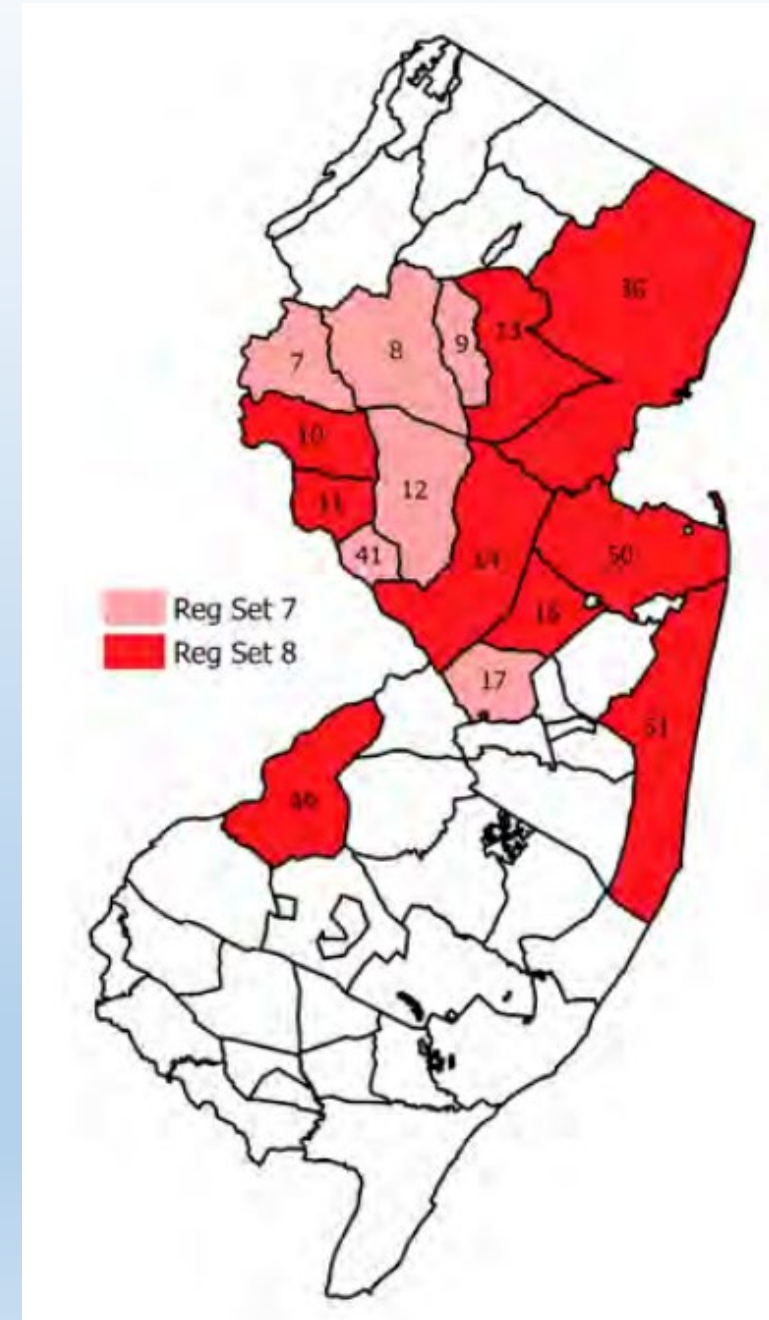
Why are we looking at Multi-Zone Permits?

- Regulation has been in effect for two years
- Gauge popularity
- Get feedback from purchasers
- Effects of cost savings
 - New High Set: 18 zones for the price of 2 (\$56)
 - New Medium Set: 17 zones for the price of 2 (\$56)?
- Assess harvest from Multi-Zone Permit purchasers

Current Multi-Zone Permit

- Introduced in 2021
- Cost-effective - \$56 to hunt entire Reg Set
- Encourages hunters to explore new areas
- Regulation Set 7 - DMZs: 7, 8, 9, 12, 17, 41
- Regulation Set 8 - DMZs: 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 36, 49, 50, 51
- Available for each permit season (B, SG, ML)

Buck permits stay the same



Multi-Zone Permit Analysis

- Multi-Zone Permit purchaser survey
- Effect on harvest in Multi-Zone Permit Regulation Sets 7 and 8
- Cost-saving analysis for participants
- Permit purchasing behavior of hunters in Regulation Sets 7 and 8

Multi-Zone Permit Sales

Reg Set 7 - "Before"

Total Number of Permits Purchased per Hunter

Regulation Set 7 - 2019			
# Permits Bought	Bow # of Hunters	MuzzleLoader # of Hunters	Shotgun # of Hunters
1	6105	2651	4790
2	539	180	340
3	27	11	18
4	2		1
5			1
Total > 2/CID:			60
			-\$1,820

33 multi-zone permit sales needed to recoup the \$1,820.00 lost

Multi-Zone Permit Sales

Reg Set 7 - “After”

Reg Set 7 Multi-Zone Permit Purchasers 2022

Regulation Set 7						
Season	2019 Zone Sales		2022 Multi-Zone Sales		2022 New Sales	
Bow	271 <i>(196 purchasers)</i>	\$7,588	464	\$25,984	268	\$18,396
Muzzleloader	118 <i>(87 purchasers)</i>	\$3,304	213	\$11,928	126	\$8,624
Shotgun	199 <i>(151 purchasers)</i>	\$5,572	373	\$20,888	222	\$15,316
TOTAL	588 <i>(434 purchasers)</i>	\$16,464	1050	\$58,800	616	\$42,336

Multi-Zone Permit Sales

Reg Set 8 – “Before”

Total Number of Permits Purchased per Hunter

Regulation Set 8 - 2019			
# Permits Bought	Bow # of Hunters	MuzzleLoader # of Hunters	Shotgun # of Hunters
1	7730	2186	4456
2	667	163	380
3	50	11	28
4	7	6	6
5	1		
		Total > 2/CID:	109 -\$3,640

65 multi-zone permit sales needed to recoup the \$3,640.00 lost

Multi-Zone Permit Sales

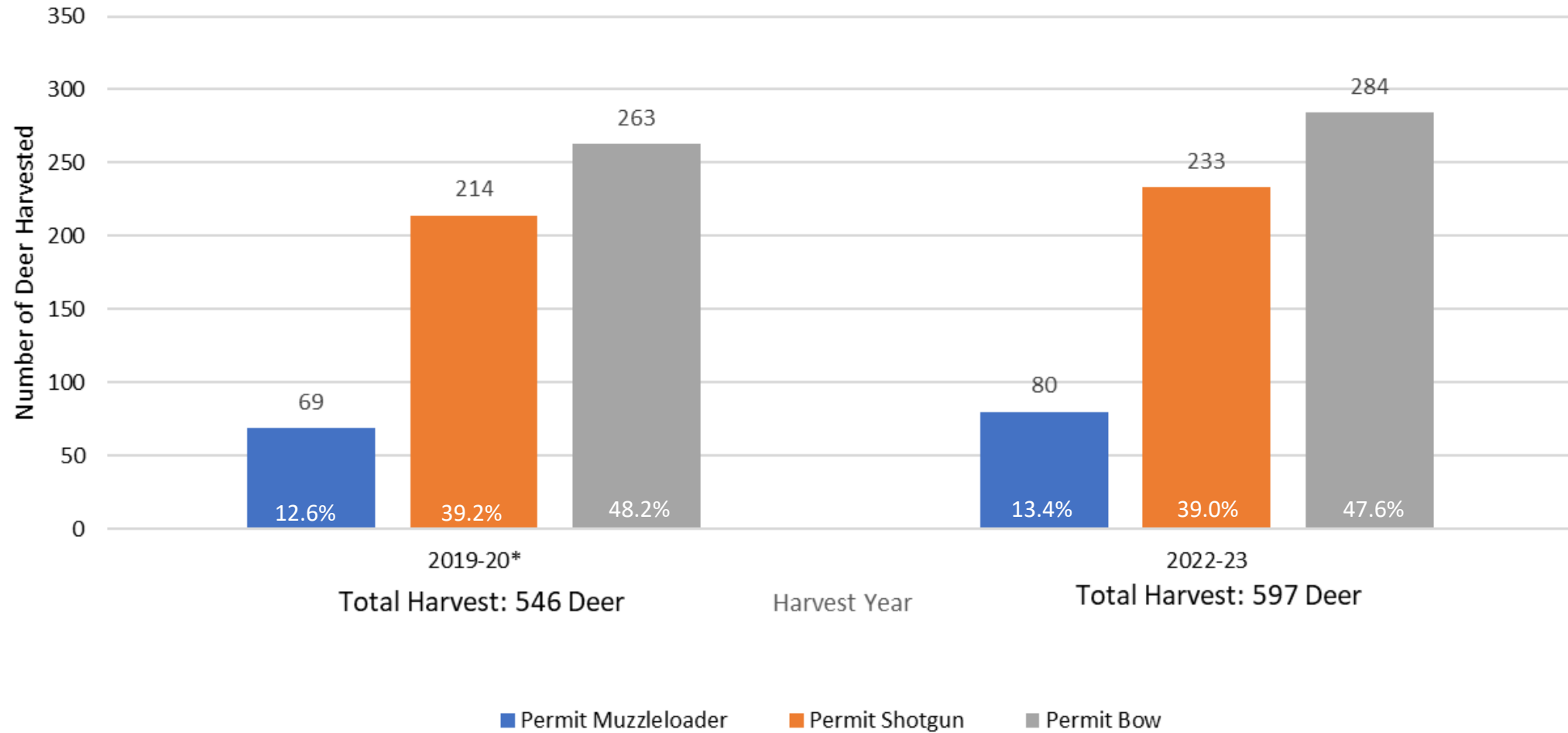
Reg Set 8 – “After”

Reg Set 7 Multi-Zone Permit Purchasers 2022

Regulation Set 8						
Season	2019 Zone Sales		2022 Multi-Zone Sales		2022 New Sales	
Bow	499 <i>(356 purchasers)</i>	\$13,972	679	\$38,024	323	\$24,052
Muzzleloader	142 <i>(101 purchasers)</i>	\$3,976	224	\$12,544	123	\$8,568
Shotgun	564 <i>(348 purchasers)</i>	\$15,792	655	\$36,680	307	\$20,888
TOTAL	1,205 <i>(805 purchasers)</i>	\$48,888	1931	\$108,136	843	\$59,248



Harvest by 2022 Multi-Zone Permit Holders



* 2019-20 harvest data is a count of deer harvested by hunters who successfully harvested deer on a Multi-Zone Permit in 2022-23

Multi-Zone Permits Purchaser Survey

Emailed to 2078 MZP purchasers
268 Responses

1. What is your CID number?

[More Details](#)

271
Responses

Latest Responses

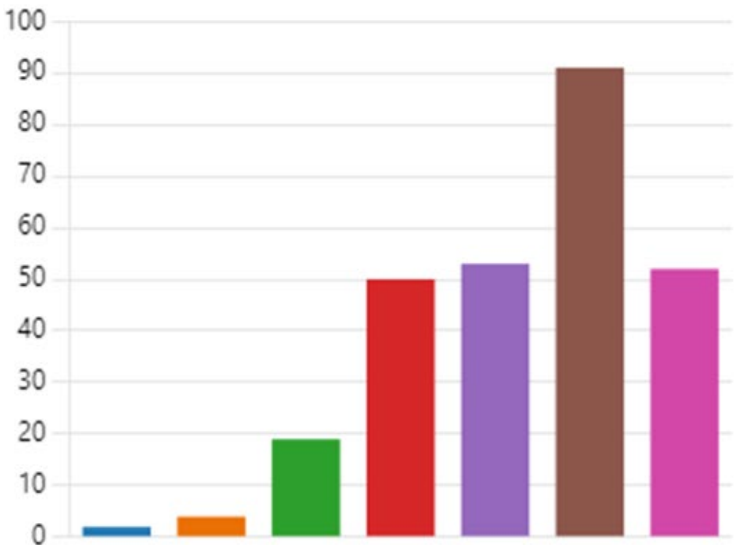
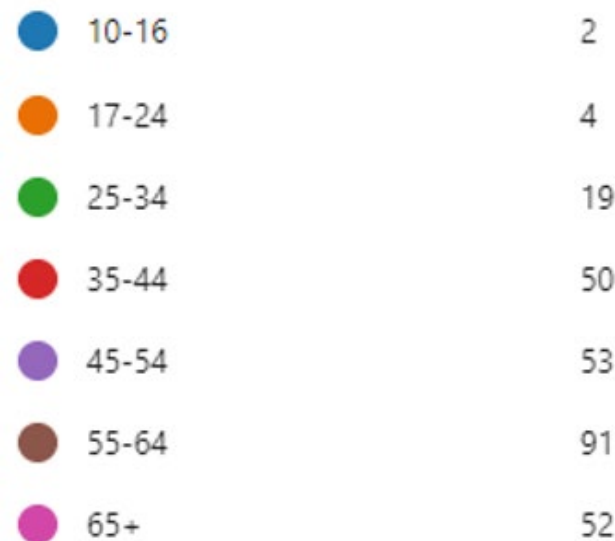
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"800133225"

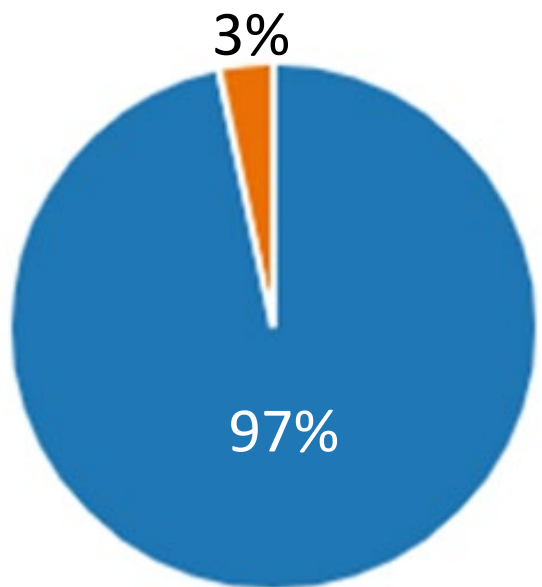
3. What is your age?

[More Details](#)



2. Are you a New Jersey resident?

[More Details](#)

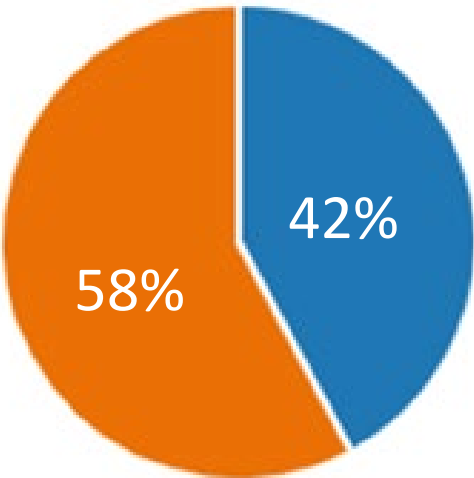


Multi-Zone Permits Purchaser Survey

Emailed to 2078 MZP purchasers
268 Reponses

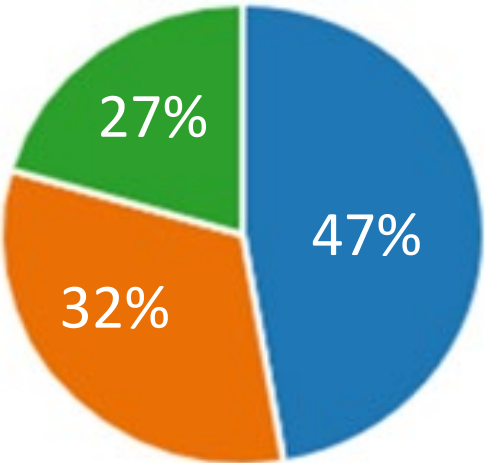
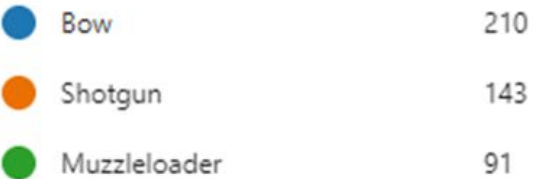
4. Which deer hunting season did you purchase a Multi-Zone Deer Regulation Set permit for? (Check all that apply)

[More Details](#)



5. Which weapon type did you purchase a Multi-Zone Deer Regulation Set permit for? (Check all that apply)

[More Details](#)



Multi-Zone Permits Purchaser Survey

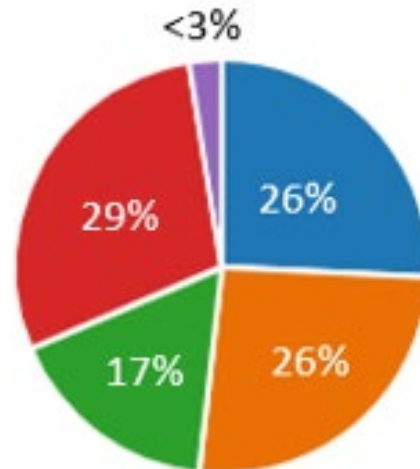
Emailed to 2078 MZP purchasers
268 Responses

["Package price", "Wanted to hunt additional zones and the price made that possible", "Hoping to find additional zones to hunt", "I was already hunting in two (2) or more zones within the Regulation Set", "Why dont we just pay for a permit season and have the ability to hunt anywhere in nj. Why limit people, other than a money grab?"]

11. Why did you purchase the Multi-Zone Deer Regulation Set permit? (Check all that apply)

[More Details](#)

Package price	132
Wanted to hunt additional zone...	133
Hoping to find additional zones ...	86
I was already hunting in two (2) ...	148
Other	13



["Wanted to hunt additional zones and the price made that possible", "Never got to 15. Dont mind the extra cost. NJ Fish and game do a great job with management and managagment areas including the ranges which we didn't have years past. All so with stocking trout. I look at it as a donation to help keeping it going."]

["Package price", "Wanted to hunt additional zones and the price made that possible", "Hoping to find additional zones to hunt", "Nice to have opportunities to try other zones "]

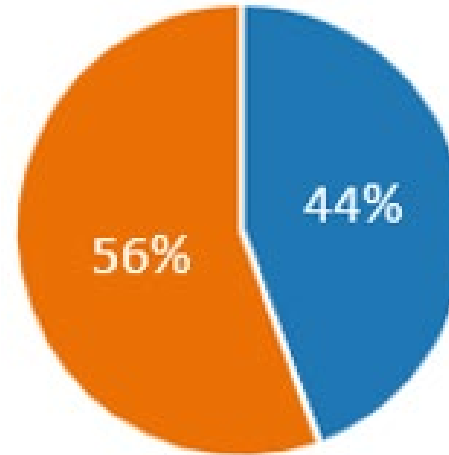
["Package price", "Wanted to hunt additional zones and the price made that possible", "Hoping to find additional zones to hunt", "I was already hunting in two (2) or more zones within the Regulation Set", "I was hunting in zones 7&8 previously so I purchased the permit to cover me for both zones which also allowed me to hunt 2 other zones I've never hunted before "]

Multi-Zone Permits Purchaser Survey

Emailed to 2078 MZP purchasers
268 Responses

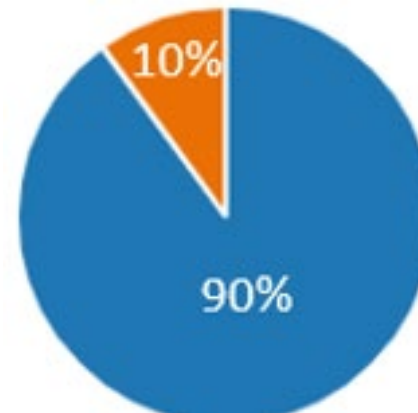
12. Do you hunt in additional Deer Management Zones not included in the Multi-Zone Deer Regulation Set permits?

[More Details](#)



13. Would you purchase the Multi-Zone Deer Regulation Set permit again?

[More Details](#)



Multi-Zone Permits Purchaser Survey

Emailed to 2078 MZP purchasers

268 Responses

1	anonymous	I don't have access to another zone within the reg set.
2	anonymous	Lack of hunting land to justify buying a multi zone permit
3	anonymous	There's no benefit for me to purchase the multizone permit. If In the future you offered a multizone permit where the applicant could pick any 3 zones(at the price of 2 zones) then I would purchase this every year.purchase
4	anonymous	The zones are hunt now are not the same regulation set
5	anonymous	I would if I was able to chose the zones. Zones are too small, NJ is not a big state. For example, zone 5,7 and 8 should be 1 zone, 10,11 and 12 should be one zone.
6	anonymous	No monetary advantage if you only hunt two zones.
7	anonymous	I only hunt two of the zones in the multi permit. Why can't the multi zone permit include regulation set 8 and 7?

8	anonymous	MULTI ZONE PERMIT SHOULD BE STATEWIDE, HUNT SAME # OF DAYS, SHOULD NOT CHARGE EXTRA SO I CAN HUNT 1 DAY DIFFERENT ZONE
9	anonymous	Not worth it for 2 zones, zones 10 & 11 should be included in regulation set 7, set 7 goes right around those two
10	anonymous	I no longer hunt in zone 10. Lost private land after death.
11	anonymous	Reg set 7 and 8 should be combined or zone 17 should be moved to reg set 8 because it's so close to 14 and 15.
12	anonymous	Don't need to
13	anonymous	Don't have the time to hunt that much
14	anonymous	Maybe. Multi zone is limited to just two zones and should cover more northern territories

15	anonymous	Would be better if I could choose 3 zones for the permit, I don't live close to most of the zones offered
16	anonymous	I only have access to areas 16 and 51
17	anonymous	The zones I would like to hunt are not listed in the multi zone
18	anonymous	Waist of money
19	anonymous	It doesn't save me any money.
20	anonymous	Lost the property in 50
21	anonymous	I hunt a couple of zones in regulation sets 7 and 8. It's too expensive to buy all the tags for my spots. So I have to end up just picking one spot/zone to hunt so it is affordable. There is no reason to charge so much money to kill doe. The doe are way overpopulated and The only way to reduce the population is to make it affordable- especially for out of state hunters. Also, I don't understand why there needs to be 2 regulation sets when the seasons in each set are nearly identical. Simplify the zones and make it more affordable.

22	anonymous	no need
23	anonymous	Not enough time to get out
24	anonymous	I don't know it was antlerless only, I vote to change that! If your paying for a buck tag it shouldn't matter.
25	anonymous	I moved out of state.
26	anonymous	Regulation Set 7 permit needs to include Zone 10 and 11.
27	anonymous	there is no benefit to me. Same price for everything. At age 79 hunting two zones I should get some reduciton in cost. I hunt all 3 seasons & still pay for each in both zones, Please come up with a cost benefit for me otherwise I will have to give up certain season to afford hunting, Thank you for listening,

Multi-Zone Permits Purchaser Survey

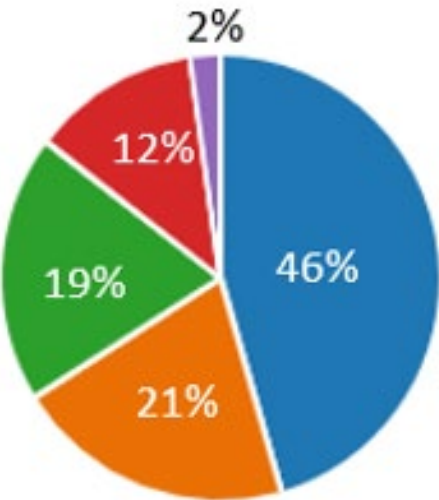
Emailed to 2078 MZP purchasers
268 Reponses

58	anonymous	I was included in the original emailed survey on this topic.
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15. How did you hear about the Multi-Zone Deer Regulation Set permit?

[More Details](#)

- The Hunting and Trapping Digest 122
- An email from NJ Fish and Wildl... 55
- Online when purchasing permit... 52
- A friend 33
- Other 6



22	anonymous	hunting forum
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79	anonymous	online and friends
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157	anonymous	My kids
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206	anonymous	All of the above
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243	anonymous	Hunter Safety Instructor
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Proposed Regulation Sets

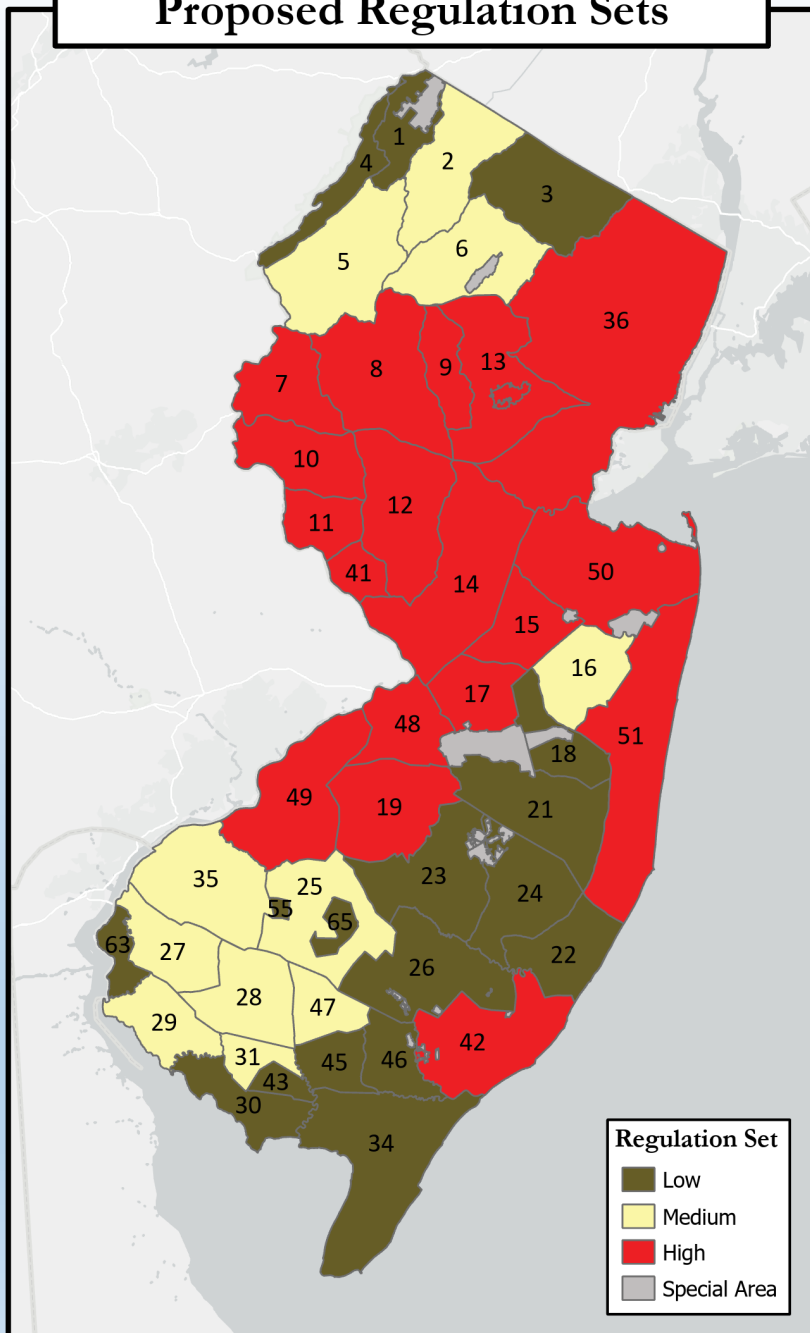
Expansion of Multi Zone Permits?

High Reg Set - Keep

Medium Reg Set – Yes!

Low Reg Set - No

Purchase of single zone permits still available.



Justification for Expanding the Multi-Zone Permits

- Increased potential for better management by increasing opportunity for hunters
- Gives new and existing hunters the opportunity to explore more of New Jersey at a lower price point (R3)
- Increasing in popularity as hunters learn about the option
- Majority of purchasers that responded would buy the permit again
- More bang for your BUCK!

Conclusion

Removal of APR

- Simplify regulations to help eliminate confusion for new and existing hunters
- Social/Cultural program

Combination of Regulation Sets and Alignment of Season Dates

- Simplify regulations to help eliminate confusion for new and existing hunters
- Aligns with management strategies
- Encourages hunters to explore new zones

Expansion of Multi-Zone Permit

- Positive feedback from current users
- More bang for your buck!
- Encourages hunters to explore new zones

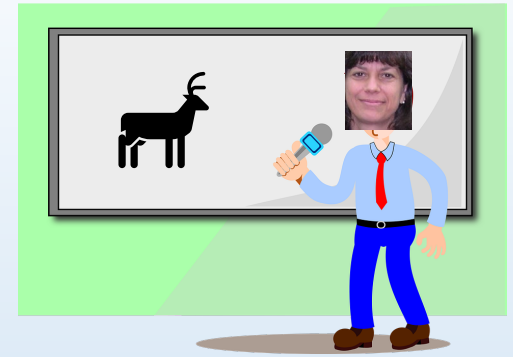
Coming Soon...

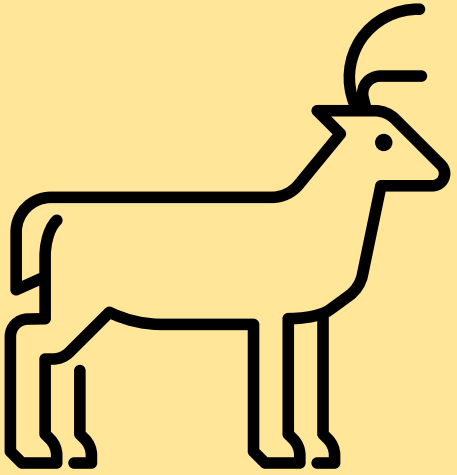
Hunter Forums

N – Pequest?

C – EcoComplex?

S – Batsto SP





Questions?

Additional analyses performed

- **Potential impact of aligning season dates**
 - Removal of February Winter Bow
 - All February harvest by date and season
 - Extending Permit Shotgun and Permit Muzzleloader into Feb.
 - Adding/removing the three days of Permit Shotgun and Permit Muzzleloader prior to Thanksgiving
 - Adding antlerless only during Six-Day Firearm to all zones