



NEW JERSEY DEP  
**Fish and Wildlife**

# Tuckahoe WMA Managed Waterfowl Hunt Summary

**Joe Leskie**

**Principal Biologist-R3 Program Administrator**

**Bureau of Information and Education**

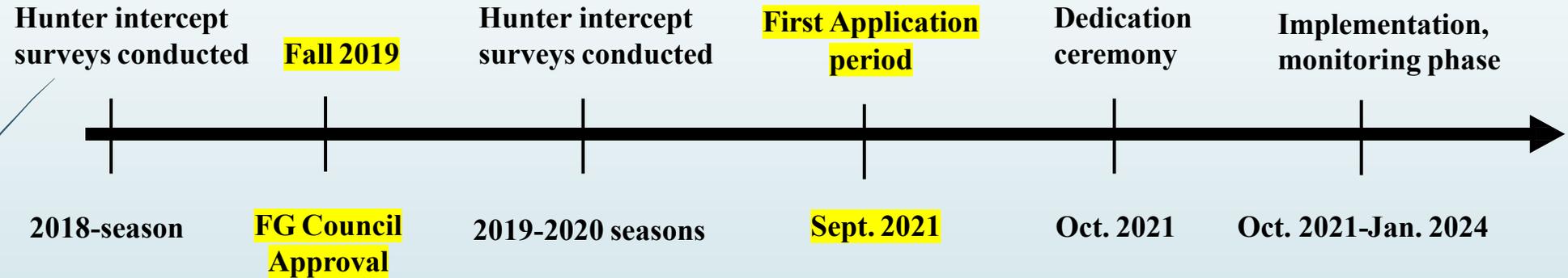
**New Jersey Fish & Wildlife**



Recruit | Retain | Reactivate

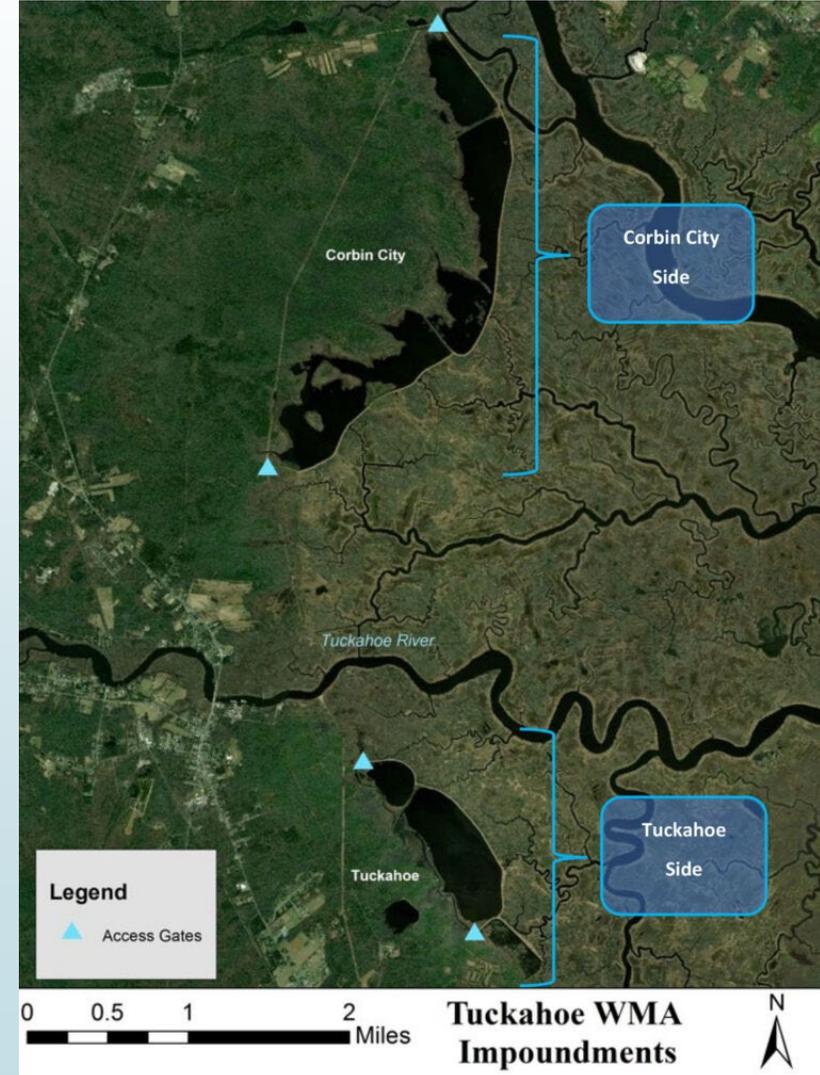


# Tuckahoe Managed Hunt Timeline



# Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area

- Six coastal impoundments totaling 941 acres constructed during the 1940s.
- Second largest WMA – 18,660 acres.
- Primarily consists of tidal marshes, woodlands, fields, and impoundments.
- Corbin City – Atlantic County
- Tuckahoe – Cape May County



# TUCKAHOE WMA

# WATERFOWL DRAW MAP

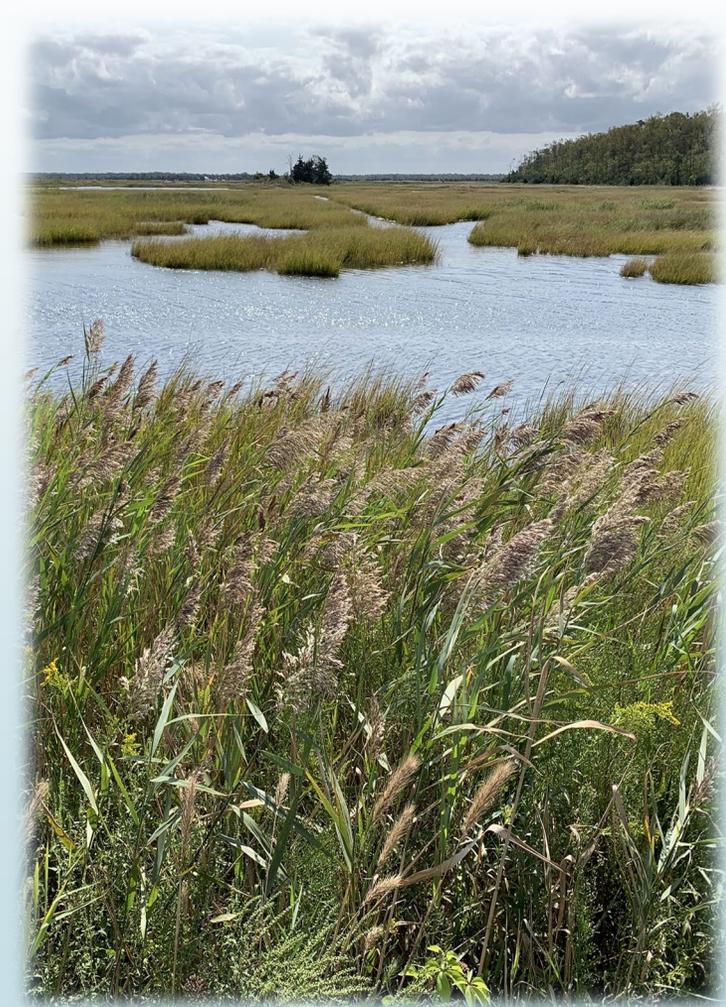


This draw board was provided by a partnership between Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife to improve the waterfowl hunting experience.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO: HUNT SAFE, HUNT SMART, AND HUNT ETHICALLY.

# Four Major Program Objectives

- **Improve the overall quality of waterfowl habitat and hunting at the Tuckahoe WMA impoundments.**  
(Hunt only Mon. Wed. & Sat. until 12:00 noon)
- **Provide opportunities for *new or less experienced waterfowl hunters.* (RECRUIT)**
- **Provide a new and improved experience for *current waterfowl hunters.* (RETAIN)**
- **Provide an opportunity that alleviates access and overcrowding that negatively impact waterfowl hunters' experiences, ultimately leading to *bringing waterfowl hunters back.* (REACTIVATE)**



# Staff Stepped Up!



## Special Thanks...

- Courtney Venuti
- Sam Forlenza
- Tiffany Woolley

# 2022-2023 Application Results

- **Pre-season lottery application (September 1–25)**
- **Application Online choosing 10 dates**
- **468 (430) applications received for 180 hunt dates**
- **A total of 264 (237) unique hunters recorded last year**
- **81% applicants never hunted Tuckahoe**

## Avidity

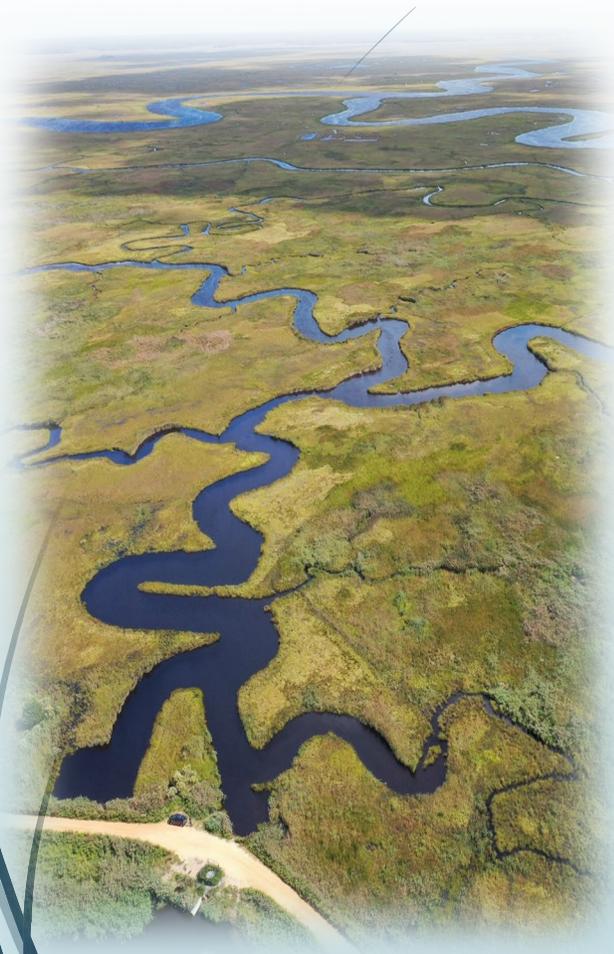
- **41% 0-3 years waterfowl hunting**
- **23% 4-9 years waterfowl hunting**
- **36% 10+ years waterfowl hunting**

## R3 Avidity/Churn

- **63% I am currently active waterfowl hunters**
- **25% I am a new/inexperienced waterfowl hunter**
- **12% I used to hunt/some years I hunt some I do not**



# 2nd Year Survey Summary



## 2022-23

**311** Surveys collected

Mean age: **39** years old

**88%** residents, **12%** nonresidents

**48%** travel > 1 hour to Tuckahoe

### Hunter Participation:

**27%** hunt **0-5** days,

**21%** hunt **6-10** days,

**24%** hunt **11-20** days

**27%** hunt **over 20** days

Averaged **3.3** hunters per group

## 2021-22

**183** Surveys collected

Mean age: **40** years old

**90%** residents, **10%** nonresidents

**54%** travel > 1 hour to Tuckahoe

### Hunter Participation:

**20%** hunt **0-5** days,

**22%** hunt **6-10** days,

**25%** hunt **11-20** days

**32%** hunt **over 20** days

Averaged **3.0** hunters per group

# Year Two Post Hunt-How'd We Do?

## 2022-23

### Support of a hunt plan

- **90%** support program continuance
- **7%** no opinion/undecided, **3%** suspend

### Satisfaction

- Ducks seen: **61%**
- Ducks harvested: **37%**
- Hunters encountered: **74%**
- **Overall Satisfaction: 67%**

### Lottery & Logistics Rank (1–poor, 5–excellent)

- Lottery application process: **4.6**
- Lottery notification process: **4.7**
- Blind locations: **4.4**
- Logistics parking & blind access: **4.7**
- Check out & exit survey process: **4.8**

## 2021-22

### Support of a hunt plan

- **87%** support program continuance
- **10%** no opinion/undecided, **2%** suspend

### Satisfaction

- Ducks seen: **76%**
- Ducks harvested: **34%**
- Hunters encountered: **70%**
- **Overall Satisfaction: 54%**

### Lottery & Logistics Rank (1–poor, 5–excellent)

- Lottery application process: **4.2**
- Lottery notification process: **4.3**
- Blind locations: **3.2**
- Logistics parking & blind access: **3.9**
- Check out & exit survey process: **4.5**

# Program Issues: Corbin City

## 1. Gate Maintenance-Suspended

Extremely time-consuming and logistically difficult. Roads are very rough for constant travel safely & timely.

## 2. Survey data:

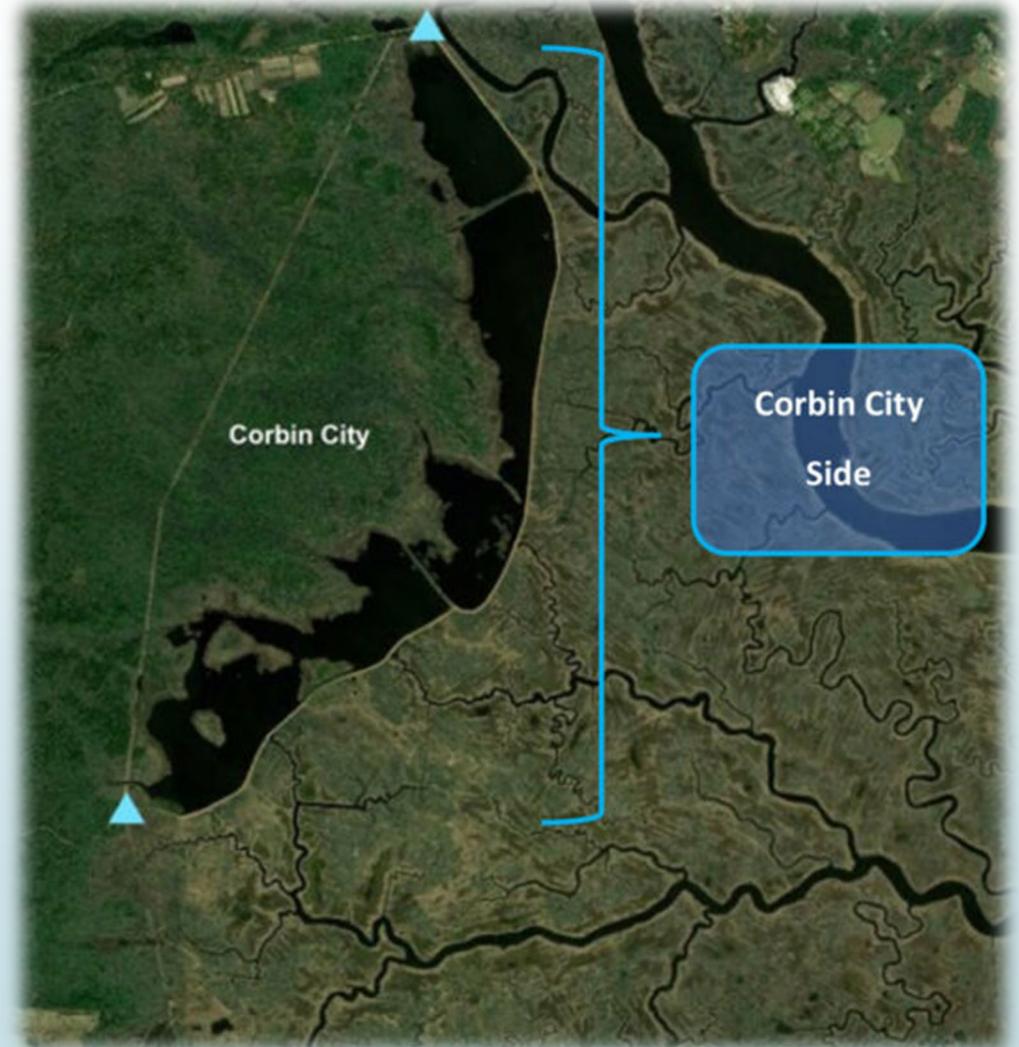
Little to NO survey data collected-Logistically difficult due to staffing, timing and non-compliance.

## 3. SAFETY is Paramount

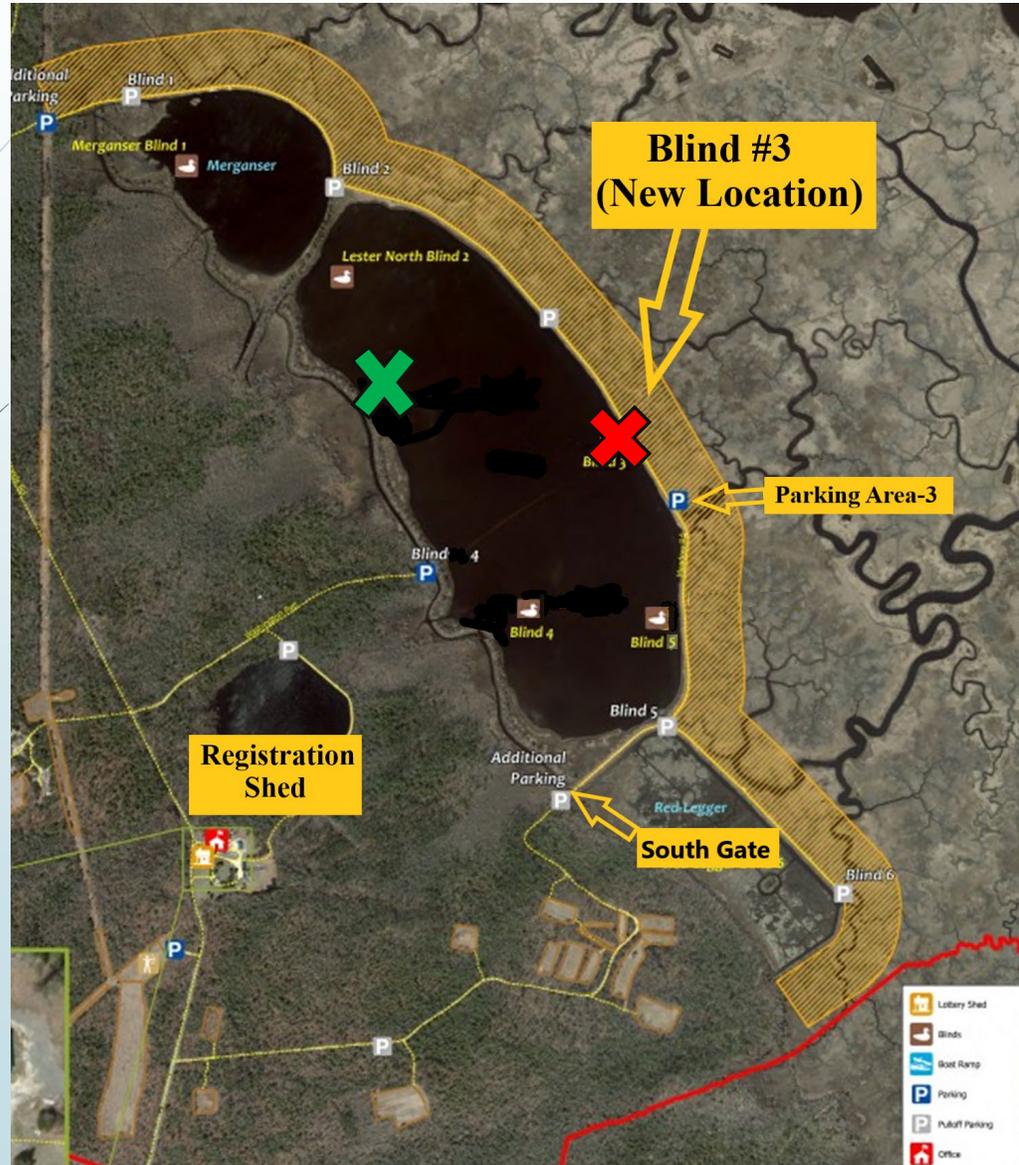
(We have no policing capabilities)  
Staff had issues trying to do our jobs.

4. Finally, it is not a direct R3 initiative-Focus is and should only be on the Tuckahoe Managed Hunt Program.

***Therefore, the Corbin City section is open to hunting without limitations***



# Program Issues: Blind # 3



**We got it back  
and re-anchored**

# Program Issues: Roads

**Sink holes on the dike road**



**Potholes on the access roads**



# Program Improvements: Hunting

- **Rubberized Floor Mats for the blinds**
- **Easier access base into the blind**
- **Step supports into blinds**
- **Extension poles to go deeper into the mud to secure the blind**
- **Real-time blind shifting when needed**
- **Grass upkeep and Maintenance**
- **Decoy loaner “sign up” at time of Lottery Award notification**



# Program Improvements: Hunting

**Before**



**After**



# Program Improvements: Signs & Markers

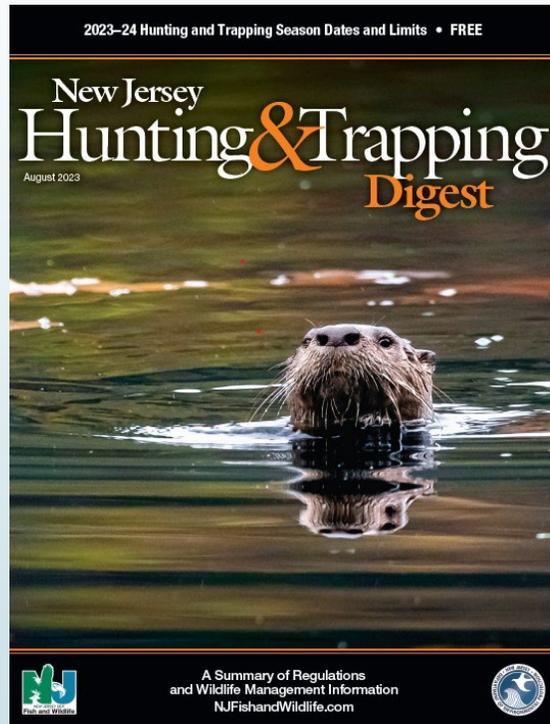


# Program Improvements: Hunters

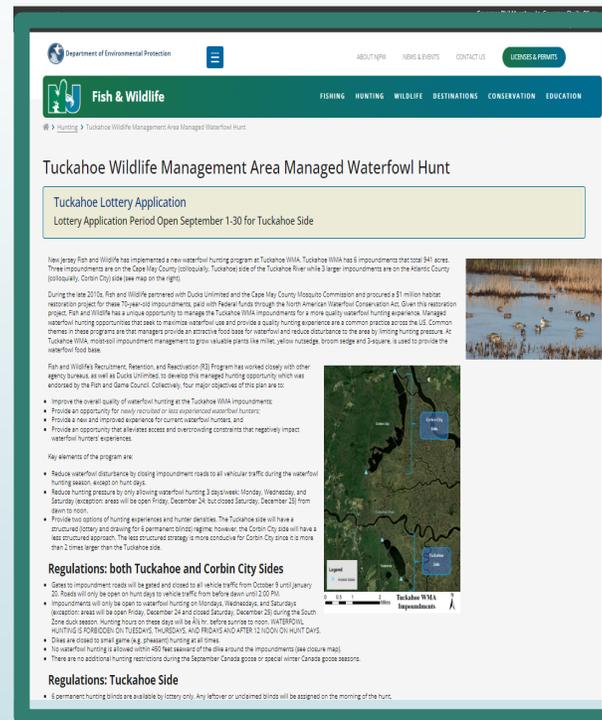
- **On-Line Application will continue**
- **Expand survey abilities utilizing QR Code**
- **Phone number will be supplied to hunters**
- **30-minute late window-Need to fill blinds**
- **Offer up Mentored Hunting Opportunities to take advantage of the Program**
- **Offer a 2 Day weekend Hunter Orientation Day prior to the season so program winners can see where they will be hunting.  
Scheduled for: October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-2:00**
- **Updated FAQ Page with suggestions on expectations on equipment and navigating the impoundments**



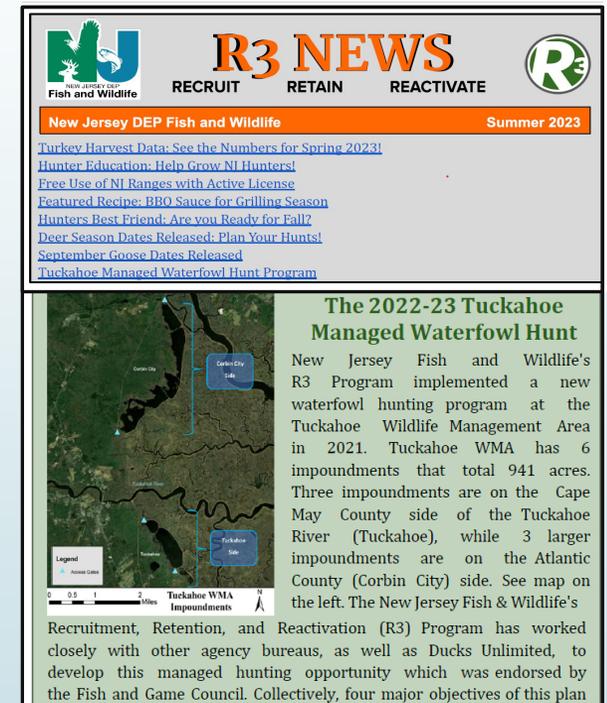
# We Will Continue to Promote the Program



➤ Information in our 2023-24 Hunting & Trapping Digest



➤ Information and fillable application on the NJ Fish & Wildlife Website and Social Media



➤ Information in our Summer version of the 2023 R3 Newsletter



# Thank You!



# QUESTIONS ?