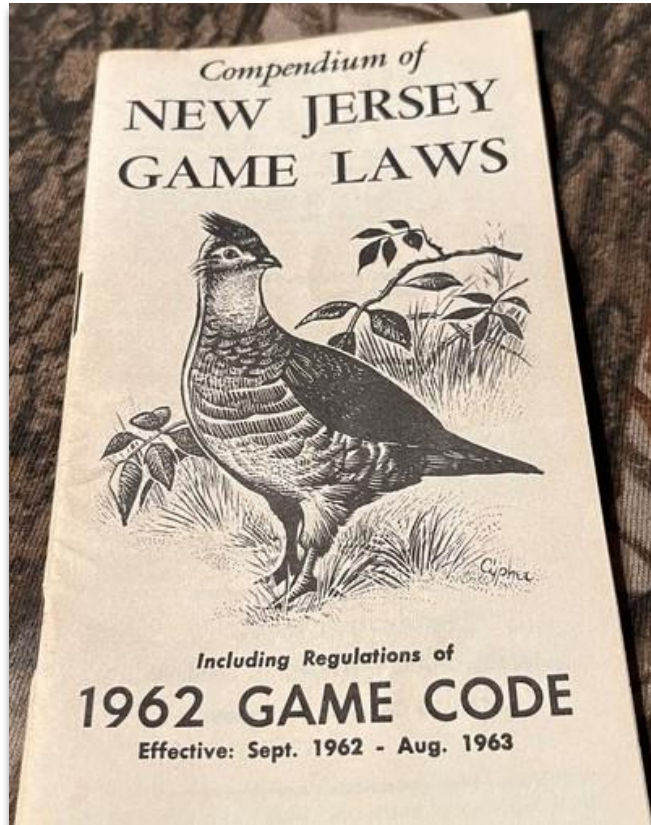




2025 PROPOSED GAME CODE CHANGES

JULY 9, 2024





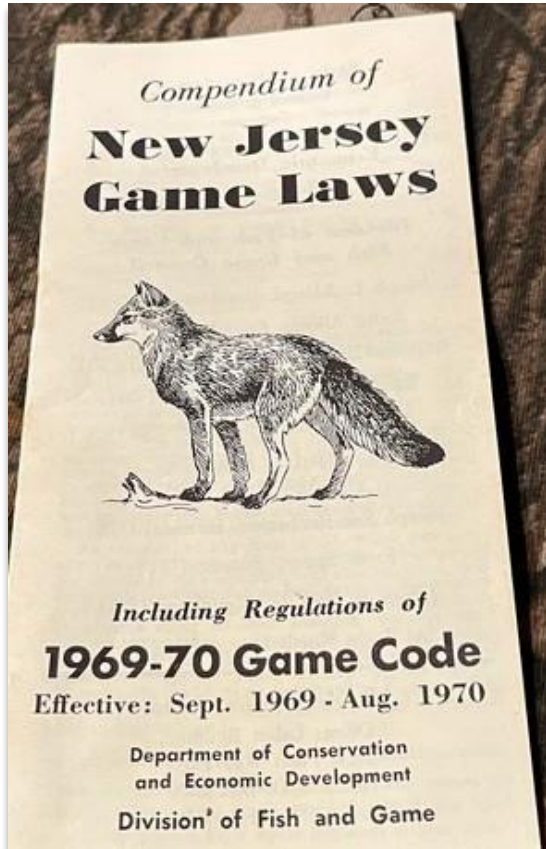
- **Largest “rewrite” in decades**
- **Code language – streamlined and simplified**
- **ALL sections are now consistent and uniform**

7:25-5.XX Species

- **WHAT'S NEEDED** (a) Licensing and permit requirement
- **WHEN** (b) season dates, hunting hours
- **HOW MANY** (c) bag limits
- **HOW** (d) manner
- **MEANS** (e) method and ammo
- **PERMITS** (f) permits (if applicable): application process (regular and farmer) and issuance etc.
- **TAGGING/REPORTING** (g) tagging, AHRS, etc.
- **WHERE** (h) management zones or areas, as applicable
- **PERMIT QUOTAS** (i) quota tables
- **AUTHORITY** (j) Statutes that support provide authority for rules within subsection



RECODIFICATION - LAYOUT



Main SUBSECTIONS

- General Provisions
- Closed Seasons
- Hunting
- Trapping
- Special Permits
- Wildlife Disease – Surveillance and Management

Regulations for Individual Species listed alphabetically under Hunting & Trapping

Prohibit dog training on WMAs stocked for Youth Week for Pheasants.



GENERAL PROVISIONS 7:25-5.1

Opening Day - change start time from 8 am to sunrise.



PARTRIDGE, PHEASANT & QUAIL 7:25-5.10

Remove list of specific stocked WMAs and reference Fish & Wildlife website.



PARTRIDGE, PHEASANT & QUAIL 7:25-5.10

Extend season on Semi-Wilds by 16 days to end March 31st and eliminate option to extend season by 20 days, as no longer necessary.



PARTRIDGE, PHEASANT & QUAIL 7:25-5.10

Remove restriction of stocking pen-reared quail in south Jersey WMAs near previous quail focal areas.



PARTRIDGE, PHEASANT & QUAIL 7:25-5.10

Gray Squirrel Muzzleloader

- Eliminate season/zones
- Allow up to .36 cal.
muzzleloader during small
game season



SQUIRREL

7:25-5.13

Close Fall Either-Sex Season

- Farmers may take 2 birds during Spring gobbler



TURKEY 7:25-5.14

Ammunition Changes

- Allow .410 and 28 gauge
- Require minimum density of 18 grams per cubic centimeter shot for .410 and 28 gauge



TURKEY 7:25-5.14

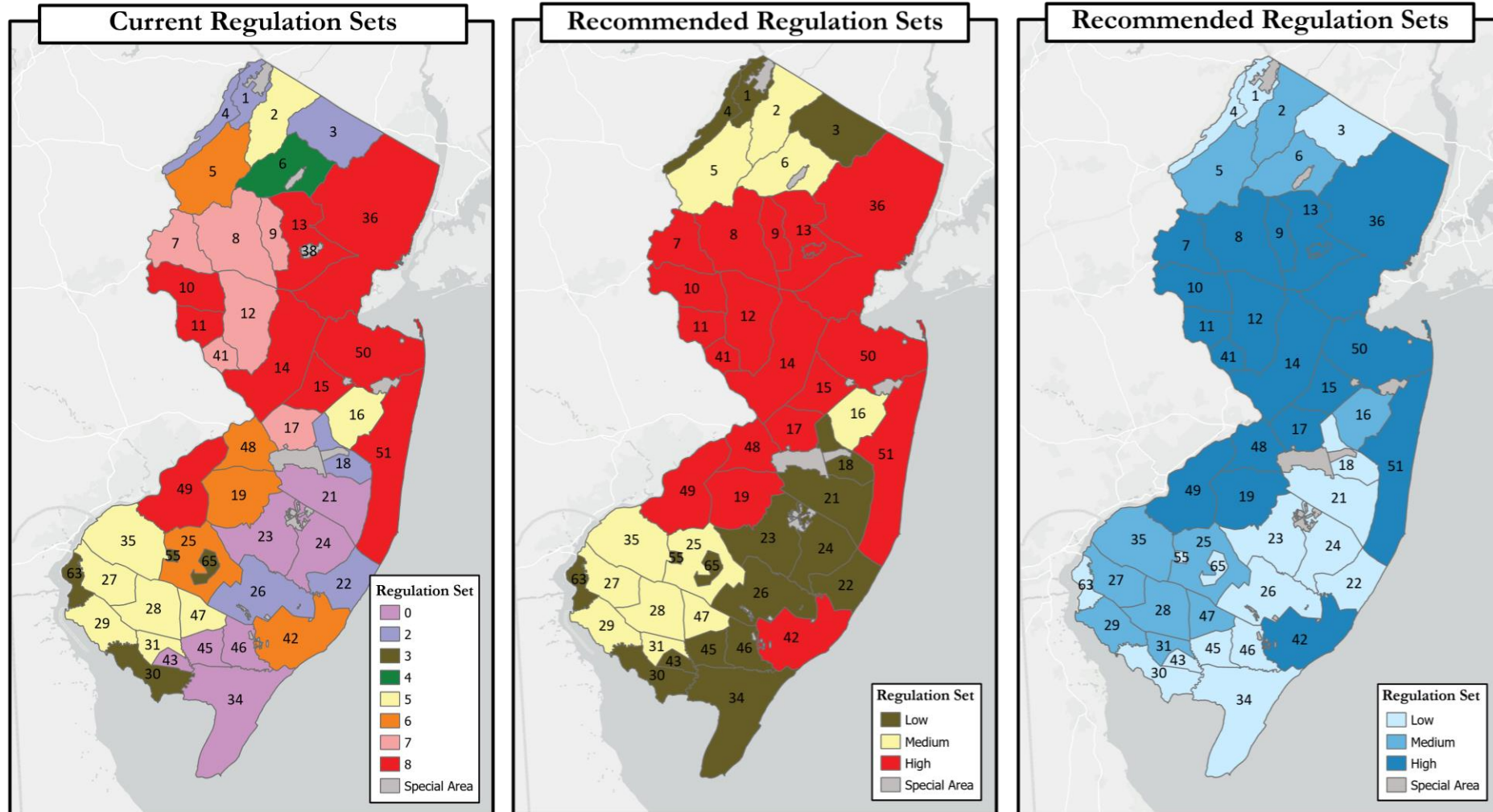
Removal of turkey blinds from WMAs & Parks and Forestry properties at the end of legal hunting hours each day.

Turkey blinds must be labeled with CID number.



TURKEY 7:25-5.14

Optimize, reform & combine regulation sets



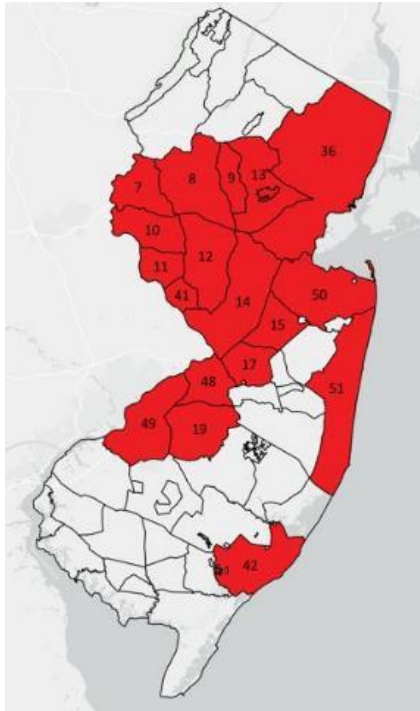
WHITE-TAILED DEER

7:25-5.15

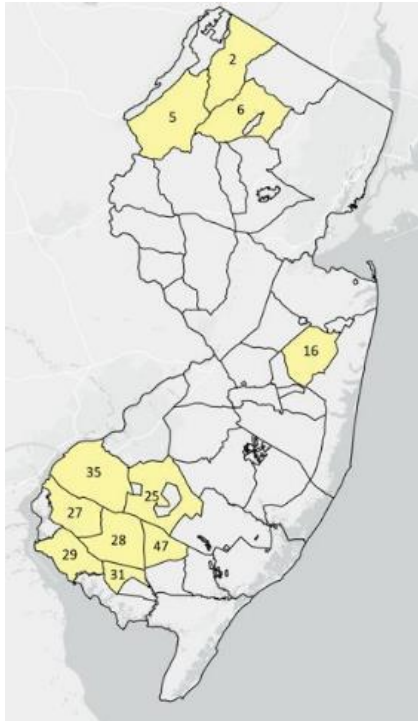
Multi-Zone Permit

Expansion to other regulations sets

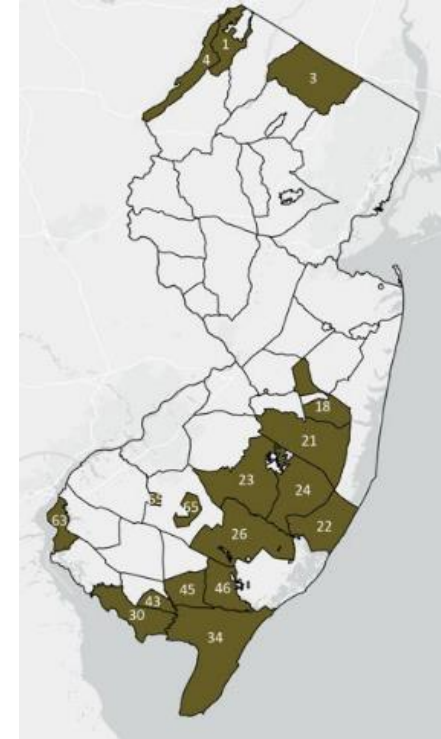
HIGH



MEDIUM



LOW



Simplify Regulations

- Reinstate 7 buck bag limit
- Align season date structure



WHITE-TAILED DEER

7:25-5.15

General Safety

Require bow hunters to wear hunter orange during Six-Day Firearm Season



WHITE-TAILED DEER

7:25-5.15

Antler Point Restriction (APR)

- Exempt Youth Hunters from APR
Regulation throughout ALL seasons (including the youth bow day and youth firearm day)
- Exempt properties hunted under the Union County Deer Management Program
- Exempt properties hunted under the Morris County Parks Commission
- Exempt Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge



WHITE-TAILED DEER

7:25-5.15

Incorporate Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge into Zone 13

- Eliminates DMZ 38



WHITE-TAILED DEER

7:25-5.15

JOINT BASE MDL (DMZS 37 & 53)

Want to combine DMZs 37 and 53 in to one new DMZ (71?)



WHITE-TAILED DEER

7:25-5.15

Woodchuck

Allow .25 caliber air gun for hunting



WOODCHUCK

7:25-5.22

Body Gripping Traps

Add beaver, mink, nutria, and river otter to the species for which gripping traps can be set exposed above the water surface in tidal areas.



TRAPPING

7:25-5.23

Air Guns

Allow .25 caliber air guns for dispatching all animals, except those taken on watersets.



TRAPPING

7:25-5.23

Lengthen season to

- Dec. 15 – Mar. 15

CURRENTLY

- Statewide Season Dec. 26 – Feb. 9
- Jan. 1 – Feb. 9 on stocked WMAs



BEAVER TRAPPING

7:25-5.24

Harvest increase

- 10 beaver bag limit up from 8
- 6 traps/day/zone, increase from 5



BEAVER TRAPPING

7:25-5.24

**Eliminate check station requirement,
Require harvest reporting through AHRS.**



BEAVER TRAPPING

7:25-5.24

General

Replace “durable and legible” tags with “metal tags” for trap identification.



TRAPPING

7:25-5.27

Eliminate requirement to surrender otter carcass.



RIVER OTTER

7:25-5.27

Dispatch

- Allow .25 caliber air gun for dispatching animals
- *Is listed separately from 5.23*



RIVER OTTER

7:25-5.27

Allow use of snap traps on dry land for weasels
provided trap is recessed inside a box (cubby set).

Mink, Muskrat, Nutria & Weasels

- Eliminate North/South Zone
- Open Season Statewide November 15 – March 15



MINK, MUSKRAT, NUTRIA, & WEASELS 7:25-5.25

Gray Fox

Mandatory harvest reporting



Raccoon, red fox, gray fox, Virginia opossum, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, and coyote trapping **7:25-5.26**

Harvest reporting deadline for
ALL species required to be reported to AHRS
(except bear) by 10 pm.



Raccoon, red fox, gray fox, Virginia opossum, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, and coyote trapping **7:25-5.26**

**Add nutria, rabbit, muskrat, and
mink** to list of species allowed for take
in response to damage.

- Damage to crops, livestock or property
- Other special management problems
(airports, waterways, golf courses, etc.)



CONTROL ALLOWED DUE TO DAMAGE BY CERTAIN
SPECIES 7:25-5.34

Divide Regular Season into Day & Night

Day

- Aug. 1 – Mar. 15
- Bow, shotgun, muzzleloader, rimfire, centerfire, .25 cal. air gun
- No rifles on WMAs and Parks Aug. 1 – Dec. 31 (align with woodchuck)
- Allow shot sizes #4 fine to #3 buck
- Dogs allowed – with restrictions



COYOTE HUNTING

7:25-5.5

Divide Regular Season into Day and Night

Night

- Jan. 1 – Mar. 15
- 10-12 ga. shotgun only
- Allow shot sizes #4 fine to #3 buck



COYOTE HUNTING

7:25-5.5

Allow .25 caliber air guns

Eliminate permit requirement
for “Special Permit Season”



COYOTE HUNTING

7:25-5.5

From Aug. 1 to Mar. 31, persons hunting coyotes with a firearm must wear **hunter orange**.



COYOTE HUNTING

7:25-5.5