

Effective Date: June 12, 2000

Wildlife & Non-Tidal Fishing Regulations

**Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Control**

Division of Fish and Wildlife

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WR-1. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of WR-2 through WR-16 and NT-1 through NT-8, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning ascribed to them, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (1) "Administered by the Division" shall mean owned, leased or licensed by the Division.
- (2) "Antlered deer" shall mean any deer with one or more antlers three inches long or longer, measured from the base of the antler where it joins the skull to the tip of the antler following any curve of the antler.
- (3) "Antlerless deer" shall mean any deer that has no antlers or antlers less than three inches in length.
- (4) "Bait" shall mean any nontoxic food material, compound or mixture of ingredients which wildlife is able to consume.
- (5) "Baited field" shall include any farm field, woodland, marsh, water body or other tract of land where minerals, grain, fruit, crop or other nontoxic compounds have been placed to attract wildlife to be hunted.
- (6) "Designated trout stream" shall mean:
 - a. Christina Creek, from the boundary line between this State and the State of Maryland through Rittenhouse Park;
 - b. White Clay Creek, from the boundary line between this State and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the downstream side of Paper Mill Road;
 - c. Pike Creek, from Route 72 to Henderson Road;
 - d. Mill Creek, from Brackenville Road to Route 7;
 - e. Wilson Run, from Route 92 through Brandywine Creek State Park; and
 - f. Beaver Run, from the boundary line between this State and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the Brandywine River.
- (7) "Director" shall mean the Director or Acting Director of the Division.
- (8) "Division" shall mean the Division of Fish and Wildlife of the Department.
- (9) "Established blind" shall mean a structure or pit constructed for the purpose of hunting migratory waterfowl by a landowner on his or her property or by another person with the permission of the landowner or the landowner's duly authorized agent.
- (10) "Established road" shall mean a road maintained for vehicular use by the Division and designated for such use by the Division on current wildlife area maps.
- (11) "Fishing" or "to fish" shall mean to take, catch, kill or reduce to possession or attempt to take, catch, kill or reduce to possession any fish by any means whatsoever.
- (12) "Game fish" shall include smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, black or white crappie, rock bass, white bass, walleye, northern pike, chain pickerel, muskellunge (or hybrids), salmon, trout, sunfishes and white bass/striped bass hybrids.
- (13) "Liberated game" shall mean cottontail rabbits and game birds, including bobwhite quail, mallard duck, chukar and pheasant, released pursuant to § 568 of Title 7.
- (14) "Loaded muzzle-loading rifle" shall mean the powder and ball, bullet or shot is loaded in the bore. A muzzle-loading rifle shall not be considered loaded if the cap, primer, or priming powder (in a flintlock) is removed and:

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- a. The striking mechanism used to ignite the cap, primer or priming powder is removed or rendered inoperable; or

b. The rifle is enclosed in a case.

(15) "Lure" shall mean any mixture of ingredients, element or compound that attract wildlife, but the wildlife is unlikely to consume.

(16) "Longbow" shall mean a straight limb, reflex, recurve or compound bow. All crossbows or variations thereof and mechanical holding and releasing devices are expressly excluded from the definition.

(17) "Native wildlife" shall mean any species of the animal kingdom indigenous to this State.

(18) "Possession" shall mean either actual or constructive possession of or any control over the object referred to.

(19) "Refuge" shall mean an area of land, whether in public or private ownership, designated by the Department as a refuge. Land shall only be designated with the permission of the landowner and if such designation is thought to be in the best interest of the conservation of wildlife. Refuges shall normally be closed at all times to all forms of hunting, except as permitted by the Director in writing for wildlife management purposes.

(20) "Restricted trout stream" shall mean the White Clay Creek from a point 25 yards above Thompson Bridge at Chambers Rock Road to the boundary line between this State and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(21) "Roadway" shall mean any road, lane or street, including associated right-of-ways, maintained by this State or any political subdivision of this State.

(22) "Season" shall mean that period of time during which a designated species of wildlife may be lawfully hunted or a designated species of fish may be lawfully fished.

(23) "Wildlife" shall mean any member of the animal kingdom, including without limitation, any amphibian, arthropod, bird, mammal or reptile.

(24) "Vehicle" shall include any means in or by which someone travels or something is carried or conveyed or a means of conveyance or transport, whether or not propelled by its own power.

WR-2. METHOD OF TAKE.

Section 1. General.

Unless otherwise provided by law or regulation of the Department, it shall be unlawful to hunt any protected wildlife with any weapon or firearm other than a longbow or shotgun (10 gauge or smaller), except that:

(1) A crossbow may be used in lieu of a shotgun to hunt deer during that part of the November shotgun season that runs from Monday through Saturday of each year and in any shotgun or muzzleloader deer season open in December or January;

(2) A muzzle-loading rifle with a barrel length of at least twenty inches may be used to hunt deer during the primitive firearms season;

(3) A .22 caliber rimfire pistol may be used to hunt raccoons and opossums and to take wildlife lawfully confined in a trap;

(4) A hook, spear or gig may be used to take frogs; and

(5) A spear, gig, trap or fyke net may be used to take snapping turtles.

Section 2. Bow and Arrow.

(a) *General.* – No person shall use or have in his or her possession, while hunting, any: poison arrow, arrow with explosive tip, or any bow drawn, held or released by mechanical means, except the Director may issue permits to hunters who are permanently disabled to use crossbows, provided:

- (1) The applicant has a physician's certification that he or she is unable to use conventional archery equipment;
- (2) The applicant has a disability that requires the use of a wheelchair;
- (3) The applicant is a single or double amputee above the elbow, or a double amputee below the elbow;
- (4) The applicant has a permanent physical disorder which cannot be surgically corrected and prevents the use of an arm or hand;
- (5) The applicant has lung disease to the extent that forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one (1) second when measured by spirometer is less than one (1) liter or arterial oxygen tension (po) is less than 60 mm/Hg on room air at rest; or
- (6) The applicant has cardiovascular disease to the extent that functional limitations are classified in severity as class III or class IV according to standards accepted by the American Heart Association.

(b) *Crossbows.* – Crossbows used for deer hunting must be between 125 and 200 pounds of pull weight, manufactured after 1980, and have a mechanical safety.

Section 3. Hunting from Boats.

(a) *Distance from Blinds.* – During the season for the hunting of migratory waterfowl, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt from a boat of any kind that is within 1500 feet of an established blind, except that:

- (1) Any person may use a boat to tend lawfully set traps for fur-bearing wildlife;
- (2) Any person may retrieve crippled waterfowl by the use of a boat in accordance with federal regulations;
- (3) Any person may use a boat for transportation to and from an established blind lawfully used by such person;
- (4) Any person may hunt from a boat that is firmly secured and enclosed in an established blind.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any person may hunt migratory waterfowl within 1500 feet of an established blind, from a boat, with permission of the blind owner.

(c) *Gunning Rigs.*

(1) During the season for hunting migratory waterfowl, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt within 900 feet of the shoreline (high tide line) of the Delaware River and Bay, between the Appoquinimink River and the Smyrna River, without written permission of the closest adjoining landowner(s).

(2) During the season for hunting migratory waterfowl, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt within 1500 feet of the shoreline (high tide line) of the Delaware River and Bay, between the Smyrna River and the Murderkill River, without written permission of the closest adjoining landowner(s).

(d) *Tender Boats.* – It shall be unlawful for tender boats servicing gunning (layout) rigs to be further than 1500 feet from the rig or to conduct any activity, except to pick up downed birds or service the rig.

(e) During the season for hunting migratory waterfowl, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt from a boat, or a floating or fixed blind in the Little River in areas bounded on both sides by land administered by the Division, except as permitted in writing by the Director.

Section 4. Leghold Traps.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to set a leghold trap at any time in this State, except from December 1 through March 10 (March 20 on embanked meadows) in New Castle County and December 15 through March 15 in Kent and Sussex counties.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, it shall be lawful to trap raccoons with leghold traps in New Castle County or Kent County from the southerly boundary of New Castle County Route 380 and east and southeast of the center line of U.S. Route No. 13, thence following said center line of U.S. Route No. 13 to the point where U.S. Route No. 13 forms a junction with U.S. Route No. 113 and thence along the center line of U.S. Route No. 113 to a line dividing Kent County from Sussex County during any time of the year, except on Sundays. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this subsection shall not apply to lands in Kent County lying east of the center line of Rt. 113, north of the Sussex County line and south of the St. Jones River.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to set long-spring traps, “Stop-Loss” traps or jump traps larger than No. 1½ or coil-spring traps larger than No. 1 in any location, except:

- (1) In any marsh ordinarily subject to the rise and fall of the tide;
- (2) In a diked marsh that was formerly tidal;
- (3) Below the mean high tide line in a river ordinarily subject to the rise and fall of the tide;
- (4) On an island surrounded by tidal marsh or diked marsh that was formerly tidal; or
- (5) In the areas described in subsection (b) of this section.

The term “diked marsh” shall not include millponds or any stream running into a millpond.

(d) In addition to the areas listed in subsection (c) of this section, traps described in said subsection may be set for river otter and/or beavers in tax ditches, millponds and streams leading into such ponds only by underwater sets.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person to set or make use of long-spring traps, “Stop-Loss” traps or jump traps larger than No. 1½ or coil-spring traps larger than No. 1 without first permanently attaching a metallic tag on each trap, bearing:

- (1) The words “Trapping License, Delaware”, the number of the trapping license issued to the owner of the traps and the year of issuance; or
- (2) The owner's name and address.

(f) It shall be unlawful for any person to set a long-spring trap, “Stop-Loss” trap, jump trap No. 1½ or smaller or a coil-spring trap No. 1 or smaller in any location in this State, except in the areas described in subsections (c) and (d) of this section and in the following locations:

- (1) A ditch;
- (2) A stream; or
- (3) On land not subject to cultivation of crops due to a normally marshy condition.

(g) For the purposes of subsection (f) of this section, the term “ditch” shall mean a long, narrow channel dug into the earth as a trough for drainage or irrigation of the soil that normally contains flowing water.

(h) For the purposes of subsection (f) of this section, the term “normally marshy condition” shall mean land with one or more of the following associated plant groupings growing upon it: cordgrass, sedges, rushes, cattails, threesquare or phragmites.

(i) When information is furnished to a Fish and Wildlife Agent from the owner, tenant or sharecropper of any land that any species of wildlife is detrimental to crops, property or other interests on land on which he or she resides or controls, upon investigation, that Fish and Wildlife Agent may issue a permit to such person or his or her agent for the use of leghold traps to control said species of wildlife. Said permit may be issued at any time of the year.

(j) The setting of each trap in violation of this section shall be a separate offense.

Section 5. Gray Squirrel.

Hunting gray squirrels with a .22 caliber rimfire rifle or muzzle-loading rifle not larger than .36 caliber firing a round projectile is permitted south of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal during that part of the gray squirrel season which is not concurrent with the rabbit, quail or pheasant seasons as they are described in WR- 4.

Section 6. Muskrats.

It shall be unlawful for any person to shoot muskrats at any time, except with written permission of the Director.

Section 7. Otters.

Each otter trapped in Delaware must be tagged by an authorized representative of the Division. Each otter sold in Delaware or shipped out of the State must be tagged in accordance with the requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Section 8. Red Fox.

Red foxes may be killed in accordance with § 788 of Title 7 with the following: bow and arrow; shotgun with shot up to size 2 lead or T steel; rimfire rifle or centerfire rifle up to .25 caliber using hollow point bullets with a maximum bullet weight of 75 grains; or a muzzle-loading rifle.

WR-3. FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED.

Section 1. Federal Laws.

It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt, buy, sell or possess any protected wildlife or part thereof, except in such manner and numbers as may be prescribed by the following federal laws and regulations promulgated thereunder: Airborne Hunting Act (16 USC § 742j-1 et seq.), Eagle Act (16 USC § 668 et seq.), Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), Lacey Act (16 USC § 3371 et seq.), Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 USC § 1361 et seq.), and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC § 703 et seq.). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the federal laws and regulations shall be superseded by more stringent restrictions prescribed by State law or regulation of the Department.

Section 2. Sea Ducks.

Scoters, eiders and old squaw ducks may be taken during their special season not less than 800 yards seaward from the Delaware Bay shore beginning at an east/west line between Port Mahon and the Elbow Cross Navigation Light south to the Atlantic Ocean or in the Atlantic Ocean.

Section 3. Non-toxic Shot.

(a) *Required Usage.* – Non-toxic shot, as defined by federal regulations, shall be required for waterfowl hunting in Delaware. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess shells loaded with lead shot while waterfowl hunting.

(b) *Maximum Shot Size.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt, except for deer, in Delaware with any size non-toxic shot (as defined by federal regulations) pellet(s) larger than size T (.20 inches in diameter).

Section 4. Special Mallard Release Areas.

The Division may issue permits to allow the taking of captive-reared mallards during the established waterfowl season under applicable federal regulations. Permits shall only be issued to persons who: control at least 100 acres of land on which there is suitable waterfowl habitat; agree to follow a management plan and federal regulations; and maintain a log of guests and birds harvested. Failure to follow the management plan or a violation of State or federal laws may result in the revocation of a Special Mallard Release Area Permit. Waterfowl may only be hunted on Special Mallard Release Areas from one-half hour after sunrise to one hour before sunset.

WR-4. SEASONS.

Section 1. Season Dates.

Hunting and trapping season dates will be published each year in an annual publication entitled “Delaware Hunting and Trapping Guide.”

Section 2. General.

It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt those species of wildlife for which a season is designated at any time other than during that season.

Section 3. Protected Wildlife.

(a) Unless otherwise provided by law or regulation of the Department, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt any species of protected wildlife.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, transport or possess any species of protected wildlife, except when:

- (1) Otherwise provided by law or regulation of the Department; or
- (2) The wildlife was lawfully taken outside of this State in accordance with the laws or regulations of the state or nation where the wildlife was taken.

Section 4. Beaver.

(a) Unless otherwise provided by law or regulation of the Department, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt or trap beaver during any period of the year, however, from December 1 through March 20, landowners (or their agents) may take up to eight (8) beavers from their property without a permit, provided:

- (1) Beavers are damaging crops or other property;
- (2) The property damage is certified by the landowner; and
- (3) The number of beavers taken is reported to the Division by April 1.

(b) Beaver hides and the meat of lawfully taken beaver harvested anywhere within or outside of Delaware may be sold.

Section 5. Bullfrogs.

(a) *Season.* – Bullfrogs may be hunted in accordance with the statutes and regulations of the State of Delaware governing the hunting of bullfrogs: from May 1 through September 30.

(b) *Limit.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to take more than twenty-four (24) bullfrogs in any one day.

(c) *License.* – A hunting or fishing license is required to take bullfrogs.

Section 6. Crows.

It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt common crows during any period of the year, except Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays between and including the fourth Thursday of June and the last Saturday of March, unless said person holds a valid depredation permit. The hunting of common crows is restricted only by the provisions of federal regulations pertaining to the taking of common crows. Crows may be taken without a permit when committing damage or about to commit damage.

Section 7. Gray Squirrel.

(a) *Season.* – Gray squirrel may be hunted in accordance with the statutes and regulations of the State of Delaware governing the hunting of gray squirrel: from September 15 (September 14, if September 15 is a Sunday) through the first Saturday in November; and from the Monday that immediately precedes Thanksgiving through the day that precedes the January shotgun deer season. Squirrel hunting shall be unlawful during any period and in any area when it is lawful to hunt deer with a firearm.

(b) *Limit.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to take more than four (4) gray squirrels in any one day.

Section 8. Opossum.

The opossum may only be hunted or trapped during the lawful season to hunt or trap raccoons.

Section 9. Pheasant.

(a) *Season.* – Male pheasant may be hunted in accordance with the statutes and regulations of the State of Delaware governing the hunting of pheasant: from the Monday that immediately precedes Thanksgiving through the day that precedes the January shotgun deer season, except that no pheasant hunting shall be lawful during any period when it is lawful to hunt deer with a

firearm. Notwithstanding the foregoing, pheasant may be hunted during the December firearm deer season when hunter orange is displayed in accordance with § 718 of Title 7.

(b) *Female Pheasant.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt or possess any female pheasant at any time, except as permitted on licensed game preserves, by licensed game breeders or as otherwise permitted by law.

(c) *Male Pheasant Limit.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt or possess more than two (2) male pheasants in any one day during the pheasant season, except as permitted by law.

(d) *Scientific or Propagating Purposes.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to possess pheasants for scientific and propagating purposes without a valid permit from the Director.

(e) *Game Preserves.* – Nothing in this regulation shall be construed so as to limit the number or sex of pheasants that may be harvested by any one person on licensed game preserves.

Section 10. Quail.

(a) *Season.* – Bobwhite quail may be hunted in accordance with the statutes and regulations of the State of Delaware governing the hunting of bobwhite quail: from the Monday that immediately precedes Thanksgiving through the first Saturday of February, except that no quail hunting shall be lawful during any period when it is lawful to hunt deer with a firearm.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, quail may be hunted during the December or January firearm deer seasons when hunter orange is displayed in accordance with § 718 of Title 7.

(b) *Limit.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to take more than six (6) quail in any one day.

Section 11. Rabbit.

(a) *Season.* – Rabbits may be hunted in accordance with the statutes and regulations of the State of Delaware governing the hunting of rabbits: from the Monday that immediately precedes Thanksgiving through the first Saturday in February, except that no rabbit hunting shall be lawful during any period when it is lawful to hunt deer with a firearm. Notwithstanding the foregoing, rabbit may be hunted during the December or January firearm deer seasons when hunter orange is displayed in accordance with § 718 of Title 7.

(b) *Limit.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to take more than four (4) rabbits in any one day.

Section 12. Raccoon.

(a) *Trapping Season.* – Raccoon may be trapped in accordance with the statutes and regulations of the State of Delaware governing the trapping of raccoon: from December 1 through March 10 (March 20 on embanked meadows) in New Castle County; and from December 15 through March 15 in Kent and Sussex counties. The season is open throughout the year on private land, except on Sundays, in eastern New Castle and Kent counties pursuant to § 786 of Title 7 and Section 4(b) of WR-2.

(b) *Hunting Season.* – Raccoon may be hunted in accordance with the statutes and regulations of the State of Delaware governing the hunting of raccoon: from September 1 (September 2, if September 1 is a Sunday) through October 31 for chase only whereby it shall be unlawful to kill raccoon and opossum; from November 1 through the last day of February; and from March 1 through March 31 for chase only whereby it shall be unlawful to kill raccoon and

opossum. The season is open throughout the year on private land in eastern New Castle and Kent counties, except on Sundays, pursuant to § 786 of Title 7.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt raccoon or opossum during any period when it is lawful to hunt deer with a firearm, except that it shall be lawful to hunt raccoon from 7:00 p.m. until midnight during the December and January firearm deer seasons.

Section 13. Red Fox.

Red fox may be hunted in accordance with the statutes and regulations of the State of Delaware governing the hunting of red fox: from October 1 through April 30 for chase only whereby it shall be unlawful to kill red fox, except no red fox hunting shall be lawful during any period when it is lawful to hunt deer with a firearm. Notwithstanding the foregoing, red foxes may be killed in accordance with Section 8 of WR-2 and § 788 of Title 7.

Section 14. Ruffed Grouse.

It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt for ruffed grouse during any period of the year.

Section 15. Snapping Turtles.

(a) *Season.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt for snapping turtles during any period of the year, except between and including June 15 and May 15.

(b) *Size.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, offer for sale or kill any snapping turtle with a carapace length of less than eight (8) inches, measured on the curvature.

Section 16. Terrapin.

(a) *Season.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt for diamondback terrapin during any period of the year, except between and including September 1 and November 15.

(b) *Limit.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to take more than four (4) diamondback terrapin in any one day.

WR-5. WILD TURKEYS.

Section 1. Possession of Wild Turkey Prohibited; Exceptions.

It shall be unlawful for any person, other than authorized representatives of the Division, to release or possess Meleagris gallopavo (wild turkey) in Delaware without a permit from the Division. The prohibition to possess and/or release Meleagris gallopavo shall include both birds taken from the wild and birds bred in captivity.

Section 2. Instruction Requirement.

It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain a turkey hunting permit from the Division before a person attends a Division approved course of instruction in turkey hunting.

Section 3. Method of Take.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to use any firearm to hunt wild turkeys, except a 10, 12, 16, or 20 gauge shotgun loaded with size 4, 5, or 6 shot or a longbow with a broadhead arrow, 7/8 inches in minimum width.

- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to use bait or dogs to hunt wild turkeys.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to “drive” wild turkeys.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for any person to shoot any wild turkey that is in a roost tree.
- (e) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt wild turkeys unless said person is wearing camouflage clothing.
- (f) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt wild turkeys if said person is wearing any garment with the colors white, red, or blue.
- (g) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt wild turkeys and use artificial turkey decoys of either sex that are wholly or partially made from any part of a turkey that was formerly alive.

Section 4. Season and Limit.

(a) The Division may establish a season for hunting bearded wild turkeys by permit. The Division will determine the terms and conditions of the issuance of permits. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt wild turkey, except as permitted by the written authorization of the Division.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt wild turkeys, except from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to not check a wild turkey at an authorized checking station by 2:30 p.m. on the day of kill.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take more than one bearded wild turkey per season.

WR-6. GAME PRESERVES.

It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt liberated game on licensed game preserves from April 1 through October 14.

WR-7. DEER.

Section 1. Limit.

(a) Unless otherwise provided by law or regulation of the Department, it shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (1) Kill or take or attempt to kill or take more than two deer in any license year;
- (2) Kill or take two deer in any license year without at least one of the two deer being an antlerless deer; or
- (3) Possess or transport any deer that was unlawfully killed.

(b) For the purposes of this section, a person “driving deer” and not in possession of any weapon or firearm shall not be treated as if they are hunting deer, provided they are assisting lawful hunters.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to purchase, sell, expose for sale, transport or possess with the intent to sell, any deer or any part of such deer at any time, except that hides from deer lawfully killed and checked may be sold when tagged with a non-transferable tag issued by the Division. Said tag must remain attached to the hide until it leaves the State or is commercially processed into leather. This subsection shall not apply to venison approved for sale by the United States Department of Agriculture and imported into Delaware.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a person may purchase an Antlerless Deer Tag for \$10 to kill or take an additional antlerless deer during the open season, provided:

- (1) The tag is valid for the season in which it is used; and
- (2) The tag is valid in the deer management zone from which the deer is taken.

(e) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a person may purchase one Quality Buck Tag for \$10 to take a second antlered deer with a minimum outside antler spread of fifteen inches, provided the tag is valid for the season in which it is used.

Section 2. Tagging and Designated Checking Stations.

(a) *Attaching Tags.* – Each licensed person who hunts and kills a deer shall, immediately after the killing and before removing the deer from the location of the killing, attach an approved tag to the deer. An approved tag shall mean an Antlerless Deer Tag, Quality Buck Tag or a tag detached from a Delaware hunting license. Any unlicensed person not required to secure a license shall make and attach a tag to the deer that contains the person’s name, address and reason for not having a valid Delaware hunting license.

(b) *Retention of Tag.* – The tag required by subsection (a) of this section shall remain attached to the deer until the deer is presented to an official checking station for examination and tagging, as prescribed by subsection (c) of this section.

(c) *Checking Stations.* – Each person who hunts and kills a deer shall, within 24 hours of killing said deer, present the deer to a checking station designated by the Division or to an authorized employee of the Division.

(d) *Dressing.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to remove from any deer any part thereof, except those internal organs known as the viscera, or cut the meat thereof into parts, until such deer has been examined by an authorized employee of the Division or a checking station, as prescribed by subsection (c) of this section.

(e) *Receipt Tag.* – The Division shall issue, at a checking station or otherwise, an official receipt tag proving the deer was examined by an authorized employee of the Division or a checking station, as prescribed by subsection (c) of this section. The receipt tag shall remain with the deer until such time as the deer is processed for consumption or prepared for mounting.

(f) *Hunting with Tags Detached from License.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt deer with any license that has the applicable deer tag detached from the license, even though said tag may be in the possession of the hunter. Any person with a detached deer tag may, upon application to the Division, have a duplicate license issued in order to obtain a valid deer tag.

Section 3. Method of Take.

(a) *Shotgun.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt deer during the shotgun season using a shotgun of a caliber smaller than 20 gauge, or have in his or her possession any shell loaded with shot smaller than what is commonly known as “buckshot.”

(b) *Bow and Arrow.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt deer during the longbow season and have in his or her possession any weapon or firearm other than a knife, a bow and sharpened broadhead arrows having minimum arrowhead width of 7/8 of an inch.

(c) *Muzzle-loading Pistols.* – A single shot muzzle-loading pistol of .42 caliber or larger using a minimum powder charge of 40 grains may be used to provide the coupe-de-grace on deer during the primitive firearm season.

(d) *Refuge in Water.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to shoot, kill or wound or attempt to shoot, kill or wound any deer that is taking refuge in or swimming through the waters of any stream, pond, lake or tidal waters.

(e) *Dogs.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to make use of a dog for hunting during the shotgun or muzzleloader seasons for deer (in each county), except as permitted in the hunting of migratory waterfowl from an established blind or for hunting dove, quail, raccoon or rabbit on properties closed to deer hunting with firearms during December and January.

Section 4. Illegal Hunting Methods; Baiting.

It shall be unlawful for any person to set, lay or use any trap, snare, net, or pitfall or make use of any artificial light, or other contrivance or device, for the purpose of hunting deer. This subsection does not preclude the use of bait for the purpose of attracting deer in order to hunt them on private land.

Section 5. Seasons.

(a) *Shotgun Seasons.* – Deer may be hunted with shotgun in accordance with the statutes and regulations of the State of Delaware governing the hunting of deer: from the Friday in November that precedes Thanksgiving by thirteen (13) days through the second Saturday succeeding said Friday; and from the Saturday that precedes the third Monday in January through the following Saturday in January.

(b) *Archery Seasons.* – Deer may be hunted with longbow in accordance with statutes and regulations of the State of Delaware governing the hunting of deer: from September 1 (September 2, if September 1 is a Sunday) through the last day of January, provided hunter orange is displayed in accordance with § 718 of Title 7 when it also lawful to hunt deer with a firearm.

(c) *Muzzleloader Seasons.* – Deer may be hunted with muzzle-loading rifles in accordance with the statutes and regulations of the State of Delaware governing the hunting of deer: from the Saturday that precedes the second Monday in October through the next Saturday; and from the Monday that follows the close of the January shotgun season through the next Saturday.

(d) *Special Antlerless Season.* – Antlerless deer may be hunted with shotgun in accordance with the statutes and regulations of the State of Delaware governing the hunting of deer: from the second Saturday in December through the third Saturday in December.

(e) *Crossbow Seasons.* – Crossbows may be used in lieu of shotguns during that part of the November shotgun season that runs from Monday through Saturday of each year and in any shotgun or muzzleloader deer season open in December or January.

(f) *Special Shotgun Season for Young and Disabled Hunters.* – Deer may be hunted on the first Saturday of November by disabled (non-ambulatory) hunters using a wheelchair for mobility, and hunters 12 years of age or older but less than 16 years of age (12 to 15 inclusive) who have completed an approved course in hunter training. Young hunters must be accompanied by a licensed non-hunting adult who is 21 years of age or older. Young hunters must be of sufficient size, physical strength and emotional maturity to safely handle a shotgun.

WR-8. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING LAND AND WATERS ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION.

Section 1. Motorized Vehicles.

(a) *General.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate a motorized vehicle upon any lands administered by the Division, except on established roads or as otherwise authorized by the Director.

(b) *Noise.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate a motorized vehicle upon any lands administered by the Division, unless such vehicle is equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise.

(c) *Speed Limit.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate a vehicle in excess of twenty (20) miles per hour when on lands administered by the Division, unless otherwise authorized by the Director.

(d) *Unlicensed Vehicles.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate any motorized vehicle upon any lands administered by the Division, unless said vehicle is licensed for use upon public highways and roadways or the driver or operator of said vehicle has been issued a permit from the Division.

(e) *Parking.*

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to park any vehicle on lands administered by the Division in such a manner as to obstruct the use of a boat ramp, roadway or trail. Any vehicle parked in such manner shall be subject to removal, and the owner of said vehicle shall bear all costs involved with such removal.

(2) Unless otherwise authorized by the Director, it shall be unlawful for any person to park and leave unattended any vehicle or trailer in any Division parking lot, unless said lot is lawfully being used for direct access to lands or waters administered by the Division.

(3) Unless otherwise authorized by the Director, it shall be unlawful for any person to leave any vehicle on lands administered by the Division for a period exceeding 24 hours.

Section 2. Conditions of Use.

(a) *Trespass.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to enter upon lands or waters administered by the Division when those lands or waters have been closed by the Division to: protect public safety; protect Department property; or manage wildlife.

(b) *Hours of Entry.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to be present upon lands or waters administered by the Division between sunset and sunrise, unless such person is lawfully hunting or fishing or has been authorized by written permission of the Director.

(c) *Camping.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to camp on lands administered by the Division, except conservation oriented groups may, with written permission of the Director, camp in areas specified in such permit.

(d) *Swimming.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to swim in waters administered by the Division, except by written permission of the Director.

(e) *Dumping.*

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to place, dump, deposit, throw or leave any garbage, refuse or similar debris within or upon any lands or waters administered by the Division, except in receptacles provided for such purpose;

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to bring any trash, refuse or similar material onto lands administered by the Division for the purpose of disposing such in Division receptacles.

(3) Unless otherwise authorized by the Director, it shall be unlawful for any person to deposit any material, structure, debris or other objects on lands or waters administered by the Division.

(f) *Destruction of State Property.*

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to deface, damage, remove or alter any structures, buildings, natural-land features, or other property or equipment belonging to the Division.

(2) Unless authorized by the Division for management, research or educational purposes, it shall be unlawful for any person to cut, injure or remove trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, mosses or other plants from lands administered by the Division.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to erect or use any portable or permanent deer stand that involves the use of nails or screws placed in a tree.

(4) Unless otherwise authorized by the Director, it shall be unlawful for any person to kindle, build, maintain or use a fire on lands administered by the Division.

Section 3. Hunting and Firearms.

(a) *Hunting.*

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt on lands administered by the Division, except as permitted by the Director in writing and specified on current wildlife area maps distributed by the Division.

(2) A daily permit must be obtained before hunting waterfowl at Augustine, Cedar Swamp, Little Creek, Woodland Beach, Ted Harvey, Prime Hook and Assawoman wildlife areas. Permits may be obtained on-site from an authorized agent of the Division and must be returned upon leaving the area. The Director may specify the hours of a permit's effectiveness and determine the conditions of its issuance.

(b) *Waterfowl.*

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt waterfowl on areas administered by the Division, except from State built blinds, or other blinds authorized by the Division, or by written permission of the Director.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to enter tidal and/or impounded areas administered by the Division during the waterfowl season, except for access as authorized by paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(c) *Trapping.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to trap or attempt to trap on areas administered by the Division, except for: persons holding a valid contract with the Division to do so; authorized agents of the Division who are conducting authorized wildlife management practices; or scientific purposes as specifically authorized in writing by the Director.

(d) *Firearms on Division Areas.*

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess a firearm on lands or waters administered by the Division from March 1 through August 31, except as authorized by the Director in writing.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess a rifled firearm of any description at any time on those lands bordering the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and licensed to the Department by the Government of the United States for wildlife management purposes, except muzzleloaders during the primitive firearm season.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm on lands or waters administered by the Division on Sunday, except in areas designated by the Director or with a permit from the Director.

(4) It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm on lands or waters administered by the Division for any purpose, including target shooting, other than to hunt during an open season, under conditions approved by the Director and specified on the current wildlife area map.

(e) *Dikes.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to be in possession of any firearm on any dike administered by the Division, unless such person is temporarily crossing a dike at a ninety degree angle.

(f) *Deer Hunting By Driving.* – It shall be unlawful for residents to participate in deer drives, except where authorized on current wildlife area maps between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. No more than six (6) resident hunters may participate in driving deer at any one time. Nonresidents may not participate in deer drives at any time. Nonresidents are restricted to hunting deer from stationary locations. Nonresidents may not possess a loaded firearm during the deer season, except to hunt from a stationary location or to retrieve a deer that they wound.

Section 4. Horses and Bicycles.

It shall be unlawful to ride horses or bicycles on, or allow horses to use, any lands or waters administered by the Division, except on established roads or trails that have been designated by the Division for such purposes on current wildlife area maps.

Section 5. Concessions, Posters and Solicitations.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, post or distribute any placard, sign, notice, poster, billboard or handbill on lands or waters administered by the Division without written authorization of the Director.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the vending of merchandise, food or services on lands or waters administered by the Division without written authorization of the Director.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to do any form of solicitation for money or goods on any lands or waters administered by the Division without written authorization of the Director.

Section 6. Firewood.

It shall be unlawful for any person to remove firewood from lands administered by the Division without a permit from the Division, except when special firewood areas are designated by the Director in writing.

Section 7. Dog Training.

(a) *General.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to train a dog on lands or waters administered by the Division, except:

- (1) During open hunting seasons for the game that the dog is being trained to hunt;
- (2) Within a dog training area established by the Division; and
- (3) As permitted by the Director in writing on current wildlife area maps.

(b) C&D Canal Summit Area. – It shall be unlawful for any person to enter the dog training area west of the Summit Bridge (Rt. 896), designated on the current wildlife area map of the C&D Canal Wildlife Area, for any purpose other than to train dogs or hunt for deer during the shotgun deer seasons. It shall be unlawful for any person to fish, operate a model or full size boat, ride horses or bicycles, or conduct any other activity on the area.

WR-9. WILDLIFE THEFT PREVENTION FUND.

Section 1. Schedule of Rewards.

(a) The Division shall pay up to \$1000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person found guilty of:

- (1) Commercialization of wildlife; or
- (2) Killing an endangered species or a species classified as a threatened species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

(b) The Division shall pay up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person found guilty of:

- (1) Illegally hunting black ducks, canvasbacks, Canada geese or turkeys;
- (2) Poisoning wildlife;
- (3) Gross over-limits of wildlife;
- (4) Illegally hunting waterfowl or deer on State game refuges;
- (5) Hunting or trapping out of season;
- (6) Illegally hunting at night;
- (7) Hunting during license revocation; or
- (8) Possessing, tending or setting killer traps with a jaw spread in excess of 5 inches.

(c) The Division shall pay up to \$100 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person found guilty of illegally taking or wounding wildlife with a rifle.

(d) The confidentiality of informants and their payments shall be maintained by administrative procedures. Peace officers, Department employees or members of their immediate families are not eligible for rewards.

WR-10. NUISANCE GAME ANIMALS.

Section 1. Incorporated Cities or Towns.

Within the limits of residential or commercial areas of incorporated cities or towns, or within residential or commercial structures, the following game animals may be controlled (killed) without a permit when they are causing damage: gray squirrel, raccoon and opossum. Methods used to control said animals must be consistent with the laws of this State and the regulations of the Department and only live traps may be used (without a depredation permit) outside of established trapping seasons.

Section 2. Pest Control Operators.

The Division may designate licensed pest control operators as cooperators to control nuisance wild animals. Said cooperators must agree to follow guidelines for control as determined by the Division and notify potential clients of their fees.

WR-11. SHORELINE REFUGES OF THE DELAWARE RIVER AND BAY.

Section 1. State Wildlife Area Protection for Intertidal Areas.

Any land located between the high tide line and the low tide line, between the Smyrna River and the St. Jones River and adjoining the Delaware River and Bay is hereby designated a State wildlife area and subject to the rules and regulations pertaining thereto, provided the adjoining landowners to said lands agree to their designation and agree to co-sign complaints concerning violations.

Section 2. Exemptions.

Woodland Beach, Pickering Beach, and Kitts Hummock shall be exempt from this regulation. This regulation shall not affect surf fishing vehicles in areas where such vehicles are permitted or other uses of intertidal areas authorized by permit from the Division.

WR-12. WATERFOWL REFUGE.

It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt waterfowl in that part of Drawer Creek west of U.S. Route 13 to where the tributaries of the creek meet routes 428 and 429.

WR-13. WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMITS.

Section 1. Permit from Division; Exemption.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to hold wildlife in captivity for the purpose of rehabilitation without a permit from the Division and any other permits required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) Licensed veterinarians are exempt from the permitting requirements of this regulation when rendering temporary treatment to injured wildlife and provisions are made to return any injured animals to the wild.

Section 2. Training, Housing and Veterinary Care; Inspections.

(a) Permit holders must conform to the training, housing and veterinary care standards of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. Animals held under rehabilitation permits must be released to the wild or euthanized, if release is not feasible, unless the Division under § 555 of Title 7 authorizes possession for scientific or propagating purposes.

(b) Rehabilitation facilities must be available for inspection by Division employees during normal business hours. Normal business hours shall mean Monday through Friday, except those days designated as holidays, during the hours in which the staff of the Division is scheduled to work.

WR-14. FALCONRY.

Section 1. Federal Regulations Adopted.

It shall be unlawful for any person to practice the sport of falconry, except in such a manner as prescribed by regulations promulgated under provisions of 50 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) §§ 21.28, 21.29 and 21.30. Such regulations are hereby made part of the regulations of the Department as prescribed in § 725 of Title 7. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the federal regulations governing falconry shall be superseded by more stringent restrictions prescribed by law or regulation of the Department.

Section 2. Permits.

(a) Residents wishing to practice falconry shall apply to the Division for a falconry permit. To be issued a falconry permit, the person shall successfully pass a written test and have their facilities and equipment inspected as prescribed by the federal regulations.

(b) Nonresidents wishing to practice falconry shall apply to the Division for a falconry permit. To be issued a falconry permit, the person must purchase a nonresident hunting license and be properly permitted to practice falconry in the state in which he or she resides.

(c) Falconry permits shall be effective, unless revoked, for a period of up to three years and coincide with the license period for the hunting license. The Division shall participate in any joint state/federal permit system available.

(d) The issuance of Apprentice Class permits shall be limited to persons 15 years of age or older.

Section 3. Taking of Raptors.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take any birds of prey from the wild without a permit from the Division. The Director shall establish a limit on the number of raptors which may be taken each year and appear before the Council on Game and Fish to receive input on such limit before its adoption.

(b) In 2000, and each year thereafter until changed, the Division may issue up to twelve (12) permits for the taking of twelve (12) birds of prey from the wild in Delaware, except that no more than three (3) permits shall be issued for the taking of three (3) nestling red-tailed hawks or three (3) nestling great horned owls, or any combination thereof. Nonresident falconers may apply for available permits to take nestling raptors, provided the state in which the nonresident resides allows Delaware residents the reciprocal opportunity to remove nestling raptors.

(c) The taking of nestling (eyas) birds shall be limited to red-tailed hawks and great horned owls on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from March 18 through June 30.

(d) The season for the taking of passage birds shall be from September 1 through January 12. Nonresident falconers may apply to obtain any available permits to take passage raptors in Delaware, provided the state in which the nonresident resides has a reciprocal arrangement that permits Delaware residents to take passage raptors.

(e) It shall be unlawful to remove raptors from private property without the express consent of the landowner. It shall also be unlawful for any person to remove raptors from State parks, State forests, State wildlife areas, State owned wetland mitigation sites, national wildlife refuges, nature preserves, natural areas, and county or local parks without the advance approval of the

agency administering the property. The permit to remove a raptor from the wild must be in possession of the falconer when attempting to capture a raptor. Apprentice falconers must be under the direct supervision of their sponsor or a Master or General class falconer when removing raptors from the wild.

(f) Raptors taken from the wild in Delaware may not be sold or bartered.

Section 4. Hunting.

Falconry shall be a legal method of take for all game birds and game animals in Delaware. The hunting season for resident game shall be from September 1 through February 28. A permit holder whose raptor accidentally kills wildlife during a closed season for such wildlife shall leave the dead wildlife where it lies, except the raptor may feed upon the wildlife before leaving the site of the kill, provided that the wildlife shall not be reduced to possession by the falconer and the falconer shall cease hunting with the raptor that makes the accidental kill for the remainder of the day.

Section 5. Marking.

Any raptor possessed under a Delaware falconry permit must be banded with a permanent, non-reusable numbered band issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Division. Captive reared raptors may be marked with either a permanent, non-reusable numbered band or, if sold, a numbered seamless band. Markers shall be removed from birds that die or are intentionally released into the wild and must be forwarded to the Division within ten days along with a report that documents the fate of the bird.

Section 6. Release.

Raptors, including hybrid raptors, which are not indigenous to Delaware shall not be permanently released into the wild. Raptors released in Delaware must be released within the appropriate season in which that species naturally occurs within the State.

WR-15. COLLECTION OR SALE OF NATIVE WILDLIFE.

Section 1. Commercial Collection.

(a) Unless otherwise provided by law or regulation of the Department, it shall be unlawful for any person to collect, possess, import, cause to be imported, export, cause to be exported, buy, sell or offer for sale any native wildlife species or any part thereof for commercial purposes without a permit from the Director. The permit shall limit the terms and conditions for collecting or possessing said wildlife within the State.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, native wildlife species may be possessed, imported, sold or offered for sale for commercial purposes without a permit from the Director if there is written documentation to confirm that said wildlife was legally taken in and transported from another state.

Section 2. Collection and Possession of Reptiles and Amphibians.

(a) Unless otherwise provided by law or regulation of the Department, it shall be unlawful for any person to remove from the wild or possess any native reptile or amphibian species, their eggs or parts without a permit from the Director.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, one individual of each of the following species or subspecies of reptiles and amphibians may be collected and possessed without a permit:

Reptiles

Lizard, Northern Fence (*Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus*)
Racer, Northern Black (*Coluber constrictor constrictor*)
Skink, Five-lined (*Eumeces fasciatus*)
Snake, Black Rat (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*)
Snake, Eastern Garter (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*)
Snake, Eastern Hognose (*Heterodon platirhinos*)
Snake, Eastern Worm (*Carphophis amoenus amoenus*)
Snake, Northern Water (*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*)
Snake, Ringneck (*Diadophis punctatus*)
Terrapin, Diamondback (*Malaclemys terrapin*)
Turtle, Common Musk (*Sternotherus odoratus*)
Turtle, Eastern Box (*Terrapene carolina carolina*)
Turtle, Eastern Mud (*Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum*)
Turtle, Painted (*Chrysemys picta*)
Turtle, Redbelly (*Pseudemys rubriventris*)
Turtle, Snapping (*Chelydra serpentina*)

Amphibians

Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)
Frog, Green (*Rana clamitans melanota*)
Frog, New Jersey Chorus (*Pseudacris triseriata kalmi*)
Frog, Northern Cricket (*Acris crepitans crepitans*)
Frog, Pickerel (*Rana palustris*)
Frog, Southern Leopard (*Rana utricularia*)
Frog, Wood (*Rana sylvatica*)
Newt, Red-spotted (*Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens*)
Peeper, Northern Spring (*Pseudacris crucifer crucifer*)
Salamander, Northern Dusky (*Desmognathus fuscus fuscus*)
Salamander, Northern Two-lined (*Eurycea bislineata*)
Salamander, Redback (*Plethodon cinereus*)
Spadefoot, Eastern (*Scaphiopus holbrookii holbrookii*)
Toad, American (*Bufo americanus*)
Treefrog, Gray (*Hyla versicolor* and *Hyla chrysoscelis*)

(c) It shall be unlawful to remove any reptile or amphibian from the wild and later release said reptile or amphibian back to the wild if it has been held in captivity for more than thirty (30) days.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, native reptiles and amphibians taken from the wild and lawfully possessed prior to August 15, 1999, may continue to be held in captivity,

provided that written notification of the numbers and species being held is given to the Division prior to December 15, 1999.

Section 3. Captive Breeding.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to breed in captivity any native wildlife species without a permit from the Director. Said permit shall limit the terms and conditions for captive breeding of said wildlife.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to release captive-bred species into the wild. A signed bill of sale shall accompany any captive-bred species that are sold.

(c) This section shall not apply to accredited zoos or to raptors regulated by federal and State falconry or raptor propagation regulations.

Section 4. Sale or Possession of CITES Listed Species.

It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or possess bear gall bladder, or other viscera from any species of bear, or any part of other species listed as prohibited by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The possession of any part of a bear must be in conformance with CITES.

WR-16. ENDANGERED SPECIES.

Section 1. Importation, Transportation and Possession.

Pursuant to § 601 of Title 7, the importation, transportation, possession or sale of any endangered species of fish or wildlife, or hides or other parts thereof, or the sale or possession with intent to sell any article made in whole or in part from the skin, hide or other parts of endangered species of fish or wildlife is prohibited, except under license or permit from the Division.

Section 2. Designation of Species by Division.

(a) Pursuant to § 601 of Title 7, the Division may designate species of fish and wildlife that are seriously threatened with extinction as endangered species.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the phrase “seriously threatened with extinction” shall mean that the species satisfies one or more of the following criteria:

(1) Appears on the federal list of endangered species;

(2) Ranked as “globally rare” (G1, G2, or G3), which means 100 or fewer populations worldwide; or

(3) Is rare within the mid-Atlantic coastal plain.

(c) Based upon the criteria prescribed by subsection (b) of this section, the following species are declared endangered in this State and are afforded the protection provided by § 601 of Title 7:

Amphibians

Salamander, Eastern Tiger (*Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum*)

Treefrog, Barking (*Hyla gratiosa*)

Birds

Creeper, Brown^{BR} (*Certhia americana*)
Eagle, Bald (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Grebe, Pied-billed^{BR} (*Podilymbus podiceps*)
Harrier, Northern^{BR} (*Circus cyaneus*)
Hawk, Cooper's^{BR} (*Accipiter cooperii*)
Heron, Black-Crowned Night- (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
Heron, Yellow-Crowned Night- (*Nyctanassa violacea*)
Parula, Northern^{BR} (*Parula americana*)
Plover, Piping (*Charadrius melodus*)
Owl, Short-eared^{BR} (*Asio flammeus*)
Oystercatcher, American (*Haematopus palliatus*)
Rail, Black (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)
Sandpiper, Upland (*Bartramia longicauda*)
Shrike, Loggerhead (*Lanius ludovicianus*)
Skimmer, Black (*Rynchops niger*)
Sparrow, Henslow's (*Ammodramus henslowii*)
Tern, Common^{BR} (*Sterna hirundo*)
Tern, Forster's^{BR} (*Sterna forsteri*)
Tern, Least (*Sterna antillarum*)
Warbler, Cerulean (*Dendroica cerulea*)
Warbler, Hooded^{BR} (*Wilsonia citrina*)
Warbler, Swainson's (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)
Woodpecker, Red-headed (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)
Wren, Sedge (*Cistothorus platensis*)

Fish

Sturgeon, Atlantic (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*)

Insects

Beetle, Little White Tiger (*Cicindela lepida*)
Beetle, White Tiger (*Cicindela dorsalis*)
Beetle, Seth Forest Scavenger (*Hydrochus sp.*)
Elfin, Frosted (*Incisalia irus*)
Firefly, Bethany (*Photuris bethaniensis*)
Hairstreak, Hessel's (*Mitoura hesseli*)
Hairstreak, King's (*Satyrium kingi*)
Skipper, Rare (*Problema bulenta*)
Wing, Mulberry (*Poanes massasoit chermocki*)

Mammals

Squirrel, Delmarva Fox (*Sciurus niger cinereus*)

^{BR} Breeding population only.

Mollusks

Lampmussel, Yellow (*Lampsilis cariosa*)
Lampmussel, Eastern (*Lampsilis radiata*)
Wedgemussel, Dwarf (*Alasmidonta heterodon*)
Pondmussel, Eastern (*Ligumia nasuta*)
Floater, Brook (*Alasmidonta varicosa*)
Mucket, Tidewater (*Leptodea ochracea*)

Reptiles

Sea Turtle, Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
Sea Turtle, Atlantic Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
Sea Turtle, Green (*Chelonia mydas*)
Sea Turtle, Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)
Turtle, Bog (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*)
Snake, Corn (*Elaphe guttata guttata*)

Section 3. Federally Listed Species.

(a) Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC §§ 1531-1543), as amended, the Secretary of the Interior must publish in the Federal Register a list of all fish and wildlife species determined by him or her or the Secretary of Commerce to be endangered species. The federal list of endangered species is hereby adopted and all species listed thereon are hereby declared to be endangered species in the State as prescribed in § 601 of Title 7.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to collect, possess or sell any species of fish or wildlife listed as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, without the appropriate federal permits.

NON-TIDAL FISHING REGULATIONS

NT-1. SPECIAL PERMITS.

The Director may issue a permit authorizing the holder thereof to fish by means of nets or other device from any of the non-tidal waters of this State, provided the fishing serves a research, management or educational purpose.

NT-2. BAG LIMITS AND SEASONS.

Section 1. Closed Seasons.

Unless otherwise provided by law or regulation of the Department, there shall be no closed season, size limits or possession limits on any species of fish taken by hook and line in any non-tidal waters of this State.

Section 2. Bass.

(a) *Statewide limits.*

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession more than six (6) largemouth and/or smallmouth bass at or between the place where said largemouth and/or smallmouth bass were caught and said person's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging.

(2) Unless otherwise authorized in this regulation, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess any largemouth bass that measure less than twelve (12) inches in total length. Any largemouth bass taken which is less than twelve (12) inches in total length shall be immediately returned to the water with the least possible injury.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any smallmouth bass measuring from twelve (12) inches to and including (17) inches in total length. Any smallmouth bass taken which is greater than twelve (12) inches and less than seventeen (17) inches shall be immediately returned to the water with the least possible injury.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(1) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession more than one (1) smallmouth bass measuring more than seventeen (17) inches in total length at or between the place where said smallmouth bass was caught and said person's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging.

(5) It shall be lawful for any person to have in possession while fishing up to six (6) smallmouth bass that are less than twelve (12) inches in total length.

(b) *Becks Pond.*

(1) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(1) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession while fishing on Becks Pond more than two (2) largemouth bass.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(2) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession while fishing on Becks Pond any largemouth bass less than fifteen (15) inches in total length. Any largemouth bass less than fifteen (15) inches in total length shall be immediately returned to Becks Pond with the least possible injury.

(c) *Andrews Lake.*

(1) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(1) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession while fishing on Andrews Lake more than one (1) largemouth bass of the six (6) allowed in possession to be larger than fifteen (15) inches in total length. Largemouth bass measuring less than twelve (12) inches may be taken and possessed within the six (6) allowed in possession while fishing on Andrews Lake.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(2) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession while fishing on Andrews Lake any largemouth bass measuring from twelve (12) inches to and including fifteen (15) inches in total length.

(d) *Derby Pond and Hearn's Pond.*

(1) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession while fishing on Derby Pond or Hearn's Pond more than one (1) largemouth bass of the six (6) allowed in possession to be larger than eighteen (18) inches. Largemouth bass measuring less than fifteen (15) inches may be taken and retained up to the legal possession limit while fishing on Derby Pond or Hearn's Pond.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a)(2) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession while fishing on Derby Pond or Hearn's Pond

any largemouth bass measuring from fifteen (15) inches to and including eighteen (18) inches in total length.

Section 3. Trout.

(a) *Season.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to fish for rainbow, brown and/or brook trout in designated trout streams, except between and including the first Saturday of April and the second Saturday of March of each succeeding year.

(b) *Hours of Fishing.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to fish for rainbow, brown and/or brook trout in designated trout streams on the opening day of the trout season before 7:30 a.m. and thereafter for the remainder of the trout season between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.

(c) *Possession.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to catch and/or have in his or her possession in any one day during the prescribed open season more than six (6) rainbow, brown and/or brook trout. On any day after a person takes his or her legal limit of trout, said person shall be prohibited from fishing in a designated trout stream on the same day, unless otherwise authorized by law or this regulation.

(d) *Trout Stamp.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in a designated trout stream on or before the first Saturday in April and June 30, of the same year, and on or before the first Saturday in October and November 30, of the same year, unless said person has in his or her possession a valid trout stamp, or, unless said person is exempted by law from having a trout stamp.

(e) *Restricted Trout Stream.*

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in a restricted trout stream with more than two (2) flies on a line at any one time.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to use any metallic, wooden, plastic or rubber spinners, spoons, lures, plugs and/or natural bait on any restricted trout stream.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to have in his or her possession more than four (4) trout within 50 feet of any restricted trout stream. On the restricted trout stream only, trout may be caught and released as long as the four (4) trout possession limit is not exceeded. All trout released must be returned to the water as quickly as possible with the least possible injury.

(f) *Closure of Trout Stream.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in a designated trout stream within two weeks (14 days) of a scheduled opening of the trout season.

Section 4. Striped Bass (hybrids).

It shall be unlawful for any person to have in his or her possession while fishing in the non-tidal waters of this State more than two (2) striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) and/or striped bass hybrids (*Morone saxatilis crysops*) or any striped bass or striped bass hybrid under the length of fifteen (15) inches measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

Section 5. Panfish Limits.

It shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession while fishing in any State-owned non-tidal water more than fifty (50) panfish in aggregate to include bluegill, pumpkinseed, redear

sunfish, black crappie, white crappie, white perch or yellow perch, provided no more than twenty-five (25) of the fifty (50) allowed in possession are of any one species.

NT-3. CLOSURE OF DEPARTMENT PONDS DURING DRAWDOWNS.

It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in any pond or lake administered by the Department when the water level in said pond or lake is lowered for the purpose of aiding in the control of aquatic vegetation, the conservation of fishes or the repair of water control facilities, provided said pond or lake is duly posted with signs by the Division that state said pond or lake is closed to fishing.

NT-4. METHOD OF TAKE.

Section 1. Non-tidal Waters.

It shall be unlawful for any person to take fish from the non-tidal waters of this State, except by means of hook and line while under the immediate observation of the person using same. Carp and shad may be taken as set forth otherwise in this regulation.

Section 2. Carp.

It shall be unlawful for any person to take carp, except by the following methods: hook and line; bow and arrow; and spear. Carp may be taken with a seine from freshwater ponds and non-tidal streams with permission from the Director and under the supervision of a representative of the Division.

Section 3. Shad.

Except as otherwise provided by law, it shall be unlawful for any person to take shad, except by hook and line, provided said line has no more than two (2) lures attached. Each lure may have no more than one (1) single pointed hook.

Section 4. Snagging of Game Fish.

It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in the non-tidal waters of this State with hooks (single, double or treble) knowingly used to snag or otherwise catch or attempt to snag or otherwise catch any game fish by hooking said game fish in any part of the anatomy other than in the mouth.

Section 5. Fish Ladders.

It shall be unlawful for any person to fish within ten (10) feet of an entrance or exit of a fish ladder or to remove fish from any fish ladder between March 15 and May 30.

NT-5. ICE FISHING.

Section 1. Restrictions.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to fish more than five (5) hook and lines in non-tidal water through ice.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to leave any hook and line being fished through the ice unattended.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in non-tidal water through ice with any line having more than three hooks.

NT-6. SPEED AND WAKE OF MOTORBOATS ON DIVISION PONDS.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motorized vessel, except at a slow-no-wake speed, on any pond or lake administered by the Division.

NT-7. FISH STOCKING PRACTICES.

Section 1. Stocking Fish Practices.

It shall be unlawful for any person to stock any species of fish into the non-tidal public waters of this State without the written permission of the Director. This regulation does not prohibit the stocking of private impoundments.

Section 2. Transportation, Possession and Sale.

It shall be unlawful for any person to transport, purchase, possess, or sell walking catfish (Clarius batrachus) or the white amur or grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon idella) without the written permission of the Director.

NT-8. LAKE COMO.

It shall be unlawful for any person to use or have in his or her possession any live fish, as bait, while fishing on Lake Como.

SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, phrase or word of these regulations is declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of these regulations shall remain unimpaired and shall continue in full force and effect, and proceedings thereunder shall not be affected.

CHRONOLOGY

- August 15, 1999: Complete overhaul of the Wildlife and Non-Tidal Fishing Regulations
- June 12, 2000: Adopted WR-16 and amended WR-1, WR-4, WR-6, WR-14 and NT-2