



New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection

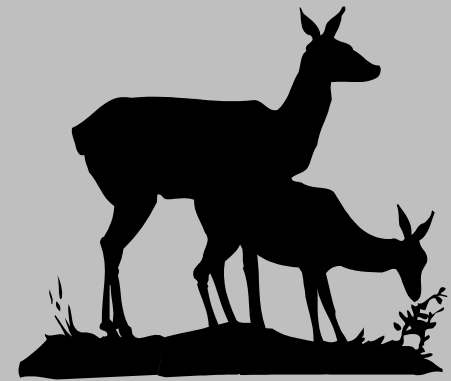
Fish & Wildlife

Dave Golden, Assistant Commissioner
Lisa Barno, Assistant Director
Ginger Kopkash, Assistant Director

Bureau of Wildlife Management

Deer Research Project

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



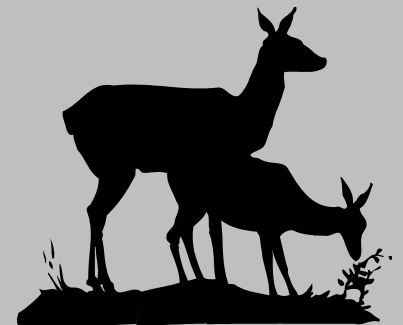


Final Harvest Results

2023-24

New Jersey

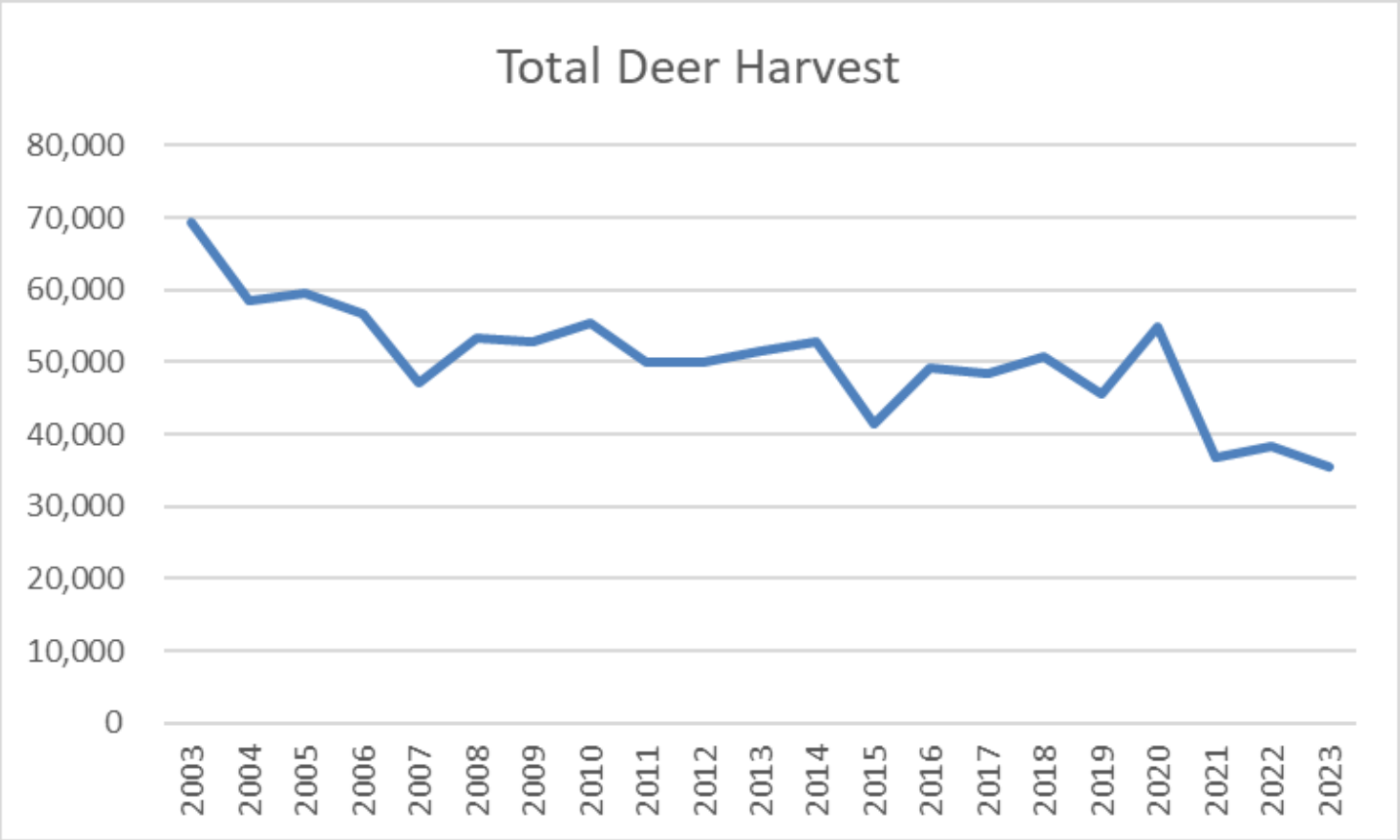
White-tailed Deer Seasons



Considerations for 2023 reduced harvest

- Effect of high harvest in 2020-21
- NO EHD –*but still seeing localized affects from last 2 outbreaks*
- Low harvest in 2021-22 affect hunter behavior?
- Hot fall with major rain events on consecutive weekends;
- Warm weather possible factor in hunter and deer behavior

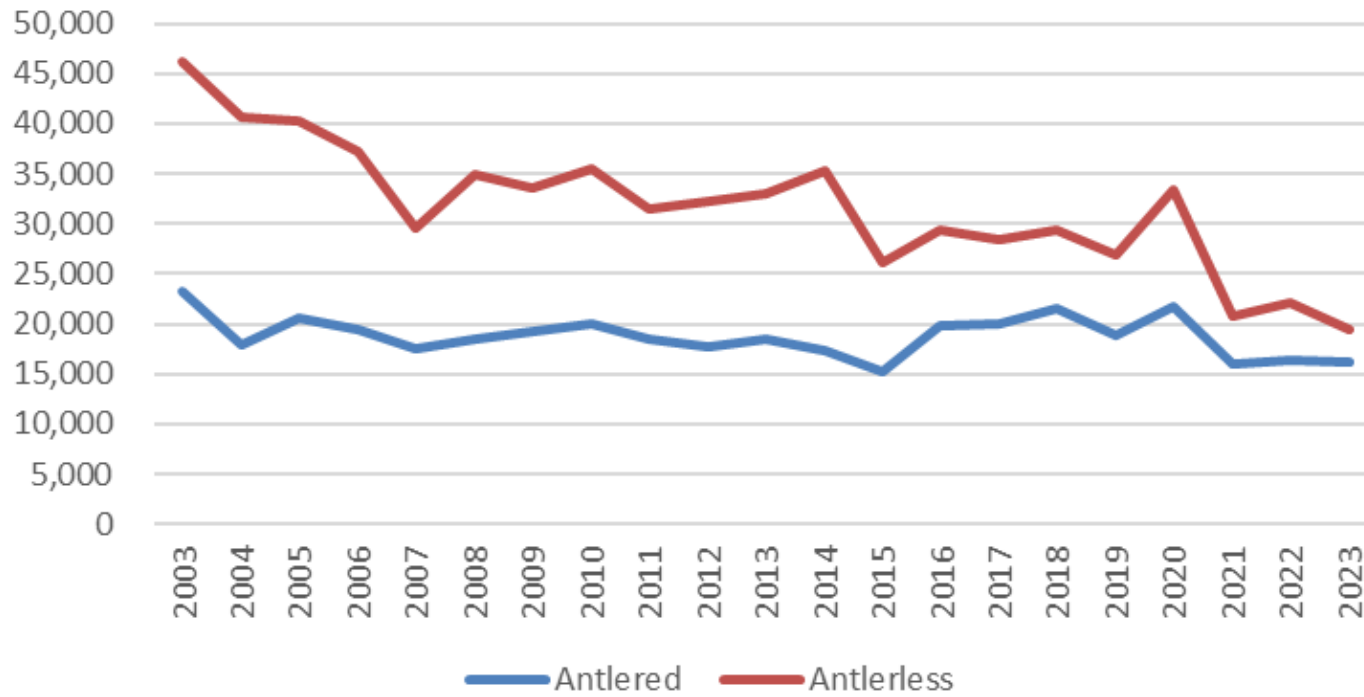
2023-24 Total Deer Harvest: 35,573



5 yr. average: 42,263; - 22% from 2019-20; -7.2%

2023-24 Total Deer Harvest

Antlered vs Antlerless Deer Harvest



16,186

-0.6%

-103

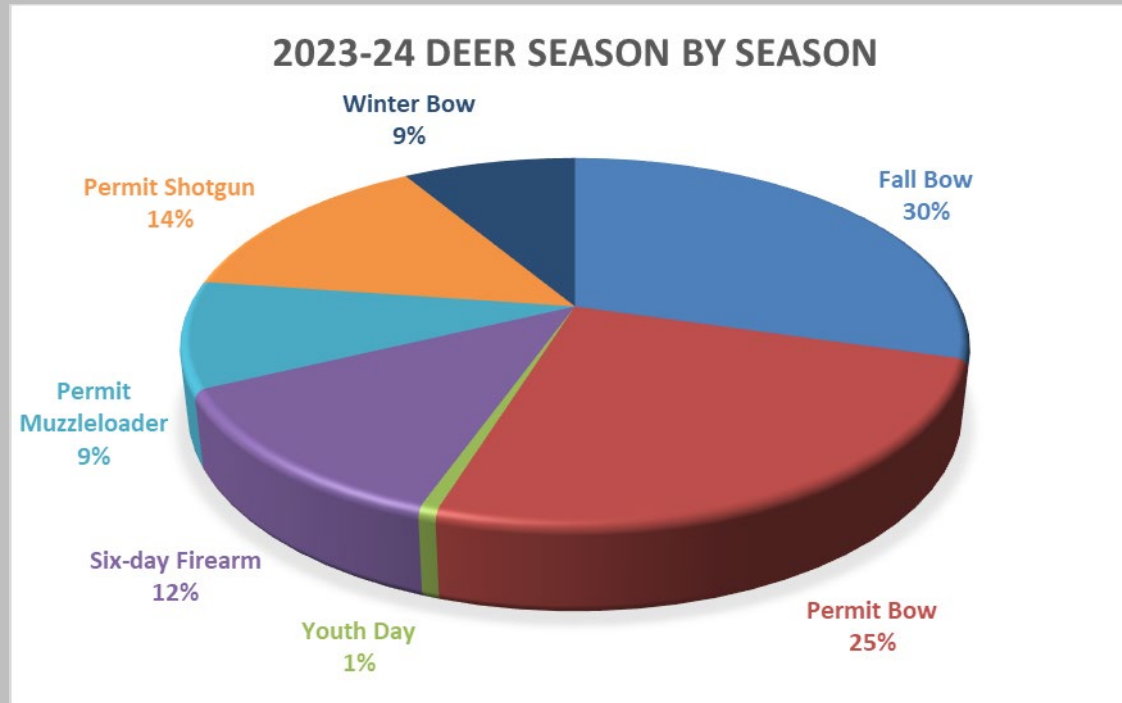
19,387

-12.0%

-2,648

2023-24 Total Deer Harvest

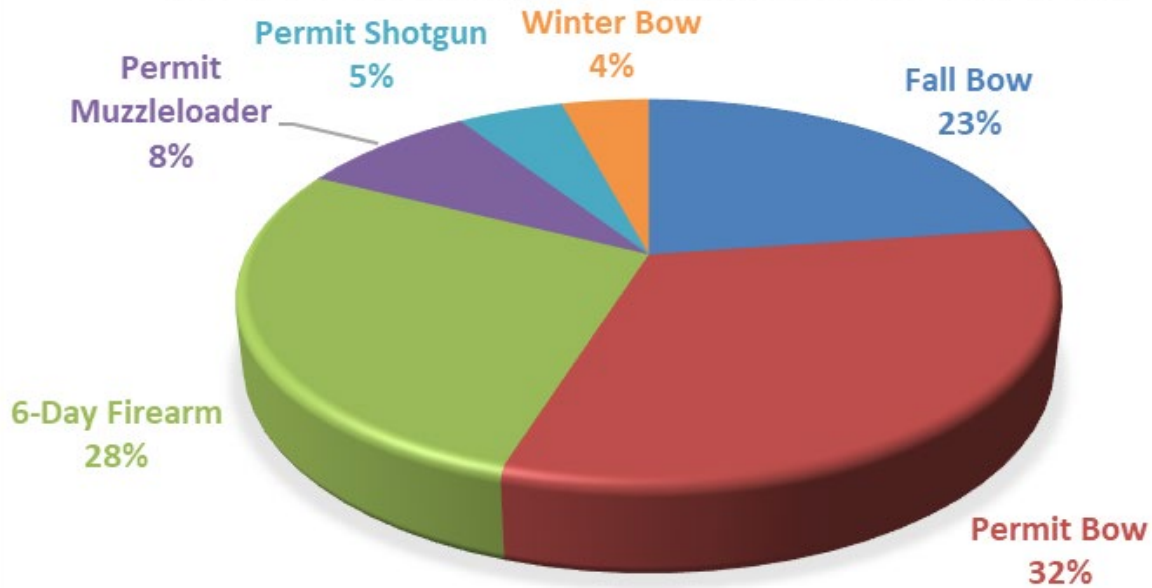
	Total Harvest Comparison							
	Fall Bow	Permit Bow	6-Day Firearm	Permit Muzzleloader	Permit Shotgun	Winter Bow	Youth Hunt Days	Total
2023	10,513	8,980	4,411	3,362	5,041	3,042	224	35,573
2022	12,395	8,958	4,697	3,692	5,142	3,092	348	38,324
% difference	-15.2%	0.2%	-6.1%	-8.9%	-2.0%	-1.6%	-35.6%	-7.2%
N difference	-1,882	22	-286	-330	-101	-50	-124	-2,751



2023-24 Antlered Deer Harvest

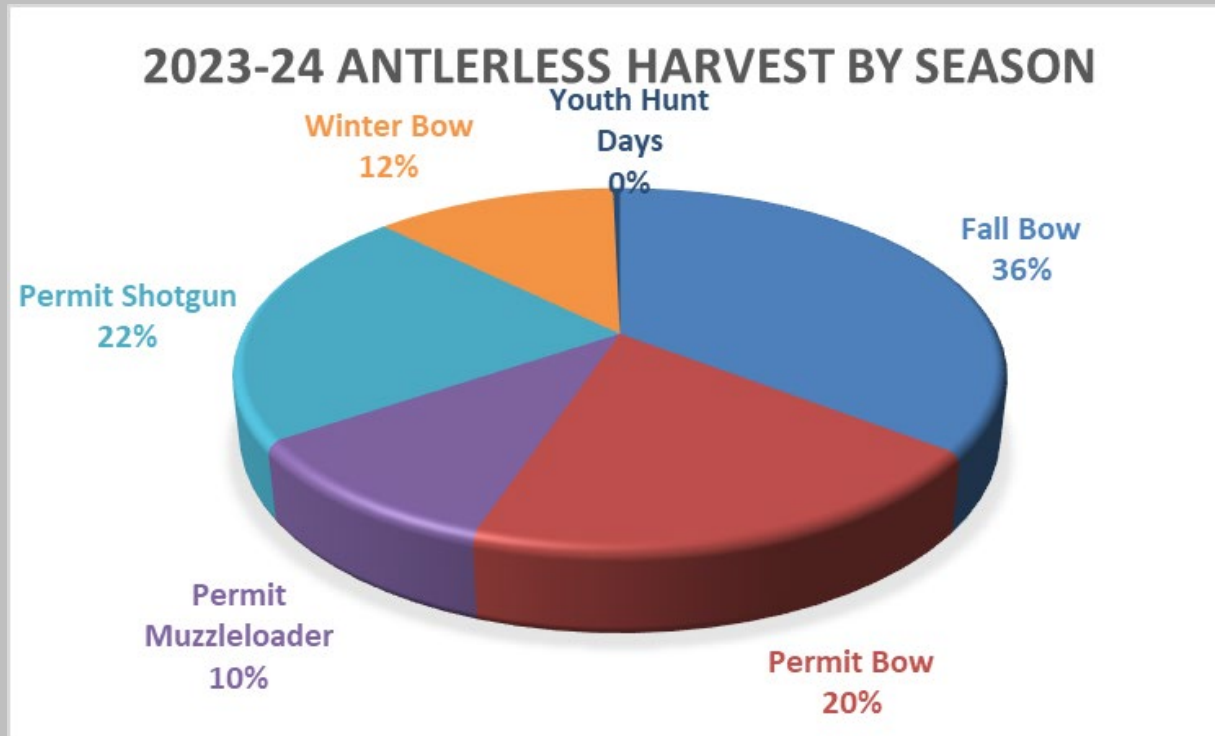
	Antlered Harvest Comparison							
	Fall Bow	Permit Bow	6-Day Firearm	Permit Muzzleloader	Permit Shotgun	Winter Bow	Youth Hunt Days	Total
2023	3,641	5,155	4,411	1,352	806	665	156	16,186
2022	3,781	4,951	1,413	616	4,697	603	228	16,289
% difference	-3.7%	4.1%	212.2%	119.5%	-82.8%	10.3%	-31.6%	-0.6%
N difference	-140	204	2,998	736	-3,891	62	-72	-103

2023-24 ANTLERED HARVEST BY SEASON

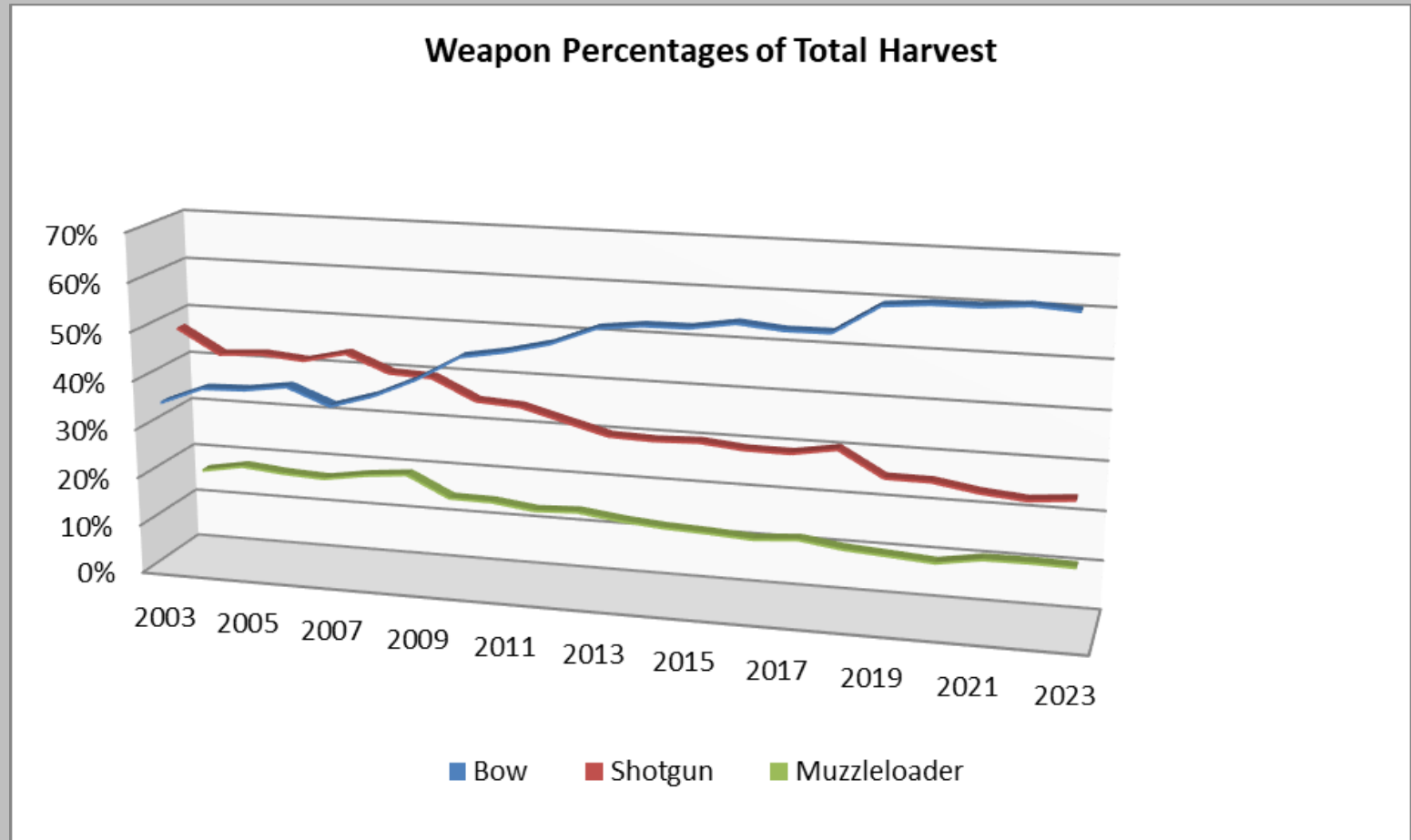


2023-24 Antlerless Deer Harvest

	Antlerless Harvest Comparison							
	Fall Bow	Permit Bow	6-Day Firearm	Permit Muzzleloader	Permit Shotgun	Winter Bow	Youth Hunt Days	Total
2023	6,872	3,825	0	2,010	4,235	2,377	68	19,387
2022	8,614	4,007	0	2,279	4,526	2,489	120	22,035
% difference	-20.2%	-4.5%	0.0%	-11.8%	-6.4%	-4.5%	-43.3%	-12.0%
N difference	-1,742	-182	0	-269	-291	-112	-52	-2,648

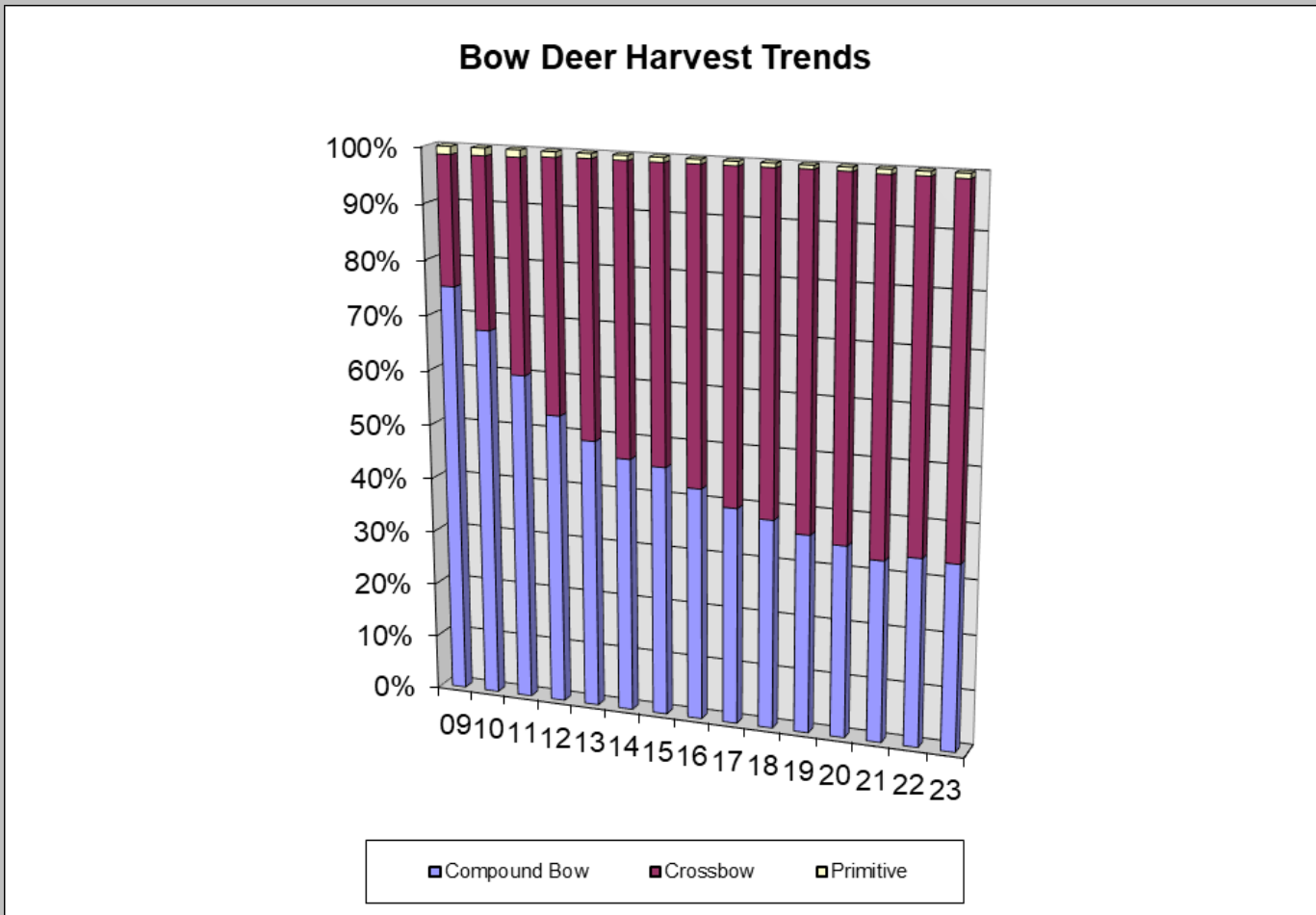


2023-24 Total Deer Harvest



2023:	22,733	9,276	3,564
Percent of Total Harvest:	64%	26%	10%

2023-24 Total Deer Harvest



Percent of Bow Harvest 2023: **34%** **65%** **1%**

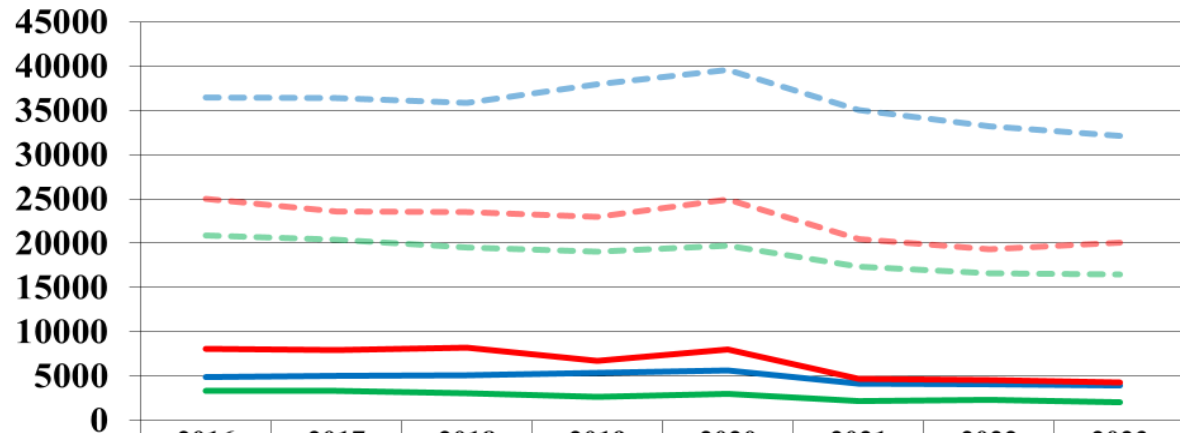
2024 Community Based Deer Management Permit

Bernards, Somerset County			Essex County Parks			Princeton, Mercer County			Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst			Mercer County Parks		
Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
0	4	4	45	70	115	49	74	123	1	15	16	10	44	54

2024 CBDMP total = 312

2023 CBDMP Total = 353

Statewide Antlerless Permit Sale Trends



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
---Sales: Permit Bow	36493	36377	35860	37935	39590	35075	33188	32121
---Sales: Permit Muzzleloader	20863	20412	19500	19039	19695	17374	16620	16481
---Sales: Permit Shotgun	24995	23614	23533	22947	24975	20462	19325	20099
—Harvest: Permit Bow	4898	4994	5094	5338	5612	4113	4052	3925
—Harvest: Permit Muzzleloader	3298	3293	3074	2680	3017	2179	2298	2071
—Harvest: Permit Shotgun	8073	7944	8228	6685	8013	4653	4541	4297

Total Antlerless Permits: 68,611

-0.75%

32121

-3%

20099

4%

16481

-0.8%

Total Antlerless Harvest: 10,293

-4.8%

3925

-2%

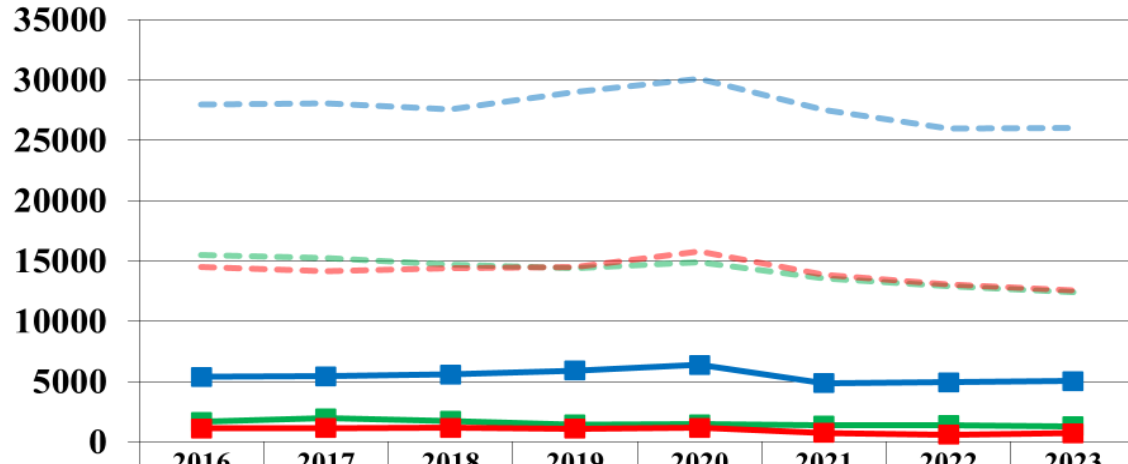
4297

-0.5%

2071

-9%

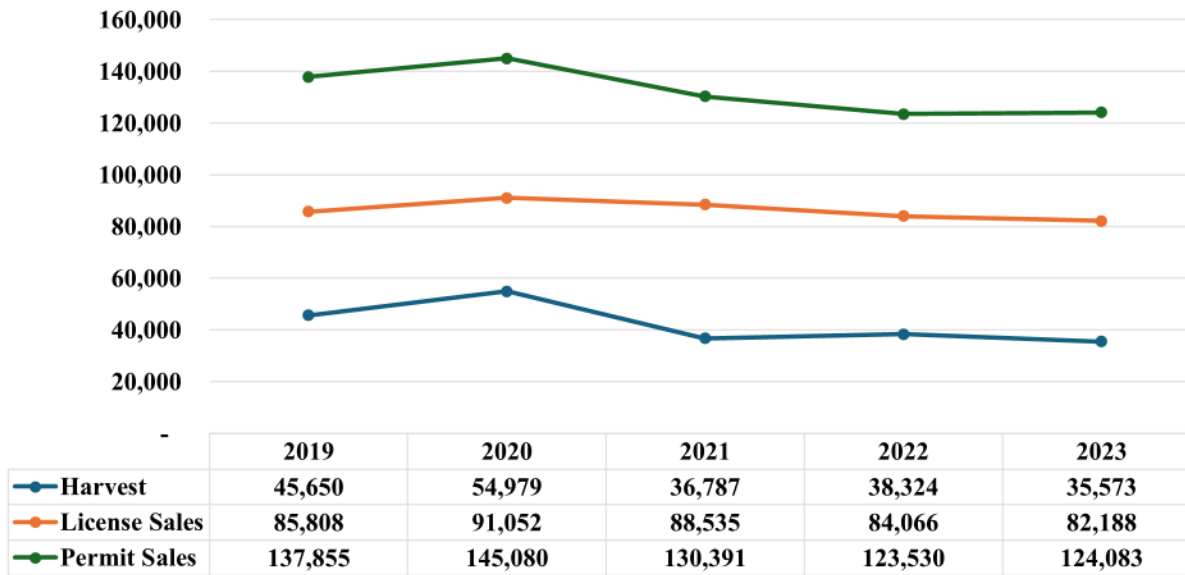
Statewide Buck Permit Trends



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
--- Sales: Buck Bow Permit	27958	28069	27603	29038	30097	27527	26007	26040
--- Sales: Buck Muzzleloader Permit	15488	15255	14699	14405	14920	13575	12912	12440
--- Sales: Buck Shotgun Permit	14504	14157	14408	14491	15803	13848	13056	12550
— Harvest: Buck Bow	5394	5463	5601	5933	6391	4875	4951	5055
— Harvest: Buck Muzzleloader	1670	1967	1759	1464	1486	1386	1413	1291
— Harvest: Buck Shotgun	1134	1151	1189	1094	1169	750	616	744

Total Buck Permits:	51,030	26,040	12,550	12,440
	-1.85%	1.2%	-3.8%	-3.7%
Total Antlered Harvest:	7090	5055	744	1291
	1.6%	+2%	20%	-8.6%

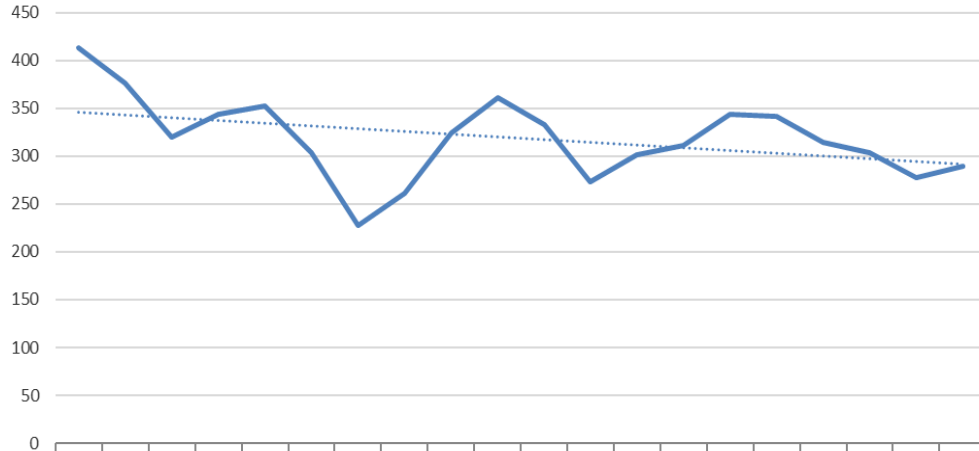
Total Harvest vs. Hunting License and Permit Sales



Council to advance Hunting and Shooting Sports – April 4, 2023, report: Hunting license sales back to pre-pandemic levels.

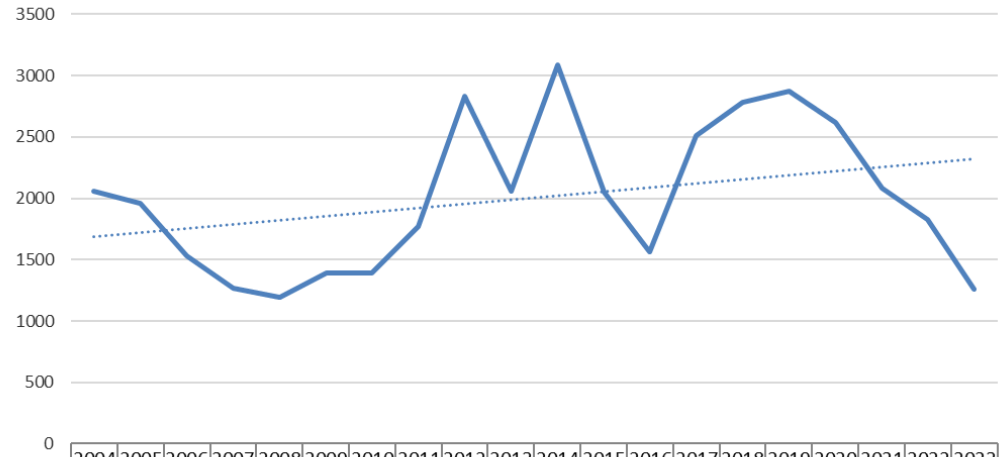
2023 Farmer Depredation Permits

Number of Deer Depredation Permits Issued per Year



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of permits	413	376	320	344	352	303	228	261	324	361	333	273	301	311	344	342	314	304	277	289

Deer Culled on Deer Depredation Permits by Year



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of deer culled	2060	1960	1535	1271	1195	1393	1388	1768	2836	2058	3087	2054	1566	2509	2781	2876	2618	2085	1826	1257

Deer Management Zones of Concern

Several Zones we are looking at

- Determining options available through the Game Code
- Determining options available/limited by Electronic Licensing System

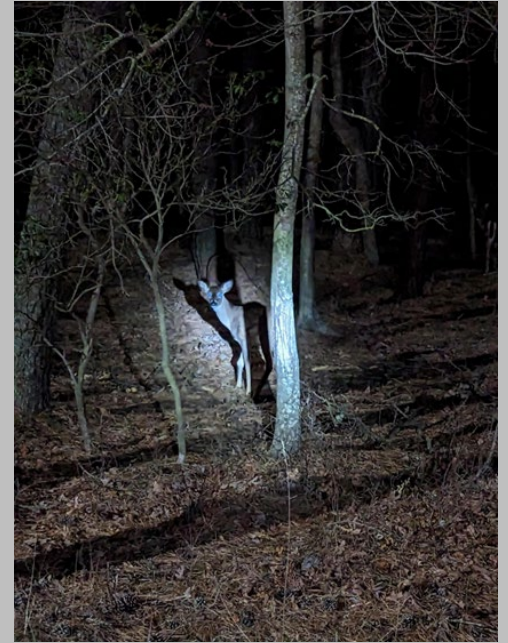
Disease Surveillance



- **Chronic Wasting Disease**
 - Sampled 867 hunter harvested or symptomatic
 - ALL came back negative
- **Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease**
 - No cases this year
- **Deer Disease Sighting Form**
 - Created last year
 - On main page of website

Deer Research

- **Spotlight Counts**
 - Warren County
 - Pequest WMA
 - Mercer County
 - Hopewell Valley
 - Cumberland County
 - Peaslee WMA



NJ DEP Community Based Deer Management Funding

- **NJ DEP received \$160,000**
 - Must be used for deer management
- **Grant Process**
 - Developed a grant application
 - Sent to all municipalities, counties, non-profits
 - Application period ended May 4th
 - Received 11 applications
- **Rating/Scoring**
 - Developing a rubric
 - Applicants will be ranked
 - Money will be allocated by June 30

Questions?