



START ACTION NOTICE (SAN)

SAN # 2026-05

1. TYPE OF ACTION AND THE REGULATION NUMBER AND NAME:

New regulations and amendments to 7 DE Admin Code 3900 Wildlife.

2. PURPOSE OF ACTION:

- We are proposing to add regulations related to Chronic Wasting Disease, including defining harvest check stations, urine-based lure, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and CWD Management Zones (CMZ), creating a procedure and criteria for designating CMZs, restricting baiting in CMZs, restricting the use of natural urine-based lure statewide, requiring mandatory check-in within CMZs when health check stations are open, defining how deer may be moved out of CMZs and how taxidermists and processors must dispose of deer, and restricting wildlife rehabilitation of deer from Sussex County. All of these changes are in response to the recent detection of Chronic Wasting Disease in Delaware's deer during the 2025/26 hunting season to understand prevalence and reduce further spread.

3. STATUTORY BASIS:

Statutory basis for these proposed regulation changes is authorized under Title 7, Delaware Code, Chapter 1, Sections 102(a), 103 (a) and (b).

4. IS THIS PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF FEDERAL STATUTE OR REGULATION? IF SO, PROVIDE LINK TO FEDERAL MANDATE.

No.

5. DATE OF MOST RECENT AMENDMENT/REVIEW (indicate if review was pursuant to 29 **Del.C.** §10407):

The date of the most recent review/amendment of 7 DE Administrative Code 3900 was in effect January 1, 2026. Review was not pursuant to 29 **Del.C.** §10407.

6. LIKELY AFFECTED PUBLIC:

Likely affected public include hunters, taxidermists, venison processors and wildlife rehabilitators. Hunters will be required to check their deer in at health check stations during the November General Firearm season if their deer was harvested in a Chronic

Wasting Disease Management Zone, but otherwise we do not anticipate any of these groups will have to satisfy additional regulatory or reporting requirements. We expect that game processors are already disposing of cervid carcasses with a waste management provider or permitted landfill, therefore are unlikely to see an increase in the cost of doing business.

7. PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Initiate SAN – September 2026
Prepare draft proposed regulation – September 2026
Publish in the monthly Register of Regulations – November 2026
Hold public hearing – January 2027

8. REVIEW COMMITTEE:

The Advisory Council on Wildlife and Freshwater Fish have already been notified of our proposed actions, and all questions have been answered or addressed satisfactorily.

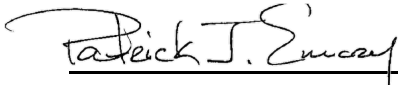
9. RESPONSIBLE STAFF MEMBER (name, physical address, phone number and e-mail address):

Sam Robinson
McKay Field Office
6180 Hay Point Landing Rd
Smyrna, DE 19977
Office: (302) 735-3616
Email: sam.robinson@delaware.gov

10. APPROVALS:

 9/15/2026

Sam Robinson Date
Responsible Staff Member

 9/16/26

Pat Emory Date
Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife



Sept. 16, 2026

Gregory Patterson
Secretary

Date

Rev. 1/2026