2 September 2025
DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife
89 Kings Highway
Dover, DE 19901

Re: Docket #2025-R-F-0011 -- Wildlife Regulations Amendments

Dear Director Emory and Wildlife Section Administrator Rogerson:

On behalf of Safari Club International (SCI), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes in Docket #2025-R-F-0011 -- Wildlife Regulations Amendments following the hearing on August 27, 2025. SCI strongly supports the proposed changes that would bring about a year-round coyote hunting season and the expansion of youth special hunting days.

Having been the last mainland state to have an established coyote population, Delaware's number of coyotes has only continued to grow since their first sighting in 1994. As coyotes have spread into many eastern states, their presence has increased competition with native, established populations of many species, including the whitetail deer, red fox, as well as impacts on pets and livestock. Nearby states, such as Maryland, have implemented year-round coyote hunting seasons with great success to address many of concerns coyotes bring to ecosystems not adapted to their presence. Delawareans have expressed worries regarding the spread of coyotes with Sussex County unanimously calling for a year-round hunting and trapping season of coyotes in 2020. The introduction of a year-round hunting season for coyotes would provide the Division with more tools to manage the statewide population and limit the ecological impact of coyotes. The expansion of the current coyote season would not only allow hunters to help manage the growing non-native population but protect many of the critical ecosystems that make the Great State of Delaware so special.

In addition, SCI supports the expansion of youth hunting days to include all hunters under the age of 16. The youth truly are our future, and this change will help foster a great appreciation for the outdoors and a love for hunting in thousands of young Delawareans. Expanding this opportunity to include all junior hunters places great emphasis on the Division's commitment to all young people who enjoy being out in nature and take full advantage of all Delaware has to offer.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on Docket #2025-R-F-0011 -- Wildlife Regulations Amendments. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and we appreciate the continued partnership with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the Division of Fish and Wildlife. SCI is always first for hunters.

Sincerely,

W. Laird Hamberlin
Chief Executive Officer
Safari Club International