

Summary of National Hunting Regulations: Israel



Updated in December 2014

HUNTING AND TRAPPING LEGISLATION/ RESOURCES

Name of main legislation: Wildlife Protection Law 1955

Year of publication: 1955

Supporting legislation: Wildlife Protection Regulations 1976

Legislation updates: N/A

Hunting legislation (web link):

<http://www.parks.org.il/ConservationAndheritage/LawAndEnforcement/Pages/AllRegulationsPage.aspx>

Authority in charge of controlling hunting (web link): Israel Nature and Parks Authority

www.parks.org.il (in Hebrew only)

Major inconsistencies or loopholes detected (if yes please describe): N/A

Derogations (on EU Birds Directive and/or Bern Convention): N/A

HUNTING AND TRAPPING: METHODS AND RESTRICTIONS

	Legal methods/restrictions	Notes
Hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hunting season: 1 September to 31 January, for licensed hunters only. - Hunting licenses are frozen, i.e. no new hunting licenses are issued, only renewals, since the year 2000 (currently about 2,500 licenses). - Hunting is permitted only during hunting season and only by licensed hunters, only in designated hunting areas. - List of permitted game species (15 species of birds; no mammals are legal game) - Daily bag limits on ducks. - Hunting allowed only in the daytime. - Only shotguns may be used (no rifles, and no bows and arrows). - List of prohibited hunting methods: e.g. blinding by lights; poisoning or drugging; pursuing with a motor vehicle or dog; using explosives; using traps, nets or adhesives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The laws prohibits harming or hunting all wildlife (mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians), except those considered pests. - The specific animals listed as game species may be hunted only during the hunting season. - The Israel Nature and Parks Authority issues special hunting permits of protected wildlife for special purposes, e.g. to prevent damage to agriculture, to prevent danger to humans or to animals and to prevent infectious diseases among them.

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		- The law currently allows hunting ONLY while using lead pellets; current steps are under way to change this, in order to restrict lead ammunition.
Trapping	Not permitted	

HUNTING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Hunting Season	Legally huntable species			Notes
All year round	Wild boar – <i>Sus scrofa</i>* *Although the wild boar is a protected species and is not an official game species, a general permit for depredation of wild boar is in effect year-round, allowing licensed hunters to hunt them in many areas of the country.			
1 September to 31 January	Scientific name	Common name	Bag limit	
	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Coot	none	
	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	none	
	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Quail	none	
	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Turtle dove	none	
	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Collared dove	none	
	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Palm dove	none	
	<i>Columba spp.</i>	Pigeons	none	
		Ducks:	10 total per day	
	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard		
	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Teal		
	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Garganey		
	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern shoveler		
	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Pochard		
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted duck			

TRAPPING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open trapping Season	Legally trapped species	Notes
N/A	N/A	

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TRADE AND PEST SPECIES

Legal trade	Notes
No trade, holding or transfer of wildlife that is not a pest and is not domesticated wildlife except by a general or special trading/holding permit. In other words, all wildlife (mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians) are either “pests” (as listed below) or they are protected species.	No species are defined today as “Domesticated wildlife” in Israel’s current regulations (in the past there were farmed crocodiles and ostriches under this definition, but this has expired).
Legislation on “pest species”	Notes
The Regulations list the following as “pest” species which therefore means they are not protected: House sparrow, Eurasian skylark, Crested lark, Yellow-vented bulbul, Hooded crow, House crow.	These species they be legally trapped or killed by INPA field rangers and/or hunters and/or every man as long that they use legitimate means and kill them humanly all the year round.

BirdLife Partner: Society for Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI)

Contact: Yoav Perlman : yoav.perlman@gmail.com