TO: EDITORS AND SPORTS EDITORS
FROM: STEPHEN SALMORE
SUBJECT: THE NEW JERSEY POLL, PRESS RELEASE # 10, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 12, 1973

This is the last of the ten releases from the Eight New Jersey Poll conducted this October. This is a somewhat longer release focusing on a different area than we have covered in the past—hunting. We have issued it to coincide with the New Jersey deer hunting season, beginning, Monday, December 13. Since this release is likely to be of special interest to sportsmen we have also sent a copy to your newspaper to the attention of the sports editor.
Hunting is still a popular sport among New Jerseyans, according to a recent study of the recreational activities of the state's residents. A report from the New Jersey Poll, conducted by Rutgers University's Eagleton Institute, shows that 22% of the state's adult population has hunted at some time or another in their lives. However, only one-third of this number—8% of the entire population—have hunted in the last two years.

A majority—78%—of adults in the state has never hunted. Moreover, 44% of all the people in the state not only have never hunted but also have no close friends or family members who have hunted.

As might be expected, men are much more likely to have hunted than women. Only 8% of women had ever hunted as compared to 37% of men.

Unexpectedly, many of New Jersey's hunters come from the most densely populated parts of the state. Almost half of the active hunters in the state come from the northeastern counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Union counties. In New Jersey, at least, the traditional picture of the hunter as a rural woodsman may not be entirely accurate.

When asked specifically about deer hunting, a majority of people—54%—said that they approved of it. A substantial portion—38%—said they disapproved, however, and 8% were undecided. Although more people approve of deer hunting than disapprove, those who disapprove feel more intensely. The 54% who approve were divided into 19% who said they "strongly" approve of deer hunting and 35% who "mildly"
approve. Those disapproving of this form of hunting included 26% who disapproved "strongly" and only 12% who disapproved "mildly."

Opposition to deer hunting was higher among men than women, higher among respondents under 30 than over, and higher among those who lived in the more urban areas of the state than those from more rural areas. The factor that was most strongly related to approval of deer hunting, however, was the respondent's association with the sport. Those who were either active hunters, had at one time hunted, or had a close friend or family member who hunted were by far the most likely to approve this outdoor pastime.

The results of this special report on hunting in New Jersey are based on questions in the New Jersey Polls that were conducted in May 1972, and May and October 1973. In each of these surveys a random sample of 1200 New Jerseyans, 18 years of age or older were interviewed by telephone by the Eagleton Institute in cooperation with the Department of Forestry of Rutgers University.

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