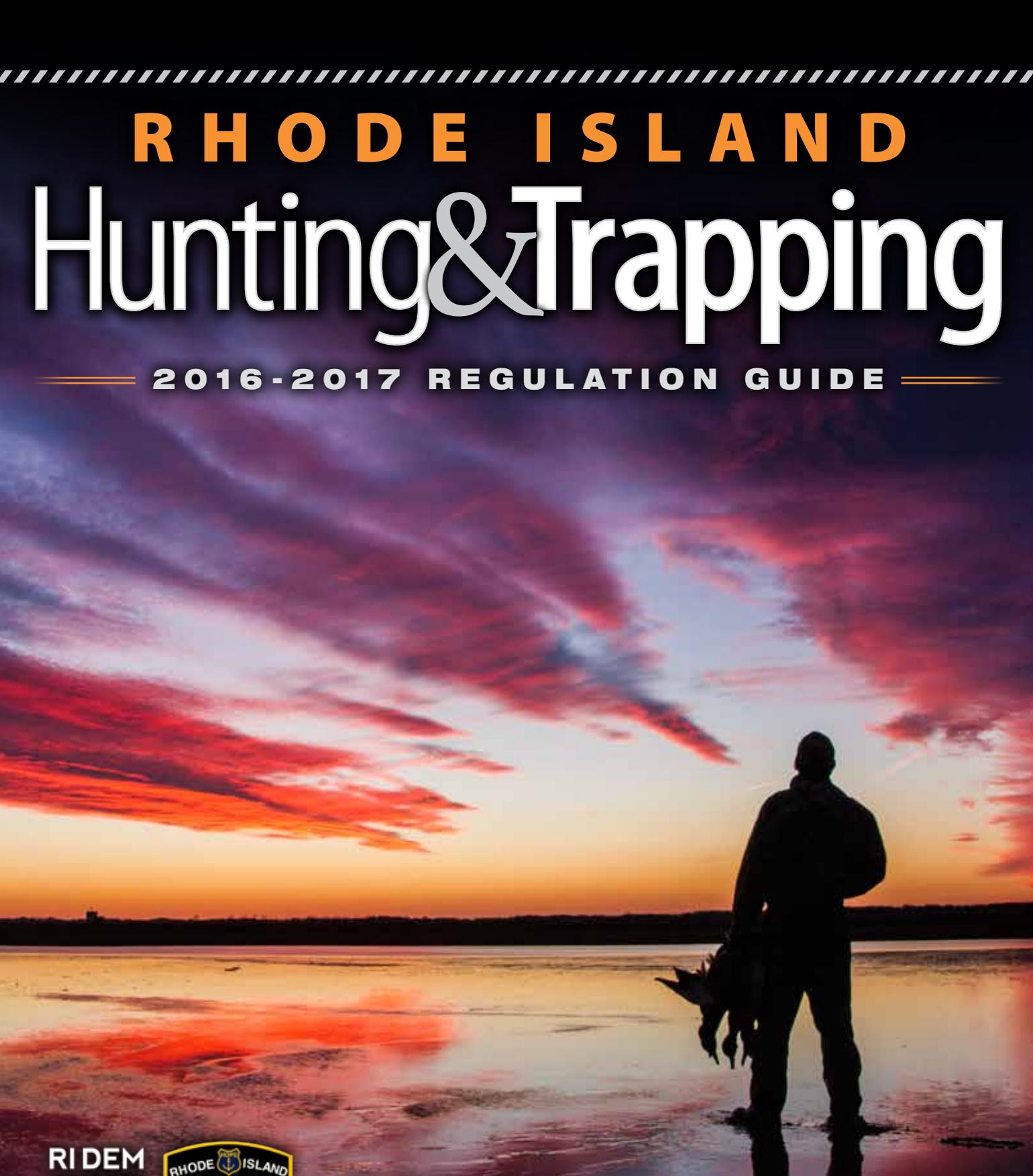


**R H O D E I S L A N D**

# Hunting & Trapping

**2016-2017 REGULATION GUIDE**



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# RHODE ISLAND Hunting & Trapping

2016-2017 REGULATION GUIDE

State of Rhode Island and  
Providence Plantations  
Governor Gina M. Raimondo

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## Title: Director Letter



On behalf of Governor Gina Raimondo, I am excited to present the third annual Rhode Island Hunting and Trapping Regulation Guide. Written for both novice and seasoned hunters, I hope you will find it replete with useful information and helpful guidance on the harvest of game animals.

Rhode Island has an array of natural places, from our fields and forests to coastal areas, which offer excellent hunting and trapping opportunities. Continuing to invest in land and wildlife conservation remain important focus areas for us.

Through contributions from Rhode Island hunters, we've protected over 500 additional acres in the last six years to enhance our state's hunting and trapping invitation – bringing the total purchased to date with your support to 16,100 acres. This adds significantly to the 55,000 acres managed by the Division of Fish & Wildlife. Among the new public lands open to

hunting are the 52-acre Grinnell property in Foster along the Ponagansett River Corridor and the 31-acre Fisher property in Hopkinton that abuts the state's Rockville Management Area.

Hunting and trapping are treasured traditions for many Rhode Island families and visitors to the state. And as part of a larger network of local recreational opportunities, they also play an important role in connecting people with nature, promoting health, and supporting our economy. According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service, consumer spending on hunting contributes \$18 million to the economy each year. Spending on wildlife watching adds another \$200 million.

This is your publication, funded through contributions to the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act) when you purchase a hunting license or related equipment. Thank you for being part of conservation efforts that will provide benefits for generations to come.

I hope this guide enhances your hunting experiences, while encouraging you to be respectful of the environment and fellow hunters. Enjoy the excitement of the outdoors in beautiful Rhode Island and the tranquility and connection to nature hunting brings.

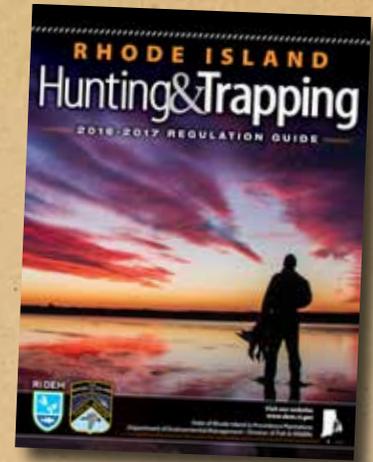
Janet Coit  
Director

## Report Game Violations

RIDEM Environmental Police Officers enforce all of the hunting, game and fish regulations statewide and are always present and on guard to protect these valuable natural resources for all of our citizens. These officers have broad responsibilities for enforcement of Game Laws and Regulations for freshwater fishing, hunting, as well as recreational and commercial Marine resources and many other state Laws and Regulations.

You can assist them by reporting wildlife violations by calling them in to the 24 hour hotline at DEM.

**Turn In Poachers! – 401-222-3070 - 24 Hours/7 days week**



## About this Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife, through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports RIDFW's staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important fisheries and habitat programs.

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## Licenses & Permits

No person shall hunt, pursue, take or kill any wild bird or animal in the state without first having obtained a Rhode Island hunting license (RIGL 20-13-1). Hunters must have a license in possession, on their person, at all times and shall present it for inspection on demand by any authorized person. Failure to present a license shall make a person liable to the same penalties as if he or she was hunting without a license (RIGL 20-2-9). Licensed hunters and trappers are subject to inspection of any boat, vehicle, game bag, blind, stand, or other paraphernalia used in conjunction with licensed activity (RIGL 20-2-32). Licenses may be suspended or revoked because of violations of hunting rules and regulations (RIGL 20-2-13).

The possession of a valid Rhode Island hunting, or combination hunting and fishing license, shall serve as a permit to hunt State Management Areas (RIGL 20-18-2 and 20-18-3), except when check stations are in operation or when special permits are required for deer, waterfowl, or turkey hunting on state lands.

This permit shall be valid only from the first day of season to the last day in February and spring turkey season. The carrying of firearms on state management areas at any other time is prohibited.

Hunting Licenses are available from DEM Office of Boating Registration and Licenses at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908 (401) 222-3576; most city and town clerks (licenses only); most sporting goods stores; and <http://www.dem.ri.gov/>. To replace a lost or stolen license or permit, contact DEM Office of Boating Registration and Licenses.

License Type	Fee
<b>Resident Hunting</b> (must be 15 years old) <sup>1</sup>	\$18.00
<b>Combination</b> (Hunting & Fishing)	\$33.00
<b>Non-Resident Hunting</b> (must be 15 years old) <sup>1</sup>	\$45.00
<b>Non-Resident Tourist Hunting License</b> (3-day)	\$16.00
<b>Permanent Resident Combination</b> (over 65 or disabled)	No fee <sup>3</sup>
<b>Junior Hunting License</b> (12-14 years old) <sup>1</sup>	\$18.00
<b>Resident and Non-Resident Active Military Personnel</b>	\$18.00
<b>Deer Permit</b> (Resident) <sup>2</sup>	\$12.50
<b>Deer Permit</b> (Non-Resident) <sup>2</sup>	\$25.50
<b>Turkey Permit</b> (Resident)	\$7.50
<b>Turkey Permit</b> (Non-Resident)	\$20.00
<b>RI State Waterfowl Stamp</b>	\$7.50
<b>RI Gamebird Permit</b> (Resident and Non-Resident)	\$15.50
<b>RI HIP Permit</b>	No fee
<b>All Outdoors Package Permit</b> (Resident)	\$75.00
<b>Fur Buyer</b> (Resident)	\$10.00
<b>Fur Buyer</b> (Non-Resident)	\$30.00
<b>Shooting Preserve</b>	\$25.00
<b>Shooting Preserve Hunting License</b>	\$3.50
<b>Trapping</b> (Resident)	\$10.00
<b>Trapping</b> (Non-Resident) if reciprocal privileges allowed	\$30.00

1 NOTE: A Junior Hunting License is available for persons age 12-14 years of age upon completion of a Hunter Safety Course. The junior hunter must hunt in the immediate company of an adult, 21 years of age or older, holding a valid RI hunting license.

2 Individual seasonal permits required for each deer hunted.

3 Any resident reaching 65 years may obtain a free permanent license from the offices of the DEM or any city or town clerk. Permanent disability licenses are available at the offices of the DEM.

### Special Permits

Special Permits are available at no extra fee by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to: DEM Division of Fish & Wildlife, Great Swamp Field Headquarters, 277 Great Neck Rd, W. Kingston, RI 02892 (401) 789-0281.

- Beaver trapping permit
- Burlingame North Camp hunting permit
- Fisher trapping permit
- South Shore Management Area permit (goose hunting)
- Northwest Cooperative Hunting Area deer permit
- State lands trapping permit

## Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP)

All migratory bird hunters are required to obtain a permit and answer a short survey. HIP permits are available free through all license vendors and DEM. The HIP program is designed to provide state fish and wildlife agencies and the US Fish and Wildlife Service better information for managing our nation's migratory bird resources.



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**Email [lowlandswhitetails@yahoo.com](mailto:lowlandswhitetails@yahoo.com)**

# Youth Hunt OPPORTUNITY

## YOUTH WATERFOWL

# Hunt & Training



The Division of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with Ducks Unlimited, announces its annual mentored Youth Waterfowl Hunt and Training. All youth's age 12 to 15 that have completed a Hunter Education class are invited to attend!

## Youth Waterfowl Hunt Orientation and Training – FREE!

- Sunday, September 25, 2016: 1 PM to 6 PM
- **Great Swamp Offices and Shooting Range**  
277 Great Neck Road  
West Kingston, RI 02892
- **The training session will cover the following topics:**
  - Proper gear and clothing
  - Rules and Regulations
  - Firearm safety in the field
  - Clay target shooting – We will provide safety gear and 12 & 20 gauge ammunition. You may bring your own shotgun or borrow one of ours.
  - Waterfowl equipment
  - Waterfowl Identification
  - Hunting with dogs
- Food and beverages provided by the **Federated Rhode Island Sportsman Club**.

## Mentored Youth Waterfowl Hunt – License and HIP Permit Required

- Saturday, October 22, 2016
- **Limited** number of participants
  - Participation will be determined in the order that registrations are received. Once all spots are full (~10-15), interested participants will be put on a waitlist.
  - Registration and participation in the training event on Sept 25th is required to participate in the mentored hunt.
- Hunting locations and meet up times to be determined.
- Youth and guardian will join a Ducks Unlimited volunteer on a mentored duck or goose hunt!
- More details and pre-hunt checklist provided at the training day.

Pre-Registration is required\* for both the training and the mentored hunt. For additional information, please contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401) 789 – 0281 or [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov).

\*Registration is required to participate in the mentored hunt. Those youth hunters not wishing to participate in the mentored hunt may hunt on Youth Waterfowl Days (October 22 and 23) in accordance with state regulations.



# SHOOTERS & HUNTERS: HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES.

**T**he target shooting and hunting community prides itself on being safe and responsible with firearms in all situations—from using them outdoors to storing them safely at home. Sometimes, however, unusual conditions such as extremely dry environments require an extra level of awareness and safety on the part of shooters.

Wildfires have many possible causes. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry, reminds all shooters that during dry and hot weather conditions their use of certain ammunition and targets could accidentally ignite a wildfire. NSSF reminds all target shooters and hunters, as well as other outdoor enthusiasts, to consider the potential consequences of their activities in fire-prone environments.

- **Make it a point to know the regulations and rules related to shooting in areas experiencing dry and hot conditions, whether on public or private land or at shooting ranges. Many national forests, for example, do not allow recreational shooting when fire restrictions are in effect.**
- **Consider the type of ammunition and targets you are using. Minimize the risk of fires by not using steel-jacketed ammunition, ammunition with steel-core components, tracer rounds or exploding targets in fire-prone areas.**
- **Remember that equipment, such as cars and ATVs, can have extremely hot exhaust systems that could ignite dry vegetation, so park only in designated areas.**
- **Extinguish and dispose of smoking materials safely.**
- **Follow guidelines to extinguish campfires.**
- **Warn others of potential dangers and behaviors for starting wildfires.**
- **Report any wildfire you see to authorities.**
- **Spread this message to other target shooters, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.**



NSSF.ORG



## Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure that the Freshwater, Marine and Wildlife resources of the State of Rhode Island will be conserved and managed for equitable and sustainable use.

### Hunting Abstract

This hunting abstract is a summary of the rules, regulations, seasons and bag limits for the 2016-2017 Rhode Island hunting season. For more detailed information, see the General Laws of Rhode Island, obtainable in most public libraries. A complete copy of the Hunting Regulations for the 2016-2017 Season can be viewed online at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/fishwild/hunt1617.pdf>

Copies are available by contacting the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

## Significant Regulation Changes & Highlights 2016-2017

1. DEM is no longer conducting the lottery or issuing deer permits for the Providence Water Supply Cooperative. For more information go to [www.provwater.com](http://www.provwater.com)
2. Addition of two (2) new Cooperative Hunting Areas: King Preserve, North Kingstown (archery only) and How-Davey Parcel at Grills Preserve II, Hopkinton (archery and muzzleloader only).
3. New youth muzzleloader season for hunters ages 12 through 15 is October 29 and 30th.
4. Fall archery season for turkey has been reduced to two (2) weeks from October 1-October 14.

5. Waterfowl season regulations have been combined with the hunting regulations.

6. The Grills Preserve I—Westerly Land Trust Property located west of Bowling Lane and Route 91 in Bradford is closed to deer hunting during the 2016-2017 season and closed to turkey hunting during the 2016 fall archery season.

## Definitions

**Antlerless deer** - deer having no antlers or antlers less than three (3) inches in length.

**Bearded turkey** - a turkey that carries a visible beard, i.e., a tuft of stiff filament-like feathers projecting outward and downward from the center of the chest.

**Box trap** - any trigger operated device intended to restrain an animal by confinement in box or cage.

**Conibear-type trap** - "conibear" model traps and similar body-gripping traps and devices, whether or not enclosed in or comprising part of a box, tube, or other enclosing device.

**Crossbow** - a bow and string (either compound or re-curve) that launches an arrow, mounted upon a stock, with a trigger unit that holds the string and limbs under tension until released. The trigger unit must have a working safety.

**Daylight fluorescent orange** - the color orange having a dominant wave length between 595 and 606 nanometers, an excitation purity not less than 85 percent, and a lumination factor not less than 40 percent.

**Driving deer/cooperative drive** - to pursue, drive, chase, or otherwise frighten or cause a deer to move in a direction toward a person or persons known to be waiting for a deer.

**Deer Management Zone** - designed to target and achieve harvest and management goals for deer in RI.

**Junior Hunter** - a person 12-14 years of age who has completed a basic hunter safety course shall hunt only in the immediate company of a qualified licensed adult, 21 years of age or older.

**Paraplegic** - an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs.

**Proficiency testing** - the measurable demonstration of skills with bows and arrows or use of firearms using a set of standards as determined by the hunter education program.

**Written permission** - means annual written permission of the owner of the land for any current deer season.

## Hunter Safety Course Requirements & Licensing

Persons applying for a hunting license or archery permit for the first time or not having been a member of the armed forces must complete a course in safe hunting or archery practices and have been issued a Hunter Education Certificate to obtain a license. Applicants must present a valid hunter safety certificate from Rhode Island or other state, or possess a previous RI hunting license. A list of hunter safety instructors, dates, and locations of classes is available from the Hunter Safety Office: (401) 539-0019 or on the web: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/wildlifehuntered/education/>

## Message from the Chief of Law Enforcement:

Rhode Island has much to offer the outdoor enthusiast. With over 400 miles of coastline, miles of streams and rivers, freshwater lakes and ponds, the water sports opportunities are almost limitless. Add to this the ability to go into our state parks and you have all facets of what anyone could desire in the outdoors. Just one such place, Arcadia Management area, offers 18,000 acres of streams, rivers, waterfalls and features, trout fishing, hunting, hiking and biking.

As a lifelong Rhode Islander, I never truly appreciated these areas until I became the Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement. It has only been over the past six months that I have started to explore the outer layer of our parks. In one recent excursion, I could have closed my eyes and when I opened them again felt that I was deep in

the woods of New Hampshire or Maine. It is hard to imagine that such beautiful places are located within literally minutes of where we live.

Being an active hunter and fresh and saltwater fisherman, I know that Rhode Island offers an incredible variety of options for all seasons. Waterfowl, white-tailed deer and small game hunting are available on both state and private properties throughout the state. I would challenge many of our neighboring states for white-tailed deer populations and hunter success rates. Stocked pheasant and our location within the waterfowl migration and wintering routes offer what some would consider world class hunting experiences.

We have some of the best recreational and charter saltwater fishing options in the Northeast. Whether fishing out of one of our ports with an experienced charter captain, or simply walking the vast shorelines chasing fall runs of striped bass and bluefish, the avid angler has boundless opportunities. If it is offshore big game fishing that drives you, there is no shortage of available

fisheries. Codfish, tuna and marlin can be found off our coastline and while you're out you may even see porpoises, whales, sea turtles and other marine life.

For freshwater fishing, the state stocks trout and salmon in our freshwater ponds, rivers and streams. I think that you would be hard pressed to find a state that stocks the volume and size of the trout that our hatcheries produce on a yearly basis. Re-stocking of our waters provides a year round fishery for anglers, even those like me that love ice fishing when the weather allows.

As Chief of the Rhode Island Environmental Police, I would encourage you to get out and explore our great natural resources. Rhode Island has so much to offer and all within a very compact area. Take part in the varied outdoor activities either on land or water and see what you have been missing.

**Dean Hoxsie, Chief**

To report violations, please call: (401) 222-3070

## Prohibited Activities

- No loaded rifles or shotguns in or on vehicles (RIGL 20-13-8).
- No shooting at, hunting, or pursuing game along, upon, or across a public highway (RIGL 20-13-9).
- No hunting while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs (RIGL 20-13-10).
- It is a violation of law, punishable by a fine and imprisonment, to fire “into” land for which one does not have landowner permission.
- No hunting on posted land or state parks, removing or defacing posters thereon, or doing willful damage to property (RIGL 11-44-4,5).
- No more than five persons to hunt in unison (RIGL 20-13-11).
- Target or trap shooting on state lands is only allowed on provided ranges (RIGL 32-2-4).
- Shooting at any animal at anytime while such animal is on a telephone or electric line, pole, or tower or any communication device (RIHR 10.9).

## Shooting Restrictions

- It is unlawful to carry a loaded weapon outside legal shooting hours. Provided the hunter is stationary, his / her weapon may be loaded within fifteen (15) minutes prior to legal shooting hours (RIHR 10.13).
- The use of laser sights or night vision on any firearm or bow while hunting is illegal (RIHR 1.5.7.1).
- No lead shot larger than No. 2 at any time (RIGL 20-13-13).
- No rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire at any time; however, from Apr. 1 to Sept. 30, (both dates inclusive), centerfire rifles no larger than .229 caliber may be used during daylight hours (RIGL 20-13-13).
- Discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling without written permission is prohibited (RIGL 20-13-7, RIGL 20-15-1).
- Archery deer hunting, within 200 feet of an occupied dwelling without written permission is prohibited (RIGL 20-15-1).

## Wildlife Restrictions

- The importation, exportation, possession, liberation, or sale of any mute swan and/or eggs thereof, or live pen-reared or hybrid wild turkey and/or eggs thereof (RIHR 10.2, 10.3).
- Importing of live birds or animals without permit (RIGL 20-17-9).
- Taking of birds by any method other than shotgun, bow and arrow, or falconry without permit (RIGL 20-14-7).

- The sale of game, except as provided (RIGL 20-13-14).
- Spotighting for wild animals and birds is prohibited on both Prudence Island & Patience Island, from October 1 – January 31, and at all times on Block Island.
- Spotighting is prohibited on the mainland from Sept. 15-Jan. 31.

## Important Laws & Regulations Pertaining to Wildlife

The Lacey Act of 1900, the first federal game law, regulates interstate and international commerce in wildlife. The term “wildlife”, for the purposes of the act, means any wild animal, wild bird, amphibian, reptile, mollusk, or crustacean, or their dead bodies, parts, eggs, or offspring, but does not include migratory birds for which protection is afforded under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Briefly, action can be taken against anyone who transports, ships, or sells wildlife in interstate or foreign commerce contrary to state or foreign laws, or transports any package not properly labeled or tagged.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, signed in 1918, includes agreements between the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Mexico, Japan, and Russia for the protection of migratory bird populations. Migratory birds are protected by the federal government with provisions allowing state regulation. All birds, their parts, nests, and eggs are protected, except as provided by open hunting seasons. Refer to Rhode Island waterfowl section for more information.

## Reptiles & Amphibians

The removal from the wild, for any purposes, of any reptile or amphibian (to include eggs or nest) except bullfrogs, green frogs and snapping turtles is prohibited except by special permit (RIHR 8.1, 8.3). The release into the wild of any non-native reptile or amphibian is prohibited.

The following species of reptiles and amphibians (to include eggs or nests) are protected, and possession without permit is prohibited at all times: timber rattlesnake, (*Crotalus horridus*); northern diamondback terrapin, (*Malaclemys terrapin*); wood turtle, (*Clemmys insculpta*); eastern box turtle, (*Terrapene carolina*); spotted turtle, (*Clemmys guttata*); and bog turtle, (*Clemmys uhlenbergi*) (RIHR 8.2). The taking of snapping turtles at any time shall be limited to turtles with a minimum carapace length of 12 inches, using: turtle traps, snagging, snaring, grabbing, jugging, bow and arrow, or while legally fishing. Traps and jugs must carry the trapper’s name and address (RIHR 8.1, 8.2).

## Fluorescent Orange Requirements

Fluorescent orange safety clothing is required during the hunting season statewide for all hunters. To meet this requirement, safety clothing must be solid daylight fluorescent orange. Fluorescent camouflage does not meet this requirement. The hunter orange must be worn above the waist and be visible in all directions. Examples are: a hat that covers 200 square inches or a combination of hat and vest covering 500 square inches.

- 200sq. in. by small game hunters during the small game season.
- 200sq. in. by fall turkey hunters while traveling.
- 200sq. in. by muzzleloader deer hunters during the muzzle-loading deer season.
- 200sq. in. by archers when traveling to/from stands during the muzzleloader deer season only.
- 500sq. in. by all hunters (including archers) and all users of management areas and undeveloped state parks during all portions of shotgun deer seasons.
- Hunters using Pop-up blinds during the firearms deer season must display 200 square inches of fluorescent orange visible on the outside of the blind from all directions. Hunters must also wear orange in accordance with the rules for the specific seasons while in the blind.
- Exemptions: Specifically, waterfowl hunters while hunting from a boat or a blind, over water or field, when done in conjunction with decoys; crow hunting over decoys, spring turkey hunters, first segment dove hunters, not required in areas limited to Archery by regulation.

### All Other Users:

In addition to the above hunter requirements, all other users (hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders, etc.) of State Management areas are required to wear 200 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange from the second Saturday in September to the last day of February and the third Saturday in April to the last day in May, annually.

# Shooting Hours & SUNRISE/SUNSET

## Legal Shooting Hours

<b>Small Game</b>	Sunrise until Sunset (7:00 AM on opening day)
<b>Deer Hunting</b>	½ hour before Sunrise to ½ hour after Sunset
<b>Coyote</b>	½ hour before Sunrise to ½ hour after Sunset
<b>Raccoon</b>	6:00 PM 10/1/16 until 11:59 PM of the last day of February
<b>Waterfowl</b>	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
<b>Canada Goose</b>	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset <b>(September season only)</b>
<b>Spring Turkey</b>	½ hour before Sunrise until 1:00PM
<b>Fall Turkey</b>	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
<b>Dove (1<sup>st</sup> segment)</b>	Noon to Sunset
<b>Dove (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> segment)</b>	Sunrise to Sunset
<b>Woodcock</b>	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset

## Sunrise / Sunset Table at Providence, RI

Darker brown indicates Daylight Savings Time

Day	September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
1	6:11	19:18	6:43	18:26	7:18	17:39	6:54	16:15	7:13	16:25	6:57	17:01	6:20	17:36	6:28	19:11	5:41	19:44
2	6:12	19:16	6:44	18:24	7:19	17:38	6:55	16:15	7:13	16:26	6:56	17:02	6:18	17:37	6:26	19:12	5:40	19:45
3	6:13	19:14	6:45	18:23	7:21	17:36	6:56	16:15	7:13	16:27	6:55	17:03	6:16	17:38	6:24	19:13	5:39	19:46
4	6:15	19:13	6:46	18:21	7:22	17:35	6:57	16:14	7:13	16:28	6:54	17:05	6:15	17:39	6:23	19:14	5:37	19:47
5	6:16	19:11	6:47	18:19	7:23	17:34	6:58	16:14	7:13	16:29	6:53	17:06	6:13	17:41	6:21	19:15	5:36	19:48
6	6:17	19:09	6:48	18:18	6:24	16:33	6:59	16:14	7:13	16:30	6:52	17:07	6:12	17:42	6:19	19:16	5:35	19:49
7	6:18	19:08	6:49	18:16	6:25	16:32	6:59	16:14	7:12	16:31	6:51	17:09	6:10	17:43	6:18	19:18	5:34	19:50
8	6:19	19:06	6:50	18:14	6:27	16:31	7:00	16:14	7:12	16:32	6:49	17:10	6:08	17:44	6:16	19:19	5:32	19:51
9	6:20	19:04	6:51	18:13	6:28	16:30	7:01	16:14	7:12	16:33	6:48	17:11	6:07	17:45	6:14	19:20	5:31	19:53
10	6:21	19:02	6:52	18:11	6:29	16:29	7:02	16:14	7:12	16:34	6:47	17:12	6:05	17:46	6:13	19:21	5:30	19:54
11	6:22	19:01	6:53	18:09	6:30	16:28	7:03	16:14	7:12	16:35	6:46	17:14	6:03	17:47	6:11	19:22	5:29	19:55
12	6:23	18:59	6:55	18:08	6:32	16:27	7:04	16:15	7:11	16:36	6:44	17:15	7:02	18:49	6:09	19:23	5:28	19:56
13	6:24	18:57	6:56	18:06	6:33	16:26	7:04	16:15	7:11	16:37	6:43	17:16	7:00	18:50	6:08	19:24	5:27	19:57
14	6:25	18:55	6:57	18:05	6:34	16:25	7:05	16:15	7:10	16:39	6:42	17:17	6:58	18:51	6:06	19:25	5:26	19:58
15	6:26	18:54	6:58	18:03	6:35	16:24	7:06	16:15	7:10	16:40	6:40	17:19	6:57	18:52	6:05	19:26	5:25	19:59
16	6:27	18:52	6:59	18:01	6:36	16:23	7:07	16:16	7:10	16:41	6:39	17:20	6:55	18:53	6:03	19:27	5:24	20:00
17	6:28	18:50	7:00	18:00	6:38	16:22	7:07	16:16	7:09	16:42	6:38	17:21	6:53	18:54	6:01	19:29	5:23	20:01
18	6:29	18:49	7:01	17:58	6:39	16:22	7:08	16:16	7:09	16:43	6:36	17:22	6:51	18:55	6:00	19:30	5:22	20:02
19	6:30	18:47	7:03	17:57	6:40	16:21	7:08	16:17	7:08	16:44	6:35	17:24	6:50	18:57	5:58	19:31	5:21	20:03
20	6:31	18:45	7:04	17:55	6:41	16:20	7:09	16:17	7:07	16:46	6:33	17:25	6:48	18:58	5:57	19:32	5:20	20:04
21	6:32	18:43	7:05	17:54	6:42	16:20	7:09	16:18	7:07	16:47	6:32	17:26	6:46	18:59	5:55	19:33	5:20	20:05
22	6:33	18:42	7:06	17:52	6:44	16:19	7:10	16:18	7:06	16:48	6:30	17:27	6:45	19:00	5:54	19:34	5:19	20:05
23	6:34	18:40	7:07	17:51	6:45	16:18	7:10	16:19	7:05	16:49	6:29	17:29	6:43	19:01	5:52	19:35	5:18	20:06
24	6:35	18:38	7:08	17:50	6:46	16:18	7:11	16:19	7:04	16:51	6:27	17:30	6:41	19:02	5:51	19:36	5:17	20:07
25	6:36	18:36	7:10	17:48	6:47	16:17	7:11	16:20	7:04	16:52	6:26	17:31	6:40	19:03	5:49	19:37	5:17	20:08
26	6:37	18:35	7:11	17:47	6:48	16:17	7:12	16:21	7:03	16:53	6:24	17:32	6:38	19:04	5:48	19:38	5:16	20:09
27	6:38	18:33	7:12	17:45	6:49	16:16	7:12	16:21	7:02	16:54	6:23	17:33	6:36	19:05	5:47	19:40	5:15	20:10
28	6:39	18:31	7:13	17:44	6:50	16:16	7:12	16:22	7:01	16:56	6:21	17:35	6:34	19:07	5:45	19:41	5:15	20:11
29	6:40	18:29	7:14	17:43	6:51	16:16	7:12	16:23	7:00	16:57			6:33	19:08	5:44	19:42	5:14	20:12
30	6:41	18:28	7:16	17:41	6:53	16:15	7:12	16:24	6:59	16:58	-	-	6:31	19:09	5:43	19:43	5:14	20:12
31			7:17	17:40	-	-	7:13	16:24	6:58	17:00	-	-	6:29	19:10	-	-	5:13	20:13

# Hunting SEASONS SUMMARY

For further information regarding specific bag, possession, and season limits please visit the pages noted in the table below.

## Deer Hunting (see page 22 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Archery (includes Crossbow)	September 10-11 (youth only Zones 1,2) September 15- January 31 (Zones 1, 2)
Muzzleloader	October 1- October 4 (Zone 1- Antlerless deer only) October 29 and October 30 (Youth only Zones 1, 2) November 5- November 27 (Zones 1, 2) December 26- January 2 (Zones 1, 2 Antlerless deer only)
Shotgun	December 3- December 18 (Zones 1, 2) December 26- January 2 (Zones 1, 2 - Antlerless deer only)
Archery: Prudence-Patience Islands (Zone 3)	October 25- 28 (Paraplegic hunters only) October 29 and 30 (Youth only Season) November 1- January 31
Archery: Block Island (Zone 4)	October 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31
Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader: Block Island (Zone 4)	November 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 28, 29 December 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23 January 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31 February 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28

## Small Game Hunting (see page 13 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Red, Gray Fox	10/15/16 - last day of February
Gray Squirrel	10/15/16 - last day of February
Cottontail Rabbit	10/15/16 - last day of February
Ruffed Grouse	CLOSED
Quail	10/15/16 - last day of February
Pheasant	10/15/16 - last day of February
Youth Pheasant	10/8/16 - 10/9/16
Raccoon	10/1/16 - last day of February
Coyote - Private Land	No Closed Season
Coyote - State Land	9/10/16 - last day of February 4/27/17 - 5/21/17

## Migratory Game Hunting (pages 14 for bag/possession limit information)

Season	Dates
Mourning Dove	9/10/16 - 10/9/16, 10/15/16 - 11/27/16, 12/10/16 - 12/25/16
King/Clapper Rail Sora/Virginia Rail	9/1/16 - 11/9/16
Snipe	9/1/16 - 11/9/16
Woodcock	10/15/16 - 11/28/16
Crow	8/12/16 - 10/2/16 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only), 10/15/16 - 12/5/16, 12/9/16 - 3/26/17 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only)
Canada Goose (Early Season)	9/1/16 - 9/30/16
Canada Goose (Regular Season)	11/19/16-11/27/16, 12/3/16-1/30/17
Canada Goose (Late Season)	2/4/17-2/10/17
Ducks, Mergansers and Coots	10/7/16-10/10/16, 11/23/16-11/27/16, 12/3/16-1/22/17
Sea Ducks	11/24/16 - 1/22/17

## Wild Turkey Hunting (see page 18 for bag/season limit information)

Species	Dates
Fall Archery	10/1/16 - 10/14/16
Spring Gobbler	4/27/17 - 5/21/17
Youth & Paraplegic	4/22/17 - 4/23/17

STATE LAND SPOTLIGHT:

# Sapowet Marsh Wildlife Management Area

By Tanner Steeves, Wildlife Biologist

Rhode Island's Management Areas provide hunting and fishing opportunities to the public, and protect wildlife habitat and exemplary natural communities. Sapowet Marsh Wildlife Management Area consists of 260 acres in Tiverton, Rhode Island and was established by several land acquisitions in the early 1960s, as well as more recent acquisitions in 1997 and 2002, with funding provided in part by the Federal Aid Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. This property is supervised by the Division of Fish and Wildlife and contributes to a network of over 5,000 acres of protected conservation land in Tiverton and Little Compton through ownership and easement by RIDEM, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon

Society of Rhode Island and local land trusts.

Sapowet is located on the eastern shore of the Sakonnet River at the mouth of Sapowet Creek where a large tidal marsh occurs- giving the area its name. A variety of coastal habitats occur at Sapowet, including sandy shoreline along Sapowet Point, and coastal grassland and shrubland, which flank the marsh to the east and west. Tidal marsh birds, such as seaside sparrow and saltmarsh sparrow, nest here and can be seen flying low throughout the marsh during the summer months. Shorebirds and waterfowl, such as American black duck, use the beach and tidal areas during migration and as wintering habitat. Sapowet Marsh is considered a Global Impor-

tant Bird Area by the National Audubon Society based on the presence of the relatively large, intact saltmarsh.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) plans to enhance this unique coastal site with goals to restore coastal habitats and improve coastal resiliency commencing in 2016. With funding provided through the Coastal Resource Management Council's Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration Trust Fund and the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration program, this work will help restore beach and dune habitats, and create nine acres of coastal grassland habitat. The coastal portion of Sapowet Marsh Management Area has experienced extensive erosion in the past several decades: a strategic redesign of the coastal point of access will increase shoreline resilience and ensure public access well into the future.

Located west of Route 77 near Tiverton Four Corners, Sapowet Marsh can be accessed from two primary locations: off of Seapowet Avenue at the Sapowet Creek bridge, and off Old Main Road along the area's eastern border. A gravel parking area and small craft boat launch are located at the Sapowet Creek bridge and may be used to explore the salt marsh or for fishing and shellfishing along the shore. Hunting is permitted at Sapowet Marsh Wildlife Management Area with opportunities for waterfowl, archery-only white-tailed deer, small game, including pheasant, and wild turkey hunting. Get outside and enjoy Sapowet Marsh Management Area!



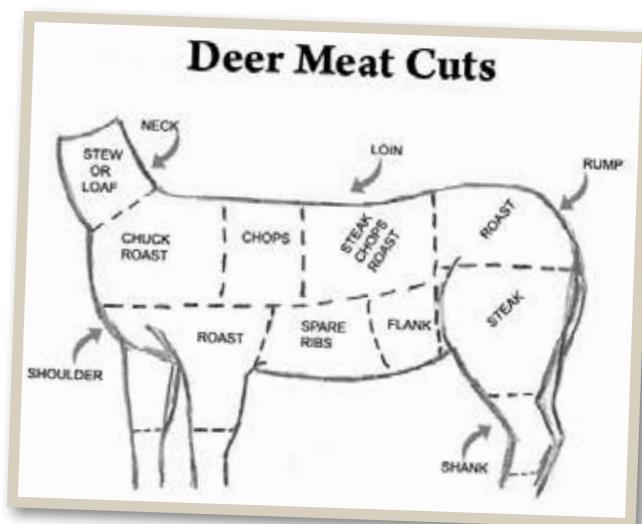
## HUNTERS

# Feeding Hungry

The new Hunters Feeding Hungry Program will allow the Division of Fish & Wildlife to join with RI hunters to provide food for impoverished citizens in the South East Asian Community (CSEA). The program gives hunters the opportunity to donate a portion of their harvested game to those less fortunate, helping to create good relations between hunters and the community. The pilot program this year will focus on donation of deer, but we hope it will grow to include other donations, such as birds and fish in the future. The program is unique in that the CSEA will accept donations of legally-tagged, whole field-dressed deer and do not require butchering, processing or packaging, thereby minimizing costs and maintaining simplicity for the hunter.

### General Procedures:

1. Hunter harvests RI deer and legally tags and checks the animal as required by DEM hunting regulations.
2. CSEA is ready to accept hunter donations of whole deer from hunters by calling one of two numbers:
  - **Monday through Friday** (8:30AM to 4:30PM) – call 401-274-8811
  - **Weekends** and after 4:30 PM - call (or text) 401-871-5633*Please call ahead to allow sufficient lead time for CSEA personnel to arrange for travel and pick up of the deer carcass (allow 3 to 5 hours).*
3. CSEA will provide a brief donation form that the hunter will be asked to fill out upon donating the deer to CSEA and will also be given a copy of the form as a receipt of the deer donation. The second copy will be retained by DEM as a record of the donation.
4. DEM Fish and Wildlife has created a telephone hotline (401-789-1636) available for hunters to call (M-F 8:30AM-4PM) with any questions or for more information about the Hunter Feeding Hungry program.
5. Thank you for donating to this charitable program and good luck hunting!





# Help Us Protect What Is Yours

BE OUR EYES AND EARS: REPORT HUNTING AND FISHING VIOLATIONS (401) 222-3070



The Rhode Island Environmental Police have thirty-one officers that tirelessly patrol the woods and waters of our State. Unfortunately, we cannot be everywhere at once. We rely on the outdoorsmen and women to be our eyes and ears. The following are highlights from two cases from the 2015-2016 hunting season. If not for the assistance of a concerned citizen, we would not have been able to make an arrest in each of these instances.

On December 16, 2015, Environmental Police responded to a farm in North Kingstown for a report of illegal deer hunting. The complainant heard gun shots and entered the woods to find a subject carrying a shotgun. Being familiar with the area, he knew this person did not have permission to hunt the property. When we arrived on scene, we located two suspects along a trail standing by a dead deer. One suspect was holding a loaded shotgun, the other insisted he was not hunting and did not have a firearm with him. Neither possessed a valid hunting license or deer tag, and they both failed to produce written landowners permission. Additionally, both men were not wearing fluorescent orange and both had shotgun shells in their pockets. We deployed our newly commissioned K-9 Unit. Bear and his handler were able to locate a second shotgun hidden

in the woods, a spent shotgun shell, and a gut pile where the hunters had admittedly dressed the deer. Both suspects were placed under arrest and were charged with multiple hunting violations. The guns, ammunition, and illegally taken deer were seized with the guns later forfeited.

On January 8, 2016, Environmental Police responded to the South Kingstown Police Department, where a suspect was being detained for suspicion of illegal deer hunting. A concerned citizen witnessed a truck in the area lighting a nearby field and possibly heard a gunshot. The complainant was able to give a complete description of the vehicle with the license plate. We interviewed the suspect, and he admitted to using his truck's headlights to light a field and then shooting a deer from the road. In his truck, we found two shotguns along with ammunition. The suspect made statements that this was the only deer he had taken this season. However, a search of his social media posts revealed several pictures of him holding a large buck and bragging that he had shot the deer weeks earlier. When confronted with this information, he admitted that he had killed the deer and not reported it. The man was arrested and charged with multiple hunting violations. The guns, ammunition, the illegally taken deer, and the antlers from the unreported deer were seized, with one of the guns later forfeited.

Help us protect what is yours. Poaching of our natural resources is a theft from us all.



## Small Game Hunting

Species	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
Red, Gray Fox	10/15/16 - last day of February	none
Gray Squirrel	10/15/16 - last day of February	5
Cottontail Rabbit	10/15/16 - last day of February	3
Ruffed Grouse	CLOSED	
Quail	10/15/16 - last day of February	3
Pheasant	10/15/16 - last day of February	2
Youth Pheasant	10/8/16 - 10/9/16	2
Raccoon	10/1/16 - last day of February	unlimited
Coyote* - Private Land	No closed season	unlimited
Coyote* - State Land	9/10/16 - last day of February 4/27/17 - 5/21/17	unlimited

\* See page 32 for additional details.

### Management Area Check Stations

Small game hunters are required to check in and out of the state operated check stations at Great Swamp, Arcadia, Durfee Hill, and Carolina management areas on the following dates: Oct. 15 & 16, 22 & 23, 29 & 30 and Nov. 5 & 6. Check station hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

### Pheasant hunting

Gamebird Permit is Required. Pheasants are stocked prior to opening day, then weekly through the end of December. Pheasant stocking does not occur in January and February. Stocked management areas are: Arcadia,

Black Hut, Big River, Buck Hill, Carolina, Durfee Hill, Great Swamp, Nicholas Farm, Sapowet, Simmons Mill Pond and 8 Rod Farm.

The daily limit for pheasant is 2 either sex birds. Each pheasant must be tagged immediately upon taking. Each gamebird permit allows the taking of 6 pheasants; hunters may purchase multiple permits.

### Youth Pheasant Hunting Weekend

**Dates: Oct. 8 & 9.** Open only at Great Swamp, Durfee Hill, and Eight Rod WMA. Registration is required. See page 21 for more information.

### Small Game Hunting during the Deer Season:

The small game hunting season will remain OPEN during the December shotgun deer season. This allows small game hunting on state management areas during the shotgun deer season.

Muzzle-loading rifles, no greater than .40 caliber with round ball and patch, may be used for hunting small mammals during established seasons.

Night hunting of raccoons with shot larger than No. 4 or rifles larger than .22 cal. rimfire long-rifle is prohibited.

Bow hunters with a valid deer archery hunting permit may take raccoon during legal deer hunting hours beginning on the first day of October and ending on the last day of January.

### Block Island Pheasant Hunting

Pheasant hunting is open on Block Island, with written permission, on Nov. 23 & 30th and Dec. 21 & 28 and Jan. 4. Only male pheasants (rooster) may be taken from Block Island, bag limit 2 per day.

### Air Gun Rifles

Air gun rifles are permitted to hunt the following small mammals: squirrels, woodchucks, and cottontail rabbits, provided that the air guns are a minimum of .177 caliber and not larger than .22; a minimum of 750 fps velocity with pellets 7.5 grains or larger.

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- Highest deer density in Alabama. Hogs, coyotes and bobcats (no charge, no limit with paid deer hunt)
- 6,000 acre family-owned plantation. NO LEASED LAND.
- 50 Food Plots with elevated shooting houses surrounded by pines and oak bottoms.
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December 27th, 2012

To plan your hunt, call J. Paul Taylor at **877.539.5699**

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# Migratory Bird HUNTING

## Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits

Season	Dates	Daily Bag/ Possession Limits	Restrictions
<b>Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days</b>	10/22/16-10/23/16	Same as regular season, listed below	Open to youth hunters age 12-15 accompanied by a licensed adult, 21 years of age or older and may take ducks or geese
<b>Canada Goose Early Season</b>	9/1/16 – 9/30/16	15/45	Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ our after sunset for September season only
<b>Canada Goose Regular Season</b>	11/19/16 – 11/27/16 and 12/3/16 – 1/30/17	3/9	Special permits and reservations are required for the South Shore Management area and must be obtained through the DFW. See page 30 for more information
<b>Canada Goose Late Season</b>	2/4/17 – 2/10/17	5/15	Limited to Providence, Bristol and Kent counties and portions of Washington County as described in RI Hunting Regulations §5.1.3.5. A map depicting the area open to hunting is available on the Department of Environment Management’s website
<b>Snow Goose (Including Blue Goose)</b>	10/16/16 – 1/30/17	25/ (no limit)	-
<b>Brant</b>	12/4/16 – 1/22/17	2/6	-
<b>Sea Ducks<sup>1</sup></b>	11/24/16 – 1/22/17	5/15	Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Scoter (only 4 of any one species per daily bag limit) 4/12
<b>Ducks and Coots</b>	10/7/16 – 10/10/16 11/23/16 – 11/27/16 12/3/16 – 1/22/17	6/18	Mallard ..... 4(2 hens) / 12(6 hens) Black Duck ..... 1/3 Canvasback ..... 2/6 Pintail ..... 2/6 Redhead ..... 2/6 Scaup ..... 2/6 Wood Duck ..... 3/9
<b>Coots</b>	Same As Ducks	15/45	-
<b>Mergansers</b>	Same As Ducks	5/15	Hooded merganser ..... 2/6
<b>Swans</b>	No Season	-	-
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>	Closed	<b>Caution:</b> Harlequin ducks are found in sea duck hunting areas along rocky coastal shores, specifically in the vicinity of Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, Middletown and Beavertail Pt., Jamestown. The female Harlequin duck is similar in appearance to female bufflehead, goldeneye, or scoter, and can be mistaken for the latter species.	

## Upland Migratory Game Birds Seasons and Bag Limits

Season	Dates	Bag/ Possession Limits
<b>Mourning Dove</b>	9/10/16 - 10/9/16 10/15/16 - 11/27/16 12/10/16 - 12/25/16	15 / 45
<b>King/Clapper Rail</b>	9/1/16 - 11/9/16	1 / 3
<b>Sora/Virginia Rail</b>	9/1/16 - 11/9/16	3 / 9
<b>Snipe</b>	9/1/16 - 11/9/16	5 / 15
<b>Woodcock</b>	10/15/16 - 11/28/16	3 / 9
<b>Crow</b>	8/12/16 - 10/2/16 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only) 10/15/16 - 12/5/16 (inclusive) 12/9/16 - 3/26/17 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only)	Unlimited

<sup>1</sup> Except for the periods November 24 - 27, 2016 and December 3, 2016 – January 22, 2017 may be taken only in the Special Sea Duck Hunting Areas. These areas are seaward of the first upstream bridge, which includes Washington Bridge-Seekonk River; Mt. Hope Bridge- Mt. Hope Bay; and Sakonnet Bridge- Sakonnet River. Sea ducks taken in areas outside of Special Sea Duck Hunting Areas during the periods November 24 – 27, 2016 and December 3, 2016 – January 22, 2017 will be considered as part of the regular daily six (6) bird bag limit. Sea ducks may not be taken during the first segment, as well as the first day of the second segment of the regular duck season (10/7- 10/10 and 11/23/16).

## 2016-17 WATERFOWL REGULATION HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Sea duck season length reduced to 60 days.
2. Brant season is extended to 50 days (2/day bag limit).
3. All migratory bird hunters must possess a Harvest Information Permit (HIP).
4. All waterfowl hunters sixteen (16) years of age and older must also possess a RI waterfowl stamp and Federal duck stamp.
5. Discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling is prohibited.
6. Cripples may be pursued, shot and retrieved from a boat under power in tidal waters seaward of the first upstream bridge; crippled birds must be immediately killed.
7. Permit required to hunt geese at the South Shore Management Area during the regular season (see page 30 for details).
8. All regulations pertaining to migratory bird hunting also pertain to falconry hunting (special permit required, contact the DFW for more details).

## MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP

The law requires that each waterfowl hunter sixteen (16) years of age and over must carry on his person a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or "duck stamp", and a RI Waterfowl stamp, signed in ink across the face. The RI waterfowl stamp (\$7.50) may be obtained through town clerks, licensing agents, and at DFW offices. Violation of State migratory bird regulations is also a violation of Federal regulations.

## NON-TOXIC SHOT REQUIREMENTS

No person shall hunt, pursue, shoot or attempt to take waterfowl, rails, or snipe within the State of Rhode Island, including associated jurisdictional tidal waters which extend from mean high water to the seaward limit of three miles, while

possessing shells loaded with any shot other than non-toxic shot (e.g., steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, and tungsten-nickel-iron-shot) and other shot as approved by United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). All shot larger than BB is prohibited; including duplex loads containing shot larger than BB. Tin shot is prohibited.

## YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS:

Saturday and Sunday, October 22 & 23, 2016 will be Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day in Rhode Island.

- Youth hunters must be 12 – 15 years of age.
- Youth hunters may take ducks, sea ducks and geese following daily bag and possession limits for the regular seasons.
- All youth hunters shall hunt only in the immediate company of a qualified, licensed adult, 21 years of age or older on Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.
- The accompanying adult(s) and all adults are prohibited from hunting on Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.
- All youth hunters and those adults accompanying youth hunters must have current Rhode Island hunting licenses and state HIP permits.
- The accompanying adult must also possess valid state and federal waterfowl stamps.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

For the second consecutive year the RI waterfowl stamp features junior artist Hope Anderson.

Hope just completed her senior year at Chariho Regional High School where she was a member of the Chariho chapter of the National Honor Society and a President's Education Award winner. She has spent many hours volunteering at the Shady Acres nursing home. Hope will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall in pursuing an Arts & Sciences degree.

Hope has been attending art classes at

Lionheart Studios in Carolina, R.I. for the past 9 years. This is her 3rd time entering the Duck Stamp competition, and her 2nd published stamp. She takes great pride in her art work and has devoted many hours into perfecting her pieces for showing.



## HARVEST INFORMATION PERMIT - HIP

All migratory bird hunters are required by Federal Law to obtain a RI Harvest Information Program (HIP) Permit, obtainable at hunting license vendors statewide, or at the DFW Field Office in West Kingston, R.I. For more information, call 401-789-0281. A HIP permit must be attached to your RI license in order to hunt any migratory game bird.

## HUNTING RESTRICTIONS

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap; snare, net, crossbow, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun
- From a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any

## Contribute to the RI Waterfowl Programs

You can contribute to the RI waterfowl programs by investing in a limited edition stamp set for your home or office. Order forms for collector and signed governor edition 2016 Rhode Island Waterfowl Stamps may be obtained by contacting the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife at 277 Great Neck Rd., West Kingston, RI 02892, 401-789-0281. The RI Division of Fish and Wildlife thanks waterfowl stamp and print collectors for your past support in funding our Waterfowl and Wetland Conservation Programs, and hope you contribute by adding RI's 2016-2017 stamp to your collection

If you are concerned about the future of waterfowling, the best way to support adequate waterfowl populations is by taking the following steps:

- Purchase federal and RI waterfowl stamps
- Join and participate in private conservation organizations
- Educate and train young hunters and introduce them to waterfowling
- Learn to identify ducks and proper shooting distances to eliminate sky busting and crippling losses.

# Migratory Bird HUNTING

stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.

- From or by means of any motor boat or sail boat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefore has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in the range of hunters.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on/over a baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation.

## CLOSED AREAS

Providence, East Providence, Pawtucket - That portion of the Seekonk River north of the railroad bridge to a line across the Seekonk River running between the intersection of Gulf Road and River Drive (Providence side) to the southerly abutment of the railroad bridge at the outlet of Omega Pond (East Providence side), shall be closed to waterfowl hunting. The discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting on the Seekonk River is restricted to discharge toward open water (seaward).

Warwick - Brush Neck Cove, so-called, in its entirety. Mill Cove, so-called, in its entirety, including the beachfront. Buttonwoods Cove, so-called, in its entirety.

North Kingstown - Mill Cove, Wickford, so called, in its entirety. Fishing Cove, Wickford, area west of a line to be determined bisecting Cornelius Island. All discharge of firearms while

waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge in an easterly direction from the above line. The Division of Fish and Wildlife will establish the line of demarcation.

Charlestown - Watchaug Pond and Poquiant Brook, or hunting within 100 yards upland of the shore or bank of same.

Tiverton - That unnamed estuary in Tiverton, north of Seapowet Avenue and east of Jack's Island, bounded on the west, south, and east shore by the RI Audubon Society's Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge, and as posted by RI Audubon and Department of Environmental Management signs. The affected area includes the inlet of this estuary and marshland on the north side of this outlet.

Middletown - Sachuest Point (NWR) shoreline below mean high water to mean low water surrounding the National Wildlife Refuge property is closed to all hunting: No hunting along shoreline.

Lincoln/Central Falls - Pursuant to RIGL 11-47-49.1, discharge of a firearm within the Blackstone Valley Flood Plains or Marshes, also known as "Valley Marshes" is prohibited.

## ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS

Barrington - The Barrington River between Central Bridge at Massasoit Avenue and Barrington Bridge #123 at County Road is closed to hunting, except for that section designated by DEM markers on the river off Puritan Avenue and Seabrook Park. Hunting shall be restricted to the water areas below the vegetation line, and between the DEM markers. Discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge toward open water (seaward).

Bristol - Walker Island - discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge toward open waters (seaward).

East Providence - Check local ordinances for restrictions. The discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge toward open water (seaward).

Warwick - Rock Island and its adjacent groin

extending northward off Narragansett Parkway. The discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge toward open water (seaward).

Cranston - Washouset Point (Pawtuxet Cove) north to Fields Point including Stillhouse Cove, the discharge of firearms while waterfowl hunting is restricted to discharge towards open water (seaward). No hunting within 500 feet of occupied buildings (RIGL 20-13-7) from the shoreline or from a watercraft.

Little Compton - All waterfowl hunters must have the following to hunt the Simmons Mill Pond ONLY in the Simmons Mill Management Area: (a) waterfowl decoys; (b) retrieving breed of hunting dog, and/or a boat without motor, or canoe without motor.

North Kingstown - Waterfowl hunting on Belleville Pond is restricted to the northwest segment of the large pond as designated by DEM signs. The discharge of firearms is restricted toward open waters. Waterfowl hunting is permitted after November 15 by Town Ordinance. Firearms must remain cased until individual reaches hunting area (blind or boat).

**Check local ordinances for hunting restrictions.**

## WANTON WASTE

All migratory game birds killed or crippled shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

## TAGGING

No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

1. The hunter's signature
2. The hunter's address
3. The total number of birds involved, by species
4. The dates such birds were killed

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another unless such birds are properly tagged.



## POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS

Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

## DRESSING

No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves and band-tailed pigeons) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility.

## SHIPMENT

No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species contained in the package.

## IMPORTATION

For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66. One fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory birds being transported between the port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required in 20.63), drawn, and head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

## REFERENCE

Federal regulations related to migratory game birds are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

## CAUTION

More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on Federal regulations, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agent, 401-364-9124.

## Avian Disease

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is participating in a nationwide effort of surveillance of wild birds for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). In the winter and spring of 2015, HPAI was detected in the Pacific, Central and Mississippi flyways affecting 48+ million birds. The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), in cooperation with other federal and state agencies, will be targeting several species for surveillance. The DFW is using a variety of methods to sample birds and working with the National Wildlife Health Center to have samples tested. The state will work with federal agencies and the local media to inform the public in the event of a positive detection of HPAI.

Due to the presence of HPAI in North America, the DFW strongly advises hunters to adhere to the following procedures when handling wild birds to avoid possible exposure to themselves, pets or domestic poultry:

- Do not handle or butcher game animals that are obviously sick or are found dead.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning game.
- Wear rubber gloves or cover hands with plastic when cleaning game.
- Wash your hands with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds after handling game.

- Carry disinfecting wipes or an alcohol-based gel into the field with you for immediate use after handling game.
- Wash tools and working surfaces with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10% solution of chlorine bleach.
- Cook game meat thoroughly—reaching an internal temperature of 165° F.
- Clean birds in an area that poultry and pet birds cannot access. There should be a solid barrier between your game cleaning area and where birds are housed.
- Keep a separate pair of shoes to be worn only in the game cleaning area. Clean and disinfect all footwear when coming in and out of the cleaning area.
- Use dedicated tools for cleaning game, do not mix tools that you use around poultry or pet birds.
- Double bag offal and feathers, tying both bags shut.
- Place bags in a container that poultry, pet birds, children or other pets cannot access.



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## Wild Turkey

Species	Dates	Bag Limit
Fall Archery	10/1/16 - 10/14/16	1 either sex bird
Youth & Paraplegic	4/22/17 - 4/23/17	1 bearded bird
Spring Gobbler	4/27/17 - 5/21/17	1 bearded bird

### General Rules and Regulations

The hunting of wild turkey is allowed statewide.

Limited to: shotguns, gauges 10, 12, 16, and 20 only, with shot sizes 4, 5, 6 and 7 magnum turkey loads only; and archery equipment. Long bow, re-curve bow and compound bow must be set at not less than forty (40) pounds for archers using fixed blade broadheads, and a minimum of fifty (50) pounds for archers using mechanical broadheads. Only broadhead tipped arrows with at least two (2) metal cutting edges are allowed. All broadheads must be 7/8 of an inch or greater at the widest point including mechanical broadheads measured in the "open" position.

Crossbows are not permitted for turkey hunting.

Hunters must carry a turkey-calling device (non-electric) while hunting. Calling is the only legal method for hunting wild turkey gobblers.

Wild Turkey hunting is permitted during the special Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend for those hunters 12 – 15 years of age. Junior hunters (ages 12 – 14) as defined in the "definitions" in possession of a valid Rhode Island Junior Hunting License must be accompanied by at least (1) one qualified, licensed adult, age 21 years or older, who holds a valid Rhode Island hunting license. An adult may accompany no more than two (2) junior hunters at one time. The accompanying adult is prohibited from carrying a firearm or bows and hunting turkey, but is permitted to assist the hunter in calling the bird. Hunters age 15 do not have to hunt in the immediate company of a licensed adult.

The use of decoys while hunting is allowed.

A hunter survey card will be issued to each person purchasing a turkey permit. This survey information is vital to the turkey management program in Rhode Island and assists DEM biologists in maintaining a successful wild turkey season for our hunters. The Division requests your cooperation in returning the hunter survey card, whether or not you were successful.

### Prohibited

- The use of any other firearm, live decoy(s), dog(s), baiting, cooperative drive(s).
- Electric calling devices, or any other devices, to capture or ensnare turkeys.
- The shooting of turkeys from the roost.
- Stalking or attempting to sneak up on a turkey to get a shot.
- The hunting, killing, taking, or attempting to take or possess, any wild turkey by any individual unless they possess a permit to do so. However, a person having a valid Rhode Island hunting license may call turkeys for individuals with a valid turkey permit.

### Tagging

A person killing a wild turkey must immediately sign, complete and attach to the leg in a conspicuous manner the turkey tag provided with the permit. The tag must remain attached to the turkey until processed.

## Safe Turkey Hunting—Is No Accident!

When compared to other sports activities (baseball, basketball and swimming—injuries per hundred thousand participants) hunting is a relatively safe activity. These comparisons should not cause any hunter to take accident-free hunting for granted, each and every hunter must make safety the top priority of the hunt.

Very few hunting experiences compare with the exhilaration of turkey hunting. A chance to spend a day afield in the turkey woods, enjoying

not only the hunt but also the splendor of the outdoors in spring makes this experience worthwhile to sportsmen. This is a privilege not to be taken for granted. Be sure that your turkey hunting experience is an enjoyable one by observing these key ingredients for a safe hunt.

## Turkey Hunting Safety

- NEVER crowd another hunter working a bird and avoid high-pressure areas.
- "Mistaken for game" accounts for 87% of all turkey hunting accidents—Be sure of your target and what's beyond.
- Use proper setup techniques— Sit against a wide tree to shield head, neck and back. A tree is an effective blind as it breaks your outline.
- Never wear the colors red, white or blue while turkey hunting. These colors mimic the colors of a gobbler's head and can draw fire. Be totally camouflaged.
- Never stalk turkey sounds or turkeys— it's unsafe and illegal. Never use the sounds of a turkey to warn approaching hunters.
- Avoid using gobbling calls— which draw more hunters than game.

## How to Tell the Sex & Age of a Turkey

Determination of the sex and age of a wild turkey is vital to the hunter, since only males are "legal birds" in the spring gobbler season. Proper identification of your target before shooting protects vulnerable hen turkeys from accidental shooting during the spring nesting season. Biologists also gather important data about the composition of the turkey population from this information to assist management decisions.

Hunters are reminded they should use a variety of characteristics to identify a legal bird, including behavior (strutting, gobbling) and color (black body coloration, bright red, white and blue head color). Beards alone are not reliable indicators since up to as many as 30% of a population may have "bearded" hens.

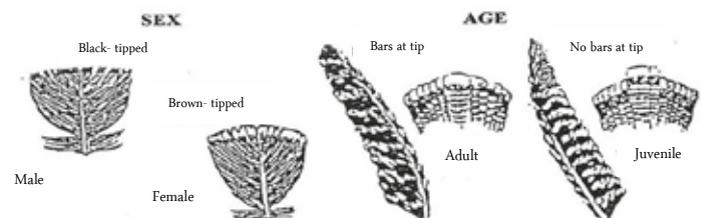
### General Characteristics

**Males:** Body color black- iridescent, breast feathers black tipped; spurs greater than ½ inch (adults-gobblers) less than ½ inch (juveniles-jakes); head crown white with prominent red and blue face and head; weight 15 to 20 pounds.

**Females:** Body color brown, drab-breast feathers brown tipped; no spurs; head color blue-gray no white crown; weight jennies (6-8 pounds), adults—hens (8-13 pounds).

## Checking Requirements:

Within 24 hours of harvesting a turkey, hunters are required to fill out and return a Pre-paid Kill Report Card to DEM to record the harvest. This card replaces mandatory check in stations and is vital to recording your harvested bird for effective species management. Report cards are available from license vendors or from DEM.



# RI Hunter Education Program Offering New Programs

By Scott Travers, Technical Assistant & Hunter Education Instructor

I have been a hunter education instructor for over ten years. At the end of many of my classes, students approach me and ask for more information about various topics. Some will ask to know more about how firearms work because they have never held one. Some will express concern about getting lost because they are not confident walking through the woods, or have never done so before. Traditionally, people who were new to hunting had mentors; friends or family who helped them develop their skills over time. Today, that is simply not the case for many new hunters.

In order to help new hunters who may not have mentors, and to help provide more knowledge to seasoned hunters, the hunter education program, in partnership with several volunteers and volunteer organizations, has started offering workshops that address various aspects of hunting. The workshops are informational

and are not for certification purposes, however, they do offer a fantastic opportunity to learn more about specific topics that new hunters and non-hunters alike may be interested in.

One of the first of these workshops focused on trapping in Rhode Island. The hunter education program partnered with the RI Trapping Association to provide a one-day informational opportunity for people who were curious about trapping and tanning hides. In the morning, RI Wildlife Biologist Charles Brown provided the history of Rhode Island's fur trade, as well as anatomy of target species. In the afternoon, members of the RI Trapping Association demonstrated how to set various traps and skinned three target species; a beaver, a mink, and a fisher, to show how to properly handle the animals.

Since that workshop, the Hunter Education Office has offered many other programs focusing on the various aspects

of hunting and outdoor skills. Going forward, each month the hunter education office will offer a workshop on a specialty topic, along with the standard hunter education and bow hunter education courses which have always been offered.

The courses offered for 2016-2017 will include wild game cooking, wilderness first aid, turkey hunting, ground blind construction, land navigation (map and compass), land navigation (GPS), firearms familiarization, archery, whitetail deer hunting, youth pheasant hunting, youth waterfowl hunting, trapping, and deer processing.

It is the goal of the hunter education department to keep programs interesting and relevant to the RI hunter in order to make us all more informed and safer in the outdoors.

Please contact Scott Travers at [scott.travers@dem.ri.gov](mailto:scott.travers@dem.ri.gov) if you or someone you know would like more information about any of these courses or to see a workshop offered on a topic that you do not see.



# Youth Hunting Opportunities

## 2015 Youth Waterfowl Recap and Spotlight on 2016/17 Youth Hunting Opportunities

By Josh Beuth, Wildlife Biologist and Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor

Headlamps shone bright across a freshly harvested southern Rhode Island corn field as youth hunters and volunteer mentors from Rhode Island Ducks Unlimited set up decoys and layout blinds as part of the first mentored youth waterfowl hunt sponsored by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Shortly after setting four dozen full-body goose decoys and camouflaging blinds with grass and corn stubble, faint honks were heard in the distance. As the honks grew louder the youths were reminded to keep their safeties on until the shot was called. Seconds later the first flock of geese appeared, circled down wind and locked their wings as they glided towards the young hunters. With geese in range, the two youths sat up and fired three shots apiece from their pump shotguns, then watched as the flock of geese flew off unscathed.

As the first flock departed, the mentors reassured the youths and restored their confidence; they reminded them to take their time, concentrate on a single goose, and lead it before shooting. Honks from an approaching flock broke up the conversation and everyone settled back into their blinds just as the next flock appeared over the tree line. The unsuspecting geese set their wings and glided into the decoy spread. At the call of the shot, the youths sat up, acquired their targets and each dropped a goose from the flock! Congratulations were

exchanged and the youths' first geese, which were also their first harvest ever, were retrieved. The smiles on their faces could not have been bigger and the mentors beamed with pride, knowing they were a part of an experience the youths would never forget. The celebration was cut short when distant honks signaled another flock was approaching.

As the morning progressed, the youths and mentors were treated to a spectacular display of aerial acrobatics as flock after flock of unsuspecting geese descended on the decoy spread. Impressive shooting from the first time youth hunters resulted in each one harvesting their daily limit of three geese in relatively short order. Congratulations were exchanged again between the volunteer mentors, the youths and the parents prior to taking pictures to document the day. Phone calls to the other mentors afield with four additional youths at two locations confirmed that they too were experiencing great goose hunting action.

Following the hunt, the six hunters, along with their guardians and mentors gathered at the Division's Great Swamp Field Headquarters to trade stories of their hunts, take pictures and clean their harvest. They enjoyed a successful day afield, harvesting their daily limit of three geese with the assistance of the many volunteer mentors. Charles (Jim) Tappero Sr., a dedicated Ducks Unlimited volunteer, gave a generous donation that was used to provide breakfast for

everyone. With a sense of accomplishment and full bellies, the youths and their parents departed, carrying with them an experience that will last a lifetime, along with knowledge that will assist them as they set out to become the next generation of conservationists and waterfowl hunters.

A month prior, a dozen youths along with their guardians attended a waterfowl hunting orientation and training day at the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Great Swamp Field Headquarters. On this day, wildlife Biologist Joshua Beuth introduced the youths to waterfowl identification and explained the importance of being able to distinguish species on the wing to ensure compliance with bag limits. Environmental police officer (EPO) Lieutenant Ed Cabral discussed laws and hunting regulations before demonstrating the tools used to verify that a gun is correctly plugged- shotguns used to hunt migratory birds may not hold more than 3 shells- and that shotgun shells contain nontoxic shot, as only steel shot or other approved nontoxic shot are permitted while waterfowl hunting.

Volunteers from several Rhode Island Ducks Unlimited Chapters brought an array of waterfowl decoys, hunting blinds, boats and other tools to familiarize the youths with the wide variety of equipment available. Youths practiced sitting up in layout blinds in hunt-



ing scenarios simulated by the volunteers, which were designed to expose the youths to the calling and excitement that occurs when a flock approaches a hunting setup. Beuth's black Labrador retriever and volunteer Jeremy Daugherty's chocolate Labrador retriever put on a hunting retriever demonstration to cap the morning session, before the training moved to the Great Swamp Shooting Range.

Once they arrived at the onsite gun range, the students received a briefing on shotgun safety. The youth hunters were then given the opportunity to hone their skills and practice shooting clay targets. In between shooting, youths and volunteers were treated to lunch provided by the Federated Rhode Island Sportsmen Club. The afternoon ended after a recap of the day with volunteers explaining what was needed in advance of the youth hunt and what to expect leading up to the hunt. The Division along with volunteers from Rhode Island Ducks Unlimited hope more youths and their guardians will take advantage of these exciting training days and mentored hunts in the future!

### **How did these trainings and programs come about?**

Hunter education instructors are often asked for advice navigating the ostensibly complex endeavor of hunting different species. After all, the approximately 50 pages of legal jargon that comprise Rhode Island's hunting regulations, thousands of tips found in books and magazines, and catalogs filled with hundreds of pages of endless tools, gadgets and equipment can be overwhelming to the new hunter. The Division has offered special pheasant and waterfowl trainings in order to familiarize youths and their guardians with the regulations specific to those hunting situations and the myriad of equipment used. At these trainings, volunteers and professionals share tips and knowledge gained from decades of experience that shorten the learning curve and provide a head start to those in attendance.

The pheasant training attracts approximately 25 youths annually; however, in its' early years it attracted over 40 participants. The first waterfowl training in 2015 attracted a dozen participants, a number that the Division hopes will grow through increased outreach and awareness. Sales of junior hunting licenses were 99 in 2015, down 47% from the 187 sold in 2010 which was a slight 14% increase over the 164 sold in 2005. Over the same time period, the number of permanent combination hunting and fishing licenses issued to seniors over age 60 has increased 63% from 189 in 2005 to 299 in 2015. In addition, a National Shooting Sports Foundation study conducted in 2009 showed that the average hunter in the northeast United States was 45.6 years old compared to the national average of 41.8 years old. The data shows that as older hunters become unable to hunt, fewer young hunters are joining the ranks, which is very concerning for the future of hunting and wildlife conservation. The Division hopes to increase recruitment and retention

of youth hunters through the continuation of training programs and increased hunting opportunities for youth hunters.

The Division offers several youth hunts annually that are designed to provide young hunters with an opportunity to head afield with a mentor before the general hunting population is able to do so. These opportunities typically occur before game has been spooked and pressured by the large number of hunters afield, and therefore increases the chance of success. Special trainings are offered ahead of pheasant and waterfowl hunts, but attendance is not required to participate in the hunts. Youth hunting opportunities for the 2016-17 season and special trainings offered in advance are highlighted below:

### **Youth Archery Deer Hunting**

September 10 & 11, 2016

\*See page 26 for additional requirements and information.

### **Youth Muzzleloader Deer Hunting**

October 29 & 30, 2016

\*See page 26 for additional requirements and information.

### **Youth Pheasant Hunt**

Hunt: October 8 & 9, 2016

Pre-Hunt Orientation and Training\*: September 10th, 2016

\*Preregistration required for participation in the orientation and training day. To register contact Jessica Pena at DEM Hunter Education (401) 539-0019 or email Jessica.pena@dem.ri.gov prior to September 9, 2016.

\*\*See page 13 for additional requirements and information.

### **Youth Waterfowl Hunting**

Hunt: October 22 & 23, 2016

Mentored Hunt\*: October 22, 2016

Pre-Hunt Orientation & Training\*: Sunday, September 25

\*Preregistration required for participation in the orientation and training day as well as mentored hunt. Mentored hunt limited to the number of mentors available, youths must be accompanied by a guardian and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, call the Division of Fish and Wildlife (401) 789-0281 or email Joshua Beuth (Joshua.beuth@dem.ri.gov) prior to September 23, 2016.

\*\*See page 15 for additional requirements and information.

### **Youth Spring Turkey Hunt**

April 22 & 23, 2017

\*See page 18 for additional requirements and information.

For additional information on youth hunting opportunities contact the Hunter Education office at (401) 539-0019. To find and register for a hunter or bowhunter education class, please check the course schedule available on the website ([www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov)).



## Deer Hunting Seasons

Season	Dates
<b>Archery (includes Crossbow)</b>	September 10-11 (youth only Zones 1,2) September 15-January 31 (Zones 1, 2)
<b>Muzzleloader</b>	October 1- October 4 (Zone 1- Antlerless deer only) October 29 and October 30 (Youth only Zones 1, 2) November 5- November 27 (Zones 1, 2) December 26- January 2 (Zones 1, 2 Antlerless deer only)
<b>Shotgun</b>	December 3- December 18 (Zones 1, 2) December 26- January 2 (Zones 1, 2 - Antlerless deer only)
<b>Archery: Prudence-Patience Islands (Zone 3)</b>	October 25- 28 (Paraplegic hunters only) October 29 and 30 (Youth only Season) November 1- January 31
<b>Archery: Block Island (Zone 4)</b>	October 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31 (Check local ordinance)*
<b>Archery, Shotgun, Muzzleloader (Zone 4)</b>	November: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 28, 29 December: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23 January: 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31 February: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28
Bag/Season Limits	
<b>Statewide (all zones combined)</b>	2 Antlered Deer; except Zone 3 (1 Antlered)
<b>Zone 1</b>	4 Antlerless Deer; 1 Replacement Tag
<b>Zone 2</b>	3 Antlerless Deer
<b>Zone 3</b>	2 Antlerless Deer
<b>Zone 4</b>	8 Antlerless Deer (Unlimited permits)



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## RI Deer Management Strategy:

Deer management zones have been established for harvesting deer in accordance with specific management goals for RI. The need to reduce auto strikes and address nuisance deer complaints are important deer management issues in addition to DEM's goal to preserve and maintain quality deer hunting for sportsmen.

### With this strategy we hope to:

- Provide a sustainable high quality deer management program that maintains deer populations that are ecologically sound.
- Maintain quality hunting programs for the deer resource recognizing the strong hunter tradition of deer hunting in Rhode Island and the important role hunters play in population management.

## Written Permission

Annual written landowner permission is required for deer hunting on private land (RIGL 20-15-1) during the deer season. It is not required that deer permits (tags) be signed by the landowner, provided the hunter has other written permission in possession. Deer permits (tags) must be carried while hunting. Annual written permission must be shown to any authorized person upon demand, and must be presented when checking a deer.

## Deer Hunting Methods

### Shotgun

Limited to 10, 12, 16, and 20 gauges, plugged to 5 shell maximum. Ammunition permitted for shotgun deer season is limited to a single lead or alloy projectile, including rifled slugs or sabot rounds. Buckshot is PROHIBITED for deer hunting. Muzzleloader may be used during shotgun season with a valid shotgun deer permit.

### Muzzleloader

Firearms are limited to single or double barrel flintlock, caplock, inline ignition system muzzle-loading shotgun or rifle only. Muzzle-loading rifles are limited to .45 caliber or larger. Smoothbore firearms limited to .50 caliber or 20 gauge or larger. Ammunition is limited to single lead projectile of the same caliber as the firearm. Sabot rounds either lead or jacketed permitted on .43 caliber or larger. Powder limited to black powder or approved substitutes. A muzzleloader is considered unloaded when cap or pan powder is removed.

### Archery

Archers may use a long bow, re-curve bow, compound bow or crossbow for hunting deer. Long bow, re-curve bow and compound bow must be set at not less than forty (40) pounds for archers using fixed blade broadheads, and a minimum of fifty (50) pounds for archers using mechanical broadheads. Only broadheads tipped arrows with at least two (2) metal cutting edges are allowed. All broadheads must be  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch or greater at the widest point including mechanical broadheads measured in the "open" position.

Crossbows must be set at not less than one hundred twenty five (125) pounds minimum draw weight. Expandable broadheads are permitted. One (1) field point arrow may be carried in the quiver for the safe discharge of the crossbow; the field point arrow must be made distinguishable from the crossbow arrow by a color difference. All Archery deer hunters must have taken and successfully completed bow hunter education classes or hold a prior year archery deer permit in order to archery hunt.

### Adaptive Aids

Hunters during the archery season may hunt deer with adaptive aids at any time without a special permit. Only one firearm or bow may be possessed in the field per individual hunter while hunting deer. Check local ordinances, for there may be other restrictions in specific towns.

## Decoys

The use of decoys to attract deer is allowed only on private land only during the early portion of the archery season (September 15 to 30); except they may also be used on private lands in towns where hunting with a firearm is prohibited, from September 15 to January 31. When transporting decoys while hunting, persons must wear 500 square inches of fluorescent orange visible from all sides.

## Checking Procedures for Deer & Turkey Hunters

Deer and Turkey hunters are required to report their harvested animals within 24 hours of the kill, by using a simple pre-paid postage Kill Report Card supplied by RIDEM. The harvest/kill report cards will replace the need for hunters to check deer and turkey at vendor check stations during most of the deer and turkey hunting seasons.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife still requires a portion of our harvested deer to be inspected and measured by State biologists and therefore, all hunters are required during the first four days of the muzzleloader deer season to check, weigh and measure their deer at an Official State Deer Checking Station. The information collected is vital to the RI deer management program as well as monitoring herd health and disease (CWD) surveillance. Every hunter is a vital and important contributor to deer management in Rhode Island. Please report your harvested deer and encourage fellow hunters to do the same.

Biologists rely on the deer, turkey and related data provided by hunters to set season lengths and bag limits each year. Without reliable, accurate data, biologists cannot correctly determine many factors related to the health of our deer and turkey, to know how many can be taken to provide a sustainable harvest of healthy animals. This directly affects the sportsmen in how

many days you can hunt, how many deer you can take and the quality of the deer that you harvest during your hunting season.

So please, all hunters, take your deer and turkey checking responsibilities seriously! We appreciate your efforts in helping us to maintain a quality deer and turkey hunting season for Rhode Island.

## Checking & Tagging

During the first four (4) days of the muzzleloader deer season (November 5- 8) all deer must be checked at a state operated check station. All deer must be tagged in the field with a valid deer permit (tag) for the appropriate season, immediately upon harvest.

To make for a more convenient and efficient procedure for sportsmen to check and report their deer and turkey, Pre-Paid Kill Report cards must be filled out and dropped into any mailbox to report your harvested deer or turkey. Kill Report Cards are included in the hunting abstract or are available from DEM offices or hunting license vendors.

At all other times deer must be reported to DEM by mailing a Pre-Paid Kill Report card within 24 hours of taking. Kill/Harvest report cards can be found in this abstract and are available at all Hunting License Vendors and DEM offices.

## State Operated Check Stations

**Arcadia Management Area:** Rt. 165, Ten Rod Road, at Wood River, Exeter, Phone: 539-7117.

**Carolina Management Area:** Pine Hill Road, Richmond, Phone: 364-3483.

**Durfee Hill Management Area:** Reynolds Road (Rte 94), Gloucester, Phone: 568-6753





There are over 4,000 DU events held across the country each year. By attending a local event, you can have a great time while helping us fill the skies with waterfowl. To find one near you, visit [ducks.org/events](http://ducks.org/events).

# Deer HUNTING

**Great Swamp Management Area:** 277 Great Neck Rd. West Kingston, Phone: 789-1636

**Tiverton Rod and Gun Club:** (Deer checking only) 1000 Fish Road, Tiverton, RI, Phone: 624-3959

## Operating hours:

**Small Game Season:** October 15 & 16, 22 & 23, 29 & 30 and November 5 & 6. Stations open ½ hour before sunrise and close at sunset.

**Muzzleloader Deer Season:** All deer taken during the period November 5 - 8, 2016 must be physically checked at a State Operated biological check station, Hours: 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. Daily.

**Checking Requirement:** Except for the first four days of the muzzleloader deer season, all deer must be reported within 24 hours of taking by mailing Pre-Paid Kill Report Card available from all hunting license vendors and DEM. This includes Prudence-Patience and Block Island hunters.

## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

CWD is a rare, fatal neurological disease affecting deer, elk and moose. It is caused by mutant proteins (prions) which create lesions in the lymph tissues and central nervous system ultimately affecting the brain. Transmission is either direct animal to animal, via contact with saliva, urine or feces or indirect through soil/surface to animal. Although domestic livestock and humans are not known to be susceptible to CWD, there is not enough information currently to prove that they are safe from the disease. Although CWD and BSE (mad cow disease) are both transmissible prion diseases, there is no connection between the two. CWD has not been found in Rhode Island to date. DEM Fish & Wildlife will continue to conduct surveillance for CWD in RI during the deer season.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife will conduct surveillance for CWD in RI during the 2016-2017 deer season. Our surveillance has shown that CWD is not present in RI at this time. We request and appreciate hunter cooperation when collecting samples at hunter check stations.

### What should you do if you see a deer with symptoms of CWD?

If you do see an animal that appears sick or to exhibit symptoms of CWD, please do not shoot, consume or handle this animal. Contact your local Fish & Wildlife Office to report this.

### How you can help:

- **Avoid using natural urine scent lures, use synthetic products instead.** If you do choose to use a natural urine-based scent lure keep in mind that natural urine scents may come from contaminated captive deer and can transmit prions indirectly via surface and soil contact. Avoid placing urine on ground or on vegetation where deer can reach this. Use canisters or wicks to deploy lures off natural surfaces. Synthetic products (lures) are available and are the recommended alternative.
- Do not feed or bait deer. Feeding deer may spread disease and is illegal.
- Infected animals may not exhibit any symptoms. Always use safe handling practices. Wear latex gloves. Bone out the meat and avoid sawing through bone, especially the spinal column. Minimize contact with the spine and the brain. Do not consume the liver, spleen, antler velvet, eyes, spinal column, brain, tonsils and lymph nodes. Thoroughly wash hands, gloves and instruments after field dressing. Disinfect utensils and work surfaces with a 50/50 mixture of bleach and water.
- If your animal is commercially butchered, please request that this be processed individually.
- Participate by donating the lymph nodes at the RI DEM operated check stations open during the first four days of the muzzleloader season.
- If you hunt outside of Rhode Island, please read the following information about how to safely transport your deer. Refer to the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance website <http://www.cwd-info.org> or contact

the Fish and Wildlife Division Office of the State from which you will be importing the deer.

### Importation restrictions:

All carcasses and parts of any deer imported into Rhode Island must have a legible label bearing the following information: The species of animal, the State, Province or Country from where the animal was taken or where the shipment originated; the name of the person who took the animal or the name of the shipper, the address of the taker or shipper and, for transport through the State, the destination of the shipment. Hunter harvested carcasses, parts or meat taken outside Rhode Island shall also bear the marking, tagging or labeling required by the State where the animal was taken.

No person shall import or possess in RI the brain, eyes, spinal cord, lymph nodes, tonsils, or spleen of any deer taken in or originating from a CWD endemic area (state or province where CWD is present); except that the following parts may be imported or possessed if marked properly: meat, hide or cape, skull cap with antlers attached (free of brain matter or blood), antlers, finished taxidermy, tanned hides, upper canine. A fresh head and cape may only enter the state if it has been tested prior to and certified in writing prior to importation to the state Fish and Wildlife to be CWD free.

## Feeding and baiting wildlife in Rhode Island

No person shall feed deer at any time in Rhode Island except:

- Under a license or permit issued by the Department of Environmental Management for scientific research.
- By planting, cultivating, or harvesting of crops directly associated with agricultural practices, including planted wildlife food plots.
- By distribution of food materials for livestock directly associated with agricultural practices.
- By distribution of food material for legally possessed captive wildlife, pursuant to a permit.
- By cutting of trees or brush.
- By elevated bird/squirrel feeders providing seed, grain, fruit, worms, or suet for birds or squirrels located within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling.

## Local Ordinances

Some towns restrict hunting or the discharge of firearms and, therefore, it is important to check town ordinances before hunting. Local municipalities may not prevent hunting on State-owned land. Towns closed to Sunday hunting on private lands include Portsmouth, Little Compton, Middletown, and Barrington. Some towns require written permission of the landowner, and/or local police department. For local and Sunday hunting regulations, check with the town police department or town clerk. Landowner permission countersigned by the Chief of Police is required for all private land deer hunting on Block Island.

## Landowner Rights & Liability

Written landowner permission is required to hunt deer on private property. Hunters are urged to gain a landowner's permission prior to hunting for all other hunting activities as well. To maintain good landowner - hunter relations, always treat the landowner's private property with respect, and know and respect the property boundaries. It is also unlawful to shoot upon the land of another without their permission. Hunting on private land is a privilege not to be taken lightly.

To encourage landowners to make their lands available for recreational purposes, the RI General Law (32-6-3) limits the liability of persons making private land available for recreational activities, including hunting and fishing.

Liability of Landowner: an owner of land who either directly or indirectly invites or permits without charge any person to use that property for recreational purposes does **not** thereby:

- Extend any assurance that the premises are safe for any purpose;
- Confer upon that person the legal status of an invitee or licensee to whom a duty of care is owed; nor
- Assume responsibility for or incur liability for any injury to any person or property caused by an act of omission of that person.

## Limitations

(a) Nothing in the law limits in any way any liability which, but for this chapter, otherwise exists:

(1) For the willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use, structure, or activity after discovering the user's peril; or

(2) For any injury suffered in any case where the owner of land charges the person or persons who enter or go on the land for the recreational use thereof, except that in the case of land leased to the state or a subdivision thereof, any consideration received by the owner for that lease shall not be deemed a "charge" within the meaning of this section.

(b) When the Coastal Resources Management Council designates a right-of-way as part of its designation process as specified in § 46-23-6(5), or when the coastal resources management council stipulates public access as a condition of granting a permit, the landowner automatically will have "limited liability" as defined in this chapter, except as specifically recognized by or provided in this section.

## Prohibited Deer Hunting Activities

- The use of electronic calls. The construction and use of permanent tree stands. The use of nails, spikes, bolts, or climbing devices, which may damage trees on state property; and on private property without the permission of the landowner.
- Hunting, pursuing or molesting deer below mean high tidal water or while deer are swimming in any waters of the state.

- Feeding or baiting: the act of using, placing, giving, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering any material, or any act to maintain the availability of such material that attracts deer to feed on such material.

## Co-op Hunting

Certain areas open to deer hunting require additional permission in the form of site-specific Special Permits (deer tags). These areas have site-specific regulations that hunters must be aware of. Special deer hunting permits must be obtained through the RI DEM Office of Boat Registration and Licensing (401-222-3576).

### Prudence and Patience Islands

The only legal method of deer hunting on Prudence and Patience Islands is by archery, including crossbows. Proficiency testing is required for all archery deer hunters on Prudence and Patience Islands. Proficiency cards must be carried while hunting. All deer taken must be reported to DEM within 24 hours by Kill Report Card or reported to an Environmental Police Officer as prescribed. The antlered deer (buck) bag limit is (1) one.

For paraplegic and double amputee hunters at South End Management Area (October 25 - 28).

### Block Island (New Shoreham)

Written permission from a landowner must be obtained before hunting on private land and presented to and countersigned by the Block Island Chief of Police. All deer must be tagged and reported within 24 hours of taking. Deer are to be reported to DEM by using the pre-paid Kill Report Post Card. Buckshot is prohibited for deer hunting.

### Block Island State Land (Black Rock / Rodman Hollow)

Deer hunting is allowed by special permit only, selected by lottery. Applications (available at [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov)) to hunt state lands must be postmarked by October 15, 2016.

### Block Island and Ninigret National Wildlife Refuges

Open for limited white-tailed deer hunting by

special permit only on specific units, selected by lottery. Block Island NWR: firearm hunting opportunities are available. All Block Island hunting restrictions, DEM, and refuge regulations apply. Ninigret NWR: specific units are open in November for a muzzleloader/archery season, in December for a shotgun/archery season, and in January for an archery only season. Crossbows are prohibited on refuge lands. December also offers a firearms deer season for youth hunters only. For information, regulations, permits and dates, please contact the refuge at 401-364-9124, or on line at <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret>

### Northwest Cooperative Hunting Area (Glocester)

Permit required and may be obtained by sending a self addressed stamped envelope (9½" x 4") to: NORTHWEST COOPERATIVE HUNTING, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 277 Great Neck Rd, West Kingston, RI 02892. One permit will be issued for all methods of deer hunting. Permits with hunting activity records must be returned to the Division at the close of the season.

### The Nature Conservatory Deer Hunting Co-Op: No Special Permits Required.

Deer hunting only, the hunting and take of other species of wildlife is prohibited.

The construction or use of permanent tree-stands is prohibited. The use of nails, spikes, bolts, or devices that may damage trees is prohibited. Climbing tree stands are permitted. All tree-stands must be removed at the end of the season.

Francis Carter Preserve, Charlestown, Queens River Preserve, Exeter and Canochet Preserves, Hopkinton, King Preserve, North Kingston: Deer hunting is limited to archery equipment.

Cuttyhunk Brook Preserve, Exeter and Grass Pond Preserve, Richmond: Deer hunting only using archery, muzzleloader or shotgun.

How-Davey Preserve, Hopkinton: Deer hunting only using archery or muzzleloader.

### Beavertail (Jamestown)

Archery only (11/1/16 - 1/31/17) no weekends prior to 12/31. Proficiency is required and cards must be carried while hunting. Permits must be returned by February 15 regardless of activity or success, to be eligible for next year's hunt. Permits are available at the Jamestown Police Department. Ten (10) hunters are allowed per day on a first-come firstserved basis. Limit of 5 slots per week reserved no more than 20 days in advance.

### Grills Preserve I (Westerly) and Grills Preserve II

Hunting for deer and wild turkey only. No special permit is required.

Deer hunting is permitted only during the archery and muzzleloader portions of the deer season at the Grills Preserve II—Hopkinton Land Trust Property located east of Route 91 in Hopkinton. **The Grills Preserve—Westerly Land Trust Property located west of Bowling Lane and Route 91 in Bradford is CLOSED to deer hunting during the 2016-2017 deer season.**

## Photo Submissions

Want to share your story or photo of a successful hunt in next year's magazine?

If so, we want to know everything: time of day, location, target species, weight, length and any other animal specific data you wish to provide. We would love to share your success with everyone! That is, if you want to give up your secrets!

Send your photo of deer, turkey, pheasant, etc. to [jay.osenkowski@dem.ri.gov](mailto:jay.osenkowski@dem.ri.gov) and if space allows, it may be used in next year's edition.



# Checking & TAGGING

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Turkey hunting is permitted in accordance with rules for the established turkey seasons. Turkey hunting is allowed during the 2016 fall archery season and 2017 spring gobbler season at the Grills Preserve II—Hopkinton Land Trust Property located east of Route 91 in Hopkinton. **The Grills Preserve—Westerly Land Trust Property located west of Bowling Lane and Route 91 in Bradford is CLOSED to turkey hunting during the 2016 fall archery season.**

## Youth Deer Hunting Weekends

For those hunters ages 12-15. Junior hunters (ages 12-14) as defined in the "definitions" in possession of a valid Rhode Island Junior Hunting License, must be accompanied by at least one qualified licensed adult who is at least 21 years of age or older and holds a valid Rhode Island hunting/archery license. An adult may accompany no more than two junior hunters at one time. Adults are prohibited from carrying bows /firearms. Hunters age 15 do not have to hunt in the immediate company of a licensed adult. Hunters may use Antlered Deer or Antlerless Deer Permits for the respective season, as provided.

## Providence Water Supply Hunting Cooperative: 2016-17

After six years of a successful deer hunting cooperative with RI DEM Division of Fish & Wildlife, Providence Water Supply will be taking over and conducting its own lottery to select hunters beginning with the 2016-17 season. Changes to the program will include permits being valid for two hunting seasons, provided hunters comply with all RI hunting laws and Providence Water's rules. The PWS hunt will also follow hunting rules for deer management zone 2 in the 2016-2017 season. PWS will also implement periodic closures during the season within the larger individual permit areas. During closure periods hunting no hunting or access will be allowed on the property. These restrictions will not apply to the Group hunt areas. Dates when hunting in the individual permit areas will be allowed are:

**September 15 – October 23:** Archery  
**November 5 – November 12:** Muzzleloader & Archery  
**November 19 – November 27:** Muzzleloader & Archery  
**December 3 – December 6:** Shotgun, Muzzleloader, & Archery  
**December 14 – December 17:** Shotgun, Muzzleloader, & Archery  
**December 26 – January 2:** Shotgun, Muzzleloader (antlerless only) & Archery  
**January 3 – January 31:** Archery

For more information and an application for the lottery:  
<http://www.provwater.com/departments/water-shed/deer-management>

## Replacement Tags

Free replacement tags for deer are issued by the R.I. DEM Office of Boat Registration and Licensing after a hunter harvests two (2) antlerless deer in Zone 1 and upon the hunter providing evidence (checked field tags) of having tagged the antlerless deer. The replacement tag may be used to take an additional Antlerless Deer.

To qualify for the replacement tag bring two field tags to RI DEM Office of Boating Registration and Licensing to document having harvested (2) antlerless deer in Zone 1.

## State Operated Check Stations

**Arcadia Management Area:** Rt. 165, Ten Rod Road, at Wood River, Exeter, Phone: 539-7117.

**Carolina Management Area:** Pine Hill Road, Richmond, Phone: 364-3483.

**Durfee Hill Management Area:** Reynolds Road (Rte 94), Gloucester, Phone: 568-6753

**Great Swamp Management Area:** 277 Great Neck Rd. West Kingston, Phone: 789-1636

**Tiverton Rod and Gun Club:** (Deer checking only) 1000 Fish Road, Tiverton, RI, Phone: 624-3959

## Operating hours:

**Small Game Season:** October 15 & 16, 22 & 23, 29 & 30 and November 5 & 6. Stations open ½ hour before sunrise and close at sunset.

**Muzzleloader Deer Season:** All deer taken during the period November 5 - 8, 2016 must be physically checked at a State Operated biological check station. Hours: 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. Daily.

**Checking Requirement:** Except for the first four days of the muzzleloader deer season, all deer must be reported within 24 hours of taking by mailing Pre-Paid Kill Report Card available from all hunting license vendors and DEM. This includes Prudence-Patience and Block Island hunters.

Rhode Island Deer Season Kill Report Card			
Mail this card Within 24 Hours to report your harvest			
Deer Permit Number:	Date of Kill:	Time of Kill:	AM EST PM EST
State _____ Private _____ If State, enter WMA name _____		Town of Kill: _____	
Sex (please circle one): Doe   Doe (young of year)   Button buck   Antlered buck   Antlers dropped			
Antler points Left _____ Right _____	Dressed weight est. _____ actual _____	Method (circle one): Archery _____ Muzzleloader _____ Shotgun _____ Crossbow _____	
Hunter's Signature: _____		Hunter Name _____ (please print) Address _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone number _____	

RHODE ISLAND

# Deer Hunting in 2016-2017

By Brian C. Tefft, Principal Wildlife Biologist

The 2015 RI deer hunting season was a tough one for many hunters who spent the time to get out in the woods, yet still were not successful in bagging a deer. Harvest numbers were down and for the second year in a row, there was a decline in the number of deer harvests reported to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The total harvest of 1,883 deer breaks down by method as follows; archery (including crossbow): 644 deer, muzzleloader: 823 deer, and shotgun: 416 deer. Overall, the deer harvest was down in 2015 by 14% from the previous year. We'll provide some possible explanations for this, and the news is not all bad.

Rhode Island manages deer across four hunting zones, two of which comprise mainland RI (Zones 1 and 2) and two island populations, Zone 3 Prudence Island (archery hunting only) and Zone 4, Block Island. Hunters in Rhode Island are offered a long and liberal hunting season, which begins September 15 with the opening of archery season, and extends until the end of February on Block Island where additional harvest is required to achieve population and management objectives. Likewise, bag limits are profuse, particularly in Zones 1 and 4, where the local deer population has caused nuisance and property damage from excessive auto strikes. By focusing management strategies on increasing the harvest of antlerless deer, nuisance damage to private property and agricultural land can be reduced in these zones. For instance, in Zone 1 a hunter may legally harvest five antlerless deer, including one deer as a "free" replacement tag for those checking two antlerless deer. The bag

limit for antlerless deer in Zone 4 (Block Island) is unlimited at this time as the island community is seeking to reduce the herd- which has caused property damage and plays a key role in the life cycle of black-legged ticks which can transmit various tick-borne diseases. So for the tenacious hunter, plenty of hunting opportunities exist to take extra deer in the state.

Many hunters who had difficulty seeing any deer this past fall were worried where all the deer had gone. Some even expressed concerns that there was some kind of calamity at work resulting in massive deer loss, disease or winter mortality. What we do know is that the fall of 2015 was an unusual one, with events that caused changes in deer behavior and movement. After checking on the weather statistics, we found that November 2015 was very warm, and the 8th warmest November in 122 years of record keeping. The average temperature for RI was recorded at 47.1° F and on November 6 (the day prior to the opener of muzzleloader) the high temperature in Providence reached 72° F. Above average temperatures persisted for much of the deer hunting season. For any deer, that by this time had attained its winter coat and was fat from eating the abundant acorns, this means reduced movements to stay cool. As a result, fewer deer were moving during hunting hours, which meant hunters saw fewer animals to shoot, which in turn kept the harvest numbers and success rates down.

The other factor to mention was the acorn crop. Acorns are an important food source for whitetails and the crop was abundant and widespread in fall of 2015. Abundant acorns on the ground means that deer do not need to travel far to find food, further restricting movements and ultimately deer sightings. These two factors alone are largely responsible for why many hunters had poor results or saw fewer deer during last year's deer season. Another population statistic we monitor, independent of hunting, is the number of automotive strikes of deer. The number of deer struck by cars in 2015 actually increased by 9% over the previous year. Most deer collide with cars while crossing roads at night or at twilight, just after hunting hours have concluded. This timing also coincides with the coolest part of the day and may be further evidence of deer reacting to the abnormally warm temperatures we experienced in the fall. Ultimately, the RI deer herd appears healthy and we expect the opportunities for hunting success to remain strong, despite conditions that may have helped reduced the deer harvest this past season.

We encourage you to take advantage of the many fine hunting opportunities in our state. With liberal bag limits for antlerless deer, a long hunting season, an opportunity to harvest a trophy buck and thousands of acres of prime deer habitat on public land, chances are great that you will fill your tag in the fall of 2016..

## Rhode Island 2015-16 Total Deer Harvest Statewide

Method	Total 2015-16	Total 2014-15	% Change
Archery	644	746	-14%
Muzzleloader	823	912	-10%
Shotgun	416	524	-21%
	1,883	2,182	-14%



Harvest by Management Zone	2015-16	% of Harvest
Zones 1, 2 - Mainland	1,606	85%
Zone 3 - Prudence/Patience	19	1%
Zone 4 - Block Island	258	14%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,883</b>	<b>100%</b>

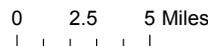
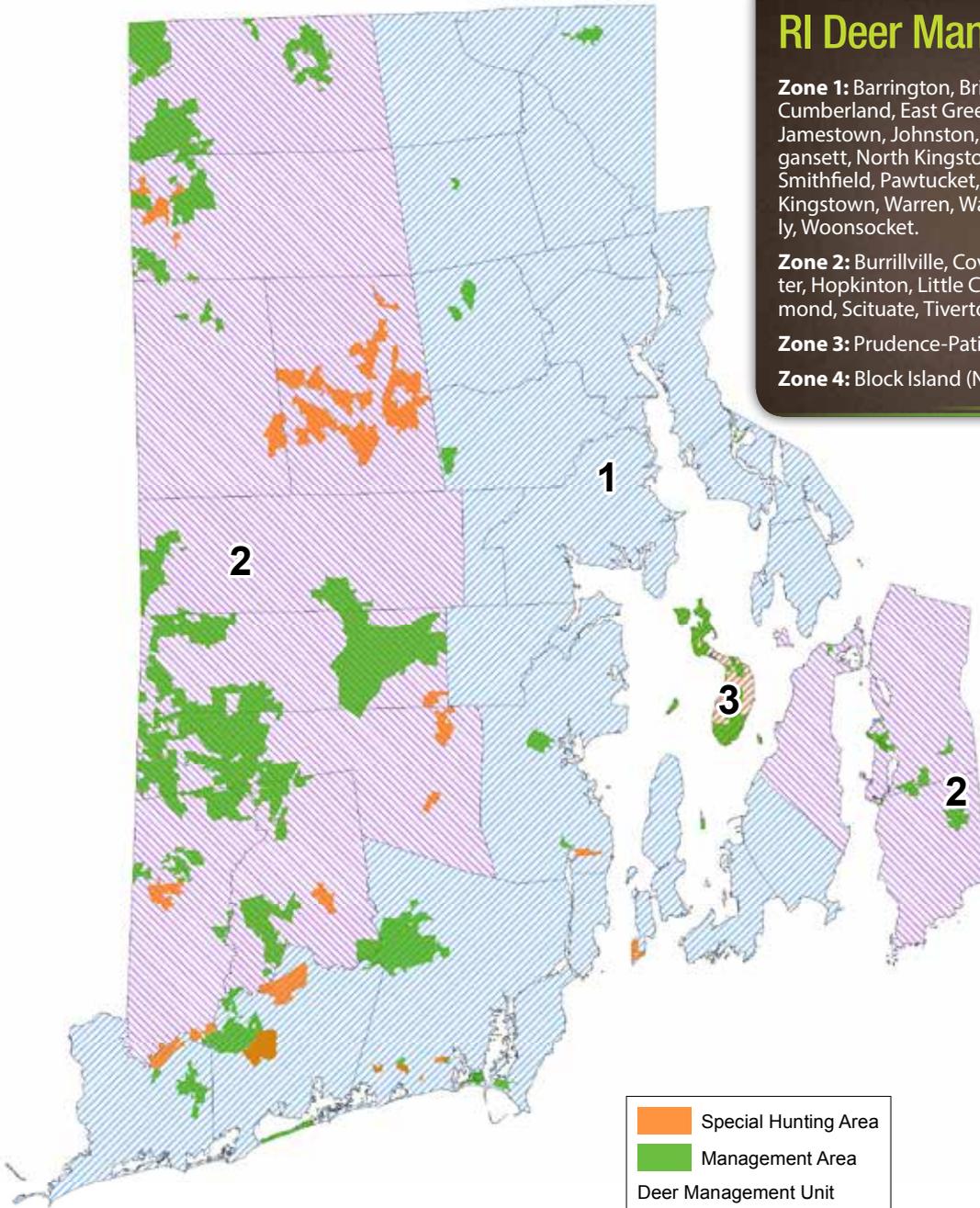
## RI Deer Management Units

**Zone 1:** Barrington, Bristol, Charlestown, Cranston, Cumberland, East Greenwich, East Providence, Jamestown, Johnston, Lincoln, Middletown, Narragansett, North Kingstown, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Providence, Smithfield, South Kingstown, Warren, Warwick, West Warwick, Westerly, Woonsocket.

**Zone 2:** Burrillville, Coventry, Exeter, Foster, Gloucester, Hopkinton, Little Compton, Portsmouth, Richmond, Scituate, Tiverton, West Greenwich.

**Zone 3:** Prudence-Patience Islands

**Zone 4:** Block Island (New Shoreham)



## State Lands

There are over 55,000 acres of land designated as state management areas in Rhode Island. Maps of management areas are available from the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife at the Great Swamp Field Office or online at: [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov). Regulations are designed and enforced to allow all outdoor enthusiasts to safely enjoy these land holdings. Hunting and trapping is allowed during the open seasons. In order to effectively manage and safeguard these open areas for people, wildlife, and habitat, the following regulations are to be followed:

- Except for fishing, hunting, launching, and/or mooring of boats, all management areas are closed ½ hour after sunset to 5:00 a.m., except by written permit. (RIGL 32-2-4)
- Camping is prohibited on all areas with the exception of portions designated at Arcadia and George Washington Management Areas. Contact the Division of Forest Environment for camping information (539-2356).
- The use of motorcycles is prohibited except in designated portions of Arcadia Management Area.
- The use of ATVs is prohibited statewide.
- The blocking of any gate, road, or access in State Management Areas is prohibited and subject to fines (RIGL 8-8.2-2).
- Horseback riding is prohibited in the Great Swamp Management Area during small game and shotgun deer season (RIGL 32-2-4).
- Groups consisting of 10 or more persons must obtain a group use permit available from the Division of Forest Environment, 539-2356.
- Galilee Bird Sanctuary is open for Archery deer hunting.
- Hunting is permitted in these Undeveloped State Parks: Cocumcussoc and Washington Grove. Burlingame North Camp is open to deer and turkey hunting only (special permit required). Snake Den is open to archery hunting only. Ningret Conservation Area/East Beach is open to small game hunting and archery deer hunting only. J.L. Curran is open to shotgun and archery hunting only, only within the posted designated areas; this area is closed to Mourning Dove hunting.

### Dogs on Management Areas

No dogs shall be trained, run, exercised or be permitted to run at large on state management areas from March 15-August 15, inclusive, without written permission of the Statelands Management Council, except in specified dog training areas (below). Walking of dogs on a leash of not more than twenty-five (25) feet in length shall be permitted on roads and trails only. All dogs being utilized in hunting or training activities must wear a collar bearing the name and address of the owner and the handler must hold in possession a valid dog license or tag but it does not need to be on the dog.

### Special Dog Training Areas:

Dog training is allowed in designated areas located within Arcadia Management Area (Midway Trail) in Exeter, Nicholas Farm Management Area (north of Trestle Trail) in Coventry, and Black Farm Management Area in Hopkinton from January 1 to September 30, from sunrise to sunset. The use of live birds is by special permit only. A hunting license is required when training dogs on wild game on state management areas, except when participating in state sanctioned field trials.

## Bay Islands

### Prudence Island

Written permission of the landowner, countersigned by the police chief, must be obtained to hunt private property on Prudence Island. South Prudence is closed to small game hunting. The small game season on Prudence Island is Nov. 1 – 30, except on Northern Prudence Island, where the small game season is Jan. 3 - 31. Raccoon open season for Prudence Island is the first day of January through the last day of February with written permis-

sion of landowner. Bow hunters with a valid archery deer permit may take raccoon on Prudence Island during legal deer hunting hours beginning on the first day of November and ending on the last day of January.

Waterfowl hunting is permitted no more than 10 feet above mean high water on Prudence Island, except during the early waterfowl season, as established by federal regulation, and during November 1 – 30. Special deer season for disabled hunters limited to paraplegic and double amputee deer hunters only by special permit available at the RI DEM Office of Boat Registration and Licensing (401-222-3576).

### Other Restrictions

**Hope Island:** No Trespassing Apr. 1 – Aug. 15, for nesting birds. All domestic animals prohibited except hunting dogs during small game and waterfowl season.

**Big Gould:** No Trespassing Apr. 1 – Aug. 15, for nesting birds.

**East and West Island:** No Trespassing Apr. 1 – Aug. 15, for nesting birds.

**Dutch Island:** Closed to hunting and all other access.

**Dyer Island:** No Trespassing Apr. 1 - Aug. 15, for nesting birds

**Patience Island:** Closed to Small Game hunting

"It is the policy of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to offer its services and accommodations to all orderly persons, and, as required, to all properly licensed persons, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, or disability." If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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## South Shore Management Area Goose Hunting Cooperative

### Permits:

- Required for all goose hunters during the regular Canada Goose season (Nov. 19-27, Dec. 3 - Jan. 30, 2017).
- Must be obtained from the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Great Swamp Field Headquarters, 277 Great Neck Rd., West Kingston.
- Permits must be carried while goose hunting at the SSMA and must be shown to any DEM Environmental Police Officer or Division of Fish and Wildlife employee upon request.

### Field Reservations

- Required for Canada goose hunting during the regular goose season (Nov. 19-27, Dec. 3, 2016-Jan 30, 2017).

### Additional SSMA Goose Hunting Regulations

- See information packet provided with the goose hunting permit for additional rules and regulations for goose hunting in the SSMA.

### Harvest Reporting

- All regular season Canada goose hunters are required to report their harvest using the hunting activity and harvest record included with their SSMA permit. Failure to do so may result in a loss of hunting privileges for the 2017-18 season.

### Prohibited:

- Littering,
- Fires,
- Destruction of fencing, equipment, farm property, or standing crops
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages
- Shooting within 500 feet of an occupied building; shooting near or otherwise disturbing person working in the area
- Urinating or defecating in pit blinds

### Additional Hunting Restrictions at SSMA

**Dove hunting** is allowed in field 1, 3, 5 and 6 during early dove season. Doves may be taken by permitted goose hunters while goose hunting when the field reservation system is in place during the open Dove season. Possession of lead shot for taking doves while goose hunting is prohibited.

**Upland game** hunting is allowed only in fields 5 and 6 during the upland game season except

during the regular Canada goose seasons. All upland hunting is prohibited during regular goose season, including Youth Waterfowl Weekend

**Deer hunting during the archery season** is allowed ONLY in the wooded portions of Field 3, 5 and 6 throughout the archery season, including during the regular Canada goose season when the field reservation system is in place.

**Deer hunting during the muzzleloader season** is allowed ONLY in the wooded portions of field 5 and 6, EXCEPT during the regular Canada goose season

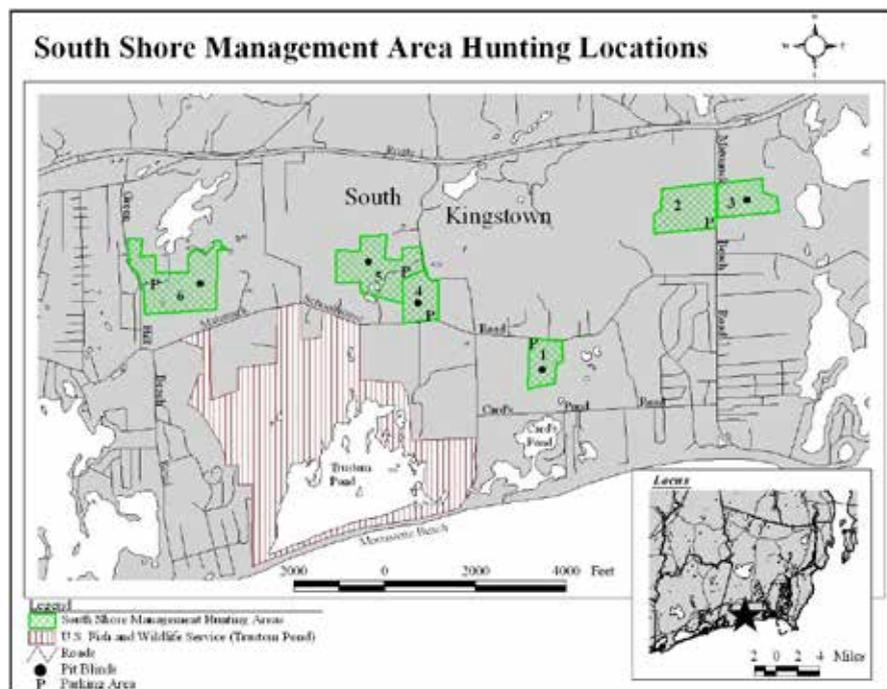
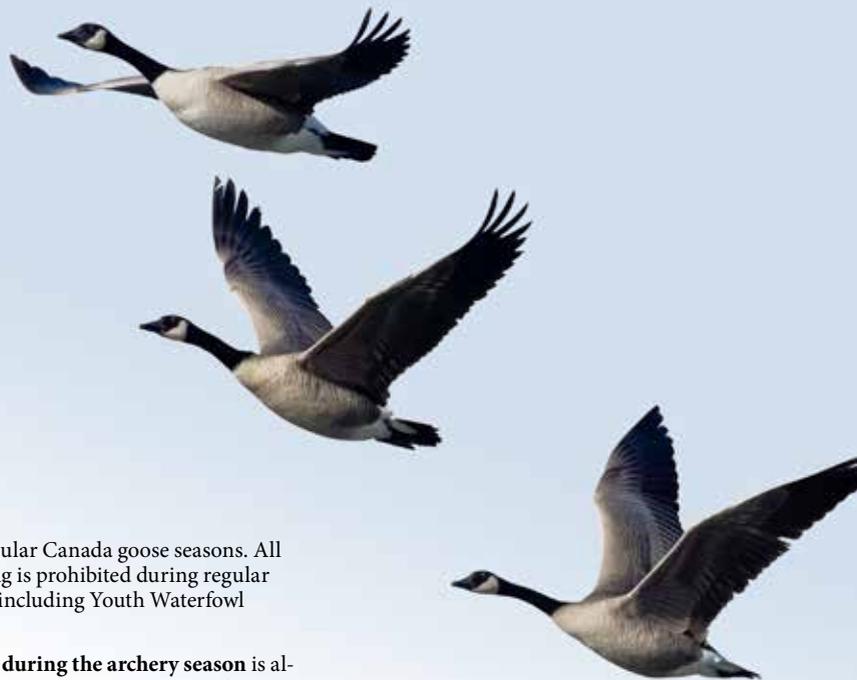
**Deer hunting during the shotgun season** is allowed ONLY in field 6 and its wooded portions EXCEPT during the regular Canada goose season.

**Waterfowl hunting** is allowed outside of the regular Canada goose season but within legal

waterfowl seasons and without special hunting permits, reservation, or decoy restrictions, once crops are harvested. The taking of ducks during legal duck seasons is permitted while goose hunting.

Violations of any SSMA regulations, state management area regulations, and/or any state or federal hunting laws will result in loss of hunting privileges on the SSMA for a period of one year, beginning from the date of the violation.

For additional information see the R.I. 2016-2017 Hunting Regulations or call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 401-789-0281.





## Zone Map for Canada Goose Late Hunting Season Only

**Dates:** 2/4/17 – 2/10/17

**Bag Limit:** 5/15

Limited to Providence, Bristol and Kent counties and portions of Washington County as described in RI Hunting Regulations §5.1.3.5.

# Trapping

## Trapping

Species	Dates	Bag Limit	Pelt Tagging
<b>Mink, Muskrat, Skunk, Raccoon, Opossum, Weasel, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Rabbit</b>	11/1/16 - 1/31/17	none	no
<b>Coyote- Private</b>	no closed season	none	no
<b>Coyote- State Land</b>	11/1/16 - 1/31/17		
<b>Beaver- Private*</b>	11/1/16 - 3/14/17	20 total	yes
<b>Beaver- State Land*</b>	12/1/16 - 2/28/17		
<b>Fisher*</b>	12/1/16 - 12/24/16	4/season	yes

\* Special permit required in addition to RI trapping license, which may be obtained at Fish and Wildlife's Great Swamp Field Headquarters (401) 789-0281

### General Regulations

- No person shall set, maintain or tend any trap without first obtaining a trapping license from the Department of Environmental Management. A resident of this state may set traps on property which they own and on which they are domiciled without obtaining a trapping license. (RIGL 20-16-7)
- Every holder of a trapping license will be provided with a trapping harvest report card that must be returned to the Division of Fish and Wildlife within 30 days of the end of the trapping season. Failure to return the card will result in denial of trapping license renewal. (RIGL 20-16-12)
- Traps may not be set, staked, or placed prior to 8:00 AM opening day.
- All traps must have at a minimum the trapper's current RI trapping license number attached by a metal tag or embedded or cut into the trap. (RIGL 20-6-7)
- Written landowner permission is required to trap on private land. (RIGL 20-16-9)
- All traps must be checked at least once in every 24-hour period. (RIGL 20-6-9)
- There is no open season on bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) or river otter (*Lontra canadensis*).

## Types of Traps Permitted

Furbearers for which there is an open season may be taken in: box (a.k.a. "cage") traps, body-grip (a.k.a. "conibear") traps, or species specific traps, with the following restrictions:

### Body-grip traps

**Private land:** Body-grip (a.k.a. smooth wire or "conibear") type traps up to 6 ½" jaw spread (i.e. "110, 120, 160" or equivalent) are permitted on land or in water on private land. Body-grip type traps greater than 6 ½" but not exceeding 8" jaw spread ("220") may only be set if completely submerged in water or set no less than six (6) feet above the surface of the ground. Body-grip traps greater than 8" but not exceeding 10" jaw spread ("330") may only be set completely submerged in water.

**State land:** Body-grip traps up to 6 ½" jaw spread are only permitted in water sets (i.e. all or a portion of the trap in water) or if placed six (6) feet above

the ground. Body-grip traps with a jaw spread greater than 6 ½" but not exceeding 10" ("220-330") may only be set if completely submerged in water.

### Box traps

The use of box traps is permitted on private and state lands.

### Species specific traps

The use of species specific traps is permitted on private and state land. A species specific trap is characterized by all of the following: triggering and restraining mechanisms are enclosed within a housing; triggering and restraining mechanisms are only accessible through a single opening when set; access opening does not exceed 2 inches in diameter; triggering mechanism can only be activated by a pulling force; has a swivel mounted anchoring system.

### Permit to trap state lands

All trappers harvesting furbearers from state management areas must obtain a special permit (no fee), issued by the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Great Swamp Field Headquarters in addition to their current RI trapping license.

### Prohibitions

- The use of poisons or snares (RIGL 20-16-6).
- The use of steel-jawed leghold traps (RIGL 20-16-8).
- No person shall disturb, tend, or possess a trap of another, or take an animal from the traps of another unless specifically authorized to do so. (RIGL 20-16-12).
- The setting of traps within ten feet of a beaver lodge or bank den or within eight feet of a muskrat lodge unless authorized by special permit.
- The taking or possession of a road-killed furbearer (RIGL 20-16-1), unless with a current RI trapping license and during the open season for that species or as provided for under a current RI Scientific Collectors Permit (RIGL 20-1-18) or otherwise permitted by the Division.
- The relocation of beaver.
- The use of deadfalls, pitfalls, fish hooks, treble hooks, or other similarly sharpened instruments to catch, capture, or injure furbearers is prohibited.

## Coyote Hunting on State Lands

The hunting season for coyotes on state lands shall be from the beginning of dove hunting season in September (9/10/16) to the last day in February inclusive and during the open spring turkey hunting season (4/27/17- 5/21/17). The hunting season for coyotes on Prudence Island shall be: on state land during archery season with a valid archery permit, during the upland game season on private land, November 1 – November 30 and on North Prudence Management Area during upland season, January 3 - January 31.

During the spring turkey season, coyote hunters must possess a valid turkey hunting permit while hunting on state lands.

Coyote hunters on state lands must wear a minimum of 200 square inches of fluorescent orange during the small game hunting season. During the shotgun deer season, 500 square inches is required.

The placement or use of carcasses or meat parts thereof is allowed on private property for the purposes of hunting coyotes. The placement or use of carcasses or meat parts thereof is prohibited for purposes of hunting coyotes on state lands.

Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset.

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