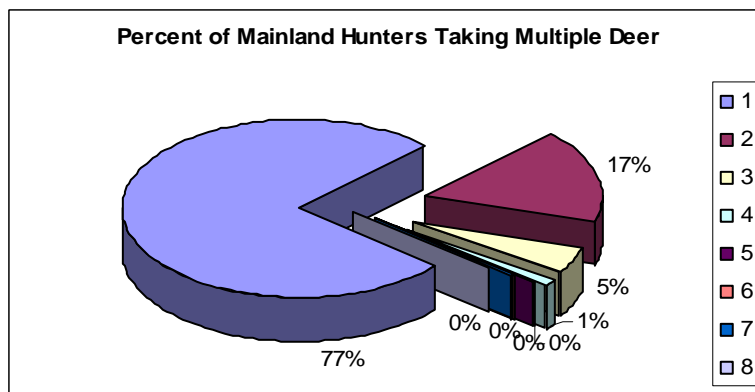




# Rhode Island 2006-2007 season Deer Harvest information

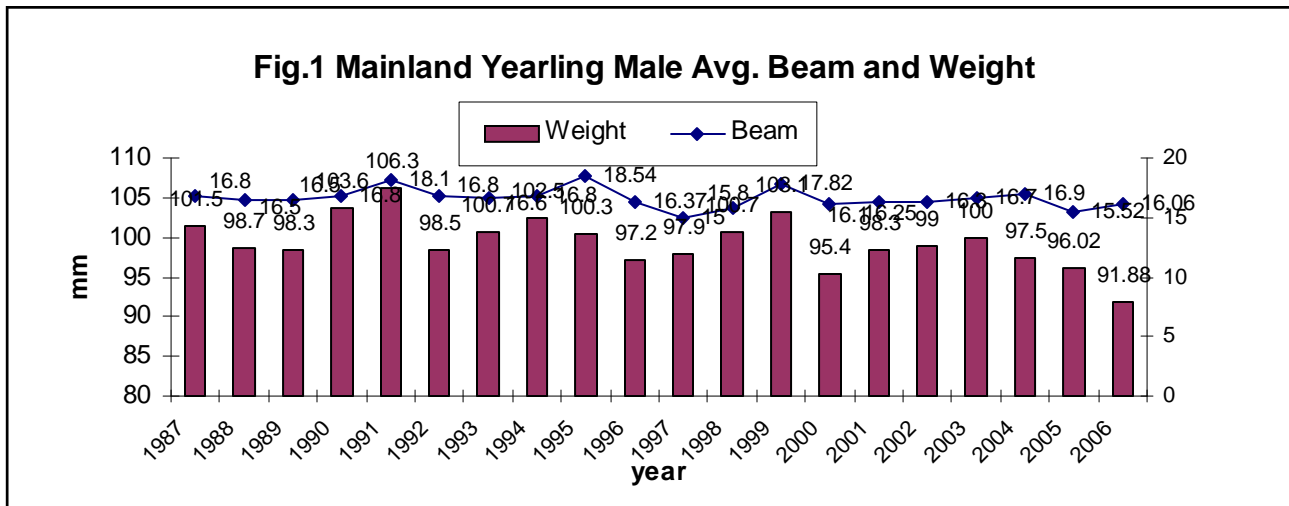
Year	ARCHERY		MUZZLE LOADER		SHOTGUN	
	Permits	Harvested	Permits	Harvested	Permits	Harvested
1977	654	62	0	0	2395	95
1978	751	78	54	0	2721	91
1979	889	93	95	1	2984	102
1980	998	72	100	4	3257	141
1981	1156	88	234	6	3783	149
1982	1158	104	251	8	3557	104
1983	1164	99	265	8	3380	115
1984	1160	109	545	14	4500	125
1985	852	112	639	24	3193	120
1986	895	126	675	63	3354	239
1987	1093	179	725	56	2567	196
1988	1627	125	1709	105	4631	218
1989	1722	169	2242	189	4571	280
1990	2089	238	3888	390	5602	311
1991	2769	291	3796	474	5362	376
1992	4088	417	4598	663	7754	382
1993	3669	378	5144	625	6520	313
1994	3951	355	5487	658	6857	383
1995	4426	415	5680	743	7130	603
1996	4110	474	5973	1114	7901	575
1997	4058	299	7095	1044	7595	697
1998	3578	310	7863	771	6205	451
1999	3750	389	7290	1063	6999	591
2000	3868	472	7610	1107	6468	770
2001	4371	499	7769	1178	7338	572
2002	4772	525	7943	915	6249	591
2003	4612	737	7241	944	5362	563
2004	5311	783	6998	1173	5642	727
2005	5365	638	6894	1204	5688	833
2006	4935	519	7099	1211	6309	585



During the Rhode Island 2006-07 hunting season 1,436 hunters harvested a total of 1,903 deer on the mainland, with archery, muzzle loader and shotgun permits. Most hunters took a single deer (77%, a 5% decline from last season.)

## Herd Health, Beams, Weights and Records

The annual health of the herd can be assessed using average weights and antler beam diameters of the yearlings. High average weight and beam diameters indicate a healthy habitat with abundant food and nutrition. Beams and weights displaying a downward trend indicate increased numbers or reduced quality of habitat.



**2006 - 2007**

**LARGEST DEER TAKEN - HOG DRESSED WEIGHT**

	Female/Location	Male/Pts/Location
<b>Archery</b>	160/Coventry	210/8/Foster
		210/8/Foster
<b>Muzzle</b>	150/N. Smithfield	229/9/S. Kingstown
	150/N. Kingstown	
	150/S. Kingstown	
	150/S. Kingstown	
<b>Shotgun</b>	165/N. Kingstown	185/8/Exeter

**2006 - 2007**

**MAINLAND MEAN DRESSED WEIGHT**

	Male (lbs.)	Female (lbs.)
<b>Fawn</b>	61.87	56.40
<b>Yearling</b>	96.98	85.81
<b>Adult</b>	134.30	108.43

averages based on shotgun data

**Harvest Ratios**


Hunters tend to favor bucks over does as shown by the 2006 season breakdown.

	Archery	Muzzleloader	Shotgun
<b>Males</b>	204	782	196
<b>Females</b>	148	406	265

Deer populations have the potential for rapid growth. Under normal circumstances, females two years or older produce twins annually, while yearling does typically produce single fawns. Removing only males from the population results in herd growth. The long muzzle loader season, timed so closely to the rut has contributed to most of the disparity. The Division has made improvements by instituting antlerless incentives to keep herd numbers in balance with available habitat.

**2006 RI Big Bucks**

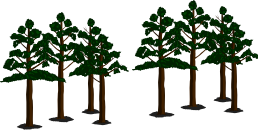
Archery: New state record-Stephen Ponte, gross score-172 7/8", net score-166 6/8", 10 point typical, 19 5/8" spread, 186 hog



Muzzleloader: Mike Williams, score-154 6/8", 10 point, 19 6/8' spread, 189 hog.

Photos of most of these bucks can be found at: [www.bigbuckclub.com](http://www.bigbuckclub.com) click Photo Gallery

For stories and photos on these and many more big bucks, subscribe to "Northeast Big Buck News Magazine at: NBBC, 390 Marshall St. , Paxton, MA 01612, or email [jbhunts@aol.com](mailto:jbhunts@aol.com) for more information.



## Management Areas, Towns and Auto

### HARVEST BY MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Area	Archery	Muzzle	Shotgun
Arcadia	5	85	33
Beavertail	5	0	0
Big River	8	68	10
Black Hut	5	25	5
Buck Hill	2	11	2
Burlingame	2	26	11
Carolina	1	21	4
Cocumcussoc	3	1	0
Durfee Hill	2	9	2
George Washington	1	16	4
Great Swamp	5	20	6
J.L Curran	0	0	0
Killingly	0	3	5
Nicholas Farm	2	17	3
Prudence/Patience*	60	-	6
Rockville	1	1	0
Round Top	0	0	0
8 Rod Farm	4	0	0
South Shore	3	0	0
Wickaboxet	0	4	1
Woody Hill	3	4	3
Washington Grove	0	0	0
<b>Total Mgt. Area</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>95</b>
Other (town owned)	1	2	0
NW Coop**	0	4	2
Private	405	892	488
Unknown	1	2	0
Carter	4	-	-
Heritage	1	-	-
Grills Preserve	-	0	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>1211</b>	<b>585</b>

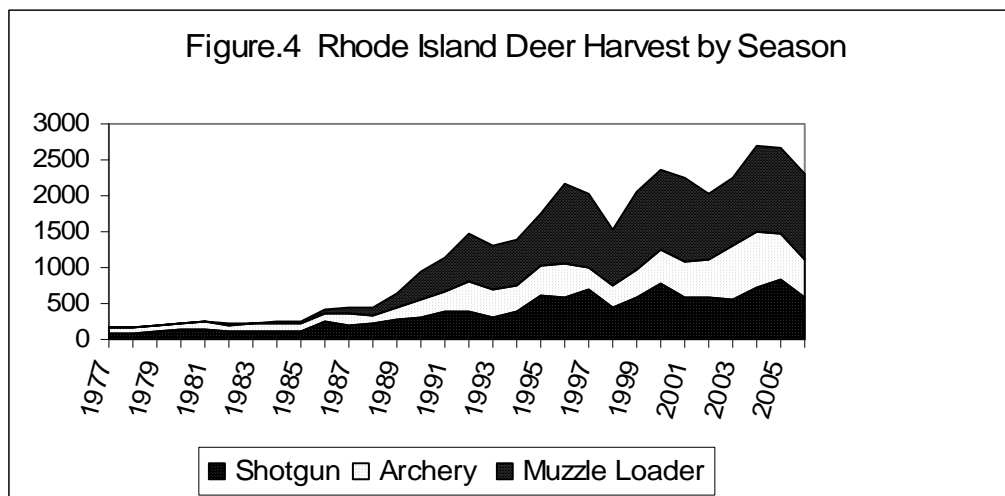
### HARVEST BY TOWN

Town	Archery	Muzzle	Shotgun
Block Island	17	-	115
Burrillville	29	122	31
Charlestown	13	54	32
Coventry	35	92	41
Cranston	2	8	2
Cumberland	1	0	0
E. Greenwich	11	9	4
Exeter	40	165	66
Foster	20	106	41
Glocester	26	121	44
Hopkinton	10	55	30
Jamestown	35	16	1
Johnston	3	13	3
Lincoln	0	0	0
Little Compton	18	20	1
Middletown	2	2	1
Newport	0	0	0
N. Kingstown	21	23	13
N. Smithfield	5	28	15
Narragansett	6	1	0
Ports./Prud.*	112	3	7
Richmond	12	56	26
S. Kingstown	27	79	37
Scituate	13	73	19
Smithfield	4	13	3
Tiverton	30	24	4
Warren	0	0	0
Warwick	1	0	0
W. Greenwich	20	102	43
Westerly	4	25	7
Unknown	2	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>1211</b>	<b>585</b>

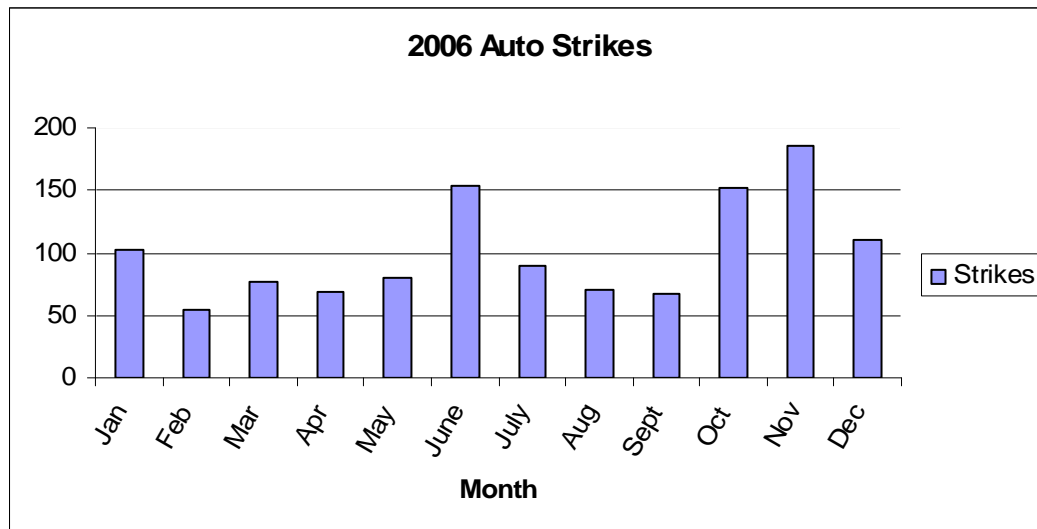
\* Limited to archery and special paraplegic shotgun season

\*\* Special permit only

Figure.4 Rhode Island Deer Harvest by Season



## Non-Seasonal Mortality



Deer overabundance often leads to a high frequency of deer/vehicle collisions, as well as excessive damage to commercial forests, agricultural crops, nursery stock and landscape plantings.



### Auto Kill by Town

Auto strikes were down slightly in 2006, though increased in the cities and towns with limited hunting. Ample mast and warm weather contributed to the lower figures. Deer strikes tend to be higher during years of poor mast because deer are more likely to travel in search of food. The total non-seasonal deer mortality for 2006 was 1375; 62 less than last year or 4 percent. Auto strikes were responsible for 88 % of the non-seasonal take for the year. Other non-seasonal deaths include: dogs, poaching, deer damage permits, and natural accidents.

#### Kent County

Coventry	80
East Greenwich	47
W. Greenwich	30
W. Warwick	13
Warwick	64

#### Washington County

Charlestown	46
Exeter	58
Hopkinton	30
Narragansett	27
New Shoreham	6
N. Kingstown	115
Richmond	49
S. Kingstown	110
Westerly	45

#### Providence County

Burrillville	30
Central Falls	1
Cranston	27
Cumberland	43
E. Providence	10
Foster	41
Glocester	44
Johnston	40
Lincoln	36
N. Providence	2
N. Smithfield	37
Pawtucket	0
Providence	4
Scituate	58
Smithfield	21
Woonsocket	1
Unknown	0

#### Bristol County

Bristol	6
Barrington	3
Warren	2

#### Newport County

Jamestown	26
Little Compton	6
Middletown	3
Newport	1
Portsmouth	17
Prudence Isl.	0
Tiverton	35

**Total** **1214**

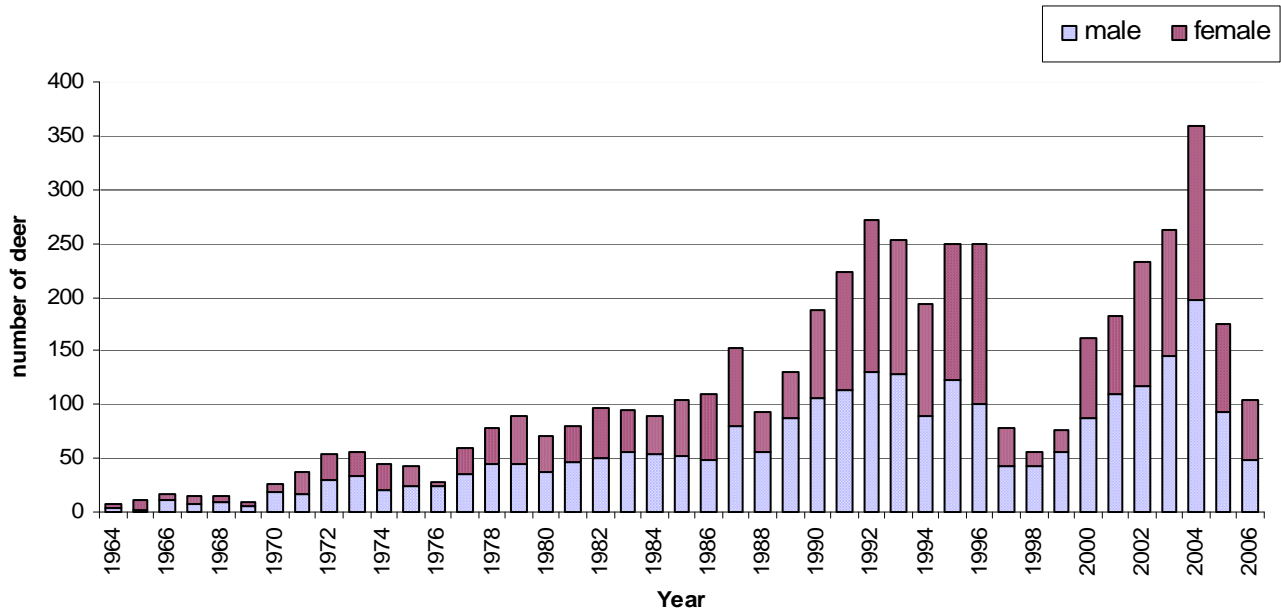


# Prudence Island Deer Information



Prudence Island has had one of the most concentrated white-tailed deer herds. Located in Narragansett Bay, Prudence Island, a part of the town of Portsmouth, has undergone many changes, both in terms of land use and deer population. Prudence Island was heavily farmed in the 1600's, bringing about deforestation and elimination of the deer herd. Laws to protect the deer followed soon thereafter. It was not until the early 1900's and the advent of the Industrial Revolution, that farms were abandoned and the Island reverted to forest. The deer herd rebounded, with additional recruitment from deer which swam across from the mainland. The land, again, underwent serious changes when the US Navy occupied the southern portion of the Island and stripped off the topsoil to reinforce bunkers and make roadways. By the late 1970's, deer population reached levels that exceeded the limited amount of habitat for the 5.5 square mile island, and the deer began to die of starvation. The Division of Fish and Wildlife was asked to assist the Island in developing a management plan to control the deer population. Restrictions against deer hunting were replaced with a bow hunting season, with increasing expanded quotas until 1996. A perception of low population numbers halted the high harvests in the late 90's and the population quickly rebounded. The Division responded by increasing the quota and bag limit in 2004 by permitting 3 deer per hunter (1 antlered & 2 antlerless) resulting in a record 360 deer. For the 2005 season, hunters were allowed 1 either sex and 1 antlerless and harvested 178 deer. In 2006, The Division focused on shifting the harvest to private parcels while still maintaining interest in the hunt. A total of 105 deer were taken by archery and an additional 6 by paraplegic shotgun hunters. Though many hunters saw far less deer than in previous years, the Division remains committed to balancing the habitat with the concerns of the residents and hunters. The Heritage tract was again available for limited antlerless hunting. Management continues to be focused on increasing hunter effort as the population is reduced and increasing access on private lands. Additionally, the division will continue to maintain openings, utilizing mechanical means on the state management areas, as well as prescribed burning to improve the habitat and recycle nutrients into the soil.

**Fig. 5. Archery Deer Take on Prudence Island**

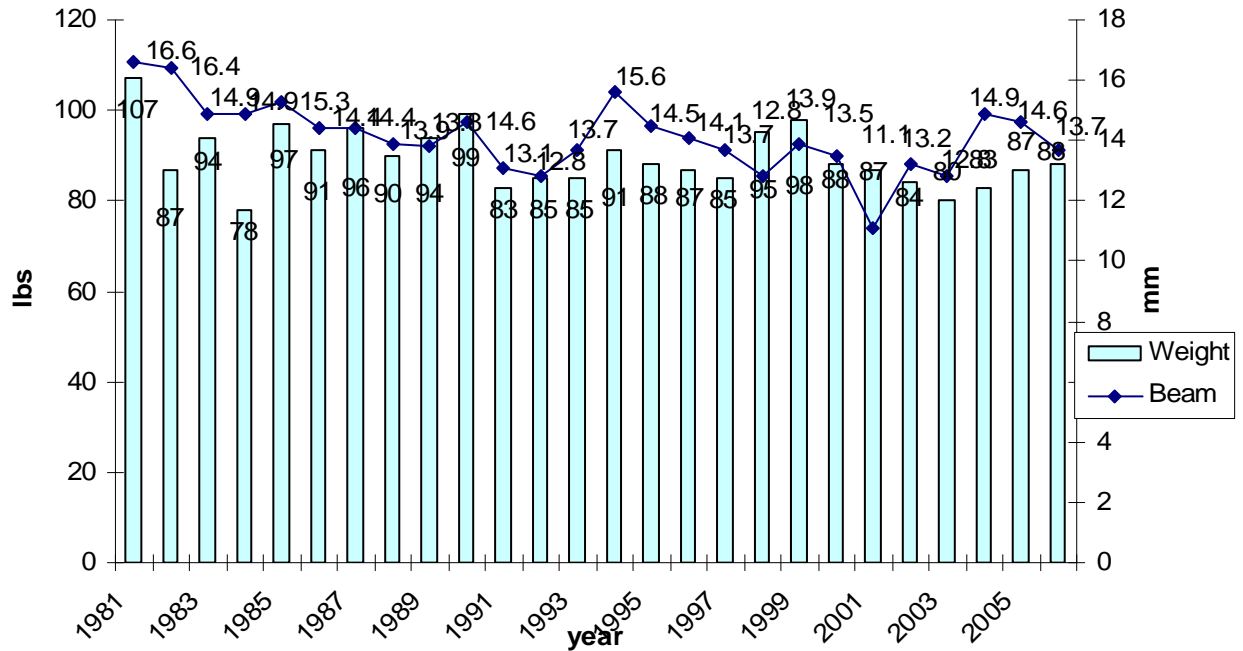


The Division utilizes data collected from many sources to develop population figures. Spotlight counts, harvest record cards, school bus route counts and health parameters are all used to further refine our population model. We also involve stakeholder input to adapt a controlled hunt to meet the needs of various user groups and residents.

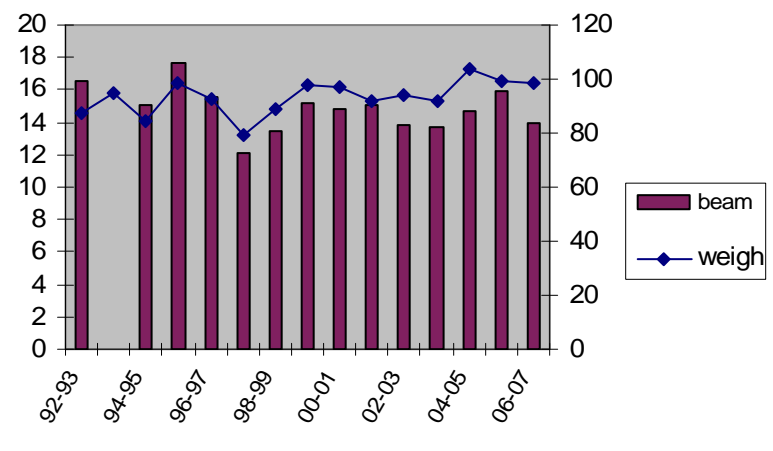
Beams & Weights

Yearling antler beam diameters are the standards by which we measure deer health. Combined with the information that we have collected on dressed weights, this gives us a good indication of the annual health of the herd. As you can see in the chart below, the weights and beams remain low, despite high harvests. Habitat improvement often takes much longer to respond and even low deer herds can impact degraded habitats. The Division is committed to improving the health of both the deer and the habitat that supports all fauna.

**Figure 2. Prudence Island Yearling Male Average Beam and Weight**



**Block Island Weights/Beams**



Beam measurements for yearling in 1993 were unavailable.

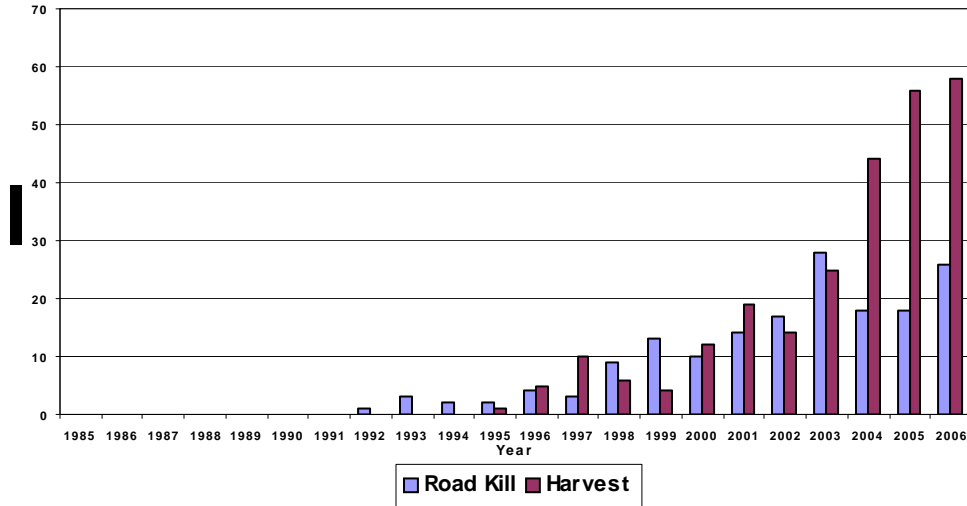
**Block Island**

Deer were imported to Block Island in 1967 at the request of the town council at the time. The deer population continued to grow resulting in numerous complaints of deer damage as predators are lacking on the island and hunting was never permitted. Complaints were addressed through deer damage permits and the herd grew to 700 by 1994. In 1996 regulated season was initiated and a referendum was passed to drastically reduce deer herd. Residents are additionally concerned about Lyme disease, but are equally concerned about public safety as a result hunting has been restricted to a small portion of the island. Also harvest limits were liberalized to increase the take and the population has been reduced to approximately 250 deer. Further reductions are hampered by limited access to open space. Health parameters as measured by weights and mean yearling antler beams are still low despite the reduction of the herd.

## Jamestown

The presence of deer on Jamestown is actually relatively new, establishing itself as a breeding population in about 1985. Initially, the population was seen as somewhat novel, with some concern about Lyme disease. Without any tradition of hunting on the Island, little in the way of damage, the population was permitted to grow, relatively unchecked. However, in keeping with the deer's natural reproductive capability, the herd quickly expanded, as depicted in Fig. 1, below. Of increasing concern was the number of auto strikes which exceeds legal harvest many years. The Division alerted the community and became deeply involved in the stakeholder process to encourage regulated hunting, to include a limited bow hunt on Beavertail State Park. As a result, additional hunter effort lead to some improvement to the road kill issue.

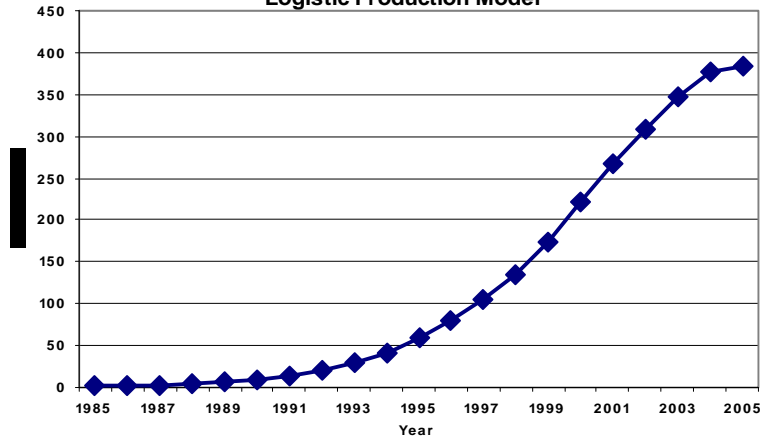
**Fig.34- Jamestown Deer Harvest and Auto Strikes, 1991-2006**



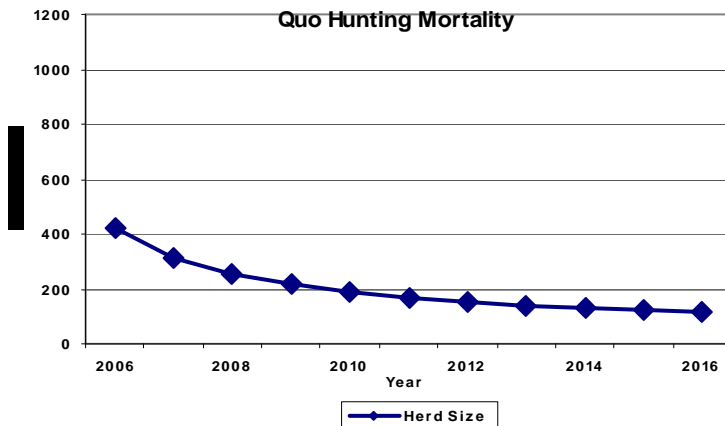
**Fig. 2 This is the estimated size of the Jamestown deer herd**

At the current rate of removal, the Island herd will remain at approximately 400 deer.

**Fig.2- Estimated Size of Jamestown Deer Herd Using Logistic Production Model**



**Fig.3- Jamestown Deer Herd Projection Under Status Quo Hunting Mortality**



**Fig. 3 Projected Jamestown Deer Population with a Simulated Harvest (removal rate) of 0.40**

In order to begin to reduce the deer population size, 30-40% of the females need to be harvested in subsequent seasons. This approximates to a harvest of 126 animals.

# Chronic Wasting Disease: Precautions in Rhode Island

## *(A summary of the regulations)*

Though CWD has not been documented in Rhode Island, CWD was confirmed on **March 31, 2005 in Oneida County, New York from a commercial deer farm**. Measures should be taken to maintain the safety of the local deer population and to ensure an enjoyable and successful hunting season. New regulations regarding importing, releasing, and feeding and baiting of cervids have been implemented, and it is important that they be understood and upheld.

### **Prohibited Carcass Parts:**

No person shall import or possess in Rhode Island the brain, eyes, spinal cord, lymph nodes, tonsils, or spleen of any cervid (defined as a member of the family cervidae, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, black-tailed deer, elk, moose, caribou, and reindeer) taken in or originating from a **Chronic Wasting Disease endemic area**, defined as any state or county bordering a state where chronic wasting disease has been diagnosed, including the following: Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, New Mexico, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Montana, **New York** or the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan or Alberta, (additional areas updated on an as needed basis)], or such parts from captive or captive-bred cervid obtained from outside Rhode Island, except that:

as provided in *Marking of Imported Carcasses and Parts*, such parts and carcasses may be transported through Rhode Island as part of an interstate shipment.

### **Permitted Carcasses and Parts:**

**CDW Endemic Areas:** No person shall import into Rhode Island or possess in Rhode Island the carcasses or parts of wild cervids taken in or originating from a Chronic Wasting Disease endemic area, or carcasses or parts or captive or captive-bred cervids obtained from outside Rhode Island except that the following parts may be imported or possessed if marked in the manner described in the previous section:

Meat may be imported and possessed provided that all such meat from an individual animal shall be boned, cut up, packaged and wrapped, and such meat shall not be commingled with the meat of any other:

- the hide or cape;
- the skull-cap with antlers attached;
- the antlers;

finished taxidermy;

tanned hides;

the upper canine.

**Non-CWD Endemic Areas:** All parts and carcasses may be imported into the State, following guidelines set forth in the following section.

**Marking of Imported Carcasses and Parts:** All carcasses and parts of any cervid imported in to Rhode Island, or packages or containers containing such carcasses or parts, shall be affixed with a legible label bearing the following information: the species of animal, the State, Province or Country 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.

**Importation of Live Cervids:** No person shall import into the State any captive or wild cervid, except under a permit issued by the director or his/her designee, and limited to animals with a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection has been issued; contact the Department of Environmental Management for full regulations before action.

**Release:** No person shall release to the wild in the State of Rhode Island any captive or wild cervid.

**Feeding and baiting Cervids in Rhode Island:** No person shall feed cervids at any time in Rhode Island except:

- under a license or permit issued by the Department of Environmental Management pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 20-1-18 for bona fide scientific research within an enclosed pen;
- by planting, cultivating, or harvesting of crops directly associated with bona fide agricultural practices, including planted wildlife food plots;
- by distribution of food materials for livestock directly associated with bona fide agricultural practices; by distribution of food material for legally possessed captive cervid, pursuant to a permit;
- by cutting of trees or brush;
- elevated bird/squirrel feeders providing seed, grain, fruit, worms, or suet for birds or squirrels
- located within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling.

**Distribution of Certain Food Materials:** No person shall feed wild or captive cervids with any material that contains protein derived from any mammalian tissues.

### **Rhode Island CWD Surveillance**

In 2006, the Division collected 192 deer heads for CWD testing. While all samples tested negative, we will again be collecting deer heads during the upcoming deer season. **Your cooperation is essential.** We cannot be declared CWD-free without meeting our quota for deer testing. Hunters submitting deer heads must supply the following information: Name, address, location of harvest, date, sex & age of deer.