



R.I. Department of Environmental Management
Division of Fish and Wildlife
2017-18 Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits



Season	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	October 28 – 29, 2017	Same as Reg. season
Youth Hunters ages 12-15 accompanied by a properly licensed adult, 21 years of age or older.		
Canada Goose Early Season	September 1 – 30, 2017	15
Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for the September season only.		
Canada Goose Regular Season	November 18 - 26 and December 2, 2017 - January 29, 2018	3
Permits and reservations are required to hunt the goose fields at the South Shore Management Area in South Kingstown.		
Canada Goose Late Season	February 3 – 9, 2018	5
Limited to Bristol, Kent & Providence counties, and portions of Washington County as described in RI Hunting Regulations § 9.11.D.4		
Snow Geese (Inc. Blue Geese)	October 15, 2017 – January 29, 2018	25 No Poss. Limit
Brant	November 23, 2017 – January 21, 2018	2

Possession Limit: Three (3) times the Daily Bag Limit unless otherwise indicated.

Waterfowl Stamp and H.I.P Permit

- All waterfowl hunters sixteen (16) years of age and older must purchase and carry on their person valid Federal and RI Waterfowl stamps. Both stamps must be signed in ink across the face
- All migratory bird hunters, regardless of age must possess a current Harvest information Program (H.I.P) Permit.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

October 28 – 29, 2017

Youth hunters must be 12-15 years of age.

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



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Season	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
Ducks	October 13 – 16, 2017 November 22 – 26, 2017 December 2, 2017 – January 21, 2018	6*
*The daily bag limit shall include no more than four (4) mallards of which two (2) may be hens, three (3) wood ducks, two (2) redheads, two (2) black ducks, one (1) pintail, two (2) canvasbacks, and two (2) scaup.		
Mergansers	Same As Ducks	5**
** No more than two (2)/ day may be Hooded mergansers.		
Coots	Same As Ducks	15
Sea Ducks¹	November 23, 2017 – January 21, 2018	5***
¹ Except for the periods of November 23 – 26 and December 2, 2017 – January 21, 2018, sea ducks may only be taken in the Special Sea Duck Hunting Area. See regulation 9.11 for details		
*** The daily bag shall include no more than four (4) of one species (eider, scoter, long-tailed ducks).		
Swans	CLOSED	
Harlequin Duck	CLOSED	

Possession Limit: Three (3) times the Daily Bag Limit.

2017-18 Waterfowl Regulation Highlights

- Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset unless otherwise noted in the regulations.
- Discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling is prohibited.
- Non-Toxic Shot Requirement:** The possession of shells loaded with any shot other than non-toxic shot by any person hunting waterfowl, rails or snipe is prohibited.
- 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.
- Closed Areas:** See regulations for a list and descriptions.
- Tagging Requirement:** 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.

*Note: This card is meant to provide a convenient summary of the dates and regulations but is not comprehensive. See the complete regulations for more information.