



R.I. Department of Environmental Management  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
**2018-19 Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits**



Season	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
<b>Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days</b>	October 27 – 28, 2018	Same as Reg. season
Youth Hunters ages 12-15 accompanied by a properly licensed adult, 21 years of age or older.		
<b>Canada Goose Early Season</b>	September 1 – 30, 2018	15
Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for the September season only.		
<b>Canada Goose Regular Season</b>	November 17 - 25, 2018 and December 1, 2018 – January 20, 2019	2
Permits and reservations are required to hunt the goose fields at the South Shore Management Area in South Kingstown.		
<b>Canada Goose Late Season</b>	January 26 – February 9, 2019	5
Limited to Bristol, Kent & Providence counties, and portions of Washington County as described in RI Hunting Regulations § 9.11(B)(3)(d).		
<b>Snow Geese (Inc. Blue Geese)</b>	October 6, 2018 – January 20, 2019	25 No Poss. Limit
<b>Brant</b>	November 22, 2018 – January 20, 2019	2

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

**South Shore Management Area**

- Permit and hunting log available 24 hrs/day through the online licensing system or the DEM, Fish and Wildlife Great Swamp Field Office during normal business hours.
- Reservations are required to hunt the Canada Goose Regular Season.
- Reservation information available from the DEM Fish and Wildlife Great Swamp Field Office or on the website.
- Closed during the Canada Goose Late Season (January 26 - February 9, 2019).

**Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**  
**October 27 – 28, 2018**

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
<b>Ducks</b>	October 12 – 15, 2018 November 21 – 25, 2018 December 1, 2018 – January 20, 2019	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, two (2) pintail, two (2) canvasbacks, and two (2) scaup.		
<b>Mergansers</b>	Same As Ducks	5**
** No more than two (2)/ day may be Hooded mergansers.		
<b>Coots</b>	Same As Ducks	15
<b>Sea Ducks<sup>1</sup></b>	November 22, 2018 – January 20, 2019	5***
<sup>1</sup> Except for the periods of November 22 – 25, 2018 and December 1, 2018 – January 20, 2019, sea ducks may only be taken in the Special Sea Duck Hunting Area. See RI Hunting Regulations § 9.11(D)(1) for details. *** The daily bag shall include no more than four (4) of one species (eider, scoter, long-tailed ducks).		
<b>Swans</b>	CLOSED	
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>	CLOSED	

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

**2018-19 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.

**Waterfowl Stamp and H.I.P Permit**

- All waterfowl hunters sixteen (16) years of age and older are required by law to purchase a Rhode Island Waterfowl Stamp as well as a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.
- State waterfowl stamp certifications issued through the web-based online licensing system need not be signed.
- Physical State Waterfowl Stamps obtained from the Division of Fish and Wildlife and Federal Ducks Stamps must be signed by the hunter across the face of the stamp and carried at all times when hunting.
- All migratory bird hunters, regardless of age must possess a current Harvest Information Program (H.I.P) Permit.

**\*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.