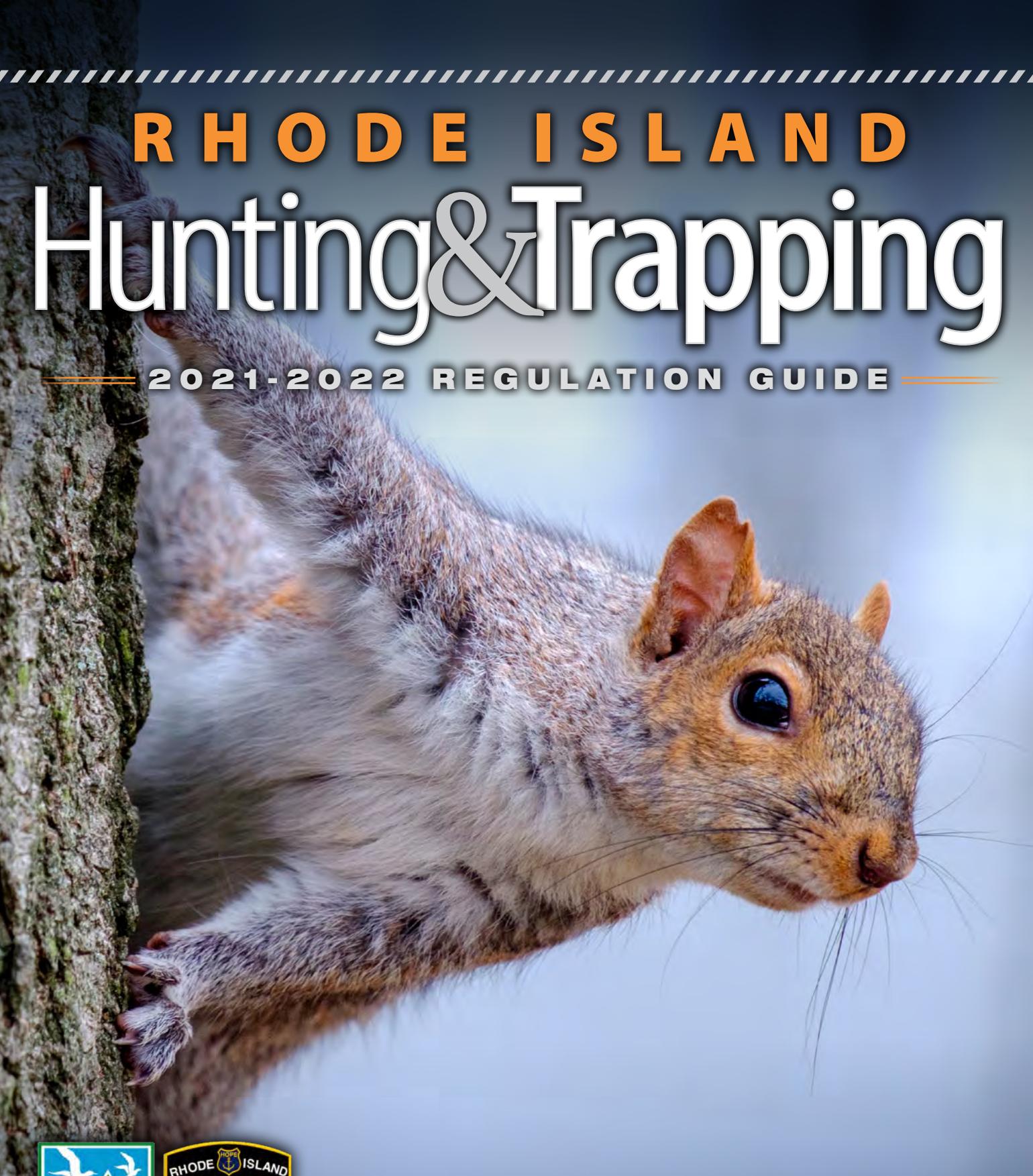


RHODE ISLAND

Hunting & Trapping

2021-2022 REGULATION GUIDE



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State of Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management • Division of Fish & Wildlife



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 1B Camp E-Hun-Tee
 Exeter, RI 02822
 (401) 539-0013

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 235 Promenade Street
 Providence, RI 02908
 24hr Violation Line: (401) 222-3070

Dean Hoxsie, Chief

RHODE ISLAND Hunting & Trapping

2021-2022 REGULATIONS GUIDE



Photo by Desmos_photos

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Photo by Jason Wilkins

Welcome Letter



On behalf of Governor Dan McKee, I am excited to release the eighth annual **Rhode Island Hunting and Trapping Regulation Guide** for Rhode Islanders and visitors who enjoy wildlife and the great outdoors. We hope its information about the ins and outs of harvesting game animals will help novice and seasoned hunters alike.

Rhode Island is home to a myriad of natural habitats. From coastal shrublands to forestland to grasslands that sway in the breeze, opportunities for hunting and trapping abound. Investing in land and wildlife conservation remains an important focus of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM). Through

contributions from Rhode Island hunters, we've protected over 800 acres in the last eight years to enhance opportunities for hunting and trapping, bringing the total purchased to date with your support to more than 16,000 acres. This adds significantly to the 55,000 acres already managed by our Division of Fish and Wildlife. Among the new public lands open to hunting is the 150-acre Mandros property in eastern Tiverton abutting existing holdings for a total of 270 contiguous acres of hunting land.

Hunting has a long tradition in Rhode Island, supporting family customs, connecting people with nature, and attracting tourism to the state. Most hunters hunt to provide food for their families, while also enjoying time spent with family and friends in the outdoors. Although I am not an active hunter, I know and respect the valuable history of hunting in Rhode Island and how hunting skills and experiences are passed on generation to generation in many Rhode Island families. The important role Rhode Island hunters play is critical to effectively conserving wildlife and their habitats and enhances our economy.

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, consumer spending on hunting expands the state economy by \$18 million annually. Spending on wildlife watching contributes another \$200 million. Throughout the year, DEM offers a host of educational workshops for novice and experienced hunters; among the offerings are programs on deer processing, firearms familiarization, tree stand safety, wilderness first aid, wild game cooking, land navigation, and mentored hunts. With our new electronic licensing system, residents and non-resident customers are now able to purchase hunting licenses, permits, and tags and report their harvests online. Visit <https://www.ri.gov/DEM/huntfish> to learn more! I hope this guide, funded through your contributions to the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act), 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 that hunting brings. And thank you for being part of conservation efforts that will provide benefits for generations to come!

Terrence Gray, PE, Acting Director

Hunting Abstract

This hunting abstract is a summary of the rules, regulations, seasons and bag limits for the 2021-2022 Rhode Island hunting and trapping seasons. For more detailed information, see the General Laws of Rhode Island, obtainable at most public libraries. A complete copy of the Hunting and Trapping Regulations for the 2021-2022 Season can be viewed online at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/documents/regulations/index.php#hunting-fishing>

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

Report Game Violations

RIDEM Environmental Police Officers have broad responsibilities associated with the statewide enforcement of various state environmental laws and regulations, including those associated with hunting, freshwater fishing, and marine fisheries. Officers are always present and on guard to protect these valuable natural resources for all of our citizens.

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

**Turn In Poachers! – 401-222-3070
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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.

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Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, John Corey, Evelyn Haddad, Chris Sobolowski



This guide is also available online at

eRegulations.com

Significant Regulation Changes & Highlights 2021-2022

1. Deer check station dates are now the first two days of muzzleloader and the first two days of shotgun. Please see details within the Abstract.
2. Eider bag limit remains 4 per day, but is limited to one hen per day.
3. Harvesting legal frog and turtle species can now be done with a hunting, fishing, or trapping license. All other limits and restrictions still apply.
4. Deer may now be quartered in the field outside of check station dates for ease of transportation with new tagging requirements.
5. All small game check stations are closed for the 2021-2022 season.
6. There are no longer limits on the number of blunt, judo or field-point tipped arrows that can be carried by archery hunters.
7. Hunters on Patience Island should be aware of a positive tularemia case and should take precaution when afield to avoid insect bites, and when field dressing game.
8. Youth spring turkey season now runs 7 days long, still prior to the regular spring turkey opener.
9. Applications for Block Island lottery and required USFWS properties must be post marked by September 15th, 2021.
10. Hunting and trapping licenses and permit fees have increased. See page 4.

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.

Definitions

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

Archery proficiency certification - the measurable demonstration of skills with archery equipment using a set of standards as determined by the hunter education program.

Bearded turkey - a wild 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.

Conibear-type trap - "conibear" model traps and similar body-gripping traps and devices.

Daily bag limit - the maximum number of game of a single species or combination (aggregate) of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season.

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 deer.

Field possession limit - the maximum number of game of a single species or combination of species permitted to be possessed by one person while in the field, in one's vehicle, boat, trailer or other means of transportation when traveling between the field and one's personal abode. This shall be equal to the daily bag or season limit.

Junior Hunter - any person 12-14 years of age who possesses a hunter safety education certificate. Junior hunters may only hunt in



Photo by Jim Tappero IV

the immediate company of an adult 21 years of age or older, who possesses a current RI hunting license.

Personal abode - one's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one's temporary or transient place of abode or dwelling, such as a hunting club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure or business trip.

Possess or Possession - to exercise dominion or control over any wild animal, commencing at the time at which a decision is made not to return the wild animal to the immediate vicinity from which it was taken and lasting up until its ultimate disposition. The decision to possess or return the animal must be made at the first practical opportunity.

Season bag limit - the maximum number of game of a single species permitted to be taken by one person over the duration of the open season.

Tidal Waters - waters of the State extending from mean high water to the seaward limit of three (3) miles.

Environmental Police Chief's Message:

Welcome to the hunting and fishing abstract for the State of Rhode Island. You will find all the necessary information within this and a list of resources, locations and programs that are offered. Rhode Island, while small, has a great deal to offer for outdoor enthusiasts. Opportunities include Whitetail deer, waterfowl, small game, and upland bird hunting, along with a tremendous trout stocking program for freshwater fishing. Saltwater anglers can fish the many miles of shoreline, take a charter boat or use recreational boating to access some of the best fishing on the east coast.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife offer hunter education courses operate a state-of-the-art shooting range at the Great Swamp and provide many other programs for you to learn from and explore. All programs are provided to ensure that those hunting and

fishing in our state, do so in an ethical manner, with the greatest regard for the outdoor environment, and the wildlife inhabitants. The Division of Fish and Wildlife has a highly educated and dedicated staff that work to provide wildlife habitat, game management, and trout and salmon stocking programs to benefit the everyone.

The Environmental Police work together with all divisions of the department to provide resource protection through conservation law enforcement. Our officers are highly educated and trained to provide a diverse and thorough background in natural resources. Officers are responsible for all state lands, private lands for hunting and fishing oversight, as well as the marine environment. Hunting, fishing, and boating safety and enforcement are the primary functions of the division. Officers are provided with

a tremendous assortment of tools to insure the protection of our natural resources for future generations.

As we start to exit the Covid-19 restrictions that our country has faced for more than a year, please explore and enjoy all that Rhode Island has to offer. We ask that you do so in a manner that is respectful to the lands and waters of our state and maintain these areas in a pristine condition so that others can enjoy them as you have.

As Chief, I welcome you to Rhode Island and ask that everyone do their part to protect the natural resources of this small but incredibly diverse state.

Sincerely,

Dean Hoxsie, Chief
RI Environmental Police
(401-222-3070)

General INFORMATION

License & Permits	Fee (online)	Fee (at vendor)
Resident Hunting License (must be 15 years old) ¹	\$21.00	\$23.00
Resident Combination License (Hunting & Fishing)	\$38.00	\$40.00
Resident Junior Hunting License (12-14 years old) ¹	\$14.00	\$17.00
Permanent Resident Combination License (over 65 or disabled)	No fee ²	No Fee
Resident Trapping License	\$15.00	\$17.00
Non-Resident Hunting License (must be 15 years old) ¹	\$55.00	\$58.00
Non-Resident Tourist Hunting License (3-day)	\$20.00	\$23.00
Non-Resident Junior Hunting License (12-14 years old) ¹	\$40.00	\$43.00
Non-Resident Trapping License (if reciprocal privileges allowed)	\$50.00	\$53.00
Active Military Personnel Hunting License	\$21.00	\$23.00
Resident All Outdoors Package Permit³	\$78.00	\$81.00
Resident Deer Permit⁴	\$13.00	\$13.50
Non-Resident Deer Permit⁴	\$26.50	\$27.50
Resident Turkey Permit	\$8.00	\$8.50
Non-Resident Turkey Permit	\$21.50	\$22.50
RI Game Bird Permit	\$17.00	\$17.50 ⁵
State Waterfowl Stamp	\$8.00	\$8.50 ⁵
Migratory Bird (H.I.P) Permit	No fee	No Fee

- 1 Junior hunters must hunt in the immediate company of an adult, 21 years of age or older, holding a valid RI hunting license.
- 2 Any resident 65 years or older or with a permanent disability may obtain a free permanent license through the online system, at any license vendor, or at the DEM Office of Boat Registration and Licensing.
- 3 The All Outdoors Deer Permit Package consists of two (2) antlered deer permits and five (5) antlerless deer permits that may be used in any combination during the open deer seasons in Zones 1 and 2 in accordance with the zone bag limits.
- 4 Deer permits are season, sex, weapon, and zone specific.
- 5 Non-Residents pay a \$1.00 Enhanced access fee (\$18.00 Gamebird Permit and \$9.00 State Waterfowl Stamp).

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 signed paper copy of their license and permits 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).

Hunting Licenses and Permits	Deer	Turkey	Pheasant & Quail	Small Game (Coyote ¹ , Fox, Squirrel, Rabbit, and Raccoon)	Morning Doves, Crows, Woodcock, Snipe and Rails	Waterfowl
Hunting License	•	•	•	•	•	•
Deer Permit²	•					
Turkey Permit²		•				
Game Bird Permit			•			
HIP Permit					•	•
Federal Duck Stamp						•
State Duck Stamp						•

- 1 Deer permit required during deer seasons and turkey permit required during turkey season.
- 2 Each deer and turkey harvested requires an individual permit.

The possession of a valid Rhode Island hunting License, or combination hunting and fishing license, shall serve as a permit to hunt state management areas (RIGL 20-18-2 and 20-18-3), as well as on some TNC, and state co-op hunting areas, 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. The carrying of firearms on state management areas at any other time is prohibited.

Hunting Licenses are available online at www.dem.ri.gov/huntfish, at the DEM Office of Boating Registration and Licenses at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908 (401) 222-3576, and from some sporting goods stores. Reprints of lost or damaged licenses are free through the online system. Purchases made at a full service vendor carry an Enhanced Access Fee (EAF) to offset the cost of administering the licensing system. The enhanced access fees are as follows:

- **Resident:** \$2 per license and \$0.50 per permit
- **Non-Resident:** \$3 per license and \$1.00 per permit
- No EAF for Recreational Saltwater Fishing or No Cost Licenses and permits.

Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP)

All migratory bird hunters are required to obtain a HIP certification and answer a short survey. HIP permits are available free of charge through the online system, at license vendors, DEM Providence headquarters and the DEM Great Swamp Field Office. The HIP program provides state agencies and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agencies with better data that improves their ability to manage our nation's migratory bird resources.

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. License applicants must present a valid hunter safety certificate from Rhode Island or other state, or possess a previous hunting license from RI or other state, or present proof of current or honorably discharged military status. Applicants for an archery deer permit or fall archery turkey permit must provide proof of successful completion of an Archery Safety Education course. A list of hunter safety classes, dates, and locations is available from the Hunter Safety Office: (401) 539-0019 or on the web: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/huntereducation>.

An online hunter education course is available at <https://www.hunter-ed.com/rhodeisland/> and an online bow hunter education course is available at <https://www.bowhunter-ed.com/rhodeisland/>.

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).

- 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 without landowner permission (RIGL 11-44-4,5).
- No hunting in state parks, with the exception of undeveloped state parks as denoted in the regulations (RIGL 11-44-4,5).
- No more than five (5) 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).
- No hunting while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs (RIGL 20-13-10).
- Spotlighting for wild animals and birds is prohibited (statewide and islands) from September 15 through the last day of February (RIHR 9.7.2.F).
- Shooting at any animal at anytime while such animal is on a telephone or electric line, pole, or tower or any communication device (RIHR 9.17.H).
- 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 9.17.B).
- 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).
- Feeding and baiting wildlife in the state of Rhode Island is not permitted at any time for any purposes except as defined (RIHR 9.17.J).

Discharge and Firearm Restrictions

- It is unlawful to carry a loaded firearm or archery equipment outside legal shooting hours. Provided the hunter is stationary, his / her firearm or archery equipment may be loaded within fifteen (15) minutes prior to legal shooting hours (RIHR 9.17.L).
- The use or possession of laser sights that project a beam or night-vision equipment while hunting is prohibited (RIHR 9.7.2.G).
- 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 hunting within 200 feet of an occupied dwelling without written permission is prohibited (RIGL 20-15-1).

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 is an international agreement that was signed in 1918 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.

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

Solid fluorescent 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. Fluorescent camouflage does not meet this requirement.

- 200 square inches by small game hunters during the small game season, fall turkey hunters while traveling, and muzzleloader deer hunters during the muzzleloader deer season.
- 200 square inches by archers when traveling to/from elevated stands during the muzzleloader season. Once in an elevated stand, archery deer hunters are exempt from the orange requirement during the muzzleloader season.
- 500 square inches 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: Raccoon hunters when hunting at night, crow hunters while hunting over decoys, spring turkey hunters, first segment dove hunters, and waterfowl hunters while hunting from a boat or a blind, over water or field, when done in conjunction with decoys. Fluorescent orange is not required in areas limited to archery-only hunting by regulation.
- All other users of State Management Areas and designated undeveloped State Parks, including but not limited to: hikers, bikers, and horseback riders 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.

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Checking, TAGGING & REPORTING

State Operated Check Stations

The state operated check stations provide biologists with information on hunter success and gives them a chance to inspect and sample harvested game.

Deer Check Stations

- All deer taken during the first two days (**Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 6 & 7**) of the Muzzleloader Deer Season, and the first two days (**Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 4 & 5**) of Shotgun Deer Season, including deer taken with archery equipment, must be physically checked at a state operated biological check station, except those deer taken on Patience, Prudence, and Block Island, which must be reported using the online licensing system.

- **Operating Hours:** 8:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. daily.
- **Arcadia Management Area:** Rt. 165, Ten Rod Road, at Wood River, Exeter, Phone: 401-539-7117.
- **Carolina Management Area:** Pine Hill Road, Richmond, Phone: 401-364-3483.
- **Durfee Hill Management Area:** Reynolds Road (Rte 94), Glocester, Phone: 401-568-6753
- **Great Swamp Management Area:** 277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, Phone: 401-789-1636
- **Tiverton Rod and Gun Club:** 1529 Fish Rd, Tiverton, Phone: 401-624-3959

How to Tag and Report Your Wild Turkey

DEM launched the online hunting and fishing licensing system in 2018. In addition to using this system to purchase licenses, permits and tags electronically, you will also use this system to report your harvests. The following shows you how to properly tag and report your wild turkey harvest!

1. BAG IT!

Congratulations on your successful harvest!

2. TAG IT!

Your tag must be notched (day, month and hour of harvest) before moving the bird for photos or to leave the woods!



- The notched tag and turkey must remain in your possession when removing the turkey from the field.
- If you must leave the field prior to removing the turkey (to return gear to your vehicle or dwelling); the notched tag must be attached to and remain with the carcass.



3. REPORT IT!

Use your QR reader on your smartphone to scan your permit, or go to:

www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish



- Measure the beard and spurs:
 - » Beard less than 6" and spurs less than 0.5" = Jake
 - » Beard longer than 6" and spurs longer than 0.5" = Tom
 - » No beard or spurs = Hen (fall archery season only!)
- You must report your harvest by **midnight** on the **day of the harvest**.
- If you do not have internet or cellular data access to report your turkey harvest, you may call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401) 789-0281 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. M-F to report your harvest.
- Write your harvest report confirmation number on your tag and keep the tag with your turkey until prepared for taxidermy or consumption.

Questions: Call the Division of Fish and Wildlife (401) 789-0281 or email dem.dfw@dem.ri.gov.

How to Tag and Report Your Deer

The online licensing system has brought changes to tagging and reporting your deer harvest that all hunters should be aware of. Before you leave the house or license vendor, sign your hunting license and deer tags! Now you will not need a pen until you report your harvest online or over the phone! Before heading afield, grab a zip tie or string along with a durable plastic bag and put your license and tags inside the bag to protect them from the elements!

1. BAG IT!

Congratulations on your successful deer harvest!

2. TAG IT!

Your tag must be notched (day, hour and month of harvest) before moving the deer for photos, field dressing or to leave the woods.

Per Rhode Island Law, the notched tag must be affixed to and remain with the carcass. Use care to securely affix the tag so that the tag will not be lost when removing the deer from the woods or transporting to a check station, butcher or your home.

HELPFUL TIP: It is recommended to place your tag in a durable, clear plastic bag (Ziploc bag) to make sure your tag will not rip, tear, or become illegible from water, blood or dirt. Consider rolling up the bag with the tag inside, and placing it inside the deer's ear and tie the ear shut with a piece of string or zip tie. Reminder: The notched tag must remain affixed to the deer at all times until the deer has been prepared for taxidermy or consumption.



3. Report It!

Use your QR reader on your smartphone to scan your permit, or go to:

www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish

- You must report your deer harvest within 24 hours. If you do not have internet or cellular data access to report your deer harvest, you may call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401) 789-0281 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday to report your harvest.
- Once on the harvest reporting site, you will be asked a few questions to determine the age and sex of the animal, the location and method of harvest and information about your time afield.
- When you are finished reporting your deer online or over the phone, you will be given a harvest report confirmation number. This number confirms that you have reported your harvest. Write the number on your tag and keep the tag affixed to the deer until prepared for taxidermy or consumption.

REMINDER: All deer taken during Nov. 6 & 7 and Dec. 4 & 5 must be physically checked, except those taken on Patience, Prudence, and Block Islands.



Above: Deer tag securely fastened inside ear with zip-tie.

Below: Deer tag protected in plastic bag and securely fastened to leg with electrical tape.



Special HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Hunting Opportunities

Season	Locations	Dates
Youth Deer Archery	Zone 1	September 11 - 12
	Zone 2	September 25 - 26
	Zone 3	October 30 - 31
Youth Deer Muzzleloader	Zones 1 & 2	October 30 - 31
Youth Waterfowl	Statewide	October 30 - 31
Youth Pheasant	Great Swamp WMA, South Kingstown Durfee Hill WMA, Glocester Eight Rod Farm WMA, Tiverton	October 9 - 10
Youth Turkey	Statewide	April 18 - 24, 2022

- All youth hunters ages 12 to 14 must be in possession of a resident or non-resident junior hunting license in order to hunt in RI. Youth hunters age 15 must possess a resident or non-resident hunting license. Licenses can be purchased after the completion of a Hunter Safety course.
- Youth hunters age 12 - 14 must hunt in the immediate company of an adult, 21 years of age or older, holding a valid RI hunting license. Hunters age 15 do not have to hunt in the immediate company of a licensed adult EXCEPT when waterfowl hunting during the youth waterfowl hunt when all youth hunters ages 12 - 15 must hunt in the immediate company of a licensed adult.
- An adult may accompany no more than two youth hunters at any one time. Adults are prohibited from hunting or carrying archery equipment/firearms during the youth-only hunting days.
- All other hunting permit requirements and hunting regulations per season remain.
- For more information on hunting, contact the Division of Fish & Wildlife at 401-789-0281 or by emailing DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov.
- For more information about youth hunting opportunities or our Hunter Education program, call 401-539-0019 or email Scott.Travers@dem.ri.gov.

Youth Deer Hunting: Dates vary depending on Season and Zone. All other regulations and permit requirements apply. Please see page 10 for more deer hunting information.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting: Youth hunters may take ducks, sea ducks and geese following daily bag and possession limits for the regular seasons. All youth hunters (12 - 15), and those adults accompanying youth hunters, must have a current HIP Permit and RI hunting license. The accompanying adult must also possess a current RI State Waterfowl Stamp and Federal Duck Stamp.

Youth Waterfowl Training and Mentored Hunt: For the 7th consecutive year, the Division of Fish and Wildlife is partnering with Ducks

Unlimited to offer a youth waterfowl training day (September date TBA) and mentored hunt opportunity on youth waterfowl weekend for those youths that attend the training. Space is limited for the training and mentored hunt.

Youth Pheasant Hunting: Youth Pheasant Hunt to be held on October 9 - 10 at Great Swamp, Durfee Hill, and Eight Rod Farm Wildlife Management Areas.

Youth Turkey Hunting: Youth hunters may take up to two (2) bearded turkeys during the spring season, provided they purchase a spring turkey permit for each bird. No more than one (1) bearded turkey may be taken on state lands during the spring season. All stipulations, permit requirements, and pertinent regulations apply. Accompanying adult may assist the youth hunter in calling the bird. No preregistration is required.

Youth Turkey Training and Mentored Hunt: For the 2nd consecutive year, the Division of Fish and Wildlife is partnering with the Light Foundation to offer the youth turkey training and hunt (April Date TBD). It is open to minors 12 to 15 years of age. The goal is to create the next generation of conservation leaders by providing youth with an enjoyable and memorable outdoor experience that introduces them to safe and responsible hunting and teaches them fundamental leadership & life skills. Space is limited. For more information or to apply, visit matlight72.com!"

For more information about youth and/or disabled hunting opportunities, please contact our hunter education office by emailing Scott.Travers@dem.ri.gov or by calling 401-539-0019.

Disabled Hunting Opportunities

Season	Locations	Dates
Special Deer Season for Disabled Hunters	Zone 3	October 26 - 29
Paraplegic Hunter Turkey Season	Statewide	April 23 - 24, 2022

Patience and Prudence Islands (Zone 3) Special Deer Season for Disabled Hunters: The taking of deer will be limited to paraplegic and double amputee hunters only.

- A special hunting permit must be obtained through the RI DEM Office of Boat Registration and Licensing Division, 235 Promenade St. Providence, RI 02908 (401) 222-3576 by each applicant prior to the hunt. None will be issued on the island. An application signed by a physician for a first-time hunter, or a photocopy of a previous paraplegic/double amputee hunting license, is required.
- None of the hunter's assistants will be allowed to hunt or carry loaded firearms at any time. No license is required of the assistants.

- All deer taken must be checked using the online harvest reporting system www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish.
- Disabled hunters may use shotgun or muzzleloader with ammunition and caliber restrictions consistent with regular deer season (see page 10).
- Hunters may use muzzleloading firearms on Prudence Island.

Paraplegic Hunter Turkey Season: Spring turkey permit required. Hunting in this season is limited to paraplegic hunters only as evidenced by possession of a permanent disability hunting license. Bag limit is two (2) provided no more than one (1) is taken on state land.



Photo by Josh Beuth



Photo by Light Foundation



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Deer Hunting Seasons

Season	Dates
Archery (includes Crossbow)	September 11 - 12 (Youth only, Zone 1) September 25 - 26 (Youth only, Zone 2) September 15 - January 31, 2022 (Zone 1) October 1 - January 31, 2022 (Zone 2)
Archery: Patience & Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 30 - 31 (Youth only) November 1 - January 31, 2022
Archery: Block Island (Zone 4)	October 12-15, 18-22, 25-29 (Check local ordinance)
Muzzleloader	October 30 - 31 (Youth only Zones 1, 2) November 6 - 28 (Zones 1, 2) December 26 - January 2, 2022 (Zones 1, 2 Private land only, antlerless deer only)
Shotgun	December 4 - 19 (Zone 1) December 4 - 12 (Zone 2) December 26 - January 2, 2022 (Zones 1, 2 - Private land only, antlerless deer only)
Archery, Muzzleloader, Shotgun (Zone 4)	November 1-5, 8-10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 29, 30 December 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13-17, 20-23 January 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 24-28, 31, 2022 February 1-4, 7-11, 14-18, 2022
Special Season for Disabled Hunters: Patience & Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 26 - 29

2021-22 Season Bag Limits

Statewide (all zones & methods combined)	2 Antlered Deer, (Zone 3: no more than 1 Antlered Deer)
Zone 1	3 Antlerless Deer*
Zone 2	2 Antlerless Deer*
Zone 3	2 Antlerless Deer*
Zone 4	Unlimited Antlerless Deer

* Antlerless limits are per zone and hunters may harvest each limit within each zone in a hunting year cumulative across all weapons/seasons.

RI Deer Management:

Deer management zones (see map on page 16 and 17) 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.

Note: All deer wounded, but not recovered, must be reported to DEM within 24 hours.

Our goal is to:

- Provide a deer management program that maintains a healthy deer population that is sustainable and ecologically appropriate.
- Maintain quality deer hunting opportunities recognizing the strong tradition of hunting in Rhode Island and the important role hunting plays in wildlife conservation.

Deer Hunting Methods

Please note: Only one firearm or bow may be possessed in the field per individual hunter while hunting deer. Check local ordinances for further restrictions in specific towns.

Shotgun

- No person shall hunt, pursue, shoot or attempt to shoot any deer with a shotgun capable of holding more than five shells, unless it is plugged with one-piece filler, which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- Ammunition permitted for shotgun deer season is limited to a single lead or alloy projectile, including rifled slugs or sabot round. Buckshot is prohibited at all times.
- Shotguns of 10, 12, 16, or 20-gauge are allowed.
- Muzzleloaders will be permitted during the shotgun season provided hunters possess a current shotgun deer permit and comply with muzzleloader restrictions. Hunters taking a deer must tag the deer with the shotgun deer tag immediately after taking. All shotgun deer season fluorescent orange requirements will be enforced.

Muzzleloader

- Firearms for muzzleloader deer season are limited to .45 caliber or larger using percussion caplock, flintlock, and in-line ignition systems using percussion caps, rifle, or shotshell primers. Only single barrel or double barrel firearms that must be loaded from the muzzle are permitted.
- Ammunition for muzzleloader deer season is limited to a single projectile, including round ball, maxi ball type, or sabots. Powder is limited to manufacturers' specifications. Telescopic sights are permitted. Possession of modern shotgun shells while hunting with a muzzleloader is prohibited.
- A muzzleloader is considered unloaded when the percussion cap, primer 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 broadhead tipped arrows with at least two (2) metal cutting edges are allowed. All broadheads must be seven eighths (7/8) 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.
- 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 obtain a current year archery deer permit.

Adaptive Aids

Special archery adaptive aids for use with vertical held bows may be used by all hunters without a special permit.

Decoys

Deer decoys may be used on private lands in Zone 1 between September 15 and October 31, and in Zone 2 between October 1 and October 31 while archery hunting only. However, deer decoys may be used throughout the extent of the open archery season on private lands in towns where hunting with a firearm is prohibited but use of archery equipment is permitted. When transporting deer decoys for the purpose of hunting, persons must wear 500 square inches of fluorescent orange visible from all sides as is currently required for shotgun deer hunting.

Prohibited Deer Hunting Activities

- The use or possession of deer scents/lures that contain natural cervid (including deer, moose, elk) urine, gland oil, feces, tissue, blood or any other bodily fluids.
- The use of electronic calls.
- The placement or installation of tree stands on state land and co-op properties prior to August 15th.
- Failure to remove tree stands on state land and on co-op properties by February 15th.
- The construction and use of permanent tree stands, or the use of nails, spikes, bolts, or climbing devices, which may damage trees on state or co-op properties
- Hunting deer on private property without the permission of the landowner.
- Hunting, pursuing, or molesting deer in tidal waters 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.
- Driving deer by parties of over five (5) people.

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. A valid hunting license constitutes written permission on state owned/managed land and applicable hunting cooperative properties for which a permit is not required.

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, 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.



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Deer HUNTING

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 Resource 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.

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.

Patience and Prudence Islands

The only legal method of deer hunting on Prudence and Patience Islands is by archery, including crossbows, except for during the special hunting season (see page 8). Proficiency testing is required for all archery deer hunters on Prudence and Patience Islands. Archery deer hunting is permitted at the Heritage Property from December 1 - 15 only. Proficiency cards must be carried while hunting. All deer taken must be reported to DEM within 24 hours using the harvest reporting website www.ri.gov/DEM/huntfish or be reported to an Environmental Police Officer as prescribed. The antlered deer (buck) bag limit is one (1).

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 taken must be reported to DEM within 24 hours using the harvest reporting website www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish or be reported to an Environmental Police Officer.

Cooperative and Special Hunting Areas

See map and table on pages 16-19.

Block Island State Land (Black Rock / Rodman Hollow)

Deer hunting is allowed by special permit only, selected by lottery. Applications (available at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/management/services/licenses/hunting-licenses.php>) to hunt state lands must be postmarked by September 15, 2021.

Block Island, John H. Chafee, Ninigret, and Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuges

Four National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) in the state are open for hunting on designated units with season and weapon restrictions. Hunters must possess and carry a signed refuge hunting brochure valid for the current season while hunting at Block Island, Ninigret, and John H. Chafee NWRs. Trustom Pond NWR is by lottery permit only. Archery proficiency certification is required to hunt at Block Island, John H. Chafee, and Trustom Pond NWRs. All State DEM, federal, and refuge regulations apply. For detailed information, regulations, locations and dates, and to enter the Trustom Pond NWR lottery, please visit www.fws.gov/refuge/Ninigret/visit/visitor_activities.html or contact the USFWS at 401-364-9124.

The Nature Conservancy Deer Hunting Co-Op

- **Deer hunting only**, the hunting and/or take of other species of wildlife is prohibited
- **No Special Permits Required**, a valid hunting license constitutes as written permission.
- No vehicles of any kind are allowed on the property, except in designated parking areas.
- The construction or use of permanent treestands is prohibited. The use of nails, spikes, bolts, or devices that may damage trees is prohibited. Climbing tree stands are permitted.
- Treestands may not be installed on TNC property prior to August 15th and must be removed by February 15th annually.

Beavertail (Jamestown)

No hunting prior to 11/1/2021. Archery hunting only (11/21-1/31/22) no hunting on weekends prior to 12/31/2021. Proficiency certification 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 first-served basis. Limit of 5 slots per week reserved no more than twenty (20) days in advance.

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 DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov and if space allows, it may be used in next year's edition.



Wild Turkey

Season	Dates	Season Limit
Fall Archery	October 1 - 31	1 either sex bird
Youth ¹	April 18 - 24, 2022	2 bearded birds ²
Paraplegic ¹	April 23 - 24, 2022	
Spring	April 28 - May 22, 2022	

¹ See page 8 for more information on Youth & Paraplegic Hunt Opportunities.

² No more than one (1) turkey may be taken on state lands during the spring season. Each turkey harvested requires an individual permit.

General Rules and Regulations

- The hunting of wild turkey is permitted statewide. Check local ordinances for firearm discharge restrictions. Firearms are permitted for turkey hunting during the Spring, Youth, and Paraplegic seasons only.
- Hunting and shooting hours for the spring seasons, **including Youth/Paraplegic**, end at 1:00 PM. All spring turkey hunters must leave the woods by 1:00 PM.
- Limited to: shotguns, 10, 12, 16, or 20 gauge, with shot sizes 4, 5, 6 and 7 magnum turkey loads, or 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 seven eighths (7/8) of an inch or greater at the widest point including mechanical broadheads measured in the “open” position.
- Hunters must carry a turkey-calling device (non-electric) while hunting. Calling is the only legal method for hunting wild turkeys in the spring.
- The use of decoys while hunting is allowed.
- Each year, after the end of the spring turkey season, online surveys are issued to Rhode Island turkey permit holders who have a valid email address within the online licensing system. The completion of this survey 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 filling out the survey, regardless of success or participation in that year’s hunt.

Permits and Tagging

- **A hunter may purchase, possess and use one (1) all lands turkey permit and one (1) private land only turkey permit for the taking of one (1) bearded turkey on each permit during the spring seasons.**
- Hunters may take two (2) turkeys on the same day or one (1) each on separate days provided they purchase two (2) spring turkey permits and at least one (1) turkey is taken on private land.
- A hunter may purchase, possess and use one (1) fall either sex archery permit, valid on both public and private property.
- A person killing a wild turkey must immediately notch the month, day, hour of kill and type of property taken on (private or public). The carcass and notched tag must remain in the possession of the hunter after the kill and while removing the carcass from the field. Should the hunter leave the carcass prior to removal from the field, the notched tag must be attached to and remain with the carcass. After removal from the field, the notched tag must be attached to and remain with the carcass until prepared for consumption or taxidermy.

Prohibited

- The use of any unauthorized firearm, live decoy(s), dog(s), baiting, cooperative drive(s).
- The use of crossbows for turkey hunting.

- Electric calling devices, or any other devices, to capture or ensnare turkeys.
- The shooting of turkeys while roosting.
- 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.
- Possession of more than one firearm or archery implement while turkey hunting.
- Possession of a firearm while hunting for wild turkey during the fall archery season.

Reporting Your Harvest

The killing of a wild turkey must be reported to DEM using the online harvest reporting website www.ri.gov/DEM/huntfish by 11:59 p.m. on the date of the kill. The notched tag with harvest report confirmation number must remain attached to the carcass until prepared for consumption or taxidermy.

Please see page 6 for more details on tagging and checking wild turkeys.

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 and sportswomen. 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 male turkey’s (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 bearded wild turkeys are “legal birds” in the spring season. Proper identification of your target before shooting protects vulnerable hen turkeys from accidental shooting during the spring nesting season. The composition of the harvest provides biologists with information about the flock and is important for making conservation and 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).



Stocked Trout at Lincoln Woods State Park



Wildlife Outreach Program Field Trip



NE Cottontail Being Fitted with a Radio Collar



Fish Hatchery Tour

RI DIVISION FISH & WILDLIFE

FISH AND WILDLIFE LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

FY2022 BUDGET PROPOSAL

DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife supports a long tradition of fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreation funded through fishing and hunting license fees matched by federal dollars. This budget proposal will provide additional state match for federal funding, increasing the Division's ability to conserve and manage fish and wildlife and carry out projects that benefit the outdoor community.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife shares management responsibility of more than 60,000 acres of land distributed across 15 towns and all counties and is responsible for managing thousands of species of wildlife, including freshwater species. The Division serves a wide and diverse segment of the public from outdoor recreationists — such as hunters, hikers, mountain bikers, and wildlife watchers — to the general public and municipalities concerned with nuisance wildlife.

Hunting and fishing are more than just traditional pastimes in Rhode Island — they contribute more than \$235 million to our economy.

Hunters and anglers purchase close to 70,000 licenses, permits, stamps, and tags each year, and revenue generated from license and permit sale supports Rhode Island fish and wildlife conservation programs. A critical source of funding, these monies are leveraged to match federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program dollars that support outdoor recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, and boating in Rhode Island.

There are over 9,000 licensed hunters in Rhode Island, whose license and permit revenue is used to match federal funds. This user pay/public benefit model is extremely successful because our sportsmen and women, and the industries that serve them, have historically been willing to commit the resources necessary to protect, enhance, and expand Rhode Island's conservation, hunting, and shooting heritage.

DEM has changed the fees associated with many fish and wildlife licenses and permits to generate additional revenue for the Division of Fish and Wildlife and to provide matching funds for federal funding.

- To minimize impact on hunters and anglers, the fees will increase over an eight-year period in three steps taking place in 2021, 2025, and 2028.
- These increases will better align RI fish and wildlife fees with those in other states.
- Most fees associated with the fish and wildlife licenses and permits have not been increased since 2003 or before.
- Fees for disabled and senior (65+) licenses will not increase.
- The fee increases will generate over \$60,000 in new restricted receipt revenue after the first step, over \$185,000 per year after the second step, and over \$300,000 per year after the third step.
- New revenue will leverage federal funding (3:1 match) that can be used for a variety of projects benefitting hunters and anglers.

In addition to wildlife research and monitoring programs that include migratory birds, New England cottontails, and predator species like bobcats and coyotes, the Division also spearheads projects that expand hunting and fishing opportunities in Rhode Island. Completed projects include a renovation of the Great Swamp Shooting Range in West Kingston, wheelchair-accessible boat ramp upgrades at Echo Lake, Indian Lake, Watchaug Pond, and Goddard Memorial State Park, conservation of more than 400 acres of management land over the last four years, and expansion of education programs that include a wild game cooking class, mentored youth hunts for wild turkey and waterfowl, year-round fishing programs, and a Division-run Instagram page.



- www.DEM.RI.gov
- [/RhodeIslandDEM](https://www.facebook.com/RhodeIslandDEM)
- [@RhodeIslandDEM](https://twitter.com/RhodeIslandDEM)
- [@RI.fishandwildlife](https://www.instagram.com/RI.fishandwildlife)

Questions? Contact Ryan Mulcahey, DEM Legislative Liaison at 401-222-4700, ext. 72038 or Ryan.Mulcahey@dem.ri.gov

///New Wildlife Curriculum Resources for Educators



Photo by Gerry Krausse

Beginning this fall, the Wildlife Outreach Program will be lending out free curriculum kits and learning resources for formal and informal K-8 educators through our “Rhody Critter Kits” program. Each kit contains lesson plans, activities, videos, hands-on learning materials, and other resources curated by our Wildlife Outreach staff, with special emphasis on Rhode Island’s wildlife species, conservation work, and management practices.

The kits are designed to connect students to the wildlife resources right in their own backyards and communities. Additionally, materials correlate to the Next Generation Science Standards to support formal educators and are perfect for Scout troops, youth librarians, homeschool groups, and informal educators of all kinds!

Five different kits are currently available to educators focused on; bats, birds, habitat, herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians), and wildlife management. The wildlife management kit, entitled “Keeping the Balance,” explores topics like game species management, carrying capacity, and the role regulated hunting and trapping play in maintaining ecosystem balance. Along with pelts, skulls and other natural artifacts, each kit includes interviews with state biologists doing research in the field!

Plans are being developed by Wildlife Outreach staff to support educators through training workshops and hands-on experiences. Visit dem.ri.gov/wildlifeoutreach for information about how to borrow a kit and news on upcoming workshops. Free access to lesson plans, activities, and videos can also be found on this page.

Please subscribe to our monthly outreach email or follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

Questions about the Rhody Critter Kits Program can be directed to Gabrielle.DeMeillon@dem.ri.gov.

The Rhody Critter Kits Program is made possible through support from the Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program and State Wildlife Grants. An enormous thank you to Rhode Island’s sportsmen and sportswomen for your support of wildlife conservation and our outreach efforts here at RIDFW!



Artwork by @nickpires.com

///2021-22 Hunter Education Program

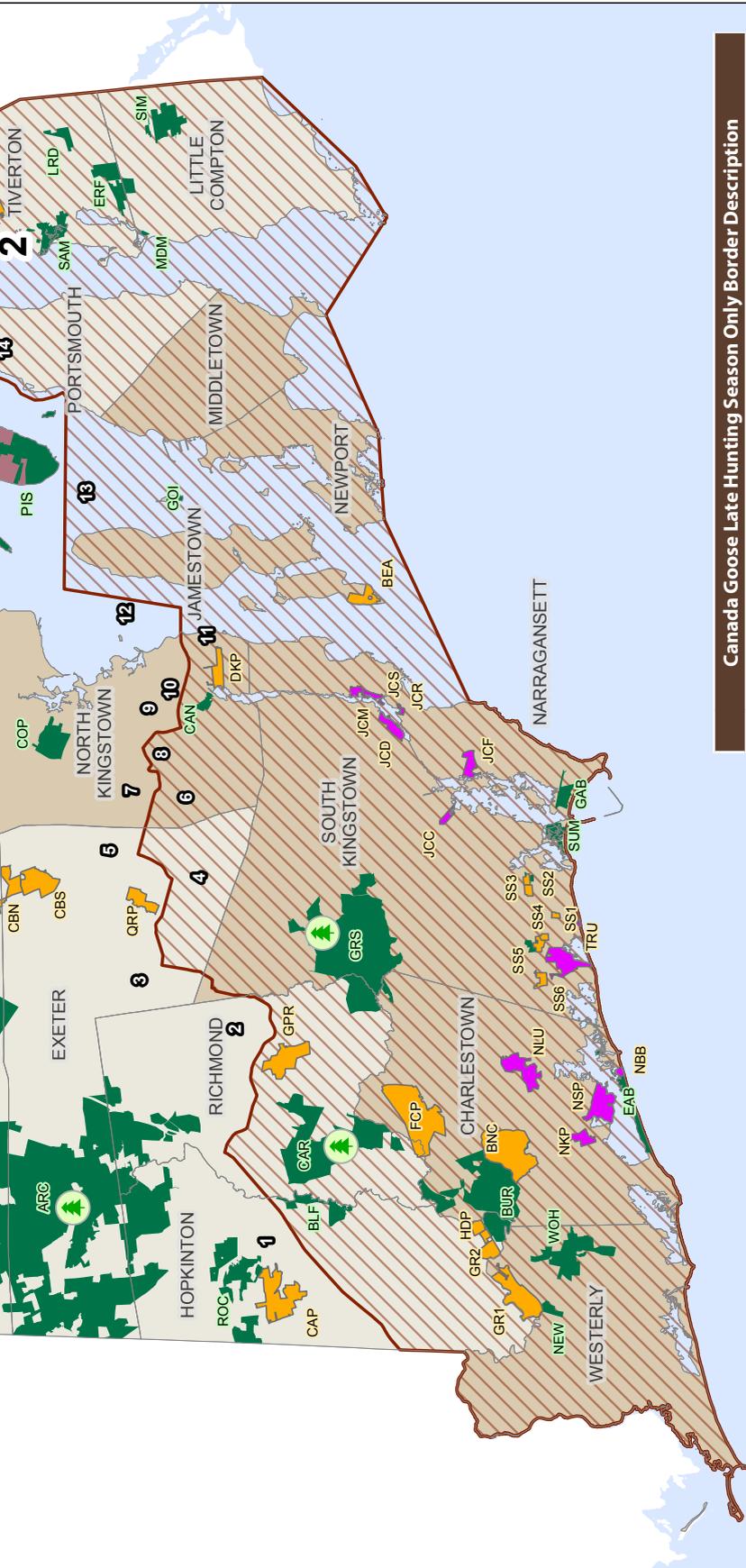
Did you know that in addition to hunter safety courses, the Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Hunter Education Office also offers a wide variety of free, virtual and in person, educational programming for hunters conservationists and wildlife enthusiasts?

These programs range in topics and include game-specific hunting seminars, workshops designed to improve hunting techniques, and skills, and even wild game cooking classes! In one of our most popular programs, Deer Hunting Workshop, participants learn the basic biology of the white-tailed deer, how to find and track game signs in an outdoor setting, where and when to set up before the hunt and the proper techniques, tips, and tricks in order to successfully harvest a deer.

All workshops provide a great opportunity for anyone wishing to gain new skills in the outdoors! Find our complete list of workshops and events listed below:

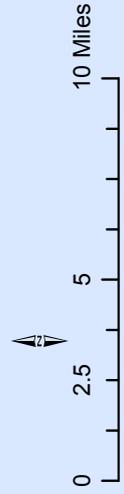
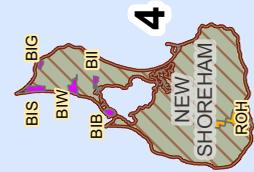
- Deer Hunting Workshop
 - Deer Processing Workshop
 - Firearms Familiarization Course*
 - Ground Blind Construction Hands on Workshop
 - Land Navigation Course*
 - Muzzleloader Beginners Course*
 - Practical Field Training
 - Small Game Mentored Hunt
 - Trapping Education Workshop
 - Tree Stand Safety Event
 - Turkey Hunting Workshop*
 - Waterfowl Hunting Workshop
 - Waterfowl ID Workshop
 - Wild Game Cooking Class
 - Wilderness First Aid*
 - Youth Turkey Hunting Event (with Matt Light Foundation)
- *offered virtually

For more information on upcoming programs, please visit <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife> or email Madison Proulx, Madison.proulx@dem.ri.gov.



Canada Goose Late Hunting Season Only Border Description

- 1 From Rt. 95 at the RI/CT Line, north to Exit 3, Rt.138 in Richmond.
- 2 East along Rt. 138 to Glen Rock Rd., Richmond.
- 3 North along Glen Rock Rd. to Mail Rd., Exeter.
- 4 East along Mail Rd. to Rt. 2/South County Trail, Exeter.
- 5 North along Rt. 2/South County Trail to Exeter Rd.
- 6 East along Exeter Rd. to the intersection of Indian Corner Rd.
- 7 East to the merger of Indian Corner Rd. and West Allenton Rd.
- 8 East to the intersection of West Allenton Rd. and Rt. 4.
- 9 South along Rt. 4 to the intersection of Rt. 4/Rt.1 (Tower Hill Rd.)
- 10 South along Rt. 1/Tower Hill Rd. to the intersection of Rt. 138.
- 11 East along Rt. 138 to the base of the Jamestown Bridge.
- 12 Extending north/northeast along the Washington/Newport county line.
- 13 Extending east, 1,000 feet north of the northerly most point of Jamestown to a point 1,000 feet offshore of the Melville Boat Launch, Portsmouth. (No hunting along the shoreline of mainland Portsmouth!)
- 14 North following a line 1,000 feet offshore of Portsmouth's western shoreline to the Mount Hope Bridge.
- 15 Extending east/northeast across Mt. Hope Bay from the bridge to the RI/MA border.



Public Lands AND HUNTING AREAS

Initials	Property Name	Town	Type	Acres	Deer	Deer Mng Zone	Turkey	Pheasant & Quail	Small Game	Migratory Birds	Waterfowl	Permit Required	Archery Proficiency Card Required	Notes
ARC	Arcadia	Hpktn, Extr, Rchmd, Wst Gnch	WMA	14,692	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓			1
BEA	Beavertail	Jamestown	SP	169	O	1	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	2
BIR	Big River	Wst Gnch, Cntry, Extr	WMA	8,373	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓			
BLF	Black Farm	Hopkinton	WMA	312	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			1
BLH	Black Hut	Burrillville	WMA	1,682	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓			
BIB	Block Island National Wildlife Refuge	Beane Point	New Shoreham	NWR	22	✓	4	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	3
BIG		Grove Point	New Shoreham	NWR	10	O	4	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	3
BIS		Sandy Point	New Shoreham	NWR	42	✓	4	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	3
BII		Skippers Island	New Shoreham	NWR	17	O	4	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	3
BIW	Wash Pond	New Shoreham	NWR	38	O	4	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	3
BUH	Buck Hill	Burrillville	WMA	2,245	✓	2	✓	◊	◊	✓	✓			
BUR	Burlingame	Hopkinton, Charlestown	WMA	1,779	✓	1,2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
BNC	Burlingame North Camp	Charlestown	SP	884	✓	1	✓	X	X	X	X			2
CAN	Camp Nokewa	North Kingstown	WMA	84	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
CAP	Canonochet Preserve TNC	Hopkinton	Co-op	642	O	2	X	X	X	X	X			
CAR	Carolina	Richmond	WMA	2,151	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓			
COP	Cocomcussoc Park	North Kingstown	SP	420	✓	1	✓	X	✓	X	X			
CBN	Cuttyhunk Brook Preserve,	North TNC	Exeter, West Greenwich	Co-op	361	✓	2	X	X	X	X			
CBS		South TNC	Exeter, West Greenwich	Co-op	428	O	2	X	X	X	X	X		
DKP	Dave King Preserve TNC	North Kingstown	Co-op	161	O	1	X	X	X	X	X			
DIH	Diamond Hill	Cumberland	PR	408	✓	1	X	X	✓	✓	X			
DUH	Durfee Hill	Glocester	WMA	2,011	✓	2	✓	◊*	✓	✓	✓			1
-	Dutch Island	Jamestown	WMA	102	Closed to All Hunting									10
EAB	East Beach	Charlestown	SP	214	O	1	X	X	✓	X	X			
ERF	Eight Rod Farm	Tiverton, Little Compton	WMA	419	✓	2	✓	◊*	✓	✓	✓			
FCP	Francis Carter Preserve TNC	Richmond, Charlestown	Co-op	1,089	O	1,2	X	X	X	X	X			
GAB	Galilee Bird Sanctuary	Narragansett	WMA	135	O	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
GEW	George Washington	Burrillville, Glocester	WMA	3,503	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
GOI	Gould Island	Jamestown	WMA	38	Temporarily Closed to All Access/Hunting due to Remediation									
GPR	Grass Pond Preserve TNC	Richmond	Co-op	417	✓	2	X	X	X	X	X			
GR5	Great Swamp	Richmond, S. Kingston	WMA	3,615	✓	1,2	✓	◊*	✓	✓	✓			
GR1	Grills Preserve I	Westerly	Co-op	514	#	1	✓	X	X	X	X			
GR2	Grills Preserve II	Hopkinton	Co-op	163	#	2	✓	X	X	X	X			
-	Hillsdale	Richmond	WMA	1,825	Closed to All Hunting									
HOI	Hope Island	Portsmouth	WMA	72	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
HDP	How Davey Preserve TNC	Hopkinton	Co-op	71	#	2	X	X	X	X	X			
JLC	J. L. Curran	Cranston	SP	178	@	1	X	X	X	✓	X			2,4
JCC	John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge	Congdon Cove	South Kingstown	NWR	50	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓	✓	3
JCF		Foddering Farm	Narragansett	NWR	130	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓	✓	3
JCM		Middlebride	Narragansett	NWR	100	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓	✓	3
JCS		Sedge Island	Narragansett	NWR	6	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	3
JCR		Starr Drive	Narragansett	NWR	31	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓	✓	3
JCD		Stedman	South Kingstown	NWR	134	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓	✓	3
KIP	Killingly Pond	Foster, Glocester	WMA	767	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
LRD	Lake Road Hunting Area	Tiverton	WMA	120	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MDM	Mary Donovan Marsh	Little Compton	WMA	15	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
NEW	Newton Swamp	Westerly	WMA	84	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
NIF	Nicholas Farm	Coventry	WMA	1,597	✓	2	✓	◊	✓	✓	✓			1
NBB	Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge	Barrier Beach Unit	Charlestown	NWR	32	✓	1	✓	X	✓	X	✓		3
NKP		Kettle Pond Unit	Charlestown	NWR	114	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓		3
NLU		Lewis Unit	Charlestown	NWR	332	✓	1	✓	X	✓	X	✓		3
NSP		Salt Pond Unit	Charlestown	NWR	348	O	1	O, Fall	X	O	X	✓		3
NWC	North West Coop	Glocester	Co-op	831	✓	2	✓	◊*	✓	✓	✓			1,2
OHA	One Hundred Acre Cove	Barrington	WMA	47	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			2
PAI	Patience Island	Portsmouth	WMA	203	O	3	X	X	O	X	X	✓		2,9,5

Initials	Property Name	Town	Type	Acres	Deer	Deer Mng Zone	Turkey	Pheasant & Quail	Small Game	Migratory Birds	Waterfowl	Permit Required	Archery Proficiency Card Required	Notes	
PRA	Pocasset Ridge Conservation Area TNC	Tiverton	Co-op	488	O	2	X	X	X	X	X			2,9,5	
PRC	Ponagansett River Corridor	Foster, Gloucester	WMA	486	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
PWA	Providence Water Supply	Ashland	Scituate	Co-op	942	✓	2	X	X	X	X			6	
PWB		Betty Pond	Scituate	Co-op	173	✓	2	X	X	X	X			6	
PWC		Cork Brook	Scituate	Co-op	346	✓	2	X	X	X	X			6	
PWJ		Joslin Farm	Scituate	Co-op	1,188	✓	2	X	X	X	X			6	
PWP		Peepetoad	Scituate	Co-op	186	✓	2	X	X	X	X			6	
PWQ		Quonopaug	Scituate	Co-op	457	✓	2	X	X	X	X			6	
PWR		Riverview	Scituate	Co-op	731	✓	2	X	X	X	X			6	
PWS		Swamp Brook	Scituate, Foster	Co-op	482	✓	2	X	X	X	X			6	
PWT		Trimtown	Scituate	Co-op	985	✓	2	X	X	X	X			6	
PWH		Tunk Hill	Scituate	Co-op	1,065	✓	2	X	X	X	X			6	
PWM		Waterman	Scituate	Co-op	412	✓	2	X	X	X	X			6	
PWW		Westconnaug	Scituate, Foster	Co-op	678	✓	2	X	X	X	X			6	
PIN		Prudence Island	North	Portsmouth	WMA	688	O	3	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	2,9,5
PIS			South	Portsmouth	WMA	740	O	3	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	2,9,5
QRP	Queens River Preserve TNC	Exeter	Co-op	187	O	2	X	X	X	X	X				
ROC	Rockville	Hopkinton	WMA	998	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
ROH	Rodman Hollow	New Shoreham	WMA	119	✓	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		2	
ROT	Round Top	Burrillville	WMA	182	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
-	Sachuest	Middletown	NWR	242			Closed to All Hunting								
SAM	Sapowet Marsh	Tiverton	WMA	322	O	2	✓	◇	✓	✓	✓			7	
SIM	Simmons Mill	Little Compton	WMA	433	✓	2	✓	◇	✓	✓	✓			8	
SND	Snake Den	Johnston	SP	480	O	1	X	X	X	X	X				
SS1	South Shore Wildlife Management Area	Field # 1	South Kingstown	USFWS	21	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	2	
SS2		Field # 2	South Kingstown	Co-op	40	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	2	
SS3		Field # 3	South Kingstown	WMA	29	O	1	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	2	
SS4		Field # 4	South Kingstown	WMA	25	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	2	
SS5		Field # 5	South Kingstown	WMA	54	#	1	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	2	
SS6		Field # 6	South Kingstown	WMA	64	✓	1	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	2	
SUM	Succotash Marsh	South Kingstown	WMA	162	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
TIL	Tillinghast	West Greenwich	WMA	1,566	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
TOP	Town Pond	Portsmouth	WMA	54	X	2	X	X	✓	X	✓				
TRU	Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge	South Kingstown	NWR	358	O	1	X	X	O	X	X	✓	✓	3	
WAG	Washington Grove	Smithfield	SP	86	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
WIC	Wickaboxet	West Greenwich	WMA	669	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
WOH	Woody Hill	Westerly	WMA	735	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				

Legend	
✓	All legal methods for that species as defined in regulations/required
O	Archery Only
#	Archery or Muzzleloader
@	Archery or Shotgun
◇	Pheasants stocked
◇*	Youth pheasant hunt (registration required)
X	Closed to hunting/not applicable
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
Small Game	rabbit, squirrel, coyote, raccoon and fox
Migratory Birds	doves, crows, woodcock, snipe and rails (not waterfowl)
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
NWR	United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge
PR	Public Reservation
Co-op	Cooperative hunting property
SP	State Park

Notes	
1	Dog training area and field trials by permit.
2	See regulations for additional information.
3	See USFWS brochure for additional regulations. www.fws.gov/refuge/Ninigret/visit/visitor_activities.html
4	Closed to dove hunting.
5	Special Deer Season for Disabled Hunters. Taking of deer is limited to paraplegic and double amputee hunters.
6	Permit through Providence Water Supply.
7	Old Main Road Babot Unit safety zones and private land off Sapowet Avenue closed to hunting.
8	Waterfowl hunters must have (a) waterfowl decoys; (b) retrieving breed of hunting dog and/or a motorless boat/canoe.
9	Paraplegics may use shotguns.
10	Closed to the public.

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. 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 (401) 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 special use permit available from the Division of Forest Environment, (401) 539-2356.
- Sapowet Marsh Management Area is open to deer hunting using archery equipment only.

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 open January 1 - 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 Portsmouth 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 November 1 - 30, except on North Prudence, where the small game season is January 1 - 31, 2022; North Prudence is located north of the State gate, at the northern terminus of Neck Farm Road. Raccoon open hunting season for Prudence Island is the first day of January through the last day of February with written permission of the 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. The special deer season for disabled hunters is limited to paraplegic and double amputee deer hunters by special permit only. Permits are available at the RI DEM Office of Boat Registration and Licensing (401-222-3576).

Other Restrictions

Dutch Island: Closed to hunting and all other access.

East and West Island: No trespassing April 1 - August 15, for nesting birds.

Dyer Island and Hope Island: No trespassing April 1 - August 15, for nesting birds. All domestic animals prohibited except hunting dogs during small game, migratory upland game bird and waterfowl seasons.

Gould Island: No trespassing April 1 - August 15, for nesting birds and temporarily closed to all access and hunting due to remediation.

Patience Island: Closed to small game and upland game bird hunting, except for coyote. All domestic animals prohibited except hunting dogs during the waterfowl season.

Undeveloped State Parks and Other Public Reservations

Hunting is permitted in the following:

- Galilee Bird Sanctuary is open to hunting. Deer hunting is limited to archery equipment only.
- Cocumcussoc and Washington Grove
- Burlingame State Park North Camp is open to deer and turkey hunting only
- Snake Den is open to archery deer hunting only.
- Ninigret 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, 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 State Lands 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.

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State Land Spotlight: CAROLINA WMA

By John Veale, Habitat Biologist, RI DEM



The young shorthair was onto something. She zigged and zagged through the tall switchgrass; her form barely perceptible between the tufts – just an excited blur of mottled gray fur. As she cleared a thick tuft of grass into a mowed path, she skidded to a stop, her body frozen in an awkward looking “U.” Still learning, she almost passed right by the bird, but she hadn’t missed it. Her tail, the only white patch on her, once wagging rapidly as she searched was now stock still, the rest of her body trembling on point. Seconds later, a cock pheasant sprung into the air, crowing as it caught the brisk wind and sailed off...laughing as both barrels of the 28 failed to hit their mark...

That scene unfolded in Carolina Management Area, located in the town of Richmond. Encompassing over 2300 acres of land stretch-

ing between Alton Carolina Rd (Rt 91) in the South, to Kenyon Hill Trail to the North, it offers excellent hunting and fishing opportunities, plus miles of hiking trails. Species open for hunting in this Management Area include deer (firearm and archery), turkeys, small game, pheasants and waterfowl. Hunting opportunities run from September with the opening of dove season through the end of February each year when small game closes and includes spring turkey. Pheasants are stocked in fields accessible from the parking area at the check station on Pine Hill Rd and the large fields between Rt 112 and Kenyon Hill Trail accessible from parking areas on either road. If you’re looking for fishing opportunities, trout are stocked annually in the Carolina Trout Pond off Kenyon Hill Trail, as well as in Meadowbrook Pond off

Rt 91 which also holds bass and sunfish.

Hiking trails accessible from several parking areas on Switch Rd, Pine Hill Rd and Route 91 provide enjoyment of the property throughout the year, leading through varied habitats and including portions of the famed North South Trail. Much of the property is comprised of upland forests with mixed red or white oak, beech, maple and white pine. Pitch pine communities with blueberry understory are scattered throughout as well. To the west, accessible from Switch Rd, you can walk along the edge of Diamond Bog, giving you the opportunity to view a unique habitat type dominated by cedars and leatherleaf, along with the equally unique wildlife that call it home. If you prefer to walk in more open fields, parking areas off Rt 91 provide access to trails surrounding agricultural fields and along the banks of Meadowbrook pond. Bring a rod along during trout season and try your luck. During the summer months, the pheasant fields between 112 and Kenyon Hill Trail are an excellent place to look for grassland nesting birds and pollinators amongst the switchgrass and mullein. This is a good place to see turtles sunning themselves along the pond edges or digging a nest into the sandy banks too.

Whether it’s chasing turkeys in spring, trout in summer, pheasants in fall, deer in winter, or hiking year-round; there’s always something to explore at Carolina Management Area.

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- In Vermont, notify Dig Safe® at least 48 hours in advance.*
- Notify non-member facility owners.
- Maintain the marks placed by underground facility owners.
- Use caution and dig by hand when working within 18" of a marked facility.
- If a line is damaged, do not backfill. Notify the affected utility company immediately if the facility, its protective coating, or a tracer wire is damaged.
- Call 911 if damage to pipeline results in a gas release.
- Know your state's excavation requirements.
- Go to digsafe.com for educational material and current laws.

* NOT INCLUDING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS.



Migratory Bird HUNTING

Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits

Season	Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Restrictions
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days*	October 30 - 31	Same as regular season, listed below	Open to youth hunters age 12-15 accompanied by a licensed adult 21 years of age or older; may take ducks, sea ducks, and geese
Canada Goose Early Season	September 1 - 30	15	Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for September season only
Canada Goose Regular Season	November 20 - 28 and December 4 - January 23, 2022	2	Special permits are required for the South Shore Management Area and may be obtained through the online licensing system or the DFW. Field reservations are required. See page 27 for more information.
Canada Goose Late Season	January 29 - February 12, 2022	5	Limited to Providence, Bristol and Kent counties and portions of Washington County as described in RIHR §9.11(B)(3)(d). A map depicting the area open to hunting is available on the Department of Environmental Management's website.
Snow Goose (Including Blue Goose)	October 9 - January 23, 2022	25	No possession limit
Brant	December 5 - January 23, 2022	2	-
Sea Ducks**	November 25 - January 23, 2022	5	The daily bag limit is 5, in aggregate, but not to exceed 4 Scoter, 4 Eider (1 hen), or 4 Long-tailed Ducks.
Ducks	October 8 - 11, November 24 - 28, December 4 - January 23, 2022	6	The daily bag limit shall contain no more than: Mallard 2 (1 hen) Black Duck 2 Canvasback 2 Pintail 1 Redhead 2 Wood Duck 3 Scaup see below Other Duck Species 6
Scaup	October 8 - 11, November 24 - 28, December 4 - January 3, 2022 January 4 - 23, 2022	1 2	The daily bag limit of scaup is part of the duck daily bag limit of 6
Coots	Same As Ducks	15	-
Mergansers	Same As Ducks	5	The daily bag limit shall contain no more than 2 hooded merganser
Swans	No Season	-	-
Harlequin Duck	Closed		Caution: 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.

The possession limit shall contain no more than three (3) times the daily bag limit listed above.

* See page 8 for more information on Youth and Disabled Hunter Opportunities.

** Except for the periods November 25 - 28, 2021 and December 4, 2021 - January 23, 2022, sea ducks 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 25 - 28, 2021 and December 4, 2021 - January 23, 2022 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 October 8 - 11 and November 24, 2021.

Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits

Season	Dates	Bag Limits
Crow	August 13 - October 3 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only) October 16 - December 6 (inclusive) December 17 - April 2, 2022 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only)	Unlimited
King/Clapper Rail	September 1 - November 9	1
Sora/Virginia Rail	September 1 - November 9	3
Snipe	September 1 - November 9	5
Mourning Dove	September 11 - October 10 October 16 - November 28 December 11 - 26	15
Woodcock	October 16 - November 29	3

The possession limit shall contain no more than three (3) times the daily bag limit listed above.

2021-22 Waterfowl Highlights:

1. Scaup remains split into two seasons.
2. The eider daily bag limit remains 4 birds but only one may be a hen.
3. Pintail daily bag limit remains one (1) bird per day.
4. Permit and reservations are required to hunt geese at the South Shore Management Area during the regular season. Permits will be issued online and at the DFW Great Swamp Field office (see page 27 for details).
5. All migratory bird hunters must possess a Rhode Island Harvest Information Program (HIP) Permit, available through the online licensing system.
6. All waterfowl hunters sixteen (16) years of age and older must possess a RI State Waterfowl Stamp and Federal Duck Stamp.
7. Discharge of a firearm within five hundred (500) feet of an occupied dwelling is prohibited.
8. 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.
9. All regulations pertaining to migratory bird hunting also pertain to falconry hunting (special permit required, contact the DFW for more details).
10. Non-toxic shot is required per Federal regulation for all dove, duck and goose hunting in Field 1 at South Shore Management Area.

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp

The law requires that each waterfowl hunter sixteen (16) years of age and over must carry on his or her person a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp ("Federal Duck Stamp") signed in ink across the face. Waterfowl hunters must also possess a RI State Waterfowl Stamp, signed in ink across the face, or a State Waterfowl Stamp Certification obtained through the web-based online licensing system <https://www.ri.gov/DEM/huntfish>. Those wishing to obtain a RI waterfowl stamp (\$8.00) may do so at the Division of Fish and Wildlife,

Great Swamp Field Headquarters: 277 Great Neck Rd, West Kingston, RI 02892, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A limited number of "hunter" edition stamps will be printed and available for purchase.

Harvest Information Permit - HIP

All migratory bird hunters are required by Federal Law to obtain a RI Harvest Information Program (HIP) Permit, obtainable through the online licensing system at www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish, and at hunting license vendors, DEM headquarters in Providence, and participating town clerks statewide.

For more information, call 401-789-0281 or email dem.dfw@dem.ri.gov. A HIP certification must be included on your license document to hunt migratory birds.

About The Artist

Brydie Handfield has had a passion for art her whole life. She attempts to capture the true beauty and positive reflections of the world around her. Ever since she was a little girl, she has had a love for animals and nature. Her dedication to practicing with different mediums and creating her own techniques has evolved in an unforeseen spectacle of art. As an aspiring artist, Brydie's goal is to excel into a career where she can continue to improve and develop her skills. She is currently studying digital graphics and animation. The outcome of this competition has really opened her eyes to the actual talent that she has, bringing her one step closer to the future she sees for herself. Brydie is too modest to admit her art is great which is what makes it stand out; the "it could be better" attitude has always helped her push herself harder with her creativity.



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.

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 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.

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 2021 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 2021-2022 stamp to your collection

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

- Purchase federal and RI waterfowl stamps
- Join and participate in private conservation organizations
- Educate and train youth hunters and introduce them to waterfowling
- Learn to identify ducks and proper shooting distances to eliminate skybusting (shooting too soon and preventing birds from decoying) and crippling losses.

Migratory Bird HUNTING

- 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.
- Dual Violation: Violation of state migratory bird regulations is also a violation of Federal regulations.

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 southern 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 Audubon Society of RI's Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge, and as posted by Audubon Society of RI 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 on the river east of Puritan Avenue (41.745873° N, -71.309876° W) and west of the point southwest of Seabrook Court (41.744189° N, -71.306622° W). Hunting shall be restricted to the water areas below the vegetation line. 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 from the shoreline or from a watercraft within five hundred (500) feet of occupied buildings (RIGL 20-13-7).

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 shooting or 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.

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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.

Hunting On National Wildlife Refuges

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.

Proper Harvest Care

Most wild animals in Rhode Island are healthy. However, diseases and viruses can be present with any wildlife species as well as associated parasites (e.g., ticks). Some wildlife diseases

can be transmitted to humans, pets, domestic and other wild animals. The DFW monitors for diseases in multiple species, such as Chronic Wasting Disease and Epizootic Hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in deer, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease 2 (RHDV2) and Tularemia in rabbits, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in waterfowl and a variety of other diseases in game and non-game animals.

If you do harvest an animal that is or seems sick, contact DFW (401-789-0281 or dem.dfw@dem.ri.gov). The DFW strongly advises hunters to adhere to the following procedures when handling harvested game:

- 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

"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.

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 domestic animals or pets.
- Double bag carcass parts, tying both bags shut.
- Place bags in a container that children, domestic animals, and wildlife cannot access.
- Tick-borne diseases pose a hazard to both hunters and their dogs. Use tick repellents and always conduct tick checks after returning from the field.

Attention Migratory Bird Hunters

Reminder: Report ALL bird bands ONLINE!

www.reportband.gov

Since June 2017, band reports are no longer taken over the phone via the 1-800 number.

Band reports may also be mailed to: USGS Bird Banding Lab
12100 Beach Forest Rd, Laurel, MD 20708



Your band reports are important for migratory bird conservation!

Online Mapping

MAPS YOU CAN USE AT HOME AND ON YOUR SMART PHONE TO HELP YOU ENJOY OUR STATE LANDS!

By Paul Jordan, GIS Data Analyst II RIDEM

Looking for a new place to hunt or fish? Want to know where the closest check station is, or which Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are being stocked with pheasants? You can find all that and more in Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (RIDEM)

Outdoor Recreation Atlas (<https://bit.ly/3emoIoY>). Our newest interactive map leverages nearly 30 years of GIS (geographic information system) data collection throughout the state on properties owned or managed mainly by RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife for outdoor

activities like hunting and fishing. The map includes boundaries to all WMAs and State Parks (developed and undeveloped), hiking trails, bikeways, boat ramps, check stations and much more. All this information can be viewed easily from a desktop or mobile device (Figure 1).

Here are some quick tips for hunters:

- To see where you are in relation to property boundaries, use a mobile device (with location enabled) to zoom to your approximate location by clicking "my location." This will zoom to your approximate location and can assure you that you remain on state property and prevent you from trespassing or deer hunting on private property without permission.
- To be sure you are the sufficient distance from dwellings while hunting use the measurement tool (small ruler toward the bottom of the page). Click the measurement tool, then in the pop-up window select the middle option (line distance) and set your units, default is in "feet (US)." Select your starting point (ie., an occupied dwelling) by clicking it one time, then double-click on the place you planned on hunting. If you want to restart your line, just click "Clear."
- To determine contact information for license vendors, open Layer List (looks like a stack of papers). Click the drop down arrow on the side of "DEM_Outdoor_Recreation" to show more options and select the box to turn on the "Fishing/Hunting - License Vendor" layer. Click on any vendor location (red star) for the name, address and phone number.
- If you are trying to determine what deer management zone you or your hunting location is in, use the "Hunting - Deer Management Zone" layer.
- Use the "Hunting - Late Season Goose" layer to make sure your are not goose hunting in a closed area during the late Canada goose season.

If you have questions, comments or concerns please feel free to contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401)-789-0281 or email Paul Jordan at paul.jordan@dem.ri.gov.

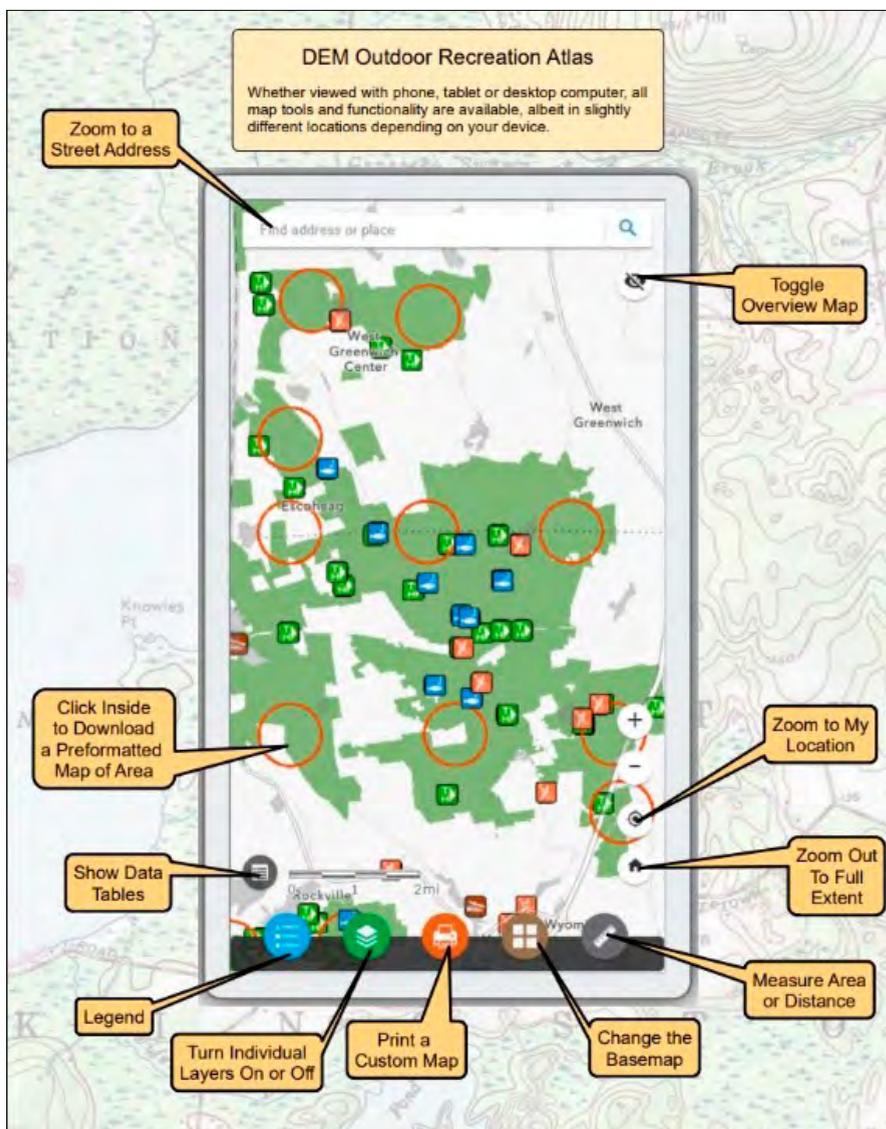


Figure 1

South Shore Management Area Goose Hunting Cooperative

Permits

- Required for all goose hunters during the regular Canada goose season (November 20 - 28, and December 4 - January 23, 2022).
- Must be obtained from the online licensing system at www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish or from the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Great Swamp Field Headquarters, 277 Great Neck Rd., West Kingston.
- License document with SSMA permit certification 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 (November 20 - 28, and December 4 - January 23, 2022).

Additional SSMA Goose Hunting Regulations

- See information packet provided with the goose hunting permit or online (<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/waterfowlab-ssma.pdf>) for additional rules and regulations for goose hunting in the SSMA.
- SSMA is CLOSED during the late goose season: January 29 - February 12, 2022.

Harvest Reporting

- All regular season Canada goose hunters are required to report their harvest through the online licensing system. Those without internet access may submit their written log to the Division of Fish and Wildlife 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 2022-23 season.

Additional Hunting Restrictions at SSMA

Dove hunting is allowed in fields 1, 3, 5 and 6 except during the regular goose 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 game 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, 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.

Turkey hunting is allowed in the wooded portions of Fields 3, 5, and 6 during the spring and fall turkey seasons.

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.

Non-toxic shot is required per Federal regulation for all dove, duck (including coot and merganser), and goose hunting in Field 1 at South Shore Management Area.

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 RI Hunting Regulations or call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (401) 789-0281.



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Small Game HUNTING

Small Game Hunting

Species	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
Coyote - State Land	September 15 - February 28, 2022 April 28 - May 22, 2022	unlimited
Coyote - Private Land	No closed season	unlimited
Raccoon	October 1 - February 28, 2022	unlimited
Youth Pheasant*	October 9 - 10	2
Pheasant	October 16 - February 28, 2022	2
Cottontail Rabbit	October 16 - February 28, 2022	3
Gray and Red Squirrel	October 16 - February 28, 2022	5, singly or in aggregate
Bobwhite Quail	October 16 - February 28, 2022	3
Red, Gray Fox	October 16 - February 28, 2022	unlimited
Ruffed Grouse	CLOSED	

* See page 8 for more information on Youth Hunt Opportunities

Pheasant and Quail Hunting

A Gamebird Permit is Required to hunt ring-neck pheasant and bobwhite quail. The daily limit for pheasant is two (2) either sex birds and the daily bag limit for quail is three (3). Pheasants are stocked prior to opening day, then twice weekly, at most locations, until December. Birds are stocked once per week through 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 Marsh, Simmons Mill Pond and Eight Rod Farm.



Block Island Pheasant Hunting

Pheasant hunting is open on Block Island, with written landowner permission, on November 17 and 24, December 8 and 22 and January 5 and 19, 2022. Only male pheasants (roosters) may be taken from Block Island with a daily bag limit of 2 per day.

Additional Regulations

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 game 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.

Archery 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.

Air Rifles

Air 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.

Reptiles & Amphibians

A current Rhode Island Hunting, Fishing, or Trapping License is required to take green frogs, bullfrogs and snapping turtles. The possession, removal from the wild, or killing, for any purpose, of any other native reptile or amphibian (including their nests and eggs) is prohibited except by special permit (RIHR 9.15.B).

The snapping turtle season is closed May 15 - July 15. The season bag limit is six (6) turtles, and at any time shall be limited to turtles with a minimum carapace length of thirteen (13) inches. Take is allowed by turtle trap, hand, hand-held dip net, snagging, and bow and arrow. Traps must include a tag with name and address of trapper and be set in a manner that allows all turtles within access to the surface to breathe air (RIHR 9.15.C). Take for the purpose of sale or any other purpose other than personal consumption is prohibited.

The green frog and bullfrog season is closed June 1 - July 31. The daily bag limit is 20 frogs (both species combined). Take is allowed by hand, hand-held dip net, spearing, hook and line, and bow and arrow.

Coyote Hunting

Coyotes season on state lands is from September 15 until the last day in February, and during the open spring turkey hunting season, April 28 - May 22, 2022. The hunting season for coyotes on Prudence Island on state land during archery deer season with a valid archery permit, during the small game season on private land, November 1 - 30 and on North Prudence during the small game season, January 1 - 31, 2022. There is no closed season for coyote hunting on private lands. 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 is allowed on private property for the purposes of hunting coyotes but is prohibited on state lands.

Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset. Legal methods of take for coyote hunting include shotgun (no lead shot larger than No. 2), bow and arrow and crossbow; however, on private lands from April 1 to September 30 (both dates inclusive), centerfire rifles not larger than .229 caliber may be used (RIGL 20-13-13) and by any means allowed during any concurrent hunting season. When coyote hunting during deer season, the hunter must be in possession of a valid deer permit.

The bag limit for coyote is unlimited and electronic calls may be used.

Trapping

Species	Dates	Season Bag Limit	Pelt Tagging
Mink, Muskrat, Skunk, Raccoon, Opossum, Weasel, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Rabbit	November 1 - January 31, 2022	none	no
Coyote- Private	no closed season	none	no
Coyote- State Land	November 1 - January 31, 2022		
Beaver- Private*	November 1 - March 14, 2022	20	yes
Beaver- State Land*	December 1 - February 28, 2022		
Fisher*	December 1 - 24	2	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 or email DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov

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). All season restrictions, bag limits, tagging requirements, and other trapping laws and regulations apply.
- Every holder of a trapping license shall make a report of the number and species of all furbearing animals taken by him or her on forms provided by the Department within thirty (30) days of the end of the trapping season and before the expiration of the holder's license. No renewal of a trapping license shall be granted unless the report has been made (RIGL 20-16-12).
- Traps may not be set, staked, or placed prior to sunrise on opening day.
- All traps must be labeled with the trapper's current RI trapping license number attached by a metal tag or embedded or cut into the trap (RIGL 20-16-7).
- 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 20-16-9).
- There is no open season on bobcat or river otter.

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 six and one half (6.5) inch 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 six and one half (6.5) inch but not exceeding eight (8) inch 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 eight (8) inch but not exceeding ten (10) inch jaw spread ("330") may only be set completely submerged in water.

State land: Body-grip traps up to six and one half (6.5) inch 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 six and one half (6.5) inches but not exceeding ten (10) inches ("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 first obtain a Permit to Trap State Lands (no fee), issued by the Division of Fish & Wildlife by calling 401-789-0281 or by emailing DEM.DFW@dem.ri.gov, in addition to their current R.I. Trapping License, obtained through the online licensing system: www.ri.gov/dem/huntfish.

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 20-16-11).
- 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 R.I. 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.





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You can go online or visit vendors across the state to purchase hunting and fishing licenses and permits. You will also use this system to report your deer and turkey harvests in the field using your mobile smart phone or from the convenience of your home

DEM.ri.gov/huntfish is your entry point to help plan your next adventure and make the most of Rhode Island's great outdoors. There you can find maps of hunting areas and fishing access points, answers to frequently asked questions, and more!

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Photo: D. Roeben



Photo: C. Marsh



Photo: @desmos_photos

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 10 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Archery (includes Crossbow)	September 11 - 12 (Youth only, Zone 1) September 25 - 26 (Youth only, Zone 2) September 15 - January 31, 2022 (Zone 1) October 1 - January 31, 2022 (Zone 2)
Archery: Patience and Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 30 - 31 (Youth only) November 1 - January 31, 2022
Archery: Block Island (Zone 4)	October 12-15, 18-22, 25-29
Muzzleloader	October 30 - 31 (Youth only Zones 1, 2) November 6 - 28 (Zones 1, 2) December 26 - January 2, 2022 (Zones 1, 2 Private land only, antlerless deer only)
Shotgun	December 4 - 19 (Zone 1) December 4 - 12 (Zone 2) December 26 - January 2, 2022 (Zones 1, 2 - Private land only, antlerless deer only)
Archery, Muzzleloader & Shotgun: Block Island (Zone 4)	November 1-5, 8-10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 29, 30, 2021, December 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13-17, 20-23, January 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 24-28, 31, 2022, February 1-4, 7-11, 14-18, 2022
Special Season for Disabled Hunters: Patience and Prudence Islands (Zone 3)	October 26 - 29

Migratory Gamebird Hunting* (page 22 for bag/possession limit information)

Season	Dates
Crow	August 13 - October 3 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only), October 16 - December 6, December 17 - April 2, 2022 (Fri, Sat, Sun Only)
King/Clapper Rail and Sora/Virginia Rail	September 1 - November 9
Snipe	September 1 - November 9
Mourning Dove	September 11 - October 10, October 16 - November 28, December 11 - 26
Woodcock	October 16 - November 29
Canada Goose (Early Season)	September 1 - 30
Canada Goose (Regular Season)	November 20 - 28, December 4 - January 23, 2022
Canada Goose (Late Season)	January 29 - February 12, 2022
Snow Goose (including blue goose)	October 9 - January 23, 2022
Ducks, Mergansers and Coots**	October 8 - 11, November 24 - 28, December 4 - January 23, 2022
Sea Ducks	November 25 - January 23, 2022
Brant	December 5 - January 23, 2022
Youth Waterfowl	October 30 - 31

Wild Turkey Hunting (see page 13 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Fall Archery	October 1 - 31
Youth	April 18 - 24, 2022
Paraplegic	April 23 - 24, 2022
Spring	April 28 - May 22, 2022

Small Game Hunting (see page 28 for bag/season limit information)

Season	Dates
Coyote - State Land	September 15 - February 28, 2022 April 28 - May 22, 2022
Coyote - Private Land	No Closed Season
Raccoon	October 16 - February 28, 2022
Youth Pheasant	October 9 - 10
Pheasant	October 16 - February 28, 2022
Cottontail Rabbit	October 16 - February 28, 2022
Gray and Red Squirrel	October 16 - February 28, 2022
Bobwhite Quail	October 16 - February 28, 2022
Red, Gray Fox	October 16 - February 28, 2022
Ruffed Grouse	CLOSED

*Season dates are subject to regulatory changes occurring at the time of printing. Please refer to the complete Hunting and Trapping Regulations for the 2021-2022 season.

**See new scaup regulations on page 22.

Tear here for an in the field handy season guide!

Shooting Hours & SUNRISE/SUNSET

Legal Shooting Hours

Season	Hours
Small Game	Sunrise until Sunset (7:00 AM on opening day)
Deer Hunting	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset
Coyote	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset
Raccoon	6:00 PM October 1 until 11:59 PM of the last day of February
Waterfowl	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
Canada Goose, September season only	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after Sunset
Spring Turkey	½ hour before Sunrise until 1:00PM
Fall Turkey	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
Dove (1st segment)	Noon until Sunset
Dove (2nd and 3rd segment)	Sunrise until Sunset
Woodcock, Snipe & Rails	½ hour before Sunrise until Sunset
Crow	½ hour before Sunrise until ½ hour after 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
01	6:12	7:19	6:43	6:27	7:18	5:40	6:54	4:16	7:13	4:26	6:58	5:01	6:20	5:36	6:28	7:11	5:42	7:44
02	6:13	7:17	6:44	6:25	7:19	5:38	6:55	4:15	7:13	4:26	6:57	5:02	6:19	5:37	6:27	7:12	5:41	7:45
03	6:14	7:15	6:45	6:23	7:21	5:37	6:56	4:15	7:13	4:27	6:56	5:04	6:17	5:38	6:25	7:13	5:39	7:46
04	6:15	7:14	6:46	6:22	7:22	5:36	6:57	4:15	7:13	4:28	6:55	5:05	6:16	5:40	6:23	7:14	5:38	7:47
05	6:16	7:12	6:47	6:20	7:23	5:35	6:58	4:15	7:13	4:29	6:54	5:06	6:14	5:41	6:22	7:16	5:37	7:19
06	6:17	7:10	6:48	6:18	7:24	5:34	6:59	4:15	7:13	4:30	6:53	5:07	6:12	5:42	6:20	7:17	5:36	7:50
07	6:18	7:08	6:49	6:17	6:26	4:32	7:00	4:15	7:13	4:31	6:51	5:09	6:11	5:43	6:18	7:18	5:34	7:51
08	6:19	7:07	6:50	6:15	6:27	4:31	7:01	4:15	7:13	4:32	6:50	5:10	6:09	5:44	6:17	7:19	5:33	7:52
09	6:20	7:05	6:51	6:13	6:28	4:30	7:02	4:15	7:13	4:33	6:49	5:11	6:07	5:45	6:15	7:20	5:32	7:53
10	6:21	7:03	6:53	6:12	6:29	4:29	7:02	4:15	7:12	4:34	6:48	5:13	6:06	5:47	6:13	7:21	5:31	7:54
11	6:22	7:02	6:54	6:10	6:31	4:28	7:03	4:15	7:12	4:35	6:46	5:14	6:04	5:48	6:12	7:22	5:30	7:55
12	6:23	7:00	6:55	6:09	6:32	4:27	7:04	4:15	7:12	4:36	6:45	5:15	6:02	5:49	6:10	7:23	5:29	7:56
13	6:24	6:58	6:56	6:07	6:33	4:26	7:05	4:15	7:11	4:38	6:44	5:16	7:01	6:50	6:09	7:24	5:28	7:57
14	6:25	6:56	6:57	6:05	6:34	4:26	7:06	4:15	7:11	4:39	6:43	5:18	6:59	6:51	6:07	7:25	5:27	7:58
15	6:26	6:55	6:58	6:04	6:35	4:25	7:06	4:16	7:11	4:40	6:41	5:19	6:57	6:52	6:05	7:27	5:26	7:59
16	6:27	6:53	6:59	6:02	6:37	4:24	7:07	4:16	7:10	4:41	6:40	5:20	6:56	6:53	6:04	7:28	5:25	8:00
17	6:28	6:51	7:00	6:01	6:38	4:23	7:08	4:16	7:10	4:42	6:38	5:21	6:54	6:54	6:02	7:29	5:24	8:01
18	6:29	6:49	7:02	5:59	6:39	4:22	7:08	4:17	7:09	4:43	6:37	5:23	6:52	6:56	6:01	7:30	5:23	8:02
19	6:30	6:48	7:03	5:58	6:40	4:22	7:09	4:17	7:09	4:45	6:36	5:24	6:51	6:57	5:59	7:31	5:22	8:03
20	6:31	6:46	7:04	5:56	6:41	4:21	7:09	4:17	7:08	4:46	6:34	5:25	6:49	6:58	5:58	7:32	5:21	8:04
21	6:32	6:44	7:05	5:55	6:43	4:20	7:10	4:18	7:07	4:47	6:33	5:26	6:47	6:59	5:56	7:33	5:20	8:05
22	6:33	6:42	7:06	5:53	6:44	4:20	7:10	4:18	7:07	4:48	6:31	5:28	6:45	7:00	5:55	7:34	5:19	8:06
23	6:34	6:41	7:07	5:52	6:45	4:19	7:11	4:19	7:06	4:50	6:30	5:29	6:44	7:01	5:53	7:35	5:19	8:07
24	6:35	6:39	7:09	5:50	6:46	4:18	7:11	4:20	7:05	4:51	6:28	5:30	6:42	7:02	5:52	7:36	5:18	8:08
25	6:36	6:37	7:10	5:49	6:47	4:18	7:12	4:20	7:04	4:52	6:27	5:31	6:40	7:03	5:50	7:38	5:17	8:08
26	6:38	6:35	7:11	5:47	6:58	4:17	7:12	4:21	7:04	4:53	6:25	5:32	6:39	7:05	5:49	7:39	5:17	8:09
27	6:39	6:34	7:12	5:46	6:50	4:17	7:12	4:22	7:03	4:55	6:24	5:34	6:37	7:06	5:47	7:40	5:16	8:10
28	6:40	6:32	7:13	5:45	6:51	4:17	7:12	4:22	7:02	4:56	6:22	5:35	6:35	7:07	5:46	7:41	5:15	8:11
29	6:41	6:30	7:15	5:43	6:52	4:16	7:13	4:23	7:01	4:57			6:34	7:08	5:45	7:42	5:15	8:12
30	6:42	6:29	7:16	5:42	6:53	4:16	7:13	4:24	7:00	4:58			6:32	7:09	5:43	7:43	5:14	8:13
31			7:17	5:41			7:13	4:25	6:59	5:00			6:30	7:10			5:14	8:13

Tear here for an in the field handy season guide!

SHOOTERS & HUNTERS: HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES.

The 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





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