



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Block Island

National Wildlife Refuge

Big Game Hunting Regulations 2025–2026

Hunters are required to possess a valid Rhode Island hunting license, all required stamps, an original, valid government-issued photo identification (no copies or photos), **State archery proficiency certification**, and a valid, signed refuge hunt brochure on their person at all times during refuge hunting days. Firearm and archery hunting for white-tailed deer is allowed in designated locations (see map) during the State hunting seasons. We encourage hunters to check in with the Chief of Police prior to hunting.

Weapons

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms or archery equipment on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) weapons in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR 32.58).

Vehicles

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs and UTVs), dirt bikes, and other non-licensed vehicles are prohibited on refuge lands.

Hunting Regulations

Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable Rhode Island regulations subject to the conditions stated below. To report hunting violations, call 1-844-FWS-TIPS (1-844-397-8477).

Access

White-tailed deer hunting dates and times are posted in the Rhode Island Hunting and Trapping Abstract. Hunting is permitted in designated areas of the refuge as depicted on the hunting map. Hunting is not allowed within safety zones, and no weapon discharge into, from, or within safety zones. Hunters may pass through a hunt safety zone, but weapons must be unloaded. Some, but not all, safety zones are marked in the field. Only participants who possess a valid, signed refuge hunt brochure will be allowed to enter the hunt areas. Hunters may scout hunt units two weeks prior to the season with a valid, signed refuge hunt brochure. Night hunting is prohibited.

Tree Stands and Hunting Blinds

We only allow portable tree stands and blinds. You must clearly label any tree stand or blind left on the refuge overnight with your Rhode Island hunting license number. Stands and blinds may be placed beginning October 2, 2025, and must be removed from the refuge by February 20, 2026. The use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach a stand to a tree or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited on refuge lands (50 CFR 32.2(i)).

Game/Trail Cameras

All game/trail cameras must be clearly labeled on the exterior of the housing with the hunter's State hunting license number. When deploying cameras, mounting hardware must not cause damage to vegetation. Cameras must be removed by February 20, 2026.

Harvest Reporting

Hunters must follow State harvest reporting requirements.

Welcome

Block Island National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1973 off the coast of Rhode Island. Part of the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, this 133-acre refuge was established for a particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program. A popular destination for wildlife-dependent recreation, the refuge is open to big game hunting in designated areas.

RI National Wildlife Refuge Complex
c/o Block Island NWR
50 Bend Road
Charlestown, RI 02813

Phone: 401-364-9124
Email: rhodeislandcomplex@fws.gov
Website: www.fws.gov/refuge/block-island

For State Relay Service:
TDD/800-735-2258 (Voice)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD

August 2025

Hunt Brochure Big Game Hunting 2025-2026

I have read and agree to comply with the refuge rules and regulations described in this refuge hunt brochure. Valid for the current season only.

Signature _____

Date (M/D/Y) _____

You must carry this signed and dated refuge hunt brochure with you at all times while hunting on the refuge.

Valid Hunting Dates:

Published in the Rhode Island
Hunting and Trapping Regulation
Guide 2025-2026



This is a unit of the National Wildlife
Refuge System, a network of lands
and waters managed for the benefit
of wildlife and people.

BLOCK ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HUNT MAP



Reminders and Prohibited Activities

- Detailed maps, closures, or updates will be posted at: www.fws.gov/refuge/block-island
- We prohibit the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- We prohibit camping and fires.
- No taking wildlife other than deer during appropriate season (50 CFR 27.51).
- We prohibit marking (including, but not limited to, the use of flagging, bright eyes, tacks, and paint), cutting and/or removal of trees or vegetation (50 CFR 27.61).
- The placement of or hunting over bait is prohibited.
- Firearm discharge within 500 feet of any dwelling is prohibited, and discharge of archery equipment within 200 feet of a dwelling is prohibited.
- Guiding, outfitting, advertising, and/or audio or visual productions for commercial purposes are prohibited.
- Shooting from, across, or down any public road is prohibited.
- No field dressing animals in parking areas.

Signs and Boundaries Definitions

- No Vehicles:** all traffic prohibited
- Refuge Boundary:** entry to area is permitted in accordance with refuge regulations
- Hunt Safety Zone:** no discharge of weapons into, from, or within zone
- Closed Area:** All entry is prohibited
- No Hunting Zone:** Hunting, weapons, and game retrieval prohibited

To report wildlife crimes, call 1-844-FWS-TIPS (1-844-397-8477)