



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Block Island

National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2026–2027

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 2026

Hunt Brochure Waterfowl Hunting 2026 – 2027

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 2026-2027

We want to hear from you!

Scan the QR code to take our brief hunter survey:



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



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), and a valid signed refuge hunting brochure on their person at all times during refuge hunting days. Waterfowl (ducks, mergansers, and coot) hunting is allowed in designated locations (see map).

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Vehicles and Boats

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs and UTVs), dirt bikes, and other non-licensed vehicles are prohibited on refuge lands. Boats may only be launched from private land or public boat launches. State boating regulations apply.

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 State of Rhode Island regulations subject to the conditions stated below. To report hunting violations, call 1-844-FWS-TIPS (1-844-397-8477).

Access

Waterfowl (ducks, mergansers, and coot) hunting dates and times are posted in the Rhode Island Hunting and Trapping Abstract. Hunting is permitted in Wash Pond Unit 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 to access a hunt unit, but weapons must be unloaded within safety zones. 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.

Hunting Blinds and Decoys

We allow temporary waterfowl blinds and decoys while hunting. All blinds and decoys must be removed at the end of each hunt day.

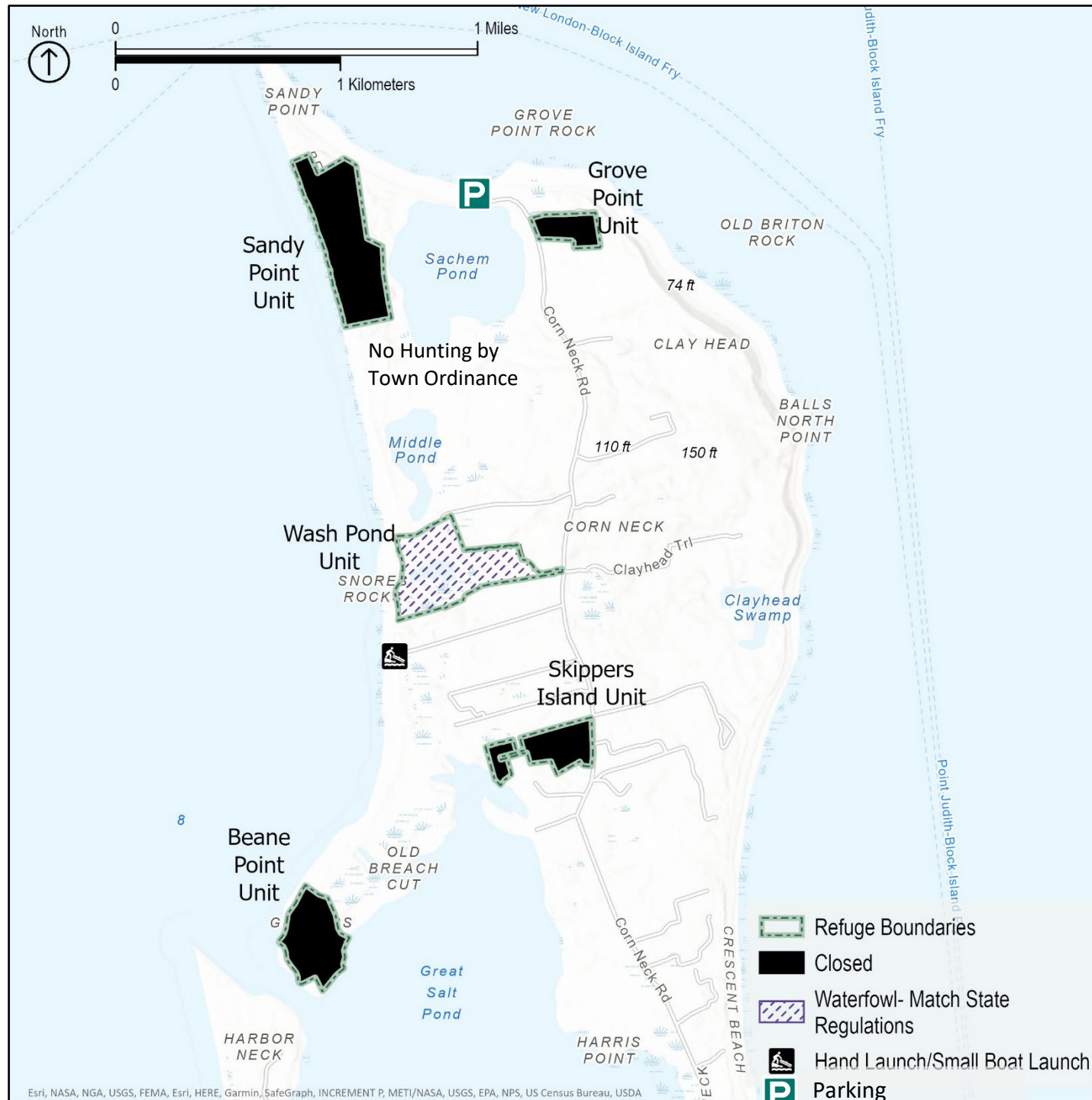
Use of Dogs

We allow the use of dogs for retrieval of waterfowl consistent with State regulations. Dog training is not allowed on refuge property.

Harvest Reporting

Hunters must follow State harvest reporting requirements including the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP).

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 personal property (boats, blinds, decoys, etc.) may be left on the refuge overnight.
- No taking wildlife other than ducks, mergansers, and coot (50 CFR 27.51).
- We prohibit dog training on refuge lands.
- The placement of or hunting over bait is prohibited.
- Guiding, outfitting, advertising, and/or audio or visual productions for commercial purposes are prohibited.
- Firearm discharge within 500 feet of any dwelling is prohibited.
- Shooting from, across, or down any public road is prohibited.

Signs and Boundaries

- **No Vehicles:** all traffic prohibited
- **Refuge Boundary:** entry to area is permitted in accordance with refuge regulations
- **Safety Zone:** no weapon discharged into, from, or within safety 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)