



Welcome

John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1988 along Pettaquamscutt Cove in Southern Rhode Island. Part of the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, this 563-acre refuge was established for the protection of black ducks, shorebirds, and other waterfowl. A popular destination for wildlife-dependent recreation, the refuge is open to hunting at designated areas in alignment with State and refuge regulations.

RI National Wildlife Refuge Complex
c/o John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge
50 Bend Road
Charlestown, RI 02813

Phone: 401-364-9124
Email: rhodeislandcomplex@fws.gov
Website: www.fws.gov/refuge/John-H-Chafee

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 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.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

John H. Chafee

National Wildlife Refuge

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2026–2027

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 hunt brochure on their person at all times during refuge hunting days. Waterfowl (goose, duck, merganser, 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 laws. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR § 32.58).

Vehicles and Boats

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs and UTVs), dirt bikes, and other non-licensed vehicles are prohibited. 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 (goose, duck, merganser, and coot) 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 to access a hunt unit but weapons must be unloaded. Some, but not all, safety zones are marked in the field. Only participants who possess a valid, signed refuge 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.

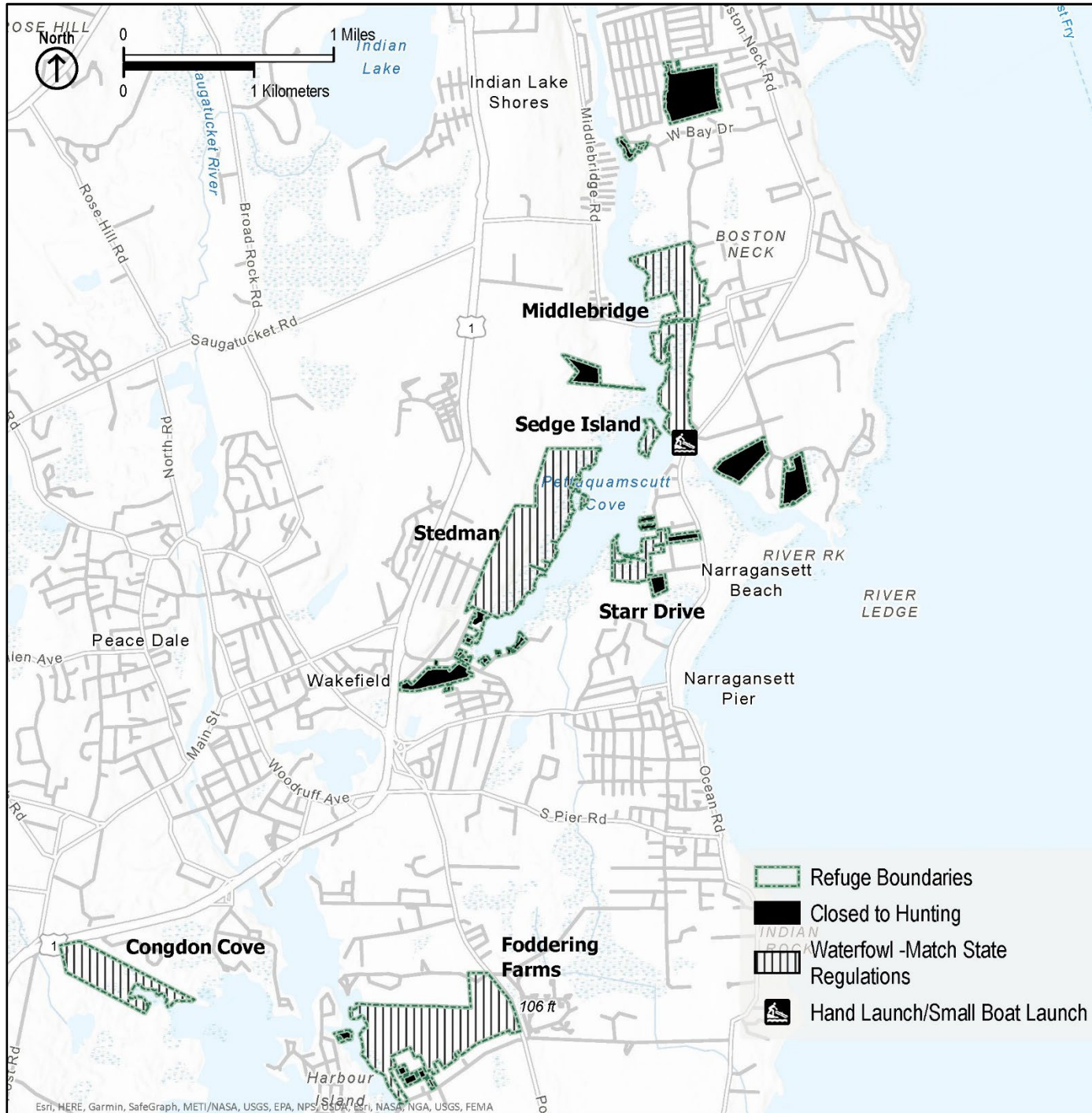
Use of Dogs

We allow the use of dogs for the 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).

JOHN H. CHAFEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HUNT MAP



Reminders and Prohibited Activities

- Detailed maps, closures, or updates will be posted at: www.fws.gov/refuge/john-h-chafee/
- 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 duck, goose, merganser, and coot (50 CFR 27.51).
- We prohibit dog training on refuge lands.
- The placement or hunting over bait is prohibited per CFR.
- 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 discharge 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)