

Chincoteague

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Big Game Hunting Archery 2015



What's new for 2015-2016

- There will not be a lottery drawing for the Archery hunt this year. Up to 125 hunt permits per session will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and must be reserved at least 5-days prior to your desired hunt dates.
- To reserve a Big Game Archery Hunting permit, hunters must apply online. Applications are available at www.fws.gov/refuge/Chincoteague/visit/hunting.html and completed forms should be emailed to FW5_ChincoHunt@fws.gov.
- To complete the reservation process, each hunter must submit a \$25 permit and application fee. Please submit the payment by mail, using cash, check or money order. Mail payments to:
Chincoteague National wildlife Refuge
PO Box 62
Chincoteague, VA 23336
- All permits will be issued at orientation and must be validated with a signature.
- Stand-by hunt permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis and each stand-by hunter is expected to pay the \$25 dollar permit and application fee.

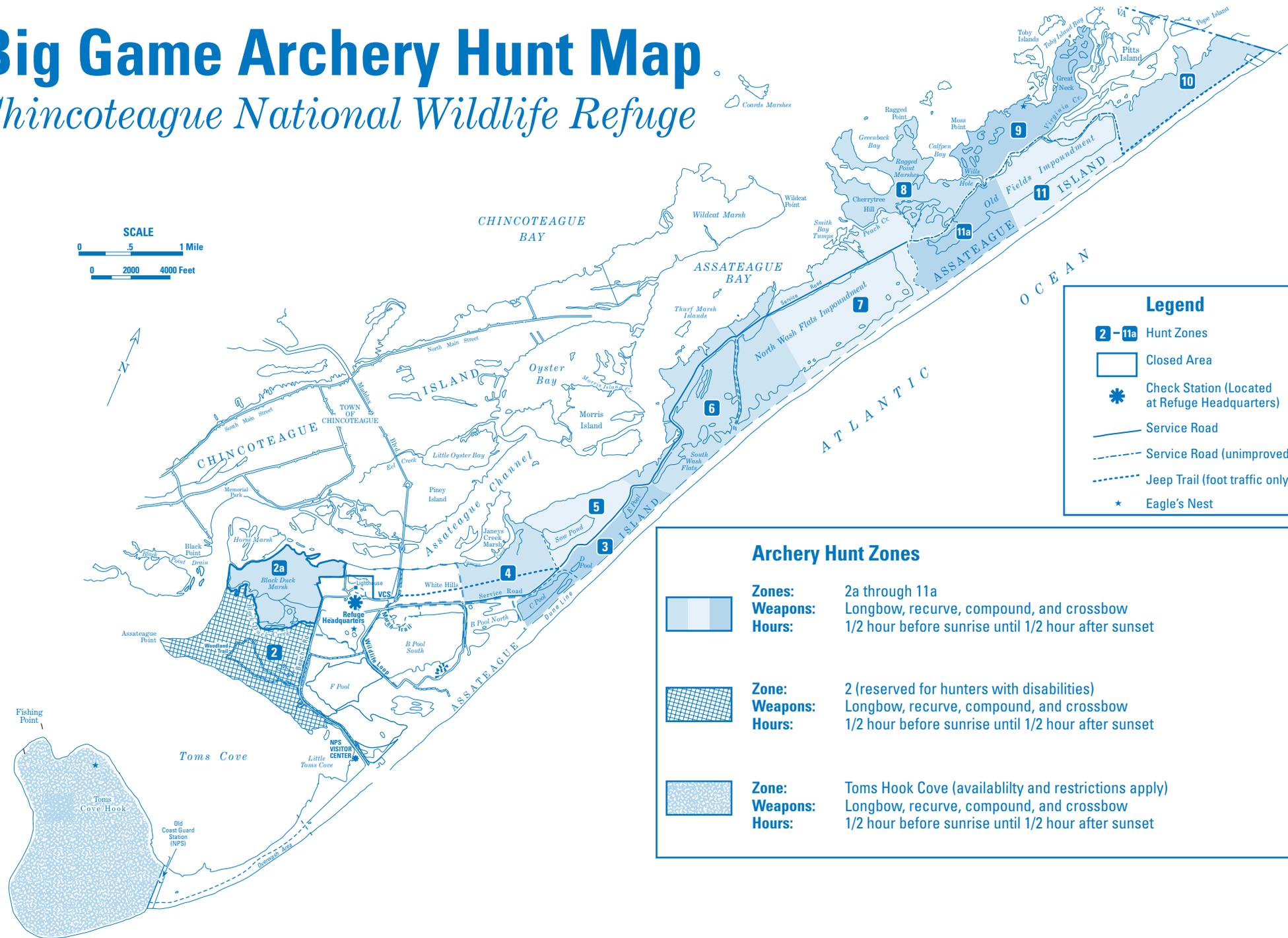
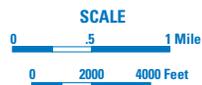
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 62
Chincoteague, VA 23336-0062

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov/>

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

Big Game Archery Hunt Map

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge



Legend

- 2 - 11a Hunt Zones
- Closed Area
- * Check Station (Located at Refuge Headquarters)
- Service Road
- Service Road (unimproved)
- Jeep Trail (foot traffic only)
- * Eagle's Nest

Archery Hunt Zones

<div style="background-color: #d9ead3; width: 40px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <div style="background-color: #d9ead3; width: 40px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <div style="background-color: #d9ead3; width: 40px; height: 20px;"></div>	<p>Zones: 2a through 11a Weapons: Longbow, recurve, compound, and crossbow Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset</p> <p>Zone: 2 (reserved for hunters with disabilities) Weapons: Longbow, recurve, compound, and crossbow Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset</p> <p>Zone: Toms Hook Cove (availability and restrictions apply) Weapons: Longbow, recurve, compound, and crossbow Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset</p>
---	--

General Provisions

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 560 National Wildlife Refuges. The primary objective of this refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation of all native species of wildlife. Hunting is one tool used to manage wildlife populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide recreational opportunities, and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource. Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge manages its hunt through a permit system.

General Hunt Regulations: Archery

Hunt Dates

October 19-21 and October 26-28, 2015.

Each week of the hunt is divided into a three day hunt period, Monday - Wednesday. Both sessions are for *sika elk* and *white-tailed deer*. Each hunt is limited to 125 hunters.

Application & Payment Deadline (receipt date)

For session 1: October 14, 2015

For session 2: October 21, 2015

Hunters must apply on-line for the Big-Game Archery Hunt permits. Applications are available at www.fws.gov/refuge/Chincoteague/visit/hunting.html. Hunters apply individually, and their form must be complete when submitted via email to FW5_ChincoHunt@fws.gov. **Permits will be awarded to all hunters who submit complete applications and payment prior to the due date or until the 125 hunter limit is reached.**

- Applications *will not* be accepted in-person, over the telephone, fax or mail.
- At least one member of the hunt party must be 18 years of age.
- Hunters must be age 12 or older by their selected hunt period to hunt on the refuge.
- Applications must contain the hunter's full legal name as it appears on their driver's license.
- NOTE: A spam filter may prevent hunt related emails from reaching your inbox. Please add FW5_ChincoHunt@fws.gov to your address book.

Permit Fees

In order to process permit requests, a non-refundable \$25.00 fee will be charged for each application. **Fee payments must be submitted by mail or in person in cash, check or money order payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.**

- Mail payments to:
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 62
Chincoteague, VA 23336
- **Hunters will receive permits during orientation and must sign the permit upon receipt;** permits must be signed to be valid

Returning hunters do not need to pay the \$25.00 fee again if they participate in the archery stand-by process. Fees are nonrefundable.

Hunters will receive permits during orientation and must sign the permit upon receipt; permits must be signed to be valid.

Orientation

All hunters **must** attend the [archery orientation session on Sunday at 10:00 am](#) prior to their assigned hunt period.

Hunters must be on time. Once the orientation begins, late individuals will not be allowed to enter the room or hunt, under any circumstances.

Scouting will be permitted from 11:00 am - 6:00 pm following the orientation session. Hunters may only scout on the day prior to their scheduled three-day hunt period. The Tom's Cove Hook area may be available to archery hunters with four-wheel drive vehicles.

Stand-by Hunt Opportunities

If a registered hunter does not attend orientation their permit slot is available to stand-by hunters. All stand-by hunt permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis after each orientation at 11:00am. Stand-by hunters are expected to pay the \$25 dollar permit and application fee. Availability of stand-by slots will be announced at orientation.



White-tailed deer
©Julien Beauregard

Hunters with Disabilities

Guidelines are currently being updated. A supplemental document will be released mid-summer to address specific regulations for hunters with disabilities.

The Toms Cove Hook

- Availability and restrictions apply.
- Four-wheel drive vehicles are required to access this area.
- All oversand vehicles must carry a shovel, jack, tow rope or chain, a board or similar support for the jack, and a low pressure tire gauge.

Bag Limits

Sika: Permitted archery hunters may take up to five sika daily, two of which may be antlered.

White-tailed Deer: White-tailed deer may be harvested in accordance with Virginia State regulations.

Other General Regulations

All federal and state hunting regulations apply.

A valid resident or non-resident, state/county issued hunting license, archery license, big game license and refuge issued permit are required to hunt on the refuge.

Virginia big game tags must be used on white-tailed deer taken on the refuge.

Virginia Deer Population Reduction Program (DPOP) tags will be provided by refuge staff and must be used on sika elk taken on the refuge.

All harvested animals must be completely field dressed and brought to the refuge's official check station for inspection by personnel. Each hunter must sign in and out immediately before entering and after exiting the hunt zone. During the hunt orientation, you will be notified of the sign-in/out box and check station location.

There is a 330' closed area maintained around eagle nest.

The boundaries of the hunt zones are recognized in the field by prominent landmarks, flagging and signs (see map). Each hunter is responsible for knowing their zone's boundaries.

All hunters must make a reasonable effort to recover wounded animals and must notify the check station personnel immediately if they have been unable to recover the animal.

Hunters are not permitted to cross water management areas unless retrieving a harvested animal.

Non-hunters are not permitted in the field.

Tree stands permanently attached by nails, wire, screws or

any other way is prohibited. Portable stands are permitted and encouraged, but must be removed at the end of each hunt period. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is not responsible for personal property left unattended.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances is prohibited.

The use of a boat, all terrain vehicle (ATV), bicycle or saddled animal is prohibited within your hunt zone.

The taking of wildlife other than the permitted species is prohibited.

The minimum age allowed to hunt on the refuge is 12 years of age by the time they reach the hunt session, and the child must meet Virginia licensing requirements.

Hunters between the ages of 12 and 17 must be accompanied and directly supervised by a mentor over 18 who has on their person a valid Virginia hunting license and refuge permit. Adults accompanying a youth hunter must obtain a refuge permit from Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge headquarters.

Deer drives are prohibited during the archery hunts.

Blaze orange is recommended but not required for archery hunters.

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges 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).

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 62

Chincoteague, VA 23336-0062

757/336 6122

www.fws.gov/refuge/chincoteague

Federal Relay Service for the deaf and hard-of-hearing

1 800/ 877 8339 TDD/ 1 866/377 8642 voice.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1 800/344 WILD

<http://www.fws.gov>

May 2015

