Block Island *National Wildlife Refuge*  

**Hunting and Fishing Plan**

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will expand hunting opportunities at Block Island National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) in 2020. Currently there are white-tailed deer hunting opportunities at Beane Point, Sandy Point, Grove Point, and Wash Pond hunting units, with some season and weapon restrictions. Saltwater fishing opportunities will remain unchanged, anglers may saltwater fish from refuge shorelines in accordance with State fishing regulations.

Approximately 133 acres are open to white-tailed deer hunting with some season and weapon restrictions (Figure 1). In addition, Wash Pond Unit is open to migratory bird hunting (ducks, coot, and merganser). State safety regulations apply (Figure 2).

**Details of the plan:**

- Beane Point and Sandy Point Units match State regulations for hunting deer (October – February), which reflects seasons established by the Town of New Shoreham, and prohibits hunting on weekends.
- Grove Point, Wash Pond, and Skippers Island Units are open for archery only deer hunting, matching the State archery season (October – February), which reflects seasons established by the Town of New Shoreham, and prohibits hunting on weekends. Archery proficiency certification is required.
- Wash Pond Unit is open during the State migratory bird hunting season for ducks, coot, and mergansers (October – January). No hunting allowed on weekends.
- No permits are required. Hunters download, sign, and carry a refuge hunting brochure for each season to serve as written permission to access refuge units for hunting.
- Hunters are encouraged to check in with the Town of New Shoreham police department prior to hunting.

**Safety measures employed:**

- All hunters must have a valid State hunting license, which requires a hunter education course;
- All hunters in the deer archery season, must have an archery proficiency certification;
- No discharge of archery equipment within 200 feet of a dwelling;
- No discharge of firearms within 500 feet of a dwelling, nor from or across a road;
- State seasons reflect Town of New Shoreham limits on weekend hunting;
- Hunters are encouraged to check in with the Town of New Shoreham Police Department before hunting;
- Hunters will be provided maps of safety setbacks and hunt unit boundaries to aid in navigation;
- The public will be alerted to annual hunting seasons through news releases and website/ Facebook postings;
- Refuge visitors recommended to wear blaze orange clothing during hunting season;
- The hunting and fishing program will be monitored and adjustments made as deemed necessary.
The Rhode Island NWR Complex Hunting and Fishing Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Compatibility Determinations are available for download at [www.fws.gov/refuge/block_island/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/block_island/).

Figure 1. Hunt units on the Block Island National Wildlife Refuge.
Figure 2. Hunt units with safety setbacks on the Block Island National Wildlife Refuge

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is “to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans” (Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997).