

Block Island *National Wildlife Refuge*

Hunting Safety Setbacks for 2020 - 2021

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has expanded hunting opportunities at Block Island National Wildlife Refuge (refuge).



Approximately 133 acres are open to white-tailed deer hunting with some season and weapon restrictions. In addition, Wash Pond Unit is open to migratory bird hunting (ducks, coot, and mergansers). State safety regulations apply. Refuge safety setbacks for each hunt unit are shown in Figure 1. On National Wildlife Refuge lands, no hunting is allowed within hunt safety zones.

Hunters may not discharge weapons into, from, or within a hunt safety zone. Safety zones for archery hunting include areas within 200 feet of a dwelling. For firearms, all areas within 500 feet of a dwelling. Hunters may pass through safety zones on their way to hunt unit, but must not have arrows knocked or firearms loaded within safety zones. Some, but not all safety zones are marked in the field. It is the hunter's responsibility to know where safety zones are located.

Details of the 2020 – 2021 Hunting Season:

- 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).
- As a permit, hunters must 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, and no discharge 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;**
- Aerial maps of hunt unit boundaries and safety setbacks are provided below to hunters to aid in navigation, no hunting in safety zones;
- Refuge visitors recommended to wear blaze orange clothing during hunting season;
- The public will be alerted to annual hunting seasons with news releases, and website/Facebook postings;

Figure 1. Hunt units with approximate Safety Setbacks, Block Island National Wildlife Refuge.



Please call the refuge if you have any questions 401-364-9124.

