John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing Plan

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will open hunting and fishing opportunities at John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) beginning in 2020. Currently there are no hunting or fishing opportunities offered at the refuge.

Approximately 547 acres (less safety setbacks) are open to hunting of migratory birds (geese, ducks, coot, and mergansers), white-tailed deer, wild turkey, coyote, and fox, with some season and weapon restrictions (Figures 1a & 1b). State safety regulations apply. Safety setbacks for each hunt unit are shown in Figures 2a - 2d. Saltwater fishing is open along 1,600 feet of shoreline on the north bank of the Narrow River near Sprague Bridge (Figure 3) in accordance with State fishing regulations.

Details of the plan*:
- Migratory bird hunting rules match State regulations on the following hunting units: Foddering Farms, Middlebridge, Sedge Island, Starr Drive, and Stedman (September – January).
- Archery hunting for white-tailed deer match State regulations on all hunt units. Deer hunters are allowed to take fox and coyote during the deer season (September – January).
- Hunting white-tailed deer with firearms match State regulations in the Congdon Cove and Stedman units. Deer hunting with firearms is not allowed in any other unit. Deer hunters allowed to take fox and coyote during the deer season (September – January).
- Fall archery hunting for wild turkey match State regulations in all hunt units (October).
- 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.

*/ For the 2020 season, only archery is permitted on all units for white-tailed deer, wild turkey, fox, and coyote hunting.

Changes from the Draft Plan:
- Construction of a parking lot for the Stedman Hunt Unit has been removed from hunt plan.
- The Mumford Hunt Unit has been removed from hunt plan.
- The method of take for hunting white-tailed deer, turkey, fox and coyote has been changed to archery only in the Middlebridge, Starr Drive, and Foddering Farms Units.

Safety measures employed:
- All hunters must have a valid State hunting license, which requires a hunter education course;
- All archery hunters for deer, turkey, coyote, and fox must have a State archery proficiency certification;
- No discharge of firearms within 500 feet of a dwelling, and no discharge from or across a road;
- No discharge of archery equipment within 200 feet of a dwelling;
- Aerial maps of hunt unit boundaries and safety setbacks will be provided to hunters to aid in navigation;
- The public will be alerted to annual hunting seasons with news releases, and website/Facebook postings;
- The hunting and fishing program will be monitored and adjustments made as deemed necessary.
The Hunting and Fishing Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Compatibility Determinations are available for viewing or download at: www.fws.gov/refuge/john_h_chafee/.

Figure 1a. Hunting units on the John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge, Pettaquamscutt Cove Area.

Figure 1b. Hunting units on the John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge, Southern section.
Figure 2a. Middlebridge Unit Safety Setbacks, John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge

Figure 2b. Starr Drive Unit Safety Setbacks, John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge
Figures 2c. Stedman Unit Safety Setbacks, John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge

Figures 2d. Congdon Cove and Foddering Farms Units Safety Setbacks, John H. Chafee 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).