



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

FISH AND WILDLIFE

HUNTING REGULATIONS for the 2002-2003 SEASON



AUTHORITY: These regulations are adopted pursuant to Sections 20-1-4; 20-1-12; 20-1-13; in accordance with Chapter 42-17.1, 42-17.6, 32-2-4, and 42-35, Administrative Procedures, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

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R.I. Hunting Regulations for the 2002 - 2003 Season

RULE 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of these rules and regulations is to establish hunting seasons, the setting of possession and bag limits, and regulation of the manner of hunting.

RULE 2 AUTHORITY

These rules and regulations are promulgated pursuant to Chapter 42-17.1, Department of Environmental Management, and Sections 20-1-4; 20-1-12; 20-1-13; in accordance with Chapter 32-2-4, and 42-35, Administrative Procedures, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

RULE 3 APPLICATION

The terms and provisions of these rules and regulations shall be liberally construed to permit the Department to effectuate the purposes of state law, goals, and policies.

RULE 4 SEVERABILITY

If any provision of these Rules and Regulations, or application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of the Rules and Regulations shall not be affected thereby.

RULE 5 SUPERSEDED RULES AND REGULATIONS (#2124)

On the effective date of these Rules and Regulations, all previous Rules and Regulations, and any policies regarding the administration and enforcement of Hunting Regulations (**#2124**) shall be superseded.

However, any enforcement action taken by, or application submitted to, the Department prior to the effective date of these Rules and Regulations shall be governed by the Rules and Regulations in effect at the time the enforcement action was taken, or application filed.

RULE 6 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of these regulations, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- a. **"antlerless deer"** deer having no antlers or antlers less than three (3) inches in length.
- b. **"daylight fluorescent orange"** the color orange having a dominant wave length between 595 and 606 nanometers, an excitation purity not less than 85 percent, and a lumination factor not less than 40 percent.
- c. **"driving deer"** to pursue, drive, chase, or otherwise frighten or cause a deer to move in a direction toward a person or persons known to be waiting for a deer.
- d. **"paraplegic"** an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs.
- e. **"bearded turkey"** a male turkey which carries a visible beard (*a tuft of stiff filament-like feathers projecting outward and downward from the center of the chest*) and exhibits other typical physical characteristics of a male turkey including, but not limited to, bright red, white, and blue head coloration, visible spurs, and black iridescent body coloration.
- f. **"'conibear-type' trap"** "conibear" model traps and similar body-gripping traps and devices, whether or not enclosed in or comprising part of a box, tube, or other enclosing device.
- g. **"box trap"** any trigger operated device intended to restrain an animal by confinement in box or cage.
- h. **"jacklighting"** the use (by an individual or in conjunction with others) of an artificial light at any time to illuminate, jack light, locate, attempt to locate, or show up wild birds or mammals or any other vertebrates when that person or persons have in their actual possession, in the passenger compartment of their vehicle, or in the storage area of a trunk or van, unless locked in a case, a crossbow, long bow (straight limb, reflex, recurve, and compound bow) rifle, gun, or pistol, except in accordance with these rules and regulations.

RULE 7 REGULATIONS

As follows:

PART I

DEER - GENERAL DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS

- 1.1 All deer must be tagged in a conspicuous manner, by the hunter killing same, immediately after taking, with the tag portion of the deer permit for the specific season, i.e., shotgun, archery, muzzleloader and/or paraplegic/double amputee hunter. This tag must be separated from the permit with the appropriate month, day, and time of kill or other information completed as required, and signed by the hunter. The tag must remain attached to the deer until the animal is processed for consumption or prepared for taxidermy. It will be considered prima-facie evidence of hunting without a valid deer permit if any portion of the deer permit/tag is altered or separated in any manner.
- 1.2 Except as provided in 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 4.7, 5.2, 5.22, and 6.6 no individual shall purchase more than one deer permit/tag for each deer season -- one each, muzzleloader, shotgun, archery.
- 1.3 Hunting, pursuing, or molesting deer below mean high tidal water, or while deer are swimming in any waters of the state is prohibited.
- 1.4 The construction and/or use of permanent tree stands, or the use of nails, spikes, bolts, or climbing devices which may damage trees, is prohibited on state property; and on private property without the permission of the landowner.
- 1.5 The use of electronic deer calls is prohibited at all times.
- 1.6 The use of natural or artificial scents, mouth, or hand powered deer calls to attract deer is permitted.
- 1.7 The use of decoys to attract deer is prohibited.
- 1.8 Written permission is required to deer hunt on privately owned land (20-15-1 d). Such written permission shall be carried at all times while deer hunting, and failure to have such written permission shall be prima-facie evidence of not having written permission to hunt such land. Written permission must be shown to any authorized person upon demand, and must be presented when checking the deer.
- 1.9 Only one firearm or bow may be possessed in the field per individual hunter, while hunting deer.

PART II

DEER - MUZZLE-LOADING DEER SEASON

2.1 Muzzleloading Season: November 3 - November 25, 2001
PERMIT REQUIRED

Muzzleloader deer hunters may purchase permits to take two deer.
The total bag limit during the entire muzzle loading season is two (2) deer.

- A. Nov. 9 – 29, 2002 – Statewide Muzzleloader Deer Permit – usable Statewide, good for the taking of one deer of either sex.
- B. November 2 – 29, 2002 -- Bonus Muzzleloader Deer Permit -- usable on private land only, good for the taking of one antlerless deer. The bonus permit must be purchased prior to opening day

Some cities and towns have more restrictive ordinances, check local ordinances prior to hunting. All other deer hunting regulations shall apply (see Part I).

- 2.2 A current muzzle-loader deer permit is required for the muzzle-loading season. All deer must be conspicuously tagged by the hunter killing same immediately after killing or taking as provided, and taken by that same hunter to an Environmental Police Officer, or other Department designee for checking, within 24 hours.
- 2.3 During the muzzle-loading deer season, all hunters except those hunting raccoon at night, or archers in tree stands, or waterfowl hunters as provided, must wear a minimum of 200 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange material, contained in outer garment worn above the waist, and visible from all directions. A fluorescent hat would meet the requirement.
- 2.4 Firearms for muzzle-loading deer season are limited to .45 caliber or larger using percussion caplock, flintlock, and in-line ignition systems using percussion caps, rifle, or shotshell primers. Only single barrel firearms that must be loaded from the muzzle are allowed. All conversion kits which use a replacement barrel to convert a typical modern shotgun into a muzzle-loading rifle are prohibited. Also see Part 14.10.
- 2.5 Ammunition for muzzle-loading deer season is limited to a single lead projectile, including round ball, or maxi ball type projectiles. Sabot rounds for muzzle loader firearms either lead or jacketed are limited to .43 caliber or larger. Powder is limited to manufacturers' specifications. Telescopic sights are permitted. Possession of modern shotgun shotshells while hunting is prohibited. A muzzle-loader is considered unloaded when the percussion cap or pan powder is removed.

- 2.6 The limit for the muzzle-loading deer permit shall be one deer per permit as provided under Parts 2.1.
- 2.7 Within 24 hours of taking, as provided in Part 1.1, deer must be checked with a Department designated check station or with an Environmental Police Officer. Only specified vendors will be permitted to check deer. The list of approved vendors will be available prior to the season.

PART III

DEER - SHOTGUN DEER SEASON

3.1 Shotgun Season: December 7 – December 22, 2002, inclusive

Permit Required

A. Either Sex Shotgun Permit – either sex deer may be taken in Providence and Kent county, and all of Washington county except New Shoreham (Block Island)

December 7 – December 15, 2002 on both private and state Management
December 16 – December 22, 2002 on private land only.

B. Bonus Antlerless Shotgun Permit – antlerless, private land, Providence and Kent county, and all of Washington county except New Shoreham (Block Island).

Shotgun deer hunters may purchase permits to take two deer as follows:
Either-Sex Shotgun Permit: shall allow for the taking of one deer of either sex for the first portion of the shotgun season on private and management lands, then on private lands only during the latter portion of season.

The Bonus-Antlerless Shotgun Permit: shall allow for the taking of one antlerless deer on private land only, during either portion of the shotgun season. Permits may be used in any sequence. The bonus-antlerless permit must be purchased prior to opening day.

Some cities and towns have more restrictive ordinances, check local ordinances prior to hunting. All other deer regulations shall apply (see Part I).

3.2 No person shall take deer with a shotgun, capable of holding more than five shells unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.

3.3 Ammunition permitted for shotgun deer season includes rifled slugs or sabot round. Buckshot limited to double 00 or larger, buckshot prohibited in 20 gauge. Shotguns of 10, 12, 16, or 20 gauge are allowed.

3.4 All deer must be conspicuously tagged by the hunter killing same immediately after killing or taking as provided, and taken by that same hunter to a state-operated checking station for checking within 24 hours.

3.5 Deer killed or taken on the last day may be checked through a check station no later than 6:00 PM on that date, or by an Environmental Police Officer within 24 hours of taking.

- 3.6 During the shotgun season for deer, all hunters, **except** waterfowl hunters as provided, must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange material, contained in an outer garment and worn above the waist, a portion of which must include a head covering visible from all direction.
- 3.7 Waterfowl hunting from a boat or a blind, over water for field, when done in conjunction with decoys, is permitted during the shotgun deer season*. All other hunting, except otherwise provided under 4.1, 5.1, 9.2, 9.3, and 11.9, shall be prohibited during period December 7, through December 22, 2002 except as provided.

*** Subject to Federal waterfowl framework not established at time of filing.**

PART IV

DEER - ARCHERY DEER SEASON

- 4.1 **Archery Season:** October 1, 2002 through January 31, 2003, inclusive.
Permit Required
- A. First Mainland Permit - either sex, mainland.
 - B. Bonus Archery Permit - either sex, private land in Little Compton, Tiverton, North Kingstown, Coventry, Eastern Exeter (east of Rt. 3), South Kingstown, Narragansett, Richmond, Charlestown, Scituate, and Cranston only.
 - C. Second Mainland Permit - antlerless, mainland. May be purchased after checking deer from one or the other of the First Mainland and bonus permits, but not from both.

In total, archery deer hunters may purchase permits to take three deer.

- 4.2 The limit for the mainland archery deer season shall be one deer of either sex for the current archery deer permit, except as provided under 4.3, 4.7.
- 4.3 Archery deer hunters shall be permitted a bonus either sex deer valid on private land in the following towns: Little Compton, Tiverton, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Coventry, Eastern Exeter (east of Rt. 3), Narragansett, Richmond, Charlestown, Scituate, and Cranston. The bonus either sex archery permit must be purchased prior to the season, October 1, 2002.
- 4.4 **Junior Archery Hunting Weekend:** September 28-29, 2002.
Any junior hunter who is 12-14 years of age, inclusively, and who has at least one parent or guardian who is a legal resident of Rhode Island, and who has successfully completed a bow hunter education course may take one deer of either sex during the youth deer hunting weekend in accordance with the rules of this section. Junior hunters shall hold a valid Rhode Island hunting license and deer permit(s), and be accompanied by an adult who holds a valid Rhode Island hunting license and is twenty-one (21) years of age or older. An adult accompanying a youth under this section shall accompany no more than two (2) junior hunters at one time and shall not be permitted to carry a bow or firearm. Junior hunters may use either the first mainland permit or the bonus archery permit as provided for in 4.1.
- 4.5 No bow used in hunting deer shall be equipped with any mechanical device for drawing or releasing the arrow (RIGL 20-15-4). A bow string release device whereby the bow is hand held, hand drawn, and finger released is permitted.

- 4.6 All broadheads used for deer hunting must be of the non-expandable, fixed cutting edge type. Cutting blades must be made of metal. Broadheads designed to rotate around the axis of the arrow when in flight are permitted. For additional information, see RIGL § 20-15-4.
- 4.7 All deer must be immediately tagged by the hunter after killing or taking as provided, and taken by that same hunter to an Environmental Police Officer, or other Department designee for checking within 24 hours.
- 4.8 After checking as provided, the archer will be entitled to purchase an additional mainland archery deer permit to take an antlerless deer by bow and arrow. Mainland shall mean all areas of Rhode Island open to bow and arrow hunting except Prudence and Patience Islands, and Block Island. Only specified vendors will be permitted to check deer and sell additional permits. The list of approved vendors will be available prior to the season.
- 4.9 All archers when traveling to and from a tree stand, during the deer muzzle-loading season, must wear, above the waist, a minimum of 200 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange visible from all directions. A fluorescent hat meets this requirement.

PART V

SPECIAL DEER SEASONS

Prudence and Patience Islands

- 5.1 Archery season dates shall be November 1, 2002 through January 17, 2003, if quota has not been reached.
- A. Nov. 1, 2002 – January 17, 2003, either sex
 - B. Nov. 16, 2002 – January 17, 2003, bonus either sex, as provided in 5.2, only.

The only legal method of deer hunting on Prudence and Patience Islands is by archery, except as provided by 5.18 - 5.27 of these regulations.

- 5.2 The limit on Prudence and Patience Islands is one (1) deer of either sex, however, hunters taking an antlerless deer and checking as provided in 5.9 and 5.10, will be entitled to purchase a bonus 'either sex' permit. The bonus permit shall be valid after the lottery portion of the season. The season is November 16 – January 17, unless the quota has been reached.
- 5.3 A Prudence/Patience Island Archery Deer Permit (deer tag) is required to hunt on Prudence and Patience Islands.
- 5.4 While archery deer hunting, no possession of firearms permitted, except during the special paraplegic hunter deer season.
- 5.5 Reservations to hunt management areas are required by lottery. Reservations will be required on the south and north ends, Barre Units of Prudence and Patience for the first two weekends and two weekday periods, Friday (11/1) Saturday (11/2) and Sunday (11/3) Monday through Friday (11/4 – 11/8) and Saturday and Sunday (11/9 – 11/10) and Monday through (11/11 – 11/15) ending November 16.
- 5.6 A lottery system will assign hunters on Prudence Island and Patience Island during the reservation period. Lottery applications may be obtained at DEM Division of Licensing, designated deer check stations, vendors, or by mailing a request with a self-addressed stamped envelope (9½ x 4 inch envelope) to: DEER LOTTERY, Division of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 218, West Kingston, RI 02892, or you may acquire an application online at www.state.ri.us/dem. Application dates will be July 8 through August 19, 2002. Two individuals may apply on one application, however, an individual may only apply once in the lottery system. Duplicate, illegible, incorrect, or incomplete forms will be rejected. The lottery reservation is non-transferable and non-negotiable. Hunters must complete and return

hunter survey cards by Jan. 31, 2003 regardless of hunting activity or success in order to be eligible for future seasons.

- 5.7 On the south and north ends of Prudence Island 50 hunters respectively, per day may be assigned. On Patience Island and the Barre Unit on Prudence Island, 10 hunters respectively, per day may be assigned.
- 5.8 A quota of 275 deer may be taken, or as provided in 5.11 Hunting on the Islands will end the earlier of either January 17, 2003 or when quota is reached.
- 5.9 All deer taken on Prudence Island shall be immediately tagged by the hunter and checked by that same hunter through the check station designated by the Department of Environmental Management and a leg seal must be attached to the deer prior to leaving Prudence Island. The leg seal must remain attached to the deer until processed for consumption. Affidavits shall be issued for antlerless deer taken on the 'either sex' permit.
- 5.10 All deer taken on Patience Island shall be immediately tagged by the hunter and then checked by that same hunter through the deer check station on Prudence Island, or on the mainland by contacting an Environmental Police Officer or other Department designee within 24 hours after killing or taking. Affidavits shall be issued for antlerless deer taken on the 'either sex' permit.
- 5.11 The Division of Fish and Wildlife retains the right to alter the number of hunters, number of days hunted, and total deer harvested within the above season, if conditions warrant.
- 5.12 Proficiency testing is required of all archery hunters, hunting deer on Patience and Prudence, private and state-owned lands. The proficiency card is valid for two years from the date of issue and must be carried while hunting.
- 5.13 For private lands, written permission of the landowner must be obtained, and as required by local ordinance, must be countersigned by the Chief of Police or his representative on the Island.
- 5.14 The driving of deer while archery hunting or participating in deer driving for archery hunters is prohibited at all times on Prudence and Patience Islands.
- 5.15 On Prudence Island, during the period October 1, 2002 through January 17, 2003, inclusive, the casting of the rays of artificial lights, including spotlights, headlights, or other artificial light, at any time, on any highway or roadway, whether public or private, or any field, woodland, residential property, or forest, any building or farm animal, for the purpose of spotting,

locating, or attempting to spot or locate any wild animal or wild bird is prohibited.

- 5.16 On Patience Island, there shall be no hunting of any species of wildlife, except archery hunting for deer, as provided. The possession of any firearm at any time on Patience Island, except for archery equipment as prescribed during the established archery season for deer, shall be prima-facie evidence of illegal hunting, (except as provided in 5.20).
- 5.17 Waterfowl hunting Prudence - The possession of firearms is permitted while en route to, or during waterfowl hunting; waterfowl hunters must possess all the following: A minimum of six (6) decoys, approved non-toxic shot as specified in Rhode Island or Federal waterfowl regulations, and both the Rhode Island and Federal waterfowl stamps. No ball ammunition may be possessed. Possession of a loaded firearm more than (10) ten feet above mean high water is prohibited, except as provided in (Parts 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, & 11.2).

Paraplegic and double amputee hunters on Prudence Island, Portsmouth; and Fort Greene Army Reserve, Narragansett

- 5.18 The season for Prudence Island will be October 15 – 18, 2002, inclusive, and the season for Fort Greene will be October 22 – 25, 2002, inclusive, during legal shooting hours.
- 5.19 The taking of deer will be limited to paraplegic and double amputee hunters only.
- 5.20 A special hunting license must be obtained through the DEM Licensing Division, 235 Promenade St. Providence, RI 02908 (401) 222-3576 by each applicant prior to the hunt. None will be issued on the Island. An application signed by a physician for a first-time hunter, or a photocopy of a previous paraplegic/double amputee hunting license is required. Hunters for Fort Greene must also complete a registration card and mail it to R.I. Fish and Wildlife, Box 218, W. Kingston, RI 02892, ATTN: Fort Greene and postmarked by September 30.
- 5.21 None of the hunter's assistants will be allowed to hunt or carry firearms at any time. No license is required of the assistants.
- 5.22 Hunters may participate in either hunt. Only five (5) hunters will be permitted on Fort Greene. If needed, a lottery will be conducted to choose the five eligible hunters. Hunters will be notified after the selection. All hunters and assistants must register upon entering or leaving either location with the officer-in-charge.
- 5.23 All deer taken must be checked by an Environmental Police Officer or Department designee prior to leaving Prudence Island, or for Fort Greene by a Department designee, or at a state certified vendor check station.
- 5.24 All deer wounded, but not recovered, must be reported as soon as possible to the officer-in-charge.
- 5.25 Ammunition shall be limited to slugs -- 10, 12, 16, or 20 gauge only, buckshot is allowed by special permit only, 00 or larger. Hunters may use muzzle-loading firearms as defined under Muzzle-loading Deer Season.
- 5.26 Once a deer is taken, the successful hunter may no longer carry a firearm in the field, but may assist his fellow hunter(s).
- 5.27 Additional restrictions may be required on Fort Greene.
- 5.28 As the opportunity arises the Division will announce other properties and season & bag limits. Regulations will be promulgated.

PART VI

Block Island Deer Season

- 6.1 Deer hunting season dates for the Town of New Shoreham shall be as follows:

Archery

October 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30

November 1, 4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26

Shotgun Only

November 2 – 11, 2002

December 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20

January 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31

February 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

- 6.2 All state-owned land on Block Island is closed to deer hunting for the 2001-2002 season.
- 6.3 The limit shall be one deer of either sex, except as provided under 6.6.
- 6.4 A Block Island archery or shotgun deer permit is required to hunt on Block Island. Mainland deer permits will be invalid on the Island. Prior to start of the archery or shotgun deer season a hunter may purchase five permits. After season opening permit must be purchased as provided in 6.6.
- 6.5 In addition to the written permission requirements, all deer hunters on Block Island must obtain countersigned written permission from the Block Island Chief of Police or his representative on the Island.
- 6.6 After checking as provided in 6.9 a hunter may purchase additional Block Island Shotgun or Archery Deer Permits to take additional deer on Block Island until season closure. Hunters may possess not more than five (5) permits of any type at one time.
- 6.7 Ammunition permitted for shotgun deer season includes rifled slugs or sabot round. Shotguns of 10, 12, 16, or 20 gauge are allowed.
- 6.8 On Block Island, the casting of the rays of artificial lights, including spotlights, headlights, or other artificial light, at any time, on any highway

or roadway, whether public or private, or any field, woodland, residential property, or forest, any building or farm animal, for the purpose of spotting, locating, or attempting to spot or locate any wild animal or wild bird is prohibited.

- 6.9 All deer must be tagged in a conspicuous manner by the hunter killing same immediately after taking. All deer taken on Block Island shall be checked by that same hunter through the designated check stations and a leg seal must be attached to the deer prior to leaving the island, and within 24 hours of taking. The leg seal must remain attached to the deer until processed for consumption.
- 6.10 Proficiency testing is required of all archery hunters that are hunting deer on Block Island. The proficiency card is valid for two years from the date of issue. The proficiency card must be carried while hunting.

PART VII

DEER - COOPERATIVE DEER HUNTING PROGRAM

Northwest Cooperative -- The Northwest Cooperative Deer Hunting permits serve as your written permission for hunting this private land. These permits must be carried in addition to your individual deer permits.

- 7.1 Archery and muzzle-loader deer hunters must have state permits to hunt the Northwest Cooperative. A permit is required for each season: (Archery, Oct. 1 - Jan 31); (Muzzle-loader, Nov 2 – Nov 29, 2002). The Division reserves the right to alter the number of hunters, permits, or days of hunting as conditions warrant. Permits must be returned by February 15, 2003. Hunters must return permit to be eligible for the next season's permit.
- 7.2 Permits available after - September 1, and may be obtained by sending a self-addressed 9½ x 4 stamped envelope to: NORTHWEST COOP, R.I. Division of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 218, West Kingston, RI 02892. Indicate the permit-type (e.g. archery, muzzleloader, or both).
- 7.3 Shotgun deer hunters must check in and out of the Durfee Hill check station daily, December 7 – 15, 2002, only for the Northwest Cooperative hunting area. No shotgun hunting permitted December 16 – 22, 2002.
- 7.4 Francis Carter Preserve Cooperative Hunting Area (formerly known as United Nuclear) is restricted to archery hunting of deer from December 1 – December 31, 2002, and as provided in 7.5 through 7.10 of these regulations. No hunting of any other species of wildlife is permitted. All regulations in General Deer Part I and Archery Deer Part IV of these regulations shall apply.
- 7.5 No firearms are allowed on the property at any time. No vehicles of any kind are allowed on the property.
- 7.6 The construction of/or use of permanent tree stands is prohibited. The use of nails, spikes, bolts, or devices that may damage trees is prohibited. Climbing tree stands are permitted. Tree stands must be removed at the end of the season.
- 7.7 Proficiency testing is required for all archery hunters on the Carter Preserve. The proficiency cards are valid for two years from the date of issuance and must be carried while hunting. Either Prudence/Patience Island or Hunter Ethics/Landowner Relations proficiency cards shall be permitted.

- 7.8 A Carter Preserve Hunting Permit is required and will serve as written permission to hunt this private land. This permit must also be carried while hunting.
- 7.9 Permits will be issued for weeklong periods, December 1-7, 8-14, 15-22, and 23-31. A limit of 12 permits will be issued for each period. Permits are non-transferable. Applications are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to RI Division of Fish and Wildlife, Box 218, West Kingston, RI 02892 or downloaded from the web at www.state.ri.us/dem. Duplicate, illegible or incomplete applications will be rejected. Applications will be available beginning September 1, 2002 – October 30, 2002. Applications postmarked after October 30 will not be accepted. Permits will be chosen by lottery. Hunters must return their permit by January 15th, 2003, regardless of activity or success, to be eligible for the next season's hunt.
- 7.10 Hunters must park in either of the designated parking lots.

PART VIII

*MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

- 8.1 Mourning Doves - The open season for mourning doves shall be statewide:

September 25 – October. 12, 2002 inclusive;
October 19 – November 24, 2002; and
January 1 – January 15, 2003, Inclusive.

Shooting hours shall be:

First portion: 12:00 noon to sunset during the period 25 – October 12, 2002.

Second portion: October 19 - November, 24, 2002 - shall be sunrise to sunset.

Third portion: January 1 – January 15, 2003 shall be sunrise to sunset.

Daily bag/possession limits - 12/24.

- 8.2 Rails - The open season for rails shall be September 7, 2002 - November, 15, 2002, inclusive.

daily bag/possession limits -

King & Clapper Rail - 5/10, singly or in aggregate

Sora & Virginia Rail - 5/10, singly or in aggregate

- 8.3 Common snipe - The open season for common snipe shall be
September 7 - November 15, 2002 -- daily bag/possession limits - 5/10

- 8.4 Woodcock - November 7, 2002 - December 6, 2002 daily bag/possession limits - 3/6.

- 8.5 Allowed methods of taking and prohibited methods of taking migratory birds and waterfowl, shall be the same as set forth in 50 CFR 20 (sub parts A through N) of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, made under the provisions of and Act of Congress relating to migratory birds and waterfowl. A HIP permit is required for hunting all migratory birds.

Special Regulation.

- 8.6 Canada Goose September 1 - 30, 2002

Daily bag limit is 5, 10 in possession

A permit must be obtained from the Division of Fish and Wildlife prior to hunting during the special September Canada Goose Season.

The permit must be returned to the: Division of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 218, West Kingston, RI 02892, October 19, 2002 regardless of hunting success. Hunters must return the permit to be eligible for the 2003 Special Goose Season.

8.7 Sea Ducks (Eider, Old Squaw, & Scoter)

October 5, 2002 - January 19, 2003.

daily bag/possession limits - 7/14 only 4 of which may be scoters, eider, or old squaw.

*Subject to Federal regulations

PART IX UPLAND GAME

- 9.1 Legal shooting hours for all game birds and mammals, except dove, turkey, migratory birds, coyote, deer, and raccoon will be sunrise to sunset, except as otherwise provided. On October 19, 2002 legal shooting hours will be 7:00 AM to sunset.

- 9.2 Open season for Fox, Gray Squirrels, Cottontail Rabbits, Snowshoe Hare October 19, 2002- the last day of February EXCEPT during shotgun deer season (December 7 – 22, 2002). State land will remain open December 16 - 22, 2002.

Prudence Island:

November 1, 2002 November 30, 2002 EXCEPT on northern Prudence Island Management Area the season shall be January 18 – 31, 2003, inclusive. South Prudence and Patience Management Areas closed to shotgun small game hunting.

Newport & Bristol Counties and East of Blackstone River & New Shoreham:

remains open (December 7 – 22, 2002).

Daily Bag limits:

Cottontail rabbits shall be three;

Snowshoe hare shall be one;

Gray squirrels shall be five.

- 9.3 Open season for Ruffed Grouse, Bobwhite Quail, & Pheasant

Ruffed Grouse & Quail - October 19 - December 31, 2002.

Ruffed grouse hunting is CLOSED in the Arcadia Management Area in the Towns of Exeter, Richmond and West Greenwich.

Ringneck Pheasant – October 19 December 31, 2002.

Season limit 10 birds

Except December 7 – 22, 2002.

State Management Areas will remain open December 16 – 22, 2002.

Prudence Island:

November 1 - 30, 2002. - EXCEPT that on northern Prudence Island Management Area the season shall be: January 18 – 31, 2003, inclusive. South Prudence and Patience Management Areas closed to shotgun small game hunting.

Newport & Bristol Counties and East of Blackstone River remains open December 7 – 22, 2002.

Daily Bag limits:

Ruffed grouse shall be one (1)
Bobwhite quail (3) birds
Ring-necked pheasants, two (2) birds,
EXCEPT in Newport and Bristol Counties where the limit will be two male
pheasants

On New Shoreham, the open season on male ring-necked pheasants
shall be:

November 6, 20;
December 4, 18, 27;
January 15, 29
with a daily limit of two male pheasants.

9.4 Open season for Crows

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only August 24 – October 12, 2002
October 19 – December 6, 2002, inclusive
Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only. December 23, 2002 – April 5,
2003.

Hunting hours for crows is one-half hour before sunrise to one-half
hour after sunset.

Except on Northern Prudence Island Management Area the season
shall be January, 18 – 31, 2003 inclusive. No daily bag or possession
limit.

- 9.5 The hunting seasons on woodchucks, crows, English sparrows, starlings,
and rock doves shall be closed on Prudence Island at all times, EXCEPT
during the period November 1 through November 30, annually, or as
otherwise provided. South Prudence and Patience Management Areas
closed to shotgun small game hunting.

- 9.6 The hunting of any species of wildlife EXCEPT white-tailed deer, coyote,
and waterfowl as provided, or as otherwise provided, shall be prohibited in
Providence, Kent, and Washington Counties during the annual shotgun
deer season.

PART X WILD TURKEY

- 10.1 The open seasons and dates for hunting wild turkey are:
A. Special Season - Paraplegic hunters April 28 and 29, 2003.
B. Statewide: April 30 – May 26, 2003.
Applicants may obtain only one type of spring turkey permit per season.
- 10.2 Permits for hunting wild turkey may be purchased from the DEM Division of Licenses and/or designated vendors. The Division reserves the right to alter the number of permits and the number of hunting days at any time.
- 10.3 Area open to hunting restricted to: That portion of Providence County west of the Blackstone River, Kent County, Washington County, and Tiverton, Little Compton in Newport County.
- 10.4 Special Paraplegic season:
A. A special turkey permit must be obtained from the DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife. Hunting in this season will be limited to paraplegic hunters only.
B. An application signed by a physician for a first-time hunter is required.
C. None of the hunter's assistants will be allowed to hunt or carry firearms at any time.
D. All turkeys taken must be checked at an official state designated checking station on the day of taking.
- 10.5 Hunting hours shall be from one half hour before sunrise to 1:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, daily, provided that all hunters shall leave the woods no later than 1:00 P.M.
- 10.6 The bag and possession limit shall be one (1) bearded male turkey per license per year.
- 10.7 Notwithstanding the provisions of RIGL 20-13-13, the methods of taking shall be limited to shotguns, gauges 10, 12, 16, and 20 only, with shot sizes 2, 4, 5, and 6 magnum loads only; and by archery equipment consisting of a long bow (straight limb, reflex, recurve, and compound bow) of not less than forty (40) pounds pull, and shall use broadhead arrows, with at least two cutting edges seven eighths inches (7/8") or greater at the widest point. A bow string release device where the bow is hand held, hand drawn and finger released is allowed.
- 10.8 The use of any other firearm, live decoy(s), baiting, dog(s), cooperative drive(s), electric calling devices, or any other devices, to capture or ensnare turkeys is prohibited.

- 10.9 The shooting of turkeys on the roost is prohibited.
- 10.10 Stalking or attempting to sneak up on a turkey to get a shot is prohibited.
- 10.11 Hunters must carry a turkey calling device (non-electric) while hunting. Calling is the only legal method for hunting wild turkey gobblers.
- 10.12 A person shall not hunt, kill, take, or attempt to take, or possess any wild turkey unless they possess on their person a permit to do so. Provided, however, that if an individual has a valid Rhode Island hunting license, that individual may call turkeys for individuals with a valid turkey permit.
- 10.13 A person receiving a turkey permit is required to sign, in ink, on the face of the turkey tag prior to hunting. A person killing a wild turkey shall immediately, before transporting or removing the carcass in any manner from where it was killed, complete and attach to the leg in a conspicuous manner the "turkey tag" provided with the permit following instructions printed on the tag. Said "turkey tag" shall remain attached to the turkey until the turkey is presented to a duly authorized check station for checking; where such tag shall be removed and a metal tag attached. The metal tag must remain attached until the carcass is prepared for consumption or taxidermy. The hunting of wild turkey when not in possession of a valid, signed unused "turkey tag" shall be prima-facie evidence of hunting without a valid turkey hunting permit.
- 10.14 Within the same calendar day, but no later than 4:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, after killing a wild turkey, the entire fully-feathered intact carcass of the bird must be presented by the person killing same to a duly authorized check station for the purpose of being recorded, examined, and sealed.
- 10.15 Applicants must have a valid current Rhode Island hunting, combination, or other such valid license as required by law to hunt in Rhode Island before purchasing a 2003 turkey permit.
- 10.16 A mandatory hunter survey card will be issued to each permittee. This hunter survey must be returned to the Division by June 10, 2003; **WHETHER YOU HUNT, OR WHETHER OR NOT YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL.** Failure to return the survey card will result in the rejection of your application for the following turkey hunting year.

PART XI FURBEARERS*

11.1 *Furbearers as defined by RIGL 20-16-1.

11.2 Raccoon -

Open Season -- The open season for raccoon shall be 6:00 PM October 1, 2002 through the last day of February, inclusive; excluding the period of Shotgun Deer Season December 7, 2002 through December 22, 2002 inclusive, in Providence, Kent, and Washington Counties. Raccoon season will remain open December 16 through 22 on State Management Areas. In the Town of Portsmouth, Prudence Island, season shall be limited to January 14, 2003 through the last day of February, inclusive, with written permission of the landowner and special permit issued by the DEM representative on Prudence Island. That portion of Providence County east of the Blackstone River shall remain open to raccoon hunting during the period December 7 – 22, 2002. Provided, however, that bow hunters with a valid deer archery permit may take raccoon on Prudence Island during legal deer hunting hours November 1, 2002 – January 17, 2003, or until the quota is filled. Special permit not required for bow hunters under this latter provision.

Bag Limits - There is no season limit on raccoon. There are no limits to the taking of raccoon by bow hunters as provided under 1.2, or under special permit on Prudence and Patience Islands. There is no bag limit on fox.

11.3 The trapping season for mink, muskrat, skunk, raccoon, fox, opossum, and weasel shall be November 1, 2002, through January 31, 2003, inclusive. Traps may not be set, staked, or placed prior to 8:00 AM on opening day, November 1, annually.

11.3.1 The trapping season for beaver shall be December 1, 2002 March 15, 2003, inclusive. Traps may not be set, staked, or placed prior to 8:00 AM on opening day, December 1, 2002.

Setting traps within 10 feet of a beaver lodge/bank den is prohibited, unless allowed under nuisance complaint request.

All trappers participating in beaver trapping must first obtain a Special Permit (no fee) issued by the Division of Fish and Wildlife as well as a current RI Trapping License.

Individual trappers may be limited to the number of beaver harvested as established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The number of beaver to be harvested within each watershed shall be determined by the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Division reserves the right to alter the number at any time.

Special beaver permits/tags may be issued for selected watersheds, or specific sites within watershed. Special permits/tags are valid only for assigned trap sites.

11.3.2 The experimental trapping season for fisher *Martes pennanti* shall be November 1, 2002 to November 30, 2002, inclusive. All trappers participating in the fisher trapping season must obtain a special permit (no fee) from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Great Swamp Field Headquarters in addition to their current R.I. trapping license. There shall be a season limit of two(2) fisher per permit. All fisher pelts must be presented for tagging within 72 hours of taking. In addition, all fisher carcasses must be turned in to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Great Swamp Field Headquarters. No fisher pelts will be tagged without the submission of the carcass to Fish and Wildlife. A trapper survey card will be issued to each permittee and must be returned to the Division at the close of fisher season. The Division of Fish and Wildlife reserves the right to alter the number of permits or the number of fisher harvested at any time. All other general trapping regulations apply.

All permittees may be subject to administrative penalties of up to \$1,000.00 for violation of any of these regulations pursuant to RIGL Chapter 42-17-6.

11.4 Body gripping "conibear" type traps in Sizes 110, 120, or 160 (or equivalent, not to exceed 6 ½ inch jaw spread as measured from hinge to hinge) shall be permitted on land or in water; Size 220 (or its equivalent, not to exceed 8 inch jaw spread) shall be permitted only if such trap is completely submerged in water, or placed at least six (6) feet above the surface of water or ground (i.e., trees). All other "conibear" type traps are prohibited.

11.4.1 For the taking of beaver, the use of 220 and 330 "Conibear" type traps shall be permitted only if such traps are completely submerged underwater and in a vertical position. Trap jaw spread not to exceed 10 inch opening when set.

11.5 Permits to trap state land are required in addition to a current Rhode Island trapping license, and are obtainable from the Division of Fish and Wildlife Field Headquarters, Great Swamp Management Area, West Kingston, RI. Only the use of body-gripping (i.e., conibear) type traps or "box" (i.e., live) traps are permitted on state lands as specified. Body-gripping traps, sizes

110, 120, or 160 or equivalent, are permitted only if such traps are used in water sets (i.e., all or a portion of the trap is submerged in water) or placed no less than six (6) feet above the surface of the ground. The use of body gripping traps, size 220 and 330 or their equivalent (jaw spread not to exceed ten (10) inches shall only be permitted if such traps are completely submerged in water (in a vertical position). All traps placed on state lands must be affixed with the name, address and Rhode Island trapping license number of the owner.

- 11.6 All "box" traps must have the name, address, and license number if applicable, of trapper attached. All steel traps must have the valid license number of the trapper embedded or cut into the trap, or a metal tag attached to the trap which, as a minimum, bears the trapper's license number as designated in RIGL 20-16-7.
- 11.7 There is no open season on bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) or otter (*Lontra canadensis*)
- 11.8 Possession, at any time, of a pelt or carcass of an otter, fisher, bobcat or beaver that has not been tagged by an approved state or federal agency shall be prima-facie evidence of illegal taking. Otter and bobcat may only be taken or possessed under RIGL 20-16-2 and 20-16-8 or otherwise must be presented to the Division of Fish and Wildlife or Division of Enforcement within 24 hours of taking. Otter or bobcat taken under RIGL 20-16-2, RIGL 20-16-8 or otherwise shall not be tagged for personal use or ownership. Beaver and fishers must be tagged in accordance with 11.3.1 and 11.3.2, respectively.
- 11.9 There is no closed season for red squirrel, woodchuck, or coyote (coyote pelts must be tagged by the Division of Fish and Wildlife prior to sale or export).
During the shotgun season for deer December 7 – 22 all coyote hunters must possess a valid shotgun deer permit. Legal hunting hours for the above species is sunrise to sunset, see 9.1, **except** for coyotes where the legal hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

PART XII REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

- 12.1 The removal from the wild, for any purposes, of any reptile or amphibian to include their nests and eggs is prohibited except by special permit. The taking of snapping turtles at any time shall be limited to the following methods: turtle traps, snagging, snaring, grabbing, jugging, bow and arrow, or while legally fishing. Turtle traps must have a metal tag attached which, at a minimum, bears the trapper's name and address. Jugs must be marked indelibly with name and address of trapper.
- 12.2 The following species of reptiles and amphibians to include their nests and eggs are protected and possession without permit is prohibited at all times: Timber rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus*; northern diamondback terrapin, *Malaclemys terrapin*; wood turtle, *Clemmys insculpta*; eastern box turtle, *Terrapene carolina*; spotted turtle, *Clemmys guttata*; and bog turtle, *Clemmys muhlenbergi*.

PART XIII MANAGEMENT AREAS

- 13.1 The possession of a valid Rhode Island hunting, or combination hunting and fishing license, shall serve as a permit to hunt State Management Areas, and Tidal Lands pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 18, §§ 20-18-2 and 20-18-3 of the General Laws.
- 13.2 Permit shall be valid only from the first day of dove season in September through the last day of February, **except** when check stations are in operation for upland game at the Great Swamp, Carolina, Durfee Hill, and Arcadia; for turkey hunting; when special permits are required for deer hunting; or for waterfowl hunting on state lands. (See current abstract for check station dates). Bow hunters and muzzleloading hunters hunting deer on state management areas do not need to check in or out.
- 13.3 The carrying of firearms on state management areas at any other time is prohibited **except** as provided in Management Area Regulations 11.1 On management areas and designated undeveloped parks, the carrying of firearms and bows and arrows at any time, except during the open season for game birds and mammals, and while on shooting ranges, is prohibited. In addition to above, blank guns are permitted for the purpose of dog training in designated areas from January 1 to September 30.
- 13.4 Individuals must check in, and out, of state management hunter check stations each day they are open for upland season. Check station dates will be listed in the current Hunting Season Abstract.
- 13.5 Dog training and all hunting, except for bow hunting for deer, and waterfowl hunting, as provided, is prohibited on state land during the period of October 14, 2002 through October 18, 2002 unless otherwise provided.
- 13.6 From the period April 1 through August 15, annually, there shall be no trespassing, disturbing, or molesting of any species of nesting birds on Hope Island in the West Passage; Gould Island in the Sakonnet River, East Island and West Island off Sakonnet Point, or Gould Island in the East Passage, except by special permit. All cats, dogs, and other domestic animals are prohibited at all times upon these Islands, **except** that hunting dogs may be used during that period set aside by the Department for hunting of game birds and mammals on Hope Island only.
- 13.7 All users of state Management Areas, during the period October 19, 2002 through the last day of February (exception includes boat-launching sites, raccoon hunters, archers in tree stands, or waterfowl hunters as provided)

must wear a minimum of 200 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange material in a head covering visible from all directions. A fluorescent orange hat will meet the requirement. During the shotgun season for deer, all hunters, **except** waterfowl hunters as provided, must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange material, contained in an outer garment and worn above the waist, a portion of which must include a head covering visible from all directions.

- 13.8 The possession and/or use of paint guns on state management areas is prohibited. See RIGL § 32-2-4.
- 13.9 A hunting license is required when training dogs on wild game on state management areas, except when participating in state-sanctioned field trials.
- 13.10 Complete dressing of game birds and mammals on state property is prohibited. Field dressing (removal of entrails only) is permitted. Head, skin, feathers, wings, tails, etc., shall remain attached to the carcass.
- 13.11 Dogs on State Management Areas allowed only under the following rules.
 - 13.11.1 No dogs shall be trained, run, or exercised or be permitted to run at large on state management areas from March 15 to August 15, inclusive, without written permission of the Division of Fish and Wildlife except as otherwise provided in these regulations (13.5 and 13.12).
 - 13.11.2 Walking of dogs on a leash of not more than 25 feet in length shall be permitted on roads and trails only.
 - 13.11.3 All dogs must be wearing a collar with the name and address of the owner or handler and license tag.
- 13.12 Dog Training Areas -- Dog training areas shall be allowed on designated areas only, between January 1 and September 30. During this period, dogs may run freely provided they are under the command of the trainer by either voice, training collar, or check cord.
 - 13.12.1 Areas designated for training dogs are: the Black Farm Management Area; the Nicholas Farm Management Area north of the Trestle Trail; and the Arcadia Midway Trail Area confined to the developed field complex east of Brook Trail, south of Austin Farm Road and west of the established field edges comprising the Midway fields area. Field trial areas are as depicted on maps drawn by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

- 13.12.2 Training hours shall be sunrise to sunset.
- 13.12.3 All persons using areas for training shall possess a hunting license.
- 13.12.4 All dogs using areas shall be licensed and have proof of rabies vaccinations.
- 13.12.5 Training with live birds (pheasants/quail) is permitted provided the bird is released unharmed and all necessary permits are obtained.
- 13.12.6 Shooting of live birds for training purposes is prohibited.
- 13.12.7 Sanctioned field trial events may be held at the following locations by requesting a special permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife: Arcadia, Carolina, Durfee Hill Marsh, and Burlingame (Durfee) Pond, and Nicholas Farm.
- 13.13 **JOHN L. CURRAN STATE PARK/MANAGEMENT AREA**
 - 13.13.1 All hunting shall be within the inner boundaries of the buffer zones marked as posted by the Department.
 - 13.13.2 Only shotguns and bow & arrows may be possessed or used while hunting.
 - 13.13.3 The hunting of and/or possession of Mourning Dove or Wild Pigeons (Rock Dove) is prohibited.
- 13.14 **SIMMONS MILL POND MANAGEMENT AREA** -- Only archery equipment, bow and arrows, may be possessed or used while hunting white-tailed deer within the Simmons Mill Pond Management in Little Compton.
- 13.15 **DUTCH ISLAND**

Prohibition on the entry upon Dutch Island. No person shall enter onto Dutch Island without the specific written permission of the Director
- 13.16 **SEAPOWET and EIGHT ROD FARM MANAGEMENT AREA**

No Sunday hunting. No deer muzzleloader hunting on Seapowet.

PART XIV

GENERAL

- 14.1 Taking of moose or bear by any method is prohibited except as provided under special permit issued by the Director of the Department of Environmental Management.
- 14.2 The importation, exportation, possession, liberation, or sale, offer for sale, barter, or offer for barter of **mute swans and their eggs** is prohibited, except by special permit issued by the Director of the Department of Environmental Management or his designee.
- 14.3 The importation, exportation, possession, liberation, or sale, offer for sale, barter, or offer for barter of any live or pen-reared **wild turkey** or eggs of a wild turkey is prohibited. The possession of any dead untagged wild turkey is prohibited.
- 14.4 There is no closed season for monk parakeets or rock doves (wild pigeons).
- 14.5 From the third Saturday in October to the last day of February, annually, all hunters (unless bow hunting for deer; hunting raccoon at night; or waterfowl hunting from a blind or boat or crow over decoys), must wear a minimum of 200 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange material, contained in outer garments and worn above the waist, and visible in all directions. This may be a hat and/or vest. (see exceptions: muzzle-loading deer season - Part 2.3; shotgun deer season - Part 3.6; and archery deer season 4.8).
- 14.6 All dogs being utilized in hunting activities must be wearing a collar with a valid license tag, and the name and address of the owner or handler thereon.
- 14.7 Waterfowl hunting is permitted no more than 10 feet above mean high water on Prudence Island, **except** in that period from the October 4 – 7 and during November 1 - 30.
- 14.8 Shooting at any animal at any time, while such animal is on a telephone line, pole, or tower, or electric line, pole, or tower, or any communication device is prohibited.
- 14.9 A muzzle-loading rifle, not to exceed .40 calibre, with round ball and patch only, may be used to hunt small mammals during the established seasons for these species. The use of solid ball in a muzzle-loading shotgun is prohibited at all times, except when deer hunting as provided.

- 14.10 The use or possession of laser sights or night-vision equipment while hunting is prohibited.
- 14.11 No person shall import or possess game birds for the purpose of liberation or stocking of said game birds into the State of Rhode Island without first having received a permit to do so from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Persons holding a commercial game license or shooting preserve license may liberate game birds or mammals in connection with field trials and shooting preserves. See RIGL 20-2-16.1, 20-2-29, and 20-17-1.
- 14.12 No person shall feed any black bear (*Ursus americanus*). No person shall intentionally use any method(s) to attract or entice a black bear.

RULE 8 EFFECTIVE DATE

The foregoing Rules and Regulations - R.I. Hunting for the 2002 - 2003 Season, after due notice, are hereby adopted and filed with the Secretary of State this _____ day of _____, 2002 to become effective twenty (20) days thereafter, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 20, 20-1-4, 20-1-12, 20-1-13, 42-35, 42-17.1, and 42-17.6 of the General Laws of Rhode Island of 1956, as amended.

Jan Harmen Reitsma, Director
Department of Environmental Management

Notice Given on: 5/2/02

Public Hearing held: 6/5/02

Filing Date: As stamped by the Secretary of State

Effective Date: 20 days from filing

August 23, 2002

The Honorable Edward S. Inman, III
Secretary of State
217 State House
Providence, RI 02907

Dear Secretary Inman:

The DEM - Division of Fish and Wildlife, in accordance with Chapters 20-1-4, 20-1-12, 20-1-13, "Department of Environmental Management", and 42-17.1, 42-17.6, 32-2-4 and 42-35 Administrative Procedures, General Laws of Rhode Island, 1956 as amended, has made a technical revision to regulations governing the following items:

Hunting and trapping

The purpose of this technical revision is to correct a computer error that occurred in the final version of the regulations that were filed. The technical revision does not change the value or meaning of these regulations.

The attached regulations will become effective twenty (20) days subsequent to filing.

Sincerely,

John A. Stolgitis
Chief

Justification
For the promulgation of
Wildlife Regulations

A public hearing and filing of regulations for wildlife and freshwater fishing must be done on an annual basis as required by RIGL 20-1-12 – Fixing of Seasons and Bag Limits, and RIGL 20-1-13 – Publication and Effective Date of Seasons and Bag Limits.

The proposed regulations are formulated after the biological staff has reviewed and analyzed harvest data from the previous years hunting, fishing, and trapping seasons.

Justification
For the technical revision of
Wildlife Regulations for the 2002-2003 Season

When preparing the final version of regulations for filing, two words were inadvertently dropped from the text of the annotated draft that went to public hearing. This change does not effect the value or meaning of these regulations, but is necessary to make the regulation understandable. (See below)

The original hunting regulations were missing the following two words

- 9.2 Open season for Fox, Gray Squirrels, Cottontail Rabbits, Snowshoe Hare October 19, 2002- the last day of February EXCEPT during shotgun deer season (December 7 – 22, 2002). State land will remain open December 16 - 22, 2002.

Prudence Island:

November 1, 2002 November 30, 2002 EXCEPT on northern Prudence Island Management Area the season shall be January 18 – 31, 2003, inclusive. South Prudence and Patience Management Areas closed to shotgun small game hunting.

Newport & Bristol Counties and East of Blackstone River & New Shoreham:

remains open (December 7 – 22, 2002).