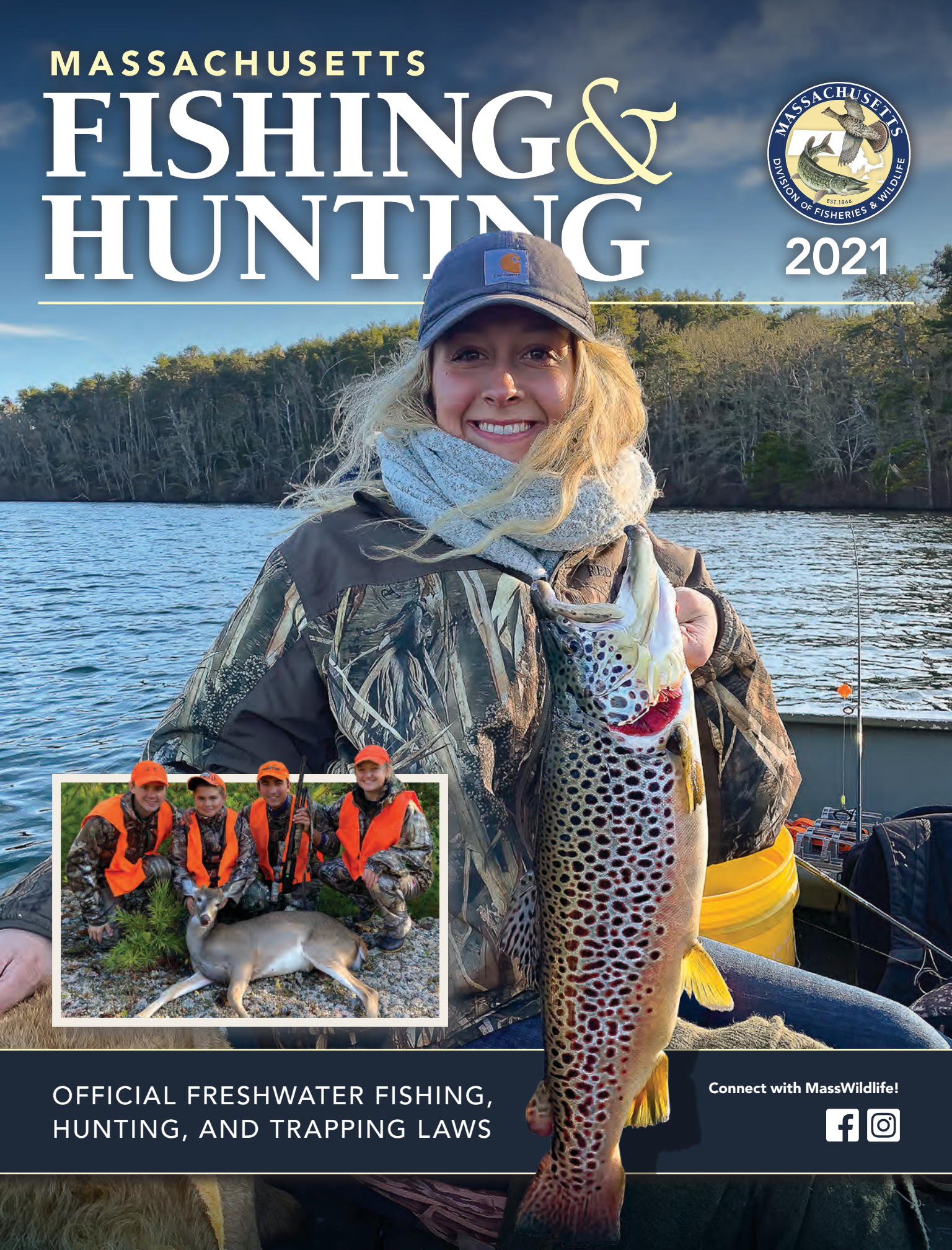
MASSACHUSETTS

FISHING & HUNTING

2021



OFFICIAL FRESHWATER FISHING, HUNTING, AND TRAPPING LAWS

Connect with MassWildlife!

MAXIMUM ACCURACY

BROWNING®

KITTERY TRADING POST©

X-BOLT® MAX LONG RANGE HUNTER RIFLE
Black/gray textured stock finish, stainless steel, fluted heavy sporter barrel for long-range accuracy. (scope, rings, rail not included)

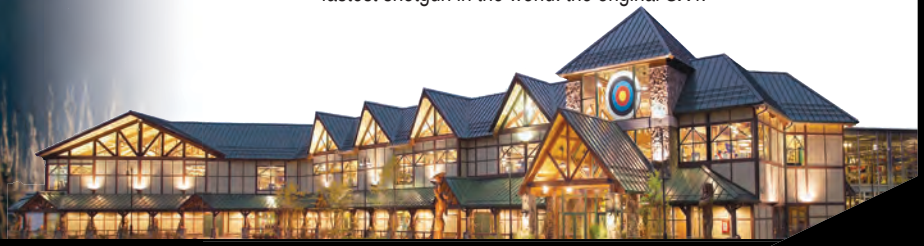
BAR MARK III RIFLE
Autoloader with traditional walnut stock, polished blued steel barrel, engraved alloy receiver, Inflex recoil pad.

BLR LIGHTWEIGHT RIFLE
Satin nickel finish receiver and stainless steel barrel. Gloss walnut stock, open sights, pistol grip style buttstock.

WINCHESTER® REPEATING ARMS

MODEL 70 FEATHERWEIGHT RIFLE
Stainless steel receiver & barrel. M.O.A.™ trigger system, three-position safety, controlled round feed, controlled ejection. Grade I walnut stock, satin finish, cut checkering.

SX4 FIELD SHOTGUN
Upland (and marsh) ready with a satin oil finish walnut stock, matte black receiver, Truglo front sight. The SX4 Field is a step forward from the fastest shotgun in the world: the original SX4.



See our instant $25 OFF coupon on page 36!

Save 20% Online!
Visit ktp.com/mahunt for details!

Rte 1 Kittery, ME / 888-587-6246 / ktp.com / ktpguns.com

GENERAL

By The Numbers 2
MassWildlife Directory 4
Environmental Police 5
Licenses, Stamps, Permits, and Fees 6–8
Marine Fisheries and Saltwater Permits 7
Wildlife Lands Acquisition 9
Recreational Vehicles 18
Outdoor Skills Programs 48
Education Programs 49
Publications 50
Sunrise-Sunset Table 51

FISHING 10–17

Fishing and Bait Regulations 10–11
Free Fishing Weekend 11
Reptiles and Amphibians 11
Catch and Release Areas 12
Interstate Pond Regulations 12
Fishing Prohibitions 12
Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program 13
Catch and Release Tips 13
Ice Strength and Safety Tips 14
Boating Laws 15
Fishing and Boating Access 15
Fishing Map 16
Trout Stocking 16

HUNTING 18–45

Gun Laws 21
Wildlife Management Area Regulations ... 21
Wildlife Management Zone Map 22–23
Youth Hunters 24–25
Deer 26–29
Black Bear 30–31
MassWildlife Lands 31
Wild Turkey 32–33
Pheasant 34
Ruffed Grouse, Bobwhite Quail 35, 36
Crow 37
Rabbit, Hare, Gray Squirrel 38, 39
Migratory Game Birds 40–41
Coyote, Fox, Bobcat 42, 43, 44
Raccoon and Opossum 45
Summary of Hunting Season Dates 52

TRAPPING 46–47

Furbearer Check Stations 46
Trapping Prohibitions 47
Problem Animal Control 47

BE SAFE, BE SEEN

GET YOUR ORANGE ON

ALL outdoor users who are in the field during hunting seasons are encouraged to wear blaze orange to increase their visibility. Hunters see page 18 for blaze orange requirements.

Learn more at *mass.gov/dfw/blaze-orange*

NEW FOR 2021

- **A minor hunting license online purchasing option. See page 24.**
- **Coyote and fox harvest by hunters must be reported within 48 hours of harvest. See pages 42 and 43.**
- **Wanton waste of game animals and hunting contests for furbearers are prohibited. See pages 18 and 20.**

Have a question?

mass.wildlife@mass.gov
(508) 389-6300

Connect with MassWildlife!

On the Cover

Cassandra Pagliarani of Harwich with a 4 lb 6 oz Brown Trout she caught on a lure with spinning tackle at Cliff Pond in Brewster. She entered her catch in MassWildlife's Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program. To learn more about the program see page 13. **Photo by Drew Keese/courtesy MassWildlife/SFAP**

Cover Inset

Youth Hunters enjoy success during the 2020 Youth Deer Hunt Day. Pictured (left to right) are Hunter Jordan, Johnathan Tapply, Mitchell Jordan Jr., and Molly Jordan. It was Johnathan's first deer. **Photo © Mitchell Jordan**

MASSWILDLIFE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Charlie Baker, Governor
Karyn Polito, Lieutenant Governor

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Kathleen Theoharides, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Ronald S. Amidon, Commissioner

DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
Mark S. Tisa, Director

FISHERIES & WILDLIFE BOARD
Joseph S. Larson, Ph.D. (Pelham)
Bonita J. Booth (Spencer)
Bob Durand (Marlborough)
Ernest W. Foster IV (Scituate)
Michael P. Roche (Orange)
Stephen A. Sears (Dalton)
Brandi Van Roo, Ph.D. (Douglas)

NATURAL HERITAGE & ENDANGERED SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Mark J. Mello, Acting Chair (New Bedford)
William E. Brumback (Acton)
Timothy J. Flanagan (Lenox)
Joseph S. Larson, Ph.D. (Pelham)
Wayne R. Petersen (Hanson)
Kevin D. Powers (Plymouth)
David H. Small (Athol)

Associate Members
Andrew D. Finton (Watertown)
Russell T. Hopping (New Bedford)
Bryan S. Windmiller, Ph.D. (Concord)

MASSWILDLIFE ACTIVITIES IN FISCAL YEAR 2020

Despite the impacts of COVID 19 in 2020, MassWildlife staff rose to the occasion, continuing their conservation efforts in the fields and forests, on lakes and rivers, at the hatcheries and in-home offices. Another positive note; outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, camping, birdwatching, and other nature-based recreation flourished. Many people less familiar with the outdoors found themselves discovering outdoor spaces and wildlife in their neighborhoods and communities. Seasoned anglers and hunters pulled out their rods and reels, and hunting equipment. Naturalists, birders, and photographers shouldered their dipnets, binoculars, and cameras. MassWildlife and the sporting community has an opportunity to take advantage of this situation by consciously engaging with the novice outdoor newbie and continuing to foster their enjoyment of the outdoors. MassWildlife is committed to do its part to recruit, retain, and reactivate interest in the outdoors and wildlife. At the same time, the agency will continue conservation mission to benefits both wildlife, plants and their habitats.

- **2,200 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat acquired.** MassWildlife protects over 222,000 acres of property open to hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other nature-based recreation. (see page 9)
- **1,500 acres of habitat actively managed on 13 Wildlife Management Areas.** Tree clearing, prescribed burns, invasive plant control, and mowing is benefiting declining or rare wildlife like American woodcock, ruffed grouse.
- **30th anniversary of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act celebrated.** Endangered species were featured in the MassWildlife's e-newsletter, rare species conservation projects were broadcast online, and a *Massachusetts Wildlife* magazine issue was devoted to endangered species conservation efforts.
- **449,277 trout stocked in the spring of 2020 in 73 lakes and ponds and 174 rivers and streams in 224 cities and towns.** In the fall of 2019, a total of 61,612 trout were stocked in 99 ponds and lakes, and 7 rivers and streams in 94 communities. An improved Go Fish MA! map was launched online. (see page 16)
- **40,000 pheasants released for hunters on Wildlife Management Areas and other lands open to hunting.** A new pheasant stocking area web map was launched in fall 2019.
- **23,182 turkey permits purchased.** This record number may be due to COVID-19 closures which allowed hunters more time and opportunity to hunt.
- **130 educators attended Project WILD workshops and instructed about 9,750 youths in wildlife conservation.** An additional 521 young people participated in general wildlife education programs through community, youth group, and other organizations. (see page 49)
- **338 pieces of artwork submitted for the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Contest** by youth artists in grades K–12. (see page 49)
- **1519 entries for the Freshwater Sportfishing Awards entries.** Submit your catch entry online in the Youth or Adult Category! (see page 13)
- **1.5 million visitors** – Number of individuals visiting MassWildlife's web pages. In addition, over 49,000 people follow MassWildlife on Facebook and 81,342 people receive MassWildlife's monthly e-newsletter and 20,000 subscribe to *Massachusetts Wildlife* magazine. (see page 50)

LEGENDARY FISHING AWAITS!

SALMON RIVER, PULASKI NEW YORK

It only takes one light tackle hook-up for you to understand why they are called Steelhead.

Anglers from around the world will tell you that these underwater lightning bolts do more than steal your bait. By the time they have had their way with you, they'll have stolen your heart and soul. Whether heading upstream for a fall feeding frenzy or dropping back to Lake Ontario in the spring, these 5-10 lb. "chromers" will give you the freshwater fight that brings you back for more.

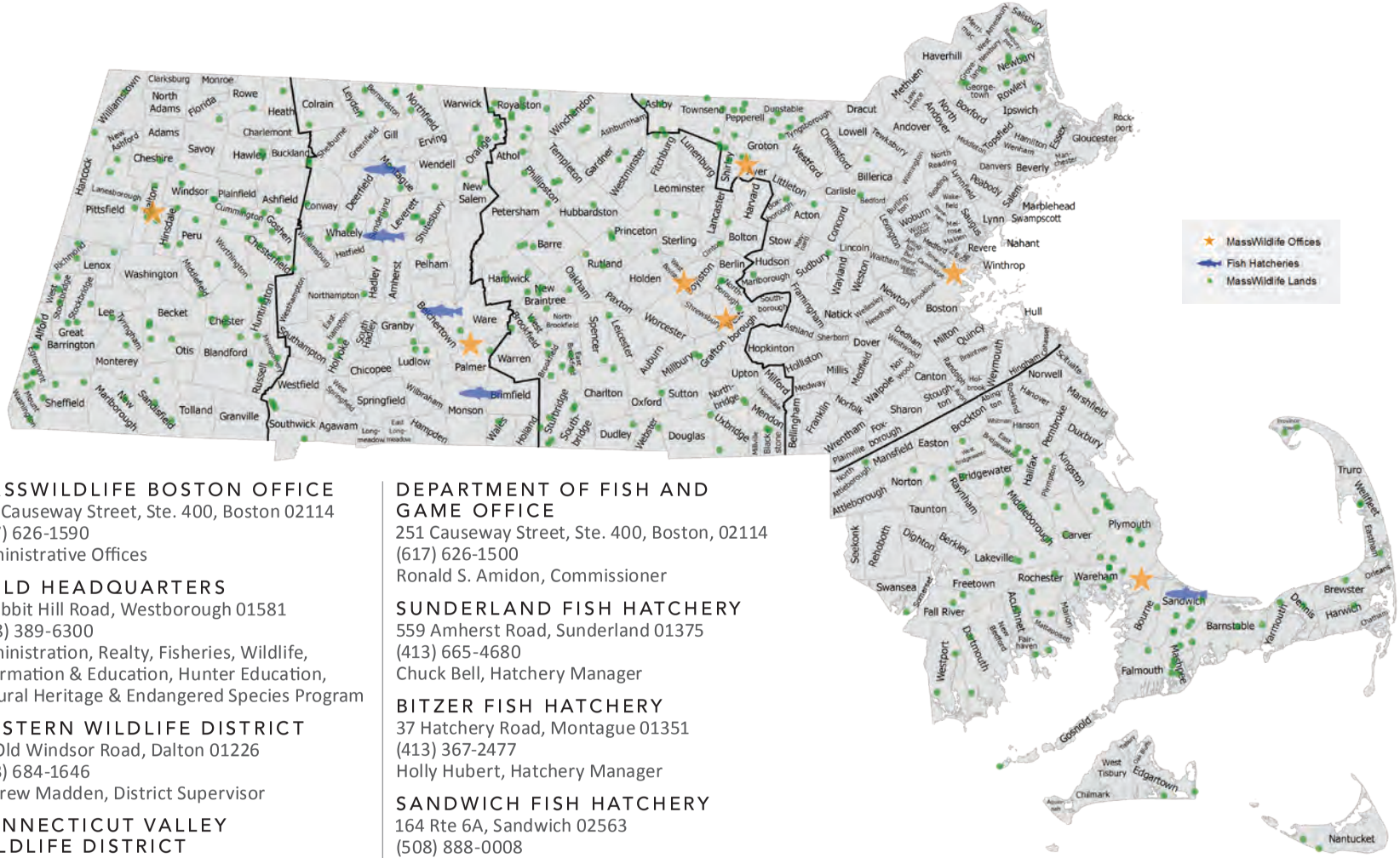
Let this be your year to experience the legendary waters of the Salmon River -- long regarded as one of North America's premier steelhead destinations!

visitoswegocounty.com

ORDER YOUR FREE GUIDE!

CALL US AT:

315.349.8322



MASSWILDLIFE DIRECTORY

MASSWILDLIFE BOSTON OFFICE
251 Causeway Street, Ste. 400, Boston 02114
(617) 626-1590
Administrative Offices

FIELD HEADQUARTERS
1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough 01581
(508) 389-6300
Administration, Realty, Fisheries, Wildlife, Information & Education, Hunter Education, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

WESTERN WILDLIFE DISTRICT
88 Old Windsor Road, Dalton 01226
(413) 684-1646
Andrew Madden, District Supervisor

CONNECTICUT VALLEY WILDLIFE DISTRICT
341 East Street, Belchertown 01007
(413) 323-7632
Joseph Rogers, District Supervisor

CENTRAL WILDLIFE DISTRICT
211 Temple Street, West Boylston 01583
(508) 835-3607
Todd Olanyk, District Supervisor

NORTHEAST WILDLIFE DISTRICT
85 Fitchburg Road, Ayer 01432
(978) 772-2145
Patricia Huckery, District Supervisor

SOUTHEAST WILDLIFE DISTRICT
195 Bournedale Road, Buzzards Bay 02532
(508) 759-3406
Jason Zimmer, District Supervisor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OFFICE
251 Causeway Street, Ste. 400, Boston, 02114
(617) 626-1500
Ronald S. Amidon, Commissioner

SUNDERLAND FISH HATCHERY
559 Amherst Road, Sunderland 01375
(413) 665-4680
Chuck Bell, Hatchery Manager

BITZER FISH HATCHERY
37 Hatchery Road, Montague 01351
(413) 367-2477
Holly Hubert, Hatchery Manager

SANDWICH FISH HATCHERY
164 Rte 6A, Sandwich 02563
(508) 888-0008
Adam Davies, Hatchery Manager

ROGER REED FISH HATCHERY (CLOSED TO PUBLIC)
693 Ware Street, Palmer, MA
(413) 283-7440
Daniel Marchant, Hatchery Manager

MCLAUGHLIN FISH HATCHERY
90 East Street, Belchertown 01007
(413) 323-7671
Vacant, Hatchery Manager

Explore the MassWildlife Lands Viewer online to learn more about land and waters open to hunting, fishing, trapping, and watching wildlife. Go to *mass.gov/dfw/wildlife-lands*.

CONTACT US
mass.wildlife@mass.gov

QUESTIONS?
Email us at mass.wildlife@mass.gov
Get MassWildlife's E-Newsletter:
mass.gov/dfw/newsletter

CONNECT WITH US!

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE

The mission of the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP) is to protect the environment and natural resources of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through enforcement, education, and public outreach.

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

Emergency 24/7 Statewide Dispatch
(800) 632-8075
(617) 626-1665
mass.gov/ole

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE BOSTON HQ
Shaun T. Santos, Colonel
251 Causeway Street, Suite 101
Boston, MA 02114

BOAT AND RECREATION VEHICLE REGISTRATION OFFICES

Boston
(617) 626-1610

Hyannis
(508) 771-8382

Worcester
(508) 753-0603

Fall River
(508) 679-8287

Springfield
(413) 733-1642

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) AND BOATING SAFETY COURSES
(508) 564-4961, *mass.gov/boat-and-off-highway-vehicle-ohv-safety-courses*

SALVAGE OF DEER, MOOSE, AND BEAR

ROAD-KILLED DEER may be kept by a Massachusetts driver or passenger of vehicle killing said deer if reported to MEP at (800) 632-8075 immediately and then tagged at a MassWildlife or MEP office within 24 hours.

ROAD-KILLED MOOSE OR BEAR may not be kept by a Massachusetts driver or passenger of the vehicle killing the said moose or bear. The disposition of any moose or bear carcass is only at the discretion of MEP or MassWildlife. To report a road-killed moose or bear, call MassWildlife at (508) 389-6300.

EST. 2004 J.F. GRIFFIN PUBLISHING
Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

About This Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important agency programs.

If you have any feedback or are interested in advertising, please contact us at 413.884.1001 or at www.JFGriffin.com

Graphic Design:
Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, John Corey, Evelyn Haddad, Chris Sobolowski

NOTICE

This *Guide* contains a summary of the laws and regulations in place as of October 10, 2020. Any changes in law or regulation enacted after October 10, 2020 are publicized by MassWildlife through releases to the news media, all license sales outlets, and on its website. These are not the complete laws and regulations. Laws and regulations (MGL Ch. 131 and 321 CMR) are subject to change.

LICENSES

HUNTING, FRESHWATER FISHING & TRAPPING

Licenses are valid from January 1 through December 31 (except for limited term licenses).

Who Needs a License?

Hunting: Licenses are required for anyone 15 years of age and over for hunting any game bird or mammal. No person under the age of 12 may hunt. (See Youth Hunters, page 24–25)

Fishing: Licenses are required for anyone 15 years of age and over for fishing the inland (fresh) waters of Massachusetts. Anglers under 15 may fish, but do not need a license. A freshwater (inland) fishing license is not required on the Merrimack River seaward of the first upstream bridge (northbound traffic) of Route 495 in Haverhill, however, a saltwater fishing permit is required. (See page 7)

Trapping: A license is required for all persons age 12 years of age and older. In addition, to trap on the land of another, a Trap Registration Number is required.

AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNERS: Any person who owns or leases land that is principally used for agriculture and any immediate family members and who are domiciled on said land does not need a hunting, fishing, or trapping license to hunt, fish, or trap on that property. Permits and stamps are still required.

RESIDENT & NON-RESIDENT LICENSES: To obtain a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license, applicant must reside in Massachusetts for six consecutive months immediately prior to purchase.

A valid Massachusetts non-resident license is required for all non-resident anglers and hunters ages 15 and older. A Big Game License is required of all non-residents to hunt deer, bear, and wild turkey and allows for hunting of small game. For hunting small game only, a non-resident Small Game license is required. (see page 19 for non-resident hunter information)

Purchasing Licenses, Stamps & Permits

Licenses, stamps, and permits may be purchased online by anglers 15 years and older, and by hunters and trappers 18 years or older at *mass.gov/massfishhunt*. Minor hunters (15–17 years old) and minor trappers (12–17 years old) (or parent/guardian) must purchase the license at a MassWildlife office or other license vendor including some city and town clerks, and selected sporting goods retailers, due to documents needed for verification. Licenses, permits, and stamps are not transferable.

Hunting/Sporting License

First ever hunting and sporting licenses for anyone aged 18 years or older can be purchased only if the buyer has successfully completed a Basic Hunter Education course from any jurisdiction or held a hunting license from any jurisdiction prior to 2007.

YOUTH HUNTERS (15–17 YEARS OLD): All hunters 15–17 years old must be licensed and possess any other required permits or stamps. Additionally, they must either be accompanied by an adult while hunting or have a government-approved certificate from a Basic Hunter Education Course from any jurisdiction. To purchase a license, hunters between 15–17 years old must have written consent from a parent/legal guardian. **NEW:** Minor hunting licenses may be purchased online. Parents/legal guardians create an account in MassFishHunt, fill out an electronic form to provide consent, and then after authorization from MassWildlife return to purchase the minor's license. In-person purchase of a license is an option from available license vendors. (See Youth Hunters, pages 24–25) Minors may need to obtain a Firearms Identification Card (FID) card to hunt with a gun. (See Gun Laws, page 21)

YOUTH HUNTERS (12–14 YEARS OLD): No person under the age of 12 may hunt. All minors 12–14 years old may hunt when accompanied by a duly licensed adult, provided that a single bag limit shall be observed and only one firearm/bow is possessed by the two. Only one minor per licensed adult is permitted. No Firearms Identification (FID) card is needed by 12–14 year old minors.

Falconry

Hunting with birds of prey is allowed under a special permit from MassWildlife. A hunting license is also required. Contact MassWildlife at (508) 389-6300 for more information.

Trapping License & Trap Registration Number

To trap on the land of another, a Trap Registration Number is required and may be obtained from the Permit Section, Boston Office (617) 626-1575 only after successful completion of a Trapper Education course from any U.S. state. To obtain a trapping license, minors 12–17 years-old must have a letter of consent from a parent or guardian. (see page 46)

LICENSE, PERMIT, TAG DISPLAY: All hunters, anglers and trappers must have their license, permits and stamps in possession while engaging in these activities. Hunters and anglers may display a true, complete and legible image of a valid license using a mobile device. Hunters must comply with all tagging requirements. If a tag is required, as it is for hunting deer, bear, and turkey, hunters must carry a paper copy of the license, permits and tags.

PERMITS

ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT: Required to take an antlerless deer during archery, shotgun, and primitive firearms seasons in all zones. The deadline to apply for an antlerless deer permit is July 16 at any license vendor or online through the MassFishHunt system. Only one application per person. The application is free. (see page 28)

YOUTH DEER HUNT PERMIT: Youth hunters ages 12–17 are required to obtain a free permit to hunt deer on the designated day. (see page 25)

BEAR PERMIT: Required to hunt bear. Hunters may purchase this permit when purchasing their hunting/sporting license or at any time prior to the end of the third segment of the bear season through any license vendor or online computer. Fee is $5.00.

TURKEY PERMIT: Required to hunt turkey. Hunters may purchase this permit when purchasing their hunting/sporting license or at any time prior to the end of the fall turkey season through any license vendor or online computer. Fee is $5.00.

YOUTH TURKEY HUNT PERMIT: Youth hunters ages 12–17 are required to obtain a free permit/authorization to hunt turkey on the designated day. (see page 24)

SPECIAL LICENSES/ PERMITS

Special authorization is necessary for sale, possession, importation or release of certain fish and wildlife, and for fur dealers, propagators, wildlife rehabilitators, taxidermists and/or fur buyers. Sale and importation of baitfish require separate dealer and importation permits. Apply to MassWildlife Boston office, Permit Section (617) 626-1575. For permits regarding crossbows, falconry, problem animal control, or shooting preserves contact Field Headquarters at (508) 389-6300.

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK

Did you know your license dollars and a federal excise tax on your purchase of hunting and fishing equipment pays for most of MassWildlife's fish, wildlife and habitat management and its other conservation programs? Since 1938, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has partnered with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, sportsmen and women, and the fishing, hunting, shooting, and boating industries to fund fish and wildlife projects through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. Today, this pioneering program serves as a cost-effective model for fish and wildlife conservation by providing fish and wildlife access to those who both funded and directly benefit from the resource—the anglers and hunters. Their contributions through this "user pay, public benefit" conservation model—funded by license purchases and excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment—benefit all Massachusetts residents, fish, wildlife and their habitats.

STAMPS

ARCHERY STAMP: Required to hunt deer during the archery deer season.

PRIMITIVE FIREARMS STAMP: Required to hunt deer during the primitive firearms deer season.

MASSACHUSETTS WATERFOWL STAMP: Required of all waterfowl (ducks and geese) hunters age 15 and older. Massachusetts state stamps are valid Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 and may be purchased online at *mass.gov/massfishhunt* or wherever hunting licenses are sold. This stamp is electronic, there are no physical stamps. Stamp purchase includes mandatory Harvest Information Program (HIP) Registration.

FEDERAL MIGRATORY GAME BIRD STAMP: ($25.00) Required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years or older. Federal stamps are valid July 1 – June 30 of the following year. Federal eDuck Stamps are available for purchase online through MassFishHunt (*mass.gov/massfishhunt*) or wherever hunting licenses are sold. The Federal eDuck Stamp is a temporary stamp expiring 45 days from the date of purchase. Before the eDuck Stamp expires, a physical Federal Duck Stamp will be sent to customers via U.S. mail. Upon receipt of the physical Federal Duck Stamp, it must be signed across the face in ink and carried while waterfowl hunting. If a physical Duck Stamp does not arrive after a few weeks, contact Amplex at duckstamp@amplex.com or (800) 852-4897. If you experience difficulty purchasing the Federal eDuck Stamp through the MassFishHunt system, call (888) 773-8450. Physical federal waterfowl stamps are also available at all National Wildlife Refuges and select post offices.

MARINE FISHERIES

Have any questions regarding saltwater fishing regulations?
Call the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries information hotline at (617) 626-1520, visit *mass.gov/marinefisheries,* or email: marine.fish@mass.gov

SALTWATER FISHING PERMITS

Saltwater anglers in Massachusetts are required to purchase a state recreational saltwater fishing permit. The fee for this permit is $10 and is the same cost for all anglers, including non-residents. Anglers younger than 16, or disabled, or who fish only on charter boats or "head boats" are exempt from this requirement. Anglers age 60 and older will need to obtain a permit, but the saltwater permit is free. The permit is available online, by mail, and in person at participating vendors and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries offices in Gloucester, Boston, and New Bedford. For more information, please visit: *mass.gov/dmf/saltwaterpermits.*

Photo by Troy Gipps/MassWildlife

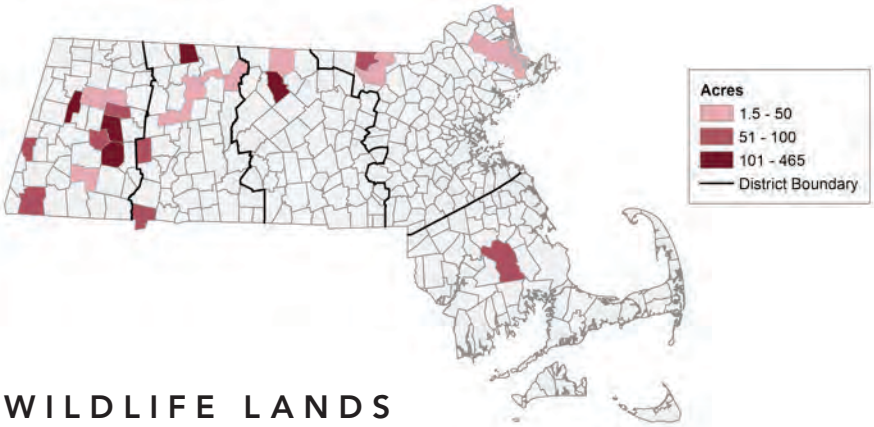
2021 LICENSE, STAMP & PERMIT FEES

CLASS	LICENSE	FEE
F1	Resident Fishing	27.50
F2	Resident Minor Fishing (Age 15–17)	FREE
F3	Resident Fishing (Age 65–69)	16.25
F4	Resident Fishing (Age 70 or over) Or paraplegic, blind, intellectually disabled*	FREE
F6	Non-resident Fishing	37.50
F7	Non-resident Fishing (3 day)	23.50
F8	Resident Fishing (3 day)	12.50
F9	Non-resident Fishing (Age 15–17)	11.50
F10	Quabbin One Day Fishing	5.00
H1	Resident Citizen Hunting	27.50
H2	Resident Citizen Hunting (Age 65–69)	16.25
H3	Resident/Non-resident Hunting, Paraplegic*	FREE
H4	Resident Alien Hunting	27.50
H5	Non-resident (adult/minor) Hunting, Big Game (Deer, Bear, Turkey, and all other game species)	99.50
H6	Non-resident (adult/minor) Hunting, Small Game (All game species except deer, bear, and turkey)	65.50
H7	Non-resident Commercial Shooting Preserve (1 day)	10.00
H8	Resident Minor Hunting (Age 15–17)	11.50
H9	Resident Commercial Shooting Preserve (1 day)	10.00
S1	Resident Citizen Sporting	45.00
S2	Resident Citizen Sporting (Age 65–69)	25.00
S3	Resident Citizen Sporting (Age 70 or over) (includes trapping)	FREE
S4	Resident/Non-Resident Paraplegic Sporting*	FREE
T1	Resident Trapping	35.50
T2	Resident Minor Trapping (Age 12–17)	11.50
T3	Resident Trapping (Age 65-69)	20.25
M/N 1	Archery Stamp	5.10
M/N 2	Waterfowl Stamp	5.00
M/N 3	Primitive Firearms Stamp	5.10
W1	Wildlands Stamp, Resident	5.00
W2	Wildlands Stamp, Non-resident	5.00
	Antlerless Deer Permit (when issued)	5.00
	Bear Permit	5.00
	Turkey Permit	5.00
	Trap Registration Number (Boston Office)	5.00
	Trap Registration Number Renewal (Boston Office)	5.00
	Non-resident Trapping Permit (Field Headquarters Office)	200.00
	Resident Furbuyer*	30.00
	Non-resident Citizen/Alien Furbuyer*	90.00

* First time applicants must contact Boston MassWildlife office. Restrictions apply.

Photo © Troy Gipps

NOTE: Cost for the **first** resident license and **all** non-resident licenses includes a $5.00 fee for the Wildlands Conservation Stamp. Cost for the **second** resident license in calendar year **does not** include the $5.00 fee for the Wildlands Conservation Stamp. City and town clerks **must** add an additional one dollar ($1.00); other sales agents **may** add up to an additional one dollar and fifty cents ($1.50) service fee to the price of each license sold. An additional service fee of $1.50 per license is applied to all licenses purchased through a sales agent. The same service fee, plus an additional 3% internet handling charge on the total transaction, is applied to all online license purchases. There are no service fees or internet handling charges for licenses purchased at offices of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, where only cash or checks are accepted. All online purchases include a $1.34 service fee per license, plus a 3% Internet handling charge on the total transaction.



WILDLIFE LANDS

ACQUISITION IN FY20

Land acquisition staff from the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and MassWildlife collaborated on 38 projects in FY 20 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) protecting a total of 2,200 acres of critical habitat, forests, grasslands, water frontage and inland water access points. This brings the total amount of land under the care and control of the agency to 223,528 acres. The land acquisition team focuses on properties which provide or improve public access for fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing and other nature-based recreation. Equally important considerations include wildlife biodiversity, wildlife corridors, flood water absorption, and climate change resiliency. In many situations, MassWildlife works with conservation partners to permanently protect habitat for wildlife to thrive and people to enjoy. Land protection pays many dividends relating to recreation, economics, aesthetics, ecology, and climate. Land protection and its management benefits both wildlife and Massachusetts citizens and visitors now and into the future. Plan your next exploration of MassWildlife lands by visiting the online interactive Wildlands Viewer map at *mass.gov/dfw/wildlife-lands*.

The Southeast District land team protected 184 acres of valuable wildlife habitat. The major protection effort was on a 175-acre parcel added to the Rocky Gutter WMA in Middleborough. With unmarked woods roads and cranberry bogs in active production, the new addition creates a scenic user-friendly access into the southeast part of Rocky Gutter WMA. Primarily forested, with a powerline easement cutting across it, the property contains the only water bodies in the 3,000-acre Rocky Gutter WMA. Held by one family for generations, they wanted to ensure permanent protection and public access for hunting and other forms of wildlife-based recreation.

The Northeast District protected 753 acres for wildlife and wildlife related recreation. This year marked the completion of the District's federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) match requirements with two conservation partners: Essex County Greenbelt Association (ECGA) and The Trustees of Reservations (Trustees). In Newbury, ECGA gifted a conservation restriction (CR) on approximately 375 acres of ECGA salt marsh to be known as Great Salt Marsh WCE and the Trustees gifted a CR of roughly 200 acres of their Old Town Hill property and is part of the William Forward WCE.

Central District land acquisition staff conserved 110 acres of land. A critical 55.5-acre acquisition of an in-holding in the Moose Hill WMA in Paxton was made possible by partnering with the Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLT). The GWLT purchased the land, conveyed the fee to MassWildlife and then purchased a permanent trail easement to the parcel's existing foot paths connecting to the Mid-State Trail in the Moose Hill WMA. This acquisition fills a "doughnut hole" in the WMA, enhances recreation access and prevents development and the discharge setbacks that would have impacted the WMA's huntable area.

Seven projects were completed in the Connecticut Valley District protecting 261 acres. A 55-acre parcel added acreage to the Green River WMA in Colrain. The parcel is on the west side of the Green River abutting the Vermont border. Over 1,000 feet of relatively unspoiled shoreline on the Green River protects this designated Coldwater Fisheries Resource (CFR) and supports numerous rare aquatic species. An existing pullout on the Green River Road enhances fishing and hunting opportunities and ensures continued trout stocking access by MassWildlife. The new property also protects 3,000 feet of the Borden Brook, another CFR and important tributary to the Green River.

The Western District completed 10 land projects protecting approximately 892 acres of land and adding to nine WMAs. A critical connection between the Eugene Moran, Chalet WMAs and Peru/Windsor Brook WCE was secured with the purchase of a 176-acre parcel in Windsor. The property, now part of the Chalet WMA, features a variety of habitat types including a prime example of a red spruce swamp and 15 acres of field. Young forest restoration efforts already in progress will further enhance hunting and wildlife watching opportunities.

	WESTERN	VALLEY	CENTRAL	NORTHEAST	SOUTHEAST	TOTAL
WMA	49,760.68	20,832.99	40,664.27	15,141.04	44,861.48	171,260.47
WCE	15,638.11	8,465.51	8,725.50	2,839.73	11,433.64	47,102.49
Access	35.82	554.41	692.55	235.12	59.91	1,577.81
Sanctuary	427.50		367.91	552.48	78.50	1,426.39
WCR	69.40	2.39	746.41	127.00	37.90	983.10
Installation	2.35	579.22		106.42	114.36	802.35
Other				371.70	5.94	377.64
TOTAL	65,933.86	30,434.52	51,196.64	19,373.49	56,591.73	223,528.29

WMA (Wildlife Management Area) – Land owned outright by DFG/MassWildlife. Open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping and other passive recreation. Subject to Wildlife Management Area Regulations

WCE (Wildlife Conservation Easement) – DFG/MassWildlife owns development and recreation rights. Open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping and other passive recreation.

Access Areas – Property providing public recreation access to water bodies or adjacent conservation lands owned by a third party. (Does not include Office of Fishing and Boating Access boat launches, ramps or fishing piers)

Wildlife Sanctuary – Wildlife properties donated to MassWildlife and governed by statute and regulation, fishing, hunting, and trapping are prohibited; other public recreation access is permitted.

WCR (Wildlife Conservation Restriction) – DFG or MassWildlife owns development rights, but public access is not allowed. These lands buffer wildlife habitat by preventing unwanted development.

FISHING SEASONS AND LIMITS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH[1]
Trout [2]			
Lakes, ponds, major rivers [3, 5, 6]	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	3	—
Housatonic River [4]	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	20"
All other rivers and brooks	Apr. 1 – Sept. 10 Sept. 11 – Mar. 31, 2022	8 3	—
Lake Trout			
Wachusett Reservoir [6]	(see note 6)	3	—
Quabbin [6]	(see note 6)	2	18"
Landlocked Salmon [6]	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	2	15"
American Shad [7] (Connecticut and Merrimack rivers only, including their tributaries.)	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	3	—
Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	15"
Black Bass (Largemouth and Smallmouth, singly or combined):	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	12"
Northern Pike	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	28"
Tiger Muskellunge	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	28"
Walleye	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	14"
Smelt [8]	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28 May 16 – Dec. 31	—	—
All Other Freshwater Species [9]	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	—	—
Striped Bass and Herring: For season, size, and possession limits call the Division of Marine Fisheries at (617) 626-1520, or visit *mass.gov/marinefisheries*.			
Possession of: Sturgeon (all species), American Brook Lamprey, Atlantic (sea-run) Salmon, Bridle Shiner, Burbot, Eastern Silvery Minnow, Lake Chub, Longnose Sucker, and Northern Redbelly Dace is illegal! **If caught, release immediately.** This means remove hook or cut line and return fish to water **immediately** — do not pose for photographs, place on a stringer, hold in a net, or delay in any way the immediate return and release of these rare fish to the water!			

1 **Minimum length** is measured as the straight line (not curved over the body) from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. The tips of any forked tail may be squeezed together for the final measurement.

2 **Trout** applies to Brook, Brown, Rainbow, and Tiger Trout (a cross between a female Brown and a male Brook Trout). From Apr. 1 to Sept. 10, no more than 8 trout (as defined) may be taken daily, and only 3 of those trout may be from lakes, ponds, or major rivers. From Sept. 11 to Mar. 31, no more than 3 trout (as defined) may be taken daily.

3 **Major Rivers:** Childs, Coonamessett, Deerfield, Farmington, Green (Colrain), Green (Great Barrington), Ipswich, Jones, Mashpee, Millers, Nissitissit, North (Colrain), North (West Branch), Parker, Quaboag, Quinapoxet, Quinebaug, Seven Mile, Santuit, Scorton Creek, Shawsheen, Squannacook, Stillwater (Sterling, Princeton), Swift (East Branch), Swift (Winsor Dam to Ware River, except as posted), Tully (East and West Branches), Ware, Ware (East Branch), Westfield (all branches).

4 **Mainstem Housatonic only,** from the confluence of the East and West Branches to the MA–CT line, exclusive of the catch-and-release areas where no trout may be kept.

5 **Special Brown Trout water:** South Pond (Quacumquasit), Brookfield. Total daily creel is 3 trout but only 1 may be a Brown Trout and it must be at least 15".

6 **Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs:** Opening and closing dates are set by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The Quabbin Reservoir Fishing Season generally opens on the third Saturday of April and runs through the third Saturday in October, but these dates may be adjusted due to weather and other factors. Quabbin Reservoir and its tributary streams within the Quabbin Reservation are closed to all fishing except during the open season as set by DCR. The Quabbin Fishing Guide is available at: *mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish* or by calling (413) 323-7221. The Wachusett/Sudbury/West Waushacum fishing season normally opens the first Saturday in April and closes November 30, but the DCR/DWSP may alter those dates depending on ice conditions. At Wachusett Reservoir, shoreline fishing only is allowed from Gate 6 on Route 70 to Gate 36 on Route 110. A Wachusett and Sudbury Reservoir Fishing Guide is available at: *mass.gov/dcr/wachusettfish* or by calling (508) 792-7806.

7 **American Shad** are Catch-and-Release ONLY on all waters except the Connecticut and Merrimack rivers, including their tributaries.

8 **Smelt** may be taken by hook and line only.

9 Excluding the state- and federally-listed species listed after the "Possession of:" heading in the bottom row of the table shown above.

ICE FISHING

All anglers are allowed up to five hooks through the ice at one time. A hook is defined as an angling device attached to the line of a tip-up or jig stick that is designed to take one fish at a time. This includes plain hooks, treble hooks, spinners, spoons, bait harnesses, jigs, or plugs. The device in question is not restricted to a single hook – lures with multiple treble hooks count as one hook in the water. Hooks can be on any combination of tip-ups or jig sticks, but no more than five hooks total.

All anglers must be able to tend their own hooks (tip-ups or jig sticks). Adults may assist minors with cutting holes or removing hooks, but minors must be capable of tending tip-ups or jig sticks on their own. See ice strength and safety tips on page 14.

BAIT

It is unlawful to take baitfish for the purpose of sale from the inland waters of the Commonwealth. Individuals trapping fish for personal use as baitfish may use only one trap.

BAITFISH may be taken by licensed anglers at any time for personal use by all lawful methods, including a rectangular net not exceeding 36 square feet of net area or by a hoop or circular net not exceeding 6 feet in diameter or with a fish trap with openings not exceeding one inch. Nets designed to gill fish are prohibited. Only the fish species listed below may be taken for personal use as bait, live or dead, by licensed anglers.

- Banded Killifish
- Fallfish
- Fathead Minnow
- Golden Shiner
- Mummichog
- Pumpkinseed
- Rainbow Smelt*
- Yellow Perch
- White Sucker

* SMELT may be taken **only** by hook and line. Using smelt as bait in inland waters outside of the smelt season is prohibited.

HERRING: For regulations on herring contact the Division of Marine Fisheries, (617) 626-1520 or *mass.gov/marinefisheries*.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
For Personal Consumption				
Bullfrog, Green Frog	July 16 – Sept. 30	12	24	none
Snapping Turtle	Jan. 1 – Apr. 30 July 17 – Dec. 31	2	2	12 in.*
For Bait				
Bullfrog, Green Frog, Pickerel Frog, Wood Frog	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	10	10	less than 2½ in.**

*Straight line carapace (shell) length **Snout to vent length

No reptile or amphibian may be taken from the wild in Massachusetts for purposes of sale. No reptile or amphibian may be taken with a firearm.

Fishing license required.

For Personal Consumption: Snapping turtles may be taken by hand, hand-held dip net, or gaff.

For Bait: Bullfrogs, green frogs, wood frogs, and pickerel frogs may be taken by hand or hand-held dip net.

FREE FISHING WEEKEND

June 5–6, 2021
No freshwater license needed!

Photo © Troy Gipps

STOP THE SPREAD

of Nuisance Aquatic Plants and Animals

Boaters, anglers, and other lake and river users are reminded that many unwanted, invasive species can be transported and inadvertently introduced to new waters by hitchhiking undetected on your boat, trailer, motor, waders, diving equipment, and other fishing gear. Please **clean** and decontaminate your boat, motor, trailer, ropes, and gear; **drain** your boat, motor, and live well(s); and make sure your equipment is thoroughly **dry** before entering any body of water. For more information contact Massachusetts DCR Lakes and Ponds Program at (617) 626-1250 or mass.gov/lakesandponds.

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY

WHERE THE BASS CALL HOME

Call and inquire about our one day passes
413.243.5761
www.berkshirefishing.com
BERKSHIRE FISHING CLUB
Fully Equipped Bass Boats and Gear
Bass Fishing Classes Available

CATCH AND RELEASE AREAS

Artificial lures only. No bait in possession. Go to *mass.gov/dfw/cr-areas* for maps of catch and release areas.

HOUSATONIC RIVER: From the Rte. 20 bridge in Lee downstream to Willow Mill Dam AND from Glendale Dam downstream to the RR bridge in Great Barrington. No fishing from June 15 – Aug. 31 inclusive within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries: Beartown Brook; Goose Pond Brook; Hop Brook; and Mohawk Brook.

RED BROOK: From the outlet of White Island Pond to the inlet of Buttermilk Bay.

NISSITISSIT RIVER: From the New Hampshire border to the Prescott St. Bridge. FLY FISHING ONLY (year-round).

SWIFT RIVER: Winsor Dam to Rte. 9, catch-and-release FLY FISHING ONLY (year-round). Rte. 9 to Cady Lane, catch-and-release, artificial lures only (July 1 – Dec. 31); fish harvest and bait allowed (Jan. 1 – June 30).

DEERFIELD RIVER: Fife Brook Dam to Hoosac Tunnel, and the section extending from Pelham Brook to the Mohawk Campground.

QUASHNET RIVER: From the outlet of John's Pond to the sign 0.1 mile below Rte. 28.

WESTFIELD RIVER, EAST BRANCH: Immediately below the Chesterfield Gorge parking lot in Chesterfield to the gate north of the Corps of Engineers parking lot at Knightville in Huntington.

MILLERS RIVER: Templeton/Athol RR bridge to the first dam in Athol and from Wendell Rd. bridge in Orange to the breached dam in Erving center.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

The Mass. Dept. of Public Health (MDPH) has issued a statewide advisory for pregnant women, nursing mothers, women who may become pregnant, and children under 12 to refrain from consuming fish caught in freshwater due to elevated levels of mercury in fish. MDPH has also issued fish consumption advisories for the general public on selected bodies of water. For more information or a list of waters with fish consumption advisories, contact MDPH, Bureau of Environmental Health, at (617) 624-5757 or *mass.gov/dph*.

INTERSTATE POND LICENSE REGULATIONS

WALLUM LAKE, DOUGLAS: Fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or Rhode Island. Rhode Island regulations apply.

LAKE MONOMONAC AND ROBBINS POND, WINCHENDON; LONG POND, TYNGSBORO AND DRACUT; BENT POND, WARWICK; TUXBURY POND, AMESBURY: Fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or New Hampshire. New Hampshire regulations apply.

COLEBROOK RESERVOIR, TOLLAND; PERRY POND, DUDLEY; MUDDY POND, SOUTHBRIDGE; BREAKNECK POND, STURBRIDGE; CONGAMOND LAKE, SOUTHWICK; HAMILTON RESERVOIR, HOLLAND: Fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or Connecticut. Connecticut regulations apply to Colebrook Reservoir, Breakneck Pond, Perry Pond and Muddy Pond. Massachusetts regulations apply to Congamond Lake and Hamilton Reservoir.

SHERMAN RESERVOIR, ROWE: Massachusetts regulations apply and MA license required in MA. Vermont regulations apply and VT license required in VT.

FISHING PROHIBITIONS

- **More than two hooks** for fishing open water or more than five hooks when ice fishing. A hook is defined as an angling device attached to a fishing line that is designed to take one fish at a time but is not limited to devices commonly called spinners, spoons, bait harnesses, jigs, or plugs.
- The taking of any fish from the inland waters of the Commonwealth for the purposes of sale.
- **Lead Sinkers, Lead Weights, and Lead Jigs Weighing Less Than an Ounce.** Any sinker or weight made from lead that weighs less than 1 ounce, and any lead jig (meaning any lead-weighted hook) that weighs less than 1 ounce, is prohibited for use in all inland waters of the Commonwealth. The term lead sinker shall not include any other sinkers, weights, fishing lures or fishing tackle including, but not limited to, artificial lures, hooks, weighted flies, and lead-core or other weighted fishing lines.
- **Possession of** Sturgeon (all species), American Brook Lamprey, Atlantic (sea-run) Salmon, Bridle Shiner, Burbot, Eastern Silvery Minnow, Lake Chub, Longnose Sucker, and Northern Redbelly Dace is illegal! If caught, release immediately. This means remove hook or cut line and return fish to water immediately — do not pose for photographs, place on a stringer, hold in a net, or delay in any way the immediate return and release of the fish to the water.
- **Releasing** fish or spawn into inland waters, except by permit.
- **Transporting** live fish (except bait for personal use) without a permit.
- **Jug,** toggle, or trot line fishing.
- **Snagging**
- **Poisons, explosives**
- **Littering** in inland waters.

SPEARS, BOW AND ARROWS

May be used to take White Suckers and Carp only. Fishing license required.

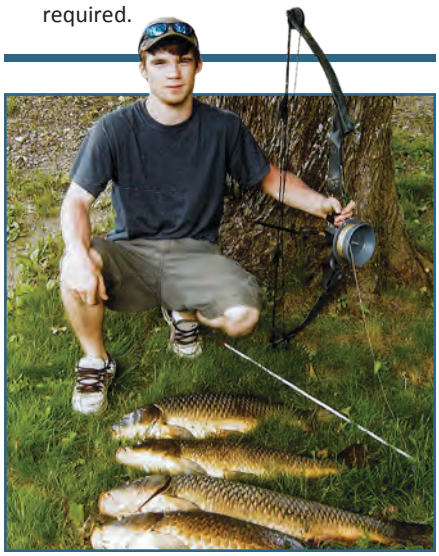


Photo courtesy MassWildlife SFAP

FRESHWATER SPORTFISHING AWARDS PROGRAM

Awards for freshwater fish are offered in 22 categories. Each qualified entry receives a bronze pin. The largest fish in each category each year also receives a gold pin and plaque. There are also Youth (17 and under) and Adult "Angler of the Year" awards given to anglers who have taken the greatest variety of "pinfish" during the calendar year. Fish must meet minimum weight or length requirements. All entries must be submitted within 30 days of the date of the catch.

SUBMIT ENTIRIES ONLINE!

Save time and a stamp by submitting your Sportfishing Awards Program entry using the online affidavit. Find the form at *mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards*. It's easy—just enter information about you and your catch, upload a photo of your fish, and submit! Online forms are processed faster than paper forms, allowing us to award pins and update the leader board more quickly.

Catch and Keep entries must be weighed on a scale certified by the State. Go to *mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards* for a list of weigh stations and to download an affidavit. This information is also available at MassWildlife offices.

MINIMUM WEIGHTS AND LENGTHS

SPECIES	CATCH AND KEEP (WEIGHT)		CATCH AND RELEASE LENGTH (INCHES)
	ADULT	YOUTH	
Bowfin	6 lb. 0 oz.	4 lb. 0 oz.	26
Brook Trout	2 lb. 0 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	16
Brown Trout	4 lb. 0 oz.	2 lb. 0 oz.	22
Bullhead	2 lb. 0 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	15
Carp	15 lb. 0 oz.	10 lb. 0 oz.	31
Chain Pickerel	4 lb. 8 oz.	3 lb. 0 oz.	25
Channel Catfish	6 lb. 0 oz.	5 lb. 0 oz.	25
Crappie	1 lb. 8 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	14
Lake Trout	7 lb. 0 oz.	5 lb. 0 oz.	30
Landlocked Salmon[1]	4 lb. 0 oz.	3 lb. 0 oz.	22
Largemouth Bass	7 lb. 0 oz.	4 lb. 0 oz.	21
Northern Pike	15 lb. 0 oz.	10 lb. 0 oz.	36
Rainbow Trout	3 lb. 0 oz.	2 lb. 0 oz.	20
Shad	5 lb. 0 oz.	3 lb. 0 oz.	22
Smallmouth Bass	4 lb. 8 oz.	3 lb. 0 oz.	20
Sunfish[2]	0 lb. 12 oz.	0 lb. 8 oz.	10
Tiger Muskellunge	10 lb. 0 oz.	7 lb. 0 oz.	34
Tiger Trout	2 lb. 0 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	16
Walleye	4 lb. 0 oz.	2 lb. 0 oz.	24
White Catfish	4 lb. 0 oz.	2 lb. 0 oz.	19
White Perch	1 lb. 8 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	14
Yellow Perch	1 lb. 8 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	14

1 Landlocked Salmon are recognized only from Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs.

2 Sunfish category includes Redbreast Sunfish, Green Sunfish, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, and Rock Bass.

CATCH AND RELEASE ANGLERS: TIPS FOR MINIMIZING FISH STRESS

- If using bait, the use of circle hooks dramatically reduces the likelihood of gut-hooking a fish.
- Be attentive and set the hook immediately to prevent the fish from swallowing the hook (setting the hook is not necessary with circle hooks).
- Reduce the fight time. The longer the fish fights, the higher the stress level for the fish. This is particularly important when fishing for trout in periods of warmer water temperatures. If it takes you a long time to land a fish, your drag may be set too loosely or your gear may be too light for the fish you are catching.
- Use a fine-mesh landing net to reduce the amount of time required to land a fish.
- If the hook is swallowed, do not forcefully remove it. Cut the line as close to the mouth as possible and then release the fish.

FRESHWATER SPORTFISHING AWARDS
Catch and Release Anglers: Remember to take a picture before releasing the fish at the site of capture. This photograph shows the proper method for measuring and photographing a Catch and Release awards entry.

- Wet your hands before touching the fish so you don't damage the protective mucous layer on the outside of the fish.
- Don't use the gills or eyes as a handhold. Support the belly of larger fish. Bass can be safely handled by holding the lower jaw, thumb in the mouth and forefinger under the chin.
- Quickly return fish to the water. Revive a fatigued fish by supporting it in a swimming position in the water; gently move it back and forth until it can swim off.

ICE STRENGTH AND SAFETY TIPS

This ice strength and safety information is presented for the benefit of ice anglers and other winter sports people recreating on iced-over bodies of water.

The figures in the table to the right are for clear, blue ice on lakes and ponds. Reduce strength values 15% for clear blue, river ice. Slush or snow (white) ice is only one-half the strength of blue ice and can be very treacherous. "Honeycombed" ice, which occurs in the spring or during major winter thaws as the ice is melting, is the most dangerous type of ice and is best avoided unless the angler is certain there is a safe layer of solid ice beneath the honeycombed surface.

Anglers should also be aware that many lakes and ponds contain spring holes and other areas of current that may create deceptively dangerous thin spots in areas that are otherwise safe. Always use caution, and don't venture out onto unfamiliar waters without checking ice thickness frequently.

ICE THICKNESS AND STRENGTH

ICE THICKNESS (INCHES)	PERMISSIBLE LOAD (ON NEW* CLEAR/BLUE** ICE ON LAKES OR PONDS)
2" or less	STAY OFF!
4"	Ice fishing or other activities on foot
5"	Snowmobile or ATV
8"–12"	Car or small pickup truck
12"–15"	Medium truck

* New ice is stronger than older ice.

** White ice or "snow ice" is only about half as strong as new clear ice. Double the above thickness guidelines when traveling on white ice.

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF ICE IS SAFE?

There are no guarantees. Always consider ice potentially dangerous. Assess ice safety by using an ice chisel to chop a hole in the ice to determine its thickness and condition. Make sure you continue to do this as you go further out on to the ice, because the thickness of the ice will not be uniform all over the pond or lake. Be aware that ice tends to be thinner on lakes and ponds where there are spring holes, inlets or outlets. Don't venture onto ice-bound rivers or streams as the currents make ice thickness unpredictable.

For other ice safety tips and winter weather preparedness, visit *mass.gov/mema.*

IF YOU, A COMPANION, OR PET FALLS THROUGH THE ICE

As with any emergency, don't panic! Call for help if there are people nearby. While it doesn't take long for the cold water to start slowing your physical and mental functions, you have more time than you might think; typically 2–5 minutes and perhaps longer if you are in good, physical condition. Air will remain trapped in your clothes for a short time aiding your buoyancy. Kick your legs while grasping for firm ice. **Try to pull your body up using "ice pins" that should be hanging around your neck.** Once your torso is on firm ice, roll towards thicker ice. This will better distribute your weight. Remember that ice you previously walked on should be the safest. After you reach safe ice, don't waste precious time, you need to warm up and dry out. If you are in a remote area, this means getting to or starting a campfire. If you are in a more urban setting get to a car or house. Once there, get out of wet clothes, change into dry clothes to get warmed up and seek advice from your physician on medical attention. You need to warm up quickly to prevent hypothermia.

Photo by Nicole McSweeney/MassWildlife

If a companion falls through the ice remember the phrase "**Reach-Throw-Go**." If you are unable to **reach** your friend from shore, **throw** him or her a rope, jumper cables, tree branch, or other object. If this does not work, **go** for help before you also become a victim. Get medical assistance for the victim immediately.

When walking on or near ice, keep your pets on a leash. If a pet falls through the ice do not attempt to rescue the pet, go for help. Well-meaning pet owners can too easily become rescue victims when trying to assist their pets.

Outdoor recreation activities on the ice are safe pursuits. By using a little common sense, these activities will stay that way.

MASSACHUSETTS BOATING LAWS: A SUMMARY

BOAT REGISTRATION: Registration and numbering of all motorized boats is required. This includes electric motors.

MINIMUM AGE RESTRICTIONS: No person under 12 years of age may operate a motorboat, unless accompanied on-board and directly supervised by a competent person 18 years of age or older. Personal watercraft (PWC) users must be at least 16 years of age in order to operate.

BOAT SAFETY EDUCATION CERTIFICATION: Youth between 12 and 15 years of age must complete an approved basic boating course in order to operate a motorboat without adult supervision. Upon successful completion of such a course, students are issued a state "boating safety certificate" which must be in the possession of the certified operator when underway. Prospective personal watercraft users 16 or 17 years of age must also complete an approved boating course.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Personal Flotation Devices (life jackets) are required to be worn by: (1) youth less than 12 years of age, (2) personal watercraft users, (3) Stand Up Paddle Board (SUP) users, (4) water-skiers, and (5) canoeists/kayakers from September 15 – May 15 (including waterfowl hunters). A boat owner or a boat operator is responsible to ensure that all passengers on-board wear or have access to life jackets. When not in a bathing, swimming, or surf zone, all SUP users on inland lakes, rivers or coastal waters, are required by law to have a Type I, II, or III life jacket aboard. All motorboats (with the exception of personal watercraft) must be equipped with an anchor, manual bailer, and line. A paddle or an oar is required on boats less than 16 feet in length. Motorboats towing water-skiers must be equipped with a boarding ladder.

BOATING PROHIBITIONS

The following types of operation are extremely unsafe and are prohibited.

- Operating any vessel under the influence of alcohol (BAC of .08 or greater) or drugs.
- Operating a motorboat within 150 feet of swimming areas.
- Operating in inland waters at a speed greater than 45 mph or operating at an excessive speed without regard for weather conditions, boat traffic, and other hazards.
- Operating a motorboat without properly working lights.
- Operating a motorboat during the nighttime while towing water-skiers, tubers, or others.
- Operating at greater than headway speed (6 mph or less) within 150 feet of a swimmer, water-skier, mooring area, marina, boat launch, or when the operator's vision is obscured in any way.
- Operating an overloaded vessel (carrying total weight that exceeds capacity plate recommendations or is excessive due to water conditions).
- Operating with passengers on the bow, gunwales, or any other place from which a person could fall overboard.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (JET SKI) OPERATION

By law, personal watercraft (PWC) operators are considered motorboat operators and must comply with all boating laws and navigation rules. In addition, PWC users must:

- Wear an approved life jacket at all times (operator and passengers).
- Attach the safety lanyard to the operator and the cutoff/kill switch.
- Always operate at slow, no-wake speed (6 mph or less) within 150 feet of swimmers, shorelines, water-skiers, boat launches, rafts or floats, and moored or docked boats.

PWC Operation is prohibited:

- By any person under age 16
- Between the hours of sunset and sunrise (i.e. night time)
- At high speed in congested areas
- On waterbodies under 75 acres
- Towing (water-skiers, tubers, boats, or others) is illegal.

ACCIDENT REPORTING: The operator of any motorboat involved in an accident which results in personal injury, death, or property damage (over $500) must immediately notify the Massachusetts Environmental Police and file the appropriate accident report within 5 days for most boating accidents, within 2 days for boating incidents involving fatalities.

For further information on boating laws, boating education, or to obtain accident report forms contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police Boat & Recreation Vehicle Safety Bureau at (508) 564-4961 or visit *mass.gov/ole*.

GOT LIFE JACKETS?

Boat Smart From the Start — Wear Your Life Jacket!
From September 15 to May 15 all canoe or kayak occupants **MUST WEAR** a U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD).

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE TO GO FISHING OR BOATING?

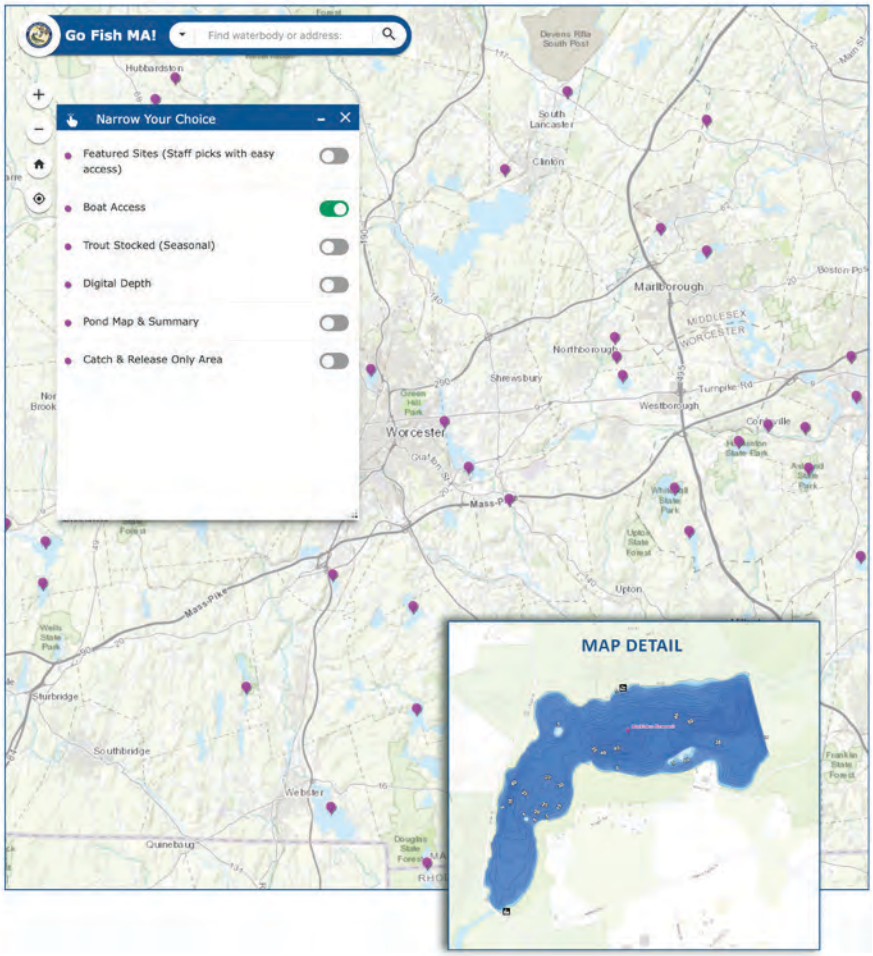
Public Access to the Waters of Massachusetts is a 146-page map booklet that provides information about current fishing and boating access sites. Send $8.00 payable to the Commonwealth of MA by check to:

Office of Fishing & Boating Access
Department of Fish & Game
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 389-7810

To view fishing and boating access locations online, visit *mass.gov/fba*.

GO FISH MA! WITH ONLINE FISHING MAP

Plan your next fishing trip using MassWildlife's online fishing map. Find boat ramps, trout stocked waters, pond and lake summaries, and digital depth information. The fishing map also highlights over 100 featured fishing sites that offer easy access to great fishing in all areas of the state. Once you're at your fishing spot, use your mobile device and the *My Location* feature on the map to see depth information in real time. Go to *mass.gov/go-fish-ma* to start exploring.



COLDWATER STREAMS

A Coldwater Fish Resource (CFR) is a waterbody that contains at least one coldwater fish species (i.e., Slimy Sculpin, Longnose Sucker, Lake Chub, American Brook Lamprey, Burbot, Rainbow Smelt, Landlocked Atlantic Salmon, and Lake, Brook, Brown, and Rainbow Trout) that reproduced in that waterbody, or a connected tributary, and use such waters to meet one or more of their life history requirements. Protection of coldwater habitats is critical for maintaining the overall health of coldwater fish species, which are ecologically, and in many cases, recreationally important fishes throughout Massachusetts. Once designated as a CFR, waterbodies are then afforded a greater degree of protection from potential human-caused alterations to their health. A map and list of currently designated CFRs can be found at *mass.gov/dfw/cfr*.

TROUT STOCKING REPORT

Massachusetts anglers can go to *mass.gov/trout* to view a list or a map displaying trout stocking information. The report is udated daily during the spring and fall trout stocking seasons. Anglers seeking stocking reports for a particular waterbody or town should use the table to locate information. Type the name of the waterbody or town into the search window to find stocking reports for that location. The table also allows users to sort by town, waterbody, stocking date, type of fish, or district. The map component of the stocking report allows users to discover new destinations for fishing! Zoom and pan to various regions of the state. The default map view shows trout-stocked waters for the entire state. Zoom to the area you would like to explore and then click on any thumbtack icon to view the dates and types of trout that have been stocked at that location. Stocking locations on streams are accurate, but fish swim, so be sure to investigate other reaches of the streams.

NOTE: The stocking report is subject to change depending on staffing, equipment, and weather conditions.

Don't forget your fishing license — available online at *mass.gov/massfishhunt* at MassWildlife offices, or at license vendors.

VISIT *MASS.GOV/TROUT* FOR STOCKING LOCATIONS AND DAILY REPORTS

TINMANLURES
Lead-free pure tin lures

Shad Darts
Floaters
Teasers
Hair Jigs
Bucktails
Deer Tails

MADE IN THE USA

TINMANLURES

Call 610-304-1236
or go to
stores.ebay.com/TINMANLURES

Photos courtesy MassWildlife/Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program

GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

Report all violations to the Massachusetts Environmental Police (800) 632-8075.

ACCIDENTS: All hunting-related injuries or deaths must be reported to the Environmental Police and state or local police.

ARCHERY: All bows (recurve, long, and compound), except permitted crossbows, used for hunting deer, bear, and turkey must have a draw weight of at least 40 lbs. at 28 inches or at peak draw. Mechanical releases are permitted. Arrows used on deer, bear, or turkey must have well-sharpened steel broadhead blades not less than 7/8 inches in width. Expanding broadheads are legal for deer, bear, and turkey. Archers may hunt deer with a bow and arrow during the shotgun and primitive firearms deer seasons, but must comply with all regulations of those seasons, including blaze orange and stamp requirements. Crossbows may be used by certain permanently disabled persons by permit only. For regulations and an application, visit *www.mass.gov/masswildlife* or contact MassWildlife at (508) 389-6300.

A firearms license (FID or LTC) is not required for bowhunting.

BLAZE ORANGE: During the pheasant or quail season on WMAs where pheasant or quail are stocked, all hunters must wear a blaze orange hat. EXCEPTION: No orange hat required while hunting waterfowl from a blind or boat or night-hunting for raccoons or opossums. (see page 21, Wildlife Management Area Regulations) During the Youth Deer Hunt Day and the Shotgun Season for deer, all hunters must wear 500 square inches of blaze orange on chest, back, and head. During these seasons waterfowl hunters on coastal waters and salt marshes must wear 500 square inches of blaze orange (hat and vest) while hunting or in transit to their blind or boat during these periods. The orange may be removed once the waterfowl hunter is in a blind or boat. During the Primitive Firearms Season, all deer hunters must comply with the 500 square inch blaze orange requirement.

DOGS: During the shotgun deer season and Youth Deer Hunt Day, dogs may be used for waterfowl hunting only on coastal waters and salt marshes. Hunting dogs may be trained at any time (except during the shotgun season for deer) provided that only pistols or revolvers and blank cartridges are used or possessed. A sporting or hunting license is required to train hunting dogs off-leash on Wildlife Management Areas.

HARVEST REPORTING -- Upon harvesting a deer, bear, or turkey, hunters must immediately fill out and attach the paper tag from the permit or license to the carcass. The game must remain intact (other than field dressing), with the harvest tag attached, until it is reported. Hunters who harvest a deer, bear, coyote, fox, or turkey must report or check their game within 48 hours of killing the animal. Hunters may report their harvested game online or bring their game to an official check station. For information on Online Game Reporting, or a list of official check stations visit the Game Check Station page at *mass.gov/dfw/checkstation*. **All deer harvested during the first week of the shotgun deer season must be brought to an official check station for biological data collection.**

OPEN AND CLOSED HUNTING SEASONS: The following species may be taken year round (except during shotgun deer season) by licensed hunters with no daily or seasonal bag limit: English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, skunk, starling, weasel, and woodchuck. During shotgun deer season all game hunting seasons are closed statewide except for deer, bear, coyote, and waterfowl.

TREE STANDS: Written permission of the landowner (on either public or private lands) is required to construct or use any tree stand which is fastened to a tree by nails, bolts, wire, or other fasteners that intrude through the bark into the wood of the tree, or that is fastened or erected in any manner and is emplaced for a period exceeding 30 days. This includes hang-on tree stands.

YOUTH DEER HUNT DAY RESTRICTIONS: When hunting other game animals on the Youth Deer Hunt Day, (Oct. 2, 2021) additional requirements apply:

- Rifles and handguns are prohibited for hunting any game.
- Dogs may only be used for waterfowl hunting (ducks and geese) on coastal waters and salt marshes.
- All game hunters must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of blaze orange on their chest, back, and head; waterfowl hunters are required to wear blaze orange in transit to and from their blind or boat.

NEW – WANTON WASTE: It is unlawful for hunters to intentionally or knowingly leave a wounded or dead game animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve and use it. Each animal must be retained until processed or used for food, pelt, feathers, or taxidermy. This does not apply to animals unfit for consumption or use—animals and their parts that are damaged, destroyed, decayed, rotting, diseased, or infected.

OFF-ROAD RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (ATVS, OHVS, DIRT BIKES)

It is illegal to operate any motorized vehicle on any WMA or other property owned or controlled by MassWildlife; and on most state park and state forest lands. It is illegal to operate these vehicles on private lands without the written permission of the landowner. Age restrictions apply; operators under the age of 18 must take a safety course. For more information, contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police at 1-800-632-8075, or go to *mass.gov/ole*.

A portion of the revenue from vehicle registration is used to support legal riding opportunities; to find a list of State Parks and Forests that allow OHV operation visit: *mass.gov/dcr/orv.*

SPECIAL HUNTS

- **Quabbin, Wachusett, and Sudbury Reservoirs, and Blue Hills Controlled Deer Hunts.** See page 29
- **Paraplegic Hunters Deer Hunt,** see page 29
- **Youth Pheasant Hunt,** see page 24
- **Youth Turkey Hunt,** see page 24
- **Youth Deer Hunt Day,** see page 25
- **Youth Waterfowl Hunt Dates,** see page 25
- **Special Pheasant and Quail Hunt,** see pages 34 and 36

FEDERAL WILDLIFE LAW INFORMATION

Please note that fishing and hunting laws on federal parks, refuges, and reservations, such as those controlled by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or the National Park Service, may differ from state regulations. Contact the agency in question.

NON-RESIDENT HUNTERS:

- Must have a valid Massachusetts non-resident hunting license in order to hunt.
- Non-resident adults and minors (ages 15–17) purchase the same class licenses, H5 or H6, see page 8. Must have successfully completed a Basic Hunter Education course from any jurisdiction in any year or held a hunting/sporting license from any jurisdiction prior to 2007.
- Must obtain the same stamps and permits as residents. Permit and stamp fees are the same for residents and non-residents. Non-resident migratory game bird hunters must complete a Massachusetts H.I.P. survey to hunt.
- May not purchase firearms or ammunition in Massachusetts (including materials used in black powder firearms).
- Should keep firearms unloaded and enclosed in a case while traveling into or through Massachusetts.
- No Massachusetts gun license is needed to possess or transport long guns.
- Contact the Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board, Firearms Support Services at (617) 660-4780 for handgun permit requirements.

ASK THE LANDOWNER

Hunting, fishing, and trapping are permitted on private land that is not posted against trespass; however, some towns have bylaws that require written permission. As a courtesy, ask the landowner for permission in advance. Landowners with posted land may provide (written) permission for individuals to access their property. Written landowner permission is required to trap on posted land. Hunters should check for relevant town bylaws pertaining to any written permission requirements and restrictions on discharge of firearms.

LANDOWNER LIABILITY

Landowners permitting use of their property for recreation without charging a fee are not liable for injuries to recreational users of the property except in cases of willful, wanton, or reckless conduct by the owner. (MGL Ch. 21 § 17C)

ACCESS® LORADO®

All Season Cargo Protection
- Sleek, low profile design
- Lockable to protect cargo–cover seals on all four sides
- Custom fit for all popular truck models

YANKEE CUSTOM TRUCK & SPORT UTILITY ACCESSORIES

LOCATIONS:
477 Westbrook St., S. Portland, ME
(207) 799-7800
512 Amherst St., Nashua, NH
(603) 882-8868
1139 N. Montello St., Brockton, MA
(508) 588-1018
100 Broadway, Route 1N, Saugus, MA
(781) 233-3900
1271 Main St., Tewksbury, MA
(978) 851-9024

Bring this ad into any Yankee Custom store and receive a FREE TRAILSEAL® Tailgate Gasket with the purchase of an ACCESS® Roll-Up Cover!

$30 Value

WWW.YANKEECUSTOMTRUCK.COM

HUNTING PROHIBITIONS

Report all violations to the Massachusetts Environmental Police (800) 632-8075.

- Hunting, trapping or fishing for any birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, or amphibians not listed within this Guide or in the Massachusetts Migratory Game Bird Regulations
- Airbows, arrow guns or any firearms or other devices which project or propel an arrow, dart or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or by any other means except by the flexing and release of a bow string.
- Poisoned arrows, or explosive tips, including firearms cartridges affixed to the end of arrows in such a way as they discharge upon impact with the target, or bows drawn by mechanical means, except for permitted crossbows.
- Artificial lights for hunting any bird or mammal except raccoon and opossum.
- Baiting migratory game birds, wild turkey, bear, or deer during or within 10 days of the start of their specific hunting seasons. See game species hunting pages for more details.
- Careless or negligent use of firearms.
- Choke traps, leghold traps, or nets for taking any bird or mammal.
- Discharge of any firearm or release of any arrow upon or across any state or hard-surfaced highway, or within 150 feet of any such highway.
- Possession of a loaded firearm, discharge of a firearm, or hunting on the land of another within 500 feet of any dwelling or building in use, unless permitted by the owner or occupant. See page 21 for additional gun laws.
- Electronic calls for hunting migratory game birds, wild turkey, or deer.
- Hunting with a ferret or possessing a non-vaccinated/unneutered ferrets/fitches without a permit.
- Possession of rifles and handguns on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant and quail season.
- Hunter harassment is illegal.
- Hunting on posted land without permission.
- Hunting on Sunday.
- Importation, transportation, liberation or possession of any live wild vertebrate protected under MGL Ch. 131 without a permit.
- Hunting, target shooting, or possession of a firearm, bow and arrow or other weapon when under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.
- Loaded shotgun or rifle in or on any motor vehicle, recreational vehicle (including snowmobiles), aircraft or motor boat, except as stated in the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations.
- Machine guns, fully-automatic firearms, any tracer or incendiary ammunition.
- Motor vehicles, off-highway vehicles (including snowmobiles), and/or aircraft for hunting any bird or mammal.
- Possession of any Massachusetts Endangered Species Act-listed and/or wildlife, dead or alive, except by permit.
- During the shotgun deer season, possession of rifles, handguns, or dogs in any woodland or field, or use of same on any game, is prohibited. The use of dogs is lawful for hunting waterfowl on coastal waters.
- Hunting bear, deer, bobcat, or turkey with dogs, or training dogs on those species.
- Power or sailboats for hunting birds except when beached or tied to a blind or for retrieving injured birds.
- Removal of any mammal from walls, or holes in trees, ground, or logs.
- Rifles chambered to take ammunition larger than .22 caliber long rifle, and pistols and revolvers chambered to take ammunition larger than .38 caliber, between the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise.
- Sale of all species of mammals and birds or parts thereof, except unprocessed heads & hides to a licensed fur buyer or taxidermist, and shinbones & hooves of deer to anyone.
- No species other than deer, coyote, and waterfowl/coot may be hunted with shot larger than #1 birdshot (.16" pellet diameter).
- No possession of a shotgun shell loaded with a slug, sabot, single ball, buckshot (any size), except during the open seasons when deer may be hunted with a shotgun, or on a skeet, trap, or target range between sunrise and sunset.
- Lettered bird shot may only be used for coyote hunting (.17 to .23" pellet diameter) and waterfowl/coot hunting (.17 to .19" pellet diameter); otherwise any lettered bird shot may only be possessed on a skeet, trap, or target range between sunrise and sunset. See migratory game bird and coyote hunting pages (40–42), for details.
- Swivel or pivot guns for hunting any bird.
- Taking nests, destroying, or disturbing eggs or nests of birds.
- Target shooting on Sunday except on one's own property or on a recognized shooting range.
- Traps for taking birds except under permit. All traps except cage or box traps and common mouse or rat traps are unlawful for the taking of fur-bearing mammals.
- Vandalism or damage to property or livestock.
- **NEW – Furbearer Contests:** Contests where participants are awarded prizes for harvesting coyote, bobcat, red fox, gray fox, weasels, mink, skunk, river otter, muskrat, beaver, fisher, raccoon, and opossum.

PENALTIES: License revoked for one year in addition to other penalties; fines of up to $1,000, restitutions, and/or 1 year in jail. Careless and negligent use of firearms; fines of up to $500 and/or 6 months imprisonment and loss of license for 5 years.

TRANSPORT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

It is a violation of Federal Law to transport illegally taken fish or wildlife across state lines. For additional information contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, (617) 889-6616.

MASSACHUSETTS GUN LAWS

POSSESSION: For hunting, resident citizens ages 15 and over must have a Firearms Identification Card (FID) to possess a low-capacity rifle or shotgun. A License To Carry (LTC) (age 21 and over) is needed to possess large capacity rifles and shotguns and all handguns. These gun licenses are issued by local Police Departments. Nonresidents with a valid Massachusetts nonresident hunting license do not need an LTC or FID to possess or carry a rifle or shotgun, but must carry their firearms unloaded and in a case while traveling in their vehicles. Non-residents may not purchase guns or ammunition in Massachusetts. To obtain a non-resident License To Carry or a non-resident permit to possess handguns, contact the CHSB (Criminal History Systems Board), Firearms Support Services (see below). No firearms license is needed by bow hunters, nor by minors 12–14 years old hunting with a duly licensed adult, nor for the possession of primitive rifles or primitive shotguns as defined in MGL Ch. 140, Section 121, or their ammunition. However, an LTC or FID is required to purchase all ammunition including black powder and Pyrodex.

NOTE: Massachusetts public safety laws define primitive firearms differently from the laws and regulations of MassWildlife.

TRAVEL: Rifles, shotguns, and muzzleloaders may not be carried on public ways unless the person is lawfully engaged in hunting. When transported in a motor vehicle, rifles, shotguns, and muzzleloaders should be unloaded and in an enclosed case. A large capacity firearm should be carried unloaded and contained within a locked trunk or in a locked case or other secure container.

STORAGE: State law requires that whenever a gun is not under your direct control, it must be kept in a locked container or equipped with a tamper-resistant mechanical lock. Muzzleloaders are exempt from this requirement.

For more gun law information, contact the Massachusetts Firearms Records Bureau, 200 Arlington St., Suite 2200, Chelsea, MA 02150, (617) 660-4780 , or *mass.gov/cjis*.

BEAR SPRAY AND SELF-DEFENSE SPRAY

Laws pertaining to self-defense sprays are outlined in M.G.L. c. 140 § 122D. For information about carrying and using self-defense spray as a bear deterrent go to *mass.gov/bears* and click on FAQs.

FOLLOW SAFE GUN HANDLING RULES

- Treat **every** gun as if it were loaded.
- Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at **all** times.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire.
- Before shooting, correctly identify your game and know what is behind it.

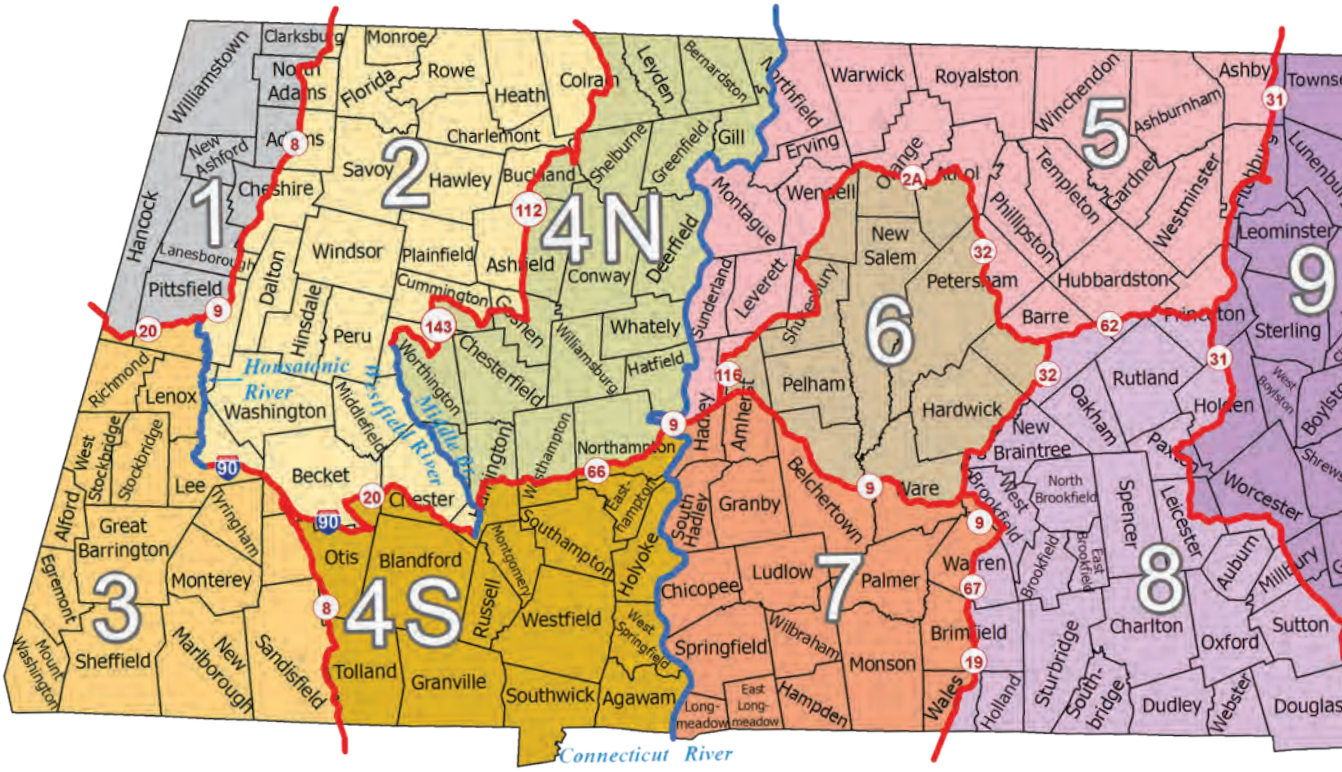
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

MassWildlife's Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are open to hunting, fishing, and trapping. Maps are available for many of these properties on the MassWildlife website and at all MassWildlife offices.

- No person shall possess any alcoholic beverage except under permit, or dump or discard any can, bottle, or rubbish.
- No person shall remove vegetation, soil, or stones from any WMA except under permit.
- No person shall use excessive speed in driving a vehicle.
- No person, unless under permit, shall drive or possess any motor vehicle except on roads or trails maintained for public vehicular traffic.
- No person shall deface or tamper with any sign, building, or equipment.
- No person shall build or maintain a fire without written permission from the Director or designee.
- No person shall camp within any WMA without written permission from the Director or designee.
- No person shall engage in target practice without written permission from the Director or designee.
- No person shall use any means other than shotgun or bow and arrow during the pheasant and quail season on areas stocked with pheasant or quail except for hunting raccoons and opossums between 9pm and 3am, or for the shooting of captured fur-bearing mammals by a licensed trapper.
- No person shall hunt before sunrise or after sunset on any WMA where pheasant or quail are stocked during the open season on pheasant or quail, except for the hunting of raccoons and opossums between 9pm and 3am.
- No person shall hunt during the pheasant or quail season on WMAs where pheasant or quail are stocked without wearing a "blaze orange" cap or hat except while night hunting for raccoons or opossums or while hunting waterfowl from within a blind or boat.
- No person, except under permit, shall dig or disturb any artifact or archaeological remains.
- The Director may make special regulations to handle special situations peculiar to any WMA. Controlled hunts are in effect at certain times on Martin Burns, Delaney, and Ludlow WMAs. Contact District Manager for details.
- Dogs on WMAs must be leashed. Dogs may be off-leash only when hunting or hunt training with licensed hunters or involved with permitted field trials. Dog feces in WMA parking areas and within 100 feet of the parking area must be picked up by all dog handlers and disposed of off the WMA. Dog feces in other parts of the WMA must be picked up by non-licensed dog handlers and disposed of offsite. Licensed hunters are exempt from this requirement.

Report all violations to the Massachusetts Environmental Police, (800) 632-8075.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ZONES



ZONE 1: Northerly by the Vermont border; westerly by the New York border; southerly by a line running along Rt. 20 to the junction with Rt. 7 in Pittsfield, north on Rt. 7 to Rt. 9, and east on Rt. 9 to the junction with Rt. 8, and easterly by a line running from the Vermont border south along Route 8 to Rt. 9 in Pittsfield.

ZONE 2: Northerly by the Vermont border; westerly by Zone 01 and 03; southerly by the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) from the intersection with the Housatonic River in Lee east to the intersection with Algerie Road in Otis; and easterly by a line running from the Vermont border south along Rt. 112 to Rt. 143 in Worthington, along Rt. 143 west to the intersection with the Middle Branch of the Westfield River, then south along the Middle Branch of the Westfield River (also known as Trout Brook), to the intersection with the East Branch of the Westfield River, south along the East Branch of the Westfield River to Rt. 20 in Huntington, west along Rt. 20 to Bonny Rigg Hill Road in Becket, south on Bonny Rigg Hill Road to the intersection with Algerie Road, then south on Algerie Road to the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90).

ZONE 3: Northerly by Zone 01; westerly by the New York border; southerly by the New York and Connecticut border; and easterly by a line running south along Elm Street from the junction with Rt. 9 in Pittsfield to the Housatonic River, south along the Housatonic River to the junction with the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) in Lee, east along I-90 to the junction with Rt. 8 in West Becket, and south along Rt. 8 to the Connecticut border.

ZONE 4 NORTH: Northerly by the Vermont border; westerly by Zones 02; southerly by a line running north from the confluence of the Middle Branch and the East Branch of the Westfield River in Huntington along the East Branch of the Westfield River to the intersection with Route 66, along Rt. 66 to the intersection with Rt. 9 in Northampton, easterly along Rt. 9 to the intersection with the Connecticut River at the Northampton/Hadley town line; and easterly by the Connecticut River.

ZONE 4 SOUTH: Northerly by Zones 2 and 4N; westerly by Zone 3; southerly by the Connecticut Border; and easterly by the Connecticut River.

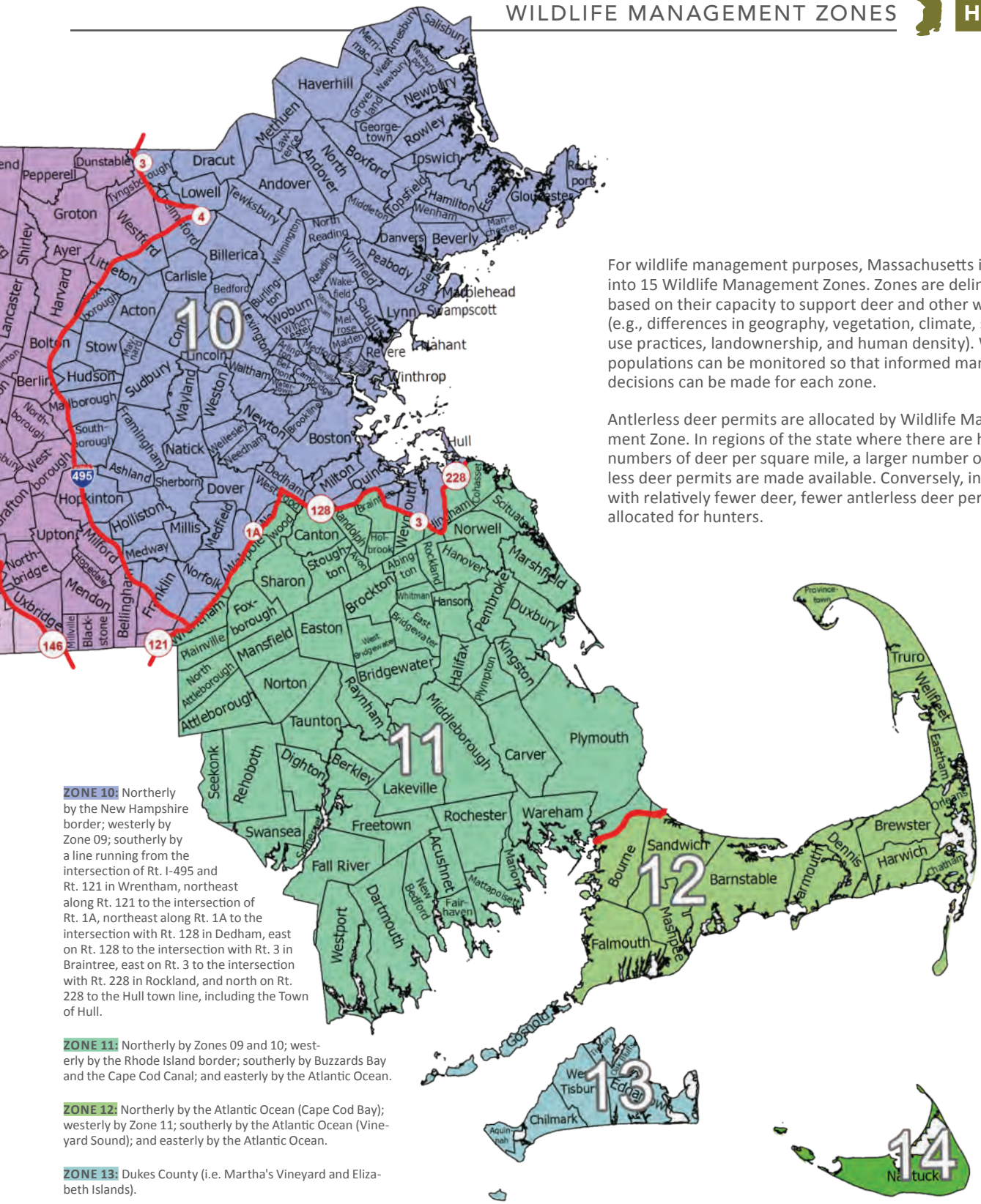
ZONE 5: Northerly by the New Hampshire border; westerly by the Connecticut River; southerly by a line running from the intersection of the Connecticut River and Rte. 9 at the Northampton/Hadley line east along Rte. 9 to Rte. 116 in Hadley, north along Rte. 116 to Rte. 63 in North Amherst, east along Rte. 63 and Pine Street to State Street, northeast along State Street and East Leverett Road to Cushman Road, along Cushman Road to Shutesbury Road in East Leverett, east on Shutesbury Road and Leverett Road to Wendell Road in Shutesbury Center, north along Wendell Road to Locks Pond Road, north on Locks Pond Road to Lake View Road, northeast on Lake View Road to Locks Village Road, north along Locks Village Road to Depot Road in Wendell, north on Depot Road to Rte. 2A in Orange, east on Rte. 2A to Rte. 32 in Athol, south on Rte. 32 to Rte. 62 in Barre, and east on Rte. 62 to the intersection with Rte. 31 in Princeton; and easterly by a line running north on Rte. 31 to the New Hampshire border.

ZONE 6: Northerly by Zone 05; westerly by Zone 05; southerly by a line running from the intersection of Rt. 9 and Rt. 116 in Hadley east along Rt. 9 to the intersection with Rt. 32 in Ware; and easterly by a line running from the intersection of Rt. 32 and Rt. 62 in Barre, south along Rt. 32 to the intersection with Rt.9 in Ware.

ZONE 7: Northerly by Zones 5 and 6; westerly by Zone 4S; southerly by the Connecticut border; and easterly by a line running from the intersection of Rt. 9 and Rt. 32 in Ware east along Rt. 9 to the intersection with Rt. 67, southwest along Rt. 67 to the intersection with Rt. 19 in Warren, and south along Rt. 19 to the Connecticut border.

ZONE 8: Northerly by Zone 05; westerly by Zones 06 and 07; southerly by the Connecticut and Rhode Island borders; and easterly by a line running from the intersection of Rt. 62 and Rt. 31 in Princeton south on Rt. 31 to Rt. 56 in Paxton, south on Rt. 56 to Rt. 9 in Leicester, east on Rt. 9 to Cambridge Street in Worcester, east on Cambridge Street to Rt. 146, and southeast on Rt. 146 to the Rhode Island border.

ZONE 9: Northerly by the New Hampshire border; westerly by Zones 5 and 8; southerly by the Rhode Island border; and easterly by a line running from the New Hampshire border southeast on Rt. 3 to the intersection with Rt. I-495 in Chelmsford, south on Rt. I-495 to the intersection with Rt. 121 in Wrentham, and southwest on Rt. 121 to the Rhode Island border.


10
11
12
13
14
Haverhill
Newburyport
Newbury
Rowley
Ipswich
Gloucester
Rockport
Salisbury
Amesbury
Merrimac
Methuen
Lawrence
Andover
North Andover
Boxford
Georgetown
Groveland
Topsfield
Hamilton
Wenham
Essex
Manchester
Middleton
Danvers
Beverly
Peabody
Salem
Marblehead
Swampscott
Lynn
Nahant
Revere
Winthrop
Lynnfield
Wakefield
Reading
North Reading
Wilmington
Tewksbury
Lowell
Dracut
Dunstable
Pepperell
Tyngsborough
Chelmsford
Westford
Groton
Shirley
Ayer
Littleton
Billerica
Carlisle
Bedford
Burlington
Woburn
Stoneham
Melrose
Malden
Medford
Somerville
Cambridge
Arlington
Belmont
Watertown
Brookline
Boston
Chelsea
Revere
Winthrop
Hull
Harvard
Lancaster
Bolton
Stow
Acton
Concord
Lexington
Waltham
Lincoln
Sudbury
Wayland
Weston
Newton
Wellesley
Needham
Natick
Framingham
Ashland
Sherborn
Dover
Dedham
Westwood
Milton
Quincy
Braintree
Weymouth
Hingham
Cohasset
Scituate
Norwell
Hanover
Marshfield
Pembroke
Duxbury
Hanson
Whitman
Rockland
Abington
Holbrook
Randolph
Avon
Stoughton
Canton
Brockton
East Bridgewater
West Bridgewater
Bridgewater
Halifax
Plympton
Kingston
Plymouth
Carver
Middleborough
Lakeville
Rochester
Wareham
Freetown
Fall River
Somerset
Swansea
Acushnet
New Bedford
Fairhaven
Mattapoisett
Marion
Dartmouth
Westport
Rehoboth
Seekonk
Dighton
Berkley
Taunton
Raynham
Norton
Easton
Mansfield
Foxborough
Sharon
Stoughton
Norfolk
Franklin
Bellingham
Medway
Millis
Medfield
Milford
Hopkinton
Hollistonn
Upton
Mendon
Blackstone
Milville
Uxbridge
Northbridge
Douglas
Grafton
Shrewsbury
Westborough
Southborough
Northborough
Marlborough
Hudson
Berlin
Bolton
Stow
Maynard
Acton
Littleton
Harvard
Shirley
Ayer
Groton
Pepperell
Dunstable
Tyngsborough
Lowell
Dracut
Tewksbury
Andover
Billerica
Carlisle
Bedford
Burlington
Woburn

YOUTH HUNTERS

YOUTH HUNTING REQUIREMENTS

No one under the age of 12 may hunt in Massachusetts.

LICENSES, STAMPS, PERMITS

Youth Ages 12–14:

Do not need a license or stamps or firearms license to hunt.

May hunt only when accompanied by a licensed adult hunter (18 or older)

Only one youth per adult. The adult and the youth share one firearm/bow, a single bag limit and any applicable permits/tags.

The licensed adult must have:

- A valid Massachusetts hunting or sporting license
- Any required state or federal stamps or permits
- Firearms license if a firearm is being used (issued by local police department).
- All other hunting laws apply.

Youth Ages 15–17:

Massachusetts youths must have a minor hunting license; non-resident youths must have a non-resident big game or small game license. All licensed minors must possess required permits and stamps.

- If the youth does not have a government-issued Basic Hunter Education certificate he or she must be accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older.
- If the youth has a government-issued Basic Hunter Education certificate from any jurisdiction he or she may legally hunt without adult supervision and must carry their Basic Hunter Education certificate while hunting.
- If hunting with a shotgun or rifle Massachusetts youth must follow Massachusetts Firearms license laws and will need to obtain a Firearms Identification Card (FID). An FID is issued by local police departments.
- All other hunting laws apply.

See additional requirements for Youth Turkey, Pheasant, Deer and Waterfowl Hunts.

PURCHASING A MINOR HUNTING LICENSE

A minor hunting license may be purchased online or in-person from available license vendors. A parent/legal guardian of a 15–17 year old must provide consent and state either that the minor will be accompanied by an adult while hunting or the minor has a government-approved certificate from a Basic Hunter Education Course from any jurisdiction.

NEW – Online purchase process:

- Go to MassFishHunt, create an account for your child and get the customer ID. If the child already has another type of license, log into MassFishHunt to retrieve the customer ID.
- Using the customer ID, complete and submit the consent form at *mass.gov/hunting-info-for-minors*.
- A few business days from submission, you will be notified and allowed to purchase the minor's license at MassFishHunt.

In-person purchase: Provide a consent letter to the license vendor that states the minor will be accompanied by an adult while hunting or that the minor has a government-approved certificate from a Basic Hunter Education Course from any jurisdiction. A consent form for license vendors is available at *mass.gov/minorlicense*. Minors may need to obtain a Firearms Identification (FID) card to hunt with a gun. (see Gun Laws on page 21)

YOUTH HUNT DAYS AND PROGRAMS

Special hunt days and programs for youth hunters aged 12–17 years old.

Hunter Education

Youths can take the Basic Hunter Education course, with parent or guardian permission. (Recommended for anyone ages 12 and

Photo © Shannon Dowd

older.) The Basic Hunter Education course is a multi-session course offered year round in locations throughout the state. For more details, visit the Basic Hunter Education Course schedule online or call the Hunter Education office at (508) 389-7820. To prepare for a Basic Hunter Education course, students have access to a free, online study guide at *www.huntercourse.com/usa/massachusetts*.

Youth Pheasant Hunt Program

For Hunter Education graduates 12–17 years of age and conducted by sporting clubs. Includes a seminar with instruction on firearms safety in the field, hunting ethics, regulations, game preparation, and supervised shooting practice. The program ends with a pheasant hunt under the guidance of an experienced adult hunter.

Youth Pheasant Hunt dates: Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, and Oct. 2, 9, 2021.

Requirements: Youths 12–17 must complete a basic hunter education course and a youth pheasant hunting workshop at a participating sporting club. Check MassWildlife website at *mass.gov/dfw/yaph* or call (508) 389-6305.

Youth Turkey Hunt Program

For Hunter Education graduates 12–17 years of age and conducted by sporting clubs with the support of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Includes a seminar with instruction on firearms safety in the field, hunting ethics, regulations, game preparation and supervised shooting practice. The program ends with a turkey hunt under the guidance of an experienced adult hunter.

Youth Turkey Hunt Day: April 24, 2021

Youth Turkey Hunt Day Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 5:00pm.

Requirements:

(Youth ages 12–14) Basic Hunter Education Certificate and Youth Turkey Hunt Permit

Youth Turkey Permits for hunters ages 12–14 are valid for the youth day and the regular spring and fall turkey seasons.

(Youth ages 15–17): Basic Hunter Education Certificate, Minor Hunting license, regular Turkey Permit and tags, Youth Turkey Hunt Authorization

To obtain the Youth Turkey Hunt Permit/Authorization all youth hunters must complete 1) a basic hunter education course and 2) a youth turkey hunting seminar at a participating club. Upon completion the youth can obtain the required permit or authorization through MassFishHunt. For details visit *mass.gov/dfw/yath*.

Youth Deer Hunt Day

Youth Deer Hunt Day date: Oct. 2, 2021

Requirements: Youth Deer Permit

Permits are free and available online in August at MassFishHunt (*mass.gov/massfishhunt*), at MassWildlife offices, and other license vendors. Youth Deer Hunt Permit and tag is valid only for the Youth Deer Hunt Day.

Hunting Implements: Shotgun, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow may be used.

All other hunting laws apply.

Bag Limit: One antlered deer statewide OR one antlerless deer in the Wildlife Management Zone(s) specified on the Permit.

Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days:

The two Youth Waterfowl Hunt days are not available until mid-May when they will be posted on the MassWildlife website.

Requirements:

All Youth Hunt Day hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter (18 or older).

Licensed adult must have a valid MA Waterfowl stamp and may not hunt.

Licensed adult may carry firearm only when unloaded and cased.

All other migratory game bird regulations and bag limits apply.

LICENSE/STAMP REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTERS

	MINOR HUNTING LICENSE	STATE WATERFOWL STAMP	FEDERAL DUCK STAMP
Youths age 12-14			
Youths age 15	X	X	
Youths age 16-17	X	X	X

Quail Ridge Kennel & Preserve

www.QuailRidgeKennelandPreserve.com

- We offer German Shorthair pups from high quality bloodlines, occasionally started or finished dogs are available.
- Custom guided hunts on our exquisite shooting preserve guarantee a satisfying yield of pheasant and chukar partridge.
- Professional training for all sporting breeds.
- Grooming shop and all breed boarding.

Contact Steve Hopko for details 860.684.2252

Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council

SPORTSMEN'S COUNCIL INC.

Serving Massachusetts' Sportsmen Since 1929
www.masportsmen.org

Make Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True!

Hunt of a Lifetime is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing dreams to children, age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.

HUNT OF A LIFETIME FOUNDATION, INC.

If you are interested in helping a child live their dream, please contact us for more information.

Toll Free 866.345.4455 HuntofaLifetime.org

DEER HUNTING

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Youth Deer Hunt Day: Oct. 2, 2021

Paraplegic Hunt: Oct. 28 – 30, 2021

Archery Season:

Zones 10–14: Oct. 4 – Nov. 27, 2021

Zones 1–9: Oct. 18 – Nov. 27, 2021

Shotgun Season: Nov. 29 – Dec. 11, 2021

Primitive Firearms Season:
Dec. 13 – Dec. 31, 2021

All dates inclusive. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays. See Wildlife Management Zone map on pages 22–23.

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset. (Except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset.)

REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS AND STAMPS

To hunt white-tailed deer in Massachusetts you must have the appropriate license, permits, and stamps which you can buy or apply for through MassFishHunt, *mass.gov/massfishhunt*, or a license vendor.

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or Sporting License (Includes 2 antlered deer tags valid statewide)
- Archery Stamp to hunt the Archery Season
- Primitive Firearms Stamp to hunt the Primitive Firearms Season
- No stamp required for the Shotgun Season
- Antlerless Deer Permit – Required for hunting any deer without antlers or antlers less than 3 inches in length. (See Antlerless Deer Permit Information on page 28 for the application process)

NON-RESIDENTS:

- Non-Resident Big Game Hunting License (Includes 2 antlered deer tags, valid statewide)
- Archery Stamp to hunt the Archery Season
- Primitive Firearms Stamp to hunt the Primitive Firearms Season
- No stamp required for the Shotgun Season
- Antlerless Deer Permit – Required for hunting any deer without antlers or with antlers less than 3 inches in length. (See Antlerless Deer Permit information on page 28 for the application process)

YOUTH DEER HUNT DAY

- Minors (resident and non-resident) must have a Youth Deer Permit (valid only for this day)
- 15–17 year old hunters required to have a Resident Minor Hunting license or Non-Resident Big Game License
- 12–14 year old hunters do not need a hunting license but must be accompanied by appropriately licensed adult hunter. See Youth Hunters (pages 24–25) for further requirements.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Bag Limit:

- 2 Antlered deer annually any deer with at least one antler 3 inches or longer
- Antlerless deer (any deer without antlers or antlers less than 3 inches in length) Hunters may take as many antlerless deer as they have valid antlerless deer permits for the specified permitted zones. (See page 28 Antlerless Deer Permit Information)
- Youth Deer Hunt Day: 1 deer (antlered or antlerless)

Possession Limit:

In WMZs 1–12 deer hunters may take and possess up to 2 deer in a day before reporting/checking them. Once those deer are reported, the hunter may resume deer hunting on the same day. (EXAMPLE: A hunter harvests 2 deer in the morning. After reporting the deer online or at a check station, he or she may return to deer hunting that same day.)

In WMZ 13 and 14, deer hunters may take and possess up to 4 deer in a day before reporting/checking them. Once those deer are reported, the hunter may then resume deer hunting on the same day.

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS ALLOWED BY SEASON

HUNTING IMPLEMENT	ARCHERY SEASON*	SHOTGUN SEASON	PRIMITIVE FIREARMS SEASON*
Shotgun		X	
Archery	X	X	X
Muzzleloader		X	X

*stamp required to hunt during these seasons

NOTE: Handguns are not allowed for deer hunting and may not be in your possession while deer hunting.

US Army Corps of Engineers®

THE CORPS FOUNDATION
OFFICIAL NONPROFIT OF
AMERICA'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS

THE GUN PARLOR

170 PRESCOTT ST.
WORCESTER, MA 01605
508.982.0722
Sales@TheGunParlor.com

www.TheGunParlor.com

FIREARMS | AMMO | ACCESSORIES | TRAINING
INDOOR RANGE | GUNSMITHING

www.TheGunParlorRange.com

RIFLE, PISTOL, SHOTGUN
FULL AUTO

PLEASE VISIT US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
@THEGUNPARLOR

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

ARCHERY: Archery equipment may be used during all deer hunting seasons. All bows, (recurve, long, and compound) except permitted crossbows, must have a draw weight of at least 40 lbs at 28 inches or at peak draw. Crossbows may be used by certain permanently disabled persons by permit only. Arrows must have well-sharpened steel broadhead blades not less than 7/8 inches in width. Expanding broadheads and mechanical releases are permitted. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, airbows and bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited. See page 18 for more archery information.

SHOTGUN: No larger than 10 gauge. May only be used during the shotgun deer season. Rifled barrel shotguns are legal.

PROHIBITED: Possession or use of rifles and handguns in any woodland or field, or use on any game during the shotgun deer season, including the Youth Deer Hunt Day.

PRIMITIVE FIREARMS: Shoulder-fired muzzleloaders .44 caliber to .775 caliber; barrel length 18 inches or more with only one barrel operational. Inline ignition systems are permitted providing the firearm loads from the muzzle. Single projectile only (no buckshot). Sabot rounds, 209 primers, break/hinge-action muzzleloaders, and scopes are permitted. Powder limited to black powder or black powder substitutes. A muzzleloader is considered unloaded when cap or pan powder is removed.

ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT INFORMATION

What is an Antlerless Deer? Legally, an antlerless deer is a female deer (doe) or young male (button buck) without antlers or a deer where both antlers are less than 3 inches long measured on a straight line from the center of the front base of the antler burr to the tip. A WMZ-specific antlerless deer permit is required in order to hunt any antlerless deer during any deer season.

ANTLERED DEER: Any deer (mostly bucks, but some does will grow antlers) with at least 1 antler 3 inches long measured on a straight line from the center of the front base of the antler burr to the tip. Sporting, hunting, and non-resident big game licenses come with two antlered deer tags that can be used in any WMZ. It is legal to harvest a doe with antlers; it will need to be tagged with an antlered deer tag.

ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT PROCESS

Antlerless deer permits are allocated by Wildlife Management Zone. In regions of the state where there are high numbers of deer per square mile, a larger number of antlerless deer permits are made available in those zones. Conversely, in regions with relatively fewer deer, fewer antlerless deer permits by zone are allocated for deer hunters.

An antlerless deer permit (ADP) is required to hunt antlerless deer during any deer season. Antlerless deer permits can only be used in the Wildlife Management Zone specified on the permit. The permit must be in the hunter's possession while deer hunting and it is not transferable to other hunters. Each antlerless deer permit is valid for 1 antlerless deer. A hunter may possess antlerless deer permits for more than one zone (e.g., drawing a Zone 5 with Instant Award and purchasing an additional antlerless deer permit for an undersubscribed zone, such as Zone 14).

Hunters must apply for an antlerless deer permit (ADP) online through the MassFishHunt system or at a license vendor by July 16. Hunters may only apply for one permit in a specific Wildlife Management Zone (see WMZ map on pages 22–23).

PERMIT SELECTION: Hunters must return to the MassFishHunt system or to a license vendor during the Instant Award period (Aug. 1 – Dec. 31) and try to draw an ADP in the zone to which they applied. Notice of whether the selection was successful or not will be instant. Selection is random. The odds of drawing a permit remain the same throughout the Instant Award period. Instant Award permit issuance is NOT first come-first-served. The odds of drawing a permit depend on the number of antlerless deer permits issued for a given zone and the number of hunters that applied for that zone.

- **ADP Purchase:** Successful applicants will be assessed a $5.00 fee and may print the permit immediately after purchase or or at a later date.
- **Surplus ADP Sales:** If there are any surplus permits (permits for undersubscribed zones) sale dates for those permits will be announced in August.

BLAZE ORANGE

All deer hunters, regardless of the hunting implement in use must wear blaze orange during the following seasons or Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs):

- **Youth Deer Hunt Day:** 500 square inches of blaze orange on the chest, back and head
- **Archery Season:** A blaze orange hat is required when hunting on WMAs stocked with pheasant and/or quail during the pheasant and quail season (see WMA Regulations page 21).
- **Shotgun Deer Season:** 500 square inches of blaze orange on the chest, back, and head.
- **Primitive Firearms Season:** 500 square inches of blaze orange on the chest, back, and head

NOTE: If using a blind during a season or on a WMA with a blaze orange requirement, all deer hunters must wear the required amount of orange while in the blind. **MassWildlife recommends that blaze orange be visible on the outside of the blind.**

HUNTING METHODS

Legal:

- Use of non-food related scents, deer antlers or replicas, or grunt tubes are permitted.
- It is legal to drive (attempt to move deer in a coordinated effort) deer while hunting.

Prohibited:

- Rifles and handguns, electronic calls, dogs, and decoys are prohibited.
- **Baiting:** Any natural or artificial substance, including but not limited to corn, wheat or other grains, hay, silage, apples or other fruits or vegetables, and salt or other chemical compounds of a like food-related nature to attract or entice deer. Baiting is defined as the deliberate placing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of bait so as to constitute for deer a lure, attraction, or enticement to or on any area where hunters are attempting to take them. A baited area is any area where baiting has taken place. Such area shall be considered a baited area for the period from 10 days prior to the opening of the archery season to the day following the close of the primitive firearms season. NOTE: On the Youth Deer Hunt Day, it is prohibited to hunt deer in any area where baiting has occurred up to 10 days prior to the Youth Deer Hunt Day.

TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

- **Tagging the Deer:** Upon killing a deer, hunters must immediately fill out and attach the paper tag from the permit or license on the carcass. The deer must remain intact (other than field dressing), with the harvest tag attached until it is reported.
- **Transportation:** When transporting the deer, some part of the deer must be visible until it has been reported.
- **Reporting:** Deer must be reported online through MassFishHunt or at an official game check station within 48 hours of harvest. If reporting online, a confirmation number will be issued. The number must be written on the harvest tag and attached to the carcass.

EXCEPTION: During the first week of the shotgun season, ALL harvested deer must be taken to an official check station for biologicial data collection.

- Once reported, harvest tag with confirmation number or the metal seal from the official game check station must remain attached to the carcass until prepared for food, taxidermy or other uses.
- **Prohibited:** Importing certain parts of deer from other states and provinces where Chronic Wasting Disease has been detected. See the Chronic Wasting Disease information box.

SPECIAL SEASONS AND HUNTS

Youth Deer Hunt Day: See page 25.

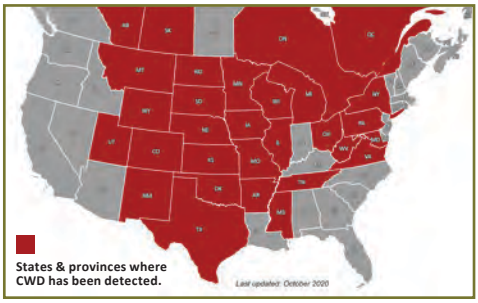
Paraplegic Hunters Deer Hunt: There is a special deer hunt for paraplegic hunters Oct. 28 – 30, 2021. Contact MassWildlife Field Headquarters (508) 389-6300 for more information.

DCR Controlled Deer Hunts: Visit the Department of Conservation and Recreation's website at *mass.gov/dcr* for application details on their controlled hunts (Quabbin, Wachusett, and Sudbury Reservoirs, and Blue Hills Reservation: Typically updated in August).

SUBMIT AN ARCHERY HUNTING LOG

Hunting deer with a bow and arrow? MassWildlife invites archers to fill out and submit a daily log of their archery hunting activity and wildlife observations. Submitting your log as part of a citizen science effort will provide biologists useful information on wildlife across the state. Download an Archery Deer Hunting Season Log from *mass.gov/dfw/citizen-science*.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE



Hunting Deer, Moose, Elk, or other cervids (wild or captive) outside of Massachusetts? The importation of whole carcasses or high-risk parts of any member of the Cervidae family (wild or captive) including, but not limited to: white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer, fallow deer, moose, caribou, or elk from any state, Canadian province, or other country where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected is illegal. **It is legal to bring in deboned meat, cleaned skull caps, hides without the head, or a fixed taxidermy mount.**

CWD-positive jurisdictions (as of October 2020) include:

U.S. States:
- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

Canada:
- Alberta
- Ontario
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan

Other Countries:
- Finland
- Norway
- South Korea
- Sweden

NEW CWD-POSITIVE JURISDICTIONS may be added following the publication of this document. It is the responsibility of the hunter to know the current CWD status of any jurisdiction that they plan to hunt in (updated list and information can be found on our website at *www.mass.gov/dfw/cwd* or at *www.cwd-info.org*) and any laws and regulations for carcass transport in each state or province traveled through.

BLACK BEAR HUNTING

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

First season: Sept. 7 – Sept. 25, 2021

Second season: Nov. 1 – Nov. 20, 2021

Shotgun season: Nov. 29 – Dec. 11, 2021

All dates inclusive.

Hunting is prohibited on Sundays.

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset. (Except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset.)

REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

You must have a license and permit to hunt bear which you can buy through MassFishHunt, *mass.gov/massfishhunt*.

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license
- Bear permit

NON-RESIDENTS:

- Big game license
- Bear permit

BAG LIMIT

1 bear per calendar year

HUNTING ZONES

All Wildlife Management Zones statewide.

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS
(see table above)

Rifle: Rifles .23 caliber or larger are allowed only during the first and second* bear seasons.

Revolver: Legal for use only during the first bear season. Restricted to a .357 caliber Magnum revolver with .357 Magnum cartridges only, or a revolver .40 caliber or larger.

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS ALLOWED BY SEASON

HUNTING IMPLEMENT	FIRST SEASON	SECOND SEASON	SHOTGUN SEASON
Rifle*	X	X	
Handgun*	X		
Muzzleloader*	X	X	X
Archery	X	X	X
Shotgun			X

*Except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season.

Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

Muzzleloader: Allowed during all 3 bear seasons. Must be .44 – .755 caliber, fired from the shoulder using a single projectile.

Archery Equipment: Allowed during all 3 seasons. All bows must have a draw weight of at least 40 lbs at 28 inches or at peak draw. Arrows must have well-sharpened steel broadhead blades not less than 7/8 inches in width. Expanding broadheads and mechanical releases are legal. Crossbows may be used by certain permitted disabled hunters. Airbows, poisoned arrows, explosive tips, and bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited. (see Archery on page 18)

Shotgun: Allowed only during the shotgun bear/deer season and includes shotguns with rifled bores. Must be no larger than 10 gauge. Slugs only. **Buckshot is prohibited**.

BLAZE ORANGE

- First Season: None
- Second Season: A blaze orange hat is required on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season.
- Shotgun Season: You must wear 500 square inches of blaze orange on your head, chest, and back.

HUNTING METHODS

The use of dogs and bait is prohibited. Bait includes the use of lure, scents, or any other substance used for a bear attractant.

TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

Upon killing a bear, hunters must immediately fill out and attach to the carcass the harvest tag found on the bear permit. The bear must remain intact (other than field dressing), with the harvest tag attached,

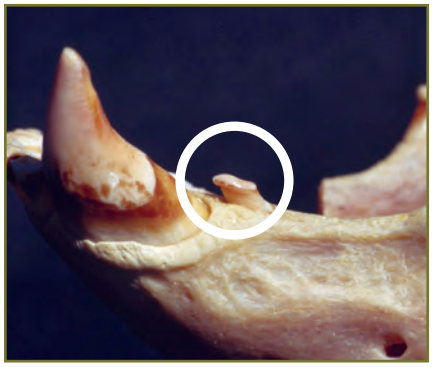
until it is reported and prepared for food, taxidermy, or other purpose. Hunters must report their bear either online or at a check station within 48 hours of harvest. If reporting online, a confirmation number will be issued and must be written on the harvest tag, if reporting at a check station a metal seal will be attached to the carcass. Either the seal or the harvest tag must be attached to the bear until it is processed. When transporting the bear, some portion of the carcass must remain visible until it has been reported.

HOW OLD IS THAT BEAR?

MassWildlife collects bear teeth to determine the age demographics of the harvest. Contribute to the scientific management of the Massachusetts Black Bear population! Follow the instructions below and you will receive a letter in June or July with the age of your harvested bear.

1. Remove either the left or right premolar (see photo), the small tooth just behind the canine. Using a small sharp knife, or a sharp 1/4 inch wood chisel, slide the blade down the side of the tooth and cut or separate the gum tissue where it sticks to the tooth. Using small needle-nose pliers or the pliers on your multi-tool, wiggle the tooth slightly until you can pull it out of the jawbone and the gum. The root is the most important part; go slow and be careful not to break this very small tooth.

2. Put the tooth in a small envelope or bag and mark it with your name, mailing address, customer ID number, and confirmation number (or seal number) of your bear. Enclose everything in a mailing envelope and send it to: Black Bear Aging, MassWildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough, MA 01581.

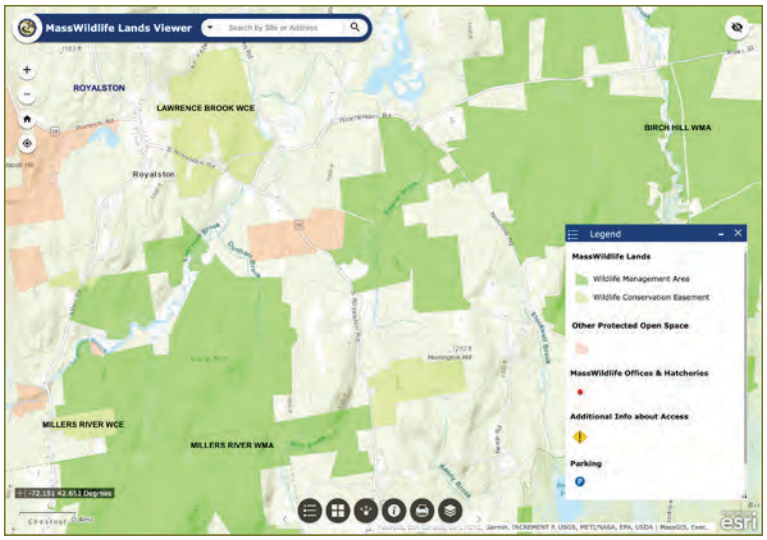


ANIMALS TAGGED FOR RESEARCH

Some bear, deer, coyotes, and other animals may have ear tags or radio collars. It is legal to harvest them. If you find or take one of these animals, contact MassWildlife's Field Headquarters (508) 389-6300 immediately. You will be asked for information that will help biologists determine the source and status of these animals AND you will be asked to return the equipment to MassWildlife. Thank you for your cooperation.

LOOKING FOR PLACES TO HUNT, FISH, OR TRAP?

Wildlife lands, open to hunting, fishing, and trapping, can be viewed using the MassWildlife Lands Viewer, *mass.gov/dfw/wildlife-lands* This new tool shows land owned jointly by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and MassWildlife throughout the Commonwealth. Maps can be customized and printed using the Viewer. Users can search for land by town or by property name.



These lands are protected primarily to provide habitat for wildlife and to give people a place to relax and explore the great outdoors. For the most part, wildlife lands are open to hunting, fishing, trapping, birdwatching, and other wildlife related recreation. Users can explore unmarked paths or woods roads with simple, unpaved parking lots. Many of these properties are actively managed through mowing, cutting, prescribed burns, or other activities that benefit wildlife. Regulations govern the activities allowed on these lands and focus on passive recreation. Note that these maps are provided for recreational use and show approximate rather than legal descriptions of property boundaries. For information on Wildlife Lands acquisition in fiscal year 2020 see page 9.

Explore Your MassWildlife Lands

WILD TURKEY HUNTING

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Youth Turkey Hunt Day (see page 24):

Zones 1–13: Apr. 24, 2021

Spring season:

Zones 1–13: Apr. 26 – May 22, 2021

Fall season:

Zones 10–13: Oct. 4 – Nov. 27, 2021

Zones 1–9: Oct. 18 – Nov. 27, 2021

All dates are inclusive.
Hunting is prohibited on Sundays.

See Wildlife Management Zone map on pages 22–23.

HUNTING HOURS

Youth Day: Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end at 5:00 P.M.

Spring turkey season: Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end at noon

Fall turkey season: Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset. When hunting turkeys on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail **during** the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset.

REQUIRED LICENSES, PERMITS, AND SAFETY STICKER

A license and permit is required to hunt turkey which you can buy through Mass-FishHunt, *mass.gov/massfishhunt*.

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

- Hunting or sporting license
- Turkey permit
- Safety sticker*

NON-RESIDENTS:

- Big game license
- Turkey permit
- Safety sticker*

***Safety Sticker:** Turkey hunters using a shotgun or muzzleloader must place an official safety sticker on their gun. The sticker must be visible when hunter is sighting down the barrel. Contact a MassWildlife office for a free sticker.

Photo by Troy Gipps/MassWildlife

BAG LIMITS

Spring season: 2 bearded birds;
Two birds may be harvested on the same day.

Fall season: 1 turkey of either sex. Three turkeys per calendar year.

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

Spring season:

Shotgun: No larger than 10 gauge.
No larger than #4 size shot.

Muzzleloader: No larger than.775 caliber smoothbore muzzleloading shotgun.
No larger than #4 shot.

Archery Equipment: All bows must have a draw weight of at least 40lbs at 28 inches or at peak draw. Arrows must have a well-sharpened steel broadhead blades not less than 7/8 inches in width. Expanding broadheads and mechanical releases are legal. Crossbows may be used by certain permitted disabled hunters. Airbows are prohibited. (see Archery on page 18)

Fall season:

In WMZs 1–13, hunters can use shotguns, muzzleloading shotguns, and archery equipment as described above from Oct. 18 – Oct. 30.

During certain periods of the fall season **ONLY ARCHERY EQUIPMENT** is permitted (no shotguns or muzzleloading shotguns). See Fall Season Hunting Implement table below.

BLAZE ORANGE

Spring turkey season: Blaze orange is not required.

Fall turkey season: A blaze orange cap is required when hunting on a WMA stocked with pheasants or quail during the pheasant or quail season.

HUNTING METHODS

Use of electronic calls, dogs, bait and driving (attempt to move in a coordinated effort) turkeys are prohibited.

A licensed turkey hunter may call turkeys for another hunter. The caller cannot carry a firearm or archery equipment if he or she has taken a season limit of turkeys. Caller must have a valid license and turkey permit in possession even if tags are no longer attached.

TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

- You must report your game harvest within 48 hours.
- Fill out and attached the paper tag from your permit on the carcass immediately after harvesting a turkey.

FALL SEASON HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

ZONE	OCT. 4 – OCT. 16	OCT. 18 – OCT. 30	NOV. 1 – NOV. 27
WMZ 1–9	No Fall turkey hunting	Shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, and archery	Archery only
WMZ 10–13	Archery only	Shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, and archery	Archery only

- The game must remain intact (other than field dressing), with the tag attached, until reported and prepared for food or taxidermy purposes.
- Report your harvest at an official check station or online.
- If you report online, write your confirmation number on the harvest tag attached to the carcass.

SUBMIT AN ARCHERY HUNTING LOG

Archers, are you hunting turkey and deer at the same time? If so, MassWildlife invites you to fill out and submit a daily log of your archery hunting activity and wildlife observations. Your log will provide useful information on wildlife across the state. Download an Archery Deer Hunting Season Log from *mass.gov/dfw/citizen-science*.

IDENTIFYING HEN (FEMALE) AND TOM (MALE) WILD TURKEYS DURING THE SPRING HUNTING SEASON

A small proportion of female turkeys may have a beard and can be legally harvested. However, their loss reduces the reproductive potential of the turkey population. To avoid misidentification, use the following features below to accurately determine the turkey's sex.

Photos by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

TOM	FEATURE	HEN
Red, blue, or white colors with snood (fleshy mass over the beak)	**Head**	Blue-gray, no snood
Dark, brown-black	**Body**	Light, rusty brown
Long bristle/filament-like beard	**Beard**	Usually no beard
Present	**Spurs**	Usually absent
Gobble, drum	**Calls**	Yelps, clucks, cuts
Strut with tail fanned and wings dropped	**Strut**	Do not strut or fan tail
Larger than hen	**Size**	1/2 to 2/3 size of tom

TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

- Sit or stand still to call turkeys to you. Don't stalk birds!
- Avoid wearing red, white, blue or black where the colors might be seen by other hunters during your hunt.
- Don't hide in a place where your view is obstructed.
- Be completely sure of your target and what is beyond it before you shoot.
- Positively identify male vs. female turkeys. Although bearded hens are legal to hunt during the spring season, their loss reduces the reproductive potential of wild turkeys in your area.
- If another hunter approaches your setup, call out in a loud, clear voice. Make sure your presence is acknowledged before you move. Never wave to alert another hunter of your presence.
- Never assume that you are alone in the woods — even if you are the only one on the land with permission to hunt.
- Use hen calls. A gobbler call might attract other hunters.
- For further protection, always sit with your back against a tree trunk, big log or a boulder that is wider than your body.
- Avoid unnecessary movement. This alerts turkeys and could attract hunters.
- When carrying harvested birds or decoys, use a blaze orange covering or completely conceal them in a game bag.

PHEASANT HUNTING

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Youth Pheasant Hunt: Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, and Oct. 2, 9, 2021.

Oct. 16 – Nov. 27, 2021

All dates inclusive.
Hunting on Sundays is prohibited.

PHEASANT STOCKED AREAS

Every year, MassWildlife stocks about 40,000 ring-necked pheasants statewide. These birds are stocked on public and private lands that are open to hunting. For a list of pheasant stocked WMAs and other locations visit, *mass.gov/pheasant*.

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin at sunrise and end at sunset on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) stocked with pheasant or quail, otherwise hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset.

REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

You must have a license to hunt pheasant which you can buy through MassFishHunt, *mass.gov/massfishhunt*. Permits are only required for the special pheasant hunts.

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

If you hunt on a licensed commercial shooting preserve, you need a resident or non-resident license, or a 1-day commercial shooting preserve license.

BAG LIMITS

- 2 per day
- 4 in possession
- 6 per season

HUNTING ZONES

- All Wildlife Management Zones statewide.
- Cocks (males) and hens can be hunted on any WMA statewide.

Only cocks can be hunted in the area shown in the map below: from the New Hampshire border southerly on Rte. I-95 to the junction with Rte. I-495, southerly on I-495 to the junction with I-95, northerly on Rte. 95 to the junction with I-93/Rte. 128, easterly on Rtes. I-93/128 to the junction with Rte. 3, southerly on Rte. 3 to the junction with Rte. 228, and northerly on Rte. 228 to the Hull town line, including the town of Hull and also in Dukes and Nantucket counties. **However, on any Wildlife Management Area within the above zone which is stocked with pheasant, the taking of hen pheasants is legal.**

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

Shotguns (including smoothbore muzzle-loaders): No larger than #1 birdshot.

Archery: Archery equipment is legal. Crossbows may only be used by permit. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means, or any device that propels an arrow, dart, or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or by any other means except by the flexing and release of a bowstring are prohibited.

When hunting pheasants on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail, only shotguns and archery equipment are allowed.

BLAZE ORANGE

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

SUBMIT A BIRD HUNTING LOG

Bird hunters are invited to keep a daily log of their hunting activities and daily observations of bobwhite quail, pheasant, woodcock and ruffed grouse and to share that log with MassWildlife. The information will provide useful information on game bird populations across the state. Download a hunting log from: *mass.gov/dfw/citizen-science*.

SPECIAL PHEASANT AND QUAIL HUNT

Licensed hunters may submit an application to MassWildlife district offices for a free 1 day permit that allows the private purchase, liberation, and hunting of ring-necked pheasants and/or bobwhite quail on selected WMAs from Jan. 1 – March 31.

WMAs include:

- Frances A. Crane WMA and Erwin Wilder WMA (SE District)
- Bolton Flats WMA and Winnimusset WMA (Central District)
- Martin Burns WMA (NE District)
- Herm Covey WMA (CT Valley District)
- Housatonic Valley WMA (Western District)

Permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Only one party can hunt on each WMA per day. There are no stocking limits, or bag limits.

You will need a separate importation permit from the MassWildlife Boston Office (617) 626-1575 to purchase birds from out of state.

There are no tagging, transporting or reporting requirements for pheasant.

RUFFED GROUSE HUNTING

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Oct. 16 – Nov. 27, 2021

All dates are inclusive.

Hunting is prohibited on Sundays.

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset. (Except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant/quail season hunting when hours are sunrise to sunset.)

REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

You must have a license to hunt ruffed grouse which you can buy through MassFishHunt, *mass.gov/massfishhunt*.

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

BAG LIMITS

- 3 per day
- 6 in possession
- 15 per season

HUNTING ZONES

All Wildlife Management Zones statewide.

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

When hunting ruffed grouse on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, only shotguns and archery equipment are allowed. Possession of handguns and rifles are prohibited.

Shotguns (including smoothbore muzzleloaders): No larger than #1 birdshot.

Archery: Archery equipment is legal. Crossbows may only be used by permit. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means, or any device that propels an arrow, dart, or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or by any other means except by the flexing and release of a bowstring are prohibited.

When hunting ruffed grouse on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail, only shotguns and archery equipment are allowed.

BLAZE ORANGE

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

SUBMIT A BIRD HUNTING LOG

Bird hunters are invited to keep a daily log of their hunting activities and daily observations of bobwhite quail, pheasant, woodcock and ruffed grouse and to share that log with MassWildlife. The information will provide useful information on game bird populations across the state. Download a hunting log from: *mass.gov/dfw/citizen-science*.

Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

There are no tagging, transporting or reporting requirements for ruffed grouse.

New MA Special Plate for Sportsmen !

The Sportsmen's National Land Trust has created the "HABITAT & HERITAGE" special MA license plate to support conservation of wildlife habitat and to guarantee hunting and fishing access in Massachusetts.

Get your HABITAT & HERITAGE plate at any Mass RMV Branch to join us in preserving land for all outdoorsmen.... and future generations to come.

To find out more, visit www.SNLTMassachusetts.org

QUAIL HUNTING

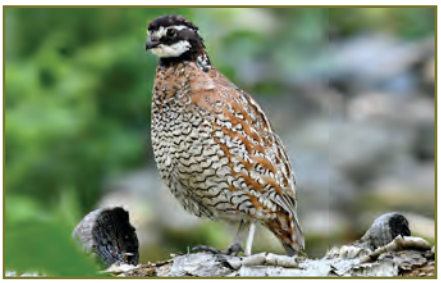


Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Zones 11–14: Oct. 16 – Nov. 27, 2021

All dates are inclusive. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays.

QUAIL STOCKED AREAS

Every year, MassWildlife stocks about 4,000 bobwhite quail at two locations in the Southeast District at Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth, and the Francis Crane Wildlife Management Area in Falmouth.

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin at sunrise and end at sunset on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) stocked with pheasant or quail, otherwise hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset.

REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

To hunt quail in Massachusetts you must have certain licenses and permits, which you can buy through MassFishHunt.

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

If you hunt on a licensed commercial shooting preserve, you need a resident or non-resident license, or a 1-day commercial shooting preserve license.

BAG LIMITS

- 4 per day
- 8 in possession
- 20 per season

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

Shotguns (including muzzleloaders): No larger than #1 birdshot.

Archery: Archery equipment is legal. Crossbows may only be used by permit. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means, or any device that propels an arrow, dart, or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or by any other means except by the flexing and release of a bowstring are prohibited.

When hunting quail on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail, only shotguns and archery equipment are allowed.

BLAZE ORANGE

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

SUBMIT A BIRD HUNTING SEASON LOG

Bird hunters are invited to keep a daily log of their hunting activities and daily observations of bobwhite quail, pheasant, woodcock and ruffed grouse and to share that log with MassWildlife. The information will provide useful information on game bird populations across the state. Download a hunting log from: *mass.gov/dfw/citizen-science*.

SPECIAL PHEASANT AND QUAIL HUNT

Licensed hunters may submit an application to MassWildlife district offices for a free 1-day permit that allows the private purchase, liberation, and hunting of bobwhite quail and/or ring-necked pheasants on selected WMAs from Jan. 1 – March 31.

WMAs include:

- Crane WMA and Erwin Wilder WMA (SE District)
- Bolton Flats WMA and Winnimusset WMA (Central District)
- Martin Burns WMA (NE District)
- Herm Covey WMA (CT Valley District)
- Housatonic Valley WMA (Western District)

Permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Only one party can hunt on each WMA per day. There are no stocking limits, or bag limits.

You will need a separate importation permit to purchase birds from out of state.

There are no tagging, transporting or reporting requirements for quail.

CROW HUNTING

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Jan. 1 – April 10, 2021

July 1, 2021 – April 9, 2022

Crow hunting only on Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Crow hunting season may coincide with the Youth Deer Hunt, special restrictions apply, see page 25.

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset. (Except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset.)

REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

You must have a license to hunt crows, which you can buy through MassFishHunt, *mass.gov/massfishhunt*. No permits are required.

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

BAG LIMITS

None

HUNTING ZONES

All Wildlife Management Zones statewide.

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

Rifles and handguns.

Shotguns (including smoothbore muzzleloaders): No larger than #1 birdshot.

Archery: All archery equipment is legal. Crossbows may only be used by permit. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means, or any device that propels an arrow, dart, or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or by any other means except by the flexing and release of a bowstring are prohibited.

Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

When hunting crows on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail, only shotguns and archery equipment are allowed.

HUNTING METHODS

Bait, electronic calls, and manual calls are legal.

FALCONRY

You can hunt crows using a falcon or other raptor if you have a hunting or sporting license and are a licensed falconer.

BLAZE ORANGE

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

There are no tagging, transportation or reporting requirements for crow.

RABBIT AND HARE HUNTING

Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Cottontail Rabbits

Zones 1–12: Jan. 1 – Feb. 27, 2021 and Oct. 16, 2021 – Feb. 28, 2022

Zones 13–14: Jan. 1 – Feb. 27, 2021 and Nov. 15, 2021 – Feb. 28, 2022

Snowshoe Hare

Zones 1–4: Jan. 1 – Feb. 27, 2021 and Oct. 16, 2021 – Feb. 28, 2022

Zones 5–12: Jan.1 – Feb. 5, 2021 and Oct. 16, 2021 – Feb. 5, 2022

Zones 13–14: Jan. 1 – Feb. 5, 2021 and Nov. 15, 2021 – Feb. 5, 2022

All dates are inclusive. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays. See Wildlife Management Zone map on pages 22–23.

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and ends at midnight. (Exception: on any WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset. See WMA Regulations page 21.)

REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

You must have a license to hunt rabbit and hare, which you can buy through MassFishHunt, *mass.gov/massfishhunt*. No permits are required.

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game license or big game license

BAG LIMITS

- Cottontail rabbit: 5 per day, 10 in possession, no annual bag limit
- Snowshoe hare: 2 per day, 4 in possession, no annual bag limit

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

When hunting cottontail rabbits or snowshoe hare on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail, during the pheasant or quail season only shotguns and archery equipment are allowed.

Shotguns (including smoothbore muzzleloaders): No larger than #1 birdshot.

Archery: Archery equipment is legal. You must use a device that works by flexing and releasing a bowstring. You may not use poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means, or any device that propels an arrow, dart, or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or any other means. You may only use a crossbows if you have a permit.

Rifles and handguns (including rifled muzzleloaders): Rifles and handguns are legal except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail **during** the pheasant or quail season.

BLAZE ORANGE

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

There are no tagging, transportation or reporting requirements for rabbit and hare.

LaBLUE'S TAXIDERMY
• Largest in the Area
• Specializing in Deerheads
Over 40 Years Experience
Rick and Phyllis LaBlue // 413.743.5668
121 Alger Street // Adams, MA 01220
LaBluesTaxidermy.com

Morse Sporting Goods
85 Contoocook Falls Road
Hillsboro, NH 03244
Archery Pro Shop ▪ 3D Course
Hand-tied flies ▪ Live Bait ▪ St.Croix, TFO rods
Hunting and Fishing Supplies ▪ Ammo
New/Used Guns ▪ Clothing/Boots
Deer and Turkey Weigh Station
603-464-3444
9–6 Monday–Saturday ▪ 9–noon Sunday
www.morsesportinggoods.com

Trader John's GUNS Since 1976
John Corliss, Proprietor
(603) 239-4032
Rte. 10, Winchester, NH 03470
Largest Inventory of New & Used Guns in the Greater Keene Area!

MOREWILDLIFE
Seed & Fertilizer Sales
Food Plot Supplies • Trail Cams
Food plot consultation, over 15 years experience
Building and maintaining wildlife food plots
Mike Farnham
802-249-1585
www.morewildlife.net
morewildlife@hotmail.com

Hunters Rendezvous
Rte. 119 (South Road) • Pepperell, MA • 01463
www.huntersrendezvous.com
(978) 433-9458
Muzzle Loading Firearms
Traditional Archery Equipment
Maritime Skiff Boats • Malibu Fishing Kayaks
Fresh & Saltwater Fly Fishing Equipment

Hull forest products
Private hunting land for lease in MA.
www.hullforest.com

GRAY SQUIRREL HUNTING

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Zones 1–9: Sept. 13, 2021 – Jan. 1, 2022

Zones 10–14: Oct. 16, 2021 – Jan. 1, 2022

See Wildlife Management Zone map on pages 22–23.

All dates are inclusive. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays. Gray squirrel hunting season may coincide with the Youth Deer Hunt Day, when special restrictions apply. (see page 25)

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset. (Exception: on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset. See WMA Regulations, page 21.)

REQUIRED LICENSES

You must have a license to hunt squirrels, which you can buy through MassFishHunt, *mass.gov/massfishhunt*.

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

BAG LIMITS

- 5 per day
- 10 in possession
- No annual bag limit

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

When hunting gray squirrel on any WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail, only shotguns and archery equipment are allowed during the pheasant or quail season.

Shotguns (including muzzleloaders): No larger than #1 birdshot.

Archery: Archery equipment is legal. You must use a device that works by flexing and releasing a bowstring. You may not use poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means, or any device that propels an arrow, dart, or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or any other means. You may only use a crossbow if you have a permit.

Rifles and handguns (including rifled muzzleloaders): Lawful to use in Wildlife Management Zones 1–9 except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season.

Use of rifles and handguns is prohibited in Wildlife Management Zones 10–14.

See Wildlife Management Zone map on pages 22–23.

Trapping or netting is prohibited.

BLAZE ORANGE

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

There are no tagging, transportation or reporting requirements for squirrels.

Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING

REPORT ALL BANDED BIRDS: Hunters recovering banded waterfowl are encouraged to report bird band information to www.reportband.gov

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Season dates and bag limits are set annually in the spring and will be posted on the MassWildlife website by mid-May. Printed regulations will be available in August.

NEW – Active Military and Veterans Waterfowl Hunt

Two statewide Veterans Waterfowl Hunt season dates are open for waterfowl hunting by members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty (other than for training), and veterans. The term "veteran," is defined, per section 101 of title 38, United States Code, as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable. Proof of eligibility is required and must be carried on person while hunting. All regular season waterfowl hunting regulations and bag limits apply.

Youth Waterfowl Hunt

(see page 25)

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end at sunset in most situations. Exceptions: 1) Hunting on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season; hunting hours are sunrise to sunset. 2) Early Goose Season: 1/2 half hour before sunrise – 1/2 hour after sunset. See page 51 for sunrise-sunset table.

REQUIRED LICENSES, STAMPS, & H. I. P.

Licenses, stamps and HIP registration are required and can be obtained through *www.mass.gov/massfishhunt*.

HIP Registration: Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration required annually by taking the HIP survey.

Woodcock, snipe, coot, rail hunters

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

- Hunting or sporting license
- Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration through MassFishHunt

NON-RESIDENTS

- Big game license OR small game license
- Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration through MassFishHunt

Waterfowl hunters (ducks, geese, sea ducks)

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

- Hunting or sporting license
- MA Waterfowl stamp and HIP (purchase process registers you with HIP)
- Federal duck stamp* (for hunting ducks, geese, or brant) for hunters 16 years and older

NON-RESIDENTS

- Big game license or small game license
- MA Waterfowl stamp and HIP (purchase process registers you with HIP)
- Federal duck stamp* (for hunting ducks, geese, or brant) for hunters 16 years and older

*The Federal Duck Stamp is available through MassFishHunt or wherever MA hunting licenses are sold. The Federal eDuck Stamp is a temporary stamp expiring 45 days from the date of purchase. Before the eDuck expires, a physical Federal Duck Stamp will be sent to customers via U.S. mail. Upon receipt of the physical Federal Duck Stamp, it must be signed across the face in ink and carried while waterfowl hunting. If a physical Duck Stamp does not arrive after a few weeks, contact Amplex at duckstamp@amplex.com or (800) 852-4897. Physical federal waterfowl stamps are also available at all National Wildlife Refuges and select post offices.

NOTE: Unlike state licenses and stamps which are valid from January 1 – December 31, the Federal Duck Stamp is valid July 1 – June 30 of the following year. (see page 7)

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTERS (12–17 years old) Dates and Requirements (see page 25)

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

Shotgun: Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, fired from the shoulder. Shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells must be plugged with a one piece filler which cannot be removed without disassembling the gun, limiting the gun's total capacity to 3 shells.

Non-toxic shot: Required for all waterfowl and coot hunting. No lead shot in possession. Waterfowl and coot hunters must use non-toxic shot up to and including BBB shot while hunting waterfowl. Non-toxic shot is lawful for hunting woodcock, snipe, or rails.

Archery Equipment: Expanding broadheads are legal. Use of crossbows allowed by those duly permitted. Airbows, poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited.

HUNTING METHODS

Dogs: Dogs may be used to hunt migratory game birds. NOTE: During the shotgun seasons for deer (including Youth Deer Hunt Day) dogs can be used for waterfowl, snipe, rail, and falconry hunting **only** on coastal waters and salt marshes.

Falconry: Ducks and coot may be hunted by licensed and permitted falconers from Oct. 8, 2021 – Feb. 8, 2021. No geese.

Sea ducks: May only be hunted in coastal waters and rivers and streams seaward of the first upstream bridge.

Wanton waste: A reasonable effort is required to retrieve all migratory birds killed or wounded. Wounded waterfowl should be killed immediately, and must be retained by the hunter as part of the daily bag.

HUNTING PROHIBITIONS

Baiting: No baiting (placing corn or any other food to constitute a lure or enticement) or hunting over a baited area. An area is considered baited for 10 days after bait removal. It is not necessary for the hunter to know that the area is baited to be in violation.

Motorized vehicles & boats: No hunting migratory game birds from or with the aid of a motor vehicle or other motor driven land conveyance or aircraft. No hunting from or by means of any motor boat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or sails furled and all progress has ceased. A hunter may pick up or retrieve dead or injured birds from a craft under power and may shoot injured birds from powered craft in coastal waters seaward of the first upstream bridge. Exception: Paraplegics may take game birds from a stationary motor vehicle or other land conveyance.

Driving: Hunters cannot drive (herd) migratory game birds from or with the aid of a motor vehicle or other motor driven land conveyance or aircraft, or use any kind of motor or sailboat for self or others.

Electric calls: NO pre-recorded calls, sounds or any electronic imitations of calls.

Other prohibited devices: Rifle, pistol, air gun, swivel gun, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, trap, snare, net, fish hook, sinkbox, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.

Live decoys: No use of live decoys (birds) or any domesticated fowl. These birds must be removed for 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined in an enclosure to reduce the audibility of their calls and conceal them from the sight of migratory game birds.

BLAZE ORANGE/PFD

No requirement to wear hunter orange except: 1) An orange hat must be worn while hunting in WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant and quail season; 2) During the Shotgun Deer Season and the Youth Deer Hunt Day waterfowl hunters must wear a blaze orange hat and vest (500 sq. inches) in transit to their blind or boat- it may be removed once in the blind or boat.

Personal Flotation Device (PFD): Anyone in a canoe or kayak from Sept. 15 – May 15 **must wear** a life jacket or vest.

Importation: No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any other country except Canada unless such birds are dressed and the head and feet removed. One fully feathered wing must remain on each bird transported between port of entry and the hunter's home or preservation facility. No one may import birds belonging to another.

CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

A Waterfowl Consumption Advisory is in effect for the Housatonic River due to PCBs. For more information call the Mass. Department of Public Health at (617) 624-5757 or visit *mass.gov/dph*.

TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

No reporting requirement.

No one may possess another hunter's migratory game birds unless the birds are properly tagged. Birds must be tagged with the hunter's signature, address, total number of birds by species, and dates birds were killed.

Field Dressing: The head and one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to each migratory game bird while it is transported to the hunter's home, preservation facility or port of entry.

Shipment: Any package containing migratory game birds must be marked on the outside with the name and address of the sender and recipient and number of birds, by species, contained inside.

R&J OUTFITTERS
Affordable trophy whitetail hunts in N.W. Missouri

5-Day, Fully Guided, Fair Chase Hunts with Lodging start at only $1,800.00!

Thousands of private acres.
No trophy fees or
hidden charges.

YES YOU CAN!

CALL TODAY:
(305) 606-1611

www.randjoutfitters.com

COYOTE HUNTING

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Jan. 1 – March 8, 2021

Oct. 16, 2021 – Mar. 8, 2022

All dates inclusive. Hunting on Sundays is prohibited. Coyote hunting is open during the deer shotgun season.

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end at midnight. There are two exceptions:

- Hunting hours start at sunrise and end at sunset on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season.
- Hunting hours start 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset during shotgun deer season.

REQUIRED LICENSES

You must have a license to hunt coyote, which you can buy through MassFishHunt, *mass.gov/massfishhunt*.

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

BAG LIMITS

- None

HUNTING ZONES

All Wildlife Management Zones statewide.

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

Shotguns: Shot sizes up to and including FF. Slugs, single balls, and buckshot may only be used during the shotgun deer season.

Archery: Archery equipment is legal. Crossbows may be used by certain permanently disabled persons by permit only. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited.

Rifles and handguns:

- Daytime hunting: During the period from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset, there are no restrictions on size or caliber of rifles or handguns.
- Nighttime hunting: During the period from 1/2 hour after sunset to midnight rifles are restricted to those chambered not larger than .22 long rifle and handguns are restricted to those chambered not larger than .38 caliber.
- Prohibited on Wildlife Management Areas stocked with pheasant or quail, during the pheasant and quail seasons.
- Prohibited during the shotgun deer season.

Muzzleloader: Smooth bore muzzleloaders: Only shot sizes up to and including FF. Slugs, single balls, and buckshot may only be used during the shotgun deer season. Rifled bore muzzleloaders: no restrictions on caliber size.

HUNTING METHODS

Electronic and manual calls, and the use of dogs are legal, but prohibited during the shotgun deer season.

Decoys and bait are legal.

Artificial lights are prohibited.

BLAZE ORANGE

During the shotgun season for deer, 500 square inches on chest, head and back is required.

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

NEW: You must report your coyote harvest within 48 hours of harvest.

Report at an official check station or online.

If you report your harvest online, write the confirmation number on a tag and attach the tag to the carcass or pelt.

Confirmation numbers must stay attached to the pelt or carcass until that pelt or carcass is prepared for sale, taxidermy, tanning or other use.

Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

FOX HUNTING

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Jan. 1 – Feb. 27, 2021

Nov. 1, 2021 – Feb. 28, 2022

All dates inclusive. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays. Season is closed during the shotgun deer season.

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end at midnight. (Except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, hunting hours are sunrise to sunset.)

REQUIRED LICENSES

You must have a license to hunt fox, which you can buy through MassFishHunt, *mass.gov/massfishhunt*.

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

BAG LIMITS

- None

HUNTING ZONES

All Wildlife Management Zones statewide.

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

Shotguns: Only shot size up to #1 birdshot.

Archery: Archery equipment is legal. Crossbows may be used by certain permanently disabled persons by permit only. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited.

Rifles and handguns:

- Daytime hunting: During the period from 1/2 hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset, there are no restrictions on size or caliber of rifles or handguns.
- Nighttime hunting: During the period from 1/2 hour after sunset to midnight rifles are restricted to those chambered not larger than .22 long rifle and handguns are restricted to those chambered not larger than .38 caliber.
- Rifles or handguns of any kind are prohibited on Wildlife Management Areas stocked with pheasant or quail, during the pheasant and quail seasons.

Muzzleloaders: Smooth bore muzzleloaders: Only shot size up to #1 birdshot can be used. Rifled bore muzzleloaders: no restrictions on caliber size.

HUNTING METHODS

Electronic and manual calls, decoys, bait, and the use of dogs are legal.

Artificial lights are prohibited.

BLAZE ORANGE

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

NEW: You must report your fox harvest within 48 hours of harvest.

Report at an official check station or online.

If you report your harvest online, write the confirmation number on a tag and attach the tag to the carcass or pelt.

These confirmation numbers must stay attached to the pelt or carcass until that pelt or carcass is prepared for sale, taxidermy, tanning or other use.

Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

BOBCAT HUNTING

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Zones 1–8: Jan. 1 – March 8, 2021 and Dec. 20, 2021 – March 8, 2022

All dates inclusive. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays. Bobcat hunting season closed during the shotgun deer season. See WMZ map on pages 22–23.

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end 1/2 hour after sunset.

REQUIRED LICENSES AND PERMITS

You must have a license to hunt bobcat, which you can buy through MassFishHunt, *mass.gov/massfishhunt*. No permits are required.

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

- Hunting or sporting license

NON-RESIDENTS

- Small game or big game license

BAG LIMITS

None

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

Shotguns: Only shot size up to #1 birdshot can be used.

Archery: Archery equipment is legal, with no minimum pull. Crossbows may only be used by permit. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, and bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited.

Rifles and handguns: No restrictions on caliber size for rifles or handguns.

Muzzleloaders: Smooth bore muzzleloaders: Only shot size up to #1 birdshot can be used. Rifled bore muzzleloaders: no restrictions on caliber size.

HUNTING METHODS

Electronic and manual calls, decoys, and bait are legal.

Use of dogs is prohibited.

BLAZE ORANGE

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

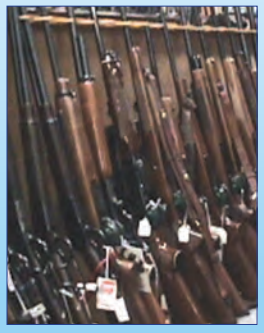
TAGGING, TRANSPORTING, AND REPORTING

Bobcat cannot be reported online. You must take your bobcat to an official furbearer check station at MassWildlife facilities only (see page 46), where you will be issued a federally-required seal.

You must report your bobcat harvest within 4 working days of the end of the season.

Seals must remain attached to the pelt/carcass until the pelt/carcass is prepared for sale, taxidermy, tanning or other use.

Powderhorn Outfitters
210 Barnstable Rd
Hyannis, MA 02601
(508) 775-8975
Fax (508) 771-8856
Mark Cohen, Proprietor
www.powderhornoutfitters.com
- FISHING BAIT & TACKLE
- GUNS & AMMO
- ANTIQUE WEAPONS
- RELOADING EQUIPMENT
- ARCHERY SUPPLIES
- LAW ENFORCEMENT



RACCOON AND OPOSSUM HUNTING

2021 HUNTING SEASON DATES

Jan. 1 – Jan 30, 2021

Oct. 1, 2021 – Jan. 31, 2022

All dates are inclusive. Hunting is prohibited on Sundays. Raccoon and opossum hunting seasons may coincide with the Youth Deer Hunt Day, when special restrictions apply, see page 25.

HUNTING HOURS

Raccoon and opossum may be hunted 24 hours per day. Exception: WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season, the hunting hours for raccoon and opossum are from 9:00 P.M. to 3:00 A.M.

REQUIRED LICENSES

You must have a license to hunt raccoon and opossum, which you can buy through MassFishHunt, *mass.gov/massfishhunt*.

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS:

- Hunting or sporting license

NON-RESIDENTS:

- Small game or big game license

BAG LIMITS

Raccoon:

- Individual bag limit — 3 raccoons (Between sunset of one day and sunset of the following day.)
- Group bag limit (2 or more hunters) — 6 raccoons (Between sunset of one day and sunset of the following day.)

Opossum: No bag limit.

HUNTING ZONES:

All Wildlife Management Zones statewide.

HUNTING IMPLEMENTS

Shotguns: Only shot size up to #1 birdshot.

Archery: Archery equipment is legal, with no minimum pull. Crossbows may only be used by permit. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, and bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited.

Rifles and handguns:

- Daytime hunting: During the period from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset there are no restrictions on size or caliber of rifles or handguns.
- Nighttime hunting: During the period from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise, rifles are restricted to those chambered not larger than .22 long rifle and handguns are restricted to those chambered not larger than .38 caliber.
- Prohibited on Wildlife Management Areas stocked with pheasant or quail, during the pheasant and quail seasons except from 9:00 P.M. to 3:00 A.M.

Muzzleloaders: Smooth bore muzzleloaders: Only shot size up to #1 birdshot. Rifled bore muzzleloaders: no restrictions on caliber size.

HUNTING METHODS

Electronic and manual calls and artificial lights are legal. Use of dogs is permitted.

BLAZE ORANGE

When hunting on a pheasant or quail stocked WMA during the pheasant/quail season, a blaze orange cap is required.

Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

There are no tagging, transportation or reporting requirements for raccoon or opossum.

FURBEARER TRAPPING SEASONS

	OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)
Beaver[1]	Jan. 1 – April 15, 2021 Nov. 1, 2021 – April 15, 2022
Bobcat[1,2], **Coyote**[1], **Fox**[1], **Weasel**	Nov. 1 – Nov. 30, 2021
Fisher[1]	Nov. 1 – Nov. 22, 2021
Mink[1], **River Otter**[1]	Nov. 1 – Dec. 15, 2021
Muskrat, Opossum, Raccoon, Skunk	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2021 Nov. 1, 2021 – Feb. 28, 2022

1 – Pelt checking/reporting required; see below.

2 – Bobcats may only be trapped or salvaged in Wildlife Management Zones 1–8. See WMZ map on pages 22–23.

LICENSING

A trapping license is required for all persons age 12 years of age and older.

TRAP REGISTRATION

All traps used on the land of another must have a valid Trap Registration Number embedded or cut into the trap. The trap must also have attached a metal tag bearing the owner's name, town and registration number. The registration number must be renewed every two years. To trap on another's land, a trapper must maintain a current certification of that registration number. Registration numbers are available from the MassWildlife Boston office.

MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION

Trapper Education is mandatory for first-time trappers and Problem Animal Control (PAC) agents in order to apply for a trap registration certificate. Government issued Trapper Education certificates from any U.S. state are accepted to apply. Included in the Massachusetts Trapper Education course is the mandatory training required to use Bailey or Hancock traps. Both a Trapper Education Certificate and a Bailey-Hancock Certificate are issued to students who successfully complete this course.

TRAPPING IMPLEMENTS

Only cage or box type traps may be used for the taking of fur-bearing mammals. Common rat traps may only be used for the taking of weasels. Bailey and Hancock traps may only be used for the taking of beaver by trappers with a Bailey-Hancock certificate of completion. The Bailey-Hancock certificate must be in possession when using such traps. To obtain a special permit to use bodygrip traps (e.g., Conibear™ traps) addressing certain types of wildlife damage, contact your local MassWildlife District office.

PROHIBITED TRAPS: Steel-jaw foothold traps, padded jaw traps, body-gripping (Conibear) traps, snares, deadfalls, and any traps other than those specified in this Guide are prohibited. Such traps may not be set, tended, used, or possessed in the field.

STAKING is not a recognized practice and conveys no special trapping privileges.

STOLEN TRAPS: A trapper must report the loss or theft of a trap in writing to the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP) within 48 hours of the loss or theft, or remain responsible for its use. See MEP contact informaton on page 5.

HARVEST REPORTING (PELT CHECKING)

Coyote, fox, fisher, beaver, bobcat, river otter, and mink must be checked within 4 working days of the end of their respective seasons. Except for bobcat and otter, furbearers/pelts must be reported either on line or at an official check station. Bobcat and river otter cannot be reported online. Take all bobcat and river otter to an official furbearer check station, which are located at MassWildlife facilities only (see Furbearer Check Stations below), within 4 working days of the end of the season. You will be issued a federally-required seal for bobcat and river otter. For detailed information on Online Game Check, visit the Game Check Station page on *mass.gov/dfw/checkstation*; visit the MassFishHunt System online at *mass.gov/massfishhunt* to report your harvest online. Once issued a harvest confirmation number, write it on a tag of your own making and attach it to the pelt/carcass. Confirmation numbers must remain attached to all pelts/carcasses until the pelt/carcass is is prepared for sale, taxidermy or other use.

SALE OF PELTS

EXPORTING RAW FURS: When shipping raw fur pelts by any carrier, the contents of the package and the shipper's hunting or trapping license number must be listed on the outside of the package. The destruction or removal of any identifying tag or label that is attached to a container in which skins are shipped is unlawful.

FURBEARER CHECK STATIONS

Check stations are open Monday–Friday (excluding holidays). Call check stations prior to bringing pelts in for sealing. Most deer check stations also check coyotes; visit our website at *mass.gov/dfw/checkstation* or call MassWildlife Field Headquarters for further information.

- **Western District:** Dalton (413) 684-1646
- **Connecticut Valley District:** Belchertown (413) 323-7632
- **Central District:** West Boylston (508) 835-3607
- **Northeast District:** Ayer (978) 772-2145
- **Southeast District:** Buzzards Bay (508) 759-3406
- **Sunderland Hatchery:** Sunderland (413) 665-4680
- **Bitzer Fish Hatchery:** Montague (413) 367-2477
- **Field Headquarters:** Westborough (508) 389-6300

TRAPPING PROHIBITIONS

IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- Trap fur-bearing mammals with any trap other than a cage or box type trap, or a common rat trap for weasels.
- Intentionally or knowingly drown wildlife.
- Trap before 6:00am on opening day of any trapping season.
- Possess or have under control a trap on land of another in any place where fur-bearing mammals might be found between April 16 of any year and 6:00am on the following November 1.
- Possess the green pelt of any fur-bearing mammal or any part of such pelt except during the open season for such mammal and for ten days thereafter.
- Possess or have under control an unregistered trap on land of another.
- Possess or have under control the registered trap of another, unless he or she has entered into a trapping partnership through the Boston Office.
- Trap on posted land of another without the written permission of the owner or tenant of such land.
- Trap in a public way, cart road, path or other way commonly used as a passageway for people or domestic animals.
- Tear open, disturb, or destroy a muskrat lodge, beaver lodge or beaver dam, except as provided in 321 CMR 2.08.
- Use poison or trap with a trap designed to take more than one mammal at a time.
- Trap on land with a Bailey or Hancock beaver trap or other trap of similar design, except when set upon a beaver dam or beaver lodge, snag, stump, rock, or other above-water protrusion entirely or substantially surrounded by water, or, when the pan of such trap is not completely submerged.
- Trap with a Bailey or Hancock beaver trap or other trap of similar design without having completed a training session and having been issued a certificate of completion, or to fail to carry such certificate on one's person when using such traps.
- Fail to visit all traps staked out, set, used, tended, placed, or maintained, and remove all animals trapped at least once in each calendar day between the hours of 4:00am and 10:00pm.
- Destroy, mutilate, spring, or remove the trap of another.
- Take any fur-bearing mammal from the trap of another unless he has on his person a specific written authorization to do so, signed by the owner of such trap. The owner of traps may give such authorization to any person licensed to trap for a period not to exceed one week from the day the traps were last tended, provided that notice of the giving of such authorization including the name and trapping license number of the person so authorized shall be given to the regional Environmental Police Officer and to the Director within 24 hours of the giving of such authorization.
- Set, use, place, locate, tend, or maintain a trap not bearing on a metal tag the name, town of residence, and trap registration number of the person or persons using the same in a manner as to be legible at all times. Said registration number shall be permanently embedded in or marked on the traps with letters and figures not less than 1/8 inches high in such a manner as to be legible at all times.
- Possess any road-killed furbearers during the closed season, or possess road-killed furbearers during the open season without a valid hunting or trapping license as appropriate to that species and season.
- Alter, tamper with, or reapply a furbearer tag or seal, or possess any altered or resealed tag, or possess any pelt bearing an altered or resealed tag or seal.

INCIDENTAL CATCH — EMERGENCY PERMIT

Catch of any species other than beaver or muskrat while trapping with a 10 day emergency permit must be turned over to MassWildlife.

PROBLEM ANIMAL CONTROL AGENTS

Problem Animal Control (PAC) agents are private individuals licensed by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to assist the public in situations involving sick animals or animals causing property damage. If you are experiencing wildlife damage and wish to contract with a PAC agent, a listing can be found on *mass.gov/masswildlife*. Individuals interested in becoming a PAC agent can obtain information on the permitting process from this same website, or call MassWildlife Field Headquarters at (508) 389-6300.

Photo by Bill Byrne/MassWildlife

RABIES

Rabies in wild mammals has been confirmed in all counties in Massachusetts except Dukes and Nantucket. Wear rubber gloves when skinning furbearers. If you believe you have been exposed to a rabid animal, scrub the area thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical advice immediately. If possible, isolate and preserve the dead animal by refrigeration as soon as possible. Contact your local Board of Health.

DEVELOP OUTDOOR SKILLS WITH MASSWILDLIFE!

LEARN TO HUNT PROGRAMS

Hunters with little or no experience can learn skills and techniques used to hunt different game animals. Courses are geared toward recent Basic Hunter Education graduates and include classroom learning and outdoor skills exercises. Taught by volunteers, the courses utilize the experience and knowledge of seasoned sportsmen and -women. Courses range from one-day condensed classes to three-day, in-depth courses. To learn more, to be notified about upcoming courses, or to volunteer as an instructor, visit *mass.gov/dfw/learn-to-hunt*.

EXPLORE ARCHERY AND BOWHUNTING

These programs are designed to help instructors, program leaders, and educators teach outdoor skills to people of all ages.

EXPLORE ARCHERY is an international style target shooting program that was created to promote the lifelong interest and participation in the sport of archery to participants of all ages.

EXPLORE BOWHUNTING is an educational program designed to teach students ages 11 and up the basic skills of bowhunting through 23 innovative lesson plans. Through these hands-on experiences students gain confidence interacting with the natural environment and strengthen their appreciation for wildlife and the woods.

For more information about these programs, call (508) 389-6305.

ANGLER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Angler Education Program introduces people of all ages to fishing, educates them about the state's aquatic wildlife and habitats through fishing, and promotes Massachusetts' abundant waterways and freshwater fishing opportunities. Program elements include one-day family fishing festivals and short fishing clinics offered by volunteers and MassWildlife staff across the state. A Fishing Gear Loaner Program is available for groups and organizations that already have an event organized, but need equipment. Occasional specialty classes such as fly tying or ice fishing are also scheduled. For more information call 508-389-6309.

Photo by Troy Gipps/MassWildlife

BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN

Designed primarily for adult women, BOW is an opportunity to learn new skills. Past workshops have included basic fishing, beginning shotgun, kayaking, map and compass, wildlife tracking, archery, nature photography, fly tying, game cooking, and edible plants. Workshop notices are posted at *mass.gov/dfw/bow*. For more information, call (508) 389-6305.

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Provides courses in the safe handling of firearms, and other outdoor activities related to hunting and firearm use. Designed for novices, courses in Basic Hunter Education, Bowhunter Education, Trapper Education, and others are offered statewide throughout the year. Certificates in certain courses satisfy hunting license requirements for Massachusetts as well as other states and Canadian provinces. For more information, call (508) 389-7820.

MASSACHUSETTS JUNIOR CONSERVATION CAMP

This two-week overnight program, held in August for boys and girls ages 13–17, provides a solid grounding in outdoor skills. Participants learn about fisheries, wildlife, forestry, and camping, and become proficient in the use of shotgun, rifle, archery equipment, map and compass, and other outdoor activities.Basic Hunter Education and Boat Safety programs are included. For more information, call (508) 389-6300, or go to *juniorconservationcamp.org*.

YOUTH HUNT DAYS AND PROGRAMS

Special hunt days and programs are designed for young hunters. Details can be found on pages 24–25.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS

The National Archery in the Schools Program in Massachusetts is an archery program developed for educators to provide students in grades 4–12 with an exposure to a fun, alternative sport that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. Taught primarily by physical education teachers, the program also includes social studies, mathematics, and physics. This program is a partnership between MassWildlife, National Archery in the Schools, the Archery Trade Association, and local sporting groups. Training is provided by MassWildlife to educators. Schools may borrow archery kits for two weeks free of charge. Funding may be available for schools to buy a kit of their own. For more information, call (508) 389-6305.

PROJECT WILD IN MASSACHUSETTS

An international program of wildlife education workshops designed for educators of a wide range of ages, from pre-school to high school. Hours spent may be used toward professional development or other continuing education credit. Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council. For information on attending or hosting a workshop, call (508) 389-6310.

- **GROWING UP WILD**: Exploring Nature With Young Children (Ages 3–7 years). This workshop is designed for early childhood educators with activities that build on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Educators experience a wide range of activities that provide a foundation for developing a child's positive impression about nature.
- **PROJECT WILD AND AQUATIC WILD** workshops are interdisciplinary, hands-on learning opportunities for educators of K–12 level students focusing on terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and ecosystems. The curriculums encourage problem-solving and decision-making skills concerning the environment. Scout leaders, youth group leaders, homeschoolers, and both formal and non-formal educators find the materials and workshops valuable.
- **FLYING WILD** is a whole-school approach to environmental education using birds as the focus. Targeted for the middle-school level audience, though widely adaptable, Flying WILD offers practical, hands-on classroom and outdoor field-investigation experiences connecting real-world experiences in bird biology, conservation, and natural history. Project-based classroom applications, service learning, and community involvement are encouraged.

NORTH AMERICAN CONSERVATION EDUCATION STRATEGY RESOURCES

An array of tools and resources developed by state fish and wildlife agencies support conservation educators who offer fish and wildlife-based programs that guide students in grades K–12 on their way to becoming

Photo © Troy Gipps

involved, responsible, conservation minded citizens. The strategy resources deliver unified, research-based Core Concepts and messages about fish and wildlife conservation, translated into K–12 academic standards to shape students' environmental literacy, stewardship, and outdoor skills. Resources in the tool kit include: landscape investigation, schoolyard biodiversity, field investigation, fostering outdoor observation skills, applying systems thinking, and much more. Download these free resources at *fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/ce-strategy*. For more information, call (508) 389-6310.

JUNIOR DUCK STAMP

The Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) Conservation and Design Program; *Connecting Youth with Nature Through Science and Art* is a dynamic arts and science curriculum for educators designed to teach wetland habitat and waterfowl conservation to students in K–12. Using scientific and wildlife observation principles, the program helps students to visually communicate what they have learned by creating an entry to the state's JDS contest. Guidelines and curriculum for students, educators, homeschool, and non-formal groups designed to spark youth interest in habitat conservation through science, art, math, and technology can be downloaded at *www.fws.gov/juniorduck*. Co-sponsored by the USFWS with support from the Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council. For more information, go to *mass.gov/dfw/jds* or call (508) 389-6310.

The colored pencil drawing of a Canada Goose with goslings by Chuxian Feng was selected as Best of Show and represented Massachusetts in the National Junior Duck Stamp Competition.

MASSWILDLIFE PUBLICATION ORDER FORM

PRINTED MATERIALS	PRICE	QUANTITY
BioMap 2 Report*	$2.50	_____
Critters of Massachusetts	$5.00	_____
Field Guide to Animals of Vernal Pools	$12.00	_____
Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Massachusetts	$10.00	_____
Field Guide to MA Reptiles	$3.00	_____
Guide to Invasive Plants in MA	$5.00	_____
Massachusetts Homeowner's Guide to Bats*	$2.50	_____
Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas 14th Edition, Individual Town Map	$25.00	_____
Town Name:_____		
Massachusetts Wildlife Magazine (4 issues)**	$6.00	_____
Massachusetts Wildlife Magazine (8 issues)**	$10.00	_____
CDS, DVDS		
An Introduction to the Threatened Turtles of Massachusetts: Why They Need our Help (DVD)	$5.00	_____
Vascular Plants of Massachusetts: A County Checklist, First Revision (CD)	$5.00	_____
POSTERS		
Vernal Pool Life: A Race Against Dryness*	$2.50	_____
AB2021	TOTAL	$ _____

NOTE: Some items are available at a discount if purchased in bulk or if you are an educator.

* Free of charge if picked up at a MassWildlife office. Please call (508) 389-6300 to ensure availability and for special bulk/educator pricing. Allow 7–10 days for delivery.

** Also available for purchase using a credit card through the MassFishHunt licensing system, *mass.gov/massfishhunt*.

SHIPPING ADDRESS

Name:_____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

We can only accept checks at this time. Please make checks payable to: Comm. of MA – MassWildlife.

Mail this order form and payment to:

Publications
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA 01581

2021 SUNRISE-SUNSET TABLE

FOR WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

DAY	JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
1	7:16	4:26	7:00	5:02	6:22	5:37	**6:29**	**7:13**	**5:42**	**7:47**	**5:13**	**8:17**	**5:15**	**8:27**	**5:40**	**8:06**	**6:13**	**7:21**	**6:45**	**6:28**	**7:21**	**5:40**	6:57	4:16
2	7:16	4:27	6:59	5:03	6:20	5:39	**6:28**	**7:14**	**5:41**	**7:48**	**5:13**	**8:18**	**5:15**	**8:27**	**5:41**	**8:05**	**6:14**	**7:19**	**6:46**	**6:26**	**7:22**	**5:39**	6:58	4:15
3	7:16	4:28	6:58	5:04	6:19	5:40	**6:26**	**7:16**	**5:40**	**7:49**	**5:12**	**8:19**	**5:16**	**8:27**	**5:42**	**8:04**	**6:15**	**7:17**	**6:47**	**6:25**	**7:23**	**5:38**	6:59	4:15
4	7:16	4:29	6:57	5:06	6:17	5:41	**6:24**	**7:17**	**5:38**	**7:50**	**5:12**	**8:20**	**5:16**	**8:27**	**5:43**	**8:03**	**6:16**	**7:16**	**6:48**	**6:23**	**7:24**	**5:37**	7:00	4:15
5	7:16	4:30	6:56	5:07	6:16	5:42	**6:22**	**7:18**	**5:37**	**7:51**	**5:12**	**8:20**	**5:17**	**8:27**	**5:44**	**8:01**	**6:17**	**7:14**	**6:49**	**6:21**	**7:26**	**5:35**	7:01	4:15
6	7:16	4:31	6:55	5:08	6:14	5:43	**6:21**	**7:19**	**5:36**	**7:52**	**5:11**	**8:21**	**5:18**	**8:26**	**5:45**	**8:00**	**6:18**	**7:12**	**6:50**	**6:20**	**7:27**	**5:34**	7:02	4:15
7	7:16	4:32	6:54	5:10	6:12	5:45	**6:19**	**7:20**	**5:35**	**7:54**	**5:11**	**8:22**	**5:18**	**8:26**	**5:46**	**7:59**	**6:19**	**7:10**	**6:51**	**6:18**	6:28	4:33	7:03	4:15
8	7:16	4:33	6:52	5:11	6:11	5:46	**6:17**	**7:21**	**5:33**	**7:55**	**5:11**	**8:22**	**5:19**	**8:25**	**5:47**	**7:57**	**6:20**	**7:09**	**6:52**	**6:16**	6:29	4:32	7:04	4:15
9	7:16	4:34	6:51	5:12	6:09	5:47	**6:16**	**7:22**	**5:32**	**7:56**	**5:11**	**8:23**	**5:20**	**8:25**	**5:48**	**7:56**	**6:21**	**7:07**	**6:53**	**6:15**	6:31	4:31	7:05	4:15
10	7:15	4:35	6:50	5:14	6:07	5:48	**6:14**	**7:23**	**5:31**	**7:57**	**5:10**	**8:23**	**5:20**	**8:25**	**5:50**	**7:55**	**6:22**	**7:05**	**6:55**	**6:13**	6:32	4:30	7:05	4:15
11	7:15	4:36	6:49	5:15	6:05	5:49	**6:12**	**7:25**	**5:30**	**7:58**	**5:10**	**8:24**	**5:21**	**8:24**	**5:51**	**7:53**	**6:23**	**7:03**	**6:56**	**6:11**	6:33	4:29	7:06	4:15
12	7:15	4:37	6:47	5:16	6:04	5:51	**6:11**	**7:26**	**5:29**	**7:59**	**5:10**	**8:24**	**5:22**	**8:24**	**5:52**	**7:52**	**6:24**	**7:02**	**6:57**	**6:10**	6:34	4:28	7:07	4:15
13	7:14	4:38	6:46	5:17	6:02	5:52	**6:09**	**7:27**	**5:28**	**8:00**	**5:10**	**8:25**	**5:23**	**8:23**	**5:53**	**7:51**	**6:25**	**7:00**	**6:58**	**6:08**	6:36	4:27	7:08	4:15
14	7:14	4:39	6:45	5:19	**7:00**	**6:53**	**6:08**	**7:28**	**5:27**	**8:01**	**5:10**	**8:25**	**5:23**	**8:22**	**5:54**	**7:49**	**6:26**	**6:58**	**6:59**	**6:06**	6:37	4:26	7:09	4:15
15	7:13	4:40	6:43	5:20	**6:59**	**6:54**	**6:06**	**7:29**	**5:26**	**8:02**	**5:10**	**8:26**	**5:24**	**8:22**	**5:55**	**7:48**	**6:27**	**6:56**	**7:00**	**6:05**	6:38	4:25	7:09	4:16
16	7:13	4:42	6:42	5:21	**6:57**	**6:55**	**6:04**	**7:30**	**5:25**	**8:03**	**5:10**	**8:26**	**5:25**	**8:21**	**5:56**	**7:46**	**6:28**	**6:55**	**7:01**	**6:03**	6:39	4:24	7:10	4:16
17	7:12	4:43	6:40	5:23	**6:55**	**6:56**	**6:03**	**7:31**	**5:24**	**8:04**	**5:10**	**8:26**	**5:26**	**8:20**	**5:57**	**7:45**	**6:30**	**6:53**	**7:03**	**6:02**	6:41	4:23	7:11	4:16
18	7:12	4:44	6:39	5:24	**6:53**	**6:57**	**6:01**	**7:32**	**5:23**	**8:05**	**5:10**	**8:27**	**5:27**	**8:20**	**5:58**	**7:43**	**6:31**	**6:51**	**7:04**	**6:00**	6:42	4:23	7:11	4:17
19	7:11	4:45	6:37	5:25	**6:52**	**6:59**	**6:00**	**7:34**	**5:22**	**8:06**	**5:10**	**8:27**	**5:28**	**8:19**	**5:59**	**7:42**	**6:32**	**6:49**	**7:05**	**5:59**	6:43	4:22	7:12	4:17
20	7:11	4:46	6:36	5:26	**6:50**	**7:00**	**5:58**	**7:35**	**5:21**	**8:07**	**5:11**	**8:27**	**5:29**	**8:18**	**6:00**	**7:40**	**6:33**	**6:48**	**7:06**	**5:57**	6:44	4:21	7:12	4:18
21	7:10	4:48	6:34	5:28	**6:48**	**7:01**	**5:57**	**7:36**	**5:20**	**8:08**	**5:11**	**8:27**	**5:29**	**8:17**	**6:01**	**7:39**	**6:34**	**6:46**	**7:07**	**5:56**	6:45	4:20	7:13	4:18
22	7:09	4:49	6:33	5:29	**6:47**	**7:02**	**5:55**	**7:37**	**5:19**	**8:09**	**5:11**	**8:28**	**5:30**	**8:16**	**6:02**	**7:37**	**6:35**	**6:44**	**7:08**	**5:54**	6:47	4:20	7:13	4:19
23	7:08	4:50	6:31	5:30	**6:45**	**7:03**	**5:54**	**7:38**	**5:19**	**8:10**	**5:11**	**8:28**	**5:31**	**8:15**	**6:03**	**7:35**	**6:36**	**6:42**	**7:10**	**5:53**	6:48	4:19	7:14	4:19
24	7:08	4:52	6:30	5:31	**6:43**	**7:04**	**5:52**	**7:39**	**5:18**	**8:11**	**5:12**	**8:28**	**5:32**	**8:15**	**6:04**	**7:34**	**6:37**	**6:40**	**7:11**	**5:51**	6:49	4:19	7:14	4:20
25	7:07	4:53	6:28	5:33	**6:41**	**7:05**	**5:51**	**7:40**	**5:17**	**8:12**	**5:12**	**8:28**	**5:33**	**8:14**	**6:05**	**7:32**	**6:38**	**6:39**	**7:12**	**5:50**	6:50	4:18	7:15	4:20
26	7:06	4:54	6:27	5:34	**6:40**	**7:07**	**5:49**	**7:41**	**5:16**	**8:13**	**5:12**	**8:28**	**5:34**	**8:13**	**6:06**	**7:31**	**6:39**	**6:37**	**7:13**	**5:48**	6:51	4:18	7:15	4:21
27	7:05	4:55	6:25	5:35	**6:38**	**7:08**	**5:48**	**7:42**	**5:16**	**8:13**	**5:13**	**8:28**	**5:35**	**8:12**	**6:07**	**7:29**	**6:40**	**6:35**	**7:14**	**5:47**	6:52	4:17	7:15	4:22
28	7:04	4:57	6:24	5:36	**6:36**	**7:09**	**5:46**	**7:44**	**5:15**	**8:14**	**5:13**	**8:28**	**5:36**	**8:11**	**6:09**	**7:27**	**6:41**	**6:33**	**7:16**	**5:45**	6:53	4:17	7:16	4:22
29	7:03	4:58			**6:34**	**7:10**	**5:45**	**7:45**	**5:15**	**8:15**	**5:14**	**8:28**	**5:37**	**8:10**	**6:10**	**7:26**	**6:42**	**6:32**	**7:17**	**5:44**	6:55	4:16	7:16	4:23
30	7:02	4:59			**6:33**	**7:11**	**5:44**	**7:46**	**5:14**	**8:16**	**5:14**	**8:28**	**5:38**	**8:08**	**6:11**	**7:24**	**6:43**	**6:30**	**7:18**	**5:43**	6:56	4:16	7:16	4:24
31	7:01	5:01			**6:31**	**7:12**			**5:14**	**8:17**			**5:39**	**8:07**	**6:12**	**7:22**			**7:19**	**5:42**			7:16	4:25

Table shows Eastern Standard Time and daylight savings time — seen in **bold**.
BOSTON subtract 3 minutes; SPRINGFIELD add 3 minutes; PITTSFIELD add 7 minutes.
Source: U. S. Naval Observatory, Astronomical Applications Department, Washington, D.C. 20392-5420

HUNTING HOURS

Generally, hunting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset on each day of open season. There are exceptions:

- Rabbit, hare, fox, and coyote hunting hours close at midnight.
- During the shotgun deer/coyote season when hunting closes 1/2 hour after sunset. (see species hunting pages)
- Spring turkey hunting (see page 32).
- Raccoon and opossum hunting (see page 45)
- Youth Turkey Hunt Day: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 5:00 pm (see page 24).
- Wildlife Management Areas (page 21): Hours are from sunrise to sunset on WMAs where pheasant or quail are stocked during the pheasant or quail season. Exception: Hunting raccoons and opossums in these WMAs is legal between 9:00pm and 3:00am.
- Migratory game bird hunting: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset. Exception: Early Canada Goose season hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset (see pages 40–41).

ABILITY EXCAVATION

SPECIALIZING IN:

» Driveways
» Clearing/Grading /Restoration
» Septic/Sewer
» Underground Utility

Serving Vermont, New York, and Massachusetts

802.681.6610

AbilityExcavationVT@gmail.com

Black Ghost Outfitters
Guided Archery & Rifle Hunting
Spring Quebec bear hunts, fall Maine bear hunts, deer, moose in most zones
Rabbit hunts with beagles.
Come join the fun!
blackghostoutfitters@yahoo.com
207-837-7847

www.BlackGhostOutfitters.com

Visit our website!
MASSBOWHUNTERS.COM
Learn what the MBA has done and is doing for you! SINCE 1977
Every Member Counts
Join Today Online! 1-800-BOWHUNT

SUMMARY OF HUNTING SEASON DATES

No hunting on Sunday. For further information regarding specific bag limits and seasons please visit the pages noted below.

		OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)
DEER		SEE PAGE 26 FOR BAG LIMITS
Deer (Big Game)	Youth Deer Hunt Day	Oct. 2
	Paraplegic Hunt	Oct. 28 – Oct. 30
	Archery	Zones 10–14: Oct. 4 – Nov. 27 Zones 1–9: Oct. 18 – Nov. 27
	Shotgun	Nov. 29 – Dec. 11
	Primitive Firearms	Dec. 13 – Dec. 31
BLACK BEAR		SEE PAGE 30 FOR BAG LIMITS
Black Bear (Big Game)	Zones 1–14	Sept. 7 – Sept. 25 Nov. 1 – Nov. 20 Nov. 29 – Dec. 11
UPLAND GAME BIRDS*		SEE PAGE 32–37 FOR BAG LIMITS
Crow	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Apr. 10 July 1 – Apr. 9, 2022 (M, F, Sat only)
Pheasant	Youth Hunt	Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9
	Zones 1–14	Oct. 16 – Nov. 27
Quail	Zones 11–14	Oct. 16 – Nov. 27
Ruffed Grouse	Zones 1–14	Oct. 16 – Nov. 27
Wild Turkey (Big Game)	Youth Hunt: Zones 1–13	April 24 (special restrictions apply**)
	Spring: Zones 1–13	April 26 – May 22
	Fall: Zones 10–13	Oct. 4 – Nov. 27
	Fall: Zones 1–9	Oct. 18 – Nov. 27

* Upland game bird hunting is closed during shotgun deer season. Migratory game birds (includes waterfowl, woodcock, snipe, rails): Seasons and bag limits set annually. For Migratory Game Bird Regulations see pages 40–41 and visit *mass.gov/migratory-game-bird*.

** Must have completed the Youth Turkey Hunt program (page 24).

RABBIT, HARE & SQUIRREL		SEE PAGE 38–39 FOR BAG LIMITS
Cottontail	Zones 1–12	Jan 1. – Feb. 27; Oct. 16 – Feb. 28, 2022
Rabbit	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 27; Nov. 15 – Feb. 28, 2022
Snowshoe Hare	Zones 1–4	Jan. 1 – Feb 27; Oct. 16 – Feb. 28, 2022
	Zones 5–12	Jan. 1 – Feb. 5; Oct. 16 – Feb. 5, 2022
	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 5; Nov. 15 – Feb. 5, 2022
Gray Squirrel	Zones 1–9	Sept. 13 – Jan. 1, 2022
	Zones 10–14	Oct. 16 – Jan. 1, 2022

Rabbit, hare, and squirrel hunting are closed during shotgun deer season.

FURBEARERS		SEE PAGE 42-45 FOR BAG LIMITS
Bobcat	Zones 1–8	Jan. 1 – Mar. 8 Dec. 20 – Mar. 8, 2022
Coyote	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Mar. 8 Oct. 16 – Mar. 8, 2022
Fox (red or gray)	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 27 Nov. 1 – Feb. 28, 2022
Opossum	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Jan. 30 Oct. 1 – Jan. 31, 2022
Raccoon	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Jan. 30 Oct. 1 – Jan. 31, 2022

All furbearer hunting seasons are closed during shotgun deer season except for coyotes. Special restrictions apply. See page 42. The following species may be taken year-round (except during shotgun deer season) by licensed hunters with no daily or seasonal bag limit: English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, skunk, starling, weasel, woodchuck.

GEICO®
MOTORCYCLE

Get a GEICO quote for your bike and, in just 15 minutes, you'll know how much you could be saving. If you like what you hear, you can buy your policy right on the spot. Then let us do the rest while you enjoy your free time with peace of mind.

geico.com/cycle | 1-800-442-9253

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states, in all GEICO companies, or in all situations. Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, DC 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2020 GEICO

COYOTE-CREEK-OUTFITTERS.COM / COYOTE-CREEK-ARCHERY.COM

603-332-3270 / 603-335-2222

(EXIT 15 OFF THE SPAULDING TURNPIKE/ROUTE 11)

22 FARMINGTON ROAD, ROCHESTER, NH / 26 FARMINGTON ROAD, ROCHESTER, NH

Mathews · HOYT · BROWNING · QUIETKAT · Kimber · Rage

QUALITY PRODUCTS FOR OUTDOORSMEN AND WOMEN

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE, AT COMPETITIVE PRICES