

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Section §42-35-2.6 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, following is a concise explanatory statement for the below identified regulation, which will be subject to a public hearing on May 12, 2026.

AGENCY: Department of Environmental Management

DIVISION: Fish and Wildlife

RULE IDENTIFIER: 250-RICR-60-00-09

RULE TITLE: R.I Hunting and Trapping Regulations

REASON FOR RULEMAKING: The purpose of this filing is to govern the recreational hunting season dates, bag limits, regulations the manner of hunting, etc.

- 9.6(A)1 Added definition for Active Military,
- 9.6(A)39 Added definition for Veteran,
- 9.7(C) Expansion of Zone 1 and 2 deer muzzleloader and shotgun seasons,
- 9.7(D) Expansion of Zone 3 deer season,
- 9.7(E) Edit dates for Zone 4 deer seasons,
- 9.7.6 Remove restriction on the Prudence Island heritage property
- 9.8(A) Edit youth deer hunting dates,
- 9.9.1 Amendments to TNC cooperative properties for expanded opportunities
- 9.9.2 Open weekend opportunities at Beavertail SP,
- 9.9.4 Edit the tree stand dates for Bristol Town Properties,
- 9.9.5 Edit the tree stand dates for RI Veterans Properties,
- 9.11(B) Include options for white-fronted geese,
- 9.11(C) Shorten dates for snow geese,
- 9.11(J) Create dates for Active Military and Veterans Waterfowl Season,
- 9.11(R) Require a retrieval method for waterfowl hunters,
- 9.12(D) Clarification: added falconry to upland game bird take,
- 9.12(E)8 Update Block Island pheasant dates
- 9.12(H) Clarification: added falconry to small game mammal take and open skunk and opossum,
- 9.12(J) Shorten season and bag limit for fox take,
- 9.12(M) Expand shooting hours for coyotes on private lands,
- 9.14(C) Reduce the bag limit for fox and muskrat trapping,
- 9.14(G) Clarification: open snap traps for weasels and squirrels,
- 9.14(L) Add salvage permits as a permissible means of take,
- 9.17(L) Clarification of drone use for wildlife hunting,
- 9.17(Q) Ban wildlife killing contests,
- 9.19(G) Clarify reporting requirements for guiding services,
- 9.19(H) Amend additional requirements for hunting guides,
- 9.19(I) Clarify language regarding revocation criteria for guides.

TESTIMONY AND COMMENTS (for not adopting a proposed rule): N/A.

CHANGES TO TEXT (between proposed and final rule): See Director's Memo.

REGULATORY ANALYSIS: Add clarifying language regarding party size to 9.19