

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Title of Rule: Hunting and Trapping Regulations (250-RICR-60-00-9)

Rule Identifier: 250-RICR-60-00-9

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: April 13, 2026

Hearing Date: May 12, 2026

End of Public Comment: May 20, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapters 42-17.1; 20-15 and 20-18

§§ 20-1-2; 20-1-4; 20-1-8; 20-1-12; 20-1-13; 20-2-35

20-2-37 and 1-8-1

and in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35

R.I. Gen. Laws § R.I. Gen. Laws Chapters 4217.1;

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The purpose of these Rules and Regulations is to establish recreational hunting seasons; to set the possession and bag limits; and to regulate the manner of hunting in order to efficiently manage the wildliferesources of Rhode Island.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until May 20, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

David Kalb
Department of Environmental Management
277 Great Neck Rd
West Kingston, RI 02892
david.kalb@dem.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

Public Hearing Information:

Date: May 12, 2026

Time: 5:30 P.M.

Location: DFW Outdoor Education Office
1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place
Exeter, RI, 02822

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-284-3427 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

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.

These Regulations do not impose any new requirements on regulated entities including any small businesses or any city or town; therefore, there is no adverse economic impact. In the development of the proposed rule/amendment consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.