State of Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management
Division of Fish & Wildlife

2026-2027 South Shore Management Area Packet



Dean Birch

Acknowledgements

Prepared by the Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management

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South Shore Management Area Hunting Regulations

*Please note that the South Shore Management Area (SSMA) has specific regulations

Season Dates

Season Dates	Season	Bag Limit	Possession Limit	SSMA Reservation Required?
September 1 – September 30, 2026	Early	15	45	NO
November 21 – November 29, 2026	Regular	2	6	YES
December 5, 2026 – January 24, 2027	Regular	2	6	YES
February 1 – February 15, 2027 *	**LATE**	**CLOSED**	**CLOSED**	**CLOSED**

*SSMA is closed to goose hunting during the Late Canada Goose Season. For additional Late Canada Goose hunting season information see the 2026-2027 Hunting and Trapping Abstract.

Legal Shooting Hours

Season Dates	Legal Shooting Hours
September 1-September 30, 2026	1/2 hour before Sunrise until 1/2 hour after Sunset
November 21 – November 29, 2026	1/2 hour before Sunrise until Sunset
December 5 – January 24, 2027	1/2 hour before Sunrise until Sunset

Permits

A permit is required to hunt geese on the South Shore Management Area during the **regular** goose hunting season. Permits can be obtained through the RI DEM online licensing system.

1. Permits must be carried while hunting in the SSMA and be shown to an Environmental Police Officer or Division of Fish and Wildlife employee upon request.
2. All party members must have a permit and be registered when reserving and hunting a field.
3. No party shall exceed four (4) hunters/individuals.
4. Waterfowl hunters are also required to possess a RI hunting license in addition to a state and federal duck stamp and HIP permit.

CLICK HERE TO GET A PERMIT

Website: https://rio.ri.gov/

South Shore Management Area Reservations

How to Make a Reservation

- **<u>You must call (401)-789-0964 to make a reservation</u>**. Reservations will not be accepted on any other phone line.
- Reservations are accepted between **9:00am and 12:00 noon Monday-Friday**, except when state offices are closed for holidays.
- Only one reservation will be accepted per phone call.
- Please have your Customer ID Number (located on your license) ready prior to calling in a reservation.

Reservation Guidelines

- Reservations may be made **no earlier than seven (7) business days in advance of the hunt (see page 8).**
- Permittees can hunt a **maximum of two (2) half days per week** (Saturday through Friday).
- No one is permitted to hunt **two (2) consecutive days**.
- A half day shall be from ½ hour before sunrise until 11:30am or noon until sunset.
- The Division reserves the right to close some fields for periods of time to relieve the field(s) from hunting pressure and improve hunting opportunities.

South Shore Management Area Harvest Reporting

- **Harvest Reporting is NO LONGER REQUIRED**

South Shore Management Area Additional Information

Shot Requirements

- No person shall take waterfowl while possessing shells loaded with any shot other than steel shot, or other legally approved non- toxic shot as described in 9.11 (L) of the 2021-22 hunting regulations.
- All shot larger than BB is prohibited, including duplex loads containing shot larger than BB.

Decoys

- A minimum of twelve (12) life size or oversize decoys are required on premises; however, hunters may choose to use fewer decoys while hunting.

Vehicles

- Vehicles should park in designated areas only.
- Overnight parking is prohibited.
- Vehicles may not drive into or along the edge of any field for any reason. Except in an emergency, e.g., accident or injury or as provided in §9.16 (N) (8) (b) of the 2021-22 Hunting Regulations.

Handicap Accessibility

- Vehicles may be driven into the field to transport a handicapped hunter and their equipment only when field conditions are conducive (i.e., not during and after heavy rain when the field conditions are very muddy).
- Goose hunters applying for the accessibility program must provide a statement signed by a medical doctor stating that the handicap meets the following definition: a person temporarily or permanently handicapped (i.e., unable to walk without the assistance of crutches or wheelchair or with a chronic medical condition).
- All regulations for hunting geese in the SSMA shall apply.

Restrictions

- The following are prohibited: littering; fires; destruction of fencing, equipment, farm property, or standing crops; possession or use of alcoholic beverages; shooting within 500 feet of an occupied building; shooting near or otherwise disturbing persons working in the area; urinating or defecating in pit blinds.
- Please DO NOT artificially manipulate (knock down, trample, destroy or scatter) any crops left standing; doing so is considered baiting, a violation of federal and state law and will result in the loss of SSMA hunting privileges. These violations result in lost hunting opportunity for all SSMA users. The use of stalks left behind post-harvest for camouflaging the blinds is acceptable; however, the scattering or exposing of left-over corn is not. **PLEASE REPORT VIOLATIONS!**

Hunting Regulations

- Dove hunting is allowed in area 1, 3, 5, and 6 during the early mourning dove season. Doves may be taken **only** by permitted goose hunters while goose hunting when the field reservation system is in place during the open mourning dove season. Possession of lead shot for the taking of doves when goose hunting is prohibited.
- Small game and upland game bird hunting is allowed only in area 5 and 6 during the upland game season except during the Regular Canada goose Seasons.
- All small game and upland game bird hunting is prohibited during Regular Goose Season, including during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days (last full weekend in October, Saturday / Sunday).
- Deer and turkey hunting is allowed as follows, but discharge of firearms and archery equipment are only allowed within in the wooded section of the Areas; however, deer and turkey may be in the field when harvested.

- Deer hunting during the archery season is allowed only in Areas 3, 5, and 6, including during the regular Canada Goose season when the field reservation system is occurring.

- Deer hunting during the muzzleloader season is allowed in Areas 5 and 6, except during the regular Canada Goose season when the blind reservation system is occurring.

- Turkey hunting is allowed in Areas 3, 5 and 6 during the spring and fall turkey seasons.

❖ Waterfowl hunting is allowed outside of the Regular Canada Goose Season but within legal waterfowl seasons without special hunting permits, reservations, or decoy restrictions, once fields are harvested.

❖ Ducks During Legal Duck Seasons: The taking of ducks during the legal duck season is permitted while goose hunting under the aforementioned regulations.

❖ Violations of any aforementioned regulations, state management area regulations, and/or any state or federal hunting laws will result in loss of hunting privileges on the SSMA for a period of one year, beginning from the date of the violation.

Please Report Violations!
DEM Enforcement: (401) 222-3070

South Shore Management Area 2026-2027 Reservation Schedule

Day of Hunt	Date of Hunt	Earliest Reservation Day	Earliest Reservation Date	Holiday
Saturday	21-Nov-2026	Thursday	12-Nov-2026	
Sunday	22-Nov-2026	Thursday	12-Nov-2026	
Monday	23-Nov-2026	Thursday	12-Nov-2026	
Tuesday	24-Nov-2026	Friday	13-Nov-2026	
Wednesday	25-Nov-2026	Monday	16-Nov-2026	
Thursday	26-Nov-2026	Tuesday	17-Nov-2026	Thanksgiving
Friday	27-Nov-2026	Tuesday	17-Nov-2026	
Saturday	28-Nov-2026	Wednesday	18-Nov-2026	
Sunday	29-Nov-2026	Wednesday	18-Nov-2026	
Saturday	05-Dec-2026	Wednesday	25-Nov-2026	
Sunday	06-Dec-2026	Wednesday	25-Nov-2026	
Monday	07-Dec-2026	Wednesday	25-Nov-2026	
Tuesday	08-Dec-2026	Friday	27-Nov-2026	
Wednesday	09-Dec-2026	Monday	30-Nov-2026	
Thursday	10-Dec-2026	Tuesday	01-Dec-2026	
Friday	11-Dec-2026	Wednesday	02-Dec-2026	
Saturday	12-Dec-2026	Thursday	03-Dec-2026	
Sunday	13-Dec-2026	Thursday	03-Dec-2026	
Monday	14-Dec-2026	Thursday	03-Dec-2026	
Tuesday	15-Dec-2026	Friday	04-Dec-2026	
Wednesday	16-Dec-2026	Monday	07-Dec-2026	
Thursday	17-Dec-2026	Tuesday	08-Dec-2026	
Friday	18-Dec-2026	Wednesday	09-Dec-2026	
Saturday	19-Dec-2026	Thursday	10-Dec-2026	
Sunday	20-Dec-2026	Thursday	10-Dec-2026	
Monday	21-Dec-2026	Thursday	10-Dec-2026	
Tuesday	22-Dec-2026	Friday	11-Dec-2026	
Wednesday	23-Dec-2026	Monday	14-Dec-2026	
Thursday	24-Dec-2026	Tuesday	15-Dec-2026	
Friday	25-Dec-2026	Wednesday	16-Dec-2026	Christmas Day
Saturday	26-Dec-2026	Wednesday	16-Dec-2026	
Sunday	27-Dec-2026	Wednesday	16-Dec-2026	
Monday	28-Dec-2026	Wednesday	16-Dec-2026	
Tuesday	29-Dec-2026	Thursday	17-Dec-2026	
Wednesday	30-Dec-2026	Friday	18-Dec-2026	
Thursday	31-Dec-2026	Monday	21-Dec-2026	

Day of Hunt	Date of Hunt	Earliest Reservation Day	Earliest Reservation Date	Holiday
Friday	01-Jan-2027	Tuesday	22-Dec-2026	New Year's Day
Saturday	02-Jan-2027	Tuesday	22-Dec-2026	
Sunday	03-Jan-2027	Tuesday	22-Dec-2026	
Monday	04-Jan-2027	Tuesday	22-Dec-2026	
Tuesday	05-Jan-2027	Wednesday	23-Dec-2026	
Wednesday	06-Jan-2027	Thursday	24-Dec-2026	
Thursday	07-Jan-2027	Monday	28-Dec-2026	
Friday	08-Jan-2027	Tuesday	29-Dec-2026	
Saturday	09-Jan-2027	Wednesday	30-Dec-2026	
Sunday	10-Jan-2027	Wednesday	30-Dec-2026	
Monday	11-Jan-2027	Wednesday	30-Dec-2026	
Tuesday	12-Jan-2027	Thursday	31-Dec-2026	
Wednesday	13-Jan-2027	Monday	04-Jan-2027	
Thursday	14-Jan-2027	Tuesday	05-Jan-2027	
Friday	15-Jan-2027	Wednesday	06-Jan-2027	
Saturday	16-Jan-2027	Thursday	07-Jan-2027	
Sunday	17-Jan-2027	Thursday	07-Jan-2027	
Monday	18-Jan-2027	Thursday	07-Jan-2027	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Tuesday	19-Jan-2027	Thursday	07-Jan-2027	
Wednesday	20-Jan-2027	Friday	08-Jan-2027	
Thursday	21-Jan-2027	Monday	11-Jan-2027	
Friday	22-Jan-2027	Tuesday	12-Jan-2027	
Saturday	23-Jan-2027	Wednesday	13-Jan-2027	
Sunday	24-Jan-2027	Wednesday	13-Jan-2027	

South Shore Management Area Map

