

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
DEER REDUCTION COMMITTEE (DRC)

SPECIAL DEER HUNT, DECEMBER 10-31, 2012*

HUNTER INFORMATION

BEFORE THE HUNT

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE. The following may participate:

- Residents of Islesboro who are living on the island from September through December 2012 and members of their immediate families (parents, siblings, spouses, children, and grandchildren).
- Non-residents of Islesboro who own properties on the island that include habitable, taxable dwellings which they occupy for part of the year 2012 and members of their immediate families (as defined above).

HUNTER QUALIFICATIONS.

All Participants Must Possess:

- Valid, current, and appropriate hunting licenses as required by the State of Maine.
- A permit issued by the DRC for the Special Deer Hunt 2012 (see below).

Violations. People hunting in the Special Hunt without a DRC permit will be in violation of the Commissioner's Rule. Just as in the regular recreational hunt, they will be subject to a closed season violation.

APPLYING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HUNT

Step 1. At the Town Office hunter completes Sections 1 & 2 of the Special Hunt application form. At that time, applicants must provide:

- A valid hunting license.
- Local residents – an address.
- Relatives of local residents – the name of the local resident and his/her address.

Town Office staff will verify the information and will pass the hunter's application on to the Hunter Safety Committee.

Step 2. Attend and pass the DRC Safety Briefing and range exercise (see below).

If Step 2 has been successfully accomplished, the hunter has now passed the DRC Safety Briefing/range exercise requirements and will be issued his/her Special Hunt permit and vehicle identification card at this time.

SAFETY BRIEFINGS/RANGE EXERCISES (held at the Sporting Club)

The DRC requires that participants in the Special Hunt attend and pass a Safety Briefing and a range exercise (these are in addition to the State-mandated Hunter Safety and/or Bowhunter Safety classes that the hunter has taken).

Safety Briefings. Conducted by members of the DRC's Hunter Safety Committee, the briefings will be based on the 2012-2013 Maine Hunting and Trapping law book. Topics will include licensing, equipment/blaze orange, landowner relations, and tagging, registration, transportation and butchering procedures. A written test including 12-20 questions will be given.

Firing Range Exercises. To be given at the same time as the Safety Briefing. To demonstrate familiarity and proficiency with the hunters' chosen hunting method.

- Shotgun: 3 out of 5 times @ 25 yards
- Archery: 3 arrows in target @ 15-20 yards

Dates. The dates for the safety briefings and firing range exercises are:

- Sunday, October 21 - beginning at 10 am
- Saturday, November 10 – beginning at 10 am

An additional safety briefing/range exercise may be scheduled.

Making a reservation for a specific briefing is not necessary.

Second try. Anyone who does not pass the Safety Briefing test and/or the firing range exercise may try again at the next scheduled briefing/range exercise.

IF&W's Participation. The Maine Department of Inland Fish & Wildlife's Recreation Safety Coordinator plans on being present at the briefings and range exercises.

No regular State-mandated Hunter Safety or Bowhunter Safety classes will be offered this fall on Islesboro.

PERMITS/VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION

Once the applicant has successfully completed the Safety Briefing and the firing range exercise, DRC will immediately issue a permit and a vehicle identification card. Then the hunter is "good to go."

During the hunt, hunters must have their license/s and DRC permit on their persons and display the vehicle identification cards.

LIST OF HUNTERS

The Hunter Safety Committee will compile a list of hunters who have qualified for the Special Hunt. The list will be given to MDIF&W's Maine Warden Service. There will be a copy of the list at the Town Office.

LANDOWNER PERMISSIONS

All participants must obtain written permission from landowners or a landowner's designee on any property. The signed permissions should specify that they are for the 2012 Special Deer Hunt. They can be in the form of a letter, a written statement or an email. Hunters will be required to carry the documents on their persons while they are hunting during the hunt.

Landowners may limit where hunters are allowed to hunt on their property, the dates when hunting will be permitted and the type of hunting method to be used. Landowners are encouraged to work closely with the hunter/s to whom they have given permission to hunt on their property.

Landowners who have opened their land to hunting during the Special Deer Hunt but have not yet been contacted by local hunter/s for permission to hunt there are encouraged to notify the Town office, which will keep a list of available properties. Hunters who have not yet obtained landowner permission/s may consult that list at the front desk.

Landowners who have opened their land to the hunt since the DRC survey was sent in January should notify the Town Office that they have done so. The reason for this is that the State is interested to know how much land has been made available on the island.

DURING THE HUNT

THE HUNT ITSELF

Dates. The hunt will begin half an hour before sunrise on Monday, December 10, 2012 and will end half an hour after sunset on Monday, December 31, 2012.

Hunting Laws. Hunters must follow all Maine hunting laws. Copies of the Maine Hunting and Trapping law book will be available at the Town Office and at the Safety Briefings/range exercises.

Licenses, Permits. Hunters must have their license/s and DRC permit on their persons and display the vehicle identification cards.

Number of Deer Per Hunter. Unlimited.

Clothing. Hunters must wear at least two pieces of blaze orange clothing as specified in the Maine Hunting and Trapping law book.

Vehicle Identification. Hunter vehicles must display an identification card, to be supplied by the DRC once the hunters have qualified.

Enforcement. Local and State law enforcement officers will be present on the island.

A hunter may be terminated from the hunt when in the opinion of the law officers and the committee chairman the actions, attitude or behavior of the hunter are not in the best interest of the hunt.

Contacts During the Hunt. Fred Thomas, chair, DRC – 734-6974; Laura Houle, chair Hunter Safety Committee – 734-2040, cell 322-6972; Islesboro Public Safety Officer – 734-6787.

DRESSING AND TAGGING

Field dressing. Hunters should field dress their deer. Appropriate disposal methods should be used.

Tagging. Hunters should immediately take the deer to be tagged at one of two tagging stations:

- Laura Houle, 1263 Meadow Pond Road; 734-2040; cell 322-6972. Open every day.
- Rachel Rolerson-Smith, 346 Main Road; 734-6930. Open every day.

Taggers will tag each deer with a double, numbered tag. One half of the tag will serve as the hunter's "receipt."

Both Laura and Rachel will be available to tag deer taken on 700 Acre Island.

Biological Information. At the time of tagging, *taggers* will measure antlers and take a tooth. The measurements and tooth will be sent to a laboratory in Wyoming; the data will be analyzed by the State. This information will inform us about the age, health and size of Islesboro's deer herd.

BUTCHERING PROCEDURES

Butchering arrangements. The DRC has made butchering arrangements with Ron Moon of Moon's Wild Game Processing, 313 Gastner Road, Waldoboro, ME 04572; 832-4074 (see directions below). Hunters have the following options:

- They may butcher their own deer. In that case, they should dispose of the carcasses at the disposal area near the Town septic field adjacent to the Transfer station.
- They may take their deer to Moon's. The butchering (regular cut – see below) will be done at Town expense.
- They may hang their deer in a refrigerated truck that will be parked in Rachel Rolerson's driveway (346 Main Road). Every few days the DRC will transport deer to Moon's at Town expense. This truck is a generous loan from the Hunters for the Hungry program.

Butchering instructions. At the time of tagging, hunters wishing to use the Town transportation and Town-funded butchering will indicate their preferences.

- Keep butcher's meat for the hunter's use. The Town will pay for regular cuts only; hunters wanting special cuts must pay for them themselves.
 - Hunters who wish to give their meat to others must make their own arrangements.
 - Hunters who wish to keep antlers must make their own arrangements. The Town will not be responsible for this.

- Donate the deer to the State-funded Hunters for the Hungry Program. This program, a collaboration between the State's Emergency Food Assistance Program and MDIF&W, pays to have deer meat processed and distributed to soup kitchens and other organizations that aid the needy. Islesboro hunters with surplus deer meat are encouraged to donate it to this fine program.

The DRC will give those instructions to Moon's.

Picking up the processed meat. Once a deer and butchering instructions have been delivered to Moon's, the deer will no longer be the responsibility of the Town.

- Moon's will notify individual hunters that their meat has been processed and is ready to be picked up.
- Hunters will be responsible for picking up their meat at Moon's.
- When picking up the meat, hunters must show their hunting licenses.
- At the same time, hunters must sign a form releasing the deer hide to Moon's.

DIRECTIONS TO MOON'S WILD GAME PROCESSING, 313 Gastner Road, Waldoboro, ME 04572; 832-4074.

Take Rte. 1 south through Camden. At Market Basket take a right onto Rte. 90; cross Rte. 17 and keep on Rte. 90 until the end. Take a right onto Rte. 1. After 4-5 miles, take a right onto Rte. 235. After 2.5 miles take a left onto Gastner Road. Go ½ mile, Moon's is on the right.

*On September 19, 2012 the Advisory Council of the Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife authorized the Town of Islesboro to conduct special hunts in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The Rule reads: *8. Town of Islesboro, in the County of Waldo, shall be open to a special deer hunt during a specified period from the first Monday following the end of the expanded archery season until December 31 annually, for a period of three years. Only licensed hunters qualifying under the Town of Islesboro's Deer Reduction Plan may participate. Deer taken during this special hunt are in addition to the statewide bag limit. All other laws and rules relating to deer hunting shall apply. The permit from the Department to the Town of Islesboro will authorize restrictions to be placed on types of weapons, bag limits and any other special conditions deemed necessary.*

Deer Reduction Committee
October 19, 2012