

TOWN OF ISLESBORO

MEASURES TAKEN IN EFFORTS TO ADDRESS  
TICK-BORNE DISEASE AND RELATED ISSUES ON ISLESBORO  
2008-2014

- 1997 On the initiative of the Health Center, the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory (V-BDL) conducts a tick survey. Found 0.5 ticks per hour, 0 were infected.
- 2006 Second tick survey by V-BDL. 3.5 ticks per hour, 24.0 % infected. Dr. Peter Rand gives "Tick Talk" for Islesboro community.
- October 2008 Health Center reports 18 cases of Lyme disease. Health Center Advisory Board (HCAB) establishes "tick committee" to gather information on the subject.
- November 13, 2008 "Tick report" completed. Because of threat to residents of Islesboro, recommends that issue become a top priority for Town.
- May 3, 2009 Town Meeting approves allocation of \$15,000 for additional research, deer survey in 2010, tick surveys in 2009.
- Spring/Summer 2009 In cooperation with local veterinarians, Vector-borne Disease Laboratory (V-bDL) conducts Islesboro/Midcoast Canine Lyme Disease/Anaplasmosis Serosurvey. Of the 65 Islesboro dogs tested, 13.8% carried antibodies for Lyme disease.
- Oct/Nov 2009 Vector Borne Disease Laboratory conducts tick survey.
- March 2010 Stantec Consulting conducts deer count. ICS 9<sup>th</sup> grade biology class participates, as did 17 Islesboro volunteers coordinated by Laura Houle. Count is approximately 62 deer per square mile.
- April 14, 2010 Selectmen decide to establish a 7-member Tick-borne Disease Committee (T-bDPC).
- Fall 2010 T-bDPC begins work on report to the Selectmen.
- November 12, 2010 V-bDL conducts tick survey.
- January 20, 2011 IF&W takes aerial survey of Islesboro and 700 Acre Island. Because of snow conditions, the ability to detect deer was low and the survey did not

provide a reliable estimate.

February 26, 2011 Special Town meeting approves \$7,000 in additional funds for deer survey.

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 Committee members and volunteers send out mailing to 300 Islesboro and 700 Acre Island landowners requesting permission for access to their land during deer count. All but about 10 landowners give permission.

April 11-14, 2011 Stantec conducts second deer count. 48 deer per square mile on Islesboro, 52 deer per square mile on 700 Acre Island.

May 25, 2011 T-BDPC presents its report to the Selectmen. Recommends Town should institute a tick-borne disease prevention program consisting of four principal components: personal protection, pesticide use, landscape management, a deer management program with the goal of reducing the deer herd on Islesboro and 700 Acre Island to 10 or less deer per square mile over a period of years.

June 2011 V-BDL conducts tick survey.

August 24, 2011 Special Town meeting. 100-28 voters approve reduction of deer population to 10 per square mile and maintaining the population at the level. Recommends establishment of a committee to develop and implement a plan to be approved by the voters.

September 2011 Deer Reduction Committee (DRC) established. Begins work on proposal Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) for Authorization to begin a deer reduction program on Islesboro and 700 Acre Island.

January 2012 DRC sends survey to Town landowners to ascertain who would open their land to a Special Deer Hunt and what weapons would be permitted.

March 2012 DRC submits proposal to IF&W. Recommends 3-week Special Hunt with shotguns to be held in December 2012, 2013, 2014.

April 26, 2012 DRC proposal presented at community information meeting. Plan had been OK'd by IF&W and Selectmen.

May 12, 2012 DRC plan approved at Town Meeting by a voice vote.

June 2012 V-BDL conducts tick survey.

Fall 2012 V-BDL takes tick survey.

December 2012	Special Hunt. 50 deer taken.
Jan/Feb 2012	IF&W says that 2012 deer harvest was insufficient to meet deer reduction goal, introduces DRC to Anthony DeNicola of White Buffalo, Inc., the company that took 79 deer off Monhegan in 1997-1999, and 1223 off Peak's in 2000. DeNicola recommends discontinuing Special Hunt on grounds that so much activity causes the deer to hide; recommends sharpshooting.
Spring 2012	DRC decides to recommend to the Town that the Special Hunts be suspended and that sharpshooting be considered. Has community information meetings on April 25th and May 22nd.
June 10, 2013	Special Town Meeting to see if Town will suspend the Special Hunt. Voted down 97 to 43. Expansion of Special Hunt to include January and February and use of shotguns are approved.
June 2013	Fred Thomas, Pete Anderson, Linda Gillies, who favored hunt suspension, resign from DRC.  V-BDL takes tick survey.
December 2013 - February 2014	Second Special Hunt is held. 36 deer are taken.
April 2014	Health Advisory Board establishes a new Tick-borne Disease Prevention Committee to monitor tick-borne disease on the island - Allie Wood, PA-C, Doug Welldon, Linda Gillies.

LG 7/6/14