

**To: Residents of Islesboro – Year-Round & Seasonal**

**From: Islesboro Board of Selectmen**

**Date: November 7, 2015**

**Subject: Request for Comments**

Since 2006 there has been serious concern about the growing incidence of Lyme disease, related illnesses, and their causes in the Town of Islesboro. Much research has been done and many actions taken since the Town residents voted in 2011 to reduce the deer herd to 10 or less per square mile.

In September of this year the State of Maine rejected a plan proposed by Islesboro that would have continued a program of deer reduction through a “special hunt” winter season.

The Board of Selectmen, assisted by the Tick-borne Disease Prevention Committee, the Islesboro Health Center, and the Deer Reduction Committee, **will now develop a new program to present to the Town in May, 2016** and subsequently to the State for approval.

For your information a summary of steps taken by other islands and coastal towns to reduce Lyme and related diseases is attached.

**We welcome the views of all Islesboro residents and ask that written comments be sent by January 15, 2016** to the Town Office P.O. Box 76, and please communicate with any of the Board of Selectmen or the Committee members listed below. *Let’s figure this out together!* Thank you.

<u>Board of Selectmen</u>	<u>Deer Reduction</u>	<u>Tick-borne Disease</u>
<p><u>(DRC)</u></p> <p>Arch Gillies</p> <p>Sandy Oliver</p> <p>Hanna Kerr</p> <p>Gabe Pendleton</p> <p>Jay Zlotkowski</p> <p><u>Town Manager</u></p> <p>Janet Anderson</p> <p>manager@townofislesboro.com</p>	<p><u>(DRC)</u></p> <p>Gil Rivera</p> <p>Michael Boucher</p> <p>Linda Gillies</p> <p>Paul Hatch</p> <p>Don Johnson</p> <p>Jon Kerr</p> <p>Peter Mills</p> <p>Sandy Oliver</p>	<p><u>(T-bDPC)</u></p> <p>Derreth Roberts</p> <p>Doug Welldon</p> <p>Linda Gillies</p> <p>Alison Wood</p>

**TOWN OF ISLESBORO  
TICK-BORNE DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

**COASTAL COMMUNITIES WITH HIGH DEER POPULATIONS**

**EFFECTS AND MEASURES TAKEN**

**MAINE**

LOCATION/CONTACTS	DEER DENSITY	EFFECTS FROM DEER	MEASURES TAKEN	RESULTS
<p>Bar Harbor/Mount Desert 108 s/m, year round pop. 10,000. Robert Burgess (secretary of the Task Force) - 288-6706, robert.burgess@jax.org</p>	<p>Many deer, no count.</p>	<p>Car accidents (over 90 in 2013), property damage, 4- fold increase in Lyme disease cases since 2006.</p>	<p>11/14/14 - Deer Herd Control Task Force proposed 2-4 week firearm season in late December/January. Vote rejected plan 53.85% - 46.15%. No further action taken, Task Force <b>disbanded.</b></p>	<p>N/A.  9/15/15 - Rob Burgess has seen less evidence of deer, more of coyotes.</p>
<p>Casco Bay Islands - Cliff, Cushing, Great Diamond, Long, Peak's 1.4-4 s/m, year-round pop. 200- 1,000 Michael Johnson, resident Long Island, michael.johnson@stantec.com</p>	<p>Late 1990's - estimated 150 per s/m</p>	<p>Loss of native plants, threat of tick- borne disease.</p>	<p>Each island has a deer reduction program. Peaks, Great Diamond and Cliff are part of the City of Portland and have no hunting seasons; they use sharpshooters. Long and Cushing have hunting seasons as well an annual controlled hunt by designated local residents.</p>	<p>Present - about 10 per s/m.  Plant regeneration. Some tick-borne disease, no stats because no health clinic.</p>
<p>Islesboro 14 s/m Year-round pop. 550, seasonal 1800</p>	<p>2015 - Islesboro, 50.9 per s/m; 700 Acre, 46.5.</p>	<p><b>189 confirmed cases of Lyme disease from 2002- through Oct. 15, 2015. Lack of forest regeneration.</b></p>	<p><b>2013-2015 - Special Hunt. Dissemination of information about tick-borne disease prevention through personal care and landscape management.</b></p>	<p><b>Tick-borne disease numbers high, minimal forest regeneration, loss of native plants.</b></p>
<p>Monhegan 1 s/m Year-round pop. - about 65, seasonal about 200</p>	<p>1996 - about 100 per s/m</p>	<p>Many people contracted Lyme disease; several were severely ill.</p>	<p>1996-1999 - sharpshooting program, all deer removed.</p>	<p><b>Under 10 cases</b> since 2001. None at present. Plant regeneration. Invasive barberry</p>

				and spiderwort a problem.
North Haven 11.6 s/m. Year-round pop. 380, seasonal 1,000. Sue Ferra, Nurse practitioner at health center - 867-2021. Joe Stone - 867-2007	No count.	Some tick-borne disease.	Open hunting season.	Forest regeneration not a problem, have understory. 13 confirmed cases of Lyme disease in 2014; 9 cases so far this year
Swan's Island 14 s/m, year-round pop. 200, seasonal 700. Donna Wiegler, Nurse Practitioner 460-2196, donna@swansisland.org	No count.	Increasing number of Lyme disease cases, statistics not kept at health center because many people treated on mainland. Increasing number of car/truck accidents. Decreasing forest regeneration.	Open hunting season. D. Wiegler: "a real challenge for us. They do not know where houses are, hunt from inside their trucks, camp out overnight, which is not allowed."  Tick survey taken in 2014, numbers reduced from previous year.	35 deer taken in 2014. Insufficient - herd is growing. Selectmen have recently approached IF&W for an extended hunting season or to allow hunters to take more deer than is currently permitted.
Vinalhaven 24 s/m. Year-round pop. 1,300; seasonal 3,300 Andrew Dorr, Town Manager, 863-2042 Community Health Center - 863-4341. Nurse - Sarah McDonald.	No count.	Some tick-borne disease.	Open hunting season.	Forest regeneration not a problem, have understory. Under 10 confirmed cases of Lyme disease so far this year.

## OUTSIDE MAINE

LOCATION/CONTACTS	DEER DENSITY	EFFECTS FROM DEER	MEASURES TAKEN	RESULTS
Block Island, Rhode Island 9.5 s/m. Year-round pop. 1,000, seasonal 10,000.  Becky Ballard, vice-president Deer Task Force until 6/15, then appointed by the BI town council to a sub-committee of the DTF for fundraising and land acquisition. 401-466-7706, flounderinn@gmail.com	Numbers vary - between 500 and 925. 2014 infrared survey by Vision Air of Idaho not a success.	High incidence of Lyme disease - 71 cases in 2013, 55 in 2014. Damage to environment.	Info from Becky Ballard 9/18/15: After a plan with White Buffalo was called off in winter 2014, the Deer Task Force instituted "Tails Initiative" program to reach 10 per square mile. \$75,000 raised privately. 19 local hunters were paid \$150 per "tail" and	They believe about half the herd was harvested in the 2014/15 season. Fewer car accidents, less browsing. Lyme disease rate still high.

<p>Heather Spontak Hatfield, president DTF since 6/15 - 401-464-1632</p> <p>Ruth Perfido, former president DTF, now on sub-committee with Becky Ballard - 412-977-8153</p>			<p>killed 346 deer. 15 mainland hunters hunted (not paid) and killed 110 deer. Season ran from beginning of October 2014 through Marc 2015. Archery only for week days during October. Then archery, muzzleloader and shotgun were all allowed during Nov, Dec, Jan and Feb except for weekends, holidays. BI plants to repeat program in '15/16 '16/17.</p>	
<p>Nantucket, MA 47.8 s/m. Year-round pop. 10,399; seasonal about 50,000. Timothy Lepore, Surgeon, Cottage Hospital, tjalepre@me.com</p>	<p>Aerial survey 2013: about 2,000 deer. It is estimated that there are 2500-2600 at present.</p>	<p>Tick-borne disease: Lyme - 194 Babesiosis- 36 Anaplasmosis- 6 Miyamotoi - 13</p>	<p>Shotgun - 2 weeks - harvest 400-500 Muzzle loader - harvest 100 Cars - harvest 100 In 2005 Selectmen got an additional week with 900 permits. Local opposition, Selectmen did not renew application for extra week. Dr. Lepore does tick count, says numbers are down because of dry weather.</p>	<p>Some vegetation regeneration (anecdotal).</p>
<p>Shelter Island, NY 12.1 s/m. Year-round pop. 2,228, seasonal 8,000.</p>	<p>Many deer (no count).</p>	<p>High incidence of Lyme disease. Environmental damage.</p>	<p>2008-2012 - 4-poster system at a cost of \$1,125,000. Effective but costly and high maintenance. After 2012 Town reduced number of units from 60 to 20, ticks came back.</p>	<p>Deer-related problems such that island now looking into deer cull. Concern about permethrin from 4-posters seeping into the aquifer. Also concern that permethrin is affecting the deer meat.</p>

November 2015