

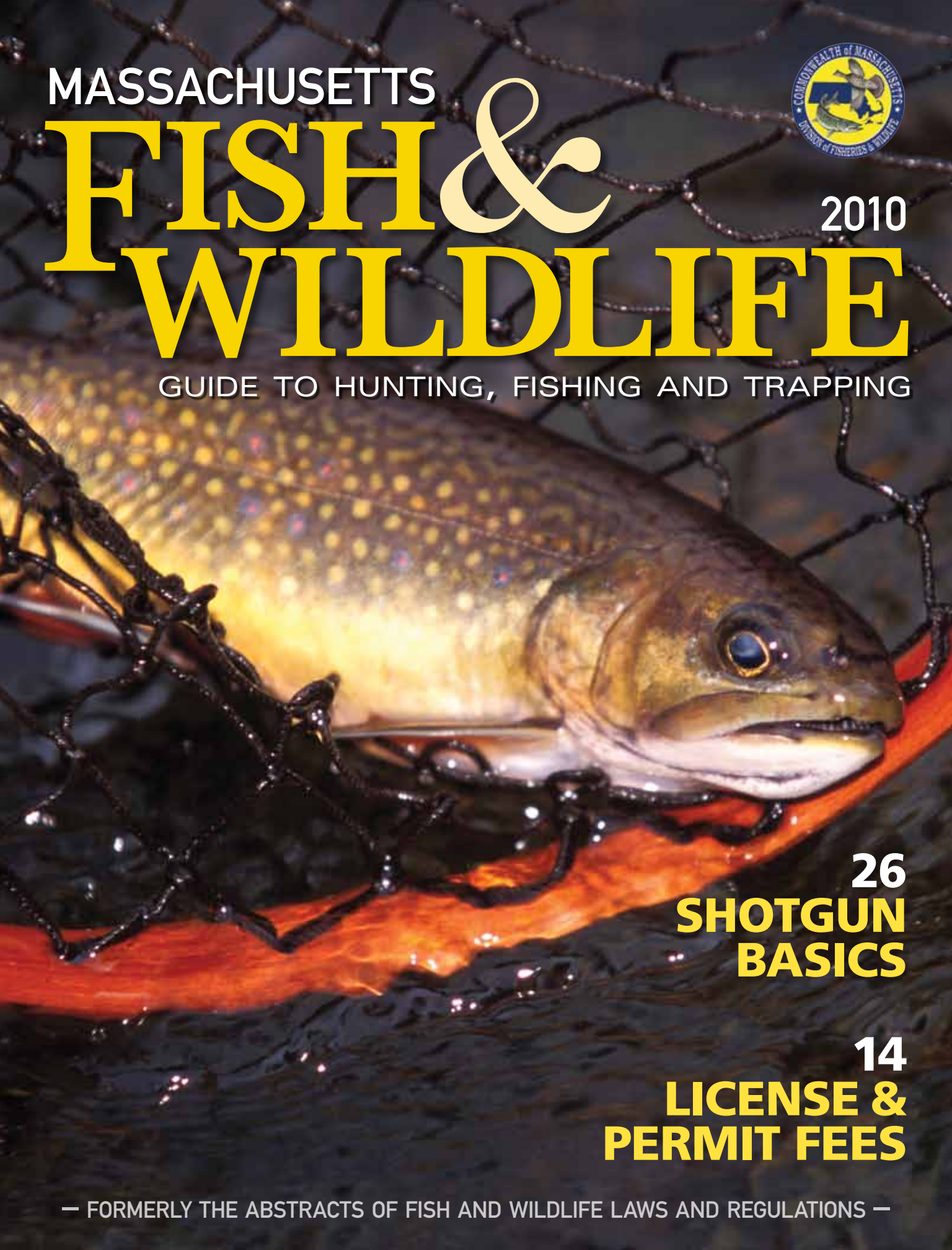
MASSACHUSETTS

FISH & WILDLIFE



2010

GUIDE TO HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING



26

**SHOTGUN
BASICS**

14

**LICENSE &
PERMIT FEES**

— FORMERLY THE ABSTRACTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE LAWS AND REGULATIONS —

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About the Guide

This *Guide* contains a summary of the laws and regulations in place as of September 1, 2009. Any changes in law or regulation enacted after September 1 are publicized through releases to the news media, town clerk offices, all license sales outlets, and on our website. These are not the complete laws and regulations. Laws and regulations (MGL Ch. 131 and 321 CMR) are subject to change.

Hunting, fishing, sporting, and trapping licenses must be carried on your person and shown on demand to any officer empowered to enforce these laws, and to landowners or lessees while on their property. A hunting, fishing or trapping license is not a permit to trespass on private land, posted or not. Remember, your privilege to enter on private land is a courtesy extended to you by the owner. Practice courtesy yourself if you want to continue hunting, fishing or trapping.

License sales outlets may sell a hunting or sporting license only after seeing proof of a previous year's hunting license from any state or province, or year, or a certificate of completion of a Hunter Education program from any state or province. Minors, see page 7.

This Guide is designed and produced in collaboration with The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife by:

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NEW FOR 2010:

- Dates for Archery Deer Hunting Season have been shifted to consistently include Thanksgiving week.
- Dates for Shotgun Deer Hunting in Zone 12 (Barnstable County) have been changed to make them consistent with shotgun deer hunting season dates in other zones.
- The Spring Turkey season in Zones 11 and 12 have been changed to make them consistent with spring turkey hunting season dates in other zones.

HAVE A QUESTION? VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.mass.gov/masswildlife, or e-mail us at mass.wildlife@state.ma.us

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife is an agency of the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game.

From the Director

As the annual challenge of producing the Abstracts of Laws and Regulations comes around every fall, I always start by looking over the things that happened during the past year. What's new? The major new thing this year is the very obvious metamorphosis of the former *Abstracts of Fish and Wildlife Laws and Regulations* into the *Guide* that is now before you. It has been a long time coming...

Last year I recounted the progress of the Abstracts from the 1980s to the present—the transition from a document that looked like a railroad schedule to one that looked like a newspaper insert. We had expanded the publication and had added new features including more photographs, articles about key Division activities, information about the state's Freshwater Sportfishing Awards, and pictures of the state's freshwater gamefish.

Users told us that they enjoyed these extra features, so this year we have taken a further step to make this important publication even more attractive and as user-friendly as possible, expanding it into a 60-page publication that looks like a family magazine.

This 2010 publication is a *Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Information*. You will find the information presented in a new way. There are five sections— Licensing and Permits; Fishing; Hunting; Trapping; and Educational Programs. Because the information has been grouped by subject, most of the material for any given topic can now be found on a single page. Thanks to positive reader response, we have again included articles of interest, we've increased the number of pages, and added color throughout. We believe you will find the new, expanded *Guide* easy to use and we hope you will love it!

How can we afford to print this glossy, high quality publication at a time when funding is tight for everyone including the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife? It really wasn't difficult: the agency entered into a contract with J.F. Griffin Publishing of Williamstown, MA—an award-winning publishing house that specializes in producing state Fish and Wildlife Regulation booklets. The folks at J.F. Griffin addressed the increased costs of printing the expanded *Abstracts* by selling advertisements both locally and across the nation. The result is that this new and improved *Guide* comes to you at no additional cost to the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. This is just one feature of the Division's constant quest to provide you, the customer, with better service. Stay tuned—there will be more.

We have made other changes as well. The Division has made changes in turkey hunting regulations and in shotgun deer hunting regulations to make the dates for these seasons consistent across the state.

Last spring, 90 young hunters working through 10 participating clubs took part in the state's first Youth Turkey Hunting program. In 2008 (we don't yet have figures for 2009 as we go to press), 125 youngsters working through 15 clubs joined in the Youth Pheasant Hunt. More than 4,378 students completed Hunter Education courses, and 245 adult women

were introduced to outdoor activities through the agency's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program.

We always have good things to report, but 2009 was also a year to confront challenges. The most visible of these were the challenges posed by invasives: plants and animals that have come to the region in some fashion and have found the environment (and particularly its lack of their native predators) to their liking. One such organism, the zebra mussel, was discovered in Laurel Lake in Lenox and Lee on July 2, 2009. Native to Southeastern Russia, the zebra mussel is a fingernail-size invasive mollusk that appears to have been accidentally introduced to the Great Lakes in 1988. Researchers believe that zebra mussel larvae were picked up in ballast water at a European port and were later discharged into the Canadian side of Lake St. Clair. Since that time the species has spread to surface waters in more than half of the 50 states, including the entire Great Lakes system, Lake Champlain, the St. Lawrence, Hudson, Ohio, Mississippi, Cumberland, Missouri, Tennessee, Colorado and Arkansas Rivers, and numerous ponds and lakes.

Like most invasive species, zebra mussels are exceedingly prolific: one female can produce up to a million eggs during a single spawning season! They thrive in waters having a calcium concentration of 20 parts per million or more and a pH of 7.4 or greater. With the exception of the Housatonic and Hoosic River basins, most of Massachusetts' waters are too acidic and/or too low in calcium to support a viable zebra mussel population. But in the limestone (alkaline) region of the southern Berkshires, they have the potential to thrive. Fertilized eggs develop into free swimming larvae that are microscopic and free floating for about a month. After that they attach to hard surfaces such as lake bottoms, rocks, sturdy vegetation, docks, intake and discharge pipes, boats, and boat motors. Once attached they grow into hard shelled, fingernail-size adults. They tend to settle on or near the shells of established adults and it's not unusual to find dense clusters of up to 30,000 individuals per square meter. These clusters can displace or even eliminate native bottom-dwelling mollusks and snails, and can also cause problems for people. Especially problematic are the clusters that clog intake and discharge pipes, clog boat motors and pumps, and totally encrust docks, pilings, rafts, and the bottoms of swimming areas. They create not only a nuisance, but a hazard to people wading barefoot in shallow areas. Please take note of steps to avoid spreading zebra mussels and other destructive aquatic invasive species as outlined on page 38.

At a very different level (but one which also involves invasive species, at least peripherally) we face the very daunting challenge of climate change. The agency has begun to review what must be done to protect our fish and wildlife resources as the world continues to warm. The evidence is incontrovertible. Here in the Northeast, the mean annual temperature has risen by more than 1.5° F. since the 1970s, and mean winter temperatures have risen by more than 4° F. Climatologists predict that mean annual precipitation will

increase; heat waves and droughts will become more frequent; storms and flooding will become more severe. What does this mean for wildlife? What species will we lose and what species will we gain? How should we allocate our time and our resources to have the greatest effect? Last November the Department of Fish & Game and the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife co-sponsored a conference at which conservation leaders came together to hear the evidence and to consider possible actions. In April of 2010 the DFW will sponsor a conference at which wildlife professionals from all parts of the northeastern US and Canada will wrestle with these issues and begin to address the challenges posed.

We are certainly up to this challenge. When the wildlife profession emerged from forestry in the mid-1930s, wildlife biologists faced the tremendous challenge of restoring wildlife populations that had been seriously reduced and in many cases extirpated from the state. It seemed overwhelming!

Over the past 70 years our wildlife biologists, working in partnership with sportsmen and women and other conservation groups, met this challenge, and today, deer, bear, beaver, wild turkeys and wood ducks abound in Massachusetts. Homeowners who see wild turkeys in their suburban communities may not remember that in 1970 there were no wild turkeys in Massachusetts! Today, thanks to creative restoration strategies and well focused conservation partnerships, turkeys are common in the Commonwealth and the public has the opportunity to both watch and hunt wild turkeys across the state.

This year marks the successful conclusion of the turkey restoration program, and hunting opportunities for these magnificent birds are now available in 13 of the state's 14 Wildlife Management Zones. The Division has published a concluding monograph detailing this project and making the information available to other wildlife professionals. (We anticipate rights to the movie!)

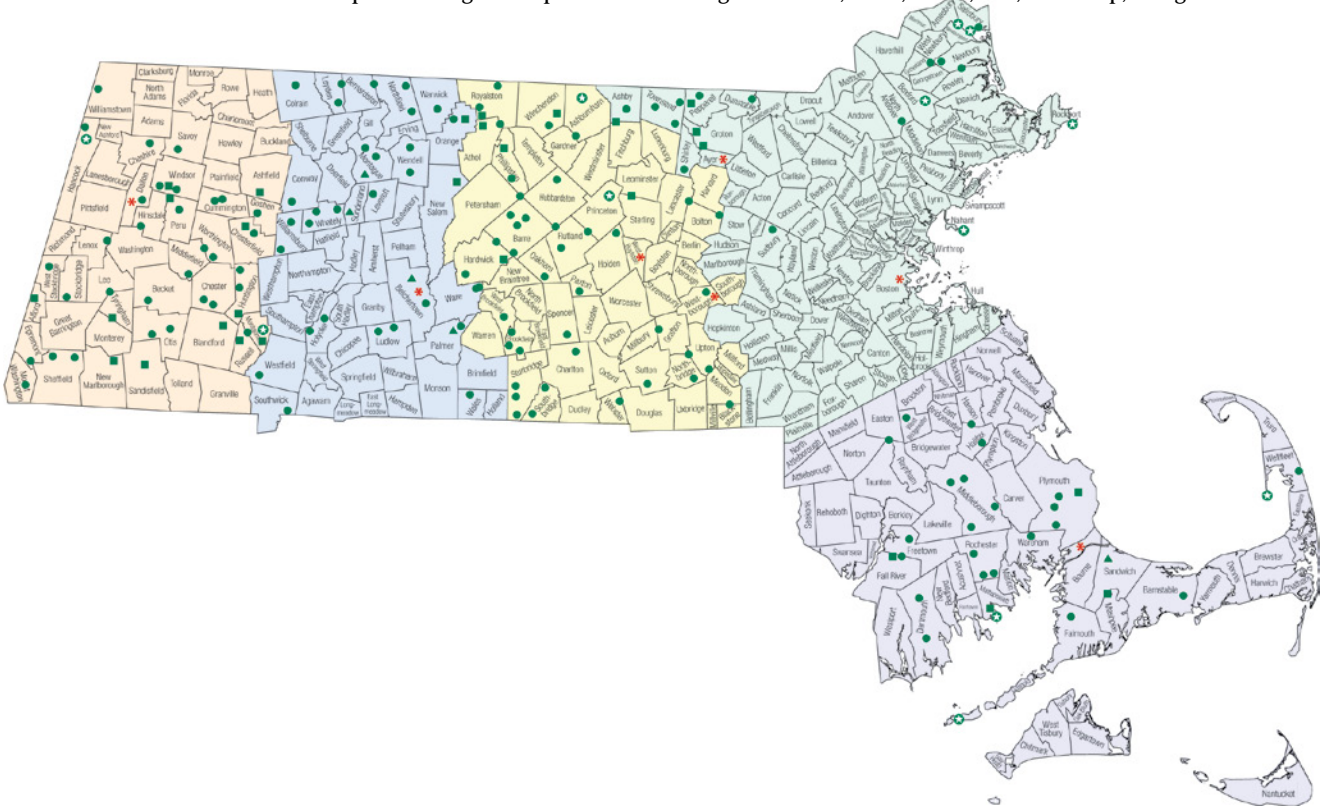
You, the hunting and fishing license holders, are stakeholders in all of these initiatives. We need your cooperation to address the challenges, and we ask you to join us in celebrating the successes. Your license dollars make these programs possible. They pay for land acquisition, scientific land management on both public and private lands, participation in regional wildlife research efforts and management strategies, and development of educational opportunities which introduce the next generation of young sportsmen and women to America's hunting and fishing traditions. Your license is more than a permit to hunt or fish; it advertises you as a card-carrying conservationist. Wear it proudly, and treat our outdoor traditions with respect.

We, at the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, salute you and thank you for your trust, your cooperation, and your ongoing support of fish and wildlife programs.

Wayne F. MacCallum, Director

Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

All DFW lands and facilities are open to the general public without regard to race, color, creed, sex, handicap, or age.



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CONNECTICUT VALLEY WILDLIFE DISTRICT

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- Ralph Taylor, District Supervisor

McLAUGHLIN FISH HATCHERY

90 East Street, Belchertown 01007, (413) 323-7671

- Jim Hahn, Supervisor

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- Bill Davis, District Supervisor

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QUESTIONS?

Contact us at mass.wildlife@state.ma.us

What's New in Massachusetts

Black Bear Studies?

by James E. Cardoza, David P. Fuller, and Ralph Taylor; Photos by Bill Byrne

As our biologists learn more and more about our bears, evidence continues to mount that the public must take steps to insure that these iconic mammals do not habituate to people.

To feed bears, intentionally or not, is to train them to go in harm's way; jeopardizing their lives, increasing the incidence of negative human-bear interactions, and threatening the continued growth and range expansion of their population.

The American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) was a rare animal in Massachusetts during the first half of the 20th century, but its population began to slowly increase after World War II as forests matured and legal protections were enhanced. By 1982, there were 450–500 bears in the Commonwealth, most of them concentrated in the northwest corner area bounded by the Connecticut River, the Massachusetts Turnpike, and the Vermont and New York borders. Today, bears continue to increase in numbers and expand their range, and there are now an estimated 2900–3000 bears in the state. They are found everywhere west of the Connecticut River, almost everywhere from the Connecticut River through Worcester County, and are becoming more prevalent in Middlesex and Essex counties. There have been several reports of sows and cubs in western Middlesex County, indicating that there is a breeding population there now, not just dispersing males. With an adult female survival rate of 87%, the average annual population growth rate is 8.1%. Nutrition may play a minor role in cub production; however, adult female survival and age at first breeding (most females now breed at 3 years) are probably more important factors in terms of population growth.

During the 2008 two-part hunting season, there were a record 6,468 bear-hunting permits issued (6,387 in 2007). A total of 100 bear (record 153 in 2003) were taken during the 35 day season, including 78 during the 17-day September segment, and 22 during the 18-day November segment. There were 41 taken in Berkshire County, 24 in Franklin, 9 in Hampden, 23 in Hampshire, 3 in Worcester County, and none in the small area of Middlesex within the bear hunting zone. Because bear hunting in Massachusetts is almost entirely still-hunting, harvests are affected primarily by food distribution and abundance, rather than by hunter numbers. This harvest was composed of 59 males and 41 females (144M:100F), but in other years we have seen close to an even sex ratio—sometimes even leaning heavier to females. Harvests of females, which may depend on bear behavior and movements, can affect productivity and population size. There were 17 non-hunting mortalities—10 road kills and 7 depredation or public safety kills—between July 2007 and June 2008. We logged 84 problem bear complaints during the same period (compared with 113 in 2006–07), including 28 depredations on bird feeders, 17 residential complaints, 17 trash and garbage complaints, and 11 entries into outbuildings of businesses. Additional

unrecorded complaints were received by the Office of Law Enforcement and by local town officials.

CUB PRODUCTION AND SURVIVAL

The Black Bear field study was begun in 1980 as a cooperative project between the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (DFW), the University of Massachusetts (UMass), and the Massachusetts Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit. Four graduate students earned advanced degrees investigating bear home ranges, movements, population characteristics, reproductive success and cub survival, habitat use, and human-bear interactions. Since 1999, the DFW has maintained the project, pending future graduate investigations. As of January 2009, we have 15 active radio collared females: eight adults (older than 4 years), four 3-year-olds (first-time breeders), and two 2-year-olds (prebreeding). “New” bears are captured as yearlings in the winter den with their mothers, in tunnel-like “barrel traps,” or by direct darting of treed bears. Bears typically den in brush piles or under fallen tree trunks, but may also use natural or excavated holes under the roots or rootballs of standing or fallen trees, cavities in large hollow trees, or simply hunker down in a thick patch of Mountain Laurel. A few bears are learning to use human-dominated sites, and we have had bears den under porches or in old sections of drainage culvert.

New for 2009 is the addition of global positioning satellite (GPS) radio transmitters on three adult sows with suburban home ranges. Over the past 25 years, there has been not only an increase in bear numbers and distribution, but also a shift in bear habitat use. Increasingly, bears are invading suburbia, with some animals apparently going back-and-forth seasonally, while others stay within suburban boundaries year-round. GPS technology allows the frequent detection (e.g., every 2 hours) and storage of a bear's position, which can then periodically be downloaded to a computer for analysis. This allows a close examination of bear movements, habitat use, and behavior in urban-suburban environments. This knowledge can then lead to measures to reduce inappropriate human-bear interactions, to protect human interests, and to conserve bears. Suburbia is suspected to be a population “sink,” or an area that animals move into because of apparent short-term benefits (e.g., human-provided food sources) but which is detrimental to individuals and the population in the long term. Preliminary telemetry studies in Massachusetts suggest that cub (and adult) survival is lower in suburban environments than in rural areas, because suburban bears may suffer higher road mortality or get into increased public safety confrontations.

In residential areas where bears are known to be present, the entire neighborhood must take recommended actions or bears will move from yard to yard seeking food. Bears are a native species in Massachusetts and a priority animal in the Massachusetts Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. The citizens of Massachusetts can be proud that we have a thriving population of bears in the third most densely populated state in the USA. Our attitudes and actions will determine whether we can maintain this animal in the face of a rapidly changing environment.

YOU CAN HELP!

The public can help by enjoying bears in their natural setting, and keeping the “wild” in wildlife. Bears that are both habituated to humans (i.e., do not react to human presence) and are conditioned (i.e., strongly attracted) to human food sources can become “problem animals” with potential adverse consequences for both bears and people.

- **Do not feed bears** and do not allow them to come to human-provided food sources. If you feed birds and live in northern Middlesex County, Worcester County, or western Massachusetts, please consider not feeding the birds. Instead, plant berry- and seed-producing plants to attract and feed birds the natural way. If you must feed birds with seed/suet, always remove your bird feeders before bears emerge from hibernation: the DFW recommends that they be taken down (no longer supplied with seed/suet) by mid-March, and that other preventive steps be taken to deprive bears of artificial food sources. Even when other, more natural food items are present, bears may choose human-associated foods they may find more tasty. Bears have excellent long-term memories and remember which foods are available at different seasons, as well as where these foods can be found. Once they learn the location of these foods, bears will return. If bears are not chased away or deterred, bird seed and suet in the backyard may lead to pet food on the porch, and ultimately to a bear in the kitchen. Such an event may result in the demise of the animal.
- If a bear is passing through a neighborhood without stopping, enjoy the sight. However, if the bear stops to feed on trash, bird seed, or other human-generated foods, remove those foods after the bear has left and advise neighbors to do the same. Due to their fear of people, bears tend to leave a yard when people step outside and make noise.
- Keep garbage in airtight containers, securely stored in a cellar, garage, or shed. Put trash at roadside the day of trash pickup, not the previous evening.
- Keep doors to sheds and barns latched or locked to prevent bears from finding grain or sweet or meaty foods.
- Refrain from feeding pets outdoors.
- Do not deposit sweet or meaty items in compost piles, as bears will soon find them.

This article is reprinted from issue #1, 2009 of Massachusetts Wildlife magazine. The magazine is published 4 times/year and includes articles about hunting, fishing, natural history, wildlife management and assorted outdoor activities.

Licenses

HUNTING, FISHING & TRAPPING LICENSES

Licenses are valid from January 1 through December 31 (except for limited term licenses). Licenses are issued by most city and town clerks, all DFW offices and selected outlets. Application may be made in person or by mail, or by agent of the applicant.

Licenses, stamps, permits, boat, ATV and snowmobile registration renewals are also available online at www.mass.gov/massoutdoors. Anyone holding an electronic license may subsequently purchase stamps, permits or registration renewals over the internet. Persons holding traditional licenses must purchase permits, stamps and licenses over the counter at license sales outlets.

LICENSES ARE REQUIRED for all persons 15 years of age and over for hunting any bird or mammal; and/or for fishing the inland waters of Massachusetts. No freshwater (inland) fishing license is required on the Merrimack River seaward of the first upstream bridge (northbound traffic) of Route 495 in Haverhill.

A trapping license is required for persons 12 years and over.

Licenses must be shown on demand to any officer empowered to enforce these laws, and to landowners or lessees while on their property. No Firearms Identification (FID) card needed for bowhunting or if 12–14 years of age. Face of license must not be obscured.

NOTE: No adult may buy a hunting or sporting license unless (s)he shows the issuing agent any previous year's hunting or sporting license (from any state or province) or a certificate of completion of a Basic Hunter Education Course issued by any state or province.

MINORS 15–17 years of age must be licensed and have required stamps and permits to hunt any bird or mammal. To obtain a hunting license a minor must have a letter of consent from a parent or guardian, and either a Basic Hunter Education Certificate or a letter signed by a parent affirming that the minor will be accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older.

Minors between 12 and 14 inclusive may hunt when accompanied by a duly licensed adult, provided that a single bag limit shall be observed and only one firearm/bow is possessed by the two. Only one minor per adult is permitted.

Minors 12–17 may obtain a trapping license. To obtain a trapping license a minor must have a letter of consent from a parent or guardian. To trap on the land of another, a minor must have a trap registration number.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: To obtain a resident license, applicant must reside in Massachusetts for six consecutive months immediately prior to purchase.

NONRESIDENTS: Special licenses (hunting, fishing and trapping) are required of non-residents. A big game license (license Class H5) is required to hunt deer, bear and wild turkey.

No license is required by any legal resident of Massachusetts or member of his immediate family for trapping on

land owned or leased by him which is used principally for agriculture, if he is actually domiciled on that land.

TRAP REGISTRATION NUMBERS may be obtained from Permit Section, Boston Office (617) 626-1575 after completing a Trapper Education course.

FURBUYER LICENSES

A furbuyer is any person who is dealing in raw furs. A valid Massachusetts furbuyer license is required for any person who is receiving, buying, or bartering the raw pelts of wild animals. This includes persons handling green pelts (pelts which have not been dried or tanned) or raw pelts (pelts, including green pelts, which have been dried, fleshed or cured). A permit is not required if a skin or skins are purchased from a licensed furbuyer, hunter or trapper for the personal use of the purchaser and not for sale.

Licenses are valid from January 1 to December 31. Furbuyers receive a reporting book in which they must record transactions of pelts received as they occur. Log books must be open to inspection by Environmental Police Officers (EPOs) or any agents of the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife at any reasonable time.

Furbuyer annual report forms from record books must be initialed by an EPO and submitted yearly to the Division **no later than April 1.**

Applications for furbuyer licenses, or a listing of current furbuyers can be obtained by calling (617) 626-1575, or by writing the Boston office of the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife.

PERMITS

SPECIAL LICENSES OR PERMITS are necessary for possession or release of certain fish, baitfish, wildlife and for fur dealers, propagators, wildlife rehabilitators, taxidermists, and/or fur buyers. Apply to the DFW Boston office, Permit Section (617) 626-1575. Contact Field Headquarters in Westborough (508) 389-6300 for permits for crossbows, falconry, problem animal control, or shooting preserves.

AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNERS: If you own or lease land that is principally used for agriculture and you are domiciled on said land, then you do not need a basic hunting, fishing or trapping license to hunt, fish or trap on that land. Permits and stamps are still required.

ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT is required to take antlerless deer during shotgun, archery, and muzzleloader seasons in all zones. The application for this permit is on the hunting/sporting license. Online license buyers may apply for these permits online. **DO NOT send fee with application.** Selection is by random drawing. Applications must be submitted by **July 16.** Successful applicants will be notified and assessed a \$5.00 fee. Additional permits, if available after drawing, will be issued until the overall quota for each zone is reached. Check website for details. Applicants must have original hunting license and \$5.00 fee for each permit requested. Permits for Zones 13 and 14 may also be requested by mail from the Westborough office or at check stations on each island.

Licenses

BEAR PERMIT: Application is on the duplicate slip of hunting/sporting license. \$5.00 fee **must** accompany each completed application. Online license buyers may apply for these permits online. Submit application by **July 16** to ensure timely processing.

TURKEY PERMIT: Application is on the duplicate slip of hunting/sporting license. Online license buyers may apply for these permits online. Apply by **March 15** for spring season; **September 15** for fall season to ensure entry in the permit system. \$5.00 fee **must** accompany application. One fee covers both seasons.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (H.I.P.): Woodcock, rail, coot, snipe, and waterfowl hunters **must** have a Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.) number. The Harvest Information Program provides the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with migratory game bird harvest estimates for ducks, geese, and other migratory game birds. Hunter cooperation is a critical part of gathering this information and managing game bird populations. This number can be obtained annually by calling **1-800-WETLAND**, and completing a brief survey. Online license buyers may apply for these permits online. There is no charge for the permit. A separate H.I.P. number is required for each state in which you hunt and for each calendar year.

STAMPS

ARCHERY: (\$5.10), required to hunt deer with a bow Oct. 18–Nov. 27. Stamp must be signed across the face in ink and attached to the rear of the license.

PRIMITIVE FIREARMS: (\$5.10), required to hunt deer with a muzzleloader or with archery equipment Dec. 13–31. Stamp must be signed across the face in ink and attached to the rear of the license.

MASSACHUSETTS WATERFOWL: (\$5.00), required of all waterfowl hunters aged 15 and over. Stamp must be signed across the face in ink and must be in possession while hunting waterfowl. Stamps are available wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold. Stamp is not required for hunting woodcock, snipe, or rails.

FEDERAL MIGRATORY GAME BIRD: In addition to a hunting license and a Massachusetts Waterfowl Stamp, any waterfowl hunter aged 16 or older, must have a Federal Migratory Bird Stamp. These stamps are available at National Wildlife Refuges, at selected offices of the U.S. Postal service or by mail from the U.S. Postal Service, from selected private vendors, or online at <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/Stamps.htm>.

2010 STAMP DESIGNS

This year's Archery Stamp was designed by **Jeffrey Klinefelter** of Etna Green, IN. No stranger to Massachusetts' stamps, Jeffrey previously won the archery stamp competition in 1999 and again in 2004. He has also won stamp competitions in 9 other states and has placed in the top 25 artists for the federal duck stamp competition.

Judy Yates of Liberal, KS won first place in the contest for Primitive Firearms Stamp. Judy, who hails from Texas, is a self-taught artist and an active hunter who hunts deer and elk with a .54 cal. Thompson caplock. Since 1979 she has made her living painting pet portraits and accepts commissions—but her real love is painting wildlife.

The 2010 Waterfowl stamp is a rendition of a Canada Goose carved by **J. Thomas Wilson** of Ipswich, MA and expertly reproduced by **Janice Sexton** of Westport, MA. Janice has entered the MA waterfowl stamp competition on a number of occasions in the past. An outstanding artist, her experience in this program stands as a reminder that excellence coupled with persistence is a great combination!

Licenses

2010 LICENSE, STAMP & PERMIT FEES

CODE	LICENSE	FEE
F1	Resident Fishing	\$27.50
F2	Resident Minor Fishing (Age 15-17)	11.50
F3	Resident Fishing (Age 65-69)	16.25
F4	Resident Fishing (Age 70 or over or paraplegic, blind, mentally retarded)	FREE
F6	Non-resident Fishing	37.50
F7	Non-resident Fishing (3 day)	23.50
F8	Resident Fishing (3 day)	12.50
F9	Non-resident Fishing (Age 15-17)	11.50
F10	Quabbin One Day Fishing (Quabbin only) (sold by DCR and Connecticut Valley District only)	5.00
H1	Resident Citizen Hunting	27.50
H2	Resident Hunting (Age 65-69)	16.25
H3	Resident Hunting, Paraplegic	FREE
H4	Resident Alien Hunting	27.50
H5	Non-resident Hunting, Big Game (Deer, Bear, Turkey and all other game species)	99.50
H6	Non-resident Hunting, Small Game (Small game only)	65.50
H7	Non-resident Commercial Shooting Preserve (1 day)	10.00
H8	Resident Minor Hunting (Age 15-17)	11.50
H9	Resident Commercial Shooting Preserve (1 day)	10.00
S1	Resident Sporting	45.00
S2	Resident Sporting (Age 65-69)	25.00
S3	Resident Sporting (Age 70 or over) (includes trapping)	FREE
S4	Resident Minor Sporting (Age 15-17)	13.00
T1	Resident Trapping	35.50
T2	Resident Minor Trapping (Age 12-17)	11.50
T3	Resident Trapping (Age 65-69)	20.25
DF	Duplicate Fishing	2.50
DH	Duplicate Hunting	2.50
DS	Duplicate Sporting	2.50
DT	Duplicate Trapping	2.50
M/N 1	Archery Stamp	5.10
M/N 2	Waterfowl Stamp	5.00
M/N 3	Primitive Firearms Stamp	5.10
W1	Wildlands Stamp, Resident	5.00
W2	Wildlands Stamp, Non-resident	5.00
	Trap Registration Number (Boston Office)	5.00
	Trap Registration Number Renewal	5.00
	Non-resident Trapping Permit (Westborough Office)	200.00
	Resident Furbuyer	30.00
	Non-resident Citizen/Alien Furbuyer	90.00

NOTE: Fee for first resident license, and all non-resident licenses include a \$5.00 fee for the Wildlands Conservation Stamp. Fee for second resident license in calendar year does not include the \$5.00 fee for the Wildlands Conservation Stamp. City and town clerks **must** add an additional one dollar (\$1.00); and other sales agents **may** add up to an additional one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) service fee to the price of each license sold. There is no service fee charged for the purchase of licenses at offices of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

From September 15 to May 15 all canoe or kayak occupants **MUST WEAR** a U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device.

Fishing IN MASSACHUSETTS

For its relatively small size of 5 million acres, Massachusetts has a great wealth of freshwater resources that its roughly 6.4 million residents and the state's many visitors can enjoy. There are roughly 10,000 miles of rivers and streams, ranging from the smallest trickling, coldwater streams to large, interstate rivers like the Connecticut and the Merrimack. Along with these flowing-water systems, Massachusetts has approximately 2,800 lakes and ponds. These include hundreds of fertile warmwater ponds; deep, coldwater lakes; the crystalline kettle ponds of Cape Cod; and an abundance of man-made reservoirs such as Quabbin and Wachusett.

Many different species of fish abound in the freshwaters of Massachusetts. There are populations of northern pike, chain pickerel, brook, brown, rainbow, and lake trout, and landlocked salmon, as well as yellow perch, smallmouth and largemouth bass, and many other species of sunfish. The Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (DFW) maintains a modern fish culture program that annually releases approximately 500,000 brook, brown, rainbow, and tiger trout, as well as landlocked salmon for Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs. Broodstock Atlantic salmon are also stocked into Massachusetts' waters through cooperative arrangements with other northeastern states.

There are anadromous fish species (fish that spawn in fresh water and live much of their lives in salt water) that swim upstream in major river systems to spawn. Key among these are Atlantic salmon and American shad. The DFW is actively working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to re-establish healthy populations of these species. There are also catadromous species like American eels that go to sea to spawn, and live most of their lives in fresh water. We have an estimated 2000 miles of coastline as well, so our saltwater fishing opportunities are also varied and great. These are managed by the Division of Marine Fisheries.

Aside from the popular game fish species, our state's aquatic ecosystems are home to many important and interesting forms of life. From the majestic Bald Eagle to the American Beaver (the supreme habitat manipulator) to tiny aquatic invertebrates, Massachusetts possesses a wealth of aquatic habitats, and species. It is the responsibility and the challenge of the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife to conserve and protect all of our wildlife and rare plant species.

Fishing is a great way to begin a connection with the outdoors. It's been called a "gateway activity" because of the potential it has to open people's eyes to the natural world. For some, the simple act of fishing might just be a life-changing experience. At the very least, fishing is a fun, relaxing pastime that provides time to get away from the stresses of everyday life.

Fishing can be as simple or as complex as you want it to be. Anyone can fish (you will need a license if you are 15 years of age or older) all it takes to get started is a rod and reel, some bait or lures, and a little basic knowledge about where and how to find fish. That basic knowledge includes how to tie a fishing knot or two, what types of lures or baits to use, how to "play the fish" and when to set the hook. It's just a matter of learning to read the aquatic environment and getting comfortable with your fishing gear.

You can fish with a simple rod and reel, or with something as elaborate as a fly rod and reel, or with any combination of gear in between. Either way you will find a new way to connect with the aquatic environment and to locate beautiful, peaceful and exciting places.

THE ANGLER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The DFW offers an Angler Education program to help beginners of all ages get started. To find out more about this program and the free fishing events offered, log into the DFW website at www.mass.gov/masswildlife and click on "Education." Here you will find out when and where DFW staffers and the many expert anglers who serve as volunteer instructors will teach programs designed to help you on your way. Programs deal with selecting your equipment; learning to cast; learning about baits and lures, and of course actually fishing.

There are lots of reasons to fish, but only two major reasons to keep a fish: to eat it or to have it preserved by a taxidermist. If neither of these two options is for you, get the fish back into the water as quickly and with the least amount of handling as possible. Don't let the fish flop around in the boat or on the bank. A properly-released fish can live to grow and be caught again.

As you learn about fish and fishing you will also learn about the factors that create a healthy environment for fish. You will gain an appreciation for our state's lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers and hopefully become a steward of our many aquatic environments. So grab that rod and reel, and learn why nearly 400,000 Massachusetts anglers are passionate about fish and fishing. We hope to see you out there.

FISHING RESOURCES

There are thousands of good resources for fishing, starting with a search of the Internet. For the best local information visit the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Website at www.mass.gov/masswildlife, click on "Recreation" and you will find information about where to go fishing; what, where, and when we stock; pond maps of public lakes and ponds; fish fact sheets; upcoming fishing-related programs; current fishing laws; and so much more. A subscription to our quarterly magazine, Massachusetts Wildlife, will provide useful and interesting articles on fishing techniques, fisheries research, fishing people, and local fishing opportunities. It can be purchased inexpensively at the website above.

If you're a beginner, check out the many events of the DFW's Angler Education Program. The staff and dedicated cadre of volunteer instructors offer fishing programs for people of all ages. Information about this program can be found on the DFW website.

Also make use of the wonderful resources available in local libraries. You'll find volumes on the topic of fishing: in books and in magazines or periodicals, as well as on the Web through public access computer terminals. Libraries are a community treasure for everyone to use and enjoy. Of course, the best way to learn is by actually fishing. There is absolutely no substitute for experience. Some of the very best times you can have are while fishing, and fishing with a friend or relative is even better, so share the experience, and pass it on. **Fishing is always time well spent!**

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE TO GO FISHING OR BOATING?

Public Access to the Waters of Massachusetts is now available. This 146-page map booklet will show and tell you information about current public sites. Send \$8.00, payable by check to:

Office of Fishing & Boating Access
Department of Fish & Game
1440 Soldiers Field Road
Brighton, MA 02135

For more information call (617) 727-1843, or see www.mass.gov/dfwele/pab/index.htm

Fishing

	OPEN SEASON (All Dates Inclusive)	DAILY CREEL	MINIMUM LENGTH ¹
TROUT²			
Lakes, ponds, major rivers ^{3, 5, 6}	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	3	–
Housatonic River ⁴	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	20"
All other rivers and brooks	Apr. 1 – Sep. 10	8	–
	Sep. 11 – Mar. 31, 2011	3	–
LAKE TROUT			
Wachusett Reservoir ⁶	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	3	–
Quabbin ⁶	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	2	18"
SALMON (landlocked)	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	2	15"
SALMON (broodstock) ⁷	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	2	15"
AMERICAN SHAD	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	6	–
CHAIN PICKEREL	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	15"
BLACK BASS (Largemouth and Smallmouth, singly or combined):	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	12"
NORTHERN PIKE	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	28"
TIGER MUSKIE	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	28"
WALLEYE	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	14"
SMELT⁸	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28	–	–
	May 16 – Dec. 31	–	–
ALL OTHER FRESHWATER SPECIES	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	–	–
STRIPED BASS and HERRING: For season, size, and possession limits call the Division of Marine Fisheries at (617) 626-1520, or visit their website at www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf .			
POSSESSION OF: Sturgeon (all species), American Brook Lamprey, Atlantic (sea-run) Salmon ⁷ , Bridle Shiner, Burbot, Eastern Silvery Minnow, Lake Chub, Longnose Sucker, and Northern Redbelly Dace is illegal! If caught release immediately . This means remove hook or cut line and return fish to water immediately – do not pose for photographs, place on a stringer, hold in a net, or delay in any way the immediate return and release of the fish to the water!			

1 Minimum length is measured as the straight line (not curved over the body) from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. The tips of any forked tail may be squeezed together for the final measurement.

2 Trout applies to Brook, Brown, Rainbow, and Tiger (a cross between a female brown and a male brook trout). From Apr. 1 to Sep. 10, no more than 8 trout (as defined) may be taken daily, and only 3 of those trout may be from lakes, ponds, or major rivers³. From Sep. 11 to Mar. 31, no more than 3 trout (as defined) may be taken daily.

3 Major Rivers: Childs, Coonamessett, Deerfield, Farmington, Green (Colrain), Green (Great Barrington), Ipswich, Jones, Mashpee, Millers, Nissitissit, North (Colrain), North (West Branch), Parker, Quaboag, Quinapoxet, Quinebaug, Seven Mile, Santuit, Scorton Creek, Shawsheen, Squannacook, Stillwater (Sterling, Princeton), Swift (East Branch), Swift (Winsor Dam to Ware River, except as posted), Tully (East and West Branches), Ware, Ware (East Branch), Westfield (all branches).

4 Mainstem Housatonic only, from the confluence of the East and West Branches to the MA-CT line, exclusive of the catch-and-release areas where no trout may be kept.

5 Special brown trout water: South Pond (Quacumquasit), Brookfield. Total daily creel is 3 trout but only 1 may be a brown trout and it must be at least 15".

6 Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs: Opening and closing dates are set by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. For Quabbin Reservoir visit www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/quabbin.htm or call (413) 323-7221. For Wachusett/Sudbury Reservoirs visit www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/wachRes.htm or call (508) 835-4816 or (978) 365-3800. The use of lead fishing sinkers is prohibited in the Quabbin and Wachusett reservoirs.

7 The harvest of broodstock salmon (Atlantic salmon) is lawful in all inland waters of Massachusetts except in: the Connecticut River and all its tributaries; and the Merrimack River downstream of the Essex Dam in Lawrence, MA and all its tributaries downstream of the Essex Dam in Lawrence, MA. The possession of an Atlantic salmon (including broodstock salmon) while fishing in the Connecticut River and all its tributaries and in the Merrimack River downstream of the Essex Dam in Lawrence, MA and all its tributaries downstream of the Essex Dam in Lawrence, MA is prohibited.

8 Smelt may be taken by hook and line only.

BAIT

Permit required to take baitfish for purposes of sale; see "Permits."

- **Frogs** (except leopard frogs) 2½ inches or less snout to vent may be used as bait; 10 daily, 10 in possession; may not be sold.
- **Baitfish** may be taken by licensed anglers at any time (except for purposes of sale) with a rectangular net not exceeding 36 square feet of net area or by a hoop or circular net not exceeding 6 feet in diameter or with a fish trap with openings not exceeding one inch. The following species may be taken for personal use as bait by licensed anglers. **Only the fish species listed below may be used as bait, live or dead.**

American eel	Banded killifish	Bluntnose minnow
Creek chubsucker	Emerald shiner	Fallfish
Fathead minnow	Golden shiner	Mummichog
Pumpkinseed	Rainbow smelt*	Yellow perch
Spottail shiner	White sucker	

* Smelt may be taken **only** by hook and line. Possession or use of smelt as bait in inland waters other than during the smelt season is prohibited.

- **Herring:** For current regulations on the use, possession, and taking of herring contact the Division of Marine Fisheries, (617) 626-1520 or www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf.

CATCH-AND-RELEASE AREAS

Artificial lures only. No bait in possession.

- **Housatonic River:** From the Rte. 20 bridge in Lee downstream to Willow Mill Dam AND from Glendale Dam downstream to the RR bridge. No fishing from June 15–Aug. 31 inclusive within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries: Beartown Brook; Goose Pond Brook; Hop Brook; and Mohawk Brook.
- **Red Brook:** From the outlet of White Island Pond to the inlet of Buttermilk Bay.
- **Nissitissit River:** From the New Hampshire border to the Prescott St. Bridge. **FLY FISHING ONLY.**
- **Swift River:** Winsor Dam to Rte. 9, catch-and-release **FLY FISHING ONLY** (year around); Rte. 9 to Cady Lane, catch-and-release July 1–Dec. 31 (artificials only).
- **Deerfield River:** Fife Brook Dam to Hoosac Tunnel, and the section extending from Pelham Brook to the Mohawk Campground.
- **Westfield River, East Branch:** Immediately below the Chesterfield Gorge parking lot in Chesterfield to the gate north of the Corps of Engineers parking lot at Knightville in Huntington.
- **Millers River:** Templeton/Athol RR bridge to dam in Athol and from Wendell Rd. bridge in Orange to breached dam in Erving center.
- **Quashnet River:** From the outlet of John's Pond to the sign 0.1 mile below Rte. 28.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

The MA Dept. of Public Health (MDPH), has issued a state-wide advisory for pregnant women not to consume fish caught in fresh water due to elevated levels of mercury in fish. MDPH has also issued fish consumption advisories for the general public on selected bodies of water primarily due to PCB and mercury contamination. For more information or a list of waters with fish consumption advisories, contact MDPH, Bureau of Environmental Health, at (617) 624-5757 or www.mass.gov/dph.

INTERSTATE POND LICENSE REGULATIONS

Wallum Lake, Douglas: fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or Rhode Island. Rhode Island regulations apply.

Lake Monomonac and Robbins Pond, Winchendon; Long Pond, Tyngsboro and Dracut; Bent Pond, Warwick; Tuxbury Pond, Amesbury: fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or New Hampshire. New Hampshire regulations apply.

Colebrook Reservoir, Tolland; Perry Pond, Dudley; Muddy Pond, Southbridge; Breakneck Pond, Sturbridge; Congamond Lake, Southwick; Hamilton Reservoir, Holland: fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or Connecticut. Connecticut regulations apply to Colebrook Reservoir, Breakneck Pond, Perry Pond and Muddy Pond. Massachusetts regulations apply to Congamond Lake and Hamilton Reservoir.

Sherman Reservoir, Rowe: Massachusetts regulations apply and MA license required in MA. Vermont regulations apply and VT license required in VT.

FISHING PROHIBITIONS

- **Explosives**
- **Jug, toggle or trot line fishing.**
- **Lead Sinkers at Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs:** The use of lead fishing sinkers, including, but not limited to, split shot, bullet weights, egg sinkers, slip sinkers, bell sinkers, pinch sinkers, rubber grip sinkers, bank sinkers, pyramid sinkers, or twist, strap or wraparound sinkers for the taking of fish in the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs is prohibited. Lead fishing sinkers **DO NOT** include other lead fishing-related items such as artificial lures, jigs, lead-core line, down-rigger weights, keel sinkers, torpedo casting and trolling sinkers, or weighted flies.
NOTE: Lead fishing sinkers and jigs less than 1 ounce will be prohibited in all inland waters of the Commonwealth effective January 1, 2012.
- **More than two hooks** for fishing or more than five hooks when ice fishing. A hook is defined as an angling device attached to a fishing line which is designed to take one

Fishing

fish at a time but is not limited to devices commonly called spinners, spoons, bait harnesses, lead head jigs or plugs.

- **Possession of:** Sturgeon (all species), American Brook Lamprey, Atlantic (sea-run) Salmon, Bridle Shiner, Burbot, Eastern Silvery Minnow, Lake Chub, Longnose Sucker, and Northern Redbelly Dace is illegal! If caught release immediately. This means remove hook or cut line and return fish to water immediately—do not pose for photographs, place on a stringer, hold in a net, or delay in any way the immediate return and release of the fish to the water!
- **Poisons**
- **Releasing** fish or spawn into inland waters, except by permit.
- **Rubbish** in inland waters.
- **Sale** of freshwater fish without a permit.
- **Snagging**
- **Transporting** live fish (except bait for personal use) without a permit.

FREE FISHING WEEKEND

June 5 & 6, 2010

No license needed!

Fishing

FISH OF MASSACHUSETTS

More than 80 fish species inhabit the inland waters of the Commonwealth. This is a small sample of some of the most popular species commonly taken by anglers. For a more complete list pick up a copy of *Freshwater Fishes of Massachusetts* at any DFW office.

TEMPERATURE PREFERENCES OF FISH

Temperature preferences are different for many fish. Though fish cannot always find their exact preference, they are usually found in water closest to their preferred temperature.



LARGEMOUTH BASS

A warm-water gamefish found in lakes, ponds and slow moving rivers associated with weeds and structure. Typically 1–3 lbs, but can reach up to 15 lbs. Dark line along each side is a good identification mark.

BROWN TROUT

This trout thrives in heavy cover and deep pools of cold, well-oxygenated water. Typically stocked at 10–14 inches with larger specimens to 20+ inches. Many wild populations exist in small to medium streams.

ATLANTIC SALMON

The anadromous form of this species lives in the open ocean but ascends freshwater rivers to spawn. The landlocked form lives in deep, cold, freshwater habitats and spawns in tributaries. Anadromous form grows to 20 lbs; landlocks average 2–4 lbs. Landlocked populations occur in the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs; attempts to restore sea-run populations to the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers continue.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Less common than largemouths, these cool-water gamefish are found in clear, rocky habitats. Average size is 1–2 lbs, but can reach up to 8 lbs. This species often jumps spectacularly when hooked.

BROOK TROUT

This beautiful native char thrives in clean, cold, well-oxygenated waters. It is found in high gradient streams and slow moving beaver flowages. Wild brookies average 6–8 inches, but stocked specimens are typically 10–12 inches or larger. Considered by many to be the most beautiful fish in North America.

RAINBOW TROUT

These trout thrive in cold, well-oxygenated, fast moving water. Typical hatchery fish are 12–16 inches, with larger specimens to 20+ inches. Profusely speckled and usually has a pink line along each side.

BROWN BULLHEAD

Our native "horned pout" catfish thrives in warm-water habitats associated with muddy bottoms and aquatic vegetation. Average size is 8–12 inches, but larger ones are not uncommon. Handle this fish (and all catfish) with care, as spines in the dorsal and pectoral fins can inflict painful wounds.

BLUEGILL

A sunfish that prefers shallow, weedy, warm-water habitats. Typically 4–7 inches in length with larger specimens to 10 inches. Identified by the solid black flap on gill cover and a dark patch near the back, bottom edge of the dorsal fin.

YELLOW PERCH

A native cool-water panfish found in the vegetated areas of lakes, ponds, slow streams, and almost any open water with moderate vegetation. Typically 8–10 inches but larger fish not uncommon. A schooling fish, it is safe to assume that if you find one, there are others in the same vicinity.

CHAIN PICKEREL

A native cool-water gamefish found in shallow, vegetated areas of fairly clear lakes, ponds and rivers. Typically 15–20 inches but larger specimens are not uncommon. Respected for its sharp teeth which can easily cut most fishing lines and inflict minor wounds.

PUMPKINSEED

A native sunfish, this pretty little "kivver" is found in weedy, warm-water habitats. Most are 4–7 inches, but can get up to 8–9 inches. Look for blue "warpaint" on the face and a red/orange-tipped gill flap.

BLACK CRAPPIE

This "calico" sunfish is found in weedy, warm-water habitats. It often forms schools in submerged structure, especially brush piles and fallen trees. Typically 5–12 inches, but larger specimens not uncommon.

Fishing

FRESHWATER SPORTFISHING AWARDS

Awards for freshwater fish are offered in 22 categories. Each qualified entry receives a bronze pin. Largest fish in each category each year receives a “gold” pin and plaque. There is also an annual “Angler of the Year” award for the person who has taken the greatest variety of “pinfish” during the year. Fish must meet minimum weight requirements as listed below, and must be weighed on a scale certified by the Massachusetts Division of Standards or a town official. Please check our website for a list of weigh stations and/or to download an affidavit. This information is also available at DFW offices.

CURRENT MINIMUM WEIGHTS

SPECIES	ADULT	YOUTH
Broodstock salmon	10 lbs. 0 ozs.	5 lbs. 0 ozs.
Brook trout	2 lbs. 0 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.
Brown trout	4 lbs. 0 ozs.	2 lbs. 0 ozs.
Bullhead	2 lbs. 0 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.
Carp	15 lbs. 0 ozs.	10 lbs. 0 ozs.
Chain pickerel	4 lbs. 8 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.
Channel catfish	6 lbs. 0 ozs.	5 lbs. 0 ozs.
Crappie	1 lb. 8 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.
Lake trout	7 lbs. 0 ozs.	5 lbs. 0 ozs.
Landlocked salmon ¹	4 lbs. 0 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.
Largemouth bass	7 lbs. 0 ozs.	4 lbs. 0 ozs.
Northern pike	15 lbs. 0 ozs.	10 lbs. 0 ozs.
Rainbow trout	3 lbs. 0 ozs.	2 lbs. 0 ozs.
Shad	5 lbs. 0 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.
Smallmouth bass	4 lbs. 8 ozs.	3 lbs. 0 ozs.
Sunfish ²	0 lbs. 12 ozs.	0 lbs. 8 ozs.
Tiger muskie	10 lbs. 0 ozs.	7 lbs. 0 ozs.
Tiger trout	2 lbs. 0 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.
Walleye	4 lbs. 0 ozs.	2 lbs. 0 ozs.
White catfish	4 lbs. 0 ozs.	2 lbs. 0 ozs.
White perch	1 lb. 8 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.
Yellow perch	1 lb. 8 ozs.	1 lb. 0 ozs.

1 Landlocked Salmon are recognized only from Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs.

2 Sunfish category includes bluegills, pumpkinseeds, and rock bass.

MASSACHUSETTS FRESHWATER SPORTFISHING RECORDS

SPECIES	WEIGHT	WATER	YEAR
American shad	11 lbs. 4 ozs.	Connecticut River	1986
Broodstock salmon	22 lbs. 15 ozs.	Lake Mattawa, Orange	1997
Brook trout	10 lbs. 0 ozs.	Ashfield Lake, Ashfield	2008
Brown trout	19 lbs. 10 ozs.	Wachusett Reservoir	1966
Bullhead	6 lbs. 4 ozs.	Forest Lake, Methuen	2008
Carp	44 lbs. 2 ozs.	Connecticut River	1993
Chain pickerel	9 lbs. 5 ozs.	Laurel Lake, Lee	1954
Channel catfish	26 lbs. 8 ozs.	Ashfield Lake, Ashfield	1989
Crappie	4 lbs. 10 ozs.	Jake's Pond, Plymouth	1980
Lake trout	24 lbs. 0 ozs.	Wachusett Reservoir	2004
Landlocked salmon	10 lbs. 2 ozs.	Wachusett Reservoir	1985
Largemouth bass	15 lbs. 8 ozs.	Sampson Pond, Carver	1975
Northern pike	35 lbs. 0 ozs.	South Pond, Brookfield	1988
Rainbow trout	13 lbs. 13 ozs.	Wachusett Reservoir	1999
Smallmouth bass	8 lbs. 2 ozs.	Wachusett Reservoir	1991
Sunfish	2 lbs. 1 ozs.	South Athol Pond, Athol	1982
Tiger muskellunge	27 lbs. 0 ozs.	Lake Pontoosuc, Pittsfield	2001
Tiger trout	9 lbs. 7 ozs.	Peter's Pond, Sandwich	2004
Walleye	11 lbs. 0 ozs.	Quabbin Reservoir	1975
White catfish	9 lbs. 3 ozs.	Baddacock Pond, Groton	1987
White perch	3 lbs. 5 ozs.	Wachusett Reservoir	1994
Yellow perch	2 lbs. 12 ozs.	South Watuppa Pond, Fall River	1979

Fishing

2008 FRESHWATER SPORTFISHING AWARD WINNERS (2009 data not complete at press time)

SPECIES	ADULT GOLD PIN WINNERS			YOUTH GOLD PIN WINNERS		
	WEIGHT	WATER	WINNER	WEIGHT	WATER	WINNER
Broodstock salmon	18 lbs. 13 ozs.	Congamond Lake, Southwick	Dan Starkey, Agawam	9 lbs. 9 ozs.	Sheep Pond, Brewster	Harry Spampinato, Brewster
Brook trout	10 lbs. 0 ozs.*	Ashfield Lake, Ashfield	Peter Harand, Easthampton	2 lbs. 5 ozs.	Peter's Pond, Sandwich	Pat George, Sandwich
Brown trout	8 lbs. 8 ozs.	Cliff Pond, Brewster	Gunther Hanelt, North Truro	4 lbs. 4 ozs.	Long Pond, Plymouth	Mathew Nelson, New Bedford
Bullhead	6 lbs. 4 ozs.*	Forest Lake, Methuen	Roger Aziz, Jr., Methuen		Snipatuit Pond, Rochester	Tauri Adamczyk, Taunton
					Porter Lake, Springfield	Tyler Burbul, Springfield
					Herring Pond, Eastham	Matthew Ziomek, Amherst
Carp	28 lbs. 4 ozs.	Quinsigamond Lake, Worcester	Tom Pattiselanno, Worcester	25 lbs. 0 ozs.	Merrimack River, Lowell	Austin Aziz, Methuen
Chain pickerel	6 lbs. 4 ozs.	Mashpee-Wakeby Pond, Mashpee	Roy Leyva, Plymouth	4 lbs. 15 ozs.	Eel River, Plymouth	Patrick Reid, Plymouth
Channel catfish	16 lbs. 2 ozs.	Connecticut River, Hadley	Richard Wilson, South Hadley	9 lbs. 0 ozs.	Connecticut River, Agawam	Brandon Fifield, Agawam
Crappie	2 lbs. 8 ozs.	Webster Lake, Webster	Ronald Beauregard, Jefferson	2 lbs. 2 ozs.	Congamond Lake, Southwick	Seainin Ferriter, Westfield
Lake trout	17 lbs. 11 ozs.	Wachusett Reservoir, West Boylston	Stephen DiSilvestro, Hardwick	14 lbs. 7 ozs.	Quabbin Reservoir	Andrew Roman, Holland
Landlocked salmon	8 lbs. 6 ozs.	Stillwater River, Sterling	Ben Skowronski, Sutton	5 lbs. 15 ozs.	Quabbin Reservoir	Sabastian Piwcio, Holland
Largemouth bass	9 lbs. 6 ozs.	John's Pond, Mashpee	David Lynch, Rockland		Stockbridge Bowl, Stockbridge	Joey Buonemani, Adams
					Sawmill Pond, Wilbraham	Daniel Anderson, Hampden
Northern pike	29 lbs. 7 ozs.	East Brimfield Reservoir, Brimfield	Dean Lisiewicz, Boston	21 lbs. 11 ozs.	Quaboag Pond, Brookfield	Dustin Fontain, Warren
Rainbow trout	8 lbs. 12 ozs.	Goose Pond, Lee	Denis Regan, Ludlow	5 lbs. 2 ozs.	Quabbin Reservoir	Tyler Jankauskas, Phillipston
Shad	7 lbs. 0 ozs.	Merrimack River, Lawrence	Roger Aziz, Jr., Methuen Roger Aziz, Sr., Methuen	5 lbs. 4 ozs.	Connecticut River, Chicopee	Benjamin Burrows, Rutland
Smallmouth bass	6 lbs. 8 ozs.	Sheep Pond, Brewster	Jeff Capute, Centerville	5 lbs. 2 ozs.	Connecticut River, Northfield	Henry Higgins, Hatfield
Sunfish	1 lb. 9 ozs.	Mashpee-Wakeby Pond, Mashpee	Steve Muniac, Thorndike	1 lb. 2 ozs.	Lower Highland Reservoir, Goshen	Leif Miraglia, Williamsburg
Tiger muskie	20 lbs. 12 ozs.	Quinsigamond Lake, Worcester	Howie Turcotte, North Oxford	No youth entries		
Tiger trout	4 lbs. 6 ozs.	Peter's Pond, Sandwich	Roy Leyva, Plymouth	2 lbs. 10 ozs.	Big Alum Pond, Sturbridge	Matthew Byam-Mooney, East Longmeadow
Walleye	6 lbs. 0 ozs.	Connecticut River, Springfield	Todd Matera, Palmer	7 lbs. 0 ozs.	Connecticut River, Montague	Joe Frigo, Feeding Hills
White catfish	6 lbs. 10 ozs.	Mashpee-Wakeby Pond, Mashpee	Eddie Lemieux, Acushnet	4 lbs. 4 ozs.	Charles River, Cambridge	Brian Walsh, Allston
White perch	2 lbs. 13 ozs.	Hinckley Pond, Harwich	Roy Leyva, Plymouth	2 lbs. 7 ozs.	Quabbin Reservoir	Ethan Sprague, Orange
Yellow perch	1 lbs. 15 ozs.	Mystic Lake, Marstons Mills	Jeff Capute, Centerville	1 lb. 12 ozs.	Congamond Lake, Southwick	Michael Morrissey, Springfield

* New state record

SHOTGUN BASICS

The best shotgun for you depends on the requirements of the sport in which you plan to participate, and on your personal tastes.

The thrill of a cackling cock pheasant rising from the swale; the thunder of a ruffed grouse flushing on the edge of an abandoned apple orchard; the whistle of a woodcock helicoptering out of an alder thicket. These are the sights and sounds that provide an adrenaline rush to the hunter in anticipation of harvesting the game.

A properly fitted shotgun with the proper choke and ammunition can do the job—but only if the hunter can properly mount the gun, while making a smooth swing to the bird in flight, and execute the killing shot. Easily said, but often not easy to accomplish with the many variables encountered in the field including the element of surprise, the physical state of the hunter at that moment, and the limited time frame (measured in seconds) in which to execute the shot.

To be a successful bird hunter a shooter must mount the gun while swinging on the line of the bird and pull the trigger at just the right moment. Eye-hand coordination must be developed for shooting much like learning how to hit a baseball: keep your eye on the ball (or in this case the bird) and with the proper swing, hit it. The best way to develop eye-hand coordination for shooting is to take a properly fitted gun to a shooting club and practice shooting clay targets. Check Gun Owners' Action League (www.goal.org) for a list of clubs.

The recent advent of sporting clays and other shotgun games is cultivating a resurgence of interest in shooting sports. Much like golf, a typical round of sporting clays has shooters walk through 10-15 stations on a countryside course. Each station offers clay targets that simulate the flight patterns of various game birds. There is no better way for a bird hunter to improve his shooting skills while sharing the challenge and fun of the shooting sports with family and friends.

SELECTING A SHOTGUN

Prices vary substantially, as do quality, design, action, and other characteristics. You need to consider the types of hunting you plan to do, and all the advantages and disadvantages of the different shotgun models. If your basic interest is upland bird hunting, you may want to select a light gun, in 20 or 28 gauge, that is easy to carry and quick to mount and swing on fast gamebirds. Waterfowlers prefer heavier shotguns in 12 or 10 gauge for their versatility and comfortable recoil absorption.

Study the different types of shotguns and discuss your hunting interests with a knowledgeable firearms dealer or gunsmith before making a purchase. If possible, before buying, try a like gun at a shooting facility.

SAFETY

Firearms Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

First off, everyone must respect firearms and make sure those around them always do the same. Firearms carry inherent dangers; hence the rules for their safe use must be adhered to without exception. Whether shooting in a club setting or pursuing game in the field alone, a shooter is responsible for knowing and following all of the rules. This is best learned in a Basic Hunter Education Course (go to

www.mass.gov/masswildlife and click on "education" to find a free class near you), and then practiced in the field with a skilled mentor.

PROPER GUN FIT

The stock of a shotgun must fit the shooter for quick and accurate mounting. The length of pull (LOP) is the distance from the center of the trigger to the center of the butt plate/pad on the stock. If the length of pull is too long or too short, the shooter will not be able to properly mount and point the gun. Most guns that are purchased "over the counter" are typically too long and too heavy for youngsters or for small framed adults. The fit of a gun should be such that it mounts with ease and comfort, and the barrel is level with the eyes when the gun is shouldered. LOP and drop at the front end of the stock comb (Drop at Comb – DAC) and drop at the back end of the stock heel (Drop at Heel – DAH) in direct relationship to the barrel plane are the prime considerations for proper gun fit. Over the counter shotguns are typically designed for a hypothetical man about 5'10" weighing about 170 pounds. Such shotguns have a DAC of 1½-1⅝ inches, and DAH of 2-2½ inches, and LOP 14¼-14¾ inches.

DOMINANT EYE

The Most Important Aspect of Shooting Performance

To shoot a shotgun accurately, be it at clay targets or game, a shooter must first determine which is his/her dominant eye. To do this, hold a pencil vertically in your writing hand between your thumb and index finger, and extend your arm out straight. With both eyes open, line up the pencil with the line where two walls meet in the corner of a room about 10-20 feet away. Once this is lined up, close your left eye. If the view of the pencil remains the same as when both eyes were open, you are right eye dominant. If the view of the pencil shifts to either side of the room corner, you are left eye dominant. Mount your gun on the same shoulder as your dominant eye, and always shoot with both eyes open.

BASIC FIELD GUN FIT TEST

With your eyes closed, mount the gun in the pocket of the shoulder on the dominant eye side, and, with your head erect, bring the comb of the stock tight against the underside of your cheekbone. Now open your eyes. If you are looking straight down the barrel, with the thumb of your trigger hand about an inch from your nose, you have a gun that fits your natural pointing style.

READY POSITION

When the hunter has the opportunity to get ready to take a shot (when calling for a clay target, approaching a dog on point, or hearing a flushing dog that is "making game") he needs to get his gun in the ready position from which he can smoothly and comfortably move, mount and point the gun towards the target (see above photo). This posture has the heel of the stock tucked one or two inches under the shooting arm (armpit), with the elbow slightly down (10-15 degrees from parallel to the ground). Assuming a right dominant eye, the right hand should be comfortably around the wrist of the gun stock, with the thumb on top of the wrist to release the top safety if the gun is so equipped. The right index finger is held along the side of the trigger guard, ready to move to the trigger. If the safety is located in the trigger guard, the same wrist grip is used, but the index finger is poised to push the button safety before moving to the trigger to make the shot.

The left hand is holding the forearm of the gun about halfway back, with the left index finger extended on the forearm parallel to the gun barrel(s). The gun should be nearly perpendicular with the front of the body, on the dominant eye side of the body, with the muzzle slightly elevated but below eye level so that it will not obstruct the shooter's field of vision.

As the shooter (hunter) sees the bird, with hard focus on the bird, he should step forward slightly on his left foot in the direction of the bird in flight, and start his move (swing) as he proceeds to extend his

left arm to clear the heel of the stock from under his arm (armpit). At the same time he should release the safety, pointing the gun barrel at the target (bird) as he moves the gun stock to his face, tight against the underside of the cheek bone. With the butt of the gun pulled firmly against the shoulder pocket, he then continues the smooth movement of the gun along the line of the bird's flight, and when the sight picture is correct (lead on the target), he pulls the trigger.

THE IDEAL GAUGE

For upland shooting and for most clay target presentations, a properly fitted 28 gauge gun is the best choice for a youth, woman, or adult beginner. The 28 gauge shotgun produces the most even patterns of any of the popular shotgun gauges. Today, 28 gauge shells are available in shot loads of 3/4 oz. and 1 oz. with various shot sizes and speeds (feet per second). These many shell choices, coupled with a variety of screw-in choke selections, allow the user of a 28 gauge gun to enjoy gun performance equivalent to larger gauge guns that are much heavier and produce more recoil.

CHOICE OF SHOTGUN SHELL AND CHOKE

Today, the shell manufacturers offer a large selection of shell choices for every application, but the proper shell must be used with the proper choke. (Choke is an internal constriction of the barrel near the muzzle; the tighter the choke, the tighter the shot pattern at longer ranges.) Common choke designations—cylinder, skeet, improved, modified, and full—will meet the requirements for just about any hunting situation. Check the “Ammunition & Choke” table for suggestions. If you are considering using a gun that does not accommodate screw-in chokes, you need to determine the fixed choke by measurement or patterning the gun on a patterning board. Keep in mind, when introducing the use of a shotgun to a youth or beginner that light (soft recoil) loads are very important. Nobody enjoys the hard recoil that the heavier, faster loads produce.

SHOTGUNS FOR OTHER HUNTING APPLICATIONS

A 12 gauge shotgun is the best all around gauge for hunting in Massachusetts. For each species, the hunter needs to match the proper shot size, or slug, with the proper choke to make a quick kill at the ranges at which he expects to encounter game. After gun fit and the selection of choke and ammunition, the most important thing is to pattern or “sight in” the gun at the distance at which you expect to make the kill. Understanding how your gun performs with the ammunition you plan to use in the field is of the utmost importance.

We hope the foregoing information will encourage you to try shotgun shooting, make you a better shot and will help to introduce your friends and family to a very enjoyable sport.

AMMUNITION & CHOKE SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW ENGLAND

GAME	SUGGESTED SHOT SIZE	SUGGESTED CHOKE	WHAT EXPERIENCED SHOTGUNNERS SAY... CHOICE OF SHOT SIZE DEPENDS ON THE RANGE AND SPECIES
DUCKS	1, 2, 3, 4 (non-toxic)	Modified or full for pass shooting Improved Cylinder – over decoys	Use BB shot for long range pass shooting. For normal range, use No. 1 or No. 2 shot. Use No. 3 or No. 4 shot for closer range shooting over decoys.
GEESE	BBB, BB (non-toxic)	Modified	Many hunters prefer No. 1 shot for a denser pattern at shorter ranges over decoys.
PHEASANTS	5, 6, 7½	Improved Cylinder – for close cover Modified or full – for long shots	For long range open shooting where long shots are common, use No. 5. On a normal rise over dogs and for all around use, use No. 6 shot.
GROUSE	8, 9	Cylinder or Improved Cylinder	For early season shooting with a lot of foliage use cylinder with No. 9 shot. As the foliage drops and the woods open use No. 8 shot.
QUAIL	8, 9	Cylinder or Improved Cylinder	For early season shooting on bobwhites use No. 9 shot.
WOODCOCK	8, 9	Cylinder or Improved Cylinder	For early season shooting with a lot of foliage use cylinder with No. 9 shot. As the foliage drops and the woods open use No. 8 shot.
TURKEY	4, 5, 6	Full	If you're a good caller, use No. 6 shot. No. 4 and 5 are best for long shots.
TRAP	7½, 8, 9	Full or Modified	In many cases, No. 9 1¼ oz of shot is used for trap.
SKEET	8, 9	Cylinder or Skeet Choke	In most cases, No. 9 is used for skeet.
SPORTING CLAYS	7½, 8, 9	Cylinder or Improved Cylinder	For targets at close range use a more open choke, at longer distances tighten the chokes.

Wildlife Management Zones

ZONE 1: Northerly by the Vermont border; westerly by the New York border; southerly by a line running along Rte. 20 to the junction with Rte. 7 in Pittsfield; north on Rte. 7 to Rte. 9 and east on Rte. 9 to the junction of Rte. 8; and easterly by a line running from the Vermont border south along Rte. 8 to Rte. 9 in Pittsfield.

ZONE 2: Northerly by Vermont border; westerly by Zones 1 and 3; southerly by the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) from the intersection with the Housatonic River in Lee, east to the intersection (dead end) with Bonny Rigg Hill Road in Becket; and easterly by a line running from the Vermont border south along Rte. 112 to Rte. 143 in Worthington, along Rte. 143 west to the intersection with the Middle Branch of the Westfield River, then south along the Middle Branch of the Westfield River to the intersection with the East Branch of the Westfield River, south along the East Branch of the Westfield River to Rte. 20 in Huntington, west along Rte. 20 to Bonny Rigg Hill Road in Becket, south on Bonny Rigg Hill Road to the intersection with the Massachusetts Turnpike.

ZONE 3: Northerly by Zone 1; westerly by the New York border; southerly by the New York and Connecticut borders; and easterly by a line running south along the Housatonic River from the junction with Rte. 9 in Pittsfield to the junction with Rte. 20 in Lee, east along Rte. 20 to the junction with Rte. 8 in West Becket, and south on Rte. 8 to the Connecticut border.

ZONE 4 NORTH: Northerly by the Vermont border; westerly by Zone 2; southerly by a line running north from the intersection of Rte. 20 and the East Branch of the Westfield River in Huntington along the East Branch of the Westfield River to the intersection with Rte. 66, along Rte. 66 to the intersection with Rte. 9 in Northampton, to the intersection with the Connecticut River at the Northampton/Hadley town line; and easterly by the Connecticut River.

ZONE 4 SOUTH: Northerly by Zones 2 and 4N; westerly by Zone 3; southerly by the Connecticut Border; and easterly by the Connecticut River.

ZONE 5: Northerly by the New Hampshire border; westerly by the Connecticut River; southerly by a line running from the intersection of the Connecticut River and Rte. 9 at the Northampton/Hadley line east along Rte. 9 to Rte. 116 in Hadley, north along Rte. 116 to Rte. 63 in North Amherst, east along Rte. 63 and Pine Street to State Street, northeast along State Street and East Leverett Road to Cushman Road, along Cushman Road to Shutesbury Road in East Leverett, east on Shutesbury Road and Leverett Road to Wendell Road in Shutesbury Center, north along Wendell Road to Locks Pond Road, north on Locks Pond Road to Lake View Road, northeast on Lake View Road to Locks Village Road, north along Locks Village Road to Depot Road in Wendell, north on Depot Road to Rte. 2A in Wendell Depot, east on Rte. 2A to Rte. 32 in Athol, south on Rte. 32 to Rte. 62 in Barre, and east on Rte. 62 to the intersection with Rte. 31 in Princeton; and easterly by a line running north on Rte 31 to the New Hampshire border.

ZONE 6: Northerly by Zone 5; westerly by Zone 5; southerly by a line running from the intersection of Rte. 9 and Rte. 116 in Hadley, east along Rte. 9 to the intersection with Rte. 32 in Ware; and easterly by a line running from the intersection of Rte. 32 and Rte. 62 in Barre, south along Rte. 32 to the intersection with Rte. 9 in Ware.

ZONE 7: Northerly by Zones 5 and 6; southerly by the Connecticut border; easterly by a line running from the intersection of Rte. 9 and Rte. 32 in Ware, east along Rte. 9 to the intersection with Rte. 67, southwest along Rte. 67 to the intersection with Rte. 19 in Warren, and south along Rte. 19 to the Connecticut border.

ZONE 8: Northerly by Zone 5; southerly by the Connecticut and Rhode Island borders; easterly by the following: Rte. 31 in Princeton south to Rte. 56 in Paxton, Rte. 56 south to Rte. 9 in Leicester, Rte. 9 east to Cambridge Street in Worcester, Cambridge Street east to Rte. 146, Rte. 146 southeast to the Rhode Island border, westerly by Zones 6 and 7.

ZONE 9: Northerly by the New Hampshire border; southerly by the Rhode Island border; easterly by the following: Rte. 3 from New Hampshire southeast to Rte. I-495 south to Rte. 121 in Wrentham, 121 southwest to the Rhode Island border; westerly by Zones 5 and 8.

ZONE 10: Northerly by the New Hampshire border; westerly by Zone 9; southerly by a line running from the intersection of Rte. 1A and Rte. 27 in the town of Walpole northeast along Rte. 1A to the intersection with Rte. 128 in the town of Dedham, east on Rte. 128 to the intersection with Rte. 3 in the town of Braintree, east on Rte. 3 to the intersection with Rte. 228 in the town of Rockland, and north on Rte. 228 to the Atlantic Ocean at the intersection of Rte. 228 and Nantasket Avenue in the town of Hull; and easterly by the Atlantic ocean

ZONE 11: Northerly by Zones 9 and 10; southerly by Buzzard's Bay and the Cape Cod Canal; easterly by the Atlantic Ocean; westerly by the Rhode Island border.

ZONE 12: Northerly, southerly and easterly by the Atlantic Ocean; westerly by Zone 11.

ZONE 13: Dukes County (i.e. Martha's Vineyard).

ZONE 14: Nantucket.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

The Division of Fisheries & Wildlife holds 137 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and 13 wildlife sanctuaries. Maps are available online and at all DFW offices.

- 1 No person shall possess any alcoholic beverage except under permit, or dump or discard any can, bottle, or rubbish.
- 2 No person shall remove vegetation, soil, or stones from any WMA except under permit.
- 3 No person shall use excessive speed in driving a vehicle.
- 4 No person, unless under permit, shall drive or possess any vehicle except on roads or trails maintained for public vehicular traffic.
- 5 No person shall deface or tamper with any sign, building, or equipment.
- 6 No person shall build or maintain a fire without written permission from the Director of the DFW or his designee.
- 7 No person shall camp within any WMA without written permission from the Director or his designee.
- 8 No person shall engage in target practicing without written permission from the Director or his designee.
- 9 No person shall use any means other than shotgun or bow and arrow during the pheasant and quail season on areas stocked with pheasant or quail except for hunting raccoons and opossums between 9pm and 3am.
- 10 No person shall hunt before sunrise or after sunset on any WMA where pheasant or quail are stocked during the open season on pheasant or quail, Oct. 16 to Nov. 27, except for the hunting of raccoons and opossums between 9pm and 3am.
- 11 No person shall hunt during the pheasant or quail season on WMAs where pheasant or quail are stocked without wearing a "hunter orange" cap or hat except while night hunting for raccoons or opossums or while hunting from a blind or boat.
- 12 No person, except under permit, shall dig or disturb any artifact or archaeological remains.
- 13 The Director may make special regulations to handle special situations peculiar to any WMA. Controlled hunts are in effect at certain times on Burns, Delaney, and Ludlow WMAs. Contact District Supervisor for details.

Hunting

GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

ACCIDENTS: All hunting-related injuries or deaths **MUST** be reported to state or local police and to the environmental police.

ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT: Required to take antlerless deer in any zone during any deer season, in addition to a hunting or sporting license.

ARCHERY: Poisoned arrows, or explosive tips, or bows drawn by mechanical means, are prohibited except for crossbows as permitted. Mechanical releases permitted. Arrows used on deer, bear or turkey must have well-sharpened steel broadhead blades not less than 7/8 inches in width. Expanding broadheads are legal. Recurve or long bows for deer, bear or turkey hunting must have at least 40 lbs. pull at 28 inches or at peak draw weight for compound bows. No arrows may be released within 150 feet of, or across, any state or hard-surfaced highway and hunting is prohibited within 500 feet of any dwelling or building in use, unless authorized by owner or occupant thereof.

An FID or LTC card is not required for bow hunting. Archers, while hunting deer, shall not possess firearms on their person or use dogs. Archers may hunt with a bow and arrow during the shotgun season and muzzleloader season but must comply with the shotgun or muzzleloader season regulations. Crossbows may be used by certain permanently handicapped persons by permit only. For regulations and an application, visit www.mass.gov/masswildlife or contact DFW at (508) 389-6300.

HUNTER ORANGE: No person shall hunt during the pheasant or quail season on public shooting grounds or WMAs where pheasant or quail are stocked without wearing a “hunter orange” cap or hat except while night-hunting for raccoons or opossums, or while hunting waterfowl from a blind or boat. During the period when it is legal to hunt deer with a shotgun, all hunters, except waterfowl hunters hunting within a blind or from a boat, must wear, in a conspicuous manner on chest, back, and head, a minimum of 500 square inches of “hunter orange” clothing or material. During the muzzleloader season-only deer hunters must comply with the 500 sq. inch hunter orange requirement.

HUNTING DOGS: May be trained at any time (except during the shotgun season on deer) provided that only pistol or revolver and blank cartridges are used or possessed. No sporting or hunting license necessary. During the shotgun season on deer, dogs may be used for waterfowl hunting on coastal waters only. Hunting bear or bobcat with dogs, or training dogs on those species, is prohibited.

TREESTANDS: Must have written permission of landowner to construct or use any treestand held in place with nails, bolts, etc., or in place for more than 30 days.

NON-RESIDENT HUNTERS:

- Must have a valid Massachusetts non-resident hunting license in order to hunt. No other gun license is needed for long guns.
- Must show a Basic Hunter Education course certificate or previous license from any state or Canadian province in order to purchase a Massachusetts hunting license. Non-resident minors (ages 15-17), see MINORS, page 7. Each license includes a \$5.00 charge for a Wildlife Conservation Stamp.
- Must obtain the same stamps and permits as residents. Permit and stamp fees are the same for residents and non-residents. Non-resident hunters must also obtain a Massachusetts H.I.P. number for hunting migratory game birds.
- May not purchase ammunition in Massachusetts (including materials used in black powder firearms).
- While travelling into or through Massachusetts must have their firearms unloaded and enclosed in a case.
- Must contact the Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB) Firearms Support Services, 200 Arlington St., Suite 2200, Chelsea, MA 02150, tel. (617) 660-4780 for information on handgun permits.

Any landowner permitting use of his or her property for recreation without charging a fee is not liable for injuries to recreational users or their property except in cases of willful, wanton or reckless conduct by the owner. (MGL Ch. 21 § 17C)

Hunting

MASSACHUSETTS GUN LAWS

POSSESSION: For hunting, resident citizens ages 15 and over must have a Firearms Identification Card (FID) to possess a low-capacity rifle or shotgun. A License To Carry (LTC) is needed to possess large capacity rifles and shotguns and all handguns. These permits are issued by local Police Departments. Non-residents with a valid Massachusetts non-resident hunting license do not need an LTC or FID to possess or carry a rifle or shotgun, but must carry their firearms unloaded and in a case while traveling in their vehicles. Non-residents may not purchase guns or ammunition in Massachusetts. To obtain a non-resident license to Carry or a nonresident permit to possess handguns, contact the CHSB, Firearms Support Services (see below). No FID or LTC is needed by bow hunters, nor by minors 12-14 years old hunting with a duly licensed adult, nor for the possession of primitive rifles or shotguns as defined in MGL Ch. 140, Section 121, or their ammunition. However, an LTC or FID is required to purchase all ammunition including black powder and Pyrodex.

CAUTION: Massachusetts public safety laws define primitive arms differently from the laws and regulations of the DFW.

TRAVEL: Rifles, shotguns and muzzleloaders may not be carried on public ways unless the person is lawfully engaged in hunting. When transported in a motor vehicle, rifles, shotguns and muzzleloaders must be unloaded and in an enclosed case. A large capacity firearm must be carried unloaded and contained within a locked trunk or in a locked case or other secure container.

STORAGE: State law requires that whenever a gun is not under your direct control, it must be kept in a locked container or equipped with a tamper-resistant mechanical lock. Muzzleloaders are exempt from this requirement.

PENALTIES: License revoked for one year in addition to other penalties; fines of up to \$1,000; restitutions; and/or 1 year in jail. Careless and negligent use of firearms: fines of up to \$500 and/or 6 months imprisonment and loss of license for 5 years.

OPEN SEASONS

The following species may be taken year-round (except during shotgun deer season) by licensed hunters with no daily or seasonal bag limit: English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, skunk, starling, weasel, woodchuck.

CLOSED SEASONS

Closed season throughout the year on all birds and mammals not mentioned herein or in Massachusetts Migratory Bird Regulations published in September.

HUNTER HARASSMENT

Hunter harassment is against state law. Report violations to the Mass. Environmental Police (800) 632-8075 or to state or local police. Be prepared to provide a description of violators and/or a description and license plate number of the car.

HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset on each day of open season except for:

- hunting for rabbit, hare, fox and coyote which closes at midnight. See Sunrise-Sunset table.
- spring turkey hunting
- raccoon and opossum hunting
- WMA Reg. #10 which states that no person shall hunt before sunrise or after sunset on any WMA where pheasant or quail are stocked during the pheasant or quail season (Oct. 16–Nov. 27) except for the hunting of raccoons and opossums between 9pm and 3am.

GAME CHECK STATIONS

Hunters who harvest a deer, bear or turkey are required to bring the animal in to an official game check station within 48 hours of killing the animal. At the check station information about the animal will be recorded and a seal or tag will be affixed to the animal. The hunter who took the animal must be present at the check station and have his or her license and any pertinent permits with him. For a complete list of check stations visit the DFW's website www.mass.gov/masswildlife. For furbearer checking requirements see furbearer hunting and furbearer trapping.

Not all game species can be checked at all check stations (e.g., some but not all deer check stations will check coyotes during the deer hunting season). Be sure to check the list of check stations for the specific game you need to have checked.

MASSACHUSETTS GUN LAWS

For more information on Massachusetts gun laws, contact the CHSB, Firearms Support Services, 200 Arlington St., Suite 2200, Chelsea, MA 02150, tel. (617) 660-4780.

All Hunting Seasons except waterfowl and coyote are closed during shotgun deer season from Nov. 29 to Dec. 11.

Hunting

HUNTING PROHIBITIONS

- Artificial lights for hunting any bird or mammal except raccoon and opossum.
- Baiting migratory game birds, wild turkey, bear or deer any time within 10 days prior to the hunting season. This does not apply to the hunting of crows.
- Careless or negligent use of firearms.
- Choke traps, leghold traps or nets for taking any bird or mammal.
- Decoys for hunting deer.
- Discharge of any firearm or release of any arrow upon or across any state or hard-surfaced highway, or within 150 feet of any such highway, or possession of a loaded firearm, discharge of a firearm, or hunting on the land of another within 500 feet of any dwelling or building in use, except as authorized by the owner or occupant thereof. See page 22 for additional firearms regulations.
- Electronic calls for hunting migratory game birds, wild turkey, or deer. Crows are not classified as migratory birds and electronic calls are allowed.
- Ferreting: it is unlawful to hunt with a ferret. Possession of non-vaccinated/unneutered ferrets/fitches without a permit is unlawful.
- Hunting on posted land without permission.
- Hunting on Sunday.
- Importation, transportation, liberation or possession of any live vertebrate protected under MGL Ch. 131 except under permit from the Director.
- It is illegal to import, process or possess whole carcasses or parts of any cervids (members of the deer family) from states or provinces where Chronic Wasting Disease has been detected. It is legal to import meat that is de-boned, cleaned skull caps, hides without the head, or a fixed taxidermy mount. No live deer, of any species, may be brought into Massachusetts for any purpose.
- Intoxication and drugs: no person under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs shall hunt, target shoot, carry a firearm, bow and arrow, or other weapon.
- Loaded shotgun or rifle in or on any motor vehicle, recreational vehicle (including snowmobiles), aircraft or motor boat, except as stated in the *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations*.
- Machine guns, fully-automatic firearms, any tracer or incendiary ammunition for hunting. Crossbows are allowed for certain handicapped persons only.
- Motor vehicles, recreational vehicles (including snowmobiles), aircraft for hunting any bird or mammal.
- Possession of any protected wildlife and/or wild plants, dead or alive, taken from the wild, except by permit.
- Possession of rifles, handguns, or dogs in any woodland or field, or use of same on any game, is prohibited during the shotgun deer season except that the use of dogs is lawful for hunting waterfowl on coastal waters.
- Power or sailboats for hunting birds except when beached or tied to blind or for retrieving injured birds.
- Removal of any mammal from walls, or holes in trees, ground, or logs.
- Rifles chambered to take ammunition larger than .22 caliber long rifle rimfire, and pistols and revolvers chambered to take ammunition larger than .38 caliber, between the hours of ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise. Firearms other than shotguns and bows and arrows are prohibited on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant and quail season.
- Sale of all species of mammals and birds or parts thereof, except heads, hides and hooves of deer.
- Shotgun ammunition: except as provided below, no species other than deer, coyote, or waterfowl may be hunted or taken with shot larger than #1 birdshot. Except during the prescribed open season when deer may be hunted lawfully with a shotgun, a person shall not have in his possession a shotgun shell loaded with a rifled slug, single ball, buckshot of any size, or any shot larger than or equal to air rifle shot in any place where birds or mammals may be found except on a skeet, trap, or target range between sunrise and sunset, or except for the hunting of coyotes (a) during the prescribed open season for coyotes with shot not larger than FF; or (b) during the shotgun deer season when coyotes may be hunted with archery or shotgun only—using slugs, buckshot, or shot of any size; or, except as specified in the annual *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations*.
- Swivel or pivot guns for hunting any bird.
- Taking nests, destroying or disturbing eggs or nests of birds protected by law.
- Target shooting on Sunday except on one's own property or on a recognized trap, skeet or rifle range.
- Traps for taking birds except under permit. All traps except cage or box traps and common mouse or rat traps are unlawful for the taking of fur-bearing mammals.
- Vandalism or damage to property or livestock.
- It is not legal to hunt moose.
- It is illegal to shoot HAWKS, EAGLES, OWLS or any other bird not specifically mentioned in this Guide or in the Massachusetts Migratory Game Bird Regulations.

PENALTIES: License revoked for one year in addition to other penalties; fines of up to \$1,000, restitutions, and/or 1 year in jail. Careless and negligent use of firearms; fines of up to \$500 and/or 6 months imprisonment and loss of license for 5 years.

NO HUNTING ON SUNDAY

Hunting

GAME BIRDS*		OPEN SEASON (All Dates Inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SEASON LIMIT
Crow		Jan. 1 – Apr. 10 Jul. 1 – Apr. 9, 2011	–	–	–
Pheasant	Youth Hunt	Oct. 16 – Nov. 27 See page 36.	2	4	6
Quail		Oct. 16 – Nov. 27	4	8	20
Ruffed Grouse		Oct. 16 – Nov. 27	3	6	15
Wild Turkey	Youth Hunt: Zones 1–13	April 24			See "Wild Turkey," below.
	Spring: Zones 1–13	Apr. 26 – May 22			
	Fall: Zones 1–9; 13	Oct. 25 – Oct. 30			

* Waterfowl/migratory game birds (including woodcock): see *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations*, available in September.

CROW

May be hunted only on Friday, Saturday and Monday during the open season. Electronic calls, rifles, and bait are permissible. Hunting hours close ½ hour after sunset except as noted in WMA Reg. #10.

PHEASANT

Zone from the New Hampshire border south on I-95 to I-495 south to I-95, north on I-95 to I-93/128, east on I-93/128 to Rte. 3, south on Rte. 3 to Rte. 228, north on 228 to the Hull town line. Cocks and hens may be hunted west of the zone line and on all WMAs. Cocks only may be hunted east of the zone line including Hull and in Dukes and Nantucket counties. See WMA Reg. #10.

QUAIL

Zones 11–14 only. See WMA Reg. #10.

RUFFED GROUSE

See WMA Reg. #10.

WILD TURKEY

Permit required. Official safety sticker must be adhered to firearm in such a manner as to be visible when hunter is sighting down the barrel. If new or replacement sticker is needed, send self-addressed stamped envelope to DFW's Field Headquarters office. Spring hunting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon. Fall hunting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset except as noted in WMA Reg. #10.

Bag limit: (a) 2 bearded birds in spring season (1 per day) with NO fall bird allowed, OR (b) 1 bearded bird in spring season, and 1 bird of either sex in fall season. No hunter may take 2 birds in the fall season. Hunting only with shotguns no larger than 10 gauge (.775 caliber for smoothbore muzzle-loaders) and restricted to shot sizes #4–#6, or with bows 40 lbs. pull or greater. Electronic calls, dogs, bait, driving prohibited. Successful hunters must tag bird immediately (with tag attached to permit) and bring bird to an official checking station within 48 hours.

Hunting

		OPEN SEASON (All Dates Inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SEASON LIMIT
Black Bear	Zones 1-9	Sep. 7 – Sep. 25 Nov. 1 – Nov. 20	See "Black Bear," below.		1

BLACK BEAR

Permit required. Submit application attached to license to Westborough Field Headquarters prior to season opening. Zones 1-9 ONLY. Hunting only with rifle .23 caliber or larger, muzzleloader .44-.775 caliber, bows with 40 lb. pull or greater, or revolvers .357 Magnum or .40 caliber or larger. Revolvers permitted in September season only – **shotguns prohibited**. Dogs prohibited for hunting and training (see Hunting Dogs). Hunting hours close ½ hour after sunset except as noted in WMA Reg. #10. Successful hunters must tag bear immediately (with tag attached to permit) and bring bear to an official checking station within 48 hours. Limit 1 bear per year.

Hunting

		OPEN SEASON (All Dates Inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SEASON LIMIT
Deer	Archery	Oct. 18 – Nov. 27			
	Shotgun	Nov. 29 – Dec. 11	See "Deer," below and next page.		2 Antlered deer + others by permit
	Primitive Firearms	Dec. 13 – Dec. 31			

DEER

Hunting hours begin ½ hour before sunrise and close ½ hour after sunset except as noted in WMA Reg. #10.

ANTLERED DEER: Any deer with at least 1 antler 3 inches long measured on a straight line from the center of the anterior (front) base of the antler burr to the tip.

ANTLERLESS DEER: A permit is required to harvest antlerless deer during any season in all zones. Only one application per person. Applications must be postmarked no later than July 16th. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Additional permits may be available in certain zones (see note below). Permits are accompanied by a zone-specific tag, are valid in any deer season and must be in the hunter's possession while he/she is hunting.

NOTE: Each 2010 antlerless deer permit has a tag attached, valid for one antlerless deer, increasing the seasonal bag limit for anyone possessing an antlerless deer permit. If you hunt the archery, shotgun, or muzzleloader seasons, you must have an antlerless deer permit to take an antlerless deer. The number of deer a hunter may harvest statewide depends on the number of antlerless deer permits purchased. A hunter may possess antlerless deer permits for more than one zone. For example, if a hunter applies for a permit for Zone 5 through the drawing, and is selected for that permit, that hunter may purchase additional permits for a zone that has permits available (e.g. Zone 14). Permit availability depends on permit allocation and the number of applicants.

TAGGING REQUIREMENTS: Immediately upon killing a deer and prior to moving it (during any deer season), the tag portion must be separated from the license or antlerless deer permit, filled out, and attached to the deer in a conspicuous manner. The deer must be taken to an official checking station by the person who killed it within 48 hours after killing it for validation by a Division of Fisheries & Wildlife representative. At that time the paper tag will be collected and a metal tag affixed. This constitutes the official report of kill as required by law. Deer taken on Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, or Cuttyhunk must be tagged on the island where shot. Deer must not be possessed, transported, or under a person's control unless the deer, or a part of the deer, is open to view. However, after the deer has been tagged with an official metal seal, the deer may be concealed.

AFTER KILLING TWO DEER: After killing two bucks, no person shall hunt for any bird or mammal except for:

- 1 hunting antlerless deer with an antlerless deer permit.
- 2 hunting coyotes.
- 3 hunting waterfowl in coastal waters.

DAILY BAG: The daily bag limit is determined by the number of valid tags a hunter possesses. Hunters possessing 1 deer may take 1 additional deer before presenting the first deer at an official check station. However, all deer must be taken to a check station within 48 hours of being killed.

ANNUAL BAG: 2 antlered deer, and as many antlerless deer as the hunter has valid permits for, provided that:

- Hunters may purchase additional antlerless deer permits for available zones.
- Hunters may take a maximum of 2 deer in the Quabbin Reservation, both of which may be antlerless, provided the hunter obtains a second antlerless deer permit after checking their first antlerless deer at a Quabbin check station. Antlerless deer taken in the Quabbin are not considered part of the statewide bag limit. Antlered deer taken in the Quabbin are part of the statewide bag limit.

DURING MUZZLELOADER DEER SEASON hunters may use only shoulder-fired muzzleloaders .44 caliber to .775 caliber; barrel length 18 inches or more with only one barrel operational. Inline ignition systems are permitted providing rifle loads from the muzzle. Hinge action (break open) muzzleloaders are NOT permitted. Single projectile only (no buckshot). Sabot rounds, 209 primers, and scopes are legal. Powder limited to black powder, pyrodex or other approved substitutes. Firearm is considered unloaded when cap or pan powder is removed. Primitive Firearms Stamp required. Archers may hunt during the muzzleloader firearms season but must purchase a Primitive Firearms Stamp and wear at least 500 square inches of hunter orange on head, back, and chest.

During shotgun deer season hunters may use shoulder-fired muzzleloaders not larger than .775 caliber, including modern muzzleloaders, muzzleloaders with telescopic sights, hinge action muzzleloaders and muzzleloaders using sabot rounds. Firearm is considered unloaded when cap or pan powder is removed.

DURING SHOTGUN DEER SEASON hunters may use shotguns not

Hunting

larger than 10 gauge, bows and arrows, or muzzleloaders not smaller than .44 caliber, or larger than .775 caliber. This includes modern muzzleloaders, hinge action muzzleloaders, muzzleloaders with telescopic sights, and permits the use of sabot rounds. Rifled barrel shotguns are legal during shotgun deer season.

All deer hunters must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of “hunter orange” on their head, chest, and back during shotgun and muzzleloader seasons. This includes archers hunting during either season.

The possession of rifles, handguns, or dogs in any woodland or field, or use of same on any game, is prohibited during the shotgun deer season except that the use of dogs is lawful for hunting waterfowl on coastal waters.

DRIVING DEER is lawful.

IMPORTATION OF DEER PARTS from states or provinces where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected is illegal. It is legal to import meat that is de-boned, cleaned skull caps, hides without the head, or a fixed taxidermy mount. No live deer, of any species, may be brought into Massachusetts for any purpose. Importation of live deer is illegal.

QUABBIN CONTROLLED DEER HUNT: Call DCR (413) 323-7221 in July for information. Must apply by Aug. 15.

PARAPLEGIC SPORTSMEN'S HUNT: There is a special deer hunt for paraplegic sportsmen. Contact DFW Field Headquarters (508) 389-6300 or visit the DFW website (www.mass.gov/masswildlife) for more information.

Hunting

		OPEN SEASON (All Dates Inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SEASON LIMIT
RABBITS & SQUIRRELS					
Cottontail Rabbit	Zones 1-12	Jan. 1 – Feb. 27 Oct. 16 – Feb. 28, 2011	5	10	–
	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 27 Nov. 15 – Feb. 28, 2011	5	10	–
Snowshoe Hare	Zones 1-4	Jan. 1 – Feb. 27 Oct. 16 – Feb. 28, 2011	2	4	–
	Zones 5-12	Jan. 1 – Feb. 5 Oct. 16 – Feb. 5, 2011	2	4	–
	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 5 Nov. 15 – Feb. 5, 2011	2	4	–
Jackrabbit	Zone 14	Nov. 15 – Dec. 31	1	2	–
Gray Squirrel	Zones 1-9	Sep. 13 – Jan. 1, 2011	5	10	–
	Zones 10-14	Oct. 16 – Jan. 1, 2011	5	10	–

JACKRABBIT

Season limited to Nantucket County (Zone 14).

GRAY SQUIRREL

Rifles and handguns are permitted in Zones 1-9; prohibited in Zones 10-14. No person shall hunt by any means other than shotgun or bow and arrow during the pheasant and quail seasons, on areas stocked with pheasant or quail (see WMA regulation #9).

Hunting hours for gray squirrel are from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset except that no person shall hunt on Wildlife Management Areas where pheasant and quail are stocked during the open season on pheasant and quail (Oct. 16 – Nov. 27) except for the hunting of raccoons and opossums between 9pm and 3am.

		OPEN SEASON (All Dates Inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SEASON LIMIT
REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS					
Bullfrog and Green Frog		Jul. 16 – Sep. 30	12	24	–
Snapping Turtle		Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	–	–	–

BULLFROG, GREEN FROG, SNAPPING TURTLE

No license required. Minimum size for frogs is 3 inches snout to vent.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: No open season on state-listed species, spotted turtles, eastern hog-nosed snakes, four-toed salamanders, spotted salamanders, northern leopard frogs, and spring salamanders; hunting, taking, possessing alive prohibited. Possession limit of 2 on all others except bullfrog, green frog and snapping turtle.

Hunting

FURBEARERS		OPEN SEASON (All Dates Inclusive)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SEASON LIMIT
Bobcat	Zones 1-8	Jan. 1 – Mar. 8 Dec. 20 – Mar. 8, 2011	–	–	See "Bobcat," below.
Coyote		Jan. 1 – Mar. 8 Oct. 16 – Mar. 8, 2011	–	–	–
Fox (red or gray)		Jan. 1 – Feb. 27 Nov. 1 – Feb. 28, 2011	–	–	–
Raccoon		Jan. 1 – Jan. 30 Oct. 1 – Jan. 31, 2011	3	–	–
Opossum		Jan. 1 – Jan. 30 Oct. 1 – Jan. 31, 2011	–	–	–

BOBCAT

Hunting hours close ½ hour after sunset. Hunting is limited to Zones 1-8. All bobcats taken must be checked within 4 working days of the date of harvest. The Director will close the season when the harvest reaches 50 bobcats. Contact District Office for updates on the total harvest and season closure.

COYOTE & FOX

Hunting hours end at midnight. Artificial lights prohibited. Rifles chambered to take larger than .22 caliber long rifle rimfire ammunition and pistols and revolvers chambered to take ammunition larger than .38 caliber are prohibited between the hours of ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise (night time). Shotguns are allowed (see Shotgun Ammunition). Firearms other than shotguns and bows and arrows are prohibited on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant and quail season. Coyote and Fox must be tagged within four working days of the end of the season. For hunting coyotes during shotgun deer season, all shotgun deer season rules apply (hunter orange, firearms, etc.).

RACCOON

Limit of 3 raccoons from sunset of 1 day to sunset of following day by 1 person; 6 by 2 or more persons hunting in same group. Night hunting on WMAs (except Delaney and Flint Pond WMAs) is permitted from sunset to sunrise except from Oct. 16 to Nov. 27 on areas stocked with pheasant or quail, when raccoon may be hunted only from 9pm to 3am.

OPOSSUM

No bag limit on opossum. Night hunting on WMAs (except Delaney and Flint Pond WMAs) is permitted from sunset to sunrise except from Oct. 16 to Nov. 27 on areas stocked with pheasant or quail, when opossum may be hunted only from 9pm to 3am.

Trapping

OPEN SEASON (All Dates Inclusive)

TRAPPING SPECIES	
Bobcat*, Coyote*, Fox*, Weasel	Nov. 1 – Nov. 30
Fisher*	Nov. 1 – Nov. 22
Mink*, River Otter*	Nov. 1 – Dec. 15
Beaver*	Nov. 1 – April 15, 2011
Muskrat, Opossum, Raccoon, Skunk	Nov. 1 – Feb. 28, 2011

* Pelt sealing required; see below.

TRAP TYPES

The only traps which may be used for the taking of fur-bearing mammals are cage or box type traps and common rat traps. Hancock and Bailey traps may be used only when the trapper has been trained in their use and may be used only for taking beaver. A trapper using these traps must carry with him/her a certificate of completion of the course on Hancock and Bailey traps. Common rat traps may be used for the taking of weasels only.

Steel-jaw foothold traps, padded jaw traps, body-gripping (Conibear) traps (see below), snares, deadfalls, and any traps other than those specified above are **prohibited**. Such traps may not be set, tended, used, or possessed in the field.

There is a detailed procedure for obtaining a special permit to use a body gripping (Conibear) trap for certain types of wildlife damage. Contact your local DFW District Office for details.

MANDATORY TRAINING: Persons using Bailey or Hancock traps must take the trapper education class offered by the Hunter Education Program (See Trapper Education).

REPORTING STOLEN TRAPS: A trapper must report loss or theft of a trap in writing to the Office of Law Enforcement within 48 hours of the loss or theft, or remain responsible for its use. The report should include the number and type of traps, the date, time, place and circumstances of the loss or theft. Such reports must be signed under the pains and penalties of perjury. Stolen traps should be reported to:

COASTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT:
Mass. Environmental Police
Office of Law Enforcement
Attn: Trap Loss
Bldg. #45, 349 Lincoln St.
Hingham, MA 02043

INLAND LAW ENFORCEMENT:
Mass. Environmental Police
Office of Law Enforcement
Attn: Trap Loss
183 Milk Street
Westborough, MA 01581

STAKING is not a recognized practice and conveys no special trapping privileges.

BOBCAT

Bobcat may be taken by trapping in Wildlife Management Zones 1–8. Pelts must be sealed within 4 working days of the date of harvest. The Director will close the season when the harvest reaches 50 bobcats. Contact District Office for updates on the total harvest and season closure.

PELT SEALING

- **Beaver, Coyote, Fisher, Fox, Mink, and River Otter pelts** must be sealed within four working days of the end of the season.
- **Bobcat pelts** must be sealed within four working days of the date of harvest.
- **Pelt sealing is not required** for muskrat, opossum, raccoon, skunk, or weasel.

SALE OF PELTS

EXPORTING RAW FURS: When shipping raw fur pelts by any carrier, the contents of the package and the shipper's hunting or trapping license number must be listed on the outside of the package.

The destruction or removal of any identifying tag or label that is attached to a container in which skins are shipped is unlawful.

All river otter and bobcat require CITES tags to be lawfully exported for sale.

PELTS of coyote, wild fox, wild mink, gray wolf, bobcat, lynx, fisher, marten, river otter, or beaver may not be sold in Massachusetts unless tagged by the state or province of origin.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND REPORTING VIOLATIONS

Know the current laws and regulations before you trap. If you are aware of illegal trapping activities, or suspect a violation of any wildlife law, Environmental Police Officers can be reached at (800) 632-8075 (toll free) or (617) 727-6398.

VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES: Trapping licenses can be revoked for one year in addition to other penalties and fines as well as restitutions of up to \$1000 and/or six months in jail. Traps and other equipment can be seized and forfeited to the Commonwealth. In addition, Problem Animal Control Licenses and/or Furbuyer licenses can be revoked, plus fines and penalties assessed, and additionally, fur products can be seized and forfeited to the Commonwealth.

Incidental catch of any species other than beaver or muskrat while trapping with a 10 day emergency permit must be turned over to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Trapping

TRAP REGISTRATION

All traps used on the land of another must have a valid registration number (obtained and validated from Boston office) embedded or cut into the trap. The assigned number, including letter and figures, must be at least 1/8 inches high and legible at all times. The trap must also have attached a metal tag bearing the owner's name, town and registration number. Once obtained, your registration number is yours for life, but must be renewed every two years. If you wish to trap on another's land, you must maintain a current certification of that registration number. Registration numbers are available from the Boston office of the DFW. The annual fee for trap registration is \$5.00. Renewal fee is \$5.00. Make check payable to Comm. of MA—DFW.

FURBEARER CHECK STATIONS

Any wild fox, coyote, fisher, wild mink, river otter, or beaver killed must be taken to an official check station to be sealed by an agent of the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife within four working days of the end of season for each species. Bobcat must be tagged with official seals within four working days of the date harvested. Sealing is not required for weasel, raccoon, opossum, skunk, and muskrat.

Check stations are located at all Wildlife District Headquarters, Bitzer and Sunderland State Fish Hatcheries, Newbury WMA Headquarters, and Westborough Field Headquarters (Monday–Friday excluding holidays). Coyotes may be checked at other locations; visit our website at www.mass.gov/masswildlife or call Westborough Field Headquarters. See list of check stations at right. Call check station prior to bringing animals for sealing.

MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION

The trapper education course is mandatory for:

- all first-time trappers before they may obtain a trap registration number or trap on the land of another
- all first-time Problem Animal Control Agents
- anyone planning to use a Bailey or Hancock trap. Bailey and Hancock traps may not be used, set, tended, or placed unless the trapper has successfully completed a training course in their use. The trapper's certificate must be carried when using such traps.

Trapper Education must be taken in Massachusetts. To register for a Trapper Education course call (978) 772-0693.

FURBEARER CHECK STATIONS

Check stations are open Monday–Friday (excluding holidays). Call check stations prior to bringing pelts in for sealing. Some deer check stations may also check coyotes.

The following are Division furbearer check stations:

Western District—Dalton	(413) 684-1646
Conn. Valley District—Belchertown	(413) 323-7632
Central District—West Boylston	(508) 835-3607
Northeast District—Ayer	(978) 772-2145
Southeast District—Buzzards Bay	(508) 759-3406
Sunderland Hatchery—Sunderland.....	(413) 665-4680
Bitzer Fish Hatchery—Montague	(413) 367-2477
Martin Burns WMA Hqtrs—Newbury.....	(978) 465-8012
DFW Field Hqtrs—Westborough	(508) 389-6300

Trapping

PROBLEM ANIMAL CONTROL AGENTS

Problem Animal Control (PAC) agents are private individuals licensed by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to assist the public in situations involving sick animals or animals causing property damage. PAC agents are authorized to handle the following animals only: striped skunk, muskrat, raccoon, weasel, red and gray fox, coyote*, porcupine, rats, mice, voles**, red, gray or flying squirrel, opossum, chipmunk, European rabbit, cottontail rabbit, woodchuck, snapping turtle, moles, pigeons, house sparrows, starlings and bats**.

* Additional certification required.

** Certain rare species of bats and voles are not covered under this authorization.

TO BECOME A PROBLEM ANIMAL CONTROL (PAC) AGENT: You must possess a valid trapping license and trap registration number; register and tag all traps and submit an application to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

FIRST-TIME PAC TRAPPERS MUST:

- Complete a mandatory trapper education class.
- Pass a written exam on biology, handling, capture techniques, laws and regulations, animal welfare, diseases and parasites. Applicants who fail the exam may retake the exam after a two month period.

Municipal officials must have a permit to conduct activities but fee is waived. Applications can be obtained through the Westborough Field Headquarters (508) 389-6300. A list of licensed PAC agents is available on the DFW's website.

COST FOR PAC AGENT LICENSE — \$100.00

RECERTIFICATION: Permittees are required to attend a PAC workshop once every three years from the time of successful completion of the first exam.

Animals taken under PAC permits, their carcasses or any parts cannot be retained, sold, bartered, or exchanged for consideration, except during the open trapping season for that species.

REPORTING: Licenses are valid from January 1 to December 31. PAC agents receive a reporting form on which they must record transactions as they occur. All agents must keep a record of all animal complaints handled or investigated by them. Reporting forms must be available for inspection by an Environmental Police Officer (EPO) or officials of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife at any reasonable time.

Annual report forms must be submitted yearly to the Division, no later than January 31. Failure to submit the annual report, provide required information, or making false statements in the report is cause for suspension, revocation or non-renewal of the PAC permit.

TRAPPING PROHIBITIONS—IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- 1 Trap before 6:00am on opening day of any trapping season.
- 2 Possess or use a trap on another's land from April 16 to 6:00am of the following November 1.
- 3 Possess the green pelt of any furbearer except during the open season and for 10 days thereafter.
- 4 Possess or control an unregistered trap on another's land.
- 5 Possess or control another's registered trap except with his written permission.
- 6 Trap on posted land of another without his written consent.
- 7 Trap in a public way, cart road or path commonly used by humans or domestic animals.
- 8 Use poison or use a trap that takes more than one animal at a time.
- 9 Destroy, mutilate, or spring another's trap or remove any animal from another's trap without his written authorization.
- 10 Fail to check and remove an animal from each trap at least once in each calendar day between 4:00am and 10:00pm.
- 11 Tear open or disturb a muskrat or beaver house or beaver dam, except under permit. A beaver house or lodge is a den comprised of an aggregate of sticks and mud which is constructed or built by beaver and which is either free-standing in water or connected to an embankment.
- 12 Trap fur-bearing mammals with any trap other than a cage or box type trap, or a common rat trap.
- 13 Use, set, or place a Hancock or Bailey type beaver trap without having completed a training course, or to use, set, or place such trap except when set in water or upon a beaver lodge, dam, stump, or other above water protrusion surrounded by water.
- 14 Pick up any road-killed furbearers during the closed season, or to pick up road-killed furbearers during the open season without a valid hunting or trapping license as appropriate to that species.
- 15 Alter, tamper with or reapply a furbearer tag or seal, or possess any altered or resealed tag (unless it is destroyed to such a condition that it could not be reappplied).
- 16 Possess any pelt bearing an altered or resealed tag or seal.

RABIES

Rabies in wild mammals has been confirmed in all counties in Massachusetts EXCEPT Dukes and Nantucket. Wear rubber gloves when skinning furbearers. If you believe you have been exposed to a rabid animal, scrub the area thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical attention immediately. Isolate and preserve the dead animal by refrigeration as soon as possible. Contact your local Board of Health.

Sunrise-Sunset

2010 SUNRISE-SUNSET TABLE for WORCESTER, Massachusetts

Day	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December	
	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM
01	0716	1625	0701	1701	0623	1737	0530	1813	0443	1846	0413	1917	0414	1928	0440	1907	0512	1822	0544	1729	0620	1641	0656	1616
02	0716	1626	0700	1702	0622	1738	0529	1814	0442	1847	0413	1918	0415	1927	0441	1906	0513	1820	0545	1728	0621	1640	0657	1616
03	0716	1627	0659	1704	0620	1739	0527	1815	0441	1848	0413	1918	0415	1927	0442	1905	0514	1818	0546	1726	0622	1639	0658	1615
04	0716	1628	0658	1705	0618	1740	0525	1816	0439	1850	0412	1919	0416	1927	0443	1903	0515	1817	0547	1724	0624	1637	0659	1615
05	0716	1629	0657	1706	0617	1742	0524	1817	0438	1851	0412	1920	0417	1927	0444	1902	0516	1815	0548	1722	0625	1636	0700	1615
06	0716	1630	0656	1708	0615	1743	0522	1818	0437	1852	0411	1921	0417	1926	0445	1901	0517	1813	0549	1721	0626	1635	0701	1615
07	0716	1631	0654	1709	0613	1744	0520	1819	0435	1853	0411	1921	0418	1926	0446	1900	0518	1811	0551	1719	0627	1634	0702	1615
08	0716	1632	0653	1710	0612	1745	0519	1821	0434	1854	0411	1922	0418	1926	0447	1858	0519	1810	0552	1717	0629	1633	0703	1615
09	0716	1633	0652	1712	0610	1746	0517	1822	0433	1855	0411	1922	0419	1925	0448	1857	0521	1808	0553	1716	0630	1632	0704	1615
10	0715	1634	0651	1713	0608	1748	0515	1823	0432	1856	0411	1923	0420	1925	0449	1856	0522	1806	0554	1714	0631	1631	0705	1615
11	0715	1635	0649	1714	0607	1749	0514	1824	0431	1857	0410	1923	0421	1924	0450	1854	0523	1805	0555	1712	0632	1630	0706	1615
12	0715	1636	0648	1715	0605	1750	0512	1825	0430	1858	0410	1924	0421	1924	0451	1853	0524	1803	0556	1711	0634	1629	0707	1615
13	0715	1638	0647	1717	0603	1751	0510	1826	0429	1859	0410	1924	0422	1923	0452	1851	0525	1801	0557	1709	0635	1628	0707	1615
14	0714	1639	0645	1718	0602	1752	0509	1827	0427	1900	0410	1925	0423	1923	0453	1850	0526	1759	0558	1708	0636	1627	0708	1615
15	0714	1640	0644	1719	0600	1753	0507	1828	0426	1901	0410	1925	0424	1922	0454	1849	0527	1757	0600	1706	0637	1626	0709	1616
16	0713	1641	0643	1721	0558	1755	0505	1829	0425	1902	0410	1926	0425	1921	0455	1847	0528	1756	0601	1704	0639	1625	0710	1616
17	0713	1642	0641	1722	0556	1756	0504	1831	0424	1903	0410	1926	0425	1921	0456	1846	0529	1754	0602	1703	0640	1624	0710	1616
18	0712	1643	0640	1723	0555	1757	0502	1832	0423	1904	0410	1926	0426	1920	0457	1844	0530	1752	0603	1701	0641	1623	0711	1617
19	0712	1645	0638	1724	0553	1758	0501	1833	0423	1905	0410	1927	0427	1919	0458	1843	0531	1750	0604	1700	0642	1622	0712	1617
20	0711	1646	0637	1726	0551	1759	0459	1834	0422	1906	0411	1927	0428	1919	0459	1841	0532	1749	0605	1658	0644	1622	0712	1617
21	0710	1647	0635	1727	0549	1800	0458	1835	0421	1907	0411	1927	0429	1918	0501	1840	0533	1747	0607	1657	0645	1621	0713	1618
22	0710	1648	0634	1728	0548	1801	0456	1836	0420	1908	0411	1927	0430	1917	0502	1838	0534	1745	0608	1655	0646	1620	0713	1618
23	0709	1650	0632	1729	0546	1802	0455	1837	0419	1909	0411	1928	0431	1916	0503	1836	0535	1743	0609	1654	0647	1620	0714	1619
24	0708	1651	0631	1731	0544	1804	0453	1838	0418	1910	0411	1928	0432	1915	0504	1835	0536	1742	0610	1652	0648	1619	0714	1619
25	0707	1652	0629	1732	0543	1805	0452	1840	0418	1911	0412	1928	0433	1914	0505	1833	0537	1740	0611	1651	0649	1619	0714	1620
26	0707	1653	0628	1733	0541	1806	0450	1841	0417	1912	0412	1928	0434	1913	0506	1832	0538	1738	0613	1649	0651	1618	0715	1621
27	0706	1655	0626	1734	0539	1807	0449	1842	0416	1913	0413	1928	0435	1912	0507	1830	0540	1736	0614	1648	0652	1618	0715	1621
28	0705	1656	0625	1736	0537	1808	0447	1843	0416	1914	0413	1928	0436	1911	0508	1828	0541	1735	0615	1647	0653	1617	0715	1622
29	0704	1657	—	—	0536	1809	0446	1844	0415	1915	0413	1928	0437	1910	0509	1827	0542	1733	0616	1645	0654	1617	0716	1623
30	0703	1659	—	—	0534	1810	0445	1845	0415	1915	0414	1928	0438	1909	0510	1825	0543	1731	0617	1644	0655	1616	0716	1624
31	0702	1700	—	—	0532	1812	—	—	0414	1916	—	—	0439	1908	0511	1823	—	—	0619	1642	—	—	0716	1624

Table is EASTERN STANDARD TIME. Add 1 hour for daylight savings time, if and when in use.

BOSTON subtract 3 minutes; SPRINGFIELD add 3 minutes; PITTSFIELD add 7 minutes.

Source: U. S. Naval Observatory, Astronomical Applications Department, Washington, D.C. 20392-5420

Office of Law Enforcement—Environmental Police

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

(800) 632-8075

www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle

MAIN OFFICE (Boston)

Director: Aaron Gross, Colonel

Deputy Director: vacant

(617) 626-1650

(617) 626-1670 fax

251 Causeway Street

Boston, MA 02114

REGIONAL OFFICES for BOAT, ATV & SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION

Boston

251 Causeway St.

Boston, MA 02114

(617) 626-1610

Fall River

218 South Main Street, 3rd Floor

Fall River, MA 02721

(508) 679-8287

Hyannis

60 Perseverance Way

Hyannis, MA 02601

(508) 771-8382

Springfield

165 Liberty Street, Lower Level

Springfield, MA 01103

(413) 733-1642

Worcester

67 Millbrook Street

Suite 350, 3rd Floor

Worcester, MA

(508) 753-0603

INLAND LAW ENFORCEMENT

INLAND BUREAU HEADQUARTERS

(508) 366-1176

vacant

(508) 366-6537 (radio room)

(508) 366-1182 fax

183 Milk Street

Westborough, MA 01581

Eastern Massachusetts

W. F. Gray III, Captain

(781) 293-4745

(781) 293-4746 fax

11 Hawks Avenue, P.O. Box 88

Hanson, MA 02341

Western Massachusetts

W. F. Gray III, Captain

John Pajak, Lieutenant

(413) 367-0016

(413) 367-0032 fax

316 Turners Falls Road

Montague, MA 01351

COASTAL ENFORCEMENT

COASTAL ENFORCEMENT HEADQUARTERS

(781) 740-2577

vacant

(781) 740-2442

(781) 740-1163

(781) 740-4113 fax

349 Lincoln Street, Building 45

Hingham, MA 02043

John Tulik, Captain

(978) 283-7764

(978) 283-1162

(978) 283-6729 fax

2 State Fish Pier

Gloucester, MA 01930

SOUTH COASTAL ENFORCEMENT HEADQUARTERS

Len Roberts, Captain

(508) 759-4889

(508) 759-7774 fax

1 Trowbridge Road, Suite 325

Bourne, MA 02532

MARINE THEFT/BOATING SAFETY

George Agganis, Captain

(617) 626-1666

(617) 626-1605 fax

251 Causeway Street, Suite 101

Boston, MA 02114

BOATING & RECREATIONAL VEHICLE SAFETY

Merri Walker, Lieutenant

(508) 759-0002

(508) 759-2257

(508) 759-3393

(508) 759-3357 fax

1 Trowbridge Road, Suite 325

Bourne, MA 02532

ENVIRONMENTAL STRIKE FORCE

Gail Larson, Lieutenant

(617) 727-2200

(617) 727-5755 fax

1 Ashburton Place

Boston, MA 02108

SALVAGE OF DEER & MOOSE

ROAD-KILLED DEER may be kept by a Massachusetts driver or passenger of vehicle killing said deer if reported to Law Enforcement at (800) 632-8075 immediately and then tagged at a DFW or Environmental Police office within 24 hours and a free permit issued.

ROAD-KILLED MOOSE may not be kept by a Massachusetts driver or passenger of the vehicle killing the moose. The disposition of any moose carcass is only at the discretion of the Environmental Police or the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. To report a road-killed moose, call the DFW at (508) 389-6300.

Outdoor Skills & Wildlife Education Programs

The Division of Fisheries & Wildlife offers a wide range of educational and skills programs. With suitable lead time, programs can be adapted to the needs of virtually any group.

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM: Provides courses in the safe handling of firearms, and other outdoor activities related to hunting and firearm use. Designed for novices, courses in Basic Hunter Education, Bowhunter Education, Trapper Education and others are offered statewide throughout the year. Certificates in certain courses satisfy hunting license requirements for Massachusetts as well as other states and Canadian provinces. For more information, call (978) 772-0693.

ANGLER EDUCATION PROGRAM: Teaches people of all ages, especially children, about fish and their environment. The program focuses on freshwater fishing skills, basic safety techniques, outdoor ethics, and aquatic ecology through workshop sessions and through family fishing festivals. For more information, call (508) 389-6309.

JUNIOR DUCK STAMP PROGRAM: Connecting Children with Nature through the Arts. Students in grades K-12 participate in a dynamic art and science education program designed to teach wetland habitat and waterfowl conservation. Artists communicate visually what they have learned by creating an entry for the JDS contest. Download guidelines and entry form at www.fws.gov/juniorduck. Co-sponsored by the USFWS, Massachusetts Waterfowlers and the Massachusetts Wildlife Federation. For more information, call (508) 389-6310.

PROJECT WILD: Interdisciplinary, hands-on workshops for educators of K-12 students focusing on terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and ecosystems. Encourages problem-solving and decision-making skills concerning the environment. Scout leaders, youth group leaders, homeschoolers, and both formal and non-formal educators find the materials and workshop valuable. Hours may be used toward obtaining PDPs. For more information, call (508) 389-6310.

GROWING UP WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children is an early childhood education activity guide that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Through a wide range of activities and experiences, it provides a foundation for developing positive impressions about nature. For professional development workshop information call (508) 389-6310.

BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN: This is a program for women ages 18 and up which introduces them to outdoor skills in a safe, friendly and non-competitive environment. It provides a venue to learn skills related to fishing, hunting, camping, and hiking under the guidance of expert instructors. There is one full weekend of activities plus many single-day events providing an opportunity to sample activities from archery to wildlife photography and from kayaking to fly-fishing.

Notices are sent through an e-mail distribution network. To get on the mailing list visit the Division's website at www.mass.gov/masswildlife and follow the prompts to the education area. For more information, call (508) 389-6305.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG HUNTERS

The traditions and values of hunting and our outdoor heritage were and are an integral part of sustaining our conservation ethic. However, changes in the lifestyles, leisure time, family activities, and access to the outdoors present significant challenges to passing this heritage on to future generations.

Young people today do not have the same opportunities to shoot or hunt as did the youth of a generation ago. The days of walking down the road to the nearby farm or woodlot to hunt after school are all but gone except in the most rural communities. Many youth growing up in urban or suburban communities do not have access to suitable hunting lands and many grow up in families that lack the outdoor skills and knowledge that they seek. Not only are opportunities for youth to learn and access open areas limited, but there are many competing options for ways to spend their limited leisure time including the internet, video games, organized sports and school activities.

For these reasons, the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife has joined in partnership with sportsmen's clubs across the state and with such conservation organizations as the National Wild Turkey Federation, to offer special hunting opportunities for young hunters.

Sportsmen's clubs, working through their membership and, in the case of the Youth Turkey Hunt, working with members of the MA chapter of NWTFF, conduct multiple day program workshops leading up to an actual hunt in which each participant hunts under the watchful eye of a mentor. The participating clubs conduct the programs and the DFW provides the necessary training materials as well as a hunting safety kit for each participant. These programs are open to any club or organization wishing to participate. There are no fees for participation.

YOUTH PHEASANT HUNT: This is a complete program that includes:

- Instruction on firearms safety in the field.
- Safe, supervised shooting instruction and practice prior to a hunt.
- Lessons on hunting ethics and behavior.
- Training on hunting regulations and safety.
- Instruction on how to clean and prepare game.
- A safe, supervised hunt under the guidance of an experienced, responsible adult hunter.
- Application of field techniques learned in the hunter education course.
- Programs are offered through sportsmen's clubs throughout the state.

Hunting

Youth Pheasant Hunts may be conducted on one of the following six (6) Saturdays prior to the start the regular pheasant hunting season. In 2010 these will be one of the six Saturdays prior to October 16th.

YOUTH TURKEY HUNT: This program is modeled on the Youth Pheasant Hunt and provides the same types of instruction in preparation for a supervised hunting experience as well as an actual field experience. The Youth Turkey Hunt takes place on the Saturday prior to the last Monday in April. In 2010 this hunt will take place on April 24th.

These programs are offered only through participating sportsmen's clubs. To locate a club which offers the youth pheasant hunt program or the youth turkey hunting program, call your local sportsmen's club or check the DFW website at www.mass.gov/masswildlife, click on "Education."

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT: Two days are set aside prior to the waterfowl hunting seasons especially for young hunters ages 12-17. All youth must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter with a valid Massachusetts waterfowl stamp. The young hunter and accompanying adult may have only one firearm between them. The adult may not hunt and may carry the firearm only when it is unloaded and cased. No license or stamp needed for youths ages 12-14. License and Massachusetts waterfowl stamp needed for youths age 15-17. No federal stamp required.

LAND: A PRECIOUS COMMODITY

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) is charged with the stewardship of all plant and animal species indigenous to the Commonwealth. That is no small mandate. To help fulfill this order, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife and the Department of Fish & Game created a Land Acquisition Initiative with two specific goals in mind:

- 1 To acquire land in order to protect and perpetuate ecosystems that contain significant fish and wildlife resources and to conserve the biological diversity of the state. These lands shall be open for compatible public use and enjoyment.
- 2 In conjunction with the Public Access Board (now the Office of Fishing and Boating Access), provide adequate routes of access to the lands and waters of the Commonwealth to ensure public use and enjoyment of the state's biological resources compatible with natural resource conservation.

With the above goals for guidance, the highest priorities of the Division's land acquisition effort are to protect:

- high-quality water-related habitats, e.g. cold water streams, major rivers, emergent marshes and other wetlands
- outstanding natural communities, e.g. limestone wetlands, floodplain forests, old growth forests, and vernal pools
- the diversity of the state's native species, including state-listed species, harvested species and species subject to interjurisdictional regulations (e.g. neotropical birds)

Although habitat and species protection are the primary objective of the land acquisition effort, opportunities for public recreation are always part of the equation, and all DFW properties are open and available to compatible public recreation.

Land and water are necessary for all species to exist, and because of this, land protection is one of the DFW's and DFG's highest priorities. It has also been a high priority of recent administrations, particularly the current administration which has allocated \$50 million per year toward land protection and stewardship. The large amount of acreage protected in recent years is reflected in this commitment. In FY 09 the DFW & DFG acquired over 10,280 acres. DFW currently owns/manages over 180,000 acres statewide. Our ability to acquire and protect a wide variety and amount of habitat is key to our effort to protect all plant and animal species native to the Commonwealth.

FY 09 was a very interesting and successful year for land protection with many new projects and a few important old projects coming to fruition. Fifty six acquisitions were completed, providing habitat protection and public recreation on approximately 10,280 acres at a cost of \$13.85 million. Acquisitions included 44 different areas within 42 different municipalities. Eleven new areas were established. Conservation Easements (CE) played a major role in land protection efforts in the eastern and central parts of the state. Although CEs accounted for only 12 of the 56 projects, they included over three quarters of the acreage protected.

Parcels ranged in size from one acre stream access tracts on the Nissitissit and Sawmill Rivers to the huge 4,300 acre Fall River Conservation Easement. Municipalities were the donors of about 75% of the total acreage protected by the agency in 2009. The driving factor appears to have been the need for funding coupled with a desire to preserve open space for resource protection and

for recreation. As in the past, non-profit/third party assistance was an important element in many purchases, with direct assistance on a dozen acquisitions and valuable input on others.

Although all acquisitions are important, a few notable projects stand out. Among them is the 158 acre A.D. Makepeace "bookend" acquisition in Wareham and Plymouth which initiates and creates a framework for the future protection of thousands of acres of ADM Company property; the 17 acre Western Massachusetts Council of the Boy Scouts of America tract along the Housatonic River in Dalton, site of the new Western District headquarters; and the 15 acre addition to the Ayer Game Farm property which is home to the new Northeast District headquarters.

Tight fiscal times sparked vigorous, early acquisition activity. This led to many acquisitions early in the fiscal year and a "smaller than usual" crunch at the end. The 10,280 acres protected in FY 09 brings the total area protected as wildlife lands to about 281 square miles. The DFW areas are open to compatible public recreation for all. Anyone who enjoys the great out-of-doors is certainly encouraged to use and enjoy the vast recreational opportunity available on DFW property.

TOTAL DFW ACREAGE BY AREA TYPE (through FY 09)

AREA TYPE	# OF AREAS	ACRES
Wildlife Management Areas	137	128,492.0
Wildlife Sanctuaries	13	1,197.0
Fish Hatcheries	5	559.3
Game Farms	3	382.1
River Access	34	2,951.8
Salt Marsh	7	707.7
Lake, Pond & Coastal Access	27	295.6
Fisheries & Wildlife Areas	5	461.0
NHESP Areas	33	2,728.5
Conservation Restrictions/Easements (Some CRs are included in WMAs)	46	27,194.0
Mass. Military Reservation	1	15,000.0
Military Lands, Forest Areas, Wildlife Districts, Islands, Hatchery Land, MDC/F&W Areas and Marsh	—	663.9
GRAND TOTAL	—	180,631.9

STOP THE SPREAD

of Nuisance Aquatic Plants and Animals

Boaters, anglers, and other lake users need to take steps to avoid the spread of zebra mussels and other destructive aquatic invasive species.

Zebra mussels and several other aquatic invasive species pose serious threats to the ecological, recreational, and economic values of Massachusetts' lakes, ponds, and rivers. Zebra mussels were first found in Massachusetts in July 2009 in Laurel Lake, located in the Berkshire County towns of Lee and Lenox. This discovery underscores the reality that all people who use our water bodies for boating, fishing, swimming, diving and other recreational pursuits have a responsibility to help prevent the further spread of aquatic invasive species.

Zebra and quagga mussels in particular are two of the most ecologically and economically damaging aquatic organisms to invade the United States. Their destructive power lies in their sheer numbers and ability to attach to solid objects—water intake pipes, propellers, boat hulls, dock pilings, submerged rocks and even other aquatic animals.

These mussels threaten native mussels, fish, and other wildlife that live in our lakes and rivers. By consuming available food, they significantly alter the ecology of lakes and rivers. They can also wash up on beaches, covering them with thousands of sharp shells. Boat engines can be ruined by zebra and quagga mussels growing in the cooling system intakes and blocking water flow, and they can also jam steering equipment.

To help prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasives, boaters should use extreme caution before launching their boats in Massachusetts. If you have been boating in New York, Vermont, Connecticut, or at Laurel Lake in Lee/Lenox or any water body that contains zebra or quagga mussels, it is especially important that you thoroughly inspect and properly wash your boat and other equipment before launching. Best practices for boaters and other lake users are outlined below and can be found in Section 4.3 and Attachment D of the Massachusetts Interim Zebra Mussel Action Plan developed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Department of Fish and Game in August of 2009:

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/press/zebra_mussel_interim_action_plan.pdf

The decontamination practices outlined below are now mandatory for boaters using state boat ramps in the Housatonic and Hoosic River watersheds in Berkshire County if boaters have used their boats in waters known to harbor zebra mussels. Boaters using state boat ramps in the region are also required to self-certify that their boat has been properly cleaned or has not been used in zebra mussel infested waters.

The web link below is to the self certification form that boaters must fill out if they use state boat ramps in the Housatonic and Hoosic watersheds:

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/press/zebra_mussels_clean_boat_certification_form.pdf

Boaters who fish at the Quabbin Reservoir should also note that the Department of Conservation and Recreation has implemented a boat washing requirement for private boaters who fish in the reservoir. Please see the DCR web site below for information about DCR's zebra mussel management efforts and information on where to go to have your boat cleaned before fishing at the Quabbin Reservoir:

http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/lakepond/hot_topic.htm

By properly cleaning, draining, and drying boats, motors, trailers, fishing gear and other equipment, sportsmen and women, as well as other users of lakes, ponds, and rivers in Massachusetts, can help prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other damaging aquatic invasive species. This is critical if we are to safeguard our fishery resources and other habitat values of the lakes, ponds and rivers we all value.

SELF DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURE

- 1. CLEAN** all plants, fish, mussels and mud from boat
- 2. DRAIN** all water (bilge, livewells, motor)
- 3. DRY** (at least one week in hot/dry weather; at least 18 days in cool/wet weather)
- 4. If you can't keep your watercraft dry, WASH** your boat's hull, trailer, equipment, and any other exposed surfaces, and the inside of your bilge area, livewell, and engine cooling system with high-pressure, hot water AND either:
 - household bleach (½ cup per 2 cups water),
 - 100% vinegar, OR
 - 1% Salt Bath (as NaCl) (⅓ cup per 1 gallon water).

Professional Decontamination: You may also use a professional car wash, provided it can apply scalding water (140°F) to wash your boat and trailer and to flush your bilge, livewells and motor.