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HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATION PROPOSALS

For 2018-2019 and 2019-2020

(All dates inclusive.)

**Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building E-1
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401**

Summary Of Proposed Changes

Pheasant

1. Increase the pheasant daily bag limit from one male to two birds, either-sex.

Webless Migratory Game Birds (Doves, Rails, Snipe and Woodcock)

1. Add additional hunting days to webless migratory game bird seasons in response to a recent change by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service granting compensatory days in states where Sunday hunting for all migratory game birds is prohibited by state law.

Black Bear

1. Increase the length of the hunting season by one day. Currently, the bear hunting season is four days (Monday through Thursday) beginning the Monday after the early muzzleloader deer hunting season. This concept would set the hunting season at five days (Monday through Friday).

Wild Turkey

1. Extend the length of the fall turkey season by one day. The season would begin on the last Saturday in October and last 9 days, ending on the first Sunday in November. Note - this season only exists in Western Maryland.

White-tailed Deer

1. Reduce the statewide antlered deer bag limit to two antlered deer or "Bucks". Hunters will be eligible to take a third antlered deer in Region B only with the purchase of a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp. No more than one antlered deer can be taken in a weapon season (archery, muzzleloader, firearm), unless the Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp is used. Note: the Bonus stamp is not eligible in Region A, as a result a hunter may not take two bucks in a weapon season under any circumstance in Region A.
2. Remove the requirement to harvest two antlerless white-tailed deer in Region B before using a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp.
3. Increase antlerless hunting opportunity on Public Land in Region A by allowing either-sex deer harvest during the early muzzleloader season.
4. Change the Region B archery antlerless bag limit from unlimited to 10.
5. Add additional archery hunting opportunities on Sundays in Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Kent, Montgomery, Garrett, and Washington counties.

See below for the goals and background of proposed changes and the proposed season dates and bag limits for all resident game species.

Proposed Changes For Upland Game

Pheasant

Proposed Action: Increase the pheasant daily bag limit from one male to two birds, either-sex.

Rationale/Goal: Sustainable wild-reproducing pheasant populations no longer exist in Maryland. This change will simplify the hunting of released or escaped pheasants and be more consistent with surrounding states' bag limits.

Comments: Despite decades of restrictive bag limits in Maryland and other Mid-Atlantic States, pheasant populations continued to decline precipitously due to changes in habitat and farming practices. Wild pheasants have not been found in huntable numbers in Maryland for at least 15 years. However a significant number of pheasants are released for hunting and dog training purposes. Allowing the harvest of two pheasants of either-sex will allow greater utilization of released or escaped birds and may encourage participation in small-game hunting.

Proposed Upland Game Seasons and Bag Limits 2018-2019 and 2019-2020

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	2018-2019 Nov 3 – Feb 28	All counties	4 per day	8
	2019-2020 Nov 2 – Feb 29			
Crow	2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Aug 15 – Mar 15 Wed – Sat Only	All counties	No Limit	No Limit
Pheasant	2018 Nov 3 – Dec 31 2019 Nov 2 – Dec 31	All counties	2 per day, either sex	4
Quail	2018 Nov 3 – Dec 15	Lands owned or managed by DNR – excluding Garrett and Allegany counties	6 per day	12
	2019 Nov 2 – Dec 14		No more than 3 on lands owned	

Quail	2018-2019 Nov 3 – Jan 15 2019-2020 Nov 2 – Jan 15	Private lands west of I-83 from PA south to I-695 to I-95 south to VA.; excluding Garrett and Allegany counties	or managed by DNR	
Quail	2018-2019 Nov 3 – Feb 15 2019-2020 Nov 2 – Feb 15	Private lands east of I-83 from PA south to I-695 to I-95 south to VA		
Quail	CLOSED SEASON	Garrett and Allegany counties		

**Proposed Falconry Upland Game Seasons and Bag Limits
2018-2019 and 2019-2020**

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit (falconry)	2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Nov 1 – Mar 31	All counties	4 per day	8
Quail (falconry)	2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Nov 1 – Mar 31	All counties	4 per day	8
Pheasant (falconry)	2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Nov 1 – Mar 31	All counties	2 per day, either sex	4

**Proposed Falconry Forest Game Seasons & Bag Limits
2018-2019 and 2019-2020**

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Ruffed grouse (falconry)	2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Oct 1 – Mar 31	All counties	2 per day	4
Squirrel – Gray, Eastern Fox, Red or Piney* (falconry)	2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Sep 1 – Mar 31	All counties	6 per day * no limit for Red or Piney	12 * no limit for Red or Piney

Proposed Changes For Migratory Game Birds

Webless Migratory Game Birds (Doves, Rails, Snipe and Woodcock)

Proposed Action: Add additional hunting days to webless migratory game bird seasons in response to a recent change by USFWS granting compensatory days in states where Sunday hunting for all migratory game birds is prohibited by state law.

Rationale/Goal - The USFWS establishes frameworks for migratory game bird hunting, including the maximum daily bag limit, beginning and ending hunt dates and maximum number of days. The USFWS recently approved compensatory days for webless migratory game birds for states where Sunday hunting for migratory game birds is prohibited by state law.

Prior to this change, Sundays counted against the maximum number of days in states where Sunday hunting is prohibited by state law. Beginning with the 2018-19 hunting season, the federal framework will allow a maximum number of hunting days, rather than calendar days. This change will add hunting opportunity for Maryland hunters – especially dove hunters. Harvest rates for these species are low and generally believed to be largely compensatory and of minimal effect on annual populations of these species.

Comments: For example, in 2017-18, there were 12 Sundays included in the season dates for mourning doves and 6 Sundays included in the season dates for woodcock. With compensatory days, we would add hunting days to equal the number of available Sundays.

Note

Seasons, bag limits and possession limits for migratory game birds must conform to regulations and season frameworks adopted by the Secretary of the Interior. Migratory bird hunting seasons are proposed and public comment is solicited in a process separate from resident game species. Anticipated changes are included here to provide an additional opportunity for public comment.

Proposed Changes For Forest Game (except Deer)

Black Bear

Proposed Action: Increase the length of the hunting season by one day at the end of the season. Currently, the bear hunting season is four days long (Monday through Thursday) beginning the Monday after the early muzzleloader deer hunting season. This concept would set the hunting season at five days (Monday through Friday).

Rationale/Goal: Since switching to a 'set number of days' hunting model in 2014 (vs. the former quota system), hunter success rates dropped from approximately 13% to nearly 8%. The reduced success rate is likely a result of hunters being selective and passing on bears early in the hunting season knowing that they have a fixed number of days to hunt instead of fearing the hunting season will be shut down early as occurred in the quota system.

Adding the additional day will increase opportunity for hunters and likely increase harvest by a modest amount. This is consistent with the goals of the current Bear Management Plan and will in no way jeopardize the sustainability of our bear population. The proposed concept will also provide western Maryland's agricultural producers additional relief from crop depredation caused by black bears.

Comments: By extending opportunity one day during the bear hunting season, DNR anticipates a moderate increase in the overall bear harvest and an increase in hunter success rates. The bear population has continued to grow since reinstating bear hunting in 2004. The growth of Maryland's bear population is particularly noteworthy in the eastern part of Maryland's bear range.

Wild Turkey

Proposed Action: Extend the length of the fall turkey season by one day. The season would begin on the last Saturday in October and last 9 days, ending on the first Sunday in November.

Rationale/Goal: This change would increase opportunity for participation in the fall turkey season.

Comments: A long tradition of fall turkey hunting exists in the western 3 counties (Garrett, Allegany, and Washington). However participation has declined significantly in recent decades with only about 1,500 hunters currently hunting in the fall season. An additional weekend day will provide more opportunity in the field and may increase participation in the season. Harvest rates are low and the population can withstand a slight increase in harvest. In the years since Sunday hunting was permitted, an average of 10 turkeys were harvested on the Sunday of the current season. It is expected this change will result in a similar number of additional turkeys harvested.

**Proposed Forest Game Seasons & Bag Limits
2018-2019 and 2019-2020**

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Black Bear	2018 Oct 22 – Oct 26 2019 Oct 21 – Oct 25 Permit Required	Allegany, Garrett, Frederick, and Washington counties	1 per day with no more than 1 per permitted bear hunting team	1 per season with no more than 1 per permitted bear hunting team
Wild Turkey, fall season	2018 Oct 27 – Nov 4 2019 Oct 26 – Nov 3	Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties	1 either sex	1 either sex per fall/winter season combined
Wild Turkey, winter season	2019 Jan 17 – Jan 19 2020 Jan 23 – Jan 25	All counties	1 either sex	
Wild Turkey, spring season, Junior Hunt (Hunters age 16 or younger only)	2019 April 13 – 14* 2020 April 11 – 12*	All counties *Sunday hunting in certain counties	1 bearded turkey	2 bearded turkeys per season
Wild Turkey	2019 and 2020 Apr 18 – May 23*	All counties *Sunday hunting in certain counties	1 bearded turkey	
Squirrel - Gray & Eastern Fox	2018-2019 Sep 1 – Feb 28 2019-2020 Sep 7 – Feb 29	All counties	6 per day	12
Squirrel - Red or Piney	2018-2019 Sep 1 – Feb 28 2019-2020 Sep 7 – Feb 29	All counties	No Limit	No Limit
Delmarva Fox Squirrel	CLOSED SEASON	All counties		
Ruffed grouse	2018-2019 Oct 6 – Jan 31 2019-2020 Oct 5 – Jan 31	All counties	2 per day	4

No Proposed Changes For Furbearers

Proposed Furbearer Seasons & Bag Limits 2018-2019 and 2019-2020

Species	Open Season	Location	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Beaver Trapping Only	2018-2019 Dec 15 – Mar 15	All counties <i>except</i> Garrett and Allegany counties	No Limit	No Limit
	2019-2020 Dec 14 – Mar 14			
Beaver Trapping Only	2018-2019 Dec 1 – Mar 15	Garrett and Allegany counties	No Limit	No Limit
	2019-2020 Nov 30 – Mar 14			
Bobcat	CLOSED SEASON	All counties		
Coyote Firearms, Archery, & Airgun Hunting	Coyotes may be hunted in all counties year-round during daylight hours (1/2 hr. before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset)		No Limit	No Limit
	2018-2019 Oct 15 – Mar 15	Coyotes may be hunted in all counties day & night	No Limit	No Limit
2019-2020 Oct 15 – Mar 14				
Coyote and Long-Tailed Weasel Trapping Only	2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Nov 1 – Feb 1	In that portion of the State WEST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
	2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Nov 15 – Feb 15	In that portion of the State EAST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
Fox (Red and Gray) Trapping, Firearms, Archery, & Airgun Hunting	2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Nov 1 – Feb 1	Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and Washington counties	No Limit	No Limit
	2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Nov 15 – Feb 15	Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties	No Limit	No Limit
	2018-2019 & 2019-2020 Aug 1 – Jul 31	Charles and Dorchester counties	No Limit	No Limit

Muskrat and Mink Trapping Only	2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Nov 15 – Feb 15	Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard and Washington counties	No Limit	No Limit
	2018-2019 Dec 15 – Mar 15 2019-2020 Dec 16 – Mar 14	Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset and Worcester counties	No Limit	No Limit
	2019 Jan 2 – Mar 15 2020 Jan 1 – Mar 14	Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Talbot and Wicomico counties	No Limit	No Limit
Otter Trapping Only	2018-2019 Dec 15 – Mar 15	In Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Washington counties	2 per day	2 per season
	2019-2020 Dec 14 – Mar 14	In all other counties (except Allegany and Garrett counties)	10 per day	10 per season
Otter Trapping Only	2018-2019 Dec 1 – Mar 15	Garrett and Allegany counties	1 Per day	1 Per season
	2019-2020 Nov 30 – Mar 14			
Raccoon and Opossum Chasing No Kill	2018-2019 Aug 1 – Oct 13 Mar 16 – Jul 31	All counties		
	2019-2020 Aug 1 – Oct 14 Mar 16 – Jul 31			
Raccoon and Opossum Firearms, Archery, Airgun & Dog Hunting	2018-2019 Oct 15 – Mar 15	All counties (Sunset to Sunrise)	No Limit	No Limit
	2019-2020 Oct 15 – Mar 14			
Raccoon, Skunk, and Opossum Trapping	2018-2019 Nov 1 – Mar 15	In that portion of the State WEST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
	2019-2020 Nov 1 – Mar 14			

	2018-2019 Nov 15 – Mar 15 2019-2020 Nov 15 – Mar 14	In that portion of the State EAST of the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River	No Limit	No Limit
Skunk Trapping, Firearms, Archery, & Airgun Hunting	2018-2019 Nov 1 – Mar 15 2019-2020 Nov 1 – Mar 14	All counties	No Limit	No Limit

*On lands owned or controlled by DNR in Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties only leaseholders or their appointees can hunt or trap furbearers and nutria between Nov 15 and Mar 15.

Proposed Changes For White-tailed Deer

White-tailed Deer (1)

Proposed Action: Reduce the statewide antlered deer bag limit to two antlered deer or “Bucks”. Hunters will be eligible to take a third antlered deer in Region B only with the purchase of a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp. No more than one antlered deer can be taken in a weapon season (archery, muzzleloader, firearm), unless the Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp is used.

Hunters can choose which two of the three weapon seasons (archery, muzzleloader, firearm) to use the two antlered deer bag limit. They can use the Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp in Region B to either take an antlered deer in the remaining weapon season, or to take an additional antlered deer in a weapon season they already harvested an antlered deer.

The Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp cannot be used the same day that a hunter harvests an antlered deer under the regular statewide bag limit (daily antlered bag limit of one).

Deer hunters may harvest one antlered deer during a license year within the established statewide bag limit (including the bonus antlered deer in Region B) that does not meet the requirement of having at least three points on one antler. Any additional antlered deer taken within the established bag limit must have at least three points on one antler. Antlered deer can be taken in any order. Junior hunters (16 years old or younger) and apprentice license holders are exempt from the three-point antler requirement.

Rationale/Goal: A reduced antlered deer bag limit and antler restrictions are compatible with modern day deer management philosophies and address a common request from hunters.

Comments: In 2017-18, less than 3% of successful buck hunters (659) harvested more than two antlered deer in Maryland, so we do not anticipate a significant loss of hunter opportunity by reducing the antlered deer bag limit. In 2017-18, 77% of all harvested bucks met the 3-point antler restriction. Recent public opinion survey data indicate majority support for antlered deer bag limit reductions and antler point restrictions.

White-tailed Deer (2)

Proposed Action: Remove the requirement to harvest two antlerless white-tailed deer in Region B before using a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp.

Rationale/Goal: Several years of data demonstrate that the modern Maryland deer hunter is willing to take antlerless deer as a way to fill their freezer and help reduce overall deer populations. As a result, it is no longer necessary to drive antlerless deer harvest through regulatory and enforcement provisions. Removal of this requirement will also simplify enforcement and hunter understanding of the rules for deer hunting in Maryland.

Comments: Approximately 15,000 Bonus Antlered Deer Stamps are sold each year. We anticipate this number to remain the same and antlerless harvest to continue dominating the deer harvest in Maryland.

White-tailed Deer (3)

Proposed Action: Increase antlerless hunting opportunity on Public Land in Region A by allowing either-sex deer harvest during the early muzzleloader season.

Rationale/Goal: Deer populations are healthy in the region, and a common request from hunters is for more antlerless hunting opportunities on public land. The Department continues to expand ownership of public land in Western Maryland and this concept would afford more opportunity for hunters on those lands.

Comments: The bag limit would remain at one deer total for the early muzzleloader season for the region.

White-tailed Deer (4)

Proposed Action: Change the Region B archery antlerless bag limit from unlimited to 10.

Rationale/Goal: Changing the bag limit from unlimited to 10 will make the limit consistent with the muzzleloader and firearm bag limits and addresses an increasingly common request from hunters.

Comments: In 2017-18, 0.2% of successful antlerless deer hunters (18) harvested more than ten antlerless deer during the archery season in Maryland, so we do not anticipate a significant loss of hunter opportunity by reducing this bag limit.

White-tailed Deer (5)

Proposed Action: Add additional archery hunting opportunities on Sundays in Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Kent, Montgomery, Garrett, and Washington counties.

Rationale/Goal: Sunday hunting serves as an important recreational day for deer hunters in Maryland. Many hunters only have time to hunt on the weekend. By adding Sundays the time to hunt is often doubled. Sunday hunting has proven popular and compatible with other recreational activities. Over 7,000 deer are typically harvested on Sundays, aiding the state with deer population management.

Comments: September Sundays after Labor Day, and January Sundays during the regular archery season will be added for archery hunting in Allegany, Garrett, Kent, Montgomery, and Washington counties. The 2nd Sunday in January will be added in Carroll and Frederick counties when that Sunday falls during the regular archery season. September and January Sundays added in Montgomery County will have legal shooting hours of one half hour before sunrise to 10:30am.

*Please note that Sunday hunting is legislatively authorized and DNR has limited authority to independently select which Sundays to open.

Proposed 2018-2019 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits

Antlered Deer – Statewide

Definition: An antlered white-tailed deer is a deer with two or more points to one antler, or a deer with at least one antler three or more inches long, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Antler Point Restriction: Deer hunters may harvest one antlered deer during a license year within the established statewide bag limit (including bonus antlered deer) that does not meet the requirement of having at least 3 points on one antler. Any remaining antlered deer taken within the established bag limit must have at least 3 points on one antler. Antlered deer can be taken in any order. Junior hunters (16 years old or younger) and apprentice license holders are exempt from the three antler point requirement.

Season	Dates	Weapon Bag Limit	Total Combined Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 7 – Oct 17 Oct 21 (Sunday, see Notes) Oct 22 – Nov 23 Dec 10 – Dec 14 Dec 31 – Jan 3 Jan 4 – Jan 5 (Region A only, see Notes) Jan 7 – Jan 31	1 Antlered ¹	2 Antlered ¹	<p>Fluorescent orange requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Archery hunters in Allegany, Garrett, Frederick, and Washington counties are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Black Bear Season is open.</p> <p>Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.</p>
	Muzzle-loader			
Firearm	Nov 24 – Dec 8 Jan 4 – Jan 5 (Region B only, see Notes) Jan 6 (Sunday, see Notes)	1 Antlered ¹		<p>Deer Firearm Season is open during the January 2019 dates in Region B only. Deer Archery season is open January 4 & 5 in Region A only. Deer hunters may use archery equipment on these days in Region B but any deer harvested must count towards the Deer Firearm Season bag limit.</p> <p>Sunday deer hunting: Firearm season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.</p>

¹The statewide antlered deer bag limit is two deer total. A third (bonus) antlered deer may be taken in Region B only with the purchase of a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp. The bonus antlered deer may be taken in any weapon season. The Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp cannot be used the same day that a hunter harvests an antlered deer under the regular statewide bag limit (daily antlered bag limit of one).

Proposed 2018-2019 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits
Antlerless Deer – Region A
 Allegany, Garrett & Washington (Zone 2) counties

Definition: An antlerless white-tailed deer is a female deer or male deer with no antlers or spike antlers less than three inches in length, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Season	Dates	Weapon Bag Limit	Total Combined Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 7 – Oct 17 Oct 21 – Nov 23 Dec 10 – Dec 14 Dec 31 – Jan 31	1 Antlerless	2 Antlerless ¹	Fluorescent orange requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Archery hunters in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Black Bear Season is open. Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Muzzleloader DNR Public Lands ²	Oct 18 – Oct 20 Dec 29	1 Antlerless		
Muzzleloader All Other Lands	Oct 18 – Oct 20 Dec 27 – Dec 29	1 Antlerless		Region A muzzleloader bag limit: Only 1 deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken in Region A during the October 18 – 20, 2018 muzzleloader season.
Firearm DNR Public Lands ²	Dec 8	1 Antlerless		
Firearm All Other Lands	Dec 7 – Dec 8	1 Antlerless		

¹No more than two antlerless deer total can be taken in Region A per license year.

²Region A DNR public lands include: Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan’s Mountain WMA, Deep Creek Lake State Park (Designated Areas Only), Green Ridge State Forest, Indian Springs WMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac-Garrett State Forest, Prather’s Neck WMA, Rocky Gap State Park (Designated Areas Only), Savage River State Forest, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA, Woodmont NRMA, Youghiogheny Reservoir CWMA and Youghiogheny Scenic Wild River.

**Proposed 2018-2019 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits
Antlerless Deer – Region B**

Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George’s, Queen Anne’s, St. Mary’s, Somerset, Talbot, Washington (Zone 1), Wicomico & Worcester counties

Definition: An antlerless white-tailed deer is a female deer or male deer with no antlers or spike antlers less than three inches in length, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Season	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 7 – Oct 17 Oct 21 (Sunday, see Notes) Oct 22 – Nov 23 Dec 10 – Dec 14 Dec 31 – Jan 3 Jan 7 – Jan 31	10 Antlerless	Fluorescent orange requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Archery hunters in Frederick, and Washington counties are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Black Bear Season is open. Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Muzzleloader	Oct 18 – Oct 27 Dec 15 – Dec 29	10 Antlerless	Sunday deer hunting: Muzzleloader season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Firearm	Nov 24 – Dec 8 Jan 4 – Jan 5 Jan 6 (Sunday, see Notes)	10 Antlerless	Sunday Deer Hunting: Firearm season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.

Proposed 2018-2019 Junior Deer Hunt Antlered & Antlerless Deer

The Junior Deer Hunt is for hunters age 16 or younger only. Junior hunters must be accompanied by a licensed (or exempt from license requirement) unarmed adult age 21 or older. Junior hunters are not required to comply with the antler point restrictions.

Region	Description	Total Bag Limit	Dates	Notes
Region A	White-tailed Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	1 deer	Nov 10 Nov 11 (Sunday, see Notes)	<p>Separate Bag Limit: Deer taken by Junior hunters during the Junior Hunt Season do not count towards the regular archery, muzzleloader, or firearm season bag limits.</p> <p>Sunday Deer Hunting: The Junior Deer Hunt is open on Sunday November 11 in all counties except Baltimore, Howard, and Prince George's. See chart.</p>
Region B	White-tailed Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	3 deer, no more than 1 may be antlered		
Where present	Sika Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	1 deer		

Proposed 2019-2020 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits

Antlered Deer – Statewide

Definition: An antlered white-tailed deer is a deer with two or more points to one antler, or a deer with at least one antler three or more inches long, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Antler Point Restriction: Deer hunters may harvest one antlered deer during a license year within the established statewide bag limit (including bonus antlered deer) that does not meet the requirement of having at least 3 points on one antler. Any remaining antlered deer taken within the established bag limit must have at least 3 points on one antler. Antlered deer can be taken in any order. Junior hunters (16 years old or younger) and apprentice license holders are exempt from the three antler point requirement.

Season	Dates	Weapon Bag Limit	Total Combined Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 6 – Oct 16	1 Antlered ¹	2 Antlered ¹	<p>Fluorescent orange requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Archery hunters in Allegany, Garrett, Frederick, and Washington counties are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Black Bear Season is open.</p> <p>Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.</p>
	Oct 20 (Sunday, see Notes)			
	Oct 21 – Nov 29			
	Dec 16 – Dec 20			
	Jan 6 – Jan 9			
Muzzle-loader	Jan 10 – Jan 11 (Region A only, see Notes)	1 Antlered ¹	2 Antlered ¹	<p>Sunday deer hunting: Muzzleloader season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.</p>
	Jan 13 – Jan 31			
Firearm	Oct 17 – Oct 19	1 Antlered ¹	2 Antlered ¹	<p>The Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp may not be used during the Oct. 17 – 19, 2019 muzzleloader season.</p> <p>Region A muzzleloader bag limit: Only 1 deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken in Region A during the October 17 – 19, 2019 muzzleloader season.</p> <p>Sunday deer hunting: Muzzleloader season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.</p>
	Dec 21 – Jan 4			
	Nov 30 – Dec 14			
Firearm	Jan 10 – Jan 11 (Region B only, see Notes)	1 Antlered ¹	2 Antlered ¹	<p>Deer Firearm Season is open during the January 2020 dates in Region B only. Deer Archery season is open January 10 & 11 in Region A only. Deer hunters may use archery equipment on these days in Region B but any deer harvested must count towards the Deer Firearm Season bag limit.</p> <p>Sunday deer hunting: Firearm season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.</p>
	Jan 12 (Sunday, see Notes)			

¹The statewide antlered deer bag limit is two deer total. A third (bonus) antlered deer may be taken in Region B only with the purchase of a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp. The bonus antlered deer may be taken in any weapon season. The Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp cannot be used the same day that a hunter harvests an antlered deer under the regular statewide bag limit (daily antlered bag limit of one).

Proposed 2019-2020 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits
Antlerless Deer – Region A
 Allegany, Garrett & Washington (Zone 2) counties

Definition: An antlerless white-tailed deer is a female deer or male deer with no antlers or spike antlers less than three inches in length, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Season	Dates	Weapon Bag Limit	Total Combined Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 6 – Oct 16 Oct 20 – Nov 29 Dec 16 – Dec 20 Jan 6 – Jan 31	1 Antlerless	2 Antlerless ¹	Fluorescent orange requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Archery hunters in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Black Bear Season is open. Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Muzzleloader DNR Public Lands ²	Oct 17 – Oct 19 Jan 4	1 Antlerless		
Muzzleloader All Other Lands	Oct 17 – Oct 19 Jan 2 – Jan 4	1 Antlerless		Region A muzzleloader bag limit: Only 1 deer total (antlered or antlerless) may be taken in Region A during the October 17 – 19, 2019 muzzleloader season.
Firearm DNR Public Lands ²	Dec 14	1 Antlerless		
Firearm All Other Lands	Dec 13 – Dec 14	1 Antlerless		

¹No more than two antlerless deer total can be taken in Region A per license year.

²Region A DNR public lands include: Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan’s Mountain WMA, Deep Creek Lake State Park (Designated Areas Only), Green Ridge State Forest, Indian Springs WMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac-Garrett State Forest, Prather’s Neck WMA, Rocky Gap State Park (Designated Areas Only), Savage River State Forest, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA, Woodmont NRMA, Youghiogheny Reservoir CWMA and Youghiogheny Scenic Wild River.

**Proposed 2019-2020 White-tailed Deer Seasons and Bag Limits
Antlerless Deer – Region B**

Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington (Zone 1), Wicomico & Worcester counties

Definition: An antlerless white-tailed deer is a female deer or male deer with no antlers or spike antlers less than three inches in length, measuring from the top of the skull as the deer is in life.

Season	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Sep 6 – Oct 16 Oct 20 (Sunday, see Notes) Oct 21 – Nov 29 Dec 16 – Dec 20 Jan 6 – Jan 9 Jan 13 – Jan 31	10 Antlerless	Fluorescent orange requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting. Archery hunters in Frederick, and Washington counties are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Black Bear Season is open. Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Muzzleloader	Oct 17 – Oct 26 Dec 21 – Jan 4	10 Antlerless	Sunday deer hunting: Muzzleloader season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.
Firearm	Nov 30 – Dec 14 Jan 10 – Jan 11 Jan 12 (Sunday, see Notes)	10 Antlerless	Sunday Deer Hunting: Firearm season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.

Proposed 2019-2020 Junior Deer Hunt Antlered & Antlerless Deer

The Junior Deer Hunt is for hunters age 16 or younger only. Junior hunters must be accompanied by a licensed (or exempt from license requirement) unarmed adult age 21 or older. Junior hunters are not required to comply with the antler point restrictions.

Region	Description	Total Bag Limit	Dates	Notes
Region A	White-tailed Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	1 deer	Nov 16 Nov 17 (Sunday, see Notes)	<p>Separate Bag Limit: Deer taken by Junior hunters during the Junior Hunt Season do not count towards the regular archery, muzzleloader, or firearm season bag limits.</p> <p>Sunday Deer Hunting: The Junior Deer Hunt is open on Sunday November 17 in all counties except Baltimore, Howard, and Prince George's. See chart.</p>
Region B	White-tailed Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	3 deer, no more than 1 may be antlered		
Where present	Sika Deer, Antlered or Antlerless	1 deer		

**Proposed 2018-2019 Sika Deer Seasons and Bag Limits
Antlered & Antlerless Deer – Statewide**

Definition: An antlered sika deer is a deer with at least one antler visible above the hairline.

Season	Description	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Antlered or Antlerless	Sep 7 – Oct 17	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered	<p>Fluorescent orange requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting.</p> <p>Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.</p>
		Oct 21 (Sunday, see Notes)		
		Oct 22 – Nov 23		
		Dec 10 – Dec 14		
		Dec 31 – Jan 3		
		Jan 4 – Jan 5 (Region A only, see Notes)		
Jan 7 – Jan 31				
Muzzleloader	Antlered or Antlerless	Oct 18 – Oct 20	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered	<p>October 22 – 27: Deer muzzleloader season is open during these dates in Region B only.</p>
	Antlerless Only	Oct 22 – 27 (Region B only)		
	Antlered or Antlerless	Dec 15 – Dec 29		
Firearm	Antlered or Antlerless	Nov 24 – Dec 8	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered	<p>January 4 – 5: Deer Firearm Season is open during these dates in Region B only. Deer hunters may use archery equipment on these days in Region B but any deer harvested must count towards the Deer Firearm Season bag limit.</p> <p>Sunday deer hunting: Firearm season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.</p>
		Jan 4 – Jan 5 (Region B only, see Notes)		
		Jan 6 (Sunday, see Notes)		

**Proposed 2019-2020 Sika Deer Seasons and Bag Limits
Antlered & Antlerless Deer – Statewide**

Definition: An antlered sika deer is a deer with at least one antler visible above the hairline.

Season	Description	Dates	Total Bag Limit	Notes
Archery	Antlered or Antlerless	Sep 6 – Oct 16	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered	<p>Fluorescent orange requirement: Archery hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange when the Deer Muzzleloader Season, Deer Firearm Season or Junior Deer Hunt is open in the deer management region where they are hunting.</p> <p>Sunday deer hunting: Archery season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.</p>
		Oct 20 (Sunday, see Notes)		
		Oct 21 – Nov 29		
		Dec 16 – Dec 20		
		Jan 6 – Jan 9		
		Jan 10 – Jan 11 (Region A only, see Notes)		
Jan 13 – Jan 31				
Muzzleloader	Antlered or Antlerless	Oct 17 – Oct 19	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered	<p>October 21 – 26: Deer muzzleloader season is open during these dates in Region B only.</p>
	Antlerless Only	Oct 21 – 26 (Region B only)		
	Antlered or Antlerless	Dec 21 – Jan 4		
Firearm	Antlered or Antlerless	Nov 30 – Dec 14 Jan 10 – Jan 11 (Region B only, see Notes) Jan 12 (Sunday, see Notes)	3 deer, no more than 1 antlered	<p>January 10 – 11: Deer Firearm Season is open in Region B only. Deer hunters may use archery equipment on these days in Region B but any deer harvested must count towards the Deer Firearm Season bag limit.</p> <p>Sunday deer hunting: Firearm season dates include certain Sundays in select counties. See chart.</p>

2018-2019 Sunday Deer Hunting Dates - Archery

County	Archery Season														LANDS OPEN
	Sept 9	Sept 16	Sept 23	Sept 30	Oct 7	Oct 14	Oct 21	Oct 28	Nov 4	Nov 11	Nov 18	Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27	
Allegany	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Anne Arundel									Open						Private Only
Baltimore															None
Calvert						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Caroline						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Carroll					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Cecil									Open						Private Only
Charles						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Dorchester						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Frederick					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Garrett	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Harford						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Howard															None
Kent	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
Montgomery	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only
Prince George's															None
Queen Anne's						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
St. Mary's						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Somerset						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Talbot						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only

2018-2019 Sunday Deer Hunting Dates - Archery (continued)

County	Archery Season														LANDS OPEN
	Sept 9	Sept 16	Sept 23	Sept 30	Oct 7	Oct 14	Oct 21	Oct 28	Nov 4	Nov 11	Nov 18	Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27	
Washington Region A	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Washington Region B	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
Wicomico						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					None
Worcester						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only

¹Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties are: Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Garrett State Forest (SF), Green Ridge SF, Indian Springs WMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Prather's Neck WMA, Savage River SF, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA.

²Legal shooting hours for deer are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30am on this Sunday (applies only to Kent and Montgomery counties where footnoted).

2018-2019 Sunday Deer Hunting Dates – Firearm and Muzzleloader

County	Firearm Season				Muzzleloader Season		LANDS OPEN
	Nov 11 (Jr Hunt)	Nov 25	Dec 2	Jan 6	Dec 16	Dec 23	
Allegany	Open	Open	Open	No Season	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Anne Arundel	Open	Open					Private Only
Baltimore							None
Calvert	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Caroline	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Carroll	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
Cecil	Open	Open					Private Only
Charles	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Dorchester	Open	Open					Private Only
Frederick	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
Garrett	Open	Open	Open	No Season	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Harford	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Howard							None
Kent	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Private Only
Montgomery	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only
Prince George's							None
Queen Anne's	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
St. Mary's	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Somerset	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Talbot	Open	Open					Private Only
Washington Region A	Open	Open	Open	No Season	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Washington Region B	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
Wicomico	Open	Open					Private Only
Worcester	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only

¹Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties are: Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Garrett State Forest (SF), Green Ridge SF, Indian Springs WMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Prather's Neck WMA, Savage River SF, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA.

²Legal shooting hours for deer are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30am on this Sunday (applies only to Kent and Montgomery counties where footnoted).

2019-2020 Sunday Deer Hunting Dates - Archery

County	Archery Season														LANDS OPEN
	Sept 8	Sept 15	Sept 22	Sept 29	Oct 6	Oct 13	Oct 20	Oct 27	Nov 3	Nov 10	Nov 17	Nov 24	Jan 19	Jan 26	
Allegany	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Anne Arundel									Open						Private Only
Baltimore															None
Calvert						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Caroline						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Carroll					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Cecil									Open						Private Only
Charles						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Dorchester						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Frederick					Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Garrett	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Harford						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Howard															None
Kent	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
Montgomery	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only
Prince George's															None
Queen Anne's						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
St. Mary's						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Somerset						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only
Talbot						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open					Private Only

2019-2020 Sunday Deer Hunting Dates - Archery (continued)

County	Archery Season														LANDS OPEN	
	Sept 8	Sept 15	Sept 22	Sept 29	Oct 6	Oct 13	Oct 20	Oct 27	Nov 3	Nov 10	Nov 17	Nov 24	Jan 19	Jan 26		
Washington Region A	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Washington Region B	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
Wicomico						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open						None
Worcester						Open	Open	Open	Open	Open						Private Only

¹Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties are: Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan’s Mountain WMA, Garrett State Forest (SF), Green Ridge SF, Indian Springs WMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Prather’s Neck WMA, Savage River SF, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA.

²Legal shooting hours for deer are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30am on this Sunday (applies only to Kent and Montgomery counties where footnoted).

2019-2020 Sunday Deer Hunting Dates – Firearm and Muzzleloader

County	Firearm Season				Muzzleloader Season		LANDS OPEN
	Nov 17 (Jr Hunt)	Dec 1	Dec 8	Jan 12	Dec 22	Dec 29	
Allegany	Open	Open	Open	No Season	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Anne Arundel	Open	Open					Private Only
Baltimore							None
Calvert	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Caroline	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Carroll	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
Cecil	Open	Open					Private Only
Charles	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Dorchester	Open	Open					Private Only
Frederick	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
Garrett	Open	Open	Open	No Season	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Harford	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Howard							None
Kent	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open	Open	Private Only
Montgomery	Open	Open	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Open ²	Private Only
Prince George's							None
Queen Anne's	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
St. Mary's	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Somerset	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only
Talbot	Open	Open					Private Only
Washington Region A	Open	Open	Open	No Season	Open	Open	Private & Designated Public ¹
Washington Region B	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Private Only
Wicomico	Open	Open					Private Only
Worcester	Open	Open	Open	Open			Private Only

¹Designated public lands open to Sunday hunting in Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties are: Billmeyer-Belle Grove WMA, Cunningham Swamp WMA, Dan's Mountain WMA, Garrett State Forest (SF), Green Ridge SF, Indian Springs WMA, Mount Nebo WMA, Potomac SF, Prather's Neck WMA, Savage River SF, Sideling Hill WMA, Warrior Mountain WMA.

²Legal shooting hours for deer are one half hour before sunrise to 10:30am on this Sunday (applies only to Kent and Montgomery counties where footnoted).