



MassWildlife News

Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Wayne F. MacCallum, Director

Phone: (508) 389-6300, Fax: (508) 389-7890, Email: Mass.Wildlife@state.ma.us

Visit our Website! www.mass.gov/masswildlife

Media Inquiries: Call (617) 626-1129

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ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT INSTANT AWARD PROCEDURE

With the *MassFishHunt* electronic licensing system, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (*MassWildlife*) reminds deer hunters that there is no public drawing, and postal notifications will not be mailed to antlerless deer permit applicants. Beginning August 1st (at 8AM) and continuing through December 31st, (the Instant Award Period), hunters who applied for an antlerless deer permit by the July 16th deadline must return to the [MassFishHunt licensing system](#) to try to win their antlerless deer permit.

The system is based on a computer-generated random number that is given to each customer when they return to “play”. The random number is then compared to the chance of winning a permit in that zone and the computer determines if the customer has won a permit or not. This is not a first-come first-served system. The odds of winning a permit during the Instant Award Period are the same whether a customer logs into the *MassFishHunt* system in August, November, or anytime during the Instant Award Period. This eliminates the need to rush to a computer on August 1st.

Due to the possibility of heavy Internet traffic on August 1st and possible computer performance issues, *MassWildlife* strongly recommends hunters visit the [MassFishHunt](#) site on a date later than August 1st to try to win a permit. Hunters have one chance to try for an Instant Award Antlerless Deer Permit.

There are three ways in which a hunter may participate in the Instant Award Period:

1. **The Internet:** Hunters may return to the *MassFishHunt* website using any computer with Internet access to try to win an antlerless deer permit (see instructions below).
2. **MassWildlife Offices:** Hunters may visit any office and the MassWildlife staff will log in the information on your behalf.
3. **License Agent Location:** Hunters may visit any authorized MA licensing agent and the clerk on duty will log in the information for you to see if you win a permit.

Instant Award Antlerless Deer Permit Instructions

Instructions for checking Instant Award status:

- Log into [MassFishHunt](#) system with your last name and customer (license) ID#
- Click the [Enter Sales] button at the bottom right of the screen

- On the Main Menu on the left, click "Hunting Permits and Stamps"
- Click the [Add] button next to "Antlerless Deer Permit" in the middle of the screen
- The Zone for which you previously applied will appear on the next screen. Click the [Select] button to check whether an Antlerless Deer Permit has been won for that Zone.
- One of two messages will "pop up" in the center of the screen indicating the Antlerless Deer Permit win/lose status:
Either

"Congratulations! You have been awarded an antlerless deer permit which has been placed in your shopping cart. Close this window and click check out to purchase it."

Or

"Unfortunately you did not win this product"

In the case of a "Win", an Antlerless Deer Permit will be placed in the Shopping Cart, and you may proceed to Check Out to complete the purchase. Antlerless Deer Permits will remain in the Shopping Cart until purchased or expired. Winning hunters are reminded to print their Antlerless Deer Permits upon completion of the transaction. ALL Antlerless Deer Permits expire on December 31. If you did not win a permit, no further action is necessary.

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BOATERS! REPORT ENTANGLED MARINE ANIMALS AT SEA

Massachusetts coastal waters are home to endangered marine animals including sea turtles and whales. Entanglement in marine debris and fishing gear such as rope, netting, and hooks are leading causes of serious injury and mortality for these animals. The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies (PCCS) ask all boaters to immediately report sightings of entangled marine animals, alive or dead, by calling the Marine Animal Entanglement Hotline at 1-800-900-3622 or 866-755-NOAA or by hailing the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF Channel 16. An entanglement response team at PCCS is on-call and committed to providing safe and effective disentanglement of marine animals in the waters off Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire.

What else can a boat operator do? Though your first instinct may be to try and free the animal, entanglement experts strongly urge you to resist the understandably natural impulse to assist the animal. Safety is a serious concern as disentanglement attempts by untrained people can be detrimental to the animal and result in serious injury to those involved. Cutting ropes or gear on your own may also cause problems for the entangled animal or create future entanglement issues for marine animals swimming through drifting lines or gear. Finally, boaters do not have the legal authority to perform disentanglements or touch another person's fishing gear. Sea turtles and most large whales are protected endangered species and it is illegal to handle them without a permit.

The following tips are offered by the partnering agencies for anyone encountering an entangled marine animal:

- Report the entanglement sighting immediately. Don't wait until you get back to land.
- Do NOT touch the animal or the entangled gear.
- Maintain a safe distance from the animal in trouble.
- Record the time and coordinates of the animal's location.
- Be alert for trailing lines which may foul props.
- Be prepared to stand by until responders arrive.
- Note the appearance of the animal and type of entangling gear.
- If at all possible, photograph or video the sighting from a safe distance for the Division of Marine Fisheries.

In addition, operators of all vessels at sea are reminded to secure trash, gear, and other items that may be mistaken for food by marine animals or cause entanglements. Harbormasters, marinas, sporting groups, and marine supply stores are encouraged to share the above information and hotline number with others in order to make the boating

public aware of the safest and most effective way to assist entangled marine animals. For further information, contact Erin Burke of the Division of Marine Fisheries at erin.burke@state.ma.us or call her at (978) 551-0152.

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MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTERS MUST GET HIP

As in the past, hunters who hunt woodcock, snipe, ducks, and geese must register with the Harvest Information Program (HIP) by taking a HIP survey. HIP surveys can only be completed through the online *MassFishHunt* system (www.mass.gov/massfishhunt). The HIP survey is no longer available by telephone and HIP numbers are no longer issued. Non-resident hunters are reminded they must register with the Massachusetts HIP system in order to hunt migratory game birds in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts HIP registration is valid for the calendar year only. The purpose of HIP is to gather data from migratory game bird hunters for harvest surveys. The survey information assists state and federal biologists make decisions on setting sustainable bag limits for future hunting seasons.

To see if you are already registered with HIP, you can: 1) check your current hunting/sporting license in the Item Purchased section. If you see a line item that reads: "Waterfowl Stamp" or "HIP Survey Completed", you have already completed the process and need not take any further action; or 2) log on to the *MassFishHunt* website (www.mass.gov/massfishhunt) and check your customer inventory. If you don't see "Waterfowl Stamp" or "HIP Survey Completed", you can purchase the state waterfowl stamp or complete the HIP survey through any computer with Internet access, DFW office or at a local license vendor. Be sure to reprint your license after registering.

Hunters obtaining a state waterfowl stamp automatically complete the HIP survey during the stamp purchase process. Waterfowl hunters who purchased a state waterfowl stamp to hunt in January and February of 2013 are already registered for the entire calendar year and do not need to take any action.

Migratory game bird hunters who only hunt woodcock, snipe, or rails must complete a HIP survey as a separate step during or after their hunting/sporting license purchase either through a computer with Internet access or through a sporting license vendor or DFW office.

Instructions for Registering With HIP:

- **Purchasing a Waterfowl Stamp (For Duck and Goose Hunting) From a Computer with Internet Access** -- Go to the *MassFishHunt* website at www.mass.gov/massfishhunt and enter your Customer (license) ID number. A page with your personal information will appear. Click on the blue "Enter Sales" button at the bottom right of your screen. Click on "Hunting Permits and Stamps" in the menu at the left side of your screen. Click on "Waterfowl Stamp". A screen with eight questions will appear. Answer the questions, then click on the "Accept" button in the lower left corner. Click the blue "check out" button on this screen and then click : "Check out" again on the next screen. You must proceed all the way through checkout to pay for the stamp. Be sure to reprint your license so it will show you have registered with HIP. Note: If you already purchased a waterfowl stamp you will not see the waterfowl stamp option listed.
- **Purchasing a Waterfowl Stamp at a License Vendor Or MassWildlife Office** -- Tell the clerk that you want to purchase a state waterfowl stamp. They will need either your customer identification number or your birth date to look up your information. They will ask you the questions for HIP registration and print out the license which indicates your stamp purchase.
- **Woodcock, Snipe and Rail Hunters Completing the HIP Survey From a Computer with Internet Access** -- Go to the *MassFishHunt* website at www.mass.gov/massfishhunt and enter your Customer ID number. A page with your personal information will appear. Click on the blue "Enter Sales" button at the bottom right of your screen. Click on "HIP Survey" in the menu at the left side of your screen. A screen with eight questions will appear. Answer the questions, then click on the "Accept" button in the lower left corner. Click the blue "check out" button on this screen and then click "check out" again on the next screen. Even though the survey has no cost associated with it, you must proceed all the way through checkout complete to be registered. Be sure to reprint your license so it will show you have registered with

HIP. Note: If you also hunt waterfowl, your waterfowl stamp purchase already registers you in the HIP system.

- **Completing The HIP Survey with a License Vendor Or MassWildlife Office** -- Tell the clerk that you need to complete the HIP survey. You must have already purchased a hunting/sporting license in order to complete the survey. The clerk will need either your customer identification number or your birth date to look up your information. They will ask you the questions for HIP registration and print out the license which will read "HIP Survey Completed".

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LAST MONTH TO COUNT TURKEYS!

Turkey observers are reminded to report any sightings of turkey broods (families) for the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's annual turkey brood survey. The last day of the survey is August 31. A [brood survey form](#) to report this information may be found on the MassWildlife website. Send completed forms to: Turkey Brood Count, MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 100 Hartwell Street, West Boylston, MA 01583.

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FAMILIES SHOULD SAVE SEPTEMBER 22 FOR OUTDOOR EXPO

It's not too early for families, friends, and youth groups to mark their calendars for September 22, 2013, and join the fun at the 17th [Massachusetts Outdoor Expo](#) (Big MOE) held at the [Hamilton Rod and Gun Club](#) grounds in Sturbridge from 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM. The Big MOE, sponsored by the Facts About Wildlife and Nature Society (FAWNS), is a free family-oriented event celebrating outdoor skills, nature, art, and wildlife. The Big MOE is the perfect opportunity to introduce young and old to a variety of new outdoor skills and activities. This year, the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will feature their mobile pellet gun range, turkey call making, turkey feathers and decoys and the opportunity to talk to a turkey biologist. A new Camping station will be staffed by a Girl Scout Troop and Tekoa Mountain Outdoors, a new Watershed station will be run by The Last Green Valley National Corridor and this year's Kayaking station will be staffed by ZOAR Outdoors. A complete list of activity stations in information can be found at www.fawnsexpo.com.

This all-day event is free, thanks to the following co-sponsors: Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Hamilton Rod and Gun Club, The Weatherby Foundation, Whitetails Unlimited and the Worcester County League of Sportsmen's Clubs. The Big MOE is also in need of enthusiastic, outdoor oriented volunteers willing to assist at several skills stations or to host a skill station. Clubs, conservation organizations, and outdoor oriented businesses wishing to host a skill station, assist others at an existing station or make a donation are welcome. For more information on volunteering or exhibiting, contact Gary Zima at (508) 389-6314 or gary.zima@state.ma.us.

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UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARING

August 29 – Fisheries and Wildlife Board Meeting and Public Hearing, Sudbury – The Fisheries & Wildlife Board will meet on Thursday, August 29, 2013 at 1:00PM at the [Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge](#) Visitor's Center located on 680 Hudson Road in Sudbury. A Public Hearing on Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits will be held at the same location at 3:00PM. Call (508) 389-6342 for [more information](#) and [directions](#).

September 12 – Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Advisory Committee Meeting, West Boylston – The [Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Advisory Committee](#) will not be meeting in the month of August. The next scheduled meeting for the Committee will be Thursday, September 12 2013 from 1:30PM - 4:30PM at the Division

of Fisheries and Wildlife's Field Headquarters, 100 Hartwell Street in West Boylston on. The building is handicapped accessible. Call (508) 389-6360 for further information and [directions](#).

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS—Visit the [Calendar and Events page](#) at www.mass.gov/masswildlife for more listings.

August 3 – Dog Days of Summer Fishing Program, Billerica -- On the banks of Nutting Lake, from 9AM - Noon, cast a line, learn about fish in our waters, safety, ethics, and fishing equipment. If you have fishing equipment, bring it along. A limited quantity of fishing equipment and bait will be available. MassWildlife's [Angler Education Program](#) is participating in this festival in cooperation with the [Billerica Parks & Recreation Department](#). Contact Donna Hansen at (978) 671-0921 or dhansen@town.billerica.ma.us for more details.

August 7 – MassWildlife at Waquoit Bay Watershed Block Party, Falmouth -- The Waquoit Bay Research Reserve will host their annual Block Party on Tuesday, August 7th, from 3:00 PM - 6:30 PM at Reserve Headquarters on Route 28 in East Falmouth. Activities include games, arts and crafts, face painting, science demonstrations, fly fishing demonstration and instruction, complimentary watermelon and ice cream and a touch tank full of critters from the bay! Many conservation organizations such as the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife) will run hands-on activities for kids and provide valuable information on what they are doing to help protect our natural resources. For additional information, please call 508-457-0495 x108 or go to <http://www.waquoitbayreserve.org/>

August 10 – DAR State Forest Fishing Clinic, Goshen -- On the banks of Upper Highland Lake, from 9AM - Noon, cast a line, learn about fish in our waters, safety, ethics, and fishing equipment from MassWildlife's Angler Education Program. This program is offered in cooperation with the Department of Conservation & Recreation. If you have fishing equipment, bring it along. A limited quantity of fishing equipment and bait will be available. This is a free event but pre-registration required. Contact Jim Lagacy at jim.lagacy@state.ma.us or (508) 389-6309.

August 10-11 – Outdoors Family Camping Weekend, Otis -- This weekend is designed for families new to camping will be held at Tolland State Forest in Otis. MassWildlife Angler Education volunteers will be conducting the Fishing Program for attendees. More details and registration materials are posted at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/education-events/outdoorswoman-events.html>

August 14 – MassWildlife at Peter Rabbit's Animal Day, Sandwich -- Peter Rabbit's Animal Day will be held at the Thornton Burgess Society's Green Briar Nature Center in Sandwich from 10AM - 2PM. This day of free outdoor family fun features live animal exhibits, a pet rabbit show, story times, and personal appearances by Peter Rabbit, Reddy Fox and Smokey Bear. MassWildlife staff will be staffing a table with information on local fish and wildlife. Refreshments are available. More information is found at <http://www.thorntonburgess.org/SpecialEvents.htm>

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