

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

Big Game Hunting



Hunters are not permitted to cross water management areas unless retrieving a harvested animal.

Non-hunters are not permitted in the field except in the wheelchair zone to assist handicapped hunters.

Firearms in vehicles must be unloaded and completely cased or disassembled.

Loaded firearms and nocked arrows are prohibited on or within 50 feet of the center line of all access roads.

Permanent attachment of tree stands by nails, wire, screws, or in any other way **is prohibited. Portable stands are permitted, but must be removed** at the end of each three day hunt period. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will not be responsible for any stands left unattended.

The **use or possession** of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances is prohibited.

Refer to the following sections for specific regulations for each hunt.

Archery Hunt: Sika

Each hunt week is broken down into a three day hunt period, Monday - Wednesday.

All hunters **must** attend the archery orientation session on the Sunday prior to their assigned hunt date.

The \$20.00 archery permit fee will be collected and permits issued following the orientation.

Additions to original archery applications will not be permitted after the lottery. However, substitutions can be made up to one week prior to the assigned hunt date by calling the refuge administration office.

The Tom's Cove Hook area may be available to archery hunters with four-wheel drive vehicles (*see map*). Hunters **must** attend the orientation prior to the hunt period to qualify.

Sika deer drives are prohibited during the archery hunts.

Arrow shafts must be permanently marked near the fletching in a weather proof manner with the hunter's full name.

Blaze orange is recommended but not required for archery hunters.

Firearm Hunt: Sika

Each week of the hunt will be divided into two hunt periods: Monday - Tuesday and Thursday - Friday.

All hunters **must** attend a firearms orientation session prior to their assigned hunt date. Sessions will be held on Sundays and Wednesdays during the season.

Hunters may attend any firearms orientation to receive their permit prior to their scheduled hunt. However, to avoid overcrowding in hunt zones, scouting will only be permitted for

hunters scheduled for the two day hunt period immediately following the day of the orientation.

The firearm confirmation letter and \$20.00 permit fee must be received at the refuge administration building or postmarked by November 17, 2000. Hunters will not receive additional notification after this date, but should simply attend the required firearms orientation. Hunters may contact the refuge administration office if they need confirmation of receipt of the fee(s).

Additions and/or substitutions can be made, provided the person(s) adding or substituting did not apply to the original lottery.

Hunters are not entitled to switch hunt zones and weeks once lottery selections have been made.

The Tom's Cove Hook area may be available to hunting parties with 4-wheel drive vehicles that attend the firearms orientations, and are willing to give up their original assigned hunt zone. The Tom's Cove Hook area may be available to standby hunters, also.

All persons in firearm hunt zones must wear a minimum of 400 total square inches of blaze orange material consisting of a vest or jacket and hat. Blaze orange camouflage is not acceptable.

Hunting will be allowed in an area of approximately 10 acres near the headquarters building until 8 am each morning of the sika firearm hunt for those hunters in zone 1b. Following the orientation, a short briefing will be required for hunt groups assigned to this area.

Four-wheel drive vehicles are required in zones **10 and 10A**. An Off-Road Vehicle Permit is not required, but all permit provisions apply.

Firearm Hunt: Whitetail

The whitetail firearm hunt period is limited to two-days.

Refer to the sika firearm hunt and general regulation sections for provisions regarding hunting parties, applications, lottery procedures, notification, additions, substitutions, switching zones and weeks, fees, licenses, confirmation letter, and required vehicles.

Whitetail hunters **must** attend the **whitetail orientation on 12/10/00** to receive and/or validate their permit.

Whitetail hunters must take the following sex and species, up to the preset bag limits, during the two-day hunt period:

Day one = *Antlerless* whitetail or any sika deer.

Day two = **Option 1.** *Antlered* whitetail (*ONLY* if hunter harvested an antlerless whitetail on day one) or any sika deer:

Option 2. Antlerless whitetail or any sika deer:

Antlered white-tailed deer may not be taken on the first day of the hunt.

Wheelchair hunters will have the option to hunt whitetails in Zone 2 during the designated whitetail hunt period.

Virginia big game tags must be used on white-tailed deer taken on the refuge.

Hunters in Wheelchairs

Hunting in zone 2 is reserved for hunters in wheelchairs during the first week of the sika firearm season. Additional periods will be added if more than eight hunters apply.

In zone 2 there is a 1.6 mile paved loop trail that is ideal for permanently disabled hunters in wheelchairs. Please mark on your application if you are interested in hunting in the wheelchair zone. Hunters in this zone must stay on paved trails, established foot paths and the overlook platform, except when retrieving a deer. Vehicles must be parked in the outer lot, and may only be used on the trail when retrieving a deer.

Refer to the sika firearm hunt and general regulation sections for provisions regarding applications, lottery procedures, notification, additions, substitutions, switching weeks, fees, licenses, bag limit, confirmation letters, and firearm orientations.

A group of four hunters must be determined. Otherwise, the refuge will combine hunters to fill the maximum of four hunters per period.

A hunter must be accompanied by a non-hunting partner if he/she needs assistance retrieving and/or dressing harvested animals.

Shotguns or muzzleloaders must be used within the wheelchair hunt zone. Rifles are only permitted on the overlook platform.

Hunters with other disabilities will find most of the firearm zones and all of the shotgun zones accessible. For more information, please contact the refuge.

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 62

Chincoteague, VA 23336-0062

Telephone: 757/336 6122

http://chinco.fws.gov

Hearing Impaired visitors may call the Virginia Relay Service at 1 800 828 1120 TDD/ 1 800/828 1140 voice.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1 800/344 WILD

http://www.fws.gov

August 2000



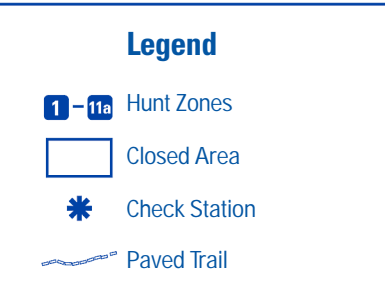
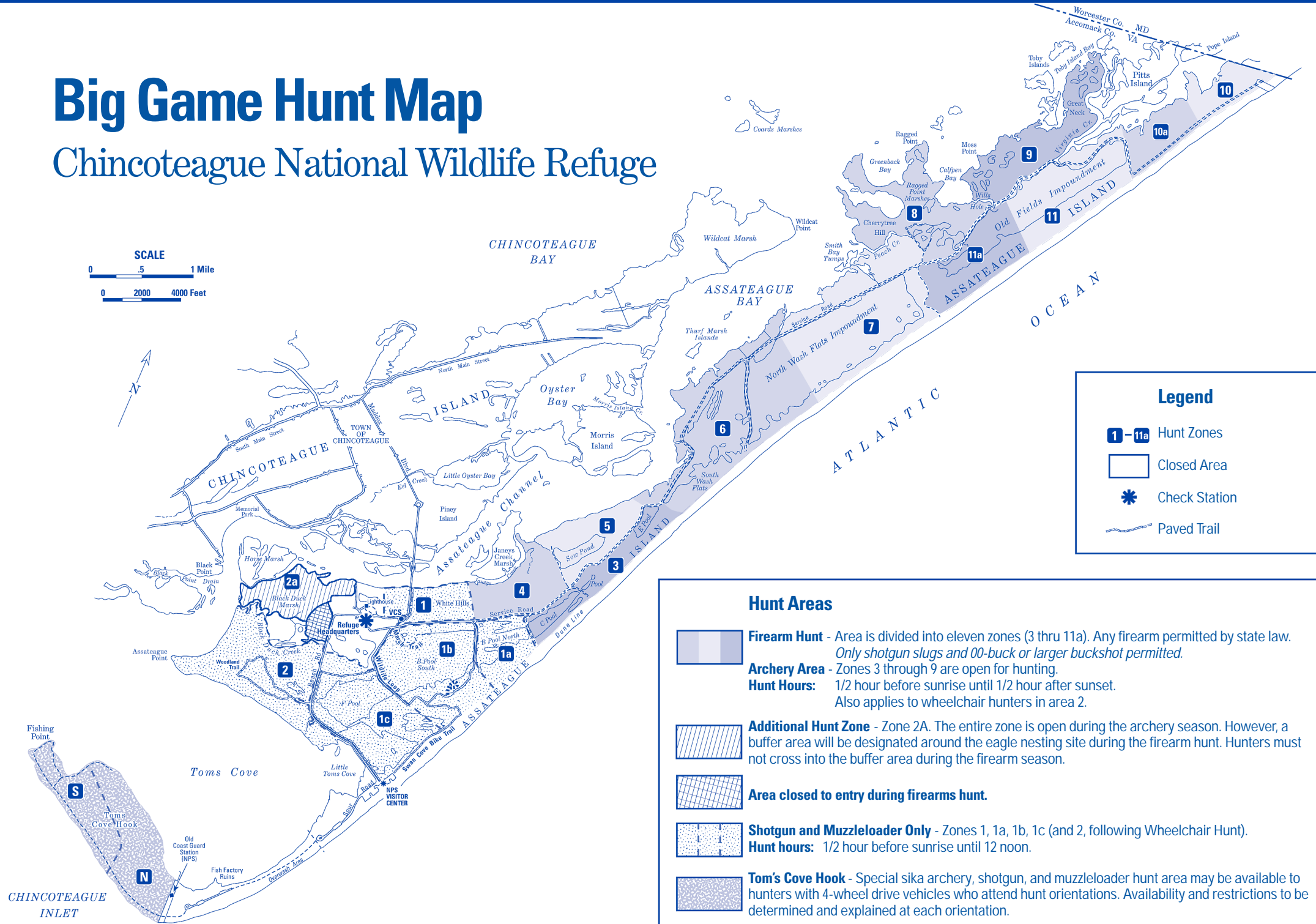
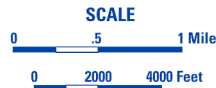
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

Big Game Hunt Map

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge



Hunt Areas

- Firearm Hunt** - Area is divided into eleven zones (3 thru 11a). Any firearm permitted by state law. *Only shotgun slugs and 00-buck or larger buckshot permitted.*
- Archery Area** - Zones 3 through 9 are open for hunting.
- Hunt Hours:** 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset. Also applies to wheelchair hunters in area 2.
- Additional Hunt Zone** - Zone 2A. The entire zone is open during the archery season. However, a buffer area will be designated around the eagle nesting site during the firearm hunt. Hunters must not cross into the buffer area during the firearm season.
- Area closed to entry during firearms hunt.**
- Shotgun and Muzzleloader Only** - Zones 1, 1a, 1b, 1c (and 2, following Wheelchair Hunt).
- Hunt hours:** 1/2 hour before sunrise until 12 noon.
- Tom's Cove Hook** - Special sika archery, shotgun, and muzzleloader hunt area may be available to hunters with 4-wheel drive vehicles who attend hunt orientations. Availability and restrictions to be determined and explained at each orientation.

General Provisions

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide wholesome recreational opportunities, and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource.

General Hunt Regulations

Firearm and Archery

Hunt Dates

Archery: October 2-4, 2000 and October 16-18, 2000. Each hunt is limited to 75 hunters.

Firearm hunts are split into three types:

Sika: December 14-15, 18-22, & 28-29, 2000.

January 4- 5, 8-12, & 15-16, 2001.

Wheelchair: Dates vary each year.

Whitetail: December 11-12, 2000.

Application Deadlines

Archery: August 28, 2000 (receipt date).

Firearms: October 16, 2000 (postmark date).

Applications must be completely filled in and **will not be accepted over the telephone, faxed to or received by fax from hunters.** Applications must be submitted to the refuge administration building with application fee attached.

Hunting parties of up to four people may apply and at least one member of the party must be 18 years of age. If a person's name appears on more than one application, all applications with the duplicate name will be disqualified. At least one of the persons on the original application must remain in the actual hunting party.

Lottery Dates

Archery: September 1, 2000.

Firearms: October 23, 2000.

A computerized lottery will be held for each hunt. The designated contact person listed on each successful application will receive notification letters immediately following the lottery and he/she will be responsible for informing the other party members of the assigned dates.

Orientations

Hunters **must** attend a hunt orientation of the type of hunt he/she will be participating in. Sessions will be held at 10 am with scouting permitted from 11 am - 6 pm. *An additional 1 pm orientation will be offered on December 10, 2000.

See specific hunt sections for more information.

Permit Fees

A \$5.00 fee will be charged to process all applications in addition to the \$20.00 permit fee. Pay fees by check or money order made payable to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Fees are non-refundable. See specific hunt sections for more information.

Stand-by Hunter Drawings

Archery: Vacant slots will be filled by hunters who apply for the stand-by lottery following each archery orientation.

Firearms: Vacant zones will be filled by groups of up to four hunters who apply for the stand-by lottery following each firearms orientation. Only the group representative is required to be present at the lottery drawing, as long as the remaining group members have attended a previous firearms orientation during the current season.

Those selected as stand-by hunters will not be charged an application fee. However, they are required to pay the permit fee at the orientation.

Bag Limits

Sika: Permitted firearm and archery hunters may take up to five sika, two of which may be antlered, during each season.

Whitetail: Set by Virginia State Regulations.

The taking of wildlife other than the permitted species is prohibited.

Other General Regulations

Public hunting of sika and white-tailed deer is allowed during designated times and in designated zones of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. A refuge permit is required to hunt, but does not serve as an entrance pass to the refuge.

All Federal and State hunting regulations apply.

A valid Virginia hunting license or archery license (depending on season), big game license and refuge permit are required to hunt on the refuge. However, Virginia tagging and checking requirements do not apply to **sika** harvested on the refuge. Entrance fee provisions apply.

All harvested animals must be brought to the refuge's official check station, located at subheadquarters, for inspection by personnel.

A sign-in/out box is located near the check station. Each hunter must sign in and out immediately before entering and after exiting the hunt zone.

The boundaries of the hunt zones are recognized in the field by prominent landmarks, flagging and signs (*see map*). Each hunter is responsible for knowing the boundaries of his/her hunt zone.

All hunters must make a reasonable effort to recover wounded animals and must notify the check station immediately if they have been unable to recover the animal.