



Worcester County League of Sportsmen's Clubs

Dear MA State Senators, MA State Representatives, Fisheries and Wildlife Board, and MA Wildlife Officials:

Attached on the second page is the web posting of the scheduled public hearing on the proposed archery season changes for State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) by MassWildlife. We understand these Regulation Changes do not require Legislation, however we assume you will be hearing pros and cons from your respected constituency and that is the reason for our League's letter, whereby members of this League reside in your constituency.

The Worcester County League of Sportsmen's Clubs representing 25,000 + sportsmen from 50+ clubs in Worcester County are in full and total support of these proposed Regulation Changes by MassWildlife.

In speaking with several of our Worcester County residing members, several own/share/rent property on the Cape and Islands and would take advantage of an extended archery season in MA Hunting Zones 10-14. We do understand there continues to be a larger than desired deer population in these zones, whereby a season extension can help MA Wildlife establish a healthy, sustainable deer herd in these zones. An oversized deer population tends to result in more car-deer collisions, urban/suburban homeowner landscaping damage and frustration, and homeowners feeding deer like it is a pet changing their diet and feeding habits. Other recognized issues of over-population include under-sized/malnutrition herd, some more susceptible to disease. Other important state legislation that furthers the interests of the state's archers and herd management includes Sunday hunting, allowing cross-bows for hunter to use, and reducing the distance from a dwelling one may hunt.

The League plans to have representatives present at the Public Hearing on March 7th, to convey the League's support and answer any questions.

Best regards,

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Cc: Nish Nishan, Worcester County League President

Joseph Alfonso, Worcester County League Vice President

March 7, 2018: Public Hearing, Westborough. In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 5, and Chapter 30A, Section 2, NOTICE is hereby given of a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at 7:00 P.M., at the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Field Headquarters, Richard Cronin Building, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, off North Drive, Westborough, Massachusetts, **to amend rules and regulations relating to the archery deer season in Wildlife Management Zones 10-14.**

In the event that state offices are closed due to inclement weather on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 (official notifications are made on www.mass.gov), the public hearing will be postponed and held on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at 7 P.M.

[DFW_Deer Archery Season Date Amendments_321 CMR 3.02\(4\)\(b\)\(2\)_redline](#)

[DFW_Deer Archery Season Date Amendments_321 CMR 3.02\(4\)\(b\)\(2\)_clean](#)

321 CMR 3.02(4) Hunting and Tagging of Deer

(b) Open Season. The open season shall be in five periods as follows:

1. Beginning the last Monday in October and ending the following Saturday, any three days of which may be selected by the Director, there shall be a special season for paraplegics exclusively, who may hunt deer by means of a shotgun not larger than ten gauge, including shotguns with a rifled bore, by means of a muzzle-loading firearm, fired from the shoulder, .44 to .775 caliber, or by means of a bow and arrow. Such hunting shall be limited to those specified areas designated by the Director. During this special season, nothing shall prevent the otherwise lawful hunting of birds and mammals in accordance with established statutes and regulations.

a. In zones 1-9, beginning on the sixth Monday prior to Thanksgiving and ending on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving, all days inclusive, ~~except on the tribal lands of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head in the Town of Aquinnah in Dukes County,~~ there shall be a special season for archers exclusively and during this period deer may be hunted only by means of a bow and arrow. In zones 10-14, beginning on the eighth Monday prior to Thanksgiving and ending on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving, all days inclusive, except on the tribal lands of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head in the Town of Aquinnah in Dukes County, there shall be a special season for archers exclusively and during this period deer may be hunted only by means of a bow and arrow.