



MASSWILDLIFE

## DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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[MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE](https://www.mass.gov/masswildlife)

### [LEGAL NOTICE VERSION]

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

321 CMR 3.02(4)

In accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 4 and 5, and Ch. 30A, Sec. 2, NOTICE is hereby given that the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife will hold a public hearing on the emergency regulatory amendments to 321 CMR 3.02(4) Hunting and Tagging of Deer Regulations that were filed December 19, 2025, in Massachusetts via a Zoom video webinar on **Monday, February 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**, with the Hearing Officer and MassWildlife staff, with the public joining via computer or phone line. The emergency regulations a) Removed the on-island deer check requirement; b) Removed the visibility requirement for unchecked harvested deer; c) Extended the Winter Season on WMZs 13 and 14 an additional two weeks; and d) Created an additional primitive and archery deer hunting season for 10 days prior to the Youth Deer Hunt day on WMZs 13 and 14.

The proposed regulatory amendments relative to 321 CMR 3.02(4) and the link to join the Zoom webinar are also posted at [Mass.gov/MassWildlife/Hearings](https://www.mass.gov/MassWildlife/Hearings), so that interested persons can review the proposed regulations and provide oral comments during the virtual hearing. Written public comments will also be accepted before the hearing and after it closes, until Monday, March 9, 2026, 4:00 p.m., via an online comment form; a link to the form can be found in the notice on the public hearings page given above. Written comments may also be submitted by mail, to MassWildlife, Attn: Susan Sacco, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

Reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities is available upon request. To submit a request for an accommodation, please email [eeadiversity@mass.gov](mailto:eeadiversity@mass.gov) or call 617-626-1282; an ADA Coordinator will receive your request. Please include a description of the request in as much detail as possible and a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please allow at least 2 weeks' (14 days) advance notice. Last-minute requests will be accepted but we may be unable to fulfill the request.

MassWildlife is committed to providing equitable access to its public meetings and events. Real-time language interpretation, including in Español, Português, 中文, Kreyòl Ayisyen, and Tiếng Việt, will be provided upon request for attendees who wish to use it. We will make every effort to provide other languages as requested. Please contact Susan Sacco at [susan.sacco@mass.gov](mailto:susan.sacco@mass.gov) to request interpretation by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2025.

Everose Schlüter, Ph.D.  
Acting Director

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**Small Business Impact Statement**  
(Emergency/Amended)

CMR No:  
**321 CMR 3.0: Hunting**

Estimate of the Number of Small Businesses Impacted by the Regulation: 0

- **Will small businesses have to create, file, or issue additional reports?**  
No.
- **Will small businesses have to implement additional recordkeeping procedures?**  
No.
- **Will small businesses have to provide additional administrative oversight?**  
No.
- **Will small businesses have to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation?**  
No.
- **Does compliance with the regulation require small businesses to hire other professionals (e.g. a lawyer, accountant, engineer, etc.)?**  
No.
- **Does the regulation require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the regulation?**  
No.
- **Are performance standards more appropriate than design/operational standards to accomplish the regulatory objective?**  
(Performance standards express requirements in terms of outcomes, giving the regulated party flexibility to achieve regulatory objectives and design/operational standards specify exactly what actions regulated parties must take.)  
No.
- **Do any other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation?**  
No.
- **Does the regulation require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement activities?**  
No.
- **Does the regulation require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements?**  
No.
- **Is the regulation likely to *deter* the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts?**  
No.
- **Is the regulation likely to *encourage* the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts?**  
No.
- **Does the regulation provide for less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?**  
No.
- **Does the regulation establish less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?**

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No.

- **Did the agency consolidate or simplify compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?**

No.