

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Notice of Agency Rulemaking Proposal

AGENCY: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Advertise: June 24, 2026

CHAPTER NUMBER AND RULE TITLE: Chapter 16.07 - Deer Hunting (Special Regulations and Closures)

TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical

PROPOSAL FILING NUMBER:

BRIEF SUMMARY: In accordance with 12 MRS, §11401, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in conjunction with the Town of Tremont in Hancock County is proposing to conduct a special deer hunt during the month of November beginning in 2026 and extending for 3 years. Deer taken during this special hunt are in addition to the statewide bag limit. All other specifications of the special hunt set by the Town and all other laws and rules relating to deer hunting shall apply. Please contact the agency contact person for a complete copy of the rule proposal.

PUBLIC HEARING: July 20, 2026 @ 4:00pm - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, 353 Water Street, Room 400, Augusta. An online option for attending via Microsoft Teams will also be available. For those wishing to attend remotely, please contact the Agency Contact Person for this filing.

COMMENT DEADLINE: July 30, 2026

CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:

Becky Orff

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CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT: Click or tap here to enter text.

FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES: None anticipated

STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE: 12 MRS Section 10104, 11401

SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED: Click or tap here to enter text.

AGENCY WEBSITE: www.maine.gov/ifw

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULEMAKING LIAISON:

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Choose one of the following:

The summary provided above is for publication in both the newspaper and website notices.

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Rulemaking Fact Sheet

(see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(1))

Agency: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Name, Address, Telephone Number, and Email Address of Agency Contact Person:

Becky Orff

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207-287-5202

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Statutory Authority: 12 MRS Sections 10104, 11401

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Comment Deadline(s): July 30, 2026

Principal Reason(s) or Purpose for Proposing this Rule [see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(1)(A)]: Mount Desert Island (MDI) currently has a continual closed season on deer. The Commissioner of MDIFW may by rule open towns on MDI to deer hunting if the affected towns approve of the opening. The Commissioner may also create special hunting seasons for the taking of deer. The Town of Tremont (Town) is located on MDI and proposed a special hunting season because of increased property damage complaints, deer-vehicle collisions, a high prevalence of Lyme Disease, and undesirable tame behavior in deer. This proposed rulemaking would create a special hunting season by rule and correct a statutory citation.

Is Material Incorporated by Reference into the Rule [see 5 M.R.S. § 8056(2-A)]? No

Analysis and Expected Operation of the Rule [see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(1)(B) & (D)]: The Town will hold a special hunt during the month of November beginning in 2026 and extending for 3 years unless the Tremont Select Board or IFW per IFW statutory authority decides to suspend the hunt following any of the November special hunting seasons. After 3 special hunting seasons, the Town will vote on whether to continue regulated hunting within the Town in some form. The town will administer the hunt, and hunters must follow all specifications of the hunt set by the Town in addition to all other rules and laws related to deer hunting.

Brief Summary of Relevant Information Considered During Development of the Rule (including up to 3 primary sources relied upon)[see 5 M.R.S. §§ 8057-A(1)(E) & 8063-B]: The Town has considered deer-vehicle collisions, Lyme Disease prevalence, property damage complaints, and observations of undesirable tame deer behavior in their proposal. The Town held a vote on the special hunting season proposal, and the proposed special hunting season was supported by the Town Select Board and a majority of the Town’s voters.

Estimated Fiscal Impact of the Rule [see 5 M.R.S. § 8057-A(1)(C)]: None anticipated. [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

AMEND CHAPTER 16.07 (8.) AS FOLLOWS:

09-137 DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Chapter 16: HUNTING

16.07 Deer Hunting

8. Deer Hunting Special Regulations and Closures

The following special regulations and closures are provided in accordance with the commissioner's authority under Title 12, M.R.S. §1140~~2~~¹.

A. **Cumberland County: The area within Prout's Neck including:** Richmond's Island, Cape Elizabeth Sanctuary described below shall be open to deer hunting with bow and arrow only during any open hunting season that allows archery hunting of deer and during the regular firearms deer season in Cumberland County. The area open to hunting shall be the land comprising 1,600 acres, more or less, situated in said Town of Cape Elizabeth, and bounded as follows: Southeasterly and southerly by the low watermark of the Atlantic Ocean, westerly by the low watermark of the Spurwink River, northerly by the Spurwink road, so-called, leading from Spurwink Bridge to Bowery Beach, easterly by a certain private road or way which runs in a southerly direction from the aforesaid Spurwink Road to said Bowery Beach, being the road which runs in front of the dwelling house of one Charles L. Jordan, and along the easterly boundary of land of said Charles L. Jordan, and along the westerly boundary of land of the Great Pond Club, but not including any portion of said Bowery Beach.

B. **Hancock County:**

(1) **The whole of Cranberry Isles:** shall be open to the hunting of deer

with a shotgun or archery equipment during any open hunting season that allows a shotgun or archery equipment to be used to hunt deer.

(2) **Mount Desert Island:** shall have a continual closed season on deer-
except that the Town of Tremont (Town) shall be open to a special deer hunt during the month of November beginning in November 2026 and ending after November 2028. The Tremont Select Board or the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may choose to suspend the hunt following any of the November seasons of the special hunt. There will be no hunting of antlered deer in the Town during the special hunt. Deer taken during this special hunt are in addition to the statewide bag limit. All participating hunters must obtain permission to hunt in Tremont from the Tremont Town Office, use shotgun or archery equipment from fixed blinds only, and register any deer harvested in Tremont at the tagging station designated by the Town Office. The Town of Tremont will administer permit selection for Town residents and nonresidents and ensure compliance with Town ordinances. All other specifications of the special hunt set by the Town and all other laws and rules relating to deer hunting shall apply.

(3) **Swans Island in the Town of Swans Island:** is open to the hunting of deer during any open deer hunting season. All other laws and rules relating to deer hunting shall apply.