

Assateague Island National Seashore
Hunting Report 2004-2005

I. Participating Staff

A. Law Enforcement

1. Assistant Chief Ranger Ted Morlock
2. Park Ranger Todd Garrett (Hunting Coordinator)
3. Park Ranger Dana Condon
4. Park Ranger David Rapp
5. Park Ranger Lynne Belanich
6. Hunting Intern Chris Overbaugh

B. Visitor Use Assistants

1. Debbie Morlock
2. Kristie Williams
3. Ethan Kimborough

C. Resource Management

1. Jack Kumer
2. Mark Sturm

II. General

Assateague Island's hunting season followed Maryland's hunting season as much as possible with a few differences:

1. Muzzleloader Season started and ended after Maryland started and ended.
2. Junior hunt for Sika was on the same day as Junior Waterfowl hunt day.
3. All hunting at Assateague ended on January 29 (Saturday instead of Monday)

The park operated as a Maryland Big Game Check Station for the 6th straight year. Maryland Department of Natural Resources provided big game possession tags.

Assateague Island National Seashore
Hunting Report 2004-2005

III. Seasons

DEER SEASONS

Species	Type of Season	Dates	Season Bag Limit
Whitetail Deer (buck only, minimum 3 points on one antler)	Archery (Vertical Bow) (Crossbow) (Crossbow)	Sep. 15 – Jan. 29 Oct. 1 – Oct. 15 Jan. 15 – Jan. 29	One*/***
Whitetail Deer (buck only, minimum 3 points on one antler)	Shotgun	Nov. 27 – Dec. 11	One*
Sika	Archery (Vertical Bow) (Crossbow) (Crossbow)	Sep. 15 – Jan. 29 Oct. 1 – Oct. 15 Jan. 15 – Jan. 29	Four**/***
Sika	Muzzleloader	Oct. 25 – Oct. 30 Nov. 27 – Dec. 11	Two**
Sika	Shotgun	Nov. 27 – Dec. 11	Four**
Junior Sika Hunt (Hunters age 16 or younger only; must be accompanied by a licensed unarmed adult age 21 or older)	Shotgun	Nov. 6	One*

UPLAND GAME SEASONS

Species	Open Season	Bag Limit (Possession limit same as bag limit)
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	Nov. 6 – Jan. 29	4
Quail	Nov. 6 – Jan. 29	6
Mourning Dove	Sep. 15 – Oct. 16 Nov. 12 – Nov. 20 Dec. 18 – Jan. 1	12
Fox	Nov. 6 – Jan. 29	No Limit
Crow, Woodcock, Clapper and King Rails, Sora and Virginia Rails, Common Snipe	Closed	Closed

Assateague Island National Seashore
Hunting Report 2004-2005

DUCKS, MERGANSERS and COOTS

Species	Season Dates	Bag Limit
Ducks, Coots, and Mergansers*	Oct. 9 – Oct. 16 Nov. 13 – Nov. 26 Dec. 14 – Jan. 29	See Duck Daily Bag Limit*
Black Duck	Nov. 13 – Nov. 26 Dec. 14 – Jan. 29	One
Pintail	Oct. 9 – Oct. 16 Jan. 4 – Jan. 29	One
Canvasback	Dec. 27 – Jan. 29	One
Junior Waterfowl Day	Nov. 6	See Duck Daily Bag Limit * (Plus 2 Canada Goose)

SEA DUCKS, GEESE and BRANT

Species	Season Dates	Bag Limit
Sea Ducks (Scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Eiders)	Oct. 2 – Nov. 26 Nov. 29 – Jan. 29	5 per day (no more than 4 Scoters)
Canada Goose (Atlantic Population)	Nov. 18 – Nov. 26	1 per day
	Dec. 18 – Jan. 6	1 per day
	Jan. 7 – Jan. 29	2 per day
Atlantic Brant	Nov. 17 – Nov. 26 Dec. 14 – Jan. 29	2 per day
Greater Snow Geese	Oct. 16 – Nov. 26 Dec. 4 – Jan. 29	15 per day (no possession limit)
Tundra Swan	SEASON CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED

Assateague Island National Seashore
Hunting Report 2004-2005

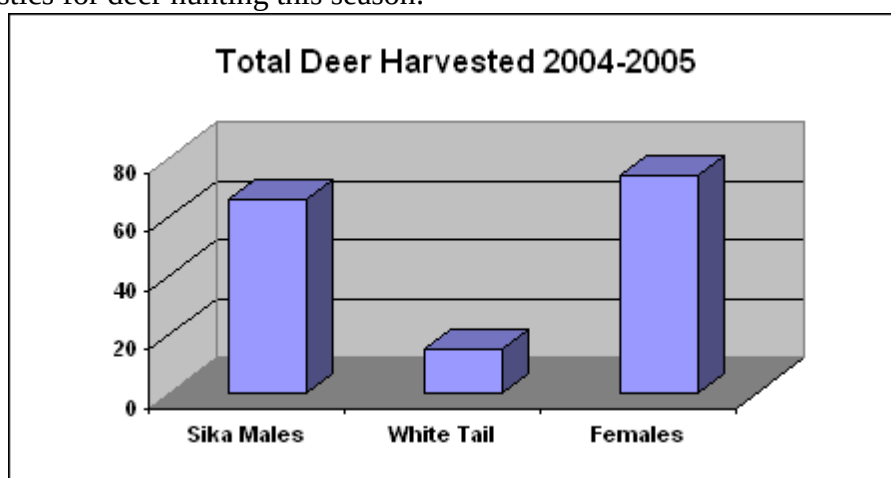
IV. Deer

The North end of Assateague Island was open for archery-only Sika hunting this year. There were two separate areas, the boat access and the foot access zones. Whitetail bucks, with a minimum of 3 points on one side, were included in the bag limits this year. There was some early confusion concerning the regulations on Whitetail hunting.

Extremely high tides closed most of the beach on the opening day of muzzleloader season. The Over Sand Vehicle Zone was closed from approximately Kilometer 17.5 to the Virginia state line.

The following are statistics for deer hunting this season:

Total Deer Harvested	
Sika Males	66
White Tail	15
Sika Females	74
	155



Weapon Success	
Shotgun	72
Muzzleloader	49
Vertical Bow	32
Cross Bow	2
	155

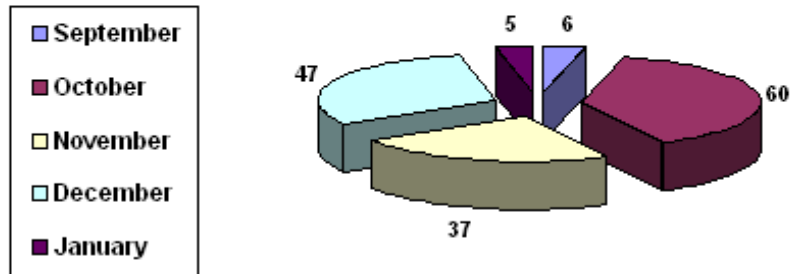


Assateague Island National Seashore
Hunting Report 2004-2005

Deer Kills by Month

September	6
October	60
November	37
December	47
January	5
	155

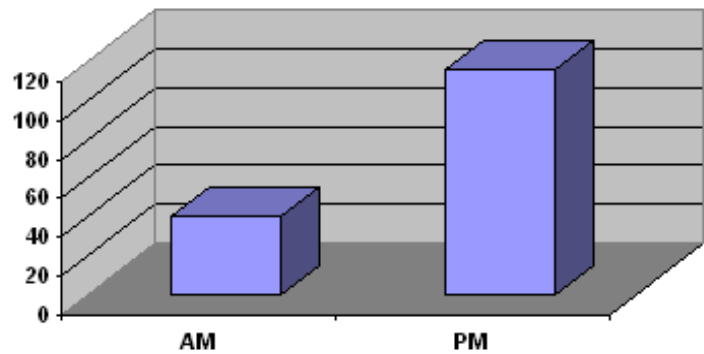
Deer Kills by Month 2004-2005



Deer Hunting Effort

AM	40
PM	115
	155

Deer Hunting Effort



V. Upland Game

Fifty five hunts resulted in only seven rabbits harvested this season. No fox, dove, or quail were harvested.

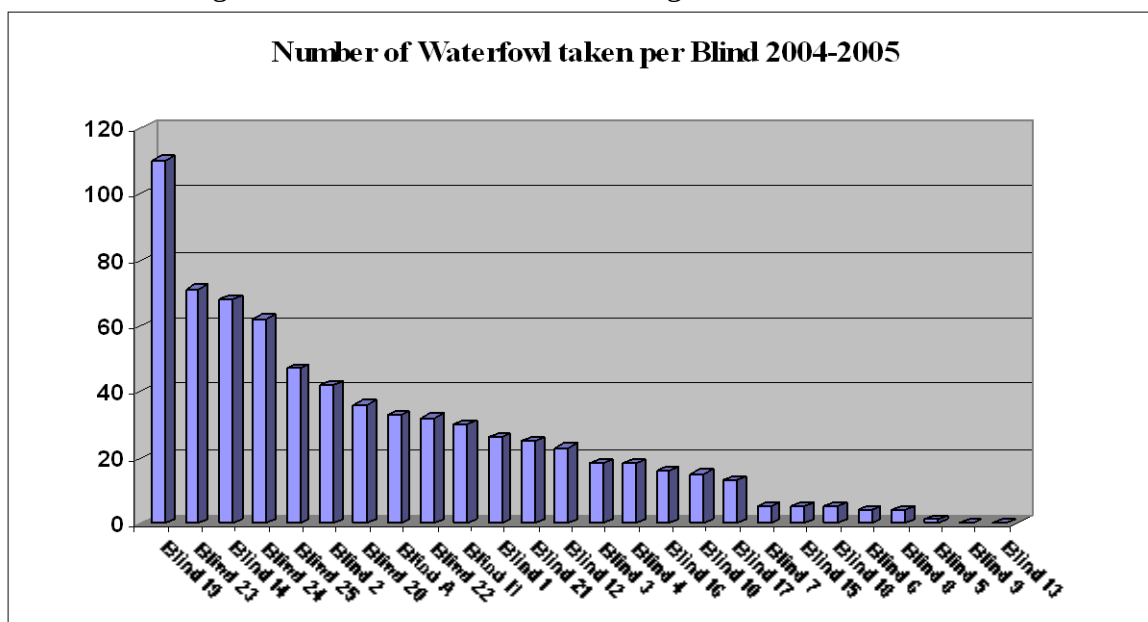
Assateague Island National Seashore
Hunting Report 2004-2005

VI. Migratory Game Birds

The waterfowl season mirrored Maryland's season. The weather this year was approximately the same as last year. Warm weather in the first two splits made poor waterfowl hunting conditions. During the third split cold temperatures froze the guts and iced in a lot of the blinds.

Blind 13 and 18 were moved and made areas. Blind 19 was historically a boat in blind with a canopy. The canopy was destroyed by fowl weather and the blind was also used as an area. Blind 4 was a pit which was leaking from the bottom. It was left full of water and also used as an area.

The following are statistics for waterfowl hunting this season:

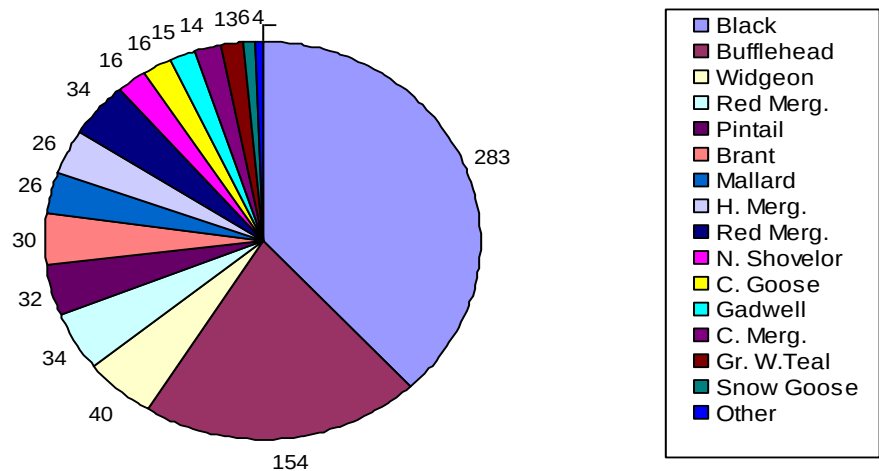


Assateague Island National Seashore
Hunting Report 2004-2005

Blind 19	110
Blind 23	71
Blind 14	68
Blind 24	62
Blind 25	47
Blind 2	42
Blind 20	36
Blind A	33
Blind 22	32
Blind 11	30
Blind 1	26
Blind 21	25
Blind 12	23
Blind 3	18
Blind 4	18
Blind 16	16
Blind 10	15
Blind 17	13
Blind 7	5
Blind 15	5
Blind 18	5
Blind 6	4
Blind 8	4
Blind 5	1
Blind 9	0
Blind 13	0

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Waterfowl Kills by Species 2004-2005



Assateague Island National Seashore
Hunting Report 2004-2005

Black	263
Bufflehead	154
Widgeon	40
Red Merg.	34
Pintail	32
Brant	30
Mallard	26
H. Merg.	26
N. Shoveler	16
Can. Goose	16
Gadwell	15
C. Merg.	14
G. Winged Teal	13
Snow Goose	6
Old Squaw	2
Scoter	1
Golden Eye	1
	709

BLIND PRODUCTIVITY

Blind #	# Hours	# of Waterfowl		Rank	Blind	Waterfowl/Hours
19	158	110	0.696202	1	23	1.290909
14	147	68	0.462585	2	3	0.818181
24	126	62	0.492063	3	1	0.722222
A	93	33	0.354838	4	19	0.696202
25	89	47	0.528089	5	6	0.666666
22	78	32	0.410256	6	4	0.6
2	76	42	0.552631	7	11	0.566037
20	72	36	0.5	8	2	0.552631
12	63	23	0.365079	9	25	0.528089
16	59	16	0.271186	10	20	0.5
23	55	71	1.290909	11	24	0.492063
11	53	30	0.566037	12	21	0.471698
21	53	25	0.471698	13	114	0.462585
10	42	15	0.357142	14	22	0.410256
17	38	13	0.342105	15	112	0.365079
1	36	26	0.722222	16	10	0.357142
4	30	18	0.6	17	A	0.354838
3	22	18	0.818181	18	17	0.342105
18	21	5	0.238095	19	7	0.3125
15	20	5	0.25	20	8	0.285714
7	16	5	0.3125	21	16	0.271186
8	14	4	0.285714	22	15	0.25
5	8	1	0.125	23	18	0.238095
6	6	4	0.666666	24	5	0.125
9	0	0	0	25	9	0
13	0	0	0	26	13	0
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Assateague Island National Seashore
Hunting Report 2004-2005

VII. Violations

The following are violations that occurred during the 2004-2005 hunting season:

2004

- 3 Shoot Waterfowl on Water
- 4 False Info
- 2 Take Waterfowl out of Season
- 1 Take In Excess of Daily Bag Limit
- 3 Possession Toxic Shot
- 2 Take with Unplugged Shotgun
- 2 Take/Attempt Migratory Waterfowl w/out Federal Waterfowl Stamp
- 4 No Identification while Hunting
- 1 Uncased Weapon in Motor Vehicle

2005

- 1 Possession Toxic Shot
- 1 Take Migratory Game Birds In Violation of Federal Law
- 1 Unsigned Duck Stamp

VIII. Training

There was no official in park training in preparation for the 2004-2005 hunting season.