

# 2018 DEER HUNTING FORECAST



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

## Region 1

### WMU 1C

Area = 903 mile<sup>2</sup>

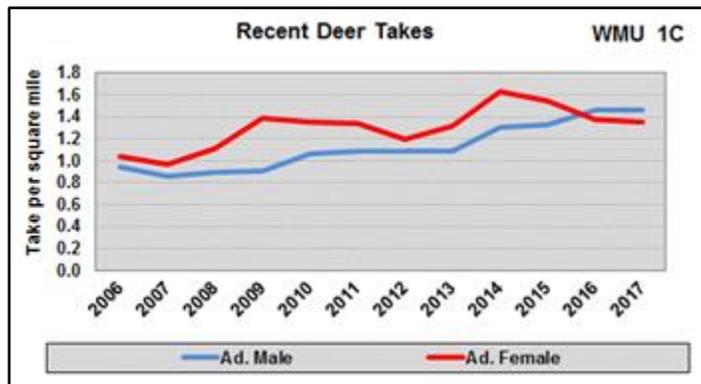
Buck Take Objective = None

2017 Buck Take = 1.5 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2017 Total Deer Take = 3.6 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Hunters in WMU 1C harvested a total of 3,253 deer during the 2017-2018 season, nearly equivalent to the previous year's harvest. Adult buck harvest was also similar to the 2016 harvest, and adult female harvest continued down with a slight decline.

The landscape of Suffolk County's residential/developed areas interspersed with agricultural lands, pine barren and mixed forests as well as wetlands make this unit ideal for deer population growth. Deer sightings continue to climb in moderately developed areas, where gaining access to huntable land is challenging.



The WMU saw a spike in total harvest during the 2014 season, but adult female harvest has decreased steadily since then, even as buck harvest has continued to increase. These trends indicate that despite the liberalized hunting season length and a surplus of antlerless deer tags available for hunters, not enough does are being taken to bring about the population reduction that is needed.

Our goal for this unit is to maximize harvests to reduce negative impacts from deer overabundance. We are exploring potential methods of achieving higher antlerless take. During the 2018-2019 season, we will continue to issue [Bonus Deer Management Permits \(DMPs\)](#), valid for antlerless deer only, via e-mail, mail or in person at one of

the many town- and state-operated check stations. Hunters who have filled a DMP or bonus DMP in WMU 1C may obtain a bonus tag so they can continue hunting. They will not be required to bring in a head or carcass to get a tag.

To help us collect information on herd age structure and condition, please consider having your harvested deer checked at the Ridge Hunter Check Station.

The January Firearms season will run January 6<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>. To be included in the lottery for a reservation to hunt DEC-managed lands in January, entries must be received before December 4<sup>th</sup>.

With a majority of land being privately owned, access to deer habitat continues to be one of the primary factors limiting the effectiveness of hunters in WMU 1C. DEC continues to work with local municipalities and property owners to increase access to parcels suitable for hunting. Many of these properties are open to hunting through cooperative agreements authorizing DEC to manage hunting access only. It is important for hunters to remember to be respectful of the property and other recreational user groups. Quite often these parks are open to mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking and fishing concurrently with hunting. It is imperative that hunters maintain a good relationship with other user groups to keep multi-use cooperative areas open to archery and shotgun hunting in the future.

Regulated hunting alone is not likely to sufficiently reduce abundant deer populations to the desired levels in many Long Island communities. In these areas, we expect that communities will need to coordinate with DEC to implement more

focused approaches, such as greater organization of recreational hunters and culling of deer by professionals and/or trained volunteers.

To learn more about hunting opportunities on Long Island, please visit our [Long Island hunting opportunity page](#). You can also call our wildlife information line on Mondays and Thursdays at (631) 444-0310 or, during the open hunting seasons, the hunter check station in Ridge, NY at (631) 924-3156.

Other hunting links:

- Suffolk County Parks [www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Parks/RecreationalActivities/Hunting.aspx](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Parks/RecreationalActivities/Hunting.aspx)
- Southold Town - <http://ny-southold.civicplus.com/index.aspx?nid=438>

Leslie Lupo

Region 1 Big Game Biologist