



**An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta**
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Hunting Licences for Game and Open Seasons - 2018/19

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht would like to inform all game hunters of the following important information with regard to hunting licences.

Under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2012 ([No 29 of 2012](#)) all holders of a valid Firearm Certificate issued for a shotgun on or after 1 August 2009 are deemed by law to be the holders of a Hunting Licence under the Wildlife Acts for the purposes of hunting game bird and hare species.

The species which can be hunted and the relevant time periods are set out below. The hunting of deer species may only be done with a rifle and still requires a specific Deer Hunting Licence.

HUNTING SEASONS FOR WILD BIRDS & HARES

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON
Red Grouse	1 September to 30 September
Mallard, Teal, Gadwall, Wigeon, Pintail, Shoveler, Scaup, Tufted Duck, Pochard, Goldeneye, Golden Plover, Snipe, Jack Snipe.	1 September to 31 January
Red-Legged Partridge, Cock Pheasant, Woodcock, Woodpigeon	1 November to 31 January
Canada Geese (Countrywide) The counties of Cavan (exclusive of the townlands of Eonish Island, Rinn, Deramfield) and Leitrim (exclusive of the River Shannon)	1 September to 15 October 16 October to 31 January
Greylag Geese (Countrywide) Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford and Gearagh East, Gearagh West in Co. Cork only	1 September to 15 October 16 October to 31 January
Ruddy Duck	1 September to 31 January
Hares (excluding the following townlands in Co. Wexford: North East Slob, North West Slob, Big Island, Beggerin Island and the Raven).	26 September to 28 February

HUNTING SEASONS FOR DEER SPECIES

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	LOCATION
Red Male	1 September to 31 December	Throughout the State Excluding Co. Kerry
Red Female & Antlerless Deer *	1 November to 28 February	Throughout the State Excluding Co. Kerry
Sika Male	1 September to 31 December	Throughout the State
Sika Female & Antlerless Deer *	1 November to 28 February	Throughout the State
Fallow Male	1 September to 31 December	Throughout the State
Fallow Female & Antlerless Deer *	1 November to 28 February	Throughout the State
Muntjac Deer	1 September to 31 August	Throughout the State

*Antlerless deer will be construed as including any male deer without antlers, of less than one year, i.e. a calf.