

## The Wildlife (Wild Mammals) (Open Seasons) Orders 2005 to 2024

### Unofficial Consolidation

Updated to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

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### S.I. NO. 550 OF 2005

#### WILDLIFE (WILD MAMMALS) (OPEN SEASONS) ORDER, 2005.

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Sections 8(2) of the [Wildlife Act, 1976](#) (No. 39 of 1976), and the Heritage (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order, 2002 ( [S.I. No. 356 of 2002](#) ) hereby orders as follows:

1. This Order may be cited as the Wildlife (Wild Mammals) ~~(Open Seasons Order, 2005)~~ **(Open Seasons) Order, 2005.**
2. In this Order a reference to a column is to a column of the Schedule to this Order.
3. The species of protected wild mammals specified in column (1) may be hunted during the periods specified in relation to the species concerned in column (2), in the manner so specified in column (3), in the places in the State so specified in column (4).
4. For the purposes of this order Antlerless Deer will be construed as including any male deer without antlers, of less than one year, i.e. a calf
5. The Wildlife (Wild Mammals) (Open Seasons) Order, 1998 ( [S.I. No. 331 of 1998](#) ), is hereby revoked.

#### “SCHEDULE”

Species of Wild Mammal	Hunting Period	Manner of Hunting	Places in the State
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Male Fallow Deer	The period beginning on the 1st day of August in each year and ending on the 30th day of April in the	Shooting with firearms	Throughout the State.

**Commented [C1]:** Inserted by S.I. 66 of 2024

**Commented [C2]:** New schedule to change the open season dates applying to deer inserted by S.I. 66 of 2024 and previous schedule removed.

	year immediately following that year.		
Female and Antlerless Fallow Deer	The period beginning on the 1st day of November in each year and ending on the 31st day of March in the year immediately following that year.	Shooting with firearms	Throughout the State.
Male Sika Deer	The period beginning on the 1st day of August in each year and ending on the 30th day of April in the year immediately following that year.	Shooting with firearms	Throughout the State.
Female and Antlerless Sika Deer	The period beginning on the 1st day of November in each year and ending on the 31st day of March in the year immediately following that year.	Shooting with firearms	Throughout the State.
Male Red Deer	The period beginning on the 1st day of August in each year and ending on the 30th day of April in the year immediately following that year.	Shooting with firearms	Throughout the State exclusive of the county of Kerry.
Female and Antlerless Red Deer	The period beginning on the 1st day of November in each year and ending on the 31st day of March in the year immediately following that year.	Shooting with firearms	Throughout the State exclusive of the county of Kerry.
Hares	The period beginning on the 26th day of September in each year and ending on the 28th day of February in the year immediately following that year.	Shooting with firearms; coursing at regulated coursing matches; hunting with packs of beagles and harriers	Throughout the State exclusive of the townlands of North East Slob, North West Slob, Big Island, Beggerin Island and The Raven, in the county of Wexford.
Muntjac Deer	The period beginning on the 1st day of September in each year and ending on the 31st day of August in	Shooting with firearms	Throughout the State.

	the year immediately following that year.		
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GIVEN under the Official Seal of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, this 1st day of September 2005

Dick Roche,

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The effect of this Order is to set hunting seasons for certain species of wild mammals and to revoke the Wildlife (Wild Mammals) (Open Seasons) Order 1998 (S.I. 331 of 1998)