



Hunting in IRELAND



SURFACE AREA

Total surface area	70.300 km ²
Woodlands	92 % coniferous, 8% broadleaf
Farming area	90 % grassland
Huntable area	Hunting takes place countrywide except in National Parks and state sanctuaries. Gun clubs also have "no shooting" area.

HUNTER/POPULATION

Population	4.500.000
Number of hunters	300.000
% Hunters	6.7%
Hunters / Inhabitants	1/15
Population density inhabitants/km ²	64



Socio-demographic profile of the Irish hunters

The socio-economic profile of hunters in Ireland is difficult to determine because it is not a requirement of State law that every hunting licence holder be a member of a hunting organisation. However, from the figures that are available from hunting organisations, it is clear that 30 % of those hunting are farmers and a further 30% come from farming families. Hunting in Ireland is not an elitist sport and therefore people from all walks of life take part.

- <30 years old	24%
- From 30 to 60 years old	67%
- Over 60 years old	9%

Gender

The trend for the number of female hunters, currently less than 3%, is increasing.

Economic importance of hunting

An independent study was carried out by University College Dublin, (UCD) and its findings were published in 1998. The study found that the economic value of fieldsports in the Irish economy amounted to in excess of €100 million per annum.



HUNTING SYSTEM

Competent authorities

National Parks & Wildlife Service

7 Ely Place

Dublin 2

+353 1 6743000

www.npws.ie

natureconservation@environ.ie

Hunters' associations

National Association of Regional Game Councils - N.A.R.G.C.



6 Sandford Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6, Ireland


+353 497 4888, Fax: 353 497 4828


nargc@iol.ie

www.nargc.ie

The *National Association of Regional Game Councils* (NARGC) was founded in 1968 and is the largest voluntary organisation in Ireland involved in wildlife promotion, game conservation, habitat preservation and hunting. The 27,000 members are spread throughout 1000+ gun clubs around the country.


Irish Deer Society (IDS)


 1 Albert College Lawn, Glasnevin, Dublin 9.

 01 836 9526

www.irishdeersociety.ie


Irish Game Protection Association (IGPA)

 24 Quinn's Road, Shankill, Co Dublin.


 +353 1 497 9654

Irish Coursing Club (ICC)


 Davis Road, Clonmel, Co Tipperary.

 +353 52 22611


Irish Hawking Club (IHC)


 Bannff, Portmarnock Road, Portmarnock, Co Dublin

Irish Kennel Club (IKC) –Field Trial Committee (FTC)


 Penane, Templemore, Co Tipperary.


Irish Masters of Foxhournds Association (IMFHA)

 Newrath House, Newrath, Waterford.

 051 853981


Irish Masters of Harriers Association (IMHA)

 Ballydaniel, Ballymnacoda, Co Cork.


 +353 24 98130 Fax: +353 24 92031

Irish Masters of Minkhounds Association (IMMA)

 Grange, Ovens, Co Cork.

 +353 21 34480 Fax: +353 21 344801


Irish Foot Harriers Association (IFHA)


 14 Drumcairne Road, Armagh, Northern Ireland.

 +353 48 37 524522


theirishfootharriersassociation@hotmail.com/


Irish Masters of Beagles Association (IMBA)

 "Kaduna", Ardmahon Estate, Well Road, Douglas, Cork.

 +353 21 293222


Ward Union Staghounds:

 Parochial House, Baldoyle, Co Dublin.

 +353 1 8320230 Fax: +353 18393663

russceng@iol.ie

Countryside Ireland:

 Hotwell House, Enfield, Co Meath.

0405 41220



LEGAL PROVISIONS

Hunting system

HUNTING REGULATIONS

- The *Wildlife Act 1976*, and the *Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000*, regulates the seasons and huntable species.
- The *Firearms Act 1925*, as amended, regulates the issue of firearms/game licences.
- The *Greyhound Industry Act 1958*, as amended, regulates hare coursing.

HUNTING RIGHTS & TERRITORY

In practice, hunting rights belong to the landowner as, following the break up of the many large estates in the 1920's, these rights were lost or ignored in land transfers. The custom and practice is that the shooting rights in most areas are vested in local gun clubs. Hunting with hounds is carried on with the approval of landowners/farmers in the hunt area. Many of the estates, which survived intact, retain their sporting rights and many of these have driven Pheasant and Woodcock shoots. There is no statistical information as to the extent to which the new owners of the land also became owners of the hunting rights. Sport hunting for game birds is organised through a national gun club structure. The umbrella for the gun club movement in Ireland is the *National Association of Regional Game Councils* (NARGC).

Authorized hunting methods

Shooting

Hunting with Hounds

Trapping – Snares, Cages, etc.

SHOOTING EXAMINATION, HUNTING PERMIT

Examination

There is no national hunter examination requirement. However, the *Irish Deer Society* and the *NARGC* run their own Proficiency Courses and a hunting exam will be mandatory from 2010 for anyone wishing to hunt deer in forest owned by Coillte, the state owned forestry Company.

Hunting permits

The standard shotgun firearms licence also incorporates the game licence and costs €25 p.a.. The standard rifle firearms licence costs €38 p.a.. A separate licence to hunt deer must be obtained from the Wildlife Service. This licence is free. The minimum age for a firearms licence is 16 years.

Visitors hunting permits

The Irish police, *An Garda Síochána*, issues visitors' licences. Documentation can be obtained on the Garda website www.garda.ie/angarda/leaflets.html Each application must give the details of the land to be hunted, the name of the landowner and confirmation that the landowner has granted permission.

Insurance

Members of the NARGC are "insured" via their own self-protection scheme called the *NARGC Compensation Fund*. Hunters otherwise avail of commercial insurance policies from, among others, the Countryside Alliance.

FIREARMS, CALIBRE & AMMUNITION

Most calibers are now permitted in Ireland due to successful court challenges in 2004

Travel to Ireland with firearms

Hunters entering the country must receive prior permission before arrival to bring in a firearm. Ireland has derogated from the EU Weapons Directive and therefore the classifications, which may be brought into Ireland, are restricted to hunting calibre firearms and target sporting rifles.

GAME & OPEN SEASONS 2003-2004

WILD BIRDS ORDER

WILD BIRDS	OPEN SEASON	PLACES IN THE STATE
(1)	(2)	(3)
Red Grouse	The period beginning on the 1 st day of September in each year and ending on the 30 th day of September in the same year.	Throughout the State.
Mallard Teal Gadwall Wigeon Pintail Shoveler Scaup Tufted Duck Pochard Goldeneye Golden Plover Snipe Jack Snipe	The period beginning on the 1 st day of September in each year and ending on the 31 st day of January in the year immediately following that year.	Throughout the State.
Red-legged Partridge	The period beginning on the 1 st day of November in each year and ending on the 31 st day of January in the year immediately following that year.	Throughout the State.

Cock Pheasant Woodcock	The period beginning on the 1 st day of November in each year and ending on the 31 st day of January in the year immediately following that year.	Throughout the State.
Curlew	The period beginning on the 1 st day of November in each year and ending on the 30 th day of November in the same year.	Throughout the State.
Canada Goose	The period beginning on the 1 st day of September in each year and ending on the 15 th day of October in the same year.	Throughout the State.
Canada Goose	The period beginning on the 16 th day of October in each year and ending on the 31 st day of January in the year immediately following that year.	The counties of Cavan (exclusive of the townlands of Eonish Island, Rinn, Deramfield) and Leitrim (exclusive of the River Shannon).
Greylag Goose	The period beginning on the 1 st day of September in each year and ending on the 15 th day of October in the same year.	Throughout the State.
Greylag Goose	The period beginning on the 16 th day of October in each year and ending on the 31 st day of January in the year immediately following that year.	Lady's Island, in the county of Wexford Gearagh East & Gearagh West, in the county of Cork.
Ruddy Duck	The period beginning on the 1 st day of September in each year and ending on the 31 st day of January in the year immediately following that year.	Throughout the State.

SEASONS FOR HUNTING DEER

SPECIES	COUNTIES		
Deer	Dublin and Wicklow	Kerry	All other counties
Red Male	1 September to 31 December	No season	1 September to 31 December
Red Female	1 November to 28 February	No Season	1 November to 31 January
Sika Male	1 September to 31 December	1 September to 31 December	1 September to 31 December

Sika Female	1 November to 28 February	1 November to 28 February	1 November to 31 January
Fallow Male	1 September to 31 December	1 September to 31 December	1 September to 31 December
Fallow Female	1 November to 31 January	1 November to 31 January	1 November to 31 January

Game trade

Game meat can only be sold in the Republic of Ireland by officially licensed traders. Practically no game is imported into Ireland.

Hunting Research institutes

Hunting research is being carried out by Dr. Brendan KAVANAGH of the Royal College of Surgeons, on the Grey Partridge and also in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. Other research being conducted for hunting is being carried out by the NARGC from its own resources.

GUNDOGS

Ireland is renowned for its native breeds:

- Irish Red Setter – gun dog – setting and pointing game.
- Irish Water Spaniel – gun dog – retrieving and flushing wildfowl and game
- Irish Red and White Steer – gun dog – setting and pointing
- Kerry Beagle – Black and Tan hound, hunts fox and hare by scent
- Greyhound – sight hound – coursing the hare
- Irish Wolfhound – sometimes used in coursing
- Terrier breeds for fox, rabbit, etc. are Irish Terrier, Kerry Blue, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Glen of Imaal Terrier.

Each breed has its own club, field trials and working tests are organised under *Irish Kennel Club* Rules, other breed clubs are Pointer, English Setter, Labrador, English Springer Spaniel, German Short Haired Pointer, Golden Retriever.

CULTURE

Hunting Museums

The Irish Fly Fishing & Hunting Museum is located at Attanagh, Durrow, Co. Laois. Also, there are at least two active taxidermists in every county in the country and these supply the excellent displays which can be found at game fairs and anywhere there is a public gathering of game

interests. This craft survives primarily as a result of the continued traditional sporting practices of Irish hunters. More information: www.irishflycraft.com


Hunting Press

Gameshot

Published by N.A.R.G.C

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
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Irish Shooter's Digest Magazine

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enquiries@irishshootersdigest.com

www.irishshootersdigest.com

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

- NARGC manages the national conservation strategy for grey partridge (*perdrix perdrix*) for Ireland under contract to the Irish Government.
- No shooting areas established by gun clubs (79% of gun clubs maintain at least one sanctuary in the club territory)
- Waterfowl – release, winter feeding and winter counts
- Pheasant – release, winter feeding and winter counts
- Grey Partridge – Wexford project : release, research and protection
- Snipe and Woodcock – research, counts, wing surveys
- Tree planting – deciduous
- Bag returns
- In-Service Course for Primary School Teachers for Primary School Teachers (NARGC)
- Proficiency Courses (NARGC)
- Grouse Habitat Management Project
- Management of Set Aside Land for Biodiversity
- Wetland Creation & Restoration