

Summary of National Hunting Regulations: *Estonia*



Updated in August 2016

HUNTING AND TRAPPING LEGISLATION/ RESOURCES

Name of main legislation: Hunting Act

Year of publication: 2013

Supporting legislation: Hunting Regulation

Legislation updates: Hunting Act amended 19.11.2015

Hunting legislation (web link): <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/501022016007/consolide> (English version of the Hunting Act). <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/115072016002> (Hunting Regulation in Estonian; English version not available)

Authority in charge of controlling hunting (web link): Environmental Inspectorate (<http://www.kki.ee/eng/>)

Major inconsistencies or loopholes detected (if yes please describe): None

Derogations (on EU Birds Directive and/or Bern Convention): See below (legislation on pest species)

HUNTING AND TRAPPING: METHODS AND RESTRICTIONS

	Legal methods/restrictions	Notes
Hunting	<p>List of permitted hunting means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - firearms with a smoothbore barrel and rifled barrel and combination rifle-shotguns, except fully automatic firearms; - semi-automatic firearms with a magazine capable of holding up to two cartridges, which have been registered for hunting; - pistols and revolvers; - hunting bows. <p>It is prohibited to hunt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using self-shooting devices, explosives, electrical devices, birdlime, snares, net, poison, gas and smoke; - pursuing the game in motorised water craft, motor vehicles and all-terrain vehicles, shooting at the game from motor vehicles and all-terrain vehicles or using motorised water craft, motor vehicles and all-terrain vehicles in another manner for shooting the game; the prohibition does not apply to hunting waterfowl from a water craft with an engine which is not running. - using artificial light sources; - using an aircraft; - using crossbows, air rifles, firearms with a silencer, laser sight or sighting devices for night shooting; - game animals fleeing from a natural disaster; 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - animals in a helpless situation, unless otherwise provided by law; - by means of falconry; - using firearms that are not hunting firearms; - using bows that are not hunting bows; - live animals shall not be used as decoys. 	
Trapping	<p>Hunting Act § 28. Use of traps</p> <p>It is permitted to use as traps:</p> <p>1) box traps which do not injure the game;</p> <p>2) crow trap ("crow fykes" in Hunting Act).</p>	Only types of traps applicable to birds listed here.

HUNTING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Hunting Season	Legally huntable species	Notes
20 Aug to 31 Oct	Eurasian Wigeon, Gadwall, Common Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Common Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Common Coot, Black-headed Gull, Mew Gull, European Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Snipe, Hazel Grouse	For Hazel Grouse, clause apply: hunting forbidden on designated sites where the species is listed as conservation objective
20 Aug to 30 Nov	The same species list as previous, except Hazel Grouse, when hunted by the sea or Lake Peipsi, Lake Lämmijärv, Lake Võrtsjärv, or Narva Reservoir (the four biggest lakes in the country).	
20 Sep to 30 Nov	Greylag Goose, Bean Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose, Canada goose, Barnacle Goose	For Barnacle Goose, clauses apply: (1) only in regions of crop damages for damage avoidance purposes (2) hunting forbidden on designated sites where the species is listed as conservation objective Canada goose not introduced in Estonia, spreading from Finland and/or Sweden.
1 Aug to 31 Oct	Common Woodpigeon	
1 Aug to 30 Nov	Eurasian Woodcock, Great Cormorant	
1 st Sep to 31 Oct	Grey Partridge	
1 Oct to 31 Dec	Common Pheasant	Introduced species
1 Jul to 31 Mar	Hooded Crow (Carrion Crow subspecies), Rock Dove	
Outside the breeding season (not defined in the legislation)	Rook, Fieldfare	For damage avoidance purposes

TRAPPING SEASONS AND SPECIES

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Open Trapping Season	Legally trapped species	Notes
1 Jul to 31 Mar	Hooded Crow (Carrion Crow subspecies), Rock Dove	Using crow traps
20 Aug to 31 Oct	Black-headed Gull, Mew Gull, European Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull	Using box traps or crow fykes; for the purpose of regulating the numbers

TRADE AND PEST SPECIES

Legal trade	Notes
Trade of the “hunting product” is enabled. The main limitation is that the possessor of a product of hunting shall certify the origin of the product of hunting (Hunting Act § 34/3).	The origin of the specimen/product must be trackable.
Legislation on “pest species”	Notes
There is no special legislation on “pest species” in Estonia. Derogation procedure is applied to few cases of “problematic” colonies/roosts of <i>Corvus monedula</i> , <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> and some other species, mainly in towns, but unfortunately never reported to EC. The statutory body is Environmental Board (nature Conservation Act § 55; web link to the English version https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/505042016001/consolide).	<p>Estonian Government regularly reports to the EC about Art 7 derogations granted to hunt <i>Branta leucopsis</i> (BD Annex I), <i>Corvus corax</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> and <i>Ardea cinerea</i> (Non-Annex II species for Estonia), although there has been open hunting seasons for all these species (see “Hunting seasons and species”) and in reality derogation procedure is not applied, except on oiling of Cormorant eggs. Link to the last available derogations report: http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/Converters/run_converson?file=ee/eu/habides/envvgqaaa/habides-derogations_BIRD2014.xml&conv=537&source=remote</p> <p>From 18th of July 2016 <i>Ardea cinerea</i> and <i>Corvus corax</i> has been removed from the list of huntable species.</p>

NGO: Estonian Ornithological Society

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