

Lone Star Ticks on MV Overview

Provided by Dick Johnson 8/24/17

Lone star ticks are a relatively recent arrival on Martha's Vineyard. The first known record is from Long Point Wildlife Refuge in 1985. Even as late as 2012, they were known from only a few locations on the Island. However, by 2014 when we began putting more effort into looking for lone star ticks, we realized they were much more common than we suspected. In the last four years we have found them on more than 70 properties on the Vineyard. This map shows those locations, with higher numbers of ticks represented by larger circles.

Clearly the greatest concentration of lone star ticks is on Chappaquiddick, especially in the cedars on Cape Poge. However, there is a second concentration at the opposite end of the Island in Aquinnah. So far we have not done many surveys in Aquinnah, when we do we will almost certainly find more locations that have lone star ticks.

Although we do not have enough data to make a definitive statement, it appears that lone star ticks are spreading across the Island; we now find them almost everywhere on Chappaquiddick, in most of Chilmark and in some parts of West Tisbury. This map will be updated each year at the end of the tick field season, allowing us to see changes in the locations and numbers of lone star ticks over time.

To report Lone Star Ticks or to inquire about having your property surveyed for tick collection, please contact Dick Johnson at: ticksmv@gmail.com

A Sampling of Articles & Maps about Ticks on MV:

[Lone Star Ticks on the Move](#) August 2017

[Hungry Ticks are Out, Prevention is the Key](#) May 2017

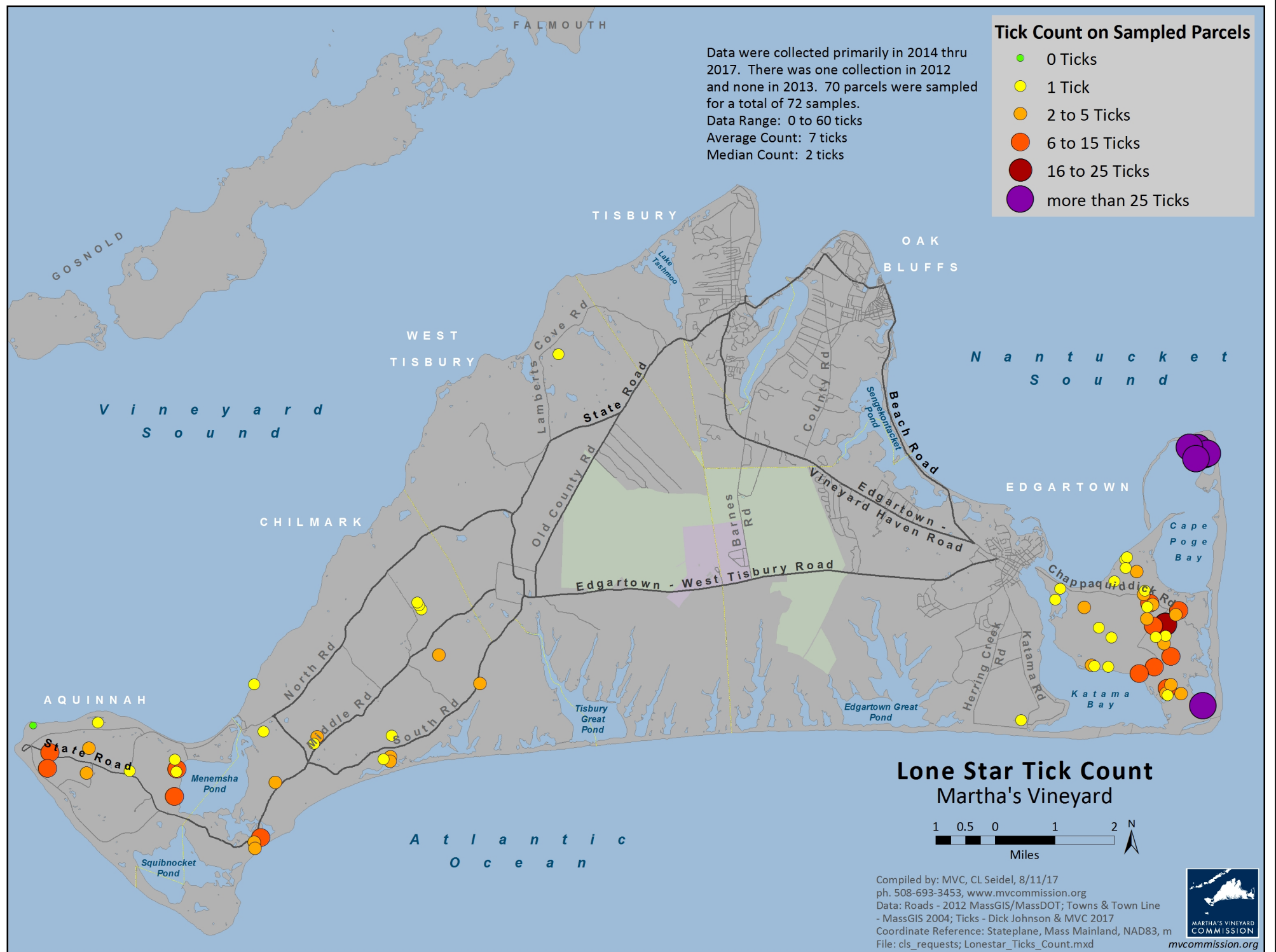
[Lone Star Ticks Spread on Island](#) June 2016

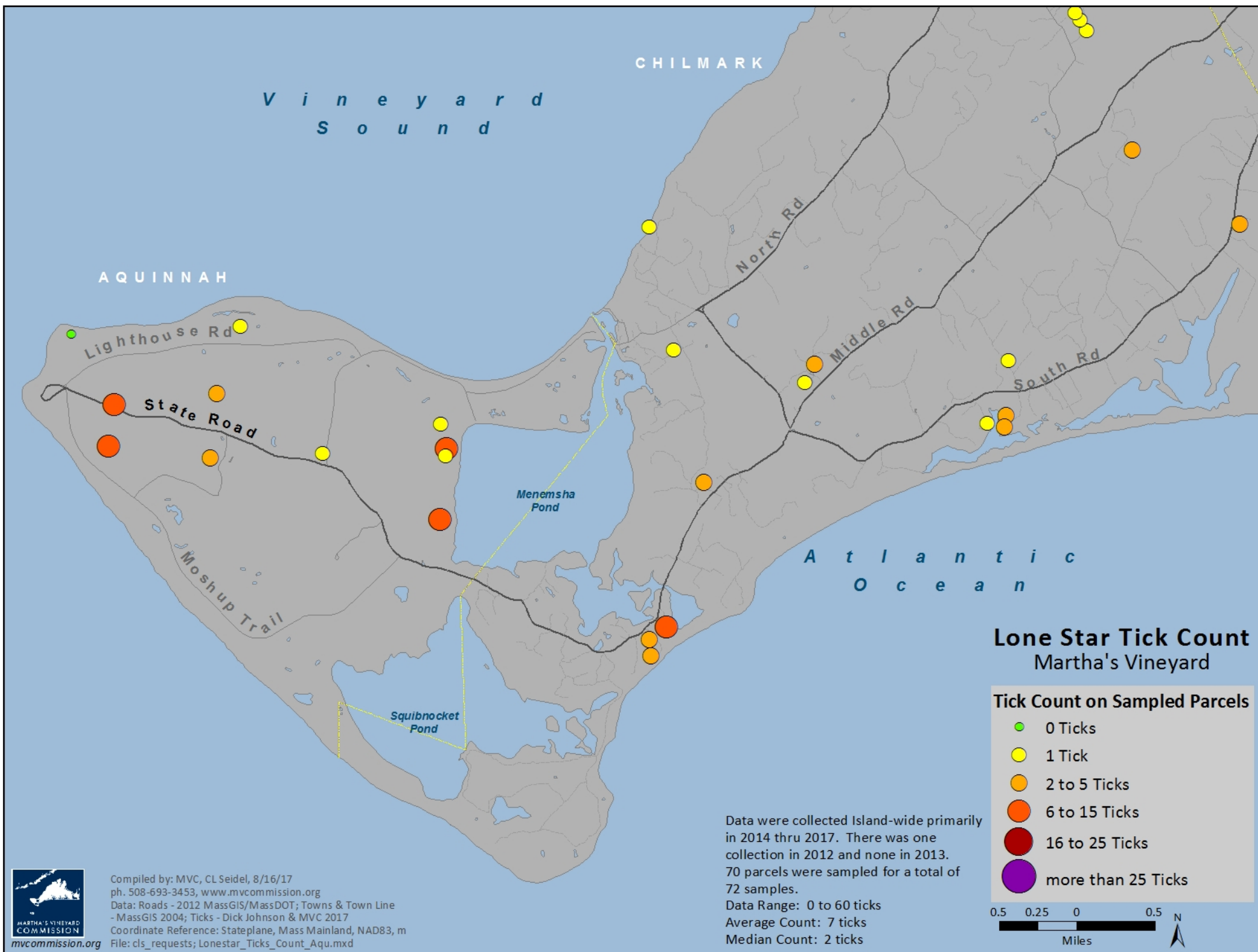
[Deer Density Survey Summary](#) January 2015

[Deer Density Survey Summary](#) March 2013

[Deer Density Survey of 2013](#) – Research Overview from MV Boards of Health

[A few maps from the 2013 Deer Survey](#)



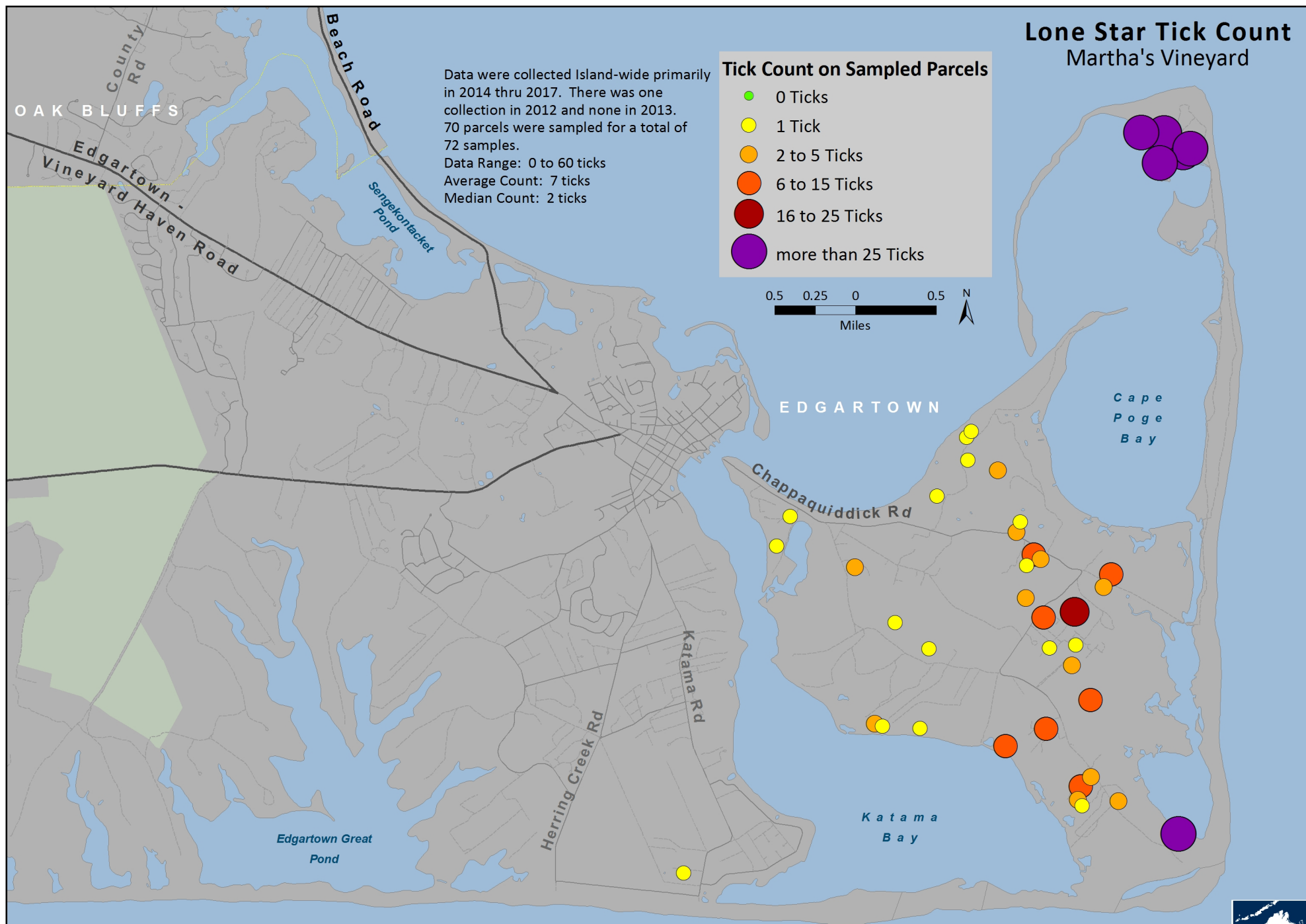
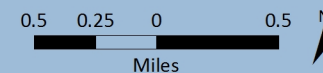


Lone Star Tick Count Martha's Vineyard

Data were collected Island-wide primarily in 2014 thru 2017. There was one collection in 2012 and none in 2013. 70 parcels were sampled for a total of 72 samples.
Data Range: 0 to 60 ticks
Average Count: 7 ticks
Median Count: 2 ticks

Tick Count on Sampled Parcels

- 0 Ticks
- 1 Tick
- 2 to 5 Ticks
- 6 to 15 Ticks
- 16 to 25 Ticks
- more than 25 Ticks



Compiled by: MVC, CL Seidel, 8/11/17

ph. 508-693-3453, www.mvcommission.org

Data: Roads - 2012 MassGIS/MassDOT; Towns & Town Line
- MassGIS 2004; Ticks - Dick Johnson & MVC 2017

Coordinate Reference: Stateplane, Mass Mainland, NAD83, m
File: cls_requests; Lonestar_Ticks_Count_Chappy.mxd



mvcommission.org

