

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

McGarvey 202/343-5634

For Release July 15, 1977

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON SHOOTING HOURS FOR MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING

Public comments are being requested on a new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service environmental impact assessment of daily shooting hours for the 1977-78 migratory bird hunting season.

These hours set forth the times of the day when hunting may begin and when it must cease.

There has been concern expressed about the impact of shooting hours beginning one-half hour before sunrise and ending at sunset on protected and endangered species. The assessment will help determine shooting hours for the 1977-78 hunting season.

Public comments must be received for the "early season" no later than July 25, 1977, because of the need to establish final rules in time to allow affected State agencies to appropriately adjust their licensing and regulatory mechanisms. Comments received after July 25, 1977, will be given consideration in connection with later rulemakings.

Comments should be addressed to: Director (FWS/MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This assessment is being made available for public review and comment and may be viewed at or obtained by telephone or mail from the Office of Migratory Bird Management at Room 2249, Interior Building, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. (telephone: 202/343-8827).

X X X