

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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Parker 202/343-5634

SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS PROPOSED FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING REGULATIONS NEXT FALL

Supplemental rulemaking on preliminary hunting regulations for ducks, geese, and other migratory game birds was proposed by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the May 25, 1978, Federal Register.

The preliminary regulations were proposed initially by the Service in the February 14, 1978, Federal Register. The supplemental rules provide additional information and some minor clarification of certain regulations proposed in the initial rulemaking document.

Specifically, the supplemental rules deal with a number of proposals and minor clarifications arising from new information or from comments received on the initial proposals. These relate to zoning of waterfowl seasons in Connecticut, North Carolina, Alabama, Illinois, Ohio, and Nevada; some goose seasons; falconry seasons; rail seasons in the Pacific Flyway portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming; a change in the mourning dove hunting zone boundary in Mississippi; and additional measures for the protection of the white-crowned pigeon in the Virgin Islands.

No major changes from last year's rules are proposed at this time. Information provided by on-going surveys will help determine bag limits and lengths of seasons. These and other regulatory changes that may arise from new information, including survey data, will be contained in proposed rulemakings to be published later in the Federal Register when the information is available.

Public comments are invited through June 21, 1978, for regulations proposed for Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands; through July 13, 1978, for early season proposed regulations; and through August 21, 1978, for late season proposals.

Two public hearings on the proposals will be held in the Auditorium of the General Services Administration Building, F Street between 18th and 19th Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C., the first on June 21, 1978, at 9 a.m. and the second on August 2, 1978, at 9 a.m. The first hearing will focus upon seasons opening in September and the second upon later seasons, including the regular waterfowl seasons. Persons wishing to participate should notify the Service by writing to the Director or calling 202/343-8827. Those wishing to have statements in the record should file them in writing before or immediately after each hearing. These steps are again being taking to ensure that the public has ample opportunity to review and comment.

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