

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS PROPOSED FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING REGULATIONS NEXT FALL

A supplementary proposal on preliminary 1979 hunting regulations for ducks, geese, and other migratory game birds was published by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the June 13, 1979, Federal Register.

The proposed 1979-80 preliminary hunting regulations were published initially by the Service in the February 15, 1979, Federal Register. The supplemental proposal provides additional information and minor clarifications arising from comments received on the initial proposals or from new information.

The supplemental proposals relate to framework dates for waterfowl seasons in the Mississippi Flyway; seasons and limits for wood ducks, canvasbacks, and redheads in certain areas; zoning in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee; certain goose seasons; the sandhill crane season in Colorado and areas in Wyoming; and several other issues.

No major changes from last year's rules are proposed at this time. Information provided by migratory bird surveys now in progress will be important in determining final bag limits and season lengths. The Service is also seeking additional public comments on a number of proposals made by the States and the public. Regulatory changes that may arise from new

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information, including survey data, will be contained in proposed rule-makings to be published in the Federal Register.

Public comments are invited through June 21, 1979, for regulations proposed for Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands; through July 13, 1979, for proposed early season (opening prior to September 29) regulations; and through August 20, 1979, for proposed late season regulations.

Two public hearings on the proposals are scheduled. The first will be held on June 21, 1979, at 9 a.m., in the Auditorium of the Department of the Interior Building, on C Street between 18th and 19th Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. This hearing will review proposed hunting regulations for species for which early seasons will be set. The second public hearing will be held August 2 at 9 a.m., in the Auditorium of the General Services Administration Building, on F Street between 18th and 19th Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. These hearings will pertain to hunting seasons commencing September 29 or later, including the regular waterfowl seasons.

Persons wishing to participate should write to the Director (FWS/MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, or telephone 202/254-3207. Those wishing to make statements should file copies of the statements with the Director before or during each hearing.

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