



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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1981 STEEL SHOT ZONES PROPOSED

Steel shot zones for next fall's waterfowl hunting season were proposed today in portions of 27 States by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposal is part of a continuing effort to reduce lead poisoning in waterfowl.

The proposed zones were identified cooperatively with the States with the understanding they may request changes during the public comment period. It is estimated that about 20 percent of the waterfowl harvest in the United States occurs within these proposed zones.

This year's regulations differ from those in previous years in that they will become "basic" rules when adopted in final form. Basic rules remain in effect from year to year, with only such specific changes--such as adding or deleting a particular zone--having to be proposed as needed. This procedural change was made to reduce uncertainty associated with the demand for either lead or steel shot ammunition.

Detailed descriptions of the zones will be listed in news releases to be issued by the Service's regional offices. The States in which the zones occur are as follows:

Atlantic Flyway

-Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia.

(over)

Mississippi Flyway

-Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

Central Flyway

-Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Texas. (Steel shot zones in Colorado and South Dakota, concurred in by the Service, will be described in State regulations rather than Federal regulations.)

Pacific Flyway

-Oregon and Washington.

The proposal was published in the June 12, 1981, Federal Register. Public comments are invited and will be accepted until July 12, 1981. Comments should be addressed to the Director (MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Regulations regarding non-toxic shot on units of the National Wildlife Refuge System will be published separately.

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