



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

### Fish and Wildlife Service

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#### 1991 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS PROPOSED

Proposed hunting regulations for the 1991-92 waterfowl season are very similar to last year's regulations, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

The proposed regulations prescribe season lengths, bag limits, shooting hours, and outside dates for the hunting of ducks, geese, swans, and coots. States select their seasons from within the frameworks set by the Service. State regulations may be more restrictive, but not more liberal, than the Federal frameworks. Hunters should consult final state regulations before going afield.

Highlights of the proposed regulations are as follows:

Atlantic Flyway -- (Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia)

Ducks -- Hunting season of not more than 30 days between October 5, 1991, and January 5, 1992. The daily bag limit is three and may include no more than one hen mallard, two wood ducks, two redheads, one black duck, one mottled duck, one pintail, and one fulvous whistling duck. The seasons on canvasbacks and harlequin ducks are closed. The daily bag limit of mergansers is five, only one of which may be a hooded merganser.

Geese -- For white geese, states may select a 107-day season between October 1, 1991, and February 10, 1992, with a daily bag limit of five. For Canada geese, 60-day seasons are permitted in Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia (except Back Bay); 70-day seasons are permitted in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania (except as described below); and 90-day seasons are permitted in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania's southeast zone. In Erie, Mercer, and Butler Counties, Pennsylvania, a 50-day season is permitted. The Canada goose season is closed in Florida and west of highway I-95 in North Carolina. An 11-day Canada goose season is permitted east of I-95 in North Carolina; in South Carolina; and in the Back Bay region of Virginia. Georgia is permitted an 8-day experimental season. Season dates and bag limits for Canada geese vary according to specific areas.

Changes from last year include expanding the special resident Canada goose season in Massachusetts to include the central zone as well as the coastal zone; initiating a special 4-day late Canada goose season in the central piedmont, west piedmont, and mountain hunt units of South Carolina; and expanding the special Canada goose season area in Georgia.

Atlantic Brant -- States may select a 50-day season between October 1, 1991, and January 20, 1992, with a daily bag limit of two.

Mississippi Flyway -- (Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin)

Ducks -- Hunting season of not more than 30 days between October 5, 1991, and January 5, 1992, with a daily bag limit of three, including no more than two mallards (no more than one hen), one black duck, one pintail, two wood ducks, and one redhead. The point system is offered as an alternative, under which female mallards, pintails, black ducks, redheads, and hooded mergansers are 100-point birds; male mallards and wood ducks are 50-point birds; and all other ducks and mergansers are 35-point birds. The canvasback season is closed. Under the conventional bag-limit option, the daily bag limit of mergansers is five, only one of which may be a hooded merganser.

Geese -- For dark geese, states may select 70-day seasons between September 28, 1991, and January 31, 1992. For light geese, an 80-day season is permitted between September 28 and February 14. The daily bag limit is seven geese, to include no more than three Canada and two white-fronted geese. There are many area-specific regulations and exceptions to these frameworks. Changes from last year include extending the closing date for dark geese in northern states from January 20 to January 31, and many minor changes for Canada geese.

Central Flyway -- (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming)

Ducks -- In the High Plains Mallard Management Unit (roughly west of the 100th meridian), a 51-day season is permitted provided that the last 12 days may start no earlier than December 7. A 39-day season is permitted in the Low Plains Unit. Seasons must be between October 5, 1991 and January 5, 1992. The daily bag limit is three, including no more than two mallards (only one hen), one mottled duck, one pintail, one redhead, and two wood ducks. The point system is offered as an alternative, under which 100-point birds are hen mallards; pintails, redheads, hooded mergansers, and mottled ducks; 50-point birds are male

mallards and wood ducks; and 35-point birds are all other ducks and mergansers. Under the conventional bag-limit option, there is a daily bag limit of five mergansers, of which only one may be a hooded merganser. The canvasback season is closed.

Geese -- Goose seasons are permitted from September 28, 1991 through January 31, 1992, for dark geese and from September 28 through February 16 for light geese, except in New Mexico where the closing date for light geese is February 28. Season lengths and bag limits vary by state. Changes from last year include extending the closing date for dark geese from January 20 to January 31; increasing the season length for dark and light geese in western tier states from 100 to 107 days; removing the aggregate bag limit for light and dark geese in western tier states; changes in restrictions for eastern tier dark geese; and reallocating swan permits to North Dakota and South Dakota.

Pacific Flyway -- (Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming)

Ducks -- A 59-day season is permitted between October 5, 1991, and January 5, 1992, except in the Columbia Basin Mallard Management Unit, where the season may be an additional 7 days. The daily bag limit is four, including no more than three mallards (only one hen), one pintail, and either two canvasbacks, two redheads, or one of each.

Geese (including brant) -- A 93-day season is permitted between September 28, 1991, and January 19, 1992, with a daily bag limit of six geese, including no more than three white geese (snow, blue, and Ross') and three dark geese (all other geese and brant). In California, Oregon, and Washington only, the daily bag limit is two brant and is additional to dark goose limits. There are many area-specific regulations and exceptions to these frameworks. The season is closed on Aleutian Canada geese throughout the flyway and on cackling Canada geese in California, Oregon, and Washington.

Tundra Swans -- In Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Virginia, an open season is permitted for taking a limited number of tundra swans. Permits will be issued by the states and will authorize each permittee to take no more than one tundra swan per season.

Additional details on the proposed hunting regulations will be published in the August 26, 1991, Federal Register. Public comments will be accepted through September 6 and should be addressed to the Director (MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW., Washington, DC 20240.