



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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PRELIMINARY MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING REGULATIONS PROPOSED

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed preliminary migratory game bird hunting regulation frameworks for the 1986-87 season. Frameworks include opening and closing season dates, season lengths, shooting hours, and bag limits.

The proposals, published in the March 21, 1986, Federal Register, primarily cover migratory game bird hunting regulations for Alaska, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Hawaii; regulations in the conterminous United States for mourning doves, woodcock, band-tailed pigeons, white-winged and white-tipped doves, rails, gallinules, common snipe, and sandhill cranes; September teal seasons in the Mississippi and Central Flyways; special September waterfowl seasons in certain States; Atlantic Flyway special sea duck seasons; and extended falconry seasons.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is deferring decisions concerning most hunting regulation frameworks for geese and ducks until information now being gathered on populations, habitat, and harvests is available and recommendations have been received from Flyway Councils.

Following are some of the issues covered in the proposed preliminary frameworks:

- o The Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing that present duck hunting zones should not be modified and no new zones should be established until better informed judgments can be made about the cumulative effects of zoning.

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- o The Service is proposing to continue restrictions imposed last year on woodcock hunting in the Atlantic Flyway, pending an evaluation of the effects of changes implemented last year.
- o At this time, no changes are proposed from last year in regulations for wood ducks, sea ducks, September teal seasons, special scaup seasons, extended falconry seasons, sandhill cranes, coots, common moorhens and purple gallinules, rails, common snipe, band-tailed pigeons, mourning doves, white-winged and white-tipped doves.
- o The Service is proposing to continue September duck seasons in Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, and Iowa as experimental during the 1986-87 season, unless reports show evidence of a detrimental effect on ducks.
- o An experimental tundra swan season in North Carolina is proposed for continuation.

A public hearing will be held June 19 on regulations for mourning doves, woodcock, band-tailed pigeons, white-winged and white-tipped doves, rails, gallinules, common snipe, sandhill cranes, and migratory game bird regulations in Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands; September teal seasons in the Mississippi and Central Flyways; special September waterfowl seasons in certain States; Atlantic Flyway special sea duck seasons; and extended falconry seasons.

A second hearing will be held August 1, 1986, on waterfowl seasons beginning on or about October 1. Both public hearings will begin at 9 a.m. and will be held in the auditorium, Interior Department Building, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Public comments on the preliminary proposals may be mailed to the Director (FWS/MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Matomic Building -- Room 536, Washington, D.C. 20240. Comments on proposed regulations for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands must be received by June 19; for other seasons opening before October 1, on July 14; and for seasons opening on or about October 1 or later, August 25, 1986.

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