

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 17, 2016

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Approval for the February 17, 2016 Meeting Agenda

- Chairman Compton deferred the 2014 Farmer of the Year Award Presentation until an appropriate time since the recipient was unable to attend.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gregor moved to approve the February 18th Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
 2. Commissioner Schroyer seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from November 18, 2015 Meeting

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to approve the November 18th meeting minutes as presented.
 2. Commissioner Schroyer seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Housekeeping Announcements given by Director Paul Peditto

- Director Peditto has agreed to temporarily fulfill the role as the Department of Natural Resources' Legislative Director. Director Peditto will continue his role as Director of the Wildlife and Heritage Service while handling the interim role and expects to return to the WHS role after session.
- Director Peditto also introduced Executive Director Stephen Schatz of the Office of Communications; and WHS' Eastern Region Manager John Moulis.

2016 Legislative Session Update - Presentation given by Associate Director Glenn Therres and Director Paul Peditto

- Associate Director Therres provided the Commission with a list of bills that the Wildlife and Heritage Service is following. [ATTACHMENT A] The summary is set-up with the bill number in the first column, second column is the general topic of the bill, third column is the delegate or senator or delegation that introduced the bill, and the fourth column is the status of the bill (as of the date that the summary was printed).
- These bills are wildlife-related or otherwise affect the Wildlife and Heritage Service.
- There are 31 bills that wildlife is tracking as of February 16th. There are 21 House bills and 10 Senate bills. There are seven Senate bills that are cross-filed on the House side. Associate Director Therres provided a summary of those bills on the House side.
- The Commission can review natural resources related bills by going to <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frm1st.aspx?tab=home>, then click on By Broad Subject, where you can select Natural Resources (M1) or Hunting and Fishing (M2); this will provide the list of all bills under the Department's jurisdiction or hunting and fishing section.

Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee Report – Presentation given by Game Bird Section Leader Bill Harvey.

- Game Bird Section Leader Bill Harvey reminded the Commission that the Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee is a Governor-appointed body. The Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee (MGBAC) provides advice on any matter related to migratory game birds.

- The MGBAC meets once a year. Staff members keep the MGBAC informed on migratory game birds' related topics and issues. MGBAC will meet via conference call when needed. Recently, the members had a conference call about the 2016-2017 Proposed Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits.
- MGBAC provided some recommendations on the 2016-2017 Proposed Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits that have been incorporated in the 2016-2017 Proposed Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits Power Point Presentation.

2016-2017 Proposed Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits – Presentation given by Waterfowl Project Leader Josh Homyack.

- Game Bird Section Leader Harvey announced that Larry Hindman received the 2016 R. Todd Eberhardt Award at the North American Duck Symposium held in Annapolis. People from around the world attend this event. This award is like the “Hall of Fame” and is a very prestigious award for waterfowl biologists.
- Game Bird Section Leader Harvey introduced newly appointed Waterfowl Project Leader Josh Homyack. Waterfowl Project Leader Homyack has been a land manager on the upper Eastern Shore for about 12 years.
- Waterfowl Project Leader Homyack outlined the 2016-2017 Proposed Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits in a Power Point Presentation. **[ATTACHMENT B]**
- Waterfowl Project Leader Homyack reminded the Commission the new schedule for waterfowl seasons and bag limits.
- Next December, staff will receive the federal frameworks for the 2017-2018 seasons and bag limits.
- The Commission received the Proposed Maryland Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits for the 2016-2017 Hunting Year. **[ATTACHMENT C]**
- Associate Director Peter Jayne mentioned that staff will post the Proposed 2017-2018 Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits for public comment. There is one public meeting scheduled in early March.
- Question and Answer from the Public:
 1. Mr. T. Johnson asked why staff selected the November 5th through January 13 dates for the Sea Duck Season along with that asked why there is no split during that period. Staff tried to get sea duck hunters to attend the last August Waterfowl Public Meeting. This option is the best and closest that staff could give the sea duck hunters. Staff cannot provide a split because it is a straight 60-day season.
- Comments:
 1. Commissioner Michael commented that moving that late split dove season dates to maximize youth participation was a good thing. Commissioner Michael suggested having the middle split of the mourning dove season overlap as much as possible with the small game seasons and having it end when schools are out.

2016 WAC Annual Schedule and Draft Monthly Agenda – WAC Review and Approval

- The Commission reviewed of the 2016 WAC Annual Schedule and Draft Monthly Agenda. **[ATTACHMENT D]**
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Weinberg moved to accept the 2016 WAC Annual Schedule and Draft Monthly Agenda.
 2. Commissioner Michael seconded.

3. Motion passed.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – Presentation given by Government Relations Director Colby Ferguson

- Farm Bureau Government Relations Director Ferguson outlined the primary focus is taking deer management permits outside of the hunting seasons. Deer Management Permits (DMP) are being used less than they should be with results showing that farmers take around nine percent of deer under DMP. Many farmers have large operations; therefore, it would be easier on the farmers to use rifles instead of shotgun.
- Mr. Ferguson pointed out that the Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) is in opposition to the HB1256 Natural Resources-Cecil County-Elk. Deer and bear are two major species that cause problems for the farmers. The farmers do not need another species to eat their crops.
- Mr. Ferguson indicated that the bear damage is getting worse in Western Maryland. The farmers would like to harvest the bears that are eating their crops so the farmers are looking at the Department to be more flexible with different options to help the farmers manage the bear population on their farms.
- Discussion ensued about Sunday hunting and the efforts to resolve the Sunday hunting related issues.

Natural Resources Police (NRP) Update – Presentation given by Captain Kelley J. Johnson

- A new academy is scheduled for the end of March with 30 new officers, 5 of the 30 are cadets. There are 13 cadet positions; staff are working on the background checks. The age group is from 18 to 20.

Old Business

- Associate Director Pete Jayne reported that the National Wild Turkey Federation changed their position on the concepts related to the wild turkey fall season regulations. [ATTACHMENT E]
- Associate Director Jayne updated the Commission that staff are working on converting the game program regulation concepts to the proposals, which will be added to the website. The Commission will get a review of the proposals at the March 16th WAC meeting.

New Business

- Conservationist, Employee, and Farmer of Year Nominations - The Maryland Farm Bureau will send out an announcement for nominations for the Farmer of Year. Chairman Compton requested that if the members of the Commission have any nominations to please send them to Ms. Spencer no later than April 8th.
- Director Peditto introduced Videographer James Mackey to the Commission.

Public Comment

- Mr. Jeff Plummer updated the Commission on the Maryland Waterfowler's Association status because there were some rumors that the Maryland Waterfowler's Association was not going to continue. The Maryland Waterfowler's Association is still alive and well. There are some new board members.
- Commissioner Michael requested the deer kill for the 2015-2016 hunting season year from Deer Project Leader Brian Eyler. Commissioner Michael requested to be put on record that there is no hunter recruitment during the late muzzleloader season, and our goals for Sunday hunting can be met during the school holidays to get the youth hunters afield..

- Chairman Compton indicated the reason why we do not have an August WAC is because we selected to have a January WAC Meeting. Chairman Compton outlined that the January meeting was added to get a head start on the Legislative Session Update. There is no meeting in August for the Wildlife Advisory Commission.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.
The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, J. Michael, J. Schroyer, and R. Weinberg
Absent:	G. Fratz
Guest:	T. Johnson, J. Plummer, and C. Ferguson
Staff:	B. Harvey, J. Homyack, P. Jayne, K. Johnson, J. Mackey, J. McKnight, J. Moulis, P. Peditto, S. Schatz, T. Spencer, and G. Therres

**Summary of 2016 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 16, 2016)**

HB0020	Calvert County and St. Mary's County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone	Delegate O'Donnell	In the House - Hearing 2/17 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/17/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0062	Natural Resources - Fishing and Hunting Licenses	Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee	In the House - Hearing 1/27 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 1/27/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0169 (SB0219)	Carroll County - Turkey Hunting on Private Property - Sundays	Carroll County Delegation	In the House - Hearing 2/24 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/24/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0132	State Government - Pollinator Habitat Plans	Delegate Lafferty	In the House - Hearing 2/10 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/10/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0203	Caroline County - Sunday Hunting	Caroline County Delegation	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation
HB0321 (SB0046)	Anne Arundel County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone	Delegate Howard, S.	In the House - Hearing 3/02 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/2/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0410 (SB0266)	Natural Resources - Poaching Restitution Act of 2016	Delegate O'Donnell	In the House - Hearing 2/17 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/17/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0513	Harford County - Sunday Hunting - Deer Bow Hunting Season	Delegate Glass	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation
HB0514	Sunday Hunting - Deer Bow Hunting Season	Delegate Glass	In the House - Hearing cancelled	Environment and Transportation
HB0515	Deer Bow Hunting Season - Private Property - Additional Sunday in January	Delegate Glass	In the House - Hearing cancelled	Environment and Transportation
HB0516	Harford County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone	Delegate Glass	In the House - Hearing 2/24 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/24/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0517	Natural Resources - Deer Bow Hunting Season - End Date	Delegate Glass	In the House - Hearing 2/17 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/17/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0542 (SB0991)	Natural Resources - Wildlife Trafficking Prevention	Delegate Luedtke	In the House - Hearing 2/17 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/17/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0755 (SB0524)	Allegany County and Garrett County - Black Bears - Baiting	Allegany County Delegation	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation
HB0870 (SB0876)	Natural Resources - Black Fly Management and Control - Washington County	Delegate Parrott	In the House - Hearing 3/02 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/2/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB1223	Natural Resources - Apprentice Hunting License - Establishment	Delegate O'Donnell	In the House - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

HB1249	Hunting and Fishing - Complimentary Licenses - Wounded Military and Veterans	Delegate Carey	In the House - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB1256	Natural Resources - Cecil County - Elk	Delegate Hornberger	In the House - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB1374	Hunting and Fishing - Complimentary Licenses - Military and Veterans	Delegate Rose	In the House - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
HB1417 (SB0401)	Charles County and St. Mary's County - Deer Management Permit - Firearms	Delegate Morgan	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation
HB1506	Natural Resources - Wildlife and Hunting	Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations	Rules and Executive Nominations

ATTACHMENT A

SB0046 (HB0321)	Anne Arundel County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone	Senator Reilly	In the Senate - Hearing 2/02 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/2/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0219 (HB0169)	Carroll County - Turkey Hunting on Private Property - Sundays	Senator Ready	In the Senate - Hearing 2/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0225	Hunting and Fishing Licenses - Former Prisoners of War, Recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and Disabled Veterans	Senator Simonaire	In the Senate - Hearing 2/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0266 (HB0410)	Natural Resources - Poaching Restitution Act of 2016	Senator Salling	In the Senate - Hearing 2/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0284	Natural Resources - Complimentary Hunting and Fishing Licenses	Senator Simonaire	In the Senate - Hearing 2/09 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/9/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0401 (HB1417)	Charles County and St. Mary's County - Deer Management Permit - Firearms	Senator Waugh	In the Senate - Hearing 2/16 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/16/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0524 (HB0755)	Allegany County and Garrett County - Black Bears - Baiting	Senator Edwards	In the Senate - Hearing 2/23 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/23/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0775	Natural Resources - Recreational License Donation Program - Establishment	Senator Simonaire	In the Senate - Hearing 3/08 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/8/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0876 (HB0870)	Natural Resources - Black Fly Management and Control - Washington County	Senator Serafini	In the Senate - Hearing 3/08 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/8/2016 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0991 (HB0542)	Natural Resources - Wildlife Trafficking Prevention	Senator Young	In the Senate - First Reading Senate Rules	Rules

2016 R. Todd Eberhardt Award Recipient Larry Hindman

- Presented once every 3 years to an outstanding state waterfowl biologist
- Larry received the award at the North American Duck Symposium held in Annapolis, MD,



2016/2017 Proposed Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits



Migratory Bird Regulations

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act 1918 established Federal authority for management of migratory birds.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service promulgates hunting season frameworks provided to States.
- Frameworks include:
 - maximum season length
 - earliest and latest dates
 - maximum daily bag limit



Annual Cycle for Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations

Population Monitoring



Atlantic Flyway Technical Section
meeting (mid July)



Atlantic Flyway Council



U. S. FWS Service Regulations
Committee (includes 4 flyway
council reps)

Final approval by USFWS



Final selection by DNR



Input from public, WAC,
MGBAC, MOGA, and MDWFA



State announces proposed
seasons and bag limits

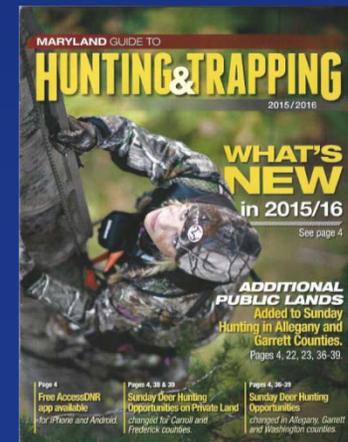


Final Frameworks

New Schedule for Seasons and Bag Limit Selection

This change is necessary in order to conform to a new USFWS schedule!

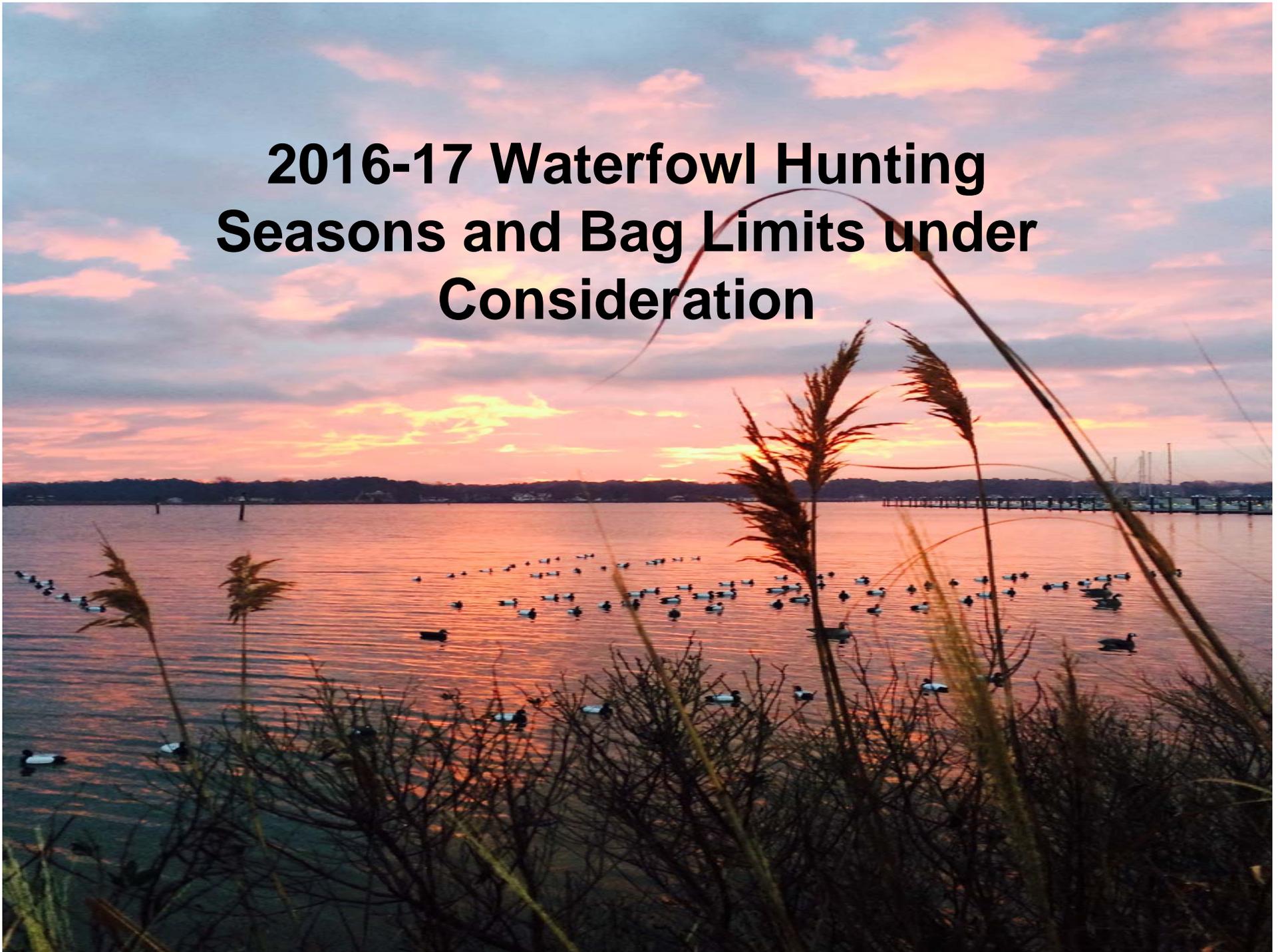
- Federal frameworks developed and finalized in December
- Proposed seasons and bags released in February
- Review/comment by public, WAC, MGBAC, MOGA, and MDWFA
- Finalized by DNR and approved by USFWS in spring
- Timing allows for publication in MD Hunting Guide

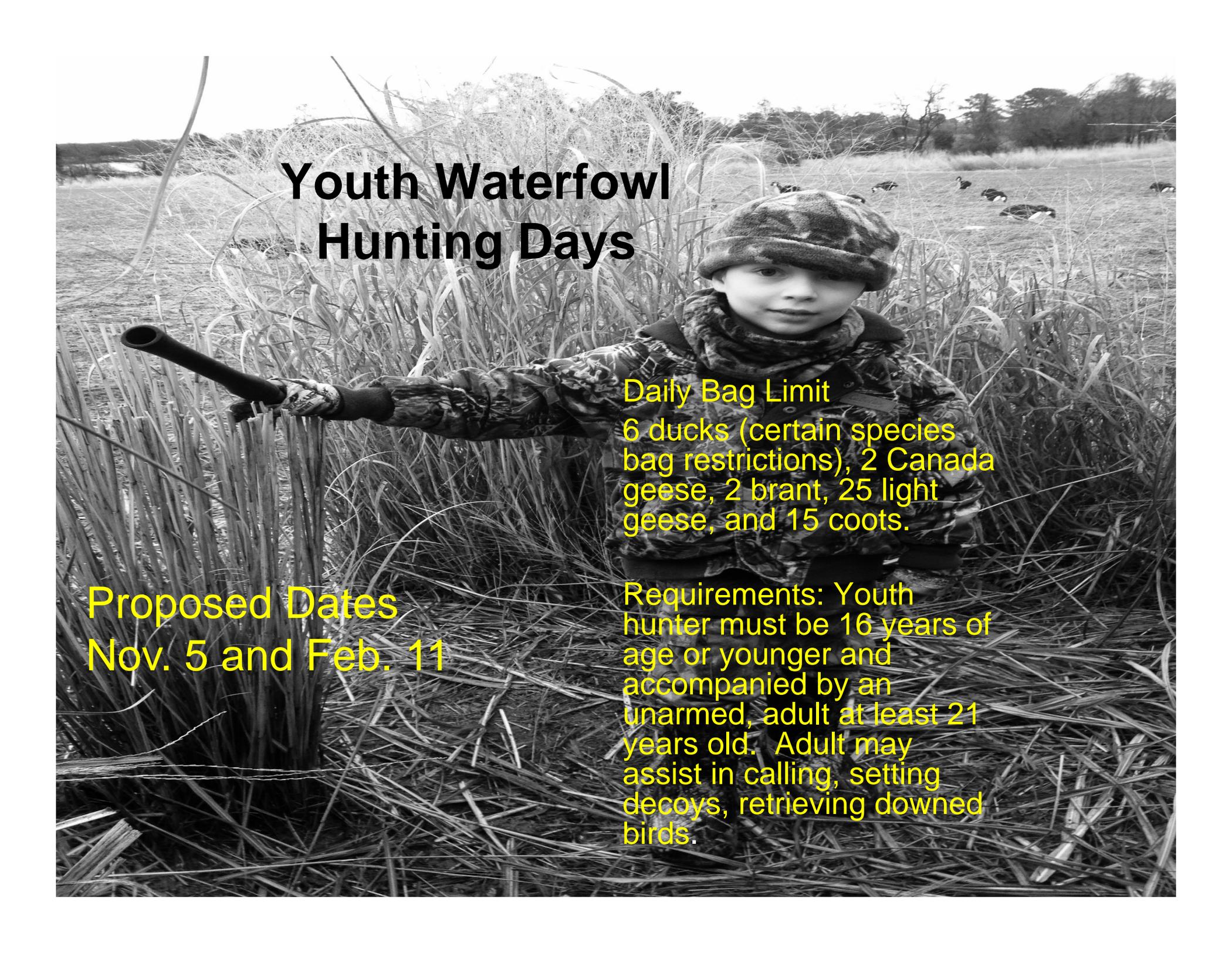


MD DNR Priorities Considered when Formulating Hunting Season Proposals

- Must meet the biological requirements of the waterfowl resource to sustain populations.
- Meet strong hunter desire for late duck and goose seasons that overlap to the extent possible.
- Maximizing opportunity for waterfowl hunters, particularly youth.
- Maximizing open hunting days statewide, especially Saturdays and holidays.
- Regulation simplicity.

2016-17 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits under Consideration





Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

Daily Bag Limit

6 ducks (certain species bag restrictions), 2 Canada geese, 2 brant, 25 light geese, and 15 coots.

Proposed Dates
Nov. 5 and Feb. 11

Requirements: Youth hunter must be 16 years of age or younger and accompanied by an unarmed, adult at least 21 years old. Adult may assist in calling, setting decoys, retrieving downed birds.

Early Waterfowl Seasons

Special Teal Season

Federal framework: 16 days between Sept. 1-30
Proposed dates: Sept. 16 – Sept 30

Eastern Zone Resident Canada Goose

Federal Framework: 15 days between Sept. 1-15
Proposed dates: Sept. 1 – 15

Western Zone Resident Canada Goose

Federal Framework: 25 days between Sept. 1-25
Proposed Dates: Sept 1 - 24

“Regular” Duck Hunting Season

Federal Framework

60-day season between
Saturday nearest Sept. 24 and
the last Sunday in January with
a daily bag limit of 6 ducks
(species restrictions)

Proposed Season

Oct. 15 - Oct. 22

Nov. 12 - Nov. 25

Dec. 13 - Jan. 28

Daily Bag Limit

6 per day (including mergansers) but no more than 5 sea ducks (4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters, 4 eiders), 4 mallards (2 hens), 3 wood ducks, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 2 canvasback, 2 hooded mergansers, 1 black duck (during black duck season), 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous tree duck.



Black Duck Season within Regular Duck Season

Federal Framework
60-day season with a
1-bird daily bag limit.

Proposed Season
Nov. 12 - Nov. 25
Dec. 13 - Jan. 28

Daily Bag Limit 1

No open season in October provides protection to Maryland's breeding Black Duck population. Migrant stocks begin arriving in early November.



AP Canada Goose Hunting Season

Federal Framework

**A 50-day season between Nov. 15
and Feb. 5**

Daily Bag Limit 2 per day

Proposed Season

Nov. 19 - Nov. 25

Dec. 16 - Feb. 4

Daily Bag Limit

2 per day





Atlantic Flyway Resident Population Canada Goose Hunting Season

AFRP Zone

Federal Framework

80-day season between Nov.
15 and Mar. 10

Daily Bag Limit 5 per day

Proposed Season

Nov. 19 - Nov. 25

Dec. 13 - Mar. 8

Daily Bag Limit 5 per day

Atlantic Brant Hunting Season



Federal Framework

60-day season between the Saturday nearest Sept. 24 (Sept. 27) and Jan. 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

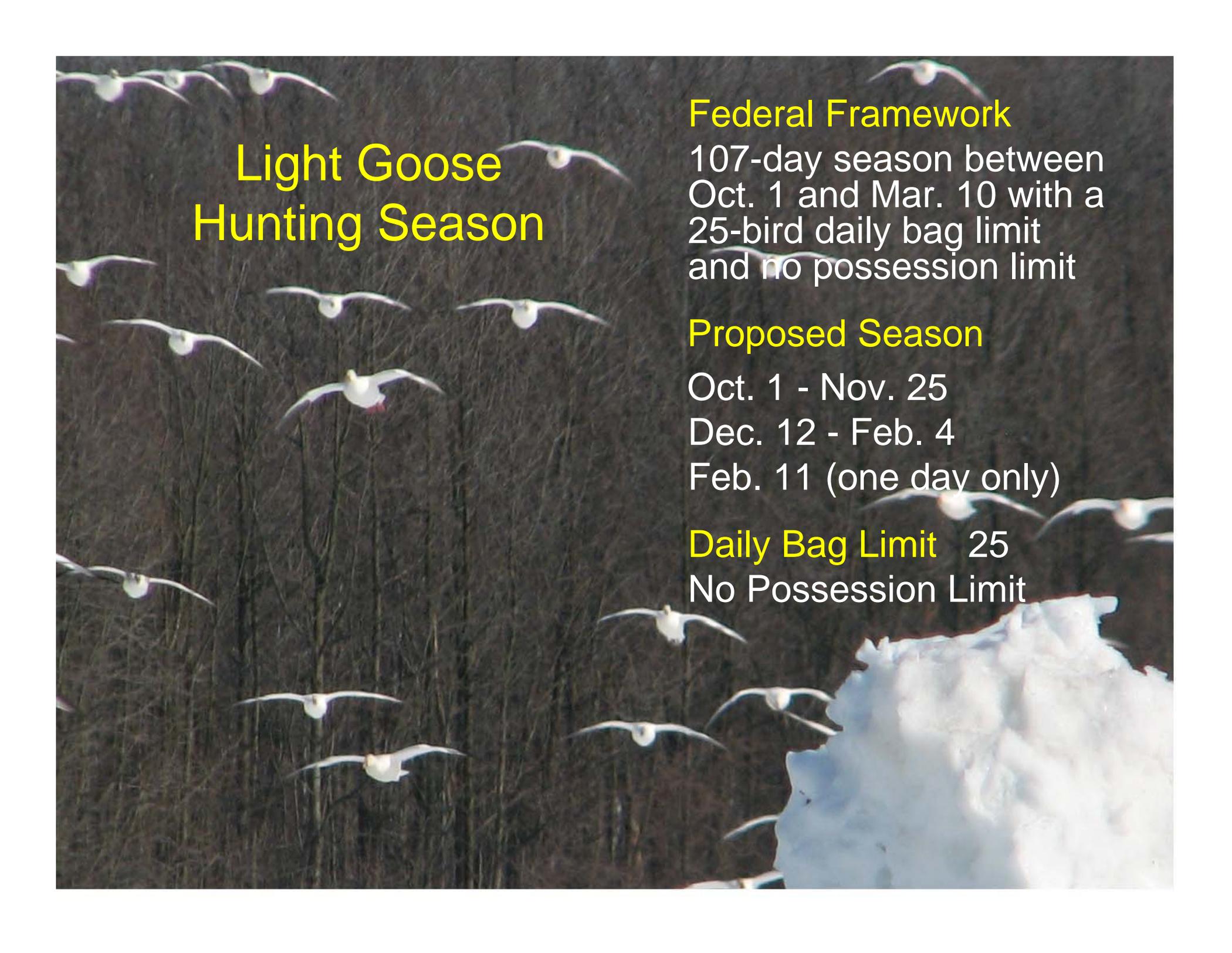
Proposed Season

Nov. 8 – Nov. 25

Dec 12 - Jan. 31

Daily Bag Limit 2

Note: AF Mid-winter count 157k birds bumped brant up to a more liberal season/bag limit package.



Light Goose Hunting Season

Federal Framework

107-day season between
Oct. 1 and Mar. 10 with a
25-bird daily bag limit
and no possession limit

Proposed Season

Oct. 1 - Nov. 25

Dec. 12 - Feb. 4

Feb. 11 (one day only)

Daily Bag Limit 25

No Possession Limit

Light Goose Conservation Order Season

Proposed CO Season

Nov. 28 - Dec. 10

Feb. 6 – Feb. 10

Feb. 13 - Apr. 15

Daily Bag Limit No Limit

Hunters may use unplugged shotguns and e-calls

Shooting hours extended to 1/2 hour after sunset

Participants must possess a Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season Permit. Permits available from DNR sport license agents, online, or by phone for a \$5 fee.



Sea Duck Harvest Potential Assessment

Change in sea duck seasons driven by improved data collection and modeling that has shown current harvest strategies maybe unsustainable



Effect of Season Length Reduction: Expected Harvest Reduction Flyway-wide

- 80 days = 92% of current harvest = 8% reduction
- 70 days = 87% of current harvest = 13% reduction
- 60 days = 80% of current harvest = 20% reduction

A 60 day season with a 5 bird limit is predicted to show a harvest reduction of approximately 25%

Special Sea Duck Hunting Season

(Sea Duck Zone only)

Federal Framework

A 60 consecutive day season
between Sept. 15 and Jan. 31.

Daily Bag Limit: 5 but no more than
4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks, 4
eiders

Proposed Season
Nov. 5 - Jan. 13

Daily Bag Limit: 5 but no more than
4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks, 4
eiders



Questions?



Consequences of Implementing Alternative CAGO Split (Dec 16 - Feb 4)

- December 13-15 would be duck only (3 days no overlap)
- Late youth hunt moves to Feb 11 (vs Feb 4th)
- Light Goose CO would not start until Feb 13

**PROPOSED
MARYLAND MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS
FOR THE 2016-17 HUNTING YEAR**

SPECIAL EARLY RESIDENT POPULATION CANADA GEESE

Federal framework: A 15-day special season may be held between September 1 – 15 in the Eastern zone and a 25-day season between September 1 - 25 in the Western zone.

Proposed Season Dates

Eastern Zone Sep. 1 - Sept 15

Western Zone Sep. 1 - Sept 24

Daily Bag Limit: 8 in both zones. Possession limit is 3 times the daily limit.

Eastern Hunt Zone: Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of 301 to the Virginia line.

Western Hunt Zone: Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County west of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County west of 301 to the Virginia line.

Shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells may be used. Shooting hours in both zones are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

Federal framework: States may select a 16-day season to be held between September 1 and 30. Teal season may not run concurrently with other seasons (resident Canada goose) that allow special considerations such as modified shooting hours or unplugged guns.

Proposed Season Dates Sep. 16 – Sep. 30

Daily Bag Limit: 6 blue-winged or green-winged teal, singly or in aggregate. The possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

September Teal Hunt Zone: Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of 301 to the Virginia line. Shooting hours for teal during this season are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

DUCKS, COOTS, and MERGANSERS

Federal Framework: A 60-day season may be held between the Saturday nearest September 24 and the last Sunday in January (January 29).

Proposed Season Dates Oct. 15 - Oct. 22
 Nov. 12 - Nov. 25
 Dec. 13 - Jan. 28

Black Duck Nov. 12 - Nov. 25
 Dec. 13 - Jan. 28

Duck Daily Bag and Possession Limits: The daily bag limit of ducks (including mergansers) is 6. The 6-duck limit shall consist of no more than 5 sea ducks (no more than 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters, or 4 eiders), 4 mallards (max. 2 hen mallards), 3 wood ducks, 2 scaup, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 canvasbacks, 1 black duck (during black duck open season), 1 fulvous tree duck, and 1 mottled duck. All other species of ducks (except harlequin duck) may be taken up to the 6-duck limit. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. In addition to the duck bag limit hunters may take 15 coots per day. No open season for harlequin ducks and swans.

Note: In the designated sea duck zone, sea ducks may only be taken during the special sea duck season dates (Nov. 5 - Jan. 13).

SEA DUCKS (Scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Eiders)

Federal Frameworks: A special 60-day season may be selected between September 15 and January 31 with a 5-bird daily bag limit (no more than 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters, or 4 eiders) within established sea duck hunting areas. This bag limit is in addition to the limits applying to other ducks during the regular duck season. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and are part of the regular duck season daily bag (not to exceed 5 sea ducks (4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters, or 4 eiders) and possession limits.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 5 - Jan. 13

Daily Bag Limit: 5 (no more than 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks, or 4 eiders) per day

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

Federal Framework: States may select two days per duck-hunting zone, designated as "Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days," in addition to their regular duck seasons. The days must be held outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holiday, or other non-school day when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. The days may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck season framework, within any split of a regular duck season, or within any other open season on migratory birds.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 5 and Feb. 11

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: The daily bag limit of ducks (including mergansers) is 6. The 6-duck limit shall consist of no more than 5 sea ducks (no more than 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters,

or 4 eiders), 4 mallards (max. 2 hen mallards), 3 wood ducks, 2 scaup, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 canvasbacks, 1 black duck, 1 fulvous tree duck, and 1 mottled duck. All other species of ducks (except harlequin duck) may be taken up to the 6-duck limit. In addition, youth hunters may take 2 Canada geese, 2 brant, 25 light geese, and 15 coots. No open season for harlequin ducks and swans.

Any licensed hunter 16 years old or younger may participate during these one-day hunts. Youth of this age who are exempt from the Maryland hunting license requirements may also participate. Youth waterfowl hunters must possess a receipt showing they purchased a \$9 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Hunting Stamp. Youth waterfowl hunters who are 16 years-of-age must also possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp). Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years old that holds a valid Maryland hunting license or is exempt from the hunting license requirements. The accompanying adult may call waterfowl, assist with decoys, and retrieve downed birds but may not possess a hunting weapon.

ATLANTIC POPULATION CANADA GEESE

Federal Framework: AP Zone: A 50-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 2-bird daily bag limit. These seasons also include white-fronted geese. Unless specified otherwise, seasons may be split into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 19 - Nov. 25
 Dec. 16 - Feb. 4

Bag Limit: 2 per day*

AP Zone: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; and that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line.

AF RESIDENT POPULATION CANADA GEESE

Federal Framework: An 80-day season may be held between November 15 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 19 - Nov. 25
 Dec. 13 - Mar. 8

Daily Bag Limit: 5 per day*

RP Zone: Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, and Washington Counties; and that portion of Carroll County west of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and west of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and that portion of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia line.

*Includes Canada geese, cackling geese, and white-fronted geese singly or in aggregate.

ATLANTIC BRANT

Federal Framework: States may select a 60-day season between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 27) and January 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 8 - Nov. 25
Dec. 12 - Jan. 31

Daily Bag Limit: 2 per day

LIGHT GEESE

Federal Framework: States may select a 107-day season between October 1 and March 10, with a 25-bird daily bag limit and no possession limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 1 - Nov. 25
Dec. 12 – Feb. 4
Feb. 11

Daily Bag Limit: 25 per day** No possession limit.

**Includes greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese singly or in aggregate.

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER

Federal Framework: The conservation order allows new methods of taking light geese, allows shooting hours for light geese to end one-half hour after sunset, and imposes no daily bag limits for light geese. Control activities may be conducted only when all waterfowl (including light goose) and crane hunting seasons, excluding falconry, are closed.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 28 - Dec. 10
Feb. 6 - Feb. 10
Feb. 13 - Apr. 15

Daily Bag Limit: No Limit, no possession limit

Hunt Area: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; and that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line. The Special Sea Duck Zone is excluded from this hunt area.

Special Regulations during Light Goose Conservation Order Season:

(1) Participating hunters must possess a \$5 Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season Permit while hunting light geese during this season; (2) Hunters may use shotguns capable of holding more than three shotshells; (3) Hunters may use electronic calls with recordings of light

geese; and (4) Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Note: Shooting hours for regular waterfowl seasons are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset except for (1) Resident Canada geese during September seasons when shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset, and (2) for light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order Season when shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. All season dates are inclusive. There is no possession limit for light geese; for all other waterfowl, the possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. In the Atlantic Flyway States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, where Sunday hunting is prohibited statewide by State law, all Sundays are closed to all take of migratory waterfowl (including mergansers and coots).

MOURNING DOVE

Federal Framework: States may select a 90-day season between September 1 and January 15 with a 15-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 1 - Oct. 8
 Oct. 22 - Nov. 19
 Dec. 17 - Jan. 7

Daily Bag Limit: 15 per day

KING AND CLAPPER RAIL

Federal Framework: States may select a 70-day season between September 1 and the last Sunday in January with a 10-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 1 - Nov. 9

Daily Bag Limit: 10 per day (No more than 1 King Rail)

SORA AND VIRGINIA RAIL

Federal Framework: States may select a 70-day season between September 1 and the last Sunday in January with a 25-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 1 - Nov. 9

Daily Bag Limit: 25 per day

COMMON SNIPE

Federal Framework: States may select a 107-day season between September 1 and January 31 with an 8-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 27 - Nov. 25
Dec. 13 - Jan. 28

Daily Bag Limit: 8 per day

WOODCOCK

Federal Framework: States may select a 45-day season between October 1 and January 31 with a 3-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 28 - Nov. 25
Jan. 13 - Jan. 28

Daily Bag Limit: 3 per day

For additional information on population status, regulations, where to hunt, and more go DNR Waterfowl Page at http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Hunt_Traps/waterfowl/index.asp.

Calendar for year 2016 (United States)

<p>January</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>31</p> <p>2:● 9:● 16:○ 23:○ 31:○</p>	<p>February</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29</p> <p>8:● 15:○ 22:○</p>	<p>March</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p> <p>1:○ 8:● 15:○ 23:○ 31:○</p>
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Holidays and Observances:

Jan 1 New Year's Day	May 30 Memorial Day	Nov 11 Veterans Day
Jan 18 Martin Luther King Day	Jun 19 Father's Day	Nov 24 Thanksgiving Day
Feb 14 Valentine's Day	Jul 4 Independence Day	Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Feb 15 Presidents' Day	Sep 5 Labor Day	Dec 25 Christmas Day
Mar 27 Easter Sunday	Oct 10 Columbus Day (Most regions)	Dec 26 'Christmas Day' observed
Apr 13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday	Oct 31 Halloween	Dec 31 New Year's Eve
May 8 Mother's Day	Nov 8 Election Day	

Calendar for year 2017 (United States)

<p style="text-align: center;">January</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">5:● 12:○ 19:● 27:●</p>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<p style="text-align: center;">February</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">3:○ 10:○ 18:○ 26:●</p>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28					<p style="text-align: center;">March</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">5:● 12:○ 20:● 27:●</p>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31								
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Holidays and Observances:		
Jan 1 New Year's Day	May 14 Mother's Day	Nov 11 Veterans Day
Jan 2 'New Year's Day' observed	May 29 Memorial Day	Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day
Jan 16 Martin Luther King Day	Jun 18 Father's Day	Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Feb 14 Valentine's Day	Jul 4 Independence Day	Dec 25 Christmas Day
Feb 20 Presidents' Day	Sep 4 Labor Day	Dec 31 New Year's Eve
Apr 13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday	Oct 9 Columbus Day (Most regions)	
Apr 16 Easter Sunday	Oct 31 Halloween	

**2016 WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
ANNUAL SCHEDULE AND DRAFT MONTHLY AGENDA**

JANUARY 20, 2016 – Canceled.

- 2016 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto and Glenn Therres)
- 2016-2018 Hunting Regulation Concepts (Pete Jayne)

FEBRUARY 17, 2016

- 2016 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto and Glenn Therres)
- 2016 – 2017 Waterfowl Season Proposals (Josh Homyack)
- Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee Report (Bill Harvey)
- 2016 WAC Annual Schedule and Draft Monthly Agenda – WAC Review and Approval
- Old Business: 2014 Farmer of the Year Award – (Colby Ferguson and Pete Jayne)

MARCH 16, 2016

- 2016-2018 Hunting Regulation Proposals (Pete Jayne)
- Finalize Selections of 2016-2017 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons (Bill Harvey)
- 2016 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto and Glenn Therres)

APRIL 20, 2016

- Maryland Wildlife Rehabber Association Update (Suzanne Shoemaker and Kathy Woods)
- 2016 Legislative Session Outcome (Paul Peditto and Glenn Therres)
- WAC Legislative Concepts Review (Group Discussion)

MAY 18, 2016 - NO MEETING SCHEDULED

JUNE 15, 2016

- WHS Regional Operations Program Update (Karina Stonesifer)
- WHS Information and Education Program Update (Karina Stonesifer)

JULY 20, 2016

- Wildlife and Heritage Service FY16 and FY17 Budget Update (Glenn Therres)
- WHS Administration Update (Glenn Therres)
- New Business: Regulated Shooting Areas – Hunter Education (Group Discussion)

AUGUST 17, 2016 – NO MEETING SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 21, 2016 – NO MEETING SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 19, 2016

- Natural Heritage Program Update (Jonathan McKnight)
- Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee (Jonathan McKnight and Committee Chairperson)

NOVEMBER 16, 2016

- Presentation of 2015 Conservationist of the Year Award (Paul Peditto)
- WHS Game Program Update (Pete Jayne and staff)

DECEMBER 21, 2016 – NO MEETING SCHEDULED

February 7, 2016

Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Service

RE: Proposed changes to wild turkey hunting regulations

After attending the stakeholder meeting, learning more about the concept proposal for a setback from bait for fall turkey hunting, and discussing with Maryland NWTF volunteers, it is evident that we misunderstood the proposed concept. We also did not provide the parameters for a setback that would be necessary for our support which is critical to preserve our overall position against baiting for wild turkeys. Please accept the following input clarifying our position on behalf of the Maryland Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

The Maryland NWTF does not support baiting for wild turkeys during any season for the following reasons: Baiting for wild turkeys may result in behavioral or physiological impacts to turkeys or turkey populations as well as facilitate the spread of disease and increase direct and indirect contact between target and non-target species. If baiting were to be allowed in any of the three turkey hunting seasons it would likely increase harvest substantially and negatively impact hunt quality. Not only would wild turkey numbers be impacted negatively, but the hunting season structures would need to be adjusted to reduce opportunities and days we can spend afield to account for the increased impact on the wild turkey resource. The MD NWTF does not support baiting for wild turkeys during any season and request populations and hunting opportunities to be regulated by adjusting season length.

In order to protect wild turkey populations and provide opportunity for turkey hunters, the MD NWTF would consider support of a proposal that set a distance a turkey hunter and turkey had to be from a legal bait pile established for hunting deer in the fall season in Allegany, Garrett; and Washington counties. However, the support for a setback would only be considered if the proposed regulation would not result in more liberalized baiting opportunities during the fall turkey season in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties. In addition, the proposed setback distance would also need to be set to minimize opportunistic harvest and deter illegal baiting of wild turkeys, while maximizing the area available to hunting wild turkeys. Lastly, we do not support changes to the winter or spring season at this time.

Thank you again for the opportunity to clarify our input on this concept proposal.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Capel
MD State Chapter President