

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – AUGUST 20, 2014

Chairman Plummer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Approval for the August 20, 2014 Meeting Agenda**

- Commissioner Michael added two items to the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.
  1. Natural Resources Police Training with Maryland State's Attorney's Association
  2. Maryland Horse Council outreach with MD. Farm Bureau
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Gregor moved to accept the August 20<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Advisory Commission (WAC) Meeting Agenda with the additions.
  2. Commissioner Rodney seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval for Minutes from July 30, 2014 Meeting**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to approve the July 30<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as presented.
  2. Commissioner Wojton seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Finalize Selection of 2014 – 2015 Waterfowl Seasons** – Presentation given by Larry Hindman, Waterfowl Project Leader.

- Mr. Hindman provided a Power Point on the 2014-2015 Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits. **[ATTACHMENT A]**
- Discussion on the 2014-2015 Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits.
  1. Staff did not receive a lot of comments on the waterfowl seasons and bag limits.
  2. Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee (MGBAC), Maryland Waterfowlers Association (MDWFA), and Maryland Outfitter and Guide Association (MDOGA) supported the proposals.
  3. Duck hunting season will close on January 24<sup>th</sup> instead of January 25<sup>th</sup> because there is no Sunday hunting for waterfowl in Maryland. Staff cannot select a date outside of the Federal framework. Staff received several comments to have the duck season close after January 25<sup>th</sup>. Some hunters do not understand the federal frameworks and that states cannot select dates that are outside those federal frameworks. Recommendation remained the same as the July presentation for the duck hunting seasons: October 11-October 18; November 8-November 28; December 16-January 24. This is the same timing as last year but there is bag limit of one Canvasback. The total duck daily bag limit is six.
  4. Staff surveyed hunters regarding their preference for AP Canada Goose hunting dates:
    - a. Results indicated no strong preference between the Saturdays nearest to November 15<sup>th</sup> vs. Saturday before Thanksgiving.
    - b. More support for closing last day possible, which would be February 5<sup>th</sup> for the 2014-2015 season.
    - c. As a result, the AP Canada goose hunting season will be November 22 – November 28 and December 16 – February 4 with a bag limit of 2 per day. Staff tried to overlap the duck and goose season to the extent as possible.
- Question and Answer Section:
  1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked about having the Light Goose Conservation Order Season part of the Sea Duck Zone during the February 9 – April 11 and what would it take to do that.

The nature of conservation order seasons is that you can have them but you can only have them in areas where there is no other waterfowl season open. In fact, a state may not even have a youth day open during the conservation order season.

2. Chairman Plummer asked is this because of the some of the methods that are allowed during the conservation season. That is correct.
  3. Chairman Plummer indicated that he wanted to go back to something that was subtle but important to mention that the Sea Duck bag limit to be more restricted was requested by the Maryland Outfitter and Guide Association. Maryland Outfitter and Guide Association were concerned about the resource so Chairman Plummer commented that it was nice to hear that community had concerns and it was not about harvesting as many as they could but the longevity of the resources.
- Motion:
    1. Commissioner Michael moved to accept the proposed 2014-2015 Late Waterfowl Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits.
    2. Commissioner Rodney seconded.
    3. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### **Maryland Farm Bureau Update** - Presentation given by Matt Tefteau, Assistant Director of Government Relations

- Mr. Tefteau apologized for not being available to the Commission at the July 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- MFB met with the Maryland Horse Council (MHC) recently without Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Initially, DNR was invited but MFB and MHC thought it was best to meet first to “hash things out without the Department”.
  1. Mr. Tefteau asked why a person is not allowed to use a rifle on crop damage permits. Director Peditto responded that the rifle prohibition is for hunting and crop damage. If the area is open to rifle hunting for deer then a person may use a rifle during deer firearms season and when otherwise permitted on a crop damage permit (or Deer Management Permit ‘DMP’).
  2. Mr. Tefteau indicated that landowners with crop damage should not have rifle prohibitions. DNR responded that it’s a local issue that must start with approval from local lawmakers (county commissioners and/or delegations).
  3. Mr. Tefteau indicated that MFB would like to do a joint press release with Maryland Horse Council about reminding MFB members to use safe practices while hunting and riding while respecting private property and being alert to hunters. MFB would like to do this September 3<sup>rd</sup> or September 4<sup>th</sup> before the deer season opens. Director Peditto asked, do you mean MFB and MHC putting out a press release? “Yes”.
  4. Mr. Tefteau has been attending many of the MFB board meetings and the common issue is wildlife and the deer herd, especially from the Eastern Shore Counties. The Farmers are being eaten up. The farmers want other tools in the tools box for managing wildlife. The MFB wants to know what else the MFB can do to assist to get more hunters out to harvest more deer.
  5. Commissioner Compton outlined that from the hunting community, the MFB is to support more recreational hunting afield, which includes more Sunday hunting. Commissioner Compton added, if the MFB wants more hunting, one of the common cries from the hunting community is the hunter works all day long and all week long.
- Chairman Plummer explained that he tries to take himself out of the situation to ask neutral questions. Chairman Plummer asked that since there are 680,000 acres that are equestrian-related agricultural land, how does Sunday hunting effect those people if they are in control of their private lands? Commissioner Michael responded that the firearm hunter has, in effect, visually, and through sound and distance of a bullet extended the property line. This pattern is repeated

over and over again. The firearm hunters have a footprint of discouraging folks from riding their horses on their property and that is why Sunday is so important. The footprint does not end at your property line.

- Chairman Plummer added, so MHC is trying to control what other people are doing and are allowing on their property. This is going to cause a problem. Chairman Plummer added that what he has heard from the hunting community is that hunters only get maybe 1-2 firearms season Sundays. The horse community gets the rest of the year, so Chairman Plummer mentioned that is maybe the battle.
- Mr. Tefteau commented that MFB and MHC are trying to work together on this issue. Mr. Tefteau added that during the General Assembly and if a Sunday hunting bill comes up, the MFB would support it.
- Chairman Plummer added that there are different groups involved, the farmers, hunters, MHC, and then DNR who are trying to do what is best for science – it is an uphill battle. Chairman Plummer agreed with Commissioner Michael that there has to be some give and take on this issue.
- Commissioner Michael responded that the Wildlife and Heritage Service is not the “White-tailed Service”. Commissioner Michael added that game is not owned by hunters; it is owned by every person in the State. The survey said, “Hunters are favorable to Sunday hunting. Marylanders and landowners are not in favor of Sunday hunting.” The MFB members control lots of land. Commissioner Michael also mentioned that most sportsmen have to rely on property that sportsmen do not own. The sportsmen have to get access and focus on that. Commissioner Michael reiterated that this information came from the 2009-2018 Deer Management Plan that Marylanders and property owners are against Sunday hunting - hunters are in favor with Sunday hunting. Commissioner Michael indicated that his county is controlled by Mennonites, who are great people. The Mennonites do not want hunting on Sundays. We are not going hear the Mennonite voices. Commissioner Michael continued on talking about a large area of his territory that is own by folks that are dead set against Sunday hunting that hunters want access to – hunters do not want to forget that. Commissioner Michael expressed that we have to look at the science and the science said, “Marylanders and landowners are not in favor of Sunday hunting.”
- Chairman Plummer asked Commissioner Michael about what survey is he referring to. Commissioner Michael replied that it is the Maryland DNR Deer Management Plan for 2009-2018. Chairman Plummer indicated that he would like to see that information. Mennonites are certainly a small portion of the population along with the landowners, which have that same feeling, would be a small part of that population. The group was reminded that the survey was conducted in seven years ago and many recent surveys suggest Sunday hunting is very popular in Maryland and nearby non-resident hunters who might come to Maryland to control the deer herd.
  1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen pointed out that he is still not convinced that any proposed Sunday hunting would prevent a farmer or Mennonite or anybody from saying that my activities of hunting do not include Sunday. At the same time, a landowner who has horses can ride on Sunday at their discretion. Right now, without the legal option to hunt on Sunday; it is not a decision left for the landowner to allow Sunday hunting.
  2. Commissioner Gregor raised that there are 52 weeks in the year and hunters may have a day or two of firearms season Sunday hunting out of 52 weeks. Commissioner Gregor expressed that she does not understand why the horse community is trying not to allow access to Sunday hunting. Commissioner Michael responded that the DNR could add 52 weeks.
  3. Commissioner Gregor acknowledged that even though DNR is authorized to have Sunday hunting in far western Maryland for up to 52 weeks; it does not mean that DNR will do that and there’s no reason they would – just as they’ve never allowed hunting in May, June, and July but they have the authority do that too. In most areas, there are a handful of Sundays that hunters can hunt. Commissioner Gregor added if a hunter works Monday through Saturday

that means Sunday is the only day someone may hunt. Commissioner Gregor informed the Commission that I am for Sunday hunting and that I hunt only on my land, with the exception of goose hunting, and there is no Sunday hunting for goose.

4. Commissioner Compton interrupted the discussion on and indicated Mr. Teffeau's presentation has gotten high-jacked. Commissioner Compton suggested this is a good time to get back on track with the agenda. Chairman Plummer agreed.
5. Commissioner Compton pointed out that this discussion is better at a stakeholders meeting of all the parties. After a stakeholders meeting; hopefully something positive will be reported back to the Commission.
6. Director Peditto announced that WHS is planning to host a stakeholders meeting in October to discuss deer management and options in general – that meeting will likely lead to a discussion on Sunday hunting.
7. Commissioner Gulbrandsen expressed that it sounds to me, at least from the MFB perspective, is that the decision about which Sundays to hunt should be made in a public process like the one DNR uses for seasons and bag limits. Part of the reason why, DNR is unable to manage Sunday hunting on a statewide level is because the MHC, among other organizations, have opposed enabling legislation..
8. Mr. Teffeau asked if there were seven Sundays for hunting in Western Maryland. Director Peditto responded that is correct – but only one regular firearms season date and one junior firearms season date. DNR was actually more conservative than the regulation proposal prior to DNR having the enabling legislation in place.

**Maryland Horse Council Outreach to Maryland Farm Bureau - Presentation given by Commissioner Joseph Michael.**

- Commissioner Michael emailed Chairman Plummer page number 63 of the 2009-2018 White-tailed Deer Plan that said, “Opposition exceed support for deer hunting on Sundays in Maryland among Maryland residents. On the other hand, among deer hunters, a majority support hunting deer on Sundays. Large landowners are like residents in that opposition exceeds support for hunting deer on Sundays.”
- Director Peditto commented that it is good to hear that individuals are reading publications that staff worked hard to put together.
- Director Peditto explained that the survey was done in 2007 and the State was two years into the first Sunday hunting in 289 years history of that law. Pennsylvania, which was opposed to Sunday hunting, is pushing forward with Sunday hunting. Virginia, which generally has a more conservative community against Sunday hunting, has passed new universal Sunday hunting law. Maryland has seven years of data that demonstrates that hunters kill more deer on the handful of available Sundays than all of the weekdays averaged together – and three of the higher density deer counties are not open to any Sunday hunting. Director Peditto responded that it is going to take a balance; historically, WHS has managed to do that and will continue to do so.
- Director Peditto asked the Commission if the members would like for the invitation to attend the stakeholders meeting. Traditionally, only one or two members of the Commission attend the stakeholders meetings.
  1. Chairman Plummer pointed out that the Commission is a diverse group and to send one or two people lends it to complications. Chairman Plummer suggested that Director Peditto send an open invitation to the members of the Commission.
  2. Director Peditto asked Mr. Teffeau and Commissioner Michael to send Director Peditto names and contact information of key players for this stakeholders meeting.
  3. Director Peditto announced that October 8<sup>th</sup> has been scheduled for the stakeholders meeting, which will be located at the Gwynnbrook Natural Resources Police Office in Owing Mills.

Staff will probably start around 10:00 am and lunch will be provided.

4. Chairman Plummer expressed his concerns about once the stakeholders come together and get consensus, then how do we prevent the politicians un-doing the consensus of the stakeholders.
5. Commissioner Michael responded that the way we would do that is no more of these local bills because in that lays the seed of destruction. Game species in Maryland are owned by the citizens of Maryland; the enabling legislation should be statewide. In doing so, will make this a statewide issue and that keeps it from becoming the super political local issue. Commissioner Michael added that you get a position that everybody signs onto and you keep the politician out by doing this. Now, the benefit of that is that you have some political powerful people in every court, including MHC and other political powers that could get you more Sundays, but with sidebars on them. Commissioner Michael outlined that you can get broad support from the core counties and the most political powerful to back the statewide position.

**Natural Resources Police Training with Maryland State's Attorney's Association** – Presentation given by Commissioner Joseph Michael.

- The Maryland State's Attorney Association Coordinator did favor a November change. The Maryland State Attorney Association favors a March training date.
- Commissioner Michael contacted Captain Johnson and identified that there was a fisheries training about two years ago. Commissioner Michael suggested that the training be focused on wildlife, which will bring a different group of people and prosecutors to the training. Commissioner Michael will be speaking at the training.
- Commissioner Michael will be finding out from NRP where NRP are losing cases.
- Commissioner Michael asked the Commission to send him anything that is occurring in the member's jurisdiction.

**New Business**

- Chairman Plummer informed the Commission about the Sportsmen's Marketing Initiative – Maryland allocated \$300,000 to promote hunting and fishing in Maryland. The Sportsmen's Marketing Initiative stakeholder meeting is scheduled for August 28<sup>th</sup> in Annapolis. Chairman Plummer expressed that he needed to send someone from the Commission.
  1. Commissioner Rodney indicated that he is on that committee. Commissioner Rodney explained that various hunting and outdoor representatives have been invited to this meeting. Apparently, around 15 to 16 groups have accepted the invitation.
  2. Chairman Plummer and Vice Chairman Compton discussed the importance of marketing to people to enjoy the activities in Maryland should be offered. Especially, with Maryland hunting licenses declining along with declining of funding to DNR – why would not some of that money be spent in state. Chairman Plummer supports money being spent in Maryland.
  3. Chairman Plummer asked the Commission for suggestions on how those marketing dollars should be spent and sends suggestions to Commissioner Rodney and Commissioner Rodney certainly can represent the Commission.

**Old Business**

- Director Peditto informed the Commission that WHS will be meeting with Information Technology (IT) staff to commence plans to shift the riparian blind site system to a more modern infrastructure for the issuance of blindsite licenses.

1. Commissioner Wojton mentioned that the Maryland Environmental Services (MES) has a GIS Team that has supported DNR. Commissioner Wojton informed Director Peditto that MES GIS Team is willing to help with that process.
2. Director Peditto commented that if IT is not able to do the job, Director Peditto will ask IT to find WHS a solution. Director Peditto thanked Commissioner Wojton for offering to help facilitate this.
3. Director Peditto also thanked the Commission for raising the issue.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 A.M.

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at Sandy Point State Park, Yellow Perch Pavilion, Annapolis, Maryland.

### **Attendance**

Members:	L. Compton, G. Fratz, T. Gregor, E. Gulbrandsen, J. Michael, J. Plummer, C. Rodney, and B. Wojton
Absent:	S. Boyles Griffin
Guest:	M. Teffeau
Staff:	R. Haley, B. Harvey, L. Hindman, P. Jayne, P. Peditto, and T. Spencer

# Recommended Late Waterfowl Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for 2014-2015



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# Priorities Considered when Formulating Hunting Season Proposals

- The biological requirements of the waterfowl resource.
- Regulation simplicity.
- Maximizing open hunting days statewide, especially Saturdays and holidays.
- Maximizing opportunity for all hunters, particularly youth.

States may not select seasons and bag limits more liberal than federal frameworks.





## Summary of Public Comment

- Proposals supported by MGBAC, MDWFA, and MDOGA.
- Online forum comments were supportive of the proposed late seasons and bag limits for geese. However, most would like to see the regular duck season be extended later into January.
- Full support expressed for proposals by those participants at the waterfowl regulation public meeting.

## Federal Frameworks

# Duck Hunting Season

Season length: 60 days

Outside Dates: Sept. 27 - Jan. 25 (Sunday)

Bag Limit: 6 per day

## Season

Oct. 11 - Oct. 18

Nov. 8 - Nov. 28

Dec. 16 - Jan. 24

## Daily Bag Limit

6 per day (incl. mergansers) but no more than 5 Long-tailed Ducks, 4 Scoters, 4 Mallards (2 hens), 3 Wood Ducks, 2 Pintails, 2 Redheads, 2 Scaup, 2 Hooded Mergansers, 1 Canvasback, 1 Black Duck (during open Black Duck season), 1 Mottled Duck, and 1 Fulvous Tree Duck.

## Federal Framework

Season Length: 60 days

Bag Limit: 1

## Season

Nov. 8 - Nov. 28

Dec. 16 - Jan. 24

## Daily Bag Limit

1 per day

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

## Black Duck Season within Regular Duck Season





# Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days



## Season

Nov. 1 and Feb. 7

## Daily Bag Limit

6 ducks (certain species bag restrictions), 2 Canada geese in AP zone, 5 Canada geese in AFRP zone, 2 brant, 25 light geese, and 15 coots.

## Requirements

Must be accompanied by an unarmed, adult at least 21 years old. Adult may assist in calling, setting decoys, retrieving downed birds.

## Federal Framework

Season Length: 107 days

Outside Dates: Sept. 15 - Jan.  
31

Bag Limit: 7 per day, no more  
than 4 Scoters

## Season

Oct. 1 - Jan. 31

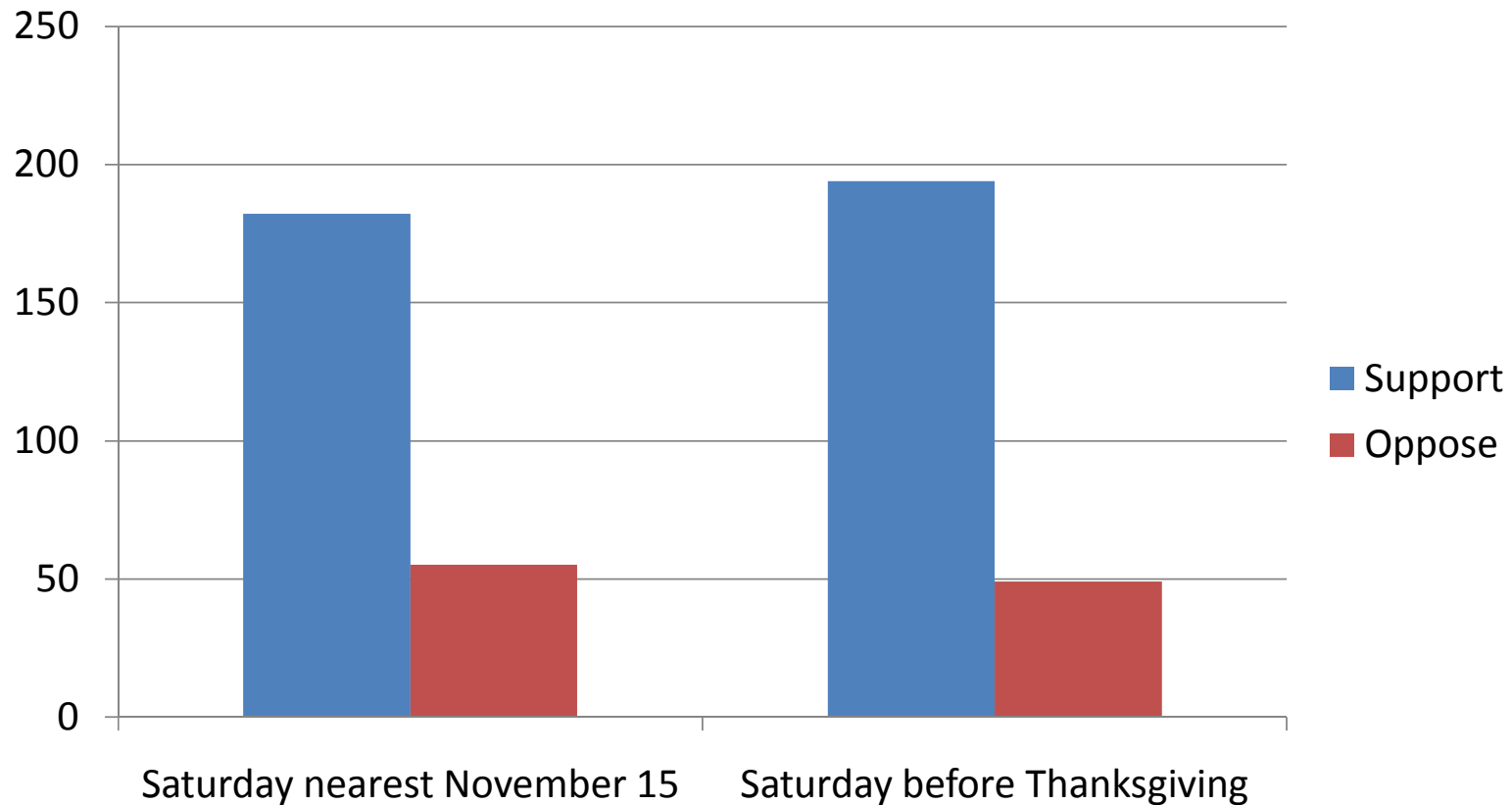
## Daily Bag Limit

5 per day, no more than  
4 scoters

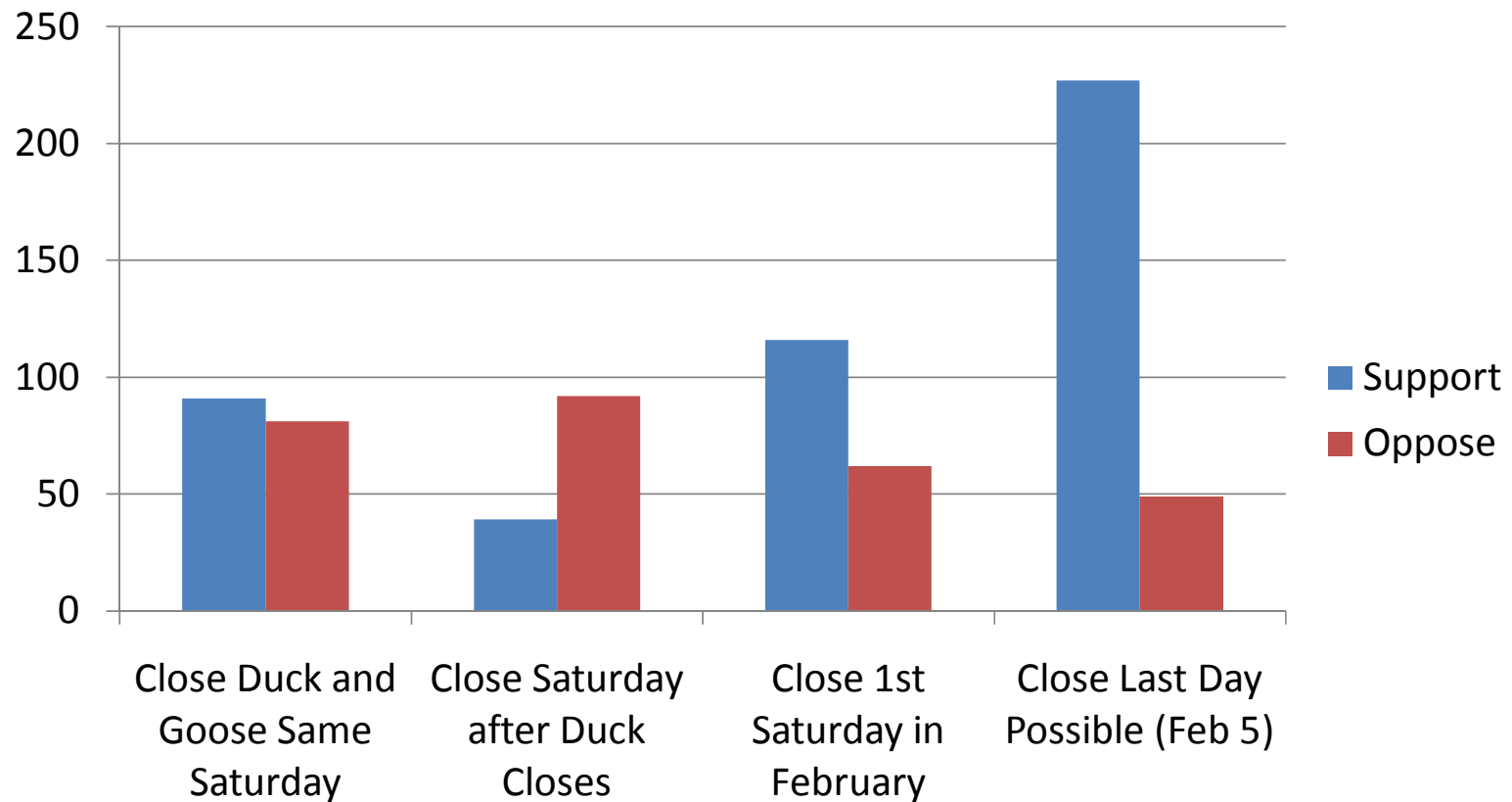
## Special Sea Duck Hunting Season (Sea Duck Zone only)



# Preferred Opening Day for AP Canada Goose Season



# Preferred Closing Day AP Canada Goose Season





# AP Canada Goose Hunting Season

## Federal Framework

Season Length: 50 days

Outside Dates: Nov. 15 - Feb. 5

Bag Limit: 2 per day

## Season

Nov. 22 - Nov. 28

Dec. 16 - Feb. 4

## Daily Bag Limit

2 per day



# Atlantic Flyway Resident Population Canada Goose Hunting Season



## Federal Framework

Season Length: 80 days

Outside Dates: Nov. 15 - Mar. 10

Bag Limit: 5 per day

## Season

Nov. 22 - Nov. 28

Dec. 16 - Mar. 10

## Daily Bag Limit

5 per day

# Atlantic Brant Hunting Season



## Federal Framework

Season Length: 30 days

Bag Limit: 2 per day

## Season

Dec. 20 - Jan. 3

Jan. 6 - 24

## Daily Bag Limit

2 per day

# Light Goose Hunting Season

## Federal Framework

Season Length: 107 days

Outside Dates: Oct. 1 - Mar. 10

Bag Limit: 25 per day

## Season

Oct. 4 - Nov. 28

Dec. 15 - Feb 7

Feb. 7 (2nd youth day)

## Daily Bag Limit

25 per day





# Light Goose Conservation Order Season

## CO Season

Dec. 1 - Dec. 13

Feb. 9 - Apr. 11

## Daily Bag Limit

No bag 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.