

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – JANUARY 15, 2020

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**Annual Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Michael moved to nominate Lou Compton as Chair.
  2. Commissioner Weinberg seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to nominate Tina Gregor as Vice-Chair.
  2. Commissioner Keithley seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Lou Compton will remain as Chair as well as Tina Gregor will remain as Vice-Chair of the Wildlife Advisory Commission.

**Approval for the January 15, 2020, Meeting Agenda**

- There was a change in the January 15, 2020 meeting agenda to add the Stakeholders' Meeting Update.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Michael moved to accept the change of adding the Stakeholders' Meeting Update to the January 15, 2020, Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
  2. Commissioner Schroyer seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to approve the January 15, 2020 agenda with the addition of the Stakeholders' Meeting Update being added.
  2. Commissioner Weinberg seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval for Minutes from November 20, 2019 Meeting**

- Commissioner Michael mentioned that he read the meeting minutes but Commissioner Michael did not see it reflected in the meeting minutes that Director Peditto informed the Commission that Pennsylvania's hunters contribute \$1 million to the Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) revenue. Commissioner Michael expressed that Director Peditto may have misspoken on the subject.
  1. Director Peditto reiterated the comment and ensured the Commission that Pennsylvania hunters contribute at least \$1 million in license revenue. We have approximately 10,000 non-resident PA hunters -- that adds up to over \$1 million.
  2. Commissioner Michael requested that the information about PA hunters contributing over \$1 million to WHS' revenue be added to the meeting minutes.
  3. Director Peditto indicated that staff could add a sub-bullet in the Minutes if that is the desire of the Commission.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Michael moved to add the note that Pennsylvania's hunters contribute more than \$1 million dollars in non-resident licenses and stamps revenue.
  2. Commissioner Schroyer seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to accept the November 20, 2019 meeting minutes with the change.

2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Stakeholders Meeting Update** – Presentation was given by Associate Director Karina Stonesifer.

- Associate Director Stonesifer thanked the Commission members for attending. Staff received great feedback on the concepts from the stakeholders. With that in mind, the staff made some changes to the concepts based on the comments received from the stakeholders. The public comment period opens on February 3.
- Associate Director Stonesifer outlined each concept and status.
  1. Coyote – Allowing Coyote hunting year-round statewide during day and night. It will be advanced to the public forum to seek broader input from the public.
  2. Waterfowl – Allowing veterans of the United States Armed Forces (as defined in Section 101, Title 38, United States Code) to hunt on the scheduled youth days. Will be advanced to the public forum.
  3. Air Gun Definition – Clarifying when air guns using shot may be used to hunt game species. Staff removed this proposal because of the feedback received from the stakeholders.
  4. White-tailed Deer – Creating an urban/suburban deer management zone to increase potential harvest in areas with abundant deer populations. Will be advanced to the public forum.
  5. White-tailed Deer – In Deer Management Region A, open the second Saturday of the two week deer firearm season to antlerless deer hunting on private and public lands. Because of significant opposition from Western MD representatives (AGSA, Mountain MD QDMA) this concept was tabled and removed from consideration.
  6. White-tailed Deer & Sika Deer – Primitive-Weapon Season. Staff received support for this proposal but mixed feedback as to when to have the season. There are three separate dates that staff will be proposing to the public for input. The first three days of February; the three days before the archery season starts in September; and the first weekend (Thursday – Saturday) after the late firearms season in January in Region B. Staff decided to advance this concept to the public forum with the three options noted above.
  7. White-Tailed Deer & Sika Deer – Allowing the use of straight-walled cartridges in rifles and handguns in firearms deer season statewide. Staff received good support for this option and will advance it to the public forum.
  8. White-tailed – Deer & Sika Deer- Removing the Region B six-day October antlerless-only muzzleloader split and offer an additional opportunity during the firearms season. Staff decided to remove that concept after significant opposition from several stakeholder groups.
  9. White-tailed Deer & Sika Deer – Removing the prohibition on using Bonus Antlered Deer Stamps in Deer Management Region A under certain circumstances. This proposal will not change the bag limit in Region A. It would create consistency in the use of the Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp, regardless of where a hunter first harvests an antlered deer. This concept came from the Washington County Sportsmen’s Coalition. Staff decided to advance this one to the public forum.
- The Commission will have the opportunity to discuss the proposals and vote on the proposals at the March 18, 2020 WAC meeting.
- Comments:
  1. Commissioner Michael mentioned that staff should consider a comment from the stakeholders’ meeting about coyote hunting and night shooting. The group said night shooting for any species should not be permitted during the firearms deer season.
    - a. Staff had a dialogue about coyote hunting at night but staff decided to move it forward for public comment.

- b. NRP did not flag it as a particular issue during the internal review. This concept is one that staff will be paying close attention to as it moves through the process.
2. Commissioner Boyles Griffin reminded the Commission and staff that coyotes have been hunted day and night at least part of the year until this time. The problem that Commissioner Boyles Griffin has on the current policy and then the extension of the current policy is that killing coyotes year round, which means hunters are leaving pups to die of starvation and dehydration. It would be one thing if the coyotes were not being hunted during the breeding season but that is undeniable consequence of doing that. If hunters are taking males and not the females – the females are going to be hard-pressed in taking care of those pups without her mate helping the female out. Commissioner Boyles Griffin indicated that she is not saying not to have coyote hunting and trapping. Commissioner Boyles Griffin mentioned that she does not know why there is no consideration given for the breeding season.
  - a. Staff recognized that Commissioner Boyles Griffin provided fair comments.
  - b. Staff also recognized the public perception of coyotes.
  - c. Commissioner Boyles Griffin agreed to send an article about coyotes to the Commission. It was published by National Geographic. USDA, Wildlife Services kills 300,000 of them a year, and it is not doing anything to help resolve conflicts out west where coyotes are a threat to livestock operations. USDA keeps doing it because we haven't figured another way to handle it. If you think killing one while you are out there hunting is doing someone some good, just read up on coyote ecology. It may cause you to reconsider this proposal or think about what purpose this proposal will serve.
3. Commissioner Wagner commented that if hunters are killing them during the breeding season and the pups die even though it may be cruel, it is a great point to consider. However, if the pups are dying too, it is putting a dent in the population. Commissioner Wagner agreed that Commission should consider Commissioner Boyles Griffin's comments.
4. Commissioner Keithley asked if there are any ongoing research regarding coyotes in the State with regards to growth and spreading.
  - a. Staff monitor coyotes in Maryland. Originally, staff monitored the presence/absence in Maryland. In the 70s, the staff noted that Maryland has coyotes. Staff discussed with other jurisdictions as to where the coyotes came from and where coyotes were sighted. From the mid-80s to 2000, the staff just monitored the coyotes showing up. Once staff confirmed the existence of coyotes in Baltimore City and in Downtown Annapolis, staff recognized that coyotes were here and everywhere.
  - b. Bowhunter Survey gives staff a broader look at a variety of species that hunters observe.
5. Commissioner Keithley asked that Maryland has no way of tracking how many coyotes have been taken versus the growing population.
  - a. Staff will be able to demonstrate a trend through the furbearer permit. In fact, staff are working on a bobcat study and that bobcat study is costing WHS survey tens of thousands in funding and staff resources because bobcats are so secretive and coyotes would be the same way. Coyotes are statewide whereas bobcats are more towards the western part of the Maryland; it would cost WHS a lot more money to conduct a meaningful coyote study.

**2020-2021 Waterfowl season Proposals** – Presentation was given by Waterfowl Section Leader Josh Homyack

- Waterfowl Section Leader Josh Homyack highlighted some of the Maryland Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag Limits to the Commission in a PowerPoint presentation. [ATTACHMENT A]
- The Commission received a copy of the Proposed Maryland Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits for the 2020-2021 Hunting Year. [ATTACHMENT B]
- The breeding population of scaup has been below the long term average. The population has been

around the moderated season package into the hybrid season for scaup that means 1 bird per day during the first 40 days of the season and then 2 birds per day for the last 20 days of the season.

- Staff are waiting to hear from the USFWS about the two different Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days at two different parts of the seasons, in regards to the scaup bag limits. This situation is not unique to Maryland; it something that USFWS has to decide on and let all states know the decision from USFWS.
- The proposed opening date Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day is November 7, 2020 and the proposed date for the opening Junior Deer Hunt Day is November 14 so the dates are not on the same day.
- The AP Canada Goose Hunting Season productivity in 2019 was average (1.28 young/adult).
- The potential Maryland Duck Zone can be changed geographically. Geographically, Maryland could change the zone after 5 years. The potential Maryland Duck Zone is similar to the AP Canada Goose Zone. US301 towards Southern Maryland is split in half.
- Commissioner Michael suggested making the Maryland Duck Zone and the Teal Zone the same. Doing so will simplify things for the hunters. Also, have the segments later in the season.
- Staff requested that the members of the Commission located in Western Maryland to reach out to waterfowl hunters and let the waterfowl hunters know when the public meeting is in Western Maryland so we can get comments. Staff members do not hear much from Western Maryland waterfowl hunters.

**Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee Update** – Presentation was given by Game Bird Section Leader Bill Harvey

- The Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee meets in person once a year in the fall. The other meetings are held via conference call.
- There is a complete roster of members on the Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee.
- Steve Myers resigned in March of 2019. Matthew Mahoney from Talbot was appointed to the Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee.
- Staff members have a functionally and great interactive relationship with the members of the Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee.

**2020 Legislative Session Update** –Presentation was given by Associate Director Glenn Therres

- The Commission received a list of the Summary of 2020 Proposed Legislation Wildlife and Heritage Service as of January 14, 2020. [ATTACHMENT C]
- The 2020 Legislative Session came in on January 8, 2020. There are only five bills that the Wildlife and Heritage Service is currently tracking (as of January 14, 2020). These are bill related to hunting or wildlife management.
- HB0068 North Point State Park – Deer Bow Hunting Season Establishment - will require the Department to establish by regulation a bow hunting season at North Point State Park. The North Point State Park already has a bow season on 300 acres.
- HB0173 Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting was just introduced. The language of the HB0173 was not on the website at the time of the discussion.
  1. HB0173 is a Departmental bill, which means it came from DNR. HB0173 is introduced by the Chair of the Environment and Transportation Committee as part of the protocol in the General Assembly.
  2. HB0173 simplifies the language for Sunday hunting in Maryland. It takes a lot of the language and condenses it.
- SB0025 Hunting and Fishing Licenses – Active Military, Former POW, etc. repeal the reporting requirement of the Department to report on the amount of hunting and fishing licenses that are

provided to active military, former POW, etc. by our licensing agents. It does not change the licensing exemption requirement.

- SB0086 Natural Resources – Fishing and Hunting Rights is a bill that would declare hunting and fishing as rights of the citizens of the State – but subject to regulations and other restrictions under the law.
- SB0142 Recreational License Donation Program and Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund Revisions – Senator Simonaire has over a few years had legislation passed that required the Department to provide individuals who buy hunting and fishing licenses to donate to a fund that is made available to wounded warriors and others to get free hunting licenses. It does not change that to a large degree but it would now require the administration of that fund and the application along with organizations to go through Chesapeake Bay Trust instead of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Q&A Section on Legislative Report:
  1. Chairman Compton asked Mr. Therres if HB0173 NR Sunday Hunting bill is expanding Sunday hunting.
    - a. It does not expand Sunday hunting days.
    - b. It takes the current confused and complicated language and consolidates the language. This should help citizens and law enforcement better understand what is allowed.
    - c. Think of it as a menu: There is no Sunday hunting in Prince George’s, Howard, and Baltimore Counties. The regular-size Sunday hunting, which is now Anne Arundel County, first Sunday in November for archery and Sunday after opening day of firearms. There are several counties in the large-size for Sunday hunting. Lastly, there is the super-size Sunday hunting in Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Cecil, and St. Mary’s, these five counties are essentially the same.
    - d. The bill came up as part of a discussion with the Environment and Transportation Committee. There was one bill that came in last year to add one day and the one day was amended to be a 10:30 stop time. It was difficult for the Committee and drafters to follow along with the nuances of the Sunday hunting bills being proposed.
    - e. The Department agreed to work with the Committee to try to clean up that Section of the code. HB0173 is designed to clean up the current statute.
    - f. Commission members could pull up the current statute and bring up HB0173, the new language will be in bold text and the deleted text is in brackets.
  2. Commissioner Weinberg suggested that if HB0173 gets passed and the Department put it in that it would be a benefit. Commissioner Weinberg also asked do you think it would be better than what is currently in Code.
    - a. Yes, it would be better.
  3. Commissioner Keithley asked if the Department was adding Sundays with HB0173 in the counties that currently have none.
    - a. There is nothing about adding Prince George’s, Howard, and Baltimore Counties to the Sunday options.
  4. Commissioner Wagner asked who is the Chair of Environment and Transportation Committee and where is Senator Simonaire from.
    - a. Senator Simonaire is a representative of Anne Arundel County (Pasadena, Severna Park, and Glen Burnie).
    - b. The Chair of Environment and Transportation Committee is Delegate Kumar Barve. Delegate Barve is a representative of Montgomery County.
  5. Director Peditto received several calls on the hunting rights bills. There is a concern from one group that this bill does more than what it is intended to do. These rights bills are in a bunch

- of states. It does not mean a person can hunt all year round nor does it mean a person gets to ignore the rules.
6. Commissioner Boyles Griffin commented that the arguments that she has heard it is a solution in search of a problem since hunting is already legal and that it is a slippery slope because by doing something constitutional it could have other interest groups that could use it as a way of doing something a lot of people in the room that would probably not like on completely different issue because of that. So these are two perspectives that Commissioner Boyles Griffin indicated that she heard.
  7. It was pointed out that this is not a Constitutional Amendment – just a statutory proposal.

### **Maryland Farm Bureau Update**

The Commission discussed that there have been several Deer Management Permits cases.

- Staff are also buried in a pile of Deer Cooperator permits and that list continues to grow.
  1. Staff discussed this agricultural friendly Deer Cooperator permit with the Commission.
  2. The shooters are limited to February and March only, which was supported by stakeholders.
  3. Last year, about half of dozen farmers took advantage of it. This year, staff are review already 20 applications. There are an additional 20 applications for airports, wildlife services, etc.
  4. Anne Arundel County Administration is also seeking a permit to allow their parks and recreational staff along with county police to serve as sharpshooters on public and private lands.
- Q&A Section:
  1. Commissioner Michael had a question related to the application. Commissioner Michael asked if this is a ‘shall issue’ process or do staff deny some of the applications.
    - a. There are multiple steps to the process. The applicant must pass a written and shooting test. Before the staff clear the applicant to operate, the applicant must have an approved operational plan for the property. Once a person is a deer operator then you can submit an operational plan.
  2. Commissioner Michael asked if staff have turned down applicants.
    - a. There have been individuals who had trouble passing the different components of the written test and the shooting test but they all eventually pass the requisite tests.
    - b. There have been cases involving deer cooperators that have gone to court for individuals who are violating the terms of the permit.
    - c. There is a lot of staff work that goes into each application and operational plan. Each one of the individual plans takes a dozen hours to review.
  3. Chairman Compton asked if there is a background check.
    - a. Yes, an applicant must pass a background check. The applicant must not have any Title 10 violations. A deer cooperator permittee is checked every year.
  4. Commissioner Gulbrandsen pointed out in reference to wanton waste and disposition of the deer, it may be worthwhile reiterating on DMP paperwork that will be coming out that it is a requirement to dispose of the deer in a productive way as opposed to leaving the deer. Commissioner Gulbrandsen heard complaints of large-scale operations that leave a farm of dead deer presumably under DMP.
    - a. It is tricky; the statute only requires that they make a reasonable effort to follow it up. It does not authorize someone trespass on someone else land to take possession of the deer. The DMP guidelines require that they basically make personal use of the deer.
    - b. There are 9,800 DMP shooters that someone has to run a background check on. WHS and NRP are working together to figure out the best way of handling this task.
  5. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked how many deer are taken under DMP.
    - a. The amount is 8,000 annually – about 50% of the total authorized.

- Commissioner Weinberg asked if WHS has asked for agricultural funding for this work.
  1. WHS has not recently sought alternative sources of funding but there are limited options and the risk is that other sources are always looking at WHS' special funds.
- The Commission should keep in mind that all this staff time is being paid by hunters' dollars and it is non-reimbursable by federal dollars.

### **Natural Resources Police Update – No Report.**

#### **Old Business**

- The subcommittee of WAC for the Natural Resources Officer of the Year Award. Commissioner Keithley initiated the Natural Resources Officer of the Year Award.
  1. The members are Chairman Lou Compton, Commissioner Stephanie Boyles Griffin, and Lt. Fawley. Commissioner Keithley sent an email to the members on the subcommittee along with Director Peditto.
  2. Commissioner Keithley did not copy the other Commission members but Commissioner Keithley indicated that he could include the other members of the Commission on the communication related to Natural Resources Officer of the Year Award.
  3. Chairman Compton requested an agenda item under Old Business for each month for an update.
  4. Commissioner Keithley mentioned Commissioner Stephanie Boyles Griffin's suggestion to broaden the criteria include a team of officers. Commissioner Stephanie Boyles Griffin is researching other states' criteria for officers of the year along with suggestions from Lt. Fawley.
  5. The timeline would have the criteria set, have Lt. Fawley distribute the criteria to the supervisor throughout the State, get some nomination, and go from there. Hopefully, the subcommittee will be ready for an October presentation.

#### **New Business**

- Chairman Compton received a letter from Mr. David Warrenfeltz that was addressed to Secretary Haddaway-Riccio and Governor Hogan. The concern was a lack of response to alleged poaching.
  1. NRP is looking into the situation and ensures that the matter will be taken care of.
  2. Chairman Compton will provide a response and thanking Mr. Warrenfeltz for his letter along with letting Mr. Warrenfeltz know that his letter has been moved up through the chain of command. Also, informed Mr. Warrenfeltz that he should have received a response from NRP to satisfactorily take care of Mr. Warrenfeltz's issues and, if not, encourage Mr. Warrenfeltz to contact the Commission again.
- Motion
  1. Commissioner Michael moved that Chairman Compton provide a response to Mr. Warrenfeltz
  2. Commissioner Weinberg seconded.
  3. Ms. Spencer will send Mr. David Warrenfeltz's letter to all the members of the Commission via email.
  4. Motion passed.
- Associate Director Therres recalled that Vice-Chair Gregor asked when the wildlife agency was originally founded. Associate Director Therres looked into it and now that information is available to the public on the DNR website at <https://dnr.maryland.gov/Wildlife/Documents/Wildlife-Agency-History.pdf>.

#### **Commissioner Michael's Comment for the Record.**

- Commissioner Michael commented on the legislative session. Commissioner Michael did not want to bring this topic up under New Business. It is a personal opinion. Commissioner Michael suggested to the Commission to take it to heart. It is not about a specific issue but it does come up related to Sunday hunting. Commissioner Michael expressed that he will say it at every time during this time of the year that courtesy bills are very dangerous to our Wildlife and Heritage Service.
- Commissioner Michael also expressed one person's "ox can be gored". Commissioner Michael reminded the Commission that information they heard at the stakeholders meeting, staff are advancing a proposed regulation related to the 15 antlerless deer limit during archery season. This is for a handful of hunters who want to be in those areas to lock it in for a hand full of people threatening to high jacket the legislative process. Another example: a hunting weapon could be outlawed in a county or a species could be outlawed in that county. It is a very dangerous slippery slope that we are on.
- Commissioner Michael illustrated how complicated the Sunday hunting section is when you have to clean it up and how complicated the setbacks lines are so Commissioner Michael again reiterate that wildlife bills should be statewide – whatever the will of the people it should be statewide.
- Chairman Compton responded that Commissioner Michael was preaching to the choir. Chairman Compton added that he wished that message was sent and received by our friends in the legislature.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

### **Attendance**

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Members: | L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, S. Keithley, J. Michael, J. Schroyer, C. Wagner, and R. Weinberg |
| Absent:  |  |
| Guest:   | L. Fontaine, and R. Kindler  |
| Staff:   | B. Harvey, J. Homyack, T. Larney, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, K. Stonesifer, G. Therres  |

# Proposed Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons for 2020-21



# “Regular” Duck Hunting Season

## Federal Framework

60-day season between Saturday nearest Sept. 24 and January 31 with a daily bag limit of 6 ducks (species restrictions).

Scaup: No more than 20 consecutive days of 2 scaup per day with the remaining 40 days to be 1 per day.

## Proposed Season

Oct. 10, 2020 - Oct. 17, 2020

Nov. 14, 2020 - Nov. 27, 2020

Dec. 15, 2020 - Jan. 30, 2021

## Daily Bag Limit

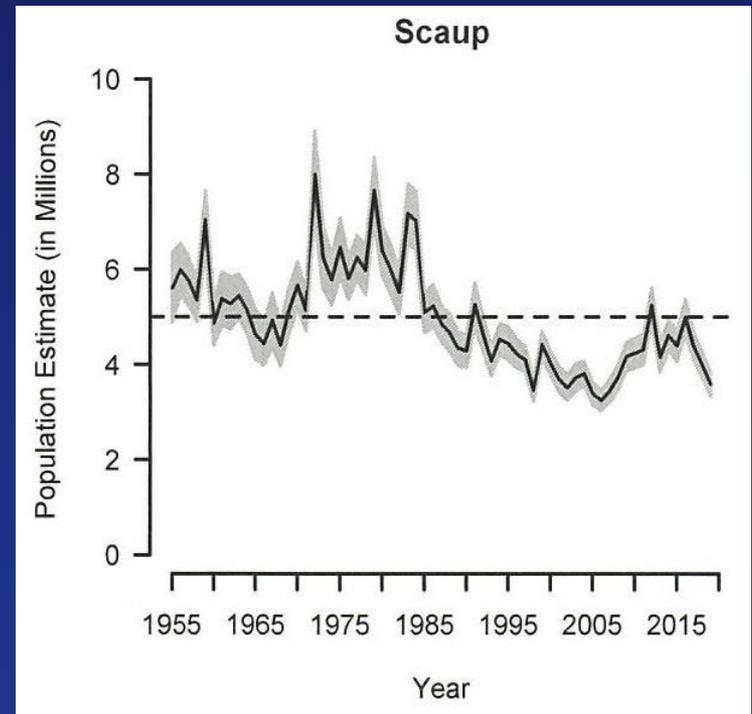
6 per day (including mergansers) but no more than 5 sea ducks (4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters, 4 eiders), 2 mallards (1 hen), 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 1 scaup\*, 2 canvasbacks, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 black ducks (during black duck season), 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous tree duck.

\* *Scaup hybrid season: Daily bag limit is 1 except between Jan.8,2021 and Jan. 30, 2021 when 2 scaup per day may be harvested.*

# Scaup Status



- Restrictive “hybrid” season for 2020-21.
- Based on current BPOP and predicted harvest.
- 40 days 1 bird/day and 20 consecutive days 2 birds/day.
- States choose where to place 20 days of 2 birds/day.....topic for public comment.



# Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

**Federal Framework:** States can hold 2 youth days outside of regular duck season but within 14 days of the end framework dates (Sept. 21 and Jan. 31). Must be on weekends, holidays, or other non-school days.

**Proposed Dates:** Nov. 7, 2020 and Feb. 6, 2021

**Daily Bag Limit:** 6 ducks (certain species bag restrictions), 1 Canada goose in the AP Zone or 5 Canada geese in the late RP Zone, 2 brant, 25 light geese, and 15 coots. 1 scaup Nov. 7, 2020 and 2 scaup Feb. 6, 2021.

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

**Note:** DNR regulatory process is considering adding 2 Military (active and retired) hunting days to placed on the youth days.

# AP Canada Goose Hunting Season

## Federal Framework

A 30-day season between Nov. 15 and Feb. 5. Season may be divided into no more than 2 segments.

## Proposed Season

Dec. 18, 2020 - Jan. 2, 2021  
Jan. 13, 2021 – Jan. 30, 2021

## Daily Bag Limit

1 per day

## AP Canada Goose Status Summary

**2019 pair estimate at 119,000 (2018 – 112,000)**  
**41% decline from 191,000 in 2016.**

**Current 3-year average 131,000 = restrictive season.**

**Total population (622,063) down 52% from peak.**

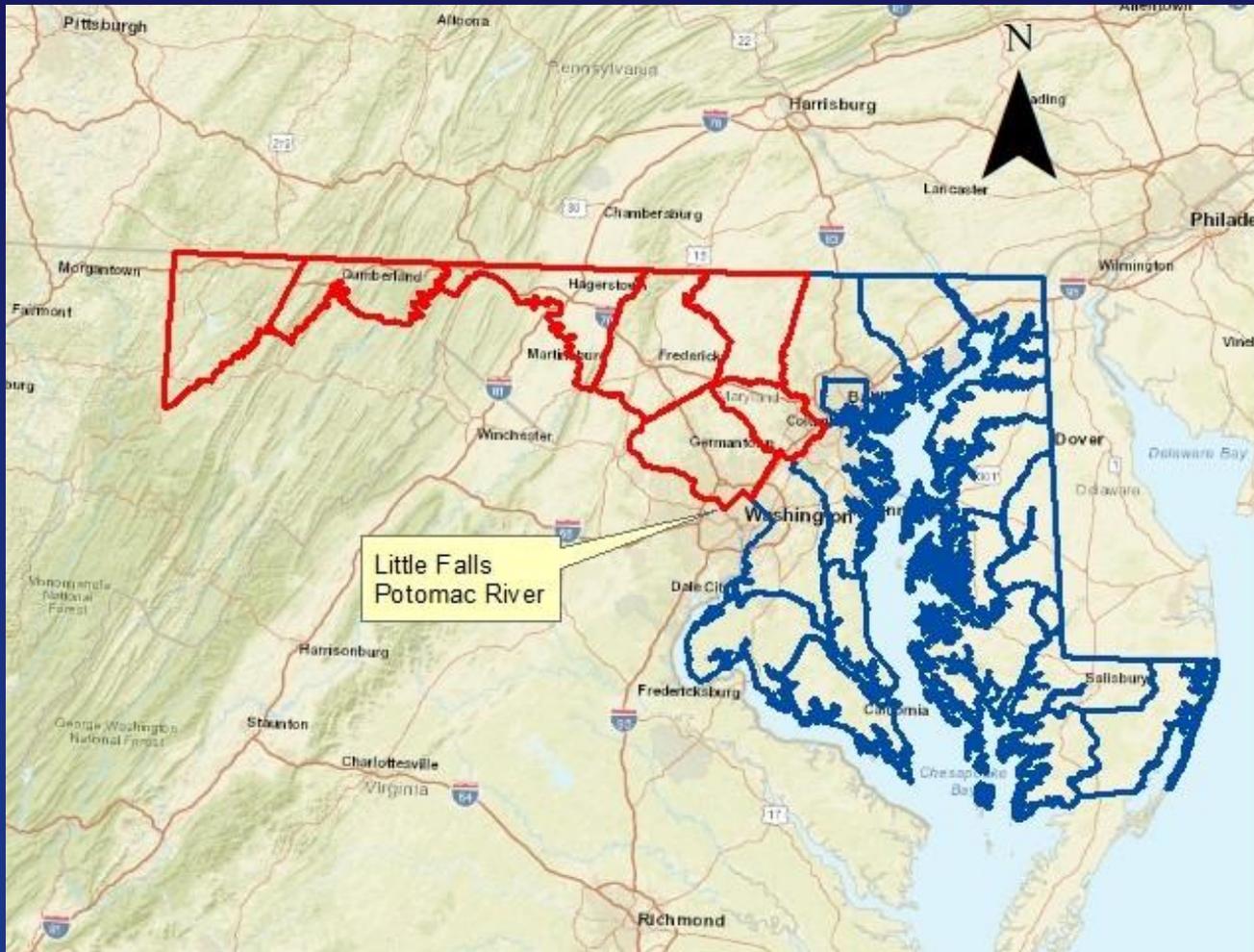
**Productivity has been below average in 6 of last 11 years.**

**Productivity in 2019 was average (1.28 young/adult).**

# Duck Zoning

- **USFWS has 5 year windows for zone and split options.**
- **Maryland Currently has 1 zone and 3 season segments.**
- **Past option did not allow for 2 zones and 3 segments (2 splits).**
- **USFWS Service Regulation Committee (SRC) passed recommendation that now permits 2 zone/3 segment option.**
- **Maybe not important for MD in the Liberal Package, but would make sense in Moderate/Restrictive Package.**
- **States have until June 30 to submit a decision to USFWS.**
- **This zone/segment selection period applies to the 2021-22 to 2026-27 seasons.**

# Potential Maryland Duck Zones



Western Zone

Eastern Zone

# Migratory Game Bird Season Approval Schedule

January – review proposed seasons with MGBAC and WAC

February – public comment and public meetings (combined with regulation meetings\*)

March – public comment summarized, changes made if necessary, WAC vote

April – Maryland migratory game bird season selections submitted to USFWS

June – Maryland duck zones/segment selection submitted to USFWS

- Eastern MD, combined regulation and Migratory Game Bird meeting Feb. 10, 2020
- Western MD, combined regulation and Migratory Game Bird meeting Feb. 11, 2020

## PROPOSED MARYLAND MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR THE 2020-21 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, 2020 - Sept 15, 2020

Western Zone                      Sep. 1, 2020 - Sept 25, 2020

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, 2020 - Sep. 30, 2020

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 January 31.*

|                       |  |   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Proposed Season Dates | Oct. 10, 2020 - Oct. 17, 2020<br>Nov. 14, 2020 - Nov. 27, 2020<br>Dec. 15, 2020 - Jan. 30, 2021                                |   |
| Black Duck            | Nov. 14, 2020 - Nov. 27, 2020<br>Dec. 15, 2020 - Jan. 30, 2021   |   |
| Scaup                 | Oct. 10, 2020 – Oct. 17, 2020<br>Nov. 14, 2020 – Nov. 27, 2020<br>Dec. 15, 2020 – Jan. 7, 2021<br>Jan. 8, 2021 – Jan. 30, 2021 | *1 per day<br>* 1 per day<br>* 1 per day<br>* 2 per day |

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), 2 mallards (no more than 1 hen mallard), 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 1 scaup\*, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks (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 (Oct. 31, 2020 - Jan. 8, 2021).

### 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 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tailed ducks) and possession limits.*

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 31, 2020 - Jan. 8, 2021

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. 7, 2020 and Feb. 6, 2021

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), 2 mallards (no more than 1 hen mallard), 3 wood ducks, 2 scaup, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 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 1 Canada goose in the Atlantic Population Hunt Zone or 5 Canada Geese in the Late Resident Canada Goose Hunt Zone, 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. A Federal Migratory Hunting and Conservation Stamp is required of youth hunters who are 16 years old. 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 (AP) CANADA GEESE**

***Federal Framework: AP Zone: A 30-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 1-bird daily bag limit. These seasons also include white-fronted geese. Unless specified otherwise, seasons may be split into two segments.***

Proposed Season Dates: Dec. 18, 2020 - Jan. 2, 2021  
Jan. 13, 2021 - Jan. 30, 2021

Bag Limit: 1 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. 21, 2020 - Nov. 27, 2020  
Dec. 15, 2020 - Mar. 10, 2021

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 30-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: Dec. 28, 2020 - Jan. 30, 2021

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, 2020 - Nov. 27, 2020  
Dec. 14, 2020 - Jan. 30, 2021  
Feb. 6, 2021

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 30, 2020 - Dec. 12, 2020  
Feb. 1, 2021 – Feb. 5, 2021  
Feb. 8, 2021 – Apr. 15, 2021

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).*

## **WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS (Doves, Rails, Snipe and Woodcock)**

**Note: The USFWS recently approved compensatory days for webless migratory game birds for states including Maryland, where Sunday hunting for migratory game birds is prohibited by state law. Prior to this change, Sundays counted against the maximum number of days in states where Sunday hunting is prohibited by state law. Beginning with the 2018-19 hunting season, the federal framework will allow a maximum number of hunting days, rather than calendar days for webless migratory game birds. States were granted compensatory days for waterfowl hunting seasons in 1997.**

## **MOURNING DOVE**

**Federal Framework: States may select a 90-day season between September 1 and January 31 with a 15-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.**

Proposed Season Dates:      Sep. 1, 2020 - Oct. 17, 2020  
   Oct. 24, 2020 - Nov. 27, 2020  
   Dec. 19, 2020 - Jan. 9, 2021

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, 2020 - Nov. 20, 2020

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, 2020 - Nov. 20, 2020

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. 29, 2020 - Jan 30, 2021

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. 21, 2020 - Nov. 27, 2020  
Jan. 11, 2021 - Jan. 23, 2021

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](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Hunt_Traps/waterfowl/index.asp).

**ATTACHMENT C**

**Summary of 2020 Proposed Legislation  
Wildlife and Heritage Service  
(as of January 14, 2020)**

| <b>Bill/Chapter<br/>(Cross/Chapter)</b> | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Sponsor</b>                                  | <b>Current Status</b>  | <b>Committees &amp; Hearings</b> | <b>Opp Committees &amp; Hearings</b> |
|---|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| HB0068                                  | North Point State Park - Deer Bow Hunting Season - Establishment | Delegate Grammer                                | In the House - First Reading<br>Environment and Transportation | Environment and Transportation   |                                      |
| HB0173                                  | Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting                               | Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee | In the House - First Reading<br>Environment and Transportation | Environment and Transportation   |                                      |

| <b>Bill/Chapter<br/>(Cross/Chapter)</b> | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Sponsor</b>    | <b>Current Status</b>   | <b>Committees &amp; Hearings</b>             | <b>Opp Committees &amp; Hearings</b> |
|---|--|-------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| SB0025                                  | Hunting and Fishing Licenses – Active Military, Former POW, etc.                       | Senator Simonaire | In the Senate - Hearing 1/23 at 1:00 p.m.                                     | Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs |                                      |
| SB0086                                  | Natural Resources - Fishing and Hunting Rights   | Senator Simonaire | In the Senate - Hearing 1/23 at 1:00 p.m.                                     | Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs |                                      |
| SB0142                                  | Recreational License Donation Program and Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund - Revisions | Senator Simonaire | In the Senate - First Reading<br>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs | Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs |                                      |