

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission

**Will Meet at 10:30 AM
On Wed., January 19, 2022
Department of Natural Resources
Google Meet**

Meeting Agenda:

Annual Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair (Group Discussion)

Approval for January 19, 2022, Meeting Agenda

Approval for Minutes from November 17, 2021 Meeting

Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits (Game Bird Section Leader Bill Harvey and Waterfowl Project Leader Josh Homyack)

2022-2024 Hunting Regulations Concepts (Associate Director Karina Stonesifer)

Break

2022 Legislative Session Update (Director Paul Peditto and Associate Director Tim Larney)

Natural Resources Police Update (Sergeant Bradley Lowe or Lieutenant Charles Fawley)

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (Colby Ferguson)

Old Business:

New Business:

Public Comment:

Adjourn

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

**The Proposed Schedule for the 2022 meetings
Of the Wildlife Advisory Commission is as follows:**

January 19th	Google Meet
February 16th	Google Meet
March 16th	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
April 20th	Google Meet
May 18th	No Meeting
June 15th	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
July 20th	No Meeting
August 17th	Google Meet
September 21st	TBD - Google Meet or No Meeting or Field Day
October 19th	Google Meet
November 16th	Google Meet
December 22nd	No Meeting

***PLEASE NOTE THAT MEETING DATES ARE HELD
ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH***

Note: Unless notified otherwise, all meetings will be held via Google Meeting. When meeting in person, the meetings will be held in the C-1 Conference Room Department of Natural Resources - Tawes State Office Building beginning at 10:30 am. Available parking is located at the Navy Stadium Parking Lot.

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

**2022 WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
ANNUAL SCHEDULE AND DRAFT MONTHLY AGENDA**

JANUARY 19, 2022 - VIRTUAL

- Annual Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair (Group)
- 2022-2024 Hunting Regulations Concepts (Karina Stonesifer)
- Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits (Bill Harvey and Josh Homyack)
- 2022 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto)

FEBRUARY 16, 2022 - VIRTUAL

- 2022 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto)
- 2022-2024 Hunting Regulations Concepts Update (Karina Stonesifer)

MARCH 16, 2022 – IN PERSON

- 2022-2024 Hunting Regulation Proposals – Commission’s Vote Required (Karina Stonesifer)
- Migratory Game Bird Proposals – Commission’s Vote Required (Bill Harvey and Josh Homyack)
- Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee Report (Bill Harvey)
- 2022 Legislative Session Update (Paul Peditto)
- Call for Conservationist, Employee, and Farmer of the Year Nominations (Group Discussion)

APRIL 20, 2022 - VIRTUAL

- 2022 Legislative Session Outcome (Paul Peditto)
- WAC Legislative Concepts Review (Group Discussion)

MAY 18, 2022- NO MEETING SCHEDULED

JUNE 15, 2022 – IN PERSON

- Protect Electric and Broadband Fiber Lines from Harm During the Hunting Seasons (Valerie Connelly)
- Wildlife and Heritage Service FY22 and FY23 Budget Update (Tim Larney)
- WHS Administration Update (Tim Larney)
- September 21, 2022, WAC Meeting Discussion (Group Discussion)

JULY 20, 2022 - NO MEETING SCHEDULED

AUGUST 17, 2022 - VIRTUAL

- Natural Heritage Program Update (Jonathan McKnight)
- Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee (Jonathan McKnight)
- WHS Information and Education Program Update (Chris Markin)

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 – FIELD DAY OR BUSINESS MEETING OR NO MEETING

OCTOBER 19, 2022 - VIRTUAL

- WHS Regional Operations Program Update (Harry Spiker)
- Waterfowl Population Update (Josh Homyack)
- 2023 WAC Annual Schedule and Draft Monthly Agenda – WAC Review

NOVEMBER 16, 2022 - VIRTUAL

- Presentation of 2021 Conservationist and Employee of the Year Award (Paul Peditto)
- WHS Game Program Update (Karina Stonesifer and staff)

DECEMBER 22, 2022 – NO MEETING SCHEDULED

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2022

Chairman Lou Compton called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. This meeting was held via teleconference and videoconference. Chairman Compton asked for a roll call of individuals on the “call.” Unfortunately, because of the anonymity of Google Meet callers, it was impossible to determine the identity of every participant.

Welcoming DNR Legislative Director

- Director Peditto introduced DNR Legislative Director Bunky Luffman. Chairman Compton welcomed Mr. Luffman and thanked him for attending.

Annual Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

- Motion
 1. Commissioner Michael moved to nominate Lou Compton as Chair and Tina Gregor as Vice-Chair.
 2. Commissioner Schroyer seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Lou Compton will remain as Chair, and Tina Gregor will remain as Vice-Chair of the Wildlife Advisory Commission.

Approval for January 19, 2022, Meeting Agenda

- Motion to Approve the Agenda:
 1. Commissioner Gregor moved to accept the Wildlife Advisory Commission agenda.
 2. Commissioner Schroyer seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from November 17, 2021, Meeting

- Commissioner Michael asked for an explanation of LOA to be added to the meeting minutes and the Deer Cooperator Permit Presentation.
 1. LOA stands for Letter of Authority.
 2. Staff agreed to clarify the definition of the acronym “LOA”.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Michael moved to accept the November 17, 2021, Meeting Minutes.
 2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

2022 Legislative Session Update – Associate Director Tim Larney gave the presentation.

- Associate Director Larney summarized the bills that Wildlife and Heritage Service is monitoring.
- Q&A Section:
 1. Commissioner Wagner and Commissioner Boyles Griffin requested a list of the bills that WHS is monitoring along with the hearing schedule.
 - a. The list of the Summary of 2022 Proposed Legislation Wildlife and Heritage Service as of January 19, 2022, was sent to the Commission. [ATTACHMENT A]
 - b. The Commission members can track the bills online at the Maryland General Assembly website at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/site/>.
 - c. Legislative Director Bunky Luffman outlined that it is easier to testify on bills virtually vs. in person. Each committee is different so, members should check the committee to see what is required to testify on a bill.
 2. Commissioner Michael asked if HB0143 and cross-file SB0098–Somerset County–Natural Resources–Sunday Hunting authorized Sunday hunting on public lands. Commissioner Michael

- wanted to know if it excludes State Park lands.
- a. The Department cannot authorize Sunday hunting on any lands under the State Park system, which includes State Park lands, Natural Environment Areas, and Natural Resources Management Areas. The bill will leave WMAs, and State Forest (SF) lands as potential areas open to Sunday hunting.
3. Commissioner Michaels asked about the leased public lands and how much of the Chesapeake Forest Lands (CFL) are leased.
- a. The leased public lands referenced in the bill are part of the Chesapeake Forest Lands in Somerset County. The Forest Service manages the lease agreements on the Chesapeake Forest Lands.
 - b. When DNR took possession of CFL, it was around 50,000 acres. Since then, SF has been adding to CFL. Currently, there are more than 75,000 acres designated as CFL.

Proposed Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag Limits – Waterfowl Project Leader Josh Homyack gave the presentation.

- Waterfowl Project Leader Homyack summarized the Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits. [ATTACHMENT B]
- The Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee (MGBAC) viewed the presentation. The MGBAC approved the presented seasons and bag limits.
- The seasons and bag limits are within the Federal frameworks.
- Sea Duck hunting has increased in the Sea Duck Zone (SDZ) and Offshore Waterfowl Hunting Zone (OWHZ). The daily bag has been reduced from five to four.
- Q&A Section
 1. Commissioner Wagner asked if it is possible to expand the black duck season to allow it earlier.
 - a. The black duck season remains closed in October to protect black ducks the small number of local black duck pairs that nest in Maryland.
 - b. Opening the season later also allows more migrant black ducks to reach Maryland, which dilutes the harvest pressure on the few remaining locally produced black ducks.
 2. Commissioner Wagner asked for a mallard population update.
 - a. Mallard populations are generally stable now.
 - b. Some of the survey areas, like in Canada, could not be done because of COVID restrictions.
 - c. One of the primary surveys is the plot survey from Virginia to New Hampshire. The plot survey covers the Atlantic Flyway demographics.
 3. Commissioner Wagner asked how SB0042 Natural Resources–Canada Geese–Bag Limits affects the Atlantic Flyway Resident Population Canada Goose Hunting Season.
 - a. If the bill passes, it would impact the daily bag for the Atlantic Population (AP) Canada Goose Season across the State.
 - b. The days when the AP Season is open, the resident season bag limit would switch from five to one. Ultimately, the entire State will be limited to one bird per day during the AP season.
 4. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked if the staff had thought about what the season would look like if the Sunday hunting waterfowl bill passed.
 - a. There is no real impact on the seasons if a statewide Sunday bill were adopted. We would simply adjust some days to include full weekend hunting opportunities and modify the weekdays to account for that option.
- Concept Proposals: 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Hunting Seasons – Associate Director Karina Stonesifer gave the presentation. [ATTACHMENT C]
 1. Associate Director Karina Stonesifer reminded the Commission of the steps moving forward.
 - a. The Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bags Limits are reviewed every year, but everything else is every two years.
 - b. This year is the two-year process for the other seasons and bag limits.
 - c. Staff will be presenting updates on both topics in February and March.

d. Staff will post the concepts online for public comment.

- Q&A Section

1. Chairman Compton asked about the crossbow concept proposal requiring crossbows to be uncocked when transported in a licensed vehicle. Does that pertain to ATVs, and side-by-side vehicles?
 - a. Recreational vehicles, such as ATVs, off-road vehicles, and side-by-side will not be included.
 - b. The primary concern was having crossbows cocked in the back of a personal vehicle, like an SUV or extended cab pickup, and a person forgets that it is there and there is a child in the back. Someone going from a tree stand back to a vehicle (side-by-side or ATV) is traveling a shorter duration and typically there is no crowd or unattended passenger involved.
2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked for more information about the tree stands registration.
 - a. WHS is still working on the tree stand registration details.
 - b. Commissioner Gulbrandsen indicated that boat stickers are durable and stay on. It does not have the person's name and contact number on the boat sticker, but NRP has ways of tracking the owner's name based on the sticker number.
 - c. WHS is trying to avoid creating a product that would cost money for WHS to produce. WHS does not have the authority to make a fee for administering the product. WHS may be looking at something more in line with a field tag.
3. Commissioner Michael asked if the shortening of the bobwhite quail and grouse could be after the white-tailed deer season. Commissioner Michael added that if WHS is not able to do so, WHS is taking more time off for small game hunters, especially if there is a break in the weather.
4. Commissioner Michael asked if WHS would reconsider going forward with the Deer Cooperator Permit given the amount of negative feedback thus far. Commissioner Keithley added, to be clear, WHS is proposing 24-hour shooting for three months, from January 15 to April 15, for the Deer Cooperator Permit.
 - a. That is correct. And there is no plan to pull the proposal at this time. The plan is to solicit public input during the February online forum phase.
5. Commissioner Keithley mentioned that it was brought up at the Stakeholders Meeting to move or add a primitive weapon season in shotgun and muzzleloader season. Commissioner Keithley asked why WHS has not moved that concept forward.
 - a. WHS discussed the concept. Ultimately, WHS decided not to remove the February primitive weapon season because it has only been two years. WHS did not want to put something in a different part of the season and potentially take the opportunity away from other users without additional information on hunter experience and success rates. Two seasons do not allow us that opportunity.
 - b. Commissioner Keithley agreed and understood WHS reasoning.
6. Commissioner Gregor asked at the last meeting if WHS has discussed the tree stand usage on public lands with NRP.
 - a. NRP was part of the Internal Stakeholders Meeting back in December.
7. Commissioner Jenkins mentioned discussing sika deer with some landowners. Commissioner Jenkins outlined that sika is a limited resource to Maryland - therefore, a valuable resource for the farmers. With the added hunting interest that has exploded, some landowners questioned the doe bag limit; maybe it is best to go with a one buck and one doe bag limit. Especially with the number of hunters harvesting sika deer. WHS does not know the impact of popularity on the sika deer population. Commissioner Jenkins expressed that he supports reducing the sika deer bag limit to see what the effect has had on the sika deer population.
 - a. Staff explained that WHS is about to release these concepts for public comment and will monitor for any interest in modifying the sika season or bag limit proposals.
 - b. Staff are also looking forward to developing the first-ever Sika Deer Management plan in the near future. A new game mammal staff person is being onboarded soon and this plan will be a primary objective for that role.

- c. A Sika deer economics study is also launching very soon and will help inform some of the questions raised here.
 8. Commissioner Keithley asked if WHS has the number of Sika deer hunters in Maryland. Commissioner Keithley reiterated to have hunters purchase a Sika deer stamp. Commissioner Keithley acknowledged that it might be a hurdle because it will be creating a fee. Doing so will provide better data to WHS regarding Sika and Sika deer hunting.
 - a. There is an annual hunter mail survey gathers information on all game species.
 - b. There are around 5,000 Sika deer hunters.
 - c. There is nothing in our data that demonstrates a decline in the Sika deer population. The Sika deer population is stable in Maryland.
 - d. The Sika deer harvest numbers have been around 3,000 for several years.
 - e. As stated previously, WHS will be hiring a new Biologist, and that person will be developing a Sika Deer Management Plan.
 - f. Also above, WHS is working on a Sika Deer Public Opinion Survey with Morgan State University. WHS is looking forward to getting more information through that process.
 - g. WHS uses selling stamps and the hunter survey to collect trend data. A Sika Deer Stamp would help differentiate between resident and non-resident hunters.
 9. Chairman Compton asked if the staff tried merging the Sika deer data collected by the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge with WHS' data.
 - a. Blackwater uses the WHS check-in system – so that is WHS' data.
 - b. Blackwater's harvest total (approx. 300 deer) is a small fraction of Maryland's total harvest.
 - c. Chairman Compton expressed interest in viewing the number of hunters and harvests over ten years to examine the growth. Some individuals are concerned about the pressure on the Sika deer resource. Chairman Compton understood that it is an economic impact as more people hunt Sika deer; however, it is a unique resource. Chairman Compton added he is pleased to know that WHS is looking to do something related to this amazing resource.
 - d. We plan to examine all of these issues in the two upcoming studies.
 10. Commissioner Michael asked as far as Sika deer policy, to what extent does its origin as an invasive or exotic species play into the current management. Also, Commissioner Michael asked if there are any lingering comments from those who want high Sika deer bag limits.
 - a. Sika deer are not viewed in the same light as harmful invasive species – such as nutria.
 - b. The issues with Sika deer are mostly social, like white-tailed deer.
 - c. Sika deer usually like marshy and wetland areas. The expansion of Sika deer does include the marshy and wetland areas. Occasionally, staff will receive reports of a young stag on the upper part of the Eastern Shore. Now, Sika deer are being harvested in Delaware. Most of the expansion is along the rivers.
 11. Commissioner Boyles Griffin informed the Commission that she shared her notes from the Stakeholders Meeting with her colleagues and constituents on the expansion of the black bear hunting season. Commissioner Boyles Griffin sent an email to Game Mammal Section Leader Brian Eyler requesting a PowerPoint presentation copy. She asked for information on the demographics of where black bears were killed during the last five seasons and sex data. Commissioner Boyles Griffin also asked how many of the breeding females were harvested and what county the bears were killed. Commissioner Boyles Griffin wanted to know why Maryland stopped having a quota system. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked how WHS is currently establishing the black bear population, around 2,000.
 - a. Staff will respond to Commissioner Boyles Griffin's questions.
- Discussion on introducing a concept for public comment or some of the concepts curtailed.
 1. Commissioner Michael requested that the Expansion of the Deer Cooperator Permit Concept be curtailed due to the controversial comments that he read and input that he received from his constituents. Commissioner Michael expressed that it is unpopular and made worse because

- hunter dollars are underwriting the work WHS does to administer these non-hunting permits. Chairman Michael announced that he was willing to put a motion to the members.
2. Chairman Compton asked if this is the step that the Commission votes on the concepts.
 - a. There is no formal vote due by the Commission at this time. When the public comment ends, staff will return to the Commission with recommendations based on the public input for the Commission to vote on in March.
 3. Chairman Compton agreed with Commissioner Michael's comments. Chairman Compton remarked it might be premature to vote on these concepts before obtaining public comments.
 4. Commissioner Michael confirmed that he is familiar with the process. However, Commissioner Michael wanted to advise WHS not to proceed with the expansion of the Deer Cooperator Permit concept to the public because it is already putting WHS in a negative light with the public.
 5. Commissioner Wagner supported Commissioner Michael's recommendation for the Commission not to be in favor of the expansion of the agricultural deer cooperator permit and night shooting. Commissioner Wagner advised staff to differentiate the agricultural deer cooperator permit vs. the deer cooperator permit for safety reasons.
 - a. Staff informed the Commission that some communities and counties leverage the deer cooperator permit.
 - b. The public has not been afforded the chance to review the deer cooperator permit except for the 2018 exercise, which was exclusively with the Maryland Farm Bureau.
 - c. Staff suggested that the Commission allow the public to understand it and provide feedback to the Department and the Commission.
 - d. Commissioner Wagner reiterated that this concept needs clarification for the public to understand.
 - e. Staff agreed to clarify the two different deer cooperator permits.
 6. Commissioner Michael voiced that the following information should be added to the concept:
 - a. Have the actual current permit information link for the public to click on.
 - b. Have a reference to the deer taken and general information about permits.
 - c. Specifically indicated that the two most significant things that are unclear from the concept: night vision, suppressors, spotlights, and rifles. WHS needs to make it clear that these tools are part of that permit model.
 7. Commissioner Michael commented he respects the need to have the agricultural deer cooperator permit, but extending night shooting when you have pregnant does and shed bucks is bad for business and should never be funded by hunters' dollars. Commissioners agreed to hold any vote pending public comment and summary recommendation from WHS.
 8. Staff recognized Commissioner Michael's concerns and concerns from the other members of the Commission. Those comments will be on the record in the minutes.

Natural Resources Police Update – Sergeant Bradley Lowe gave a presentation.

- Sergeant Lowe informed the Commission that Natural Resources Police (NRP) would be starting the Basic Recruit Class on February 9, 2022, with around 15 recruits.
- On January 12, 2022, NRP had 16 transfers and 43 promotions.
 - Sergeant Lowe outlined the NRP activity for December. NRP statewide issued 261 citations and 508 warnings. In addition, there were 336 wildlife violations, 60 boating, 97 public lands, and 72 fisheries. Traffic violations total was 207.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – Presentation by Maryland Farm Bureau Director of Government & Public Relations Colby Ferguson.

- Mr. Ferguson informed the Commission that Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) had a meeting with Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio and Legislative Director Bunky Luffman about a liability case that involved ATVs.
 1. Commissioner Michael explained the liability case that had previously been interpreted if a

person did not charge a person for recreational use on a property had immunity from suit. The law was changed to protect against that problem. However, a recent court case made it such that the landowner had to invite any/all public to use their property to be immune from liability. Mr. Ferguson commented that the MFB is working with Senator Bailey and Delegate Clark to introduce a bill to address this problem. The bill is being drafted. The bill has LR2660 once it is presented.

- Mr. Ferguson pointed out another bill that MFB is working on related to deer management permits (DMP) on state-owned lands. DMPs on state lands should be statewide, so MFB is working on getting that language corrected.
- MFB is supporting all the Sunday hunting bills.
- MFB supports the Expansion of the Deer Cooperator Concept.

Old Business – No Report.

New Business – No Report.

Public Comment

- Commissioner Michael’s Public Comments:
 1. Commissioner Michael informed the Commission that there had been two bear shootings. Commissioner Michael tried one. Associate Director Harry Spiker was very helpful as an expert witness. Commissioner Michael felt that the judge did not get it. The judge did not find the defendant guilty of hunting. The defendant shot the bear in his backyard and dumped the carcass. The judge did find the defendant guilty of littering; therefore, the defendant was ordered to pay restitution to the Department.
 2. Commissioner Michael brought up another bear shooting to the Commission’s attention. The defendant used a pistol to frighten the bear. The defendant was used to bear sightings on the property. The defendant was not hunting in the classical sense of the word. However, because the defendant killed the bear, by the law definition, the defendant was hunting.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, using Google Meet.

Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, T.J. Jenkins, S. Keithley, J. Michael, J. Schroyer, and C. Wagner
Absent:	
Guest:	C. Ferguson
Staff:	B. Eyler, C. Fawley, J. Homyack, T. Larney, B. Lowe, B. Luffman, J. McKnight, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, and K. Stonesifer,

**Summary of 2022 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of January 19, 2022)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 15	Title	Primary Sponsor	Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates
HB0015 (SB0007)	Invasive and Native Plants – Classification, Listing, Use, and Sales and Use Tax	Delegate Luedtke	Hearing 1/26 at 1:00 p.m. (Ways and Means)	Ways and Means 1/26/2022 - 1:00 p.m. Environment and Transportation	
HB0051 (SB0140)	Talbot County – Deer and Turkey Hunting – Sundays	Delegate Mautz	First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation	
HB0052 (SB0381)	Natural Resources – Wildlife Trafficking Prevention	Delegate Love	Hearing 1/19 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 1/19/2022 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB0143 (SB0098)	Somerset County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting	Delegate Otto	First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation	
HB0170 (SB0220)	Calvert County - Sunday Hunting	Delegate Clark	Hearing 2/02 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/2/2022 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB0221	Natural Resources – Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund – No–Cost Licenses and Stamps	Delegate Thiam	Hearing 2/02 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/2/2022 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB0246	Open Meetings Act – Notices, Closed Sessions, and Minutes – Retention Periods, Online Posting, and Public Inspection	Delegate Carr	Hearing 1/25 at 2:30 p.m.	Health and Government Operations 1/25/2022 - 2:30 p.m.	
SB0007 (HB0015)	Invasive and Native Plants - Classification, Listing, Use, and Sales and Use Tax	Senator Elfreth	Hearing 1/25 at 1:30 p.m. (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs)	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 1/25/2022 - 1:30 p.m. Budget and Taxation	
SB0042	Natural Resources - Canada Geese - Bag Limits	Senator Bailey	First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	
SB0098 (HB0143)	Somerset County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting	Senator Carozza	First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	
SB0140 (HB0051)	Talbot County – Deer and Turkey Hunting – Sundays	Senator Eckardt	First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	
SB0160	Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting - Migratory Game Birds	Senator Carozza	First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	

**Summary of 2022 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of January 19, 2022)**

<u>SB0220</u> <u>(HB0170)</u>	Calvert County – Sunday Hunting	<u>Calvert</u> <u>County</u> <u>Senators</u>	First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	<u>Education, Health,</u> <u>and Environmental</u> <u>Affairs</u>
<u>SB0233</u>	Prince George's County – Natural Resources – Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones	<u>Senator</u> <u>Jackson</u>	First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	<u>Education, Health,</u> <u>and Environmental</u> <u>Affairs</u>
<u>SB0342</u>	Queen Anne's County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting	<u>Senator</u> <u>Hershey</u>	First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	<u>Education, Health,</u> <u>and Environmental</u> <u>Affairs</u>

Migratory Game Bird Status and Proposed Hunting Seasons for 2022-23



“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).

Eastern Zone Seasons	Western Zone Seasons
Oct. 15, 2022 - Oct. 22, 2022	Oct. 1, 2022 – Oct. 15, 2022
Nov. 12, 2022 - Nov. 25, 2022	Nov. 19, 2022 – Nov. 25, 2022
Dec. 15, 2022 - Jan. 31, 2023	Dec. 15, 2022 – Jan. 31, 2023

Daily Bag Limit:

6 per day (including mergansers) but no more than 4 sea ducks (3 long-tailed ducks, 3 scoters, 3 eiders), 2 mallards (1 hen), 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 1 scaup*, 2 canvasbacks, 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.9, 2023 and Jan. 31, 2023 when 2 scaup per day may be harvested.*



Youth/Military Waterfowl Hunting Days



Federal Framework: States can hold 2 youth/military personnel 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. 5, 2022 and Feb. 4, 2023

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. 2 scaup.

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. Military veterans (as defined in Section 101 of title 38, United States Code) of any age and members of the armed forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on Active duty (other than for training) can participate in these two hunt days.

Atlantic Population (AP) Canada Goose Hunting Season

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2					

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, 2022 - Nov. 25, 2022

Dec. 12, 2022 - Mar. 7, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: 5 per day



Atlantic Brant Hunting Season

Federal Framework

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

Proposed Season: Nov. 16, 2022 - Nov. 25, 2022
Dec. 15, 2022 - Jan. 31, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: 2 per day



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, 2022 - Nov. 25, 2022

Dec. 12, 2022 - Jan. 31, 2023

Feb. 4, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: 25

No Possession Limit



Light Goose Conservation Order Season

Nov. 28, 2022 – Dec. 10, 2022

Feb. 1, 2023 – Feb. 3, 2023

Feb. 6, 2023 – Apr. 15, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: No Limit



Special Sea Duck Hunting Season



Federal Framework

- The Special Sea Duck Season is no longer an option in the Federal Frameworks.
- MD DNR has proposed retaining the Sea Duck Zone to allow hunting opportunity throughout its geographic extent during the regular duck season (sea duck harvest only in portions of SDZ with no OWHZ overlap).
- Sea ducks may be harvested during the regular duck season as part of the regular daily bag limit.
- The daily bag limit for sea ducks will be 4 with no more than 3 eiders, 3 scoters, or 3 long-tailed ducks.

Mourning Doves



Federal Framework

90 day season between Sept. 1 – Jan. 31

15 birds/day

No more than 3 season segments

Proposed Season:

Sept. 1, 2022 – Oct. 15, 2022

Oct. 22, 2022 – Nov. 25, 2022

Dec. 15, 2022 – Jan. 7, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: 15 birds/day

Woodcock



Federal Framework

45 season between Oct. 1 - Jan. 31

3 birds/day

No more than 2 season segments

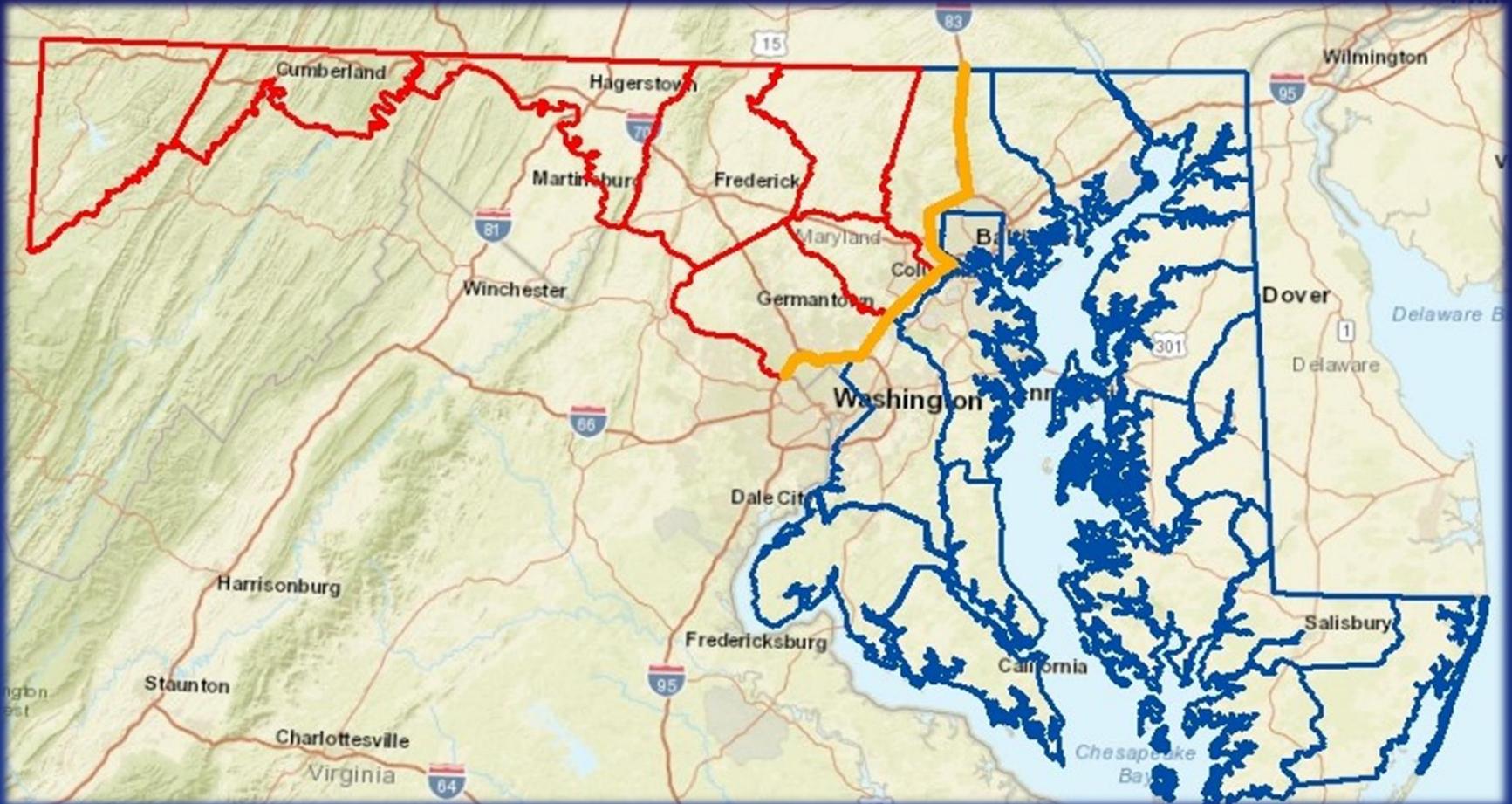
Proposed Season:

Oct. 19, 2022 - Nov. 25, 2022

Jan. 9, 2022 - Jan. 23, 2023

Daily Bag Limit: 3 birds/day

Maryland Duck Zones



Western Zone

Eastern Zone

Concept Proposals: 2022-23 and 2023-24 Hunting Seasons



Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife and Heritage Service

Bobwhite Quail

Concept Proposal: Shorten the season in the Eastern zone (private lands) by one month so that the season would end on January 15.

Recommended Action: Move concept forward as a draft regulation proposal for public comment.



Bobwhite Quail

Concept Proposal: Close the season on public hunting lands east of the Susquehanna River until populations improve.

Recommended Action: Move concept forward as a draft regulation proposal for public comment.



Ruffed Grouse

Concept Proposal: Shorten the season by one month so that the season would end December 31.

Recommended Action: Move concept forward as a draft regulation proposal for public comment.



Sea Duck Zone



Concept Proposal: That the geographic extent of the Sea Duck Zone remain unchanged to maintain waterfowl hunting opportunity in those areas where the special sea duck season will now be closed.

Recommended Action: Move concept forward as a draft regulation proposal for public comment.

White-tailed Deer

Concept Proposal: Add an additional day to the established antlerless white-tailed deer firearm season in Region A on private and public lands.

Recommended Action: Move concept forward as a draft regulation proposal for public comment.

Justification: The intent of this proposal is to expand opportunity across Region A. Since we did not receive a significant number of negative comments for either option, we recommend advancing both options for public consideration and comment.

- The second Saturday of the two-week season on private and public lands; or
- The last Thursday of the two-week season on private land and the last Friday of the two-week season on public land.

Concept Proposal: Increase black bear hunting opportunity by extending the existing season.

Recommended Action: Move concept forward as a draft regulation proposal for public comment.

Justification: The intent of this proposal is to expand opportunity across Region A. Since we did not receive a significant number of negative comments for either option, we recommend advancing all options for public consideration and comment.

- The Saturday and Sunday prior to the current Monday opener in October; or
- The Saturday at the end of the current Monday-Friday October season; or
- The 2nd week of the two-week firearm season (Monday-Saturday; or
- Combination of these options.

Concept Proposal: Allow hunters on public lands to leave their tree stands in place throughout the hunting season.

Recommended Action: Move concept forward as a draft regulation proposal for public comment.

- Allow placement of tree stands two weeks prior to, thru two weeks following the deer hunting season.
- State Forests and Wildlife Management Areas only. Specific areas will be determined primarily based on size and whether the area requires a permit, reservation or daily sign in.
- Maximum of one stand per hunter per WMA or State Forest.
- Portable stands only (including ladders) that are not permanently affixed and that do not injure the tree.
- Stands may be used by other hunters. Stands do not convey temporary ownership of a hunt location or give priority to the stand's owner to a hunt location. Other hunters are not required to vacate a stand or location upon arrival of the stand's owner.

Concept Proposal: Add a third bear management option for farmers experiencing bear damage so that they could receive an Agricultural Bear Crop Damage Permit to use when they are experiencing damage (often outside of the bear hunting season).

Recommended Action: Move concept forward as a draft regulation proposal for public comment.

Deer Cooperator Permit



Concept Proposal: Expand the legal shooting days permitted under the authority of a Deer Cooperator Permit.

Recommended Action: We recommend modifying this proposal and advancing it as a draft regulation for public comment. Currently permit holders are authorized to shoot from February 1 through March 31. We recommend expanding legal shooting days from January 15 through April 15 annually, as opposed to the original proposal of February 1 through July 1 annually.

Concept Proposal: Require crossbows to be uncocked when transported in a licensed vehicle.

Recommended Action: Move concept forward as a draft regulation proposal for public comment.

Questions

