

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission

Will Meet at 10:30 AM
On Wed., February 19, 2025
Department of Natural Resources
Google Meet

Meeting Agenda:

Approval for February 19, 2025, Meeting Agenda

Approval of January 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes

2025 Legislative Session Update (Director Karina Stonesifer)

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (Tyler Hough)

Natural Resources Police Update (Lieutenant Brian Miller or Lieutenant Bill Davis)

Old Business:

- **Revamping Trapping Course Update - (Tabled to May or September Meeting Date - Commissioner Kaitlin Rossignuolo)**
- **License Portal Update (MD Outdoors) - (Associate Director Brian Eyler)**
- **Fox Chasing Non-License Requirement – Tabled to a future date.**
- **Subject-Matter Meeting (Chair Wagner)**
- **Potential Agenda Topics for May and September Meetings – Group Discussion**

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 2025 Meetings
Of the Wildlife Advisory Commission is as follows:**

January 15th	Google Meet
February 19th	Google Meet
March 19th	Google Meet
April 16th	Google Meet
May 21st	Google Meet
June 18th	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
July 16th	No Meeting
August 20th	Google Meet
September 17th	Google Meet
October 15th	Google Meet
November 19th	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
December 17th	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 Meet. When meeting in person, they will be held in the C-4 Conference Room of the Department of Natural Resources—Tawes State Office Building beginning at 10:30 a.m. 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.

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Chair Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. This meeting was held by teleconference. Chair Wagner 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.

Approval of February 19, 2025, Meeting Agenda

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Showalter moved to accept the February 19, 2025, Wildlife Advisory Commission meeting agenda.
 2. Commissioner Kullberg seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes from January 15, 2025, Meeting

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to accept the presented January 15, 2025, meeting minutes.
 2. Commissioner Showalter seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

2025 Legislative Session Update – Assistant Secretary Paul Peditto

- Chair Wagner requested that the members of the public wait until the public comment section of the meeting to provide comments and ask questions.
- Assistant Secretary Paul Peditto outlined the bills from the Summary of 2025 Proposed Legislation as of February 14, 2025. **[ATTACHMENT A]**
- The Commission members can track the bills online at the Maryland General Assembly website at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/>.
- Q&A Section:
 1. Commissioner Jenkins asked if the DNR completed a wildlife crossing study about 15 years ago.
 - a. DNR had a group of young biologists many years ago who studied Route 97 before it was built and outlined potential ways to mitigate wildlife damage in the development of that highway.
 - b. The upshot was that the big giant tunnels would have to be enormous tunnels for animals to want to go through because the darkness looks like a closed tunnel. The study of Route 97 was around 30 years ago.
 - c. Studies show efficacy, but most relate to the mass movement of large populations of ungulates in the Rocky Mountains, such as elk, antelope, and pronghorn. Therefore, these species can be located easily. For example, on Route 70 outside of Denver, a driver can see the crossings, which work well because time, location, and repeat of travel are predictable because of the species pattern.
 - d. Chair Wagner mentioned that HB0741/SB0635 Wildlife—Protections and Highway Crossing are more geared towards species like salamanders, turtles, etc. The bills did not discuss large overpasses, such as those outside Denver. The goal is to lessen vehicle collisions for these species.
 - e. The HB0741/SB0635 bills create a fund, but there are no provisions to add money. The Department requested the sponsor delete the language currently in the bills requiring the Wildlife and Heritage Service to oversee the committee, which is to meet quarterly to determine the expense of those funds until there is money in the fund.
 2. Commissioner Keithley commented on HB0882/SB0272 Prince George’s County—Natural Resources—Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones that Sunday hunting has not been allowed in Prince George’s County for 302 years. Commissioner Keithley added that the

deer management issues in Prince George's County resulting from the lack of Sunday hunting and the 150-yard archery setback or the safety zone are evident. Commissioner Keithley expressed that he is hoping the passing of these bills will have a positive outcome.

- a. Chair Wagner added that these bills can create more hunting access and opportunities. Also, using Sundays as a management tool is essential, which the Commission would support unless he heard otherwise.
3. Chair Wagner had Ms. Tracey Spencer email two documents from Senator Bailey's office to the Commission. The documents included the Goose Map and SB0335 (amendments). **[ATTACHMENTS B and C]**. Chair Wagner explained that SB0335 and cross-filed bill HB0892 would be popular in certain areas and not matter in other places. It may be a solution to issues some areas have with geese.
 4. Commissioner Showalter was very interested in last month's Atlantic Population (AP) Goose presentation, which shared satellite tracking data on how the two AP geese populations stay separate and how distinct the boundary between the APs and the resident goose to the west is. Therefore, Commissioner Showalter expressed interest from the biological perspective of what the Department thinks about SB0335.
 - a. Game Bird Section Leader Josh Homyack responded that, from a biological standpoint, those boundaries suit our needs and the needs of the flyway. Those boundaries were created and have been supported over almost 30 years. They existed with band reporting data, and as Commissioner Showalter mentioned, we have the telemetry data that staff use in a long-term research project. So far, anecdotally, reviewing the telemetry data supports the boundaries for Maryland and the other states in the flyway. However, that does not mean that socially, there are no other arguments to do different things, which appears to be what the sponsor and supporters of the bill are doing with these bills.
 - b. Biologically, the boundaries are pretty solid.
 - c. Chair Wagner informed the Commission that many people in Virginia are not happy about the change that occurred two or three years ago.
 - d. Game Bird Section Leader Josh Homyack explained that Chair Wagner was talking about the Southern James Bay population of Canada geese. Some of the James Bay Zone went into the AP Zone, which subsequently had shorter seasons and longer bag limits; then, some of it was delineated as a resident goose zone. James Bay Zone changes in Virginia were made for various reasons, but the same information delineated the current zone boundaries in Virginia and all the other states.
 - e. The Flyway, under the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) direction, Evaluates AP harvest in the Resident Population (RP) zones every three years. The USFWS criteria used is that the flyway has to maintain less than 1% of the AP harvest occurring in the RP zone. If more than 1% of the AP harvest occurs in the RP zone, people are concerned because that is when AP geese are harvested in the RP zone. Therefore, the criteria are very conservative; if the Flyway exceeds 1%, those zone boundaries must be changed.
 - f. Maryland had to change zone boundaries around 15 or 20 years ago. Staff changed zone boundaries in response to data that were collected. New York had to change the timing of one of their resident zone seasons 5 years ago. Connecticut had to redraw a boundary. Connecticut shoots hardly any AP geese, but the criteria were so strict that Connecticut redraw one of their boundaries. So, these boundaries are not static; they are dynamic and change in response to the data that staff collect, and the evaluation occurs every three years.
 - g. Staff completed the latest evaluation last summer, which upheld the boundaries in all Atlantic Flyway states.
 - h. Chair Wagner said that staff do an outstanding job managing and watching the AP and RP populations. He also mentioned that he understood why Senator Bailey introduced SB0335. The bill will limit the amount a hunter can hunt RP geese in those areas for 30 days next year.

- Chair Wagner added that, given the lack of a finalized study, he thinks SB0335 will probably help ease some of the issues people have as a short-term fix until we get finalized research.
5. Commissioner Showalter appreciated Game Bird Section Leader Josh Homyack's explanation. Commissioner Showalter's understanding was in line with Josh Homyack's clarification. Commissioner Showalter indicated that Maryland has the technical expertise to establish those boundaries. Commissioner Showalter also mentioned that he supports maximizing recreational opportunities. Commissioner Showalter recognized that this bill would affect hunters in those areas and not affect AP geese; therefore, this bill reflects a need to do more education. Additionally, Commissioner Showalter expressed that he understands what this bill originates from but thinks hunters need to understand better the biology and a greater level of comfort that AP geese are not being harvested.
 6. The Senator appears to have an amendment, "It Shall remain effective five years ending June 30, 2030."
 7. Chair Wagner agreed that the Commission should deal with education and facts in managing wildlife, not emotion, and based upon simple observations you see in the field, do not always go along with the wide-ranging observations that DNR and USFWS are compiling.
 8. Commissioner Showalter indicated that Maryland has more than three endangered species. Maryland law has an incidental take permit for fox squirrels and tiger beetles, and now there is a bill to add bats. Commissioner Showalter asked if it made sense to have a general-incidental-take-authorization in the statute and if you ever get incidental take permitting inquiries for other endangered species besides bats, fox squirrels, and tiger beetles.
 - a. The Puritan tiger beetle and Delmarva fox squirrel were initiatives the Department brought forth in response to specific instances. The incidental take for bats comes from the industry, and staff are okay with it. Whether there ought to be a broader incidental take permit for endangered species in Maryland is a big question. Staff have not run into trouble with it before, except as Commissioner Showalter noticed in these three instances, where staff had to create a unique circumstance. It may be worth considering, but it is a significant tweak to the law because it has been around for a long time.
 - b. Commissioner Showalter stated that he is not opposed to HB0894/SB0946 but seeks a broader policy perspective. He expressed uncertainty about whether it is sensible to establish a new statutory section for each species moving forward or if it would be better to implement a general, incidental take process.
 - c. Associate Director Jonathan McKnight acknowledged Commissioner Showalter's points and asked a rhetorical question: Does the Department want to do this for all the species and save having to revisit it yearly? Again, that is a big question because it's a fundamental change to how this state law has been structured for a long time.
 9. Commissioner Showalter mentioned that one of the funding is from proceeds from the sale of a conservation deer stamp in HB1024/SB0958). Commissioner Showalter assumed it was clear that it was not the Sika deer stamp or any existing deer stamps because it refers to a specific price. Commissioner Showalter wanted to ensure that there was no confusion and no attempt to take some of the license revenue and divert it into this wildlife damage fund.
 - a. Assistant Secretary Paul Peditto responded that the plan would be to create a new stamp.
 - b. Assistant Secretary Paul Peditto indicated that the combination of the \$50,000 appropriation and the historical proceeds from the sale of the black bear stamp generates about \$3,000 annually. Therefore, if we were allocated that general fund appropriation of \$50,000 and managed to sell enough stamps to make an additional \$5,000, Tyler Hough from the Maryland Farm Bureau would inform the Commission that deer damage costs alone amount to several million dollars per year. This means we would be significantly far from the necessary payout, and, unlike the bear damage program, we would be providing people with mere penalty pennies on the dollar they claimed.

- c. Commissioner Showalter recognized that the Department will be spending more staff time on it than it's ever worth to any taxpayer. Commissioner Showalter suggested that the Commission oppose this bill because it is impractical and could potentially divert the Department's resources to administer it.
10. HB0741/SB0634 Hunting – Nonlead Ammunition, Fox Chasing, and Deer Management Discussion:
- a. Commissioner Kullberg asked the Commission to support HB0741 actively. Commissioner Kullberg commented that given the writing on the wall on the non-lead ammunition, which has a high chance of passage, it would be good for the Commission to support it. The bill has reasonable phases in it. The drafter listened to the Commission and others on people's issues. It would show that the Commission is politically savvy and cares about environmental health. The HB0741 was scheduled to be heard on February 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Therefore, Commissioner Kullberg recommended that if the Commission supports HB0741, a letter of support should be sent.
 - b. Commissioner Schroyer commented that the Western Maryland Coalition has requested that the bill be amended to push it back one year. Instead of using July 1, it should be moved to December 31st to get us through most of the hunting season and pushed back one year to 2030.
 - c. Commissioner Showalter confirmed that Commissioner Schroyer referenced the big game species for 2030.
 - d. Commissioner Showalter voiced concern that enacting regulations in the middle of hunting season, or possibly during the season, leads to confusion. As currently drafted, this bill mandates the Department to adopt regulations on or before that date. However, it does not indicate when these regulations must take effect. Commissioner Showalter remarked that if the Department uses December 31st to adopt the regulations, staff will probably need to be set for the following year to provide public notice and ensure the hunting guide is accurate.
 - e. Director Stonesifer informed the Commission that the Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping will be published at the end of May; however, staff consistently incorporate legislative changes into every guide. From the public's perspective, avoiding implementing or discontinuing regulations mid-season would be easier. Staff begin drafting regulations when they learn that the bills will be signed.
 - f. Chair Wagner emphasized the need for more education on non-lead ammunition and the goose issue.
 - g. Director Stonesifer agreed and added that our new R3 staff can focus on these things.
 - h. Ms. Jane Seigler stated that she represents the Maryland Horse Council. The Maryland Horse Council has agreed to allow its member organization, the Maryland Association for Wildlife Conservation (MOA), to take the lead on HB0741. Ms. Seigler emphasized that the people from MOA have engaged in numerous discussions with various stakeholders about aspects of this bill. She explained that, to her knowledge, MOA consists of both mounted fox chasers and unmounted beagle packs. Furthermore, she noted that MOA does not oppose obtaining a hunting license. Additionally, MOA acknowledged the Department of Natural Resources' need for funding. However, they have concerns regarding the regulations for being licensed hunters. Consequently, Ms. Seigler believes that MOA opposes the bill. MOA wishes to continue discussions over the summer to address their concerns so a more specifically crafted bill can be introduced next year.
 - i. Assistant Secretary Peditto informed the Commission that the staff had a conversation with representatives from MOA and its other member association, the Maryland Horse Council.
 - j. Assistant Secretary Peditto provided examples from Virginia and Pennsylvania where individuals must purchase a hunting license if they ride and chase in these states, including running hounds to pursue raccoons. He explained that the definition of a hunt does not require a person to kill or intend to kill according to the law. There is no intent requirement in the definition of "hunt." The first word in the definition indicates that, with this single exception,

anyone pursuing should be licensed. More importantly, staff believe there is value for the chasing community in being licensed. The chasing community would enable staff to survey the community and collect data about those efforts, demonstrating that it is sustainable, well-regulated, and enforced. It is an activity that occurs without the Department's oversight, often on public lands.

- k. Assistant Secretary Peditto's final comments emphasized that there is real value in the chasing community. When a landowner grants a chaser permission to hunt, that chaser is protected by the recreational use statute, which safeguards against liability in the absence of negligence, even if the chaser pays the landowner a fee. However, if a chaser rides a horse under the current statute, that chaser is not regarded as hunting. Consequently, the landowner is not shielded from liability for the chaser's use of the landowner's property under that well-crafted law provision for landowners. Additionally, WHS would receive matching funds if fox chasers obtained hunting licenses, which would support wildlife conservation, a deer management assistance program, and provide education to hunters on non-ammunition, to name a few.
 - l. Ms. Seigler responded as a recovering lawyer that the definition of hunting in the statute contains the phrase "intent" to reduce personal possession, which is not generally the case in fox hunting.
 - m. Assistant Secretary Peditto stated that it is disjunctive. The presence of "or" indicates that the conjunction holds significance. Ms. Seigler disagreed with Assistant Secretary Peditto's explanation. Ms. Seigler mentioned that the recreational use statute was a good point, but that statute protects the landowner, not the person on the land. Ms. Seigler believed that the landowner statute applies to anyone permitted to use the land for recreational purposes, not just hunting. Ms. Seigler reiterated that the fox chasers do not object to buying licenses but are concerned about some of the regulations, such as having written permission from the landowner. Ms. Seigler listed a series of questions of concerns about written permission: "How would that work? Who would carry the written permission? Would everybody have to carry the written permission? Would it have to be made out to them individually? Professional staff members work the hounds. There are questions about professional staff and spectators. Would they have to buy licenses when they are not technically doing the hunting? Ms. Seigler noted that all these things have to be worked out.
 - n. Ms. Seigler reviewed the fiscal and policy note indicating that DNR estimates 1,500 fox hunters, which is how DNR arrives at a quarter million dollars in funding. Ms. Seigler stated that there are 571 members of fox-chasing clubs in Maryland. Therefore, that constitutes about a third of that number.
 - o. Chair Wagner thanked Ms. Seigler for attending and for the comments. The Commission and DNR will continue to work with the Maryland Horse Council to refine and adjust things as needed. The Commission understood the Maryland Horse Council's position.
11. HB0766 Wildlife Advisory Commission – Membership – Alterations Discussion:
- a. Chair Wagner started the discussion by indicating that he finds this bill ironic since the Commission has set time at each meeting to accommodate the Maryland Farm Bureau. Chair Wagner understood there might be confusion about the members assigned to represent the Maryland Farm Bureau. There is already a seat on the Commission for a member of the farming community. Chair Wagner described it as dangerous to allow an organization to present candidates to serve on the Commission; it will open the door for many people or organizations to recommend seats for them. Chair Wagner stated that he supports the current system structure; the governor gets to appoint, the people apply, and members make up the Commission as it goes along. Therefore, Chair Wagner does not favor HB0766 Wildlife Advisory Commission – Membership – Alterations.
 - b. Chair Wagner opened the floor for further discussion.
 - c. Commissioner Schroyer asked Mr. Tyler Hough what prompted the need for HB0766.

- d. Mr. Tyler Hough responded that there was a stakeholder meeting this summer. The topic of discussion included the Commission membership, particularly regarding the significant deer management and deer damage concerns within the state. In the past, there have been other bills that the agriculture community believed would help address the deer management and deer damage issues. However, this Commission and the DNR ultimately opposed these. Concerns arose throughout the stakeholder community; therefore, the stakeholders decided that the Maryland Farm Bureau should be the entity designated to appoint a farming representative to the Commission. There are already statutes allowing the Maryland Farm Bureau to appoint or recommend individuals for other committee appointments. As the umbrella organization, the MFB aims to ensure the agricultural voice is represented on your committee with a farmer in the seat and heard.
 - e. Commissioner Schroyer emphasized that MFB's voice has consistently been represented on the Commission. With this in mind, he expressed confusion about the need for legislation.
 - f. Mr. Tyler Hough reiterated that the concerns originated from the stakeholder group, which included numerous stakeholders from agricultural organizations connected to the farming community.
 - g. Chair Wagner inquired whether stakeholders were aware that the Commission permits a special section, similar to the Natural Resources Police, on the agenda for each meeting for the Maryland Farm Bureau.
 - h. Mr. Tyler Hough responded affirmatively.
 - i. Chair Wagner then asked the Commission if there were any further discussions or comments regarding HB0766. Hearing none, Chair Wagner concluded that the Commission would remain silent on HB0766.
12. HB1024/SB0958 Agriculture – Catastrophic Damage Caused by Deer Discussion –
- a. Chair Wagner said having other agencies managing wildlife besides DNR is troublesome. Chair Wagner stated that he does not favor legislative controlling of DNR. DNR has professionals who are biologists, and they do a great job. In Chair Wagner's opinion, more should be controlled by DNR and less by legislation. Therefore, Chair Wagner expressed that giving away part of DNR's management to another agency is unnecessary.
 - b. Chair Wagner opened the floor for discussion on HB1024/SB0958
 - c. Commissioner Parks agreed with Chair Wagner's remarks. He noted that if the MFB has input, it can contact the Commission and DNR.
 - d. Commissioner Keithley also agreed with the comments made by Commissioner Parks and Chair Wagner.
 - e. Commissioner Schroyer concurred. Commissioner Schroyer stated that the Department of Agriculture has no business managing wildlife.
- Motion on HB0741
 1. Commissioner moved to have the Commission compile a letter of support for HB0741.
 2. Commissioner Showalter seconded.
 3. Discussion:
 - a. Commissioner Showalter pointed out two unresolved issues that need clarification regarding written permission and whether dog handlers and hunt organizers must be licensed if they participate in handling the hounds. Commissioner Showalter concurred with Assistant Secretary Peditto's interpretation of the definition of a hunt. Commissioner Showalter believed that observers do not need to buy licenses. Some things require clarity, but amendments to the bill are unnecessary. Therefore, Commissioner Showalter declared that he supports the bill as presented.
 - b. Commissioner Jenkins mentioned that a person should have written permission when they are on someone else's property, correct?
 - c. Ms. Seigler responded to Commissioner Jenkin's question with Chair Wagner's permission. The fox hunting clubs do have landowner permission, but it is not necessarily in the written

form currently required under COMAR for hunters. However, Ms. Seigler raised additional questions during the motion discussion related to written permission. Here is the list of Ms. Seigler's additional questions: Does each person in the group need individual permission from the landowner, or can the landowner grant blanket permission to the club? Does everyone out that day need a copy of the written permission?

- d. Chair Wagner explained that items should be cleared up in the regulations.
 - e. Commissioner Parks indicated that in today's digital world, electronic communication should be tied to the landowner and participants, so if a DNR officer shows up, there will be an electronic copy of the permission.
 - f. Assistant Secretary Peditto informed the Commission that NRP is present and can provide input. Assistant Secretary Peditto added that a landowner typically needs to give permission to a hunter and their guests. The hunter who obtains written permission is responsible for showing law enforcement that the other individuals are the hunter's guests. Assistant Secretary Peditto assured Ms. Seigler that the questions she raised could be resolved and that not everyone needs to have a piece of paper with written permission.
 - g. Commissioner Smith expressed concerns about using hounds on park properties, which they don't allow. Getting the park properties to approve the use of hounds on park service lands will be a challenge.
4. All in favor of submitting a letter of support of HB0741. Motion passed.
- Motion on HB1024
 1. Commissioner Parks moved that the Commission compile a letter of opposition for HB1024.
 2. Commissioner Schroyer seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (MFB) - Tyler Hough, MFB Director of Government Relations, needed to leave the meeting early.

Natural Resources Police Update (NRP) – Lieutenant Brian Miller gave an update.

- Lieutenant Brian Miller and Lieutenant Bill Davis are assigned to the Wildlife Advisory Commission.
- Lieutenant Brian Miller provided the 2025 stats.
 1. Traffic violations (do not include criminal arrest or civil or parking) were 323 citations, which made up 29.8% of enforcement; public lands citations were 121, which made up 11.2% of enforcement; wildlife citations were 414, which made up 38.2% enforcement; fisheries citations were 81, which made up 7.5% enforcement; boating citations were 144, which made up 13.3% enforcement. These were the total for January and February 2025.

Old Business

- Revamping Trapping Course Update— No update
- License Portal will launch in mid-to-late March. The plan to pivot the duck photograph contest as part of the DNR photography contest is in place. A press release was put out, and DNR will be producing the inaugural year of the new MD Outdoors replacing COMPASS. A hard card will be populated with Maryland waterfowl art selected in the photography contest.
- Fox Chasing Non-License Requirement—Chair Wagner requested that it be deleted from the agenda since it is being handled through the legislative process.
- Subject Matter Meetings – Chair Wagner summarized that regarding the goose and non-lead ammunition topics, there are opportunities for the Commission to assist DNR by hosting or chairing some of these meetings with knowledgeable groups. The Commission members have diverse backgrounds, and with our expertise, the Commission could be effectively utilized at these subject matter meetings. The Commission can collaborate with Director Stonesifer, Assistant Peditto, and Secretary Kurtz to alleviate some of the burdens DNR faces in organizing these meetings. By doing so, the Commission can facilitate the exchange of information between people and DNR. The Commission represents different stakeholders, and we all have our areas of influence.

1. Commissioner Showalter noted that the proposal for a 30-day one-bird bag limit on resident geese next year has received substantial feedback. Game Bird Section Leader Josh Homyack and his team have effectively summarized the federal framework while providing relevant information and context for the seasons. However, given the current digital age characterized by short attention spans, it would benefit the public if the R3 team developed some digital production capabilities. Suppose the Department can create 30-second or 60-second educational and informative videos, providing a bit more context that will be more engaging to people than a 15-page PowerPoint presentation. Also, there is a great deal of misinformation and lack of information, and we need to do a better job to help reduce the legislative efforts that we are seeing.
 2. Chair Wagner explained that the topic of the Subject Matter Meetings originated from a conversation with Senator Mautz. He noted that Senator Mautz wants the Commission to engage with his constituents. Chair Wagner acknowledged some limitations of public meetings but volunteered himself and Commissioner Showalter to attend these Subject Matter Meetings. He agreed that misleading information circulates on social media and that many comments are incorrect. A few individuals can correct these comments, but education is essential.
 3. Commissioner Showalter agreed to participate in meetings across the state; however, during in-person meetings, only 10 to maybe 100 people are educated during those meetings. Therefore, we need to leverage social media to inform the public better, and it likely won't require much effort.
 4. Director Stonesifer informed the Commission that the staff members are interviewing for a videographer. Director Stonesifer also mentioned that Commissioner Showalter is correct about increasing our digital presence because the way we educate people is no longer effective.
 5. Commissioner Kullberg suggested that the Commission partner with colleges; in fact, maybe the Commission could host something at St. Mary's College of Maryland, raising the Commission's profile.
- Potential Agenda Topics for May and September Meetings – Group Discussion
 1. Where is the money the Commission helped raise a couple of years ago? When asked, the Commission members want to be able to inform hunters about where that money was allocated, which came from the increase in all the license fees and stamps. They seek specific outlines detailing where the hunting dollars are going. Hunters want to know what they received from the license, fees, and stamps increase.
 2. Commissioner Keithley added that this goes along with Commissioner Showalter's comments regarding videography. Commissioner Keithley indicated that the DNR financial status should be updated every three months using a 30-second video summarizing WHS allocations and informing the public about the next financial update.
 3. Director Stonesifer responded that it was a great idea.
 4. Chair Wagner updated the Commission on the Youth and Veteran Hunt on February 8, 2025. Chair Wagner thanked R3 Coordinator Chris Markin for his support in organizing the event. Chair Wagner collaborated with Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, and the Maryland Sportsman Foundation. Approximately 100 individuals attended, including around thirty youths accompanied by their parents, thirty veterans, and a few additional participants, not including the mentors. It was an excellent opportunity to connect with youths and veterans who had never hunted. R3 Coordinator Chris Markin had 300 youths and only 20 spots. Therefore, there is a need for the Commission to push local grassroots to get involved in these programs to help the R3 team manage these events like these.

New Business –

- R3 Summit Virtual Meeting—Director Stonesifer thanked the members of the Commission who attended. The staff received some great ideas. In one of the presentations, Director Stonesifer noted that a partner expressed excitement about an auction item making a lot of money, but that situation was handled offline. It involved an item that is not legal or one that DNR would promote.
- R3 Staffing Update—Interviews are being scheduled. The announcement of the Associate Director

position was posted on February 19, 2025.

- Commissioner Showalter agreed to compile the two letters for the legislature. Commissioner Showalter will send the letters to Ms. Spencer for the Commission’s approval.

Public Comment –

- Commissioner Schroyer reminded the Commission that Ms. Spencer sent a constituent email from WAC’s email about a person’s concern about wildlife.
 1. Chair Wagner said he could thank the person for the comments. He also noted that the Commission does not need to address every email with unsubstantiated comments.
 2. Commissioner Schroyer recommended that the Commission needs to discuss public communication that is sent to the Commission
 3. Commissioner Showalter agreed that the Commission should discuss public communication directed to the Commission; however, we are not obligated to respond to every comment.
 4. The WAC’s email contains an auto-reply. Ms. Spencer sent the Commission a copy of the auto-reply.
 5. The Commission considered the constituent comments and decided no reply was necessary.
- The public may contact the Members of the Commission at wac.dnr@maryland.gov.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.
The next meeting will be virtually using Google Meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

Attendance

Members:	TJ. Jenkins, S. Keithley, K. Kullberg, J. Parks, K. Rossignuolo, J. Schroyer, R. Showalter, M. Smith, and C. Wagner
Absent:	
Guest:	T. Hough, T. Leggett, J. Seigler, and K. Thompson
Staff:	H. Devine, B. Eyler, K. Fleming, K. Harvey, J. Homyack, J. McKnight, B. Miller, J. Moulis, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, K. Stonesifer, and J. Tabora

**Summary of 2025 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 14, 2025)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 35	Title	Primary Sponsor	Current Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	WAC's Support or Oppose or Watch or No Comment
HB0173	Baltimore County - Deer Management Program - Establishment	Delegate Nawrocki	In the House - Withdrawn by Sponsor	Environment and Transportation		No comment
HB0483	Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation - Alterations	Delegate Ziegler	In the House - Hearing 2/06 at 1:00 p.m.	Ways and Means 2/06/2025 - 1:00 PM		Support
HB0511 (SB0449)	Frederick and Washington Counties - Bow Hunting - Openly Carrying Handguns	Frederick County Delegation	In the House - Hearing 2/26 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/26/2025 - 1:00 PM		Support
HB0540	Maryland Green Schools - Website, Outreach, and Designations (Green Schools Stewardship Act)	Delegate Wolek	In the House - Hearing 2/12 at 1:00 p.m.	Ways and Means 2/12/2025 - 1:00 PM		No Comment
HB0654	Wicomico County - Sunday Hunting Time Restrictions - Repeal	Wicomico County Delegation	In the House - Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/28/2025 - 1:00 PM		Support
HB0731 (SB0635)	Wildlife - Protections and Highway Crossings	Delegate Ruth	In the House - Hearing 2/19 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/19/2025 - 1:00 PM		Discussion ensued – but no action was taken.
HB0741 (SB0634)	Hunting - Nonlead Ammunition, Fox Chasing, and Deer Management	Delegate Allen	In the House - Hearing 2/19 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/19/2025 - 1:00 PM		Discussion ensued—letter of Support.
HB0766	Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership - Alterations	Delegate Otto	In the House - Hearing 2/19 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/19/2025 - 1:00 PM		Discussion ensued. Remain silent.
HB0832 (SB0417)	Carroll County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting	Carroll County Delegation	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation		Okay
HB0854 (SB0128)	Hunter Safety Education - Issuance of Identification Number	Delegate Hornberger	In the House - Hearing canceled	Environment and Transportation		Hearing Canceled – No Comment

**Summary of 2025 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 14, 2025)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 35	Title	Primary Sponsor	Current Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	WAC's Support or Oppose or Watch or No Comment
HB0857 (SB0100)	Natural Resources - Pursuing Wounded Deer After Legal Hunting Hours - Authorization	Delegate Hornberger	In the House - Hearing 2/19 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/19/2025 - 1:00 PM		No Comment
HB0878	Department of the Environment - Water Resources - Protection of Vernal Pools (Vernal Pool Wetlands Protection Act of 2025)	Delegate Hill	In the House - Hearing 2/19 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/19/2025 - 1:00 PM		No Comment
HB0882 (SB0272)	Prince George's County - Natural Resources - Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones	Delegate Valderrama	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation		Support
HB0892 (SB0335)	Natural Resources - Canada Geese - Bag Limits	Delegate Jacobs	In the House - Hearing 2/19 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/19/2025 - 1:00 PM		Discussion ensued. Watch
HB0894 (SB0946)	Endangered and Threatened Species - Incidental Taking - Bats	Delegate Jacobs	In the House - Hearing 2/19 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/19/2025 - 1:00 PM		Discussion ensued. Okay
HB0954	Public Safety - State and Local Governments - Use of Unmanned Aircraft	Delegate Grammer	In the House - Hearing 2/25 at 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary 2/25/2025 - 1:00 PM		No Comment
HB1024 (SB0958)	Agriculture - Catastrophic Damage Caused by Deer	Delegate Hutchinson	In the House - Hearing 2/26 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/26/2025 - 1:00 PM		Discussion ensued related to HB1024- Letter of Opposition.
HB1270 (SB0399)	Natural Resources - Wildland Areas - Overhead Transmission Lines	Delegate Hinebaugh	In the House - Hearing 3/06 at 1:00 p.m.	Economic Matters 3/06/2025 - 1:00 PM		No Comment
HB1299	Natural Resources - Western Maryland - Elk	Delegate Hornberger	In the House - Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 3/05/2025 - 1:00 PM		No Comment

**Summary of 2025 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 14, 2025)**

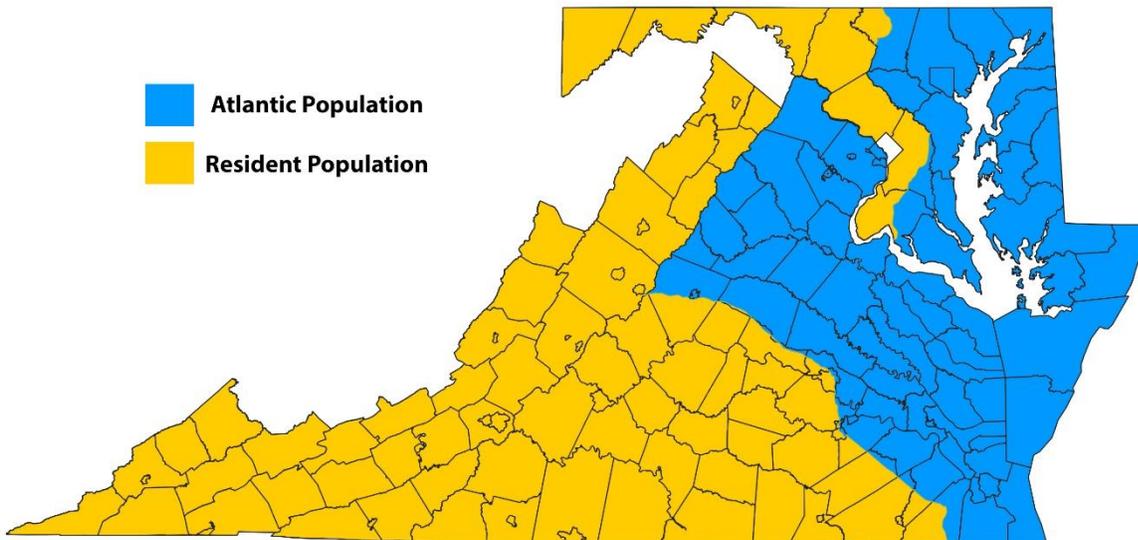
Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 35	Title	Primary Sponsor	Current Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	WAC's Support or Oppose or Watch or No Comment
SB0100 (HB0857)	Natural Resources - Pursuing Wounded Deer After Legal Hunting Hours - Authorization	Senator Bailey	In the Senate - Hearing 2/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/04/2025 - 1:00 PM		No Comment
SB0128 (HB0854)	Hunter Safety Education - Issuance of Identification Number	Senator Bailey	In the Senate - Withdrawn by Sponsor	Education, Energy, and the Environment		Withdrawn – No Comment
SB0272 (HB0882)	Prince George's County - Natural Resources - Sunday Deer Hunting and Archery Hunting Safety Zones	Senator Jackson	In the Senate - Hearing 2/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/04/2025 - 1:00 PM		Support
SB0335 (HB0892)	Natural Resources - Canada Geese - Bag Limits	Senator Bailey	In the Senate - Hearing 2/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/04/2025 - 1:00 PM		Discussion ensued on HB0892 - Watch
SB0399 (HB1270)	Natural Resources - Wildland Areas - Overhead Transmission Lines	Senator McKay	In the Senate - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 2/11/2025 - 1:00 PM		No Comment
SB0417 (HB0832)	Carroll County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting	Carroll County Senators	In the Senate - Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 3/04/2025 - 1:00 PM		Okay
SB0449 (HB0511)	Frederick and Washington Counties - Bow Hunting - Openly Carrying Handguns	Senator Folden	In the Senate - Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 3/04/2025 - 1:00 PM		Support
SB0551	Private Passenger Motor Vehicle Insurance - Collisions With Wild Animals - Prohibited Actions by Insurers	Senator Bailey	In the Senate - Hearing 2/12 at 1:00 p.m.	Finance 2/12/2025 - 1:00 PM		No Comment
SB0634 (HB0741)	Hunting - Nonlead Ammunition, Fox Chasing, and Deer Management	Senator Lewis Young	In the Senate - Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 3/04/2025 - 1:00 PM		Discussion ensued on HB0741 – Letter of Support.

**Summary of 2025 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of February 14, 2025)**

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 35	Title	Primary Sponsor	Current Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	WAC's Support or Oppose or Watch or No Comment
SB0635 (HB0731)	Wildlife - Protections and Highway Crossings	Senator Lewis Young	In the Senate - Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 3/04/2025 - 1:00 PM		Discussion ensued – but no action was taken.
SB0711	Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle Recreation Oversight Board - Establishment	Senator McKay	In the Senate - Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings 3/04/2025 - 1:00 PM		No Comment
SB0736	Natural Resources - Wildlife Damage Prevention and Reimbursement Fund - Establishment	Senator Folden	In the Senate - Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m. (Education, Energy, and the Environment)	Education, Energy, and the Environment 3/04/2025 - 1:00 PM Budget and Taxation		Funding is from a Conservation deer stamp. Oppose
SB0796	Dorchester County - Sunday Hunting - Repeal of Time Restriction	Senator Mautz	In the Senate - Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 3/04/2025 - 1:00 PM		Support
SB0870	Boating - Migratory Waterfowl Season - Prohibited Acts	Senator Mautz	In the Senate - Hearing canceled	Education, Energy, and the Environment		No Comment
SB0946 (HB0894)	Endangered and Threatened Species - Incidental Taking - Bats	Senator Carozza	In the Senate - Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 3/04/2025 - 1:00 PM		Discussion ensued. Okay
SB0958 (HB1024)	Agriculture - Catastrophic Damage Caused by Deer	Senator Mautz	In the Senate - Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Energy, and the Environment 3/04/2025 - 1:00 PM		Discussion ensued related to HB1024-Letter of Opposition.

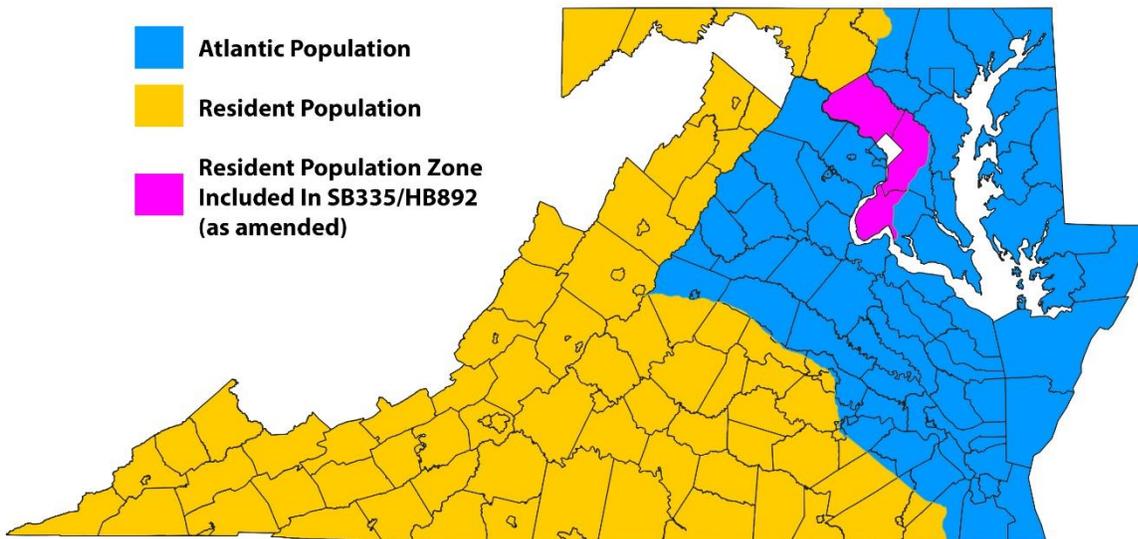
Current:

Maryland and Virginia Goose Hunting Zones



Proposed Under SB335/HB892 As Amended:

Maryland and Virginia Goose Hunting Zones





SB0335/333224/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

13 FEB 25
09:34:08

BY: Senator Bailey
(To be offered in the Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 335
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 4, after “in” insert “certain areas of”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 23, after “(C)” insert “**(1) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY IN:**

(I) ALLEGANY COUNTY;

(II) FREDERICK COUNTY;

(III) GARRETT COUNTY;

(IV) WASHINGTON COUNTY; AND

(V) THE PORTION OF CARROLL COUNTY GEOGRAPHICALLY WEST OF ROUTE 31 AND ROUTE 97.

(2)”.

On page 2, in line 7, after “2025.” insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2030, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.