

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

# **The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission**

**Will Meet at 10:30 AM  
On Wed., October 16, 2024  
Department of Natural Resources  
Google Meet**

**Meeting Agenda:**

**Approval for October 16, 2024, Meeting Agenda**

**Approval for Minutes from September 18, 2024, Meeting**

**WHS Regional Operations Program Update (Candice Collison)**

**Waterfowl Population Update (Josh Homyack and Kayla Harvey)**

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update (Tyler Hough)**

**Natural Resources Police Update (Captain Shawn Garren)**

**Old Business:**

- **Revamping Trapping Course Update - (Commissioner Kaitlin Rossignuolo)**
- **License Portal Update - (Associate Director Brian Eyler)**
- **Use of Drone for Deer Recovery and Hunting – Tabled to a future date.**
- **Fox Chasing Non-License Requirement – Tabled to a future date.**
- **Non-Lead Hunting Ammunition – 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 2024 meetings  
Of the Wildlife Advisory Commission is as follows:**

<b>January 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>February 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>March 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building</b>
<b>April 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>May 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
<b>June 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>July 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
<b>August 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>September 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>October 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>November 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Google Meet</b>
<b>December 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Meeting</b>

***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-1 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

OCTOBER 16, 2024

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 October 16, 2024, Meeting Agenda**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Parks moved to accept the October 16, 2024, Wildlife Advisory Commission meeting agenda.
  2. Commissioner Smith seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

### **Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2024, Meeting**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Smith moved to accept the September 18, 2024, meeting minutes as presented.
  2. Commissioner Parks seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

### **WHS Regional Operations Program Update – Southern Regional Operations Program – Southern Region Manager Candice Collison**

- Southern Region Manager Candice Collison presented the Commission with a PowerPoint update on the Southern Regional Operations Program. [ATTACHMENT A]
- The Southern Region includes Anne Arundel (AA), Prince George’s (PG), Charles (CH), Calvert (CV), and St. Mary’s (SM) counties.
- Staff accomplished a lot with the help of the summer interns.
- The Southern Region is the only region with one land field crew for land management. Therefore, staff are spread a little thin.
- The Southern Region is split in half by the Patuxent River, and there are only a few locations where a person can cross the river, which makes connecting the two parts of the region a little challenging when staff must go from one place to another.
- The Myrtle Grove Shooting Range is the only public shooting range on a WMA. It is a challenge to manage.
- These are the meanings of the acronyms in the PowerPoint: LTC-Long Term Contractual, WMA-Wildlife Management Area, DJS- Department Juvenile Services, RM-Regional Manager, HM-Habitat Manager, NEA-Natural Environment Area, NRMA-Natural Resources Management Area, CWMA-Cooperative Wildlife Management Area, DMP-Deer Management Permit, SMECO-Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, and RGS-Ruffed Grouse Society.
- Staff will develop a firm plan for where physical blinds will be located and maintained. The staff goal is to work with partners; however, realistically, staff recognize that some volunteer groups tend to drop off. Therefore, staff must ensure they can maintain the blinds every year.
- Southern Region Manager Candice Collison is utilizing Google MyMaps to map out waterfowl sites in the Southern Region. Once it is done, staff will share it with law enforcement and other agencies.
- Staff are working on creating GeoPDFs for the Southern Region land properties that will have geographic information.
- The staff goal was to return the two fields at Cedar Point WMA to mature forest. However, the two fields in the slide are already nine to ten years old, which puts them in perfect woodcock habitat. However, public access to them was unavailable. The Ruffed Grouse Society hired a volunteer

operator and rented equipment at their expense to open trails around these fields so that hunters could access the fields for woodcock.

- Q&A Section:

1. Chair Wagner asked if these land acquisitions, such as the Cecchini Property and Holly Hall properties, would be opened for hunting and how they would be opened to people.
  - a. The top priority with any of these land acquisitions is that the land would be available for hunting.
  - b. The Cecchini Property is not large but touches Swanson Creek, which will provide waterfowl opportunities. A power plant on the creek keeps the water warm and open all seasons. A soft launch is at the end of the road into Swanson Creek. The rest of Cecchini Property is forested, so the intent would be to open hunting on legal game species in that area.
  - c. The Riverside WMA is already open to all species and weapons; therefore, Holly Hall would just be added to the existing Riverside WMA.
2. Chair Wagner asked if building blinds on the Cecchini Property is possible and if WHS would partner with Ducks Unlimited, Delta, or other hunting organizations to construct them.
  - a. After the Cecchini Property acquisition is completed, staff will better understand what can be done and be able to explore the shoreline more.
  - b. Staff have been discussing this extensively; they want to utilize more partnerships to improve waterfowl hunting opportunities.
  - c. Assistant Secretary Paul Peditto mentioned that staff appreciate the interest in building blinds. As former Southern Region Manager Paul Peditto noted, staff installed many blinds on both sides of those rivers. The difficulty is that if staff build those blinds and Maryland gets a storm and the blinds are wiped out, the hunting community will expect those blinds to be there by the next waterfowl hunting season. So, unless those volunteer partner groups are prepared to do the maintenance and rebuilds, staff have gone to the stake site model. Many hunters have moved to the mobile duck hunting model, which was unavailable 20 years ago.
3. Chair Wagner asked about the non-consumptive usages on these sites, such as bird watchers, hikers, horseback riders, and bikers, and if there are plans to allow them to use these areas.
  - a. The Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are already open to all those non-consumptive users.
  - b. WMAs are not maintained like State Parks' properties and have few intricate trails. However, WMAs have some access trails that staff support for equipment to get to different fields.
  - c. The Southern Region allows other users to access WMAs.
  - d. The focus is to allow these areas to be opened and enjoyed by anyone who wants to experience nature.
4. Commissioner Parks commented that the GeoPDF would benefit everyone enjoying nature, including hunters.
5. Commissioner Showalter mentioned that many people use the onX App; however, Commissioner Showalter is unfamiliar with it. Commissioner Showalter asked if the GeoPDF maps are available to download.
  - a. A person can download Avenza for free. Avenza allows a person to have three Geo-referenced maps at a time; the maps may be swapped out if the person does not want to pay for the subscription, which allows a person to have as many maps as someone wants.
  - b. The primary difference is that if a person uploads the same PDF onto a mobile device, someone may open it in Avenza, showing the person's location on that map, and the person can navigate from that point.
  - c. Avenza does have other mapping options.
  - d. OnX is a great tool. It tells the person who owns the land, but it doesn't communicate if it is open to public hunting, which could be a challenge for new users, especially when the property may have a small section open to public hunting.



## 2024 Migratory Game Bird Status Update – Waterfowl Project Leader Kayla Harvey and Game Bird Section Leader Josh Homyack.

- Waterfowl Project Leader Kayla Harvey gave an update on the Migratory Game Bird Species via a PowerPoint Presentation. [ATTACHMENT B]
- The PowerPoint presentation focused on the current status of migratory game bird populations and some potential impacts on the 2025-26 Hunting Season.
- The Atlantic Flyway Council met in September. The proposals were established based on various harvest strategies and the biological information collected through the summer. The proposals were submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service Regulations Committee. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Regulations Committee reviews the recommendations from all four flyway councils; then, the USFWS Regulations Committee decides on the federal frameworks for the states.
- Surveys were conducted as usual. Staff demonstrated satellite imagery from 2023 to 2024 of the Ungava Peninsula, where the Atlantic Population of Canada Geese nest.
- The Atlantic Flyway conditions were good to excellent.
- The acronyms in the presentations are as follows:
  1. AFBWS – Atlantic Flyway Breeding Waterfowl Survey
  2. BBS – Breeding Bird Survey
  3. PHAB – Population and Habitat
  4. AHM – Adaptive Harvest Management
  5. LTA – Long-Term Average
  6. IPM – Integrated Population Model
- The Traditional Survey Area population estimates displayed some fluctuations from 2023. Northern Pintail had a similar estimate to last year but is still below the long-term average. The redhead, canvasback, and scaup are back at similar estimates from last year, but scaup is still a bit below the long-term average. These are the primary species staff surveyed from the traditional area, which impact the Atlantic Flyway regulations.
- In the Eastern Survey Area, which mainly impacts the Atlantic Flyway, there are not many fluctuations. The mallards are similar to 2023 but still below the long-term average. The black ducks were similar to 2023; even though it stated +23% from the long-term average, note that this average was from 1998 to 2023, so it does not consider the long-term average decline before that period. However, the black ducks' overall population is stable. Wood ducks were similar to 2023 and similar to the long-term average. Green-wing teal, ring-necked duck, and common goldeneye were all similar and have similar or stable to increasing populations. However, staff noticed a significant increase for common goldeneye, which has a smaller sample size; therefore, any fluctuation would seem more prominent, but the common goldeneye has a stable population.
- The Mallard Telemetry Project is still going on. The final year of deployment is this coming winter or the banning season. Staff will have some results to share in the coming years as the data comes in.
- The Pintail Season will have a three-bird bag limit or a closed season. The Atlantic Flyway will have a three-bird bag limit if the pintail population level is above the closure limit. If the pintail season is closed, it is due to the flyway accounting for less than 5% of the pintail harvest. The link in the Interim Pintail Harvest Strategy slide will take an individual to the US Fish and Wildlife Service website, which explains more about the Pintail Harvest Strategy. Also, below is the link: <https://www.fws.gov/story/2024-06/new-strategy-inform-northern-pintail-hunting-regulations>.
- Staff will update the Commission on the data collected on the Atlantic Population of Canada Geese using GPS and GSM solar-powered neck collars. The project is going well, and the transmitters are working great and collecting a ton of data, similar to the mallard and black duck projects.
- Remember that non-breeders are in the AP Canada Geese total population estimate. It takes three to four years for the Canada geese to breed. The component of the AP Canada Geese population has juvenile birds that hatched that year, but there are also subadult birds that are not forming a pair bond and not laying eggs. These subadult birds are not producers in the population.
- The slide with Additional Updates is an aerial survey picture of the Chicamacomico River outside

Vienna; staff had a bid project sponsored by the Grand National Waterfowl Association, partnered with the Maryland Wood Duck Initiative, and Maryland DNR that replaced 70 wood duck boxes and some predator guards. Therefore, there are a hundred functional boxes on the Chicamacomico River. Staff checked the boxes north of Newbridge Road and found excellent hatch success. Additionally, staff banded 140 wood ducks at LeCompte WMA; many were hatchlings birds. Therefore, the success of the boxes is demonstrated.

- Drain tiles are used to drain the fields for agriculture, and staff members are trying to restore natural hydrology by digging down to the pipes and plugging the pipes with clay. Therefore, staff are stopping the water drainage from the fields, allowing the water to rise into the fields, and restoring these wetlands. The goal is to improve these sites for wildlife according to the goals of the approved plans.
- Seeing the wildlife benefiting from restoring natural hydrology in these areas was gratifying.
- Additional projects are needed for LeCompte WMA and Wye Island WMA.
- Chair Wagner pointed out that these sites are great places to take legislators to show them what can be done to restore natural hydrology and improve the Chesapeake Bay and land. It would also be a good field trip for WAC members.
- Q&A Section:
  1. Chair Wagner asked about the pintail season and whether the Atlantic Flyway will follow the other flyways with a three-bird bag limit.
    - a. The other flyways have different limits, such as a bag limit of one, two, or close.
    - b. As long as the population is above the season closure threshold, the Atlantic Flyway will have a three-bird bag limit.
  2. Chair Wagner asked if the pintail population was down.
    - a. Yes, as stated in the presentation, the pintail population is down.
    - b. It depends on whether you view harvest as an additive or compensatory. The reason pintails are below LTA is really due to habitat and little due to harvest.
  3. Chair Wagner questioned why the Atlantic Flyway imposes a three-bird bag limit when the population is down. No one in Maryland is going to shoot three pintails.
    - a. That is true in the Atlantic Flyway. If any Flyway has a population-level impact on the harvest, it will be the Pacific Flyway.
    - b. The other Flyways have a variable bag limit based on different population estimates.
    - c. When pintails go further south, in the Prairie Pothole Region, the pintail's productivity is generally a lot higher. There is better ground, and the pintails do not have to migrate as far; therefore, the pintails have more fat reserves. If the Prairie Pothole Region is dry, pintails will try to move further north to the nest, and then pintail productivity is generally quite a bit lower.
    - d. There is a latitude in which most pintails are found during the survey period; it is a variable model considering the settling latitude of pintails.
  4. Commissioner Jenkins asked how long it would take to reopen the season if the AP Canada Geese breeding pairs fell below the 60,000 breeding pairs and the season was closed.
    - a. That is an unknown answer. The surveys would continue during that period. For example, just as it is now, we are in a restrictive season, which is a one-year thing. All these things are reconsidered annually. The annual data staff collect on these species is compared to what staff know about them from longer-term data sets and decisions.
  5. Commissioner Jenkins asked why staff would micromanage AP Canada Geese yearly when there is a decline. Also, Commissioner Jenkins asked why not run with a management option for three to four years and allow the species to build up.
    - a. Staff recognized Commissioner Jenkins's good point, which may be a weakness of an annual regulatory cycle. It is how Atlantic Flyway does business.
    - b. Staff are flying over large areas and surveying multiple species at the Continental scale to determine wildlife populations.
    - c. Biologists have learned that it is better to be more conservative with the AP Canada Geese

population than to push the boundaries.

- d. The Atlantic Flyway made the current decision; it was not unanimous, but members took it seriously and made a more restrictive recommendation.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update (MFB)** – Tyler Hough, MFB Director of Government Relations

- MFB Director of Government Relations Tyler Hough mentioned that MFB has been busy with energy issues and transmission lines.
- MFB is preparing for some energy bills for the upcoming legislative session.
- The MFB Convention will be held in Cambridge, MD, from December 7 through December 10.
- Mr. Hough agreed to send information about the MFB Convention to Ms. Spencer so Ms. Spencer could disseminate the information to the Commission. The members of the Commission will contact Mr. Hough directly if someone would like to attend, have a booth, or be a sponsor of the MFB Convention.

**Natural Resources Police Update (NRP)** – Captain Shawn Garren gave a presentation.

- With the arrival of Colonel Lilly earlier this year, Colonel Lilly had a chance to review a lot of our internal structure. Colonel Lilly made some internal changes. Recently, NRP has completed all promotions except for corporals, which will be completed in the next three weeks. There may be a lot of changes with who is in these positions.
- A new Lieutenant Colonel has been hired. He is a retired NRP major, and his name is Mike Sewell. Lieutenant Colonel Sewell brings some history to the NRP.
- The total number of NRP violations written is 26,454.
- The traffic violation amount was 3,699, which equates to about 14% of NRP violations.
- The public land violations amount to 3,082, which equates to 11.7% of NRP violations.
- The wildlife violations amount to 995, which equates to 3.8% of NRP violations.
- The fisheries violations amount to 8,800, which equates to 33.3% of NRP violations.
- The boating violations amount to 9,878, which equates to 37.2% of NRP violations.

**Old Business**

- Revamping Trapping Course Update – No Update.
- License Portal Update –
  1. Associate Director Eyler informed the Commission that Brandt is progressing. Brandt gave a demo to staff who attended the License Portal meetings.
  2. Brandt and the staff are discussing the marketing aspect.
  3. Brandt is looking at deploying the hunting license component in February or March.
- Increased in Hunting Fees and Stamps Update –
  1. Chair Wagner requested an update on where the increased hunting fees and stamps are going. Chair Wagner wondered if there is information that can be released to the hunters as to where the money is being spent. Chair Wagner acknowledged Southern Region Candice Collison's presentation on recreational opportunities and land preservation; however, Chair Wagner asked how the hunters would benefit from the licensing increase.
  2. Associate Director Kristen Fleming will present an administration update, including a budget update, at the November 20, 2024, WAC meeting.
  3. Associate Director Kristen Fleming can show some of the increase in hunting license fees and stamp allocation.
  4. Land purchases are funded by Program Open Space, not hunting license fees. The use of hunting license dollars contributes to maintaining these lands.
  5. It is still early to calculate the allocation of these increased hunting license fees and stamps.
- Non-use of Drones for Deer Recovery and Hunting —
  1. Commissioner Keithley pointed out that some big national organizations have a somewhat hazy position on using drones for deer recovery and hunting. Boone and Crockett Club and Pope and Young Club do not have a strong position other than that using drones for hunting goes against

the fair chase doctrine. Commissioner Keithley added that he read that Boone and Crockett Club recently released a statement that it was okay to use drones to recover animals but not to hunt animals. However, Commissioner Keithley noted that he did not see that statement in the Boone and Crockett policy statement.

2. Commissioner Keithley mentioned that Montana is the only state in the Rocky Mountains that allows drone recovery, but he did not know how current that information was about Montana. Commissioner Keithley indicated that other states are evaluating the use of drones for recovery vs. hunting. The use of drones for hunting is not well received, but there is much more to discuss.
  3. Commissioner Keithley agreed to keep the Commission posted.
  4. Associate Director Eyler reminded the Commission that staff are tracking the use of drones for recovery and hunting.
  5. Commissioner Jenkins suggested that the DNR create strict laws prohibiting people from using drones for hunting, with fines of more than \$200.
- Fox Chasing Non-License Requirement—Tabled for a future date.
    1. Chair Wagner thanked Ms. Seigler and Ms. Brumme Pickett for attending and recognized that there is a need for another discussion when Director Stonesifer returns.
    2. Ms. Brumme Pickett informed the Commission that there is a scheduled work session to discuss the existing program and how to make it more robust. Ms. Brumme Pickett will report back to the Commission over the winter.
  - Non-Lead Hunting Ammunition –
    1. Commissioner Showalter indicated he would have something for Ms. Spencer to circulate to the Commission before the November 20 meeting discussion. Commissioner Showalter also informed the Commission that he would meet and discuss it with Associate Director Eyler before compiling a document.
    2. Commissioner Showalter explained that he would like the Commission to take a position and provide some action that is more on the importance of education and not enforcement education. So, the Commission and the Department can respond to these bills and be proactive so that the non-lead ammunition is recognized as an alternative that the Commission is providing opportunities for hunters to learn about it and that DNR does not need legislative assistance to learn more about it or to force a change.
    3. Assistant Secretary Peditto announced that the non-lead hunting ammunition would be returned next year during the legislative session. The language in the draft bill will be more complicated to manage.

**New Business** – No New Business.

**Public Comment** –

- The public may contact the Members of the Commission at [wac.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:wac.dnr@maryland.gov).

**Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be in person at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. The location is the Tawes State Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue, C-1B, Annapolis, MD, 21401.

**Attendance**

Members:	TJ. Jenkins, S. Keithley, J. Parks, K. Rossignuolo, R. Showalter, M. Smith, and C. Wagner
Absent:	K. Kullberg and J. Schroyer
Guest:	S. Boyles Griffin, T. Hough, C. Brumme Pickett, and J. Seigler
Staff:	C. Collison, B. Eyler, K. Fleming, S. Garren, K. Harvey, J. Homyack, J. McKnight, J. Moulis, P. Peditto, and T. Spencer

# Southern Regional Operations Program

## WMA Mission

To conserve and enhance diverse wildlife populations and associated habitats while providing public enjoyment of the State's wildlife resources through hunting and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

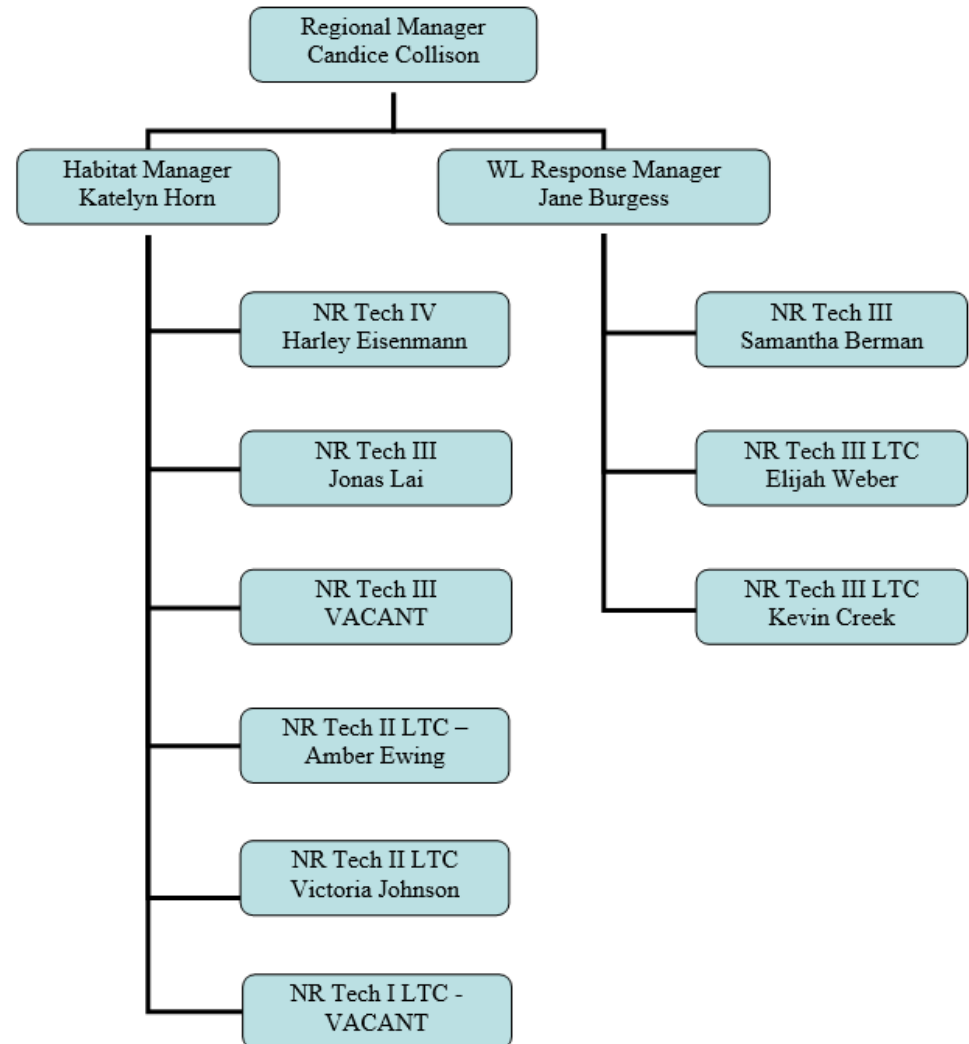


# Southern Region Staff



Currently have 10 staff members working in 2 offices (Myrtle Grove WMA and Tawes)

- 4 Wildlife Response Staff (2 classified and 2 LTCs)
- 5 Land Management Staff (3 classified and 2 LTCs)
- 2 vacant positions (1 classified, 1 LTC)
- For the summer we also brought on 2 interns





# Staffing Challenges



- High turnover rate in the Southern Region due to high cost of living and low housing availability.
- Longest sitting land management staff have 2.5 years with WHS.
- Of our 10 current staff, 5 have less than 1 year with WHS.
- Incoming staff are typically young with little to no equipment experience, increasing our need for specialized training opportunities.

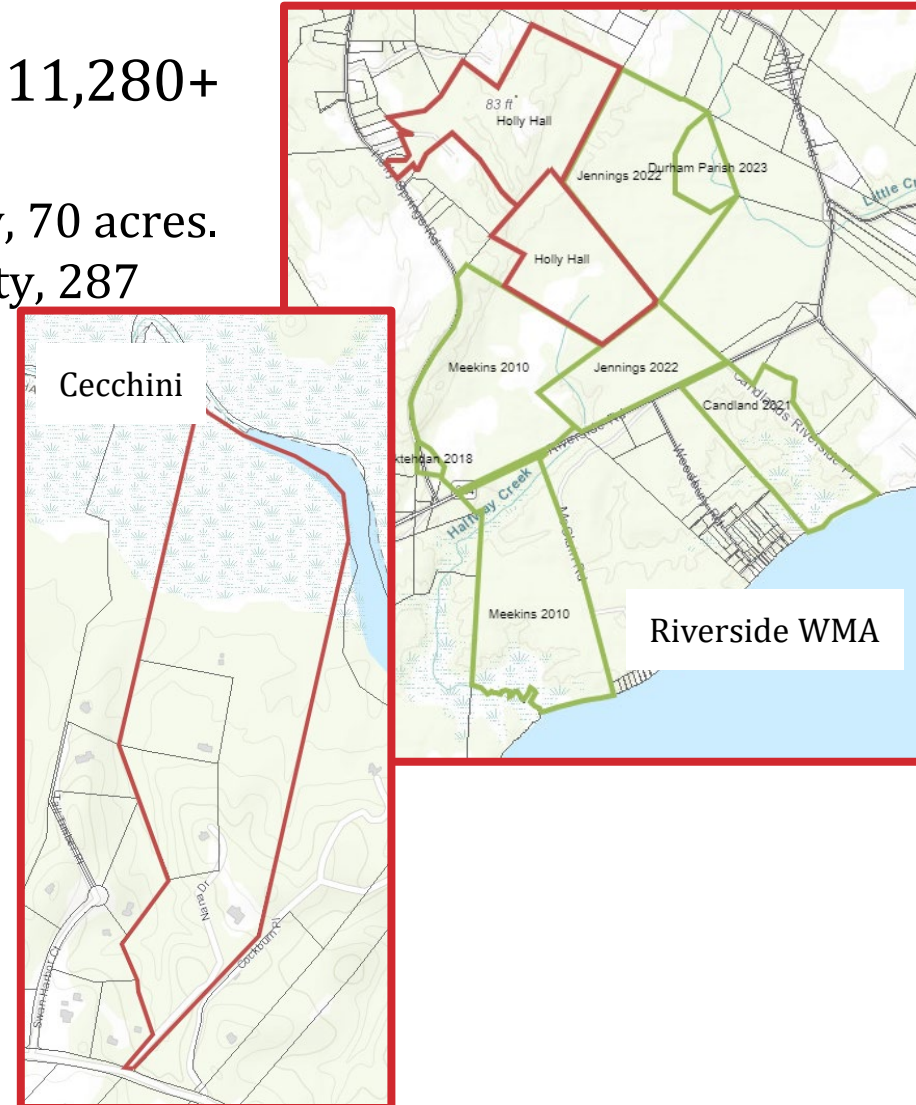
Cedar Point WMA Dove Field 2024



# Acreage and Acquisitions



- Total current acreage of WMAs = 11,280+
- Acquisitions in progress:
  - Cecchini Property in Charles County, 70 acres.
  - Holly Hall Property in Charles County, 287 acre addition to Riverside WMA.
  - Cheltenham WMA (transfer of DJS property that has been managed as part of the WMA for many years.)
- Site visits:
  - RM and HM conducted 12 sites visits of potential land acquisitions.
  - 10 are still in progress. 4 would be new WMAs, if acquired and 6 would be additions to current WMAs.





# Staff Responsibilities - WMA Management



## Southern Region WMAs

- Bowen WMA
- Cedar Point WMA
- Cheltenham WMA
- Chicamuxen WMA
- Myrtle Grove WMA
- Nanjemoy WMA
- Nanjemoy Creek WMA
- Parker's Creek WMA
- Pope's Creek WMA
- Riverside WMA

## WMA Responsibilities

- Boundary marking and recovery
- Habitat management projects
  - Herbicide application
  - Planting food plots
  - Greentree management
  - Invasive species removal
  - Prescribed burns
- Building and equipment maintenance
- Posting signage
- Routine mowing
- Road maintenance
- Trash pickup (has become a big issue)
- Brushing waterfowl blinds
- Parking lot maintenance

# Staff Responsibilities - Other Duties



- Manage the Myrtle Grove WMA shooting range.
- Manage the Myrtle Grove permit/reservation office.
  - Issued 8,600 reservations in the 2023/2024 season.
  - Have issued 2200+ reservation already for 2024-2025 season.
- Assist with hunting programs on other properties:
  - 22 State Parks/NEAs/NRMAs
  - 4 State Forests
  - 13 CWMAs
  - We've opened or expanded public hunting opportunities on 6 properties in the last 2 years.
- Manage 114 public waterfowl hunting sites.
- Respond to wildlife emergencies and issue DMPs in 5 counties.
- Assist with Heritage and Game Program projects.
- Issue trapping permits for 19 DNR properties.
- Teach Envirothon in the SR counties

# Wildlife Response Team



## Types of calls handled:

- Injured, sick, or stuck wildlife
- Concerns of wildlife disease outbreaks
- Nuisance wildlife advice
- Captive wildlife concerns (in partnership with NRP).

## 2024 Stats:

- 292 in-person responses so far in 2024.
- Majority of calls are deer-related (37%) followed by raccoons (27%).
- Notable increases in calls for underweight/grounded osprey fledglings and fawn stuck between fence bars.

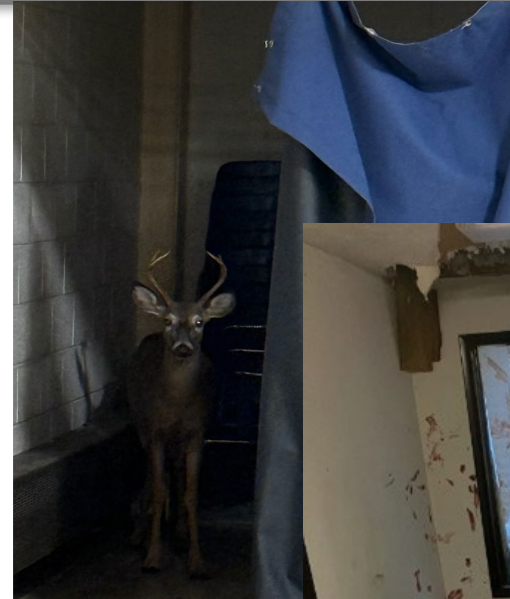




# Notable Response Calls



- Staff assisted Natural Resources Police with confiscating:
  - 2 captive raccoons in St. Mary's County
  - A deer in Anne Arundel County
- A red fox that was tangled in chicken wire in Charles Co was released.
- A black vulture with an arrow through it in AA Co was transported to Phoenix Wildlife Center and was successfully rehabilitated.
- A red-tailed hawk trapped in a batting cage in AA Co was released.
- A red fox kit with its front paw stuck between the slats of an Adirondack chair in AA Co was extracted and released.
- A great blue heron that was tangled in fishing line in PG Co was released.
- 2 raccoon kits on a daycare playground in AA Co were relocated to an area of the property outside the playground fence.
- Staff responded after hours to assist PG Co Police with a white-tailed buck that had broken through a sliding glass door into a home. The buck was chemically immobilized in order to safely remove it from the home.
- An osprey that was tangled in netting hanging from a powerline in Charles Co was removed with the assistance of SMECO and transported it to Owl Moon Raptor Center.




# Black Bears in the Southern Region

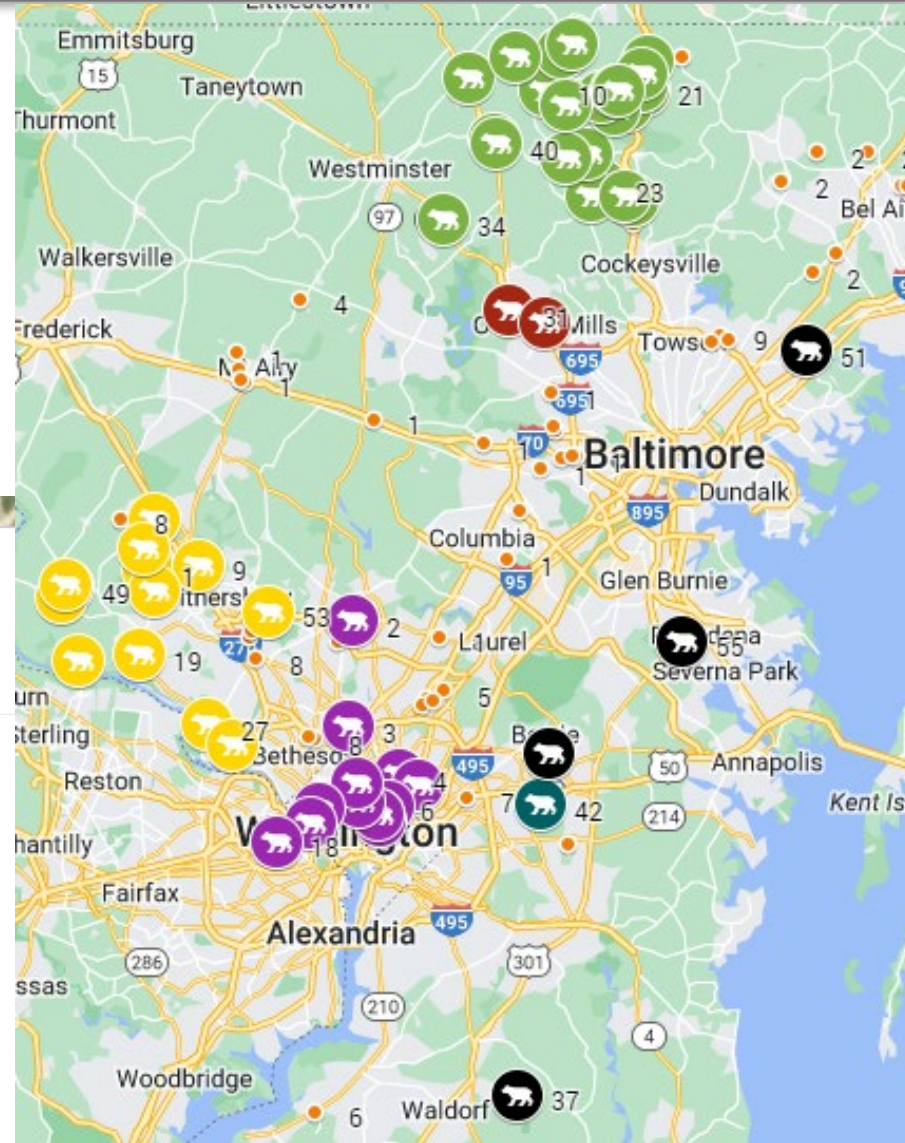
Increased Black Bear activity in the Southern Region has required us to better train and prepare our staff to respond to these types of calls.

- Staff coordinated with Washington DC's Humane Rescue Alliance officers to monitor a black bear as it traveled through Prince George's County and Washington DC into Virginia.
- Staff works closely with PG Co to monitor reports to track bear movements.



 **Humane Rescue Alliance** 2d · 🌐

Don't miss your chance to get a limited edition Franklin the Brookland Bear shirt! 🐻... See more







2024 Projects

# Waterfowl Site Management



Increased complaints on status of our 114 waterfowl hunting sites in the Southern Region has resulted in a need for an overhaul of our waterfowl sites.

- Due to staff turnover, some sites assumed to be stake/number sites have deteriorated blinds unknown to current staff.
- Limited or no staff with boating experience to get to sites.
- Assumptions on who was responsible for maintaining sites on State Parks or State Forests.

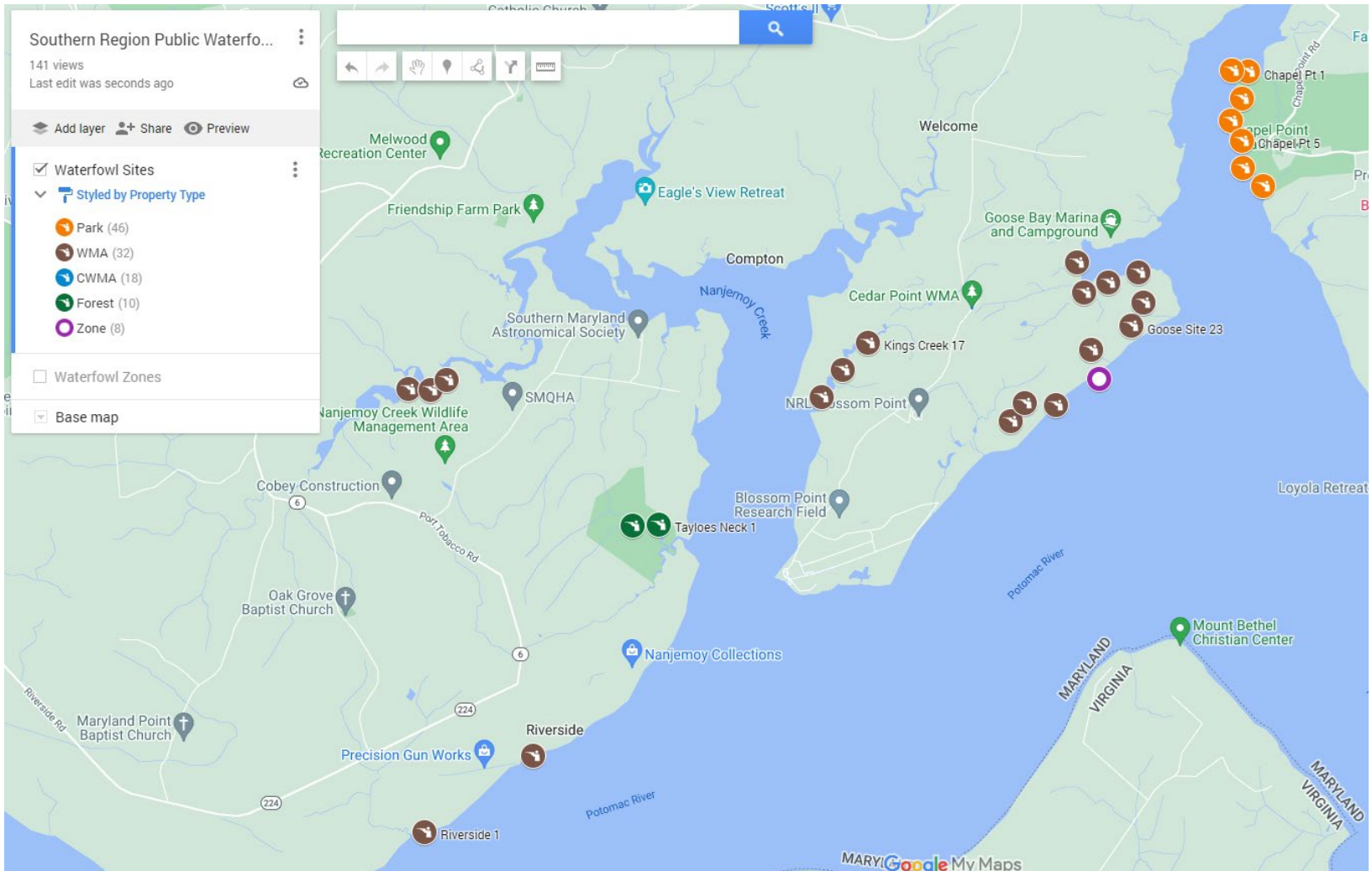
## Solution:

- RM and HM have been visiting every single site to get current status and update signage.
- Establishing an annual maintenance schedule.
- Developing a plan to utilize volunteer groups in harder-to-access areas.
- Improve communication with other agencies to ensure all sites are getting equal attention.
  - Park Service
  - Forest Service
  - NRP
  - Cooperative property owners
- Developing resources to share across agencies to help find, manage, and enforce hunting regulations at waterfowl sites.





# Updating Resources Google MyMaps





# Updating Resources Google MyMaps



The screenshot shows a Google MyMaps interface with a map in the background. A white info window is open over a map marker. The window has a close button (X) in the top right corner. The title of the window is "Kings Creek 17". Below the title is a list of property details. At the bottom of the window, there is a location pin icon, the coordinates "38.44017, -77.09521", and a row of five icons: a location pin, a pencil, a camera, a person, and a trash can. The map in the background shows a blue water body, a road, and several other map markers.

Kings Creek 17	
Property	Cedar Point WMA
Water Body	Kings Creek
Permit Required	Yes
Reservation Required	Yes
Seasons Open	All
Mon-Sat	Mon-Sat
Marker	Stake
Goose Zone	Resident
Duck Zone	East
GPS	38.4401754, -77.095215
Comments	No value
Property Type	WMA
Tidal	Yes
County	Charles

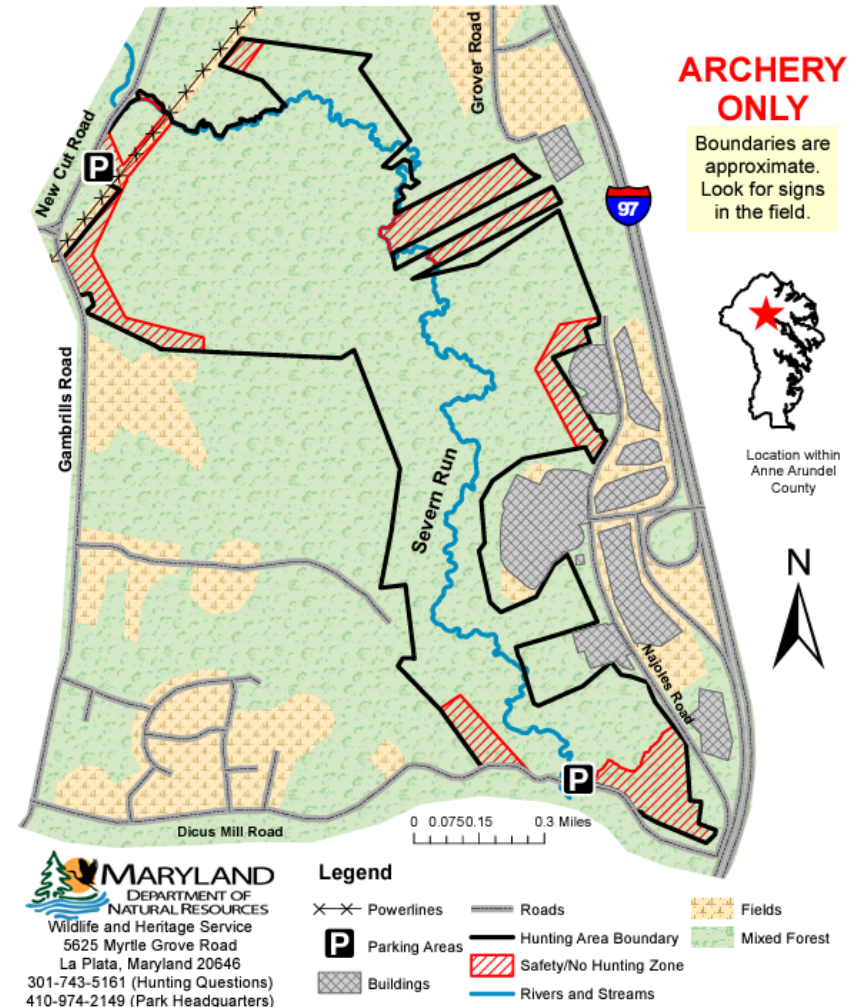
38.44017, -77.09521

# Resources - GeoPDFs

Holly Beach Farm Natural Resource Management Area  
Annapolis, Maryland (Anne Arundel County)



Severn Run Natural Environment Area  
Severn, Maryland (Anne Arundel County)



# Resources - Google Drive



SR Hunting Area Cheat Sheet ☆ 📄 📁

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	
1	Co	Property	Type	Ares	FFHP Required	Reservation?	Hunter Daily Limit	2024 One Code	Game Species Allowed	Dates/Seasons Open	Days of the Week	Hunting Devices Allowed	Trapping	Access and Easement Restrictions	Waterfowl Bites?	Waterfowl Allowed Outside of Bites?	Night Hunting Allowed?	Check-in Code	UDP or HFV Areas	Notes	Webpage	Map
2	PG	Aquasco Farm CWMA	Coop	150	Yes	Yes & Sign-in	12	-	Deer	All Deer	Mon-Sat	All Legal	No		No	No waterfowl	No	480	No	-	None	<a href="#">Aquasco Map</a>
3	PG	Belt Woods NEA	Park	458	Yes	During Muzz or Firearms Seasons	12	0819	Deer	All Deer	Mon-Sat	All Legal	No	Scouting permitted starting Aug 1st. Closed to general public.	No	No waterfowl	No	476	No	-	<a href="#">Belt Woods</a>	<a href="#">Belt Woods Map</a>
4	PG	Bilingsley CWMA (Pasture River Park)	Coop	400	Yes	Yes	8	-	Deer	All Deer	Mon-Fri, Sun-Half hr after sunset	Archery Only	No	Scouting by reservation. Opens 2wks before opening day.	No	No waterfowl	No	488	Yes	-	None	<a href="#">Bilingsley Map</a>
5	CA	Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm CWMA	Coop	175	Yes	Yes & Sign-in	8	-	Deer, Turkey	All Deer and Turkey	Mon-Sat, No Sat until Dec 1	All Legal	No	None - Open to general public.	No	No waterfowl	No	458	No	<a href="#">County Information Page</a>	None	<a href="#">Biscoe Gray Map</a>
6	PG	Bowen WMA	WMA	300	For waterfowl only	For waterfowl only	NA	-	Waterfowl and rails	All waterfowl and rail seasons	Mon-Sat	All Legal	By Lottery	None - Open to general public.	Yes	Yes	No, but open 24 hrs	NA	No	Boat access only	<a href="#">Bowen</a>	<a href="#">Bowen Map</a>
7	CA	Calvert Cliffs SP	Park	600	For waterfowl only	Sign-in*	25	-	All	Year Round	Mon-Sat	All Legal	No	None - Open to general public.	Yes	Waterfowl Zone Only	No	455	No	No hunting allowed from shore.	<a href="#">Calvert Cliffs</a>	<a href="#">Calvert Cliffs Map</a>
8	CH	Cedar Point WMA	WMA	1920	For waterfowl only	For waterfowl only	No	-	All	Year Round	Mon-Sat	All Legal	By Lottery	None - Open to general public.	Yes	Yes	Yes	399	HFV trail available	-	<a href="#">Cedar Point</a>	<a href="#">Cedar Point Map</a>
9	CH	Cedarville State Forest/State Park	Park	1600	No	Sign-in	70	-	All	Year Round	Mon-Sat	All Legal	By Lottery	None - Open to general public. Hunt access 1.5hrs before sunrise to 1.5hrs after sunset. Daily Use Fee.	No	Yes	No	406	HFV allowed on access road running North from Mistake Rd to parking lot on Cross Road. Hunter should reach out to park for a gate code at least 24 hrs prior to arrival. 4WD recommended after rain.	Day Use Charges Apply	<a href="#">Cedarville SF</a>	<a href="#">Cedarville Map</a>
10	CH	Chapel Point State Park	Park	550	No	Sign-in	45	-	All	Year Round	Mon-Sat	All Legal	No	None - Open to general public.	Yes	@Sites only	No	403	Yes	-	<a href="#">Chapel Point</a>	<a href="#">Chapel Point Map</a>
11	CH	Chapman State Park	Park	800	Yes	No	No	-	All	Year Round	Mon-Sat	All Legal	No	None - Open to general public.	Yes	Waterfowl Zone Only	No	397	Yes	No hunting allowed from shore.	<a href="#">Chapman</a>	<a href="#">Chapman Map</a>
12	PG	Cheltenham WMA	WMA	60	Yes	Yes	Deer - 4 Dove - 6	-	Deer, Dove	1st split of Dove, Deer from Friday after Labor Day through Primitive Season	Mon-Sat	Deer Archery Only, All Legal for Dove	No	None - Open to general public.	No	No waterfowl	No, but open 24 hrs	478	No	Free Archery Range	<a href="#">Cheltenham</a>	<a href="#">Cheltenham Map</a>
13	CH	Chicamuxen WMA	WMA	381	For waterfowl only	For waterfowl only	NA	-	All	Year Round	Mon-Sat	All Legal	By Lottery	None - Open to general public.	Yes	Yes	Yes	407	No	-	<a href="#">Chicamuxen</a>	<a href="#">Chicamuxen Map</a>
14	AA	Crowsville CWMA	Coop	550	Yes	Yes	12	-	Deer	Monday after Thanksgiving through Primitive Season	Mon-Sat	All Legal	No	None - Open to general public.	No	No waterfowl	No	428	No	Part of AA Co's Bacon Ridge Natural Area <a href="#">County Information Page</a>	None	<a href="#">Crowsville Map</a>
15	CH	Doncaster Demo Forest (Taylor Neck)	Forest	470	For waterfowl only	For waterfowl only	NA	-	All	Year Round	Mon-Sat	All Legal	By Lottery	None - Open to general public.	Yes	Yes	Yes	402	No	-	<a href="#">Doncaster</a>	<a href="#">Taylor Neck Map</a>
16	CH	Doncaster Demonstration Forest	Forest	1700	No	No	NA	-	All	Year Round	Mon-Sat	All Legal	By Lottery	None - Open to general public.	No	Yes	Yes	402	No	-	<a href="#">Doncaster</a>	<a href="#">Doncaster Map</a>
17	SM	Elms CWMA	Coop	545	Yes	Sign-in	25	-	All, except groundhog	All Deer and Turkey	Deer is Mon-Sat, Turkey Sat only	All Legal	No	None - Open to general public.	No	Yes		466	No	Elms property has a 85 acre section that allows bow hunting through a permit the county provides. <a href="#">More information here.</a>	None	<a href="#">Elms Map</a>
18	CA	Flag Ponds Park CWMA	Coop	100	Yes	Yes	5	-	Deer	Monday before Late Muzzloader Season through Primitive Season.	Mon-Sat	Archery Only	No	None - Open to general public.	No	No waterfowl	No	456	No	<a href="#">County Information Page</a>	None	<a href="#">Flag Ponds Map</a>
19	PG	Gardner Road Park CWMA	Coop	120	Yes	Yes & Sign-in	4	7050	Deer	All Deer	Mon-Sat	All Legal	No		No	No waterfowl	No	477	No	-	None	<a href="#">Gardner Road Map</a>
20	SM	Greenwell State Park	Park	187	No	Sign-in	8	-	All	Year Round	Mon-Sat	All Legal	No	None - Open to general public.	Yes	@Sites only	No	468	No	-	<a href="#">Greenwell</a>	<a href="#">Greenwell Map</a>
21	CA	Hall Creek NRNA	Park	275	For waterfowl only	Waterfowl needs reservation, all other is sign-in	25	-	All	Year Round	Mon-Sat	All Legal	By Lottery	None - Open to general public.	Yes	Yes		459	No	-	None	<a href="#">Hall Creek Map</a>
22	SM	Historic St. Mary's City CWMA	Coop	175	Yes	Yes	7	-	Deer	Dec 1 through Feb 3, Closed Christmas Day	Tues-Sat	All Legal	No		No	No waterfowl	No	468	No	No hunting from or shooting across trails. <a href="#">City Information Page</a>	None	<a href="#">Historic SM Map</a>
23	AA	Holy Beach Farm NRNA (Zone 1)	Park	61	Yes	Yes	3	6100	All with Archery, Except Turkey	September through February	Mon-Sat	Archery Only	No	Scouting allowed by reservation on Sundays, limit 5. No public access without a reservation.	Yes	@Sites only	No	609	No	NEW 2024-2025 Season. Whole property is 293 acres, including the road and closed areas.	<a href="#">Sandy Point</a>	<a href="#">Holy Beach Z1 Map</a>
24	AA	Holy Beach Farm NRNA (Zone 2)	Park	131	Yes	Yes	5*	6100	All Except Turkey	Deer and small game through the Jan 2-day firearms season. Then Zone 2 and 3 will be small game only for one group of up to 6 hunters through the end of February.	Mon-Sat	All Legal	No	Scouting allowed by reservation on Sundays, limit 5. No public access without a reservation.	Yes	@Sites only	No	609	No	NEW 2024-2025 Season. Whole property is 293 acres, including the road and closed areas.	<a href="#">Sandy Point</a>	<a href="#">Holy Beach Z2 Map</a>
25	AA	Holy Beach Farm NRNA (Zone 3)	Park	70	Yes	Yes	2*	6100	All Except Turkey	Deer and small game through the Jan 2-day firearms season. Then Zone 2 and 3 will be small game only for one group of up to 6 hunters through the end of February.	Mon-Sat	All Legal	No	Scouting allowed by reservation on Sundays, limit 5. No public access without a reservation.	Yes	@Sites only	No	609	No	NEW 2024-2025 Season. Whole property is 293 acres, including the road and closed areas.	<a href="#">Sandy Point</a>	<a href="#">Holy Beach Z3 Map</a>
26	CA	Hughes Tree Farm CWMA	Coop	170	Yes	Yes	6	1052	Deer, Turkey	All Deer and Turkey	Mon-Sat	All Legal	No	None - Open to general public.	No	No waterfowl	No	611	HFV trail available, one HFV hunter max at a time.	<a href="#">NEW 2024-2025 Season County Information Page</a>	None	<a href="#">Hughes Map</a>
27	CH	Indian Creek NRNA	Park	650	No	Sign-in	40	-	All	Year Round	Mon-Sat	All Legal	By Lottery	None - Open to general public.	Yes	Yes		406	No	-	None	<a href="#">Indian Creek Map</a>
28	CA	Kings Landing NRNA-Huntingdon Area	Park	960	For waterfowl only	Waterfowl needs reservation, all other is sign-in	40	-	All	Year Round	Mon-Sat	All Legal	By Lottery	None - Open to general public.	Yes	Yes		457	Yes?	-	None	<a href="#">Kings Landing Map</a>



# Resources - DNR Website



## Southern Region Public Hunting Lands

The Southern Region includes Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties.



## Southern Region Permit Links

- [Click here](#) to apply for the Free Public Hunting Permit
- [Click here](#) for instructions on how to get the Free Public Hunting Permit online
- [Click here](#) to log in to view your current public lands reservations in the Southern Region.

## Free Public Hunting Permit Regulation Packets

- [Public Hunting Program Regulation Packet](#)
- [Public Hunting Waterfowl Regulation Packet](#)
- Public Hunting Spring Turkey Regulation Packet - **Coming Soon**

## Southern Region Lotteries

- [October 1st Split Waterfowl Lottery - \(Oct 12, 2024\) - Lottery Results](#)
- [November 2nd Split Waterfowl Lottery - \(Nov 16, 2024\) - Lottery Results](#)
- [December 3rd Split Waterfowl Lottery - \(Dec 21, 2024\) - Due Nov 15, 2024](#)
- [Southern Region Public Lands Trapping Lottery - Due Oct 12, 2024](#)

## Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) Deer Hunt Application 2024-2025

[Click here to apply for the lottery](#)

### SERC Managed Hunt Information:

- A Shooter Qualification Card and verification that the hunter has complied with the Hunter Education and Safety Requirement are required to participate in this hunt.
- Hunters will be chosen by lottery. Only one application allowed per hunter. Group applications of up to three hunters will be accepted.
- **NEW!** Shotguns with slugs and straight-walled cartridge rifles are now allowed during Firearms Season hunts. Ammunition and rifle must meet all regulations set forth by MD DNR for Anne Arundel County in the Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping.
- Hunters are responsible for their own safety and the use of a tree harness is encouraged.
- The use of scopes is encouraged.
- The use of a portable tree stand is required.
- Accommodations will be made for hunters with a Universal Disability Pass that will allow them to hunt from a vehicle.
- Pre-hunt mandatory scout dates are Nov. 2nd and Nov. 3rd, 2024.
- **2024-2025 Lottery Hunt Dates:**
  - Application Deadline – October 7, 2024

## Wildlife Management Areas

- [Bowen WMA](#)
- [Cedar Point WMA](#)
- [Chellenham WMA](#)
- [Chicamuxen WMA](#)
- [Myrtle Grove WMA](#)
- [Nanjemoy WMA](#)
- [Ben Doane parcel of Nanjemoy WMA](#)
- [Nanjemoy Creek WMA](#)
- [Parker's Creek WMA](#)
- [Pages Creek WMA](#)
- [Riverside WMA](#)

## Cooperative Wildlife Management Areas

Cooperative Wildlife Management Areas (CWMAs), are properties not owned by the Department, but has an agreement with the landowner to manage the public access. Access may be restricted to certain times of the year so you should contact the appropriate department office to learn more about a CWMA you intend to visit.

- [Aquasco Farms CWMA](#)
- [Billingsley CWMA](#)
- [Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm CWMA](#)
- [Blossom Point CWMA - Closed to hunting, effective August 2023](#)
- [Crownsville CWMA](#)
- [Elms CWMA](#)
- [Flag Ponds Nature Park CWMA](#)
- [Gardner Road Park CWMA](#)
- [Historic St. Mary's City CWMA](#)
- [Hughes Tree Farm CWMA](#)
- [Marlboro Natural Area CWMA](#)
- [Myrtle Point Myrtle Point CWMA](#)
- [National Park Service Blind Site](#)
- [Queen Anne Bridge Road CWMA](#)

## Southern Region State Park Hunting Areas

- [Zekiah Swamp NEA \(Allens Fresh\)](#)
- [Belt Woods NEA](#)
- [Calvert Cliffs State Park](#)
- [Chapman State Park - Mt. Avenline](#)
- [Greenwell State Park](#)
- [Hall Creek NRDMA](#)
- [Holly Beach Farm NRDMA](#)
- [King's Landing NRDMA \(Huntingtown Area\)](#)
- [Indian Creek NRDMA](#)
- [Merkle NRDMA](#)
- [Milltown Landing NRDMA](#)
- [Newtowne Neck State Park](#)
- [Nottingham NRDMA](#)
- [Rosaryville State Park](#)
- [Sandy Point State Park - Waterfowl Sites](#)
- [Sandy Point State Park - Corcoran Hunting Area](#)
- [Severn Run NEA](#)
- [Spice Creek NRDMA](#)
- [St. Clement's Island State Park](#)
- [St. Mary's River State Park / St. Mary's Lake](#)

## Southern Region State Forest Hunting Areas

- [Salern State Forest](#)
- [St. Inigoes State Forest](#)
- [Doncaster Demonstration Forest - Taylores Neck Tract](#)

# SR Quail Initiative



Many partners involved in meetings concerning quail habitat in the SR.

WHS will be assisting Park Service with habitat management plans, starting with Chapel Point.



# RGS Trail Clearing Project 2024





# RGS Trail Clearing Project 2024





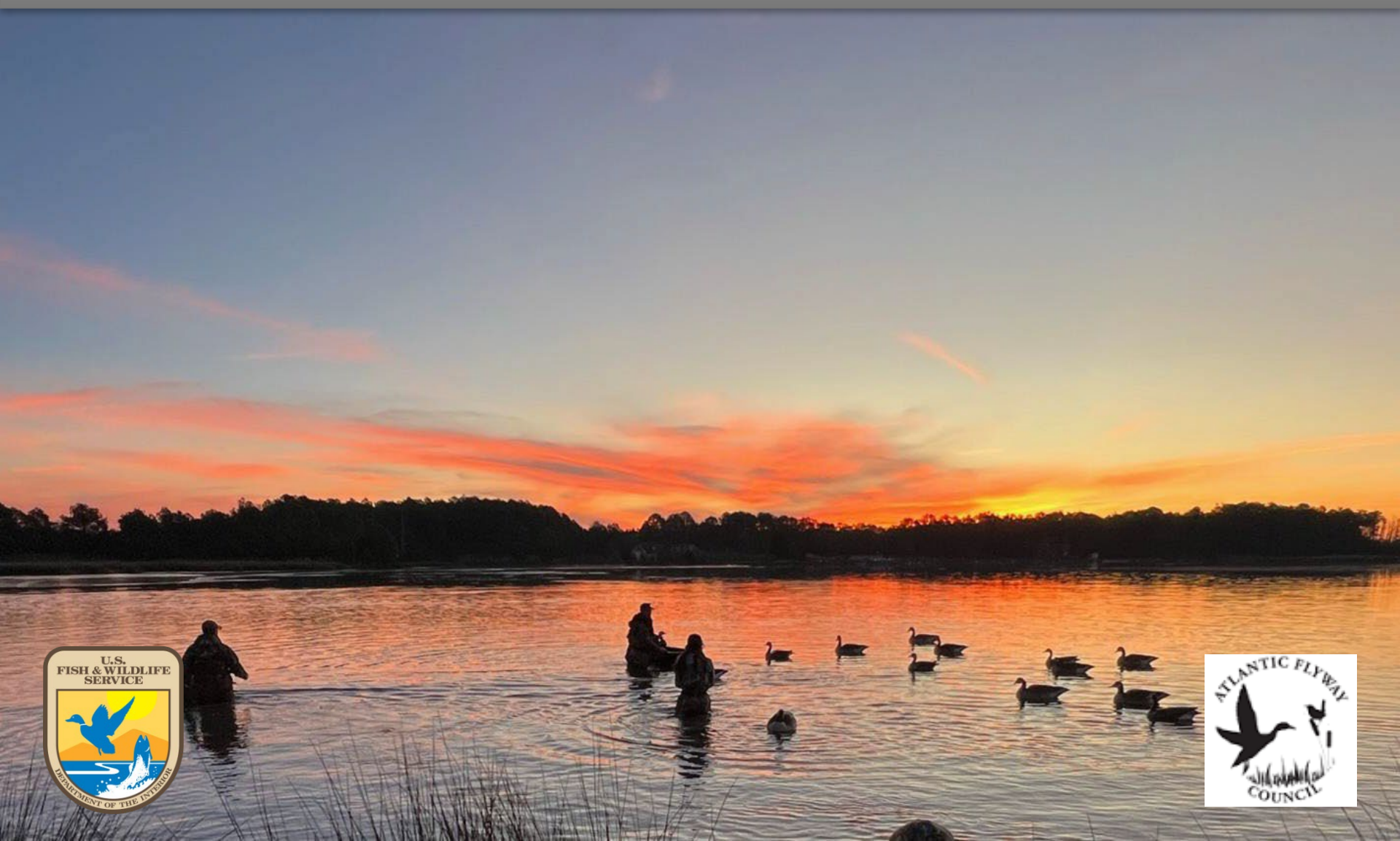
# Questions?





# 2024 Migratory Game Bird Status Update

ATTACHMENT B



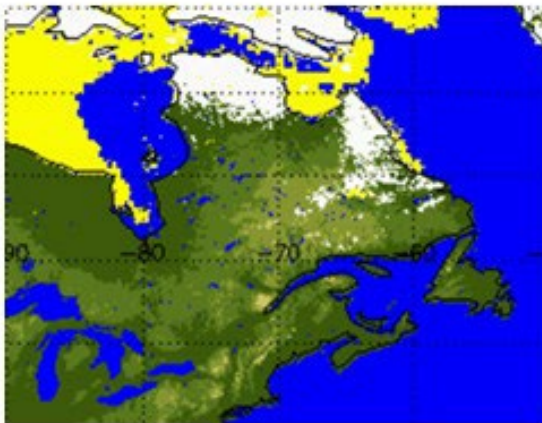
# Annual Regulatory Process for Migratory Game Birds



- **2024-2025 seasons were “set” in April, 2024 after extensive public review that began in October 2023.**
- **2025-2026 seasons**
  - **Atlantic Flyway Council, September 9-13, 2024.**
  - **FWS Regulations Committee, October 2024.**
  - **Proposed federal frameworks, early 2025.**
  - **MGBAC early January, WAC reviews late January.**
  - **Maryland public meeting and comment period (mid February).**
  - **WAC vote late March with final season selection due to FWS, April 2025.**

# 2024 Habitat Conditions

- Surveys and annual pre-season waterfowl banding efforts were conducted normally.
- Snow and ice cover maps from satellite photography.



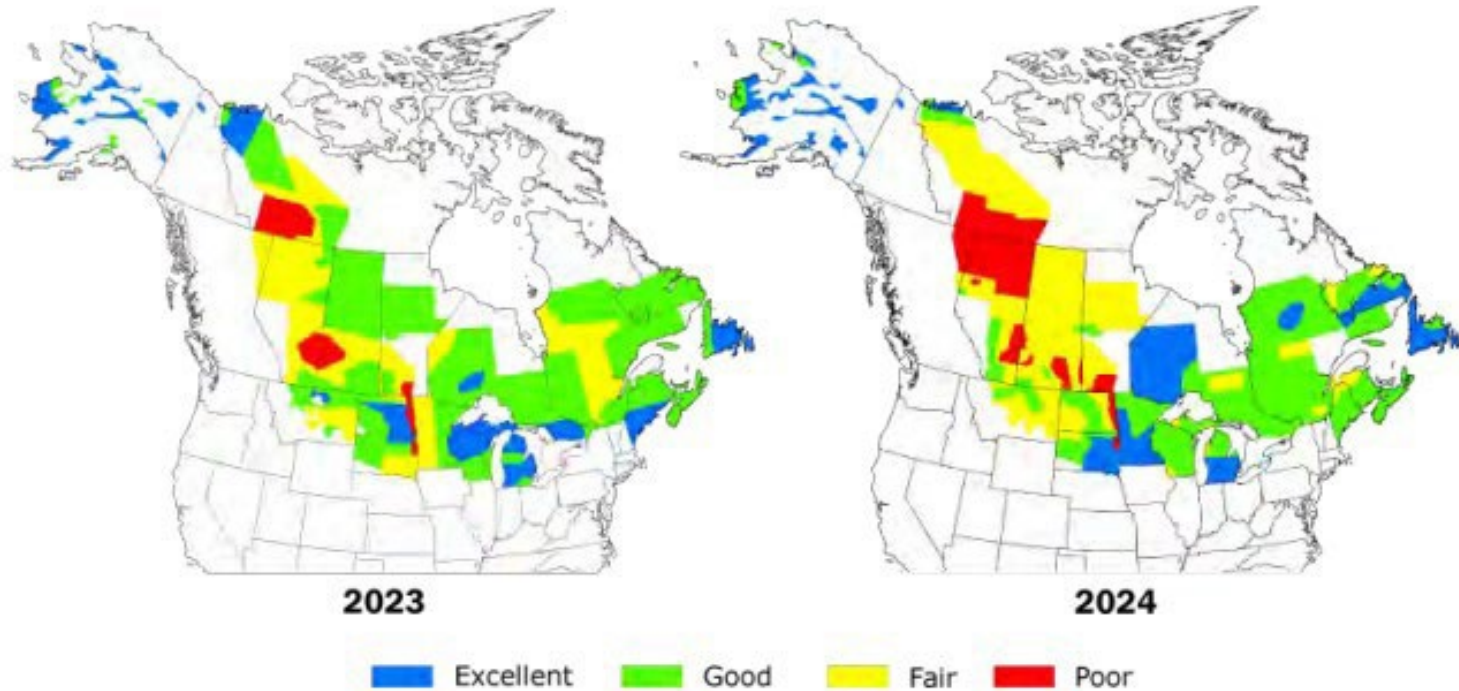
A) Snow cover map from May 31, 2024



B) Snow cover map from May 31, 2023

Figure 2. Snow depth and ice cover maps for northern Quebec from the last week of May in 2024 (A) and 2023 (B) The color yellow depicts sea ice cover and color white snow cover.

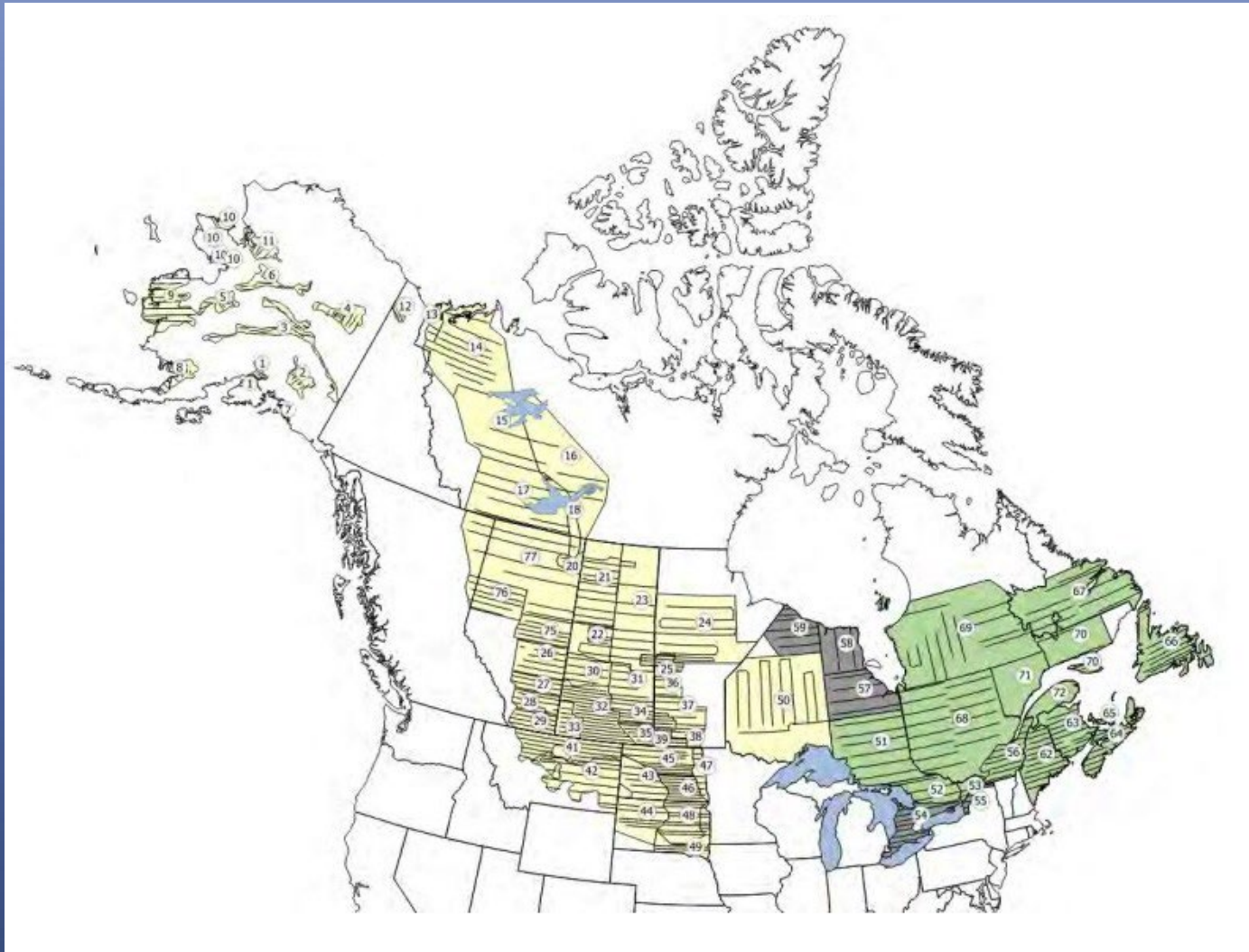
# Breeding Population and Habitat Survey (PHAB)



**Figure 2.** Breeding waterfowl habitat conditions during the 2023 and 2024 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Surveys, as judged by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service biologists.



# Survey Area: Traditional (tan) and Eastern (green)



# Traditional Survey Area Population Estimates



Species	2024	2023	% Change from 2023	% Change from LTA
<b>Mallard</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>similar</b>	<b>-16%</b>
<b>Gadwall</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>similar</b>	<b>similar</b>
<b>American wigeon</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>+55%</b>	<b>similar</b>
<b>Green-winged teal</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>+20%</b>	<b>+38</b>
<b>Blue-winged teal</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>similar</b>	<b>similar</b>
<b>Northern shoveler</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>Similar</b>	<b>similar</b>
<b>Northern pintail</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>similar</b>	<b>-49%</b>
<b>Redhead</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>similar</b>	<b>similar</b>
<b>Canvasback</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>similar</b>	<b>similar</b>
<b>Scaup</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>similar</b>	<b>-17%</b>



# Eastern Survey Area Population Estimates



## 2024 Breeding Ducks in the Eastern Survey Area (millions)

Species	2024	2023	% Change from 2023	% Change from LTA
Mallard	1.17	1.22	similar	-9%
Black Duck	0.86	0.74	similar	+23%*
Wood Duck**	0.9	0.97	Similar	similar
Green-winged Teal	0.47	0.38	+20%	+29%
Ring-necked Duck	0.73	0.66	Similar	similar
Common Goldeneye	1.2	0.84	+42%	+76%

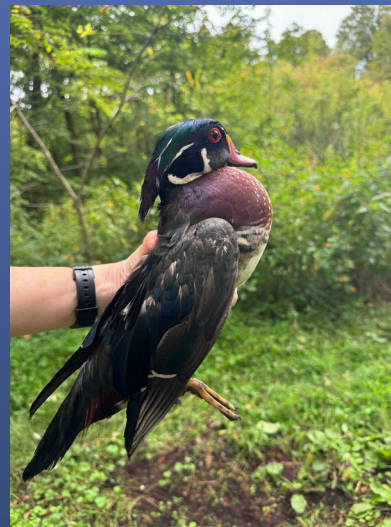
\* Average from 1998-2023

\*\* Wood Duck estimate from AFBWS and BBS

# Multi-Stock Harvest Management



- Models 4 species representing birds important to hunters/harvest and different habitat types in the Atlantic Flyway, used to determine the general duck season.
- Replaced Eastern Mallard AHM in 2018
- Optimal choice for the 2025-26 Atlantic Flyway duck season is the liberal regulatory alternative (60 days/6 birds).



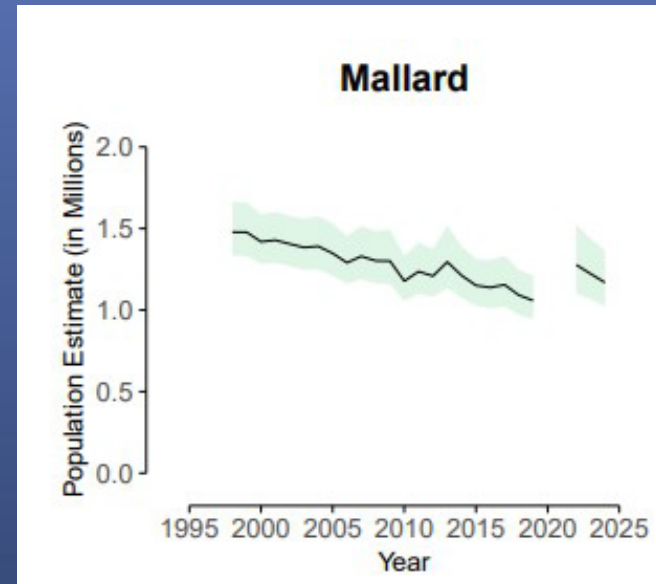




# Eastern Mallards



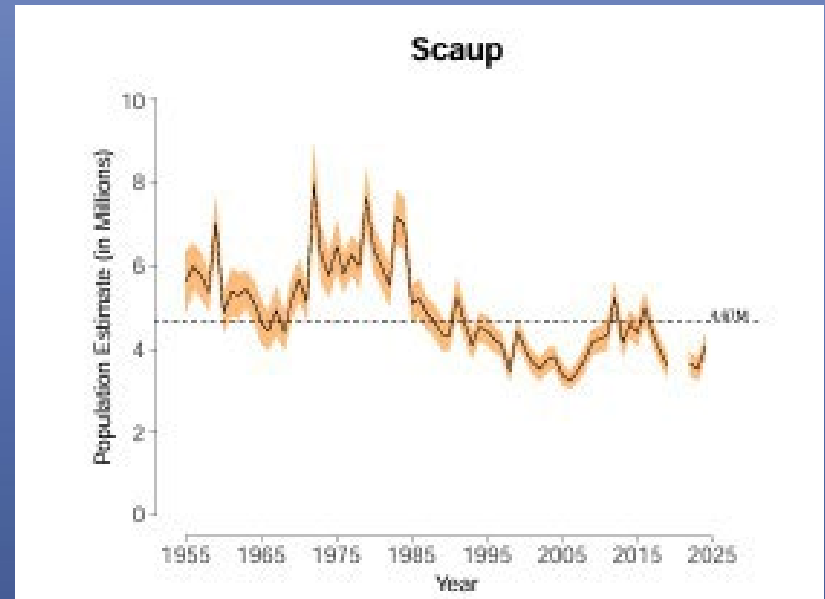
- Integrated Population Model, independent of Multi-stock AHM.
- Liberal: 4/day (2 Hens)    Moderate: 2/day (1 hen)    Restrictive: 1/day  
Closed
- Harvest strategy recommends a liberal framework in 2025-26 (60/4 with 2 hens).



# Scaup Season



- Restrictive “hybrid” season for 2025-26
- 40 days (1 bird/day) and 20 consecutive days (2 birds/day)
- States choose where to place 20 days of 2 birds/day but must be consecutive



# Interim Pintail Harvest Strategy



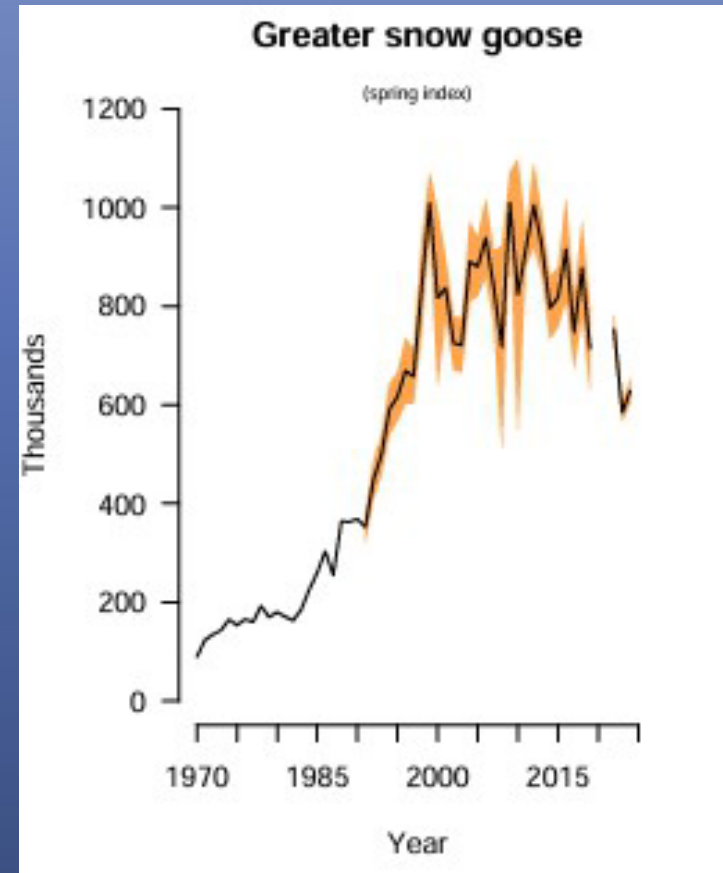
- Harvest strategy last updated in 2010
- Updates: Advanced Population Model, additional 10 yrs data, new 3 – bird bag option
- Atlantic Flyway: 3 – bird bag unless season is closed
- <https://www.fws.gov/story/2024-06/new-strategy-inform-northern-pintail-hunting-regulations>
- 2025-2026 season recommendation: 3 bird daily bag



# Snow Geese



- 2024 spring index 628,000.
- +7% from 2023.
- 24% juvenile to adult ratio in 2024.  
(LTA 21%, 15% in 2023)





# Atlantic Population (AP) Canada Geese





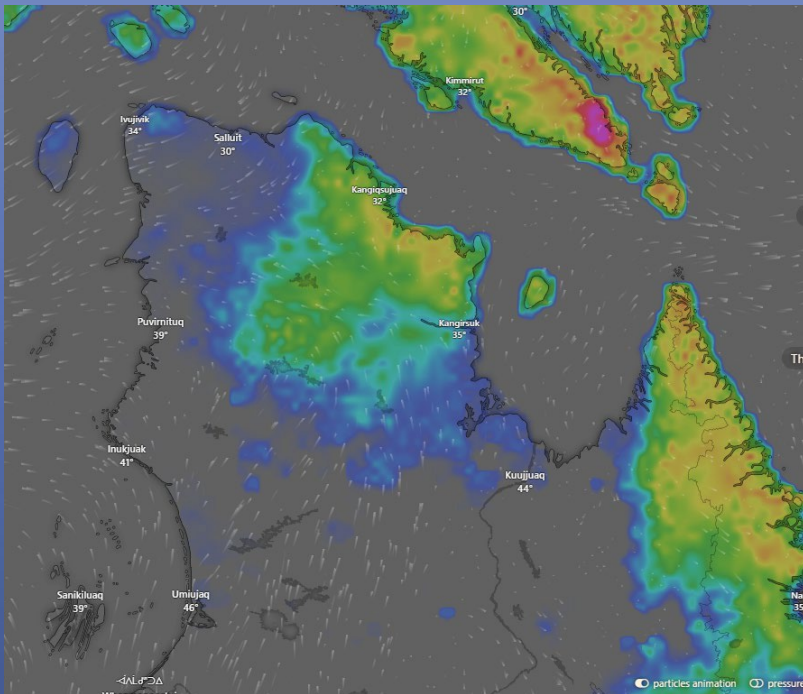
# 2024 AP Monitoring



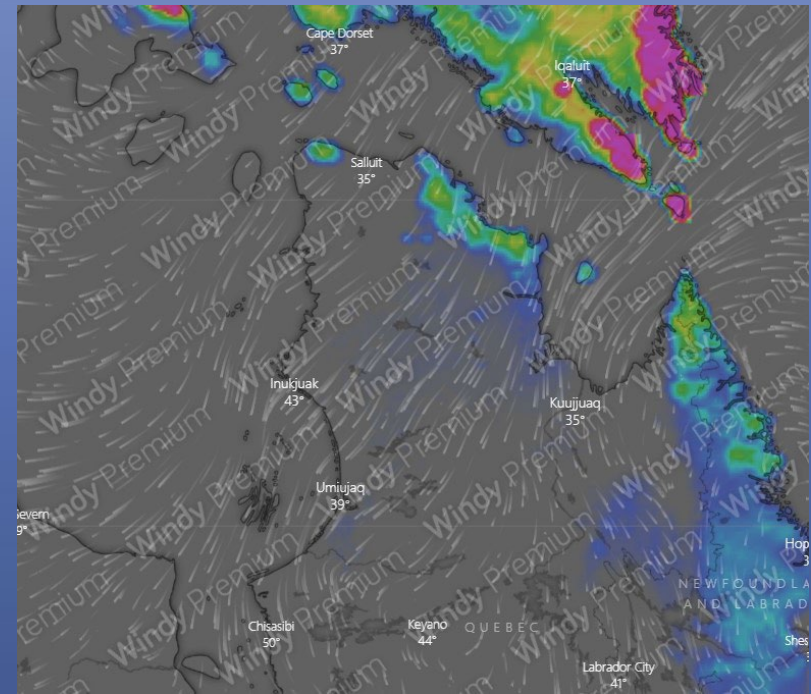
- **Breeding Pair Survey** conducted normally in mid-June.
- **Pre-season Banding**
  - Conducted in 2024 (3,469 birds banded).
  - 500 GPS/GSM solar powered neck collars deployed over last 3 yrs.
  - 2024 young to adult ratio was 0.89 and lower than the LTA (1.28).



# Ungava Snow and Ice Conditions

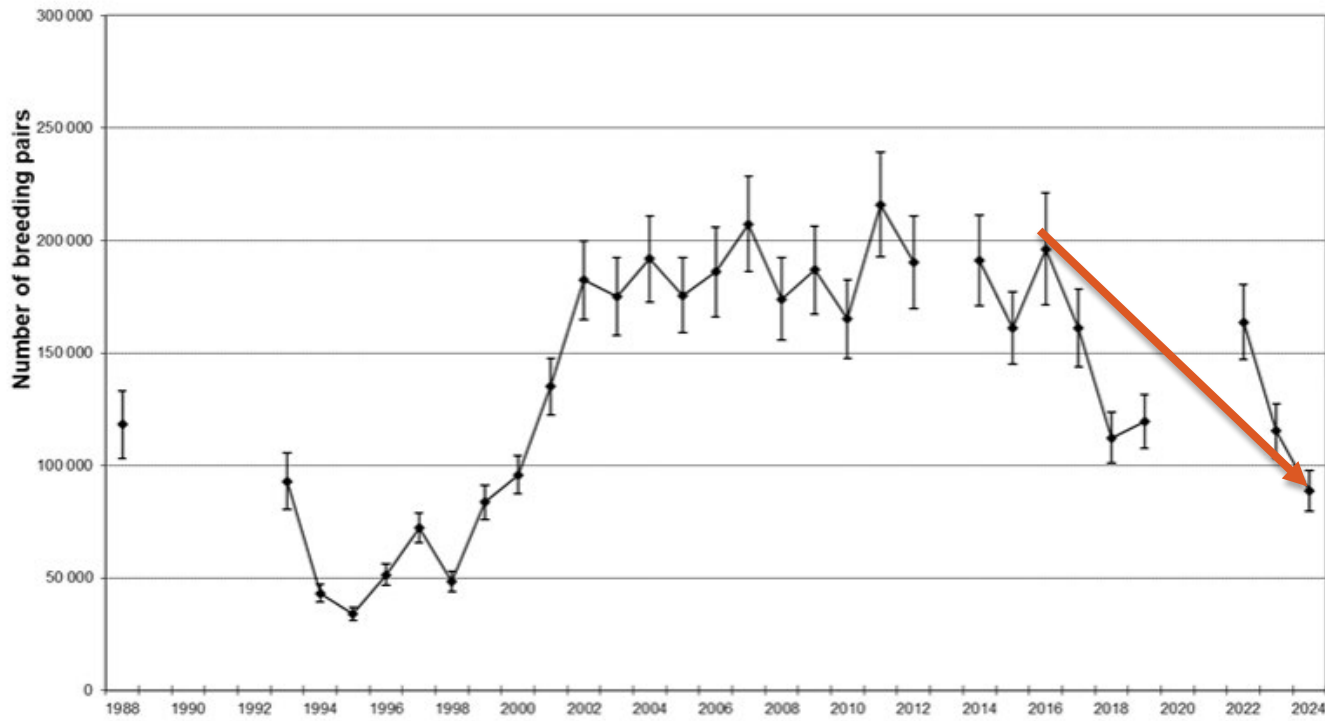


May 31, 2024

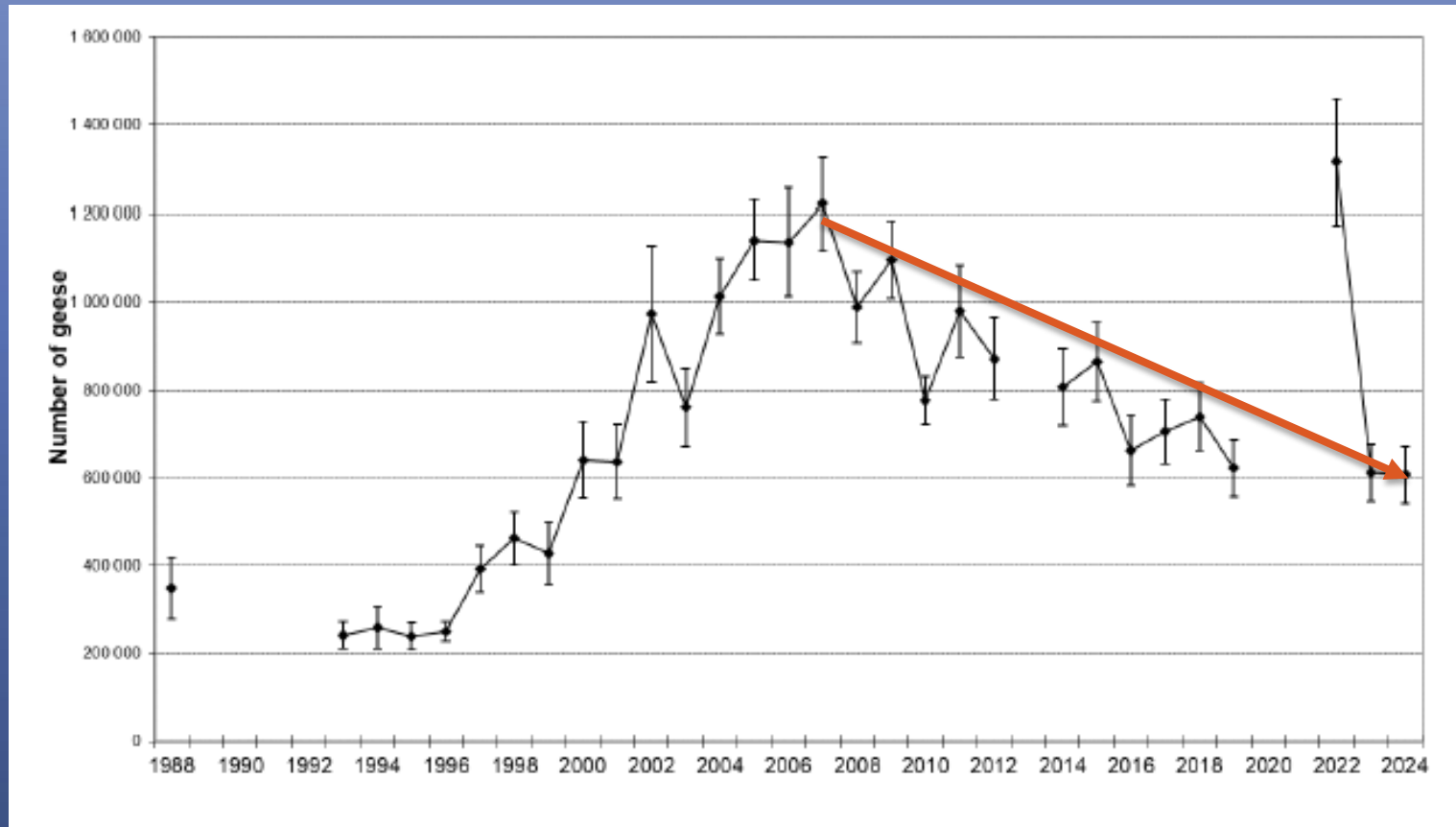


May 31, 2023

# AP Breeding Pairs



# Total Number of AP Canada Geese



# Recent Changes in AP CAGO Management Strategies



- The 3 year running average of the pair estimate, formerly used to determine the hunt package, was replaced by an Integrated Population Model (IPM) in 2021.
- The IPM makes better use of all the available demographic data on AP Canada geese and is capable of making out-year (i.e. advance) predictions of the number of breeding pairs.
- Use of the out-year prediction allows for a quicker response to population change under the current regulatory system.
- Revised AP Canada Goose Harvest Strategy is more conservative in all packages and requires a bag limit of 1 per day in all U.S. AP hunt zones when the restrictive package is recommended.



# Atlantic Population Canada Goose Pair Estimates



- AP CAGO Breeding Pair Data
  - 2024 – 89,000 pairs
  - 2023 - 115,000 pairs
  - 2022 - 164,000 pairs
  - 2021 - No survey
  - 2020 - No Survey
  - 2019 - 120,000 pairs
  - 2018 - 112,000 pairs
- 2021: AFC recommended a restrictive season for 2022-2023 although the harvest plan called for a moderate (30 day/2 bird per day) package. This is an important note because it was a more conservative approach than the harvest strategy called for
- 2022: AFC recommended the liberal package (45 days/ 2 bird per day) for 2023-24.
- 2023 AFC recommended a moderate package (30 days/ 2 bird per day) for 2024-25 season.

# Atlantic Population Canada Goose Harvest Strategy



- AP Canada goose IPM predicts 133,500 (95% CI = 93,000–187,500) breeding pairs for June 2025, however, AFC recommended restrictive package

Population Thresholds (Breeding Pairs)	Harvest Package	Target Adult Harvest Rate	Packages for Chesapeake Region AP Areas	Packages for Mid-Atlantic and New England Region AP Areas
> 160,000	Liberal	7%	45 days and 2 geese/day	45 days and 3 geese/day
≤ 160,00 and > 125,000	Moderate	5%	30 days and 2 geese/day	30 days and 3 geese/day
≤ 125,000 and ≥ 60,000	Restrictive	3%	30 days and 1 goose/day	30 days and 1 goose/day
< 60,000	Closed	0%	Closed	Closed

# Atlantic Population Canada Goose Harvest Strategy



Why did the AFC recommend the restrictive package?

The harvest strategy directs the AFC to consider the IPM out-year prediction and other pertinent population metrics when making a decision.

- IPM 2025 Breeding Pair Prediction 133,500.
- 2024 Breeding Pair Estimate 89,000.
- 10 year trend of breed pair estimate is negative.
- 2024 Total Population Estimate 606,600.
- 2024 Young : Adult Ratio 0.89 (LTA 1.28).




# Additional Updates



# Offshore Blind Site Licensing



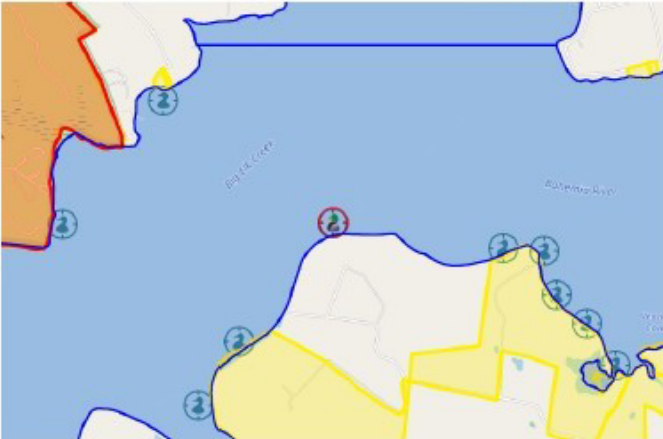
- Fifth year for the Departments web based OBSL system that utilizes a GIS based system coupled with virtual meetings
- Improvements have been made each year to the technology and overall process
- 1,993 licenses have been issued in 2024 (2,152 total in 2023). 1,010 through the lottery, 983 during post lottery appointments

 **Offshore Blind Site License**

DNRid:	279287	Blind Site Permit:	08 - 7500
Name:	JOSHUA DAVID HOMYACK	County:	Cecil County
Date:	09/23/2022 8:37 AM	Latitude:	39.47564493
Transaction:	L0200D227923324	Longitude:	-75.94490837
		Expires:	06/30/2023

Licensee Certification: I certify under penalty of perjury that I am a resident of Maryland and that the information given is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

X \_\_\_\_\_



Conditions: 1) This license is governed by and subject to the provisions of the Natural Resources Article, Title 10 (Wildlife), Subtitle 8 (Wild Waterfowl); 2) the attached map details the location of a licensed offshore blind; 3) offshore waterfowl hunting is allowed only at the coordinates indicated above and on the attached map; 4) offshore blinds may not be less than 150 yards from any dwelling house without the written permission of the owner of the house; 5) stationary blinds (i.e., permanent offshore structures) may not be erected; 6) offshore blind sites shall be marked by a stake or buoy showing the licensee's name and DNRid number, each stake shall be marked on all sides with reflective material at least 4 inches wide and located at least 3 feet above the high water mark and all stakes and buoys shall be removed within 30 days after the last wild waterfowl season closes; 7) all offshore blinds must be at least 250 yards apart; 8) all offshore blinds shall be located within 300 yards of the shoreline or one-third the distance to the opposite shore, whichever is less, except in the Chesapeake Bay of Anne Arundel and Calvert Counties, and Prospect Bay in Queen Anne's County, where the maximum distance from shore is 600 yards; 9) a hunter or group of hunters hunting at a licensed blind site shall possess at least one copy of the license issued by DNR for the site.

# Wellington WMA, Somerset Co.



**Construction completed in 2024  
40 acres of impoundments/restoration.**

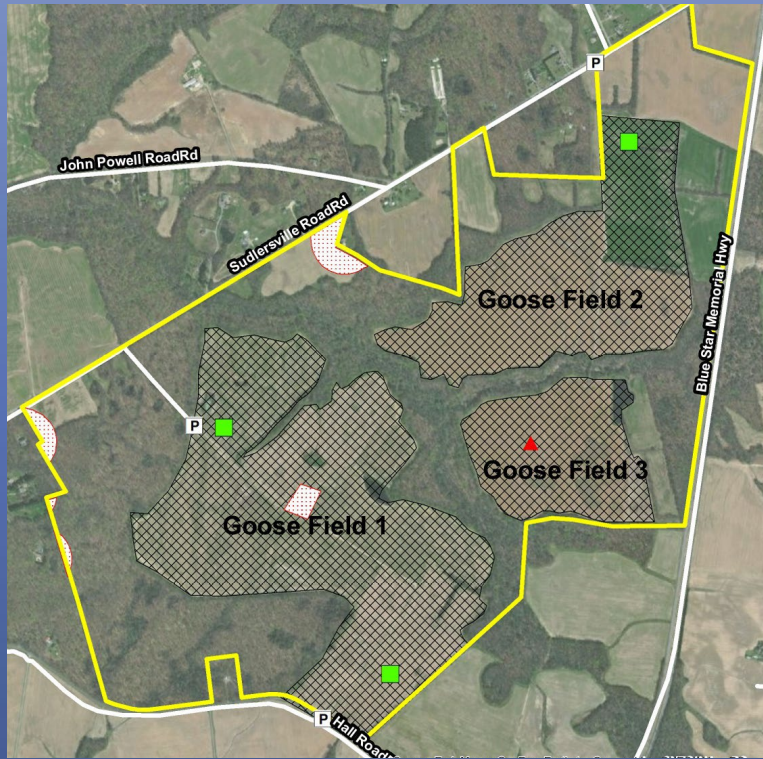


# Wellington WMA, Somerset Co.





# Browns Branch WMA, Queen Annes County



- 16 acres wetland restoration planned for construction 2025 - 2026.
- Drain tile plugging initiated summer 2024



# Browns Branch WMA, Queen Annes County





# Browns Branch WMA, Queen Annes County



Right after plugging



# Browns Branch WMA, Queen Annes County



**3 weeks later**

# Browns Branch WMA, Queen Annes County





Questions?

