

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 20, 2019

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 10:28 a.m.

**Approval for the November 20, 2019 Meeting Agenda**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to accept the November 20, 2019 Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
  2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval for Minutes from October 16, 2019 Meeting**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to accept the October 16, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.
  2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Landowner Wildlife Damage Control Permit** – Presentation was given by Associate Director Glenn Therres.

- Associate Director Therres asked the Commission for endorsement to a small but important regulation change to the Landowner Wildlife Damage Control Permit.
- Associate Director Therres handed out a copy of the changes to COMAR 08.03.15.03 Landowner Wildlife Damager Control Permit. [ATTACHMENT A]
- Associate Director Therres gave the Commission a brief history of what the Department use to do and what was being proposed.
- A landowner that has wildlife problems other than deer and crop damage; such as a raccoon in the attic or a raccoon tearing up a chicken coop or a squirrel tearing up a bird feeder, etc., and the landowner wants to control the problem, the landowner must obtain a permit from the Department. The landowner permit is issued on the Department's behalf through U.S. Department Agriculture (USDA), Wildlife Services (the agency that manages the toll-free Nuisance, Sick, and Injured Wildlife Information Line).
- The current regulations indicate any wildlife species other than the species that are exempt need to have wildlife damage control permit in order for a landowner to take care of a wildlife problem.
- For mammals, USDA issues the permit on the Department's behalf. However, for migratory birds, the individual would need a permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to take care of a problem such as a woodpecker, geese on a golf course, and birds on an airport. Historically, USFWS would have the Maryland co-sign their depredation permit, which also acted as the State permit under Maryland's regulations, instead of two permits being issued, one by Maryland and one by USFWS for a landowner to take care of migratory bird issue. Maryland would co-sign that depredation permit and the landowner would get the depredation permit to execute what the permit allows.
- USFWS is discontinuing the state co-signatures on depredation permits so the Department will either have to issue a Maryland permit or revise Maryland's regulation to allow the federal permit to serve as a permit to authorize an individual in Maryland to take care of the problem.
- Staff will continue to provide advice prior to the federal permit being issued but the Department will not be signing the federal permit.
- The only change is that the Department will not be signing the federal permit. The Department has to officially recognize the federal permit for the landowner to use under Maryland's regulatory.

- Related to [ATTACHMENT A] the language in red is the proposed change in regulations.
- Q & A Section:
  1. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked what the intent is.
    - a. The intent is instead of an individual having to get two permits (one being signed by USFWS and one signed by the Department), the regulation will allow Maryland to recognize the federal permit for controlling the problem bird in Maryland.
  2. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked where it explains that these permits are reviewed by the state.
    - a. It does not but the way USDA does the application process for USFWS, it has that as part of the process.
    - b. USDA is one of our contractors and they are required to ensure that Maryland's laws, regulations, and policies are followed in the permit process.
  3. Commissioner Michael asked how many permits are issued.
    - a. There are around 30 to 50 permits issued a year and most of those are airports. Most airports have a depredation permit not to extend the amount outlined on the permit per species.
    - b. The other common permit is for resident Canada geese for golf courses.
    - c. A small number of permits are for a woodpecker damaging the side of an individual house.
  4. Commissioner Compton asked if the federal depredation permit is for birds and not mammals.
    - a. That is correct...the federal depredation permit is for migratory birds. To manage squirrels and other mammals, landowners will still contact USDA Wildlife Information line that has been in place for at least 15 years...no changes to that process.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Michael moved to support the change to 08.03.15.03 Landowner Wildlife Damage Control Permit.
  2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
  3. Motion passed with 1-abstain.

**Conservationist of the Year Award Presentation** – Presentation given by Director Peditto and Eastern Region Habitat Manager Greg Schenck.

- Director Peditto mentioned that many of our staff started their careers working with private landowners. In fact, what staff members do, cannot happen without the cooperation of landowners like Mr. Thomas DiGregorio.
- Many probably know that 75% of Maryland's deer are taken off of private lands. For those of you that have been around for a couple of decades, the original turkey populations did not come off of big public spaces, turkey populations came from private landowners like the award recipient, Mr. DiGregorio. Mr. DiGregorio allowed staff to trap and relocate wild turkeys to other lands.
- It is a true blessing to have a landowner who is as cooperative and willing to work with the Department.
- All the Commission members received a copy of Mr. DiGregorio's excellent nomination letter [ATTACHMENT B] penned by Habitat Biologist Greg Schenck and Eastern Region Area Manager Jacob Peregrim.
- Habitat Biologist Greg Schenck expressed that Mr. DiGregorio was one of the first landowners who Mr. Schenck had the opportunity to work with -- their professional relationship started in 1996 and continues on today.
- Mr. DiGregorio keeps informed with habitat management to better wildlife. Mr. DiGregorio participated in the relocation of the Delmarva Fox Squirrel.

- Director Peditto presented Mr. DiGregorio with the 2018 Maryland Conservationist of the Year Award. The Commission and staff congratulated Mr. DiGregorio as the 2018 Maryland Conservationist of the Year Award recipient.

**WHS Game Program Update** – Presentation given by Associate Director Karina Stonesifer and Staff

- The Game Program will be hiring a Furbearer Biologist. Staff were able to conduct interviews and the Game Program is hoping to announce the Furbearer Biologist after the first of the year.
- Associate Director Stonesifer gave kudos to Game Mammal Section Leader Harry Spiker for being the Furbearer Biologist, Black Bear Biologist, and the Game Mammal Section Leader. The person selected will have a dual role as the Furbearer Biologist along with helping out with wildlife response.
- Staff provided an overview of concepts that will be presented at the internal staff meeting on December 18.
- During the Maryland 2018-2019 hunting seasons, Pennsylvania residents spent \$1,151,550 in hunting license fees.
- The external stakeholders meeting is scheduled to be held on January 14, 2020 at the NRP Gwynnbrook Office.
- Commission members discussed the concepts with the staff. The concepts will be released to the public at the stakeholders meeting in January.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update – No Report.**

**Natural Resources Police Update** – Presentation given by Lieutenant Charles Fawley

- Natural Resources Police has been busy for a couple of months on wildlife-related items.
- There were six bear baiting cases made in Frederick and Washington Counties.
- There were several closed deer season cases also made along with jack lighting.
- There were three officers who graduated from the non-traditional academy that occurred at the WOR-WIC Community College.
- Discussion ensued about restitution and a case in Prince George's county related to a high scoring buck taken under a Deer Management Permit.

**Old Business – No Old Business.**

**New Business –**

- Commissioner Michael was invited to attend the kick-off of the Maryland Wildlife Crimestoppers after the adjournment of the November 20, 2019 WAC meeting. Commissioner Michael will be reporting back to the Commission information related to the Maryland Wildlife Crimestoppers.
- Commissioner Michael heard or read something that in the Deer Management Plan, there were 16% of Maryland residents hunted deer during some time period of their lifetime and of that group 50% had hunted deer in the last two years that means that 8% of Maryland's population is hunting deer.
  1. We don't know how many people considered themselves as hunters that don't get a license.

**Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 P.M.  
The next meeting will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

**Attendance**

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, , J. Michael, J. Schroyer, and C. Wagner
Absent:	S. Keithley and R. Weinberg
Guest:	T. DiGregorio, L. Fontaine, and R. Kindler
Staff:	B. Eyer, C. Fawley, B. Harvey T. Larney, P. Peditto, J. Peregrim, G. Schenck, T. Spencer, K. Stonesifer, H. Spiker, and G. Therres

UNOFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

COMAR 08.03.15.03

### **.03 Landowner Wildlife Damage Control Permit.**

A. Except as provided in §B of this regulation, a landowner who wishes to control wildlife on the landowner's property may do so only after obtaining a landowner wildlife damage control permit from USDA *or a federal depredation permit for migratory birds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

B. A landowner wildlife damage control permit is not required for a landowner or the landowner's agent to control:

- (1) Game mammals or birds during legal hunting seasons with legal devices;
- (2) Deer under the authority of a deer management permit as described in COMAR 08.03.04.02;
- (3) Canada geese under the authority of COMAR 08.03.07.10;
- (4) Blackbirds and crows under the authority of COMAR 08.03.05.05;
- (5) Any of the following unprotected species:
  - (a) Nutria;
  - (b) Woodchuck;
  - (c) Feral pigeon;
  - (d) European starling; or
  - (e) House sparrow; or
- (6) Any of the following species or species groups when causing damage or destroying the personal or real property of the landowner:
  - (a) Mouse;
  - (b) Mole;
  - (c) Rat; or
  - (d) Vole.

C. To obtain a landowner wildlife damage control permit, a person shall apply by telephone to USDA in Annapolis, Maryland, at 410-349-8055 or 1-877-463-6497.

#### **D. Permit Issuance.**

- (1) USDA shall evaluate the problem and determine if a control permit is appropriate to help resolve the problem.
- (2) Based on its evaluation, USDA may issue a permit to the landowner to control the wildlife.

E. Terms and Conditions. The permit shall specify:

- (1) The species of wildlife to be controlled;
- (2) The acceptable procedures for controlling the wildlife;
- (3) The disposition of the wildlife; and
- (4) The effective dates of the permit.

F. Foothold traps are legal if specifically allowed on the permit.

G. Duration.

- (1) Landowner permits expire after 2 months.
- (2) If the wildlife problem continues after the permit has expired, USDA may extend the permit for an additional period of 2 months.



*Larry Hogan, Governor*  
*Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor*  
*Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary*

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August 28, 2019

The following submission is for the nomination of Thomas DiGregorio for the 2019 Maryland Conservationist of the Year Award.

Thomas DiGregorio, was born 1938 and is a lifelong Maryland native. He grew his outdoor roots from an early age while being raised up on his family property in White Marsh. It was here Tom began hunting, fishing, and trapping with his father and brothers from a young age, and through his middle age years. At the age of fifty, Tom and his wife Marcella purchased 418 acres on Steele Neck Road in Vienna, Maryland for farming, hunting, and to carry out his conservation goals.

In 1995, Tom sought out assistance at his local wildlife field office, LeCompte WMA, for help developing several management prescriptions for improving quail, turkey, and rabbit habitat. Tom enrolled over thirty acres of croplands into CREP, with a mix of warm season grasses and pollinator plots, serving as buffers between fields, wetland areas, and field edges. Through the years, Tom has tirelessly continued to expand his conservation ideals and habitat management goals on his property. Various prescriptions that he has carried out have included: timber stand improvement, tree plantings of pine, hardwoods and shrubs, aerial applications to manage woody stem succession on forest edges, prescribed burns through warm season grasses, installation and maintenance of wood duck boxes and purple martin nesting boxes, predator trapping, and planting various food plots. These efforts go above and beyond the normal efforts of any landowner to improve their property for the success of wildlife. While using the professional resources of his local wildlife office, Tom has ensured that the relationship goes both ways.

Beginning in 1996, Tom has given back to the DNR whenever he can; starting with granting access to wildlife staff to trap and relocate wild turkeys from a large flock that frequented his woods and fields. In addition, Tom has allowed for staff to trap and band mourning doves, ducks, and geese on his property for years. Tom also regularly participates in the annual wild turkey observation survey, and is an active member of the Maryland Fur Trapping Association and Ducks Unlimited.

Greg Schenck, habitat biologist at LeCompte WMA has been working with Tom professionally since 1996. "He is always interested in projects that we do on our WMA's. His daily routine includes walking or riding around the farm and keeping daily records of the weather and any wildlife that he viewed" said Schenck. At 81 years old, Tom continues to hunt, fish, and trap on his property and in the waterways of Dorchester County with his son and grandson. Although some of those mornings are sitting in the tree stand for no other reason than the joy of seeing what comes trotting by.

Tom DiGregorio's dedication to the ideals of conservation and habitat management for the betterment of wildlife is apparent to all that meet him. For this continuous perseverance of conservation and a deep appreciation for the hard work and passion needed to produce the results he has, the following individuals formally nominate Tom DiGregorio for the 2019 Maryland Conservationist of the Year award. Thank you.

Nominators: Greg Schenck – Habitat Biologist, LeCompte WMA  
Jacob Peregrim – Area Manager, LeCompte WMA

# PROPOSED MARYLAND MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR THE 2019-20 HUNTING YEAR

## SPECIAL EARLY RESIDENT POPULATION CANADA GEESE

***Federal framework:*** A 15-day special season may be held between September 1 – 15 in the Eastern zone and a 25-day season between September 1 - 25 in the Western zone.

### Proposed Season Dates

Eastern Zone	Sep. 2 - Sept 14
Western Zone	Sep. 2 - Sept 25

Daily Bag Limit: 8 in both zones. Possession limit is 3 times the daily limit.

Eastern Hunt Zone: Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of 301 to the Virginia line.

Western Hunt Zone: Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery and Washington Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County west of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County west of 301 to the Virginia line.

Shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells may be used. Shooting hours in both zones are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

## SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

***Federal framework:*** States may select a 16 day season to be held between September 1 and 30. Teal season may not run concurrently with other seasons (resident Canada goose) that allow special considerations such as modified shooting hours or unplugged guns.

Proposed Season Dates      Sep. 16– Sep. 30

Daily Bag Limit: 6 blue-winged or green-winged teal, singly or in aggregate. The possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

September Teal Hunt Zone: Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of 301 to the Virginia line. Shooting hours for teal during this season are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.



## **DUCKS, COOTS and MERGANSERS**

***Federal Framework: A 60-day season may be held between the Saturday nearest September 24 and January 31.***

Proposed Season Dates      Oct. 12 - Oct. 19  
   Nov. 16 - Nov. 29  
   Dec. 16 - Jan. 31

Black Duck                      Nov. 16 - Nov. 29  
   Dec. 16 - Jan. 31

Duck Daily Bag and Possession Limits: The daily bag limit of ducks (including mergansers) is 6. The 6-duck limit shall consist of no more than 5 sea ducks (no more than 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters or 4 eiders), 2 mallards (no more than 1 hen mallard), 3 wood ducks, 2 scaup, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks (during black duck open season), 1 fulvous tree duck and 1 mottled duck. All other species of ducks (except harlequin duck) may be taken up to the 6-duck limit. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. In addition to the duck bag limit hunters may take 15 coots per day. No open season for harlequin ducks and swans.

**Note: In the designated sea duck zone, sea ducks may only be taken during the special sea duck season dates (Nov. 2 - Jan. 10).**

### **SEA DUCKS (Scoters, Long-tailed Duck and Eiders)**

***Federal Frameworks: A special 60-day season may be selected between September 15 and January 31 with a 5-bird daily bag limit (no more than 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters or 4 eiders) within established sea duck hunting areas. This bag limit is in addition to the limits applying to other ducks during the regular duck season. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and are part of the regular duck season daily bag (not to exceed 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tailed ducks) and possession limits.***

Proposed Season Dates:      Nov. 2 - Jan. 10

Daily Bag Limit:                5 (no more than 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks or 4 eiders) per day

## YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

**Federal Framework:** States may select two days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days,” in addition to their regular duck seasons. The days must be held outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holiday or other non-school day when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. The days may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck season framework, within any split of a regular duck season or within any other open season on migratory birds.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 2 and Feb. 8

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: The daily bag limit of ducks (including mergansers) is 6. The 6-duck limit shall consist of no more than 5 sea ducks (no more than 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters or 4 eiders), 2 mallards (no more than 1 hen mallard), 3 wood ducks, 2 scaup, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 fulvous tree duck and 1 mottled duck. All other species of ducks (except harlequin duck) may be taken up to the 6-duck limit. In addition, youth hunters may take 1 Canada goose in the Atlantic Population Hunt Zone or 5 Canada Geese in the Late Resident Canada Goose Hunt Zone, 2 brant, 25 light geese and 15 coots. No open season for harlequin ducks and swans.

Any licensed hunter 16 years old or younger may participate during these one-day hunts. Youth of this age who are exempt from the Maryland hunting license requirements may also participate. Youth waterfowl hunters must possess a receipt showing they purchased a \$9 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Hunting Stamp. A Federal Migratory Hunting and Conservation Stamp is required of youth hunters who are 16 years old. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years old that holds a valid Maryland hunting license or is exempt from the hunting license requirements. The accompanying adult may call waterfowl, assist with decoys, and retrieve downed birds but may not possess a hunting weapon.

## ATLANTIC POPULATION CANADA GEESE

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

Proposed Season Dates: Dec. 21, 2019 - Jan. 4, 2020  
Jan. 17, 2020 - Feb. 5, 2020

Bag Limit: 1 per day

AP Zone: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, St. Mary’s, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97 and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and that portion of Prince George’s County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line.

## AF RESIDENT POPULATION CANADA GEESE

**Federal Framework:** An 80-day season may be held between November 15 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 23 - Nov. 29  
Dec. 16 - Mar. 10

Daily Bag Limit: 5 per day\*

RP Zone: Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, and Washington Counties; and that portion of Carroll County west of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97 and west of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and that portion of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia line.

\*Includes Canada geese, cackling geese and white-fronted geese singly or in aggregate.

### **ATLANTIC BRANT**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 60-day season between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 27) and January 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 8 - Nov. 29  
Dec. 16 - Jan. 31

Daily Bag Limit: 2 per day

### **LIGHT GEESE**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 107-day season between October 1 and March 10, with a 25-bird daily bag limit and no possession limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 1 - Nov. 29  
Dec. 16 - Feb. 8

Daily Bag Limit: 25 per day\*\* No possession limit.

\*\*Includes greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese singly or in aggregate.

### **LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER**

***Federal Framework:*** The conservation order allows new methods of taking light geese, allows shooting hours for light geese to end one-half hour after sunset and imposes no daily bag limits for light geese. Control activities may be conducted only when all waterfowl (including light goose) and crane hunting seasons, excluding falconry, are closed.

Proposed Season Dates: Dec. 2 - Dec. 14  
Feb. 10 - Apr. 15

Daily Bag Limit: No Limit, no possession limit

Hunt Area: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line. The Special Sea Duck Zone is excluded from this hunt area.

### **Special Regulations during Light Goose Conservation Order Season:**

(1) Participating hunters must possess a \$5 Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season Permit while hunting light geese during this season; (2) Hunters may use shotguns capable of holding more than three shotshells; (3) Hunters may use electronic calls with recordings of light geese; and (4) Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

*Note: Shooting hours for regular waterfowl seasons are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset except for (1) Resident Canada geese during September seasons when shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset, and (2) for light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order Season when shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. All season dates are inclusive. There is no possession limit for light geese; for all other waterfowl, the possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. In the Atlantic Flyway States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, where Sunday hunting is prohibited statewide by State law, all Sundays are closed to all take of migratory waterfowl (including mergansers and coots).*

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

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

### **MOURNING DOVE**

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

Proposed Season Dates:     Sep. 2 - Oct. 19  
                                      Oct. 26 - Nov. 29  
                                      Dec. 21 - Jan. 10

Daily Bag Limit:             15 per day

## **KING AND CLAPPER RAIL**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 70-day season between September 1 and the last Sunday in January with a 10-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 2 - Nov. 21

Daily Bag Limit: 10 per day (No more than 1 King Rail)

## **SORA AND VIRGINIA RAIL**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 70-day season between September 1 and the last Sunday in January with a 25-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 2 - Nov. 21

Daily Bag Limit: 25 per day

## **COMMON SNIPE**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 107-day season between September 1 and January 31 with an 8-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 30 - Jan 31

Daily Bag Limit: 8 per day

## **WOODCOCK**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 45-day season between October 1 and January 31 with a 3-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 24 - Nov. 29  
Jan. 11 - Jan. 25

Daily Bag Limit: 3 per day

For additional information on population status, regulations, where to hunt, and more go DNR Waterfowl Page at [http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Hunt\\_Trap/waterfowl/index.asp](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Hunt_Trap/waterfowl/index.asp).

DRAFT

# **Management Concepts:** **2020-21 and 2021-22 Hunting Seasons**



**Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

*Wildlife and Heritage Service*

# Regulation Cycle

- ✓ The Game Program meets and develops Management Concepts.
- ✓ Presents Concepts to Wildlife Advisory Committee.
- ✓ Presents Concepts to a meeting of Internal Stakeholders.
- ✓ Presents Concepts to a meeting of External Stakeholders.
- ✓ Concepts are refined further and developed into Proposals and are placed online for public comment.
- ✓ Comment period closes and Proposals are finalized and presented to the Wildlife Advisory Commission.
- ✓ Final Proposals are forwarded to the Maryland Register for additional comment and regulations become final.

**REVIEW INPUT AND ADD/DROP/MODIFY AT EVERY STEP**



## Management Concept: Allow coyote hunting year-round in all counties during day and night.

### RATIONALE:

- Currently, coyotes may be hunted year-round during the day and during the night from Oct 15 – Mar 15.
- Common request from hunters and landowners.
- Predator hunting is increasing in popularity.
- Would aid individuals with coyote depredation problems (e.g. calf or lambs taken by coyotes) by allowing recreational hunters to handle their damage issues.



**Management Concept: Allow veterans to participate in two special waterfowl hunting days outside of the regular seasons, run concurrently with the traditional youth waterfowl hunting days.**

## RATIONALE:

- Additional opportunity made possible by the Natural Resources Management Act signed into federal law in March, 2019.
- Provides additional hunting opportunity for military veterans at a time when hunting pressure is low.
- Veterans defined by federal code: includes veterans and active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty.



**Management Concept: Clarify when air guns firing shot may be used to hunt game species.**

## RATIONALE:

- Air guns are currently available that fire shot and can effectively take doves and other small game.
- The current definition of an air gun does not include air guns that fire shot and thus the legality of using them to hunt is unclear.
- Air guns firing shot would be legal for all game species where shotguns are now legal except for deer and black bear. Requirements for non-toxic shot (waterfowl) or shot sizes (wild turkeys) would apply.

# White-tailed Deer

**Management Concept: Create an urban/suburban deer management zone to increase potential harvest in areas with abundant deer populations. Included with this new zone will be an unlimited antlerless archery bag limit as an element of the new proposal.**

## RATIONALE:

- Urban and suburban homeowners and residents have urged the department to create this zone to assist with deer damage issues.
- The proposed zone will include Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties.
- Few hunters currently exceed the 15 antlerless deer bag limit, so the proposed unlimited bag limit will not negatively impact the deer population across the zone.
- The unlimited bag limit will allow localized problem areas to be better addressed by archery hunters.

# White-tailed & Sika Deer

**Management Concept: Create a primitive-weapon deer hunting season during the first three days of February. Legal hunting devices for this proposed new season will include: long bows, recurve bows, flintlock pistols and rifles, and percussion side-lock pistols and rifles. No telescopic or modern optics will be permitted on any hunting device.**

## RATIONALE:

- Unique and limited opportunity seasons can help recruit, retain, and reactivate deer hunters.
- The proposed season is short and at a time that will minimize conflict with other user groups.
- The existing deer bag limit will apply for antlered white-tailed and sika deer statewide and antlerless deer in Region B.
- An antlerless whitetail will be added to the Region A antlerless bag limit specifically for this season.
- A similar season exists in West Virginia. Less than 1% of their total deer harvest occurs during this season.

# White-tailed & Sika Deer

**Management Concept: Allow centerfire rifles with straight-walled cartridges to be used during the deer firearm seasons in all counties.**

## RATIONALE:

- New deer hunting opportunities can help reduce overall deer populations while helping to recruit, retain, and reactivate deer hunters.
- Other states have added this new opportunity in recent years (Delaware, Ohio, Iowa, et al.) with no known issues.
- Ballistics of straight-walled centerfire cartridges are comparable to modern shotgun ballistics.

# White-tailed & Sika Deer

**Management Concept: Remove the Region B six-day October antlerless-only muzzleloader split and offer additional opportunity during the firearms season (next concept).**

## RATIONALE:

- This season is only marginally popular and has a relatively low deer harvest (1,500 – 3,000 vs. 5,000 during the 3-day either sex season).
- The season continues to cause significant confusion for hunters who also want to hunt with archery equipment during this week.
- Closing this season and offering additional opportunity during firearm season (next concept) will be equally as effective for deer management and will reduce confusion and conflicts among hunters and other user groups.

# White-tailed & Sika Deer

**Management Concept: In Region B only, change the five archery days between the two-week firearm season and late muzzleloader season to additional firearm hunting days.**

## RATIONALE:

- This change will restore the lost antlerless harvest opportunity created by the removal of the six-day October antlerless-only muzzleloader season.
- The season will provide additional firearm hunting opportunities at a time that is more compatible with other user groups (hunters and non-hunters alike).
- It is projected that 400 – 600 antlered deer and 2,000 – 3,000 antlerless deer may be harvested if these days are switched from archery to firearms.



# Other Species or Concepts

## No proposed changes for:

- Webless Migratory Birds
- Squirrels, rabbits, grouse and other small game, or
- Black Bears

# Maryland Department of Natural Resources

*Wildlife and Heritage Service*



Questions?