



MASSWILDLIFE

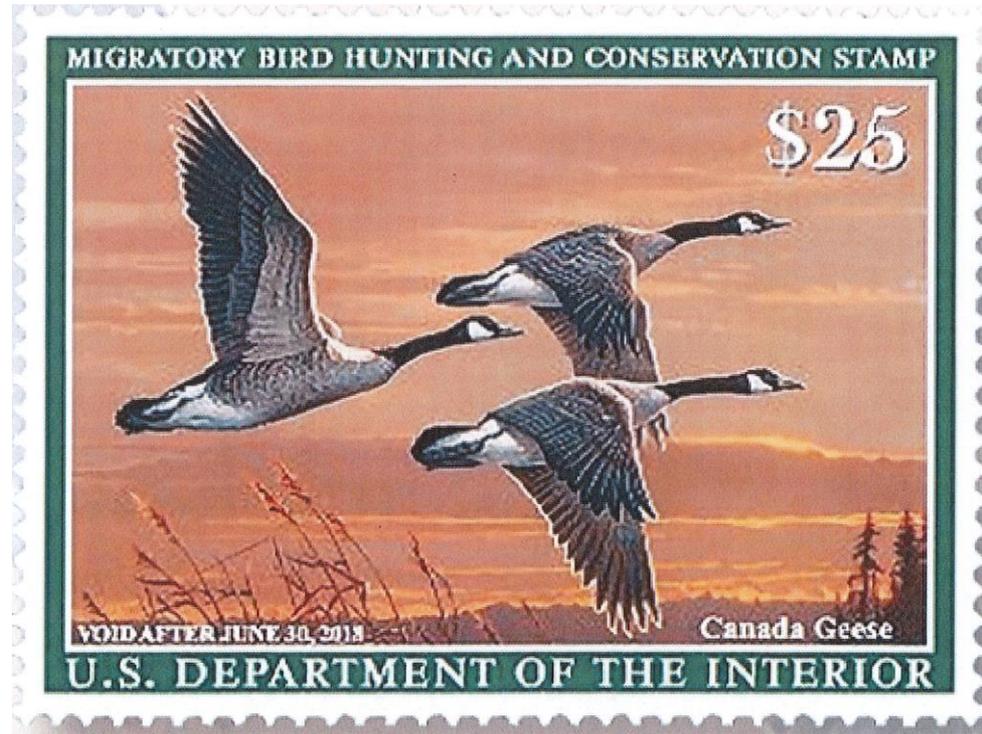
2020-2021

Migratory Game Bird Hunting Proposed Regulations

Assistant Director, Wildlife - Michael Huguenin
Waterfowl Biologist - H Heusmann

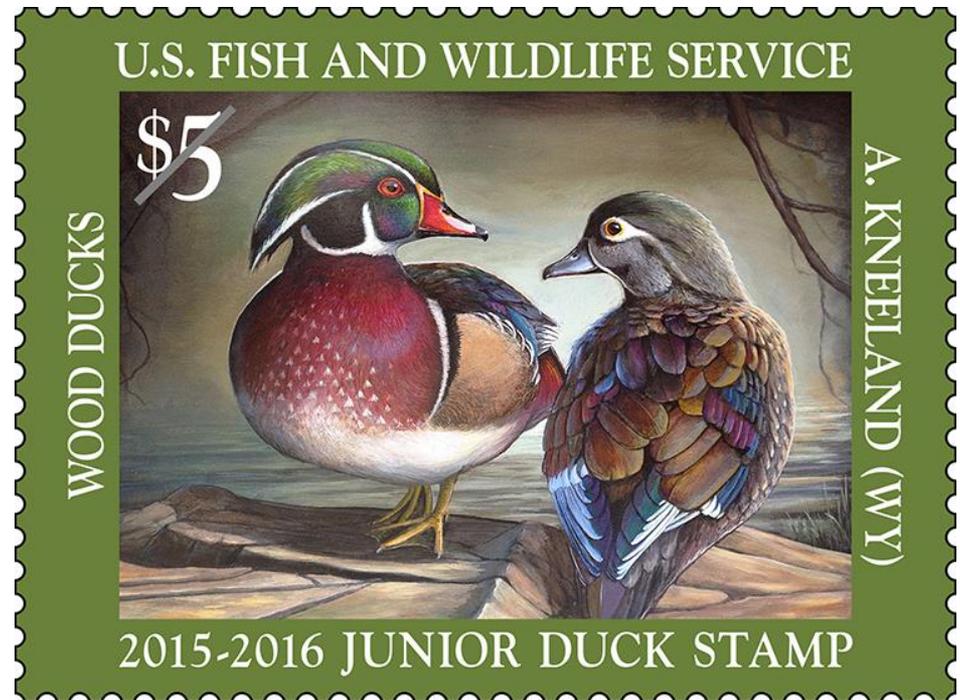
Federal Regulatory Process

- Must submit season selections by Apr. 30
 - for publication in June 1st Federal Register



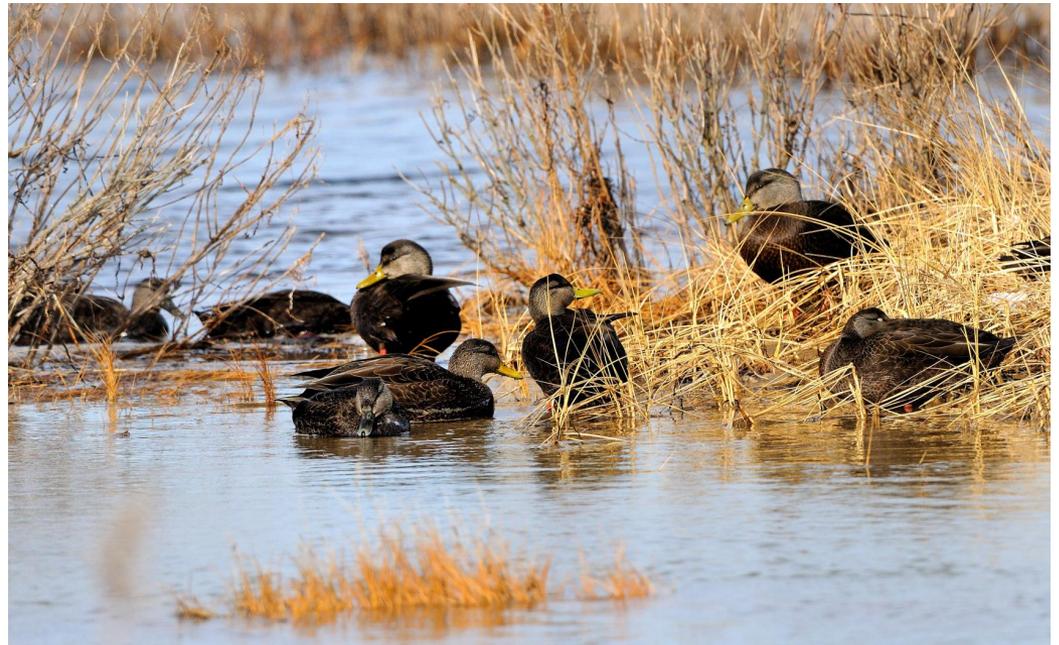
Federal Framework

- States **CANNOT** be more **LIBERAL** than Federal Frameworks allow
- Based on harvest data, population trends, and recommendations provided by states.



Outline

- Woodcock, rails, snipe
- Waterfowl hunter survey
- Waterfowl
 - Youth
 - Veterans
 - Falconry
 - Sea Ducks, Brant
 - Goose
 - Ducks, coot



Woodcock

Framework

- 45 days between Oct. 1 – Jan. 31
- 3 bird bag limit



Season Recommendation

- Oct 1st – Nov 21st
- Daily Bag 3
- Poss. Limit 9

October							November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

Rails and Snipe

Rail

Sept. 1 – Nov. 7

Sora Rail

Daily Bag 5

Poss. Limit 15

Virginia Rail

Daily Bag 10

Poss. Limit 20

Common Snipe

Sept. 1 – Dec. 16

Daily Bag 8

Poss. Limit 24

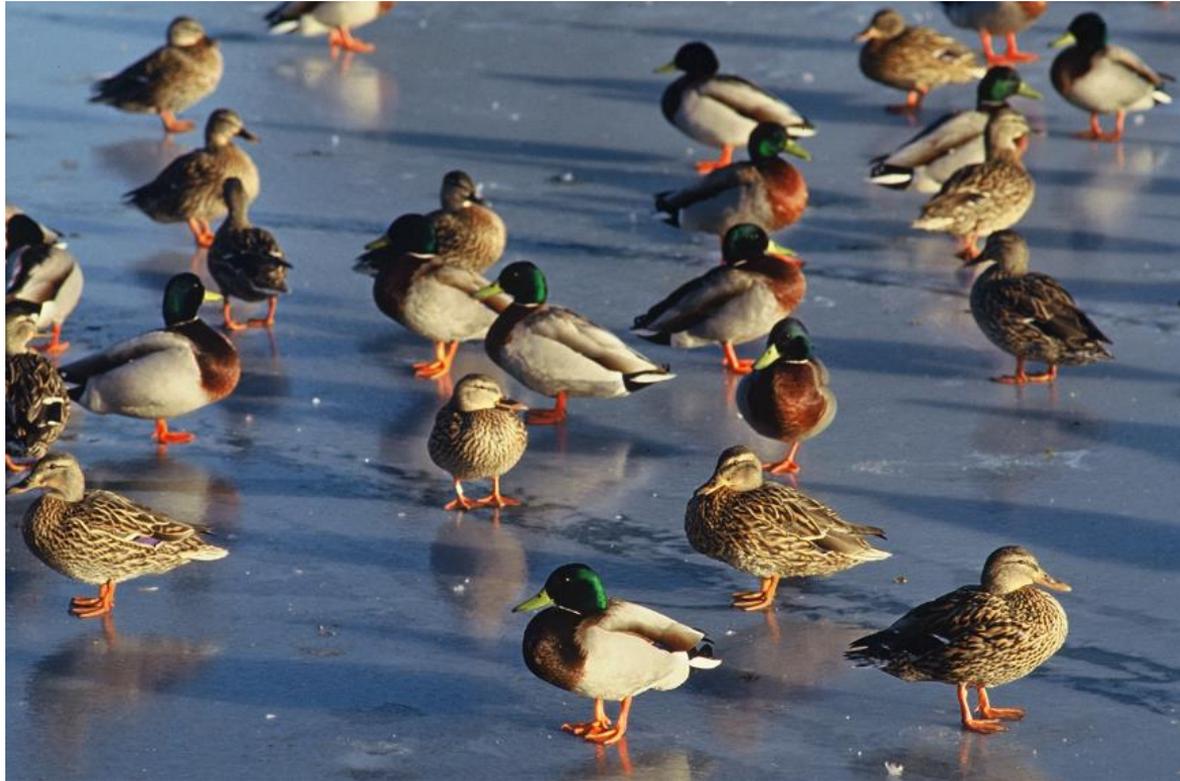
September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Waterfowl Hunter Survey



Waterfowl Hunter Survey

Surveyed 6,000

Response rate 34% (2055)

Responses:

Waterfowl type

Ducks	Geese	Both	Sea Ducks	All
16%	10%	47%	7%	17%

Zone preferences

Coastal	Central	Berkshire
45%	53%	12%

Waterfowl Hunter Survey

Responses:

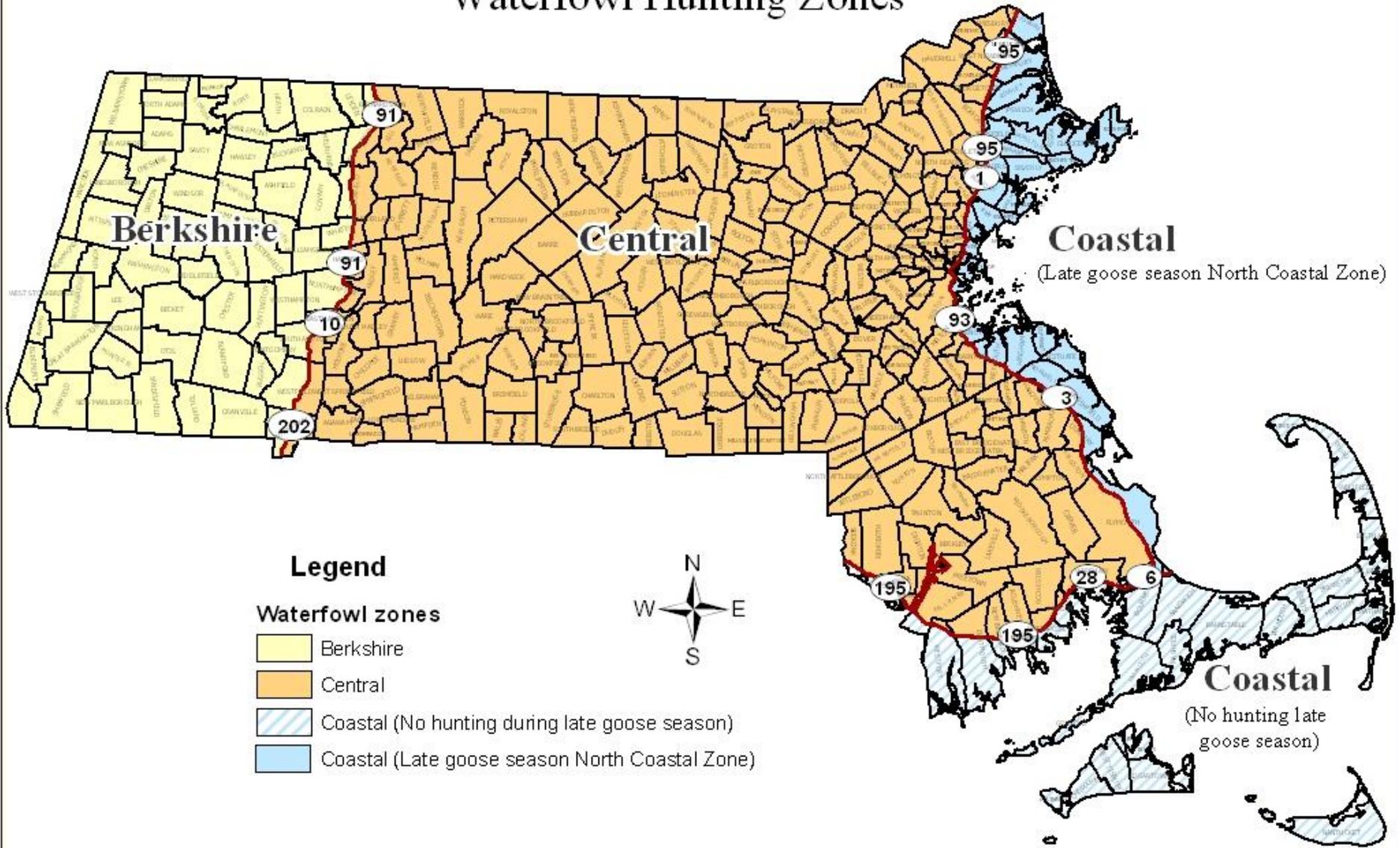
Season preferences

Segment	Coastal	Central	Berkshire
1 st half Oct	6	1	1
2 nd half Oct	7	2	2
1 st half Nov	8	3	3
2 nd half Nov	5	5	4
1 st half Dec	4	8	8
2 nd half Dec	3	6	6
1 st half Jan	1	4	7
2 nd half Jan	2	7	5

Waterfowl



Waterfowl Hunting Zones



State Considerations

- Dec. 7-12 is the second week of Deer Shotgun Season which means:
 - **HUNTER ORANGE** going to and from your blind or boat or while jump shooting
 - Cannot use a dog when deer shotgun season is open except in coastal waters.



Youth Waterfowl Hunt

- Ages 12-14
 - No state license or duck stamps
- Age 15
 - State license and stamp required, **no federal duck stamp**
- Age 16-17
 - All licenses/stamps required
- Must be with a licensed adult with one gun (adult may not hunt)

- Sept. 26th and Oct. 10th



Veteran Waterfowl Hunt

- Duck, merganser, coot
- 2 additional days
- Do not fall within regular season
- Not more than 14 days before or after season
- Can be concurrent with youth hunt days
- All licenses and stamps required

- Oct 3rd and Jan. 30th



Falconry



Statewide

Oct. 8 – Feb. 8

Bag 3 Poss. 9

Ducks and Coot only

Sea Ducks

Federal Framework

- 60 days Sept. 15 – Jan. 31
 - Designated sea duck zone
 - 5 bird daily bag separate from reg. duck bag
 - No split allowed



Season Recommendation

- Nov. 17th – Jan. 25th
- Daily Bag 5
- Poss. Limit 15
- 4 scoter, eider, Long-tailed duck

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Brant

Framework

- 50 days
- 2 bird bag



Season Recommendation

- Nov. 17th – Jan 13th
- Daily Bag 2
- Poss. Limit 6

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Canada Goose Frameworks

- **Berkshire Zone**
 - 30 days
 - 2 bird daily bag
- **Central and Coastal Zones**
 - 60 days
 - 2 bird daily bag



Goose

Berkshire Zone

Oct. 12* – Nov. 14

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Central Zone

Oct. 13 – Nov. 28
Dec. 14 – Jan. 4

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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Coastal Zone

Oct. 16 – Oct. 24
Nov. 26 – Jan. 25

Late Canada Goose Season

Federal Framework

Central and Coastal Zones

- Jan 15 – Feb 15
- 5 bird daily bag



Season Recommendation

Central Zone Jan. 15 – Feb. 15

North Coastal Zone Jan. 26 -Feb15

- Daily Bag 5
- Poss. Limit 15

January							February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28						

Early (Resident) Goose

Federal Framework

- 25 days
- Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
- 15 bird daily bag

Season Recommendation

Sept 8th – 25th

- Daily Bag 15
- Poss. Limit 45



September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Duck/Coot Framework

- 60 days
- 6 bird daily bag
- 4 bird bag for each spp. except:
 - 15 coot bag limit
 - 4 Scoter, 4 Eider, 4 Long-tailed Duck
 - 3 Wood Duck
 - 2 Hooded Merganser
 - 2 Black Duck
 - 1 Pintail
 - 2 Scaup
 - 2 Redhead
 - 2 Canvasback
 - 1 Mottled Duck
 - 1 Fulvous Whistling Duck
 - 2 Mallard (1 hen)



Ducks

Berkshire Zone

Oct. 12* – Nov. 28
Dec. 7 – Dec. 26

Central Zone

Oct. 13 – Nov. 28
Dec. 14 – Jan. 4

Coastal Zone

Oct. 16 – Oct. 24
Nov. 26 – Jan. 25

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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November						
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December						
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Public Comments

- 38 written comments (as of Tuesday, April 21)
 - Woodcock season
 - 24 – October 1 start
 - 2 – Later season start
 - Sea duck season
 - 3 – Support late January season
 - Waterfowl season
 - 3 – Support duck and goose opening day
 - 1 – Increase goose bag from 2 to 3
 - Veteran Hunt
 - 3 – Support proposal
 - Brant
 - 2 – Late January

Summary

- Multiple opening days for Central and Berkshire zones
- New Veterans Hunt
- Hunter survey preferences
 - Species preferences
 - Seasons and zones
- Public Comments
 - Majority prefer early woodcock and late sea duck

Migratory Gamebird Hunting

