

**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
WILDLIFE PROGRAM**

**FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING  
August 2-3, 2013**

**CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

**WAC 232-28-436 2013-2014 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.**

**A. Agency reason for adoption:**

- The purpose of amending migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations is to provide recreational activity and resource conservation.

**B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:**

- **Duck Season**  
There were no restricted bag limits or restricted season length for scaup proposed in the original CR102 filing. The recommended adjustment reduces the scaup daily bag limit from 7 to 3 per day and reduces the season length by three weeks, from 107 to 86 days. These changes are required by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) based on the results of recent breeding population survey information and the scaup harvest strategy.
- **Duck Season**  
The canvasback daily limit was originally proposed for 1 per day. The recommended adjustment increases the canvasback daily bag limit to 2 per day, based on the results of recent breeding population survey information and the canvasback harvest strategy.
- **Coot (Mudhen) Possession limits**  
Possession limits for Coot was increased to 75 from 25. The daily bag limit remained at 25.
- **Possession Limits**  
In the CR102 filing, possession limits for most migratory bird seasons were proposed for two times the daily bag limit. For those seasons, possession limits have been increased to three times the daily bag limit, except for the two day youth hunt, which remained the same. Possession limits for other migratory species remain unchanged. Possession limit changes reflect new regulation options provided in July by USFWS. For scaup, a possession limit of 9 has been added for the regular season to be consistent with possession limits for other duck species (3X daily bag).
- **Snow Goose Harvest Record Card**  
Wording for the harvest record card requirement was changed from “purchase” to “possess”, to conform to language for other migratory bird harvest record cards and assist enforcement.
- **Dusky Canada Goose Area Harvest Quotas**  
Higher dusky area harvest quotas for the regular and late seasons were proposed in the CR102, in anticipation of continued improvement of the dusky breeding population index in 2013. Quotas were returned to past levels because the USFWS breeding population survey was not completed in 2013 due to aircraft and weather problems.
- **Goose Management Area 2A/2B Hunting Authorization Requirements**  
Original wording in the CR102 did not indicate that hunters were required to possess a valid 2013-14 migratory bird hunting authorization for Goose Management Area 2A/2B and daily goose harvest record card when hunting geese in Goose Management Areas 2A and 2B. The word “valid” was inserted before “2013-14” to clarify season requirements and assist enforcement.

- **Special Late Goose Season for Goose Management Area 2A**  
Wording for the special migratory bird hunting authorization and harvest record card was changed from “2013-14 hunting authorization for Goose Management Area 2A/2B and daily goose harvest record card” to “special 2013-14 migratory bird hunting authorization for Goose Management Area 2A/2B and daily goose harvest record card”. These changes clarify the licensing requirements for this season, repeating the same language from the regular season.
- **Goose Management Area 4 Season Dates**  
The Veteran’s Day holiday (November 11) was inadvertently excluded from the list of season dates for Goose Management Area 4. The holiday was added to the list of season dates because it is a traditional goose hunting day for this management area.
- **Mandatory Reporting For Migratory Bird Harvest Record Cards**  
Original wording in the CR102 required receipt of migratory bird harvest reports by the reporting deadlines. The wording “for receipt” has been deleted to allow WDFW to accept mandatory reports with postmarks on or before the reporting dates, to conform to other species’ mandatory reporting requirements.

**C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:**

- None received