WAC 220-416-010

Small Game and Other Wildlife Seasons and Regulations

Kyle Spragens
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Game Division
Wildlife Program
Hunter Education Instructor Incentive Permits

Turkey, Section e, subsection v:

- Recommend adding two spring turkey hunter education instructor incentive permits:
  - 4 individuals will be drawn for this permit per year.

Public Comment:

- 139 comments
  - 92 Generally Agree (66%)
  - 26 neutral
  - 11 Generally Do Not Agree
WAC 220-416-060

2020-2021 Migratory Gamebird Seasons and Regulations

Kyle Spragens
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Game Division
Wildlife Program
Migratory Gamebird Hunting Authorities & Process

- **USFWS Authority:** Federal Framework
  - Season length
  - Earliest opening date
  - Latest closing date
  - Upper bag limits

- **State Discretion:**
  - WAC within Federal Framework
  - Season timing within outside framework dates
  - Bag limits can be more restrictive but not more liberal

### Framework Changes
- Pacific Flyway Meetings
  - August
- USFWS Service Regs Committee
  - October

### Non-framework Changes
- Commission Briefing - March
- Commission Adoption - April
- Season Selections Due to USFWS
  - Late-April

Pamphlet Published **July 1**

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.
Duck Population Status

• Similar to 2018
  – # ponds (habitat conditions)
  – Total ducks: 38.9 million (6% below 2018; 10% above LTA)

• All “10 principal” duck species have come down from 2015 peaks.
Duck Population Status

- Problematic Status
  - Northern Pintail: 2.27 million
    - 42% below LTA; 9th lowest
  - Scaup: 3.59 million combined
    - 28% below LTA; 5th lowest

- National Strategies that inform harvest options
  - Northern Pintail = Liberal-1
    - 1 bird daily bag limit
  - Scaup = Restrictive Regs.
    - 2 bird daily bag limit;
    - 86 day season length
Duck Population Status

- **Washington Status**
  - Mallard 126,243 (+1%)

- **Western Mallard Strategy**
  - Alaska portion (361K; -20%)
  - Southern Pacific Flyway
    - BC (75K; -5%)
    - Oregon (84K; -13%)
    - California (240K; -12%)

- **Liberal Regs** = 107 days; 7 ducks/7 mallard/2 hens
2020-2021 Duck Season Proposals
WAC 220-416-060

• Proposed general duck season dates and limits similar to 2019-2020, except reduced scaup daily bag limit
  • 107 days (except scaup)
    • 2-day youth hunt Sept. 26, 2020 and Feb. 6, 2021 in western Washington (West Zone); Oct. 3, 2020 and Feb. 6, 2021 in eastern Washington (East Zone)
  • 1-day veteran and active military hunt Feb. 6, 2021 statewide
  • 105 day general season: Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020
  • 7 ducks, to include not more than:
    • 2 hen mallard, 1 pintail
    • 2 redhead, 2 canvasback, 2 scaup (86-day season)
    • western WA sea duck reduced bag-limits:
      2 scoter, 2 goldeneye, 2 long-tailed, 1 harlequin (season limit)
Youth, Veteran and Active Military Special Waterfowl Hunt Day

- Feb. 6, 2021
- Add description of required documentation for Veterans and Active Military (pg. 2, 4, 16)
  - DD214,
  - Veteran Benefit Card,
  - Retired Active Military I.D., or
  - Active Duty I.D. card

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.
Goose Population Status and Season Proposals
2020-2021 Goose Season Proposals
WAC 220-416-060

Canada/Cackling Geese
Bag limit = 4
2020-2021 Goose Season Proposals
WAC 220-416-060

- Canada/Cackling Geese
  Bag limit = 4

- Snow Geese (white geese)
  Bag limit = 6

- White-fronted Geese
  Bag limit = 10

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.
2020-2021 Goose Season Proposals
WAC 220-416-060 – GMA 4 White Geese

- Cont. increases in white geese in Goose Management Area 4; 2018 = 52,841, 2019 = 160,825
- 107-days allowed by federal framework are maxed out
- 6 white goose bag limit
- Recommended adjustments: further delay season opener Nov. 7, 2020 compared to other goose types
- Shift 7 days
- Resume a white-goose only season Feb. 13 -March 3, 2021 (pg. 14)
• No changes to brant daily bag limit (2) with continuation of Mandatory Harvest Report
• Season dates between Jan. 16-31; except in Pacific
• Specified by county
  • Clallam: 3 days
  • Whatcom: 3 days
  • Skagit: 0-8 days, determined by survey results
  • Pacific: 14 days, starts Jan. 9
• Youth, Veteran & Active Military special hunt: Feb. 6; all 4 counties
2020-2021 Other Migratory Gamebirds
WAC 220-416-060

No changes to season dates or bag limits.
Public Comment
Migratory Gamebird Proposals

- 129 comments
  - 54 Generally Agree
  - 66 Neutral
  - 9 Generally Do Not Agree

Topics:
- Northern pintail and scaup lower bag-limits
- Snow goose seasons timing and bag-limits
- Season dates and federal frameworks confusion
Questions?