WAC 220-413-090 and WAC 220-416-060

Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations

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Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons Authorities

- **USFWS Authority:** Federal Framework
  - Earliest opening date
  - Latest closing date
  - Limits
  - Season length
  - Special Season optional days

- **State Discretion:** WAC within Federal Framework
  - Can be more restrictive but not more liberal
  - Season timing within outside dates
Washington’s Waterfowl Diversity

Ducks (27 species)
- Dabbling (9)
- Diving (5)
- Seaduck (11)
- Wood duck
- Ruddy duck

Geese (12 populations)
- Canada/cackling (7 – one closed)
- White (Light) (2)
- White-fronted (1)
- Brant (2)

Swans (2 species – closed to harvest)

Other migratory gamebirds
- Doves
- Band-tailed Pigeons
- Coot
- Snipe
Process for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

Framework Changes
- Pacific Flyway Meetings
  August - September
- USFWS Service Regulations Committee
  October

Non-framework Changes
- Commission - March
- State Season Selections
  Due in Late April
- Commission - April
Duck Season Proposals

Photo: Doug Kuehn

Photo: Dennis Werlau/WDFW

Photo: Brad Manchas

Photo: Laura Rogers

Photo: WDFW staff
2019-2020 Duck Season Proposals

WAC 220-416-060

- Proposed general duck season dates and limits similar to 2018-2019, except pintail bag limit and addition of a hunting day for veterans (38 U.S. Code § 101) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training) allowed with the signing of the John Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act into law on March 12, 2019.
  - 107 days
  - 2-day youth hunt Sept. 21, 2019 and Feb. 1, 2020 in western Washington (West Zone); Sept. 28, 2019 and Feb. 1, 2020 in eastern Washington (East Zone)
  - 1-day veterans and active military personnel statewide: Feb. 1, 2020
  - 105 day general season
  - 7 ducks, to include not more than:
    - 2 hen mallard, 1 pintail
    - 2 redhead, 2 canvasback, 3 scaup
    - W. WA: 2 scoter, 2 long-tail, 2 goldeneye, 1 harlequin (season limit)
2019-2020 Goose Season Proposals
WAC 220-416-060

Canada/Cackling Geese
Bag limit = 4
In GMA 2 - Coast and Inland shift September
Canada Goose dates to Sept. 7-15, 2019

White-fronted Geese
Bag limit = 10

Snow Geese (white geese)
Bag limit = 6
In GMA4: Opens Oct. 26, 2019
White-goose only season Feb 22 – Mar. 4, 2020

During Feb. 1
All three goose types allowed for harvest.
Dusky Canada goose closed.

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.
Brant Season

- No changes to brant bag limit
- Season dates between 11-26 Jan.; except in Pacific
- Addition of Feb. 1, 2020 as allowable species during Youth, Veterans and Active Military Personnel Hunt Day
- Specified by county
  - Clallam: 3 days
  - Whatcom: 3 days
  - Skagit: 0-8 days, determined by survey
  - Pacific: 14 days, starts 4 Jan. per Pacific Flyway Management Plan
Field Identification of Gamebirds
WAC 220-413-090

• Adds the option of a feathered wing to each carcass as evidence of species and sex; consistent with federal regulations
• except fully feathered head must be retained on Canada and cackling geese harvested in Goose Management Area 2 - Coast and Inland
Status of Other Migratory Bird Populations and Season Proposals

No changes to season dates or bag limits.
Thank you.