

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

**FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING
August 8-9, 2014**

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

WAC 232-28-436 2014-2015 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

A. Agency reason for adoption:

To provide hunting opportunity and agricultural damage control consistent with the status of waterfowl species, and establish waterfowl hunting seasons within frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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

• Duck Season – Scaup

There were no restricted bag limits or restricted season length for scaup proposed in the original CR102 filing. The recommended adjustments reduce the scaup limits and season length as follows:

- daily bag limit reduced from 7 to 3 per day
- possession limit reduced from 14 to 6 during the youth hunt
- possession limit reduced from 21 to 9 during the regular season
- season length reduced 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 – Canvasback

The canvasback limit was proposed for 2 per day in the original CR102 filing. The recommended adjustments reduce the canvasback limits as follows:

- daily bag limit reduced from 2 to 1 per day
- possession limit reduced from 4 to 2 during the youth hunt
- possession limit reduced from 6 to 3 during the regular season

These changes are required by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) based on the results of recent breeding population survey information and the canvasback harvest strategy.

• Goose Management Area 4 Season Dates

The New Year's Day holiday (January 1) 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.

• Falconry Duck Season – Scaup

There was no restricted season length for scaup proposed in the original CR102 filing. The recommended adjustments reduce the falconry 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.

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

Written Public Comments	
Comments	Agency Response
No Written Public Comment received.	

Verbal Public Comments	
Comments	Agency Response
Supported the recommendations and our programs, and urged continuation of a conservative approach for sea duck management.	Thank you for your support of the 2014-15 waterfowl season recommendations.