

**California Fish and Game Commission**  
**Potential Waterfowl Hunting Regulation Changes**

*January 5, 2015*

This information is intended only to generate dialogue at the Commission's Wildlife Resources Committee about what the next waterfowl hunting rulemaking might or might not include.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Waterfowl Program is considering:

- Brant – A recommendation to increase bag limit or days for brant hunting, which will depend on the winter assessment of brant
- Goose – No other changes are being proposed for goose bag limits or season lengths
- Ducks – A proposed range of season lengths and daily bag limits for ducks because specific numbers cannot be proposed until the California waterfowl breeding population survey is completed in May

Of note, for all migratory bird regulations, including doves and band-tailed pigeons:

- a. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was not consistently meeting rulemaking timelines with its regulation packages so has modified its approach, which results in the states having to modify their approaches.
- b. The states now need to adopt both dove/band-tailed and waterfowl regulations by April of each year so that selections can be provided to USFWS by April 30. That means California will not be making decisions based on the current year data and will have to start the rulemaking process much earlier.
- c. For the 2016 season regulations, changes to Title 14, Section 502 will be proposed for notice in December 2015, followed by a proposed discussion meeting in February, and adoption meeting in April. This same schedule will be proposed for upland migratory birds.