

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

**(Continuation of California Notice Register 2007, No. 25-Z,
and Meetings of June 8 and July 13, 2007.)**

NOTE: The Fish and Game Commission is exercising its powers under sections 202 and 355 of the Fish and Game Code as the following changes to the proposed regulations may not be available to the public for the full public comment period prior to adoption. See the text of this notice – changes are shown in **bold** type.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by sections 202 and 355 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific sections 202, 355 and 356 of said Code and Part 10, subparts A and B, and Part 20, Title 50, CFR, amended Sept. 18, 1987, 52 Fed. Reg. 35248, proposes to amend sections 502 and 509, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to waterfowl hunting.

Updated Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Current regulations in Section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), provide definitions, hunting zone descriptions, season opening and closing dates, and establish daily bag and possession limits. In addition to the **five** proposals contained herein, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, after analysis of waterfowl population survey and other data, may also initiate changes in federal regulations which will require changes in existing and proposed regulations in California. Changes in federal regulations for season opening and closing dates, elimination or creation of special management areas, season length, and daily bag limits for migratory birds may occur. Items 2, 3, **and 5** require changes in the federal regulations and must be approved by the Pacific Flyway Council at their meeting on July 27, 2007. The Service will consider this and other recommendations at their meeting on August 1-2, 2007. Item 4 (including the table) below proposes a range of season dates and bag limits for waterfowl. At this time, the California Breeding Pair Survey has not been conducted and the Service has not established federal regulation “frameworks” which will occur in August after the analysis of current waterfowl population survey, other data, input from the Flyway Councils and the public. Also, minor editorial changes were made to clarify and simplify the regulations and to comply with existing federal frameworks.

The Department’s proposals are as follows:

1. Change the name of Humboldt Bay (South) Special Management Area to Humboldt Bay South Spit Special Management Area.
2. Increase the goose daily bag limit in the Northeastern, Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State zones to 6 geese per day.
3. Increase the Small Canada goose daily bag limit in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State zones to 6 geese per day.
4. Provide a range of waterfowl hunting season lengths (which may be split into two segments) between 38 and 107 days for all hunting methods. A range of daily bag limits is also given

for ducks in all zones and geese in the Northeastern California, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Balance of State zones. Also, federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona in the Colorado River Zone. See the following table for season and bag limit ranges.

5. The Pacific Flyway Council has made a recommendation to the Service to increase the canvasback bag limit to 2 per day based on a record high breeding population estimate. This recommendation was not in the original Initial Statement of Reasons because the Service had not completed the Breeding Pair Survey and results were released in late July.

AREA	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Statewide	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent w/duck season	25/day. 25 in possession
Northeastern Zone	Ducks	Between 38 & 105 days	4-7/day, no more than 3-7 mallards, no more than 1-2 hen mallards, 0-3 pintail, 0-2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 0-4 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Between 0 & 105 days	
	Canvasback	Between 0 & 105 days	
	Scaup	Between 0 and 105 days	
	Geese	86-100 days	4-6/ day, up to 4 white geese, up to 4 white-fronts, up to 2 Large Canada geese, only 1 Small Canada goose. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Ducks	Between 38 & 100 days	4-7/day, no more than 3-7 mallards, no more than 1-2 hen mallards, 0-3 pintail, 0-2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 0-4 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Canvasback	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Scaup	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Geese	86-100 days	4-6/ day, up to 4 white geese, up to 4 white-fronts, up to 4 Large Canada geese, up to 4-6 Small Canada geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Colorado River Zone	Ducks	Between 38 & 101 days	4-7/day, no more than 3-7 mallards, no more than 2 hen mallards or Mexican-like ducks, 0-3 pintail, 0-2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 0-4 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Between 0 & 101 days	
	Canvasback	Between 0 & 101 days	
	Scaup	Between 0 & 101 days	
	Geese	101 days	6/ day, up to 4 white geese, up to 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Southern California Zone	Ducks	Between 38 & 100 days	4-7/day, no more than 3-7 mallards, no more than 1-2 hen mallards, 0-3 pintail, 0-2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 0-4 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Canvasback	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Scaup	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Geese	86-100 days	5/day, up to 4 white geese, up to 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Balance of State Zone	Ducks	Between 38 & 100 days	4-7/day, no more than 3-7 mallards, no more than 1-2 hen mallards, 0-3 pintail, 0-2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 0-4 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Canvasback	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Scaup	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Geese	86-100 days	4-6/ day, up to 4 white geese, up to 4 white-fronts, up to 4 Large Canada geese, up to 4-6 Small Canada geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
SPECIAL AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
North Coast	All Canada Geese	Between 0 & 107 days, except for Large Canada geese which can not exceed 100 days or extend beyond the last Sunday in January.	4-6/day, only 1 may be a Large Canada goose. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Humboldt Bay South Spit	All species	Closed during brant season	
Sacramento Valley (West)	White-fronted geese	Closed after Dec 14	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Morro Bay	All species	Open in designated areas only	
Martis Creek Lake	All species	Closed until Nov 16	
Northern Brant	Black Brant	Between 0 & 30 days, must end by Dec 15	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.

Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	Between 0 & 30 days, must end by Dec 15	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
YOUTH HUNTING DAYS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	Same as regular season
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	
Southern California Zone		The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	
Colorado River Zone		The Saturday following the closing for waterfowl season.	
Balance of State Zone		The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	
FALCONRY OF DUCKS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Between 38 and 105 days	3/ day, possession limit 6
Balance of State Zone		Between 38 and 107 days	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		Between 38 and 107 days	
Southern California Zone		Between 38 and 107 days	
Colorado River Zone	Ducks only	Between 38 and 106 days	

Section 509 of Title 14, CCR, states that the regulations adopted by the United States through its Secretary of Interior under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended annually in Part 10, subparts A and B, and Part 20, Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, are hereby adopted and made a part of this Title 14 except where said federal regulations are less restrictive than the provisions of Chapter 7 of this Title 14 (sections 500-509), the provisions of Chapter 7 prevail. This section does not have clear language stating it is a violation to violate the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. There needs to be wording added to the section stating it is illegal to violate the provisions of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act or the regulations which are adopted.

Currently, Section 509 of Title 14, CCR has no provisions that require a person 16 years or older to purchase a Federal Migratory-Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, and have that stamp in possession while hunting migratory waterfowl. Federal law requires the Federal Migratory-Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp to be in possession as well as have the hunter's signature written in ink across the face of the stamp. Wording needs to be added to this section requiring that any person 16 years or older who is hunting migratory waterfowl possess a Federal Migratory-Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and have the hunter's signature written on the face of the stamp.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the County Administration Building, Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 105 East Anapamu Street, Fourth Floor, Santa Barbara, California, on Friday, August 10, 2007, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. Written comments may also be submitted to the address given below, or by fax at (916) 653-5040, or by e-mail to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. **Written comments mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Commission office, must be received before 5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2007.** All comments must be received no later than August 10, 2007, at the hearing in Santa Barbara, CA. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

The regulations as proposed in strikeout-underline format, as well as an initial statement of reasons, including environmental considerations and all information upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, John Carlson, Jr., Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to John Carlson, Jr., or Sherrie Koell at the preceding address or phone number. **Dr. Eric Loft, Chief Wildlife Branch, Department of Fish and Game, phone (916) 445-3406, and Assistant Chief Rob Allen, Enforcement Branch, Department of Fish and Game, phone (916) 653-4094, have been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.** Copies of the Initial Statement of Reasons, including the regulatory language, may be obtained from the address above. Notice of the proposed action shall be posted on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Circumstances beyond the control of the Commission (e.g., timing of Federal regulation adoption, timing of resource data collection, timelines do not allow, etc.) or changes made to be responsive to public recommendation and comments during the regulatory process may preclude full compliance with the 15-day comment period, and the Commission will exercise its powers under Section 202 of the Fish and Game Code. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to the time periods for adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations prescribed in Sections 11343.4, 11346.4 and 11346.8 of the Government Code. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Business, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed changes to Section 502 are intended to provide additional recreational opportunity to the public. The response is expected to be minor in nature. The proposed change to Section 509 is to clarify existing Federal requirements.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California: None.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.

(e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.

(g) Costs Imposed on any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business.

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Jon K. Fischer
Assistant Executive Director

Date: July 30, 2007