



At its August 3, 2011 meeting, the Commission adopted the following season lengths, dates, and daily bag limits:

<b>Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations</b>			
<b>AREA</b>	<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>SEASONS</b>	<b>DAILY BAG &amp; POSSESSION LIMITS</b>
<b>Statewide</b>	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent w/duck season	25/day. 25 in possession
<b>Northeastern Zone</b>	Ducks	Oct 8 – Jan 20	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Oct 8 – Jan 1	
	Geese	Oct 8 – Jan 15	8/ day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese no more than 2 Large Canada geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<b>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</b>	Ducks	Oct 8 – Oct 30 and Nov 12 – Jan 29	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 12 – Jan 29	
	Geese	Oct 22 – Jan 29	8/ day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<b>Colorado River Zone</b>	Ducks	Oct 21 – Jan 29	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 5 – Jan 29	
	Geese	Oct 21 – Jan 29	6/ day, up to 6 white geese, up to 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<b>Southern California Zone</b>	Ducks	Oct 22 – Jan 29	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 5 – Jan 29	
	Geese	Oct 22 – Jan 29	8/day, up to 6 white geese, up to 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<b>Balance of State Zone</b>	Ducks	Oct 22 – Jan 29	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 5 – Jan 29	
	Geese	Early Season (Large Canada Geese only): Oct 1 – Oct 5 Regular Season : Oct 22 – Jan 29 Late Season (White-fronts and White Geese): Feb 18 – Feb 22	8/ day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.

## Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations, Continued

<b>SPECIAL AREA</b>	<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>SEASON</b>	<b>DAILY BAG &amp; POSSESSION LIMITS</b>
North Coast	All Canada Geese	Nov 5 – Jan 26 & Feb 18 – Mar 10	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	White-fronted geese	Oct 22 – Dec 21	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Morro Bay	All species	Open in designated areas only	Waterfowl season opens concurrently with brant season.
Martis Creek Lake	All species	Closed until Nov 16	
Northern Brant	Black Brant	Nov 7 – Dec 6	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	Nov 12 – Dec 11	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Imperial County	White Geese	Nov 5 – Jan 29 & Feb 11 – Feb 26	6/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<b>YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS</b>	<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>SEASON</b>	<b>DAILY BAG &amp; POSSESSION LIMITS</b>
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Sept 24 - 25	Same as regular season
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		Feb 4 - 5	
Southern California Zone		Feb 4 - 5	
Colorado River Zone		Feb 4 - 5	
Balance of State Zone		Feb 4 – 5	
<b>FALCONRY OF DUCKS</b>	<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>SEASON</b>	<b>DAILY BAG &amp; POSSESSION LIMITS</b>
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Oct 8 – Jan 20	3/ day, possession limit 6
Balance of State Zone		Oct 22 – Jan 29 & Feb 4-5	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		Oct 8 – Oct 30 & Nov 12 – Feb 1	
Southern California Zone		Oct 22 – Feb 3	
Colorado River Zone	Ducks only	Oct 21 – Feb 2	

VI. Summary of Public Recommendations and Primary Considerations Raised in Support of and in Opposition to the Proposed Action and Reasons for Rejecting Those Considerations:

- (a) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC completely ban or significantly limit hunting on the threatened and endangered brant.

Proposal Source: Catherine Blaney (letter 11/16/2010)

Response: The Federal Frameworks allows for a 30-day season with a 2 bird bag limit. Prohibiting brant hunting eliminates hunting opportunity without a biological reason. Brant are not listed as threatened or endangered in California or by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Brant season frameworks in the Pacific Flyway are established based on the harvest strategy that specifies the brant bag limits and season length remain at 2 per day and a 30 day season length. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- (b) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC ban hunting of brant in Morro Bay.

Proposal Source: Eleanor Crane (letter 1/26/2011)

Response: Current regulations provide for reduced-shooting hours (later morning start times) and a substantial hunting closure area in Morro Bay. The limited amount of hunting in Morro Bay is consistent with the conservation of wildlife and the provision of recreational opportunity. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- (c) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends continued hunting in Morro Bay.

Proposal Source: John Moore (email 1/3/2011)

Response: The Department recommended to continue to allow hunting in Morro Bay. This recommendation fits within the Federal frameworks and is the Department's recommendation. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- (d) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the Youth Hunt Days in the Balance of State Zone to occur prior to the general waterfowl season.

Proposal Source: John Segoria (email 2/7/2011)

Response: The Department recommended the Youth Hunt Days to occur the Saturday following the closing of waterfowl in the Balance of State Zone. The Youth Hunt has proven popular throughout the State. In most zones it occurs after the general season to coincide with waterfowl presence. In the Balance of State Zone having the Youth Hunt prior to the season is not desirable because temperatures are warmer and not conducive to hunting. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- (e) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the Youth Hunt Days be eliminated, especially in the Northeastern Zone.

Proposal Source: Allen Bunch (letter 7/20/2010)

Response: The Department recommended Youth Hunt Days for the 2011-12 Waterfowl Hunting Season. The Youth Hunt has proven popular throughout the State. In most zones it occurs after the general season and does not affect the quality of the hunting during the general season. In the Northeastern California Zone having the Youth Hunt after the season is not desirable because most birds have left the area and hunting conditions can be harsh for young hunters. The Youth Hunt is proposed to be 2 weeks before the general season in this zone to mitigate the effect to the extent allowed under current Federal frameworks. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- (f) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Acknowledges Dan Yparraguirre and Waterfowl Program for a great job and hard work.

Proposal Source: Jim Waters California Waterfowl Association (public testimony 6/30/2011)

Response: Support noted.

- (g) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Thank the Department for working through regulation proposals including goose liberalizations that California Outdoor Heritage Alliance supported.

Proposal Source: Marc Hennely California Outdoor Heritage Alliance (public testimony 6/30/2011)

Response: Support noted.

- (h) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the pintail daily bag limit be 4 birds per day with a maximum of 2 hens per day.

Proposal Source: Nathan Bowling (email 7/23/2011)

Response: The Department recommended the pintail daily bag to be 2 birds per day. The Federal frameworks were established on July 29, 2011 and only allow a daily bag of 2 pintails with no restrictions on hens. The framework was established based on the pintail harvest strategy that was adopted in 2010. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- (i) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Supports Department's recommendation with the exception of the closed to public area language for the late season white-fronted and white goose hunt.

Proposal Source: John Carlson, CWA and Bill Gaines, COHA (public testimony 8/03/2011)

Response: The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

VII. Location and Index of Rulemaking File:

A rulemaking file with attached index is maintained at:  
California Fish and Game Commission  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIII. Location of Department files:

Department of Fish and Game  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

IX. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

- (a) Alternatives to Regulatory Action:  
No other alternatives were identified.
- (b) No Change Alternative:
  - 1. The No Change Alternative would maintain the Small Canada goose restrictive bag limit of 1 in the Northeastern Zone. Not removing the bag restriction for Small Canada geese does not provide maximum hunting opportunity consistent with the status of Aleutian and Cackling Canada geese or simplify regulations.
  - 2. The No Change Alternative would maintain the existing white-fronted and white goose season length in the Balance of State

Zone. The current white-fronted and white goose season length in the Balance of State Zone does not provide for hunting opportunity consistent with the status of geese or simplified regulations.

3. The No Change Alternative would maintain the existing bag limit for white-fronted geese in the Northeastern, Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State zones. The current bag limit does not simplify the regulations or provide for hunting opportunity consistent with the status of white-fronted geese.
4. The No Change Alternative would maintain the existing closure date in the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area for white-fronted geese. The current closure date does not provide for additional hunting opportunity.
5. The No Change Alternative would maintain the existing season lengths and dates, and duck and goose daily bag limits in all zones. The California Breeding Pair Survey has not been completed and analyzed and the federal frameworks have not been set. Changes in the existing regulations could result if specific dates and bag limits are proposed before the above items are completed.

- (c) Consideration of Alternatives: In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

X. 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 determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, 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 regulations are intended to provide additional recreational opportunity to the public. The response is expected to be minor in nature.

- (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 agency 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, Government Code: None.
- (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

## 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 (Service), after analysis of waterfowl population survey and other data, may change federal regulations; if this occurs, changes in existing and proposed regulations in California may be necessary. 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 1, 2, and 4 require changes in the federal regulations and must be approved by the Pacific Flyway Council at its meeting on July 21, 2011. Item 5 (including the table below) provide a proposed range of season dates and bag limits for waterfowl. The Service will consider recommendations from the Flyway Council at their meeting on July 28, 2011. At this time, the California Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey has not been conducted and the Service has not established federal regulation “frameworks” which will occur in ~~late July~~ **August** after the analysis of current waterfowl population survey, other data, input from the Flyway Councils and the public. Also, minor editorial changes are proposed to clarify and simplify the regulations and to comply with existing federal frameworks.

The Department’s proposals are as follows:

1. Remove the restriction on the Small Canada goose daily bag limit in the Northeastern Zone.
2. Increase the white-fronted and white goose season length to 105 days in the Balance of State Zone and split the season into two segments.
3. Increase the white-fronted goose daily bag limit to 6 geese per day in the Northeastern, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Balance of State zones.
4. Extend the white-fronted goose season length in the Sacramento Valley Special Management area by 7 days.
5. Provide a range of waterfowl hunting season lengths (which may be split into two segments) between 38 and 107 days (including 2 youth waterfowl hunt days) for all hunting methods. A range of daily bag limits is also given for ducks in all zones. Federal regulations require that California’s hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona in the Colorado River Zone. See table below for season and bag limit ranges.

**The following table has been amended from the version in the Initial Statement of Reasons to reflect the Department’s regulation recommendations consistent with the Federal frameworks as established July 29, 2011. Federal frameworks allow general duck seasons to be as long as 107 days in the Pacific Flyway with a 7-bird daily duck bag limit (including 7 mallards but only 2 hen mallards); the pintail**

**season could be as long as the general duck season with a 2-bird daily bag limit; the canvasback season could be as long as the general duck season with a 1-bird daily bag limit; the scaup season could be 86 days with a 3-bird daily bag limit; the removal of a restrictive bag on Small Canada geese in the Northeastern Zone was accepted; the increase in season length for white-fronted and white goose and split into two segments was accepted; and the extension of the white-fronted goose season length by 7 days in the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area was accepted.**

**The Commission adopted minor editorial changes to clarify the regulations and the following specific regulations at the August 3, 2011 meeting.**

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## Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations, Continued

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Southern California Zone		Feb 4 – 5	
Colorado River Zone		Feb 4 – 5	
Balance of State Zone		Feb 4 – 5	
<b>FALCONRY OF DUCKS</b>	<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>SEASON</b>	<b>DAILY BAG &amp; POSSESSION LIMITS</b>
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Oct 8 – Jan 20	3/ day, possession limit 6
Balance of State Zone		Oct 22 – Jan 29 & Feb 4 – 5	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		Oct 8 – Oct 30 & Nov 12 – Feb 1	
Southern California Zone		Oct 22 – Feb 3	
Colorado River Zone	Ducks only	Oct 21 – Feb 2	

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION  
**ADDENDUM TO FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION**  
Section 502  
Title 14, California Code of Regulations  
Re: Waterfowl Hunting

Continuation of

VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Support of or Opposition to the Proposed Actions and Reasons for Rejecting Those Considerations:

- (i) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Supports Department's recommendation with the exception of the closed to public area language for the late season white-fronted and white goose hunt.

Proposal Source: John Carlson, CWA and Bill Gaines, COHA (public testimony 8/03/2011)

Response: The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation. This late season hunt language is identical to two other late season hunts already established in the North Coast and Imperial County special management areas. These late season goose hunts were designed to reduce depredation on private lands by increasing harvest (reduce the population) and encourage geese to use public areas. The intention of the regulatory language was for Type A and B wildlife areas to be closed during this late season hunt. However, it was not the Department's intention for public waterways and other public lands to be closed. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation based on the rationale for the hunt but did ask the Department to clarify the regulatory language the following hunting season by defining the type of public areas to be closed.