

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION  
FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION

Amend Section 502  
Title 14, California Code of Regulations  
Re: Waterfowl, Migratory; American Coot; and Common Moorhen (Common Gallinule)

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: February 15, 2012
- II. Date of Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons: July 30, 2012
- III. Date of Final Statement of Reasons: August 15, 2012
- IV. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:
  - (a) Notice Hearing: Date: April 11, 2012  
Location: Eureka, CA
  - (b) Discussion Hearing: Date: June 20, 2012  
Location: Mammoth Lakes, CA
  - (c) Adoption Hearing: Date: August 8, 2012  
Location: Ventura, CA
- V. Update: The originally proposed language was modified to identify specific season lengths and daily bag limits. In addition, the possession limit is recommended to remain twice the daily bag limit rather than triple the daily bag limit as originally proposed. Grammatical modifications were made for falconry season in the Southern California Zone.

The originally proposed regulatory language contained a range of season lengths and daily bag limits which were contingent upon the establishment of federal framework regulations. These frameworks were established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in late July and now specify the maximum season lengths and daily bag limits. The change in possession limits was made because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delayed decision-making on the subject. The Service and states will continue further discussion on the subject for 2013-14 migratory game bird hunting seasons. Grammatical changes in falconry seasons were made to simplify language and maintain consistency.

**At the August 8, 2012, 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 6 – Jan 18	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females. 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 7 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Geese	Oct 6 – Jan 13	8/day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese but no more than 2 Large Canada geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<b>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</b>	Ducks	Oct 6 – Oct 14 & Oct 27 – Jan 27	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females. 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 7 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Geese	Oct 20 – Jan 27	8/day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<b>Southern California Zone</b>	Ducks	Oct 20 – Jan 27	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females. 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 7 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Geese	Oct 20 – Jan 27	8/day, which may include: 6 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<b>Colorado River Zone</b>	Ducks	Oct 19 – Jan 27	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 7 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Geese	Oct 19 – Jan 27	6/day, which may include: 6 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<b>Balance of State Zone</b>	Ducks	Oct 20 – Jan 27	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females. 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 7 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Geese	Early Season (Large Canada Geese only): Oct 6 – Oct 10 Regular Season: Oct 20 – Jan 27 Late Season: (White-fronts and White Geese): Feb 16 – Feb 20	8/day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.

## Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations, Continued

SPECIAL AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
North Coast	All Canada Geese	Regular Season: Oct 31 – Jan 27 Late Season: Feb 23 – Mar 10	6/day, only 1 may be a Large Canada goose. Possession limit double the daily bag. Large Canada geese are closed during the Late Season.
Humboldt Bay South Spit	All species	Closed during brant season	
Sacramento Valley	White-fronted geese	Oct 20 – 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 10 – Dec 9	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Imperial County	White Geese	Regular Season: Nov 3 – Jan 27 Late Season: Feb 9 – Feb 24	6/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Sept 22 – 23	Same as regular season
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		Feb 2 – 3	
Southern California Zone		Feb 2 – 3	
Colorado River Zone		Feb 2 – 3	
Balance of State Zone		Feb 2 – 3	
FALCONRY OF DUCKS, GEESE, AMERICAN COOTS, AND COMMON MOORHENS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Oct 6 – Jan 18	3/day, possession limit 6
Balance of State Zone		Oct 20 – Jan 27 & Feb 2 – 3	
Southern California Zone		Oct. 20 – Feb 3	
Colorado River Zone		Oct 19 – Jan 31	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Ducks only	Oct 6 – Oct 14 & Oct 27 – Jan 30	

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 closure of waterfowl hunting at the Big River estuary in Mendocino County.

Proposal Source. Mendocino County Board of Supervisors (letter 08/30/2011)

Recommendation. Reject.

Analysis. Hunting in the Big River estuary is consistent with the conservation of wildlife and the provision of recreational opportunity.

- (b) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to increase bag limit of large Canada geese in the Northeastern Zone.

Proposal Source. Mark Checchi (email 11/20/2011)

Recommendation. Reject.

Analysis. The reduced bag limit for Large Canada geese in the Northeastern Zone remains because survival rates and population are lower in this historic breeding location compared to other areas of the state where resident Canada goose populations are increasing.

- (c) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to increase bag limits on northern pintails in all zones.

Proposal Source. Jim Langdon (email 02/15/2012), John L. Gregg (letter 06/13/2012)

Recommendation. Reject.

Analysis. The Federal frameworks were established on July 26, 2012, and only allow a daily bag limit of 2 pintails with no restrictions on females. The framework was established based on the pintail harvest strategy that was adopted in 2010.

- (d) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to dissolve the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area in the Balance of State zone.

Proposal Source. Don Coelho, William Coelho, Greg Coelho, and Dan Coelho (email 02/16/2012)

Recommendation. Reject.

Analysis. The continuation of this special management area is for the protection of the less numerous subspecies of white-fronted geese. Tule geese are estimated between 10,000 and 15,000 compared to the more numerous Pacific white-fronted goose estimated at 700,000. The Federal frameworks were established on July 26, 2012, and maintain the Sacramento Valley Special Management area for the protection of this subspecies.

- (e) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to ban spinning-wing decoys (SWDs).

Proposal Source. Eric Mills, Action for Animals (email 04/16/2012)

Recommendation. Reject.

Analysis. The Commission addressed this issue in 2002. Currently, biological information is not sufficient to conclude that it is necessary to regulate this method of take beyond the existing regulation.

- (f) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to maintain the current regulations for spinning-wing decoys (SWDs).

Proposal Source. Bill Alexander (email 06/14/2012), Bruce Bullard, Valley Waterfowl (email 06/18/2012), Darrel Deuel (email 06/27/2012)

Recommendation. Accept.

Analysis. The Commission addressed this issue in 2002. The Department recommends that the restricted use of the “spinning-wing (i.e. moto-ducks) decoys” prior to December 1<sup>st</sup> be maintained during the 2012-13 hunting season.

- (g) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to establish a late season goose hunt in Northeastern Zone.

Proposal Source. Petition by Modoc County Fish, Game, and Recreation Commission (letter 05/02/2012, letter 05/23/2012), Steve Lawrence (letter 04/26/2012), Petition by Lassen County Fish and Game Commission (letter 08/01/2012)

Recommendation. Reject.

Analysis. Currently, Federal frameworks only allow season dates on dark geese in the Northeastern Zone to close no later than the last Sunday in January. Framework changes need to be identified in December of the previous year at the Pacific Flyway Study Committee meeting. The establishment of white goose hunting may occur under the current frameworks, but was not identified in the Initial Statement of Reasons. An analysis of the change needs to be completed by the Department; and the

Department's concerns need to be discussed with all interested parties prior to the recommendation of a late season goose hunting season in the Northeastern Zone.

- (h) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Supports the proposed hunting season length during the Regular and Late Goose Seasons in the North Coast Special Management Area.

Proposal Source. Dustin Kuehn (email 05/08/2012),

Recommendation. Accept.

Analysis. This recommendation fits within the Federal frameworks and is the Department's recommendation.

- (i) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to eliminate the Youth Hunt Days in the Northeastern Zone.

Proposal Source. Allen Bunch (letter 06/06/2012),

Recommendation. Reject.

Analysis. These Youth Hunts have 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 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 prior the general season in the Northeastern Zone to mitigate the effect to the extent allowed under the current Federal frameworks.

- (j) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Commented on the long-standing tradition of working with the Department on waterfowl hunting regulations, and thanked the Department and Commission for this effort.

Proposal Source. Bill Gaines, California Outdoor Heritage Alliance (Commission testimony 6/20/12)

Recommendation. N/A

Analysis. Support noted.

- (k) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Supported the Department for proposing to allow some access for hunters during the Late Season goose hunt in the Balance of State Zone. Also, supported the proposed increase in possession limits, and thanked the Department and Commission for continued effort of working closely on the waterfowl hunting regulations.

Proposal Source. Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl Association

(Commission testimony 06/20/12)

Recommendation. Accept.

Analysis. Support noted.

- (l) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to decrease the mallard bag limit to 5 with and 1 female restriction in all hunting zones.

Proposal Source. Latigo Hext (email 06/27/12)

Recommendation. Reject.

Analysis. The Department's duck daily bag limit recommendation is 7, no more than 7 mallards or 2 hen mallards. The Federal frameworks allow a 7 duck daily bag limit, including no more than 7 mallards or 2 hen mallards. Duck season frameworks in the Pacific Flyway are established based on the best available science which suggests that this combination of season length and bag limit is the optimal choice for 2012. Additionally, bag limit changes alone, unless substantial, will not reduce harvest by a measurable level because most hunters do not achieve the daily bag limit during each day's hunt, thus a reduction in the daily limit, without a reduction in season length, will not significantly change mallard harvest.

- (m) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to maintain the late goose season in the Balance of State Zone.

Proposal Source. Erik Westerman (email 07/23/2012)

Recommendation. Accept.

Analysis. This recommendation fits within the Federal frameworks and is the Department's recommendation.

- (n) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to include Large Canada geese for the Late Season goose hunt in the Balance of State Zone.

Proposal Source. Tom Dias, Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation (email 07/23/2012)

Recommendation. Reject.

Analysis. This recommendation increases the number of hunting days on Large Canada goose over 107 days which is the maximum number of days allowed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

- (o) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to

change the Department recommendation for the split duck season in the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone to Oct 6. – Oct. 14 & Oct. 27 – Jan. 27.

Proposal Source. Jeff Thomson, Tulare Basin Wetlands Association (Commission testimony 08/08/12).

Recommendation. Accept

Analysis. This recommendation is within the federal frameworks and both the Commission and Department support this recommendation.

- (p) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to adopt the Department's recommendations for waterfowl hunting season, except for the recommendation for Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone. Also supports the Department's work on waterfowl.

Proposal Source. Bill Gaines, California Outdoor Heritage Alliance (Commission testimony 08/08/12).

Recommendation. Accept and support noted.

Analysis. The recommendation is within the federal frameworks and both the Commission and Department support this recommendation.

- (q) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to adopt the Department's recommendations for waterfowl hunting season, except for the recommendation for Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone. Also supports working the Department for the 2013-14 on goose hunting regulations, and supports the Department's work on waterfowl.

Proposal Source. Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl (Commission testimony 08/08/12).

Recommendation. Accept and support noted.

Analysis. The recommendation is within the federal frameworks and both the Commission and Department support this 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 existing possession limits for brant, ducks, and geese in all zones.
2. The No Change Alternative would maintain the current language in the Balance of State Zone stating that the Late Season goose hunts are closed on "public areas." The current language is not well-defined, creating uncertainty with the hunting public.
3. The No Change Alternative would maintain the current language in the North Coast and Imperial County SMAs stating that the Late Season goose hunts are closed on "public areas." The current language is not well-defined, creating uncertainty with the hunting public.
4. 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:

A reasonable alternative for the season length in the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area would be open currently with the opening of goose season through December 14. The existing regulation allows the Special Management Area to open concurrently with the general goose season through December 21. The season length was increased in 2011-12 to provide more hunting opportunity for Pacific white-fronted geese while still protecting the less numerous Tule white-fronted geese. However, opening of hunting season were delayed 1 week in the Sacramento Valley due to the delayed rice harvest on private properties. Harvest data collected by the Department indicated total estimated harvest for Tule white-fronted goose increased by approximately 40% during the 2011-12 hunting season. Furthermore, decreased storm events during this past winter decreased hunting success. The Sacramento Valley Special Management Area (SMA) is in place to restrict the harvest of Tule geese. While Pacific white-fronted geese are well above the

flyway management goal of 300,000 (about 650,000), the current population estimate for Tule geese number approximately 14,500 but appears to be stable. The Department will be conducting a more thorough analysis after the 2012-13 season to determine if the extended season length in the Sacramento Valley SMA significantly increased harvest rates on Tule white-fronted geese. Harvest recommendations will continue to be based on the status of the less numerous Tule goose population.

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; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment:

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new business, the elimination of existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in California. The proposed waterfowl regulations will set the 2012-13 waterfowl hunting season dates and bag limits within the federal frameworks. Positive impacts to jobs and/or businesses that provide services to waterfowl hunters will be realized with the continuation of adopting waterfowl hunting seasons in 2012-13. This is based on a 2006 US Fish and Wildlife national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation for California. The report estimated that hunters contributed about \$188,600,000 to small businesses in California during the 2007 waterfowl hunting season. The impacted businesses are generally small businesses employing few individuals and, like all small businesses, are subject to failure for a variety of causes. Additionally, the long-term intent of the proposed regulations is to maintain or increase waterfowl, subsequently, the long-term viability of these same small businesses.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. The proposed regulations are intended to provide

additional recreational opportunity to the public.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment by the sustainable management of California's waterfowl resources.

(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 four 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. Item 1 requires changes in the federal regulations and must be approved by the Pacific Flyway Council at its meeting on July 13, 2012. Item 4 (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 27, 2012. 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 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 benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with Federal law, sustainable management of the waterfowl resources, positive impacts to jobs and/or businesses that provide services to waterfowl hunters will be realized with the continuation of adopting waterfowl hunting seasons in 2012-2013.

The Commission does not anticipate non-monetary benefits to the protection of public health and safety, worker safety, the prevention of discrimination, the promotion of fairness or social equity and the increase in openness and transparency in business and government.

The proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations. No other State agency has the authority to promulgate waterfowl hunting regulations.

The Department's proposals are as follows:

1. Increase the possession limit to triple the daily bag limit for brant, ducks, and geese in all zones. **The Service has postponed the discussion on the increase of possession limits until the 2013-14 waterfowl hunting regulation cycle.**
2. Amend the language in the Balance of State Zone Late Season goose hunt. To clarify the language as requested by the Fish and Game Commission's August 3 meeting and to maintain consistency, the Department proposes to add "During the Late Season, hunting is not permitted on wildlife areas listed in Sections 550-552 EXCEPT Type C wildlife areas in the North Central Region."

3. Amend the language in the North Coast and Imperial County Special Management areas (SMA) Late Season goose hunt. To clarify the language as requested by the Fish and Game Commission's August 3 meeting and to maintain consistency, the Department proposes to add "During the Late Season, hunting is not permitted on wildlife areas listed in Sections 550-552".
4. 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 26, 2012. The 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 female 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, and the scaup season could be as long as the general duck season with a 7-bird daily bag limit.**

The Commission adopted minor editorial changes to clarify the regulations and the following specific regulations at the August 8, 2012, meeting.

<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 6 – Jan 18	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females. 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 7 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Geese	Oct 6 – Jan 13	8/day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese but no more than 2 Large Canada geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<b>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</b>	Ducks	Oct 6 – Oct 14 & Oct 27 – Jan 27	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females. 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 7 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Geese	Oct 20 – Jan 27	8/day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<b>Southern California Zone</b>	Ducks	Oct 20 – Jan 27	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females. 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 7 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Geese	Oct 20 – Jan 27	8/day, which may include: 6 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<b>Colorado River Zone</b>	Ducks	Oct 19 – Jan 27	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 7 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Geese	Oct 19 – Jan 27	6/day, which may include: 6 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.
<b>Balance of State Zone</b>	Ducks	Oct 20 – Jan 27	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females. 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 7 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.
	Geese	Early Season (Large Canada Geese only): Oct 6 – Oct 10 Regular Season: Oct 20 – Jan 27 Late Season: (White-fronts and White Geese): Feb 16 – Feb 20	8/day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.

## Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations, Continued

SPECIAL AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
North Coast	All Canada Geese	Regular Season: Oct 31 – Jan 27 Late Season: Feb 23 – Mar 10	6/day, only 1 may be a Large Canada goose. Possession limit double the daily bag. Large Canada geese are closed during the Late Season.
Humboldt Bay South Spit	All species	Closed during brant season	
Sacramento Valley	White-fronted geese	Oct 20 – 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 10 – Dec 9	2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
Imperial County	White Geese	Regular Season: Nov 3 – Jan 27 Late Season: Feb 9 – Feb 24	6/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.
YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Sept 22 – 23	Same as regular season
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		Feb 2 – 3	
Southern California Zone		Feb 2 – 3	
Colorado River Zone		Feb 2 – 3	
Balance of State Zone		Feb 2 – 3	
FALCONRY OF DUCKS, GEESE, AMERICAN COOTS, AND COMMON MOORHENS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Oct 6 – Jan 18	3/day, possession limit 6
Balance of State Zone		Oct 20 – Jan 27 & Feb 2 – 3	
Southern California Zone		Oct. 20 – Feb 3	
Colorado River Zone		Oct 19 – Jan 31	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Ducks only	Oct 6 – Oct 14 & Oct 27 – Jan 30	

## **Supplement to Updated Informative Digest**

### **Consistency With State Regulations:**

The Commission performed a California Administrative Code database search for waterfowl lists 31 regulations in various Sections and Titles of California Code of Regulations. The Commission has considered these regulations and determined that they are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with the proposed regulations.

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

- (i) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to eliminate the Youth Hunt Days in the Northeastern Zone or limit them to Wildlife Refuges.

Proposal Source. Allen Bunch (letter 06/06/2012),

Recommendation. Reject.

Analysis. These Youth Hunts have 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 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 prior the general season in the Northeastern Zone to mitigate the effect to the extent allowed under the current Federal frameworks. State and Federal Hunting seasons are designed for zones for special management areas and regulations are not set at the wildlife or refuge level.

- (c) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to increase bag limits on northern pintails in all zones.

Proposal Source. Jim Langdon (email 02/15/2012), John L. Gregg (letter 06/13/2012)

Recommendation. Reject.

Analysis. The Federal frameworks were established on July 26, 2012, and only allow a daily bag limit of 2 pintails (sprig) with no restrictions on females. The framework was established based on the pintail harvest strategy that was adopted in 2010.

- (p) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to adopt the Department's recommendations for waterfowl hunting season, except to change the recommendation for the split duck season in the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone to Oct 6. – Oct. 14 & Oct. 27 – Jan. 27 as proposed by Jeff Thomson, Tulare Basin Wetlands Association. Also supports the Department's work on waterfowl.

Proposal Source. Bill Gaines, California Outdoor Heritage Alliance (Commission testimony 08/08/12).

Recommendation. Accept and support noted.

Analysis. This recommendation is within the federal frameworks and both the Commission and Department support this recommendation.

- q. Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the FGC to adopt the Department's recommendations for waterfowl hunting season, except to change the recommendation for the split duck season in the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone to Oct 6. – Oct. 14 & Oct. 27 – Jan. 27 as proposed by Jeff Thomson, Tulare Basin Wetlands Association. Also supports working the Department for the 2013-14 on goose hunting regulations, and supports the Department's work on waterfowl.

Proposal Source. Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl (Commission testimony 08/08/12).

Recommendation. Accept and support noted.

Analysis. The recommendation is within the federal frameworks and both the Commission and Department support this recommendation.

IX. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

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

XI. (a) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

Final Environmental Document Section 502, Title 14, CCR, dated August 8, 2012.