

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

**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, proposes to amend Section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to waterfowl hunting.

**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 nine 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 2, 3, 5, and 8 require changes in the federal regulations and must be approved by the Pacific Flyway Council at its meeting on July 26, 2013. Item 9 (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 31 and August 1, 2013. 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 2013-2014.

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. Modify the definition of White geese to include the blue phase of both Ross’ and snow geese.
2. Increase the possession limit to triple the daily bag limit for brant, ducks, and geese in all zones.

3. Increase the white goose bag limit in all zones from 6 geese per day to 10 geese per day. This change will also result in an increase in the total bag limit from 8 per day to a total of 10 geese per day.
4. Increase the white goose season length in the Northeastern Zone to 107 days, split the season into two segments, and allow hunting for white geese after the last Sunday in January.
5. Increase the white-fronted goose season length in the Northeastern Zone to 107 days, split the season into two segments, and allow hunting for white-fronted geese after the last Sunday in January.
6. Amend the language in the Balance of State Zone Late Season goose hunt to “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 and Central regions.”
7. Amend the language in the North Coast and Imperial County Special Management areas Late Season goose hunt to “During the Late Season, hunting is only permitted on private lands with the permission of the land owner.”
8. Increase the daily bag limit of white-fronted geese in the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area to 3.
9. 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 and with Oregon in the North Coast Special Management Area. See table below for season and bag limit ranges.

## Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

AREA	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
<b>Statewide</b>	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent w/duck season	25/day. 25 in possession
<b>Northeastern Zone</b> <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback, Scaup, and Dark and White Geese</i>	Ducks	Between 38 & 105 days	4-7/day, which may include: 3-7 mallards no more than 1-2 females, 0-3 pintail, 0-3 canvasback, 0-3 redheads, 0-7 scaup. Possession limit double-triple the daily bag.
	Pintail Canvasback Scaup	Between 38 & 105 days	
	Geese	Regular Season Dark geese: 100 days White geese: 73 days Late Season White geese: 32 days Whitefronts: 5 days	8-10/ day, which may include: 6-10 white geese, 6 dark geese no more than 2 Large Canada geese. Possession limit double-triple the daily bag.
<b>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</b> <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup.</i>	Ducks	Between 38 & 105 days	4-7/day, which may include: 3-7 mallards no more than 1-2 females, 0-3 pintail, 0-3 canvasback, 0-3 redheads, 0-7 scaup. Possession limit double-triple the daily bag.
	Pintail Canvasback Scaup	Between 0 & 105 days	
	Geese	100 days	8-10/ day, which may include: 6-10 white geese, 6 dark geese. Possession limit double-triple the daily bag.
<b>Southern California Zone</b> <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup.</i>	Ducks	Between 38 & 105 days	4-7/day, which may include: 3-7 mallards no more than 1-2 hen mallards, 0-3 pintail, 0-3 canvasback, 0-3 redheads, 0-7 scaup. Possession limit double-triple the daily bag.
	Pintail Canvasback Scaup	Between 0 & 105 days	
	Geese	100 days	8-10/ day, which may include: 6-10 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit double-triple the daily bag.
<b>Colorado River Zone</b>	Ducks	Between 38 & 105 days	4-7/day, which may include: 3-7 mallards no more than 1-2 females or Mexican-like ducks, 0-3 pintail, 0-3 canvasback, 0-3 redheads, 0-7 scaup. Possession limit double-triple the daily bag.
	Pintail Canvasback Scaup	Between 0 & 105 days	
	Geese	Between 101 & 105 days	6-10/day, up to 6-10 white geese, up to 3 dark geese. Possession limit double-triple the daily bag.
<b>Balance of State Zone</b> <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback, Scaup and Dark and White Geese.</i>	Ducks	Between 38 & 105 days	4-7/day, which may include: 3-7 mallards no more than 1-2 females, 0-3 pintail, 0-3 canvasback, 0-3 redheads, 0-7 scaup. Possession limit double-triple the daily bag.
	Pintail Canvasback Scaup	Between 0 & 105 days	
	Geese	Early Season: 5 days (CAGO only) Regular Season: 100 days Late Season: 5 days (whitefronts and white geese)	8-10/ day, which may include: 6-10 white geese, 6 dark geese. Possession limit double-triple 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 <i>Season may be split</i>	All Canada Geese	105 days except for Large Canada geese which can not exceed 100 days or extend beyond the last Sunday in January.	6/day, only 1 may be a Large Canada goose. Possession limit double-triple 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	Open concurrently with general goose season through Dec 21	2-3/day. Possession limit double-triple 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	From Nov 7 for 30 days	2/day. Possession limit double-triple the daily bag.
Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	From the second Saturday in November for 30 days	2/day. Possession limit double-triple the daily bag.
Imperial County <i>Season may be split</i>	White Geese	102 days	6/day. Possession limit double-triple 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	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 extending for 2 days.	
Balance of State Zone		The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	
<b>FALCONRY OF DUCKS</b>	<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>SEASON</b>	<b>DAILY BAG &amp; POSSESSION LIMITS</b>
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Between 38 and 105 days	3/ day, possession limit 6-9
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	

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held at the Department of Consumer Affairs, 1625 North Market Boulevard, Sacramento, California, on Wednesday, June 26, 2013, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

**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 on Wednesday, August 7, 2013, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. The exact location of this meeting has not yet been determined. When this information is available, a continuation notice will be sent to interested and affected parties. The continuation notice will also be published in the Regulatory Notice Register. Written comments must be submitted by August 5, 2013 at the address given below, or by fax at (916) 653-5040, or by e-mail to [FGC@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:FGC@fgc.ca.gov). All

comments must be received no later than August 7, 2013, at the hearing. 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, Sonke Mastrup, 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 Sonke Mastrup or Sheri Tiemann at the preceding address or phone number. **Dr. Eric Loft, Chief, Wildlife Branch, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (916) 445-3555, has 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 the agency program staff.

#### Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Analysis

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 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 2013-14 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 2013-14. This is based on a 2011 US Fish and Wildlife national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation for California. The report estimated that migratory bird hunters contributed about \$169,115,000 to businesses in California during the 2011 migratory bird 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 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, Government Code: 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. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

### 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, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: June 11, 2013

Sonke Mastrup  
Executive Director