

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

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: January 24, 2014
- II. Date of Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons: July 9, 2014
- III. Date of Final Statement of Reasons: August 12, 2014
- IV. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:
 - (a) Notice Hearing: Date: April 16, 2014
Location: Ventura, CA
 - (b) Discussion Hearing Date: June 4, 2014
Location: Eureka, CA
 - (c) Adoption Hearing: Date: August 6, 2014
Location: San Diego, CA
- V. Update:

The Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopted at its August 6, 2014, meeting the proposed language with modifications to identify the specific season lengths and daily bag limits. These modifications were made within the ranges proposed in the Initial Statement of Reasons.

There were two additional changes: 1) the Canada goose regular season length in the North Coast Special Management Area will be 87 days rather than the 88 days that was proposed; and 2) the Canada goose late season length in the North Coast Special Management Area will be 18 days rather than the 17 days that was proposed.

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 additional changes were made to the regular and late Canada goose season lengths in the North Coast Special Management Area because the regulations in this zone must conform to Oregon's regulations in

their adjacent zone.

At the August 6, 2014 meeting, the Commission adopted the following season lengths, dates, and daily bag limits:

Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations			
AREA	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Statewide	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent w/duck season	25/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag
Northeastern Zone	Ducks	Oct 4 – Jan 16	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Oct 4 – Nov 30 & Dec 20 – Jan 16	
	Geese	Regular Season Dark geese: Oct 4 – Jan 11 White geese: Oct 31 – Jan 11 Late Season White geese: Feb 7 – Mar 10 Whitefronts: Mar 6 – Mar 10	25/day, which may include: 15 white geese, 10 dark geese no more than 2 Large Canada geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Ducks	Oct 18 – Jan 25	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 1 – Jan 25	
	Geese	Oct 18 – Jan 25	25/ day, which may include: 15 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Southern California Zone	Ducks	Oct 18 – Jan 25	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 hen mallards, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 1 – Jan 25	
	Geese	Oct 18 – Jan 25	18/ day, which may include: 15 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Colorado River Zone	Ducks	Oct 17 – Jan 25	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 triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 1 – Jan 25	
	Geese	Oct 17 – Jan 25	10/day, up to 10 white geese, up to 4 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Balance of State Zone	Ducks	Oct 18 – Jan 25	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 1 – Jan 25	
	Geese	Early Season: Oct 4 – Oct 8 (CAGO only) Regular Season: Oct 18 – Jan 25 Late Season: Feb 14 – Feb 18 (Whitefronts and white geese)	25/ day, which may include: 15 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.

Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations, Continued

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
North Coast	All Canada Geese	Oct 31 – Jan 25 & Feb 21 – Mar 10	10/day, only 1 may be a Large Canada goose. Possession limit triple the daily bag. Large Canada geese are closed during the Late Season.
Humboldt Bay South Spit (West Side)	All species	Closed during brant season	
Sacramento Valley	White-fronted geese	Open concurrently with general goose season through Dec 21	3/day. Possession limit 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	Nov 7 – Dec 6	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	Nov 8 – Dec 7	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Imperial County	White Geese	Nov 1 – Jan 25 & Feb 7 – Feb 22	15/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
YOUTH WATERFOWL 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 extending for 2 days.	
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	Oct 4 – Jan 16	3/day, possession limit 9
Balance of State Zone		Oct 18 – Jan 25 & Jan 31 -Feb 1	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		Oct 18 – Jan 25 & Jan 31 -Feb 1	
Southern California Zone		Oct 18 – Jan 30	
Colorado River Zone		Ducks only	

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

- a) Comment Source: Email from Don Kirby, Cal-Ore Wetland and Waterfowl Council (COWWC, July 11, 2014, Attachment (a)).

1) The COWWC prefers that the duck season open October 11 which will correspond with Oregon's opener, citing a number of benefits to hunters.

Department Response: The Department recommended that the Northeastern Zone to open October 4 to coincide with the general goose season opener and the split scaup season. Most hunting opportunity for scaup and ringneck ducks is early rather than later based on duck survey data in this zone. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- b) Comment Source. Letter from Randall Cleveland, Protecting Earth and Animals with Compassion and Education (dated July 24, 2014, Attachment (b))

1) Increase in killing of waterfowl is not warranted, borderline reckless with uncertainties of climate change and unacceptable to majority of public.

2) Migratory waterfowl impacts are unknown (climate change) but proposed regulation changes ignore reality and negative impacts. To increase bag limits on coots, moorhens, ducks and geese is reprehensible and represents disregard for 99% of public who view and photograph waterfowl. We urge either no changes or a complete reduction of bag limits and shortening of all seasons.

3) Urge the DFW and FGC to require any staff decision or policy Makers who bought tags in past 5 years to recuse themselves from any proposed game regulation kill increases of that species due to conflict of interest.

Department Response: 1) Climate change was analyzed in the Department's Draft Environmental Document (see Appendix F, pages 88-89). Specifically, there is substantial evidence that climate change will cause changes in habitats and other factors that affect waterfowl populations over the long term. An example would be overabundant goose populations because weather conditions in the arctic tend to be more favorable now. Waterfowl populations are assessed by the Service and States in many ways on an annual basis. Regulated harvest has a minimal effect on populations based on a long history of scientific evidence and management. Restrictive regulations are considered when populations reach a specified threshold (as in goose populations) or

harvest rates are high in relation to growth of the population (as in duck populations). Goose bag limit increases are warranted because these populations will exceed the established population objectives as stated in their associated management plan (www.pacificflyway.gov/management.asp).

2) Increased bag limits were recommended for geese and increased possession limits were recommended for coots. As explained in the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR), the Service establishes the frameworks in late July after it analyzes current waterfowl population data and considers input from the Flyway Councils and the public. A range of bag limits for ducks were recommended because the APA and CEQA process starts well before surveys are conducted and the ISOR must encompass possible Federal framework decisions. Goose bag limit increases are warranted because these populations will exceed the established population objectives as justified in the ISOR and stated in their associated management plan (www.pacificflyway.gov/management.asp). Hunting regulations are established to maintain populations at optimal levels which benefits non consumptive users. The state's Conservation of Wildlife Resources Policy (Fish and Game Code, Section 1801) identifies objectives that include maintaining sufficient populations of wildlife resources in the State and to provide public hunting opportunities through regulated harvest where such harvest is consistent with maintaining healthy wildlife populations.

3) The commenter addressed issues not directly related to this rulemaking regarding policy, legislative, and the environment. These issues are beyond the scope of the present rulemaking which sets annual season, bag and possession limits in accordance with California and Federal law. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- c) Comment Source: Letter from Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl Association (August 4, 2014, Attachment (c)).

Disagrees with the Northeastern Zone duck opening and closing dates and the timing of the split scaup season. The CWA would prefer that the Northeastern Zone duck season open October 11 through January 23rd, and the scaup season to open October 11 through November 16th and December 6 through January 23rd.

Department Response: The Department recommended the Northeastern Zone to open October 4 to coincide with the general goose season opener and the split scaup season to open for a period of 58 days and reopen on December 20 for a period of 28 days. Most hunting opportunity for scaup and ringneck ducks is early rather than later based on duck survey data in

this zone. Also, much of the habitat in this zone tends to freeze as the season progresses. There are some larger bodies of waters that do not freeze and may provide hunting opportunity later in the season but season timing needs to reflect conditions in the majority of the zone. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- d) Comment Source: Public testimony from Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl Association (August 6, 2014),

Comment and Response. Refer to the CWA letter (c) above.

- e) Comment Source: Public testimony from John Carlson, California Waterfowl Association President (August 6, 2014).

Thanked the Department for outreach, specifically attending workshops to discuss habitat issues and regulation packages.

Department Response: Support noted.

VII. Location and Index of Rulemaking File:

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

VIII. Location of Department Files:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

1812 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95811

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 Humboldt South Bay Spit Special Management Area name.
 - 2) The No Change Alternative would maintain the existing possession limits for coots and moorhens.

- 3) 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.
 - 4) The No Change Alternative would maintain the existing total daily bag limit of 10 geese per day in the Northeastern California, Southern San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, and Balance of State zones.
 - 5) The No Change Alternative would maintain the existing total daily bag limit of 10 white geese per day in the Northeastern California, Southern San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, and Balance of State zones. The total daily bag limit for white geese would also remain at 10 per day in the Imperial County Special Management Area.
 - 6) The No Change Alternative would maintain the existing total daily bag limit of 6 dark geese per day in the Northeastern California, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Balance of State zones. The total daily bag limit for dark geese would remain at 3 geese per day in the Colorado River Zone, and the total daily bag limit for Canada geese would remain at 6 geese per day in the North Coast Special Management Area.
 - 7) The No Change Alternative would retain the existing numbering in subsection 502(d)(5)(D) which implies that Special Management Areas are included within the Balance of State Zone.
- (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, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the adopted regulation, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

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 2014-15 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 proposed regulations for the waterfowl hunting season in 2014-15. 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 sustainably manage waterfowl populations, and consequently, the long-term viability of these same small businesses.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Hunting provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by the future stewards of the State's resources. The Commission anticipates benefits to the State's environment by the sustainable management of California's waterfowl resources. The Commission does not anticipate any impacts to worker safety because the proposed amendments will not affect working conditions.

- (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.

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 for waterfowl. Changes are proposed for several subsections of Section 502 which are generally described below. Regarding duck season lengths and bag limits, item 3 provides notice that other framework regulations may change in 2014 when current biological information becomes available. Concerning geese, items 4, 5, and 6 require Flyway Council and Service approval to establish the final bag limits pursuant to the process described below.

The Service will consider recommendations from the Flyway Council at their meeting on July 31 and August 1, 2014. 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.

The Department’s proposals are as follows:

1. Modify the name of the Humboldt Bay South Spit Special Management Area to Humboldt Bay South Spit (West Side).
2. Increase the possession limit for coots and moorhens to triple the daily bag limit statewide. This change will make the possession limit for coots and moorhens consistent with those for other waterfowl throughout the state.
3. 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.
4. Increase the total daily bag limit for geese in the Northeastern California, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and the Balance of State zones from 10 to 25 geese per day; the Southern California Zone total daily bag limit for geese will increase from 10 to 18 geese per day.
5. Increase the total daily bag limit for white geese in the Northeastern California, Southern San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, and Balance of State zones from 10 to 15 white geese per day; the bag limit for white geese will increase from 10 to 15 per day in the Imperial County Special Management Area.
6. Increase the total daily bag limit for dark geese from 6 to 10 dark geese per day in the Northeastern California, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Balance of State zones; increase the bag limit for dark geese from 3 to 4 per day in the Colorado

River Zone; and increase the daily bag limit for Canada geese from 6 to 10 per day in the North Coast Special Management Area.

7. Since Special Management Areas are not a subset of Balance of State Zones (as might be implied by the present numbering of the regulation) it is recommended that the numbering of these provisions in 502(d)(5)(D) be revised. A new subsection "502(d)(6) Special Management Areas" is proposed to replace 502(d)(5)(D), with subsequent renumbering of the following subparagraphs. Other references to this subsection are also changed.

Also, minor editorial changes are proposed to clarify and simplify the regulations and to comply with existing federal frameworks.

Benefits of the regulations

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 2014-15.

Non-monetary benefits to the public

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.

Evaluation of incompatibility with existing regulations

The Commission has reviewed the Title 14, CCR, and conducted a search of any similar regulations on this topic and has concluded that the proposed amendments to Section 502 are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. No other State agency has the authority to promulgate waterfowl hunting regulations.

UPDATE

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 31 and August 1, 2014. 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 86 days with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

The Commission adopted minor editorial changes to clarify the regulations and the following specific regulations at the August 6, 2014, meeting.

Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations			
AREA	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Statewide	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent w/duck season	25/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Northeastern Zone	Ducks	Oct 4 – Jan 16	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Oct 4 – Nov 30 & Dec 20 – Jan 16	
	Geese	Regular Season Dark geese: Oct 4 – Jan 11 White geese: Oct 31 – Jan 11 Late Season White geese: Feb 7 – Mar 10 Whitefronts: Mar 6 – Mar 10	25/day, which may include: 15 white geese, 10 dark geese no more than 2 Large Canada geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Ducks	Oct 18 – Jan 25	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 1 – Jan 25	
	Geese	Oct 18 – Jan 25	25/ day, which may include: 15 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Southern California Zone	Ducks	Oct 18 – Jan 25	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 hen mallards, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 1 – Jan 25	
	Geese	Oct 18 – Jan 25	18/ day, which may include: 15 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Colorado River Zone	Ducks	Oct 17 – Jan 25	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 triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 1 – Jan 25	
	Geese	Oct 17 – Jan 25	10/day, up to 10 white geese, up to 4 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Balance of State Zone	Ducks	Oct 18 – Jan 25	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 1 – Jan 25	
	Geese	Early Season: Oct 4 – Oct 8 (CAGO only) Regular Season: Oct 18 – Jan 25 Late Season: Feb 14 – Feb 18 (Whitefronts and white geese)	25/ day, which may include: 15 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.

Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations, Continued

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
North Coast	All Canada Geese	Oct 31 – Jan 25 & Feb 21 – Mar 10	10/day, only 1 may be a Large Canada goose. Possession limit triple the daily bag. Large Canada geese are closed during the Late Season.
Humboldt Bay South Spit (West Side)	All species	Closed during brant season	
Sacramento Valley	White-fronted geese	Open concurrently with general goose season through Dec 21	3/day. Possession limit 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	Nov 7 – Dec 6	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	Nov 8 – Dec 7	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Imperial County	White Geese	Nov 1 – Jan 25 & Feb 7 – Feb 22	15/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
YOUTH WATERFOWL 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 extending for 2 days.	
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	Oct 4 – Jan 16	3/day, possession limit 9
Balance of State Zone		Oct 18 – Jan 25 & Jan 31 -Feb 1	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		Oct 18 – Jan 25 & Jan 31 -Feb 1	
Southern California Zone		Oct 18 – Jan 30	
Colorado River Zone		Ducks only	

ADDENDUM TO FINAL STATEMENTS OF REASONS
Amend Section 502, Title 14, CCR

1. The following addendum is made to add the “Draft Environmental Document, Section 502, Title 14”, listed as Item 7 in the Index, as a document relied upon for the action.

This document was filed with the Office of Planning and Research and California State Clearing House and public review was made pursuant to Section 15087 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and made available for comment for at least 45 days.

2. The following language is added to V. Update:

“The scaup season dates in the Northeastern Zone and the general duck season dates in the San Joaquin Valley Zone were modified based on public comments. The adopted season dates are within the federal frameworks.”

REGULATORY LANGUAGE

Section 502, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§502. Waterfowl, Migratory; American Coot and Common Moorhen (Common Gallinule).

(a) Definitions.

(1) Dark geese. Dark geese include Canada geese, cackling geese, Aleutian geese and white-fronted geese (“specklebelly”).

(2) Large Canada geese. Large Canada geese include western Canada geese (“honker”) and lesser Canada geese (“lessers”).

(3) Small Canada geese. Small (about the size of a mallard) Canada geese include cackling geese and Aleutian geese. Both are white-cheeked geese nearly identical in appearance to Large Canada geese. Aleutian geese have a thin white neck ring and Cackling geese have dark breasts. Both species have a high-pitched cackle as opposed to the deeper “honking”.

(4) White geese. White geese include Ross' geese, snow geese and blue phase of both species.

(b) Waterfowl Hunting Zones.

(1) Northeastern California Zone: In that portion of California lying east and north of a line beginning at the intersection of Interstate 5 with the California-Oregon state line; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Walters Lane south of the town of Yreka; west along Walters Lane to its junction with Easy Street; south along Easy Street to the junction with Old Highway 99; south along Old Highway 99 to the point of intersection with Interstate 5 north of the town of Weed; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Highway 89; east and south along Highway 89 to Main Street in Greenville; north and east to its junction with North Valley Road; south to its junction of Diamond Mountain Road; north and east to its junction with North Arm Road; south and west to the junction of North Valley Road; south to the junction with Arlington Road (A22); west to the junction of Highway 89; south and west to the junction of Highway 70; east on Highway 70 to Highway 395; south and east on Highway 395 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada state line; north along the California-Nevada state line to the junction of the California-Nevada-Oregon state lines west along the California-Oregon state line to the point of origin.

(2) Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone: All of Kings and Tulare counties and that portion of Kern County north of the Southern California Zone.

(3) Southern California Zone: In that portion of southern California (but excluding the Colorado River zone) lying south and east of a line beginning at the mouth of the Santa Maria River at the Pacific Ocean; east along the Santa Maria River to where it crosses Highway 166 near the City of Santa Maria; east on Highway 166 to the junction with Highway 99; south on Highway 99 to the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains at Tejon Pass; east and north along the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains to where it intersects Highway 178 at Walker Pass; east on Highway 178 to the junction of Highway 395 at the town of Inyokern; south on Highway 395 to the junction of Highway 58; east on Highway 58 to the junction of Interstate 15; east on Interstate 15 to the junction with

Highway 127; north on Highway 127 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada state line.

(4) Colorado River Zone: In those portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial counties lying east of the following lines: Beginning at the intersection of Highway 95 with the California-Nevada state line; south along Highway 95 to Vidal Junction; south through the town of Rice to the San Bernardino-Riverside county line on a road known as "Aqueduct Road" in San Bernardino County; south from the San Bernardino-Riverside county line on road known in Riverside County as the "Desert Center to Rice Road" to the town of Desert Center; east 31 miles on Interstate 10 to its intersection with the Wiley Well Road; south on this road to Wiley Well; southeast along the Army-Milpitas Road to the Blythe, Brawley, Davis Lake intersections; south on the Blythe-Brawley paved road to its intersection with the Ogilby and Tumco Mine Road; south on this road to Highway 80; east seven miles on Highway 80 to its intersection with the Andrade-Algodones Road; south on this paved road to the intersection of the Mexican boundary line at Algodones, Mexico.

(5) Balance of State Zone: That portion of the state not included in Northeastern California, Southern California, Colorado River or the Southern San Joaquin Valley zones.

~~(A)-(6)~~ Special Management Areas

1. ~~(A)~~ North Coast. All of Del Norte and Humboldt counties.

2. ~~(B)~~ Humboldt Bay South Spit (West Side). Beginning at the intersection of the north boundary of Table Bluff County Park and the South Jetty Road; north along the South Jetty Road to the South Jetty; west along the South Jetty to the mean low water line of the Pacific Ocean; south along the mean low water line to its intersection with the north boundary of the Table Bluff County Park; east along the north boundary of the Table Bluff County Park to the point of origin.

3. ~~(C)~~ Sacramento Valley. Beginning at the town of Willows; south on Interstate 5 to the junction with Hahn Road; east on Hahn Road and the Grimes-Arbuckle Road to the town of Grimes; north on Highway 45 to its junction with Highway 162; north on Highway 45-162 to the town of Glenn; west on Highway 162 to the point of beginning.

4. ~~(D)~~ Morro Bay. Beginning at a point where the high tide line intersects the State Park boundary west of Cuesta by the Sea; northeasterly to a point 200 yards offshore of the high tide line at the end of Mitchell Drive in Baywood Park; northeasterly to a point 200 yards offshore of the high tide line west of the Morro Bay State Park Boundary, adjacent to Baywood Park; north to a point 300 yards south of the high tide line at the end of White Point; north along a line 400 yards offshore of the south boundary of the Morro Bay City limit to a point adjacent to Fairbanks Point; northwesterly to the high tide line on the sand spit; southerly along the high tide line of the sand spit to the south end of Morro Bay; easterly along the Park boundary at the high tide line to the beginning point.

5. ~~(E)~~ Martis Creek Lake. The waters and shoreline of Martis Creek Lake, Placer and Nevada counties.

6. ~~(F)~~ Northern Brant. Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino counties.

7. ~~(G)~~ Balance of State Brant. That portion of the state not included in the Northern Brant Special Management Area.

8. (H) Imperial County. Beginning at Highway 86 and the Navy Test Base Road; south on Highway 86 to the town of Westmoreland; continue through the town of Westmoreland to Route S26; east on Route S26 to Highway 115; north on Highway 115 to Weist Rd.; north on Weist Rd. to Flowing Wells Rd.; northeast on Flowing Wells Rd. to the Coachella Canal; northwest on the Coachella Canal to Drop 18; a straight line from Drop 18 to Frink Rd.; south on Frink Rd. to Highway 111; north on Highway 111 to Niland Marina Rd.; southwest on Niland Marina Rd. to the old Imperial County boat ramp and the water line of the Salton Sea; from the water line of the Salton Sea, a straight line across the Salton Sea to the Salinity Control Research Facility and the Navy Test Base Road; southwest on the Navy Test Base Road to the point of beginning.

(c) Statewide Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for American Coots, and Common Moorhens.		
(1) <u>Statewide Provisions</u>		
(1) <u>(A) Species</u>	(2) <u>(B) Season</u>	(3) <u>(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits</u>
American Coot and Common Moorhen	Concurrent with duck season(s)	25 per day, 25 in possession, <u>Daily bag limit: 25, either all of one species or a mixture of these species.</u> <u>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit</u>
(d) Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Ducks and Geese by Zone.		
(1) <u>Northeastern California Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION (5)(D) <u>502(d)(6)</u> BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)</u>		
<u>(A) Species</u>	<u>(B) Season</u>	<u>(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits</u>
Ducks (including Mergansers)	From the first Saturday in October extending for 105 days. Scaup: from the first Saturday in October extending for 86 days. <u>Scaup: from the first Saturday in October extending for a period of 58 days and from the third Saturday in December extending for a period of 28 days.</u>	Daily bag limit: 7 Daily bag limit may include: • 7 mallards, but not more than 2 females. • 2 pintail (either sex). • <u>2-1</u> canvasback (either sex). • 2 redheads (either sex). • 3 scaup (either sex). Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.

Geese	<p>Regular Season: Dark geese from the first Saturday in October extending for 100 days. White geese from the first Friday in November <u>last Friday in October</u> extending for 73 days.</p> <p>Late Season: White-fronted geese from the first Thursday <u>Friday</u> in March extending for 5 days. White geese from the first Friday <u>Saturday</u> in February extending for 32 days. During the Late Season, hunting is only permitted on private lands with the permission of the land owner under provisions of Section 2016, Fish and Game Code.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 40 <u>25</u> Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 <u>15</u> white geese. • 6 <u>10</u> dark geese but not more than 2 Large Canada geese (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>
(2) Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION (5)(D) <u>502(d)(6)</u> BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)		
<i>(A) Species</i>	<i>(B) Season</i>	<i>(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits</i>
Ducks (including Mergansers)	<p>A split season from the first Saturday in October extending for a period of 16 days and from the first Saturday in November extending for a period of 86 days. Scaup: from the first Saturday in November extending for 86 days.</p> <p><u>From the third Saturday in October extending for 100 days.</u></p> <p><u>Scaup: from the first Saturday in November extending for 86 days.</u></p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7 Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 mallards, but not more than 2 females. • 2 pintail (either sex). • 2 <u>1</u> canvasback (either sex). • 2 redheads (either sex). • 3 scaup (either sex). <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>
Geese	From the third Saturday in October	Daily bag limit: 40 <u>25</u> Daily bag limit may include:

	extending for 100 days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 <u>15</u> white geese. • 6 <u>10</u> dark geese (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>
(3) Southern California Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION (5)(D) <u>502(d)(6)</u> BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)		
<i>(A) Species</i>	<i>(B) Season</i>	<i>(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits</i>
Ducks (including Mergansers)	<p>From the third Saturday in October extending for 100 days.</p> <p>Scaup: from the first Saturday in November extending for 86 days.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7</p> <p>Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 mallards, but not more than 2 females. • 2 pintail (either sex). • 2 <u>1</u> canvasback (either sex). • 2 redheads (either sex). • 3 scaup (either sex). <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>
Geese	From the third Saturday in October extending for 100 days.	<p>Daily bag limit: 4 <u>18</u></p> <p>Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 <u>15</u> white geese. • 3 dark geese (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>
(4) Colorado River Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION (5)(D) <u>502(d)(6)</u> BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)		
<i>(A) Species</i>	<i>(B) Season</i>	<i>(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits</i>
Ducks (including Mergansers).	<p>From the third Friday in October extending for 101 days.</p> <p>Scaup: from the first Saturday in November extending for 86</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7</p> <p>Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 mallards, but not more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks. • 2 pintail (either sex). • 2 <u>1</u> canvasback (either sex).

	days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 redheads (either sex). • 3 scaup (either sex). <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>
Geese	From the third Friday in October extending for 101 days.	<p>Daily bag limit: 10 Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 white geese. • 3 <u>4</u> dark geese (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>
(5) Balance of State Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION (D) <u>502(d)(6)</u> BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)		
<i>(A) Species</i>	<i>(B) Season</i>	<i>(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits</i>
Ducks (including Mergansers).	<p>From the third Saturday in October extending for 100 days.</p> <p>Scaup: from the first Saturday in November extending for 86 days.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7 Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 mallards, but not more than 2 females. • 2 pintail (either sex). • 2 <u>1</u> canvasback (either sex). • 2 redheads (either sex). • 3 scaup (either sex). <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>
Geese	<p>Early Season: Large Canada geese only from the Saturday closest to October 1 for a period of 5 days EXCEPT in the North Coast Special Management Area where Large Canada geese are closed during the early season.</p> <p>Regular Season: Dark and white geese from the third Saturday in October extending for 100 days EXCEPT in the Sacramento</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 4 <u>25</u> Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 <u>15</u> white geese. • 6 <u>10</u> dark geese <p>EXCEPT in the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area where only 3 may be white-fronted geese (see definitions: 502(a)).</p> <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>

	<p>Valley Special Management Area where the white-fronted goose season will close after December 21.</p> <p>Late Season: White-fronted geese and white geese from the third<u>second</u> Saturday in February extending for a period of 5 days EXCEPT in the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area where the white-fronted goose season is closed. During the Late Season, hunting is not permitted on wildlife areas listed in Sections 550-552 EXCEPT on Type C wildlife areas in the North Central and Central regions.</p>	
--	---	--

(D) Special Management Areas		
<i>Area</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Season</i>
1. North Coast	All Canada Geese	<p>From the fifth Thursday in October extending for a period of 88 days (Regular Season) and from the fourth Saturday in February extending for a period of 17 days (Late Season). During the Late Season, hunting is only permitted on private lands with the permission of the land owner under provisions of Section 2016, Fish and Game Code.</p> <p>Daily bag limit: 6 Canada Geese of which only 1 may be a Large Canada goose (see definitions: 502(a)), EXCEPT during the Late Season the bag limit on Large Canada geese is zero.</p> <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>
2. Humboldt Bay South Spit	All species	Closed during brant season.
3. Sacramento Valley	White-Fronted Geese	<p>Open concurrently with the goose season through December 21, and during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.</p> <p>Daily bag limit: 3 white-fronted geese.</p> <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>
4. Morro Bay	All species	Open in designated area only from the opening day of brant season through the remainder of waterfowl season.

5. Martis Creek Lake	All species	Closed until November 16.
6. Northern Brant	Black Brant	From November 7 extending for 30 days. Daily bag limit: 2 Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.
7. Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	From the second Saturday in November extending for 30 days. Daily bag limit: 2 Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.
8. Imperial County	White geese	From the first Saturday in November extending for a period of 86 days (Regular Season) and from the second Saturday in February extending for a period of 16 days (Late Season). During the Late Season, hunting is only permitted on private lands with the permission of the land owner under provisions of Section 2016, Fish and Game Code. Daily bag limit: 10 Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.

(6) Special Management Areas (see descriptions in 502(b)(6))

	<u>(A) Species</u>	<u>(B) Season</u>	<u>(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits</u>
<u>1. North Coast</u>	<u>All Canada Geese</u>	<u>From the last Friday in October extending for a period of 87 days (Regular Season) and from the third Saturday in February extending for a period of 18 days (Late Season). During the Late Season, hunting is only permitted on private lands with the permission of the land owner under provisions Section 2016, Fish and Game Code.</u>	<u>Daily bag limit: 10 Canada Geese of which only 1 may be a Large Canada goose (see definitions: 502(a)), EXCEPT during the Late Season the bag limit on Large Canada geese is zero.</u> <u>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</u>
<u>2. Humboldt Bay South Spit (West Side)</u>	<u>All Species</u>	<u>Closed during brant Season</u>	
<u>3. Sacramento Valley</u>	<u>White-Fronted Geese</u>	<u>Open concurrently with the goose season through December 21, and during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.</u>	<u>Daily bag limit: 3 white-fronted geese.</u> <u>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</u>

<u>4. Morro Bay</u>	<u>All species</u>	<u>Open in designated area only from the opening day of brant season through the remainder of waterfowl season.</u>		
<u>5. Martis Creek Lake</u>	<u>All species</u>	<u>Closed until November 16.</u>		
<u>6. Northern Brant</u>	<u>Black Brant</u>	<u>From November 7 extending for 30 days</u>	<u>Daily bag limit: 2</u> <u>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</u>	
<u>7. Balance of State Brant</u>	<u>Black Brant</u>	<u>From the second Saturday in November extending for 30 days.</u>	<u>Daily bag limit: 2</u> <u>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</u>	
<u>8. Imperial County</u>	<u>White Geese</u>	<u>From the first Saturday in November extending for a period of 86 days (Regular Season) and from the first Saturday in February extending for a period of 16 days (Late Season). During the Late Season, hunting is only permitted on private lands with the permission of the land owner under provisions of Section 2016, Fish and Game Code.</u>	<u>Daily bag limit: 15</u> <u>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</u>	

(e) Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days Regulations (NOTE: To participate in these Youth Waterfowl Hunts, federal regulations require that hunters must be 15 years of age or younger and must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 18 years of age or older.)

(1) Statewide Provisions.

<i>(A) Species</i>	<i>(B) Season</i>	<i>(C) Daily Bag Limit</i>
Ducks (including Mergansers), American Coot, Common Moorhen, Black Brant, Geese	1. Northeastern California Zone: The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. 2. Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone: The Saturday following	Same as regular season.

	<p>the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.</p> <p>3. Southern California Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.</p> <p>4. Colorado River Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.</p> <p>5. Balance of State Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.</p>	
(f) Falconry Take of Ducks (including Mergansers), Geese, American Coots, and Common Moorhens.		
(1) Statewide Provisions		
<i>(A) Species</i>	<i>(B) Season</i>	<i>(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits</i>
Ducks (including Mergansers), Geese, American Coot and Common Moorhen	<p>1. Northeastern California Zone. Open concurrently with duck season.</p> <p>2. Balance of State Zone. Open concurrently with duck season and February 1—2, 2014, <u>January 31-February 1, 2015,</u> EXCEPT in the North Coast Special Management Area where the falconry season for geese runs concurrently with the season for Small Canada geese (see 502(d)(5)(D)1.)<u>(see 502(d)(6))</u></p> <p>3. Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone. Open concurrently with duck season and January 27-29, 2014 <u>January 31-February 1, 2015.</u> Goose hunting in this zone by means of falconry is not permitted.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 3 Daily bag limit makeup: • Either all of 1 species or a mixture of species allowed for take.</p> <p>Possession limit: 9</p>

	<p>4. Southern California Zone. Open concurrently with duck season and January 27-31, 2014 <u>January 26-30, 2015</u> EXCEPT in the Imperial County Special Management Area where the falconry season for geese runs concurrently with the season for white geese.</p> <p>5. Colorado River Zone. Open concurrently with duck season and January 27-30, 2014. <u>January 26-29, 2015.</u> <u>Goose hunting in this zone by means of falconry is not permitted. Federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona, where goose hunting by means of falconry is not permitted</u></p>	
--	---	--

Note: Authority cited: Sections 202 and 355, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 202, 355 and 356, Fish and Game Code.