

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 Final Statement of Reasons: August 13, 2015

III. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

(a) Notice Hearing: Date: April 9, 2015
Location: Santa Rosa, CA

(b) Discussion Hearing Date: June 11, 2015
Location: Mammoth Lakes, CA

(c) Adoption Hearing: Date: August 5, 2015
Location: Fortuna, CA

IV. Update:

The Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopted at its August 5, 2015, meeting the specific season lengths and daily bag limits identified in ranges in the initial Statement of Reasons.

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. In addition, federal regulations require the North Coast Special Management Area late goose season dates to conform to the adjacent zone in Oregon, and require the Colorado River Zone to conform to the adjacent zone in Arizona.

Minor changes (not indicated within brackets but within the established framework) were made to the proposed regulatory text in order to conform to the federal framework, these were:

502(d)(1): Northeastern Zone

- the white goose regular season length will be 72 days rather than 73 days that was proposed;
- the white-fronted goose late season will begin on the first Sunday in March, rather than the first Friday that was proposed; and,
- the white goose late season length will be 33 days, rather than 32 days that was proposed.

502(d)(6): Special Management Areas

- the regular season for Canada Geese in the North Coast Special Management Area will begin the second Sunday, rather than the first Saturday, with a season length of 85 days, rather than the 86 days that was proposed; and the late season length for Canada Geese will be 20 days, rather than the 19 days that was proposed;
- the Northern Brant season will begin on November 8; and,
- the Balance of State Brant season will begin on November 9.

502(f)(1): Falconry

- The season for Falconry in the Northeastern California Zone will be concurrent with duck season through January 17, 2016.
- The season for Falconry in the Balance of State Zone includes February 6-7, rather than February 1-2 that was proposed; and,
- The season for Falconry in the Colorado River Zone includes January 25-28, rather than February 1-4 that was proposed.

At the August 5, 2015 meeting, the Commission adopted the following season lengths, dates, and daily bag limits:

Summary of Adopted Waterfowl Hunting Regulations			
AREA	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Statewide	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent w/duck season	25/day. 75 in possession
Northeastern Zone	Ducks	Oct 10 – Jan 22	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Oct 10– Dec 6 & Dec 26 – Jan 22	
	Geese	Regular Season Dark geese: Oct 10 – Jan 17 White geese: Nov 7 – Jan 17 Late Season Whitefronts: Mar 6 – Mar 10 White geese: Feb 7 – 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 24 – Jan 31	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 7 – Jan 31	
	Geese	Oct 24 – Jan 31	25/ day, which may include: 15 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.

Summary of Adopted Waterfowl Hunting Regulations, Continued

Southern California Zone	Ducks	Oct 24 – Jan 31	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 7 – Jan 31	
	Geese	Oct 24 – Jan 31	18/ day, which may include: 15 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Colorado River Zone	Ducks	Oct 16 – Jan 24	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks, 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Oct 31 – Jan 24	
	Geese	Oct 16 – Jan 24	14/day, up to 10 white geese, up to 4 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Balance of State Zone	Ducks	Oct 24 – Jan 31	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 7 – Jan 31	
	Geese	Early Season: (Large CAGO only) Oct 3 – 7 Regular Season: Oct 24 – Jan 31 Late Season: (Whitefronts and white geese) Feb 13 – Feb 17	25/ day, which may include: 15 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS			
North Coast	All Canada Geese	Nov 8 – Jan 31 & Feb 20 – 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 8 – Dec 14	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	Nov 9 – Dec 15	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Imperial County	White Geese	Nov 7 – Jan 31 & Feb 6 – Feb 21	15/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.

Summary of Adopted Waterfowl Hunting Regulations, Continued			
YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS			
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			
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Oct 10 – Jan 17	3/day, possession limit 9
Balance of State Zone		Oct 24 – Jan 31 & Feb 6 -7	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Ducks only	Oct 24 – Jan 31 & Feb 1 - 3	
Southern California Zone	Same as regular season	Oct 24 – Jan 31 & Feb 1 - 5	
Colorado River Zone	Ducks only	Oct 16 – Jan 28	

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

- a) Comment Source: Public testimony from Eric Mills, (April 9, 2015).

Hopes the Commission will revisit placing a ban on ‘robo’ duck decoys.

Department Response: 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 set forth in §507, Title 14, CCR, (c) Prohibition on Electronically or Mechanically-operated Devices (decoys).

- b) Comment Source: Public testimony from Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl Association (April 9, 2015).

Strongly supports the Department’s recommendation for an increase in brant season length. He is concerned about the Northeastern Zone late season goose hunts because the Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) program has fallen away.

Department Response: Concern noted. The Commission adopted the Department’s recommendation.

- c) Comment Source: Public testimony from Noelle Cremers, California Farm Bureau Federation (April 9, 2015).

Concurs with comments made by Mark Hennelly. Geese have a significant impact on farmers in the Northeastern Zone; noted that the language in the handout at the meeting was missing text for the late season goose hunt in the Northeast Zone.

Department Response: Concern noted. The Department agreed that a block of text was missing from the meeting handout and referred those at the meeting to the full text available with the ISOR.

- d) Comment Source: Public testimony from Bill Gaines, (April 9, 2015).

Supports the Department's recommendation for an increase in the brant season length. Recommends the Northeastern Zone goose season to open the second Saturday in October and would like the goose season to run concurrently with the duck season.

Department Response: Support noted.

The Department recommended no change in the length and timing of the white goose general and late goose seasons in the Northeastern Zone. Changing the timing of the regular white goose season from early November to the beginning of October removes hunting as a tool to deal with depredation in January, when white geese arrive from the Central Valley. Survey data indicate that white geese tend to be more abundant in November and again in January into April, in the Northeastern Zone. Federal harvest data also indicate that more white geese are harvested in November and January. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- e) Comment Source: Resolution of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors (dated April 22, 2015, Attachment A).

- 1) The Lassen County Board of Supervisors requests CDFW, and the Fish and Game Commission to retain the current hunting seasons schedule and take for the Northeastern Zone.
- 2) The Board also requests that CDFW work with the Pacific Flyway, the Service, and Congress to provide a white goose hunting season which extends to April 15th each year.

Department Response:

- 1) The Department recommended maintaining the season length and timing for the white goose season in Northeastern Zone.

2) It is not possible to extend the late hunting season in California to April 15th because that would be a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In February 1999, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted an Environmental Assessment and authorized a conservation order for mid-continent light geese (lesser snow and Ross's geese) which allowed the take of light geese outside the September 1 to March 10 framework dates provided by the Migratory Bird Treaty. The Service finalized the Environmental Impact Statement in 2007 and replaced the Act with new light goose regulations that provided for a conservation order in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. The conservation order is not a hunting season, but rather a special management action to address an overabundant population. All light geese nest in the arctic or sub/arctic, and thus may be the focus of the conservation order regulations. However, the Pacific Flyway was not authorized to implement a conservation order due to the fact that light goose populations in the western arctic have not been jointly declared overabundant by the Canadian, U.S., and Mexican governments. In addition, the presence of Wrangel Island lesser snow geese further complicates the situation. A bilateral migratory bird treaty with the Russian Republic requires the Service consult extensively with Russia prior to changes to light goose regulations that could increase harvest on the Wrangel Island population. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- f) Comment Source. Letter from Noelle Cremers, California Farm Bureau Federation (dated May 28, 2015, Attachment B)

Support for continuation of the Northeastern Zone goose hunt. The late season hunt has proven very beneficial in reducing crop and pasture losses. Farm Bureau supports the current late season hunt for white geese. Farm Bureau believes the current season timing and length provides hunting opportunity when the geese are most likely to be present and provides tools to private land owners to prevent crop and pasture losses. Farm Bureau is open to the idea of allowing hunting on Type C wildlife areas during the late season as proposed by the California Waterfowl Association.

Department Response: Support noted. The Department recommended no change to the length or timing of the late season goose hunt in the Northeastern Zone. The purpose of the late season goose hunt is to reduce goose crop depredation complaints on private lands via driving birds off of private land and onto public management areas. That requires public lands be available for feeding and roosting. Opening Type C wildlife areas does not provide hunting opportunity as the majority of habitat is not suitable for goose use. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- g) Comment Source: Public testimony from Ned Coe, California Farm Bureau Federation (June 11, 2015),

The late season hunt in NE is working, significant tool for farmers and ranchers in the area. The length and timing of the late season should not be changed. Type C areas would be ok if open as well as other public lands.

Department Response: Refer to the Department Response (d) and (f) above.

- h) Comment Source: Public testimony from Rick Bulloch, APEX, and Josh Brones, Al Taucher Conservation Coalition (June 11, 2015).

Open the Type C areas and public waterways during the late season hunt in the Northeastern Zone

Department Response: Refer to the Department Response (d) and (f) above.

- i) Comment Source: Public testimony from Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl Association (June 11, 2015).

Open the Type C areas and public waterways during the late season hunt in the Northeastern Zone. Public access during the late season hunt is very important to our members and this may include SHARE program. Consider using language from the Balance of State Zone for the late season hunt in the Northeastern Zone.

Department Response: Refer to the Department Response (d) and (f) above.

- j) Comment Source: Public testimony from Bill Gaines, (June 11, 2015).

Would like to see the brant season extended and the white-fronted goose season in the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area extended. Also expressed concerns over the drought and suggested delaying the opening day to the second Saturday in October.

Department Response:

1) The Department recommended an increase of 7 days for the Northern Brant and Balance of State Brant special management areas.

2) The Sacramento Valley Special Management Area (SMA) is in place to protect the less numerous subspecies of white-fronted geese. While the Federal frameworks do allow the SMA to close December 28 the Department does not recommend extending the season at this time because as the season progresses Tule geese are more susceptible to harvest based on analyses from check station harvest data.

3) The Department recommended opening the waterfowl season on the second Saturday in October.

The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- k) Comment Source: Public testimony from Noelle Cremer, California Farm Bureau Federation (August 5, 2015).

Supports the Department's recommendation for the Northeastern Zone late season goose hunt.

Department Response: Support noted. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- l) Comment Source: Letter from Michael Flores Al Taucher Conservation Coalition, (June 29, 2015). (Attachment C)

Request that the California Fish and Game Commission take action to ensure some degree of public access for hunting during the various late goose seasons, including the late white goose/white-fronted goose season in the Northeast Waterfowl Zone.

Department Response. Refer to the Department Response (d) and (f) above regarding the Northeastern Zone goose season. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- m) Comment Source: Public testimony from Ted Romo, (August 5, 2015).

Supports the Department's recommendation for an increase in the brant season length.

Department Response: Support noted. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- n) Comment Source: Public testimony from Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl Association (August 5, 2015).

Supports the Department's recommendation.

Department Response: Support noted. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

- o) Comment Source: Public testimony from Bill Gaines, (August 5, 2015).

Supports most of the Department's recommendation with the exception of the Northeastern Zone late season goose opener. That season should open October 24th.

Department Response: Support noted. Refer to the Department Response (d) and (f) above. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendation.

VI. Location and Index of Rulemaking File.

A rulemaking file with attached file index is maintained at:
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, California 95814

VII. Location of Department Files:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Waterfowl Program
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95811

VIII. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulatory Action: No other alternatives were identified.

(b) No Change Alternative:

The adopted regulatory language establishes season lengths and daily bag limits which are consistent with Federal framework regulations. These frameworks were established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in late July 2015 and now specify the maximum season lengths and daily bag limits. The No Change Alternative would maintain the current (2014-15) season lengths, dates, and daily bag limits in all zones inconsistent with Federal regulations for the 2015-16 season.

(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.

IX. 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.

- (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 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. Item 1 provides notice that other framework regulations regarding duck season lengths and bag limits may change in 2015 when current biological information becomes available. Item 2 requires Flyway Council and Service approval to establish the season length for brant, pursuant to the process described below.

The Service will consider recommendations from the Flyway Council at their meeting in late July 2015. 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. 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. In addition, an increase in the bag limit for geese in the Colorado River Zone is proposed to match waterfowl regulations in neighboring Arizona. 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 the table below for season and bag limit ranges.
2. Provide a range of brant season lengths in the Northern Brant and Balance of State Brant special management areas to allow for a possible increase in season length.

Minor editorial changes are also 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 and the sustainable management of the State’s waterfowl resources. Positive impacts to jobs and/or businesses that provide services to waterfowl hunters will be realized with the continued adoption of waterfowl hunting seasons in 2015-16.

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 its regulations in Title 14, CCR, and conducted a search of other 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.

Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations			
AREA	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Statewide	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent w/duck season	25/day. 75 in possession
Northeastern Zone <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 triple the daily bag.
	Pintail Canvasback Scaup	Between 38 & 105 days	
	Geese	105 days	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 <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 triple the daily bag.
	Pintail Canvasback Scaup	Between 0 & 105 days	
	Geese	100 days	25/ day, which may include: 15 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Southern California Zone <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup.</i>	Ducks	Between 38 & 100 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 triple the daily bag.
	Pintail Canvasback Scaup	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Geese	100 days	18/day, which may include: 15 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Colorado River Zone <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup.</i>	Ducks	Between 38 & 101 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 triple the daily bag.
	Pintail Canvasback Scaup	Between 0 & 101 days	
	Geese	101 days	14/day, up to 10 white geese, up to 4 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Balance of State Zone <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback, Scaup and Dark and White Geese.</i>	Ducks	Between 38 & 100 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 triple the daily bag.
	Pintail Canvasback Scaup	Between 0 & 100 days	
	Geese	Early Season: 5 days (CAGO only) Regular Season: 100 days Late Season: 5 days (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 <i>Season may be split</i>	All Canada Geese	105 days except for Large Canada geese which cannot exceed 100 days or extend beyond the last Sunday in January.	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	Between 30 and 45 days	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	Between 30 and 45 days	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Imperial County <i>Season may be split</i>	White Geese	102 days	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	Between 38 and 105 days	3/ day, possession limit 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	Between 38 and 107 days	

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 29-30, 2015. 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 2-bird daily bag limit, and the scaup season could be 86 days with a 3-bird daily bag limit. In addition, the Department identified an error made in the Initial Statement of Reasons in the regular and late white goose seasons in the Northeastern Zone and the regular and late goose seasons in the North Coast

Special Management Area: 1) the white goose regular season length in the Northeastern Zone will be 72 days rather than the 73 days that was proposed; 2) the white goose late season length in the Northeastern Zone will be 33 days rather than the 32 days that was proposed; 3) the regular season length in the North Coast Special Management Area will be 85 days rather than the 86 days that was proposed; and 4) the late season length in the North Coast Special Management Area will be 20 days rather than the 18 days that was proposed.

The Commission adopted minor editorial changes to clarify the regulations and the following specific regulations at the August 5, 2015, meeting.

Summary of Adopted Waterfowl Hunting Regulations			
AREA	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Statewide	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent w/duck season	25/day. 75 in possession
Northeastern Zone	Ducks	Oct 10 – Jan 22	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Oct 10– Dec 6 & Dec 26 – Jan 22	
	Geese	Regular Season Dark geese: Oct 10 – Jan 17 White geese: Nov 7 – Jan 17 Late Season Whitefronts: Mar 6 – Mar 10 White geese: Feb 7 – 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 24 – Jan 31	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 7 – Jan 31	
	Geese	Oct 24 – Jan 31	25/ day, which may include: 15 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Southern California Zone	Ducks	Oct 24 – Jan 31	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 7 – Jan 31	
	Geese	Oct 24 – Jan 31	18/ day, which may include: 15 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Colorado River Zone	Ducks	Oct 16 – Jan 24	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks, 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Oct 31 – Jan 24	
	Geese	Oct 16 – Jan 24	14/day, up to 10 white geese, up to 4 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.

Summary of Adopted Waterfowl Hunting Regulations, Continued

Balance of State Zone	Ducks	Oct 24 – Jan 31	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	Nov 7 – Jan 31	
	Geese	Early Season: (Large CAGO only) Oct 3 – 7 Regular Season: Oct 24 – Jan 31 Late Season: (Whitefronts and white geese) Feb 13 – Feb 17	25/ day, which may include: 15 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

North Coast	All Canada Geese	Nov 8 – Jan 31 & Feb 20 – 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 8 – Dec 14	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	Nov 9 – Dec 15	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Imperial County	White Geese	Nov 7 – Jan 31 & Feb 6 – Feb 21	15/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

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

Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Oct 10 – Jan 17	3/day, possession limit 9
Balance of State Zone		Oct 24 – Jan 31 & Feb 6 -7	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Ducks only	Oct 24 – Jan 31 & Feb 1 - 3	
Southern California Zone	Same as regular season	Oct 24 – Jan 31 & Feb 1 - 5	
Colorado River Zone	Ducks only	Oct 16 – Jan 28	