

STAFF SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 6-7, 2017

11. WATERFOWL**Today's Item****Information** ☐**Action** ☒

Authorize publication of notice of intent to amend waterfowl regulations.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • WRC vetting | Sep 13, 2017; WRC, Riverside |
| • Today's notice hearing | Dec 6-7, 2017; San Diego |
| • Discussion hearing | Feb 7-8, 2018; Sacramento |
| • Adoption hearing | Apr 18-19, 2018; Ventura |

Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service annually establishes federal regulation frameworks for migratory bird hunting; frameworks for a given year are developed in the fall of the prior year. California and other states must set waterfowl hunting regulations within the established frameworks.

The frameworks for the 2018-19 season were approved in Oct 2017. The frameworks allow for a liberal duck season which includes a 107-day season, 7 daily duck limit including 7 mallards but only 2 hen mallards, 2 pintails, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, and 3 scaup (during an 86 day season). Ranges for duck daily bag limits and season length are provided to allow FGC flexibility to conform as required by federal regulations.

Federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona in the Colorado River Zone and those of Oregon in the North Coast Special Management Area.

DFW proposes to:

- Create a Klamath Basin Special Management Area.
- Allow the white-fronted goose season to be split into three segments for the Northeastern California Zone.
- Make minor editorial changes to renumber, clarify and simplify the regulations and to comply with existing federal frameworks.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

FGC staff: Authorize publication of notice as proposed by DFW.

Committee: WRC recommends inclusion of the identified items.

DFW: Authorize publication of notice as proposed in the initial statement of reasons (ISOR Exhibit 1).

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Exhibits

1. [ISOR](#)
2. [DFW memo, received Nov 8, 2017](#)

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission authorizes publication of a notice of its intent to amend Section 502 regarding waterfowl hunting regulations.

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

- 1

establishes the hunting framework regulations at a public meeting held in late October.

Sections 202 and 355 of the Fish and Game Code authorize the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopt annual regulations pertaining to the hunting of migratory birds that conform with, or further restrict, the regulations proscribed by the Service pursuant to its authority under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Commission selects and establishes in State regulations the specific hunting season dates and daily bag limits within the Frameworks.

Current regulations in Section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), provide definitions, hunting zone descriptions, season opening and closing dates, and daily bag and possession limits. The proposed Frameworks for the 2018-19 season were approved by the Flyway Councils and were considered for adoption at the Service's Regulation's Committee meeting October 17-18, 2017. The Frameworks allow for a liberal duck season which includes a 107 day season, 7 daily duck limit including 7 mallards but only 2 hen mallards, 2 pintails, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, and 3 scaup (during an 86 day season). Duck daily bag limit ranges and duck season length ranges are provided to allow the Commission flexibility. (See tables in the Informative Digest for season and bag limits.) Lastly, Federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona in the Colorado River Zone and those of Oregon in the North Coast Special Management Area.

The specific recommended regulation changes are:

- 1) Create the Klamath Basin Special Management Area in subsection 502(b)6. This change will cause the renumbering of subsequent special management areas in this section.

The Klamath Basin is within the Northeastern Zone. Goose depredation occurs throughout the Northeastern Zone but predominantly in Modoc and Lassen counties. Extended late white goose seasons have been established to allow hunting opportunity to coincide with the majority of geese present, which may alleviate goose depredation. During the late goose seasons, most public areas are closed. National wildlife refuges within the Klamath Basin are popular and heavily used by hunters. Creation of the Klamath Basin Special Management Area will allow the hunt days to occur during the general goose season (as opposed to the late goose seasons in the Northeastern Zone) when the public hunt areas are open. Removing the Klamath Basin from the Northeastern Zone will allow more flexibility to address depredation by establishing goose hunting seasons when the majority of birds are present. In addition, this change would also minimize harvest of Tule white-fronted geese which use the Klamath Basin in late winter and spring. The current three-year average

for the Tule goose population estimate is 10,600, one of the smallest goose populations in North America.

- 2) Allow the white-fronted goose season to be split into three segments in the Northeastern California Zone, subsection 502(d)(1)B.

The existing regulation allows the season for white-fronted geese to be split into two parts: Regular Season and Late Season. The proposed change would allow the season to be split into three parts, coinciding with the white goose season in the Northeastern Zone. White-fronted geese migrate through this zone in October and again in the late winter and spring. The three segments would allow hunting when the largest proportions of white-fronted geese are present. The population of Pacific white-fronted geese in the Pacific Flyway is estimated to be 735,643 birds, well above the population goal of 300,000 birds established in the Flyway Management Plan. Private landowners are concerned that white-fronted geese (in addition to white geese) are reducing crops available for harvest and grazing. The proposed change is intended to reduce depredation on private lands, disperse geese through hunting, and establish the hunting season to coincide when the largest goose concentrations are present.

Minor editorial changes are also proposed to clarify and simplify the regulations and to comply with existing federal Frameworks.

- (b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation:

Authority: Sections 202 and 355, Fish and Game Code.

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

- (c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change:

None

- (d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

None.

- (e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication:

This proposal was discussed at the Wildlife Resources Committee meeting held on September 13, 2017 in Riverside, CA.

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

- (a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

No other alternatives were identified.

(b) No Change Alternative:

- 1) The No Change Alternative would not create a Klamath Basin Special Management Area.
- 2) The No Change Alternative would maintain the existing two-way split season for white-fronted geese in the Northeastern Zone.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives

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

(d) Description of Reasonable Alternatives That Would Lessen Adverse Impact on Small Business: None.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. 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 initial 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 would provide additional recreational opportunity to the public and could result in minor increases in hunting days and hunter spending on equipment, fuel, food and accommodations.

(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 2018-19 waterfowl hunting season dates and bag limits within the federal Frameworks. Little to minor positive impacts to jobs and/or businesses that provide services to waterfowl hunters may result from the proposed regulations for the waterfowl hunting season in 2018-19.

The most recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation for California (2016 data has not been released as of October 2017), 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 a 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.

VII. Economic Impact Assessment

The proposed waterfowl regulations will set the 2018-19 waterfowl hunting season dates and bag limits within the federal Frameworks.

(a) Effects of the regulation on the creation or elimination of jobs within the state

Little to minor positive impacts on the creation of jobs within businesses that provide services to waterfowl hunters may result from the adoption of the proposed waterfowl hunting regulations for the 2018-19 season. The most recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation for California (revised 2014), estimated that waterfowl hunters contributed about \$169,115,000 to small businesses in California during the 2011 waterfowl hunting season. The impacted businesses are generally small businesses employing few individuals and, like all small businesses, are subject to failure for a variety of causes. Additionally, the long-term intent of the proposed regulations is to sustainably manage waterfowl populations, and consequently, the long-term viability of these same small businesses. The 2011 report is posted on the US Dept. of Commerce website at https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/2011_Survey.htm.

(b) Effects of the regulation on the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the state

The proposed regulation is not anticipated to prompt the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the state. Minor variations in the bag limits as may be established in the regulations are, by themselves, unlikely to stimulate the creation of new businesses or cause the elimination of existing businesses. The number of hunting trips and the economic contributions from the trips are not expected to change substantially.

(c) Effects of the regulation on the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state

The proposed minor variations in waterfowl bag limits are, by themselves, unlikely to stimulate substantial expansion of businesses currently doing business in the state. The long-term intent of the proposed regulations is to sustainably manage waterfowl populations, and consequently, the long-term viability of various businesses that serve recreational waterfowl hunters.

(d) Benefits of the regulation to the health and welfare of California residents

Hunting is an outdoor activity that can provide several health and welfare benefits to California residents. Hunters and their families benefit from fresh game to eat, and from the benefits of outdoor recreation including exercise. People who hunt have a special connection with the outdoors and an awareness of the relationships between wildlife, habitat, and humans. With that awareness comes an understanding of the role humans play in being

caretakers of the environment. Hunting is a tradition that is often passed from one generation to the next creating a special bond between family members and friends.

(e) Benefits of the regulation to worker safety

The regulations will not affect worker safety because they do not address working conditions.

(f) Benefits of the regulation to the state's environment

As set forth in Fish and Game Code section 1700, it is the policy of the state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of waterfowl resources for the benefit of all the citizens of the state. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of waterfowl to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support recreational opportunity. Adoption of scientifically-based waterfowl seasons, bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of waterfowl to ensure those objectives are met. Additionally, the fees that hunters pay for licenses and stamps fund wildlife conservation.

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 hunting.

California, and other states, must set its waterfowl hunting regulations within the federal Frameworks. The Frameworks for the 2018-19 season have been approved by the Flyway Councils and will be considered for adoption at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Regulation's Committee meeting on October 17-18, 2017. The proposed Frameworks allow for a liberal duck season which includes a 107 day season, 7 daily duck limit including 7 mallards but only 2 hen mallards, 2 pintails, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, and 3 scaup (during an 86 day season). Duck daily bag limit ranges, duck season length ranges and goose season length ranges have been provided to allow the Commission flexibility. Lastly, Federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona in the Colorado River Zone and with those of Oregon in the North Coast Special Management Area. Based on the Frameworks, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) provides an annual recommendation to the Commission.

The Department's recommendations are as follows:

1. Create the Klamath Basin Special Management Area in subsection 502(b)6. This change will cause the renumbering of subsequent special management areas in this section.
2. Allow the white-fronted goose season to be split into three segments in the Northeastern California Zone subsection 502(d)(1)B.

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 consistency 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 2018-19.

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 for 2018-19			
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, Dark Geese and White Geese. White geese and dark geese may be split 3-ways.</i>	Ducks	Between 38 & 105 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females. 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	86 days	
	Geese	No longer than 105 days	30/day, which may include: 20 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. 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	86 days	
	Geese	Between 38 & 105 days	30/day, which may include: 20 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] females. 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	86 days	
	Geese	No longer than 100 days	23/day, which may include: 20 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	101 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females or Mexican-like ducks. 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	86 days	
	Geese	101 days	24/day, up to 20 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. 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	86 days	
	Geese	Early Season: 5 days (Canada goose only) Regular Season: no longer than 100 days Late Season: 5 days (whitefronts and white geese)	30/day, which may include: 20 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	
Klamath Basin (NEW)	Dark and white geese	105 days except for Large Canada geese which cannot exceed 100 days or extend beyond the last Sunday in January.	30/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 10 dark geese only 2 may be a Large Canada goose. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
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	Open Nov 8 extending for 37 days	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	Open Nov 9 extending for 37 days	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Imperial County <i>Season may be split</i>	White Geese	Up to 103 days	20/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS	(NOTE: To participate in these Youth Waterfowl Hunts, federal regulations require that hunters must be 17 years of age or younger and must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 18 years of age or older.)		
	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	Same as regular season	The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	Same as regular season
Southern California Zone	Same as regular season	The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	Same as regular season
Colorado River Zone	Same as regular season	The Saturday following the closing for waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	Same as regular season
Balance of State Zone	Same as regular season	The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	Same as regular season
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	Same as regular season	Between 38 and 107 days	3/day. Possession limit 9
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Same as regular season	Between 38 and 107 days	3/day. Possession limit 9
Southern California Zone	Same as regular season	Between 38 and 107 days	3/day. Possession limit 9
Colorado River Zone	Same as regular season	105 days	3/day. Possession limit 9

REGULATORY TEXT

Section 502, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

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

. . . [No changes to subsections (a) through (b)(5)]

(6) Special Management Areas

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

(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.

(C) Klamath Basin. Beginning at the intersection of Highway 161 and Highway 97; east on Highway 161 to Hill Road; south on Hill Road to N Dike Road West Side; east on N Dike Road West Side until the junction of the Lost River; north on N Dike Road West Side until the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway; east on Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway until N Dike Road East Side; south on the N Dike Road East Side; continue east on N Dike Road East Side to Highway 111; south on Highway 111/Great Northern Road to Highway 120/Highway 124; west on Highway 120/Highway 124 to Hill Road; south on Hill Road until Lairds Camp Road; west on Lairds Camp Road until Willow Creek; west and south on Willow Creek to Red Rock Road; west on Red Rock Road until Meiss Lake Road/Old State Highway; north on Meiss Lake Road/Old State Highway to Highway 97; north on Highway 97 to the point of origin.

~~(G)-(D)~~ 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.

~~(D)-(E)~~ 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.

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

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

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

~~(H)-(I)~~ 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) Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for American Coots, and Common Moorhens.		
(1) Statewide Provisions.		
(A) <i>Species</i>	(B) <i>Season</i>	(C) <i>Daily Bag and Possession Limits</i>
American Coot and Common Moorhen	Concurrent with duck season(s)	Daily bag limit: 25, either all of one species or a mixture of these species. Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.
(d) Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Ducks and Geese by Zone.		
(1) Northeastern California Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION 502(d)(6) BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)		
(A) <i>Species</i>	(B) <i>Season</i>	(C) <i>Daily Bag and Possession Limits</i>
Ducks (including Mergansers)	From the first Saturday in October extending for 105 days. Scaup: from the first Saturday in October extending for a period of 58 days and from the fourth Saturday in December extending for a period of 28 days. <u>[Opening no earlier than the Saturday closest to October 1 and closing no later than the last Sunday in January. Season may be split into two segments and will be between 38 and 105 days except for some species that may have a shorter season than the general duck season.]</u>	Daily bag limit: 7 <u>[4-7]</u> Daily bag limit may include: • 7 <u>[3-7]</u> mallards, but not more than 2 <u>[1-2]</u> females. • <u>4-2</u> pintails (either sex). • 2 canvasbacks (either sex). • 2 redheads (either sex). • 3 scaup (either sex). Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.

<p>Geese</p>	<p>Regular Season: Dark geese from the first Saturday in October extending for 100 days. Large Canada Geese: [Opening no earlier than the Saturday closest to October 1 and closing no later than the last Sunday in January. Season will be no longer than 100 days. <u>White-fronted geese and White white geese from the first Saturday in October extending for a period of 58 days and from the first Saturday in January extending for a period of 14 days. [opening no earlier than the Saturday closest to October 1 and closing no later than the last Sunday in January. Season may be split into two segments and will be between 72 and 100 days.]</u> Late Season: <u>White-fronted and white geese from March 3 extending for 5 days. [Season will be no longer than 33 days and closing no later than March 10.]</u> White geese from the first Tuesday in February extending for 33 days.</p> <p>During the Late Season, hunting is only permitted on Type C wildlife areas listed in Section 550-552, navigable waters, and private lands with the permission of the land owner under provisions of Section 2016, Fish and Game Code. Hunting is prohibited on Type A and Type B wildlife areas, the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex, the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, and any waters which are on, encompassed by, bounded over, flow over, flow through, or are adjacent to any Type A and Type B wildlife areas, the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex, or the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 30 Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 white geese. • 10 dark geese but not more than 2 Large Canada geese (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>
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(2) Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION 502(d)(6) BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)		
(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
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><u>[Opening no earlier than the Saturday closest to October 1 and closing no later than the last Sunday in January. Season may be split into two segments and will be between 38 and 105 days except for some species that may have a shorter season than the general duck season.]</u></p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7-[4-7]</p> <p>Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-[3-7] mallards, but not more than 2-[1-2] females. • 4-2 pintails (either sex). • 2 canvasbacks (either sex). • 2 redheads (either sex). • 3 scaup (either sex). <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>
Geese	<p>From the third Saturday in October extending for 100 days.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 30</p> <p>Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 white geese. • 10 dark geese (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</p>
(3) Southern California Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION 502(d)(6) BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)		
(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
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><u>[Opening no earlier than the Saturday closest to October 1 and closing no later than the last Sunday in January. Season may be split into two segments and will be between 38 and 105 days except for some species that may have a shorter season than the general duck season.]</u></p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7-[4-7]</p> <p>Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-[3-7] mallards, but not more than 2-[1-2] females. • 4-2 pintails (either sex). • 2 canvasbacks (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.	Daily bag limit: 23 Daily bag limit may include: • 20 white geese. • 3 dark geese (see definitions: 502(a)). Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.
(4) Colorado River Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION 502(d)(6) BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)		
(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
Ducks (including Mergansers).	From the third Friday in October extending for 101 days. Scaup: from the first Saturday in November extending for 86 days. <u>[Opening no earlier than the Saturday closest to October 1 and closing no later than the last Sunday in January. Season will be 101 days except for some species that may have a shorter season than the general duck season.]</u>	Daily bag limit: 7 Daily bag limit may include: • 7 mallards, but not more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks. • 4-2 pintail (either sex). • 2 canvasbacks (either sex). • 2 redheads (either sex). • 3 scaup (either sex). Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.
Geese	From the third Friday in October extending for 101 days.	Daily bag limit: 24 Daily bag limit may include: • 20 white geese. • 4 dark geese (see definitions: 502(a)). Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.
(5) Balance of State Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION 502(d)(6) BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)		
(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
Ducks (including Mergansers).	From the third Saturday in October extending for 100 days. Scaup: from the first Saturday in November extending for 86 days. <u>[Opening no earlier than the Saturday closest to October 1 and closing no later than the last Sunday in January.]</u>	Daily bag limit: 7- <u>[4-7]</u> Daily bag limit may include: • 7- <u>[3-7]</u> mallards, but not more than 2 females. • 4-2 pintails (either sex). • 2 canvasbacks (either sex).

	<u>Season may be split into two segments and will be between 38 and 100 days except for some species that may have a shorter season than the general duck season.]</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 redheads (either sex).• 3 scaup (either sex). Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.	
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 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 second 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>	<p>Daily bag limit: 30 Daily bag limit may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 white geese.• 10 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>	
(6) Special Management Areas (see descriptions in 502(b)(6))			
	(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
1. North Coast	All Canada Geese	From November 7 <u>October 31</u> extending for a period of 83 <u>89</u> days (Regular Season) and from February 17 <u>23</u> extending for a period of 22 <u>16</u> 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.	<p>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.</p> <p>Possession limit:</p>

			triple the daily bag limit.
2. Humboldt Bay South Spit (West Side)	All Species	Closed during brant Season	
<u>3. Klamath Basin</u>	<u>Geese</u>	<u>White-fronted and white geese from the first Saturday in October extending for 105 days.</u> <u>Large Canada Geese from the first Saturday in October extending for 100 days.</u>	<u>Daily bag limit: 30</u> <u>Daily bag limit may include:</u> • <u>20 white geese.</u> • <u>10 dark geese but not more than 2 Large Canada geese (see definitions: 502(a)).</u> <u>Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.</u>
3-4. Sacramento Valley	White-Fronted Geese	Open concurrently with the goose season through December 21, and during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.	Daily bag limit: 3 white-fronted geese. Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.
4-5. Morro Bay	All species	Open in designated area only from the opening day of brant season through the remainder of waterfowl season.	
5-6. Martis Creek Lake	All species	Closed until November 16.	
6-7. Northern Brant	Black Brant	From November 8 extending for 37 days.	Daily bag limit: 2 Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.
7-8. Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	From November 9 extending for 37 days.	Daily bag limit: 2 Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.
8-9. Imperial County	White Geese	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 17 days (Late Season).	Daily bag limit: 20 Possession limit: triple the daily bag limit.

		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.	
(e) Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days Regulations (NOTE: To participate in these Youth Waterfowl Hunts, federal regulations require that hunters must be 17 years of age or younger and must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 18 years of age or older.)			
(1) Statewide Provisions.			
(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag Limit	
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 the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. 3. Southern California Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. 4. Colorado River Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. 5. Balance of State Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	Same as regular season.	
(f) Falconry Take of Ducks (including Mergansers), Geese, American Coots, and Common Moorhens.			
(1) Statewide Provisions			
(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits	
Ducks (including Mergansers), Geese, American Coot and Common Moorhen	1. Northeastern California Zone. Open concurrently with duck season through January 14, 2018. [No longer than 105 days.] 2. Balance of State Zone.	Daily bag limit: 3 Daily bag limit makeup: • Either all of 1 species or a mixture of species allowed for take. Possession limit: 9	

~~Open concurrently with duck season and February 3-4, 2018~~ [No longer than 102 days] 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)(6))

3. Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone. ~~Open concurrently with duck season and January 29-31, 2018.~~ [No longer than 107 days.]

Goose hunting in this zone by means of falconry is not permitted.

4. Southern California Zone. ~~Open concurrently with duck season and January 29-February 2, 2018.~~ [No longer than 107 days] EXCEPT in the Imperial County Special Management Area where the falconry season for geese runs concurrently with the season for white geese.

5. Colorado River Zone. ~~Open concurrently with duck season and January 29-February 1, 2018.~~ [No longer than 105 days.] 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.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 265 and 355, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 265, 355 and 356, Fish and Game Code.

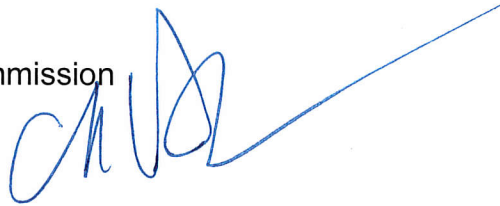
Memorandum

2017 NOV -8 PM 2:06

Date: November 6, 2017

To: Valerie Termini
Executive Director
Fish and Wildlife Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director



Subject: **Submittal of Initial Statement of Reasons to Amend Section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Waterfowl, Migratory, American Coot and Common Moorhen**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) authorize publishing notice of its intent to amend Section 502, Title 14, CCR. The Department is proposing two changes to the existing waterfowl regulations for the 2018-19 season:

1. Create the Klamath Basin Special Management Area in subsection 502(b)6;
2. Allow the white-fronted goose season to be split into three segments in the Northeastern California Zone, subsection 502(d)(1)B.

The 2018 draft Environmental Document for Migratory Game Bird Hunting is under development and will be provided to the Commission prior to the discussion hearing.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Kari Lewis, Wildlife Branch Chief, at (916) 445-3789. The public notice for this rulemaking should identify Senior Environmental Scientist, Melanie Weaver as the Department's point of contact. She can be reached at (916) 445-3717 or via email at Melanie.Weaver@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachment

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Valerie Termini, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
November 6, 2017
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