

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: October 4, 2017

II. Date of Final Statement of Reasons: May 4, 2018

III. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

(a) Notice Hearing: Date: December 6, 2017
Location: San Diego, CA

(b) Discussion Hearing Date: February 8, 2018
Location: Sacramento, CA

(c) Adoption Hearing: Date: April 19, 2018
Location: Ventura, CA

IV. Update:

The Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopted at its April 19, 2018 meeting the specific season lengths and daily bag limits identified as 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 October and 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.

The Commission adopted the Department recommendations and other minor editorial changes to clarify the regulations and to comply with the federal Frameworks at the April 19, 2018 meeting.

Summary of Comments and Response to Comments:

- a) Comment Source: Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl Association (CWA), and public testimony December 6, 2017, February 8, 2018, and April 19, 2018; and Bill Gaines, Gains and Associates, public testimony December 6, 2017, February 8, 2018, and April 19, 2018.

Supports the Department's recommendation including the creation of the Klamath Basin Special Management Area to address public hunting opportunity concerns and continued outreach to enroll private lands into the SHARE program.

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

- b) Comment Source: Curt Talbott, Modoc County Fish, Game, and Recreation Commission, public testimony February 8, 2018; And Noelle Cremers, California Farm Bureau, public testimony December 6, 2017, February 8, 2018, and April 19, 2018.

Ranchers and the Farm Bureau members in northern California continue to have concerns about goose depredation in the Northeastern Zone and noted the late goose season is a valuable tool. They appreciate the creation of the Klamath Basin Special Management Area to allow public areas to remain open and will continue to encourage members to look at the SHARE program. Mr. Talbott would like to see an extension of the late season white fronted goose hunt.

Department Response: Support noted. The intent of increasing the length of the late-season for white-fronted geese in the Northeastern Zone is to reduce depredation on private lands and disperse birds through hunting. It is the policy of the Department (Fish and Game Code Section 1801) to alleviate economic losses caused by wildlife and to reduce these losses to within tolerable limits.

The late goose seasons were established as a tool to minimize depredation on private lands, not for hunter opportunity. The decision to reallocate hunt-days from December to February was informed by survey and harvest data, which indicate that few white-fronted geese occur in the Northeastern Zone during December and January.

The Department is proposing to create a special management area (Klamath Basin) in the Northeastern Zone that will have the majority of hunt days within the general season with public hunt areas open to address concerns from public land hunters. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendations.

- c) Comment Source: Robert Roy van de Hoek, Ballona Institute, public testimony December 6, 2017.

Bird watchers have noticed flocks of white-fronted geese on golf courses, lakes and grasslands in coastal southern California. The general public is not just northern California hunters. Mr. van de Hoek is concerned about the birds lost in fall migration and states perhaps supplemental feeding would promote large populations again and return them to urban southern California.

Department Response: The Pacific population of white-fronted geese is

estimated to be 735,640, well over the 300,000 population objective as established in the Pacific Flyway Management Plan. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendations.

- d) Comment Source: Steve McCormick, letter dated September 18, 2017.

Recommends reducing the length of mallard season and bag limit.

Department Response: The duck season frameworks in the Pacific Flyway are established based on the best available science, which suggests that the current combination of season length and bag limit is the optimal choice for the 2018 season. The framework is based on a conservative model with the ultimate goal of population sustainability. The model is updated annually to reflect the current population growth and harvest rates in order to prescribe an optimal regulatory package for the next hunting season. Breeding population data from Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California are used in the model. Harvest rate is an important metric as it indicates what proportion of the population is harvested annually. Harvest rates of adult male mallards from California since 1990 are essentially stable over the long-term but do vary annually despite having the same regulatory packages (100-day season with 7-bird bag). For example, harvest rates from 2012 to 2016 were 12%, 7%, 14%, 15%, and 11%.

Regulations have little effect on hunting success while less predictable variables like weather and bird distribution play a more significant role. For example, total mallard harvest in California was 106,370 in 2014 and 243,000 in 2012 with the same regulatory package. The best regulatory option to reduce harvest is to reduce season length; however, the majority of mallard harvest occurs in December, not in October or November when a higher proportion of mallards shot are local. Further, reductions in bag limits, unless substantial, will not reduce harvest by a measurable level because most hunters do not achieve the daily bag limit each day they hunt.

There are issues with the various analyses that suggest upwards of 60% of mallards harvested in California originate from California. Harvest derivation is based on banding data and the resulting recoveries of those birds taken by hunters. To accurately describe harvest derivation, banding effort from all major breeding must be equal. Banding effort is not the same in areas such as Alaska, British Columbia, and Alberta, where much of our mallards originate. Banding efforts in California are substantial, resulting in a high proportion of the population being banded which creates a bias towards local mallards in our harvest.

The Commission adopted the Department's recommendations.

- e) Comment Source: Myron Fortin, email received March 23, 2018.

Support the Department's Imperial County Special Management Area for late season white geese to minimize crop damage. Also requests the late season to

begin two weeks after the general season ends, rather than just one week after it ends.

Department Response: The Imperial County late goose season started two weeks after the close of the general season from 2008/09 through 2013/14 and was inadvertently moved to start one week after the close of the general goose season thereafter. Commission staff is assisting Mr. Fortin in completing a petition to consider this change for the 2019/20 waterfowl hunting season. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendations.

- f) Comment Source: Chris Ratliff, Modoc County Fish, Game and Recreation Commission, letter dated January 23, 2018.

Support the Department's proposal to establish a longer white-fronted goose late season in the Northeastern Zone; that will mimic the current white goose season length and timing (3-way split season).

Department Response: Support noted. The intent of increasing the length of the late-season for white-fronted geese in the Northeastern Zone is to reduce depredation on private lands and disperse birds through hunting. It is the policy of the Department (Fish and Game Code Section 1801) to alleviate economic losses caused by wildlife and to reduce these losses to within tolerable limits. Hunting is the only tool the Department can offer private landowners to minimize depredation (with the goal of hazing geese from private lands and onto public lands).

The late goose seasons were established as a tool to minimize depredation on private lands, not for hunter opportunity. The decision to reallocate hunt-days from December to February was informed by survey and harvest data, which indicate that few white-fronted geese occur in the Northeastern Zone during December and January. Surveys show that an estimated 8,000 white-fronted geese occur in the Klamath basin during January, compared to 776,800 in the Central Valley. Further, white-fronted goose harvest data for Ash Creek, Butte Valley and Shasta Valley wildlife areas indicate an average of one white-fronted goose harvested for the entire month of December over the past 3 years. Therefore, little, if any, hunting opportunity exists during this time in the Northeastern Zone. As with the already established late-season for white geese, hunt-days will be removed from December during the general season and applied to the late season for white-fronted geese.

During the late goose season hunting is prohibited on state wildlife areas (with the exception of Type C wildlife areas), and Modoc National Wildlife Refuge. Public waterways as well as other state and federal lands may be open during the late season goose hunts in the Northeastern Zone.

Lastly, the Department is proposing to create a special management area (Klamath Basin) in the Northeastern Zone that will have the majority of hunt days within the general season with public hunt areas open to address concerns from

public land hunters. The Commission adopted the Department's recommendations.

VI. Location and Index of Rulemaking File

A rulemaking file with attached file index is maintained at:

California Fish and Game Commission
1416 9th 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:

- 1) The No Change Alternative would not create the 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.
- 3) The No Change Alternative would maintain the one pintail bag limit

(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.

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.

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 (revised 2014) 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 manage waterfowl populations for sustainability into the future, 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 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 canvasback, 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 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 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 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 of 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

UPDATE

The following table has been amended from the version in the Initial Statement of Reasons to reflect the Department’s regulation recommendations to comply with the Federal frameworks and any editorial changes to clarify and simplify the regulations. 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.

The Initial Statement of Reasons identified the Department’s proposed season lengths and bag limits for ducks, including the bag limit for pintail as established in Federal frameworks. The Federal frameworks now allows the pintail daily bag limit to increase to 2 based on the harvest strategy as recognized by the Flyway Councils. The harvest strategy dictates the optimum choice for hunting season length and daily bag limit based on the breeding population of pintails with the goal of ensuring the perpetuation of a viable pintail population. The 2017 breeding pintail population increased from 2016, allowing the strategy to provide a higher bag limit. The Department proposed and recommended to adopt the Federal frameworks including the pintail bag limit.

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 6 – Jan 18	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 6– Dec 2 & Dec 22 – Jan 18	
	Geese	Regular Season Large Canada Geese: Oct 6 – Jan 13 White geese and white-fronted geese: Oct 6 – Dec 2 & Jan 5 – Jan 18 Late Season White and white fronted geese: Feb 6 – Mar 10	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	Ducks	Oct 20 – Jan 27	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 3 – Jan 27	
	Geese	Oct 20 – Jan 27	30/ day, which may include: 20 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Southern California Zone	Ducks	Oct 20 – Jan 27	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 3 – Jan 27	
	Geese	Oct 20 – Jan 27	23/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Colorado River Zone	Ducks	Oct 19 – Jan 27	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks,

	Scaup	Nov 3 – Jan 27	2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Geese	Oct 19 – Jan 27	24/day, up to 20 white geese, up to 4 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Balance of State Zone	Ducks	Oct 20 – Jan 27	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 3 – Jan 27	
	Geese	Early Season: (Large CAGO only) Sept 29 – Oct 3 Regular Season: Oct 20 – Jan 27 Late Season: (White-fronted and White geese) Feb 9 – Feb 13	30/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT
North Coast	All Canada Geese	Oct 31 – Jan 27 & Feb 23 – 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	
Klamath Basin	Dark and white geese	Large Canada Geese: Oct 6 – Jan 13 White-fronted and white geese Oct 6 – Jan 18	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	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 3 – Jan 27 & Feb 2 – Feb 18	20/day Possession limit triple the daily bag.
YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Sept 22 – 23	Same as regular season
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		Feb 2 – 3	
Southern California Zone		Feb 2 – 3	
Colorado River Zone		Feb 2 – 3	
Balance of State Zone		Feb 2 – 3	
FALCONRY	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Oct 6 – Jan 13	3/day Possession limit triple the daily bag
Balance of State Zone		Oct 20 – Jan 27 & Feb 2 – 3	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Ducks only	Oct 20 – Jan 30	
Southern California Zone	Same as regular season	Oct 20 – Feb 1	
Colorado River Zone	Ducks only	Oct 19 – Jan 31	

The Commission adopted the Department recommendations and minor editorial changes to clarify and to comply with the Federal frameworks at the April 19, 2018 meeting. Any inadvertent references in the Initial Statement of Reasons to Section 202, Fish and Game Code should have been to Section 265, Fish and Game Code, pursuant to SB 1473 – Chapter 546.

There have been no changes in applicable laws or to the effect of the proposed regulations from the laws and effects described in the Notice of Proposed Action.