## 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

Ι.	Date of Initial Statement of Reasons:	January 4, 2019	
II.	Date of Final Statement of Reasons:	May 14, 2019	

III. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

(a)	Notice Hearing:	Date: December 13, 2018 Location: Oceanside, CA
(b)	Discussion Hearing	Date: February 6, 2019 Location: Sacramento, CA
(c)	Adoption Hearing:	Date: April 17, 2019 Location: Santa Monica, CA

## IV. Update:

At its April 17, 2019 meeting, the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopted the specific season lengths and daily bag limits for the 2020-21 waterfowl hunting season as set forth in the attached Final Regulatory Text, including a season closing date of January 31, 2021 in most zones. The Commission also adopted other minor editorial changes to clarify the regulations and to comply with the federal Frameworks.

The originally proposed regulatory language in the Initial Statement of Reasons contained a range of season lengths and daily bag limits, which were contingent upon the establishment of Federal framework regulations. These frameworks were proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (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.

Summary of Comments and Response to Comments:

a) <u>Comment Source</u>: December 13, 2018 public testimony from Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl Association (CWA), Bill Gaines, Gaines and Associates, Mark Smith, Grasslands Water District and Nor-Cal Guides and Sportsmen's Association, Rick Travis, California Rifle and Pistol Association, and

February 6, 2019, public testimony of Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl Association (CWA), Roy Griffith, California Rifle and Pistol Association, James Stone, John Clark, public testimony Dennis Fox, supported extending the season to January 31st, and

April 17, 2019, public testimony of Wayne Roup, George Osbourn, California Sport Fishing League, Dennis Fox and April 17, 2019; CWA letter dated March 28, 2019 and April 11, 2019, and CWA email campaign (655 received).

Recommends closing the duck season in most zones January 31 by using the remaining 5-days not currently being used in the Balance of State, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California zones. Also recommends the Youth Hunt Days in referenced zones be moved to February 8 - 9, 2020 and the late goose seasons start February 15, 2020. Mark Hennelly stated there was no need to put off extending the season to January 31, to gather more data, and James Stone said that ending the season on a weekday is not unusual, John Clark said that California is the only state that is not utilizing the full 107 hunting days, and Dennis Fox said adding the extra days at the end of the season will benefit because there will be additional water in San Joaquin Valley.

<u>Department Response:</u> The Commission adopted the January 31 season closing date option for the Balance of State, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California zones, including moving the Youth Hunt Days to February 8 – 9, 2020. The Service provides for states to use between 38 – 107 days. The full number of days utilized by California may vary by zone and by year, with consideration for weekend openers when possible. This year the commission selected 105 days. However, the regulatory text as proposed in the ISOR does not allow for the late goose seasons to be moved 1 week later.

- b) <u>Comment Source</u>: William Ferrier, California Hawking Club; letter dated February 14, 2019
  - 1) Recommend maintaining 100-day season length and use extra days for falconry-only, as discussed with the Department on June 18, 2018.
  - 2) The Commission should consider developing special use permits for take of migratory birds by falconry.

<u>Department Response:</u> 1) The Commission adopted the January 31 season closing date option for the Balance of State, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California zones. This eliminates the possibility of a falconry-

only season in these zones for the 2019-20 season; however, in subsequent seasons, days would be available because of calendar progression (for example, January 31 falls on a Sunday in the 2020-21, season providing five days for falconry-only). 2) Migratory birds are managed under the provisions of the Migratory bird Treaty Act of July 3, 1918, which delegated authority to the Serivce. This includes the take of waterfowl by use of falconry. Federal frameworks would have to change to allow special use permits for the take of migratory birds by falconry.

c) <u>Comment Source</u>: Unnamed Commenter, public testimony April 17, 2019

There are few wetlands left and under threat. We should be taking a birds eye view and see that this hunting is not sustainable.

<u>Department Response:</u> Hunting regulations are established to conserve populations at optimal levels which benefits non consumptive users. The state's Conservation of Wildlife Resources Policy (Fish and Game Code, Section 1801) identifies objectives that include maintaining sufficient populations of wildlife resources in the State and to provide public hunting opportunities through regulated harvest where such harvest is consistent with maintaining healthy wildlife populations. Waterfowl populations are assessed by the Service and States in many ways on an annual basis. Regulated harvest has a minimal effect on populations based on a long history of scientific evidence and management. Restrictive regulations are considered when populations reach a specified threshold (as in goose populations) or harvest rates are high in relation to growth of the population (as in duck populations).

d) <u>Comment Source:</u> Roy Van de Hook, public testimony April 17, 2019

We should be moving towards no waterfowl hunting. Hunting birds has a negative impact on the birds.

Department Response: Concern noted. See response c).

e) <u>Comment Source:</u> Unnamed Commenter, public testimony April 17, 2019

Dismay with the requests to allow more time to shoot birds.

<u>Department Response:</u> Concern noted, however the extension of the season to January 31<sup>st</sup> adjusts the start date by the same number of days, so both options account for 105 days total.

- f) <u>Comment Source:</u> Dan Panizzon, email dated April 1, 2019
  - 1) Commission should set the start and end date of the season one month later.
  - 2) Need to hunt refuge closed zones on a rotational basis.

<u>Department Response</u>: 1) As explained in the Initial Statement of Reasons, the Service establishes the frameworks, which includes the earliest dates that waterfowl hunting seasons may open and the latest dates that hunting seasons must close; California must set its regulations within the frameworks. The federal frameworks do not allow general duck season to close any later than January 31. The Commission adopted the Department's recommended opening date and the January 31 season closing date option for the Balance of State, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California zones 2) This comment is outside the scope of the statewide waterfowl hunting regulations and covered under Title 14, Section 550 – General Regulations for Public Use on All Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands.

- g) Comment Source: Unnamed Commentor, public testimony, February 6, 2019
  - 1) Season should be delayed to account for global warming.
  - 2) All lead bullets should be replaced with gold.

<u>Department Response:</u> 1) Climate change was analyzed in the Department's Final Environmental Document (see Appendix F, pages 91-92). Specifically, there is substantial evidence that climate change will cause changes in habitats and other factors that affect waterfowl populations over the long term. An example would be overabundant goose populations because weather conditions in the arctic tend to be more favorable now. Waterfowl populations are assessed by the Service and States in many ways on an annual basis. Regulated harvest has a minimal effect on populations based on a long history of scientific evidence and management. Restrictive regulations are considered when populations reach a specified threshold (as in goose populations) or harvest rates are high in relation to growth of the population (as in duck populations). 2) This comment is outside the scope of the statewide waterfowl regulations, however; the Service banned the use of lead shot in waterfowl hunting in 1991. All nontoxic shot used for waterfowl hunting must be approved by the Service.

VI. Location and Index of Rulemaking File A rulemaking file with attached file index is maintained at:

> California Fish and Game Commission 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 1320 Sacramento, California 95814

VII. Location of Department Files:

Department of Fish and Wildlife Waterfowl Program 1812 9<sup>th</sup> Street Sacramento, California 95811

- VIII. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:
  - (a) Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

Option 1: The Department's proposal to close the last Sunday in January (no change) to allow more time to work with stakeholders and counties to determine potential impacts of closing the season on Jan 31, which could be considered in the next waterfowl package. This option also allows for a five-day falconry-only season (outside of the shotgun season) because in most zones only 102 days are currently proposed out of a possible 107 days. The request for a falconry-only season was made by the California Hawking Clubs.

Option 2: Establish Jan 31 as the end of regular season to provide more opportunity to the general waterfowl hunting community by using the full 107 available days for the regular season, as requested by the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) at the Dec 2018 FGC meeting, but would eliminate the ability to provide a falconry-only season outside of the shotgun season. However, in subsequent seasons, days will be available for falconry-only. The Commission's decision was to adopt the January 31, 2021 closing date for most zones.

(b) No Change Alternative:

The No Change Alternative would not identify a season, or bag and possession limits for Small Canada geese in the Northeastern Zone.

The No Change Alternative would not identify a season, or bag and possession limits for Small Canada geese in the Klamath Basin Special Management Area.

The No Change Alternative would not open the late white goose season in the Imperial County Special Management Area two weeks after the close of the general season.

(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 2019-20 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 administrative action to recognize the issuance of electronic Federal migratory-bird hunting and conservation stamps for the waterfowl hunting season in 2019-20.

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, may experience failure for a variety of causes. Additionally, the longterm 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 multigenerational 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 daily bag and possession limits. The proposed Frameworks for the 2019-20 season were approved by the flyway councils and were considered for adoption at the Service's Regulations Committee meeting October 16-17, 2018. 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, 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, and 3 scaup (during an 86 day season), closing no later than January 31. Duck daily bag limit ranges and duck season length ranges are provided to allow the Commission flexibility.

A range of season length and bag limit (zero bag limit represents a closed season) is also provided for black brant. The range is necessary, as the black brant Framework cannot be determined until the Pacific Flyway Winter Brant Survey is conducted in January 2019. The regulatory package is determined by the most current Winter Brant Survey, rather than the prior year survey. The regulatory package will be prescribed per the Black Brant Harvest Strategy pending results of the survey, well before the Commission's adoption meeting. See the table in the Informative Digest for the range of 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 Department's recommendations are as follows:

- 1) Add Small Canada geese to the Regular Season in subsection 502(d)(1)(B) for the Northeastern California Zone.
- 2) Add Small Canada geese to the Season in subsection 502(d)(6)(A)3 for the Klamath Basin Special Management Area.
- Open the Late Season for white geese two weeks after the close of the Regular Season in subsection 502(d)(6)(A)9 for the Imperial County Special Management Area.
- 4) Allow five additional days of falconry-only season for the Balance of State Zone in subsection 502(f)(1)(B)2 and allow 2 additional days of falconry-only season for the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone in subsection 502(f)(1)(B)3.

An alternative requested by Commissioners at the notice hearing:

 Add up to five days a year to the general duck and goose seasons and close January 31 instead of the last Sunday in January, as proposed by California Waterfowl Association at the December notice hearing. This alternative eliminates the existing and proposed falconry-only seasons. 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 2019-20.

#### 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.

AREA	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Statewide	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent w/duck season	25/day. 75 in possession
Northeastern Zone Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback, Scaup, Dark Geese and White Geese.	Ducks	Between 38 & 105 days	<ul> <li>[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females.</li> <li>1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.</li> </ul>
White geese and dark geese may be split 3-ways.	Scaup	86 days	
-	Geese	No longer than 105 days	30/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 10 dark geese, no more thar 2 Large Canada geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and scaup	Ducks	Between 38 & 105 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females. 1 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. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Southern California Zone Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup	Ducks	Between 38 & 105 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mailards no more than [1-2] females. 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	86 days	
-	Geese	No longer than 105 days	23/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Colorado River Zone Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup	Ducks	101 days	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup Possession limit triple the daily bag.
ſ	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 Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback, Scaup and Dark and White Geese.	Ducks	Between 38 & 105 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females. 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Γ	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, 1 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS		
North Coast Season may be split	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	Dark and white geese	105 days except for Canada geese which cannot exceed 100 days or extend beyond January 31.	30/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 10 dark geese only 2 may be a Large Canad 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	No longer than 37 days and closing no later than Dec 14.	[0-2]/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.		
Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	No longer than 37 days and closing no later than Dec 15.	[0-2]/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.		
Imperial County Season may be split	White Geese	Up to 107 days	20/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.		
YOUTH WATERFOWL		(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.)			
HUNTING DAYS	must be 17 year				
HUNTING DAYS	SPECIES				
HUNTING DAYS		of age or SEASON The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending	older.)		
	SPECIES Same as	of age of SEASON The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS		
Northeastern Zone Southern San Joaquin	SPECIES Same as regular season Same as	of age of SEASON The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS		
Northeastern Zone Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	SPECIES Same as regular season Same as regular season Same as	of age of SEASON The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS Same as regular season Same as regular season		
Northeastern Zone Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone Southern California Zone	SPECIES Same as regular season Same as regular season Same as regular season Same as	of age of SEASON The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The Saturday following the closing for waterfowl season	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS Same as regular season Same as regular season Same as regular season		
Northeastern Zone Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone Southern California Zone Colorado River Zone	SPECIES Same as regular season Same as regular season Same as regular season Same as regular season	of age of SEASON The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The Saturday following the closing for waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The Saturday following the closing for waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS         Same as regular season		
Northeastern Zone Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone Southern California Zone Colorado River Zone Balance of State Zone	SPECIES Same as regular season Same as regular season Same as regular season Same as regular season	of age of SEASON The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The Saturday following the closing for waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS         Same as regular season		
Northeastern Zone         Southern San Joaquin         Valley Zone         Southern California Zone         Colorado River Zone         Balance of State Zone         FALCONRY OF DUCKS	SPECIES Same as regular season	of age of SEASON The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The Saturday following the closing for waterfowl season extending for 2 days. The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days. SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS Same as regular season DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS 3/day.		
Northeastern Zone         Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone         Southern California Zone         Colorado River Zone         Balance of State Zone         FALCONRY OF DUCKS         Northeastern Zone	SPECIES Same as regular season	of age of age of season         SEASON         The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         The Saturday following the closing for waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         The First or second Saturday in February following the closing for waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         The First or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         SEASON         Between 38 and 105 days	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS         Same as regular season       Same as regular season		
Northeastern Zone         Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone         Southern California Zone         Colorado River Zone         Balance of State Zone         FALCONRY OF DUCKS         Northeastern Zone         Balance of State Zone         Southern Zone         Southern Zone	SPECIES Same as regular season Same as	of age of age of season         SEASON         The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         The Saturday following the closing for waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         The first or second Saturday in February following the closing for waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         The first or second Saturday in February following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.         SEASON         Between 38 and 105 days         Between 38 and 107 days	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS         DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS         Same as regular season         Same a		

## UPDATE

At its April 17, 2019 meeting, the Commission adopted the specific season lengths and daily bag limits for the 2020-21 waterfowl hunting season as set forth in the attached Final Regulatory Text, including a season closing date of January 31, 2021 in most zones. The Commission also adopted other minor editorial changes to clarify the regulations and to comply with the federal Frameworks.

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.

The following Summary of Adopted Waterfowl Hunting Regulations table has been amended from the version in the Initial Statement of Reasons to reflect the season dates and bag limits as adopted by the Commission at the April 17, 2019 meeting.

Summary of Adopted 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	
	Ducks	Oct 5 – Jan 17	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2	
	Scaup	Oct 5– Dec 1 & Dec 21 – Jan 17	redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.	
Northeastern Zone	Geese	Regular Season Canada Geese: Oct 5 – Jan 12 White-fronted and white geese: Oct 5 – Dec 1 & Jan 4 – Jan 17 Late Season White-fronted and white geese: Feb 7 – 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.	
	Ducks	Oct 19 – Jan 31	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads,	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Scaup	Nov 7 – Jan 31	3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.	
	Geese	Oct 19 – Jan 31	30/ day, which may include: 20 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.	
	Ducks	Oct 19 – Jan 31	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2	
Southern California Zone	Scaup	Nov 7 – Jan 31	redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.	
	Geese	Oct 19 – Jan 31	23/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.	
	Ducks	Oct 18 – Jan 26	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks,	
Colorado River Zone	Scaup	Nov 2 – Jan 26	1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.	
	Geese	Oct 18 – Jan 26	24/day, up to 20 white geese, up to 4 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.	
	Ducks	Oct 19 – Jan 31	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females,	
Balance of State Zone	Scaup	Nov 7 – Jan 31	1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.	
	Geese	Early Season: (Large CAGO only) Sept 28 – Oct 2 Regular Season: Oct 19 – Jan 26 Late Season: (White-fronted and White geese) Feb 8 – Feb 12	30/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.	

Sun	mary of Adop	ted Waterfowl Regulat	tions, Continued	
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT	
North Coast	All Canada Geese	Nov 6 – Jan 31 & Feb 22 – 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	Canada Geese: Oct 5 – Jan 12 White-fronted and White geese Oct 5 – Jan 17	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 7 – Jan 31 & Feb 8 – Feb 26	20/day Possession limit triple the daily bag.	
YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS	
Northeastern Zone		Sept 21 – 22	Same as regular season	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Same as regular season	Feb 8 – 9		
Southern California Zone		Feb 8 – 9		
Colorado River Zone		Feb 1 – 2		
Balance of State Zone		Feb 8 – 9		
FALCONRY	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS	
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular	Oct 5 – Jan 12	3/day Possession limit triple the daily bag	
Balance of State Zone	season	Oct 19 – Jan 31 & Feb 8 – 9		
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Ducks only	Oct 19 – Jan 31 & Feb 8 – 9		
Southern California Zone	Same as regular season	Oct 19 – Jan 31 & Feb 8 – 9		
Colorado River Zone	Ducks only	Oct 18 – Jan 30		