

A large flock of waterfowl, including geese and ducks, is shown in flight against a clear blue sky. The birds are scattered throughout the frame, with some in the foreground and others in the background, creating a sense of movement and abundance. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular area in the center of the image.

**Waterfowl Hunting
Sections 502 and 507**

**Anticipated Recommendations
for the 2020-21 Season**

**Wildlife Resources Committee
September 10, 2019**

Section 502

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

Brief Background

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes frameworks based on status of waterfowl
- Population status from surveys at both federal and state level
- Waterfowl populations managed via the Flyway process, coordinated management of shared resource
- CDFW annually conducts Breeding Population Survey along with other states in flyway
- Season lengths/bag limits determined by harvest management thresholds/objectives
- States can only select seasons and bag limits within frameworks
- States, via the Flyway, can modify frameworks

Current and Future Season Structure (assumes liberal framework package)

Season	Sat Opening	Closing Day	Season Length	Unused Days
2019-20	Oct 19	Fri, Jan 31	105	0
2020-21	Oct 24	Sun, Jan 31	100	5
2021-22	Oct 23	Mon, Jan 31	101	4
2022-23	Oct 22	Tues, Jan 31	102	3

Establish Veteran-Active Military Hunt Days

- Can be combined with Youth Hunt Days
- Recommend separate days for the 20/21 season
- FGC direction to close January 31
- Maintain traditional Saturday opener in late October
- January 31 falls on the last Sunday in 2021
- Results in a 100-day season in most zones
- 107-days frameworks, leaving 5 unused days
- Unused days create Veteran-Active Military Hunt Days
- In future seasons, days will have to be removed from general season for separate Veteran-Active Military Days or combine with Youth Hunt Days

Future Consideration for Veteran-Active Military Hunt Days

Season	Sat Opening	Closing Day	Season Length	Unused/ Falconry/ VAM Days
2019-20	Oct 19	Fri, Jan 31	105	0
2020-21	Oct 24	Sun, Jan 31	100	5
2021-22	Oct 23	Mon, Jan 31	101	4
2022-23	Oct 22	Tues, Jan 31	102	3

Section 507 (4) Provisions Related to the Taking of Migratory Game Birds

...Shotgun shells may not be used or possessed that contain shot size larger than **No. BB in lead or T shot in steel...**

Revised to Read

...Shotgun shells may not be used or possessed that contain shot size larger than T shot in steel...

Hunter Survey update

- Survey questions in final
- To be implemented Fall or Winter 2019
- Intended as online based survey
- Goal is to obtain hunter sentiment used to consider Department recommendations for waterfowl seasons in future

QUESTIONS?



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