

State of California
Fish and Game Commission
Final Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action

Amend Sections 502 and 507
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Waterfowl and Take of Migratory Birds

I. Dates of Statement of Reasons:

Initial Statement of Reasons: November 13, 2019
Final Statement of Reasons: May 4, 2020

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings

(a) Notice Hearing

Date: December 11, 2020 Location: Sacramento

(b) Discussion Hearing

Date: February 21, 2020 Location: Sacramento

(c) Adoption Hearing

Date: April 16, 2020 Location: Teleconference

III. Update

At its April 16, 2020 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 Approved 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. Lastly, the Department modified the opening date for ducks and geese in the Northeastern Zone based on public and regional Department input. The specific change was:

502(d)(1)(B): Northeastern California Zone

- The regular duck season (including scaup) will open the first Saturday in October, rather than the second Saturday that was proposed.
- The regular goose season will open the first Saturday in October, rather than the second Saturday that was proposed.

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

- a) Comment Source: March 3, 2020 letter from Estelle Fennell, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, February 28, 2020, email from Phil Grunert.

Recommends the regular goose season in the North Coast Special Management Area (SMA) to open concurrently with the duck season to relieve pressure on Large Canada geese in late January and to more effectively harvest Aleutian Canada geese from mid-October to mid-December.

Department Response: The Commission adopted the Department's proposal for season timing in the North Coast SMA. The North Coast SMA is comprised of both Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Goose season timing in the North Coast SMA has been based upon the status and distribution of Aleutian Canada geese, to maximize hunting opportunity and to reduce depredation on private lands. The Department is not opposed to modifying the regular goose season timing however, both counties need to agree. Del Norte County does not support modifying season timing.

Available data suggest that current timing of the general season maximizes harvest potential. Humboldt National Wildlife Refuge performs weekly bird surveys and the data indicate that bird presence during the general goose season is highest in December and November (in order of magnitude), while October is the lowest. Harvest data from Humboldt and Del Norte counties indicate November, January, and December as the highest harvest months during the general season.

Regarding concern over Large Canada geese in the North Coast SMA

Large Canada geese were introduced into the North Coast SMA over 20 years ago. Since translocations occurred to the North Coast SMA, the state has experienced Large Canada geese expanding to most counties to the point of causing significant nuisance issues. The bag limits for Large Canada geese in the North Coast SMA have remained at 1 per day since the season opened for limited days in 2002, despite bag limits for Small Canada geese (Aleutians) increasing to 10 per day. Large Canada geese are not open to hunting during the late season and bag limits will remain at 1 per day to minimize hunting pressure.

- b) Comment Source: March 18, 2020 letter from Donny Mobley, Humboldt/Del Norte County Cattlemen's Association

Recommends the regular goose season in the North Coast Special Management Area (SMA) to open concurrently with the duck season to relieve pressure on Large Canada geese in late January and to more effectively harvest Aleutian Canada geese from mid-October to mid-December.

Department Response: The Commission adopted the Department's proposal for season timing in the North Coast Special Management Area. See response a).

- c) Comment Source: March 12, 2020 letters from Rob Miller, Del Norte County Farm Bureau and Jennifer Jacobs, County of Del Norte Fish and Game Advisory Commission.

Recommends no change to the timing of the regular goose season in the North Coast Special Management.

Department Response: The Commission adopted the Department's proposal for season timing in the North Coast Special Management Area. See response a).

- d) Comment Source: February 15, 2020 email from Matt Weiser.

Recommends reducing the goose bag limit to 5, mimicking Oregon and Washington in order to have consistent regulations. Bag limits in California are absurdly high and no reason to kill this many geese. Goal as a society is to increase waterfowl so the bag limit should be reduced.

Department Response: The Commission adopted the Department's proposal for goose daily bag limits. Bag limit recommendations in California are based on the status of the resource commensurate with established population goals and objectives and must be within federal Frameworks. Most goose populations in the Pacific Flyway are well above objective and largely winter in California, not Oregon or Washington. Pacific white-fronted geese in the Pacific Flyway are estimated to be 647,000 birds, well above the population goal of 300,000 birds established in the Flyway Management Plan. Both Ross' geese and lesser snow geese populations (defined as white geese in Section 502(a)(4)) in the Pacific Flyway are about 1,000,000 birds and are well above their population goals (100,000 and 200,000 respectively). Aleutian Canada geese in the Pacific Flyway are estimated to be 198,900 birds, above the population goal of 60,000 established in the Flyway Management Plan. Given these populations are well above objective and wintering in California, the large bag limits are justified. Further, private landowners have experienced depredation and are concerned that crops for harvest and grazing may be impacted as goose populations have increased. In attempt to alleviate depredation and allow opportunity commensurate with status, bag limits and season lengths been liberalized for the past 10 years or so. Lastly, harvest data indicate that the majority of hunters do not achieve the daily bag limit. Harvest data from 2014 to 2017 demonstrate that an average of 69% of hunters achieved a bag limit of 1, followed by an average of 18% of hunters achieved a bag limit of 2, and lastly, only 7% of hunters achieved a bag limit of 3.

- e) Comment Source: December 11, 2019, February 21, 2020, and April 16, 2020 public testimony from Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl Association and Bill Gaines, Gaines and Associates.

Supports the Department's recommendation for season length, bag limits, and timing including staggering Youth Hunt Days, Veteran and Active Military Personnel Hunt Days, and late goose season days.

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

- f) Comment Source: April 6, 2020 letter from Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl Association

Supports the Department's recommendation for the 2020/21 waterfowl season including opening the Northeastern Zone on October 3rd and the Veteran and Active Military Personnel Hunt Days.

Department Response: The Commission adopted the Department's proposal.

- g) Comment Source: February 21, 2020 public testimony from Noelle Cremers, California Farm Bureau Federation.

Humboldt County has proposed changes to the timing of the season dates in the North Coast Special Management Area and Del Norte does not agree at this time. Changes should not occur until there is agreement among all involved.

Department Response: The Commission adopted the Department's recommended proposal. See response c)

- h) Comment Source: April 16, 2020 public testimony Mark Smith, Grasslands Water District and Nor-Cal Guides and Sportsmen's Association, and James Stone.

Supports Department proposal.

Department Response: The Commission adopted the Department's proposal.

V. Location and Index of rulemaking

A rulemaking with attached file index is maintained at:

California Fish and Game Commission
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

VI. Location of Department files:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, California 95605

VII. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change

No other alternatives were identified.

(b) No Change Alternative

The No Change Alternative would not open the duck season on the second Saturday in October and close January 20 in the Northeastern Zone.

The No Change Alternative would not open duck season on the fourth Saturday of October and close January 31 in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, and Balance of State zones.

The No Change Alternative would not open the regular goose season on the fourth Saturday in October and close January 31 for the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Southern California zones.

The No Change Alternative would not open the Late Season for geese on the weekend after the Youth Hunt Days in the Balance of State Zone and the Imperial County Special Management Area; or after the Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days, if enacted.

The No Change Alternative would not designate two days as Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days.

The No Change Alternative would not allow up to five days of falconry-only season in the Balance of State, Southern San Joaquin Valley and the Southern California zones.

The No Change Alternative would not delete the reference to No. BB in lead.

c) Description of Reasonable Alternatives that Would Lessen Adverse Impact on Small Business

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.

VIII. 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 2020-21 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 2020-21.

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 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 Cost: None

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 2020-21 season were approved by the flyway councils and will be considered for adoption at the Service's Regulations Committee meeting October 8-9, 2019. 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 2 scaup (during an 86 day season; daily bag limit decrease from 3 to 2); and 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 2020. 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 recommended changes to Section 502 are:

- 1) Open the duck season on the second Saturday in October and close January 20 in subsection 502(d)(1)(B) for the Northeastern Zone. This recommendation reduces the duck season length to 103 days.
- 2) Open the duck season on the fourth Saturday of October and close January 31 in subsection 502(d)(2)(B) for the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone, in subsection 502(d)(3)(B) for the Southern California Zone, and in subsection 502(d)(5)(B) for the Balance of State Zone. This recommendation reduces the duck season length to 100 days.
- 3) Open the regular goose season on the fourth Saturday in October and close January 31 in subsection 502(d)(2)(B) for the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone and in subsection 502(d)(3)(B) for the Southern California Zone. This recommendation reduces the season length to 100 days.
- 4) Open the Late Season for geese on the weekend after the Youth Hunt Days in subsection 502(5)(B) for the Balance of State Zone and in subsection 502(d)(6)(A)9 for the Imperial County Special Management Area. If item 5 (below) is enacted, the Late Season for geese would occur after the Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days.
- 5) Designate two days as Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days (VAMP Days hereafter) for the Northeastern, Southern San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, and Balance of State zones. This recommendation creates a new subsection, 502(f)(1)(A)(B)(C)1-4 and renumbering will occur for the subsequent section (Falconry Take of Ducks subsection becomes 502(g)(1)).

- 6) Allow up to five days of falconry-only season in subsection 502(g)(1)(B)2. for the Balance of State Zone, in subsection 502(g)(1)(B)3. for the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone and in subsection 502(g)(1)(B)4. for the Southern California Zone.

Current regulations in Section 507(a)(4), Title 14, CCR, describe the shotgun size and shot shell type authorized for the taking of migratory game birds.

The Department is recommending deleting the reference to lead and No BB:

- 1) Shotgun shells may not be used or possessed that contain shot size larger than No. BB in lead or T shot in steel or other nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All shot shall be loose in the shell.

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 2020-21.

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 Sections 502 and 507 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 2020-21

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	No longer than 105 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females. 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 2 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Northeastern Zone <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail,</i>	Scaup	No longer than 86 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females.

<i>Canvasback, Scaup, Dark Geese and White Geese. White geese and dark geese may be split 3-ways.</i>			1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 2 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
<i>Northeastern Zone 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>	Geese	No longer than 105 days except for Canada geese which cannot exceed 100 days or beyond Jan 17	30/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 10 dark geese, no more than 2 Large Canada geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
<i>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and scaup</i>	Ducks	No longer than 105 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females. 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 2 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
<i>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and scaup</i>	Scaup	No longer than 86 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females. 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 2 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
<i>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and scaup</i>	Geese	No longer than 105 days	30/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
<i>Southern California Zone Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup</i>	Ducks	No longer than 105 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females. 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 2 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
<i>Southern California Zone Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup</i>	Scaup	No longer than 86 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females. 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 2 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.

Southern California Zone <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup</i>	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 <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup</i>	Ducks	No longer than 105 days	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks. 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 2 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Colorado River Zone <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup</i>	Scaup	No longer than 86 days	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks. 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 2 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Colorado River Zone <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup</i>	Geese	No longer than 105 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	No longer than 105 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females. 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 2 scaup. 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>	Scaup	No longer than 86 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females. 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 2 scaup. 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>	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.

AREAS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
North Coast <i>Season may be split</i>	All Canada Geese	No longer than 105 days except for Large Canada geese which cannot exceed 100 days or extend beyond the last Sunday in Jan	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 Janu 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	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 <i>Season may be split</i>	White Geese	No longer than 105 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.)

AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season	Same as regular season

		extending for 2 days.	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Same as regular season	The first Saturday in February extending for 2 days.	Same as regular season
Southern California Zone	Same as regular season	The first Saturday in February extending for 2 days.	Same as regular season
Colorado River Zone	Same as regular season	The first Saturday in February extending for 2 days.	Same as regular season
Balance of State Zone	Same as regular season	The first Saturday in February extending for 2 days.	Same as regular season

Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days (NOTE: Veterans (as defined in Section 101 of Title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than training), may participate.)

AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Ducks, Coots, and Moorhens	No longer than 2 days.	Same as regular season
Balance of State Zone	Ducks, Coots, and Moorhens	No longer than 2 days.	Same as regular season
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Same as regular season	No longer than 2 days.	Same as regular season
Southern California Zone	Same as regular season	No longer than 2 days.	Same as regular season

FALCONRY

AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Ducks, Coots, and Moorhens	No longer than 107 days.	3/day. Possession limit 9
Balance of State Zone	Same as regular season	No longer than 107 days.	3/day. Possession limit 9
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	Ducks, Coots, and Moorhens	No longer than 107 days.	3/day. Possession limit 9
Southern California Zone	Same as regular season	No longer than 107 days.	3/day. Possession limit 9
Colorado River Zone	Ducks, Coots, and Moorhens	No longer than 107 days.	3/day. Possession limit 9

UPDATE

The recommended opening date for ducks and geese in the Northeastern California Zone was amended based on public and regional Department input. The specific change was:

502(d)(1)(B): Northeastern California Zone

- **The regular duck season (including scaup) will open the first Saturday in October, rather than the second Saturday that was originally proposed.**
- **The regular goose season will open the first Saturday in October, rather than the second Saturday that was originally proposed.**

At the April 16, 2020 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 Approved 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 Final Environmental Document for Section 502, dated April 16, 2020 was also adopted and added to the rulemaking file after the 45 day notice period.

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.