

AGENDA

Board of Game and Inland Fisheries
Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee
7870 Villa Park Drive – Board Room
Henrico, VA 23228

January 10, 2017
10:00 am

Committee Members: Watkins Abbitt, Chairman, Nicole Butterworth, Leon Boyd, H. S. Caudill,
and Douglas Dear

DGIF Staff Liaison: Mr. David Whitehurst

1. Call to Order and Welcome
Mr. Abbitt
2. Approval of October 19, 2016 Committee Meeting Minutes **Action**
Mr. Abbitt
3. Introduction of New Staff
Mr. Bob Duncan
4. Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items
Mr. Abbitt
5. Overview of public scoping for the 2017-2018 Terrestrial Wildlife Regulation Review and
Amendment Process
Dr. Gray Anderson
6. Staff Recommendations for 2017-2018 Migratory Waterfowl Regulations **Action**
Dr. Gary Costanzo
7. Law Update
Major Scott Naff and Major Bryan Young
8. Bureau Update
Mr. David Whitehurst

9. Director's Report
Mr. Bob Duncan

10. Chairman's Report
Mr. Abbitt

11. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 10:00 am
Mr. Abbitt

12. Additional Business/Comments
Mr. Abbitt

13. Adjournment
Mr. Abbitt

Draft Meeting Minutes

Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement
7870 Villa Park Drive – Board Room
Henrico, VA 23228

October 19, 2016
10:00 am

Present: Ms. Nicole Butterworth, Acting Chairwoman, Mr. Leon Boyd, Mr. H. S. Caudill, **Absent:** Mr. Watkins Abbitt; **Board Member:** Ms. Catherine Claiborne; **Director:** Mr. Robert W. “ Bob” Duncan; **Senior Leadership Team:** Captain Clark Greene, Mr. David Whitehurst, Mr. Tom Guess, Mr. Ryan Brown, Mr. Darin Moore.

The Chairwoman welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and noted for the record that a quorum was present.

Approval of the August 17, 2016 Committee Meeting Minutes: The Chairwoman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2016 Wildlife, Boat, & Law Committee Meeting. Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the August 17, 2016 Committee Meeting Minutes and Mr. Caudill seconded the motion. Ayes: Butterworth, Caudill, Boyd.

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items: Ms. Butterworth called for Public Comments- Non Agenda.

- Mr. Kirby Burch of Powhatan County, VA spoke regarding Deer checking-noting the use of dogs

Spotsylvania County, Lake Anna Boating Resolution: Mr. Tom Guess presented information on the Spotsylvania County Lake Anna Resolution giving background information.

- Mr. Greg Cebula, Member of Board of Supervisors for Spotsylvania, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Ms. Ann Heidig of Bumpass, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. Doug Smith of Louisa, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. John Liebsch of Mineral, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. Brad Kirley of Spotsylvania, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. Dennis Schultz of Bumpass, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Ms. Dana Isaac of Mineral, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. Jon Shields of Manassas, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. Matthew Smith of Mineral, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. Robert Loder of Spotsylvania, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. William Latham of Mechanicsville, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. Ken Hayes of Monet, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. Dale Wilson of Mineral, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. Jerry Dunbar of Mineral, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution

- Mr. Michael Popix of Mineral, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. Joe Baker of Mineral, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Ms. Maureen Daniels of Mineral, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Ms. Jean McCormick of Mineral, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. John Conway of Spotsylvania, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. Stephen Harler of Bumpass, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Mr. Allan Lassiter of Mineral, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution
- Ms. Jessica DesNoyer, Assistant County of Attorney of Spotsylvania, VA spoke regarding the Spotsylvania County Resolution

After discussion and questions, the Chairwoman thanked the speakers for their comments.

The Chairwoman called for a break at 12:15 pm and resumed the meeting back to order at 12:25 pm.

The Chairwoman called on Director Bob Duncan to explain the procedural aspects of the Spotsylvania Resolution.

Mr. Duncan explained the process would need to go through the Administrative Process Act before the Committee or the Board could take any action.

Deer Management: Historical Perspectives and Emerging Issues: Mr. Matt Knox and Dr. Megan Kirchgessner gave a presentation on the Historical Perspective and Emerging Issues on Deer Management.

After discussion and questions, the Chairwoman thanked the speakers for their comments.

Law Update: Captain Clark Greene reported on the following:

- Compensation Plan
- Accredited by NBLA
- Academy
- Major Promotions

After discussion and questions, the Chairwoman thanked Captain Greene his update.

Bureau Update: Mr. David Whitehurst reported on the following:

- Introduced new employee, Dr. Mike Bednarski
- Scoping period for Wildlife Regulation Review Period
- Staff Hirings
- Purchase of Westavelt tract
- Fish Hatchery Update
- Mad Tom Fish
- Timber sales
- Trout Stocking

- Statewide Boating Access
- Fox hound Training season

Charter Update: Mr. Ryan Brown gave a presentation to update the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Charter.

After discussion and questions, the Chairwoman thanked Mr. Brown for his presentation.

Mr. Boyd made a motion, Ms. Chairwoman, I move that the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee endorse the Charter change. It was seconded by Mr. Caudill. Ayes: Butterworth, Boyd, Caudill.

Director's Report: Mr. Duncan reported on the following:

- Thanked staff for efforts on the preparation of Hurricane Matthew
- Feral Hog Conference
- Land Projects
- Team Wild
- Updating and Changing WBL

Chairman's Report:

The Chairwoman thanked everyone for attending today's Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee, asked for additional comments and questions.

Mr. Caudill invited people who have never attended to attend a prescribe burning.

The Chairwoman announced the next committee meeting for Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 10:00 am and adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances Boswell
/s/

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

2017-2018 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS – FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS



Prepared by Bureau of Wildlife Resources
January 2017

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

PRELIMINARY FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS, AND STAFF PROPOSALS FOR 2017-18
MIGRATORY GAMEBIRD HUNTING SEASONS

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Doves

Mourning Dove Background Information and Population Status

There are three dove management units (or flyways) across the country, including the Eastern (EMU), Central (CMU) and Western (WMU) Management Units. Virginia is in the EMU.

- Population trends in the EMU based on the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS):
10-yr (2006-2015): stable population trend.
Long term (1966-2015): increasing trend.
- Dove Banding Study – Annual program (since 2003) to leg-band over 500 doves annually in VA, and nearly 33,000 nationwide. Data provides estimates of movements, survival and harvest rates that are used to develop hunting regulations.
- Harvest Strategy: A new Harvest Strategy adopted in 2014 allowed an increase from 70 to 90 days of hunting for doves in the Standard Regulatory Package. Daily bag limit remains at 15 birds (increased from 12 in 2009).
- Data from HIP (past 3-yr avg.): Hunters = 16,600 Harvest = 213,900

Recent Seasons

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates (all 70 days until extended to 90 days in 2014-15)</u>		
2016-2017	Sept. 3 – Oct. 30	Nov. 19 – Nov. 27	Dec. 24 – Jan. 15
2015-2016	Sept. 5 – Nov. 1	Nov. 21 – Nov. 29	Dec. 24 – Jan. 15
2014-2015	Sept. 1 – Oct. 31	Nov. 22 – Nov. 30	Dec. 27 – Jan. 15
2013-2014	Sept. 2 – Oct. 14	Oct. 19 – Nov. 2	Dec. 31 – Jan. 11
2012-2013	Sept. 1 – Oct. 13	Oct. 17 – Oct. 27	Dec. 28 – Jan. 12
2011-2012	Sept. 3 – Oct. 10	Oct. 25 – Nov. 5	Dec. 26 - Jan. 14
2010-2011	Sept. 4 – Oct. 11	Oct. 20 – Nov. 6	Dec. 27 – Jan. 8
2009-2010	Sept. 5 - 26	Oct. 7 – Nov. 7	Dec. 25 – Jan. 9
2008-2009	Sept. 1 - 27	Oct. 4 – Oct. 31	Dec. 27 – Jan. 10
2007-2008	Sept. 1 – 29	Oct. 5 – Oct 27	Dec. 26 – Jan. 12
2006-2007	Sept. 2 – 23	Oct. 7 – Nov. 4	Dec. 28 – Jan. 15
2005-2006	Sept. 3 – 24	Oct. 8 – Nov. 5	Dec. 27 – Jan. 14
2004-2005	Sept. 4 – 25	Oct. 9 – Nov. 6	Dec. 28 – Jan. 15
2003-2004	Sept. 1 – 27	Oct. 8 – Nov. 8	Dec. 31 – Jan. 10
2002-2003	Sept. 2- 28	Oct. 9 – Nov. 9	Jan. 1 – Jan. 11
2001-2002	Sept. 1 - 29	Oct 13 – Nov. 10	Dec. 29 – Jan. 9
2000-2001	Sept. 2 – 30	Oct 7 – Nov. 4	Dec. 30 – Jan. 10
1999-2000	Sept. 4 – 25	Oct. 2 – Nov. 6	Dec. 25 – Jan. 5
1998-1999	Sept. 5 - 26	Oct. 3 – Nov. 3	Dec. 25 – Jan. 9
1997-1998	Sept. 1 – 27	Oct. 4 – Nov. 1	Dec. 24 – Jan. 6
1996-1997	Sept. 2 - 28	Oct. 4 - Nov. 2	Dec. 23 - Jan. 4
1995-1996	Sept. 2 - 30	Oct. 2 - Oct. 31	Dec. 23 - Jan. 2
1994-1995	Sept. 3 - 30	Oct. 1 - Oct. 29	Dec. 26 - Jan. 7

DOVE

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1, 2017 - January 15, 2018
Hunting dates may run consecutively or be split into no more than three (3) segments.

SEASON LENGTH: Not more than 90 days.

BAG LIMIT: 15 daily and 45 in possession. Daily bag limit can be composed of mourning doves and white-winged doves, singly or in combination

SHOOTING HOURS: Between ½ hour before sunrise and sunset daily (State may select ½ day shooting in any segment).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: September 2 - October 29 (58 days)
November 22 - November 30 (9 days)
December 23 - January 14 (23 days)

SHOOTING HOURS: September 2 – September 8 Noon until sunset
September 9 – October 29 ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.
November 22 - November 30 ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.
December 23 - January 14 ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.

BAG LIMIT: 15 daily and 45 in possession. Composed of mourning doves and white-winged doves, singly or in combination

Rails

Background Information and Population Status

- **Harvest** – Comprised predominantly of clapper rails (85%), some sora (14%), and small number of Virginia rails taken. Clappers are mostly local VA birds, some are migrants from NJ, NY, and other salt marsh areas.
- **Nesting** - Clapper rails nest from May through June, with re-nesting in July/August. Late nesting rails have broods that do not reach flight stage until August or September. This occurs in years when 1st nests are flooded by spring storms/tides and re-nests contribute significantly to production. Therefore, we generally wait until the second week of September to open the rail hunting season. The key to setting the season is to bracket the greatest number of high tides possible.
- **Harvest Data** - Avg. No. hunters = 490, Avg. Harvest = 4,300 (HIP, past 10-yr avg.)

Past Seasons

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates (all 70 days)</u>	
2016	Sept. 10 - Nov. 18	
2015	Sept. 8 - Nov. 16	
2014	Sept. 8 – Nov. 16	
2013	Sept. 7 - 28	Sept. 30 – Nov. 16
2012	Sept. 8 – 29	Oct. 1 – Nov. 17
2011	Sept. 10 – Oct. 1	Oct. 3 – Nov. 19
2010	Sept. 8 – Oct. 2	Oct. 4 – Nov. 17
2009	Sept. 8 – Oct. 3	Oct. 5 – Nov. 17
2008	Sept. 10 – Nov. 18	
2007	Sept. 10 – Nov. 17	
2006	Sept. 8 – Nov. 16	
2005	Sept. 12 – Nov. 19	
2004	Sept. 13 – Nov. 20	
2003	Sept. 10 – Nov. 18	
2002	Sept. 9 - Nov. 16	
2001	Sept. 11 – Nov. 19	
2000	Sept. 13 – Oct. 2	Oct. 11 – Nov. 29
1999	Sept. 10 – Oct. 12	Oct. 22 – Nov. 27
1998	Sept. 9 – Oct. 24	Nov. 2 – Nov. 25
1997	Sept. 15 - 27	Oct. 8 - Dec. 3
1996	Sept. 16 – Oct. 17	Oct. 24 - Nov. 30
1995	Sept. 11 – Oct. 14	Oct. 21 – Nov.25

RAILS (Clapper, King, Sora, Virginia)

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018

SEASON LENGTH: 70 days, straight or 2 segments.

BAG LIMIT: Clapper/King 15 daily, 45 possession
Sora/Virginia 25 daily, 75 possession

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset daily

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: September 9 - November 17 (70 days)

BAG LIMIT: Clapper/King: 15 - counted together daily, 45 poss.
Sora/Virginia: 25 - counted together daily, 75 poss.

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset

NOTES: - This recommendation provides 30 days of 3-ft or greater lunar tides.
- Non-Toxic shot is required for Rail and Snipe hunting in Virginia.

GALLINULE AND MOORHEN

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018

SEASON LENGTH: 70 days, straight or 2 segments.

BAG LIMIT: 15 daily, 45 in possession (singly or in the aggregate)

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset daily

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: September 9 – November 17 (70 days).

BAG LIMIT: 15 daily, 45 in possession (singly or in the aggregate)

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset

Woodcock

Background Information and Population Status

- Harvest Strategy revised in 2011, established 3 regulatory options (Liberal, Moderate and Restrictive). Annual regulation based on the 3-year mean of the singing ground survey index. For 2017-18, Harvest Strategy calls for Moderate Regulation (45 days/3 birds).
- Singing-ground survey (SGS) in Eastern Management Region:
 - 1 year trend (2015-2016): no change.
 - 10 year trend (2007-2016): no significant trend.
 - Long-term (1966-2016): 0.93 % decline per year.
- The 2015 recruitment index for the U.S. portion of the Eastern Region (1.38 jv/ad female) was 7.3% below the 2014 index and 15.4% below than the long-term index.
- Research suggests that hunting has little effect on population trend, but habitat is limiting.
- In Virginia, season split into two segments to provide some opportunity for early hunting in western areas, and later hunting in central and eastern areas.
Avg. No. hunters = 1,430 Avg. Harvest = 2,337 (HIP, past 10-year avg.)

Recent Seasons (bag limit has been 3 birds)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>		<u>Days</u>
2016-2017	Oct. 29 – Nov. 4	Dec. 9 – Jan. 15	45
2015-2016	Nov. 23 – Dec. 5	Dec. 15 – Jan. 15	45
2014-2015	Nov. 24 – Dec. 6	Dec. 15 – Jan. 15	45
2013-2014	Oct. 26 – Nov. 1	Dec. 5 – Jan. 11	45
2012-2013	Oct. 27 – Nov. 2	Dec. 6 – Jan. 12	45
2011-2012	Oct. 29 – Nov. 12	Dec. 16 – Jan. 14	45
2010-2011	Oct. 30 - Nov. 13	Dec. 27 – Jan. 10	30
2009-2010	Nov. 7 – 21	Dec. 26 – Jan. 9	30
2008-2009	Nov. 8 – 22	Dec. 20 – Jan 3	30
2007-2008	Oct. 27 – Nov. 10	Dec. 22 – Jan. 5	30
2006-2007	Nov. 4 – 18	Dec. 23 – Jan. 6	30
2005-2006	Nov. 12 – 26	Dec.17 – Dec 31	30
2004-2005	Oct. 30 – Nov. 13	Dec.18 – Jan. 1	30
2003-2004	Nov. 1 – 15	Dec. 20 – Jan. 3	30
2002-2003	Nov. 2 – 16	Dec. 21 - Jan. 4	30
2001-2002	Nov. 3 - 17	Dec. 22 - Jan. 5	30
2000-2001	Nov. 4 - 18	Dec. 23 - Jan. 6	30
1999-2000	Oct. 30 - Nov. 13	Dec. 18 - Jan. 1	30
1998-1999	Oct. 31 - Nov. 14	Dec. 19 - Jan. 2	30
1997-1998	Nov. 1 - Nov. 15	Dec. 20 - Jan. 3	30
1996-1997	Oct. 28 - Nov. 23	Dec. 18 - Jan. 4	45
1995-1996	Oct. 30 - Nov. 25	Dec. 20 - Jan. 6	45

WOODCOCK

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: October 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018

SEASON LENGTH: 45 days, straight or 2 segments.

BAG LIMIT: 3 daily, 9 in possession.

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset daily.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: November 20 – December 8 (19 days)
December 20 – January 14 (26 days)

BAG LIMIT: 3 daily, 9 in possession

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset

Snipe

Background Information

- Season generally set to overlap duck season. There are relatively few snipe hunters in VA and most snipe are taken opportunistically by other migratory bird hunters.
- Harvest Data (HIP, past 10-yr avg.): No. hunters = 470, Harvest = 810

Recent Seasons

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates (all 107 days)</u>	
2016-2017	Oct. 7 – Oct. 10	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2015-2016	Oct. 9 – Oct. 12	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2014-2015	Oct. 10 – Oct. 13	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2013-2014	Oct. 10 – Oct. 14	Oct. 22 – Jan. 31
2012-2013	Oct. 4 – Oct. 8	Oct. 22 - Jan. 31
2011-2012	Oct. 6 – Oct. 10	Oct. 22 – Jan. 31
2010-2011	Oct. 7 – Oct. 11	Oct. 22 – Jan. 31
2009-2010	Oct. 8 – Oct. 12	Oct. 21 – Jan. 30
2008-2009	Oct. 9 – Oct. 13	Oct. 22 – Jan.31
2007-2008	Oct 4 – Oct. 8	Oct. 22 – Jan. 31
2006-2007	Oct 4 – Oct. 9	Oct. 23 – Jan. 31
2005-2006	Oct 5 – Oct.10	Oct. 24 – Jan. 31
2004-2005	Oct 7 – Oct 11	Oct. 22 – Jan. 31
2003-2004	Oct. 8 – Oct 11	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2002-2003	Oct 9 – Oct 12	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2001-2002	Oct. 10 - Oct. 13	Oct. 22 - Jan. 31
2000-2001	Oct. 11 - Oct. 14	Oct. 21 - Jan. 31
1999-2000	Oct. 6 - Oct. 9	Oct. 21 - Jan. 31
1998-1999	Oct. 7 - Oct. 10	Oct. 20 - Jan. 30
1997-1998	Oct. 8 - Oct. 11	Oct. 21 - Jan. 31
1996-1997	Oct. 9 - Oct. 12	Oct. 21 - Jan. 31
1995-1996	Oct. 11 - Oct. 14	Oct. 21 - Jan. 31

SNIPE

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018

SEASON LENGTH: 107 days, straight or 2 segments

BAG LIMIT: 8 daily, 24 possession

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: October 6 - October 9 (4 days)
October 21 - January 31 (103 days)

BAG LIMIT: 8 daily, 24 in possession

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON FACT SHEET

- Special teal seasons were initiated in late 1960's to provide harvest opportunities on blue-winged and green-winged teal. These seasons were discontinued in the 1980's due to drought and a decline in teal numbers.
- Habitat conditions and teal populations improved in the late 1990's and special teal seasons were reinstated in 1999. When the blue-winged teal breeding population (BPOP) is above 3.3 million, a 9-day season can be offered. If the BPOP exceeds 4.7 million, a 16-day season can be offered.
- Blue-winged teal are one of the earliest migrants. Many pass through Virginia from late August through October, prior to the opening of the late duck season.
- Green-winged teal are also early migrants and arrive in September and October. Some Green-wings remain through the winter depending on weather conditions.
- Virginia has held a special September teal season since 1999 (see dates listed below). The season was initially held only in the area east of I-95 because there are greater numbers of teal in the coastal plain. Even in the coastal plain, there are not large numbers of teal, and the harvest has been relatively small. The season was expanded in 2011 to provide some teal hunting opportunity in the area west of I-95.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates</u> <u>East of I-95</u>	<u>Season Dates</u> <u>West of I-95</u>
2016	Sept. 17 – 30	Sept. 21 - 30
2015	Sept. 17 – 30	Sept. 21 - 30
2014	Sept. 17 – 30	Sept. 22 - 30
2013	Sept. 16 – 30	Sept. 23 - 30
2012	Sept. 17 – 29	Sept. 24 - 29
2011	Sept. 19 – 30	Sept. 26 - 30
2010	Sept. 20 – 30	na
2009	Sept. 21 – 30	na
2008	Sept. 20 – 30	na
2007	Sept. 17 – 26	na
2006	Sept. 15 – 25	na
2005	Sept. 16 – 24	na
2004	Sept. 16 – 25	na
2003	Sept. 13 – 23	na
2002	Sept. 14 – 24	na
2001	Sept. 15 – 25	na
2000	Sept. 14 – 23	na
1999	Sept. 16 – 25	na

Average Annual Harvest: 867 teal

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1 – September 30, 2017

SEASON LENGTH: Up to 16 days

BAG LIMIT: 6 daily, 18 in possession (Blue-winged and Green-winged teal only)

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: September 16 – September 30 (15 days)
HUNT AREA: East of I – 95

September 21 – September 30 (10 days)
HUNT AREA: West of I – 95

BAG LIMIT: 6 daily, 18 in possession (Blue-winged and Green-winged teal only).

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

FACT SHEET - Waterfowl Hunters and Harvests - 2017

- Liberal duck seasons (60 days, 6 bird bag limit) and resident goose seasons have resulted in high waterfowl harvests in Virginia during the past ten years. Harvest has averaged ~136,600 ducks and ~51,100 geese from 2011 - 2015, compared to 114,770 ducks and 25,000 geese during the 1990's. The long season length and liberal bags offer greater opportunity and a greater cumulative harvest over the course of the season.
- Waterfowl hunter numbers in Virginia have been generally stable since the late 1990's. Since 1999, the Harvest Information Program (HIP) has been used to estimate hunter effort and harvest. The average number of duck and goose hunters over the past 3 years, as measured by HIP, was 16,100 and 12,700 respectively.
- Milder conditions during the majority of the 2015-2016 season were not conducive to extensive waterfowl migration and subsequently waterfowl harvest. These conditions kept waterfowl dispersed and often hard to hunt.
- The total estimated duck harvest in 2015-2016 in Virginia (119,300) was 16% below the previous year (141,300) and 13% below the past 5-year average (136,600).
- The Canada goose harvest in Virginia in 2015-16 (40,000) decreased 12% from last year and was 22% below the past 5-year average (51,100).
- During the 2015-2016 season, mallards were the most commonly harvested duck in Virginia. Mallard, bufflehead, gadwall, wood duck and American black duck comprise the top 5 harvested species. The mallard harvest in Virginia in 2015-16 (37,200) decreased by 10% from 2014-2015, but was 8% higher than the past 5-year average (34,400).

FACT SHEET - The Status of Ducks - 2017

Mid-Continent Areas: Annual precipitation is the most important factor influencing the quantity and quality of nesting and brood rearing habitat for prairie-nesting birds. The number of ponds counted during the USFWS May breeding waterfowl survey is an index used for assessing waterfowl nesting conditions. Habitat conditions were not as good as last year due to below-average winter and spring precipitation across most of the prairie pothole region. The 2016 May pond count (5.0 million) was 21% below last year's count (6.3 million), but similar to the long-term average (5.2 million).

The total duck breeding population (BPOP) estimate for the mid-continent area this year is 48.4 million ducks, similar to last year's estimate of 49.5 million ducks and 38% higher than the long-term average (1955-2015). The Breeding population estimates (BPOP), along with the percent change from last year and the long-term average, are presented below for the 10 most common species.

Species	2016 BPOP	% Change from 2015	% Change from Long-Term Avg.
Mallard	11.8 million	+1%	+51%
Blue-winged Teal	6.7 million	-22%	+34%
Green-winged Teal	4.3 million	+5%	+104%
Gadwall	3.7 million	-3%	+90%
Northern Shoveler	3.9 million	-10%	+56%
Northern Pintail	2.6 million	-14%	-34%
American Wigeon	3.4 million	+12%	+31%
Redhead	1.3 million	+8%	+82%
Scaup	5.0 million	+14%	0%
Canvasback	736,000	-3%	+26%
Total Ducks	48.4 million	-2%	+38%

Eastern Breeding Areas: Habitat conditions throughout the eastern breeding area were generally improved compared to 2015, with most areas experiencing sufficient rainfall but minimal flooding. Spring phenology was early in the southern regions of the eastern breeding area, but delayed in northern regions. Habitat conditions ranged from excellent to fair.

- Breeding population estimates for the 6 most common species surveyed were almost the same or greater than last year and all except Green-winged teal and Goldeneye rose to meet or exceed their past ten-year averages. Black ducks (612,000) were 13% higher than last year's estimate and similar to the long-term average (618,000). Other abundant species counted in the eastern survey area were Mallards (409,000), Ring-necked ducks (578,000), and Goldeneyes (363,000).

Virginia: Habitat conditions in Virginia during the spring of 2016 were good. Significant spring precipitation filled many wetlands and provided good nesting habitat. Cooler spring temperatures may have delayed some nest initiation and may have inhibited some re-nesting efforts. Local duck and goose production is expected to be average to above average.

- The breeding pair estimate for Mallards (21,140) increased to 14% above the previous year's estimate. Wood duck breeding pair estimates (18,399) decreased from 2015 and were 24% below the previous year's estimate. Canada goose breeding pair estimates (41,871) remained very similar to the previous year's estimate.

YOUTH WATERFOWL DAY

Guidelines for the proposed Youth Days include:

1. States may select 2 days per duck-hunting zone, designated as "Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days," in addition to their regular duck seasons.
2. The 2 days (no longer required to be consecutive) must be held outside of any regular duck season on a weekend, holidays, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate.
3. The days could be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck season frameworks or within any split of a regular duck season.
4. The daily bag limit is the same as that allowed in the regular season and includes ducks, mergansers, coots, moorhens, gallinules, 2 Canada geese (except in Canada Goose Zones where the bag limit is higher), and 1 tundra swan (if the youth possesses a tundra swan permit). Flyway species restrictions remain in effect.
5. Youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger. Youth 12 years of age and older will need a valid Virginia state hunting license.
6. A licensed adult at least 18 years of age or older must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult may not duck hunt, but may participate in other open seasons

DUCKS

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

Outside Dates: September 23, 2017 - January 28, 2018

Season Length: 60 hunting days; plus 2 Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days, can be non-consecutive.

Bag Limit: Daily Bag limit of 6 ducks of any species except for the following restrictions: can include no more than 4 mallards (only 2 hens), 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks and 4 eiders, 3 wood ducks, 2 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, **2 black ducks, 1 pintail**, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck,.
Closed season on harlequin duck.
The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

NOTE: There is an option to include mergansers in the general duck bag or leave them as a separate bag (see Merganser framework page 10). If included in the general duck bag, the restriction on 2 hooded mergansers would apply.

Split Season Options: 3-way split season, no zones

Shooting Hours: 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Season Length: 60 hunting days; plus 2 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day

Season Dates: October 6 - 9 (Black Duck closed) (4 days)
November 15 – November 26 (12 days)
December 16 – January 28 (44 days)
(60 days)

October 21, February 3 - Youth Waterfowl Days

Bag Limit: Daily Bag limit: 6 ducks of any species except for the following restrictions: can include no more than 4 mallards (only 2 hens), 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks and 4 eiders, 3 wood ducks, 2 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, **2 black ducks, 1 pintail**, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck,.
Closed season on harlequin duck.
The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Shooting Hours: 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily

MERGANSER AND COOT

MERGANSER

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

Option A

Season Length: 60 hunting days
Outside Date: September 23, 2017 - January 28, 2018
Bag Limit: 5 birds daily, of which only 2 birds may be a hooded merganser (15 in possession, only 6 of which may be hooded mergansers)

Option B

To be included into the general duck bag. If included in the general duck bag, the restriction on 2 hooded mergansers would apply.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Option A

Season Dates: To coincide with general duck season
Bag Limit: 5 birds daily, of which only 2 birds may be a hooded merganser (15 in possession, only 6 of which may be hooded mergansers)

AMERICAN COOT

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

Season Length: 60 hunting days
Outside Date: September 23, 2017 - January 28, 2018
Bag Limit: 15 birds daily (45 in possession)

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Season Dates: To coincide with general duck season.
Bag Limit: 15 daily (45 in possession)

SPECIAL SEA DUCK SEASON IN SEA DUCK ZONE*

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

SEA DUCKS (SCOTER, LONG-TAILED DUCK, AND EIDER)

<u>Season Length:</u>	60 hunting days, run consecutively
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	September 15, 2017 - January 31, 2018
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	5 birds per day (15 in possession), may include no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tailed ducks.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEA DUCKS (SCOTER, LONG-TAILED DUCK, AND EIDER)

<u>Season Dates:</u>	November 10 – January 8 (60 days) In the Sea Duck Zone delineated below
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	5 birds per day (15 in possession), may include no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tailed ducks.

* **Sea Duck Zone:** Those waters at a distance greater than 800 yards from any shore, island or emergent vegetation in the following area: the ocean waters of Virginia, the tidal waters of Northampton and Accomack Counties, and the Chesapeake Bay and each of its tributaries up to the first highway bridge. Back Bay and its tributaries are not included in the Sea Duck Zone.

Note - Sea ducks can be taken during the regular duck season (Oct. 6–9, Nov. 15–26 and Dec. 16 – Jan. 28) in areas outside the sea duck zone as specified in the regular duck season bag limits.

FACT SHEET - The Status of Resident Canada Geese - 2017

- The resident Canada goose population increased significantly during the 1980's and 1990's. The population peaked at over 260,000 geese in the mid-late 1990's in Virginia and has been reduced by specific management programs since then. The current population estimate is 158,207 (+/- 30,000) in Virginia and over 1 million in the Atlantic Flyway.
- Special resident goose hunting seasons were initiated in 1993 to help manage this population and to provide opportunities for hunters. These seasons occur prior to the arrival of the first migrant geese (~Sept. 25 in Virginia), or in areas where there are fewer migrant geese. The Federal Framework allows Virginia to conduct a statewide September Resident Goose season from September 1-25.
- There are fewer migrant geese in the western portions of Virginia, and a special Resident Goose Hunt Zone has been established that allows more liberal seasons than in the migrant Canada goose zones.
- Special resident goose seasons have been very popular and are an effective tool for managing resident goose populations. These liberal hunting seasons have increased hunter participation and resident goose harvests. Harvest objectives are to maintain the statewide population at the current level.
- In areas where hunting is not feasible, other options including Airport, Agricultural, and Nest and Egg Depredation Orders have been implemented to help manage resident goose conflicts.

Year	Population Estimate *	September Harvest
2016	158,200 +/- 19%	na
2015	150,651 +/- 22%	6,100
2014	130,503 +/- 26%	7,500
2013	144,910 +/- 26%	10,700
2012	158,267 +/- 28%	9,700
2011	165,022 +/- 28%	14,700
2010	147,313 +/- 29%	15,600
2009	145,019 +/- 29%	16,800
2008	157,560 +/- 29%	17,500
2007	154,030 +/- 27%	13,600
2006	136,700 +/- 27%	11,100
2005	129,486 +/- 26%	10,100
2004	143,741 +/- 25%	17,000
2003	186,753 +/- 23%	14,800
2002	218,719 +/- 24%	14,300
2001	218,384 +/- 27%	11,800
2000	227,164 +/- 32%	10,800
1999	261,554 +/- 34%	11,400
1998	264,867 +/- 35%	12,200
1997	249,612 +/- 34%	10,500
1996	181,813 +/- 36%	10,000
1995	151,043 +/- 39%	5,500

*3-year running average

SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1 – September 25, 2017

BAG LIMIT: 15 daily, 45 in possession

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset (except as provided for in special hunting options *)

* SPECIAL HUNTING OPTIONS: Allows the use of electronic calls, unplugged shotguns and extended shooting hours (1/2 hr after sunset) when **no other** waterfowl seasons are open.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: September 1 – September 25 (25 days)

BAG LIMIT: 10 daily, 30 in possession

HUNT AREA: Statewide

SHOOTING HOURS:

East of I-95

September 1 – 15: ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr **after** sunset.

September 16 – 25: ½ hr before sunrise **to** sunset.

West of I-95

September 1– 20: ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr **after** sunset.

September 21 - 25: ½ hr before sunrise **to** sunset.

NOTE: Staff is not recommending the options of using electronic calls or unplugged shotguns for hunting geese in the September season.

FACT SHEET- The Status of Migrant Canada Geese - 2017

- Migrant Canada geese from the Atlantic Population declined significantly from 1985-1995. The hunting season was closed in 1995 to allow the population to recover. The population rebounded quickly and a limited hunting season (6 days with a 1-bird bag) was held in both 1999 and 2000.
- As the population increased, hunting regulations were liberalized. The season was extended to 30 days in 2001, and 45 days in 2002, and 50 days in 2012. The bag limit was increased to 2 per day in 2004 and has remain at 2/day since then.
- The breeding population estimate for 2016 (191,500) was 18% above the 2015 estimate.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PAIRS</u>	
1988	118,031	
1993	91,307	
1994	40,086	
1995	29,302	(season closed)
1996	46,058	“ “
1997	63,216	“ “
1998	42,166	(season closed, incomplete survey)
1999	77,451	(season reopened, 6 days/1 bird)
2000	93,230	
2001	146,662	
2002	164,840	
2003	156,937	
2004	174,793	
2005	162,395	
2006	160,020	
2007	195,709	
2008	169,699	
2009	176,118	
2010	154,028	
2011	194,900	
2012	190,300	
2013	N/A	(survey not completed)
2014	191,234	
2015	161,302	

- Spring phenology was later than normal in central and northern Quebec resulting in below average habitat conditions. Production for 2016 is expected to be similar to or below that of 2015, and lower than the 10-yr average.

Canada Goose Populations and Hunt Zones

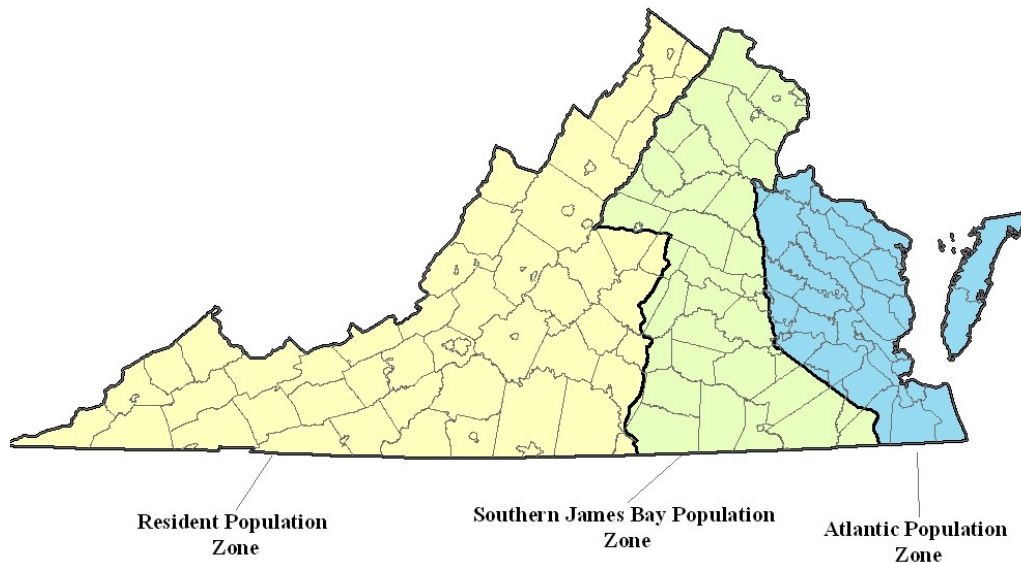
- There are 4 subpopulations of Canada geese in Virginia. These include the Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (RP) along with three migrant goose populations, the North Atlantic Population (NAP), the Southern James Bay Population (SJB), and the Atlantic Population (AP). The majority of our migrant geese (~82%) are from the AP, about 18% are from the SJB, and <1% are from the NAP.
- Recent research and banding analyses have enabled us to better delineate the distribution and migration corridors used by these different subpopulations, and to establish separate hunting zones based on the percentage of migrant geese in each zone. These zones include the:

Atlantic Population (AP) Hunt Zone – The area east of the Stafford/King George County line from the Potomac River south to the Rappahannock River, then west along the Stafford County line to Interstate 95, then south along I-95 to Route 460 in Petersburg, then southeast along Route 460 to Route 32 in the City of Suffolk, then south to the North Carolina border.

Southern James Bay Population (SJB) Hunt Zone – The area to the west of the AP Hunt Zone boundary and east of the following line: the “Blue Ridge” (Loudoun County-Clarke County line) at the West Virginia-Virginia Border, south to Interstate 64 (the Blue Ridge line follows county borders along the western edge of Loudoun-Fauquier-Rappahannock-Madison-Greene-Albemarle and into Nelson Counties), then east along Interstate Rt. 64 to Route 15, then south along Rt. 15 to the North Carolina line.

Resident Population (RP) Hunt Zone – The portion of the state west of the SJB Hunt Zone.

Virginia's Canada Goose Hunt Zones



CANADA GOOSE

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

ATLANTIC POPULATION ZONE (AP):

<u>Season Length:</u>	50 hunting days
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	November 15 – February 5
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	2 birds daily (6 in possession)

SOUTHERN JAMES BAY POPULATION ZONE (SJBP)

<u>Outside Dates and Season Length:</u>	
<u>Regular Season:</u>	November 15 – January 14 (up to 40 hunting days)
<u>Extended Season:</u>	January 15 – February 15
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	3/day (9 in possession) through January 14 5/day (15 in possession), January 15 to February 15

RESIDENT POPULATION ZONE (RP):

<u>Outside Dates:</u>	November 15 – March 10
<u>Season Length:</u>	80 hunting days
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	5 birds daily (15 in possession)

NOTE – All seasons also include White-fronted geese along with Canada geese.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

ATLANTIC POPULATION ZONE: (AP)

<u>Season Dates:</u>	November 15 – November 26 (12 days) December 25 – January 31 (38 days)
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	2 geese per day (6 in possession)
<u>Shooting Hours:</u>	1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily

SOUTHERN JAMES BAY POPULATION ZONE (SJBP)

<u>Season Dates:</u>	
<u>Regular Season:</u>	November 15 – November 26 3/day (12 days) December 18 – January 14 3/day (28 days)
<u>Extended Season:</u>	January 15 - February 15 5/day (32 days)
<u>Shooting Hours:</u>	1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily

RESIDENT POPULATION ZONE: (RP)

<u>Season Dates:</u>	November 15 – November 26 (12 days) December 16 - February 21 (68 days)
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	5 birds daily (15 in possession)
<u>Shooting Hours:</u>	1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily

NOTE – All seasons also include White-fronted geese along with Canada geese.

FACT SHEET - Status of Light Geese (Greater and Lesser Snow Geese, and Ross's Geese) - 2017

- The Greater Snow Goose population is monitored on spring staging areas near the St. Lawrence Valley in Quebec. The 2016 population estimate was 915,000 geese (+/- 11%), which is 12% higher than last year and similar to the long term average.
- The principal nesting areas for greater snow geese are on Bylot, Axel Heiberg, Ellesmere, and Baffin Islands, and on Greenland. These geese winter along the Atlantic Coast from New Jersey to North Carolina.
- Despite heavy snow pack resulting in late snow melt on the nesting areas this year, spring was relatively average overall. Snow geese arrived later on the nesting grounds than in the last few years. Nesting density and number of eggs per nest were both below average in 2016.
- Over the last 30 years, snow goose populations have increased almost ten-fold. A shift from feeding almost exclusively in marshes to feeding more on agricultural grains has allowed them to expand their range and habitat use. This shift has also allowed them to return to their breeding habitats in better physical condition, which has led to increased productivity.
- This population boom has resulted in ecological degradation on their breeding, migration and wintering areas. It has also led to conflicts with agricultural interest. Snow geese can cause damage to these habitats by pulling up plant roots and denuding marshes of vegetation.
- Current hunting regulations for snow geese are as liberal as Federal Frameworks will allow and include a 107-day season that runs from October to January, and a bag limit that was increased from 15 to 25 in 2010. Liberal seasons have helped increase the harvest, however, the population is still quite large and concerns remain about detrimental impacts these birds are having on breeding and wintering habitats.
- A Conservation Order (CO) hunting season was established in 2009, and authorizes the use of alternative management strategies (unplugged shotguns, electronic calls, shooting to ½ hour after sunset, no daily bag limit) to further increase the harvest of snow geese in the Atlantic Flyway. The number of hunters participating in this season in Virginia has averaged 213 per year and the harvest has averaged 557 snow geese per year, however, harvest and participation rates have gone down each year.

LIGHT GOOSE SEASONS

REGULAR LIGHT GOOSE SEASON

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

<u>Season Length:</u>	107 hunting days
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	October 1, 2017 - March 10, 2018
<u>Split Season Option:</u>	3-way split season
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	25 birds daily (no possession limit)

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Season Dates:</u>	October 17 – January 31	(107 days)
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	25 birds daily (no possession limit)	

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER SEASON

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

<u>Outside Dates:</u>	When no other waterfowl seasons are open
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	No daily or possession limit
<u>Special Hunting Methods:</u>	Electronic calls, unplugged shotguns and extended shooting hours to one-half hour after sunset only in areas and at times when other waterfowl seasons are closed.
<u>Special Requirements:</u>	States participating in the Conservation Order Season are required to monitor hunter participation, effort, and success.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Conservation Order Season Zone: The same as the AP Canada Goose Zone - The area east of the Stafford/King George County line from the Potomac River south to the Rappahannock River, then west along the Stafford County line to Interstate 95, then south along I-95 to Route 460 in Petersburg, then southeast along Route 460 to Route 32 in the City of Suffolk, then south to the North Carolina border.

<u>Season Dates:</u>	February 1 – April 5, 2018	(65 days)
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	No daily or possession limit	
<u>Special Hunting Methods:</u>	Electronic calls, unplugged shotguns and extended shooting hours to one-half hour after sunset.	
<u>Special Requirements:</u>	Hunters participating in the Conservation Order Season must register, keep a record of their harvest and participation, and return a harvest report form within two weeks following the close of the season.	

FACT SHEET - Status of Atlantic Brant and Tundra Swan - 2017

- **BRANT.** The main breeding areas for Atlantic Brant are in the Eastern Canadian Arctic on Baffin, Southampton, and Ellesmere Islands. Most brant winter along the Atlantic Coast from Massachusetts to North Carolina.
- Breeding habitat conditions were variable this year with good breeding success in some areas like Southampton Island, but not as good in other areas.
- The Mid-Winter Survey count of brant in the Atlantic Flyway last year (January 2016) (157,899) was 42% higher than the 2015 estimate. The high count was unexpected given that counts from recent years have been low, and production has been well below average the past four years. This high count led to liberalization in the brant hunting regulations in 2016-17.
- The federal brant hunting framework for 2017-18 has not been set yet, but will be based on the 2017 mid-winter count, which should be available near the end of January.
- **TUNDRA SWANS.** The Eastern Population of tundra swans nest in arctic tundra areas from Alaska, east to Hudson Bay and Baffin Island. These birds winter in coastal areas from Maryland to North Carolina. Productivity in 2016 was expected to be similar last year.
- There were 113,600 eastern population tundra swans counted on the 2016 Mid-Winter Survey, which was slightly lower than in 2015 but still above the long term-average. The three-year running average is 111,892 and above the threshold needed (110,000) to liberalize the season.
- Therefore a 25% increase in the number of permits will be allowed for the 2017-18 season. This will be the first change in the total number of hunting permits allowed in over 20 years.
- Eight states in the U.S. hunt tundra swans including Alaska, Utah, Montana and Nevada in the Pacific Flyway, North Dakota and South Dakota in the Central Flyway, and North Carolina and Virginia in the Atlantic Flyway.
- In the Atlantic Flyway, the allocation of hunt permits is split between the 2 states in approximate proportion to the number of swans in each state. Virginia winters ~6,000 swans. North Carolina winters ~70,000 swans (~65% of the population) and therefore is allowed a higher percentage of the swan hunting permits.
- For the 2017-18 hunting season, the number of permits available to hunters will increase 25% from 600 to 725 in Virginia, and from 5,000 to 6,250 in North Carolina.
- The tundra swan hunting season in Virginia is authorized and conducted as specified in the Atlantic Flyway Tundra Swan Management Plan and Hunt Plan, with limits and guidelines as specified under an MOU with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

ATLANTIC BRANT

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

<u>Season Length:</u>	60 hunting days
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	September 23, 2017 - January 31, 2018
<u>Split Season Option:</u>	2-way split season
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	2 bird daily (6 in possession)

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Season Dates:</u>	November 15– November 26	(12 days)
	December 16 - January 28	(44 days)
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	2 birds daily (6 in possession)	

TUNDRA SWAN

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

<u>Season Length:</u>	90 hunting days
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	October 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018 State agency may issue up to <u>725 permits</u> in Virginia and must obtain harvest and hunter participation data. Each permittee is authorized to take one (1) tundra swan per season.
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	One per permittee per season

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Season Dates:</u>	November 15 - January 31 (78 days)
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	One per permittee per season
<u>Hunt Area:</u>	All counties and portions of counties east of U.S. Route I- 95 and south of the Prince William/Stafford county line in Chopawamsic Creek at Quantico Marine Corps Base.

NOTE: VDGIF will issue no more than **725 swan hunting permits** to holders of a valid Virginia hunting license. Only hunters with a valid 2017-2018 tundra swan hunting permit issued by VDGIF shall be authorized to hunt tundra swans. Each permittee will be authorized to take one tundra swan during the season. Swan hunting permits are non-transferable and are valid for use only by the person to whom issued. Permits must be in the immediate possession of the permittee while swan hunting. Immediately at the time and place of kill, successful hunters must cancel their swan-hunting permit by permanently recording the month and day of kill and by attaching it to the swan as instructed on the permit. The VDGIF is required to obtain hunter participation and harvest information to offer this Tundra Swan hunting season. Hunters are required to complete the accompanying tundra swan hunt questionnaire and return it to the address listed on the questionnaire at the end of the hunt. Those who fail to return a completed questionnaire by February 15, 2018 are ineligible for future drawings.

FALCONRY

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

<u>Season Length:</u>	No more than 107 on any species (Gun and Falconry combined)
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	September 1 - March 10
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	3 daily (9 in possession)
<u>Hawking Hours:</u>	½ hour before sunrise until sunset.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Dove:</u>	September 2 – October 29 November 22 – November 30 December 23 – January 31
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<u>Rail, Gallinule, Moorhen:</u>	September 9 – December 24
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<u>Woodcock:</u>	October 17 – January 31
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<u>Snipe:</u>	October 6 - 9 October 21 – January 31
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<u>Canada Goose:</u>	September 1 - September 25 November 15 – November 26 December 16 - February 21
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<u>September Teal:</u>	September 16 - September 30
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<u>Ducks, Mergansers, Coot:</u>	October 6- 9 November 15 – February 9
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<u>Brant and Snow Goose:</u>	October 17 – January 31
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NOTE: Recommended dates based on adoption of preceding gun season proposals; if amended, staff requests permission to calculate permissible dates for each species within the allowable federal framework.

Calendar 2017-2018

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

