

## **AGENDA**

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

August 22, 2017  
10:00 am

Committee Members: Watkins Abbitt, Chairman, Nicole Butterworth, Ryan Brown, and Douglas Dear

DGIF Staff Liaison: Mr. David Whitehurst

1. Call to Order and Welcome  
Mr. Abbitt
2. Approval of February 22, 2017 Committee Meeting Minutes **Action**  
Mr. Abbitt
3. Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items  
Mr. Abbitt
4. Werowocomoco/York River Duck Blinds **Final Action**  
Dr. Gray Anderson
5. Off Cycle Terrestrial Wildlife Regulation Proposals **Final Action**  
Dr. Gray Anderson
6. Statewide Habitat Management Efforts  
Mr. Steve Living
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: To Be Determined  
Mr. Abbitt
12. Additional Business/Comments  
Mr. Abbitt
13. Adjournment  
Mr. Abbitt

**DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND  
FISHERIES**



**TABLED AND OFF-CYCLE REGULATIONS**

**BUREAU OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

**August 2017**

Tabled from May Board Meeting; Final Action Requested

4 VAC 15-260-116. (NEW) Blinds adjacent to Werowocomoco and York River State Park. ....1

Presented at May Board Meeting; Final Action Requested

4 VAC 15-70-60. Game: Bobcat: Archery hunting with bow and arrow or crossbow. ....2

4 VAC 15-90-70. Game: Deer: Archery Hunting.....3

**4 VAC 15-260-116. (NEW) Blinds adjacent to Werowocomoco and York River State Park.**

**Summary:**

The proposal prohibits stationary blinds in the public waters in front of National and State Parks lands on the York River.

**Proposed language**

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**4VAC15-260-116. Blinds adjacent to Werowocomoco National Park and York River State Park.**

No licenses shall be issued for [non-riparian] stationary waterfowl blinds in front of Werowocomoco National Park in Purtan Bay and on the York River between Purtan Island and Barren Point in Gloucester County, and in front of York River State Park between Taskinas Creek and the eastern boundary of York River State Park in James City County. These prohibitions shall not alter the privileges prescribed in §§ 29.1-344 and 29.1-347 of the Code of Virginia for riparian owners and their lessees and permittees.

**Staff Comments:** The staff supports approval of this regulation as proposed by the Board. (This regulation would not go into effect until February 1, 2018.)

**Rationale:**

Stationary blinds will interfere with future park programs being planned in the areas of the York River described above.

**4 VAC 15-70-60. Game: Bobcat: Archery hunting with bow and arrow or crossbow.**

**Summary:**

Add slingbow to provide consistency with HB 1938.

**Proposed language of amendment:**

**4 VAC 15-70-60. Archery hunting with bow and arrow or crossbow.**

A. Season. It shall be lawful to hunt bobcats with bow and arrow, ~~or~~ crossbow, or slingbow from the first Saturday in October through October 31, both dates inclusive.

B. Carrying firearms prohibited. It shall be unlawful to carry firearms while hunting with bow and arrow, ~~or~~ crossbow, or slingbow during the special archery seasons.

C. Use of dogs prohibited during the special archery season. It shall be unlawful to use dogs when hunting with arrow, ~~or~~ crossbow, or slingbow during any special archery season

**Rationale:**

Add slingbow to provide consistency with HB 1938.

**4 VAC 15-90-70. Game: Deer: Archery Hunting.**

**Summary:**

The proposal is to provide a clear mechanism for a county participating in the urban archery season to exclude geographic area(s) from the season, when consistent with the department's deer management objectives.

**Proposed language of amendment:**

**4 VAC 15-90-70. Archery Hunting.**

A. It shall be lawful to hunt deer during the early special archery season with archery equipment or a slingbow from the first Saturday in October through the Friday prior to the third Monday in November, both dates inclusive.

B. In addition to the season provided in subsection A of this section, it shall be lawful to hunt deer during the late special archery season with archery equipment or a slingbow from the Sunday following the close of the general firearms season on deer through the first Saturday in January, both dates inclusive, in all cities, towns, and counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains (except Clarke County and on non-national forest lands in Frederick County) and in the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Business U.S. 29 from the James River to its intersection with U.S. 29 just south of the Town of Amherst continuing north on U.S. 29 to the Tye River), Bedford, Franklin, Henry, Nelson (west of Route 151), Patrick and on the Chester F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area and on national forest lands in Frederick County and from December 1 through the first Saturday in January, both dates inclusive, in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp Line), and Virginia Beach.

C. Deer of either sex may be taken full season during the special archery seasons as provided in subsections A and B of this section (except on PALS (Public Access Lands) in Dickenson County where it shall be unlawful to take antlerless deer during the special archery seasons provided for in subsections A and B of this section).

D. It shall be unlawful to carry firearms while hunting with archery equipment during the special archery seasons, except that a muzzleloading gun, as defined in 4VAC15-90-80, may be in the possession of a properly licensed muzzleloading gun hunter when and where a special archery deer season overlaps a special muzzleloading deer season.

E. It shall be unlawful to use dogs when hunting with archery equipment during any special archery season, except that tracking dogs as described in § 29.1-516.1 of the Code of Virginia may be used.

F. It shall be lawful to hunt antlerless deer during the special urban archery season with archery equipment or a slingbow from the first Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October, both dates inclusive, and from the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March, both dates inclusive, within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth (except on national forest and department-owned lands) and counties with a human population density of 300 persons per square mile or more

39 (except on national forest and department-owned lands), provided that its governing body  
40 submits by certified letter to the department prior to April 1, its intent to participate in the special  
41 urban archery season. Any city, town, or county no longer participating in this season shall  
42 submit by certified letter to the department prior to April 1 notice of its intent not to participate in  
43 the special urban archery season. **When consistent with the department's deer management  
44 objectives and subject to the Director's approval, a participating county may exclude from this  
45 season any geographic area(s) by submitting a clear description of such area(s) in a certified  
46 letter to the department prior to April 1.**

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48 G. It shall be lawful to hunt antlerless deer during the special antlerless archery season with  
49 archery equipment or a slingbow from the Monday following the last Sunday in March through  
50 the last Sunday in April, both dates inclusive, in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince  
51 William counties (including the cities and towns within)

**Rationale:**

The primary intent of the urban archery deer season is to address deer-human conflicts in urban areas. Some counties participating in the season contain rural areas where traditional deer seasons are sufficient to reduce deer populations and conflicts. In fact, hunters in some such areas where deer populations have declined have expressed concerns about the additive harvest of deer during the urban archery season. Department staff believes that, with adequate review and approval, a county's request to exclude rural portions from the urban archery season can accommodate diverse recreational and management needs.