

AGENDA

Board of Wildlife Resources
7870 Villa Park Drive
Henrico, Virginia 23228

January 20, 2022
9:00 am

Call to Order and Welcome –

1. Recognition of Employees and Others
2. Approval of the October 28, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes **Final Action**
3. Public Comments – Non Agenda Items
4. Committee Meeting Reports:

Wildlife and Boat Committee:

- Annual Proposed Waterfowl Regulations **Action**
- Regulation Amendment to Retriever Field Trial Dates **Action**
- Proposed DWR Lands Identification and naming **Final Action**
- Elk Lottery
- Overview of New Boating Division

Finance, Audit, & Compliance Committee:

- Second Quarter/Mid-Year Finance Report for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Law Enforcement Committee:

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee:

5. Director's Report
6. Chairman's Report
7. Additional Business/Comments
8. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022
9. Closed Session
10. Adjournment

Draft Board Minutes

Board of Wildlife Resources
7870 Villa Park Drive
Henrico, VA 23228

October 28, 2021
9:00 am

Present: Mr. Brian Vincent, **Chair,** Mr. G. K. Washington, **Vice Chair;** **Board Members:** Mr. Leon Boyd, Ms. Karen Terwilliger, Dr. Mamie Parker, Mr. Frank Adams, Mr. Rovelie Brown, Ms. Tammy Jo Grimes, Mr. Tom Sadler, and Mr. G. K. Washington; **Absent:** Ms. Catherine Claiborne; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan Brown; **Director's Working Group:** Ms. Becky Gwynn, Mr. Tom Guess, Dr. Gray Anderson, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Mr. Darin Moore, Ms. Paige Pearson, Ms. Rebecca Lane, Major Milt Robinson, and Major Ryan Shuler.

Kelci Block, Assistant Attorney General attended the Board meeting.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The Chair welcomed everyone to the “in-person” meeting. The Chair announced Mr. Sadler was Virtual.

The Chair noted for the record that a quorum was present.

The Chair welcomed the 2 new Board members, Tammy Jo Grimes and Rovelie Brown.

The Chair called on Ms. Terwilliger to read the Mission Statement.

The Chair called for a roll call vote. The board secretary took a roll call vote for Attendance: Ayes: Daniel, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Boyd, Parker, Sadler, Brown, Washington and Grimes, Absent: Catherine Claiborne

Recognitions of Employees and Others: The Chair called on Director Ryan Brown for Recognitions of Employees.

The Director called on Major Ryan Shuler who introduced Major Milt Robinson as the new Major.

The Director called on Major Ryan Shuler who recognized Captain Tony Fisher. Captain Fisher recognized Officer Brandon Harris as the 2021 Boating Officer of the year.

The Director called the Past 2 Board Chairs to the podium and presented them with their Board Plaques, Dr. Mamie Parker and Mr. John Daniel.

The Director introduced Mr. Mike Roberts who attended the Board meeting to present a beautiful Elk Print to the Board members.

Approval of the May 27, 2021 and June 28, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the May 27, 2021 minutes have been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Washington made a motion to approve the May 27, 2021 Board minutes. It was seconded by Dr. Parker.

The board secretary took a roll call vote. Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Boyd, Grimes, Parker, Brown, Sadler

The minutes of the June 28, 2021 minutes have been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Sadler made a motion to approve the June 28, 2021 Board minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Washington.

The board secretary took a roll call vote. Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Boyd, Grimes, Brown, Parker, and Sadler

Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items:

The Chair called for Public Comments – Non Agenda Items:

- Mr. Judge Charlton of Charlotte, VA spoke regarding Deer Hound Hunting
- Mr. Kirby Burch of Powhatan, VA spoke regarding Field Trials
- Ms. Megan Spencer of Charlotte, VA spoke regarding Deer Hound Hunting

The Chair thanked the speakers for their comments.

Committee Reports:

Law Enforcement Committee: The Chair called on Mr. Brown to give an update on the August 18, 2021 Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

Mr. Brown gave an update on the August 18, 2021 Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

The Chair asked if there were any comments or questions from the public or the Board.

The Chair thanked Mr. Brown for his Committee update.

Wildlife and Boat Committee:

The Chair called on Ms. Karen Terwilliger for an update on the August 18, 2021 Wildlife & Boat Committee meeting.

Ms. Terwilliger gave an update on the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting.

The Chair called on Mr. Cale Godfrey for a presentation of Proposed CWD Regulations in response to the Montgomery County positive.

Mr. Godfrey gave his presentation of the Proposed CWD Regulations in response to the Montgomery County positive.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Ms. Terwilliger for her update and Mr. Godfrey for his presentation.

The Chair called for a motion. Ms. Terwilliger made a motion. Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of Wildlife Resources adopt the amendments to the chronic wasting disease regulations for Disease Management Area 3 as presented by staff. It was seconded by G. K. Washington.

The board secretary took a roll call vote. Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Boyd, Grimes, Parker, Brown, Sadler

Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. G. K. Washington to give an update on the May 20, 2021 Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

Mr. Washington gave an update on the August 18, 2021 Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

The Chair called on Mr. Darin Moore for an overview of the FY 2021 Finances.

Mr. Moore gave an overview of the FY 2021 Finances and the completed Federal Audit.

The Chair asked if there were any comments or questions from the public or the Board.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Mr. Moore for his updates and presentations.

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee Report:

The Chair called on Mr. Sadler to give an update on the August 18, 2021 Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee meeting.

Mr. Sadler gave an update on the August 18, 2021 Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee meeting.

The Chair asked if there were any comments or questions from the public or the Board.

The Chair thanked Mr. Sadler for his report on the committee meeting.

Director's Report: The Board Chair called on Executive Director Ryan Brown for his report.

Mr. Brown Reported:

- DWR to host SEAFWA Conference in Roanoke in October 17-20, 2021
- The Director called on Becky Gwynn to report on the HRBT
- Run For the Wild Update
- Explore the Wild Update
- Fall hunting Season approaching
- Dove Season begins September 4
- Governor's Fishing Challenge on October 2
- DWR has taken part in Outdoor Sportsman Show and the VA Big Game Show
- Green Top Event will be on October 2, 2021
- The Director called on Becky Gwynn to report on 3 CWD meetings around the state
- Becky Gwynn reported that 2 new grants have been awarded for use with the CWD situation
- DWR was selected to be a part of the Relevancy Road Map
- Boating Access Group is meeting to work on Funding needs
- Inclusion Plan by George Braxton has been approved and he will be submitting at the October Board meeting

Chair's Report:

The Chair thanked all presenters and staff for their work. The Chair reported he enjoyed being on this board and was looking forward to being the Chair for next year ahead. He reported that listening to the public comments helps the board move ahead and make DWR able to move forward.

The Chair presented the 2022 Schedule of Board meeting dates.

The Chair asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chair, I make a motion to approve the 2022 Schedule of Board meeting dates. It was seconded by Mr. Washington.

The board secretary called a roll call vote: Ayes: Daniel, Terwilliger, Adams, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Grimes, Parker, Brown, Sadler

The Next Regular Board Meeting Date:

The Chair announced that the next meeting date would be Thursday, October 28, 2021

Closed Session:

The Chair announced there would be a Closed Session. A motion was made by Tammy Jo Grimes and seconded by Mr. Sadler. The Chair called for a roll call vote: Ayes: Daniel, Terwilliger, Adams, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Grimes, Parker, Brown, and Sadler

*Closed Meeting Motion
August 19, 2021*

Mr. Chair,

I move that the Board go into a closed meeting for:

(1) First, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.3 of the Code of Virginia, for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board, with respect to real property located in Scott and Highland Counties;

(2) Secondly, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.8, for consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel; and

(3) Finally, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia for discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public

officers, appointees, or employees of the Department of Wildlife Resources specifically regarding the performance of the Director.

This closed meeting will be attended only by members of the Board. However, pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(F), the Board requests legal counsel, the Department Executive Director, the Department Deputy Director, the Legal Compliance Officer, and the Real Property Manager to also attend this meeting, as it believes their presence will reasonably aid the Board in its consideration of topics that are the subject of the meeting.

The board secretary took a roll call vote. Ayes: Daniel, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Washington, Boyd, Grimes, Parker, Brown and Sadler

The Board went into Closed Session at: 11:25 am

The Board reconvened from the Closed Session at 1:05 pm.

The Chairman called on Mr. Brown to read the Certification of Closed Meeting.

*Certification of Closed Meeting
August 19, 2021*

WHEREAS, the Board of Wildlife Resources conducted a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712.D of the Code requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Wildlife Resources hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

It was seconded by Mr. Washington.

The Chair called for a roll call vote. Ayes: Daniel, Vincent, Terwilliger, Adams, Washington, Boyd, Grimes, Parker, Brown and Sadler

The Chair called for a motion. Dr. Parker made a motion. Mr. Chair, I move that the Board authorize the Director to acquire approximately 190+ acres of land in Highland County, Virginia, and such authorization shall be according to state procedures. It was seconded by Mr. Sadler.

The board secretary took a roll call vote. Ayes: Daniel, Terwilliger, Adams, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Grimes, Parker, Brown and Sadler.

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Brown made a motion. Mr. Chair, I move that the Board authorize the Director to acquire approximately 10+ acres of land in Scott County, Virginia, and such authorization shall be according to state procedures. It was second by Mr. Sadler.

The Chair called for a roll call vote. Ayes: Daniel, Terwilliger, Adams, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Grimes, Parker, Brown, and Sadler.

The Chair asked if there were any comments or questions from the Board.

The Chair announced the next Board meeting will be October 28, 2021 and thanked the Executive Director and staff for making today's meeting in person possible.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Boswell

/s/

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

2022-2023 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS – FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS



Prepared by Wildlife Division
January 2022

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

PRELIMINARY FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS AND STAFF PROPOSALS FOR 2022-23
MIGRATORY GAMEBIRD SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS

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Note: Many of the annual migratory bird surveys were not conducted during the past year due to concerns about Coronavirus. In most cases, data from the previous year was used to model and predict current population sizes, and develop appropriate harvest regulations.

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 (2012-2021): declining population trend.
 Long term (1966-2021): declining population trend.
- Dove Banding Project – Annual program (since 2003) to leg-band over 500 doves annually in VA, and 33,000 nationwide. Data provides estimates of movements, survival and harvest rates that are used to develop hunting regulations.
- Harvest Strategy: Revised Harvest Strategy adopted in 2014 allows for a standard dove hunting season of 90 days when appropriate. Daily bag limit remains at 15 birds (up from 12 in 2009).
- Data from HIP (past 3-yr avg.): Hunters = 16,200 Harvest = 218,600

Recent Seasons

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates (all 70 days until extended to 90 days in 2014-15)</u>		
2021-2022	Sept. 4 – Oct. 27	Nov. 20 – Nov. 28	Dec. 22 – Jan. 17
2020-2021	Sept. 5 – Oct. 28	Nov. 21 – Nov. 29	Dec. 24 – Jan. 19
2019-2020	Sept. 2 – Oct. 27	Nov. 27 – Dec. 4	Dec. 24 – Jan. 18
2018-2019	Sept. 1 – Oct. 28	Nov. 21 – Nov. 28	Dec. 22 – Jan. 14
2017-2018	Sept. 2 – Oct. 29	Nov. 22 – Nov. 29	Dec. 23 – Jan. 15
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

DOVE

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023
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 3 - October 23 (51 days)
November 19 - November 27 (9 days)
December 23 - January 21 (30 days)

SHOOTING HOURS: September 3 Noon until sunset
September 4 – October 23 ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.
November 19 – November 27 ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.
December 23 - January 21 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 NY, NJ, and other coastal states.
- **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 hunting season. The key to setting the season is to bracket the greatest number of high tides possible.
- **Harvest Data** - Avg. No. hunters = 290, Avg. Harvest = 3,300 (HIP, past 5-yr avg.)

Past Seasons

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates (all 70 days)</u>	
2021	Sept. 7 – Nov. 15	
2020	Sept. 9 – Nov. 17	
2019	Sept. 7 – Nov. 15	
2018	Sept. 8 - Nov. 16	
2017	Sept. 9 – Nov. 17	
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(Purple)
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) & Gallinules (Common, Purple)

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023

SEASON LENGTH: 70 days, straight or 2 segments.

BAG LIMIT:
Clapper/King - 15 daily, 45 possession
Sora/Virginia - 25 daily, 75 possession
Gallinules - 15 daily, 45 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, only 1 can be a King Rail,
45 in possession, (only 3 can be King Rails).
Sora/Virginia: 25 - counted together daily, 75 poss.
Gallinules: 15 daily - counted together daily, 45 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, Snipe and Gallinule hunting in Virginia.

Woodcock

Background Information and Population Status

- Harvest Strategy includes 3 regulatory options (Liberal, Moderate and Restrictive). Annual regulation based on the 3-year mean of the call count survey. For 2022-23, Harvest Strategy calls for Moderate Regulations (45 days/3 birds).
- Singing-ground survey (SGS) in Eastern Management Region from most recent survey:
 - 1 year trend (2020-2021): stable
 - 10 year trend (2011-2021): 1.13% decline per year.
 - Long-term (1966-2021): 1.01 % decline per year.
- The 2020 recruitment index for the U.S. portion of the Eastern Region (1.60 jv/ad female) was 6% above the 2019 index but 1.2% below the long-term index.
- Research suggests that habitat loss is the major factor of the long-term population decline.
- Virginia is participating in a Flyway-wide study of woodcock movements and habitat use for the past several years. GPS transmitters are being used to track woodcock migration routes and chronology, and better inform woodcock management strategies and hunting seasons.
- Federal regulations prohibit zones for woodcock hunting, however, we are permitted to split the season into two segments. In Virginia, this allows us to provide both early and late opportunities for hunters across the state.

Avg. No. hunters = 1,680, Avg. Harvest = 2,556 (HIP, past 5-year avg.)

Recent Seasons (bag limit has been 3 birds)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>		<u>Days</u>
2021-2022	Nov. 11 – Dec. 8	Dec. 27 – Jan. 12	45
2020-2021	Nov. 7 – Nov. 30	Dec. 24 – Jan. 13	45
2019-2020	Nov. 20 – Dec. 8	Dec. 21 – Jan. 15	45
2018-2019	Oct. 27 – Nov. 2	Dec. 8 – Jan. 14	45
2017-2018	Nov. 20 – Dec. 8	Dec. 21 – Jan. 15	45
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

WOODCOCK

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: October 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023

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 11 – December 6 (26 days)
December 27 – January 14 (19 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 5-yr avg.): No. hunters = 225, Harvest = 550

Recent Seasons

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates (all 107 days)</u>	
2021-2022	Oct. 8 – Oct. 11	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2020-2021	Oct. 9 – Oct. 12	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2019-2020	Oct. 11 – Oct. 14	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2018-2019	Oct. 5 – Oct. 8	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2017-2018	Oct. 6 – Oct. 9	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
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. 11 – 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, 2022 - January 31, 2023

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 7 - October 10 (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 - 2022

- Special teal seasons were initiated in late 1960's to provide harvest opportunities on blue-winged and green-winged teal. 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. However, 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 and teal hunters in the coastal plain. Even in the coastal plain, teal are not widespread, 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>
2021	Sept. 17 – 30	Sept. 21 - 30
2020	Sept. 17 – 30	Sept. 21 - 30
2019	Sept. 17 – 30	Sept. 21 - 30
2018	Sept. 17 – 30	Sept. 21 - 30
2017	Sept. 16 – 30	Sept. 21 - 30
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: 600 teal

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1 – September 30, 2022

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 17 – September 30
HUNT AREA: East of I – 95

September 21 – September 30
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 - 2021

- 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 ~132,400 ducks and ~47,400 Canada geese from 2016-2020, 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 16,700 and 13,800 respectively.
- Conditions during the 2020-2021 season were mild and warm resulting in poor waterfowl hunting conditions and a delayed migration. This resulted in a duck harvest that was lower than the previous 5-year average. Estimated Canada goose harvest was also lower than previous years mainly due to the decrease in the AP Canada goose bag limit.
- The total estimated duck harvest during the 2020-2021 season in Virginia (128,800) was 6% higher than the previous year (121,400) but 3% below the past 5-year average (132,400).
- During the 2020-2021 season, mallards were the most commonly harvested duck in Virginia, followed by wood ducks, buffleheads, gadwall and black ducks. The mallard harvest in Virginia in 2020-2021 (33,190) increased 13% from 2019-2020 (29,032) but was 9% lower than the past 5-year average (36,500). This is likely a result of a reduction in the mallard bag limit from 4 to 2 starting with the 2019-2020 season.
- The Canada goose harvest in Virginia in 2020-2021 (30,350) was similar to the previous season (30,819) and 35% lower than the past 5-year average (47,400).

FACT SHEET - The Status of Ducks - 2021

- **Due to covid-19 most waterfowl breeding surveys were cancelled during the spring of 2021. The numbers below for the total duck breeding population and for the Eastern breeding area were generated from predictions of breeding population size and habitat conditions.**
- Waterfowl harvest in the Atlantic flyway is managed by the stocks of four different species of eastern waterfowl populations (wood ducks, American green-winged teal, ring-necked ducks and goldeneyes). In 2021 estimated breeding population size for wood ducks was 1.02 million (SE = 0.13 million), 0.34 million (SE = 1.10 million) for American green-winged teal, 0.71 million (SE = 0.17 million) for ring-necked ducks and 0.59 million (SE = 0.2 million) for goldeneyes.
- The total 2021 mid-continent mallard breeding population is predicted to be 8.62 million (SE = 1.43 million)

Virginia: Habitat conditions in Virginia during the spring of 2021 were good with ample water, but dry conditions in late summer limited brood rearing habitats.

- The 2021 breeding pair estimate for mallards (14,210) was 61% lower than last year (36,430). Estimated black duck pairs (152) decreased from last year (1,545). The number of Wood duck pairs (10,424) decreased 23% from last year (13,559). The breeding pair estimate for Canada geese (53,025) was slightly higher than the 2020 estimate (46,563).

Mallard Bag Limit in the Atlantic Flyway

The mallard has been one of the most abundant duck species in eastern North America. However, in the past 20 years, “eastern” mallards have been on the decline. Surveys conducted since 1988 throughout eastern Canada and the northeastern U.S. have provided reliable annual estimates of the breeding population size of eastern mallards. These surveys indicate that mallard numbers have decreased steadily in the northeastern U.S., declining by about 38% since 1998. Mallard numbers in Eastern Canada have been relatively stable, but overall, the breeding mallard population in eastern North America is declining (Figure 1). About 60% of the mallards harvested in Atlantic Flyway states, and around 80% of those harvested in Virginia, are derived from the northeastern US. There has also been a significant decline in the mallard harvest in the Atlantic Flyway (around 40%, Figure 2), a direct result of this population decline.

Figure 1. Mallard breeding population in eastern North America

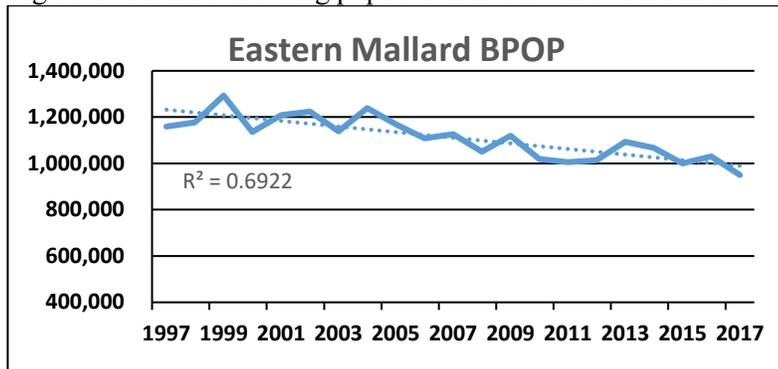
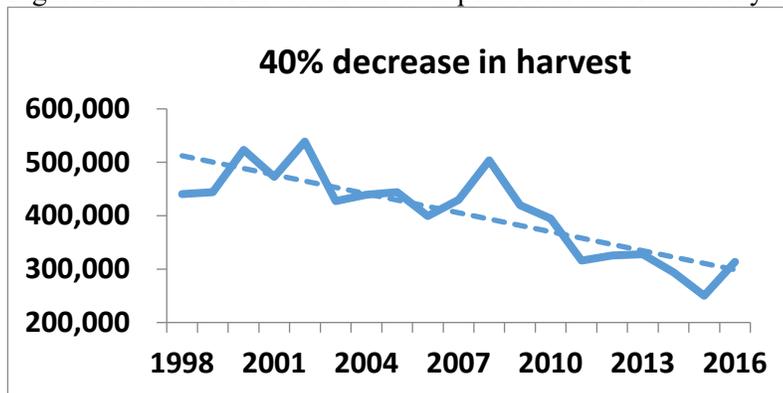


Figure 2. Mallard Harvest in the U.S. portion of the Atlantic Flyway



Population models suggested that cutting the daily bag limit in half would reduce the harvest by 25%, and would achieve a sustainable harvest level based on the current population. Therefore, beginning in the 2019-20 season the Atlantic Flyway and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reduced the bag limit from 4 to 2 mallards (only 1 hen) in the Atlantic Flyway. This reduction remained in effect for the 2020-21 and 2021-2022 seasons. A new harvest strategy is being developed that will help guide future hunting season regulations based on current mallard population dynamics. That strategy should be in place for the 2023 hunting season.

YOUTH and VETERANS WATERFOWL DAYS

Guidelines for the Youth Days and Veterans 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. States may also select 2 days per duck-hunting zone designated as "Veterans Waterfowl Hunting Days" in addition to their regular duck seasons. The Youth and Veterans days could be combined and held on the same day or could be held separately.
2. Youth Days 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. Youth and Veterans 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, 1 Canada geese (except in Canada Goose Zones where the bag limit is higher), and 1 tundra swan (if the hunter 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. A licensed adult at least 18 years of age or older must accompany youth hunters into the field. This adult may not duck hunt, but may participate in other open seasons.
6. Those allowed to participate in the special **Veterans Days** include 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 for training).

DUCKS

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

Outside Dates: September 24, 2022 - January 31, 2023

Season Length: 60 hunting days; plus 2 Youth/Veterans Waterfowl Hunt Days.

Note: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Atlantic Flyway States have eliminated the “Special Sea Duck Season” due to continued declines in sea duck populations. Sea Ducks can now only be taken during the regular duck season and individual species limits have been reduced as specified below.

Bag Limits:

Daily Bag limit of 6 ducks, with the following restrictions:

Can include no more than 2 mallards (only 1 hen), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 2 canvasback, scaup: 1/day for 40 days and 2/day for 20 days, 2 redheads, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 4 total sea ducks (no more than 3 scoters, 3 eider (1 hen), 3 long-tailed ducks). Closed season on harlequin duck. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

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/Veterans Waterfowl Hunting Day

Season Dates: October 7 - 10 (Black Duck closed)

November 16 – November 27

December 17 – January 29

October 22, February 4 – Youth/Veterans Waterfowl Days

Bag Limit:

Daily Bag limit of 6 ducks, with the following restrictions:

can include no more than 2 mallards (only 1 hen), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks (except closed Oct. 7–10), scaup: 1/day from October 7-10, November 16-27, December 17 - January 9, and 2/day from January 10-29, 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 4 total sea ducks (no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (1 hen), 3 long-tailed ducks). Closed season on harlequin ducks.

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 24, 2022 - January 31, 2023
Bag Limit: 5 birds daily (**Note** that the restriction on Hooded Mergansers has been removed).
15 in possession.

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, 15 in possession.

AMERICAN COOT

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

Season Length: 60 hunting days
Outside Date: September 25, 2022 - January 31, 2023
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)

FACT SHEET - The Status of Resident Canada Geese - 2021

- The resident Canada goose population increased significantly in Virginia during the 1980's and 1990's, and peaked at 260,000 geese in the late 1990's. This population caused significant conflicts with human and wildlife populations, and management actions were taken to reduce their numbers. The population estimate is 180,000 (+/- 77,000) 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 recreational opportunities for hunters. These seasons occur prior to the arrival of most 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 special “Goose Hunting Zones” have been established that allow more liberal seasons in areas with more resident Canada goose.
- Special resident goose hunting seasons have been very popular, and have increased hunter participation and resident goose harvests. These seasons have been very effective in managing resident goose populations and helping to meet our statewide population objectives.
- 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
2021	177,056 +/-29%	na
2020	163,198 +/- 24%	13,000
2019	125,966 +/-20%	6,300
2018	132,633 +/- 24%	5,600
2017	142,167 +/- 21%	5,500
2016	158,200 +/- 19%	900
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

*3-year running average

SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1 – September 25, 2022

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 – 16: ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr after sunset.

September 17 – 25: ½ hr before sunrise **to sunset.**

West of I-95

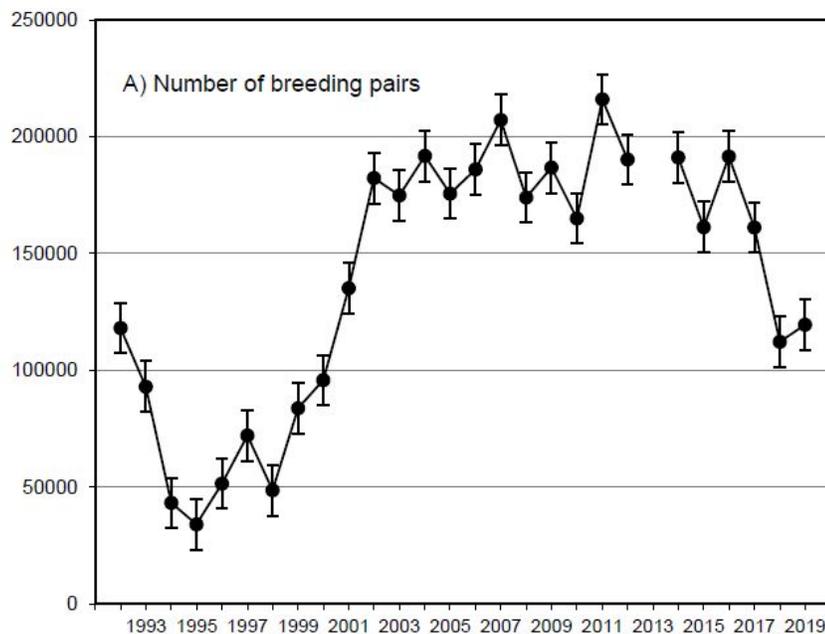
September 1 – 20: ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr after sunset.

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- History and Status of Migrant Canada Geese - 2021

- Migrant Canada geese from the Atlantic Population (AP) declined significantly from 1985-1995. The hunting season was closed in 1995 to allow the population to recover. Goose numbers rebounded quickly and a limited season (6 days with a 1-bird bag) was held in both 1999 and 2000. As the population increased, the season was extended to 30 days in 2001, then 45 days in 2002, and 50 days from 2012-2018.
- However, annual productivity has been below average for 6 of the past 7 years, leading to a decline in the breeding population over the past 4 years (see graph below). This has been the result of adverse weather conditions on the nesting grounds in northern Canada.
- Because of this declining trend, the Atlantic Flyway Council in cooperation with the USFWS reduced the hunting seasons on AP geese beginning in 2019-20. The season was restricted to 30 days with a 1-geese daily limit in the AP Goose Zone. These restrictive regulations will remain in effect for the 2022-23 season.
- The Canada goose season in the Southern James Bay and Resident (RP) Zones will also be similar to last year.



Canada Goose Populations and Hunt Zones

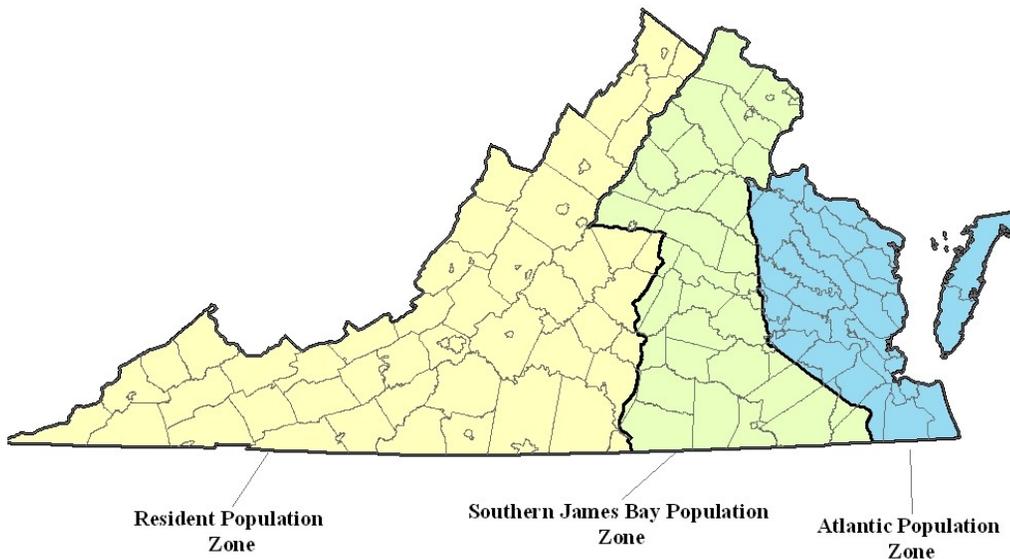
- There are 4 subpopulations of Canada geese in Virginia. These include the Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (RP) along with three migrant goose populations, the North Atlantic Population (NAP), the Southern James Bay Population (SJB), and the Atlantic Population (AP). The majority of our migrant 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>	30 hunting days
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	November 15 – February 5
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	1 bird daily (3 in possession)

SOUTHERN JAMES BAY POPULATION ZONE (SJBP)

<u>Outside Dates and Season Length:</u>	
Regular Season:	November 15 – January 14 (up to 40 hunting days)
Extended Season:	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>	December 19 – January 1	(14 days)
	January 14 – January 29	(16 days)
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	1 goose per day (3 in possession)	
<u>Shooting Hours:</u>	1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily	

SOUTHERN JAMES BAY POPULATION ZONE (SJBP)

<u>Season Dates:</u>			
Regular Season:	November 16 – November 27	3/day	(12 days)
	December 19 – January 14	3/day	(27 days)
Extended Season:	January 15 - February 15	3/day	
<u>Shooting Hours:</u>	1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily		

RESIDENT POPULATION ZONE: (RP)

<u>Season Dates:</u>	November 16 – November 27
	December 17 - February 22
<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) - 2021

- The majority of the “Light” geese found in the Atlantic Flyway are Greater Snow Geese, while less than 5% are Lesser Snow Geese, with even smaller numbers of Ross's Geese.
- The principal nesting areas for greater snow geese are on Bylot, Axel Heiberg, Ellesmere, and Baffin Islands, and on Greenland. They winter along the Atlantic Coast from New Jersey to North Carolina.
- The Greater Snow Goose population is monitored on spring staging areas along the St. Lawrence Valley in Quebec. However, no population surveys were conducted in 2020 or 2021 due to Covid restrictions. The 2019 population estimate was 714,000 geese, which was 19% lower than 2018 but similar to the long-term average.
- Based on weather conditions at the main breeding colony on Bylot Island in 2021, production is expected to be below average this year.
- 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 concerns about habitat degradation on their breeding, migration and wintering areas. Snow geese can cause damage to these habitats by pulling up plant roots and denuding marshes of vegetation. Snow geese can also cause conflicts with agricultural interest by pulling up green grains including wheat and barley.
- 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 could have on breeding and wintering habitats.
- A Conservation Order (CO) 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 snow goose harvest in Virginia has averaged around 300 birds during the regular season and 600 birds during the Conservation Order over the past 5 years.

LIGHT GOOSE SEASONS

REGULAR LIGHT GOOSE SEASON

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

<u>Season Length:</u>	107 hunting days
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	October 1, 2022 - March 10, 2023
<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

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 are required to monitor hunter participation, effort, and success.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Conservation Order 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, 2023
<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 <u>must register with DWR</u> , 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 - 2021

- **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 MA to NC.
- There was no mid-winter survey for brant in 2021 and no breeding grounds banding this summer. Productivity surveys were conducted last fall and indicated a 6% increase in the number of young birds from the previous year, although this is still 35% below the long-term average.
- The annual brant hunting regulation is now based on the Atlantic Brant Integrated Population Model (IPM) that was adopted by the Atlantic Flyway last year, and provides an index to the brant population. The model prediction for this year is 116,000 birds. As per the Brant Harvest Strategy, this estimate calls for a 2022-2023 harvest regulation of 50 days with a 2 bird daily limit, which is no change from last year.
- **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.
- Estimated productivity of eastern population tundra swans in 2020 was 9% immature birds. This estimate is higher than the 2019 estimate (8%) but 30% lower than the long-term average (12.9%).
- There were 76,701 eastern population tundra swans counted in the Atlantic Flyway on the 2021 Mid-Winter Survey. This count was 10% higher than last year, but still 18% below the past 10-year average (2011-2020: 105,435)
- Nine 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 Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina in the Atlantic Flyway.
- There are no changes in the total number of hunting permits allowed for EP tundra swans this year (9,600 across the U.S., with 5,600 of those in the Atlantic Flyway) as the population estimate is still within the 70,000 to 110,000 range. In the Atlantic Flyway, the allocation of hunt permits is split between the 3 states in approximate proportion to the number of swans in each state. There are 5,600 permits available and for the 2022-2023 season which are distributed as follows: NC- 4,721, VA-532, and DE-347.
- 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>	50 hunting days
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	September 24, 2022 - January 31, 2023
<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 22 – November 27 December 17 – January 29
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	2 birds daily (6 in possession)

TUNDRA SWAN

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

Season Length: 90 hunting days

Outside Dates: October 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023

Virginia may issue up to 532 permits and must obtain harvest and hunter participation data. Each permittee is authorized to take one (1) tundra swan per season.

Bag Limit: One per permittee per season

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Season Dates: November 16 - January 31

Bag Limit: One per permittee per season

Hunt Area: 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: VDWR will issue no more than 532 swan-hunting permits to holders of a valid Virginia hunting license. Only hunters with a valid 2022-2023 tundra swan-hunting permit issued by VDWR 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 permanently record the month and day of kill on their permit and attach it to their swan. The VDWR is required to obtain hunter participation and harvest information to offer this Tundra Swan hunting season. **Hunters are required to complete the tundra swan hunt questionnaire (survey) and submit their results to the Department by February 15, 2023.** Those who fail to submit their results 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 3 – October 23 November 19 – November 27 December 23 – January 31
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Rail, Gallinule, Moorhen: September 9 – December 24

Woodcock: October 17 – January 31

Snipe: October 7 - 10
October 21 – January 31

Canada Goose: September 1 - September 25
November 16 – November 27
December 17 - February 22

September Teal: September 17 - September 30

Ducks, Mergansers, Coot: October 7 - 10
November 16 – February 10

Brant and Snow Goose: October 17 – January 31

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.

4VAC15-290-115.

Field trials; authorized dates.

Summary:

This proposal will allow waterfowl retriever field trials year round on private lands.

Proposed language of amendment:

4VAC15-290-115. Field trials; authorized dates.

In accordance with § 29.1-422 of the Code of Virginia, permits for field trials with dogs may be authorized by the department during the period between August 1 to May 31, both dates inclusive, under conditions and for the species specified in the permit, except that permits for waterfowl retriever field trials on private lands, foxhound field trials held within foxhound training preserves and raccoon hound field trials may be authorized by the department at any time.

Staff Final Recommendation:

Staff recommends approve the amendment for public comment.

Rationale:

This allows additional opportunity for the waterfowl field trial community during the summer months. There is little to no impact expected on native wildlife as these types of trials occur in very controlled conditions.

A proposal for DWR lands Designations
to the
Wildlife and Boat Committee
and the
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources Board
January 2022

The DWR manages over 215,000 acres of lands in over 46 distinct management units across the Commonwealth. While these are wonderful numbers to tout, the difficulty is that we are inconsistent in reporting the number of properties/units we manage and ultimately the total acreage that we possess or manage that we make available to the public. This proposal is the first step in better defining how we discuss our managed properties by providing an inventory of known properties and providing each a specific name and designation.

The areas that are our major land holdings (e.g., Havens WMA or Amelia WMA) are typically well known and consistently described across the many platforms within the DWR and, therefore, are not considered in this proposal. However, other smaller areas (e.g., Greensprings; ~30 acres of urban wetlands) are often the opposite and in many cases do not have proper names assigned and are not advertised on our platforms. As these smaller areas are quite different than a typical WMA, the first recommendation is to create a new designation for these areas by calling them Wildlife Conservation Sites (WCS). This designation holds to our mission of “wildlife” and “conservation” but uses “site” as a term to indicate the size and management expectations are different from the typical Wildlife Management Area.

While working with these smaller parcels the chance to make other name and/or designation changes also became apparent as we considered all our properties. There were “tracts” of land associated with several WMAs (e.g., Parkers Branch Tract of Big Woods WMA) that are disjunct and managed independently of their parent WMA that could logically be identified with a unique name and designation. We also have recently acquired new lands that need to be named (note: this effort does not include our eastern shore acquisitions at this time). We even have one existing WMA that is recommended to become the newly proposed WCS designation. Finally, in conjunction with the Aquatics Division we cooperatively identified many properties that have terrestrial opportunities as well as aquatics opportunities available. The lakes and hatcheries have everything from pollinator trails to significant acreage that are available for many different outdoor activities. While this proposal is to add WCS designation to the aquatics properties there is no intention to change their operational names. The addition of the WCS moniker would simply improve how we discuss and advise these outdoor opportunities on these aquatics properties.

The new names selected for these WMAs or WCSs were largely taken from nearby place names or physical features. The exception is the Clifford R Kirk WCS which a 170 acre area adjacent to the Marion Hatchery that DWR staff desire to name after a staff member that was dearly tied to the property. A justification for the use of the personal name is provided at the end of this document.

If this proposal is successful the DWR will increase from 46 named sites to 78 named sites. However, several of the new sites will not be open to the public for safety, access limitations or ecological protection reasons and the final number of advertised sites would be 75. If approved the staff will work through the spring to define appropriate activities to each newly defined area. The final step will be to work with Outreach to share these areas with our constituencies.

The proposed changes to our properties are below:

1) To identify existing tracts of WMAs as stand alone designations

Parker's Branch WMA - from Big Woods WMA

Lawnes Creek WMA - from Hog Island WMA

Bear Garden WCS - from Cavalier WMA

Jones Cove WCS - from Mockhorn WMA

Tye River WMA - from James River WMA

2) To identify newly acquired lands (eastern shore properties for later consideration)

Woodvale Wetlands WCS

Guinea Marsh WMA

3) To changes the designation from a WMA to a WCS

Weston WCS

4) To identify and designate existing but unadvertised lands

Balthrope Marsh WCS

Goochland Marsh WCS

Goose Island WCS

Greensprings WCS

Johnson Marsh WCS

Kittewan Creek WCS

Red Bud Run WCS

Massanutten WCS

Piney Mountain WCS

Mouth of Wilson WCS

Loafers Rest WCS

Marion Springs WCS

5) To identify and designate Aquatics Division sites with additional opportunities

Rural Retreat Lake WCS

Paint Bank Trout Hatchery WCS

Buller Fish Hatchery WCS

Wytheville Trout Hatchery WCS

Coursey Springs Fish Culture Center WCS

King and Queen Hatchery WCS

Front Royal Fish Culture Center WCS

Montebello Fish Cultural Center WCS

Vic Thomas Striped Bass Hatchery WCS

Clifford R Kirk WCS (see justification below)

Lake Frederick WCS

Lake Robertson WCS

Lake Shenandoah WCS

The Clifford R. Kirk Wildlife Conservation Site

This ± 170-acre wildlife conservation site is located in Smyth County adjacent to the Marion Regional Office and Marion Hatchery. Although it is small in size, it is big on opportunities for wildlife enthusiasts. Formerly a working farm, many acres are maintained in early successional habitats that benefit rabbits, birds, deer and other species. Small blocks of fruit trees and hardwood forest provide habitat and forage diversity. Recent habitat enhancements include converting fescue fields formerly in hay production to pollinators and warm season grasses. A stocked trout stream, Staley's Creek, provides trout fishing opportunities. Because of the proximity to the stream, and more importantly the Marion Hatchery, bald eagles, ospreys and waterfowl are frequently observed from this site.

All of these attributes make this a fitting location to bear the name of deceased DWR employee Clifford R. Kirk. A native of Smyth County, Cliff joined the DWR team as a wage wildlife worker in 1997. His lack of formal training was more than made up for by his intellect and his contagious passion for all things related to fish, wildlife and the outdoors. He was a larger than life individual who came to work each day with a positive outlook, strong work ethic and willingness to help anyone. Cliff became a classified employee in 2001. Very few people will ever embody the values of this Agency as well as Cliff. Cliff not only worked for DWR, he avidly participated in practically every outdoor pursuit available in the Commonwealth. He was a master story teller who entertained us with fantastic accounts of his adventures. It was vitally important for Cliff to stay connected to wildlife and the outdoors, daily. The habitats and the wildlife on this conservation site adjoining the Marion Office kept Cliff connected to the resources even when he was "stuck in the office". On occasion, Cliff was known to enjoy a quick fishing or hunting trip on this site before or after work.

Tragically, Cliff Kirk died of cancer in April of 2017 at the age of 53. As a final testimony to his grit, and his love for the Agency's mission, Cliff continued to physically report to work until approximately four weeks before his death. Cliff was nominated by a multitude of coworkers across all field divisions for the Director's Award in 2017. Unfortunately, the timing was such that the honor was awarded posthumously. Cliff is sorely missed by those of us who worked with him, and by the constituents he served and influenced over the years. Naming this wildlife conservation site in his memory would serve as an enduring tribute to an extraordinary employee and wildlife enthusiast.