

AGENDA

Board of Game and Inland Fisheries
7870 Villa Park Drive
Henrico, Virginia 23228

January 23, 2020
9:00 am

Call to Order and Welcome, reading of the Mission Statement and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1. Recognition of Employees and Others
2. Approval of the October 24, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes **Final Action**
3. Public Comments – Non Agenda Items
4. Committee Meeting Reports:

Law Enforcement Committee:

Wildlife and Boat Committee:

- CWD Update
- Relevancy Roadmap Update
- Waterfowl Regulation Changes **Action**
- HRBT Feasibility Study Update

Finance, Audit, & Compliance Committee:

- FY20 Second Quarter Finance Report

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee:

- Diversity and Inclusion Plan - Mr. George Braxton
-
5. Closed Session
 6. Director's Report
 7. Chairman's Report
 8. Additional Business/Comments
 9. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020
 10. Adjournment

DRAFT Board Minutes
Board of Game and Inland Fisheries
7870 Villa Park Drive
Henrico, VA 23228

October 24, 2019
9:00 am

Present: Dr. Mamie Parker, **Chair, Board Members:** Mr. G. K. Washington, Mr. Leon Boyd, Ms. Karen Terwilliger, Mr. John Daniel, Mr. Tom Sadler, Ms. Catherine Claiborne, Mr. Frank Adams, Mr. Douglas Dear, Mr. Brian Vincent; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan Brown; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. Gary Martel, Mr. Tom Guess, Dr. Gray Anderson, Mr. Darin Moore, Mr. Lee Walker, Ms. Rebecca Lane, Major Bryan Young, Major Scott Naff

Ms. Kelci Block, Assistant Attorney General attended the Board Meeting.

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:00 am. The Chair welcomed everyone attending the meeting, noted for the record that a quorum was present, and announced there would be a Closed Session during the meeting.

The Chair called on Mr. Douglas Dear to read the Mission Statement and CPO Wensel to lead the pledge to the flag.

Recognition of Employees and Others:

The Chair and the Director recognized and welcomed two new Board members and one Reappointment to today's meeting.

- Mr. Frank Adams from King William, VA
- Mr. Tom Sadler from Verona, VA
- Welcomed Mrs. Catherine Claiborne back to the Board for her Reappointment

The Chair called on Director Ryan Brown for Recognitions.

The Director called on Major Bryan Young for an Introduction, Major Young called Lieutenant Ron Ham to the podium and introduced him as the new Accreditation Manager for Law Enforcement.

The Director called on Mr. Lee Walker who introduced Ms. Melody McCormick, as the new boating supervisor. Mr. Walker called on Mr. Tom Guess, who recognized Mr. Everett Tucker, the Region 1 Boating Safety Coordinator, who is retiring October 31, 2019 with 32 years service.

The Director called on Ms. Rebecca Lane who introduced Mr. Lester Brantley, the new Human Resources Assistant Director.

The Director called Mr. John Kirk to the podium and presented him with the SOBA Award (States Organization Boating Access) .

The Director recognized Dr. Mamie Parker as the First African American Board Chair with a Fish and Wildlife Agency. Board Members Karen Terwilliger and Catherine Claiborne spoke on her behalf, with comments from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dr. Mamie Parker presented Mr. Douglas Dear with his Outgoing Chairman's gift.

Dr. Mamie Parker presented Director Ryan Brown with his 10 year Service Award for the Commonwealth and with his Outgoing Board Member Plaque.

Approval of the August 22, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the August 22, 2019 minutes have been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Dear made a motion to approve the August 22, 2019 Board minutes as submitted. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. Ayes: Parker, Washington, Boyd, Terwilliger, Daniel, Claiborne, Vincent, Dear, Sadler, Adams

Public Comments (Non-Agenda Items): The Chairwoman called for Public Comments Non-Agenda Items:

- Mr. Don Wright from Halifax, VA spoke regarding hunting with dogs.
- Mr. Arthur Garthright from Henrico, VA spoke regarding installing lights at a boat ramp (The Board recommends that we have a light installed)

Committee Meeting Reports:

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee: The Chair called on Ms. Karen Terwilliger to report on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee.

Ms. Terwilliger reported that the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee met on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 and topics presented and discussed were the new Outreach Mission and Vision Statement, CWF and Internship Update, Law Enforcement presented a presentation on Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness Partnership and introduced Ms. Kristin Harris, Executive Director of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. There was a Media report, and a Habitat Update.

Ms. Terwilliger called on Mr. Lee Walker who presented the new Mission and Vision Statement for Outreach Division.

Ms. Terwilliger called on Mr. Tom Guess to present amendments to the Board Governance Manual and Charters.

Ms. Terwilliger called for a motion. Ms. Terwilliger made a motion, I move that the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries adopt the amendments to the Governance Manual and the Charters of the Wildlife and Boat, and the Law Enforcement Committees under the urgent clause as defined by the Board Governance Manual and as recommended by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Claiborne. Ayes: Claiborne, Daniel, Terwilliger, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Parker, Dear, Adams, Sadler.

After discussion and comments, the Chair thanked Ms. Terwilliger for her Committee update.

Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee: The Chairwoman called on Mr. Leon Boyd to report on the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement committee meeting.

Mr. Boyd reported that the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee met on Wednesday, October 23, 2019. The committee heard reports and updates on CWD, Tick Borne Illnesses and CAD Radio System from Law Enforcement, a Wildlife Division update and a Fish Division update

Mr. Boyd called on Dr. Gray Anderson who recognized Ms. Becky Gwynn who presented an update on the Wildlife Action Plan.

After discussion and comments, the Chair thanked Ms. Gwynn for her update.

Mr. Boyd called on Director Ryan Brown who presented the Recovering America's Wildlife Act Resolution (RAWA).

After discussion and comments, the Chair thanked Director Brown for his Resolution on Recovering America's Wildlife.

Mr. Boyd called for a motion. Mr. Daniel made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board adopt the Recovering America's Wildlife Act Resolution. It was seconded by Ms. Terwilliger. Ayes: Claiborne, Daniel, Terwilliger, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Parker, Dear, Sadler, Adams.

The Chair called for a 10 minute break at 10:50 am

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 11:00 am

The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson. Dr. Anderson gave a CWD (Chronic Waste Disease) update.

After discussion and comments, the Chair thanked Dr. Anderson for his update.

The Chair called on Director Ryan Brown for a Law Enforcement Update. Mr. Brown gave his Plan for Law Enforcement Improvements.

After discussion and comments, the Chair thanked Mr. Brown for his comments.

Finance, Audit, & Compliance: The Chair called on Mr. John Daniel to report on the Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

Mr. Daniel reported that the Finance, Audit, and Compliance committee met on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 and called on Mr. Darin Moore for a Finance Report.

Mr. Moore presented the FY20 First Quarter Finance Report.

After discussion and comments, the Chair thanked Mr. Moore for his report.

Mr. Moore gave a report and update on the Go Outdoors Virginia Customer Trends.

After discussion and comments, the Chair thanked Mr. Moore for his update.

Closed Session

The Chair called on Mr. Sadler for the reading of the Closed Session Motion.

*Closed Meeting Motion
October 24, 2019*

Madam Chair,

I move that the Board go into a closed meeting pursuant to:

(1) 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:

(i) Real property located in: Rockbridge

(2) Section 2.2-3711.A.7 for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiation or litigating posture of the public body.

(3) And 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 Game and Inland Fisheries specifically regarding:

(i) 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 Deputy Director, the Planning and Finance Director, the Real Property Manager to also attend the closed meeting as it believes their presence will reasonably aid the Board in its consideration of topics that are the subject of the meeting.

Mr. Boyd seconded the motion, Ayes: Claiborne, Daniel, Terwilliger, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Parker, Dear, Sadler, Adams

The Board went into Closed Session at 12:00 Noon

- Ms. Terwilliger departed at 1:30 pm

The Board meeting reconvened at 2:00 pm

The Chair called on Mr. Washington for the reading of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

*Certification of Closed Meeting
October 24, 2019*

WHEREAS, the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries 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 Game and Inland Fisheries 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. Boyd. Ayes: Claiborne, Daniel, Terwilliger, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Parker, Dear, Sadler, Adams

The Board Secretary conducted the following voice roll call vote:

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Mrs. Claiborne | Aye | Mr. Washington | Aye |
| Mr. Daniel | Aye | Mr. Boyd | Aye |
| Mr. Sadler | Aye | Dr. Parker | Aye |
| Mr. Dear | Aye | Mr. Vincent | Aye |
| Mr. Adams | Aye | | |

**The Chair called on Mr. Sadler for a motion. Madame Chair, I move that the Board authorize the Director to acquire approximately 641.6 acres of land in Rockbridge County, Virginia, and such authorization shall be according to state procedures. It was seconded by Mr. Boyd. Ayes: Claiborne, Daniel, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Parker, Dear, Sadler, Adams

** The Chair called on Ms. Claiborne for a motion. Madame Chair, I move that the Board approve the 2019 Performance Evaluation for Director Ryan Brown for 2019. It was second by Mr. Daniel. Ayes: Claiborne, Daniel, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Parker, Dear, Sadler, Adams

The Chair announced that the Executive Director Ryan Brown was chosen by Style Magazine as one of the Top 40 Under 40 Inspiring Young Leaders who bring Richmond to life for 2019 and how proud we all are of him.

** The Chair called on Mr. Daniel for a motion. Madame Chair, I move that the Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the legal settlement with Mr. Drewry Hall and Mr. Richard Hall with the conditions approved by the Board, the Attorney General's office and the Governor's office. It was seconded by Ms. Claiborne. Ayes: Claiborne, Daniel, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Parker, Dear, Sadler, Adams

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

The Director reported on:

- Thanked staff for the great job and presentation during the Committee and Board meetings
- Diversity and Inclusion Director Position has been filled
- Deer Harvest Update – Youth weekend harvest was down
- Told a story of a citizen with ALS who our staff helped hunt at Phelp's WMA, on October 5, 2019
- Will be attending the SEAFWA conference and then the NEAFWA Conference
- Will be attending the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and the Environment "Executive in Residence" program at Virginia Tech
- Service Award recognitions were held at the 4 Regional offices and the Richmond Headquarters
- Governor is having Dual achievement awards luncheon for State employees with above 40 years of service on November 14, 2019

Chair Report: The Chair thanked Staff for their work and presentations. The Chair mentioned what a great meeting we had. We celebrated outstanding people, heard a presentation on the Outreach Mission and Vision Statement, heard about the Wildlife Action Plan, had a Resolution presented on Recovering America's Wildlife Act Resolution, celebrated a settlement with the Hall family, established a new Law Enforcement Committee, presented the Executive Director his first Performance Evaluation, had a CWD update on how we are keeping the public aware of CWD, will continue to investigate feeding of deer, announced an Accrediation Manager for Law Enforcement, approved a light for a boat ramp, and received a FY20 First Quarter Finance Report.

The two new board members made comments how excited they were to be serving on the DGIF board and were looking forward to working with the rest of the board. Other Board members welcomed the new members and are excited about moving forward and working together.

The Chair announced the next Board Meeting will be Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 9:00 am and adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm.

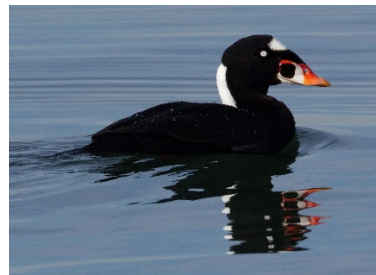
Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell

/s/

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

2020-2021 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS – FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS



Prepared by Wildlife Resources Division
January 2020

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

PRELIMINARY FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS AND STAFF PROPOSALS FOR 2020-21
MIGRATORY GAMEBIRD SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS

| TABLE OF CONTENTS | Page |
|--|-------------|
| Dove Background Information..... | 3 |
| Dove Federal Framework and Staff Recommendation..... | 4 |
| Rail Background Information..... | 5 |
| Rail Federal Framework and Staff Recommendation | 6 |
| Gallinule and Moorhen Framework and Staff Recommendation | 7 |
| Woodcock Background Information..... | 8 |
| Woodcock Federal Framework and Staff Recommendation | 9 |
| Snipe Background Information..... | 10 |
| Snipe Federal Framework and Staff Recommendation | 11 |
| September Teal Facts | 12 |
| September Teal Federal Framework and Staff Recommendation..... | 13 |
| Fact Sheet – Waterfowl Hunters and Harvest..... | 14 |
| Fact Sheet – Status of Ducks | 15 |
| Changes in Mallard Bag limits in the Atlantic Flyway..... | 16 |
| Youth and Veterans Waterfowl Hunting Days..... | 17 |
| Duck Season | 18 |
| Merganser and Coot | 19 |
| Special Sea Duck Season..... | 20 |
| Fact Sheet – Status of Resident Canada Geese | 21 |
| September Canada Goose Season | 22 |
| Fact Sheet – Status of Migrant Canada Geese | 23 |
| Canada Goose Populations and Hunt Zones | 24 |
| Canada Goose Seasons | 25 |
| Fact Sheet – Status of Light Geese | 26 |
| Light Goose Season..... | 27 |
| Light Goose Conservation Order Season | 28 |
| Fact Sheet – Status of Atlantic Brant &Tundra Swan | 29 |
| Atlantic Brant Season..... | 30 |
| Tundra Swan Season | 31 |
| Falconry | 32 |

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 (2009-2018): declining population trend.
Long term (1966-2018): increasing population trend.
- Dove Banding Study – 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: New Harvest Strategy adopted in 2014 allowed an increase from 70 to 90 days of hunting for doves. Daily bag limit remains at 15 birds (up from 12 in 2009).
- Data from HIP (past 3-yr avg.): Hunters = 16,400 Harvest = 225,467

Recent Seasons

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Season Dates (all 70 days until extended to 90 days in 2014-15)</u> | | |
|-------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| 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 |
| 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 |

DOVE

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021
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 5 - October 28 (54 days)
November 21 - November 29 (9 days)
December 24 - January 19 (27 days)

SHOOTING HOURS: September 5 Noon until sunset
September 6 – October 28 ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.
November 21 – November 29 ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.
December 24 - January 19 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 hunting season. The key to setting the season is to bracket the greatest number of high tides possible.
- **Harvest Data** - Avg. No. hunters = 280, Avg. Harvest = 3,100 (HIP, past 5-yr avg.)

Past Seasons

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Season Dates (all 70 days)</u> | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 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 |
| 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, 2020 - January 31, 2021

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, 2020 - January 31, 2021

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 includes 3 regulatory options (Liberal, Moderate and Restrictive). Annual regulation based on the 3-year mean of the call count survey. For 2020-21, Harvest Strategy calls for Moderate Regulation (45 days/3 birds).
- Singing-ground survey (SGS) in Eastern Management Region:
 - 1 year trend (2017-2018): stable
 - 10 year trend (2009-2018): 0.90% decline per year.
 - Long-term (1966-2018): 1.08 % decline per year.
- The 2018 recruitment index for the U.S. portion of the Eastern Region (1.71 jv/ad female) was 28% above the 2017 index and 5.6% above the long-term index.
- Research suggests that hunting has little effect on population trend, but habitat is limiting.
- Virginia is cooperating in a Flyway-wide study of woodcock movements, migrations and habitat use. From 2018-2021, GPS transmitters are being attached to birds to follow their movements.
- 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 = 1,500 Avg. Harvest = 2,520 (HIP, past 5-year avg.)

Recent Seasons (bag limit has been 3 birds)

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Season Dates</u> | | <u>Days</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 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 |
| 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, 2020 - January 31, 2021

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 9 – December 2 (24 days)
December 24 – January 13 (21 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 = 260, Harvest = 750

Recent Seasons

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Season Dates (all 107 days)</u> | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 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 |

SNIFE

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021

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 9 - October 12 (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 - 2020

- 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> |
|-------------|--|--|
| 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: 670 teal

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1 – September 30, 2020

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 (14 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 - 2020

- 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 ~137,300 ducks and ~58,600 Canada geese from 2016-2018, 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 16,800 and 14,600 respectively.
- Conditions during the 2018-2019 season were below average for waterfowl hunting. Mild temperatures throughout the U.S. resulted in fewer birds in southern wintering areas and less than ideal waterfowl hunting conditions. As a result, the 2018-2019 duck harvest was lower than the previous year. The Canada goose harvest was significantly lower due to the mild conditions during the hunting season and very poor production in the 2018 breeding season.
- The total estimated duck harvest during the 2018-2019 season in Virginia (140,700) was lower than the previous year (145,200) but still above the past 3-year average (137,300).
- During the 2018-2019 season, mallards were the most commonly harvested duck in Virginia, followed by bufflehead and scoters, which compromised the top 3 harvested species. The mallard harvest in Virginia (37,900) decreased from 2017-2018, and was lower than the past 3-year average (40,100).
- The Canada goose harvest in Virginia in 2018-2019 (31,427) was less than the previous season (60,000) and well below the 3-year average (58,600).

FACT SHEET - The Status of Ducks - 2020

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 used as an index for assessing waterfowl nesting habitat. In 2019, the May pond count (4.9 million) was 5% below last year's count (5.2 million), and below the long-term average (5.2 million).

The total duck breeding population (BPOP) estimate for the mid-continent area this year is 38.9 million ducks. This estimate is 6% lower than last year's estimate of 41.2 million ducks, but still 10% higher than the long-term average (1955-2018). 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 | 2019 BPOP | % Change from 2018 | % Change from Long-Term Avg. |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Mallard | 9.4 million | +2% | +19% |
| Blue-winged Teal | 5.4 million | -16% | +6% |
| Green-winged Teal | 3.2 million | 4% | +47% |
| Gadwall | 3.3 million | +13% | +61% |
| Northern Shoveler | 3.6 million | -13% | +39% |
| Northern Pintail | 2.3 million | -4% | -42% |
| American Wigeon | 2.8 million | 0% | +8% |
| Redhead | 732,000 | -27% | 0% |
| Scaup | 3.6 million | -10% | -28% |
| Canvasback | 652,000 | -5% | +10% |
| Total Ducks | 38.9 million | -6% | +10% |

Eastern Breeding Areas: More pertinent to waterfowl harvests in Virginia are the number of ducks counted in the eastern survey area. Breeding population estimates for the 6 most common species surveyed in the eastern survey area were very similar to the 2018 estimates. The estimated abundance of mallards was 1 million which was similar to last year's estimate but 16% below the long-term average. Black ducks (729,000) were similar to last year's estimate but also 16% lower than the long-term average. Other abundant species counted in the eastern survey area were, Ring-necked ducks (700,000), Goldeneyes (500,000) and Green-winged teal (300,000).

Virginia: Conditions in Virginia during the spring of 2019 were generally good with wet but not flooded conditions, and normal wetland habitats.

- The breeding pair estimate for Mallards (28,000) increased significantly from the previous year's estimate (7,913). The wood duck breeding pair estimate (8,308) was lower than the 2018 estimate (14,237), and the Canada goose breeding pair estimate (46,254) was 13% lower than the previous year's estimate.

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

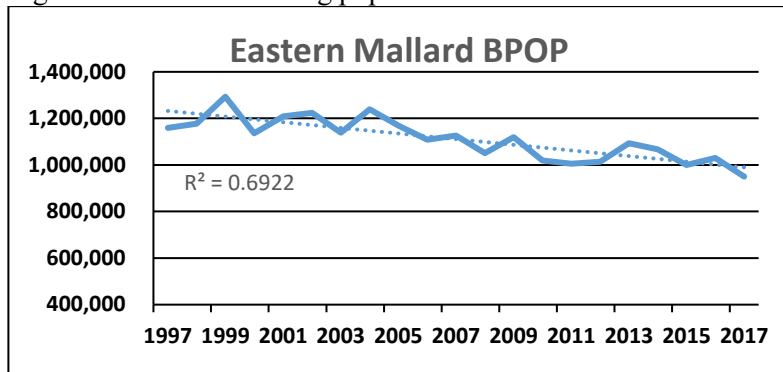
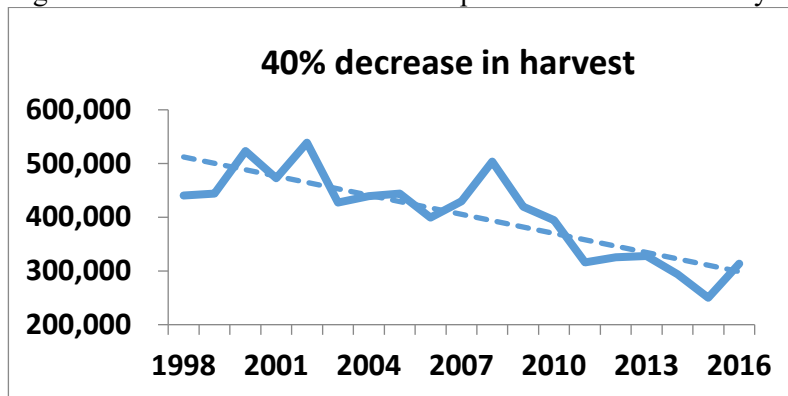


Figure 2. Mallard Harvest in the U.S. portion of the Atlantic Flyway



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, last year (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 will remain in effect for this year (2020-21). In addition, a new harvest strategy is being developed that will help guide future hunting season regulations based on current mallard population dynamics.

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 26, 2020 - January 31, 2021

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

Bag Limit: Daily Bag limit of 6 ducks of any species except for the following restrictions: can include no more than 2 mallards (only 1 hen), 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 eiders, 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 2 canvasback, **scaup: 2/day for 20 days and 1/day for 40 days**, 2 redheads, 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/Veterans Waterfowl Hunting Day

Season Dates: October 9 - 12 (Black Duck closed) (4 days)
November 18 – November 29 (12 days)
December 19 – January 31 (44 days)
(60 days)

October 24, February 6 – Youth/Veterans Waterfowl Days

Bag Limit: Daily Bag limit of 6 ducks of any species except for the following restrictions: can include no more than 2 mallards (only 1 hen), 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 eiders, 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks (except closed Oct. 9 – 12), **scaup: 2/day for 20 days and 1/day for 40 days**, 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, 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 26, 2020 - January 31, 2021
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 26, 2020 - January 31, 2021
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, 2020 - January 31, 2021 |
| <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 11 – January 9 (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 cannot be taken in the Sea Duck Zone after January 9. Sea ducks can, however, be taken during the regular duck season (Oct. 9-12, Nov. 18-29, and Dec. 19 - Jan. 31) in all other areas outside of the sea duck zone (i.e.: within 800 yards of any shore, island or emergent vegetation...), since they are included in the regular season duck bag. No more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tails can be included in the regular season daily limit of 6 ducks.

FACT SHEET - The Status of Resident Canada Geese - 2020

- The resident Canada goose population increased significantly in Virginia during the 1980's and 1990's, and peaked at 264,000 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 current population estimate is 125,966 (+/- 28,000) in Virginia and near 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 a greater percentage of 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 statewide population objectives.
- In areas where hunting is not feasible, other options including Depredation Orders (Airport, Agricultural, and Nest and Egg Depredation Orders) have been implemented to help manage resident goose conflicts.

| Year | Population Estimate * | September Harvest |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2019 | 125,966 +/- 22% | na |
| 2018 | 132,633 +/- 24% | 5,600 |
| 2017 | 142,167 +/- 21% | 5,500 |
| 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, 2020

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

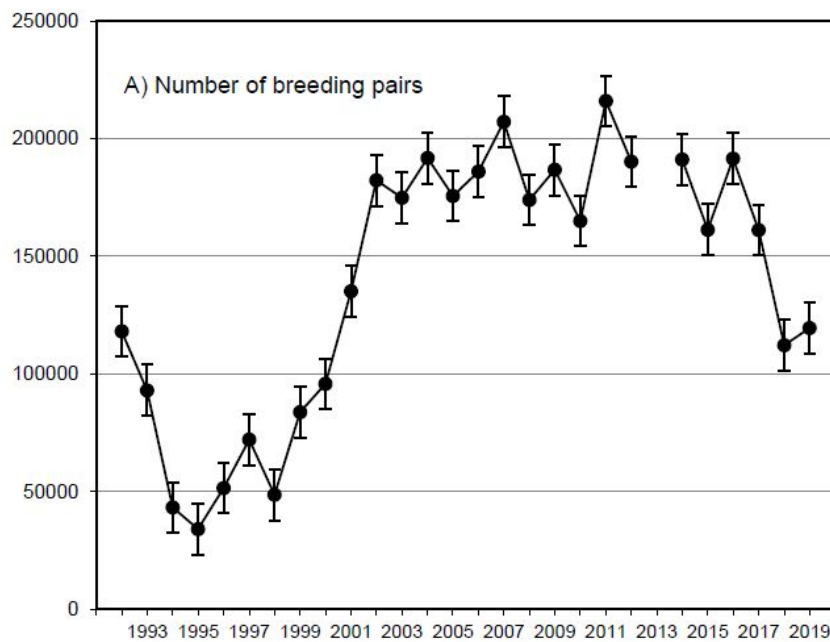
September 1 – 20: ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr after sunset.

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 - 2020

- 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, hunting regulations were liberalized. The season was extended to 30 days in 2001, then 45 days in 2002, and 50 days in 2012. The bag limit was increased to 2 per day in 2004 and remained at 50 days with a 2 goose daily limit through 2018-19.
- However, annual productivity has been below average for 6 of the past 7 years, leading to a decline in the breeding population from 2016-2018 (see graph below). In addition, adverse weather conditions on the nesting grounds in Canada in 2018 resulted in very poor production last year. Conditions on the nesting grounds improved this spring, and the breeding pair count rebounded slightly to 120,000 pairs in 2019 (6% higher than last year's estimate of 112,000).



- Due to the “bust” in production in 2018 and the declining population trend, the Atlantic Flyway Council and the USFWS recommended reducing the harvest on AP geese in 2019-20. The season was restricted to 30 days with a 1-geese daily limit in the AP Goose Zone this past season. These restrictive regulations will remain in effect again for the 2020-21 season. Canada goose seasons in the other two goose zones in Virginia (Southern James Bay (SJB) and Resident Zones (RP)) will be unchanged from last year.

Canada Goose Populations and Hunt Zones

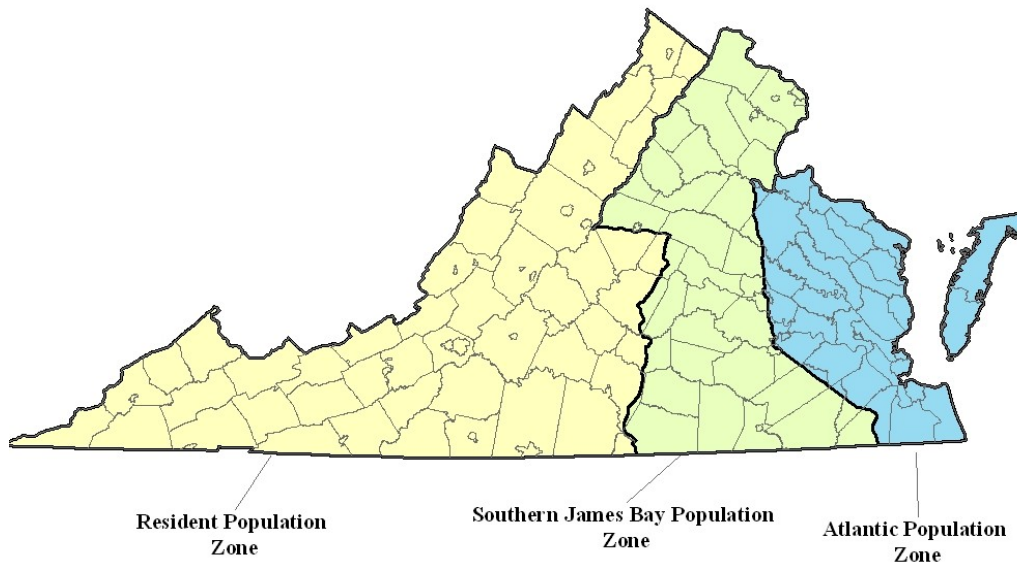
- There are 4 subpopulations of Canada geese in Virginia. These include the Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (RP) along with three migrant goose populations, the North Atlantic Population (NAP), the Southern James Bay Population (SJBP), and the Atlantic Population (AP). The majority of our migrant geese (~82%) are from the AP, about 18% are from the SJBP, 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 (SJBP) 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 SJBP 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 16 – January 31 (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 18 – November 29 3/day December 19 – January 14 3/day |
| Extended Season: | January 15 - February 15 5/day |
| <u>Shooting Hours:</u> | 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily |

RESIDENT POPULATION ZONE: (RP)

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <u>Season Dates:</u> | November 18 – November 29 December 19 - February 24 |
| <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) - 2020

- 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 Greater Snow Goose population is monitored on spring staging areas along the St. Lawrence Valley in Quebec. The 2019 population estimate was 714,000 geese, which is 19% lower than last year but 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. They winter along the Atlantic Coast from New Jersey to North Carolina.
- Breeding conditions were above average on Bylot Island in 2019 and biologists reported early spring phenology. Warm temperatures and an early snowmelt led to early nest initiation, and nest depredation was low. Initial nesting parameters included (with long-term averages in parentheses): nest initiation on June 7 (LTA June 12), estimated mean hatch date of July 4 (LTA July 9), mean clutch size of 4.1 (LTA 3.71), and late incubation nest success 90% (66%).
- 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. 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 are having 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.

LIGHT GOOSE SEASONS

REGULAR LIGHT GOOSE SEASON

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>Season Length:</u> | 107 hunting days |
| <u>Outside Dates:</u> | October 1, 2020 - March 10, 2021 |
| <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, 2021 | (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 <u>must register with DGIF</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 - 2020

- **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.
- The 2019 Mid-Winter Survey count of brant in the Atlantic Flyway (120,109) was 30% lower than the 2018 estimate and was well below the past 5-year average (135,344). The low MWS count was coupled with very low productivity during the 2018 nesting season. Fall productivity surveys indicated only 1.5% young (n=30,500), which is 92% below the long-term average.
- The low count in 2019 resulted in a reduction in the brant hunting season framework in 2019-20, which was shortened from 60 to 30 days with a 2-bird/day limit.
- The framework for the 2020-21 hunting season will be based on the 2020 mid-winter count, which will be conducted in January 2020. Therefore, this framework will not be available until February 2020.
- **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.
- Similar to other arctic nesting species (AP Canada Geese and Atlantic Brant), productivity for Tundra swans was well below average in 2018. Productivity estimates for the 2019 breeding season are currently being compiled.
- There were 92,819 eastern population tundra swans counted on the 2019 Mid-Winter Survey, which was 17% lower than the 2018 count, and dropped the 3-year running average to 107,907. This decline resulted in a 25% reduction in the number of hunting permits for the 2020-21 season.
- Prior to 2019, eight states in the U.S. hunted 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 2019-20, Delaware initiated its first tundra swan hunting season. Therefore, starting in 2019-20, the allocation of hunt permits in the Atlantic Flyway was split between the 3 states that have tundra swan hunting seasons (DE, VA, NC), in proportion to the number of swans in each state. For the 2020-21 season, North Carolina will be allocated 4,895 permits, Virginia will be allocated 638 permits, and Delaware will be allocated 67 permits.
- 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 (Preliminary dates)*

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>Season Length:</u> | 30 hunting days* |
| <u>Outside Dates:</u> | September 26, 2020 - January 31, 2021 |
| <u>Split Season Option:</u> | 2-way split season |
| <u>Bag Limit:</u> | 2 bird daily (6 in possession) |

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS (Preliminary dates)*

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <u>Season Dates:</u> | December 19 – January 1* January 16 - January 31 |
| <u>Bag Limit:</u> | 2 birds daily (6 in possession) |

***Preliminary Framework – Final dates will be determined after results of the Mid-Winter Survey are compiled in February 2020.**

TUNDRA SWAN

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

Season Length: 90 hunting days

Outside Dates: October 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021

Virginia may issue up to **638 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 18 - 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: VDGIF will issue no more than **638** swan-hunting permits to holders of a valid Virginia hunting license. Only hunters with a valid 2020-2021 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 permanently record the month and day of kill on their permit and attach it to their swan. The VDGIF 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, 2021.** 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 5 – October 28 November 21 – November 29 December 24 – January 31 |
|---------------------|---|

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <u>Rail, Gallinule, Moorhen:</u> | September 9 – December 22 |
|---|---------------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Woodcock:</u> | October 17 – January 31 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| <u>Snipe:</u> | October 9 - 12 October 21 – January 31 |
|----------------------|---|

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <u>Canada Goose:</u> | September 1 - September 25 November 18 – November 29 December 19 - February 24 |
|-----------------------------|--|

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>September Teal:</u> | September 17 - September 30 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|

| | |
|--|---|
| <u>Ducks, Mergansers, Coot:</u> | October 9 - 12 November 18 – February 12 |
|--|---|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Brant and Snow Goose:</u> | 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.

Diversity and inclusion: First 90 Days



CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Submitted by George P. Braxton
Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer



Guiding Principles

- Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) should not be considered a “redress” initiative, but rather a tool to improve deficiencies within the Agency, increase employee engagement, and promote awareness, utilization and trust among underrepresented populations.
- Building an inclusive culture is a marathon, not a sprint; however, time is of the essence.
- Any plan for D&I success must align with:
 - The Commonwealth’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Goals
 - The Agency’s various strategic plans, vision and mission
 - Fiscal and political realities



30-60-90 Day Plan

Day 1-30: LEARN

- Learn organizational cultural
- Gather information on previous D&I efforts
- Schedule office calls and listening sessions with relevant staff

30
DAYS

Day 31-60: ALIGN

- Prepare preliminary assessment of status
- Develop strategies to pick “low hanging fruit”
- Empanel the “D&I Working Group”
- Establish D&I mission and vision

60
DAYS

Day 61-90: EXECUTE

- Pick “low hanging fruit”
- Begin development of internal strategic plan
- Analyze and assess diversity outreach efforts

90
DAYS



Day 1-30: LEARN

Learn organizational cultural

- Ensure that D&I efforts are aligned with positive aspects of culture
- Assess culture for elements that may inadvertently present barriers to D&I

Gather information on previous D&I efforts

- Assess the effectiveness of past D&I efforts at DGIF
- Determine and interrupt the “we can’t’s” and “they don’t’s” that may hamper progress

Schedule office calls and listening sessions with relevant leadership and staff

- Gather needs, experiences, and perceptions from leaders and influencers within the workforce



Day 31-60: ALIGN

Prepare preliminary assessment of status

- Review Agency data and it relates to demographics, climate and employee satisfaction
- Determine areas of strength and deficiency
- Ensure alignment with current talent acquisition and retention strategies

Develop strategies to pick “low hanging fruit”

- Identify immediate opportunities to improve perceptions, demographics and culture

Empanel an Agency-wide “D&I Working Group”

- Collaborate with leadership and relevant employees to identify those who participate in the D&I strategic planning process
- Group should have representation from various regions, field offices and divisions of the Agency
- Retain a facilitator for the process

Establish D&I vision statement



Day 61-90: EXECUTE

Identify items for the “Stop Doing” list

- Discontinue actions not in alignment with goals
- Seek to reallocate resources away from such areas

Pick the “low hanging fruit”

- Execute on the plan for easy wins
- Publicize the changes internally and externally

Begin development of internal strategic plan in alignment with the Commonwealth’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts

- Schedule regular meetings and facilitation sessions with the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group
- Coordinate results through leadership for concurrence

Analyze and assess diversity outreach efforts

- Create a virtual clearinghouse of the various outreach plans authored by DGIF, sister agencies and constituent organizations.
- Find commonalities that are aligned with DGIF strategic plans



Day 90-until

- Perform Agency-wide climate survey
- Communicate work of CDIO and DIWG
- Adjust vector based on new information learned
- Deliver internal D&I Strategic Plan which will take into account Agency culture, address deficiencies and establish benchmarks
- Deliver strategic plan to increase awareness, utilization, and trust of underrepresented and growing populations



QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

George P. Braxton, J.D., C.D.E.
Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
P 804.367.0676 / F 804.367.0405

