

AGENDA

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

March 23, 2022
10:00 am

Committee Members: Ms. Karen Terwilliger, Chair, Mr. Leon Boyd, Dr. Mamie Parker, Mr. John Daniel, Alternate and Mr. Rovel Brown, Alternate

DWR Staff Liaisons: Dr. Gray Anderson and Dr. Mike Bednarski

1. Call to Order and Welcome
Ms. Karen Terwilliger
2. Approval of the January 19, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes **Final Action**
Ms. Karen Terwilliger
3. Public Comment – Non Agenda Item
Ms. Karen Terwilliger
4. Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits Proposal **Final Action**
Dr. Gary Costanzo
5. Private Land Waterfowl Retriever Field Trial Dates **Final Action**
Dr. Gray Anderson
6. Proposed name change Flippo-Gentry WMA **Final Action**
Dr. Gray Anderson
7. CWD Update and Proposed Regulations **Action**
Mr. Cale Godfrey

8. Aquatic and Boating Scoping Reporting Period Summary
Dr. Mike Bednarski
9. No-Net Loss, Net-Gain: enabling tidal wetlands to withstand sea-level rise
Mr. Clay Ferguson, Virginia Coastal and Marine Policy Fellow
10. Wildlife Division Update
Dr. Gray Anderson
11. Fish Division Update
Dr. Mike Bednarski
12. Director's Report
Mr. Ryan Brown
13. Chair's Report
Ms. Karen Terwilliger
14. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2022
Ms. Karen Terwilliger
11. Additional Business/Comments
Ms. Karen Terwilliger
12. Adjournment
Ms. Karen Terwilliger

Draft Meeting Minutes
Wildlife and Boat Committee
Board of Wildlife Resources
7870 Villa Park Drive – Board Room
Henrico, VA 23228

January 19, 2022
10:00 am

Present: Ms. Karen Terwilliger, **Chair**; Mr. Leon Boyd; **Absent:** Dr. Mamie Parker, Mr. John Daniel, Mr. Rovel Brown. **Board Members** in attendance: Mr. G. K. Washington, Ms. Catherine Claiborne; Ms. Tammy Grimes; **Deputy Director:** Ms. Becky Gwynn; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. Gary Martel, Mr. Darin Moore, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Ms. Paige Pearson

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and noted for the record that a Quorum was present for today's meeting.

Approval of the October 27, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes:

The Chair called for a motion to approve the October 27, 2021 Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2021 committee meeting. Ms. Terwilliger seconded the motion. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Terwilliger and Boyd

Public Comment - Non Agenda Item: The Chair called for Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items. Hearing none the Chair continued on with the meeting.

Annual Proposed Waterfowl Regulations: The Chair called on Dr. Gary Costanzo for a presentation.

Dr. Costanzo gave a presentation on the Annual Proposed Waterfowl Regulations.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Dr. Costanzo for his presentation.

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion, Madame Chair, I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee approve the 2022-2023 Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag limit recommendations as presented by staff, for consideration by the full Board at the January 20, 2022 meeting. These recommendations will be advertised for public comment and reconsidered by the Board at the March 2022 meeting.

The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Terwilliger and Boyd

Regulation Amendment for Waterfowl Retriever Field Trial Dates: The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson for a presentation.

Dr. Anderson presented the Regulation Amendment for Waterfowl Retriever Field Trial Dates.

Comments from the Public:

- Phyllis Giroux spoke regarding the Retriever Amendment

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Dr. Anderson for his presentation.

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources the amendment to the “Field Trials: Authorized Dates” regulation as presented by staff to go out for public comment. It was seconded by Ms. Terwilliger. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Terwilliger and Boyd

Proposed Lands Identification and Naming: The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson for a presentation.

Dr. Anderson presented the Proposed Lands Identification and Naming.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Dr. Anderson for his presentation.

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Boyd made a motion. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources the proposed property name and designation changes as presented by staff. It was seconded by Ms. Terwilliger. The board secretary called the roll. Ayes: Terwilliger and Boyd

Understanding Climate Change and its Impacts to Wildlife-Related Recreation in Virginia:

The Chair called on Ms. Becky Gwynn and Mr. Clay Ferguson.

Deputy Director Becky Gwynn introduced Mr. Clay Ferguson as a Fellow working with DWR, he was selected from the Commonwealth Coastal and Marine Policy Fellow. Ms. Gwynn gave his background. Clay has been working with DWR since October 2021. Clay has been a DWR Complementary Work Force volunteer since 2019.

Mr. Ferguson gave a presentation on Climate change and its Impact to Wildlife-Related Recreation in Virginia.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Ms. Gwynn and Mr. Ferguson for their introduction and presentation.

Wildlife Division Update: The Chair called on Dr. Gray Anderson for an update.

Dr. Anderson reported:

- Preliminary Harvest numbers for this past season.
Bears, 3,005 – Deer – 190,582 -Youth/apprentice weekend - 3,147
Wild Turkey – 1,530 (does not include mid-January season)
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) was recently detected in three hunter harvested waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway (i.e., two in South Carolina and one in North Carolina). Highly pathogenic AI is an ongoing concern and these three detections were discovered in annual monitoring efforts for HPAI. Monitoring will continue within the flyway under the direction of the USDA Wildlife Services. At this time no actions are requested from non-detect states but poultry producers across the flyway are encouraged to enhance farm biosecurity measures and report any unusual mortality events.

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

Fish Division Update: The Chair called on Dr. Mike Bednarski for an update.

Dr. Bednarski reported:

- Gave an update on the Regulatory Cycle – Aquatic Wildlife 2023 where we are and going forward
- 200,00 Trout have been stocked - 500,000 left for spring stocking
- Working with Latino group up in Alexandria, Arlington, and Fredericksburg.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Dr. Bednarski for his update.

Director's Report: The Chair called on Deputy Director Becky Gwynn for a report.

The Deputy Director reported:

- Thanked the Board for funding the Doe Creek WMA last year. A partial dedication of Doe Creek was held on January 11, 2022 and Governor Northam and Secretary of Natural Resources Ann Jennings dedicated the first 100 acres, it was attended by 50 + people, DWR staff, funding partners, local and state officials. Our DWR Law Enforcement Honor Guard participated.
- Introduced new employee John Kirk as the new Capital Program Manager
- Chandler's Mill Dam had another breach and gave way recently.

- Winter Wildlife Festival will be held in VA Beach on January 28-30, 2022 (Field trips, exhibits, virtual presentations will be available)

Chair's Report: The Chair thanked everyone for attending the Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting. The employees at DWR are such stewards of Fish and Wildlife and the dedication from the staff is wonderful. All of the updates were helpful and informative and the Climate changes presentation was excellent information.

The Chair asked if anyone had any further comments or questions, hearing none, she announced that the next meeting will be March 23, 2022 and adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

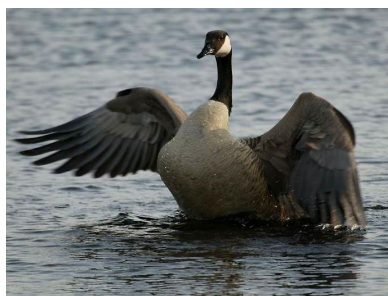
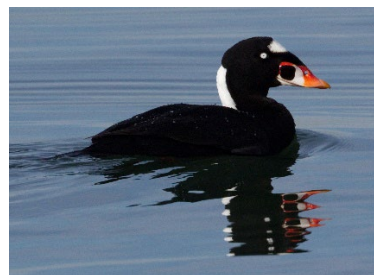
Frances Boswell

/s/

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

2022-2023

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS – FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS



Prepared by Wildlife Division
March 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 3 (23 days)
December 27 – January 17 (22 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

SNIFE

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: September 26 – November 27 (63 days)
December 17 - January 29 (44 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 - 2022

- 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 - 2022

- **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

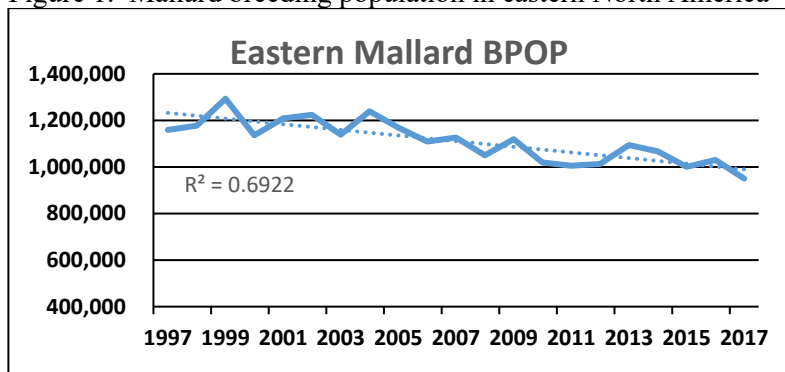
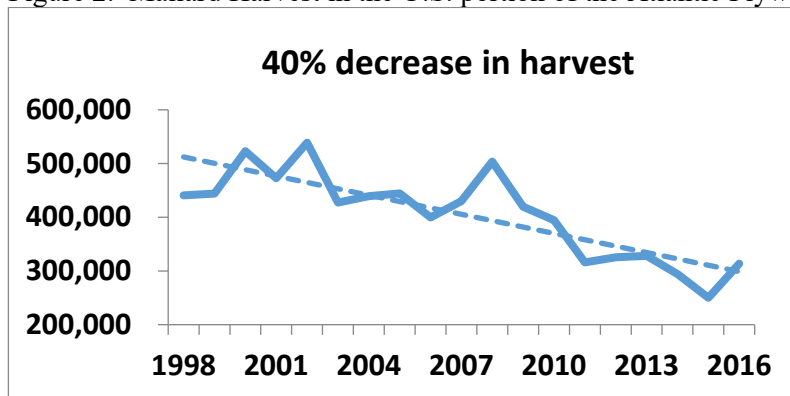


Figure 2. Mallard Harvest in the U.S. portion of the Atlantic Flyway



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 (only 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 (only 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 - 2022

- 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

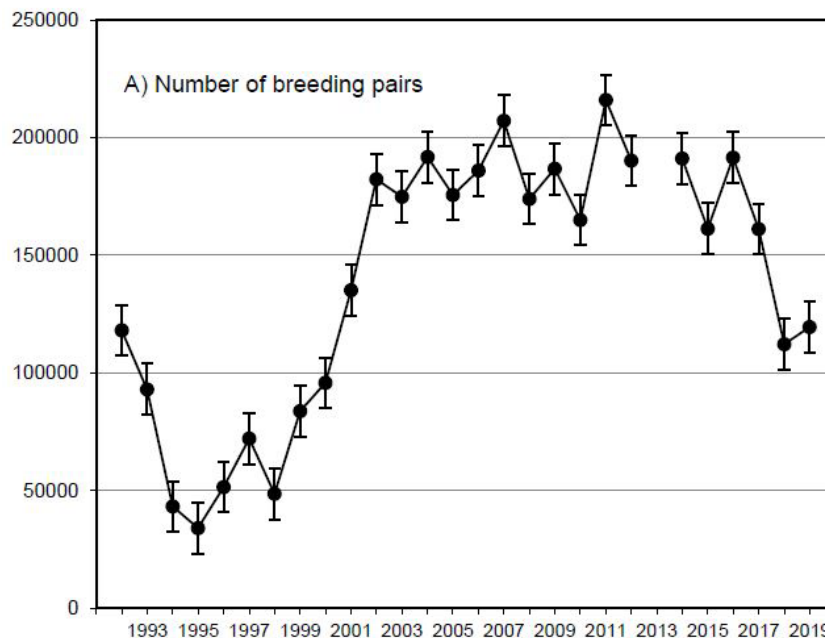
September 1 – 20: ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr **after** sunset.

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 - 2022

- 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 frameworks in the Southern James Bay and Resident (RP) Zones will be similar to the last couple years.



Canada Goose Populations and Hunt Zones

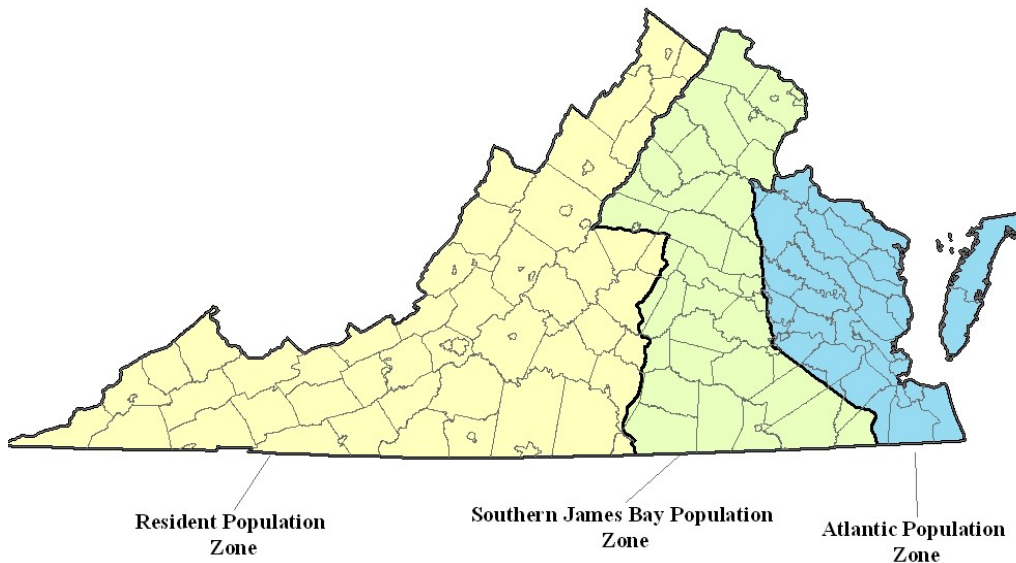
- There are 4 subpopulations of Canada geese in Virginia. These include the Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (RP) along with three migrant goose populations, the North Atlantic Population (NAP), the Southern James Bay Population (SJB), and the Atlantic Population (AP). The majority of our migrant 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) - 2022

- The majority (95%) 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 and productivity surveys in the fall of 2021, production was about average in 2021.
- Over the last 30 years, snow goose populations increased nearly 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 has generally stabilized over the past 5 year, however concerns about habitat degradation on their breeding, migration and wintering areas still remain. 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.
- In addition to the regular hunting season, a Conservation Order (CO) was established in 2009 that authorizes additional snow goose hunting after the end of the regular season frameworks. The CO allows 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. 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 - 2022

- **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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<u>Rail, Gallinule, Moorhen:</u>	September 9 – December 24
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<u>Woodcock:</u>	October 17 – January 31
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<u>Snipe:</u>	September 26 – November 27 December 17 – January 29
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<u>Canada Goose:</u>	September 1 - September 25 November 16 – November 27 December 17 - February 22
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<u>September Teal:</u>	September 17 - September 30
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<u>Ducks, Mergansers, Coot:</u>	October 7 - 10 November 16 – February 10
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<u>Brant and Snow Goose:</u>	October 17 – January 31
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NOTE: Recommended dates based on adoption of preceding gun season proposals; if amended, staff requests permission to calculate permissible dates for each species within the allowable federal framework.

Number of comments	Public Comments received on the 2022-2023 Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag Limit Recommendations
	<u>Waterfowl - General</u>
2	Keep seasons as proposed - and similar to last year.
	<u>DUCKS - REGULAR SEASONS (30 comments)</u>
9	Extend duck season into February.
2	Move October season two weeks later into October.
1	Remove October season and move days later into December or January.
1	Recommend October 1-15 and November 27th-January 29th.
2	Reduce October season to 2 days and move those to January.
1	Add more days in December.
2	Take some days from November to add more days in December.
1	Take some days from December to add more days in November.
1	Run season from December to end of January.
2	Increase limits on pintails and mallards.
1	Reduce limit to 2 ducks per day (duck numbers are too low).
1	Reduce the season to 45 days and bag limit to 3 per day (duck numbers are too low).
3	Close one or two weekdays to provide rest days for ducks. Add those to end of season.
1	Put both Youth/Veterans days in February (eliminate the October Youth/Veterans Day).
1	Implement a tagging system for duck harvests.
1	Remove 800 yard distance for sea duck zone
	<u>DUCKS - OTHER ISSUES</u>
1	Flooded corn fields are ruining hunting in public marshes on Chickahominy.
1	Stop chemical sprays into Lake Gaston - its killing vegetation for ducks.
	<u>BLIND LAWS (6 comments)</u>
1	Reduce distance to 250 yards.
2	Eliminate blind laws.
1	Limit blind licenses to 2 per landowner.
2	Provide mapping system to locate blinds.
	<u>RESIDENT CANADA GEESE (6 comments)</u>
1	Overlap Sept. goose season with Teal season and run through Sept. 30.
3	Open a 2 week season in October west of I-95
1	Move Resident Goose Zone line further east.
1	Allow unplugged shotguns for September season.
	<u>MIGRANT CANADA GEESE (11 comments)</u>
4	Raise limit to 2 per day.
1	Lengthen season in AP zone.
2	Implement a tagging system for harvest during AP season.
2	Reduce season and bag limits West of I-95.
2	Add some AP goose hunting days during the November duck season.
	<u>DOVE</u>
2	Reduce limit from 15 to 10.
	<u>WOODCOCK (8 comments)</u>
4	Put more days later in the season.
2	Open season early with grouse, but also extend to end of January.
1	Extend season to end of January.
1	Shift some days around in December.

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.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES



*CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE
PRELIMINARY REGULATION RECOMMENDATIONS*

March 2022

4VAC15-90-10
Game: Deer: Open season; generally.

Summary:

The recommendation for Disease Management Area 2 is to (i) implement a January through March late antlerless only deer season on private lands in Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock counties, and (ii) establish both a September early antlerless only deer season and a January through March late antlerless only deer season on private lands in Page County.

In Disease Management Area 3, the recommendation is to (i) extend the firearms deer season from two to four weeks on private lands in Carroll County, (ii) establish a January through March late antlerless only deer season on private lands in Carroll, Floyd, Montgomery, and Pulaski counties, and (iii) create opportunity for an early September antlerless only deer season and a late (January through March) antlerless only deer season in designated disease focus zone(s) in Carroll County.

Recommended language of amendment:

4VAC15-90-10. Open season; generally.

A. It shall be lawful to hunt deer in the following localities, including the cities and towns therein, during the following seasons, all dates inclusive.

Locality	Season
Accomack County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Albemarle County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Alleghany County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Amelia County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Amherst County (west of Business U.S. 29 from the James River to its intersection with U.S. 29 just south of the Town of Amherst continuing north on U.S. 29 to the Tye River, except on national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Amherst County (national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Amherst County (east of Business U.S. 29, as defined above)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Appomattox County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Arlington County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January

Arlington County (antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Augusta County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Bath County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Bedford County (except on national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Bedford County (national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Bland County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Botetourt County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Brunswick County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Buchanan County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Buckingham County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Campbell County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Caroline County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Carroll County (<u>private lands</u>)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 ²⁸ consecutive days following
<u>Carroll County (public lands)</u>	<u>Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following</u>
<u>Carroll County (private lands and antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
<u>Carroll County (disease focus zones defined by the department, antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Charles City County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Charlotte County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Chesapeake (City of)	October 1 through November 30
Chesterfield County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Clarke County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Clarke County (antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March

Craig County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Culpeper County (except Chester F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Culpeper County (Chester F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Culpeper County (private lands and antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October <u>and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Culpeper County (disease focus zones defined by the department, antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Cumberland County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Dickenson County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Dinwiddie County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Essex County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Fairfax County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Fairfax County (antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Fauquier County (except Chester F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Fauquier County (Chester F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Fauquier County (private lands and antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October <u>and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Fauquier County (disease focus zones defined by the department, antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Floyd County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
<u>Floyd County (antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Floyd County (disease focus zones defined by the department, antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March

Fluvanna County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Franklin County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Frederick County (non-national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Frederick County (national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Frederick County (non-national-forest lands antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Giles County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Gloucester County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Goochland County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Grayson County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Greene County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Greensville County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Halifax County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Hanover County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Henrico County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Henry County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Highland County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Isle of Wight County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
James City County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
King and Queen County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
King George County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
King William County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Lancaster County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January

Lee County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Loudoun County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Loudoun County (antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Louisa County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Lunenburg County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Madison County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Madison County (private lands and antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October <u>and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Madison County (disease focus zones defined by the department, antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Mathews County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Mecklenburg County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Middlesex County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Montgomery County (non-national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Montgomery County (national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
<u>Montgomery County (non-national forest lands and antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Montgomery County (disease focus zones defined by the department, antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Nelson County (west of Route 151, except on national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Nelson County (national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Nelson County (east of Route 151)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
New Kent County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January

Northampton County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Northumberland County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Nottoway County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Orange County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Orange County (private lands and antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October <u>and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Orange County (disease focus zones defined by the department, antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Page County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
<u>Page County (non-national forest lands and antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Page County (disease focus zones defined by the department, antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Patrick County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Pittsylvania County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Powhatan County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Prince Edward County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Prince George County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Prince William County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Prince William County (antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Pulaski County (except on New River Unit of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant adjacent to the Town of Dublin and national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 28 consecutive days following
Pulaski County (New River Unit of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant adjacent to the Town of Dublin)	Saturday prior to the second Monday in November through the first Saturday in January

Pulaski County (national forest lands)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
<u>Pulaski County (non-national forest lands and antlerless deer only)</u>	<u>Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Pulaski County (disease focus zones defined by the department, antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Rappahannock County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Rappahannock County (private lands and antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October <u>and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March</u>
Rappahannock County (disease focus zones defined by the department, antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Richmond County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Roanoke County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Rockbridge County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Rockingham County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Russell County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Scott County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Shenandoah County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Shenandoah County (non-national forest lands antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Smyth County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Southampton County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Spotsylvania County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Stafford County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Suffolk (City of) (east of Dismal Swamp Line)	October 1 through November 30
Suffolk (City of) (west of Dismal Swamp Line)	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January

Surry County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Sussex County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Tazewell County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Virginia Beach (City of)	October 1 through November 30
Warren County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Warren (non-national forest lands antlerless deer only)	First Saturday in September through the Friday prior to the first Saturday in October and the Sunday following the first Saturday in January through the last Sunday in March
Washington County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Westmoreland County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January
Wise County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
Wythe County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following
York County	Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January

B. Except as provided in subsection A of this section, east of the Blue Ridge Mountains deer may be hunted from the Saturday prior to the third Monday in November through the first Saturday in January, both dates inclusive, within the incorporated limits of any city or town that allows deer hunting.

C. Except as provided in subsection A of this section, west of the Blue Ridge Mountains deer may be hunted from the Saturday prior to the third Monday in November and for 14 consecutive days following within the incorporated limits of any city or town that allows deer hunting.

Rationale:

Chronic wasting disease (CWD), which was first detected in Frederick County in 2009, continues to spread across the landscape in Virginia. There are currently three Disease Management Areas (DMA) encompassing two CWD foci separated by over 160 miles. Eleven counties are known to be CWD-positive. The 2021 – 2025 DWR CWD Management Plan instructs staff to meet annually to review the DMA county-specific harvest and CWD surveillance data from the previous hunting season, along with the county deer population goals as stated in the current DWR Deer Management Plan. Liberalized harvest is a strategy used by most CWD-positive states to attempt to slow transmission of the disease between deer. Annual review of harvest and surveillance data allows staff to determine if additional hunting opportunity is necessary in DMA counties.

After reviewing the 2021 – 2022 data for the DMA2 counties, which include Culpeper, Fauquier, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Page, and Rappahannock counties, it was determined that CWD-infected deer continue to be found in the southern and eastern portions of DMA2. It was also ascertained that the additional harvest yielded in the early September season does not appear to be adequate to significantly slow disease transmission in Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock counties. The

recommended addition of a late (January through March) antlerless only firearms deer season in Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock counties aims to increase the number of deer harvested in these areas and thereby slow transmission of the disease within the local deer populations. Both an early (September) and late (January through March) antlerless only firearms season were added to Page County because the deer population objective is not currently being met and an insufficient number of samples have been submitted for testing, which has led to a lack of knowledge of the status of the disease within the county. The recommended regulatory changes for Page County also brings it into closer alignment with the other DMA2 counties, hopefully leading to less confusion for local hunters.

The 2021 – 2022 CWD surveillance data confirmed two additional CWD detections in DMA3; a single detection in Montgomery County, less than three miles from the 2020 detection, and a single detection in Floyd County, approximately 5 miles from the 2020 Montgomery detection. Carroll County was added to the DMA for the 2022 – 2023 hunting season due to the fact that the Floyd County detection was less than 10 miles from Carroll, as called for in the 2021 – 2025 DWR CWD Management Plan. The recommended addition of two weeks of general firearms season in Carroll County aims to create consistent general firearms seasons in all DMA3 counties, thereby streamlining hunting regulations for these counties and minimizing confusion for hunters. The recommended addition of a late (January through March) antlerless only firearms deer season in Carroll, Floyd, Montgomery, and Pulaski counties aims to increase the number of deer harvested and thereby slow transmission of the disease within the population. CWD detections in relative close proximity to one another strongly suggest that the disease is circulating in the local deer population and warrants additional harvest in an attempt to slow transmission between infected and healthy deer.

Recommendations relative to disease focus zones (DFZ) enable the Department to target additional harvest around new CWD detections as they are discovered. This recommendation prepares counties included within a DMA, such as Carroll County, for the creation of a DFZ when it is needed. DFZs are defined as a local expansion of antlerless hunting opportunities in a focused area around an outlier CWD detection, which is located more than 5 miles from the nearest detection. DFZs will be defined using clear geographic boundaries and communicated before hunting season through the annual hunting and trapping booklet and on the Department's website. The goals of expanded antlerless hunting opportunities in a DFZ are to slow disease transmission in the immediate vicinity of a detection and to increase testing opportunities for deer harvested in close vicinity to an outlier CWD detection.

4VAC15-90-80

Game: Deer: Muzzleloading gun hunting.

Summary:

The recommendation is to allow full season either-sex deer hunting on private lands in Page County during the early and late muzzleloader seasons.

Recommended language of amendment:

4VAC15-90-80. Muzzleloading gun hunting.

A. It shall be lawful to hunt deer during the early special muzzleloading season with muzzleloading guns from the Saturday prior to the first Monday in November through the Friday prior to the third Monday in November, both dates inclusive, in all cities, towns, and counties where deer hunting with a rifle or muzzleloading gun is permitted, except in the Cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp Line), and Virginia Beach.

B. It shall be lawful to hunt deer during the late special muzzleloading season with muzzleloading guns starting 21 consecutive days immediately prior to and on the first Saturday in January:

1. In all cities, towns, and counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains (except Clarke County and on non-national forest lands in Frederick County);

2. East of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Business U.S. 29 from the James River to its intersection with U.S. 29 just south of the Town of Amherst continuing north on U.S. 29 to the Tye River), Bedford, Franklin, Henry, Nelson (west of Route 151), and Patrick;

3. On national forest lands in Frederick County; and

4. In the Cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp Line), and Virginia Beach.

C. Deer of either sex may be taken during the entire early special muzzleloading season east of the Blue Ridge Mountains unless otherwise noted in this subsection:

1. Deer of either sex may be taken on the second Saturday only of the early special muzzleloading season on state forest lands, state park lands (except Occoneechee State Park), department-owned lands (except on Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area), and Philpott Reservoir.

2. Antlered bucks only—no either-sex deer hunting days during the early special muzzleloading season on national forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson Counties.

D. Deer of either sex may be taken on the second Saturday only during the early special muzzleloading season west of the Blue Ridge Mountains unless otherwise noted in this subsection.

1. Deer of either sex may be taken during the entire early special muzzleloading season in Clarke and Floyd Counties and on private lands in Augusta, Botetourt, Carroll, Frederick, Grayson, Montgomery, Page, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockingham (east of Routes 613 and 731), Scott, Shenandoah, Warren, and Wythe Counties.

2. Antlered bucks only—no either-sex deer hunting days during the early special muzzleloading season in Buchanan, on federal and department-managed lands in Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Tazewell, and Wise Counties and on national forest lands in Alleghany, Bland, Craig, Frederick, Giles, Grayson,

Montgomery, Page, Pulaski, Rockingham, Scott, Shenandoah, and Warren Counties, and on national forest and department-owned lands in Augusta, Bath, Botetourt, Carroll, Highland (except Highland Wildlife Management Area), Roanoke, Rockbridge, Smyth, Washington, and Wythe Counties and on Channels State Forest, Grayson Highlands State Park, Hungry Mother State Park, and on private lands west of Routes 613 and 731 in Rockingham County.

E. Deer of either sex may be taken during the last six days of the late special muzzleloading season unless otherwise listed in this subsection:

1. Deer of either sex may be taken full season during the entire late special muzzleloading season in the Counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Business U.S. 29 from the James River to its intersection with U.S. 29 just south of the Town of Amherst continuing north on U.S. 29 to the Tye River, except on national forest lands), Bedford (except on national forest lands), Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Nelson (west of Route 151, except on national forest lands), and Patrick and on private lands in Augusta, Botetourt, Carroll, Grayson, Montgomery, Page, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockingham (east of Routes 613 and 731), Shenandoah, Warren, and Wythe Counties.

2. Deer of either sex may be taken the last day only during the late special muzzleloading season in Alleghany, Bath, Dickenson, Highland, Lee, Russell, Tazewell, and Wise Counties and on national forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, Bland, Craig, Frederick, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Nelson, Page, Pulaski, Rockingham, Scott, Shenandoah, and Warren Counties, and on national forest and department-owned lands in Augusta, Botetourt, Carroll, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Smyth, Washington, and Wythe Counties and on private lands west of Routes 613 and 731 in Rockingham County, Channels State Forest, Grayson Highlands State Park, and Hungry Mother State Park.

3. Antlered bucks only—no either-sex deer hunting days during the late special muzzleloading season in Buchanan County.

F. Deer of either sex may be taken full season during the special muzzleloading seasons within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth that allows deer hunting except in the Cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach.

G. It shall be unlawful to hunt deer with dogs during any special season for hunting with muzzleloading guns, except that tracking dogs as described in § [29.1-516.1](#) of the Code of Virginia may be used.

H. Muzzleloading guns, for the purpose of this section, include:

1. Single shot muzzleloading rifles.40 caliber or larger, firing a single projectile or sabot (with a.35 caliber or larger projectile) where the projectile is loaded from the muzzle;

2. Muzzleloading shotguns (one or more barrels) not larger than 10 gauge where the projectiles are loaded from the muzzle;

3. Muzzleloading pistols (one or more barrels).45 caliber or larger, firing a single projectile or sabot (with a.35 caliber or larger projectile) per barrel where the propellant and projectile are loaded from the muzzle;

4. Muzzleloading revolvers.45 caliber or larger, firing a single projectile or sabot (with a.35 caliber or larger projectile) per cylinder where the propellant and projectile are loaded from the forward end of the cylinder.

I. It shall be unlawful to have in immediate possession any firearm other than a muzzleloading gun while hunting with a muzzleloading gun in a special muzzleloading season.

Rationale:

The 2021 – 2025 DWR CWD Management Plan instructs staff to meet annually to review the Disease Management Area (DMA) county-specific harvest and CWD surveillance data from the previous hunting season, along with the county deer population goals as stated in the DWR Deer Management Plan. Liberalized harvest is a strategy used by most CWD-positive states to attempt to slow transmission of the disease between deer, and annual review of harvest and surveillance data allows staff to determine if additional hunting opportunity is necessary in DMA counties.

After reviewing the 2021 – 2022 data for the DMA2 counties, it was determined that CWD-infected deer continue to be found in the southern and eastern portions of DMA2. It was also ascertained that an unacceptably low number of deer have been tested in Page County since it was added to DMA2 two years ago. In addition, the deer population objective is currently not being met in this county. Due to these reasons, and a desire to bring the county into closer alignment with the other DMA2 counties, it is recommended to allow full season either sex muzzleloader hunting in Page County.

A person wearing a white cap, a plaid shirt over a white t-shirt, and jeans with a backpack is standing on a rocky shore. They are looking out over a body of water with trees in the background. The image has a green tint.

Preliminary Review – Aquatic Wildlife and Boating Issues

**Aquatic Wildlife
Resources Division
Mike Bednarski, Chief**

**Boating Division
Tom Guess, Director**

Regulatory Cycle – Aquatic Wildlife and Boating - 2021

Dec 2019 – Feb 2022 -- public issues Scoping period -- forms on web – staff makes contact with constituent groups or individuals, assess concerns or ideas for changes, utilizing format on input form.

Feb-March - Aquatic committees meet

March 23rd, 2022 – Wildlife and Boat committee mtg. - preliminary review of issues

March 24th, 2022 - Board meeting – preliminary review of issues identified by staff

April-May – Aquatic staff core group meets to finalize staff recommendations, finalize staff recommendations with AG review

May 18th, 2020 - Wildlife and Boat committee mtg. - Staff recommendations presented

May 19th, 2020 - Board Meeting – Staff recommendations presented, Board proposals created

45 Day public comment period on Board proposals (no public meetings, unless a hot topic needs discussion)

Aug 17th, 2022 - Wildlife and Boat committee – staff presents final recommendations on proposals

Aug 18th, 2022 - Board Meeting – Staff presents final recommendations for final board approval

Digest out late fall



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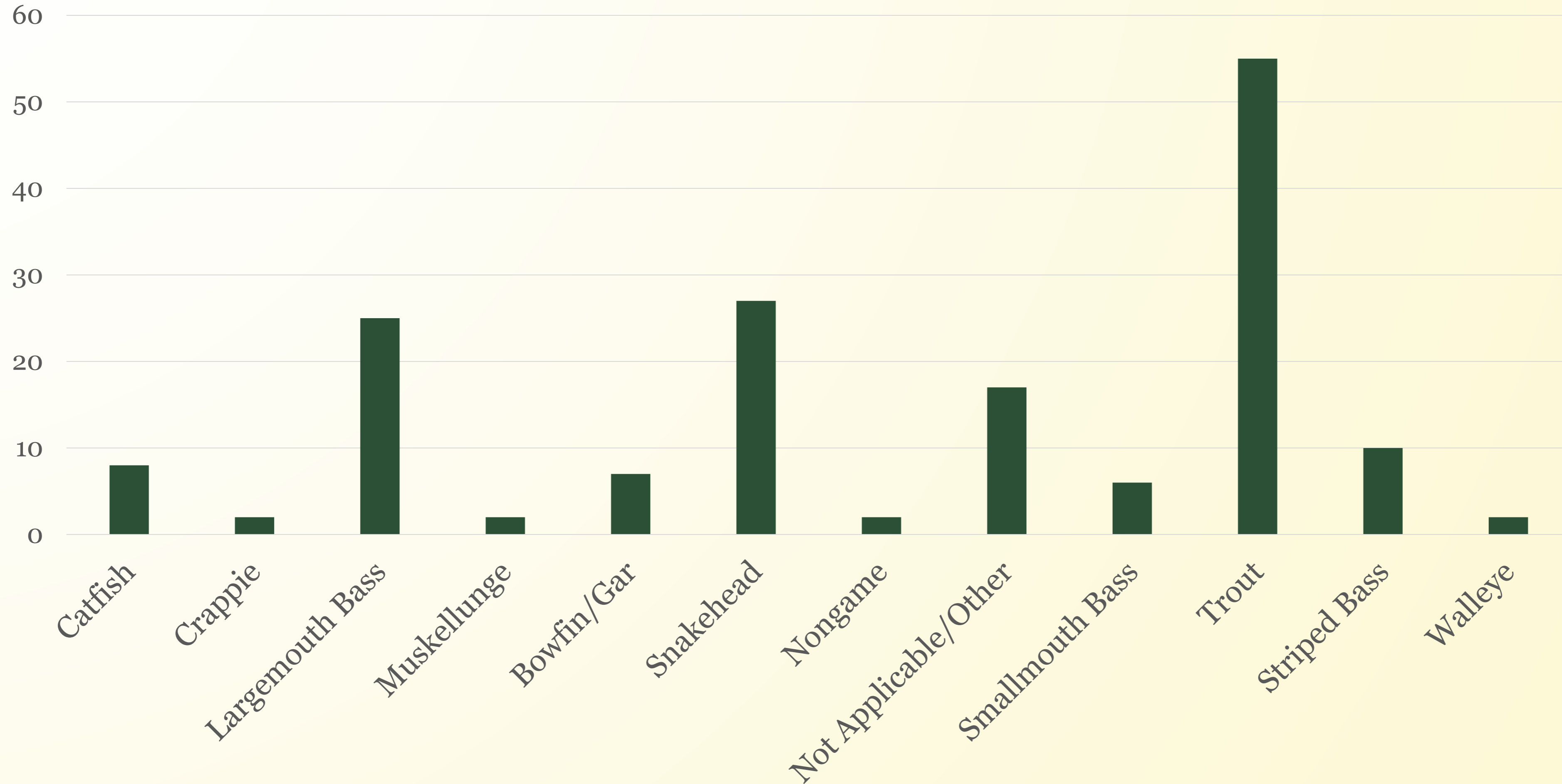
Digest out late fall



Aquatic Wildlife - Issues

195 Total Comments

Comments Received by Species/Subject



Aquatic Wildlife – Catfish

8 Total Comments

Current Regulations:

Channel, White, Flathead – 20/day, no minimum

Blue – 20/day, no minimum

Exceptions:

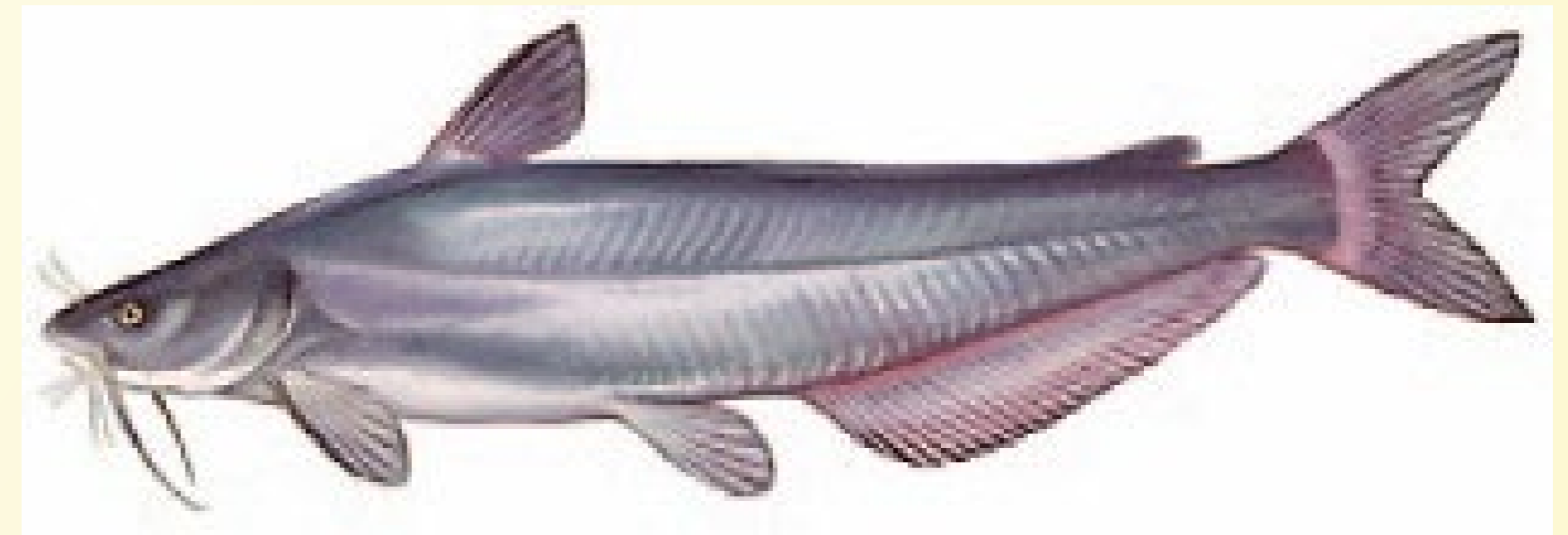
Kerr – 20/day, only 1 >32”

James Rappahannock and York, below fall line – No daily limit, only 1 >32”

All other rivers, below fall line – No daily limit

Bullheads – No limits

As posted – Public Fishing Lakes, FishLocalVA Waters



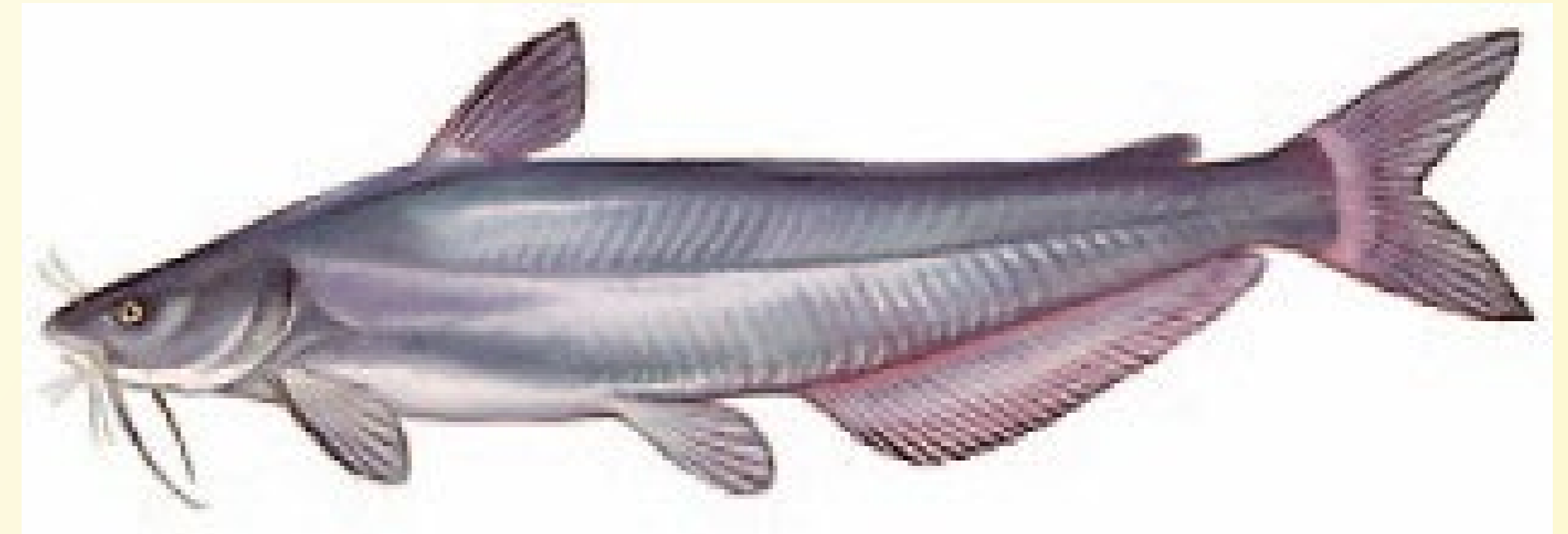
Aquatic Wildlife – Catfish

Comment:

Would like to see expansion of bowfishing opportunities for catfish (3)

Blue catfish abundance is too high – remove limits or prohibit release (2)

Stricter regulations are required for catfish (2)



Aquatic Wildlife – Crappie

2 Total Comments

Current Regulations:

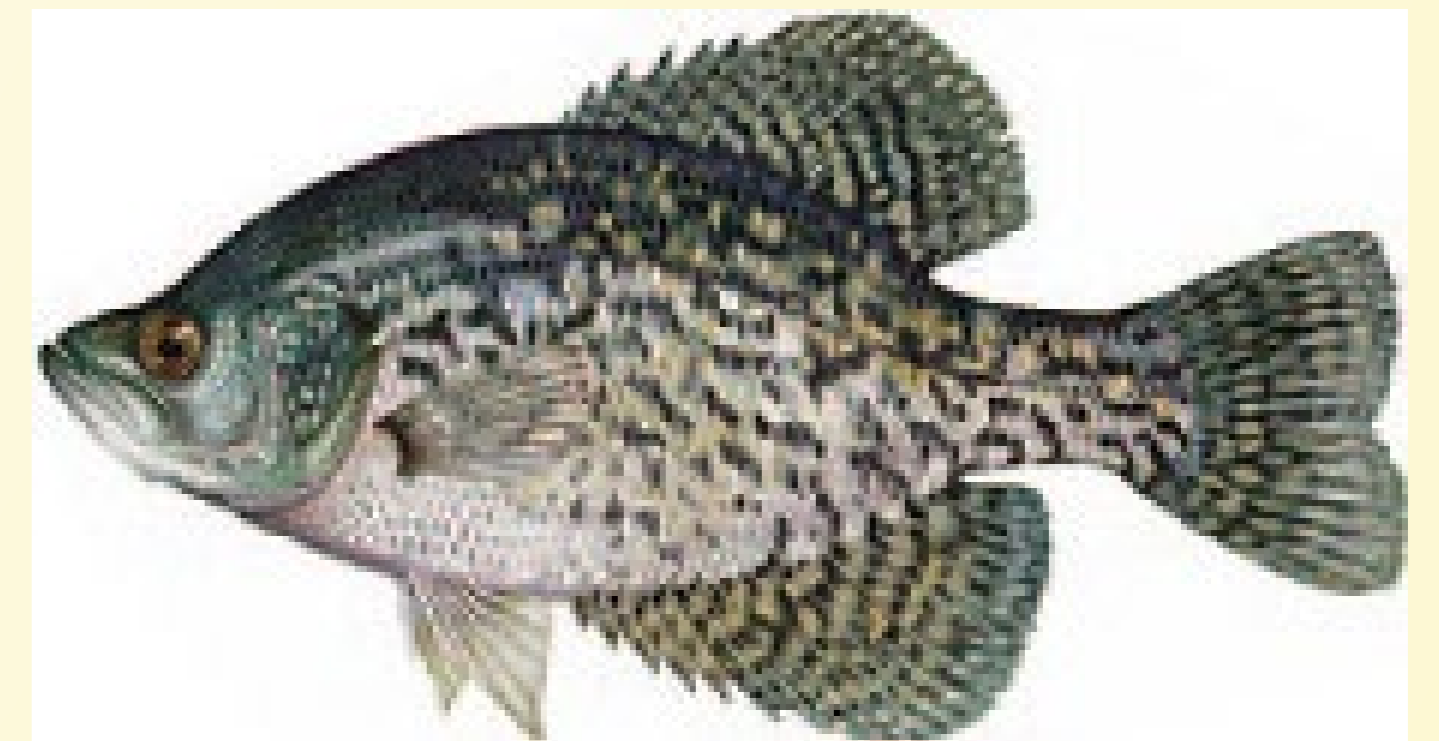
25/day statewide, no length limits

Exceptions:

Gaston: No daily limit

Kerr Reservoir, Briery Creek, and Sandy River reservoir: 9” Minimum

Flannagan and South Holston: 10” Minimum, 15/day in South Holston

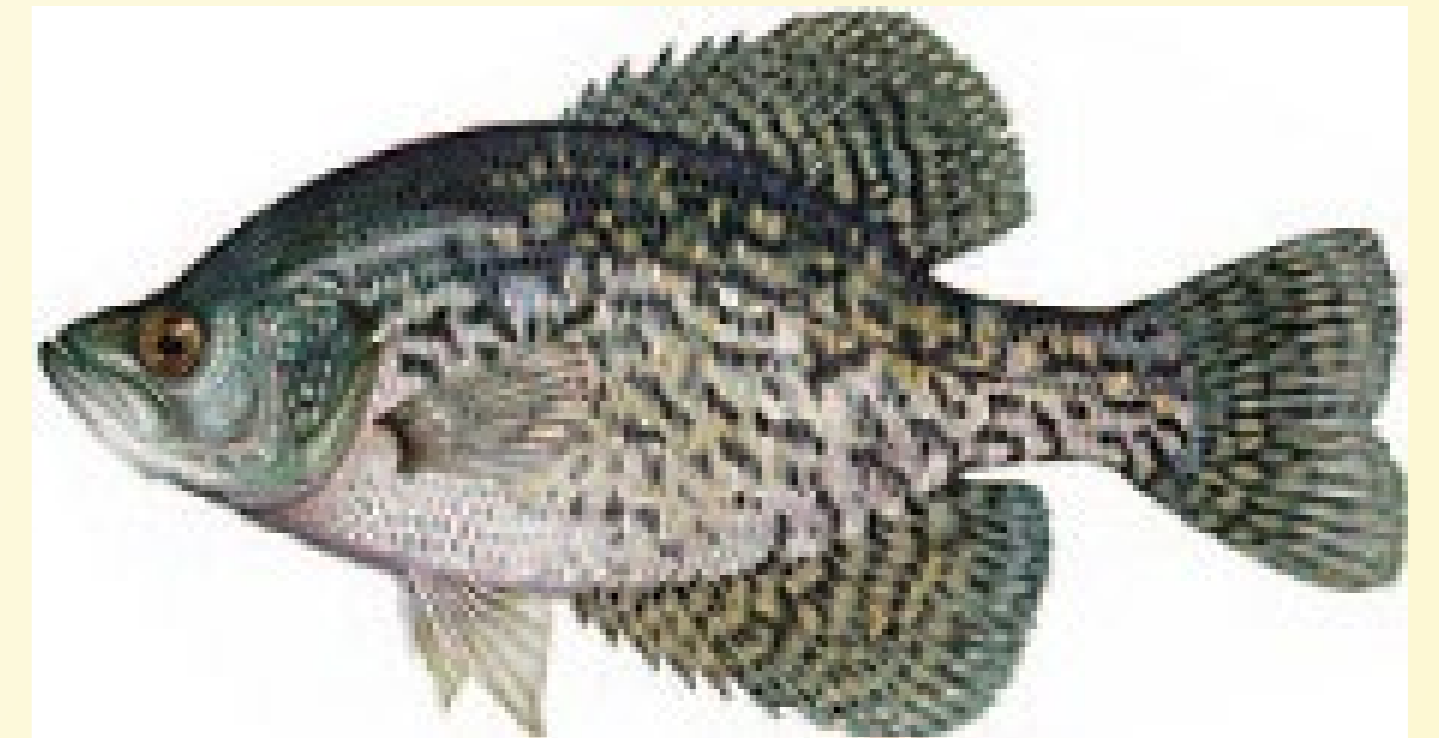


Aquatic Wildlife – Crappie

Comment:

Want to see a 12” size limit/60 fish bag limit on crappie in Kerr Reservoir (1)

Allow anglers to clean crappie on the water – only need to retain filets (1)



Aquatic Wildlife – Largemouth Bass

25 Total Comments

Current Regulations:

5/day, no size limit

Exceptions: 11 lakes, 15 rivers

As posted – Public Fishing Lakes, FishLocalVA Waters



Aquatic Wildlife – Largemouth Bass

Comment:

Largemouth bass are being relocated from Back Bay to the Northwest River during the spawning period. Requesting that the Department institute regulations restricting catch or impose additional protections during this period. (4)

Close bass fisheries or institute protected areas during the spawning period. (4)

Need to change registration requirements for fishing tournaments on Potomac River (1)

Tournaments should be catch and immediate release (1)

Restrict bass fishing on the Chickahominy River during duck season (1)

Add additional structure to our lakes (1)

Disallow bowfishing at night – bass harvested (1)

Need more fishing access (1)



Aquatic Wildlife – Muskellunge

5 Total Comments

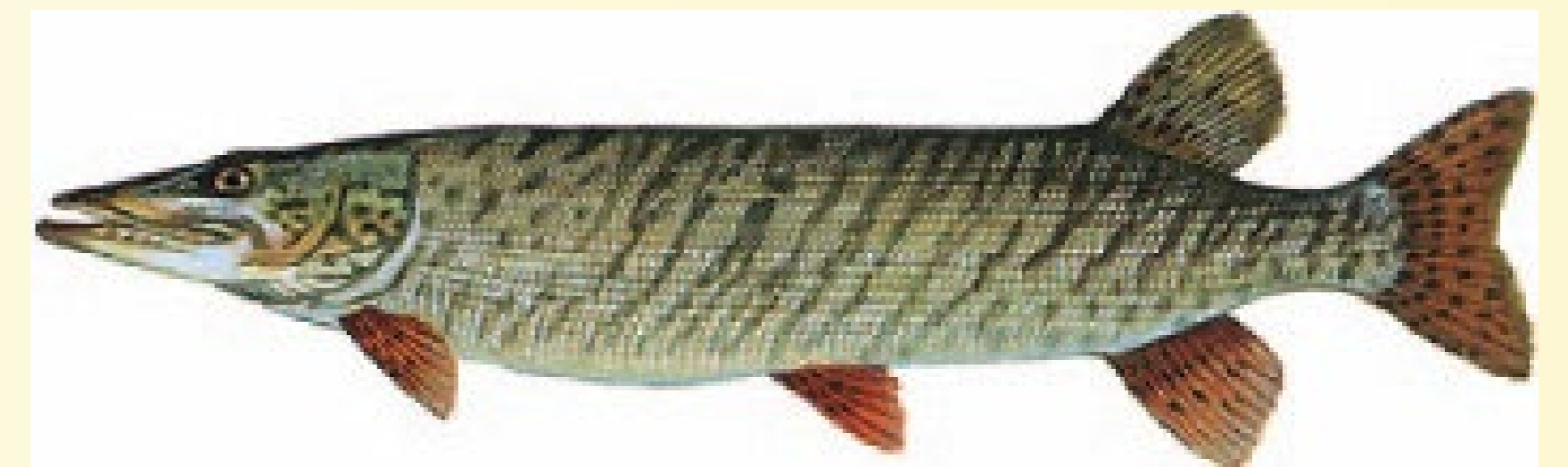
Current Regulations:

2/day, 30” minimum

Exceptions:

New River-Fields Dam downstream to Claytor Dam, including Claytor Lake – 1/day, 42” minimum

New River-Claytor Dam downstream to VA-WV state line – 1/day, June 1-Last day in Feb: none 40-48”, March 1-May 31: 48” minimum

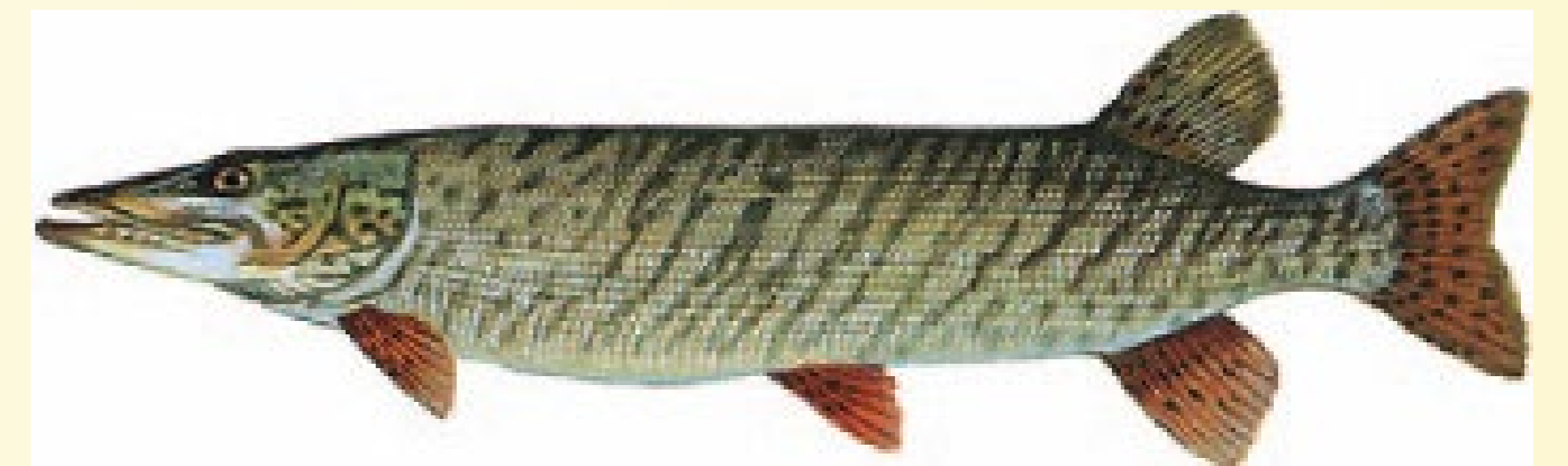


Aquatic Wildlife – Muskellunge

Comment:

Would like to see statewide 1 fish bag, 42” minimum (exception for New River below Claytor)

Would like to see larger limit (minimum 40”) on Lake Burke



Aquatic Wildlife – Gar and Bowfin

7 Total Comments

Current Regulations:

5 per day
No length limits

Gar can be taken with bow and arrow statewide (except where waters are stocked with trout)
Bowfin can only be taken with bow and arrow in tidal waters below the fall line



Aquatic Wildlife – Gar and Bowfin

Comment:

Further restrictions on gar and bowfin are not required and hinder bowfishing opportunities (7)

Relevant Background:

The AWRD is looking into several regulations to foster sustainable bowfishing in Virginia. Prior to initiating the scoping period, the AWRD reached out to the bowfishing community to discuss several ideas, one of which was reducing the limit of gar and bowfin from 5 to 1 during their spawning period (mid April-June). The primary concern raised by the bowfishing community is that DWR does not have the information to justify such a restriction.



Aquatic Wildlife – Northern Snakehead

27 Total Comments

Current Regulations:

No size or daily limit

Bow and arrow legal statewide (except where waters are stocked with trout)

No live possession allowed



Aquatic Wildlife – Northern Snakehead

Comment:

Snakehead should be recognized as and managed as a gamefish (27)

Restrict or ban bowfishing on northern snakehead (5)



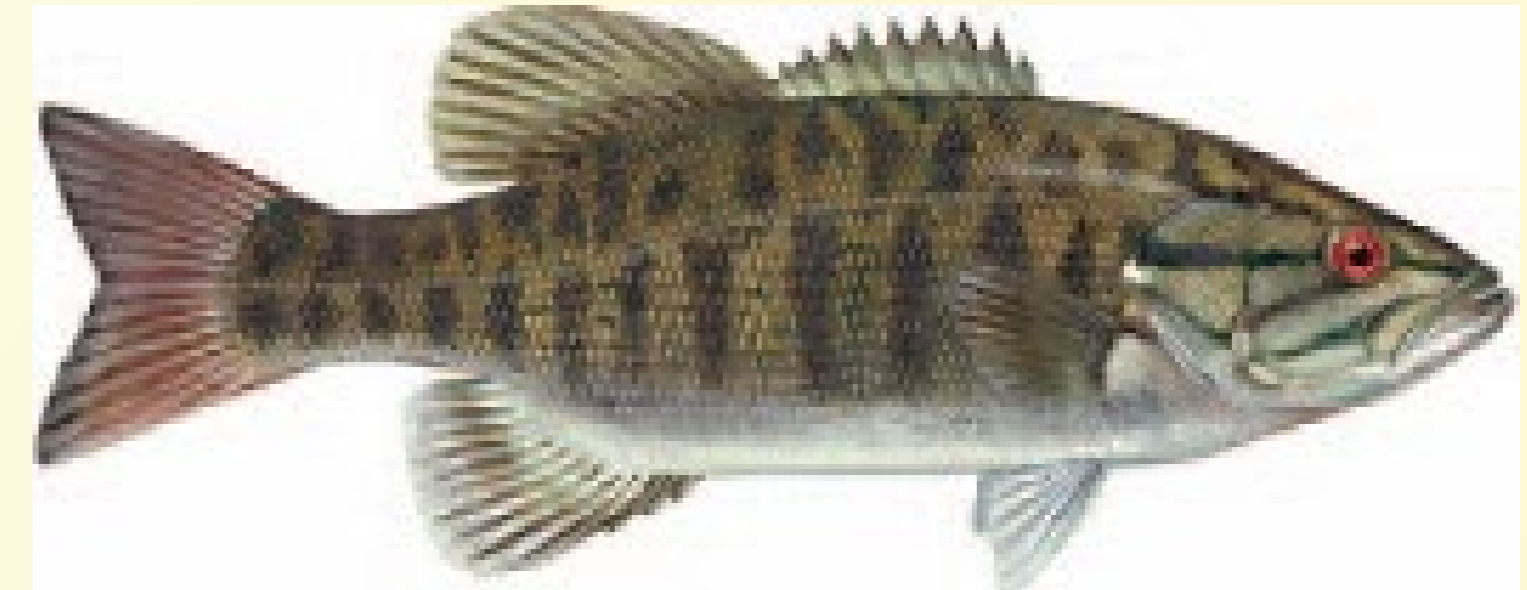
Aquatic Wildlife – Smallmouth Bass

5 Total Comments

Current Regulations:

5/day, no minimum

Exceptions: 11 lakes, 15 rivers

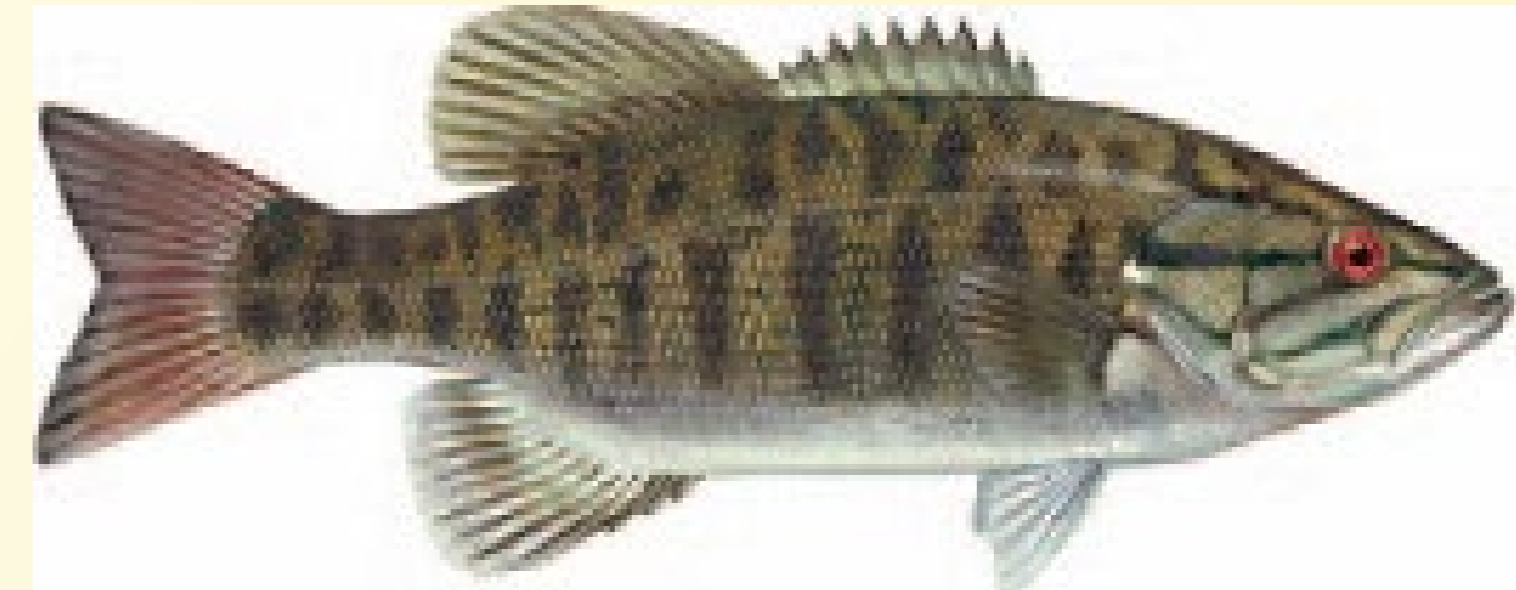


Aquatic Wildlife – Smallmouth Bass

Comment:

Status of smallmouth bass throughout the state, request for more restrictive regulations or catch and release only (3).

Remove or modify restrictions on smallmouth bass harvest in specific waterbodies (2).



Aquatic Wildlife – Trout

57 Total Comments

48 Stocked Trout

9 Wild Trout

Current Regulations:

Generally 6/day, 7” minimum

4/day, 7” Urban Waters

Many Exceptions – Delayed Harvest, Slot Limits, No Harvest, Artificial Only



Aquatic Wildlife – Trout

Comment:

Allow 2 rods to be used at the same time in waters designated “stocked trout waters” (2)

Close bodies of water immediately after stocking (2)

Do away with real time stocking information (2)

Provide more information on when trout will be stocked (1)

Bag limit/restrictions on stocked trout – Decrease or increase, modify size limit, add restrictions (22)

Systems mentioned:

Statewide (9)

South Fork Powell (1)

Smith River (1)

Roanoke River – Greenhill Park (5)

Big Stony Creek (3)

Bag limit/restrictions on wild trout – Decrease or add gear restrictions (5)

Systems mentioned:

Statewide (2)

Little Stony Creek (3)

Dismal Creek (1)



Aquatic Wildlife – Trout (Continued)

Comment:

Modify trout season/return to opening day (3)

Discontinue stocking hatchery trout over wild/naturalized trout populations (9)

Stock additional trout (6)

Stock fish further from the road (1)

Raise cost of trout stamp (1)

Reduce poaching (2)

Better access for people of all ability levels (1)



Aquatic Wildlife – Striped Bass

4 Total Comments

Current Regulations:

4 per day (aggregate with hybrid striped bass), 20” minimum

Exceptions:

Kerr Reservoir

Oct 1 – May 31: 2/day, 24” minimum

June 1 - Sept 30: 4/day, no minimum

Gaston

October 1 – May 31: 20” minimum

June 1-Oct 31: no length limit

Claytor

Sept 16-June 30: 2/day, 20” minimum

July 1-September 15: 4/day, no length limit

Smith Mountain Lake

2/day

Nov 1-May 30: no fish 30-40”

June 1-Oct 31: no length limit



Aquatic Wildlife – Striped Bass

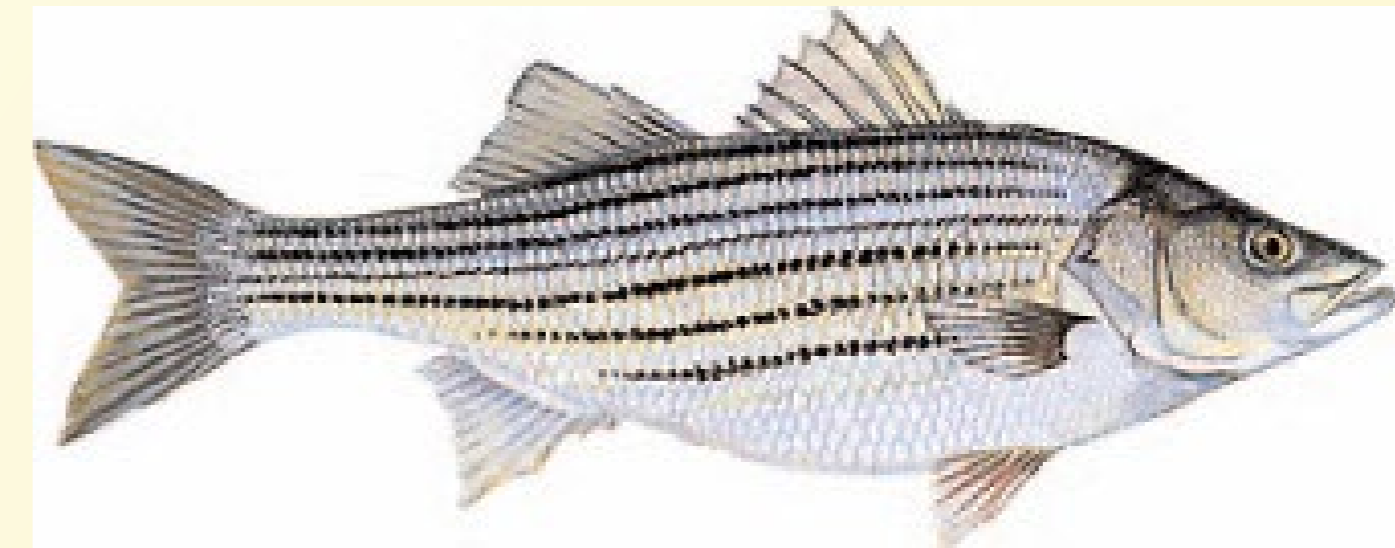
Comment:

Stricter limits on Lake Anna (1)

Stricter limits on Claytor Lake (1)

Require anglers to keep striped bass caught in summer, stop when limit is reached (1)

Ban bait net usage during the spawning run (1)



Aquatic Wildlife – Walleye

2 Total Comments

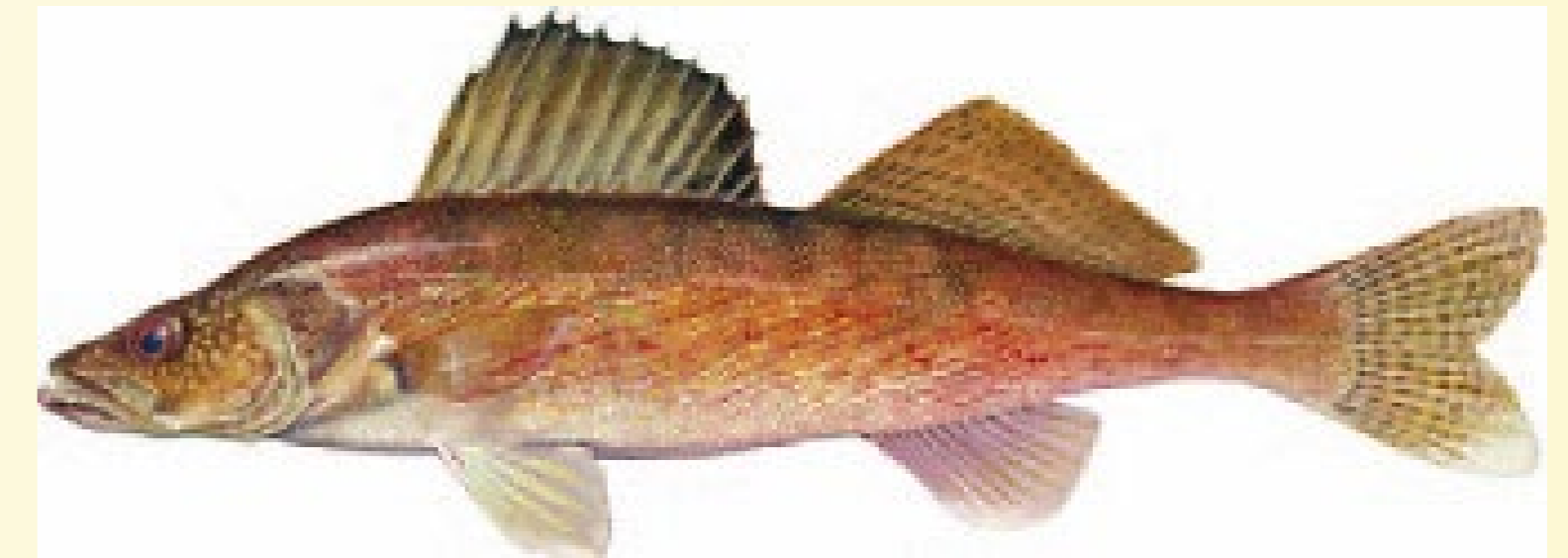
Current Regulations:

5/day, 18” minimum

Exceptions:

New River upstream of Buck Dam, 20” minimum

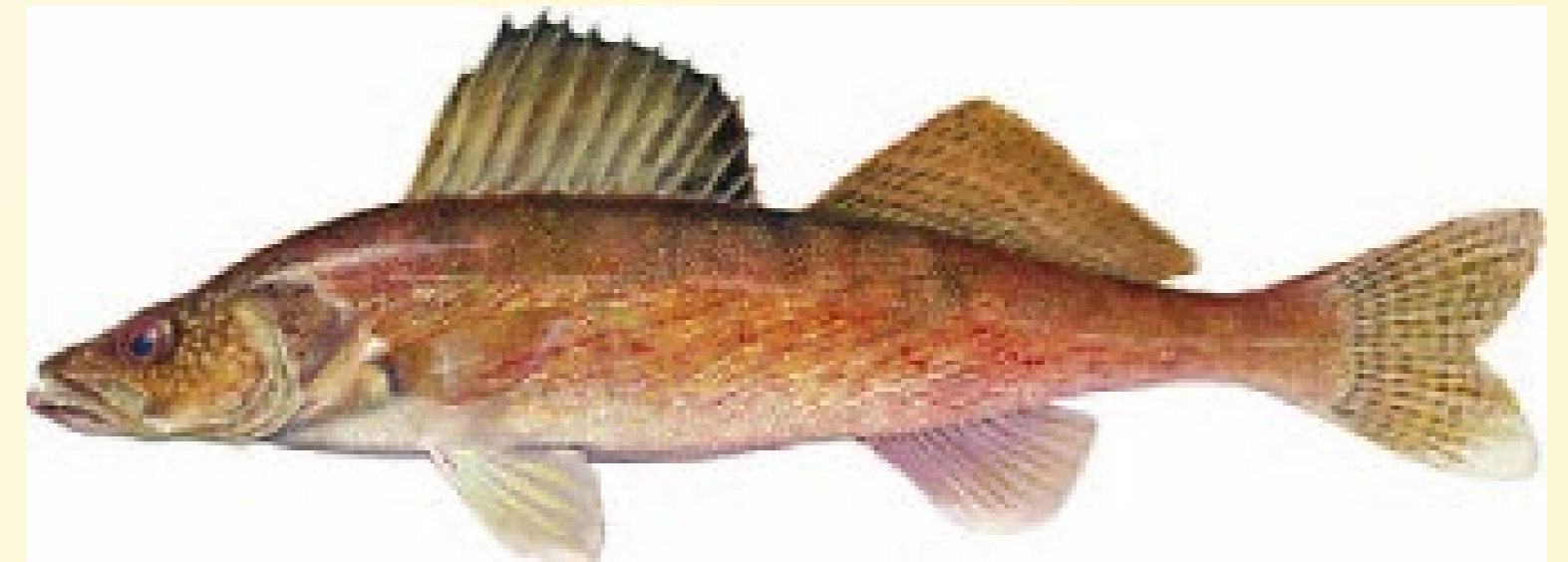
**Claytor Lake and the New River upstream of Claytor Lake Dam to
Buck Dam – 2/day, no walleye 19-28”**



Aquatic Wildlife – Walleye

Comment:

More restrictive regulations statewide (2)

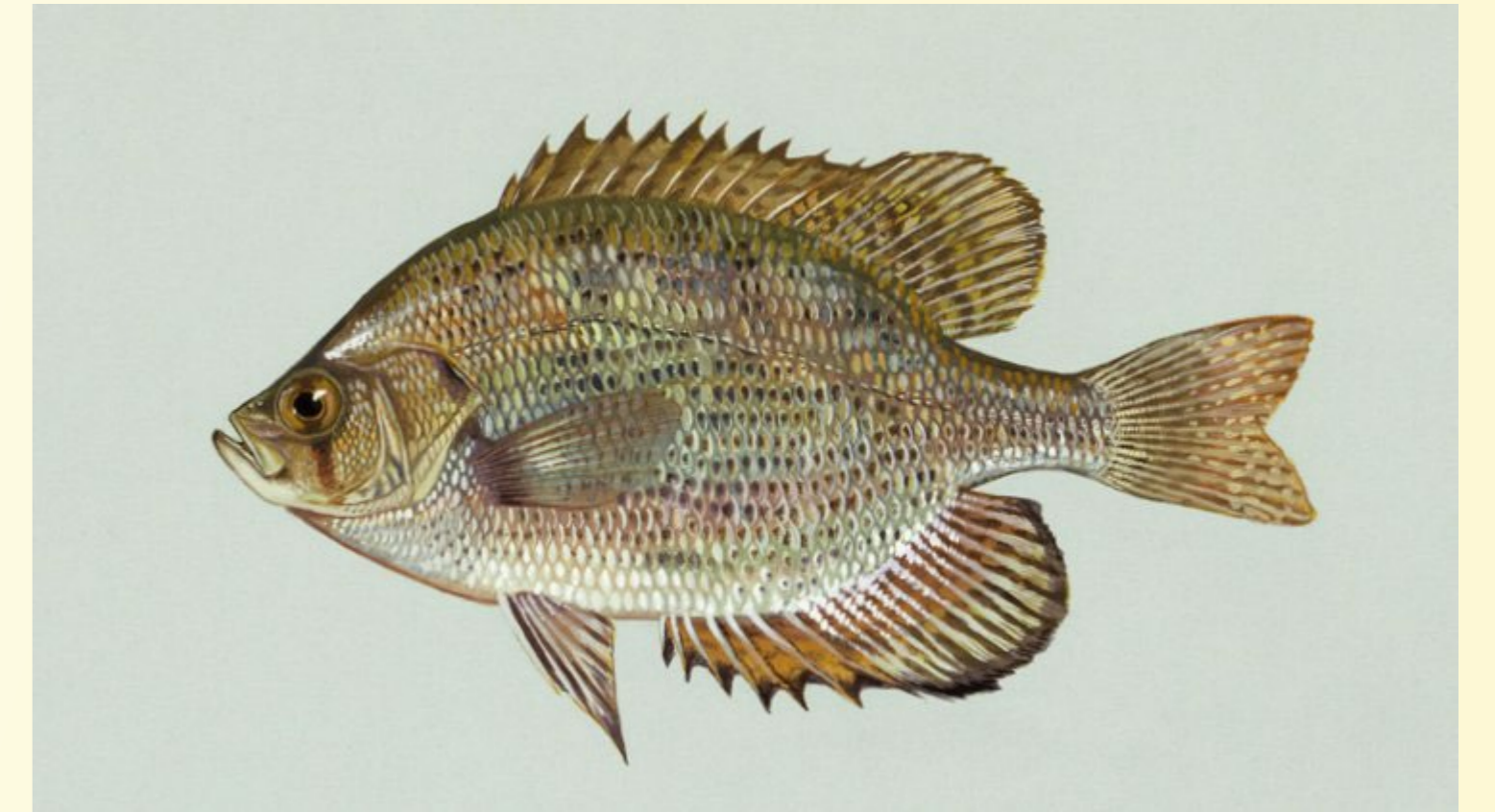


Aquatic Wildlife – Panfish

Current Regulations:

No size limit on bluegill and other sunfish

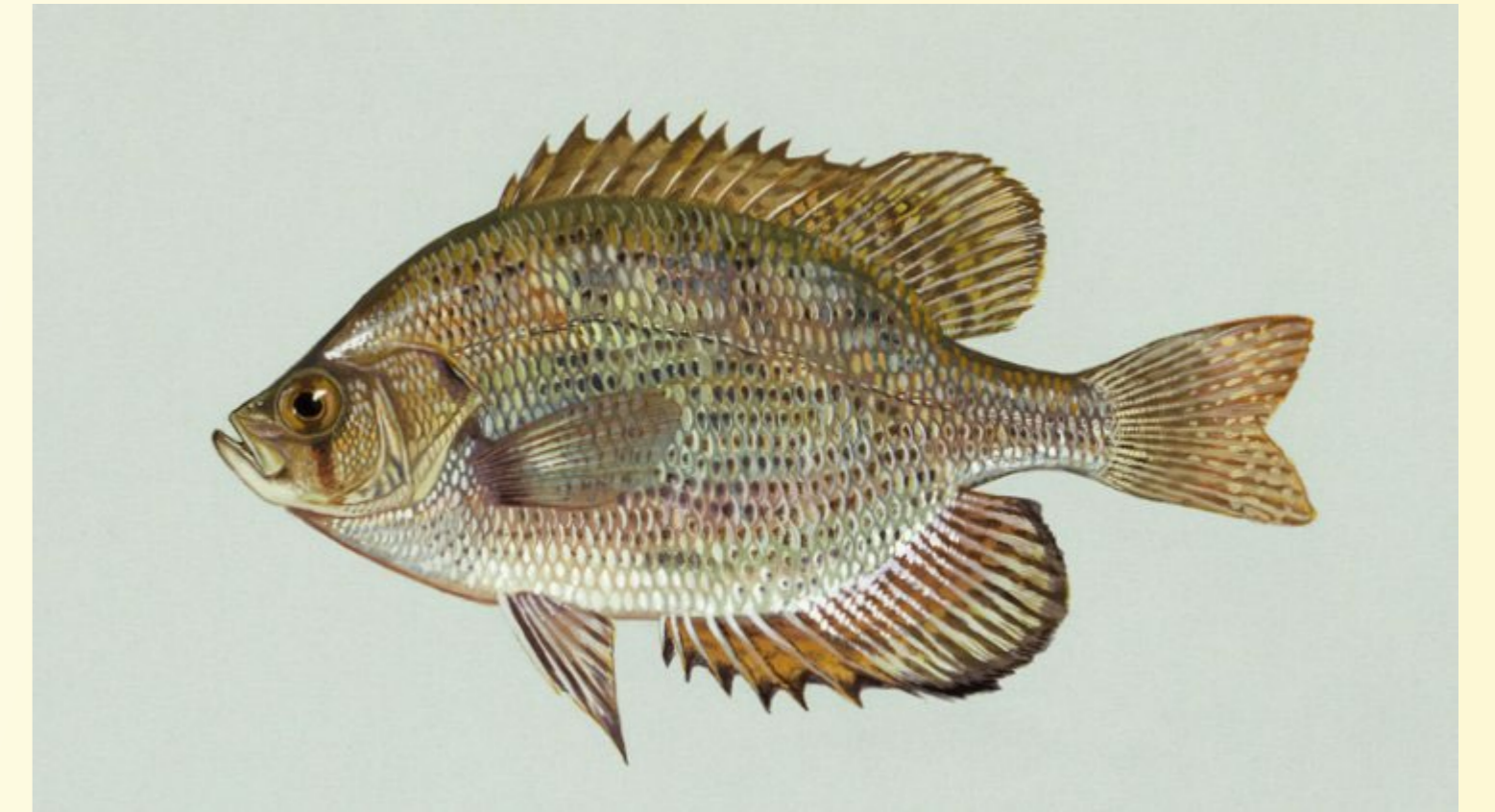
50 fish daily bag limit



Aquatic Wildlife – Panfish

Comment:

Need size limits on all panfish (1)



Aquatic Wildlife – Crayfish - Internal

Concern:

Virginia has tremendous diversity in crayfish species, several of which may be unintentionally used for bait. Similarly, there is the possibility that crayfish may be transferred across watersheds, potentially causing issues with established native species or spreading disease. The AWRD is considering measures that are likely to foster sustainability in crayfish populations.



Aquatic Wildlife – Invasive Species - Internal

Concern:

Invasive species are often transported unintentionally on vessels, in their bilge, and on trailers. Nationwide efforts to promote “clean, drain, and dry” are in place to raise awareness, but limited regulatory requirements are present in Virginia.



Aquatic Wildlife – Miscellaneous

Comment:

Stock gizzard shad (1)

Stock smallmouth and bigmouth buffalo (1)



Photo: T. Ostergaard



Aquatic Wildlife – Miscellaneous

Comment:

Allow gear (trotlines, eel pots, gill nets) to be marked with customer ID (1)



Aquatic Wildlife – Gear - Internal

Concern:

Unattended limb lines may capture non target species. Current regulations are unclear on when a limblines needs to be removed, and constituents have raised concerns about the impact of unattended and abandoned limblines on wildlife.



Aquatic Wildlife – Miscellaneous

Comment:

Place to fish in Stafford (1)

Kayaking on Oak Grove Lake (1)



Boating Regulations - Issues

11 Total Comments:

- **3 - wake surfing and wakes**
- **2 - speed limits for certain boats/bodies of water**
- **2 - removing requirement to title/register certain boats**
- **1 - requiring kayak/paddlecraft to have light at night**
- **1 - requiring children 12 and under to wear a lifejacket**
- **1 - requesting a boat ramp at Peppers Ferry Bridge**
- **1 - allow and enforce regulatory markers on hot side at Lake Anna**



Boating – Require children 12 and under to wear lifejacket

1 Total Comments

Current Law and Regulations:

**a lifejacket must be onboard for all passenger
must be USCG approved
in good and serviceable condition
the proper size for the intended wearer
stowed readily accessible**

Considerations:

**The General Assembly has heard bills for “kids in lifejackets” 13 times
Thirteen times those bills have failed which sets a precedent
The Board has the authority to promulgate safety regulations
Virginia and Wisconsin are the only 2 states with no “kids in lifejacket” law**



Boating – Require kayak/paddlecraft to have light at night

1 Total Comments

Current Law and Regulations:

Paddlecraft are currently required to carry on hand one white light or flashlight where it can best be seen at night

Considerations:

This is already a requirement

More outreach may be needed for paddlecraft carriage requirements



Boating – Regulatory waterway markers – hot side of Lake Anna

1 Total Comments

Current Law and Regulations:

Regulatory waterway markers may be placed by application to the locality by anyone who feels they are needed for safety reasons

Considerations:

Lake Anna's hot side is considered private waters

The HOA in concert with LACA needs to decide if they want this

Our agency would not necessarily be required to enforce markers on this side



Boating – Speed limits on lakes and agency owned lakes with engine restriction

2 Total Comments

Current Law and Regulations:

Agency has a regulation on owned lakes that gasoline engines must be out of the water and trolling motors may be used

Considerations:

Speed limits are not effective and difficult at best to enforce
Some states have speed limits that were placed by legislation
Law enforcement should be heavily consulted



Boating – Remove requirement to register boats with trolling motors

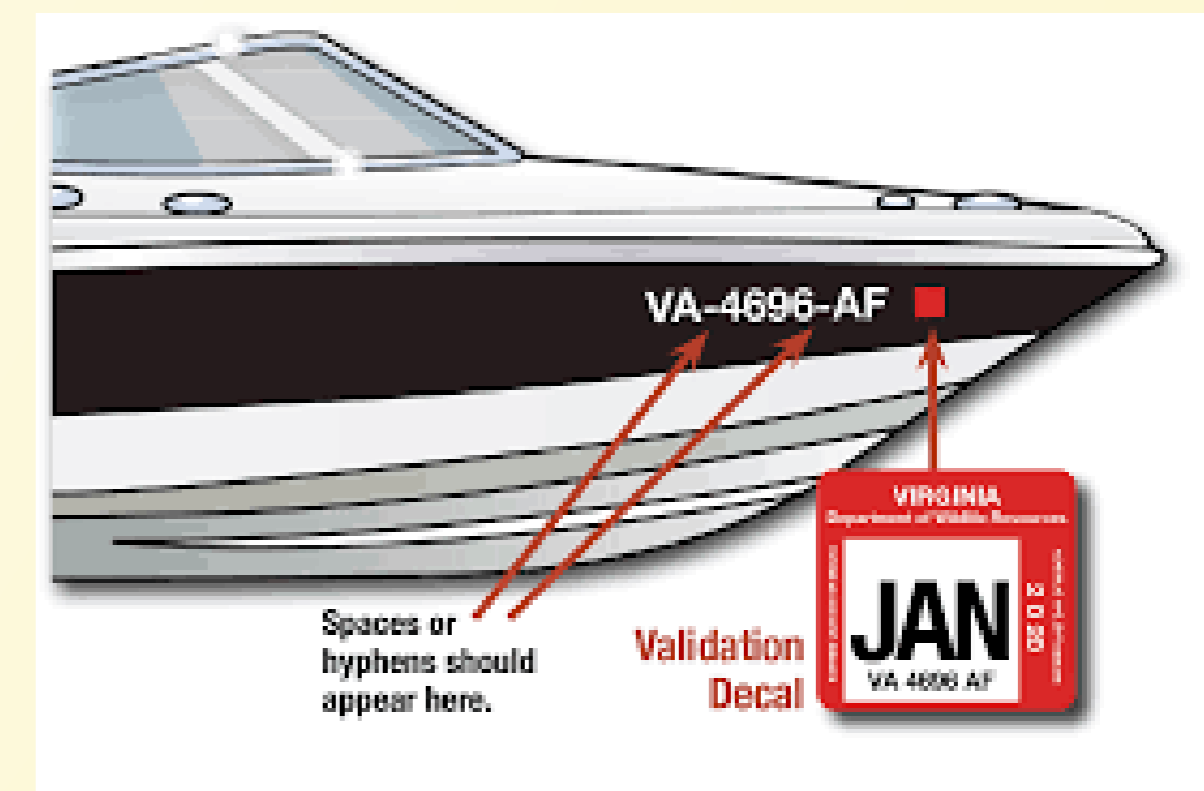
2 Total Comments

Current Law and Regulations:

**All vessels with a means of mechanical propulsion must be titled and registered
This includes gas, electric, diesel or any means of propulsion**

Considerations:

**The public often argues that canoes, kayaks, and paddlecraft should not require a registration; however, canoes, kayaks, and paddlecraft are no longer human powered once a motor is added and they are categorized as motorboats
The Code of Federal Regulations requires all motorboats to be registered and this requirement carries with it a federal preemption meaning states have no choice**



Boating – Regulate legislate the operation of wake surfing

3 Total Comments

Current Law and Regulations:

Currently under Virginia law wake surfing is allowed

Wake surfing is only regulated by existing safety laws

Wake surfing is mitigated by “No Wake Surfing” zones marked with buoys

Considerations:

The General Assembly has heard two wake surfing bills and neither passed

The Board has the authority to set regulation; however, the legislature again has set a precedent

Wake surfing continues to increase in popularity and is a multi-billion dollar industry

Wake surfing and increased pressure for lake access and waterfront property has increased user conflict



Boating – Regulatory change required by CFR

The US Coast Guard has changed CFR to changed type and size codes on marine type fire extinguishers.

Current regulation definitions mentions lifejacket types. CFR removed types and the regulation needs to be amended to reflect this change

Law Enforcement would like to promulgate a blue light “move over” law in the Commonwealth

The following are the recommended amendments to the boating regulations:

- **Amending 4VAC15-430-20. Definitions – in regard to lifejacket types.**
- **Amending 4VAC15-160 through 200 – Fire Extinguisher Systems**
- **Amending 4VAC15-85 (adding new section) to address a 200 foot move-over type law for law enforcement vessels engaged in law enforcement operations.**



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Feb-March - Aquatic committees meet

March 23rd, 2022 – Wildlife and Boat committee mtg. - preliminary review of issues

March 24th, 2022 - Board meeting – preliminary review of issues identified by staff

April-May – Aquatic staff core group meets to finalize staff recommendations, finalize staff recommendations with AG review

May 18th, 2020 - Wildlife and Boat committee mtg. - Staff recommendations presented

May 19th, 2020 - Board Meeting – Staff recommendations presented, Board proposals created

45 Day public comment period on Board proposals (no public meetings, unless a hot topic needs discussion)

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Digest out late fall



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