

**WAC 220-416-010**

# **Small Game and Other Wildlife Seasons and Regulations**



Kyle Spragens  
Waterfowl Section Manager  
Game Division  
Wildlife Program

*Washington Department of*  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

# Hunter Education Instructor Incentive Permits

Turkey, Section e, subsection v:

- Recommend adding two spring turkey hunter education instructor incentive permits:
  - 4 individuals will be drawn for this permit per year.

Public Comment:

- 139 comments
  - 92 Generally Agree (66%)
  - 26 neutral
  - 11 Generally Do Not Agree



**WAC 220-416-060**

# **2020-2021 Migratory Gamebird Seasons and Regulations**



*Washington Department of*  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

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# Migratory Gamebird Hunting Authorities & Process


- USFWS Authority: Federal Framework
  - Season length
  - Earliest opening date
  - Latest closing date
  - Upper bag limits
  
- State Discretion: WAC within Federal Framework
  - Season timing within outside framework dates
  - Bag limits can be more restrictive but not more liberal



## Framework Changes

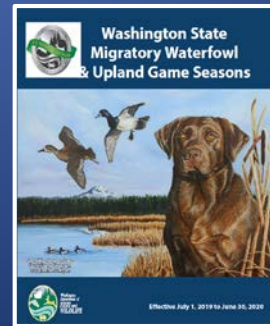
	Pacific Flyway Meetings <b>August</b>
	USFWS Service Regs Committee <b>October</b>

## Non-framework Changes

	Commission Briefing - <b>March</b>
	Commission Adoption - <b>April</b>

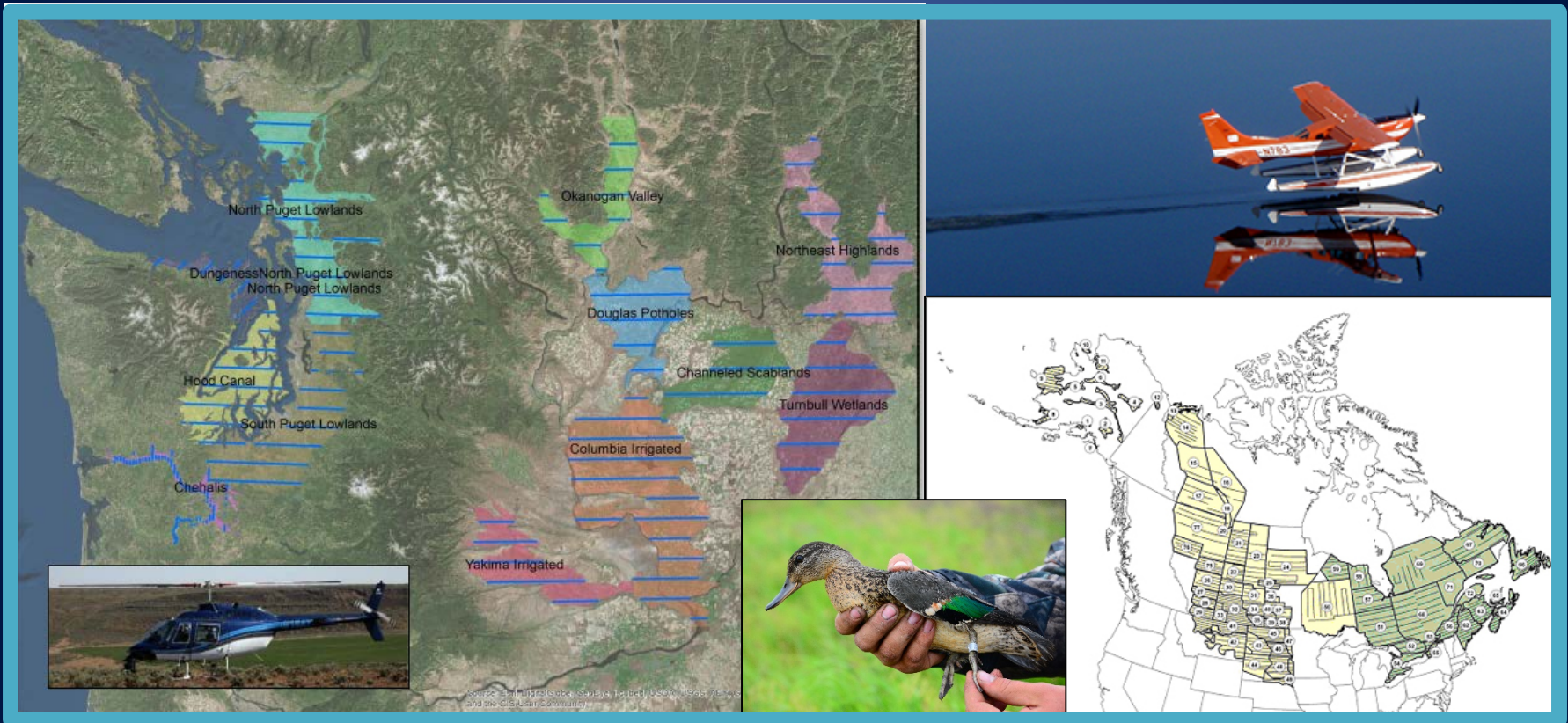
	Season Selections Due to USFWS <b>Late-April</b>
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Waterfowl Advisory Group & Public Input



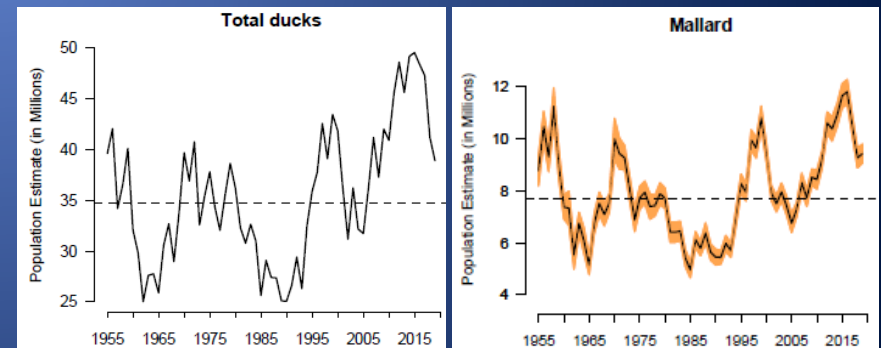
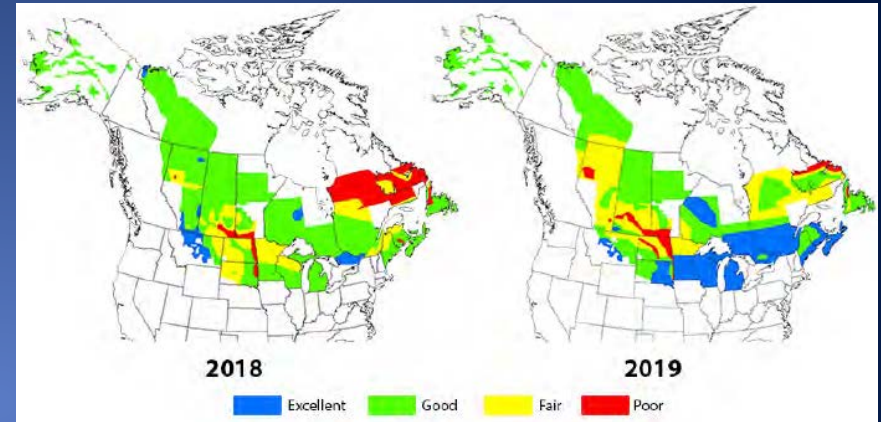
Pamphlet Published **July 1**

# Duck Population Status and Season Proposals



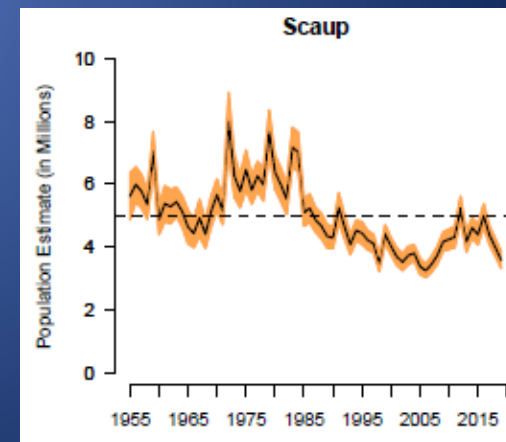
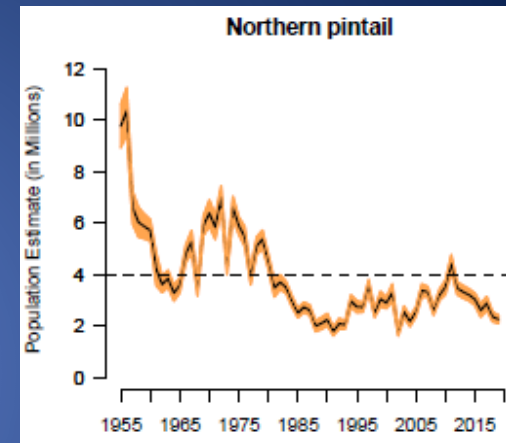
# Duck Population Status

- Similar to 2018
  - # ponds (habitat conditions)
  - Total ducks: 38.9 million (6% below 2018; 10% above LTA)
- All “10 principal” duck species have come down from 2015 peaks.



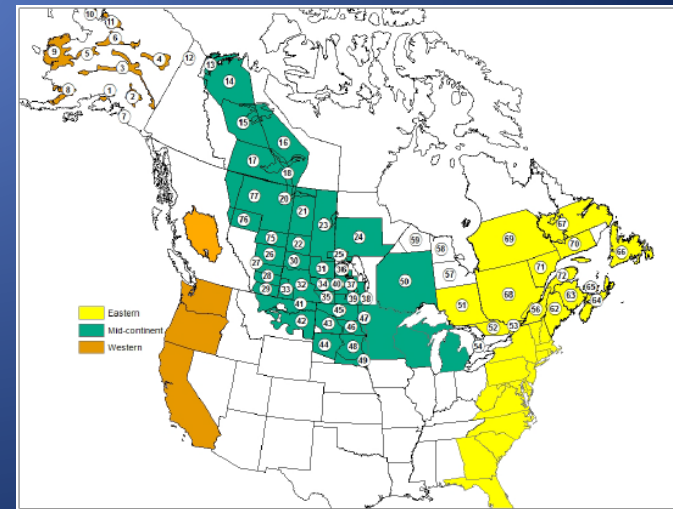
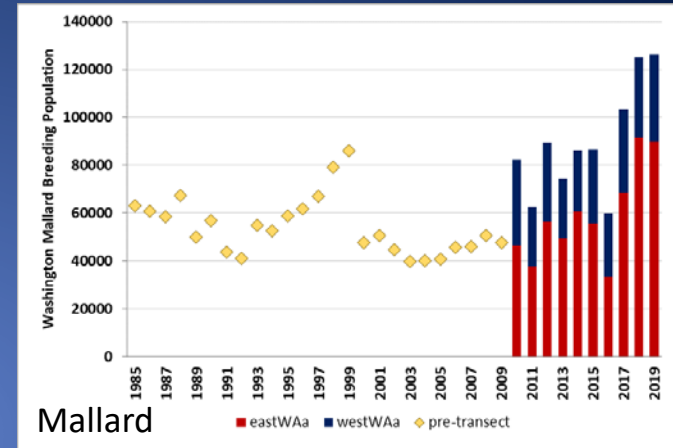
# Duck Population Status

- Problematic Status
  - Northern Pintail: 2.27 million
    - 42% below LTA; 9<sup>th</sup> lowest
  - Scaup: 3.59 million combined
    - 28% below LTA; 5<sup>th</sup> lowest
- National Strategies that inform harvest options
  - Northern Pintail = Liberal-1
    - 1 bird daily bag limit
  - Scaup = **Restrictive** Regs.
    - 2 bird daily bag limit;
    - 86 day season length



# Duck Population Status

- Washington Status
  - Mallard 126,243 (+1%)
- Western Mallard Strategy
  - Alaska portion (361K; -20%)
  - Southern Pacific Flyway
    - BC (75K; -5%)
    - Oregon (84K; -13%)
    - California (240K; -12%)
- Liberal Regs = 107 days;  
7 ducks/7 mallard/2 hens





# 2020-2021 Duck Season Proposals

## WAC 220-416-060

- Proposed general duck season dates and limits similar to 2019-2020, except reduced scaup daily bag limit
  - 107 days (except scaup)
    - 2-day youth hunt Sept. 26, 2020 and **Feb. 6, 2021** in western Washington (West Zone); Oct. 3, 2020 and **Feb. 6, 2021** in eastern Washington (East Zone)
    - 1-day veteran and active military hunt **Feb. 6, 2021** statewide
    - 105 day general season: Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020
  - 7 ducks, to include not more than:
    - 2 hen mallard, 1 pintail
    - 2 redhead, 2 canvasback, **2 scaup** (86-day season)
    - western WA sea duck reduced bag-limits:  
2 scoter, 2 goldeneye, 2 long-tailed, 1 harlequin (season limit)

# Youth, Veteran and Active Military Special Waterfowl Hunt Day

- Feb. 6, 2021
- Add description of required documentation for Veterans and Active Military (pg. 2,4, 16)
  - DD214,
  - Veteran Benefit Card,
  - Retired Active Military I.D., or
  - Active Duty I.D. card

18  
Took  
Date  
Unit Hunted  
Keller South  
Date  
2/1/2020  
Number of Hunters  
2  
Arrival Time: 8:30 AM  
Depart Time: 11:30  
Harvested: 5  
Species & Number  
Mallard  
Are you (please circle):  
 Youth  Active Duty  Veteran  
\*Please circle  
Overall Satisfaction: 1 = very poor, 2 = poor, 3 = fair, 4 = good, 5 = excellent  
Comments: Thank you!  
Please Slip on Dash while hunting. Place in Box when completed.  
Thank You and Happy Hunting!

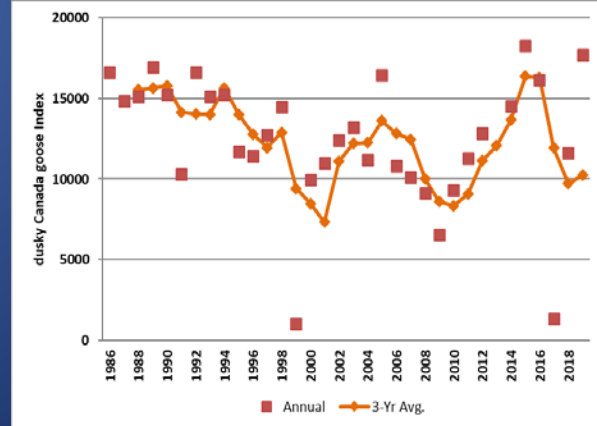
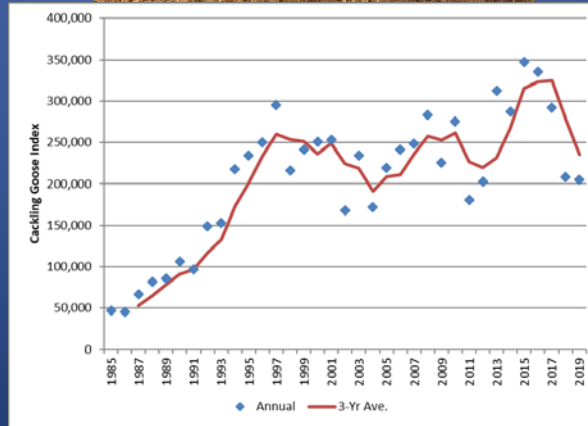
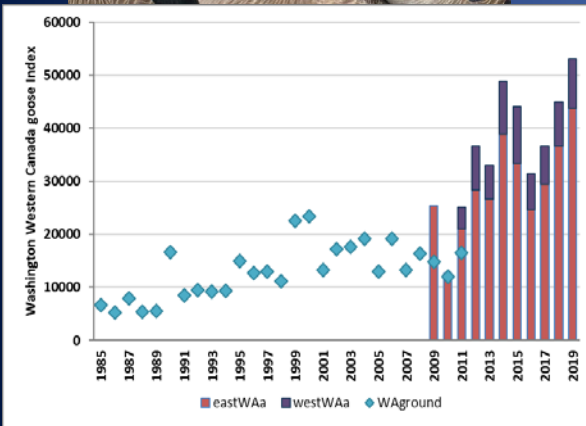
18  
Took  
Date  
Unit Hunted  
Thames  
Date  
2/1/2020  
Number of Hunters  
1  
Arrival Time: 1:10 PM  
Depart Time: 3:00 PM  
Harvested: 1  
Species & Number  
1st Snow Goose  
QTY = 1  
Are you (please circle):  
 Youth  Active Duty  Veteran  
\*Please circle  
Overall Satisfaction: 1 = very poor, 2 = poor, 3 = fair, 4 = good, 5 = excellent  
Comments: 5 excellent!!  
Please Slip on Dash while hunting. Place in Box when completed.

# Goose Population Status and Season Proposals



# 2020-2021 Goose Season Proposals

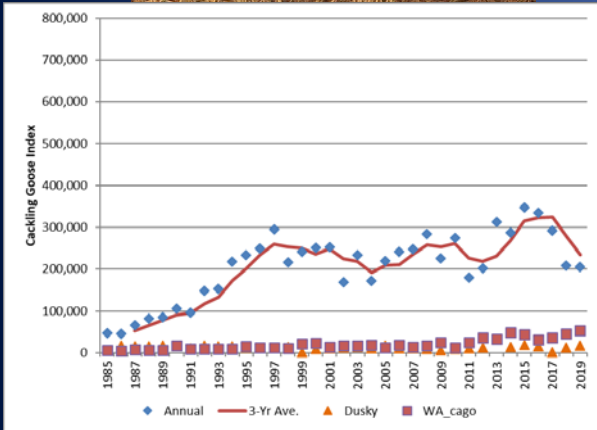
## WAC 220-416-060



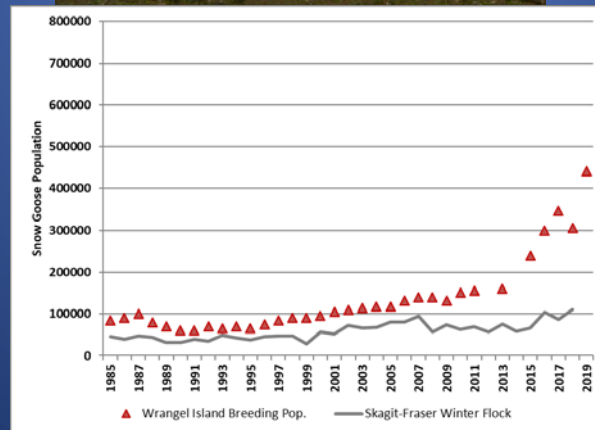
Canada/Cackling Geese  
Bag limit = 4

# 2020-2021 Goose Season Proposals

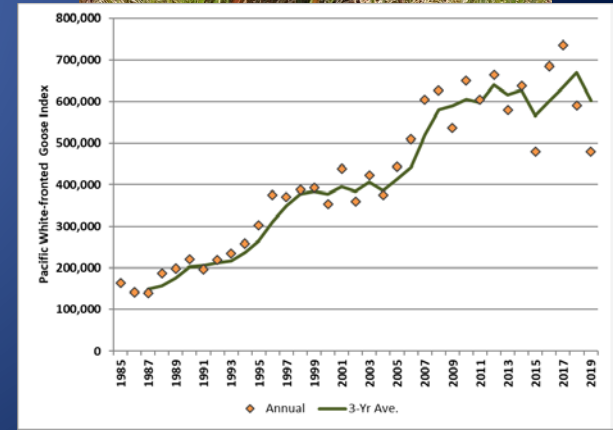
## WAC 220-416-060



Canada/Cackling Geese  
Bag limit = 4



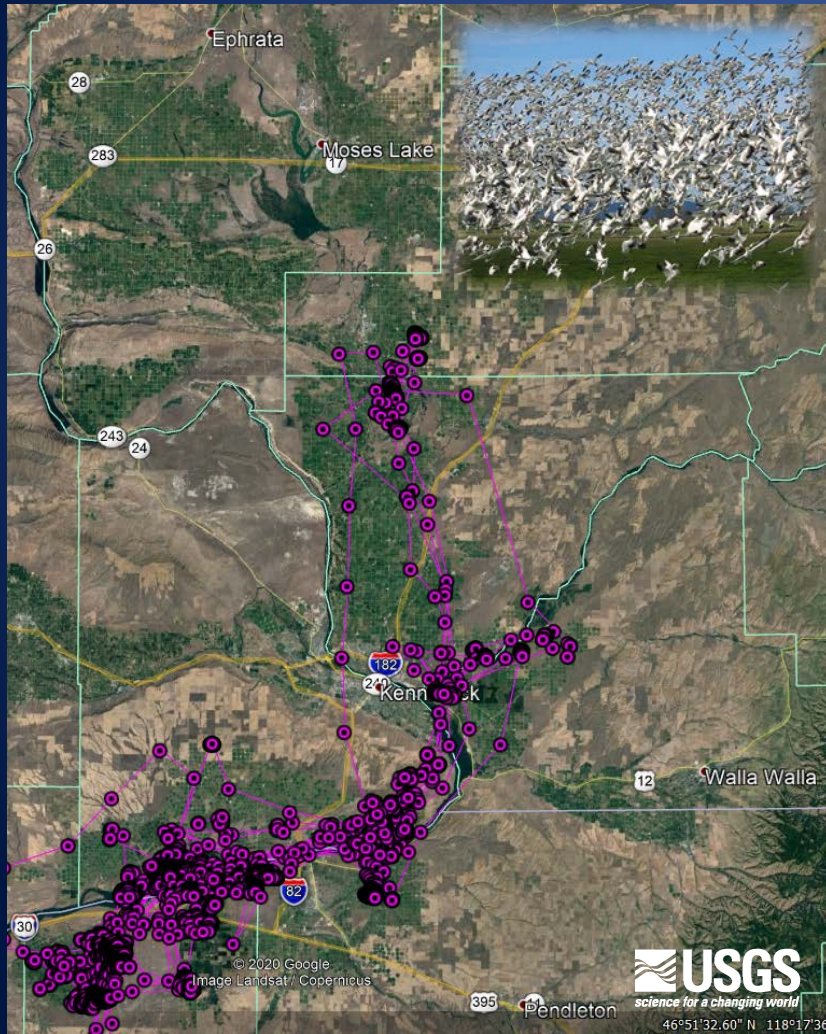
Snow Geese (white geese)  
Bag limit = 6



White-fronted Geese  
Bag limit = 10

# 2020-2021 Goose Season Proposals

## WAC 220-416-060 – GMA 4 White Geese



- Cont. increases in white geese in Goose Management Area 4;  
2018 = 52,841  
2019 = 160,825
- 107-days allowed by federal framework are maxed out
- 6 white goose bag limit
- Recommended adjustments:  
further delay season opener  
**Nov. 7, 2020**  
compared to other goose types
- **Shift 7 days**
- Resume a white-geese only season  
**Feb. 13 -March 3, 2021 (pg. 14)**

# 2020-2021 Brant Season Proposals

## WAC 220-416-060

- No changes to brant daily bag limit (2) with continuation of Mandatory Harvest Report
- Season dates between Jan. 16-31; except in Pacific
- Specified by county
  - Clallam: 3 days
  - Whatcom: 3 days
  - Skagit: 0-8 days, determined by survey results
  - Pacific: 14 days, starts Jan. 9
- Youth, Veteran & Active Military special hunt: **Feb. 6; all 4 counties**



# 2020-2021 Other Migratory Gamebirds WAC 220-416-060



No changes to season dates or bag limits.



# Public Comment

## Migratory Gamebird Proposals

- 129 comments
  - 54 Generally Agree
  - 66 Neutral
  - 9 Generally Do Not Agree

### Topics:

- Northern pintail and scaup lower bag-limits
- Snow goose seasons timing and bag-limits
- Season dates and federal frameworks confusion





**Questions?**