

Waterfowl Equipment and Restrictions

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WAC 220-414-040 Nontoxic shot requirements.

WAC 220-414-050 Shotgun shell restriction areas.

WAC 220-414-090 Use of decoys and calls.

Public Comment

WAC 220-414-040: Nontoxic shot requirements.

1,431 comments:

- 57% Agree
- 11% Disagree
- 33% Neutral

Common themes in twenty-two written comments:

- Both a mixture of support and opposition to restrictions on the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting
- A general misunderstanding that lead shot has been prohibited for waterfowl, coot, and snipe hunting consistent with federal law for 30 years

Shotgun shell restriction areas



Technical adjustments:
Johnson/DeBay's Slough Hunt Unit
and Dungeness Unit
to align intent and legal description

"Addition" of Skagit Wildlife Area's:

- Samish River Unit to differentiate from Samish Unit
- South Padilla Bay Unit

Both current management



Public Comment

WAC 220-414-050: Shotgun shell restriction areas.

1,388 comments:

- 42% Agree
- 10% Disagree
- 47% Neutral

Common themes in fifteen written comments:

- Misunderstanding that this is not a change but reflects current management
- The need for better maps

Use of decoys and calls



Federal law prohibits the use of electronic calls, EXCEPT

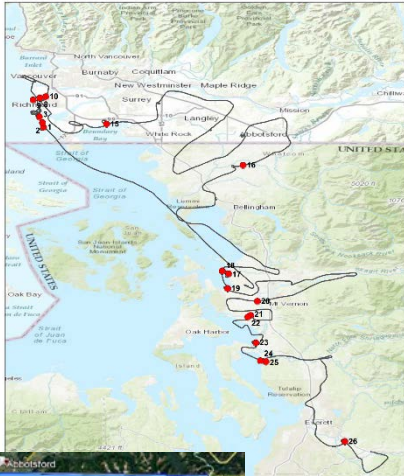
During a white goose-only season segment (snow, Ross', and blue phase geese)

Aligns state regulation with this federal exception that has existed since 2008

Providing a final harvest management tool to increase harvest on snow geese



Goose Season Proposals – Goose Management Area 1 & 4



Continued increases in Wrangel Island (Russia) snow geese:
Wrangel Island: >120,000 spring pop. obj.
GMA 1: 133,306 (3yr-avg. = 89,068 adults)
GMA 4: 153,690 (no management obj.)

The 107-days allowed are maxed out, Outside of this 107-days requires an agricultural depredation permit (non-consumptive take)



Proposals:

Modify boundary of Goose Management Area 1 to include areas where Feb. dates are effective

Increase to **10** white goose bag limit statewide

Maintain white goose-only season segments

GMA1: Feb. 12 – 22 (11 days)

GMA4: Feb. 12 – Mar. 2 (19 days)



Increase to **20** white goose bag limit during a white goose-only season segment



Public Comment

WAC 220-414-090: Use of decoys and calls.

1,371 comments:

- 61% Agree
- 9% Disagree
- 30% Neutral

Common themes in forty written comments:

- Federal law vs. State regulations
- A misunderstanding that this proposal CAN ONLY occur during a white goose-only season segment
- Confusion for management strategy differences between this population of snow geese and those in the Central and Mississippi Flyways
- Requests to allow use of electronic calls for all waterfowl hunting
- Requests to allow use of electronic decoys for all waterfowl hunting (not proposed for change)

Questions?



Electronic decoys – no change

3-Year Season Setting Cycle	Opposed Use of electronic decoys	Support of electronic decoys IF they did not lead to hunting restrictions	Support use of electronic decoys <i>unconditionally</i>	Regulatory Result
2020	43.1%	30.4%	26.5%	Not Proposed For Change
PREVIOUS				
2011	29%	57%	14%	FWC maintained prohibition
2006	40%	49%	11%	FWC maintained prohibition
2001	34%	46%	20%	FWC enacted prohibition



Washington – Mallard Harvest

STATE	FRAMEWORK Days / Total Bag/ # MALL / #Hens	Mallard Rank Nationally	Mallard Composition in Duck Harvest	Harvest Rate Adult Males Adult Females
Western Mallard AHM Expectation	107/7/7/2			AM = 0.134 (AF = 0.071)*
COMPARISONS				
WA	107/7/7/2	2 nd (4 of last 5 years)	45-51%	AM = 0.190 AF = 0.114
California	107/7/7/2	3rd	~15%	AM = 0.120 AF = 0.052
Arkansas	60/6/4/2 Mississippi Flyway	1st	~46%	NA* (not a breeding source) AM = 0.107

