

Migratory Gamebird Seasons and Regulations

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WAC 220-416-060 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.

Migratory Gamebirds:

ducks

geese

coot & snipe

mourning dove

band-tailed pigeon

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
August




USFWS Service Regs Committee
October

Non-framework Changes



Commission Briefing - **March**

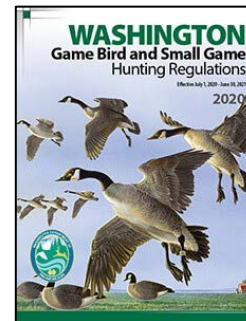


Commission Adoption - **April**



Season Selections Due to USFWS
Late-April

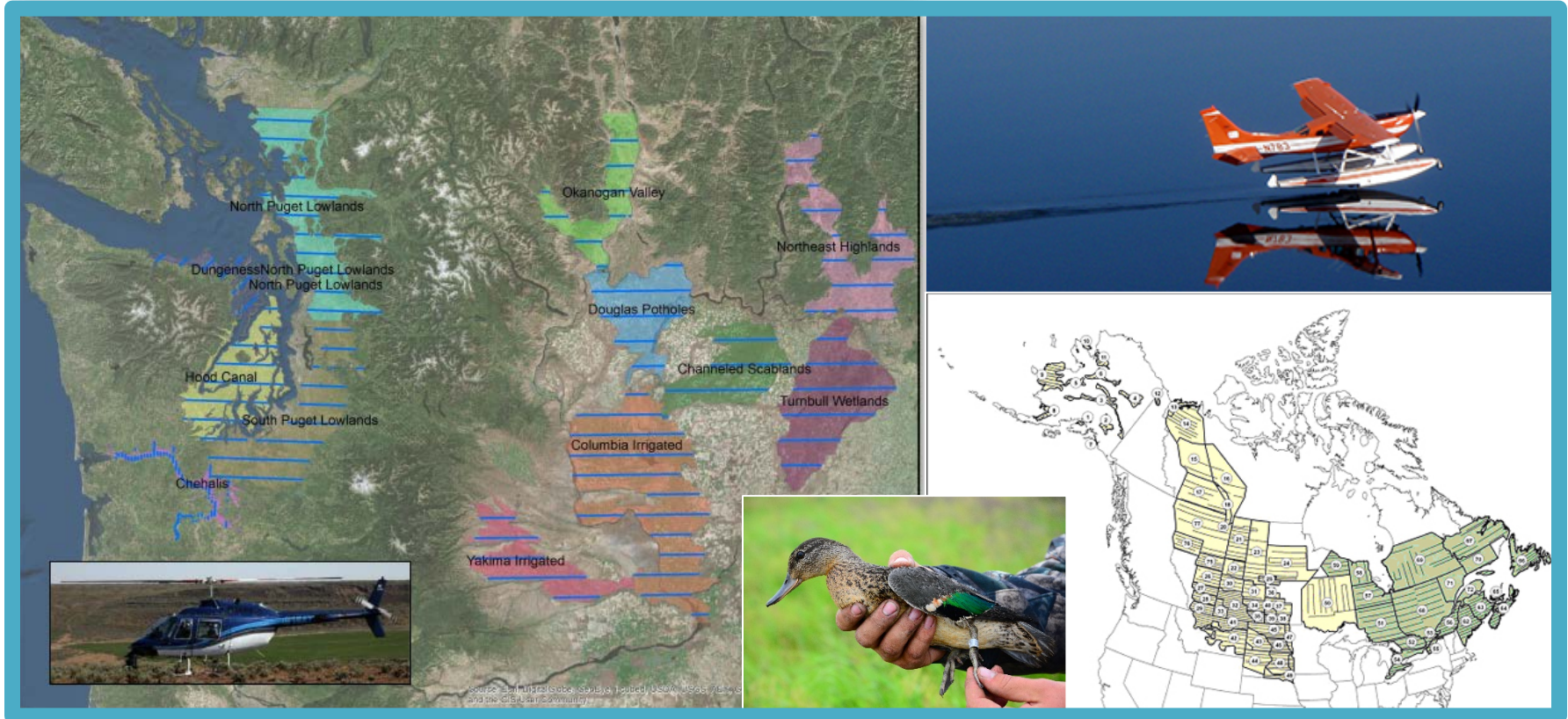
Waterfowl Advisory Group & Public Input



Pamphlet Published **July 1**



Duck Population Status and Season Proposals



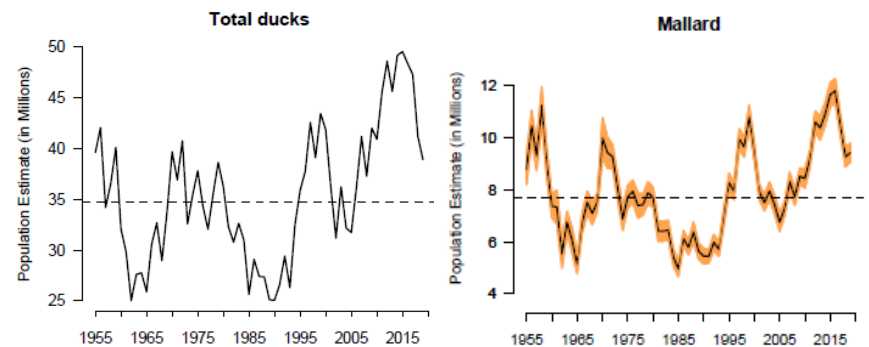
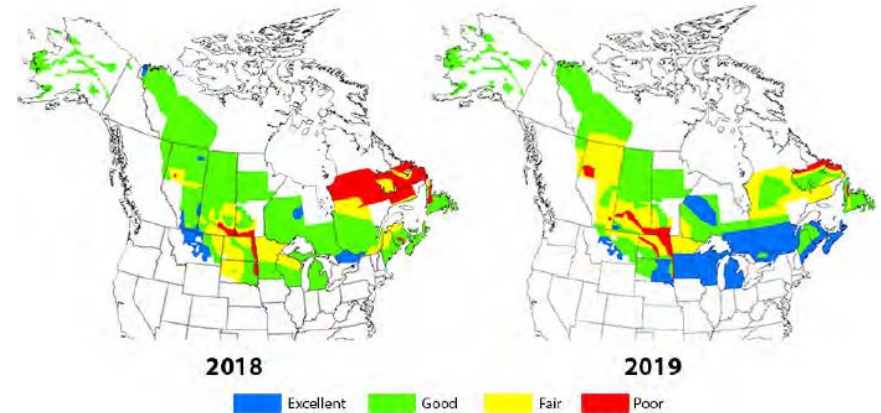
Duck Populations Status

No 2020 Surveys (COVID)

2019 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



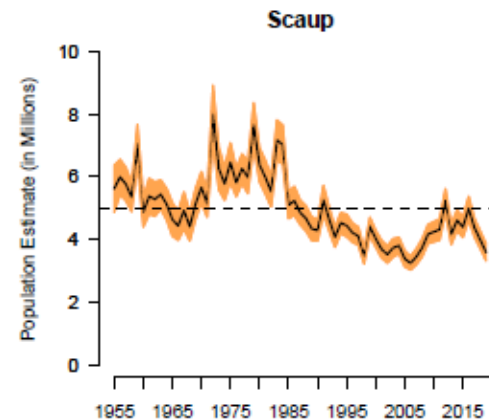
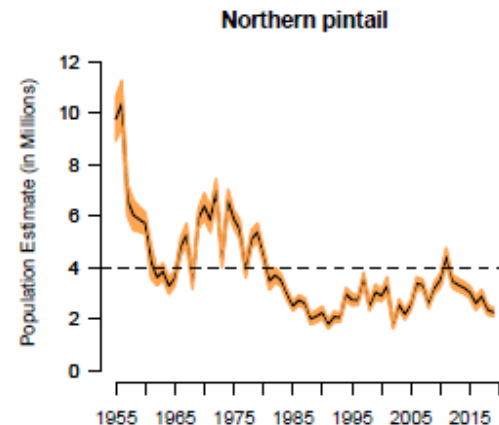
Duck Populations Status

Problematic Status

- **Northern Pintail**: 2.27 million
 - 42% below LTA; 9th lowest
- **Scaup**: 3.59 million combined
 - 28% below LTA; 5th 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 Populations Status

Washington Status (2019)

- Mallard 126,243 (+1%)

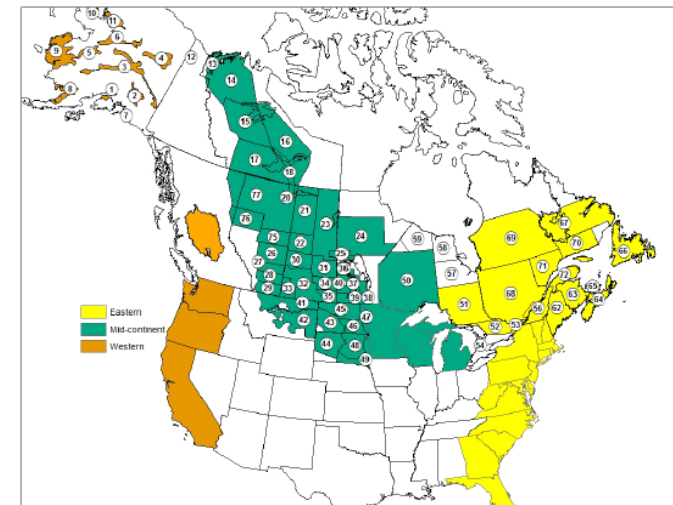
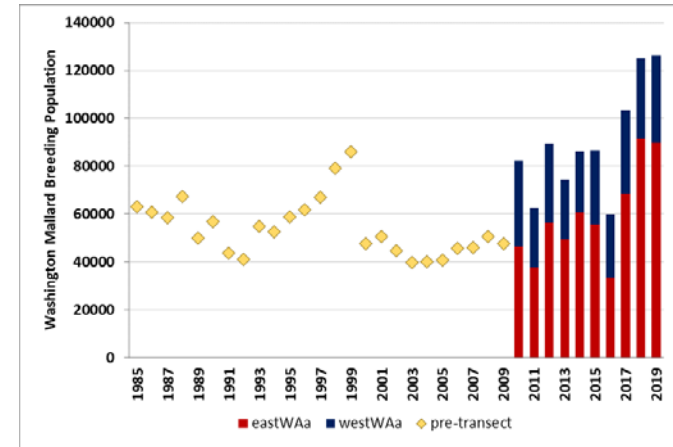
Western Mallard Strategy

–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



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



2021-2022 Duck Season Proposals

WAC 220-416-060

Proposed general duck season dates and bag limits:

- 107 days (except scaup)
 - 2-day youth hunt
 - **Sept. 25, 2021** and **Feb. 5, 2022** in western WA (West Zone);
 - **Oct. 2, 2021** and **Feb. 5, 2022** in eastern WA (East Zone)
 - 1-day veteran and active military hunt **Feb. 5, 2022** statewide
 - 105-day general season: **Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021**
 - Requiring a 2-day closure Oct. 25-26 (Mon. & Tues.)
- 7 ducks, to include not more than:
 - 2 hen mallard, **1 pintail**
 - 2 redhead, 2 canvasback, 2 scaup (86-day season, **Nov. 6** opener)
 - western WA (West Zone) sea duck reduced bag-limits:
 - 2 scoter, 2 goldeneye, 2 long-tailed duck,
 - 1 harlequin duck (season limit)



Sea Duck Status

Scoter:

Most recent 3yr-avg. = 61,074

– Restrictive Regulation Package

Goldeneye:

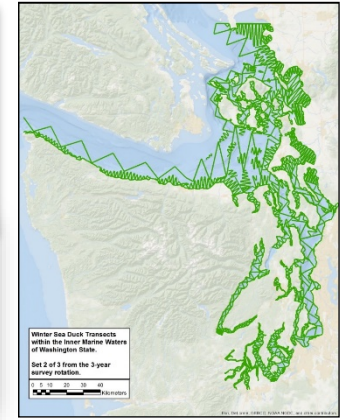
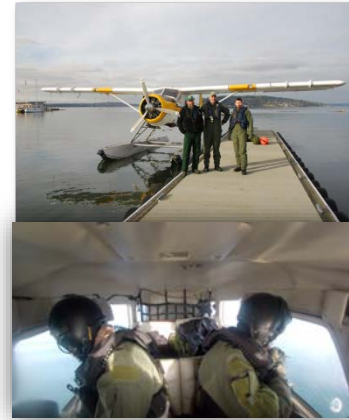
Most recent 3yr-avg = 42,946;
+9.2% of 2007-09 avg.

Long-tailed Duck:

Most recent 3yr-avg = 5,097;
+13% of 2007-09 avg.

Harlequin Duck:

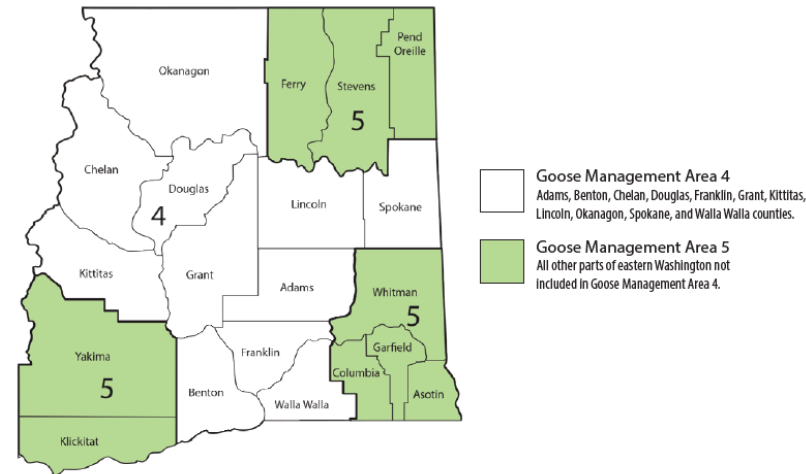
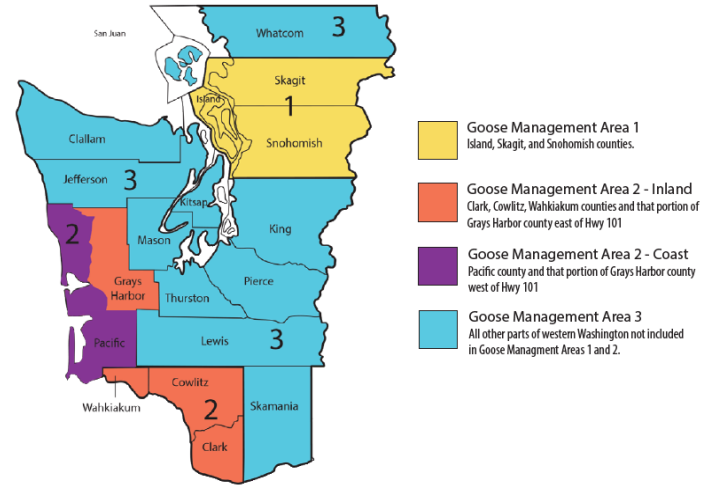
Most recent 3yr-avg = 4,026;
87% (-13%) of 2007-09 avg.



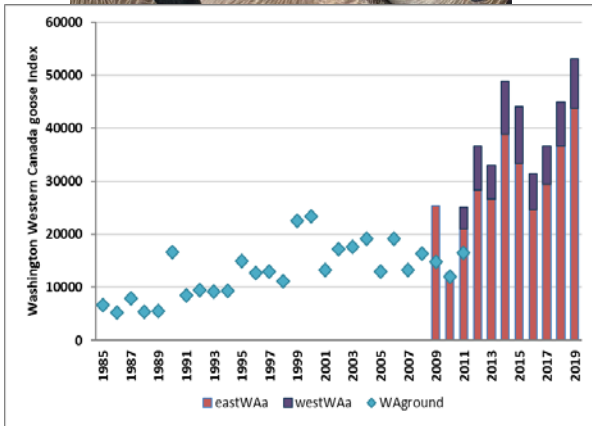
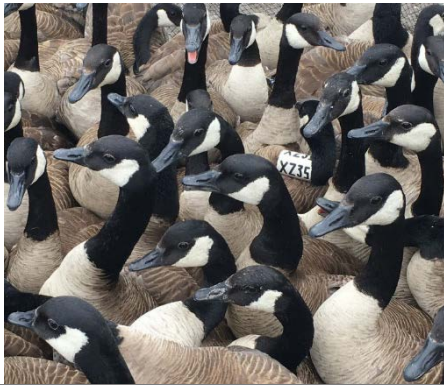
Regulation Package	Winter Index (3-yr)*	Bag Limit
Closure	<45,000	0
Restrictive	45,000-67,500	2
Moderate	67,500-135,000	4
Liberal	>135,000	7



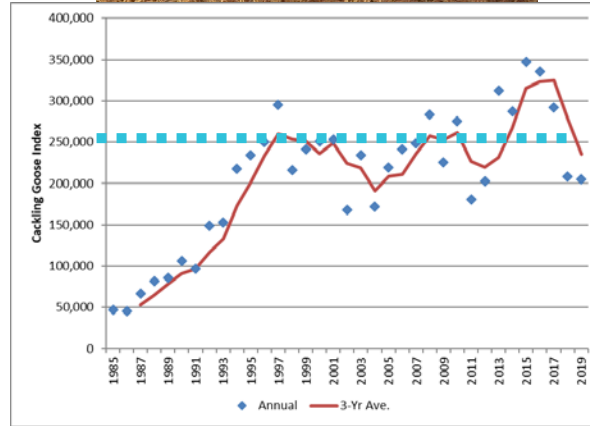
Goose Populations Status and Season Proposals



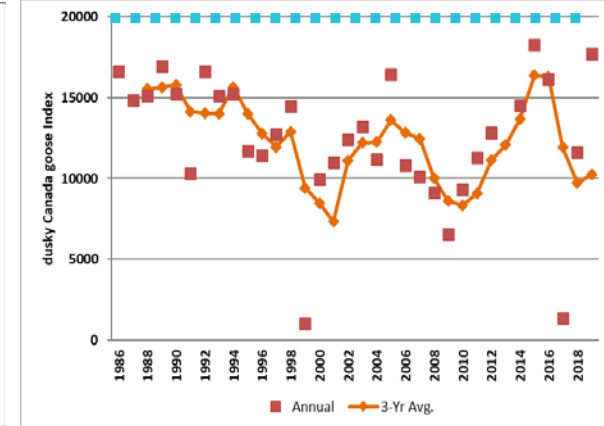
Goose Populations Status



PopObjective: >3,500 pairs



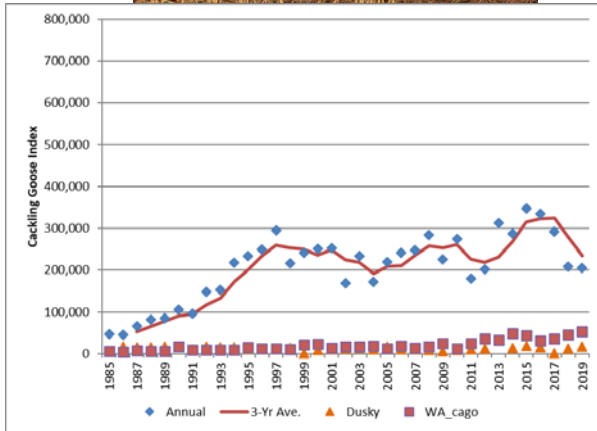
PopObjective: 250,000
Current 3-yr: 235,137 (-6%)



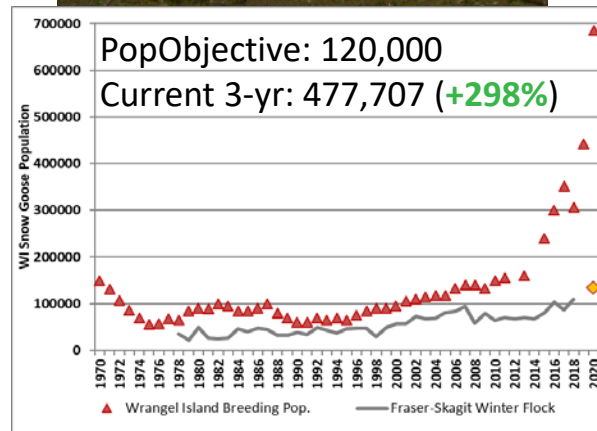
PopObjective: 20,000
Current 3yr: 14,410 (-28%)



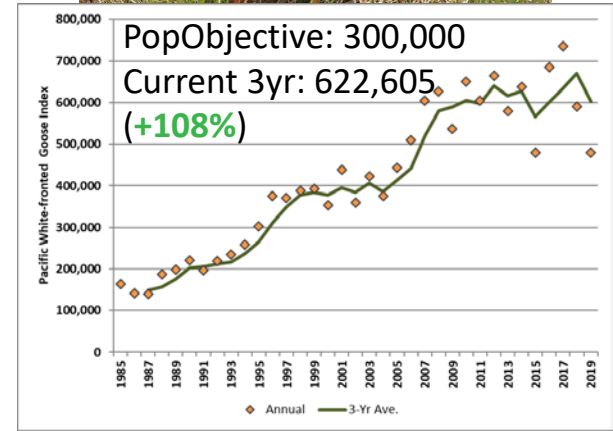
Goose Populations Status & Bag-limit Proposals



Canada/Cackling Geese
Bag limit = 4



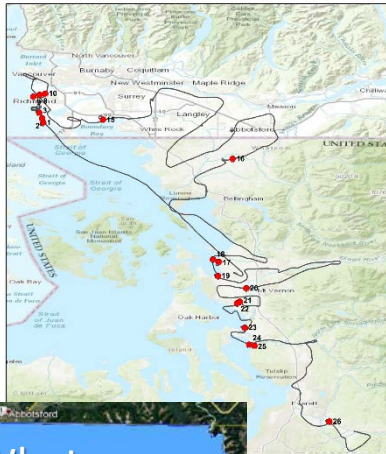
Snow Geese (white geese)
Bag limit = 10 statewide
20 during white goose-only season segments



White-fronted Geese
Bag limit = 10



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



Brant Season Proposal

No changes to brant daily bag limit (2), based upon Pacific Flyway Winter Brant Survey, with continuation of Mandatory Harvest Report

Season Dates in January 2022

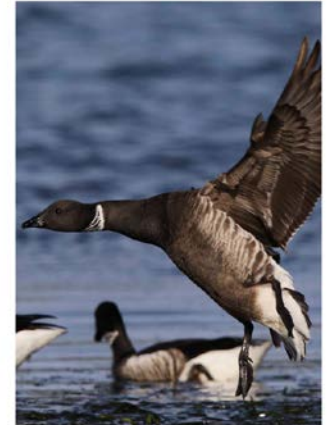
Specified by county

- Clallam: 3 days (Jan. 15, 19, 22)
- Whatcom: 3 days (same)
- Skagit: 0-8 days, determined by Annual aerial survey results
- Pacific: 14 days, starts Jan. 8, 2022

Youth, Veteran & Active Military date:
Feb. 5, 2022; all 4 counties



Management Plan:
Pacific Population
of Brant



Adopted March 2018



Season Dates: Coot

same as duck seasons

Bag-limits: 25 daily

No changes to season dates or bag limits



Season Dates: Snipe

same as duck seasons (except not open during special hunt dates)

Bag-limits: 8 daily

No changes to season dates or bag limits.



Mourning Dove



Season Dates:

Sept. 1 – Oct. 30, 2021

Bag-limits: 15 daily

No changes to season dates or bag limits.



Band-tailed Pigeon

Season Dates:

Sept. 15-23, 2021

Bag-limits: 2 daily

No changes to season dates or bag limits



Falconry – Migratory Gamebirds

Season Dates:

Ducks, coots, snipe and mourning dove
same as season dates approved for each species

Bag-limits: 3, straight or mixed bag, including ducks, coots, snipe,
geese, and mourning doves during established seasons
No changes to season dates or bag limits

EXTENDED FALCONRY Season Dates:

Sept. 25, 2021 and Feb. 5, 2022 in western Washington

Oct. 2, 2021 and Feb. 5, 2022 in eastern Washington

Bag-limits: 3, straight or mixed bag, including allowable species
specified under youth, veterans and active military personnel dates.

Mourning Dove: Oct. 31, 2021 – Dec. 16, 2021



Public Comment – WAC 220-416-060



1,281 responses

- 58% Agree
- 5% Disagree
- 37% Neutral

34 written comments

Common Themes:

- Northern pintail and scaup lower bag-limits
- Goose Management Areas; purpose and season timing
- Season dates and federal frameworks confusion
- Sea duck management and increased # of hunters, concerns over limited species



Questions?

