

Migratory Gamebird Seasons and Regulations – Decision

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Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

STAFF WILL BRIEF THE COMMISSION ON:

- WAC 220-416-060 2022-2023 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.
- WAC 220-414-040 Nontoxic shot requirements.
- WAC 220-414-050 Shotgun shell restriction areas.
- WAC 220-414-090 Use of decoys and calls.



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

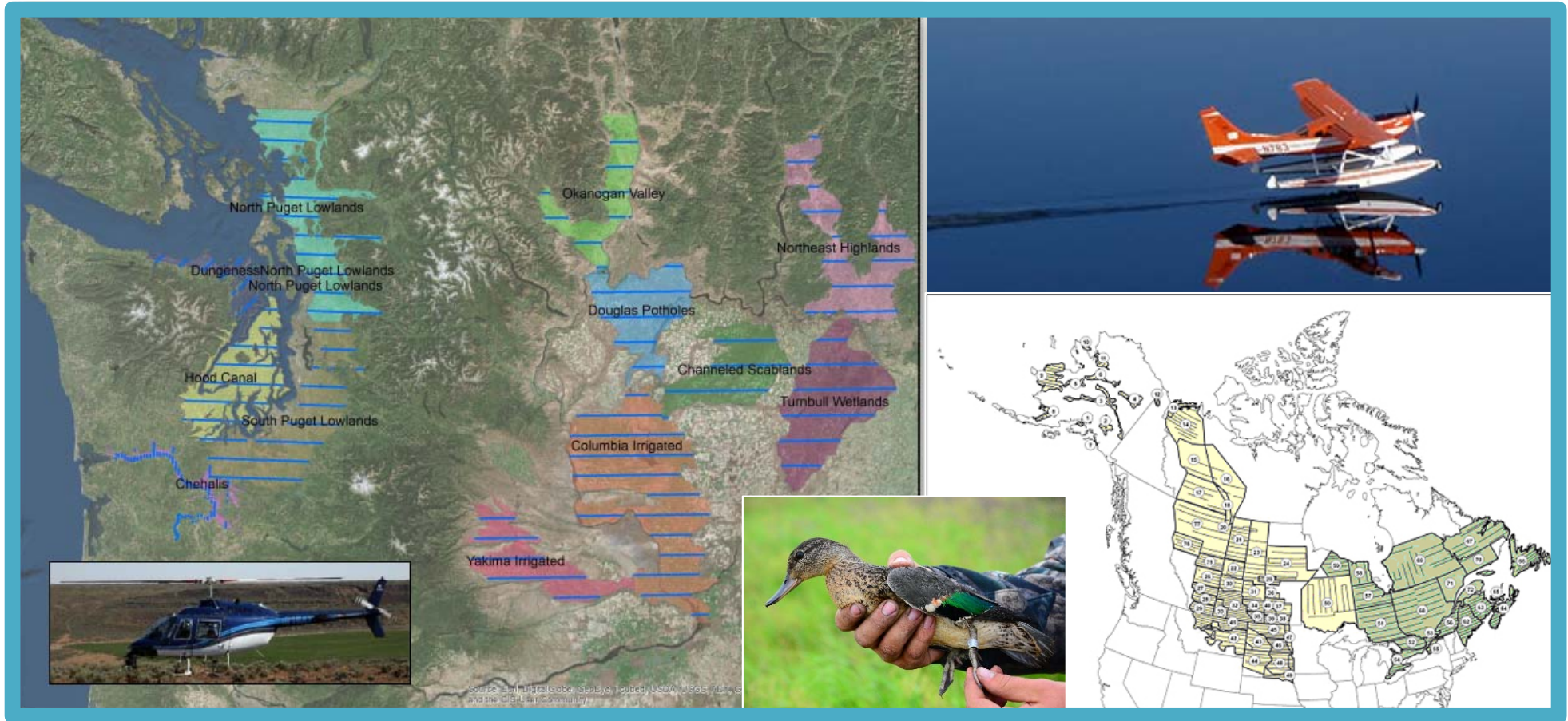
Waterfowl Advisory Group & Public Input



Pamphlet Published **July 1**



Duck Population Status and Season Proposals



WAC 220-416-060

2022-2023 Duck Season Proposals

Proposed general duck season dates and bag limits:

- 107 days (except scaup)
 - 2-day youth hunt
 - **Sept. 24, 2022** and **Feb. 4, 2023** in western WA (West Zone);
 - **Oct. 1, 2022** and **Feb. 4, 2023** in eastern WA (East Zone)
 - 1-day veteran and active military hunt **Feb. 4, 2023** statewide
 - 105-day general season: **Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022**
 - Requiring a 2-day closure Oct. 24-25 (Mon. & Tues.)
- 7 ducks, to include not more than:
 - 2 hen mallard, 1 pintail
 - 2 redhead, 2 canvasback, 2 scaup (86-day season, **Nov. 5** opener)
 - western WA (West Zone) sea duck reduced bag-limits:
 - 2 scoter, 2 goldeneye, 2 long-tailed duck,
 - ~~1 harlequin duck (season-limit)*~~ harlequin duck are closed to harvest statewide.



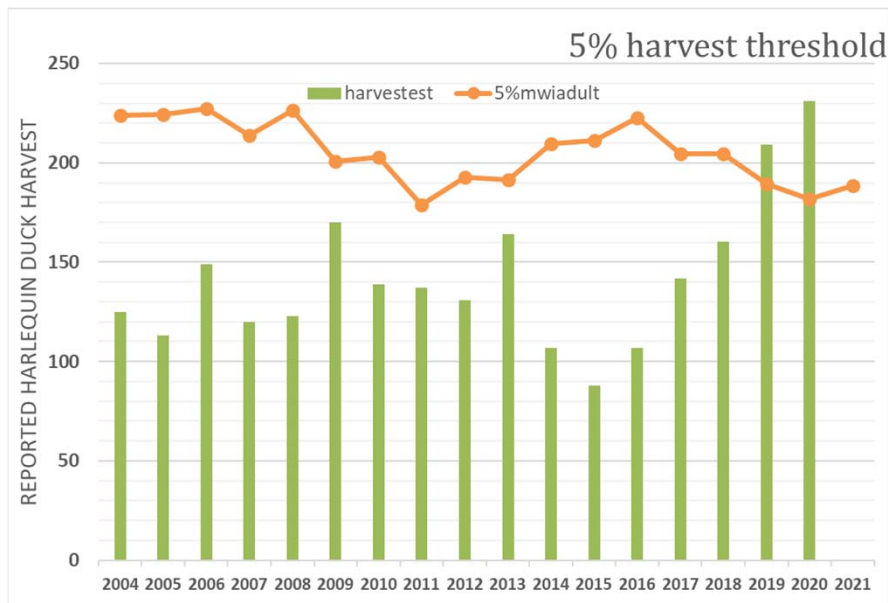
Sea Duck Harvest Strategy

(2013): “Additional restrictions will be considered for harlequin duck, long-tailed duck, and goldeneye if significant declines occur (<70% of 2007-09 average), also based on evaluation of harvest rates.”

“Goudie et al. (1994) estimated sustainable harvest of harlequin ducks at 3-5% of the adult population...” [90.3% adult pop]

Harlequin Duck = 3,913

Most recent 3yr-avg = 4,178;
90% (-10%) of 2007-09 avg.



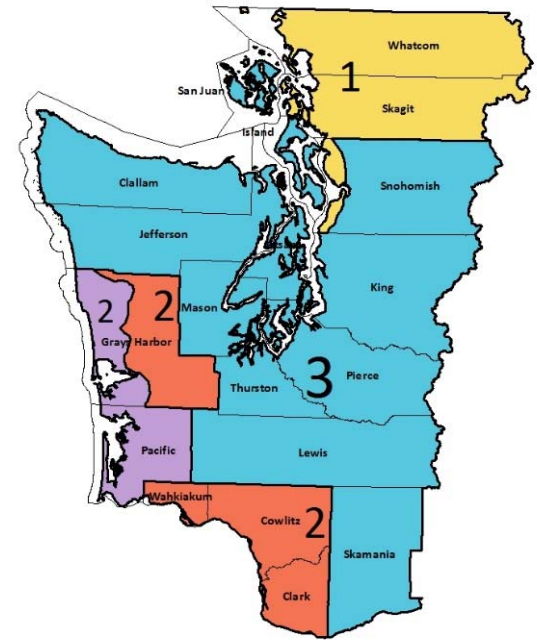
Harvest Rate check

2020 (compliant-only)
231 (90; 30.6%;
4,701 cards)
(5.7-6.4%)

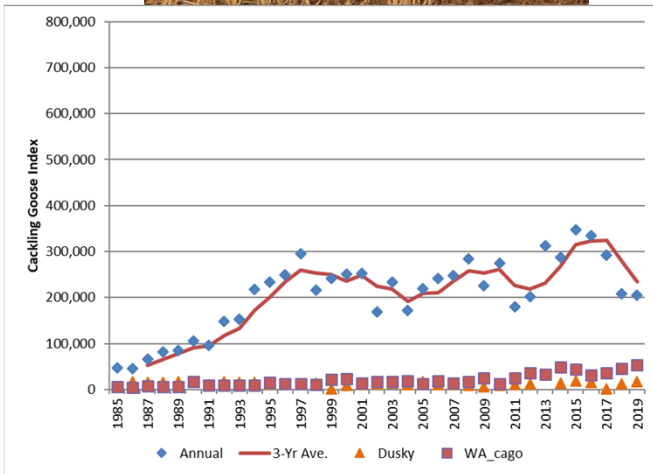
2021 (compliant-only)
>189 (131; 32.2%;
5,169 cards)
(>5%)



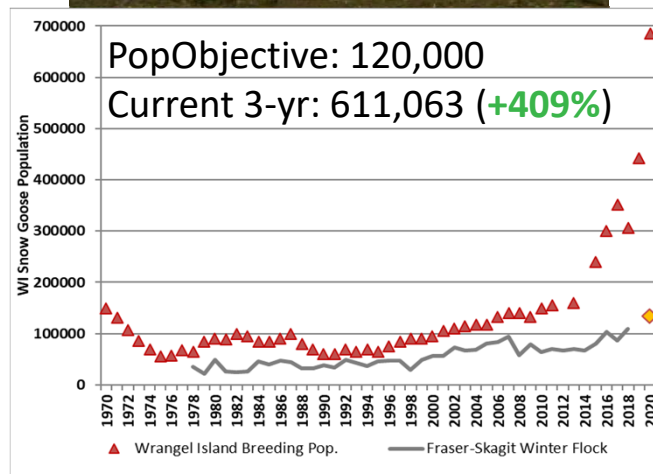
Goose Populations Status and Season Proposals



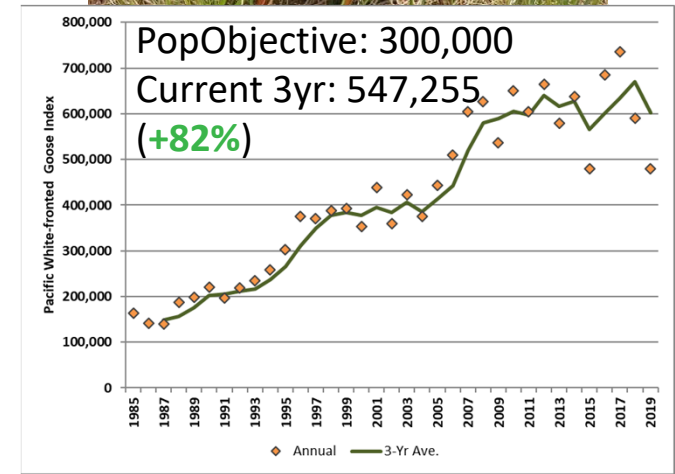
Goose Populations Status & Bag-limit Proposals



Canada/Cackling Geese
 Bag limit = 4
 Except in GMA2
 Bag limit = 3



Snow Geese (white geese)
 Bag limit = 10 statewide;
 20 during white goose-
 only season segments
 GMA1 (11d) GMA4 (19d)



White-fronted Geese
 Bag limit = 10



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 2023

Specified by county

- Clallam: 3 days (~~Jan. 14, 18, 21~~) Jan. 21, 25, 28*
- Whatcom: 3 days (same)
- Skagit: 0-8 days, determined by aerial survey results (starts closed)*
- Pacific: 14 days, starts Jan. 7, 2023

Youth, Veteran & Active Military date:

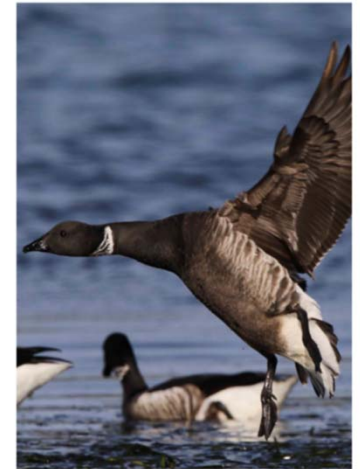
Feb. 4, 2023; Clallam, Whatcom, Pacific,

Skagit will depend upon results of aerial survey

PACIFIC FLYWAY COUNCIL



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, 2022

Bag-limits: 15 daily

No changes to season dates or bag limits.



Band-tailed Pigeon

Season Dates:

Sept. 17-25, 2022; to allow two weekends and overlap with youth waterfowl in western WA

Bag-limits: 2 daily (no change)



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

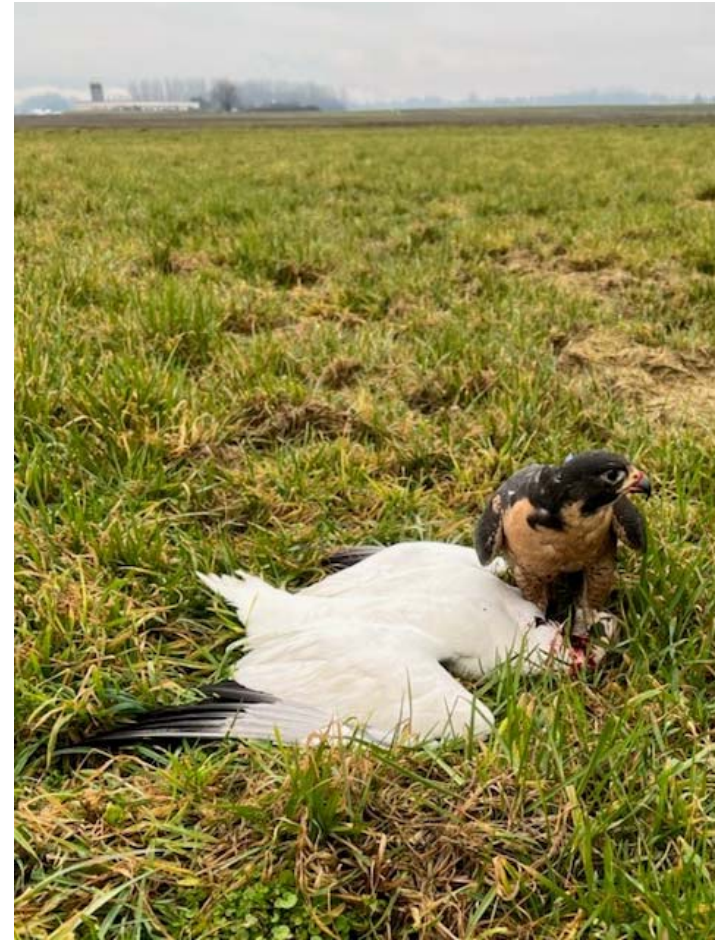
No changes to season dates or bag limits

EXTENDED FALCONRY Season Dates:

Sept. 24, 2022 and Feb. 4, 2023 in western WA

Oct. 1, 2022 and Feb. 4, 2023 in eastern WA

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



Mourning Dove: Oct. 31, 2022 – Dec. 16, 2022



Questions?





WAC 220-414-040 Nontoxic shot requirements.

WAC 220-414-050 Shotgun shell restriction areas.

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

Motion Language:

I move to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented by Department staff.

Is there a “second”?

