

Agenda Item 13

Rule Action



2012-14 Hunting Season Regulation Process

- Governor's Suspension on Non-Critical Rule Making
- Commission Rule Making Process
 - Commission Hearing and Testimony – March 9
 - Recommended Adjustments for the Commission's notebook
 - **Commission Decision Today, April 14**

Public Comment

- Comments are Summarized by WAC with the Agency's Response
- Resulted in several Recommended Adjustments
- Most of those are in your Notebooks
- However, there will be a few floor amendments to the recommendations you will hear today

Agenda Item 13

Hunting Practices

- Several issues rolled up in this agenda item
- Crossbow rules
- Baiting of Waterfowl
- Hunting at Night
- Electronic equipment
 - Illuminated nocks
 - Waterfowl decoys

Crossbow Rules

WACs: 232-12-047 and 232-12-054

- The intent of the recommended change is to clean up language associated with the use of Crossbows.
- Clarified the rules for a legal crossbow
- Recommendation: allow scopes and clarify what is a legal crossbow



Baiting of Game Birds

WAC 232-12-264

Recent History

- September 2009: Commission briefing on baiting regulations
- August 2010:
 - Proposed rule to align state regulations with federal regulations
 - Deferred to 3-year season package process



Baiting of Game Birds

- Current baiting regulations are different in state and federal law for migratory game birds
- Landowners and hunters need more clarity to know what is prohibited
- Standardized regulations will allow officers to effectively identify violations and enforce baiting rules

Baiting of Game Birds

- Recommendation:
 - Modify 232-12-264 to make state rule consistent with federal law.

Electronic Equipment

WACs 232-12-054 & 232-12-257

- Fair Chase – Hunter Ethics
- Where to draw the line with electronics
- GMAC – debated the issue and decided that devices designed to increase success should be restricted

Electronic Equipment

WACs 232-12-054 & 232-12-257

Two Issues for 2012-14:

- Illuminated nocks
- Waterfowl decoys

Archery Equipment

WAC 232-12-054

- Proposal:
 - Exempt illuminated nocks from the restriction on electronic equipment attached to the bow or arrow

Electronic Waterfowl Decoys

WAC 232-12-257

- Electronic waterfowl decoys completely prohibited in Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington; and partially prohibited in Minnesota and California
- Debated in Washington since 2000
- Mainly a fair chase / hunter ethics issue

Electronic Waterfowl Decoys

- Conclusions from USGS (2006) review of spinning-wing decoy studies in 6 locations:
 - Spinning-wing decoys are strong attractants to ducks and increase kill rates by 2.4 times (range 1.3 - 33) over traditional decoying methods
 - Effectiveness differs among duck species, timing in season, and location in flyway
 - Population level harvest rate effects unknown



Electronic Waterfowl Decoys

- USFWS (2005) Summary of Considerations
 - The biological impacts are currently uncertain
 - Main questions:
 - Should technology be limited?
 - Is this equipment considered within the bounds of fair chase?
 - What are the impacts on traditional hunting methods and skills?

Electronic Waterfowl Decoys

Hunter Opinions

- Waterfowl Advisory Group voted twice to continue the prohibition and twice to eliminate it
- Game Management Advisory Committee voted to continue the prohibition
- Internet surveys:
 - 46-57% favor if seasons not affected
 - 29-40% oppose
 - 11-20% favor regardless of potential season impacts

Electronic Waterfowl Decoys

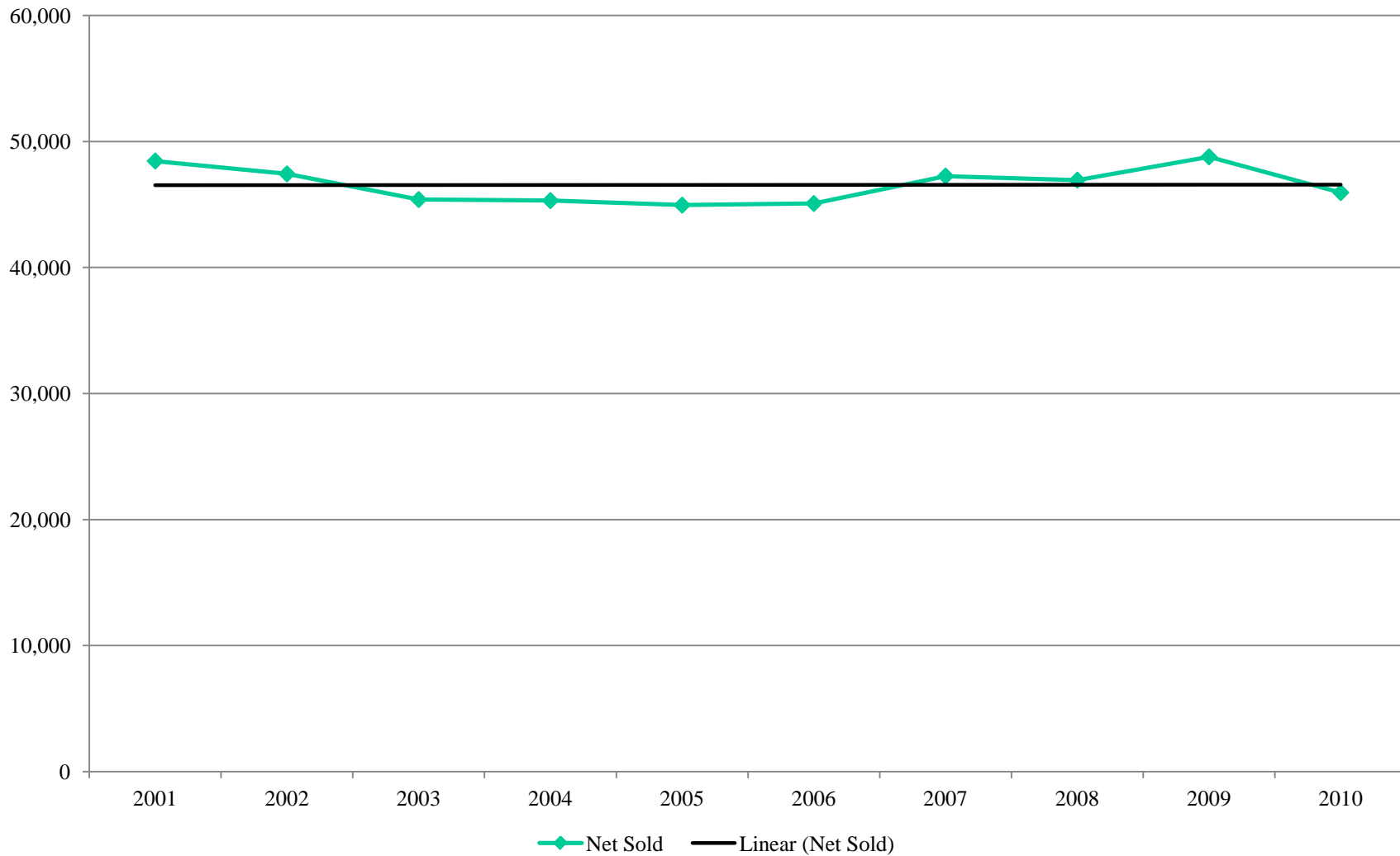
WAC 232-12-257

- WAC language for consideration:
 - Removes waterfowl decoys from the prohibition on electronic decoys

Questions???



WDFW MIGRATORY BIRD VALIDATION SALES



Western Mallard Trends

