

WAC 220-413-090 and WAC 220-416-060

Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

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Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons Authorities

- USFWS Authority:
Federal Framework
 - Earliest opening date
 - Latest closing date
 - Limits
 - Season length
- State Discretion:
WAC within Federal Framework
 - Can be more restrictive but not more liberal
 - Season timing within outside dates



Washington's Waterfowl Diversity

Ducks (27 species)

- Dabbling (9)
- Diving (5)
- Seaduck (11)
- Wood duck
- Ruddy duck



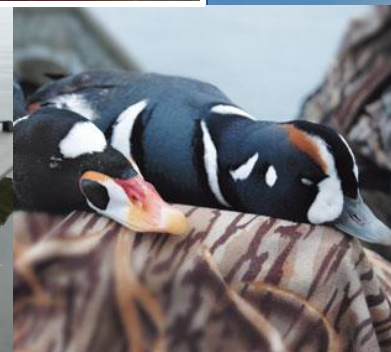
Geese (12 populations)

- Canada/cackling (7 – **one closed**)
- White (Light) (2)
- White-fronted (1)
- Brant (2)

Swans (2 species – **closed to harvest**)

Other migratory gamebirds

- Doves
- Band-tailed Pigeons
- Coot
- Snipe



Process for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

Framework Changes

Pacific Flyway Meetings
August - September



USFWS
Service Regulations
Committee
October

State Season Selections
Due in Late April

Non-framework Changes

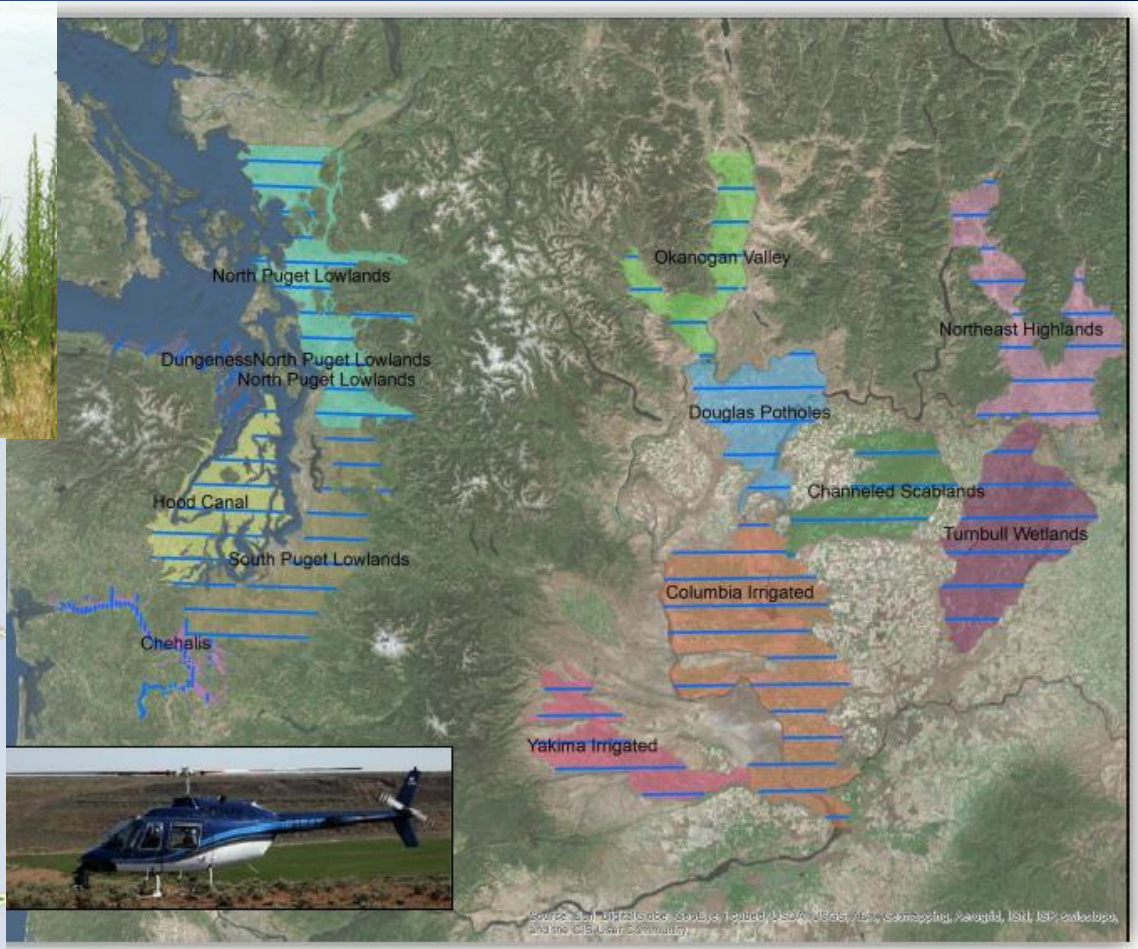
Commission - March



Commission - April



Duck Population Status and Season Proposals



2019-2020 Duck Season Proposals

WAC 220-416-060

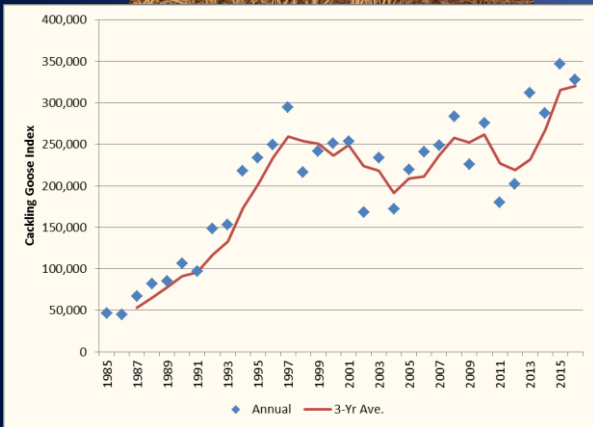
- Proposed general duck season dates and limits similar to 2018-2019, except pintail bag limit
 - 107 days
 - 2-day youth hunt **Sept. 21-22, 2019** in western Washington (West Zone); **Sept. 28-29, 2019** in eastern Washington (East Zone)
 - 105 day general season
 - 7 ducks, to include not more than:
 - 2 hen mallard, **1 pintail**
 - 2 redhead, 2 canvasback, 3 scaup
 - W. WA: 2 scoter, 2 long-tail, 2 goldeneye, 1 harlequin (season limit)

Goose Population Status and Season Proposals

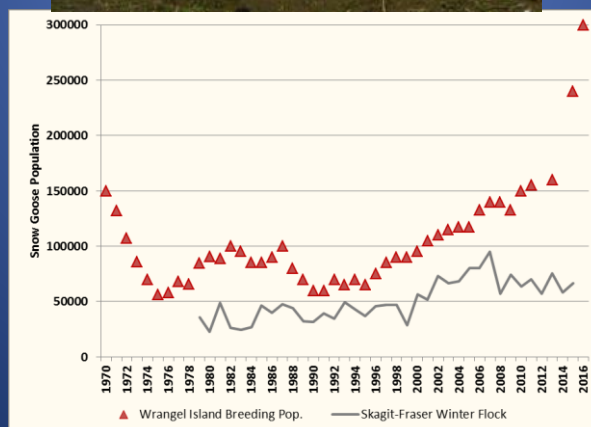


2019-2020 Goose Season Proposals

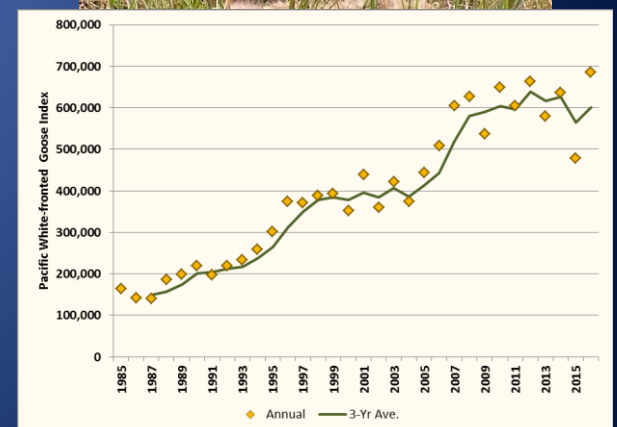
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Canada/Cackling Geese
Bag limit = 4



Snow Geese (white geese)
Bag limit = 6



White-fronted Geese
Bag limit = 10

Brant Season

- No changes to brant bag limit
- Season dates between **11-26 Jan.**; **except in Pacific**
- Specified by county
 - Clallam: 3 days
 - Whatcom: 3 days
 - Skagit: 0-8 days, determined by survey
 - Pacific: **14 days**, starts **4 Jan.** per **Pacific Flyway Management Plan**



2019-2020 Goose Season Proposals

WAC 220-416-060 – GMA 4 Snow Geese



- Increases in white geese in Goose Management Area 4; current = 52,841
- Already maxed out on 107-days allowed by federal framework
- Adjust season days later to maximize overlap between hunter and goose presence on the landscape
- 6 white goose bag limit
- Recommended adjustments: delayed season opener **Oct. 26, 2019** compared other geese, resume a white-geese only season **Feb. 22, 2019-March 4, 2020**

Public Comment

Waterfowl Season Proposals

- 121 comments
 - 36 generally agreed
 - 58 opposed
 - 22 neutral
- Northern Pintail
 - No biological support for 1-bird bag-limit
- GMA 4 – Snow goose
 - Mixed response, but some misunderstanding of separate goose bag-limits.
- Season Dates
 - Later season desired; federal framework allows 107-days (maxed out), and must end last Sunday of January.



Field Identification of Gamebirds

WAC 220-413-090

- Adds the option of a feathered wing to each carcass as evidence of species and sex; consistent with federal regulations.
- Provides exception where the feathered head must be retained on Canada and cackling geese harvested in Goose Management Area 2 - Coast and Inland.



Public Comment

Field Identification of Gamebirds

- 4 comments received
- 2 generally agreed
 - Better alignment with federal requirement
- 1 opposed
 - Concern over Dusky Canada goose identification
- 1 neutral



Status of Other Migratory Bird Populations and Season Proposals



No changes to season dates or bag limits.

Questions?

