

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

# **Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations**



*Washington Department of*  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

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**Wildlife Program**

# Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons Authorities

- USFWS Authority:  
Federal Framework
  - Earliest opening date
  - Latest closing date
  - Limits
  - Season length
  - Special Season optional days
- 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**)

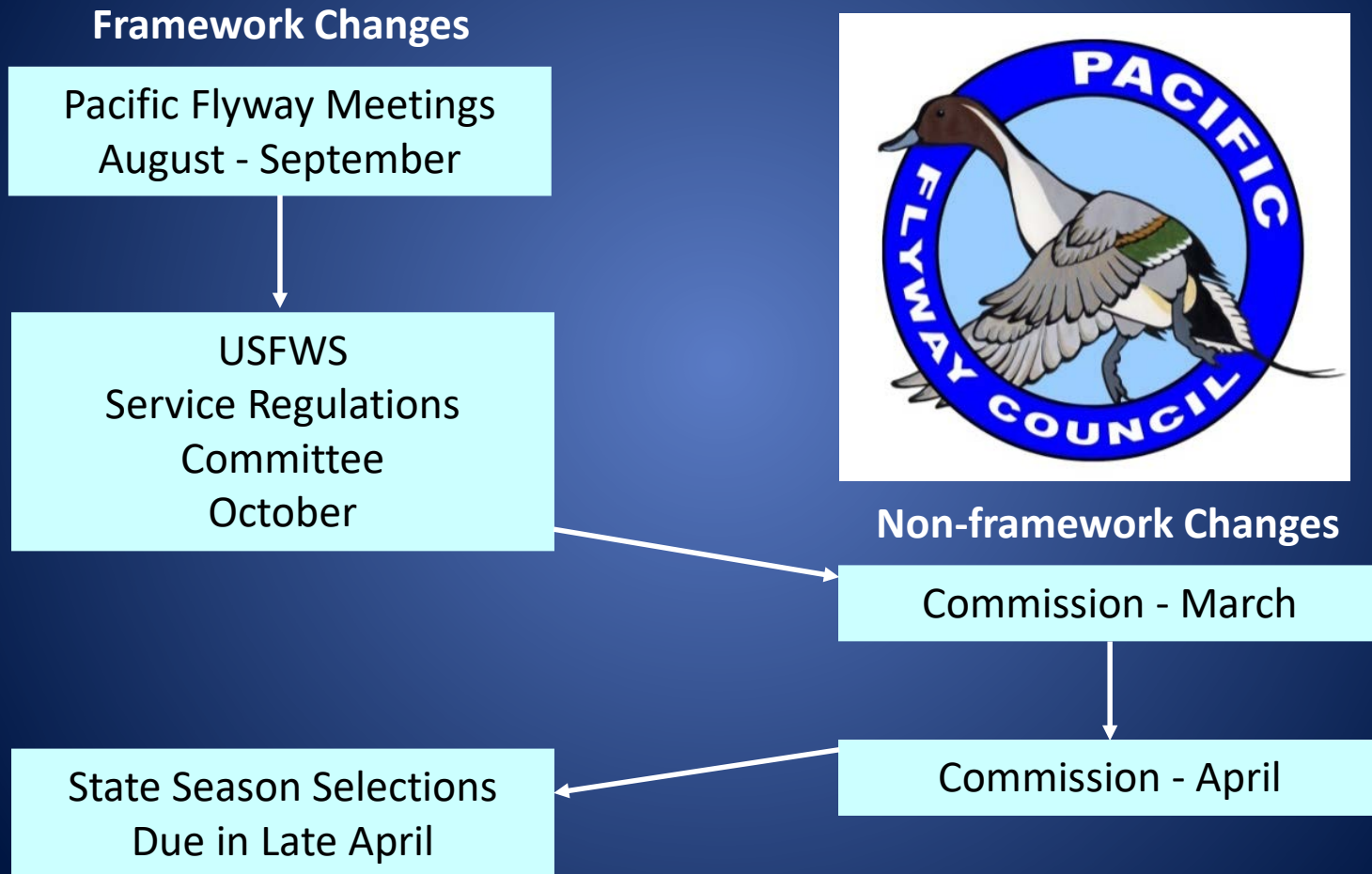
## Other migratory gamebirds

- Doves
- Band-tailed Pigeons
- Coot
- Snipe





# Process for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations



# Duck Season Proposals



Photo: Doug Kuehn



Photo: Dennis Werlau/WDFW



Photo: Brad Manchias



Photo: Laura Rogers

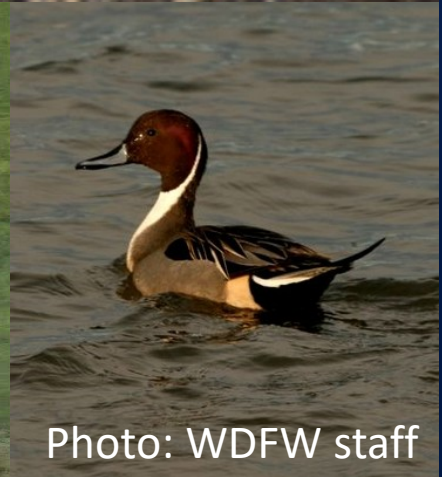


Photo: WDFW staff



# 2019-2020 Duck Season Proposals

## WAC 220-416-060

- Proposed general duck season dates and limits similar to 2018-2019, except pintail bag limit and addition of a hunting day for veterans (38 U.S. Code § 101) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training) allowed with the signing of the John Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act into law on March 12, 2019.
  - 107 days
    - 2-day youth hunt **Sept. 21, 2019 and Feb. 1, 2020** in western Washington (West Zone); **Sept. 28, 2019 and Feb. 1, 2020** in eastern Washington (East Zone)
    - **1-day veterans and active military personnel statewide: Feb. 1, 2020**
    - 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)

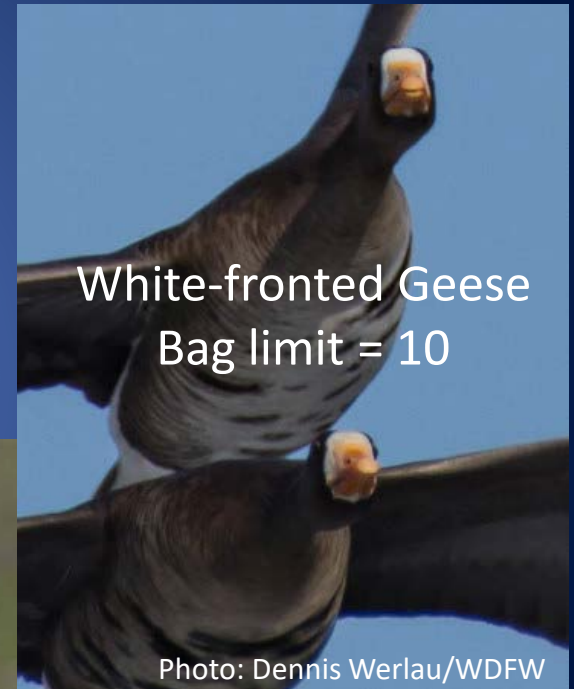
# 2019-2020 Goose Season Proposals

## WAC 220-416-060



Photo: WDFW staff

Canada/Cackling Geese  
Bag limit = 4  
In GMA 2 - Coast and  
Inland shift September  
Canada Goose dates to  
Sept. 7-15, 2019



White-fronted Geese  
Bag limit = 10

Photo: Dennis Werlau/WDFW

Snow Geese (white geese)  
Bag limit = 6  
In GMA4: Opens Oct. 26,  
2019  
White-geese only season  
Feb 22 – Mar. 4, 2020



Photo: Doug Kuehn

During Feb. 1  
All three goose types  
allowed for harvest.  
Dusky Canada goose  
closed.

# Brant Season

- No changes to brant bag limit
- Season dates between **11-26 Jan.**; **except in Pacific**
- **Addition of Feb. 1, 2020 as allowable species during Youth, Veterans and Active Military Personnel Hunt Day**
- 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**





# 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
- except fully feathered head must be retained on Canada and cackling geese harvested in Goose Management Area 2 - Coast and Inland



# Status of Other Migratory Bird Populations and Season Proposals



No changes to season dates or bag limits.



# Thank you.



Photo: Dennis Werlau/WDFW



Photo: Jim Cummins



Photo: Dennis Werlau/WDFW