

# Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on  
Wildlife & Fisheries

August 13, 2015



# Proposed Orders

- For Information- NRC
  - Spawning Closures (FO No. 204 of 2015)
  - Designated Trout Streams (FO No. 210 of 2015)
  - Cornish State Game Area; Listing and Additional Rules (WCO Amendment No. 10 of 2015)
- For Information- Director
  - Order to Regulate Use of Cornish State Game Area, Van Buren County (LUOD Amendment No. 6 of 2015)
  - State Licensed Commercial Fishing (FO No. 243 of 2015)
- For Action- NRC
  - Pierce Road Unit Special Hunt Opportunities at the Sharonville State Game Area (WCO Amendment No. 7 of 2015)
  - Waterfowl and Other Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations for 2015-2016 (WCO Amendment No. 8 of 2015)
  - Chronic Wasting Disease Response Measures for Deer in Clinton, Ingham, and Shiawassee Counties (WCO Amendment No. 9 of 2015)



# NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
- Spawning Closures and Designated Trout Stream Regulations
- Wildlife Chief Update
- Cornish State Game Area Regulations
- Migratory Game Bird Regular Season Regulations



# Department of Natural Resources

## Fisheries Division Update

Jim Dexter, Fisheries Chief

August 13, 2015



# State Record Fish for 2015

4 of 5 records in 2015  
caught by bow fishers!

Quillback Carpsucker - July  
Hardy Dam Pond (Newaygo County)  
9.42 pounds, 25 inches



Quillback Carpsucker - June  
Hardy Dam Pond  
(Newaygo County)  
8.52 pounds, 24 inches



White Perch - April  
Bear Lake (Muskegon County)  
2.0 pounds, 13.57 inches



Freshwater Drum - January  
Gun Lake (Barry County)  
28.61 pounds, 34.02 inches



Black Buffalo - April  
Grand River (Ottawa County)  
44.54 pounds, 38.5 inches



# B.A.S.S. Top 100 Lakes

- 3.** Lake St. Clair
- 17.** Grand Traverse Bay (Lake MI)
- 28.** Lake Charlevoix
- 45.** Burt/Mullett Lakes
- 58.** Bays de Noc
- 69.** Saginaw Bay



# Lake Gogebic Public Meeting



# Ontonagon River Walleye Issues

- Issue: What do harvested large walleye mean for the population?
  - In 2014, harvest was higher than any time in last 20 years.
  - Catch rate was 3x higher than 1987-2012 average.
  - Size distribution was excellent.
  - ALL indicators of healthy population!



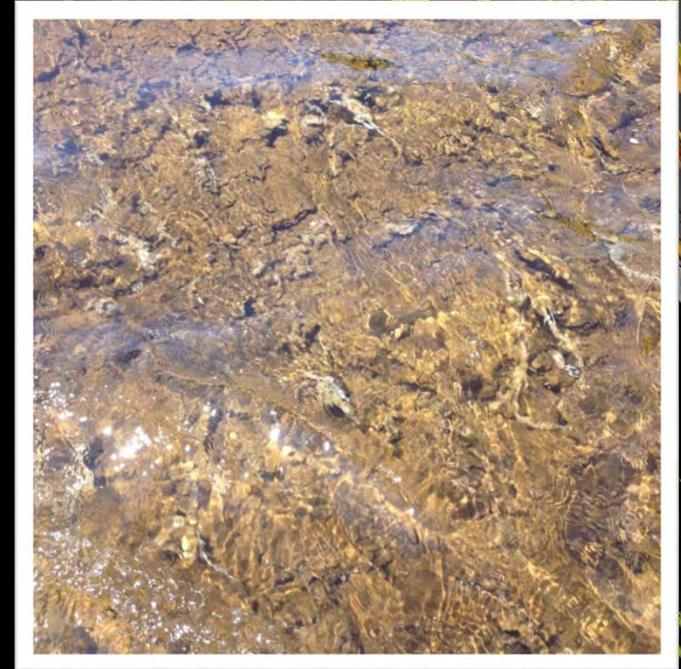
# U.P. Brook Trout Bag Limit Study

- For a third year in a row, the 10-fish bag limit for brook trout on U.P. streams is being assessed via four methods:
  - Creel, post-card, internet and electrofishing surveys
  - Results to date for this regulation will be presented in early 2016.

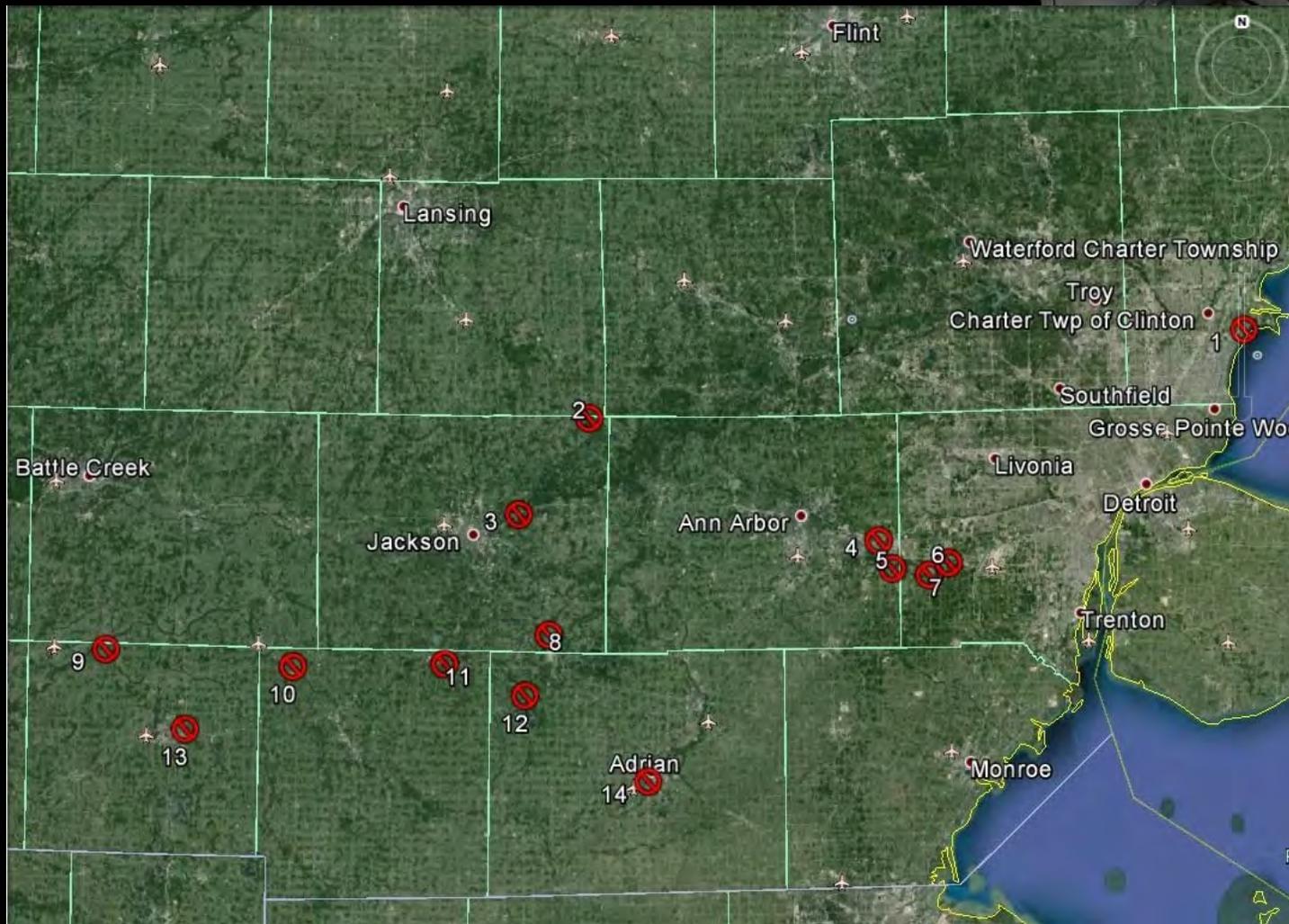


# Invasive Algae - Didymo

- Otherwise known as “rock snot”.
  - Coats bottom of stream, negatively impacting invertebrate densities and trout spawning habitat.
- Present and spreading in U.S.
  - Attributed to wade anglers and felt soles.
- Recent detection in St. Mary’s River is first known bloom in MI.
- Staff continue to monitor to determine if any actions can be taken.



# Asian Carp Surveillance



# Asian Carp Response Preparedness

- 11 Fisheries staff assisted IL DNR w/ silver and bighead populations in IL River.
- Effort occurred in Morris, IL – 70 miles downstream of Chicago.
- 80,000 lbs. of carp were removed and sent to plants for fertilizer.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year Fisheries has sent staff to IL to assist.
  - Great example of inter-agency collaboration & training for potential future responses.



**Thank you!**

**Questions?**





# Department of Natural Resources

Fishing Regulations  
August 13, 2015  
Natural Resources  
Commission  
meeting

# Fisheries Orders

- Fisheries Order 204 – Spawning Closures
- Fisheries Order 210 – Designated Trout Streams
- Fisheries Order 243 – Directors Order governing State-Licensed Commercial Fishing



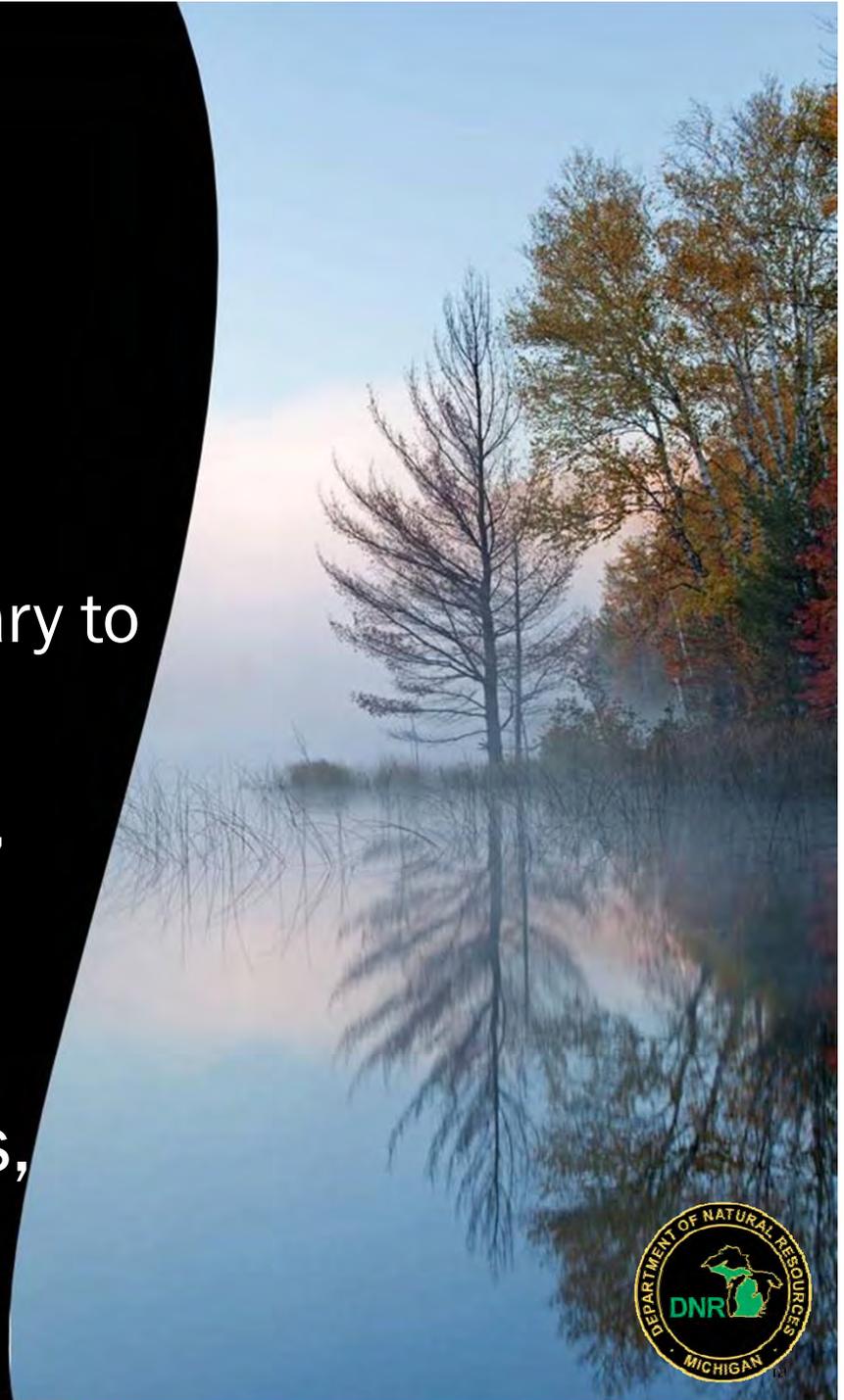
# FO – 204, Spawning Closures

- ~~Rock River, Alger County~~
  - FD has reconsidered this closure
  - Follow up with the land owner to monitor management concern
- Betsie River, Benzie County
  - Low water was stranding fish
  - Water levels have improved
  - Closure no longer necessary



# FO – 210, Designated Trout Streams

- West Branch River, Alcona County
  - Modify downstream boundary to Mt. Maria Rd.
- South Branch Galien River, Berrien County
  - Correct township listing
- Sand Creek and tributaries, Berrien County
  - Remove from designation



# Fisheries Order – 243, State Licensed Commercial Fishing

- Director's Authority lies within Part 467 and regulations held in statute, admin. rule and FO
- Administrative issues with wholesale reporting, conflicting lake whitefish closures and issues with catfish and sucker regulations
- Proposing modifications to clarify these regulations



# Thank you!

[www.michigan.gov/fishing](http://www.michigan.gov/fishing)



# Wildlife Chief Update

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# Disease Update

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
- Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)
- Avian Influenza (AI)



**Thank You**



# Cornish State Game Area

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Mark Mills, Wildlife Biologist

Steve Chadwick, Southwest Region  
Supervisor

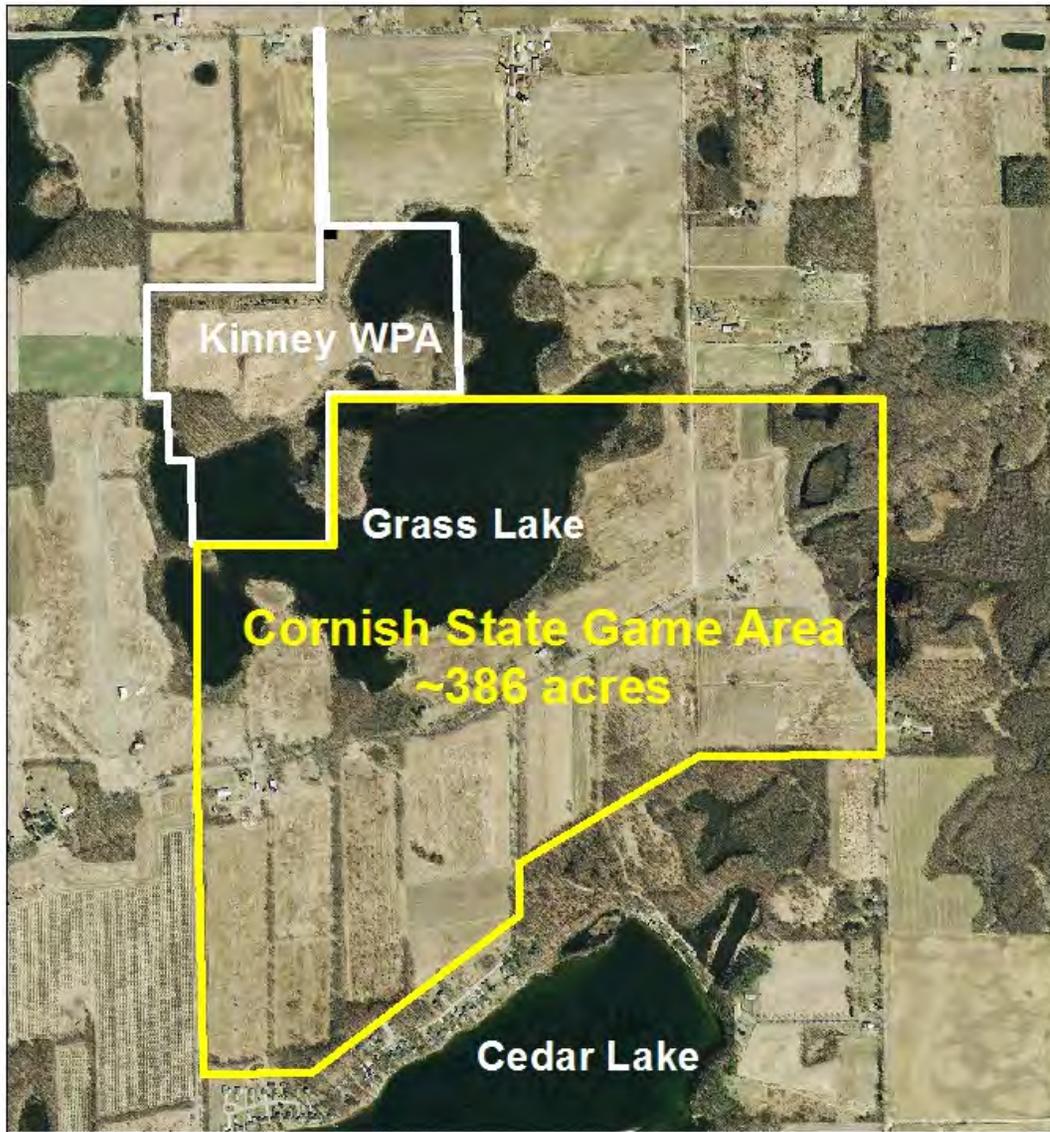


# Cornish State Game Area

Porter Township, Van Buren County

- 386 acres purchased in May 2015 with MNRTF grant
- Adjacent to Kinney Waterfowl Production Area (77 acres)
- 2/3 upland, primary grassland habitat
- 1/3 wetland, Grass Lake
- Featured Species: Mallard, Wood Duck, Ring-necked pheasant

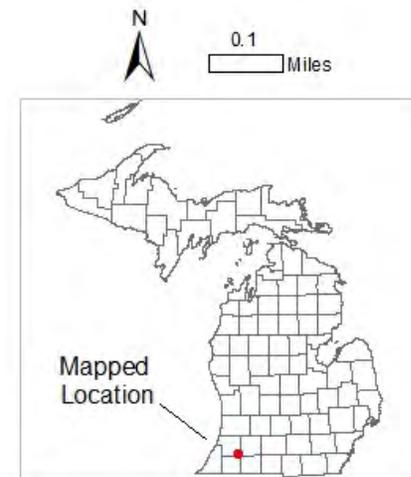




## Cornish State Game Area near Kinney Waterfowl Production Area (WPA)\*

\*Approximate boundary lines

Van Buren County  
Porter Township  
4S 13W Sections 21, 22, & 28

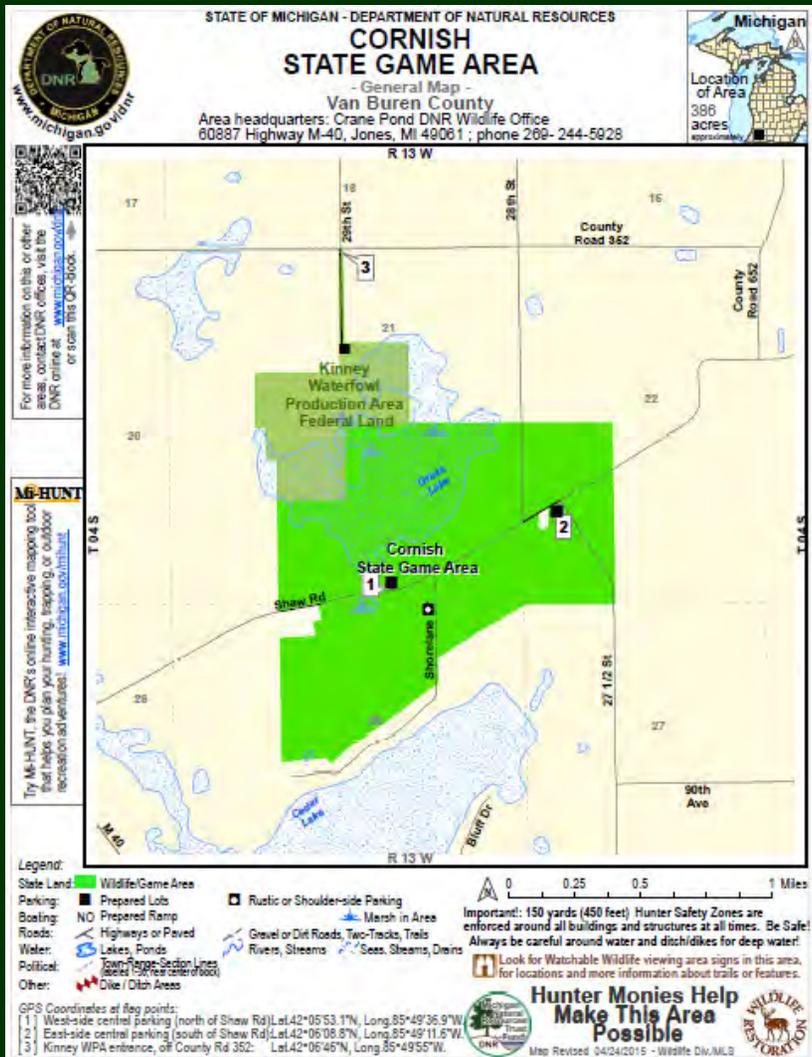


# Cornish State Game Area

## Porter Township, Van Buren County

### Supported By:

Van Buren County Commission  
 Porter Township Commission  
 Ducks Unlimited  
 Pheasants Forever  
 Senator Tonya Schuitmaker  
 Representative Aric Nesbitt



# Cornish State Game Area

Porter Township, Van Buren County

## Proposed WCO Rules:

- **Non-Toxic Shot Only**
  - Create consistency with Kinney WPA
  - Protect waterfowl

## Proposed LUOD:

- **Restrict launching boats with motors, except electric**
  - Resource protection (sensitive vegetation and substrate)
  - Allow for waterfowl roosting
- **Parking in designated lots only**
  - Safety for Game Area users
  - Consideration for neighbors of the Game Area



# Cornish State Game Area

## Porter Township, Van Buren County



**Thank You**



# Hunting Regulations for Regular Waterfowl Season Dates



Barbara Avers  
Waterfowl and Wetland Specialist  
Wildlife Division  
August 13, 2015



# Regulations Schedule

## Early Seasons

- February/March
  - Mississippi Flyway Council
  - Citizen's Waterfowl Advisory Committee (CWAC)
- June
  - Regulations for information at NRC
  - USFWS Regulations Committee
    - Set early season framework
- July
  - Regulations for action at NRC Meeting
  - Early Season Selections Due to USFWS

## Regular Seasons

- July
  - Regulations for information at NRC
  - Mississippi Flyway Council
  - USFWS Regulations Committee
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- August
  - CWAC Meeting
  - Regulations for action at NRC
  - Regular Season Selections Due to USFWS



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# 2015 Duck Season Federal Framework

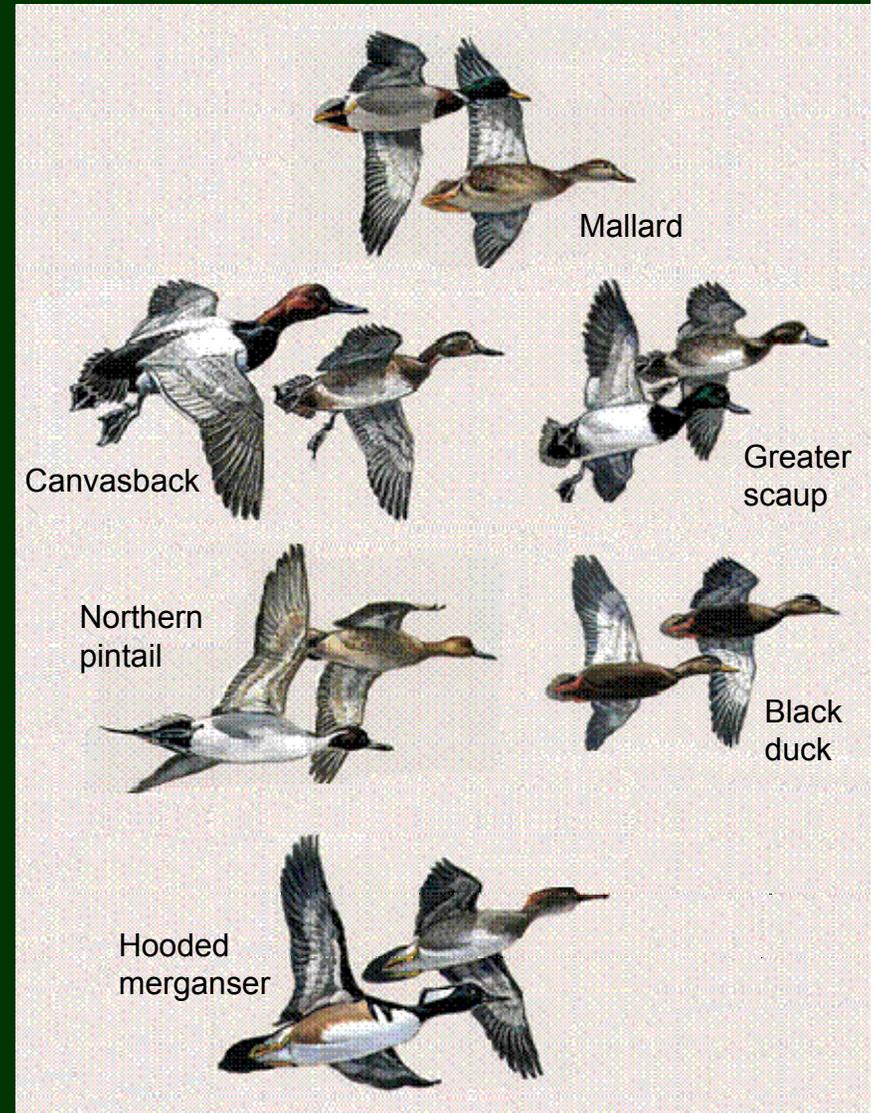


- Liberal framework
  - Maximum 60 days
  - Between Saturday nearest Sept. 24 and last Sunday in January
  - Maximum 6 birds per day
- Possession limit 3X daily limit



# 2015 Duck Season Federal Framework – Daily Limits

- 6 ducks combined
  - Mallard
    - Maximum 4 birds total
    - Maximum 2 hens
  - Scaup
    - Maximum 3 birds
  - Wood duck
    - Maximum 3 birds
  - Northern pintail and Redhead
    - Maximum 2 birds each
  - Canvasback
    - Maximum 2 birds
  - American black duck
    - Maximum 1 bird
  - All other ducks
    - 6 birds
- 5 mergansers combined
  - Maximum 2 hooded mergansers



# 2015-16 Michigan Duck Season Recommendations



# 3-Year Stable Opening Dates

- North Zone - Saturday closest to Sept. 24
  - 2015 = Sept. 26
- Middle Zone - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October
  - 2015 = Oct. 3
- South Zone - 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in October
  - 2015 = Oct. 10



# 2015 Duck Season Recommendations – Dates

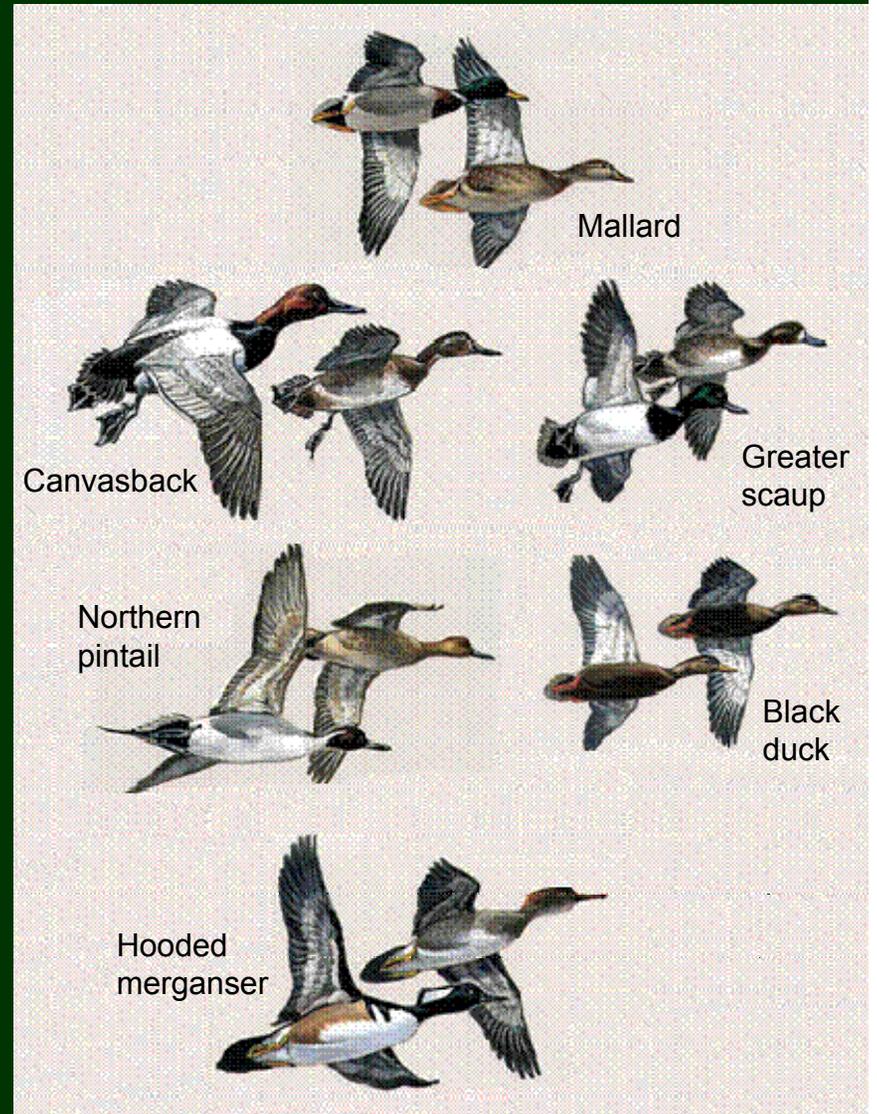


- North Zone
  - Sept. 26 – Nov. 22
  - Nov. 28 – Nov. 29
- Middle Zone
  - Oct. 3 – Nov. 29
  - Dec. 12 – 13
- South Zone
  - Oct. 10 – Dec. 6
  - Dec. 26 – Dec. 27



# 2015 Duck Season Recommendations – Daily Limits

- Maximum allowed under Federal Frameworks



# Canada Goose Season Federal Frameworks



# 2015 Regular Goose Season Federal Frameworks



- Season length and outside dates
  - Maximum 92 days
  - Between Sept. 16 (Sept. 11 in UP) & Jan. 31
- Daily limits
  - Maximum 2 birds
- Possession limits
  - 3X daily limit



# 2015 Late Canada Goose Season Federal Frameworks



- South Zone
  - Excludes GMUs
  - Maximum 30 days
  - Between Dec. 31 & Feb. 15
- Daily limit
  - Maximum 5 birds
- Possession limits
  - 3X daily limit



# Federal Frameworks for Other Geese

- Snow and Ross:
  - 107 days between Sept. 21 and Mar. 10
  - up to 20-bird daily limit
- Brant and White-fronted:
  - 107 days between Sept. 21 and Feb. 15
  - 1-bird daily limit



# 2015-2016 Michigan Canada Goose Season Recommendations



# 2015 Regular Canada Goose Season Recommended Dates

<b>North Zone</b>	Sept. 11- Dec. 11				
<b>Middle Zone</b>	Sept. 19- Dec. 19				
<b>South Zone, excluding GMUs listed below in the table</b>	Sept. 19-27	Oct. 10- Dec. 6	Dec. 26 - 27		
<b>Tuscola/ Huron GMU</b>	Sept. 19-27	Oct. 10- Dec. 6	Dec. 26 – Jan. 19, 2016		
<b>Saginaw County GMU</b>	Sept. 19-27	Oct. 10- Dec. 6	Dec. 26 – Jan. 19, 2016		
<b>Allegan County GMU</b>			Oct. 31 - Jan. 30, 2016		
<b>Muskegon W.W. GMU</b>		Oct. 17 – Nov. 14	Dec. 1-22		
	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>
				<b>Feb</b>	



# 2015 Goose Season Recommendations Regular Season Dates



- North Zone
  - Sept. 11 – Dec. 11
- Middle Zone
  - Sept. 19 – Dec. 19
- South Zone
  - Sept. 19 – Sept. 27
  - Oct. 10 – Dec. 6
  - Dec. 26 – Dec. 27



# 2015 Goose Season Recommendations – GMU Dates



- Tuscola/Huron GMUs
  - Sept. 19 – 27
  - Oct. 10 – Dec. 6
  - Dec. 26 – Jan. 19, 2016
- Saginaw County GMU
  - Sept. 19 – 27
  - Oct. 10 – Dec. 6
  - Dec. 26 – Jan. 19, 2016
- Muskegon County Wastewater GMU
  - Oct. 17 – Nov. 14
  - Dec. 1 – Dec. 22
- Allegan County GMU
  - Oct. 31 – Jan. 30, 2016



# 2015-16 Goose Season Recommendations Late Season Dates



- **South Zone**
  - Jan. 23 – Feb. 14, 2016



# 2015 Goose Season Recommendations – Other Geese

- Very few seen and harvested
- Dates provide maximum overlap with Canada goose seasons, given different federal frameworks



# 2015 Canada Goose Season Recommendations – Daily Limits



- All regular seasons
  - 2 birds per day
- Late season
  - 5 birds per day
- Possession limits
  - 3X daily limit



# 2015 Falconry Season Recommendations

- Same dates as gun hunting
- Additional days for ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens:
  - Dec. 28 – Jan. 21, 2016
  - Mar. 1 – 10, 2016
- No change to daily bag limits
- Possession limits 3X daily limit





**Thank You**



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