

2022-23 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons



Randy Knapik, Wetland Habitat Biologist



Topics for Information

- Waterfowl regulation process and schedule
- Canada goose population status, Federal frameworks, and recommendations
- Duck population status, Federal frameworks, and recommendations
- Managed waterfowl area and administrative changes



Schedule

- Dec. 8, 2021 = Waterfowl Workgroup
- *Dec. 10, 2021 = Proposed Frameworks
- Jan. 8, 2022 = CWAC
- Feb. 10, 2022 = NRC for Information
- *Feb. 25, 2022 = Final Frameworks
- March 10, 2022 = NRC for Action
- April 30, 2022 = Season Selections Due



2022 Goose Population Status and Federal Frameworks



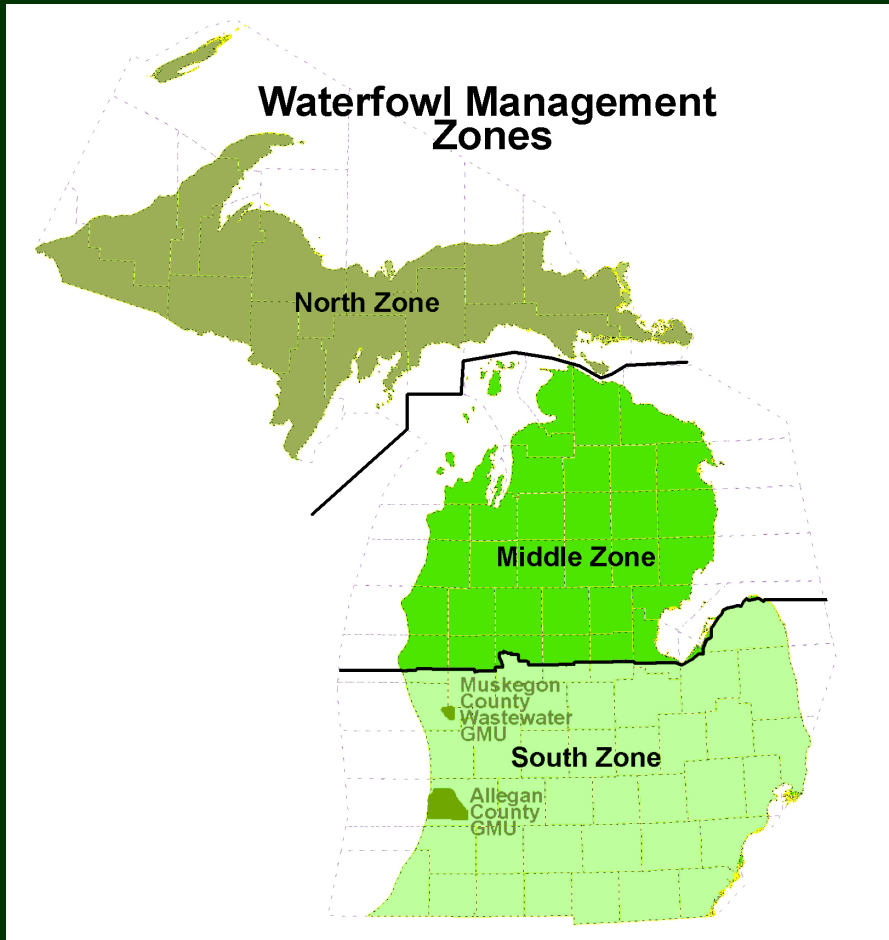
Canada Goose Population Status

- Mississippi Flyway temperate-breeding geese long-term increasing trend
- Michigan Canada geese at top of goal range
- Subarctic-nesting geese stable but variable



2022 Goose Federal Frameworks

Seasons



- Season length and outside dates
 - Maximum 107 days
 - Between Sept. 1 - Feb. 15
- 4 segments allowed





2022 Goose Federal Frameworks

Daily Limits

- Canada daily limits:
 - Maximum 5 birds
- White-fronted daily limits:
 - Maximum 5 birds in aggregate with dark geese
- Brant daily limits:
 - Maximum 1 bird in aggregate with dark geese
- Snow, blue, Ross' daily limits:
 - Maximum 20 birds

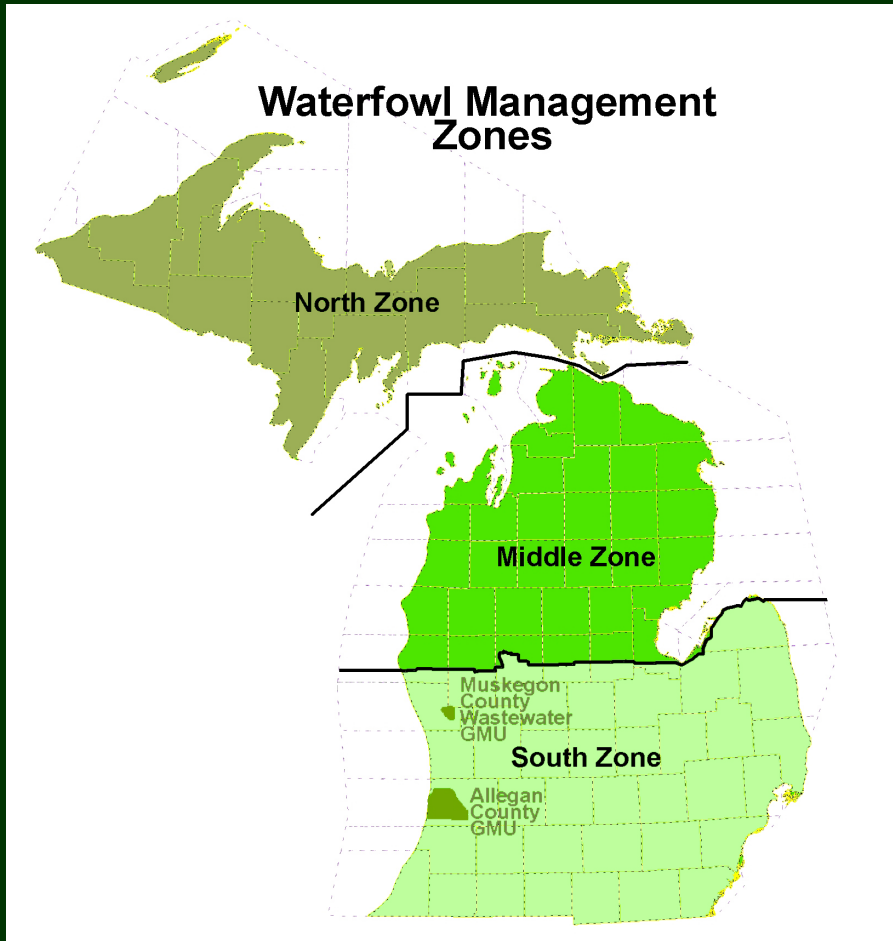
Possession limits 3X daily limit



2022 Michigan Goose Season Recommendations



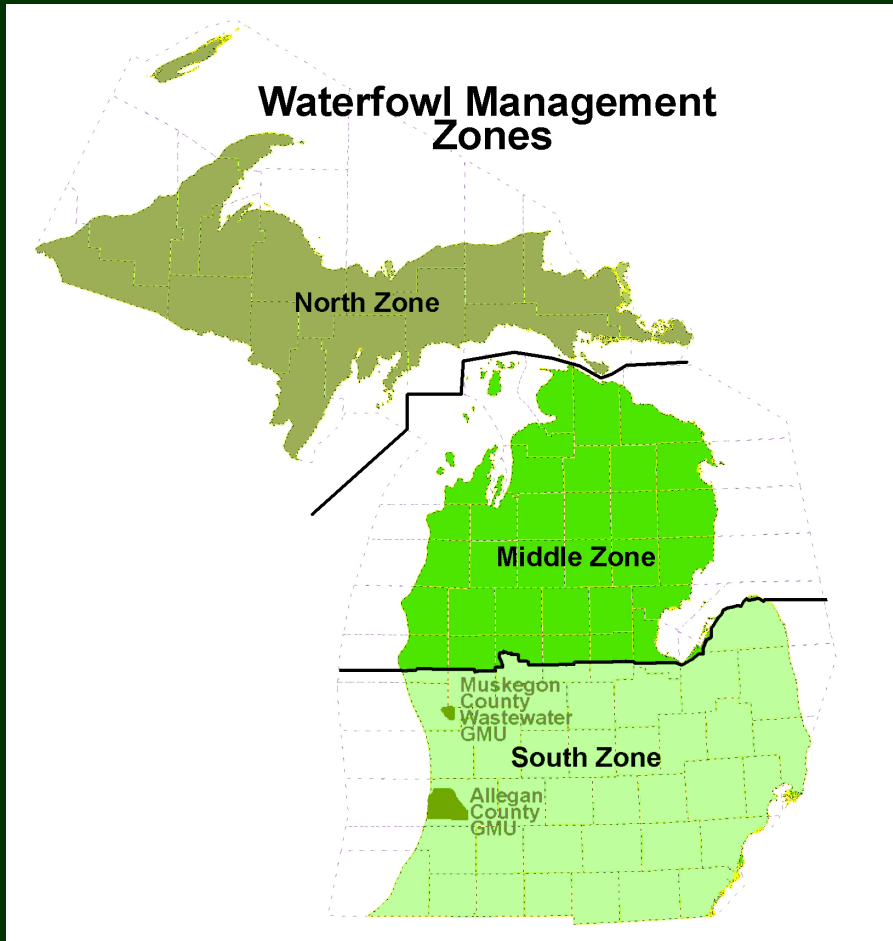
2022 Goose Season Date and Bag Limit Recommendations North Zone



- Sept. 1 – Dec. 16
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



2022 Goose Season Date and Bag Limit Recommendations Middle Zone

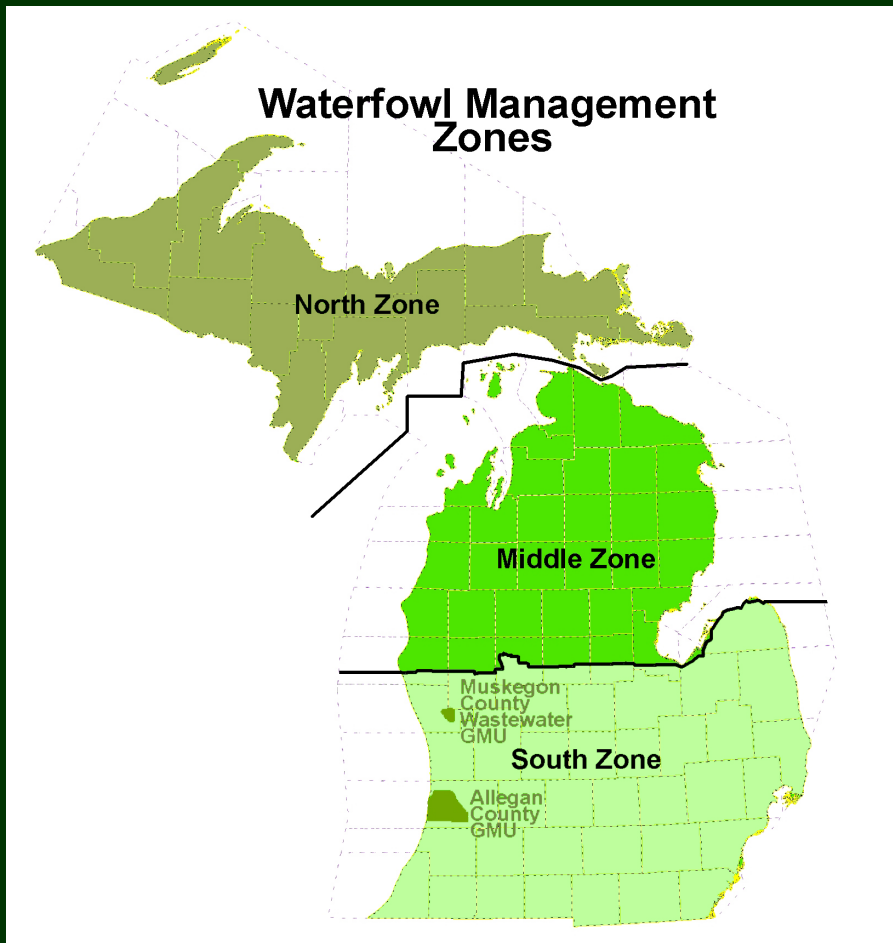


- Sept. 1 – 30 and Oct. 8 – Dec. 23
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



2022 Goose Season Date and Bag Limit Recommendations

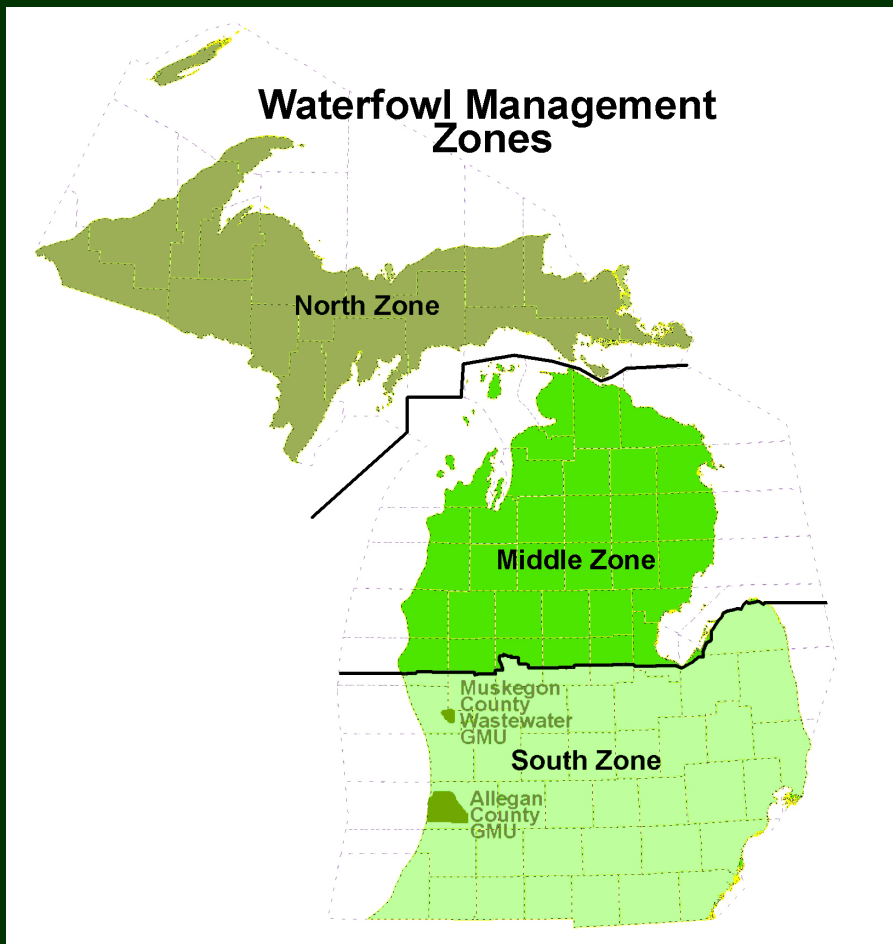
South Zone



- Sept. 1-30; Oct. 15 – Dec. 11; Dec. 31 – Jan. 8, 2023; and Feb. 4 – 13, 2023
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



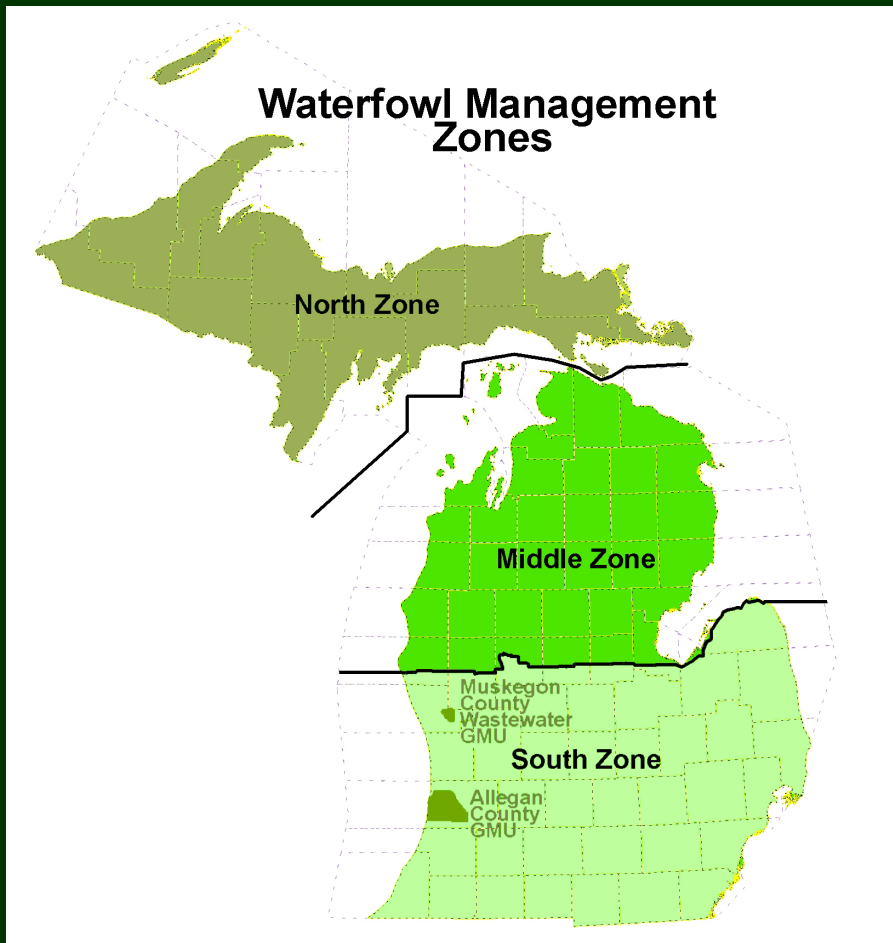
2022 Goose Season Recommendations – GMUs Allegan County



- Sept. 1-30; Nov. 5-13; Nov. 26-Dec. 4; and Dec. 17-Feb. 13, 2023
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



2022 Goose Season Recommendations – GMUs Muskegon County Wastewater



- Oct. 15 – Dec. 22
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



2022 Duck Population Status and Federal Frameworks



Duck Population Status

- 2021 Waterfowl Breeding Population & Habitat Survey cancelled
 - No 2021 midcontinent survey estimates for use in Adaptive Harvest Management process
- Michigan conducted state-specific breeding waterfowl survey
 - Excellent wetland conditions
 - 2021 estimate of total ducks was greater than 2019



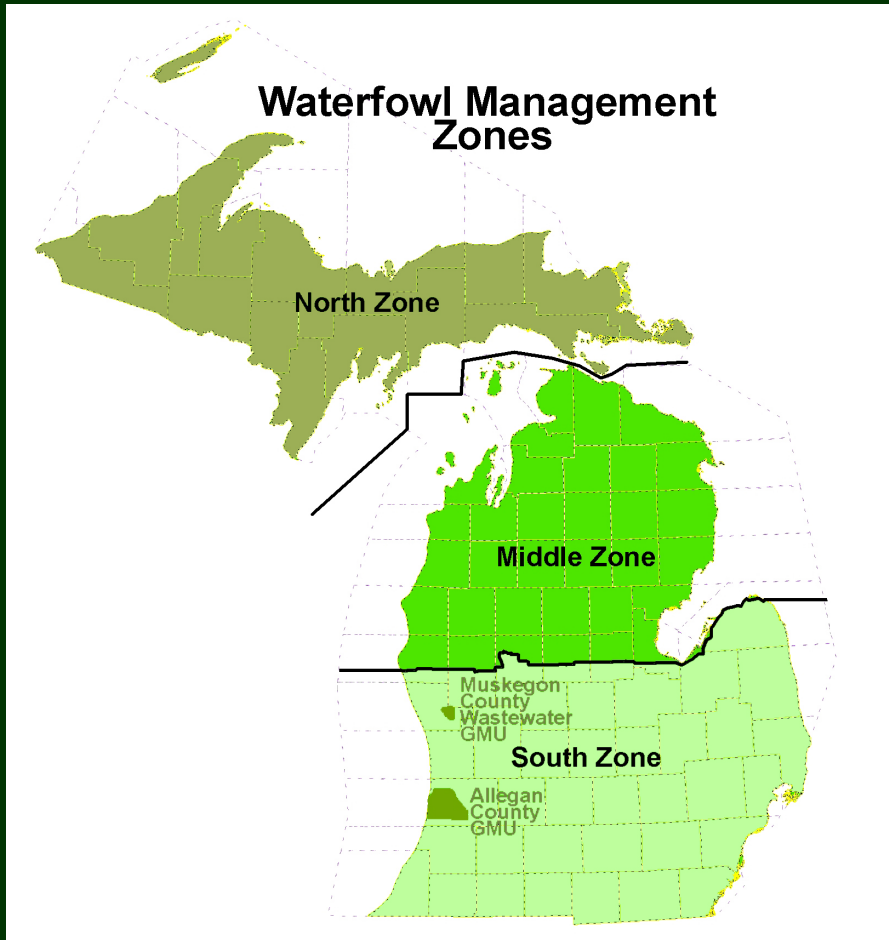
Approach to Framework without WBPBS Estimates

- AHM incorporated available data to generate model predictions of breeding populations and habitat conditions.
- WBPBS cancellation coincided with drought in breeding areas for North American ducks
- Overall, high confidence in models because of ancillary data available and long-term datasets.



2022 Duck Federal Frameworks

Seasons

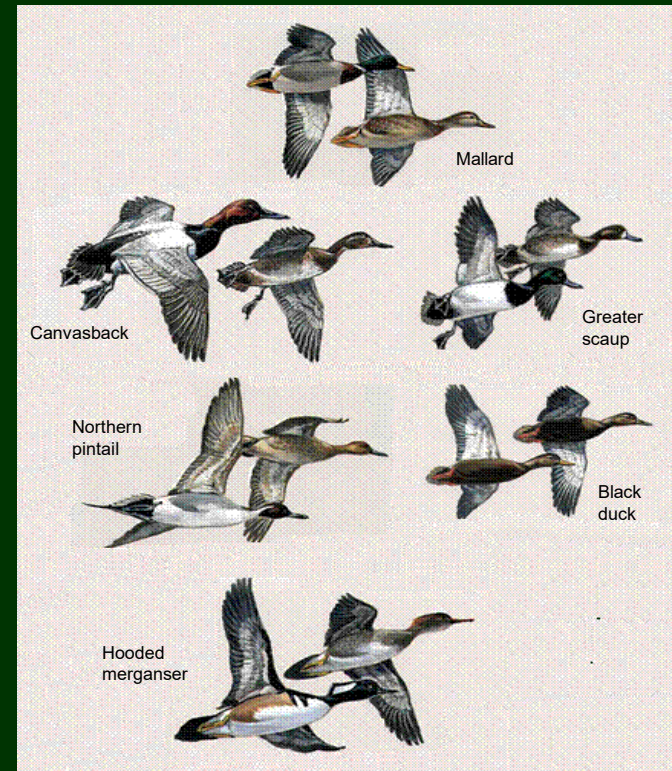


- Liberal season
 - Maximum 60 days
 - Between Saturday nearest Sept. 24 and January 31
 - Maximum 6 birds per day
- Possession limit 3X daily limit
- Seasons set by Zone
- One split per Zone

2022 Duck Federal Frameworks

Daily Limits

- 6 ducks combined
 - Mallard
 - Maximum 4 birds (maximum 2 hens)
 - Wood duck
 - Maximum 3 birds
 - Redhead, Canvasback, & American black duck
 - Maximum 2 birds
 - Scaup
 - 2 for 45 days and 1 for 15 days
 - Northern pintail
 - Maximum 1 bird
 - All other ducks
 - 6 birds
- 5 mergansers combined
 - Maximum 2 hooded mergansers

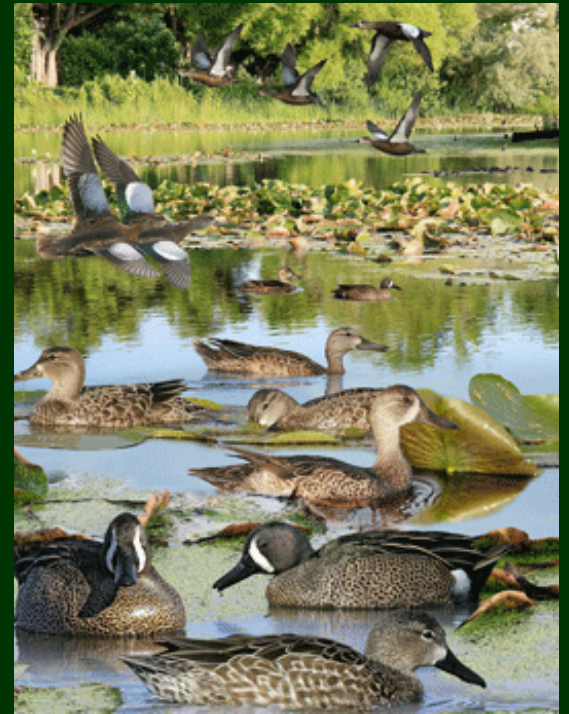


2022 Michigan Duck Season Recommendations



2022 Early Teal Season Recommendations

- Sept. 1 – 16 Statewide
- Daily limit 6 teal
- Possession 3X
- Hunting hours begin at sunrise



2022 Youth Season Recommendations

- Remain 3rd weekend in September (Sept. 17-18)
- Daily and possession limits same as regular waterfowl seasons





2022 Veterans and Active-Duty Waterfowl Hunt Recommendations

- Hold concurrently with Youth Season (September 17-18)
- Bag limits for Youth Season apply





3-Year Stable Opening Dates

North Zone:

- 2022 = Sept. 24
- 2023 = Sept. 30
- 2024 = Sept. 28

Middle Zone:

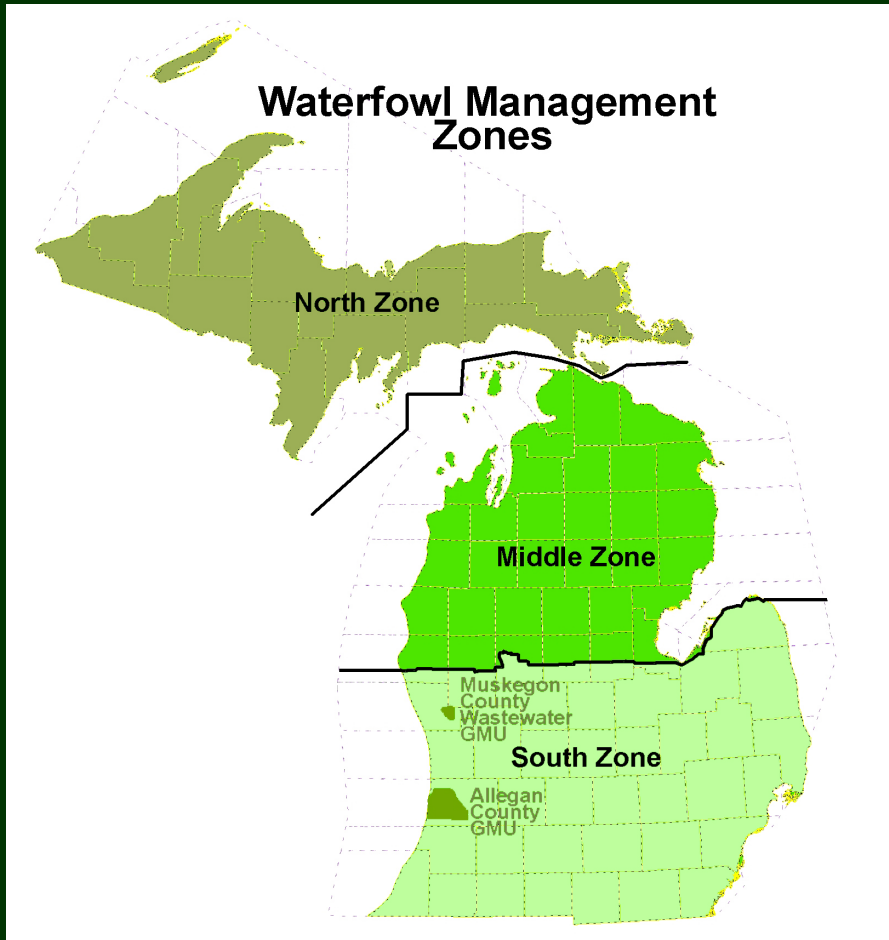
- 2022 = Oct. 8
- 2023 = Oct. 7
- 2024 = Oct. 5

South Zone:

- 2022 = Oct. 15
- 2023 = Oct. 14
- 2024 = Oct. 12



2022 Duck Season Recommendations – Dates



- North Zone
 - Sept. 24 – Nov. 20
 - Nov. 26 – 27
- Middle Zone
 - Oct. 8 – Dec. 4
 - Dec. 17 – 18
- South Zone
 - Oct. 15 – Dec. 11
 - Dec. 31 – Jan. 1





2022 Duck Season

Recommendations – Daily Limits

- Maximum allowed under Federal Frameworks
- Scaup:
 - North Zone: September 24 to November 7 (two-bird limit); November 8 to November 20 and November 26 to November 27 (one-bird limit)
 - Middle Zone: October 8 to October 23 (one-bird limit); October 24 to December 4 and December 17 to December 18 (two-bird limit)
 - South Zone: October 15 to October 30 (one-bird limit); October 31 to December 11 and December 31 to January 1 (two-bird limit)





2022-23 Falconry Season Recommendations

- Same dates as regular duck season
- Additional days for ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens (common gallinule):
 - Jan. 2 – Jan. 15, 2023
 - Feb. 24 – Mar. 10, 2023
- No change to daily bag limits
- Possession limits 3X daily limit





St. John's Marsh Refuge Dates

- Closure restricts access to the areas for unauthorized purposes to reduce disturbance to waterfowl and other wildlife
- Change wildlife refuge season date closure from September 1 to the end of the waterfowl season to September 1 to November 30
- Provides clear refuge closure dates to improve enforcement
- Opening the refuge on December 1 will provide additional hunting opportunities





Migratory Bird Name Changes

- USFWS revised the list of migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Included changing some migratory game bird names to conform to accepted use
- Common snipe now Wilson's snipe
- Common moorhen now common gallinule
- Department will continue communications and customer service related to the name changes





Administrative Changes

- USFWS made administrative changes to certain parts of the Code of Federal Regulations that refer to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- Changes are administrative only
- WCO references sections of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Update references in WCO to align with new administrative changes to the Code of Federal Regulations



Thank You

