



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: January 18, 2022
RESUBMITTED: February 14, 2022

APPROVED
March 10, 2022
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Brooke Parmelee
(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Furbearer Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 1 of 2022

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background

The Department and stakeholders review the furbearer regulations on a two-year cycle to provide consistency in regulations. More consistent regulations provide for better understanding by hunters and trappers, as well as facilitate monitoring of the impacts of regulation changes. A two-year cycle also allows more time to consider potential regulation changes.

For 2022, there are several changes proposed resulting from discussions with stakeholder groups and Department staff. The issues reviewed were selected from a running list developed with input by the Furtaker User Group, Department staff, and other stakeholders. The Furtaker User Group, a group of fur harvesters impacted by harvest regulations, met with Department staff on September 8, 2021, to provide input on selected issues. The main objectives of the proposed changes are to effectively manage furbearer populations and to increase recreational opportunities where feasible. This memorandum summarizes the review of these items, even if no regulation changes are recommended.

Bobcat Season Structure in the Northern Lower Peninsula

Stakeholders have requested that the Department consider modifying/expanding the bobcat hunting and trapping seasons in the Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP). Specifically, the requests include extending the trapping season dates to include two full weekends and expanding the bobcat hunting and trapping seasons to the Southern Lower Peninsula (SLP). Additionally, the Department has an interest in combining Bobcat Management Units (BMU) to simplify and create consistent regulations across the NLP whenever feasible. One of the Department's objectives to managing bobcats is to provide additional recreational opportunities without negatively impacting populations.

The Department has reviewed multiple potential season structure modifications that could expand opportunities for hunters and trappers likely without significantly increasing bobcat

harvest. After discussions with stakeholders and Department staff, along with the biological and social review of each request, the Department recommends the following changes to the NLP bobcat season structure:

1. Modify the existing bobcat trapping season in all NLP BMUs to allow for a 20-day season, which would include at least two full weekends. The bobcat trapping season is recommended to be December 10 through December 29.
2. Combine BMUs E and F to create a new BMU called BMU G.
3. Include all of Bay County in new BMU G.
4. Modify the existing bobcat hunting season in the new BMU G to allow for a 20-day season, which would include at least two full weekends. The bobcat hunting season in new BMU G is recommended to be January 1 through January 20.
5. Move Arenac County into Unit D and include the entire County.

Issues Pros and Cons

The proposed recommendations expand bobcat hunting and trapping opportunities in the NLP. It allows for an additional nine days of both hunting and trapping seasons in all NLP units for trapping and two NLP units for hunting, which provides more time for hunters and trappers to be in the field to harvest a bobcat. Some bobcat hunters and trappers may support a longer season; however, the Department's recommendation is a more significant increase in season length than most trapping stakeholder groups proposed, which was adjusting the 11-day season timing to always include two weekends. Most stakeholder groups supported the concept of merging units when the regulations were the same and there was not a management need to continue to have separate units. However, not all stakeholder groups were uniform in their support of how the Department might accomplish the goal of creating the same regulations across all units. Combining harvest units when there isn't a management need to have separate BMUs simplifies and creates consistent regulations. Such changes are most effective when fully supported by stakeholder groups and when they occur with minimal reductions in opportunity.

As is often the case with changing management units, there may be some confusion regarding the new season structure, however the Department will continue effective communications and customer service related to the new regulations. For the first year of the unit change, eLicense kill tags will not have the correct unit letters. This will require extra communication with the 25 percent of bobcat harvesters that acquire kill tags through eLicense.

Biological

Bobcat harvest effort indices suggest that populations are stable throughout the NLP. The bobcat bag limit remains at one bobcat in the NLP. A modest increase in season length is unlikely to create significantly higher harvest; therefore, the Department does not expect a significant biological impact. NLP population indices have remained stable despite several expansions of opportunity over the past decade, suggesting a robust and resilient population. Population indices will continue to be monitored to evaluate any potential population changes and regulations will be adjusted if necessary to maintain bobcat populations.

Social

Bobcat trappers have requested that the Department consider modifying the existing bobcat trapping season dates in the NLP so that it includes two full weekends. The Department has an interest in simplifying BMUs and season structures in the NLP if it does not negatively impact populations or create a significant negative consequence for recreational opportunities. Stakeholders, including hunting groups, have expressed support for allowing bobcat trappers to have two full weekends in the NLP. They also are generally supportive of combining harvest units and simplifying regulations. However, there is a lack of uniformity in support for how the

Department may modify regulations across units to make them the same and allow for merging units. As a result, for this year's regulation cycle the most accepted option is to recommend combining only those units which already have the same regulations and to move some regulations closer to uniformity by increasing season length in some units.

Economic

Increases in season length may increase the number of trips, or the amount of time hunters and trappers spend pursuing bobcats.

Extend Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Opportunities to SLP Counties

Stakeholders and Department field staff have requested to expand the bobcat hunting and trapping season to SLP counties to provide additional recreational opportunities for both bobcat hunters and trappers. After discussions with stakeholder groups and Department staff, the Department recommends opening bobcat hunting and trapping by creating a new BMU. Proposed BMU H would include the counties of Muskegon, Montcalm, Gratiot, Saginaw, Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Clinton, and Shiawassee counties.

The proposed season structure for BMH H would include:

- An 11-day trapping season from December 10 to 20 on public and private land.
- An 11-day hunting season from January 1 to 11 on public and private land.

Issues Pros and Cons

There has been a desire to have more bobcat harvest opportunities in the Lower Peninsula (LP). Expanding the bobcat hunting and trapping seasons to the SLP will allow the opportunity to take bobcats for more private landowners and expand the area open to harvest bobcats, providing additional options for bobcat hunters and trappers. This expansion is unlikely to significantly increase the number of individuals hunting and trapping for bobcats but will distribute bobcat harvesters over a larger portion of the state. As a result, the Department does not anticipate a large increase in the number of bobcats harvested but rather that bobcat harvest will be distributed over a larger area over occupied bobcat range.

Biological

The Department has been receiving trail camera pictures and other anecdotal reports from the public of bobcats in southern Michigan and these reports include confirmation of successful bobcat reproduction. These reports have been increasing and coming from more areas of southern Michigan throughout the past decade or two. In addition, staff have been able to detect bobcats on Department trail cameras on southern State Game Areas. However, the Department does not have survey data on bobcats in non-harvest counties in southern Michigan. Limited harvest in specific SLP counties would allow the collection of data on bobcats through mandatory registration and aid in the enhancement of the knowledge of the distribution and trends in populations. Bobcat harvest in these counties is most likely to further distribute harvest pressure and is unlikely to result in a significant increase in the number of individuals pursuing bobcat or overall LP bobcat harvest. There is no current evidence that this regulation would have a population level impact, especially given that the bobcat population throughout the LP has connectivity that allows for bobcat movement throughout its occupied range.

Social

All major hunting and trapping organizations support expanded opportunity. This recommendation is generally supported by both hunting and trapping organizations, as well as Department staff in the SLP. Some stakeholder groups are not in agreement with what portions

of the SLP should be opened to bobcat hunting and trapping, while others are in support for opening the entire LP.

Economic

The Department does not expect an economic impact. There may be some shifts in travel for bobcat hunting and trapping activity.

Allow the Use of Cage Traps for Bobcats in all LP BMUs

Current bobcat harvest regulations allow for the use of cage traps in the Upper Peninsula (UP) but not in the LP. This is due to a technical oversight when cage trap regulations were amended to clarify their use in 2014. Currently, trappers may only use foothold traps in the LP. To provide additional tools for the take of bobcats, the Department recommends allowing the use of cage traps for the take of bobcats during the bobcat trapping season in all BMUs in the LP.

Issues Pros and Cons

Use of cage traps will provide an additional tool that trappers may find effective and useful in certain situations to harvest bobcat, primarily in dealing with bobcats in more urban areas or near homes and farms. Very few people are expected to use cage traps for bobcats, but they are a good tool in those special situations. Cage traps are legal for use in taking other furbearers in the LP.

Biological

This recommendation is unlikely to impact bobcat harvest.

Social

Stakeholders and Department staff were supportive of the use of cage traps for taking bobcats in the LP. There were few concerns raised about the addition of this tool.

Economic

This recommendation is unlikely to have an economic impact.

Bobcat Harvest Regulations in the UP

In 2009, the bobcat trapping season in the UP was shortened from October 25 through March 1 to December 1 through February 1, and the bobcat hunting season in the UP was shortened from December 1 through March 1 to January 1 through March 1 in an effort to reduce bobcat harvest and help reduce declining trends in bobcat populations in the UP. The shorter season has not been well supported by bobcat trappers, particularly in the western UP. The Department consistently receives input from trappers requesting a return to the longer bobcat season, as well as a bobcat bag limit increase. At the same time the Department receives requests to reduce bag limits and retain current season lengths from hunting stakeholder groups. In 2018, recommendations reducing bobcat bag limits were discussed at a Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meeting. Stakeholders came with differing views and the discussion led to modifications to the Department's recommendation, retaining a second kill tag but on private land only. These opposing perspectives on bobcat populations and regulations make bobcat harvest issues contentious and difficult to develop consensus opinions from which to develop recommendations. During our September Furtaker User Group meeting, trapping stakeholder groups consistently combined the desire for a longer season with their desire to have an October 25th start date. Based on input received since the February 10, 2022 NRC meeting, the Department recommends adjusting the UP trapping season (BMUs A and B) to begin on October 25 and continue through December 26.

Bobcat populations are assessed primarily through the use of bobcat harvest effort trends (the average number of days it takes to harvest a bobcat). This index suggests that bobcats are stable in the UP but are likely at lower levels than approximately 20 years ago. Stakeholder input on UP bobcat population trends is mixed; trappers often advocate for higher harvest and suggest populations are doing well, while hound hunters often advocate for reducing harvest opportunities and suggest the bobcat populations are low. The current regulations are an uneasy middle ground between these perspectives and seem to allow for a liberal harvest structure while maintaining bobcat populations. The Department desires to keep the current regulatory structure in place to maintain the balance of recreational opportunity and healthy populations but is willing to modify harvest timing for trappers without extending the season length. The Department does not have objections to adjusting the bobcat trapping season to begin as early as October 25 and going as late as February 1 provided the season length remains the same. However, the Department did not originally offer this change as a recommendation as it was unclear if this change would satisfy those trappers requesting a change to the harvest structure. This modification has low support from Department field staff who noted they have not been hearing requests for the change. No change is necessary from a biological or management perspective.

Trappers also requested an increase in bobcat bag limits, but this is a highly contentious issue that was discussed at length in the regulatory process in 2018. There have been no significant shifts in bobcat populations since that time that indicate an increase in bag limits is warranted. The Department recognizes that some trappers are frustrated the Department is not recommending an expansion of trapping opportunities in the UP. The Department considered these items internally prior to engaging with stakeholders but heard many requests that we review those ideas again. While discussing input from the Furtaker User Group, the Department re-considered the possibilities of increasing bag limits and season length. However, given the historical trends in bobcat populations and conflicting views of stakeholders, the Department elected not to recommend any season expansion or increase in bag limits. The Department has consistently worked toward expanding recreational opportunities for furbearers when it can be done in a biologically appropriate manner and will continue to do so.

During public comments at the February 10, 2022 NRC meeting and afterward, UP trapping organizations have made it clear they support an October 25 start date to a two-month (63 day) season. The Department supports the change to a two-month season beginning October 25 and ending December 26 now that it is supported by those organizations. This is consistent with the original narrative and intent of the recommendations made in the version of this memorandum submitted for information on January 18, 2022.

Raccoon Hunting and Trapping Season Dates

Trapping organizations have requested allowing raccoon trapping to begin earlier than the current start date so it aligns with the start date for raccoon hunting. During discussions, hunting organizations suggested that the hunting season should extend to match the closing date of the trapping season. The Department recommends extending the current hunting and trapping season dates so both hunting and trapping seasons start October 1 and end March 31.

Issues Pros and Cons

Aligning the start date of the trapping season with the start date of the hunting season and aligning the end date of hunting season with the end date of the trapping season will provide greater opportunity to harvest raccoons by both methods. This extends the trapping season by

14 days and extends the hunting season by 59 days. This also simplifies regulations and provides expanded opportunity to harvest raccoons and resolve negative impacts of high raccoon populations or damage caused by raccoons.

Biological

The Department supports increased harvest of this abundant species. However, significant increases in harvest are unlikely and the Department does not expect a biological impact.

Social

Both hunting and trapping organizations support this recommendation. Some stakeholders requested extending both seasons longer, primarily to provide additional opportunities to hunt and train with dogs.

Economic

The Department does not expect an economic impact.

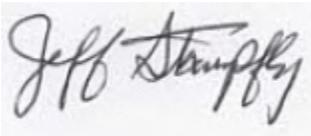
Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information on February 10, 2022, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's January calendar and may be eligible for approval on March 10, 2022.



Jared Duquette, Chief
Wildlife Division



Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



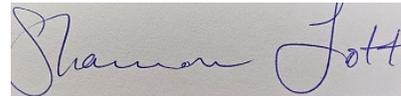
Jeff Stampfly, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Director has authority.



Daniel Eichinger, Director

Date: March 10, 2022

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 1 of 2022

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective March 11, 2022, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.605 Raccoon hunting and trapping, seasons; taking raccoons doing or about to do damage, person taking considered permittee.

Sec. 3.605 (1) The open season for taking raccoon by hunting or trapping shall be October 1 to March 31.

(2) A property owner or their designee may take raccoon all year on property owned by the person when raccoons are doing or are about to do damage to the persons property. A person taking a raccoon under the authority of this subsection shall be considered a permittee as defined by section 5.50 of this order. A written permit is not required, and the person shall be authorized to take raccoon all year by otherwise lawful hunting and trapping methods.

3.608 Bobcat open seasons, season limit, closed areas, restrictions; kill tags and tagging requirements; registration requirements; unlawful acts.

Sec. 3.608 (1) The open season for taking bobcat by trapping in bobcat management units A and B shall be October 25 to December 26. The open season for taking bobcat by hunting in bobcat management units A and B shall be from January 1 to March 1.

(2) The open season for taking bobcat by trapping in bobcat management units C and D shall be from December 10 to December 29, using foothold traps or live-restraining cage traps only. The open season for taking bobcat by hunting in management unit C shall be from January 1 to March 1. The open season for taking bobcat by hunting in management unit D shall be from January 1 to February 1.

(3) The open season for taking bobcat by trapping in bobcat management unit G shall be from December 10 to December 29, using foothold traps or live-restraining cage traps only. The open season for taking bobcat by hunting in management unit G shall be from January 1 to January 20.

(4) The open season for taking bobcat by trapping in bobcat management unit H shall be from December 10 to December 20, using foothold traps or live-restraining cage traps only. The open season for taking bobcat by hunting in management unit H shall be from January 1 to January 11.

(5) The season limit shall be 2 bobcats per licensed resident fur harvester except an individual shall take not more than 1 bobcat from bobcat management unit B, and not more than 1 bobcat in bobcat management units C, and D, G, and H combined. A licensed resident fur harvester taking a second bobcat in bobcat management unit A shall take a bobcat on private land only, excluding commercial forest land.

(6) Through the day before the open bobcat season, a resident issued a fur harvester's license may obtain a free bobcat kill tag. A resident who intends to hunt or trap bobcat shall request and be issued up to 2 free bobcat kill tags. A resident shall not sell, loan, or permit in any manner another individual to use the bobcat kill tag or use or attempt to use another individual's bobcat kill tag. Free bobcat kill tags may be obtained only by a resident who is at least 8 years old, subject to section 2.14. An individual who kills a bobcat shall immediately validate the kill tag by notching out the appropriate information on the tag and attach the kill tag to the hide of the bobcat from the upper jaw to the eye socket or through the lower jaw of the bobcat in a secure and permanent manner. An individual shall not tag a bobcat with a kill tag that is not valid for the unit in which the bobcat is taken. This kill tag shall remain attached to the bobcat until the

animal is registered and sealed by the department. An individual shall not possess a bobcat or bobcat hide that is not tagged with a validated kill tag unless a department seal is attached as provided by subsection (7).

(7) An individual that kills a bobcat shall present the pelt and skull of the bobcat to the department to be registered and sealed no later than 10 days following the close of the season in which it was taken. The pelt and skull shall be presented for sealing in person by the resident fur harvester that killed the animal and shall not be presented for sealing or registration by another individual. The individual presenting the bobcat pelt and skull shall display their fur harvester license, including identification used to acquire the license, and shall provide harvest information as requested by the department. The department shall retain at least one tooth or the skull, at the discretion of the department, and attach an official seal to the pelt of each bobcat presented for examination. The seal shall be locked upon the hide in such a manner that it cannot be removed without cutting or ripping the bobcat pelt or damaging the seal. An official seal attached by the department shall not be removed from the bobcat pelt until the bobcat pelt is processed or tanned. Subsequent to 10 days following March 1, it shall be unlawful to possess a bobcat pelt without an official department seal attached unless the pelt has been processed or tanned or the bobcat season is open.

12.806d "Bobcat management unit D" defined.

Sec. 12.806d "Bobcat management unit D" means all of Arenac, Clare, Crawford, Gladwin, Iosco, Kalkaska, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Osceola, Roscommon, and Wexford counties.

12.806e Repealed. Am. 1, 2022, Eff. March 11, 2022.

Publisher's note: The repealed section pertained to "Bobcat management unit E".

12.806f Repealed. Am. 1, 2022, Eff. March 11, 2022.

Publisher's note: The repealed section pertained to "Bobcat management unit F".

12.806g "Bobcat management unit G" defined.

Sec. 12.806g "Bobcat management unit G" means all of Bay, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Isabella, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Newaygo, and Oceana counties.

12.806h "Bobcat management unit H" defined.

Sec. 12.806h "Bobcat management unit H" means all of Clinton, Gratiot, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, Ottawa, Saginaw, and Shiawassee counties.

12.806x "Bobcat management unit X" defined.

Sec. 12.806x "Bobcat management unit X" means those portions of the Lower Peninsula not defined in bobcat management units C, D, G, or H.

Issued on this 10th day of March, 2022.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Moncrieff Rose', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Carol Moncrieff Rose, Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Eichinger', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Eichinger
Director



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: January 18, 2022
RESUBMITTED: February 14, 2022



MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Managed Waterfowl Area Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2022

Authority

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually prescribes migratory bird hunting season frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the maximum number of birds that may be taken and possessed. Federal frameworks are negotiated with states via the Flyway Councils. The approach to set annual migratory bird hunting seasons and bag limits relies on biological data from the previous year to set hunting season dates and project appropriate harvest limits for each game species. This is possible because the USFWS and the Department have decades of data from population surveys, banding, and harvest surveys for many migratory game bird species that is used to develop models and harvest strategies to predict population change and inform harvest management decisions. These frameworks are adjusted to influence harvest regulations based on the previous year's monitoring information and regulatory decisions. This process gives biologists time to analyze survey data from the USFWS's regulatory decisions and allows time for public comment.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 and 2021 North American Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey was cancelled, however the 2021 Michigan Breeding Waterfowl Survey was successfully conducted. To address the lack of two years of missing data on mid-continent duck populations and pond estimates, the USFWS adjusted protocols that inform duck hunting regulations based on model predictions of breeding populations and habitat conditions. In most cases, system models specific to each decision framework have been used to predict breeding population sizes from the available information (e.g., 2019 observations). For some system state variables, the USFWS used updated time series models to forecast 2020-2021 values based on the most recent information. Overall, the confidence in models remains high even without 2020 and 2021 survey estimates because of the long-term data that is available. The Department's recommendations for the 2022-23 migratory bird seasons are based on these modeled predictions of waterfowl population status and habitat conditions, and public input

including discussion with the Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee (CWAC) at their January 8, 2022 meeting.

Biological

Since 1991, Michigan has collaborated with other states, the USFWS, and Canadian agencies in conducting aerial surveys of breeding ducks and geese. Spring mallard population estimates from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin are included in estimates of mid-continent mallard abundance. These population estimates are included in the models for establishing annual waterfowl hunting season frameworks for the Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways. As discussed above, Michigan was able to conduct the 2021 Breeding Waterfowl Survey in mid-April to early May. The 2021 statewide wetland abundance estimate of 505,033 wetlands was 16 percent below the 2019 estimate and 4 percent above the long-term average. May 2021 Great Lakes water levels remained above long-term averages, although significantly lower than the extremely high levels experienced in 2020. May 2021 water levels were 6 inches, 18 inches, 17 inches, and 14 inches above long-term averages for Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, and Erie, respectively. Based on the water levels, wetland conditions were considered “excellent” for breeding waterfowl statewide. The 2021 estimate of total ducks was 973,051, which was 191 percent above the 2019 estimate and 58 percent above the long-term average. The 2021 estimate for mallards was 309,993, which was 73 percent above the 2019 estimate and 7.6 percent below the long-term average. The 2021 estimate for Canada geese was 295,635, which was 21 percent above the 2019 estimate and 27 percent above the long-term average.

Flyway Councils are advised by flyway technical committees consisting of state and provincial biologists. These technical committees evaluate species and population status, harvest, and hunter-participation data during the development of the Flyway Council recommendations. The USFWS then evaluates the Flyway Councils’ recommendations, considering species status and biology, cumulative effects of regulations, and existing regulatory policy. Likewise, the Department’s Waterfowl Workgroup and the CWAC review information on species status and habitat conditions when developing recommendations for waterfowl hunting seasons.

Social

The Department develops recommendations based on Waterfowl Workgroup discussions with the CWAC. The CWAC met on January 8, 2022 to make recommendations for the 2022-23 waterfowl seasons. The Department’s recommendations are the same as those made by the CWAC.

The Department’s Waterfowl Workgroup established goals for duck hunting seasons that include maintaining Michigan’s waterfowl hunting heritage by increasing hunter recruitment and retention, simplifying regulations with maximum hunting opportunity, and ensuring that seasons encompass maximum duck numbers and abundant species.

Biannually, the Department mails Waterfowl Harvest Surveys to a sample of waterfowl hunters to estimate hunting activity and determine opinions and satisfaction with hunting regulations. The Department last conducted the Waterfowl Harvest Survey after the 2020 waterfowl hunting season.

Economic

Businesses located in communities near well-known waterfowl hunting areas receive economic benefits from waterfowl hunting trips.

Youth Waterfowl Season and Veterans and Active-Duty U.S. Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days

The Department recommends that the Federal youth waterfowl hunting season remain the third weekend in September (September 17 and 18, 2022). These dates are consistent with 2021, avoid overlap with the Liberty Hunt, and ensures duck abundance during the youth hunting days.

The Department recommends holding the Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days concurrently with the Youth Waterfowl Season (September 17 and 18, 2022). These dates are consistent with 2021. States may designate two days as “Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days” in addition to regular duck seasons. Waterfowl regulations and bag limits set for the Youth Waterfowl Season apply to the Veterans and Active-Duty U.S. Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days. Participating veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel are required to possess documentation of verification afield and must present upon request of a Michigan conservation officer, tribal conservation officer, or any law enforcement officer.

Holding this hunt concurrently with the Youth Waterfowl Season provides simplified regulations and better enforcement.

Early Teal Season

The Department recommends:

- September 1-16 statewide
- Daily bag limit of six teal and a possession limit of 18, which is three times the daily limit
- Hunting hours begin at sunrise

The Department and the CWAC recommend opening the early teal season as early as possible due to the greatest abundance of teal in Michigan during that time. Blue-winged teal are some of the earliest duck species to migrate each fall. Available information on teal migration in Michigan indicates that the peak of fall blue-winged teal migration is late August – early September. The Department and CWAC recommend utilizing the entire 16 days allowed under Federal Frameworks.

To improve waterfowl identification, the Department recommends no change to hunting hours (i.e., early teal season begin at sunrise rather than the usual half hour before sunrise for migratory bird hunting hours). Identifying duck species is difficult under low light conditions. The Canada goose season dates overlap the proposed teal season and goose hunting hours begin one half hour before sunrise. Very few (if any) enforcement issues have occurred related to these different opening hours, yet the Wildlife Division and Law Enforcement Division will continue to work together to mitigate hunter confusion through public education and communication with hunters while in the field, while providing maximum recreational opportunity.

The Department will continue to educate hunters on the identification of teal and provide information to help guide them to hunting locations where they are likely to encounter teal to ensure a successful teal season.

Duck Seasons

3-Year Stable Opening Dates

To achieve consistency and assist waterfowl hunters in planning their hunting seasons, the Department strives to propose opening dates of duck hunting seasons for a 3-year period. The Department and CWAC provide the following recommended opening days of duck seasons for 2022-2024. If federal frameworks change during this period, then opening dates will be revisited:

- North Zone:
 - 2022: September 24
 - 2023: September 30
 - 2024: September 28
- Middle Zone:
 - 2022: October 8
 - 2023: October 7
 - 2024: October 5
- South Zone:
 - 2022: October 15
 - 2023: October 14
 - 2024: October 12

The USFWS offered a 60-day season and six-duck daily limit framework for 2022-23. The Department developed the following duck season dates for 2022 based on feedback from CWAC, analysis of data on hunter opinions, migration timing, and hunter success.

The recommended dates for the 2022 duck season are:

- North Zone: September 24 to November 20 and November 26 to November 27
- Middle Zone: October 8 to December 4 and December 17 to December 18
- South Zone: October 15 to December 11 and December 31 to January 1

Duck Bag Limits

The daily bag limit for ducks will be six ducks with the following species-specific restrictions: four mallards (no more than two hens), three wood ducks, two black ducks, two redheads, two canvasbacks, two scaup for 45-days and one scaup for 15-days, and one northern pintail. In addition to the duck limit, hunters may take five mergansers, only two of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit is three times the daily limit for ducks, coots, and mergansers.

Similar to 2021, there is a split scaup bag limit. Scaup harvest restrictions are implemented under a Scaup Harvest Strategy which is based on the current scaup population model and an objective to achieve 95 percent of the maximum, long-term cumulative harvest. Based on a restrictive regulatory alternative selected for the 2021 hunting season and a 2021 model prediction of 3.53 million scaup, the optimal regulatory choice for the 2022 hunting season for all four Flyways is the restrictive regulatory alternative. This restrictive framework allows for a 60-day season with a limit of two birds for 45 days and one bird for 15 days. The 45 and 15-day segments must be consecutive hunting days.

Based on fall diving duck abundance measures from Lake St. Clair and western Lake Erie as well as an analysis of scaup harvest in Michigan, the Department recommends the following dates for the hybrid scaup bag limits which reflect a two-bird limit for the first 45 days of the

season in the North Zone and a one-bird limit for the first 16 days of the season in the Middle and South Zones (an additional day of a one-bird limit is included so that a bag limit change doesn't occur during a weekend). The Department believes that this will maximize scaup harvest opportunity in each zone:

- 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)

Goose Seasons

The Department recommends goose season dates based on Canada goose population goals, feedback from the CWAC, and surveys of waterfowl hunters. Waterfowl hunters expressed their desire for additional opportunities to hunt ducks and geese on the same days. The recommended season dates provide for overlap of goose and duck seasons.

Federal goose frameworks for the Mississippi Flyway are unchanged from 2021. 2022-23 Canada goose hunting frameworks allow for a 107-day Canada goose season with a daily bag limit of five for the entire season. The possession limit is three times the daily limit for geese.

While few other goose species are harvested in Michigan, the Department makes recommendations that allow goose hunters to take these species if they have the opportunity. The recommended dates for the season for white, blue, and Ross' geese, white-fronted geese, and brant are the same as the Canada goose seasons in each respective zone and Goose Management Unit (GMU). The daily bag limits for white, blue, and Ross' geese is 20. To maximize opportunity, the Department is again recommending a dark goose aggregate daily bag limit for Canada geese, white-fronted geese, and brant of five, only one of which can be a brant.

Michigan's Canada goose population estimates for the last 6 years were all above Michigan DNR's long-term desired abundance range (175,000-225,000 birds). We continue to make full use of hunting season days and daily limits available within Federal hunting season regulation frameworks and this decision is supported by high goose abundance and productivity over the last 5 years. Federal frameworks for Canada geese in the Mississippi Flyway are liberal and allow for 107 days of hunting, the maximum allowed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The recommended season dates and bag limits take advantage of the most days and highest bag limits possible. September dates of the Canada goose season are timed so that resident geese are most susceptible to harvest. This is a good tool to help maintain Michigan's Canada goose population at or near the goal range, which will help address human-goose conflicts.

The Department and the CWAC recommend the following dates for goose seasons:

- North Zone: September 1 to December 16
- Middle Zone: September 1 to September 30 and October 8 to December 23
- South Zone: September 1 to September 30; October 15 to December 11; December 31 to January 8, 2023; and February 4 to February 13, 2023
- Allegan Goose Management Unit: September 1 to September 30; November 5 to November 13; November 26 to December 4; and December 17 to February 13, 2023
- Muskegon County Wastewater Goose Management Unit: October 15 to December 22

Falconry

For the falconry season, the recommended dates for the additional days outside the gun hunting seasons for ducks, mergansers, coots, and common gallinule are January 2 to January 15, 2023 and February 24 to March 10, 2023. The daily and possession limits remain unchanged.

Migratory Game Bird Name Changes

In April 2020, the USFWS revised the list of migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that included changing some migratory game bird names to conform to accepted use. The common snipe has been changed to the Wilson's snipe and the common moorhen has been changed to common gallinule to reflect the recent split of the two species. All four bird species exist, but the common moorhen and common snipe are not likely to be encountered other than occasionally in Alaska. The Department will continue effective communications and customer service related to the new name changes.

Managed Waterfowl Areas

Managed waterfowl areas serve several important functions. They provide high-quality and secure habitats for migrating waterfowl and other wetland species, as well as excellent recreational hunting opportunities. Although waterfowl hunting is generally the primary focus in these areas, hunting other species is also encouraged where conflicts do not arise with waterfowl habitat or hunting. Each area is unique based on the local habitat, species utilizing the area, ownership acreage, and social traditions. Where possible, the Department attempts to have consistent regulations between these areas, while still acknowledging local public desires.

In 2016, the Department made the wildlife refuge season date closures September 1 through January 1 at Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area, Fish Point State Wildlife Area, and St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area (Harsens Island Unit). This closure restricts access to the areas for unauthorized purposes so it can reduce disturbance to waterfowl and other wildlife. Due to a technical error, the wildlife refuge season date closure for St. John's marsh was omitted. The Department is recommending changing the wildlife refuge season date closure at the St. John's Marsh from September 1 to the end of the waterfowl season to September 1 to November 30. This will provide clear refuge closure dates, which will improve the ability to enforce unauthorized refuge access. Opening the refuge on December 1 will provide additional hunting opportunities during the white-tailed deer muzzleloader season and the December pheasant season dates while still conserving the benefits of the refuge to waterfowl and other wildlife during fall migration.

Administrative Changes

On January 7, 2022, the USFWS published a rule that 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. These changes are administrative and do not change the substance of the federal regulations. The Wildlife Conservation Order references sections of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Department recommends updating the references in the Wildlife Conservation Order to align with the new administrative changes to the Code of Federal Regulations.

Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Managed Waterfowl Area Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2022

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February 14, 2022

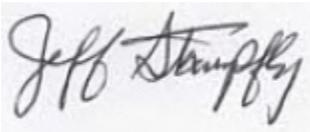
Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this order. This order was submitted for information on February 10, 2022, at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's January calendar and may be eligible for approval on March 10, 2022.



Jared Duquette, Chief
Wildlife Division



Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



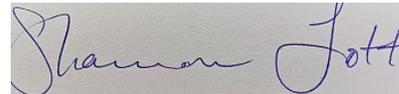
Jeff Stampfly, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



Shannon Lott
Natural Resources Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Director has authority.



Daniel Eichinger, Director

Date: March 10, 2022

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 2 of 2022

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective March 11, 2022, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.415 Migratory birds open seasons, possession limit defined, exceptions.

Sec. 3.415. The migratory bird possession limit shall be three times the daily limit. The migratory bird hunting open seasons and exceptions are as shown in table 10:

**TABLE 10
MIGRATORY BIRD OPEN SEASONS**

Season and Species	Zone or Management Unit	Open Season
Ducks (regular season)	North Zone	September 24 to November 20 and November 26 to November 27
	Middle Zone	October 8 to December 4 and December 17 to December 18
	South Zone	October 15 to December 11 and December 31 to January 1, 2023
Merganser		Same dates as ducks in the respective zones
Coots		Same dates as ducks in the respective zones
Common Gallinules	Statewide	September 1 to November 9
Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Brant, Snow Goose, and Ross' Goose	North Zone	September 1 to December 16
	Middle Zone	September 1 to September 30 and October 8 to December 23
	South Zone, excluding GMUs listed below in the table	September 1 to September 30, October 15 to December 11, December 31 to January 8, 2023, and February 4 to February 13, 2023
	Alleghen County GMU	September 1 to September 30, November 5 to November 13, November 26 to December 4, and December 17 to February 13, 2023
	Muskegon County W.W. GMU	October 15 to December 22

3.415a Youth waterfowl hunting weekend, season established, limits defined, adult requirements, hunting hours; exceptions.

Sec. 3.415a The youth waterfowl hunting weekend shall be 2 consecutive days starting the third Saturday in September and within the guidelines approved by the United States fish and wildlife service. Except for persons taking Canada goose during the September segment of the Canada goose season in

each zone, the following rules shall apply to a person taking ducks, mergansers, Canada goose, coot, or common gallinule on the youth waterfowl hunting weekend:

(1) Youth 16 years of age and under may take duck, merganser, Canada goose, coot, or common gallinule provided the youth is licensed to take waterfowl as required by part 435, hunting and fishing licensing, of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451. The daily and possession limit for each species shall be as provided in section 3.416.

(2) A parent or legal guardian shall not allow a youth hunter 10 through 16 years of age to go afield to hunt duck, merganser, Canada goose, coot, or common gallinule unless the youth hunter is accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age or older, regardless of property ownership. A youth less than 10 years of age must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age or older and meet the requirements of the mentored youth hunting program. An adult accompanying a youth waterfowl hunter may take other game for which the season is open while the youth is exercising the privileges of the youth waterfowl hunting weekend.

(3) The hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, local time.

(4) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of waterfowl, shall apply on youth waterfowl hunting weekend.

3.415c Veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel waterfowl hunting days, season established, limits defined, requirements, hunting hours, exceptions.

Sec. 3.415c The veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel waterfowl hunting days shall be 2 consecutive days starting the third Saturday in September and within the guidelines approved by the United States fish and wildlife service. Except for persons taking Canada goose during the September segment of the Canada goose season in each zone, the following rules shall apply to a person taking ducks, mergansers, Canada goose, coot, or common gallinule on the veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel waterfowl hunting days:

(1) Participating veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel shall possess afield documentation verifying that they are an active-duty member of the military or documentation from the US Department of Veterans Affairs verifying that they are a veteran. The documentation must be presented upon request of a Michigan conservation officer, tribal conservation officer, or any law enforcement officer.

(2) Participating veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel may take duck, merganser, Canada goose, coot, or common gallinule provided the veteran or active military personnel is licensed to take waterfowl as required by part 435, hunting and fishing licensing, of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451. The daily and possession limit for each species shall be as provided in section 3.416.

(3) The hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, local time.

(4) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of waterfowl, shall apply during the veterans and active-duty U.S. military personnel waterfowl hunt.

3.416 Migratory game birds; daily limit.

Sec. 3.416. The daily limit of migratory game birds for the seasons specified in section 3.415 shall be as follows:

(1) Ducks, daily limit. The daily limit shall be 6 ducks of which no more than 4 may be mallards, no more than 2 may be a hen mallard, no more than 2 may be black ducks, no more than 3 may be wood ducks, no more than 1 may be a pintail, no more than 2 may be redheads, and no more than 2 may be canvasbacks.

(a) As part of the total daily limit for ducks as described in section (1), the daily limit for scaup for the zones and dates specified shall be as follows:

Zone or Management Unit	Dates	Daily Limit
North Zone	September 24 to November 7	No more than 2 scaup
	November 8 to November 20 and November 26 to November 27	No more than 1 scaup
Middle Zone	October 8 to October 23	No more than 1 scaup
	October 24 to December 4 and December 17 to December 18	No more than 2 scaup
South Zone	October 15 to October 30	No more than 1 scaup
	October 31 to December 11 and December 31 to January 1, 2023	No more than 2 scaup

(2) Merganser, daily limit. The merganser daily limit shall be 5 mergansers of which no more than 2 may be a hooded merganser.

(3) Dark geese (Canada, white-fronted and Brant), north, middle, and south zones, including GMUs, daily limit. In the north, middle, and south zones as described in sections 1.7, 1.8, and 1.9 of this order, respectively, and all GMUs as described in sections 12.702 and 12.703 the daily limit of dark geese shall be 5, only 1 of which can be a Brant.

(4) Light geese (snow, blue and Ross), daily limit. The daily limit on light geese (snow, blue, and Ross) shall be 20.

(5) Coot, daily limit. The daily limit of coot shall be 15.

(6) Common gallinule, daily limit. The daily limit of common gallinule shall be 1.

3.420 Wilson's snipe, rails, and woodcock seasons; exceptions; king rails.

Sec. 3.420 (1) The statewide open season for woodcock shall be a total of 45 days beginning on September 15.

(2) The open season for Wilson's snipe, Virginia and sora rails shall be September 1 to November 9 statewide.

(3) There is no open season for king rails.

3.421 Wilson's snipe, rails, and woodcock, daily and possession limits.

Sec. 3.421 (1) The daily limit for Wilson's snipe shall be 8 and the possession limit shall be 24.

(2) The daily limit for Virginia and Sora rails (singly or in the aggregate) shall be 25 and the possession limit shall be 75.

(3) The daily limit for woodcock shall be 3 and the possession limit shall be 9.

3.422 Migratory birds, falconry, open seasons; daily limit, possession limit.

Sec. 3.422. (1) The open season for taking Wilson's snipe, woodcock, and Virginia and Sora rails by falconry shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones for these species as described in sections 3.415 and 3.420.

(2) The open season for taking geese shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones and goose management units.

(3) The open season for taking duck, merganser, coot and common gallinule shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones for these species, plus the season shall be open statewide January 2 to January 15, 2023 and February 24 to March 10, 2023.

(4) The daily limit for migratory game birds taken by falconry shall be 3 birds combined, and the possession limit shall be 9 birds combined.

3.424 September teal hunt; open season; areas defined.

Sec. 3.424 (1) The open season for teal shall be September 1 to September 16 statewide.

(2) All state parks shall be closed.

3.425 September teal hunt; daily limit; possession limit.

Sec. 3.425 (1) The daily limit for teal shall be 6 and the possession limit shall be three times the daily limit.

4.3 Buying and selling.

Sec. 4.3 A person may buy, offer to buy, sell, offer to sell, or exchange for anything of value animals or parts of animals only as provided in this section:

(1) The fur, hide, pelt, plumage, or skin of game, lawfully taken during the open season or raised under the authority of a permit to hold wildlife in captivity, may be sold or offered for sale by the person licensed to take the game or the person permitted to hold wildlife in captivity.

(2) The carcass and parts thereof, of fur-bearing animals lawfully taken during their open season or lawfully imported from another state, territory, or country, may be bought or sold.

(3) The antlers of deer, elk, and moose lawfully taken by a hunter or shed by the animal may be bought or sold. The skull of black bear lawfully taken may be bought or sold. The teeth, claws, flesh, bones, or internal organs of game, other than those species listed in subsection (2), shall not be bought or sold.

(4) A person engaged in the business of buying or selling animals, or parts thereof, other than tanned skins, hides, or manufactured products, may be required to obtain a fur dealer's license as required by part 425, furs, hides, and pelts, of the natural resources and environmental protection act, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.42501 to 324.42507 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. A taxidermist, licensed by the department, is not required to obtain a fur dealer's license to purchase animals, or parts thereof, which may be legally bought or sold under subsections (1) to (3), part 427, breeders and dealers, of the natural resources and environmental protection act, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.42701 to 324.42714 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, or part 417, private shooting preserves, of the natural resources and environmental protection act, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.41701 to 324.41712 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(5) A dealer in meats, restaurateur, private club manager, shooting preserve licensee, or the sponsor of a field dog trial may sell for food the carcasses of game listed in subsection (2), game lawfully purchased from a captive wildlife permittee, and/or game lawfully imported from another state, territory, or country provided that the seller maintains on the premises documents, receipts, bills of lading, invoices, or customs declarations which identify the number, origin, poundage, species, and cost of the game being sold. Such records must be maintained on the premises and made available to any conservation officer during normal business hours for at least 30 days following the sale of the game.

(6) A person with a permit to hold wildlife in captivity may buy and sell any animals listed on their permit in accordance with the provisions of part 427, breeders and dealers, of the natural resources and environmental protection act, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324.42701 to 324.42714 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and orders issued under the authority of that part.

(7) A licensed taxidermist may sell a permanently preserved specimen other than a migratory bird if the animal was lawfully obtained and, upon transfer, is lawfully possessed by the buyer. Documentation of lawful purchase or lawful importation must be maintained by the taxidermist and transferred to the buyer upon sale. A licensed taxidermist may sell a mounted, properly marked, captive bred, migratory bird if it was lawfully obtained and is sold in compliance with federal regulations.

(8) Dead game, or parts thereof, imported from another state, territory, or country and offered for sale must be labeled or stamped as a product of that state, territory, or country and the name of the producer clearly identified in legible English on the exterior of any packaging.

(9) The state will allow the buying and selling of raptors as provided by 50 C.F.R. 21.85. No person shall purchase, sell or barter any raptor eggs, any raptors taken from the wild, any raptor semen collected from the wild, or any raptors hatched from eggs taken from the wild.

5.51b Damage and nuisance animal control permit; Canada goose, eggs, nests, site permit, requirement, issuance, reporting.

(1) To capture and hold Canada geese, destroy Canada goose eggs and nests under the authority granted to the state of Michigan by the federal special Canada goose permit a permittee must:

(a) Possess written certification of the successful completion of a department sponsored training to handle and/or destroy Canada goose eggs and nests.

(b) Provide the department with one of the following:

(i) A petition requesting transport of geese signed by a minimum of 70 percent of the riparian owners on the involved water body.

(ii) A signed request for transport of geese from a governmental agency representative of the riparian owners.

(iii) Proof of sole ownership of the site.

(c) Make application for and be issued a Canada goose site permit by the wildlife permit specialist on a form provided by the department at the fees noted in section 5.110 (3).

(d) Submit an annual report as required by section 5.54 of this order.

(2) An annual Canada goose site permit shall be valid for the period from March 11 through August 31 per federal regulation 50 CFR 21.120. Failure of the permittee to comply with the permit provisions will make the permittee ineligible to receive a Canada goose control permit for a period of one year.

(3) The department shall not be liable for any damage suffered by a complainant as a result of the performance of the permittee operating under the authority of a permit.

(4) Permits shall be issued only to bona fide landowners or lessees, and shall not be transferable.

(5) To transport Canada geese under this section a permittee must do the following:

(a) Possess written certification of the successful completion of department sponsored training to handle and transport geese.

(b) Make application for and be issued a goose permit by the wildlife permit specialist on a form provided by the department at the fee noted in section 5.110 (4).

(c) Possess and employ state inspected and approved transportation cages.

(d) Transport geese to locations and within timeframes specified by the department.

(e) Submit an annual report as required by section 5.54 of this order.

5.52b Nuisance animal control businesses, public nuisance animal control agencies and non-profit nuisance animal control organizations; Canada goose permit, requirements, issuance, reporting.

(1) To capture and hold or kill Canada geese, destroy Canada goose eggs and nests under the authority granted to the state of Michigan by the federal special Canada goose permit, a permittee must:

(a) Possess written certification of the successful completion of a department sponsored training to handle and/or destroy Canada goose eggs and nests.

(b) Make application for and be issued a Canada goose permit by the wildlife permit specialist on a form provided by the department at the fee noted in section 5.110 (5).

(c) Submit an annual report as required by section 5.54 of this order.

(2) An annual Canada goose permit shall be valid for the period from March 11 through August 31 per federal regulation 50 CFR 21.120. Failure of the permittee to comply with the permit provisions will make the permittee ineligible to receive Canada goose control permits for a period of one year.

(3) The department shall not be liable for any damage suffered by a complainant as a result of the performance of the permittee operating under the authority of a permit.

(4) To transport Canada geese under this section a permittee must do the following:

(a) Ensure that the landowner or land lessee of the site from which geese are to be removed holds a valid permit under section 5.51b of this order.

(b) Possess written certification of the successful completion of a department sponsored training to handle and transport geese.

(c) Make application for and be issued a Canada goose permit by the wildlife permit specialist on a form provided by the department at the fee noted in section 5.110 (6).

(d) Possess and employ state inspected and approved transportation cages.

(e) Transport geese to locations and within timeframes specified by the department.

(f) Submit a site report to the department on form provided by the department.

(5) An annual Canada goose permit shall be valid for the period from March 11 through August 31 per federal regulation 50 CFR 21.120. Failure of the permittee to comply with the permit provisions will make the permittee ineligible to receive Canada goose control permits for a period of one year.

13.7 St. John's marsh; additional rules.

Sec. 13.7 Within the St. John's marsh unit, St. Clair county, being that portion of state-owned lands and waters lying in sections 19, 30, and 31, T3N R16E; sections 24, 25, 35, and 36, T3N R15E; and sections 1 and 2, T2N R15E:

(1) It is unlawful to use or possess any shot, whether loose or loaded in shotshells, of a material other than those specified in section 3.411, subsections (1) to (3) except single projectile loads.

(2) Entry into an area posted "wildlife refuge" is prohibited from September 1 to November 30.

Issued on this 10th day of March, 2022.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Moncrieff Rose', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carol Moncrieff Rose, Chair
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Eichinger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Eichinger
Director