

Dog Training Limit on Bears

Chad Stewart, WLD

Jason Haines, LED



Original Proposal

- Currently, up to 8 dogs can be trained on a bear at any one time.
- Original Proposal: Increase the number of dogs that can be trained on a bear to 10.
 - Train dogs more efficiently
 - Trespass concerns
 - Wolf Conflicts
 - Public Perception of hunting with dogs
- Department did not support this proposal



New Proposal

- It shall be unlawful to dog train more than eight dogs on bear at any one time, except an additional two dogs may be brought to the tree on a leash for purposes of training after the chase has ended and the bear is treed.
- New WCO amendment required



Discussion

- Compromise between stakeholder groups and Department staff
- LED & WLD are neutral
 - Concerns that differing regulations for bear hunting season and dog training season can cause confusion
 - No biological impact
- Will not be included in the Bear Hunting Regulations Summary if approved



Thank You



2025-26 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons



Kaitlyn Barnes, Waterfowl Specialist (Acting)



Process

- USFWS:
 - Publish Preliminary, Proposed, and Final Frameworks
- DNR:
 - Waterfowl Workgroup
 - Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee
 - NRC
 - Submit Season Selections for publication in Federal Register



Canada Goose Population Status

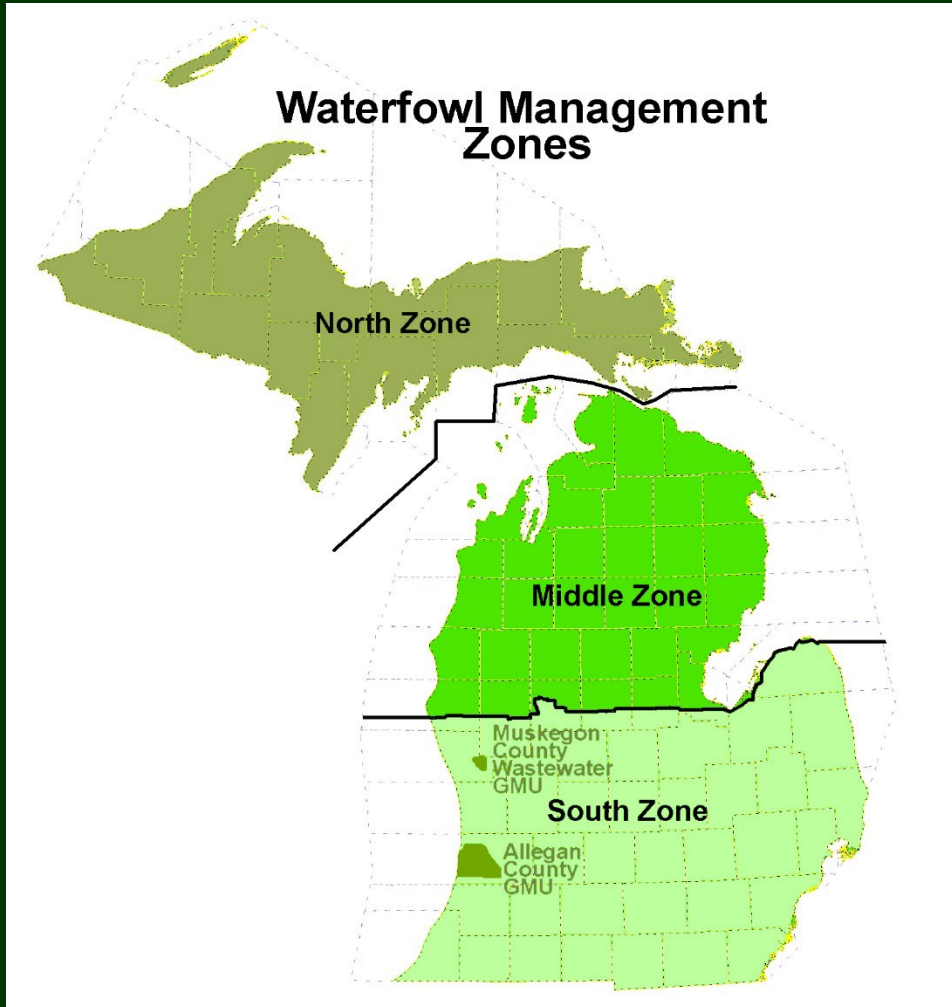
- Mississippi Flyway temperate-breeding estimates indicate long-term increasing trend
- MI temperate-breeding estimates are above goal range
- Subarctic-nesting geese stable but variable



2025 Goose Season Federal Framework



2025 Goose Season Federal Framework



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



2025 Goose Federal Frameworks – Bag Limits

Canada daily limits:

- Maximum 5 birds



Snow, blue, Ross' daily limits:

- Maximum 20 birds



White-fronted daily limits:

- Maximum 5 birds in aggregate with dark geese



Brant daily limits:

- Maximum 1 bird in aggregate with dark geese



Possession limits 3X daily limit

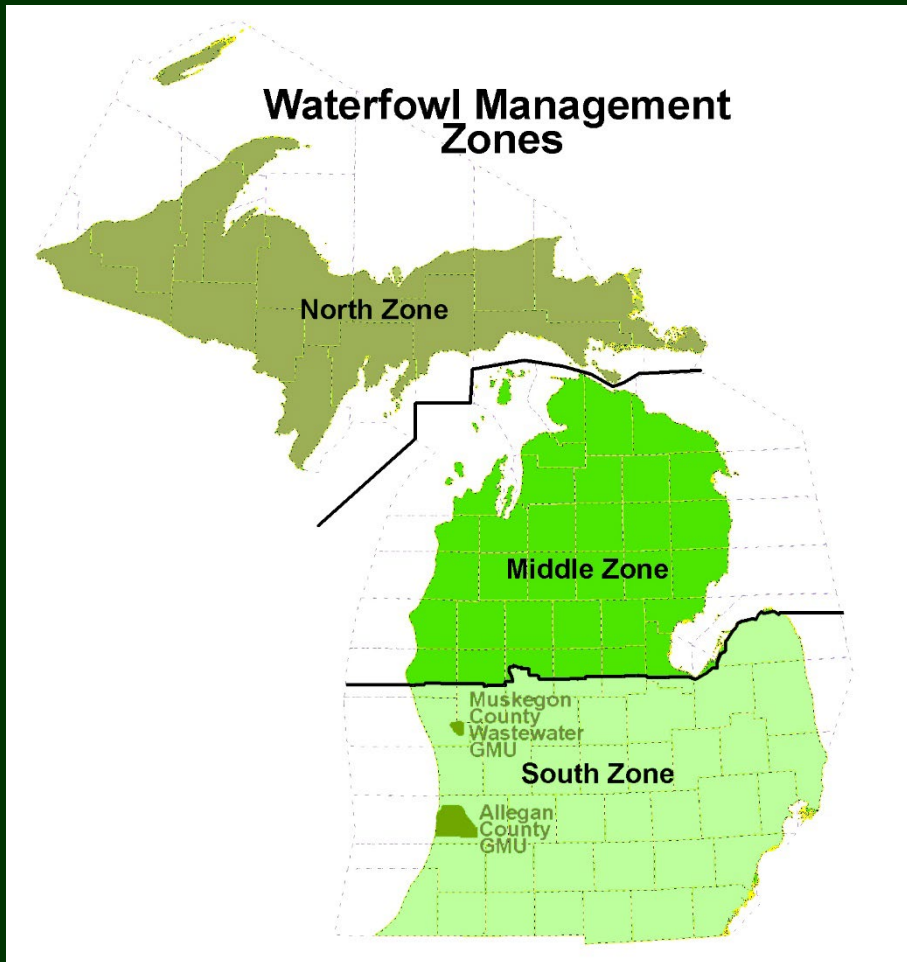


2025 Michigan Goose Season Recommendations



2025 Goose Season

Recommendations Season Dates and Bag Limits – North Zone

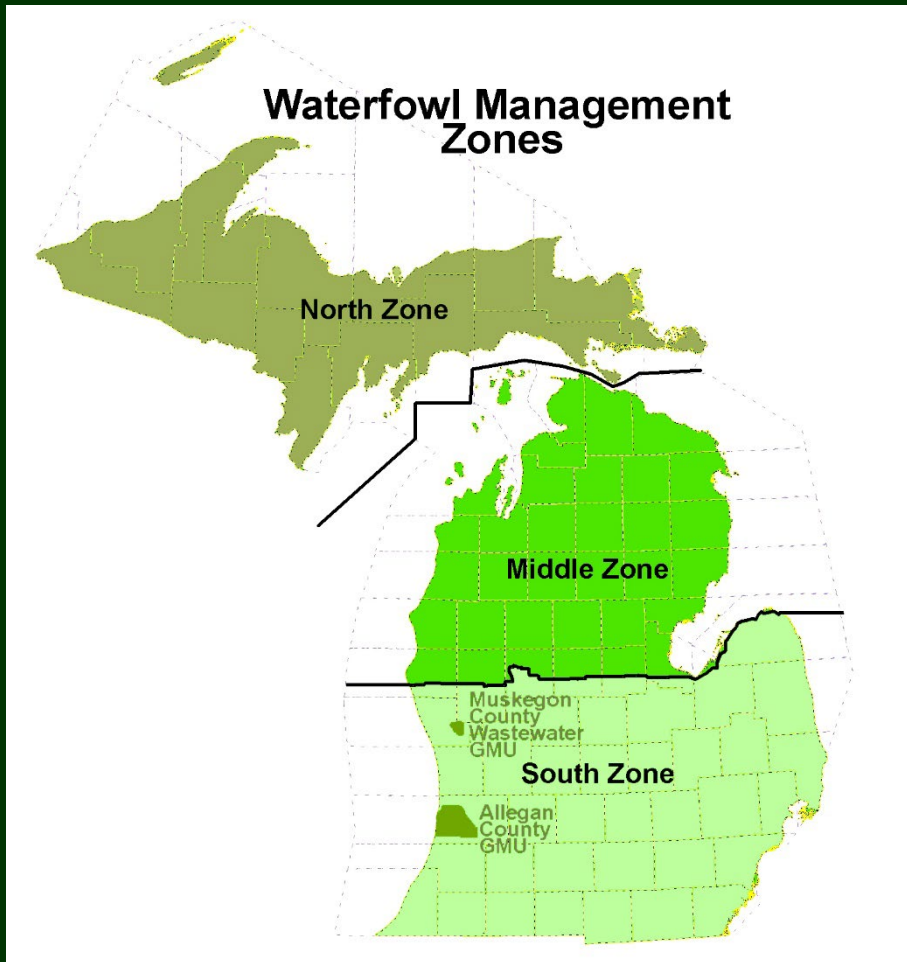


- Sept. 1 – Dec. 16
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



2025 Goose Season

Recommendations Season Dates and Bag Limits – Middle Zone

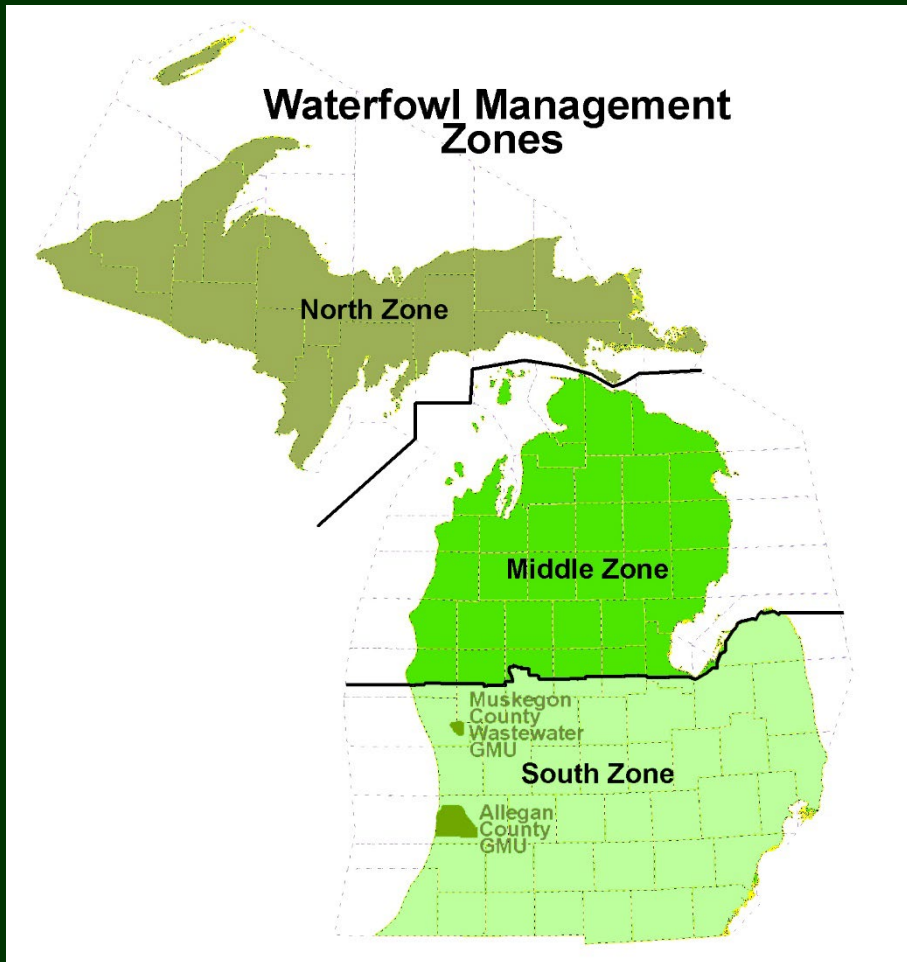


- Sept. 1 – 30 and Oct. 4 – Dec. 19
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



2025 Goose Season

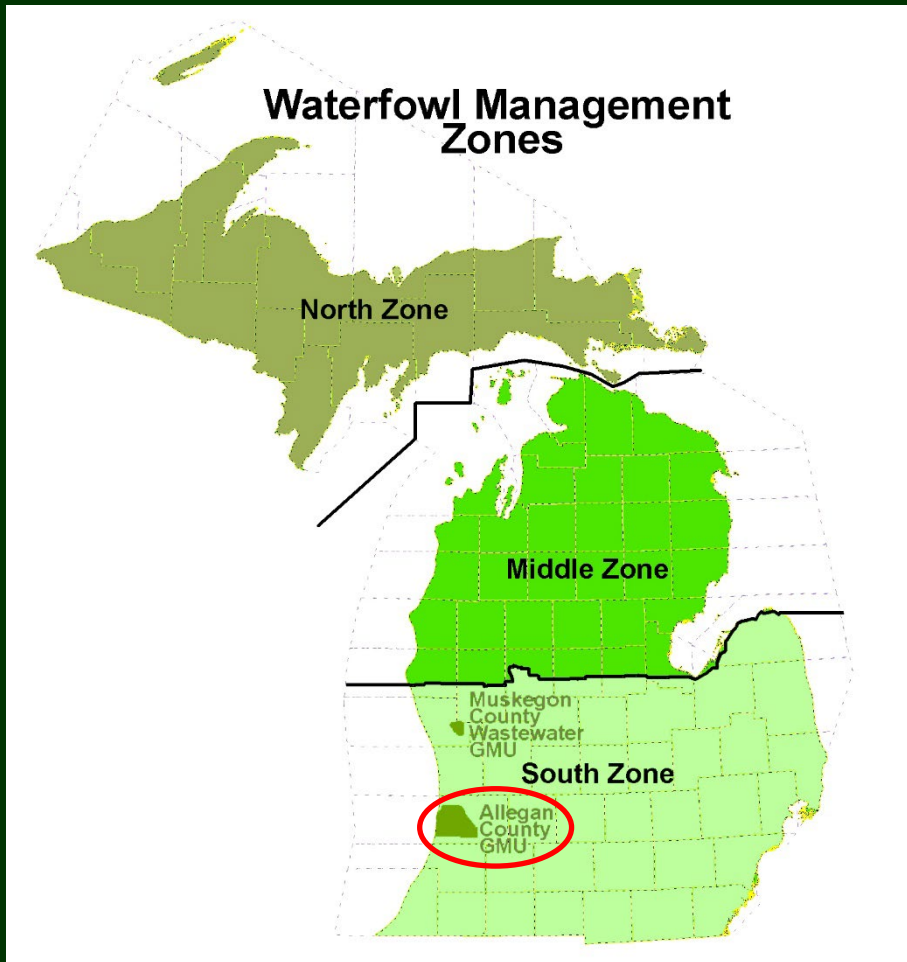
Recommendations Season Dates and Bag Limits – South Zone



- Sept. 1 – 30; Oct. 18 – Dec. 14; Dec. 27 – Jan. 4, 2026; and Jan. 31 – Feb. 9, 2026
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



2025 Goose Season Recommendations – GMUs

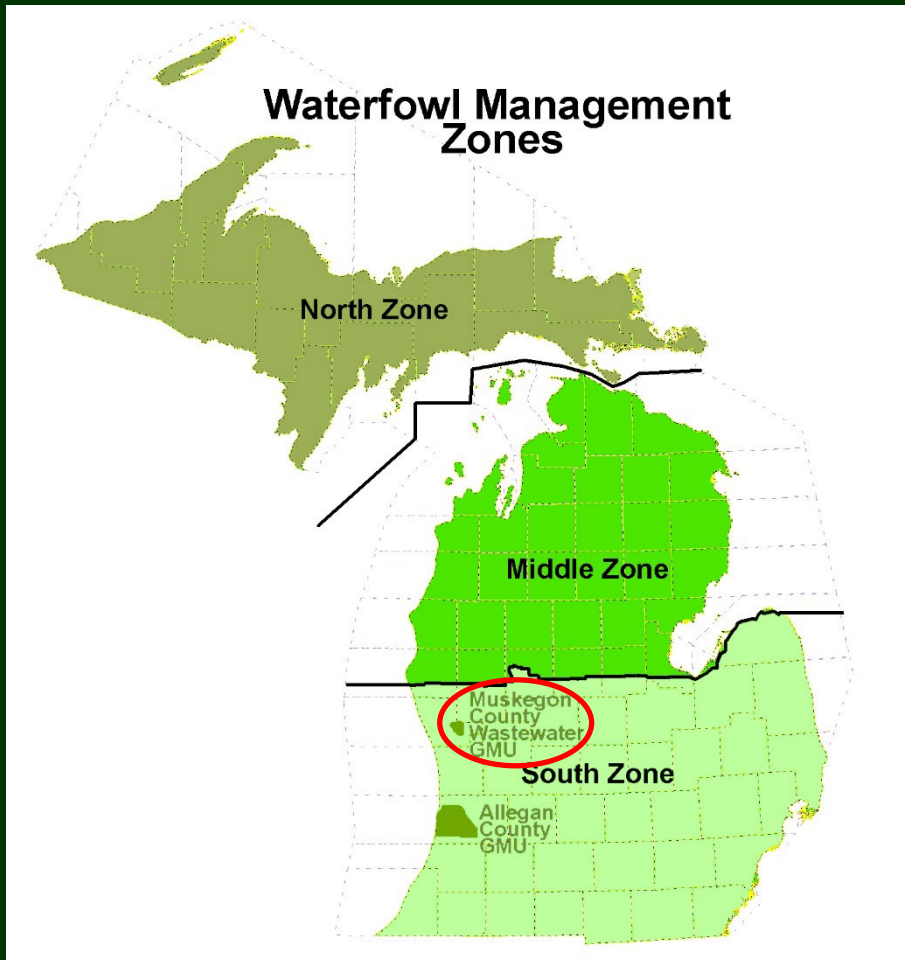


Allegan County

- Sept. 1 – 30; Oct. 18 – Nov. 5; Dec. 20 – Feb. 15, 2026
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



2025 Goose Season Recommendations – GMUs



Muskegon County Wastewater

- Oct. 21 – Dec. 20
- Dark goose aggregate daily limit = 5, only 1 of which can be a brant
- Light goose daily limit = 20



2024 Duck Population Status

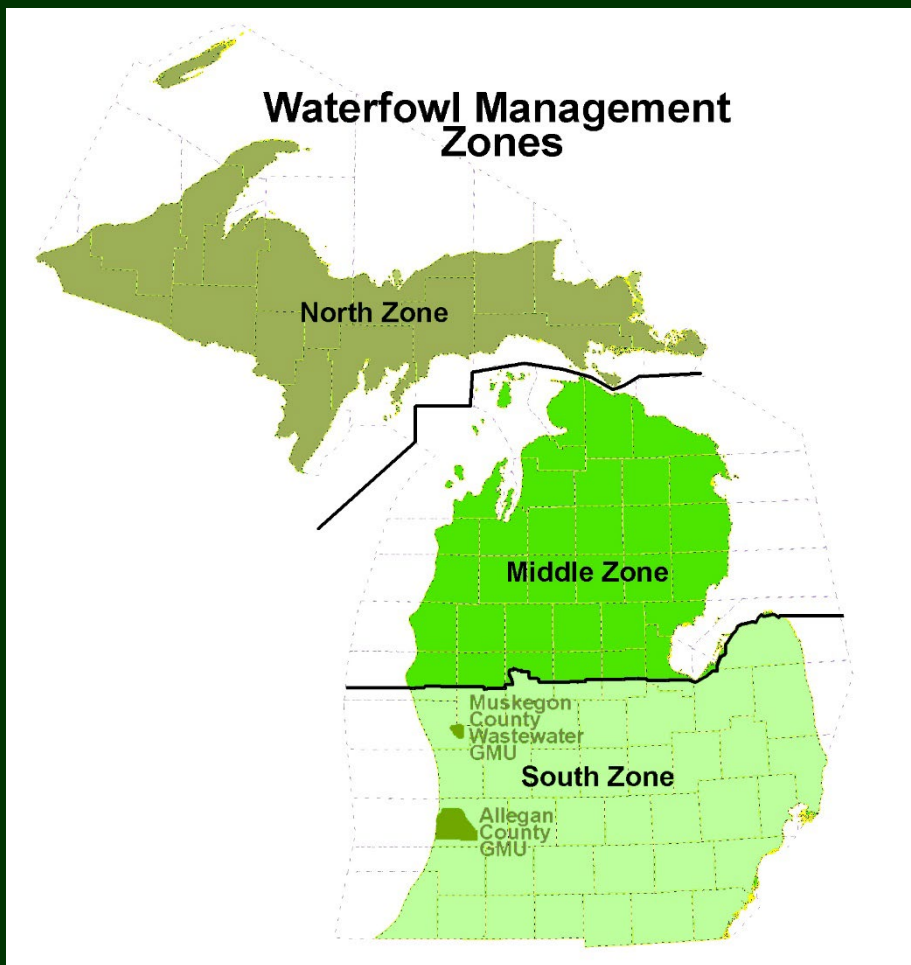
- Continental duck populations slightly down from 2023
- Michigan total duck and mallard estimates up greatly significantly from 2023
 - Continuing concern over long-term decline of Great Lakes mallards



David Stimac Photography



2025 Duck Season Federal Framework

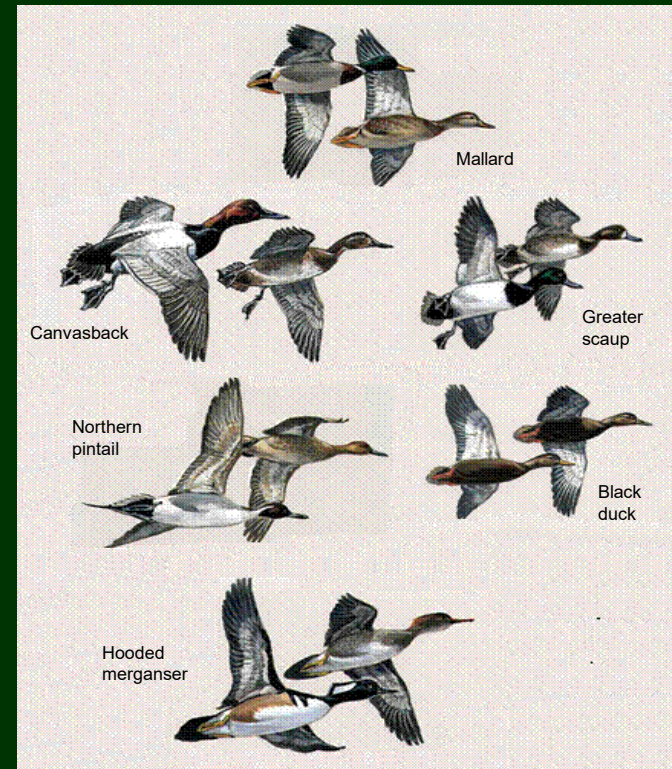


- Liberal season
 - Maximum 60 days
 - Between Saturday nearest Sept. 24 and January 31
 - Maximum 6 birds per day
- Possession limit 3X daily limit
- Seasons set by Zone
- One split per Zone

2025 Duck Season

Federal Framework – 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 3 birds
 - All other ducks
 - 6 birds
- 5 mergansers combined
 - Maximum 2 hooded mergansers



Pintail Limit

- Updated harvest strategy
- New model, more data
- Season closure threshold lowered from 1.75 to 1.2 million breeding pintails



2025 Michigan Duck Season Recommendations



2025 Early Teal Season Recommendations

- Sept. 1 – 9 Statewide
- Daily limit 6 teal
- Possession 3X daily limit
- Hunting hours begin at sunrise



2025 Youth Season Recommendations

- Remain 3rd weekend in September (Sept. 20-21)
- Daily and possession limits same as regular waterfowl seasons





Veterans and Active-Duty Waterfowl Hunt Recommendations

- Hold concurrently with Youth Season (September 20-21)
- Bag limits for Youth Season apply

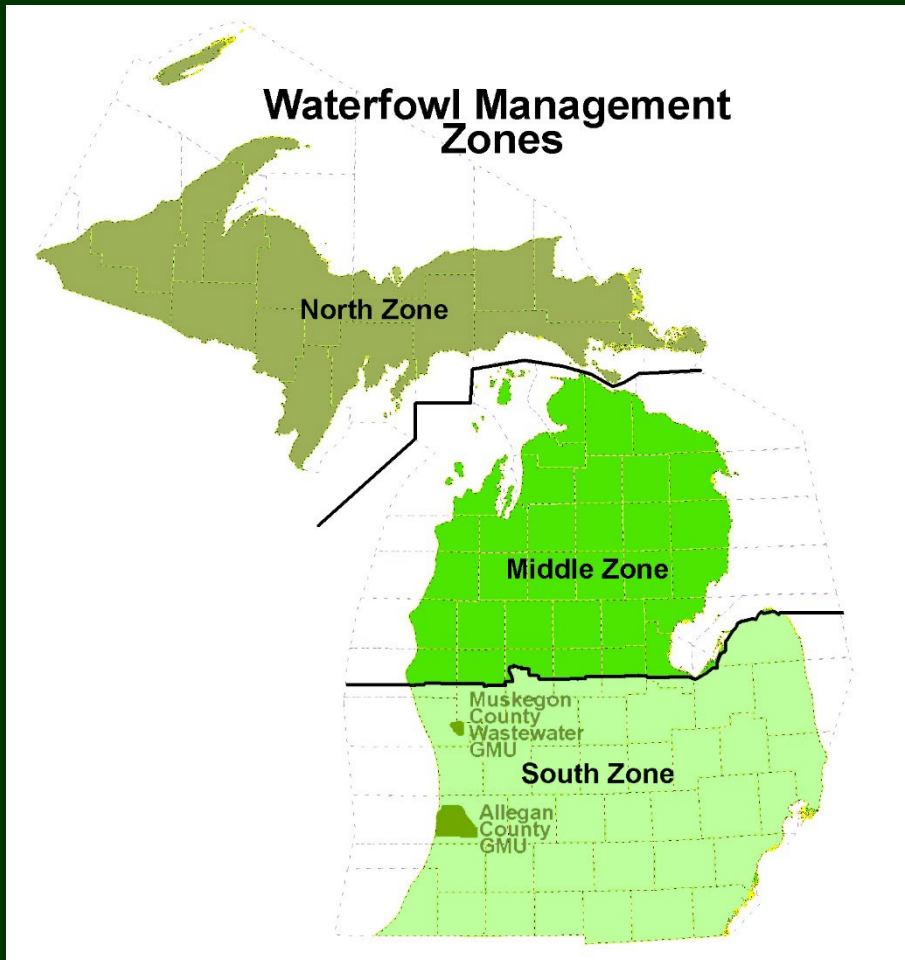


3-Year Stable Duck Season Opening Dates

- North Zone:
 - 2025 = Sept. 27
 - 2026 = Sept. 26
 - 2027 = Sept. 25
- Middle Zone:
 - 2025 = Oct. 4
 - 2026 = Oct. 3
 - 2027 = Oct. 2
- South Zone:
 - 2025 = Oct. 18
 - 2026 = Oct. 17
 - 2027 = Oct. 16



2025 Duck Season Recommendations – Dates



- North Zone
 - Sept. 27 – Nov. 23
 - Nov. 29 – 30
- Middle Zone
 - Oct. 4 – Nov. 30
 - Dec. 13 – 14
- South Zone
 - Oct. 18 – Dec. 14
 - Dec. 27 – 28

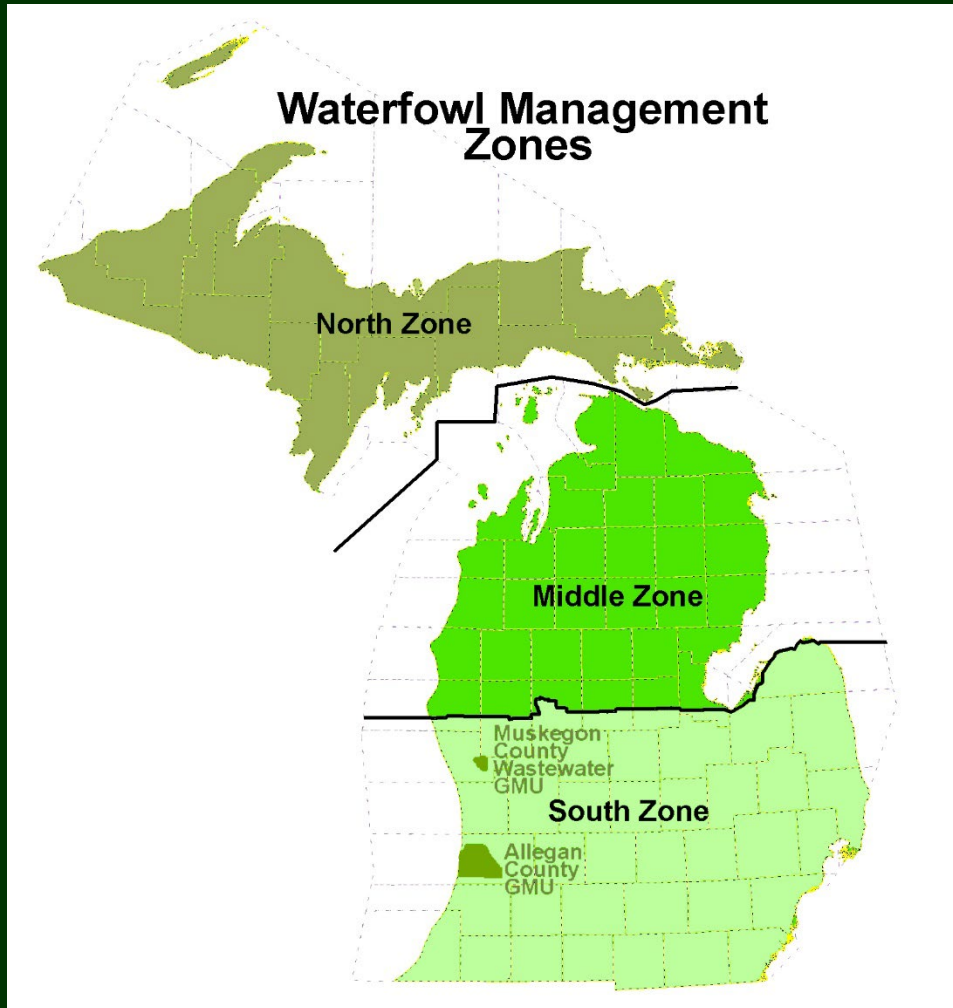


2025 Duck Season Recommendations – Daily Limits

- Maximum allowed under Federal Frameworks
- Scaup:
 - 2-bird limit for first 45 days in North Zone
 - 2-bird limit for the last 45 days in Middle and South Zones
 - Maximize scaup harvest opportunity in each zone



Waterfowl Management Zones



- Zone reconfiguration every 5 years:
 - 1 zone, up to 2 splits
 - 2 zones, 1 split
 - 2 zones, 2 splits
 - 3 zones, 1 split
 - 4 zones, no split

Process

- Winter/Spring 2024-25 – CWAC information gathering from hunters
- August 2024 – Additional CWAC meeting
- December 2024 – Zone change proposals from CWAC due
- December 2024 – DNR Workgroup discussions
- January 11, 2025 – CWAC Meeting
- February 18, 2025 NRC (Information)
- March 13, 2025 NRC (Action)
- Implement 2026-27 hunting season (for 2026-30 seasons)

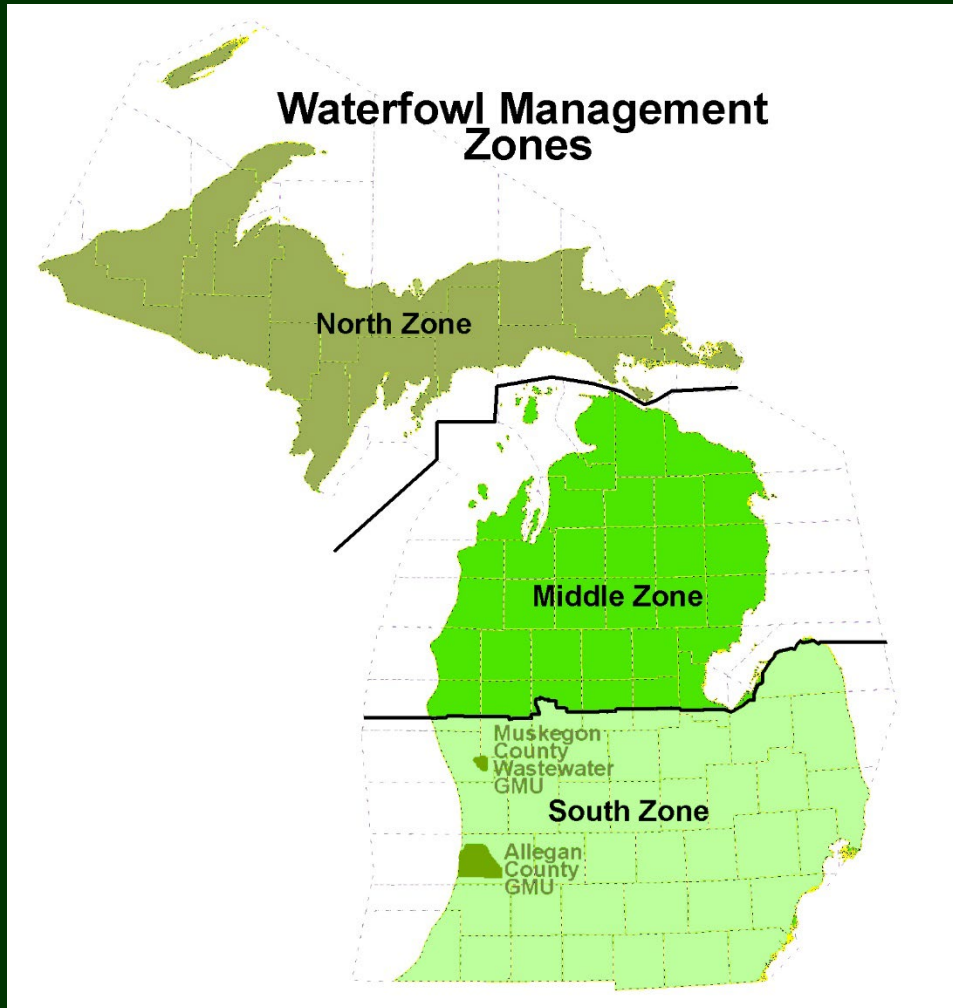


Duck Hunting Zones and Splits for 2026-2030 Seasons

- 3 proposals evaluated:
 - 4 zones, no split; additional zone southwest
 - 2 zones, 2 splits
 - Boundary change between South and Middle Zone



Waterfowl Management Zones



2026-2030 recommendation:

- Maintain current configuration
 - 3 zones, 1 split
 - Boundaries remain the same





2025-26 Falconry Season Recommendations

- Same dates as gun hunting
- Additional days for ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens:
 - Dec. 29 – Jan. 11, 2026
 - Feb. 21 – Mar. 10, 2026
- No change to daily bag limits
- Possession limits 3X daily limit



Proposed Regulation Changes: Managed Waterfowl Areas

2024

MICHIGAN
WATERFOWL HUNTING
REGULATIONS SUMMARY





Important:

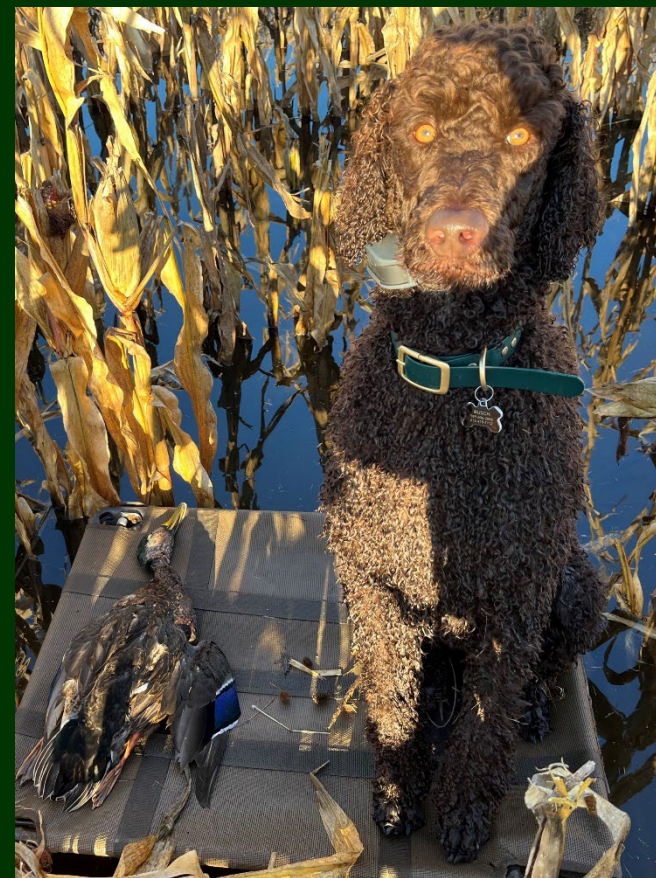
- Physical federal duck stamps purchased and received at a post office must be signed by the hunter.
- Electronic federal duck stamps are valid July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 and do not need to be signed by the hunter.
- Hunters who purchase electronic federal duck stamps will receive their physical federal duck stamps by mail after March 10, 2025.

Reserved waterfowl drawing results available Sept. 16.



Designated Retriever Dog Zones

- Currently, specific zones on MWAs require the use of a retrieving-type dog to hunt.
- Proposal: Repeal existing Conservation Order specific to retriever dog zones.



Register Absentee Hunters for Draw

- Currently, all members of a group must register together prior to the drawing.
- Proposal: Allow a single hunter to register up to 3 absentee hunters prior to the drawing.



MWA Youth Days

- Currently, MWA youth day parties must be “made up of at least 1 youth, 16 or younger”.
- Proposal: Additionally, no more than 2 adults permitted in the party.



St. John's Marsh Refuge Dates

- Currently, September 1 to November 30.
- Proposal: Change St. John's Marsh refuge dates to September 1 to January 1.
 - Provides consistency across MWAs





Self-Registration for Deer Hunting

- Currently, deer hunting may be allowed by permit through a random drawing.
- Proposal: Additionally, allow deer hunters to obtain a permit through self-registration.
 - Nayanquing Point
 - Fish Point
 - Harsens Island



Shiawassee River SGA Deer Permits

- Currently, all deer and waterfowl hunting permits shall be returned to the check station.
- Proposal: Require only waterfowl hunting permits to be returned to the check station.



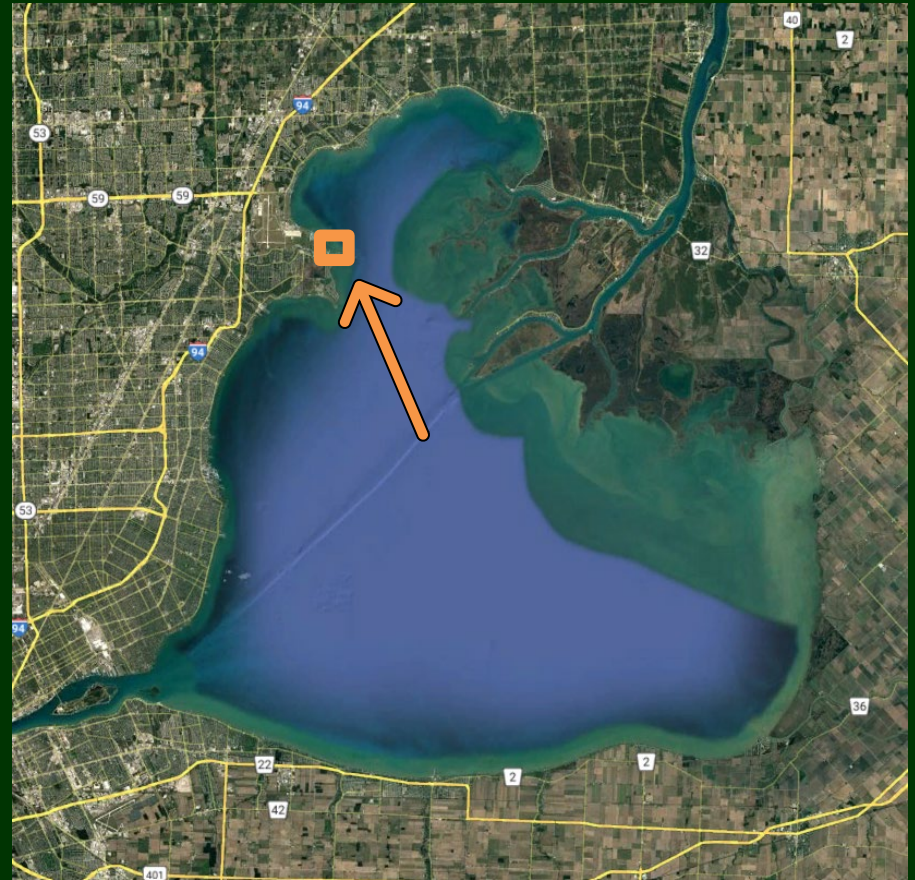
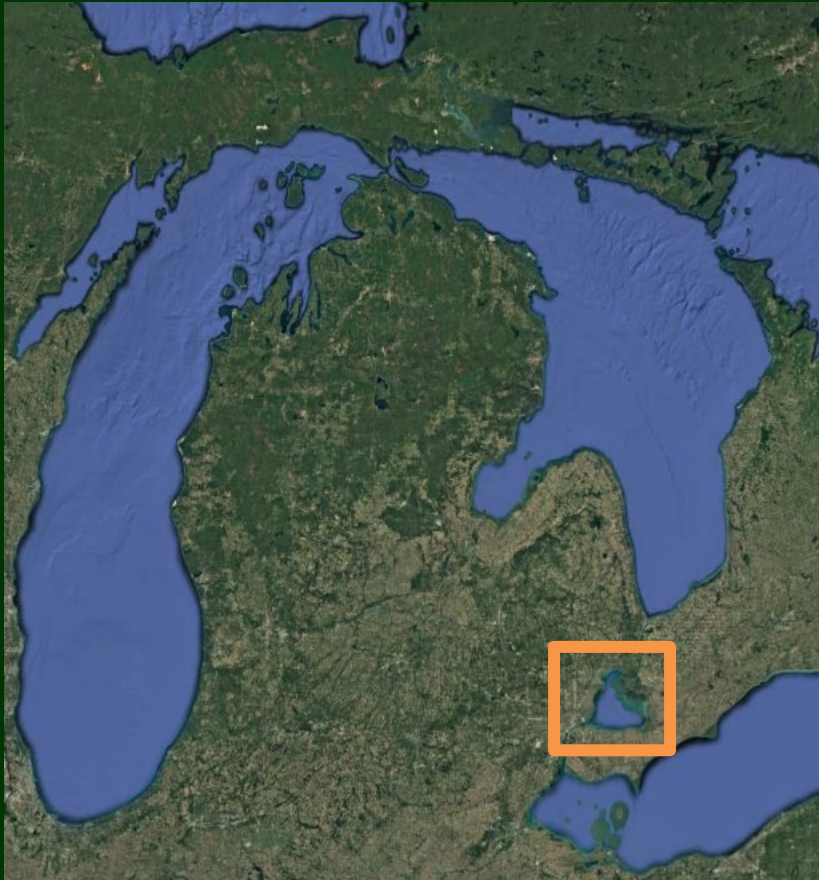


Belvidere Bay Waterfowl Refuge

- Currently, Belvidere Bay on Lake St. Clair is a waterfowl refuge, closed to migratory bird hunting.
- Proposal: Repeal Belvidere Bay waterfowl refuge.



Belvidere Bay Waterfowl Refuge



Belvidere Bay Waterfowl Refuge



Land Use Order of the Director: Pointe Mouillee Refuge Dates

- Currently, September 1 to December 15.
- Proposal: Change Pointe Mouillee refuge dates to September 1 to January 1.



Thank You

Michigan.gov/Waterfowl

