



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to PM's, AUGUST 31, 1957

DATES ANNOUNCED FOR 1957 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS

Hunting dates, as selected by State game administrators, for the shooting of migratory waterfowl during the 1957-58 season, were announced today by Acting Secretary of the Interior Hatfield Chilson.

Within the framework of October 1, 1957, to January 15, 1958, as announced by the Department of the Interior on August 15, the States were permitted to choose the specific dates most desirable to them, based on the number of days allotted to each flyway.

In the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways, all States will have a season of 70 consecutive days.

States in the Central Flyway will have a 75-day season on ducks and coots. With certain special conditions designed to protect the Great Basin Canada goose, the Central Flyway generally again will have a 60-day season on geese.

The Pacific Flyway will have a total of 95 shooting days, an increase of 15 days over last year. To balance this lengthened season, however, the bag and possession limits on ducks have been decreased.

Although split seasons were again offered by the Fish and Wildlife Service as options to the States, with the same 10 percent penalty in effect as last year, no State this year elected to break its season into two parts.

Since surveys in the northern States and in Alaska and Canada indicate that the reproductive success of waterfowl on their breeding grounds this year was comparable to last year, hunters can look for fall flights of ducks and geese to be about the same as last year. The production of coots is reported to be good and indications point to a small increase in the fall flights of this species in all flyways.

The Federal regulations announced today include the season dates selected by the States, the prescribed bag and possession limits by flyways for wild ducks, geese, and the seasons on special species such as brant, coots, gallinules in the Pacific Flyway, wood ducks, mergansers, and Wilson's snipe.

For quick reference, the open seasons and the bag and possession limits prescribed by the amended regulations are presented in tabular form in the attached extract from the regulatory document approved by Acting Secretary Chilson.

x x x

§ 6.51 Seasons and limits on waterfowl, coots, and Wilson's snipe. * * *

(c) Atlantic Flyway States

	Ducks	Geese (except snow geese)	Coots	Brant	Wilson's snipe
Daily bag limits	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	10	6	8
Possession limits.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	10	6	8
Seasons in--					
Connecticut	Oct. 26-Jan. 3				Closed season
Delaware.	Nov. 1-Jan. 9				Nov. 1-Nov. 30
District of Columbia.	Closed season				Closed season
Florida	Nov. 23-Jan. 15				Dec. 14-Jan. 12
Georgia	Nov. 7-Jan. 15				Dec. 3-Jan. 1
Maine	Oct. 4-Dec. 12				Oct. 4-Nov. 2
Maryland.	Nov. 7-Jan. 15				Nov. 15-Dec. 14
Massachusetts	Oct. 26-Jan. 3				Oct. 26-Nov. 24
New Hampshire	Oct. 5-Dec. 13				Oct. 1-Oct. 30
New Jersey.	Nov. 2-Jan. 10				Nov. 2-Nov. 30
New York:					
Counties of Nassau and Suffolk, and that part of Westchester County lying south of the Hutchinson River Parkway.	Nov. 2-Jan. 10				Nov. 2-Dec. 1
Remainder of State.	Oct. 19-Dec. 27				Oct. 19-Nov. 17
North Carolina	Nov. 7-Jan. 15				Nov. 28-Dec. 27
Pennsylvania:					
Counties of Bucks, Philadelphia, and Delaware, and the Delaware River bordering on such counties.	Nov. 2-Jan. 10				Oct. 15-Nov. 13
Remainder of State.	Oct. 15-Dec. 23				Oct. 15-Nov. 13
Puerto Rico	Dec. 15-Feb. 12				Closed season
Rhode Island.	Nov. 7-Jan. 15				Nov. 1-Nov. 30
South Carolina.	Nov. 7-Jan. 15				Dec. 17-Jan. 15
Vermont	Oct. 10-Dec. 18				Oct. 10-Nov. 8
Virginia.	Nov. 7-Jan. 15				Nov. 19-Dec. 18
West Virginia	Nov. 3-Jan. 11				Nov. 4-Dec. 3

¹/ Wood ducks and mergansers: Daily bag limit may not include more than 1 wood duck; possession limit not more than 2 wood ducks. Daily bag and possession limits may not include more than 1 hooded merganser. In addition to the limits on other ducks, the daily bag limit on American and red-breasted mergansers is 5, possession limit 10, singly or in the aggregate of both kinds.

§ 6.51 (contd.)

(d) Mississippi Flyway States

	: Ducks <u>1/</u>	: Geese <u>1/</u>	: Coots <u>1/</u>	: Wilson's snipe
Daily bag limits	4 <u>1/</u>	: 5 <u>2/</u>	: 10	: 8
Possession limits.	8 <u>1/</u>	: 5 <u>2/</u>	: 10	: 8
Seasons in--				
Alabama <u>3/</u>	Nov. 7-Jan. 15			: Dec. 17-Jan. 15
Arkansas <u>3/</u>	Nov. 7-Jan. 15			: Nov. 16-Dec. 15
Illinois.	Oct. 19-Dec. 27			: Oct. 19-Nov. 17
Indiana	Oct. 26-Jan. 3			: Oct. 26-Nov. 24
Iowa.	Oct. 5-Dec. 13			: Oct. 5-Nov. 3
Kentucky.	Nov. 7-Jan. 15			: Nov. 20-Dec. 19
Louisiana <u>3/</u>	See footnote 4			: Dec. 17-Jan. 15
Michigan.	Oct. 1-Dec. 9			: Oct. 1-Oct. 30
Minnesota	Oct. 5-Dec. 13			: Oct. 5-Nov. 3
Mississippi <u>3/</u>	See footnote 5			: Dec. 17-Jan. 15
Missouri.	Oct. 25-Jan. 2			: Oct. 25-Nov. 23
Ohio <u>3/</u>	See footnote 6			: Oct. 18-Nov. 16
Tennessee <u>3/</u>	Nov. 7-Jan. 15			: Dec. 1-Dec. 30
Wisconsin	Oct. 1-Dec. 9			: Oct. 1-Oct. 30

1/ Wood ducks and mergansers: Daily bag and possession limits may include not more than one hooded merganser. Closed season on wood ducks in the States of Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. In the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee, not more than one wood duck may be included in the daily bag and possession limits. In addition to the daily bag and possession limits on other ducks, the daily bag limit on American and red-breasted mergansers is 5, possession limit 10, singly or in aggregate of both kinds. Except as provided in footnote 3, the shooting hours for waterfowl and coots shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

2/ Geese: Such limit may not include, in the alternative, more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies; (b) 2 white-fronted geese; or (c) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose.

3/ Shooting hours for waterfowl and coots in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee, shall be one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before sunset.

4/ Louisiana: Waterfowl and coots, Nov. 2-Jan. 10: Provided, That for lands and waters of the State of Louisiana lying easterly of the center line of the main navigable channel of the Mississippi River between the northerly boundary of Louisiana to latitude 31°N., the season shall be Nov. 7-Jan. 15.

5/ Mississippi: Waterfowl and coots, Nov. 7-Jan. 15: Provided, That for lands and waters of the State of Mississippi lying westerly of the center line of the main navigable channel of the Mississippi River from the northerly boundary of Louisiana to latitude 31°N., the season shall be Nov. 2-Jan. 10

6/ Ohio: Waterfowl and coots, Oct. 18-Dec. 26: Provided, That for Pymatuning Reservoir in Ashtabula County, and 1/4 mile distant in any direction from said reservoir, the season shall be Oct. 15-Dec. 23 and the shooting hours for the area described shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

§ 6.51 (contd.)

(e) Central Flyway States

	: Ducks	: Coots	: Geese (except : Ross's geese)	: Wilson's snipe
Daily bag limits	: 5 $\frac{1}{1}$: 10	: 6 $\frac{2}{2}$: 8
Possession limits.	: 10 $\frac{1}{1}$: 10	: 6 $\frac{2}{2}$: 8
Seasons in--	:	:	:	:
Colorado.	: Oct. 18-Dec. 31	:	: Nov.17-Jan.15	: Oct. 18-Nov. 16
Kansas.	: Oct. 12-Dec. 25	:	: Oct. 12-Dec.10	: Oct. 12-Nov. 10
Montana:	:	:	:	:
East of Continental Divide	: Oct. 5-Dec. 18	:	: Oct. 5-Dec. 3	: Closed season
West of Continental Divide	: Oct. 5-Dec. 18	:	: Oct. 5-Nov. 18	: Closed season
Nebraska.	: Oct. 5-Dec. 18	:	: Oct. 12-Dec. 10	: Oct. 5-Nov. 3
New Mexico.	: Nov. 2-Jan. 15	:	: Nov. 17-Jan. 15	: Nov. 2-Dec. 1
North Dakota.	: Oct. 1-Dec. 14	:	: Oct. 1-Nov. 29	: Oct. 1-Oct. 30
Oklahoma.	: Oct. 19-Jan. 1	:	: Oct. 19-Dec.17	: Dec. 3-Jan. 1
South Dakota.	: Oct. 5-Dec. 18	:	: Oct. 5-Dec. 3	: Oct. 5-Nov. 3
Texas $\frac{3}{3}$: Nov. 1-Jan. 14	:	: Nov. 1-Dec. 30	: Dec. 16-Jan. 14
Wyoming:	:	:	:	:
Teton County and that part of:	: Oct. 11-Dec. 24	:	: Oct. 11-Dec. 24	: Closed season
Lincoln County within the	:	:	:	:
drainages of Bear, Salt,	:	:	:	:
Grey's and Snake Rivers.	:	:	:	:
Remainder of State	: Oct. 11-Dec. 24	:	: Oct.26-Dec. 24	: Closed season

1/ Wood ducks and mergansers: Daily bag and possession limits may not include more than 1 wood duck and 1 hooded merganser. In addition to the daily bag and possession limits on other ducks, the daily bag limit on American and red-breasted mergansers is 5, possession limit 10, singly or in aggregate of both kinds.

2/ Geese: In all States (except in Teton County and that part of Lincoln County, Wyoming within the drainages of the Bear, Salt, Greys, and Snake Rivers, and west of the Continental Divide in Montana) such limit may not include in the alternative, more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies; or (b) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose. In Teton County and that part of Lincoln County, Wyoming within the drainages of Bear, Salt, Greys, and Snake Rivers, and west of the Continental Divide in Montana, the bag limit on geese may not include more than (a) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies; or (b) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose. In no event may such limits contain more than 1 white-fronted goose. Closed season on Canada geese or its subspecies in Moffat County, Colorado. Closed season on snow geese in Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison Counties in Montana, and in the entire State of Wyoming.

3/ Texas: Closed season on black-bellied tree ducks.

§ 6.51 (contd.)

(f) Pacific Flyway States

	Ducks	Geese (except Ross's geese)	Coots and Gallinules (singly or in aggregate)	Brant	Wilson's snipe
Daily bag limits	5 1/2	6 2/3	25	3	8
Possession limits	10 1/2	6 2/3	25	3	8
Seasons in--					
Arizona 2/		Oct. 12-Jan. 14		Closed season	Closed season
California 2/		Oct. 12-Jan. 14		Dec. 8-Feb. 15	Dec. 1-Dec. 30
Idaho 2/ 3/		Oct. 5-Jan. 7		Closed season	Oct. 5-Nov. 3
Nevada		See footnote 4		Closed season	Oct. 5-Nov. 3
Oregon		Oct. 12-Jan. 14		Nov. 16-Jan. 24	Nov. 16-Dec. 15
Utah 2/		Oct. 5-Jan. 7		Closed season	Closed season
Washington		Oct. 13-Jan. 15		Dec. 8-Feb. 15	Nov. 2-Dec. 1

1/ In all States except California, the daily bag limit is 5 and the possession limit is 10. These limits may be increased to 8 and 13 respectively, provided such limits contain not less than 3 pintails, 3 widgeons, or 3 of these species in the aggregate. In California the daily bag and possession limit is 6, which may be increased to 9, provided such limit contains not less than 3 pintails, 3 widgeons, or 3 of these species in the aggregate. Wood ducks and mergansers: Daily bag and possession limits in all States may not include more than 1 wood duck and 1 hooded merganser. In addition to the limits on other ducks, the daily bag limit on American and red-breasted mergansers is 5, possession limit 10, singly or in aggregate of both kinds.

2/ Geese: Not more than 3 of the dark species of geese may be included in the daily bag and possession limit. Provided, that in the counties of Yuma and Mohave, Arizona; the counties of Bear Lake, Caribou, and Bonneville, Idaho; Clark county, Nevada; and the entire State of Utah, the daily bag and possession limit may not include more than 1 Canada goose or its subspecies: Provided further, that a closed season is prescribed on Canada geese and its subspecies in California Fish and Game District No. 22 (as defined in the California Fish and Game Code).

3/ Idaho: Closed season on snow geese in the counties of Clark, Fremont, Madison, and Teton.
 4/ Nevada: Ducks and geese, Oct. 5-Jan. 7: Provided, That in that portion of the State lying south and east of a line beginning at a point where Highway 91 intersects the Arizona-Nevada State line; thence following Highway 91 to Las Vegas; thence following Highway 95 to its intersection with the California-Nevada State line, the season shall be Oct. 12-Jan. 14.