

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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**"NO HUNTING" ZONES PROPOSED FOR LAND AND TIDAL  
WATER AREAS ADJOINING CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

A proposal to provide additional protection for migratory waterfowl in the Virginia portion of the Chincoteague Bay area was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the Department of the Interior is recommending the establishment of "No-hunting" zones adjacent to the refuge. The areas are the Pope Island Coast Guard Station near the upper end of the refuge and six bays, creeks, and coves extending into the refuge.

The Chincoteague Refuge attracts the bulk of ducks, geese, and brant using this general area. Greater snow geese heavily use the refuge as a feeding area and the adjoining inlets as resting areas during their migration flight. Brant, though not feeding on the refuge, rely on the inlets for resting areas.

Secretary Udall said closure of the land and water areas as recommended would effectively protect these species and other waterfowl from excessive hunting pressure and disturbance.

Notice of intention to close these areas is being published in the Federal Register. A 30-day period for comment is provided in the official notice. Final decision and action by the Department will follow the waiting period.

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