

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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NEXT FALL'S MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING REGULATIONS PROPOSED

Preliminary hunting regulations for ducks, geese and other migratory game birds for the 1981-82 hunting season have been proposed by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No major changes from last year's hunting regulations are proposed at this time.

The proposals, published in the March 25, 1981, Federal Register, describe tentative season frameworks, daily bag and possession limits, and shooting hours for migratory game birds in the contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Species discussed in the proposals include ducks, geese, brant and swans; doves and pigeons; cranes; rails, coots and gallinules; and woodcock and snipe.

Shooting hours will remain from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Framework dates for ducks and geese will be from October 1, 1981, to January 20, 1982, for the Atlantic Flyway; from October 3, 1981, to January 20, 1982, for the Mississippi Flyway; and from October 3, 1981, through January 17, 1982, for the Central and Pacific Flyways.

All of the published proposals are subject to changes later if indicated by information obtained from surveys, State conservation agencies and the public. Public comments on the proposals are invited through June 19, 1981, for Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; July 13 for other "early" seasons (those opening before October 1); and August 24 for the "late" seasons (those opening after October 1). Comments should be addressed to the Director, (FWS/MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

To ensure that the public has ample opportunity to comment on the proposals, two public hearings will be held to review the status of migratory game birds and consider the proposed hunting regulations. The first hearing will pertain to early season regulations and will be held on June 19, 1981, at 9:00 a.m. in the Department of the Interior auditorium on C Street between 18th and 19th Streets, N.W., in Washington, D.C. A second hearing on regulations for seasons opening on or after October 1 will be held on August 4, 1981, at 9:00 a.m., also in the Interior Department auditorium. Persons wishing to participate in these hearings should write to the Director (FWS/MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, or telephone 202/254-3207. Those wishing to make statements should file copies with the Director before or during each hearing.