



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Craig L. Rieben 343-5634

PRELIMINARY REGULATIONS PUBLISHED FOR MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING

The initial set of proposed migratory game bird regulations for this fall's hunting season was published in the March 13, 1987, Federal Register. This is the first step in the process by which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service annually sets the frameworks for seasons, shooting hours, bag limits, and other regulations governing the hunting of waterfowl and other migratory game birds. State wildlife agencies select their migratory bird hunting regulations within the frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The preliminary regulations propose few changes from last season's regulations. However, more detailed supplements will be published in the Federal Register during the coming months as additional information becomes available concerning waterfowl populations, wetland habitat conditions, and harvest surveys.

The comment period on frameworks proposed for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands will end June 18, 1987. The comment period for other early-season proposals (seasons opening before October 1) will end July 14, 1987. Comments on late seasons (opening dates on or after October 1) will be received until August 25, 1987.

A public hearing on early-season regulations, including those for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, is scheduled for June 18, 1987. A public hearing for late-season frameworks will be held August 4, 1987. Both sessions will start at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Main Interior Department Building, 18th and C Streets N.W., Washington, D.C.