



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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SERVICE GRANTS APPROVAL OF BISMUTH-TIN SHOT FOR 1995-96 HUNTING SEASON

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today granted temporary approval of bismuth-tin shot for the 1995-96 waterfowl hunting season.

The announcement means that hunters can legally use bismuth shot in the upcoming season while the Bismuth Cartridge Company completes long-term toxicity tests required by law for permanent approval.

Bismuth-tin joins steel as the only types of shot currently approved for waterfowl hunting. Beginning in 1986, lead shot was phased out for waterfowl hunting because it is toxic to birds that ingest it while feeding.

The Bismuth Cartridge Company petitioned the Service in June 1994 requesting the Service legalize the use of bismuth-tin shot. The petition acknowledged the company's responsibility to complete three studies to determine the effects of ingested bismuth-tin shot on waterfowl.

The Service gave temporary approval for the use of bismuth-tin shot for the latter part of the 1994-95 hunting season after the company submitted data from an initial, short-term test that showed no toxicity.

For permanent approval, the company must submit the results of a 14-week toxicity test conducted in cold weather using nutritionally deprived waterfowl and a dosage study that includes an assessment of reproductive effects.

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