

Report to
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse
NR 10 , Wis. Adm. Code
Natural Resources Board Order No. WM-21-10

Wisconsin Statutory Authority

ss. 29.014, 29.041, 29.197 and 29.885, Stats

Federal Authority

The USFWS annually prescribes the outside limits (frameworks) within which states may select migratory bird hunting season parameters. Authority for the Secretary of the Interior to determine when "hunting, taking, capture, killing, possession, sale, purchase, shipment, transportation, carriage, or export of any bird, or any part, nest or egg" can occur and to adopt regulations is established in 16 U.S.C. 704.

Court Decisions Directly Relevant

None

Analysis of the Rule - Rule Effect - Reason for the Rule

The proposed rules will establish the 2010 migratory game bird hunting season. The significant regulations are:

Ducks - The state is divided into two zones each with 60-day seasons. The daily bag limit is expected to be 6 ducks including no more than: four mallards, of which only one may be a hen, one black duck, one pintail, one canvasback, three wood ducks, two scaup, and two redheads.

Canada geese - The state is apportioned into three goose hunting zones: Horicon, Collins, and Exterior. Other special goose management subzones within the Exterior Zone include Brown County and the Mississippi River.

Season lengths are expected to be as follows:

- Collins Zone - 66 days - Horicon Zone - 92 days
- Exterior Zone - 85 days - Mississippi River Subzone - 85 days

This rule proposal will eliminate the Collins Canada goose hunting zone in 2011. The Collins zone in Manitowoc County was established in 1988 because it was an intensively hunted site specifically used by Mississippi valley population Canada geese. With the expansion of the giant Canada goose population in Manitowoc County and the decreased interest in hunting the Collins zone, there is no longer a need for special restrictions. Staff have collected public input and flyway council review for elimination has been favorable. Goose hunter survey respondents who held Collins permits favored eliminating the zone by 80% with only 14% opposed, 6% did not answer that question.

Under international treaty and Federal law, migratory game bird seasons are closed unless opened annually through the USFWS regulations process.

Agency Procedures for Promulgation

Public hearings, Natural Resources Board final adoption, followed by legislative review.

Description of any Forms (attach copies if available)

None

Name and Telephone Number of Agency Contacts

Kent Van Horn, Migratory Bird Specialist – (608) 266-8841
Scott Loomans, Wildlife Regulation Policy Specialist, (608) 267-2452
Linda Haddix, Bureau of Legal Services - 266-1959

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