

New in 2014: WI Early September Teal Hunting Season

On June 25th, 2014 the WI Natural Resources board passed the proposal for WI to participate in a 3 year experimental early teal season that will begin in September 2014. The continental population of blue-winged teal has grown in recent years and a harvest assessment concluded that teal could sustain higher harvest beyond that incurred during the regular duck season and the existing early teal seasons. It is very important to understand that this is an experimental season and that the results of the experiment will determine if WI is granted an operational early teal season. The USFWS requires states to observe hunter behavior in the field to observe whether they shoot at non-teal ducks during the teal only season. If the number of attempts to shoot non-teal ducks is too high then we will fail the experiment. As always, if you are not 100% sure of your target, don't shoot!

To help you prepare for this special duck season please visit to brush up on your identification skills:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/waterfowl.html>

Early Teal Season Parameters

- September 1-7 statewide.
- Only blue-winged and green-winged teal can be harvested.
- Daily bag limit of 6 teal.
- Shooting hours on **opening day** begin at 9 am and close at 7 pm.
- Shooting hours from September 2-7 begin at sunrise and close at 7 pm.

Please be advised that wild rice harvest is occurring on many waterbodies throughout the northern one-third of the state. Hunters should be aware of rice harvest participants, who can begin harvesting at 10 a.m. each day. Hunters are encouraged to use the following advice to limit damage to rice beds:

- Avoid creating wakes near rice beds
- Be respectful near heavily-used rice beds
- Avoid turning boats or other watercraft around within rice beds

The details of this new early teal season will be described in our annual Migratory Game Bird Regulations pamphlet which will be available later this summer, please be sure to look for it and consult for additional rules and regulations.

If you have any questions or comments they can be submitted to

Taylor Finger

Taylor.Finger@wisconsin.gov

PO Box 7921

101 South Webster Street

Madison, WI 53707-7921

608-261-6458