



2013 Final Waterfowl Rule Summary

Natural Resource Board
approved August 14th



Early September Canada goose season – September 1-15, with a daily bag of 5 geese.

Youth Waterfowl Hunt - September 14-15. The daily bag is the same as the regular seasons.

Ducks

60 Day Season – Daily bag of 6 ducks in total. Of the 6 ducks, no more than: 4 mallards of which only 1 may be a hen, 3 wood ducks, 1 black duck, 2 redheads, **3 scaup**, 2 pintail, and **2 canvasback**. In addition, 5 mergansers to include not more than two hooded mergansers. (For species of duck not listed such as teal and ring-necks, the combined total with all other species may not exceed 6 ducks). Coot daily bag of 15.

*Possession Limit is now **3 times** the daily bag limit.

*Opening day shooting hours will begin at 9am.

Northern Zone: Sept 21 – Nov 19

Southern Zone: Sept 28- Oct 6, Oct 12- Dec 1

Mississippi River Zone: Sept 21- 29; Oct 12- Dec 1

Canada Geese

Exterior Zone: Daily Bag of 2.

- North - Sept 16 - Dec 16
- South - Sept 16 – Oct 6, and Oct 12 – Dec 21
- Mississippi River Subzone: Sept 21- 29; Oct 12- January 2

Horicon Zone:

- H1- Sept 16 – Oct 27
- H2- Oct 28 – Dec 16

Daily Bag of 2. 6 Tags per hunter.

Light geese, brant and white-fronted geese - Light geese (Snow, Blue and Ross) and Brant: Seasons are the same as for the Canada goose zones and subzones. Daily Bag Limit: 1 brant and 20 light geese. The open season for White-fronted geese begins on September 20 for the Exterior (north and south) and the Horicon zone and then follows the same dates as for Canada geese in those zones. In the Mississippi River subzone of the Exterior zone the White-fronted goose season does not open until September 25 and then follows the same dates as those for Canada geese in that subzone. Daily Bag Limit: 1 white-fronted goose.

Horicon Zone Changes – In 2012, changes to harvest and hunter pressure on Ontario nesting Canada geese within the Horicon zone were evaluated. Based on input from staff, stakeholders and standing committees, modifications to the boundary line and tagging/registration procedures have been proposed, but would not take effect until the **2014 license year**. Shrinking the zone’s northern boundary to Hwy 23 and the western boundary to Hwy 73 will allow additional harvest opportunities in the areas removed while maintaining harvest controls on the areas of high harvest for the migrating geese that nested in Ontario. Changes to the Horicon permit would make the format similar to other goose permits, eliminating the application deadline/drawing and allowing hunters to acquire a permit through any license sales location. A 1-800 reporting system currently used to monitor harvest in other goose zones would simplify the regulations and provide more comparable data.



Additional Open Water Hunting Lakes – A citizen resolution in 2006 proposed an expansion of the lakes available for open water duck hunting and in 2007 a statewide spring hearing question showed support for this idea. In 2008 and 2009, an ad hoc committee of staff and stakeholders reviewed the idea and proposed a list of 13 new lakes for consideration. This proposal was reviewed by standing committees and shared with local communities in public meetings. Following spring hearing votes in 2012 and 2013 the list was revised to this final list of 10 lakes. Hunters would need to be 1000 ft from shore and securely anchored, which is consistent with existing regulations for open water hunting. The following lakes are being recommended for providing additional lakes:

- Beaver Dam Lake (excluding Rakes and Trestle Works Bays)
Dodge County
- Castle Rock Lake (south of railroad bridge and Cty G),
Adams and Juneau counties
- Fence Lake, Vilas County
- Grindstone Lake, Sawyer County
- North Twin Lake, Vilas County
- Lake Puckaway (the waters west of the west end of the dredge
bank, excluding the waters east of the west end of the dredge
bank), Marquette and Green Lake counties
- Shawano Lake, Shawano County
- Trout Lake, Vilas County
- Lake Wisconsin (north of railroad bridge), Sauk and Columbia counties
- Lake Wissota (south of Cty S and north of Cty X), Chippewa County

Disabled Concealment Rule - NR 10.12(3)(e) Persons holding a Class A or B disabled permit that authorizes hunting from a stationary vehicle and which has been issued for more than 1 year, and a person who assists the disabled hunter in the same boat, may hunt more than 3 feet from emergent vegetation that provides the required 50% concealment of the hunters and boat, but not farther than necessary to maintain the minimum depth of water necessary for operation of the boat being used by the hunters.

Mead and Zeloski Special Regulations – We propose to eliminate the sunset of special regs that have been in place for 3 years. This would retain the 1pm closure for 16 days after the opener and has been popular with local hunters since it helps to hold birds on the properties.