WISCONSIN CONSERVATION
CONGRESS 2018 SEASON OPTIONS

Taylor Finger
Migratory Game Bird Ecologist
WI DNR
2017 CONSERVATION CONGRESS CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS
RESOLUTION PROCESS

- Proposed
  - If the resolution passes the individual committees

  - The resolution will be reviewed and decided upon by the Executive Council – meeting Jan. 6-7, 2018

  - If approved by Executive Council it would appear as an advisory question on the 2018 spring hearing questionnaire
RESOLUTION: 090517
EXTEND NORTH ZONE WATERFOWL HUNTING OPPORTUNITY WITH A SPLIT SEASON

Citizen reasoning

- Split during gun deer season
- Greater chance of hunting late arriving migrating ducks/geese
- Better chance of field hunting ducks and geese

Survey results 2007-2017

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• Conservation congress works with state legislature to enact a spring conservation order light goose season

• In order to have a spring light goose hunt the state must
  • Control activities must be conducted clearly as such and are intended to relieve pressures on migratory birds and habitat essential to migratory bird populations only and are not to be construed as opening, reopening, or extending any open hunting season contrary to any regulations promulgated under Section 3 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
  • States and tribes must keep annual records of activities carried out under the authority of the conservation order. Specifically, information must be collected on:
    (i) The number of persons participating in the conservation order;
    (ii) The number of days people participated in the conservation order;
    (iii) The number of light geese shot and retrieved under the conservation order; and
    (iv) The number of light geese shot but not retrieved.
RESOLUTION: 460117
WCC NOT SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING SEASON

• WCC not support legislation to establish a Sandhill crane hunting season

• Currently no season enacted or in legislation
DISCUSSION OF WI SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING

• EP Plan establishes process for states to develop hunting season. Key required elements:
  • quota based on a state’s count of EP cranes
  • permit and harvest reporting requirement
  • educational tool for hunters designed to avoid non-target harvest.
• WI state legislature needs to authorize the DNR to develop a quota hunt and charge permit fee.
POTENTIAL STEPS TO WI HUNTING SEASON

- Social discussion and communication taking place now
- If legislature proposes a bill public input would be taken
- If legislation passed then DNR develops a specific hunt plan proposal including season dates, permit levels etc.
- WI hunt plan reviewed at 2 flyway meetings of Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways. 1-2 year process.
- Following flyway council approval, DNR can develop an administrative rule proposal to implement a hunting season. This stage would have public communication, hearings and public comment. This would take 2-3 years.
ACTIONS SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING

- Legislation drafted but not acted upon in 2012
- WI Conservation Congress Advisory question in both 2012 and 2015
  - 2012 – vote – 2559 Yes to 1279 No
  - 2015 – vote – 2255 Yes to 1554 No
  - 2016 – vote – 2349 Yes to 2049 No
• WCC work with the state legislature to provide hunter education for potential Sandhill crane hunt selectees, to increase awareness of penalties for shooting whooping cranes, to deter the occurrence of such shootings.

• There has not been a documented accident of a legal hunter mistakenly shooting a whooping crane in the Eastern Population.
  • Most are shot with high powered rifles
  • A couple have been shot during closed migratory bird seasons (violator vs hunter).

• *Since 1955, three whooping cranes in the Aransas-Wood Buffalo population (AWBP) that migrates from northern Canada to coastal Texas are known to have been killed by waterfowl hunters engaged in legal hunting activities…*”.

• Currently no season on Sandhill cranes in Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT INFORMATION ITEMS AND UPDATES
1 on 1 coaching

http://dnr.wi.gov/education/outdoorskills/wingshooting.html

Clay pigeon stations

Patterning

Shooting games
**Waterfowl hunting**

*Please note:* We are currently accepting public input for the 2018 waterfowl seasons. Please contact Trenton Rohrer with any input on what you would like to see for the 2018 season.

The Wisconsin waterfowl hunter is one of the most dedicated and involved conservationists in the nation, contributing time and money to waterfowl management and habitat restoration. Wisconsin is a great waterfowl hunting state and one of the reasons is your enthusiasm and dedication to the sport. Waterfowl are enjoyed by many people in Wisconsin. Look below for more information on waterfowl reports and surveys, hunting regulations and other current issues.

**Waterfowl resources**

- **Regulations**
  - Hunting regulations
  - Waterfowl season dates
  - Youth waterfowl hunt
  - Invasive species prevention

- **Recent rule changes**
  - Waterfowl rules process
  - Mississippi River duck zone [nrz]

- **Waterfowl management**
  - Waterfowl management information

- **Early teal season quiz**
  Brush up on your waterfowl identification in preparation for the early teal season! Don't forget to test yourself and take the quiz!

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What can you find here?
- Regulations
- Results to waterfowl surveys
- Season Proposals
- Meeting dates
- Wild-game recipes
- Recent and current rule changes
- DNR public access map

Check page out periodically for updates and presentations along with ways to help us make the best decisions possible.

What can you find here?

• Spring waterfowl survey
• Mississippi River waterfowl surveys
• Green Bay waterfowl surveys
• Mid-winter waterfowl surveys

Check page out periodically for updates.

During hunting season numbers will be posted as soon as possible for hunters convenience.

https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/wfsurveys.html
MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY ISSUES

Upcoming topics
UPCOMING FLYWAY ISSUES

**SRC approved operational status for the Early Teal season.**

- Experiment passed

- Conducting public meetings to discuss whether or not WI wants to have a teal season for 2018
  - Waterfowl Survey questions
  - Annual Waterfowl Hearings/Waterfowl Hunters Conference
ALABAMA SANDHILL CRANE SEASON

Alabama to implement experimental crane season for 2019-2020 season

- Small zone in northern Alabama, 2 or 3 major wildlife properties where approximately 17,000+ cranes winter

- Quota based hunt, required ID test, mandatory reporting
States that currently hunt Tundra Swans (no allowable harvest of Trumpeter Swans)

- North Carolina, Virginia, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota

Each year approximately 11,000 hunters have applied for the 9,600 total permits available in North Carolina (5,000 permits), North Dakota (2,200), South Dakota (1,300), Virginia (600), and Montana (500)
The preferred Alternative in the Environmental Assessment is:

- Authorize a limited take of trumpeter swans during general swan hunting seasons in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways, require data collection, and modify future hunting seasons if necessary.

- A state can’t hold a swan hunting season unless it can prove that the area designated for hunting swans is >90% Tundra Swans compared to Trumpeter Swans.

- Mandatory reporting by hunters on report cards that the States would issue along with swan hunting permits.

- Based on a Potential Biological Removal (PBR) analysis the allowable harvest of Trumpeter Swans would be 297 across all three flyways.
TRIBAL REGULATION PROPOSALS

• The 2017 Tribal season proposals were never finalized and functioned under the same framework as 2016.

• New tribal proposals for both 2017 and 2018:
  • Allowing the use of electronic calls for hunting
  • Take waterfowl with use of hand-held nets and snares
  • Note: Tribes did agree to experiment requirements by USFWS which allowed limited permits and required reporting of harvest using new techniques.
• December 10, 2017 – USFWS Proposed 2018 season frameworks (actually came out Feb. 2\textsuperscript{nd}). Based on 2017 biological data

• February 26\textsuperscript{th}, 2018 – USFWS Final 2018 season Framework (actual date likely April??)

• \textbf{March 12-16, 2018} – State public input hearings on migratory bird seasons

• April 11, 2018 – NRB meeting on migratory bird seasons
2017 DUCK STATUS DATA

• Total Continental duck estimate - Record 47.2 million (-2% from 2016), +33% LTA

• Ponds Canada/US survey – 6.09 million,
  • +22% from 2016, similar to LTA

• BPOP’s majority up or =LTA
  • Cont. Blue-winged teal 7.8 mil (+55% LTA)

• Wisconsin total ducks – 390,498 (8% below LTA)
• Liberal season recommendation for 2018
DUCK HARVEST ~ \( \frac{3}{4} = 4 \) SPECIES

Estimated Harvest by species (HIP) 1999-2007

- Mallard: 39%
- Wood duck: 17%
- Green-winged teal: 10%
- Blue-winged teal: 8%
- Gadwall: 3%
- Bufflehead: 3%
- Ring-necked duck: 3%
- Lesser scaup: 3%
- Widgeon: 3%
- Other ducks: 11%

Estimated Harvest by species (HIP) 2008-2016

- Mallard: 32%
- Wood duck: 22%
- Greater Scaup: 3%
- Gadwall: 4%
- Lesser scaup: 4%
- Bufflehead: 4%
- Blue-winged teal: 7%
- Green-winged teal: 7%
- Ring-necked duck: 14%
- Other ducks: 14%
MALLARD HARVEST DERIVATION
(ARNOLD, BERDEEN AND LAWRENCE 2010)

Sources of Mallards Harvested in Wisconsin
MALLARDS IN WISCONSIN

- 1998-2008 BPOP average: **268,900**
- 2008-2017 BPOP average: **183,400**
- Mallard hen survival decline of 11% between 1960’s to 2009
- CRP decline: 700,000 ac in 1994 to 231,000 ac in 2015
- Longer and earlier seasons since 1996
- We need to continue to promote/support nesting habitat and conservative regulations

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2015 – Survey Results: What do you think the daily bag limit for hen mallards should be?
- 60% - 1 hen
- 21% - 2 hen
- 10% - 0 hen
- 10% - no opinion

2017 – Survey Results: How did the hen mallard limit effect your season?
- 17% - strongly/slightly negative effect
- 25% - strongly/slightly positively effect
- 58% - no influence one way or another
TEAL HARVEST DURING FIRST 2 YEARS

- Wisconsin
  - 2014
    - Blue-winged Teal – 13,780 (27,865 in regular)
    - Green-winged Teal – 1,837 (27,865 in regular)
  - 2015
    - Blue-winged Teal – 11,861 (25,652 in regular)
    - Green-winged Teal – 2,207 (39,444 in regular)

- Iowa
  - 2014 – BWT = 45,871 and GWT = 2,909
  - 2015 – BWT = 31,983 and GWT = 1,750

- Michigan
  - 2014 – BWT = 4,275 and GWT = 5,415
  - 2015 – BWT = 2,693 and GWT = 1,795

2016- HIP data is not useful due to late envelope delivery
REGULAR SEASON

- Slight increased trend in birds shot
- Slight downward trend in number of hunters

Numbers are provided by HIP. 2016 HIP survey was sent out late.
OTHER RESIDENT DUCK HARVEST NUMBERS

Wisconsin Mallard

Wisconsin Wood Duck

Numbers are provided by HIP. 2016 HIP survey was sent out late.
Early Season Canada Goose Harvest
MOURNING DOVE POPULATION STATUS

- 797 banded in WI 2017
- WI dove population trends:
  - 2006-2015 = 0.6% decrease, EMU 0.3% decrease
- Moderate harvest prescription – 15 bird bag
- Season length - 90 days Sept. 1 – Nov. 29
- 10,000- 15,000 dove hunters in Wisconsin
Central and Eastern management units – decline in 10 year trend = slight decline in both units.
Wisconsin – no significant 10 year trend in SGS
Wisconsin woodcock hunters – 11,700 (2nd in nation)
Harvest of 35,100 (2nd in the nation)
EARLY SEASON – MIGRATORY BIRDS

- **Teal Season** – ??? (Discuss later in presentation)

- **Early Goose** – 9/1-15 – to focus on locally breeding geese

- **Youth Waterfowl Hunt** – 9/15 & 9/16

- **Mourning Dove** – Continue a 90 day season from 9/1-11/29

- **Woodcock** – 9/22-11/5
ANTICIPATED 2018 DUCK SEASON FRAMEWORK

• **60 Day Season** – 6 ducks, no more than 4 mallards - only 1 may be a hen, 3 wood ducks, **1 black duck**, **2 redheads**, **3 scaup**, **2 pintail**, and **2 canvasback**. **5 mergansers**, not more than **2 hooded**.

• Coot daily bag of 15.
PRELIMINARY 2017 WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY RESULTS
# TEAL SEASON INPUT

## 2017 preliminary waterfowl hunter survey results

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<th>Statewide (15)</th>
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<td>4 birds</td>
<td>20.9</td>
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<td>3 birds</td>
<td>33.5</td>
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**2017 preliminary waterfowl hunter survey results**

### North Opener

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### North Split

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<td>Yes</td>
<td>18.8</td>
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### North Split length

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### North Split Timing

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<td>81.2</td>
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### South Split length

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<td>17.3</td>
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## MISSISSIPPI RIVER ZONE

### 2017 preliminary waterfowl hunter survey results

#### Miss River Opener

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#### Miss River Split

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<th>Statewide (15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Half</td>
<td><strong>80.3</strong></td>
<td>79.3</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Half</td>
<td><strong>19.7</strong></td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## MORE HUNTER RESPONSES

### Statewide opener

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Statewide 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>41.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither support or oppose</td>
<td>44.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Type of ducks harvested

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of ducks harvested</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average # harvested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean puddle ducks</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean diving ducks</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Sea ducks</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Number of ducks I expected to see...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>fewer</th>
<th>same</th>
<th>More</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The number of ducks I saw last year hunting</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>50.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of ducks I shot last year...</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>35.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports that I read online or in print...</td>
<td>56.9</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>24.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports from other hunters...</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>34.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of ducks I saw while scouting...</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>41.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Typical/average year answers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typical/average year answers</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean # ducks harvested</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean # geese harvested</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean # of days duck hunting</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean # of days goose hunting</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# SATISFACTION

## Hunters top 5 **most satisfied** answers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The beauty of the areas I hunted</td>
<td>81.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My access to areas I wanted to hunt</td>
<td>60.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of hunting companions</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of ducks I saw while hunting</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The species of birds I harvested</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Hunters top 5 **least satisfied** answers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The number of days I got to hunt</td>
<td>42.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of birds I harvested</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of shot opportunities I had</td>
<td>34.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of ducks I saw while hunting</td>
<td>31.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of hunters at my location(s)</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Affect of season framework on satisfaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 6 duck daily bag limit</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The length of the season</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>28.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The timing of the opening day in my preferred zone</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall regulations</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SATISFACTION & HARVEST EXPECTATIONS
BEHAVIOR & HARVEST SUCCESS

![Graph showing the relationship between ducks harvested and scouting trips.](image)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>No Scouting</th>
<th>1 Trip</th>
<th>2 Trips</th>
<th>3+ Trips</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WISCONSIN CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT
GOOSE HARVEST DERIVATION 2006

- **MN**: 57% Giant, 10% MVP, 2% EPP
- **MI**: 44% Giant, 51% MVP, 5% EPP
- **MN**: 90% Giant, 10% EPP
- **MI**: 58% Giant, 37% MVP, 5% SJBP
Note: Ontario Nesting BPOP has changed methodology and is now being assessed using trend data.

We are unable to compare years as of 2017
• Horicon Goose harvest now makes up 9% total regular season harvest

• Horicon goose hunters make up only 8% of permits sold in Wisconsin in 2016. Steady decline for 20+ years
HORICON ZONE

• With goose registration no longer required we are no longer able to enforce or monitor 12 bird limit in the zone

• Potential zone structure
  • Statewide Exterior
    • North
    • South
    • Mississippi river
Canada goose harvest in the Horicon zone has decreased by more than 90% since 1999 and the number of Horicon goose permit holders has decreased by 75% over the same time period. Would you support or oppose eliminating the Horicon goose zone and making the entire state a single Exterior zone?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Statewide</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>Mississippi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly support/Support</td>
<td>67.8</td>
<td>52.7</td>
<td>72.3</td>
<td>63.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>33.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose/oppose</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REGULAR GOOSE SEASON OPTIONS

With 1 unknown and 1 stabilized/growing population of Canada Geese There is some cause for concern but for now the recommendation is to maintain current framework

**Exterior Zone**: 92 days total. Daily Bag of 2.
- **North** - Sept 16 - Dec 16
- **South** – Sept 16 – Oct 7 and Oct 13 – Dec 21
- **Mississippi** Subzone: Sept. 29 – Oct 5, Oct 13 – Jan 3 (7 day split)

- OPTION to split 2 times

**Horicon Zone**: Removal of the Horicon Zone
2018 SEASON OPTION HANDOUT/PUBLIC INPUT
EARLY SEASONS

- **Early teal season (6 bird/day):**
  - Yes, I want the season
  - No I don’t want the season

- **Number of days in teal season:**
  - 5 day
  - 7 day
  - 9 day
  - 15 day
  - 16 day
  - Other: ______

- **Opening day shooting time for teal season:**
  - sunrise
  - other: ______

- **Early teal season shooting hours:**
  - Sunrise- sunset
  - Sunrise to 7pm
  - other: ______

- **Early goose:**
  - Keep similar 1 – Sept. 15 (5 bird/day)
  - Other: _______________
**SEASONS AND BAGS**

- **Mourning dove season:**  
  □ Keep similar Sept. 1 – Nov. 29 (15 bird/day)  
  □ Other: ________________

- **Woodcock season:**  
  □ Keep similar Sept. 23 – Nov. 6 (3 bird/day)  
  □ Other: ________________

- **Duck season:**  
  □ Keep similar:  
  6 ducks, no more than 4 mallards (only 1 may be a hen), 3 wood ducks, 1 black duck, 2 redheads, 3 scaup, 2 pintail and 2 canvasback. 5 mergansers, not more than 2 hooded. Coot daily bag of 15.  
  □ Change: ____________________________________________________________

- **Coot, Moorhen, Rails and Snipe:** Same as wild ducks in the zone in which you are hunting.

  □ Yes  
  □ No, _____________ - ______________

  □ Yes- A daily bag of 15 Coot and Moorhen  
  □ Other: ________________  

  □ Yes- A daily bag of 25 Sora & Virginia Rails  
  □ Other: ________________

  □ Yes- A daily bag of 8 Snipe  
  □ Other: ________________
North zone opener:

- [ ] Sat. closest to sept 24th
- [ ] Sat. nearest Oct 1st
- [ ] Sat nearest Oct 8th
- [ ] Other: _____________

North zone split:

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If yes:

- [ ] 5 day
- [ ] 7 day
- [ ] 9 day
- [ ] Other: _____________

If yes, when would you like to see the split:

- [ ] First half
- [ ] Second half
SOUTH ZONE

South zone opener:
- □ Sat. closest to sept 24th
- □ Sat. nearest Oct 1st
- □ Sat. nearest Oct 8th
- □ Other: ______________

South zone split:
- □ Yes
- □ No

If yes:
- □ 5 day
- □ 7 day
- □ 9 day
- □ Other: ______________

If yes, when would you like to see the split:
- □ First half
- □ Second half
MISSISSIPPI RIVER ZONE

Miss River zone opener:
- □ Sat. closest to sept 24th
- □ Sat. nearest Oct 1st
- □ Sat. nearest Oct 8th
- □ Other: _____________

Miss River zone split:
- □ Yes
- □ No

If yes:
- □ 5 day
- □ 7 day
- □ 9 day
- □ Other: _____________

If yes, when would you like to see the split:
- □ First half
- □ Second half
**EXTERIOR GOOSE SEASON**

- **Exterior zone:** □ 92 days total. Daily bag of 2 birds □ Other: ______________

- **North zone:** □ Current: Sept. 16 – Dec. 16 □ Other: ______________________

- **South zone:** □ Current: Sept. 16 – Oct. 7 & Oct. 13 – Dec. 21 □ Other: ______________________

- **Miss River zone:** □ Current: Sept. 29th – Oct. 5 & Oct. 13 – Jan. 3 □ Other: ______________

- **Would you support the elimination of the Horicon goose zone for a state wide exterior zone?**
  □ Yes □ No
PUBLIC INPUT

• We take public input year around via phone calls, emails, letters and public meetings until **March 16th 11:59pm**.
  - Taylor Finger – taylor.finger@wisconsin.gov or (608) 261-6458
  - Trenton Rohrer- trenton.rohrer@wisconsin.gov or (608) 622-6811

• **Upcoming public meetings**
  - Conservation Congress Migratory Committee Meeting – March 3rd
  - Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunters’ Conference – March 10th
    Multiple Breakout Sessions
  - Public Hearings
    • March 12th – La Crosse
    • March 13th – Rice Lake
    • March 14th – Appleton
    • March 15th - Pewaukee
For Canada Goose Seasons, all states in the Miss. Flyway are allowed the options of 2 splits.

- Currently we only use one split
- Has been some interest in a late season split to open the season back up during the Christmas and New Years Holidays.
3 GEESE/DAY BAG LIMIT DISCUSSION

Wi Nesting Giants BPOP

Ontario Nesting Geese, 226,544

Temperate Breeding Geese, 1775993
Early Season Canada Goose Harvest

Regular Season Canada Goose Harvest 1993-2016

- Total Reg Season
- Exterior
- Horicon
3 GEESE/DAY BAG LIMIT DISCUSSION

Current vs 5/day for Sept and 3/day for Remainder of Season Goose Harvest Estimates

Current Format
Temperate Harvest Estimate = 36,518
Interior Harvest Estimate = 19,774

5 bird/day for Sept. and 3 bird/day after
Temperate Harvest Estimate = 41,728
Interior Harvest Estimate = 24,279

Current vs 3 bird/day goose harvest estimates

Current Format
Temperate Harvest Estimate = 36,518
Interior Harvest Estimate = 19,774

3 bird/day Format
Temperate Harvest Estimate = 37,254
Interior Harvest Estimate = 22,992