

# Migratory Game Bird Status Update and Season Proposals



# Process for Selecting the 2021-2022 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons

- Atlantic Flyway Council Meeting, Sept. 21-25, 2020. **(complete)**
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regulations Committee, Oct. 20-21, 2020. **(complete)**
- Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee reviews proposed seasons in early January. **(complete)**
- Wildlife Advisory Commission reviews proposed seasons in late January. **(complete)**
- Proposed seasons placed on MD DNR website and public comment period opens early in February. **(current step)**
- Wildlife Advisory Commission vote on season proposals in late March with final season selection due to USFWS, April 2021.

# Adjustments to 2021-22 Regulatory Process

- Due to COVID, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and partners were unable to conduct normal survey and banding operations.
- As a result, direct observations of most waterfowl populations and/or habitat conditions were not available.
- Regulatory decisions were based upon modeled population estimates using the most recent biologic information.
- Please click [HERE](#) for more information on canceled surveys, resultant management strategies and the USFWS 2020 Status Report.

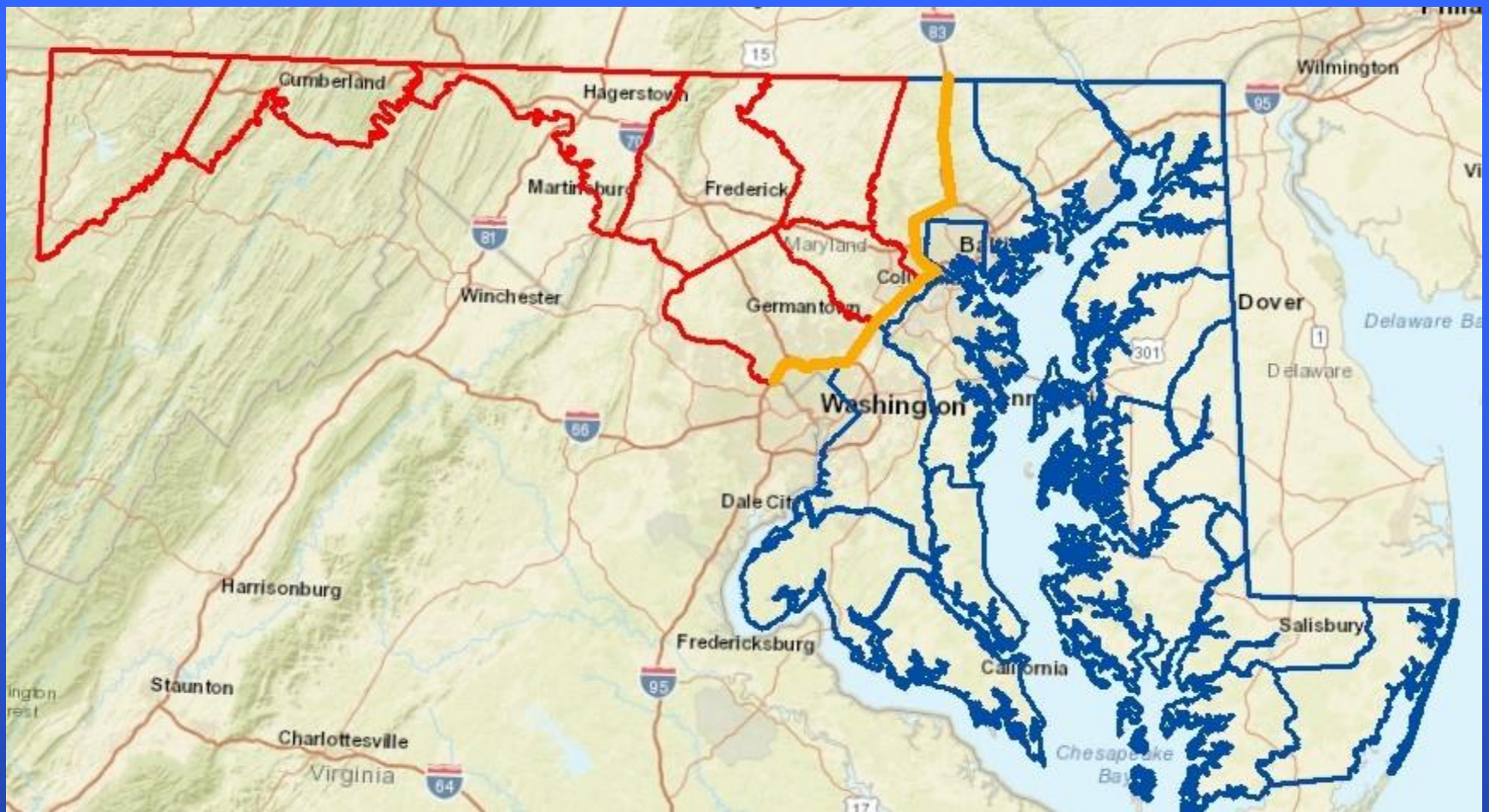
# Duck Season Recommendation

- The optimal choice for the 2021-22 Atlantic Flyway duck season is the liberal regulatory alternative (60 days/6 bird daily bag with species restrictions).
- Please click [HERE](#) for the 2020 USFWS Migratory Game Bird Adaptive Harvest management report that provides more information on this specific process.



# Duck Zones and Segments

- Maryland will have 2 duck zones (East and West) for 2021-22 hunting season. This is the first year states have had a 2 duck zones/three season segment option.
- This concept received positive review's during our last public comment period (February-March, 2020).
- Past USFWS options did not allow for 2 duck zones and 3 season segments.
- USFWS allows zones and segment options to be changed every 5 years.



**Western Duck Zone**

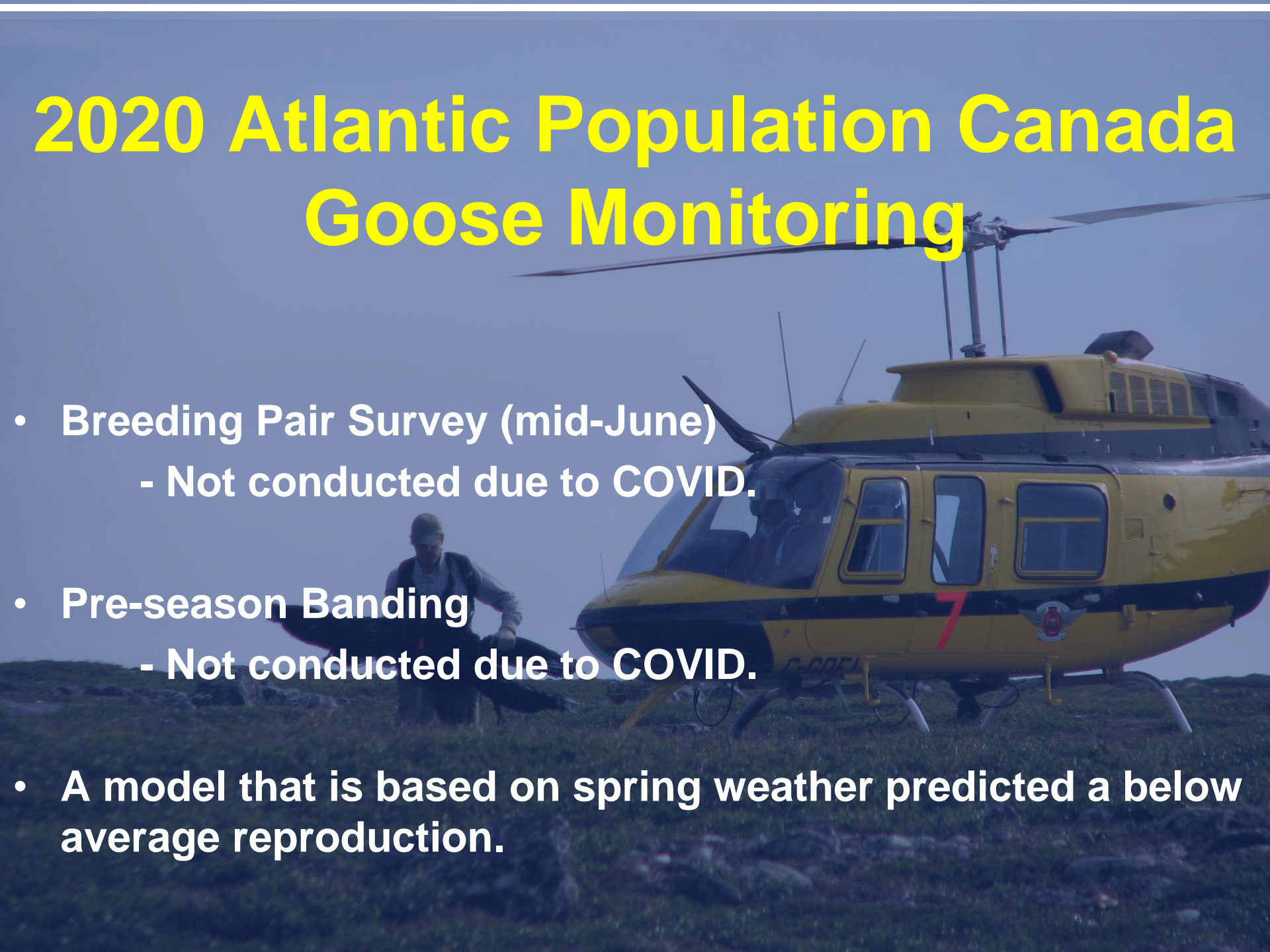
**Eastern Duck Zone**

**Orange Line** = Duck Zone Boundary

A large flock of Canada geese is captured in flight against a clear, bright blue sky. The geese are shown from various angles, with their wings spread wide, creating a sense of dynamic movement. The birds have characteristic brown upperparts, white underparts, and black wings and necks. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Status of Atlantic  
Population (AP) Canada  
Geese**

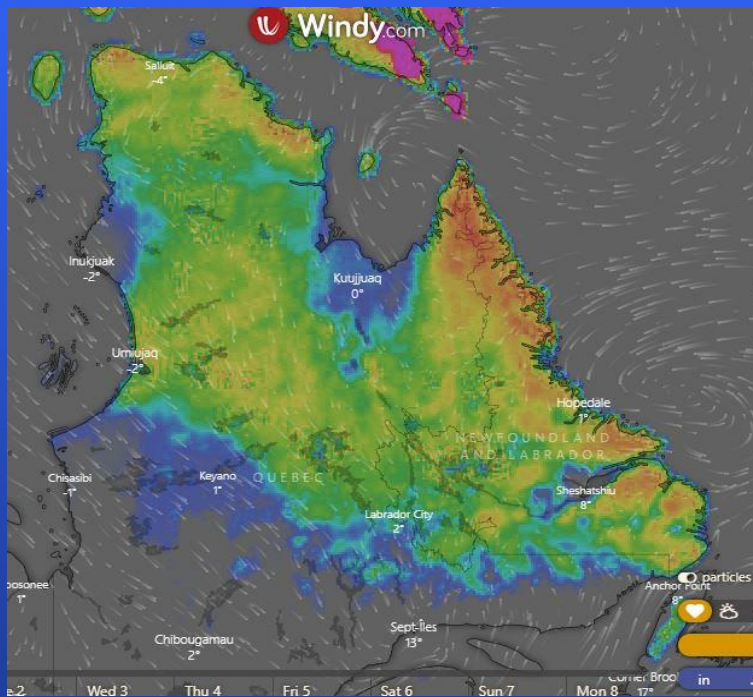
# 2020 Atlantic Population Canada Goose Monitoring



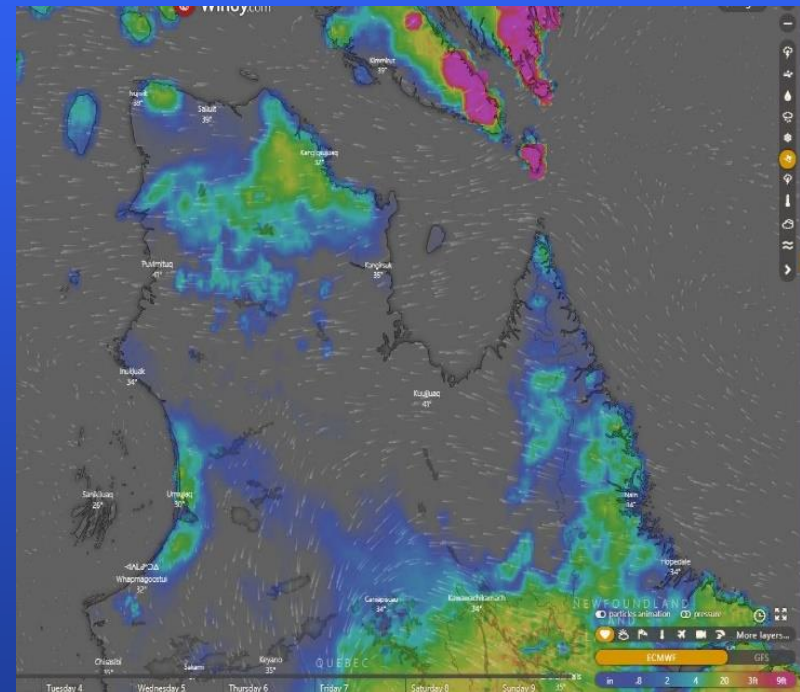
- Breeding Pair Survey (mid-June)
  - Not conducted due to COVID.
- Pre-season Banding
  - Not conducted due to COVID.
- A model that is based on spring weather predicted a below average reproduction.



# Satellite Views of Snow and Ice Cover on the Ungava Peninsula, Province of Quebec, Canada

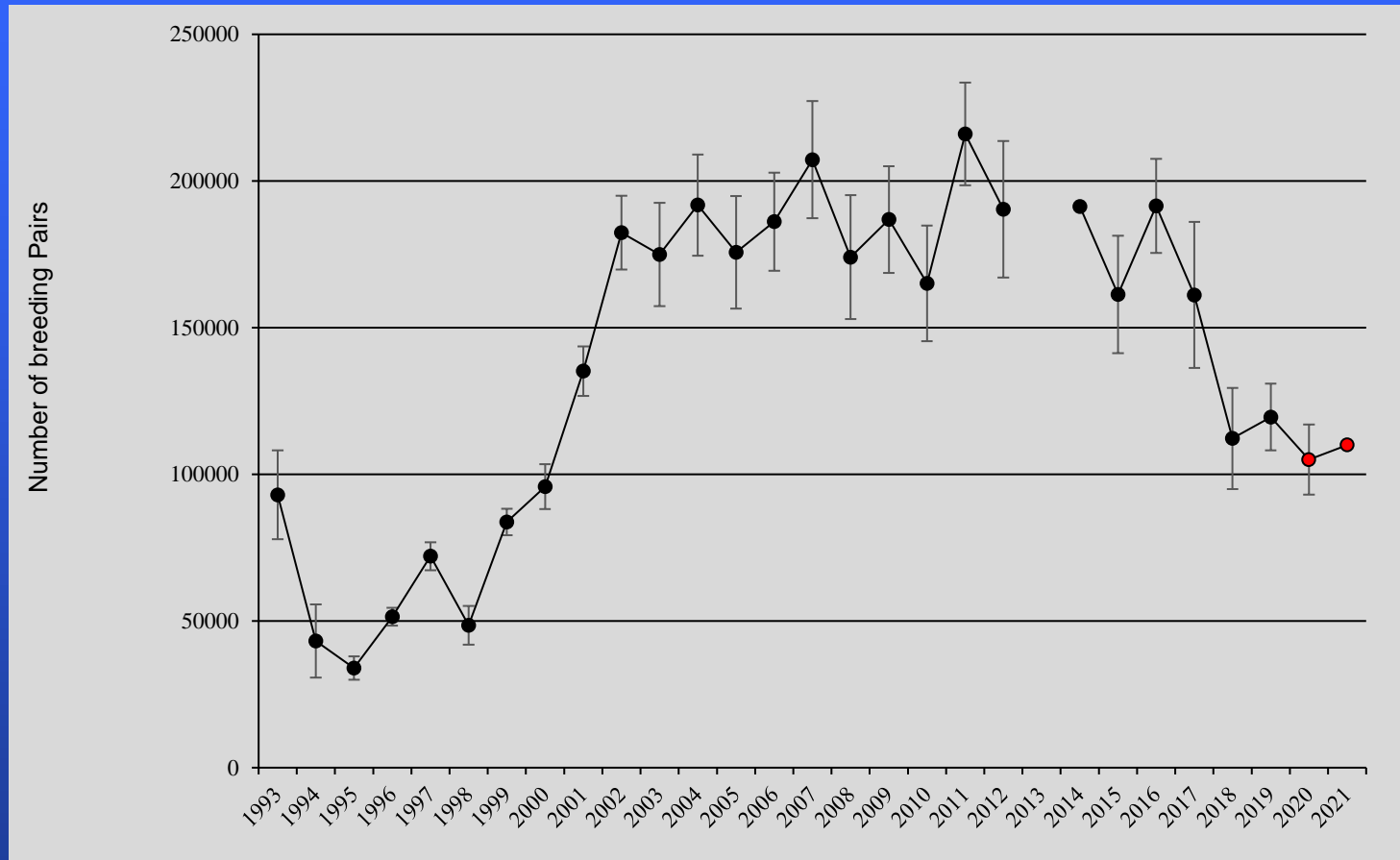


May 30, 2020



May 31, 2019

# AP Breeding Pairs



- = integrated population model prediction

# Atlantic Population (AP) Canada Goose Management Decisions

- Atlantic Flyway Council (AFC) recommended remaining in the restrictive package (30 day season/1 bird per day) for the 2021-22 hunting season.
- The AFC further recommended a 30 day season and 1 bird bag limit for all states that have AP Canada Goose Hunt Zones.
- Other significant changes have been made to reduce AP Canada goose harvest in the Atlantic Flyway including a reduction in the daily bag limit for Canada's AP hunt zones.

# Proposed 2021-22 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons

## Next Steps



- DNR will collect public comment (from the online forum, email, mail, telephone, etc.) for review by the Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee and Wildlife Advisory Commission.
- Adjustments to seasons and bag limits will be considered at this time.
- Final season selections will be forwarded to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service by April 15.

**Thank you for taking the time to review this presentation and we hope you use our online forum to provide comment on these hunting seasons proposals**

