

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – JANUARY 20, 2021

Chairman Lou Compton called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. This meeting was held via teleconference and videoconference. Chairman Compton asked for a roll call of individuals who were on the “call”. Because of the anonymity of Google Meet callers, it was impossible to determine the identity of every participant.

Annual Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

- The floor was opened for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair.
- Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to nominate Lou Compton as Chair and Tina Gregor as Vice-Chair.
- Lou Compton accepted the nomination for Chair.
- Tina Gregor accepted the nomination for Vice-Chair.
- No other nominations were submitted.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to accept Lou Compton as Chair and Tina Gregor as Vice-Chair.
 2. Commissioner Wagner seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for January 20, 2021, Meeting Agenda

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to accept the Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda for January 20, 2021.
 2. Commissioner Weinberg seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from November 18, 2020 Meeting

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gregor moved to accept the November 18, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.
 2. Commissioner Schroyer seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits Update – Presentation given by Waterfowl Project Leader Josh Homyack.

- Waterfowl Project Leader Homyack gave a summary of the Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits. [ATTACHMENT A]
- There is no formal vote due by the Commission at this time. Staff will release the Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits to the public for comment. When the public comment ends, staff will return to the Commission with recommendations for the Commission to vote on in March.

Possession of Black Bear Skull/Pickup Topic – Group Discussion

- Commissioner Keithley asked for a follow-up on the issue of possession of bear skulls for individuals who pick up skulls from road kill bears and/or incidental deaths in the wild.
- Director Peditto mentioned that there have been some discussions with Natural Resources Police. NRP is agreeable to the extent that they can interview the potential possessor about the skull before the Wildlife and Heritage Service authorize the possession of the bear skull. The Department will continue to disallow possession of other bear parts that are popular in illegal trade.
- Lt. Charles Fawley had not been briefed on the discussion on this topic so he requested the opportunity to get more information from his chain of command.

- The possession of a black bear skull will require a regulation change.
- The Department could issue a letter of authority until the regulation changes are made if the Commission feels that it is urgent to move forward.
- Chairman Compton will send a draft written request from the Commission related to the possession of the bear skull for the Commission's approval. Director Peditto recommended that the Commission focus on the bear skull for the time being and avoid discussion of other species or parts thereof.

Natural Resources Police Update – Presentation was given by Lieutenant Charles Fawley.

- Lt. Fawley outlined activity for the period of November through December, NRP statewide had 1,886 warnings and 663 citations. There were a total of 2,556 law enforcement actions, in which 872 were wildlife, 221 boating, 302 public lands, and 215 fisheries. Of the wildlife-related law enforcement action, there were 815 law and regulation violations. From the law and regulation portions, there were 23 spotlighting/jacklighting and 34 baiting violations.
- NRP officers continue to patrol for waterfowl hunting activity, turkey hunting, deer hunting, and small game hunting along with the new primitive deer hunting dates that are coming up in a few weeks.
- NRP is preparing for a new academy class beginning in the fall of 2021 which will include 15 new officers and of those officers 5 will be existing cadets.
- Chairman Compton asked what the NRP statistics on traffic violations are along with if there was still a focus within NRP to push for traffic violations.
 1. Lt. Fawley responded that in December, there were 567 statewide traffic violations issued by NRP.
- Chairman Compton expressed concern for the number of traffic violations and attention given there vs NRP focusing on protecting our wildlife species.
- Lt. Fawley responded that the message from Colonel is to focus on Maryland's natural resources and not traffic violations. The statistics are monitored.
- Chairman Compton requested the 2020 trend data from NRP on traffic violations.
- Lt. Fawley indicated some of the NRP officers in the Western Region are involved in grants that deal with traffic violations. Lt. Fawley mentioned that in his area there were only 8 traffic violations. In other areas, the numbers vary. Chairman suggested NRP should not be driven by grant funding.
- Lt. Fawley agreed to request the traffic violations statistics data on behalf of the Commission.
- Conservation enforcement is NRP's primary focus and that NRP officers should not be actively looking out for traffic violations.
- Commissioner Michael suggested that the trend data should be over several years and not month to month to be useful.
- Lt. Fawley will try to get the information to the Commission.
- Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked about the e-ticket certification for NRP.
 1. There is no annual requirement for the officers once the officers met the 50 e-ticket requirement.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – Presentation was given by Director of Government and Public Relations Colby Ferguson.

- Mr. Ferguson mentioned that the 2021 Legislative Session is difficult due to the virtual requirements. If a person wants to testify on a bill, the person must sign up 48 hours before the bill hearing.
- The Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) held a wildlife webinar. The Department was a part of it and there were some really good ideas to come up with alternatives to deter deer from properties by using soybean buffers to keep the deer out of the cornfields. It appears to be working on the Eastern Shore.

2021 Legislative Session Update – Presentation was given by Director Paul Peditto.

- Management Assistant Ms. Spencer emailed the Commission the Summary of 2021 Proposed Legislation, Wildlife and Heritage Service during the meeting. [ATTACHMENT B]
- Director Peditto summarized the bills from the list of the Summary of 2021 Proposed Legislation that

Wildlife and Heritage Service are tracking.

- The Commission can review natural resources related bills by going to <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/>
- Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Director Ferguson commented on bills of interest for the MFB.

Old Business –

- Director Peditto provided the Commission an update on the Anne Arundel County Deer Donation Program, which was funded by the CARES Act. There were two memos from the Office of Attorney General that went to the County Office of Law. There were multiple conversations with the County to explain the issues and concerns; and offer alternatives. The County disagreed that paying hunters to produce dead deer was a violation of the prohibition in Natural Resources law §10-404 that prohibits barter, trade, sell, etc. any part of a deer. The program was advanced against the will of the Department. There were four processors in Anne Arundel County who received \$30,000 each from Anne Arundel County. Every deer that a processor received authorized the processor to pay themselves \$100 and the hunter received \$50 – for a total of \$150 per deer. The funding for this program was available through December 31, 2020.
 1. Discussion ensued about the percentage of the deer harvested in Anne Arundel County was down by more than 20%. The Department has received reports from hunters that they are not seeing the deer that they use to see. The Department took note of that information.

New Business –

- Commissioner Michael requested trend data in the number of hunting licenses sold elsewhere in the U.S. vs Maryland. Also, Commissioner Michael wants to know how the increase in hunting licenses is going to impact Pittman-Robertson (PR) Fund. Commissioner Wagner will share an article he found related to the increased in the hunting and fishing licenses.
 1. Chairman Compton requested this topic be added under the Old Business in February.
 2. Director Peditto will try to get all of the requested data for the Commission but some elements won't be available until later in the calendar year since current hunting seasons are still ongoing (especially with late waterfowl and spring turkey seasons). The Commission expressed concern that Maryland will not be able to capture any increase in PR funds due to the lack of match that is required.
- Commissioner Keithley had several new business items for the Commission:
 1. There are discrepancies in regulations that the only thing a person can hunt on opening Firearms Season is sea ducks. There is another section in the regulations that indicates a person may hunt coyotes 365 days a year. There is a conflict in the regulations. Commissioner Keithley requested that this be ratified.
 - a. The discrepancy is in law so it would require a law change. Commissioner Keithley would need to locate a sponsor for the law change. It is a simple change.
 - b. Commissioner Michael indicated that he will forward the language of the laws to the Commission in an email.
 2. Possession tag for deer skull/road kills for individuals to obtain these tags online. Commissioner Keithley requested an update on the status of obtaining a possession tag online.
 - a. This process of online possession tag was originally intended for NRP to be more sufficient. In the past, only the person who hit the deer could obtain a possession tag for a roadkill deer but that is not currently the case.
 - b. Staff was able to propose regulations to allow anyone to take a roadkill deer by checking it in through COMPASS. There is a catalog of changes to the COMPASS system and this item is at the bottom of the list. Staff is doing it manually so officers do not have to issue a paper tag.
 3. Sika Deer Bag Limits Increase – Commissioner Keithley has received several requests to put the Blackwater National Refuge Sika deer bag limits under the State bag limits due to the increased pressure from outstate hunters. Commissioner Keithley expressed that he thinks the Sika deer

population has been declining.

- a. Director Peditto informed the Commission that staff receive these requests for separate seasons and bag limits on a regular basis. For example, Smithsonian and Anne Arundel County Government. These entities complain that there are too many deer and they need additional tools to help them manage their deer populations.
 - b. Deer Project Leader Eyler responded that staff are watching the Sika deer harvest at Blackwater National Refuge closely. There is not much of an overlap. People may feel that these hunters are double-dipping and harvesting both at Blackwater National Refuge and elsewhere but the people who hunt at Blackwater National Refuge are generally exclusively hunting Blackwater. Placing Blackwater National Refuge under the State bag limit is not going to make any real difference in the harvest.
 - c. Deer Project Leader Eyler added that staff has noticed an increase in the Sika deer population – a stable population of around 3,000. Staff continues to get reports of Sika deer outside the known areas, such as in Cecil County. Staff is aware of the increase in awareness of Sika deer via social and popular media and will monitor accordingly.
 - d. Commissioner Weinberg expressed that he saw a lot of deer this year both white-tailed and Sika deer. Commissioner Weinberg also mentioned that most of the hunters that he knows in Dorchester County are happy with the Sika deer bag limits. Commissioner Weinberg received very few complaints about what the Blackwater National Refuge is doing. Yes, there are out of state hunters but these hunters are going to very remote areas.
4. Wild Turkey Sunday Hunting for Youth Hunters – Commissioner Keithley mentioned that he received a request to increase the wild turkey Sunday hunting in counties that allow Sunday hunting for white-tailed deer and Sika deer. This topic is something that the Commission and staff should review down the road based on what will occur from the 2021 Legislative Session.
- a. Those jurisdictions who want wild turkey Sunday hunting would simply need to be added in the first tier where Allegany, Cecil, and Garrett Counties are listed in that subtitle.
- Commissioner Schroyer asked Director Peditto has there been any plans for staff to reach out to the apprentice hunters to get them through the hunter safety course so that these hunters will be able to buy hunting licenses.
 1. Director Peditto reminded the Commission that the Wildlife and Heritage Service does not manage hunter safety. It is managed by the Natural Resources Police. NRP said to “consider it done”.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, using Google Meet due to COVID-19.

Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, S. Keithley, J. Michael, J. Schroyer, C. Wagner, and R. Weinberg
Absent:	
Guest:	C. Ferguson and J. Fritz
Staff:	B. Eyler, C. Fawley, J. Homyack, T. Larney, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, and K. Stonesifer

PROPOSED MARYLAND MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR THE 2021-22 HUNTING YEAR

SPECIAL EARLY RESIDENT POPULATION CANADA GEESE

Federal framework: A 15-day special season may be held between September 1 – 15 in the Eastern zone and a 25-day season between September 1 - 25 in the Western zone.

Proposed Season Dates

Eastern Zone	Sep. 1, 2021 - Sept 15, 2021
Western Zone	Sep. 1, 2021 - Sept 25, 2021

Daily Bag Limit: 8 in both zones. Possession limit is 3 times the daily limit.

Eastern Hunt Zone: Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of 301 to the Virginia line.

Western Hunt Zone: Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery and Washington Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County west of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County west of 301 to the Virginia line.

Shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells may be used. Shooting hours in both zones are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

Federal framework: States may select a 16 day season to be held between September 1 and 30. Teal season may not run concurrently with other seasons (resident Canada goose) that allow special considerations such as modified shooting hours or unplugged guns.

Proposed Season Dates Sep. 16, 2021 - Sep. 30, 2021

Daily Bag Limit: 6 blue-winged or green-winged teal, singly or in aggregate. The possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

September Teal Hunt Zone: Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of 301 to the Virginia line. Shooting hours for teal during this season are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

DUCKS, COOTS and MERGANSERS

Federal Framework: A 60-day season may be held between the Saturday nearest September 24 and January 31.

Proposed **Eastern Zone** Season Dates Oct. 16, 2021 - Oct. 23, 2021
Nov. 13, 2021 - Nov. 26, 2021
Dec. 15, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022

Black Duck Nov. 13, 2021 - Nov. 26, 2021
Dec. 15, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022

The Eastern Duck Hunting Zone Description: That portion of the state not included in the Western Duck Hunting Zone

Proposed **Western Zone** Season Dates Oct. 2, 2021 - Oct. 16, 2021
Nov. 20, 2021 - Nov. 26, 2021
Dec. 15, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022

Black Duck Nov. 20, 2021 - Nov. 26, 2021
Dec. 15, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022

The Western Duck Hunting Zone Description: Allegany, Carroll, Garrett, Frederick and Washington counties; and: those portions of Baltimore, Howard, Prince George's, and Montgomery counties west of a line beginning at I83 at the Pennsylvania state line, following I83 south to the intersection of I83 and I695 (Outer Loop), south following I695 (Outer Loop) to its intersection with I95, south following I95 to its intersection with I495 (Outer Loop), and following I495 (Outer Loop) to the Virginia shore of the Potomac River

Duck Daily Bag and Possession Limits for Eastern and Western Duck Zones: The daily bag limit of ducks (including mergansers) is 6. The 6-duck limit shall consist of no more than 5 sea ducks (no more than 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters or 4 eiders), 2 mallards (no more than 1 hen mallard), 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 1 scaup*, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks (during black duck open season), 1 fulvous tree duck and 1 mottled duck. All other species of ducks (except harlequin duck) may be taken up to the 6-duck limit. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. In addition to the duck bag limit hunters may take 15 coots per day. No open season for harlequin ducks and swans.

*Scaup hybrid season: Daily bag limit is 1 except between Jan. 8, 2022 - Jan 31, 2022 when 2 scaup per day may be harvested.

Note: In the designated sea duck zone, sea ducks may only be taken during the special sea duck season dates (Oct. 30, 2021 - Jan. 7, 2022).

SEA DUCKS (Scoters, Long-tailed Duck and Eiders)

Federal Frameworks: A special 60-day season may be selected between September 15 and January 31 with a 5-bird daily bag limit (no more than 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters or 4 eiders) within established sea duck hunting areas. This bag limit is in addition to the

limits applying to other ducks during the regular duck season. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and are part of the regular duck season daily bag (not to exceed 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tailed ducks) and possession limits.

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 30, 2021 - Jan. 7, 2022

Daily Bag Limit: 5 (no more than 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks or 4 eiders) per day

YOUTH, VETERAN, AND MILITARY WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

Federal Framework: States may select two days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Youth, Veteran, and Military Waterfowl Hunting Days,” in addition to their regular duck seasons. The days must be held outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holiday or other non-school day when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. The days may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck season framework, within any split of a regular duck season or within any other open season on migratory birds. New for the 2021-22 hunting season military veterans (as defined in Section 101 of title 38, United States Code) of any age and members of the armed forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on Active duty (other than for training) can participate in these two hunt days.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 6, 2021 and Feb. 5, 2022

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: The daily bag limit of ducks (including mergansers) is 6. The 6-duck limit shall consist of no more than 5 sea ducks (no more than 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters or 4 eiders), 2 mallards (no more than 1 hen mallard), 3 wood ducks, 2 scaup, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 fulvous tree duck and 1 mottled duck. All other species of ducks (except harlequin duck) may be taken up to the 6-duck limit. In addition, youth hunters may take 1 Canada goose in the Atlantic Population Hunt Zone or 5 Canada Geese in the Late Resident Canada Goose Hunt Zone, 2 brant, 25 light geese and 15 coots. No open season for harlequin ducks and swans.

Any licensed hunter 16 years old or younger may participate during these one-day hunts. Youth of this age who are exempt from the Maryland hunting license requirements may also participate. Youth waterfowl hunters must possess a receipt showing they purchased a \$9 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Hunting Stamp. A Federal Migratory Hunting and Conservation Stamp is required of youth hunters who are 16 years old. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years old that holds a valid Maryland hunting license or is exempt from the hunting license requirements. The accompanying adult may call waterfowl, assist with decoys, and retrieve downed birds but may not possess a hunting weapon.

ATLANTIC POPULATION (AP) CANADA GEESE

Federal Framework: AP Zone: A 30-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 1-bird daily bag limit. These seasons also include white-fronted geese. Unless specified otherwise, seasons may be split into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Dec. 17, 2021 - Jan. 1, 2022
Jan. 13, 2022 - Jan. 31, 2022

Bag Limit: 1 per day

AP Zone: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97 and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line.

AF RESIDENT POPULATION CANADA GEESE

Federal Framework: An 80-day season may be held between November 15 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 20, 2021 - Nov. 26, 2021
Dec. 15, 2021 - Mar. 10, 2021

Daily Bag Limit: 5 per day*

RP Zone: Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, and Washington Counties; and that portion of Carroll County west of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97 and west of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and that portion of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia line.

*Includes Canada geese, cackling geese and white-fronted geese singly or in aggregate.

ATLANTIC BRANT

Federal Framework: States may select a 50-day season between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 27) and January 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 17, 2021 – Nov. 26, 2021
Dec. 15, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022

Daily Bag Limit: 2 per day

LIGHT GEESE

Federal Framework: States may select a 107-day season between October 1 and March 10, with a 25-bird daily bag limit and no possession limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 1, 2021 - Nov. 26, 2021
Dec. 13, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022
Feb. 5, 2022

Daily Bag Limit: 25 per day** No possession limit.

**Includes greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese singly or in aggregate.

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER

Federal Framework: The conservation order allows new methods of taking light geese, allows shooting hours for light geese to end one-half hour after sunset and imposes no daily bag limits for light geese. Control activities may be conducted only when all waterfowl (including light goose) and crane hunting seasons, excluding falconry, are closed.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov 29, 2021 - Dec. 11, 2021
 Feb. 1, 2022 - Feb. 4, 2022
 Feb. 7, 2022 - Apr. 15, 2022

Daily Bag Limit: No Limit, no possession limit

Hunt Area: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line. The Special Sea Duck Zone is excluded from this hunt area.

Special Regulations during Light Goose Conservation Order Season:

(1) Participating hunters must possess a \$5 Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season Permit while hunting light geese during this season; (2) Hunters may use shotguns capable of holding more than three shotshells; (3) Hunters may use electronic calls with recordings of light geese; and (4) Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Note: Shooting hours for regular waterfowl seasons are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset except for (1) Resident Canada geese during September seasons when shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset, and (2) for light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order Season when shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. All season dates are inclusive. There is no possession limit for light geese; for all other waterfowl, the possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. In the Atlantic Flyway States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, where Sunday hunting is prohibited statewide by State law, all Sundays are closed to all take of migratory waterfowl (including mergansers and coots).

WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS (Doves, Rails, Snipe and Woodcock)

Note: The USFWS recently approved compensatory days for webless migratory game birds for states including Maryland, where Sunday hunting for migratory game birds is prohibited by state law. Prior to this change, Sundays counted against the maximum number of days in states where Sunday hunting is prohibited by state law. Beginning with the 2018-19 hunting season, the federal framework will allow a maximum number of hunting days, rather than calendar days for webless migratory game birds. States were granted compensatory days for waterfowl hunting seasons in 1997.

MOURNING DOVE

Federal Framework: States may select a 90-day season between September 1 and January 31 with a 15-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 1, 2021 - Oct. 16, 2021
Oct. 23, 2021 - Nov. 26, 2021
Dec. 17, 2021 - Jan. 8, 2022

Daily Bag Limit: 15 per day

KING AND CLAPPER RAIL

Federal Framework: States may select a 70-day season between September 1 and the last Sunday in January with a 10-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 1, 2021 - Nov. 20, 2021

Daily Bag Limit: 10 per day (No more than 1 King Rail)

SORA AND VIRGINIA RAIL

Federal Framework: States may select a 70-day season between September 1 and the last Sunday in January with a 25-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 1, 2021 - Nov. 20, 2021

Daily Bag Limit: 25 per day

COMMON SNIPE

Federal Framework: States may select a 107-day season between September 1 and January 31 with an 8-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 29, 2021 - Jan 31, 2022

Daily Bag Limit: 8 per day

WOODCOCK

Federal Framework: States may select a 45-day season between October 1 and January 31 with a 3-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 20, 2021 - Nov. 26, 2021
Jan. 10, 2022 - Jan. 22, 2022

Daily Bag Limit: 3 per day

For additional information on population status, regulations, where to hunt, and more go the [DNR Waterfowl Page](#).



Western Duck Zone

Eastern Duck Zone

Orange Line = Duck Zone Boundary

Green Line = Atlantic Pop/Resident Pop. Canada Goose Zone Boundary

Yellow Line = Special September Teal Season Zone Boundary

**Summary of 2021 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of January 20, 2021)**

Bill/Chapter (Cross/Chapter)	Title	Sponsor	Current Status	Org Committees & Hearings
HB0007	Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation Expenses - Montgomery County Deer Donation Program	Delegate Luedtke	In the House - Hearing 1/21 at 1:30 p.m.	Ways and Means 1/21/2021 - 1:30 PM
HB0092	Procurement - Invasive and Nonnative Plant Species - Prohibition on Use of State Funds	Delegate Luedtke	In the House - Hearing 1/28 at 1:30 p.m.	Health and Government Operations 1/28/2021 - 1:30 PM
HB0208 (SB0375)	Agriculture – Neonicotinoid Pesticides – Sale and Storage	Delegate Healey	In the House - Hearing 1/29 at 11:00 a.m.	Environment and Transportation 1/29/2021 - 11:00 AM
HB0225	Queen Anne's County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting	Delegate Arentz	In the House - Hearing 2/03 at 1:30 p.m.	Environment and Transportation 2/03/2021 - 1:30 PM
HB0293 (SB0200)	Natural Resources - Organized Killing Contests - Restriction	Delegate Stein	In the House - Hearing 1/15 at 11:00 a.m.	Environment and Transportation 1/15/2021 - 11:00 AM
HB0325 (SB0475)	Talbot County – Deer and Turkey Hunting – Sundays	Delegate Mautz	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation
HB0344 (SB0072)	Open Meetings Act – Requirements for State Agencies and Local Boards of Elections (Maryland Transparency Act of 2021)	Delegate Korman	In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:30 p.m.	Health and Government Operations 2/11/2021 - 1:30 PM
HB0490	Montgomery County – Deer Management Permit Pilot Program MC 15–21	Montgomery County Delegation	In the House - First Reading Environment and Transportation	Environment and Transportation
SB0072 (HB0344)	Open Meetings Act - Requirements for State Agencies and Local Boards of Elections (Maryland Transparency Act of 2021)	Senator Kagan	In the Senate - Hearing 2/02 at 2:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/02/2021 - 2:00 PM
SB0200 (HB0293)	Natural Resources - Organized Killing Contests - Restriction	Senator Young	In the Senate - Hearing 1/21 at 11:00 a.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 1/21/2021 - 11:00 AM
SB0318	Natural Resources - Fishing and Hunting Rights	Senator Bailey	In the Senate - First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
SB0356	Calvert County - Sunday Hunting	Senator Bailey	In the Senate - First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs