

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:49

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|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Commission Meeting Dates: | Proposal | March 5-6, 2020 | Pierre |
| | Public Hearing | May 7, 2020 | Custer State Park |
| | Finalization | May 7-8, 2020 | Custer State Park |

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2020 hunting season

Season Dates: September 12-13, 2020

Open Area: Statewide

Daily Limit: Same as for regular duck and goose seasons

Possession Limit: Same as for regular duck and goose seasons

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Residents and nonresidents who have not reached the age of 18 by the first day of the season may hunt in the youth waterfowl hunting season.
2. Each youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.
The youth hunter must be properly licensed to hunt waterfowl in the state, unless participating under a Mentored Hunt scenario as described in "Mentored Youth Hunting".
3. All other hunting restrictions will be the same as during the regular waterfowl seasons.

Proposed change from last year:

1. Modify the eligibility from youth who have not reached the age of 16 to youth who have not reached the age of 18.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes to proposal: None.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

This amendment would align state regulations regarding the age definition of youth with federal regulations, which are less restrictive.

With this recommended change, youth ages 16-17 would be able to participate in the youth waterfowl season.

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|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| APPROVE _____ | MODIFY _____ | REJECT _____ | NO ACTION _____ |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not applicable.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate?
 - a. No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
 - a. Yes, waterfowl hunters ages 16-17 will now be able to participate in the youth waterfowl season.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?
 - a. This creates a new opportunity for 16-17-year-old waterfowl hunters who have historically not had access to the youth waterfowl season.
 - b. Recruitment for youth hunters under the age of 16 has been high, however a large percentage of youth lapse out of hunting through high school years as other activities compete with hunting. Allowing 16-17-year-old waterfowl hunters to participate in a youth waterfowl season would incentivize and potentially retain those lapsed hunters as well as provide an opportunity for recruiting a new age group.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?
 - a. Yes.

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____