

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Duck Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:16

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 28-29, 2021</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>March 4, 2021</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>March 4-5, 2021</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

**Duration of Recommendation:** 2021-22 hunting season

**Season Dates and Open Areas:**

High Plains Zone:	October 9, 2021 – January 13, 2022
Low Plains North & Low Plains Middle Zone:	September 25 – December 7, 2021
Low Plains South Zone:	October 23, 2021 – January 4, 2022

**Daily Limits:**

**Tier 1 Option (Traditional Daily Bag Limit)**

- Ducks: 6     The duck daily limit may be comprised of no more than: 5 mallards (which may include no more than 2 hens), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 1 pintail and 1 scaup.
- 2     Bonus blue-winged teal (first 16 days of the season only)  
 Low Plains North & Low Plains Middle Zones: September 25 – October 10, 2021  
 Low Plains South Zone: October 23 – November 7, 2021  
 High Plains Zone: October 9 – 24, 2021

Coots: 15

Mergansers: 5 (may include no more than 2 hooded mergansers)

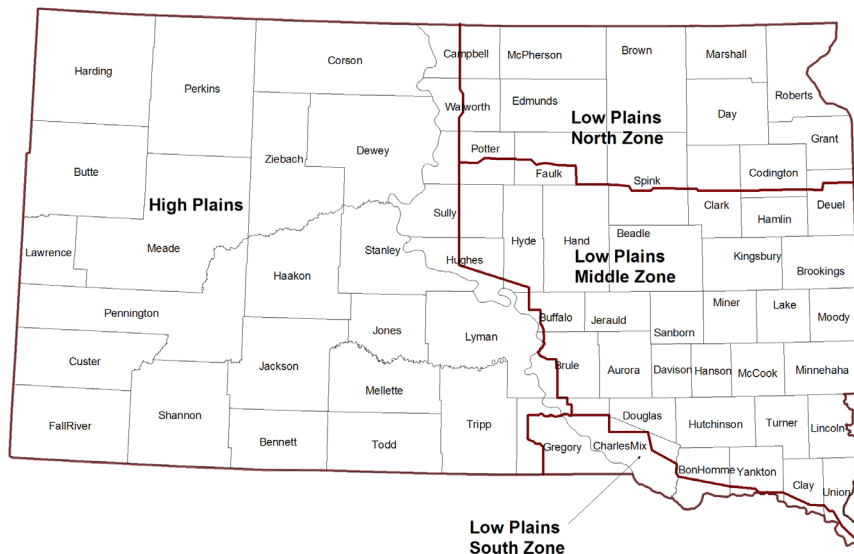
**Tier 2 Option (3-Splash Daily Bag Limit)**

Ducks: 3     The duck daily limit (including mergansers) may be comprised of three of any species or gender.

Coots: 15

**Possession Limits:** Three times the daily bag limits.

### Duck Hunting Zones



<b>APPROVE</b> _____	<b>MODIFY</b> _____	<b>REJECT</b> _____	<b>NO ACTION</b> _____
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**Recommended changes from last year:**

1. During the first 16 days of the season an additional two blue-winged teal may be harvested in addition to the daily bag limit for the Tier 1 Option only.
2. Include mergansers in the daily bag limit of ducks for the Tier 2 Option only.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

The recommended change is simply a clean-up to administrative rules for the implementation of the experimental options available to duck hunters.

Year	Resident Hunters	Nonresident Hunters	Ducks Harvested
2015	11,994	3,937	213,745
2016	10,533	3,832	185,105
2017	10,557	4,159	189,320
2018	10,271	4,051	175,822
2019	11,295	4,423	229,110

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

1. The Issue
  - Duck hunter numbers in SD have been falling 3% per year on average since the mid 1990's. This loss of waterfowl hunters means an erosion of waterfowl hunting traditions and less support for waterfowl conservation and management. Through purchases of licenses, stamps and gear, waterfowl hunters contribute to perpetuating waterfowl by conserving their habitats. The goal of this experiment is to see if removing the barrier of having to identify ducks in flight can assist R3 efforts. Direct engagement of stakeholder's groups is planned, and a standard public comment process is anticipated. A comprehensive evaluation plan has been developed in cooperation with the National Flyway Council, USFWS, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.
2. Historical Considerations – Not Applicable
3. Biological Considerations
  - Because the experiment is limited to two states (SD/NE), and because the bag associated with the simplified license option is smaller than allowed under a regular limit, impact to species with reduced bags (e.g. pintail, scaup, canvasbacks) will be minimal. Cooperative monitoring efforts on harvest will continue throughout the experiment to assess whether negative impacts occur during the experiment.
4. Social Considerations
  - SDGFP and NGPC, and the University of Nebraska Lincoln recently completed a human dimensions survey of current and past duck hunters in each state. Highlights included 40% of respondents felt duck ID was difficult for them, 2/3 did not oppose the regulation experiment, and 25% would consider taking a mentee duck hunting if they could use the 3-splash option. Rigorous communications efforts are expected to garner support and promote the 3-splash opportunity. The main concerns from current hunters involved concern for species with reduced bags and the idea that in order to be a duck hunter you needed to know duck identification.
5. Financial considerations
  - If successful, increased revenue from both license sales and Federal Duck stamps would be realized. These funds could then be used to help sustain the North American Model for wildlife conservation.

<b>APPROVE</b> _____	<b>MODIFY</b> _____	<b>REJECT</b> _____	<b>NO ACTION</b> _____
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## RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? Not applicable
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?
  - The goal of these experimental hunting regulations is to support R3 efforts for duck hunting in South Dakota, the Central Flyway, and perhaps nationwide.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?
  - If successful, participation in duck hunting will increase and allow novice hunters a chance to participate without fear of violation. Sustaining waterfowl hunting traditions will contribute to an enhanced quality of life and encourage families to recreate outside.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_