

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Duck Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:16

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 3-4, 2022	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 5, 2022	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 5-6, 2022	Custer State Park

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2022-23 hunting season

Season Dates and Open Areas:

High Plains Zone:	October 8, 2022 – January 12, 2023
Low Plains North & Low Plains Middle Zone:	September 24 – December 6, 2022
Low Plains South Zone:	October 22, 2022 – January 3, 2023

Daily Limits:

Tier 1 Option (Traditional Daily Bag Limit)

- Ducks: 6 The duck daily limit (including mergansers) 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 24 – October 9, 2022
 Low Plains South Zone: October 22 – November 6, 2022
 High Plains Zone: October 8 – 23, 2022

Coots: 15

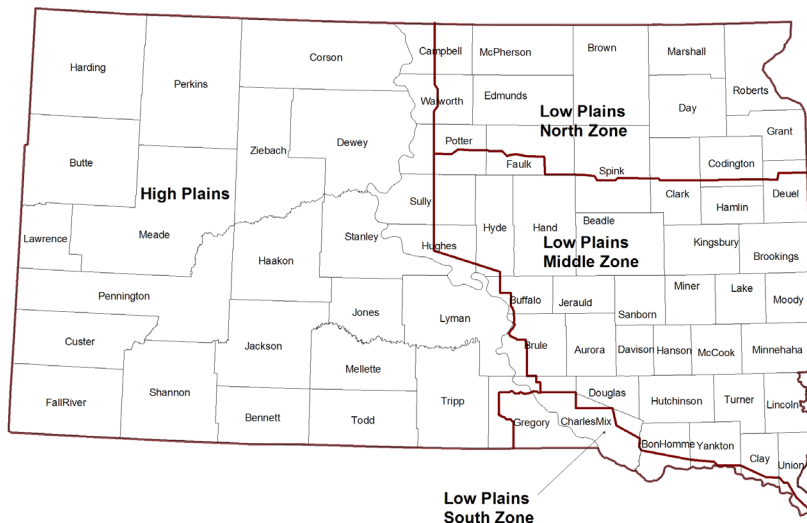
Tier 2 Option (3-Splash Daily Bag Limit)

- 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



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

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Remove daily bag limit of 5 mergansers (including 2 hooded mergansers) and include all mergansers in the normal duck daily bag limit.
2. Remove the possession limit of mergansers and include all mergansers in the normal duck possession limit.
3. Remove the ability to transfer certain nonresident licenses after a specific date.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed change cleans up administrative rules for the implementation of the experimental options available to duck hunters. The allowance to transfer certain nonresident licenses after a specific date is unnecessarily complex and creates difficulties with the administration of licenses as well as creates confusion with hunters.

Year	Resident Hunters	Nonresident Hunters	Ducks Harvested
2016	10,533	3,823	185,105
2017	10,557	4,159	189,320
2018	10,271	4,051	175,822
2019	11,295	4,423	229,110
2020	12,285	4,274	241,684

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the recommended changes adopted by the Commission.

41:06:16:03. Daily bag limit. The daily bag limit is six ducks or mergansers, unless the person chooses the second-tier option at which the daily bag limit is an aggregate of three ducks or mergansers of any species or gender. The total daily limit of six ducks (including mergansers) may include no more than two redheads, one scaup, three wood ducks, one pintail, two canvasback, and five mallards, of which no more than two may be hen mallards.

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 first tier option, the daily bag limit for mergansers is five, of which no more than two may be hooded mergansers.~~

The daily bag limit for coot is 15.

41:06:16:05. Possession limit. The possession limit for ducks (including mergansers) is three times the daily bag limit for each species.

~~A person may possess at any time no more than fifteen mergansers, of which no more than six may be hooded mergansers.~~

A person may possess at any one time no more than 45 coot taken according to the daily bag limit.

41:06:16:11.01. Nonresident waterfowl license purchase restrictions -- Unsold licenses and unit transfer dates. A person may purchase only one nonresident waterfowl license for the fall-winter general waterfowl season each year; however, if licenses remain unsold after October 31, an unlimited number of nonresident waterfowl licenses may be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis. ~~After October 31, any unsold licenses in Units NRW-00A or NRW-11A may be transferred to Unit NRW-00B. After November 15, any unsold licenses in Unit NRW-00Y may be transferred to Unit NRW-00X with the same provisions as Unit NRW-00X licenses.~~

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

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue
 - Simplification of hunting regulations is a priority for GFP. Over the years for a variety of reasons, unnecessary levels of complexity have developed in duck harvest regulations. This recommended change will reduce regulatory complexity for hunters and have little impact on the resource.
2. Historical Considerations – In the past the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) allowed a separate bag limit of 5 for mergansers (including 2 hooded mergansers). In 2021, the Central Flyway Council proposed eliminating this additional bag limit for mergansers in the spirit of reducing regulatory complexity and the USFWS agreed.
3. Biological Considerations
 - None
4. Social Considerations
 - Merganser harvest is extremely low in South Dakota, this regulation change reduces complexity and aids in compliance.
5. Financial considerations
 - None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? No
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?
 - The goal of this change is reduction of regulatory complexity.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?
 - Reducing regulatory complexity generally aids in participation and compliance.

FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____