

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission**  
**April 21, 2016**  
**Conference Call**  
**Idaho Department of Fish and Game**  
**600 South Walnut**  
**Boise, Idaho**

**April 21**

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Doerr with Commissioners Brad Corkill, Dan Blanco, Lane Clezie, Derick Attebury and Will Naillon participating. Commissioner Blake Fischer was excused.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Consent Calendar**

The consent calendar included the following items:

- January 27-28, February 4, 11, 18, 25 and March 3, 2016

**16-39** Commissioner Attebury moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to accept the minutes listed in the consent calendar. All Commissioners voted in favor of.

**RULES**

**Season Setting: 2016 -2017 Migratory Game Birds**

Jeff Knetter, Upland Game & Migratory Bird Coordinator, stated that beginning with the 2016-17 hunting seasons, a new process and schedule will be used for setting annual migratory bird hunting regulations. Legal, administrative, and analytical burdens associated with establishing migratory game bird hunting regulations intensified during the last decade and the process became untenable. As a result, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) adopted an alternative process that combines early and late season meeting schedules with modifications to Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) frameworks. Regulatory decisions will be made using biological data observed the previous year.

This single process and new schedule mean the season frameworks (e.g., outside dates, season lengths, bag limits) will be finalized earlier, and will enable state agencies to select and publish their season dates well in advance of fall seasons. Furthermore, this process will allow the Commission to set seasons for all migratory game at the same time; consequently, all migratory game bird regulations will be published in the same brochure.

Mr. Knetter presented the proposals (Appendix 49, Exhibit 34) to the Commission.

The IDFG conducted a hunter opinion survey in 2016 to assess hunter preferences on how to structure waterfowl seasons within the Federal Framework. This information will be used to guide Idaho waterfowl season proposals for the next five years; 2016-2020.

Important results from the 2016 waterfowl hunter preference survey are:

- ✓ Most Idaho waterfowl hunters said they prefer continuous seasons, rather than split seasons.
- ✓ Hunters in southwest Idaho preferred seasons that start and end the waterfowl season later, to allow for hunting opportunities as close as possible to the end of the Federal Framework (as late in January as possible).
- ✓ A majority of hunters in Zone 2 (north and east Idaho) preferred seasons that start the waterfowl season as early as possible in October to allow for hunting opportunities prior to wetlands freezing.

Staff Recommendation:

The Department's recommendation is to take the maximum allowed hunt days and bags allowed by federal framework. The proposed daily duck bag limit would be seven ducks; but not more than 2 female mallards, 3 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 pintail, and 2 canvasback. The proposed daily bag limit for Canada geese would be 4, except in Zone 4 during September 1-15, when the daily bag limit would be 5 Canada geese. The proposed daily bag limit for white-fronted geese would be 10, and the proposed daily bag limit for snow and Ross's geese would be 20. The proposed possession limit would be three times the daily bag limit.

There is no daily bag limit for American crows.

The proposed daily dove bag limit would be 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

The proposed daily and season limit for sandhill cranes is 2 cranes.

**16-40** Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Clezie seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendations for the 2016-2017 Migratory Game Bird regulations. All Commissioners voted in favor.

### **Adjournment**

Will Naillon  
Chairman

Virgil Moore  
Secretary