

## **Public Input Summary:**

### **2009 Wisconsin Migratory Game Bird Regulations Process**

*Taken from the August 2009 Natural Resources Board Migratory green sheet memo; Department recommendations are in **bold**. These recommendations were approved by the Board on August 12, 2009.*

Overall, a strong majority of the public comments offered during the public hearings and submitted to the Department via phone, email and letter were in support of the proposed seasons. They are summarized below by the major groups of options.

- 1) Statewide same opening day for duck season in both zones: 5 individuals
- 2) North Zone - Season dates

#### Opening Day –

Sept 26 (Department Proposal)

- 58 individuals
- 4 waterfowl groups
- Conservation Congress Migratory Committee

October 3 or later

- 5 individuals requested this later opening date and one individual requested a split in the north zone

**Based on public input the Department recommends the northern duck zone hunting season be open from September 26 – November 24.**

- 2) Southern Zone – Opening Day

- October 3 (Department Proposal)
  - 37 individuals
  - 3 waterfowl groups
  - Conservation Congress Migratory Committee
- Sept 26 – 1 local waterfowl group and 5 individuals
- Later – 1 local waterfowl group and 3 individuals

**Based on public input the Department recommends the south duck zone hunting season to open on October 3.**

- 3) Southern Zone – Season Split

- No split – 5 individuals
- 5 day split (Department Proposal)
  - 35 individuals
  - 3 waterfowl groups
  - Conservation Congress Migratory Committee
- Something longer than 5 days – 1 waterfowl group (LCCA) and 7 individuals

**Based on public input the Department recommends the proposed 5 day split for the southern duck zone resulting in a season of October 3-11 and October 17-December 6.**

4) Exterior Zone Canada Goose Season

- Opening day in the north and south zones: September 19 and a 5 day season closure in the south zone with duck season (Department Proposal)
  - 36 individuals
  - 3 waterfowl groups
  
- Several other options were offered by a few people but without substantial support
  - Open on Sept 16 – 1 group and 1 individual
  - Open with duck on Oct 3 – 1 group and 1 individual
  - Open with duck on Sept 26 – 2 individuals
  - No split in the south zone – 2 individuals

**Based on the public input, the Department recommends implementing the season as proposed with the following dates; North zone - September 19 – December 12 and South zone – September 19 –October 11 and October 17 – December 17.**

6) Opening Day Shooting Hours

In 2006, the Department implemented a change in the beginning of shooting hours for the opening day of duck season from noon to 9:00 am. This was a compromise among the different hunter desires on this topic. The 9:00 am opener went well as reported by staff around the state the last 3 seasons. Opinions remain varied but most people believe this is an acceptable compromise.

- 9:00 am – Conservation Congress, 3 waterfowl groups and 32 individuals favored
- Noon – 1 local waterfowl group, 3 individuals favored
- ½ hour before sunrise – 1 local waterfowl group and 7 individuals.

**The Department recommends maintaining a 9:00 am beginning of shooting hours on opening day.**

