2011 Pennsylvania Waterfowl Hunter Attitudes Survey

### Survey Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Declining trends waterfowl hunters:</th>
<th>Identify reasons for and barriers to participation. Opportunities for recruiting &amp; retaining hunters.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Determine attitudes on season timing:</td>
<td>Measure season timing preference by duck and goose zones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address other issues associated with waterfowl hunting:</td>
<td>Measure attitudes on issues such as electric decoys, tundra swan hunting and migratory game bird hunting stamp.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pennsylvania HIP Canada Goose Harvest

![Chart showing Canada Goose harvest and days hunted over years from 1999 to 2011. The chart includes a line graph with 'Harvest' and 'Days Hunted' as variables. The data shows fluctuations in harvest and days hunted across the years.]
Survey Scoping & Design

- Consulted with USFWS, PGC I & E Bureau and reviewed previous national & state surveys methods.
- Mail questionnaire of 5,000 randomly selected PA waterfowl hunters identified by the 2009-10 & 2010-11 HIP license questions through point-of-sale.
- Post-stratified survey results by residency, hunter age, gender, waterfowl hunter type (i.e. duck only, goose only, both) and hunting zone(s).
- A complete survey of attitudes on why not hunt waterfowl would include samples of non-hunters and other hunters that was beyond the scope of this survey.
PA Waterfowl Hunter demographics.

- 3,599 surveys returned for 72% response rate.
- 88% indicated PA resident.
- 3% indicate non-resident.
- 9% did not indicate residency status.
- 97% male
- 1.5% female
- 1.5% unknown gender
Waterfowl Hunter age distribution
Average = 45.5 years old, max = 93
Waterfowl Hunter type?

- 6% or 213 respondents were only duck hunters.
- 14% or 510 were only goose hunters.
- 36% or 1,301 were both duck & goose hunters.
- 36% or 1,352 didn’t hunt waterfowl the past 2 seasons.
Duck Hunter experience?

- 28% hunted greater than 25 years.
- 15% hunted between 16 and 25 years.
- 31% hunted between 6 and 15 years.
- 25% hunted <5 years.
Goose hunting experience?

- 24% hunted greater than 25 years.
- 15% hunted between 16 and 25 years.
- 33% hunted between 6 and 15 years.
- 25% hunted < 5 years.
Why do you hunt ducks?

• 29% was very important to them.
• 23% had time to hunt.
• 18% hunt ducks when not hunting another species.
• 16% someone invited them to hunt.
Why do you hunt geese?

- 24% was very important to them.
- 22% had time to hunt.
- 17% hunt geese when not hunting another species.
- 17% someone invited them to hunt.
- 8% there were a lot of geese this year.
Most important duck zone?

- 61% South zone.
- 20% Northwest zone.
- 17% North zone.
- 3% Lake Erie zone.
Where did you hunt ducks?

- 32% Private land.
- 32% Public land.
- 32% Both about the same.
- 3% Regulated hunting grounds.
Did you hunt ducks at Pymatuning or Middle Creek?

- 9% Pymatuning WMA.
- 4% Middle Creek WMA.
- 86% Neither.
Most important goose zone?

- 42% Resident zone.
- 39% Atlantic zone.
- 19% SJBP zone.
Where did you hunt geese?

- 51% Private land.
- 21% Public land.
- 27% Both about the same.
Did you hunt geese at Pymatuning or Middle Creek?

- 15% Pymatuning WMA.
- 7% Middle Creek WMA.
- 78% Neither.
Duck Hunter satisfaction?

• 65% were satisfied.
• 15% no opinion.
• 20% dissatisfied.
Goose Hunter satisfaction?

• 77% were satisfied.
• 13% no opinion.
• 10% dissatisfied.
Has the quality of PA duck hunting changed?

- 32% worse.
- 38% same.
- 19% better.
- 11% no opinion.
Has the quality of PA goose hunting changed?

- 19% worse.
- 32% same.
- 37% better.
- 11% no opinion.
Most important periods for duck hunting?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>LEZ %</th>
<th>NWZ %</th>
<th>NZ %</th>
<th>SZ %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 1-15</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 16-31</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 1-15</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 16-30</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1-15</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 16-31</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1-15</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 16-31</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When did you hunt geese?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>SJBP</th>
<th>RP</th>
<th>AP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you harvest geese?</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pennsylvania AP zone
SJBP zone
RP zone

[Map of Pennsylvania showing zones]
Duck Hunter Satisfaction
More overlap of duck & Canada goose season?

• 84% were satisfied.
• 12% neutral.
• 2% dissatisfied.
• 1% don’t know.
Duck Hunter Satisfaction
Youth waterfowl days?

• 49% were satisfied.
• 36% neutral.
• 9% dissatisfied.
• 5% don’t know.
Duck Hunter Satisfaction
Motorized spinning-wing decoys legal?

- 56% were satisfied.
- 32% neutral.
- 8% dissatisfied.
- 4% don’t know.

Percent

- Very Satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neutral
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't Know
Duck Hunter Satisfaction
Close duck season during rifle deer season?
• 21% were satisfied.
• 33% neutral.
• 42% dissatisfied.
• 3% don’t know.
Goose Hunter Satisfaction
Open Canada goose season during rifle deer season?

- 40% were satisfied.
- 39% neutral.
- 18% dissatisfied.
- 2% don’t know.
Duck Hunter Satisfaction
Weekday versus Saturday opening days?

• 26% were satisfied.
• 34% neutral.
• 36% dissatisfied.
• 3% don’t know.
Barriers to participation

- Regulations too complex
- Place to Hunt
- Time
- More game
- Partner
- Bird I.D.

Percent of response

- Important
- Neutral
- Unimportant